



# Escape to Macau

It doesn't take long to fall under the spell of Macau, a perfect honeymoon destination.

BY SUE WALLACE

**IT'S** got glamour and plenty of it, glitz, chic luxury hotels, great shopping, excellent food and an interesting history.

Located on the western banks of the Pearl River Delta of Guangdong Province, it doesn't take long to discover there's a certain mystique about Macau that gets under your skin.

Turn a corner and you may well come face-to-face with a Taoist temple, a Michelin-starred Portuguese restaurant, a towering skyscraper or a solid stone fortress all within several blocks.

Macau has a long history and was first settled by fishermen from Fujian and farmers from Guangdong in the 16th century.

It became the perfect crossroad for the meeting of East and West cultures.

Scratch the surface and you will find there's something for everyone here, where the East meets the West with a bang.

Today there's so much more to Macau than just gaming, entertainment venues and sprawling malls.

If you're after an adrenalin rush you can climb the mast of the Macau Tower, the 10th tallest tower in the world.

If you love racing cars, head to Macau's Grand Prix Museum or, if it is antiques and artwork you're interested you are well catered for.

One of the best places to discover the history and culture of this city is the impressive Macau Museum, which traces the character of the city over the past four centuries.

In the heart of the city lies the Ruins of St Paul's with its grand staircase, which is all that remains of the first church and college of the Jesuits in China.

One of the most beautiful sights in Macau is the famous Senado Square and St Domingo's Church in the main square, which is paved with a wave-patterned stone mosaic created by experts from Portugal.

The square has been a civic hub for centuries, according to our excellent government tourist office guide Joao Sales.

The 17th-century Guia Fort, which can be ascended by cable car in just 80 seconds, and the A-Ma Temple should also be on your must-do list.

One of the latest hotels is the impressive Banyan Tree Macau. It is part of the Galaxy Macau complex, which is built on reclaimed land connecting the islands of Taipa and Coloane.

The sumptuous hotel, set in magnificent grounds, offers great accommodation such as a Grand Cotai Suite complete with an indoor relaxation pool, hot tub and rain shower.

Even more impressive are the 450sqm

Pool Villas with private pool and garden.

After a busy day of sightseeing head to the Banyan Tree Spa, with its bamboo trees and skylights that emulate an outdoor garden.

The haven offers a range of treatments and massages that leave you feeling ready to take on the world. You can also hire a plush cabana near the main pool and organise a spa treatment poolside.

Hotel dining is a culinary adventure in chic signature restaurant the Belon Oyster Bar and Grill, which serves seafood and grilled specialities and boasts an impressive wine list in an elegant setting.

As tempting as it to remain in this sanctuary, head out to sample some authentic Portuguese and Macanese cuisine.

One bite of Macau's delicious warm pasteis de nata, little egg tarts, and you will be addicted.

Macanese cuisine is a melting pot of Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, African and Indonesian dishes and there are restaurants to suit all budgets.

Favourites are Antonio's Restaurant ([antoniomacau.com](http://antoniomacau.com)), which is renowned for authentic Portuguese cuisine, and the tiny O-Manel's, which has a reputation for roast suckling pig, clams and seafood rice, along with classic dishes.

Don't leave without seeing the



spectacular show, the House of the Dancing Waters at The City of Dreams, created and directed by Franco Dragone of Cirque du Soleil fame.

It is a bombardment of the senses with swimmers, dancers, acrobats, motorcycle stuntmen and lots of water.

Like Macau, you just don't know what to expect next.

## The low down

### GETTING TO MACAU:

- ♥ Cathay Pacific's new business class is impressive with one of the longest and widest fully flat beds available.  
Phone 131 747 or visit [cathaypacific.com](http://cathaypacific.com)
- ♥ Most flights connect to the Turbo Jetfoil service to Macau at Hong Kong Airport's Sky Pier, with through-check baggage service in each direction, phone +852 28 59 3333, [turbojet.com.hk](http://turbojet.com.hk)

### STAY

- ♥ The Banyan Tree Macau offers great value Getaway Packages. For details phone +853 88838833, email: [reservations-macau@banyantree.com](mailto:reservations-macau@banyantree.com) or see [banyantree.com](http://banyantree.com)
- ♥ For Macau information visit [macautourism.gov.mo](http://macautourism.gov.mo)

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