

Guide to Gift-Giving in Hong Kong from an Expat Gal who has lived here for 5 years!

When it comes to gift-giving in Hong Kong, it's essential to keep local customs, etiquette, and small apartment sizes in mind. Hong Kongers appreciate thoughtful presents and proper gift-giving practices, so consider the following guidelines:

Gift-Giving Customs:

- :: Gifts are often given on special occasions like birthdays, Chinese New Year, and holidays.
- :: Red envelopes filled with money, called "lai sees," are commonly given during the Chinese New Year to bring good luck.
- :: Avoid giving clocks, as they are associated with death and mourning in local customs.
- :: Be cautious with the number four (四, pronounced "sei" in Cantonese) as it sounds similar to the word for death. Avoid giving gifts in sets of four, as well.

Etiquette:

- :: Use both hands or present gifts with both hands as a sign of respect.
- :: Present gifts wrapped neatly and elegantly. Red or gold-colored wrapping paper is often preferred.
- :: Never open a gift immediately upon receiving it. It is customary to open gifts privately.
- :: Remember to express gratitude when receiving a gift by saying "thank you" or "do ze" in Cantonese.

Consider Small Apartment Sizes:

- :: Due to limited living spaces in Hong Kong, practical and space-saving gifts are highly appreciated.
- :: Prefer lightweight and compact gifts that are easy to store.
- :: Choose gifts that have multiple uses or can be consumed, such as food, beverages, or perishable items such as flower bouquets.

Recommended Gifts for Different Occasions:

1. Chinese New Year: Traditional gift options include:

- Flower bouquets and Fruit baskets: Filled with premium, seasonal fruits symbolizing good health and prosperity. You can find them at Hong Kong florists that offer [flower delivery in Hong Kong](#) such as Flowerbee (www.flowerbee-hk.com) and Flower Chimp (www.flowerchimp.com.hk). For a [luxury florist in Hong Kong](#), consider

Petal & Poem (petalandpoem.com), M Florist (mflorist.com.hk), Ellermann (ellermannsdesigns.com), or [Blooms & Blossoms](#).

- Tea sets: High-quality teas or tea sets signify respect and are widely appreciated.

Website: www.moretea.hk

2. Birthdays/Anniversaries:

- Fine food and beverages: Gourmet chocolates or premium wines are excellent choices.

Website: www.godiva.com.hk

- Spa vouchers: Treat your loved ones to a personalized spa experience at one of Hong Kong's luxurious spas.

Website: www.mandarinoriental.com/hong-kong/victoria-harbour/luxury-spa

3. Housewarming:

- Small kitchen appliances: Compact and useful gadgets like coffee makers or electric kettles are practical for Hong Kong's tiny kitchens.

Website: www.fortress.com.hk

4. Weddings:

- Red envelopes with cash: A traditional and acceptable gift for weddings in Hong Kong.

- Household items: Consider gifting small, decorative pieces or personalized items for their new home.

Remember, the thought and effort put into the gift are what truly matter. Incorporating local customs and catering to the limited space of Hong Kong apartments will help you choose the perfect gift for any occasion. Happy gifting in the vibrant city of Hong Kong!

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