AMalan, Upacara dan Perayaan
Rituals and Festive Events
儀式與節慶

6–8 July
2019
LET’S CELEBRATE!

George Town Heritage Celebrations 2019 highlights the rich diversity and beauty of our community rituals and festive events. Celebration-goers will have the opportunity to experience elements of rituals and festive events over three days through our carefully curated interactive workshops, performances and site visits.

We have also introduced a community-based inventorying project earlier this year to equip our participating communities with hands-on skills to identify and document cultural heritage elements. Some of the output of the inventorying process are shared in this George Town Heritage Celebrations to raise public awareness about cultural heritage safeguarding efforts, and encourage collective support to ensure the transmission of cultural heritage to the next generation.

We hope that through these activities, the values and significance of rituals and festive events will be shared to more people, in particular to the youth. More importantly, let’s appreciate the peace and harmony that we have in George Town, by respecting and valuing our similarities amidst the diversity.

Join us to safeguard our cultural heritage together, and Let’s Celebrate!

Dr. Ang Ming Chee  
Executive Producer  
George Town Heritage Celebrations 2019

SITE EXCURSIONS

**JUL 6 SAT**  
**State Chinese (Penang) Association**  
13 Jalan Perak, 9.00am - 11.00am  
Been to a Peranakan wedding before? Know any dance moves for the party? Tip: It’s the Joget dance. Ever tried dishes from a Tok Panjang feast? Sample them here. Also come get dressed in Baba and Nyonya outfits for added fun!

**Nattukottai Nagararath Heritage Society**  
124 Lebuh Penang, 12.00pm - 2.00pm  
Don’t miss this rare opportunity to take a peek inside a vintage, living Chettiar office. Witness a ceremony done to bless the starting of a new account at the beginning of every financial year. Enjoy traditional snacks and tea.

**JUL 7 SUN**  
**Kapitan Keling Mosque**  
14 Lebuh Buckingham, 10.00am - 12.00pm  
Tour the stately mosque and learn about the Akad Nikah, the Indian Muslim solemnisation ceremony. Taste the simple, and yet distinctive festive snacks provided during this occasion.

**Penang Eurasian Association**  
107-A Jalan Kelawai, 1.00pm - 3.00pm  
Experience a typical Eurasian wedding party complete with a live band performance of golden oldies and rock ‘n’ roll dancing. Cap it off with traditional Eurasian fare like Mulligatawny soup and sugee cake.

**Gujarati Samaj Penang**  
41 Jalan Green Hall, 4.00pm - 6.00pm  
Let the Gujarati community share with you their traditional wedding customs. Learn the Raas dance and enjoy a true Gujarati meal.

**JUL 8 MON**  
**Wadda Gurdwara Sahib Penang**  
87 Jalan Gurdwara, 10.00am - 12.00pm  
Go on a tour of the gurdwara (place of worship for Sikhs) and witness a Dastar Bandhi in which a Sikh boy receives his first turban. Try your hand at turban tying and partake in a vegetarian meal.

**Nam Hooi Wooi Koon**  
463 Lebuh Chulia, 4.00pm - 6.00pm  
Learn about the rich history of the association’s building. Witness a Cantonese opera and enjoy some Nam Hooi snacks while you’re at it.

Note: To join the site excursions, register here: event.howel.com/gthc2019. The fees are RM30 (MyKad/MyKid) and RM50 (Standard) per site. Please dress appropriately when visiting places of worship.
The performances bring together dances, music and storytelling from rituals and festivities as a showcase of George Town's rich cultural diversity.

**Main Stage**

**6:30 – 10:30 PM**

**Armenian Park**

- **Mak Yong “Dewa Muda”** by Mak Yong Seri Baya Indera Rupa
  - Listed by UNESCO as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, Mak Yong is a traditional Malay performance involving dance, music, drama and comedy.

- **Kavadi Attam** by Temple of Five Arts Penang
  - The kavadi, decorated with peacock feathers, symbolises Lord Murugan’s vehicle. This dance incorporates the bird’s movements as devotees dance along their Thalpuam pilgrimage route.

- **Hakka Pixiu Dance** by Penang Hakka Association
  - Performed during harvest season, the dance features a Pixiu (imaginary beast in Chinese mythology) and farmer hats. It is accompanied by Yangge music, songs farmers sing to help them cope with the hardship of working the land.

- **Choir** by Penang Philharmonic Chamber Choir
  - A medley of a capella choral music celebrating the cycle of life, taking you through childhood, coming of age, falling in love and lastly, death.

- **Duet Across The Stream** by Teochew Puppet and Opera House
  - Teochew Opera fuses singing, acting and martial arts. Characters in the play muses about the 24 Solar Terms, a guide formulated to help with farming and other cultural aspects of life.

- **Shimokita Ondo** by Kikyo Hana Group
  - Shimokita Ondo is a happy dance to appreciate life performed during Bon Odori and also a Japanese Buddhist custom honouring visiting ancestors from “the other side”.

- **Awang Batil** by Nine Flick Resources
  - Ramli Mahmund is the last penglipur lara (storyteller) able to fully embody the narration and customs of the Awang Batil story. He received the National Living Heritage (Tokoh Warisan Orang Hidup Warisan Kebangsaan) award in 2015.

- **Gamelan** by Wat Long Music and Art Centre
  - Traditionally reserved for Malay royal occasions, this contemporary gamelan performance has evolved to include classic Thai and Chinese songs. Key instruments within the ensemble are percussive, including metallophones and drums.

- **Carnatic Music “Kavadi Sindhru”** by Temple of Five Arts Penang
  - Played and sung during Thaipusam to motivate kavadi-carrying devotees along their pilgrimage route, Kavadi Sindhru is performed in the Carnatic style, a vocal-focused system of music from Southern India.

- **Drums** by Louhd Percussion Team
  - Believed to chase away bad fortune and usher in good luck, drum performances are a staple at Chinese weddings, business openings and other festivities.

- **Dikir Barat** by Dikir Barat Suara Mulek
  - Back-up singers sit on the floor cross-legged, led by a leader coming up with witty, sometimes satirical lyrics about everyday life, as well as social and political issues.

- **Lion Dance** by Penang Grocers’ Association
  - Lion dance performers remove symbolic obstacles for good luck when performing for Chinese families and businesses on special occasions.

**Other Happenings**

Since you’re in town, stay for other exciting festivals happening on the island! The month of July is packed with different events celebrating the diversity of Penang’s many traditions and talents.

- **Armenian Street’s Got Talent**
  - 6 July 2019
  - 5.00pm - 9.00pm
  - Lebuh Armenian
  - +6011 1098 0881

- **George Town Festival**
  - 13 July - 28 July 2019
  - +6012 664 6231

- **St. George’s Church Heritage Day**
  - 6 July 2019
  - 10.00am - 4.00pm
  - St. George’s Church
  - stgeorgeschurchpenang.com

- **Penang Hill Festival**
  - 18 July - 21 July 2019
  - 8.00am - 10.00pm
  - Penang Hill
  - +604 828 8880

- **Penang Bon Odori Festival**
  - 20 July 2019
  - 6.00pm - 11.00pm
  - Queensbay Mall Outdoor Carpark
  - +604 650 5133

- **Meng Eng Soo**
  - 7 July 2019
  - 4.00pm - 11.00pm
  - Jalan Pinang Tennis Court
  - Penang, Malaysia
  - Meng Eng Soo
**Majlis Menyambut Pengantin**
Learn to play the kempan, a handdrum used in Malay weddings to signal the arrival of the bride and groom.
- Madya Kenanga Majlis Anugerah Lebuah Atcheh

**Maruthani Iruvaz**
A few days before an Indian Muslim wedding, the bride’s fingers and feet are decorated with traditional pastes while the groom will have 3 fingers on each hand coloured. This is a sign of blessing for their upcoming wedding.
- Laju Muthu (Kuala Lumpur)

**Einschuling**
In Germany, a child receives a cone filled with toys and candy called Schultüte on the first day of school to celebrate his or her transition from kindergarten to primary school.
- MalaysianGerman Society

**Nitchayaparam**
Net urundai (sweet green bananas) are among the array of sweet treats at the Velai tray presented to the bride by the groom during a familiar engagement ceremony.
- Malaysian Association

**Hinamatsuri**
Ornate dolls are folded and displayed to bring luck, health, happiness and a good marriage to girls in this special Japanese girl’s day celebration. - Association of Japanese Federation

**Duo Zhez**
On a baby’s first birthday, a variety of items are placed around the child. If the child grasps a scale for example, it would mean entrepreneurship. Learn the Hokkien pronunciation for each object and its symbolism.
- Penang Hokkien Association

**Sangeet**
Sangeet, the Gujrati pre-wedding celebration that brings the couple’s two families together in song and dance. A nice Turquoise pattern is also created, signifying warmth and goodwill.
- Gujarat Tourism Promotion

**Mwa Guenk**
One-month-old Penan babies are introduced to the family and ancestors during this celebration. Aqil Kau Kauh, as well as hardboiled eggs and other foods, will be sent out to relatives and friends as a sign of bliss and abundance.
- State Chinese Association

**Mwa Gua**
In Hainanese culture, a sticky rice cake coated with descriptor coconut, Aqil Buhu, is offered to ancestors as a tribute during a baby’s full moon celebration. Among Hainan Association

**Sadangul Kazhithal**
Chatters make Koppal Kau, a milk seed paste for polyster clothing. In which girls are dressed in brass necklaces and pendants and formed in rings.
- Tamil Association

**Pei Piao Jialukarra Belam**
The couple applies a paste made of jilai (brown) and balen (flour or cane sugar) on each other’s cheeks in the wedding ceremony, symbolizing an unbreakable bond between them through bitter and sweet times. This is followed by a feast of delicious delicacies e.g. Gongora. - Traders’ Association of Malayalee, Penang Branch

**Main Nylef**
The Hokkien serve Zhi Pa in guests after a baby turns one month old. Relatives come bearing gifts and blessings to celebrate the baby’s good health.
- Penang Hokkien Association

**Tirumana Valima Vrinutu**
After being showered with rice grains and petals symbols of fertility during the wedding ceremony, the Indian-Malay couple will play the Pallangu Voters which as an ice-waterer between the two. Don’t miss the huge special demonstrations of a traditional Indian-Indian wedding ceremony.
- Tamil-Kapitan Keling Community Centre and Indian-Muslim Community Organization Malaysia (IMCOM)

**Gaua Batona**
Everyone takes a break from wedding preparations the night before the big day. After singing traditional songs, the palace will dance at the bride and groom’s house respectively. Gula is an energetic dance performed at all happy occasions.
- Malacca Cultural Society

**Cuq Hwe Hing**
Sri Kau Kauh is prepared for this Teochew common-well-egage ceremony for 15-year-olds. The dumplings, stuffed with ingredients, symbolize a money bag and signifies good health, fortune and financial management.
- Penang Teochew Association

**Kallamachi Raavu**
Sogan is a unique Malay song dance that ladies of the family perform for the bride on Melaka Night. An expert is hired to decorate the bride’s hands and feet with heka designs.
- Kallamachi Association

**Majlis Cukur Jambul**
It is customary for Malay families to draw their baby’s hair seven days after birth. There will be a feast to accompany this hair-cutting ceremony in which the host will give out Bunga Labu to guests. The hardboiled eggs decorated to look like flowers symbolize fertility.
- Melayu Bela Pulau

**Rod Nam Sang**
Learn to make the Phang Mala flower garland that is draped on Chinese couples by their parents on their wedding day. This is followed by guests pouring sacred water out of conical shells into the palms of the newlyweds while blessing them.
- Penang Sanner Association

**Ké Tisvu**
Get to know some, in it’s kluu, peers of blessings received at a Hokkien wedding day when the bride is welcomed to his family.
- Kluu Hary Kuan, Penang (Stborn)

**Wedding Reception**
Popularized in the 10s and 10s, American-rock ballad remains a favourite choice of dance among Eurasian families here, especially during weddings and in many other joyous occasions.
- Eurasian Association

**Njol Cuen**
Before a Cantonese wedding, the macronival bed setting ceremony is held to bless the couple with marital bliss and many children. Woodblock prints of auspicious phrases and designs called Pen. Wax are plastered on room doors in the groom’s house for a happy marriage.
- Guangdong and Teochew Association

**Melaya**
Melaya is a 15th wedding ritual in which the couple is covered with a turmeric-vegetable mixture to get rid of their bad habits. On the eve of the wedding, everyone dances the Sangan Bhangra to celebrate the happy occasion.
- Melaya Association

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**GENTLE REMINDERS**

- **Dress Comfortably!** Because it’s a street festival and we have Malaysian weather!
- **Stay Hydrated!** We’ve got water stations, so bring along your water bottles.
- **Beat The Jam!** Use ride-sharing apps, take a bus or carpool to reduce traffic jams.