

Directions to Bethany from ShenzhenBei (Shenzhen North) Railway Station

If you are travelling to Bethany via fast train in to ShenzhenBei (Shenzhen North) Railway Station then the most convenient way is outlined below:

Step 1 – Metro to Futian

Exit the station and go up the escalators to the Longhua metro line, to Futian. It costs 4RMB for token to ride the metro to Futian, which you purchase from machines as you enter the metro station.

Step 2 – crossing the border to HK

Upon arrival at Futian, exit the metro and follow signs for 'Hong Kong'. If you do happen to have an Octopus Card for use in Hong Kong then we first suggest you locate the 'MTR Faresaver' booth which is on the level that you arrive to when first exiting the metro platform, BEFORE going through barriers – tap your Octopus Card on the machine and it will save you \$3 on the MTR train in HK. The metro journey takes approx. 20 minutes, and allowing for walking –time it can take as little as 30 minutes from exiting SZ North station to arriving at Futian.

The China-side of border crossing at Futian varies, anything from 3 minutes to 30-minutes or longer, which only usually happens at peak times on weekends (One of our staff has done this journey many times so has experienced different waiting-times!). Once through China immigration you walk across the bridge over in to Hong Kong (*take a long relaxing breath!*) and go through the HK immigration, which is pretty painless, and find yourself at Lok Ma Chau which is the HK-side of the border crossing. The next stage of your journey is to take the MTR train from Lok Ma Chau all the way to the terminus at Hung Hom. Before doing this, we recommend you make use of the toilets located just after you pass through HK-immigration; they have SOAP in the washrooms! If you have not got an Octopus Card then you may wish to obtain one from the customer service counter on the left as you enter the Lok Ma Chau MTR station. The Octopus card is a cashless card that can be used for most travel around HK, buying snacks and food from convenience stores (e.g. 7eleven), restaurants and so much more – and the cards never expire so you can keep or pass to friends for future trips to HK.

Step 3 – MTR from Lok Ma Chau to East TST

The journey from Lok Ma Chau to Hung Hom takes approx. 1 hour. When you arrive at Hung Hom we recommend to walk across the platform and take the MTR West Rail train 1-stop to East-TST. At East TST you then walk to exit L6 for Star ferry (approx. 10-15 minutes' walk, mostly in air-con!). The total cost of this journey is HK\$39.30 (with Octopus Card) or \$36.30 if you've successfully used the Faresaver at Futian metro station!

An alternative, if you would prefer to save on walking and/ or have lots of luggage is to exit at Hung Hom MTR and take a bus (HK\$5-10) or taxi (HK\$30 approx. direct from there to the TST Star Ferry pier.

Step 4 – Star Ferry

Take the Star ferry across the harbour to Central – cost \$2 using Octopus Card or cash-token, slightly higher on Sundays and public holidays.

There are several places to buy food/ snacks here, including Starbucks, Subway, 7-Eleven and a new fish-n-chip restaurant all in the star ferry pier.

Exit the star ferry pier to right and walk down to Pier 5 for Cheung Chau ferries

Step 5 – Ferry to Cheung Chau

Ferries depart Central Pier 5 twice an hour; one is the ordinary (55 minutes and HK\$13.20) the other is the fast (35 minutes, HK\$25.80).

See the Cheung Chau Ferry link on our website

(<http://www.bethanyhk.org/support-files/directions-to-bethany.pdf>) for directions from here.

Note the above fares correct as at August 2015.

Directions from Bethany to ShenzhenBei (Shenzhen North) Railway Station

For the return journey we advise you to work in reverse and allow 3-4 hours from leaving Bethany to arriving at ShenzhenBei, and getting to either the Starbucks or McDonalds (above platforms A18 and B18 respectively).

When your ferry arrives in to Central, exit Central Pier 5 and turn left for Star ferry. Then when you arrive at TST you will walk to East TST MTR station, go one-stop to Hung Hom, or can take bus/ taxi from TST Star ferry Pier to Hung Hom MTR station if you have heavy luggage. The journey from Central MTR to Lok Ma Chau is not advised as it requires 2 changes of trains, including a long walk, and takes longer.

When you are at Hung Hom, go across the platform and take the East Rail train to Lok Ma Chau, and will pretty much be guaranteed a seat if getting on at Hung Hom! If you get on the Lo Wu train then that's ok, just get off at Sheung Shui station (*the last place you can be guaranteed to use public toilet and have SOAP to wash your hands before getting into China!*), and await the train to Lok Ma Chau – if you have time then you can also save HK\$3.8 on your Octopus Card by exiting the station, wait 1 minute then come back in, it's a nice little thing to know!

Crossing the border from Lok Ma Chau (HK-side) to Futian (China-side) can take as little as 10 minutes, but around lunchtime, evenings and during public holidays allow 45 minutes or more just in case of long queues. The HK-side is usually pretty quick, China-side a little longer.

One tip we might offer is to actually buy your train ticket in HK for your Gautie train in China. You will pay more with conversion to HK\$ + a service charge but then you actually have your physical ticket and do not have to face potentially 1-hour queue at ShenzhenBei to collect your pre-paid ticket. To buy in HK you can go to CTS House which is located a 10-minute walk from Central Pier 5. To get there, exit the ferry pier to the right, walk down to the Discovery Bay pier and go up the escalators and over the walkway into IFC Mall. Walk straight until you get to the junction, head right and out onto another overhead walkway. At the first bridge over the highway (to your left) walk this way and you'll see CTS House. Walk down the stairs or go in the elevator to street-level then turn right and cross one side-street then you get to CTS House, walk in street entrance and the office is to the left, go to the counter and buy your ticket (using HK dollars).