



MACAU

The Las Vegas of the East is where you can also explore heritage sites, picturesque villages and intriguing museums

DAY 1: Begin your holiday in this glitzy city, better known as Las Vegas of the East, by checking into the centrally located *Sofitel Macau* (Rua do Visconde Paco de Arcos; www.sofitel.com). Senado Square, which is a shopper's haven, is a 10-minute walk from here. You'll go past fountains, designer stores and kiosks that sell everything from souvenirs to trendy accessories. After spending a couple of hours here, have lunch at one of the restaurants and then head to the Ruins of St Paul's, a 15-minute walk away. See what remains of a 16th-century college and cathedral that were destroyed in a fire. Macau is a fascinating place to just walk around as it's packed with churches, temples, and of course casinos, that come alive when the sun goes down. Have dinner at *O Porto Interior restaurant* (tel: +853 2896 7770) located at the Inner Harbour and indulge in Macanese dishes like codfish cakes, stuffed crab and egg tarts. Before calling it a day, try your hand at gambling at Casino Lisboa, one of the most popular and oldest casinos in Macau.

DAY 2: The *Macau Tower*, 1,109 ft high, the ubiquitous landmark of the city, is next in line. Go up to the observation desk and see this glamorous city spread out below your feet. Standing on the glass floor is quite an experience. Those who want to do something adventurous can try bungee jumping or sky walking, but if this isn't your cup of tea, browse around the shops or catch a flick at the cinema. For lunch, tuck into Portuguese chicken and prawns at *Restaurante Litoral* (www.restaurante-litoral.com), about 10 minutes away from the Macau Tower. Make your way to the *Grand Prix Museum* (tel: + 853 8798 4180). You can find out about the history of this race and spot a number of cars that were used over the years. Up next is the *Wine Museum* (tel: +853 8798 4188), with a fascinating display of different varieties of wine. Sample a few of them before choosing which one to pick up. Have dinner at *Rossio* (www.mgmmacau.com/rossio), the Portuguese restaurant at MGM Grand Hotel and then walk into the casino, where you can gamble till wee hours of the morning.

DAY 3: Today is your date with *Coloane Island*, about 30 minutes away from the hotel. The picturesque Coloane Village here is quiet and surrounded with pastel coloured houses, perfect for a walk. After lunch at Lord Stow's Bakery (www.lordstow.com), which is famous for its egg tarts, make your way to Hac Sa beach, just five minutes away. Spend the rest of the day at this four-km long beach, which is ideal for swimming and water sports.

DAY 4: Check out of your hotel, head to Cotai Strip and book yourself into a suite at *The Venetian* (www.venetianmacao.com). Cotai Strip, where most of the plush hotels and entertainment centres are located, is similar to The Strip in Las Vegas. No prizes for guessing that this resort takes inspiration from the Italian city, Venice, and even has a canal where you can go for a gondola ride. The Venetian is a destination in itself and you can easily spend the day shopping, at the spa, and of course gambling. Keep the evening for the *Zaia*, billed as one of the most spectacular shows in Asia. In these 90-minutes, you'll witness acrobats and other lovely performances at a state-of-the-art theatre.

DAY 5: Explore *Taipa Island*, about ten minutes away from your hotel. Visit the Taipa House Museum and then keep the afternoon for shopping. You can pick up almond cookies from the Taipa Food Street. In the evening, go to City of Dreams (www.cityofdreamsmacau.com) and watch *The House of Dancing Waters*, a great water-based show opened last September, and is something not to be missed.

—PALLAVI PASRICHA



Macau skyline

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE



Don't miss a show of *The House of Dancing Waters* at the City of Dreams. What's special? It's the stage, a 50m circular pool that holds 3.7 million gallons of water, equivalent to 5 Olympic-size swimming pools! Hard Rock Hotel's package for HK\$ 1,688 for 1 night stay includes 2 tickets for the show. www.thehouseofdancingwater.com



The Venetian Macau

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MUST KNOW

- **GETTING THERE**
Fly direct to Hong Kong from any of the metros. At Hong Kong airport take the one-hour ferry to Macau. Cathay Pacific, Jet Airways, Kingfisher and Air India fly direct to Hong Kong from Delhi.
Fare from Delhi ₹25,000 (approx).
You can get visa on arrival.
- **CURRENCY**
The Pataca (MOP\$) is Macau's official currency. 1 Pataca is equal to about six rupees. Most of the shops accept Hong Kong dollars as well. HK\$ 1 is equal to about ₹5.
- **MUST DO**
Even if you are not into gambling, try your luck at one of the casinos. It's an experience to remember. We recommend Casino Lisboa.
- **FOOD TIP**
It may be tough to find vegetarian food, but there are a few Indian restaurants in the city. Aruna Indian Curry & Café House is at Taipa island.
- **TRAVEL TIP**
The weather is pleasant all year round. Dress light for summer.