

# Macau

(November, 2003).

Macau



Welcome to Macau, on the border of China and Portugal: it's a city full of fusion, like this traditional Chinese picture in Portuguese azulejo-style (or whatever)

On the one side you'll find some beautiful Portuguese mansions...





...on the other hand around rue Felicidade one can find a maze of small typical Chinese shopping streets...so typical it's almost impossible to find them in any other 'real' Chinese city anymore.

The banks like the ancient Portuguese house style, but are easily attempted by the modern.





The Ruinas de Sao Paulo form the landmark of Macau. This beautiful facade is all that's left of a early-17th century church, built by Japanese (...right...japanese quality...no wonder there's not much left after all those years ;-)

Isn't this a wrong picture, Joyce in Torino ? No senhor, Joyce on largo do Senado in Macau. Yes, this is also China now.



Of course this is China ! The government tries everything to prevent spitting on the ground : 500 MOP (55 euro) fine if you get caught.



No need for spitting in this marvellous little garden, named Lou Lim Loc (now that sounds more Vietnamese to me...)

More fauna : these remarkable trees are scattered around the city.





Add some peaceful squares to all this and even the older Chinese become romantic...

Euh...is it meant for the fish or for the laundry ?





The gate of understanding between China and Macau. On the foreground a dragon boat is remembering better times...before the handover to China ?

After a long day, we enjoy a beautiful sunset above the Macanese city.





It's time to party. Before the eyes of the ever shining Kun lam (bodhisattva of compassion) a whole street full of bars and Mediterranean restaurants awaits us...charge

### Macau by night

During lunch we enjoyed two participants of the 15th International Fireworks Contest !



To finish off the night a visit to the all-time famous casinos of Macau is a must. Casino Lisboa is hot spot number one until the next sunrise.

## Coloane



Next morning straight to the deserted beaches of Coloane, one of the 2 islands, linked to the peninsula.

Except for 2 beaches, the small island of Coloane has a lovely little village and hosts more than a handful small but picturesque temples.





## Taipa



On to the other island, Taipa, which is being rebuilt in some modern attraction parc, but luckily still has a pleasant village that brings you back to Portugal on every corner of the street.

But behind some corners are the small backstreets, where the Chinese restaurants extend their kitchen and which bring you immediately back to where you really are : China !





Along the avenida da Praia (which beach ?) people have developed a strange habit : taking pictures of ducks seems to has become extremely popular in this area...



Before you know it, the weekend is over again and your airplane is taxiing in the direction of the sea...huh ?...right, straight into the water.