

George Town
Heritage
 Celebrations 2019



LET'S CELEBRATE!

AMALAN, UPACARA DAN PERAYAAN
 சடங்குகளும் விழா நிகழ்வுகளும்
 RITUALS AND FESTIVE EVENTS
 儀式與節慶



6-8 JULY
 2019



Perayaan Warisan George Town
 喬治市入遺慶典
 ஜோர்ஜ் டவுன் பாரம்பரியம்
 பண்பாட்டு விழா

11th Anniversary Celebration for
GEORGE TOWN
 UNESCO World Heritage Site



United Nations
 Educational, Scientific and
 Cultural Organization



Malaka & George Town
 Historic Cities of the
 Straits of Malacca

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 Nagarathar Heritage Society

124 Lebu 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 Lebu 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 sugée 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 Lebu 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.howei.com/gthc2019. The fees are RM30 (MyKad/MyKid) and RM50 (Standard) per site. Please dress appropriately when visiting places of worship.

STREET FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES

SATURDAY
6 JULY

The performances bring together dances, music and storytelling from rituals and festivities as a showcase of George Town's rich cultural diversity.

🎵 Main Stage Armenian Park

6.30 – 10.30
PM PM

Mak Yong "Dewa Muda"

by Makyong Seri
Bayu 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 Fine 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 Thaipusam 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 muse 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 Flix Resources

Ramli Mahmud 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 Wak 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 Sindhu"

by Temple of Fine Arts
Penang

Played and sung during Thaipusam to motivate kavadi-carrying devotees along their pilgrimage route, Kavadi Sindhu is performed in the Carnatic style, a vocal-focused system of music from Southern India.

Drums

by Louds 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
Mutiar

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.



🎵 Dance Floor Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

7.00 – 11.00
PM PM

Hanagasa Ondo

by Kikyo Hana Group

Performed during the Yamagata Hanagasa Festival, Hanagasa Ondo is a Japanese folk song accompanied by spirited drumming with dancers in flower decorated straw hats.

Raas Garba

by Gujarati Samaj
Penang

According to legend, the Raas Garba originated from the dance of women who were given protection by Lord Krishna. It is a dance of joy and devotion performed at almost all Gujarati festivities.

Hakka Pixiu Dance

by Penang Hakka
Association

The Pixiu (imaginary beast in Chinese mythology) maintains household wellness and eats gold, silver and jewels but cannot expel it! This harvest dance symbolises the gaining and retaining of wealth.

Giddha and Bhangra

by Seema Dhillon
Punjabi Dance Group

Giddha is an energetic folk dance with rhythmic clapping performed by women during festivities. Bhangra dancers kick, leap and bend their bodies to the syncopated beats of the dhol drum.

Rock 'n' Roll

by Penang Eurasian
Association

Rock 'n' roll emerged in the '50s and teens shimmied with partners to fast beats, borrowing from the Lindy Hop's sporty moves. Today, it remains a favourite dance at Eurasian wedding parties.

Tarian Buluh

by Wak Long Music
and Art Centre

A ceremonial dance of the Murut tribe from Sabah, Tarian Buluh involves dancers skillfully jumping across bamboo poles that direct the footwork and rhythm of this performance.

6 PM 7 PM 8 PM 9 PM 10 PM 11 PM

🎵 Main Stage Armenian Park

🎵 Dance Floor Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling



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
📍 Lebuhr Armenian
☎ +6011 1098 0881

George Town Festival

📅 13 July - 28 July 2019
☎ +6012 664 6251
📍 George Town Festival

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

Meng Eng Soo

📅 7 July 2019
🕒 4.00pm - 11.00pm
📍 Jalan Pintal Tali
📱 名英祠 Meng Eng Soo

Penang Bon Odori Festival

📅 20 July 2019
🕒 6.00pm - 11.00pm
📍 Queensbay Mall Outdoor Carpark
☎ +604 650 5133



**STREET FESTIVAL
COMMUNITY
WORKSHOPS**

6 JULY
SATURDAY

6.00 – 11.00
PM PM

What better way to know the city's old rituals and festivities than to experience it yourself? Learn from the community experts and get busy with the workshops they have prepared.

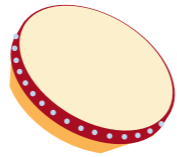
Can you finish them all in one night?

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-hailing apps, take a bus or carpool to reduce traffic jams.
- #GTHC2019:** You know what to do. Have fun!

1 Majlis Menyambut Pengantin

Learn to play the kompang, a handheld drum used in Malay weddings to signal the arrival of the bride and groom.
— *Badan Warisan Masjid Melayu Lebuah Acheh*



2 Maruthani Iravu

A few days before an Indian Muslim wedding, the bride's fingertips and feet are decorated with inai (henna paste) while the groom will have 3 fingers on each hand coloured. This is a sign of blessing for their upcoming wedding.
— *Liga Muslim Pulau Pinang*



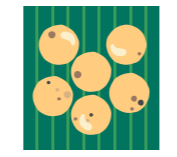
3 Einschulung

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



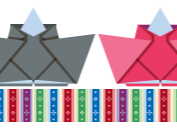
4 Nitchayatartam

Nei Urundai (sweet ghee balls) are among the array of treats on a Varisai tray presented to the bride by the groom during a Tamilian engagement ceremony.
— *Penang Hindu Association*



5 Hinamatsuri

Origami dolls are folded and displayed to bring luck, health, happiness and a good marriage to girls in this special Japanese 'girl's day' celebration.
— *Malaysian-Japanese Society*



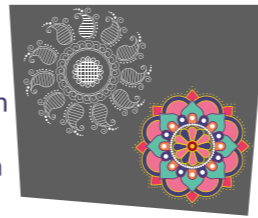
6 Duo Zhei

On a baby's first birthday, a variety of items are placed around the child. If the child grabs a scale, for example, it would mean entrepreneurship. Learn the Hokkien pronunciations for each object and its symbolism.
— *Penang Hokkien Association*



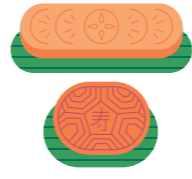
7 Sangeet

Sangeet, the Gujarati pre-wedding celebration that brings the couple's two families together in song and dance. A rice flour Rangoli pattern is also created, signifying welcome and good well-being.
— *Gujarati Samaj Penang*



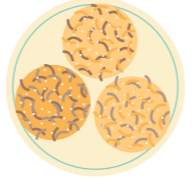
8 Mua Guek

One-month-old Peranakan babies are introduced to the family's ancestors during this celebration. Ang Koo Kueh, as well as hardboiled eggs and other food items, will be sent out to relatives and friends as a sign of bliss and abundance.
— *State Chinese (Penang) Association*



9 Mua Gue

In Hainanese culture, a sticky rice cake coated with desiccated coconut, Art Bhua, is offered to ancestors as a tribute during a baby's full moon celebration.
— *Penang Hainan Association*



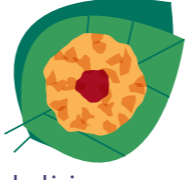
10 Sadangu Kazhithal

Chettiars make Keppai Roti, a millet seed pancake for puberty ceremonies in which girls are dressed in brand new clothes and blessed by their elders.
— *Nattukottai Nagarathar Heritage Society*



11 Pellilo Jillakarra Bellam

The couple applies a paste made of jilla (cumin) and bellam (jaggery or cane sugar) on each other's heads in the wedding ceremony, symbolising an unbreakable bond between them through bitter and sweet times. This is followed by a feast of Telugu delicacies e.g. Gongora.
— *Telugu Association of Malaysia, Penang Branch*



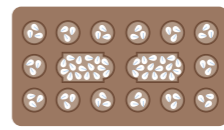
12 Man Nyiet

The Hakkas serve Zhi Pa to guests after a baby turns one month old. Relatives come bearing gifts and blessings to celebrate the baby's good health.
— *Penang Hakka Association*



13 Tirumana Valima Viruntu

After being showered with rice grains and petals (symbols of fertility) during the bersanding ceremony, the Indian Muslim couple will play the Pallanguli game which acts as an ice-breaker between the two. Don't miss the hourly special demonstration of a traditional Indian Muslim wedding ceremony.
— *Masjid Kapitan Keling Qaryah Committee and Indian Muslim Community Organisation Malaysia (iMcom)*



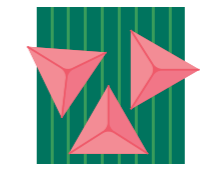
14 Gaun Batonna

Everyone takes a break from wedding preparations the night before the big day. After singing traditional songs, the Punjabis will dance at the bride's and groom's houses respectively. Giddha is an energetic dance performed at all happy occasions.
— *Wadda Gurdwara Sahib Penang*



15 Cug Hue Hng

San Kak Kue is prepared for this Teochew coming-of-age ceremony for 15-year-olds. The dumpling, stuffed with ingredients, symbolises a money bag and signifies good health, fortune and financial management.
— *Penang Teochew Association*



16 Mailanchi Raavu

Oppana is a Muslim Malayali song and dance that ladies of the family perform for the bride on Mailanchi night. An expert is hired to decorate the bride's hands and feet with henna designs.
— *North Malaysia Malayali Samajam*



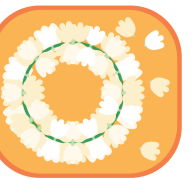
17 Majlis Cukur Jambul

It is customary for Malay families to shave their baby's hair seven days after its birth. There will be a feast to accompany this shaving ceremony in which the host will give out Bunga Telur to guests. The hardboiled eggs decorated to look like flowers symbolise fertility.
— *Warisan Balik Pulau*



18 Rod Nam Sang

Learn to make the Phuang Malai flower garland that is draped on Siamese couples by their parents on their wedding day. This is followed by guests pouring sacred water out of conch shells into the palms of the newlyweds while blessing them.
— *Penang Siamese Association*



19 Kè Tshuà

Get to know some kau in ê si kù, poems of blessings recited on a Hokkien wedding day when the groom welcomes the bride to his family.
— *Un Khuay Hoey Kuan, Penang (Youth)*



20 Wedding Reception

Popularised in the '50s and '60s, American rock 'n' roll remains a favourite choice of dance amongst Eurasian families here, especially during weddings and in many other joyous occasions.
— *Penang Eurasian Association*



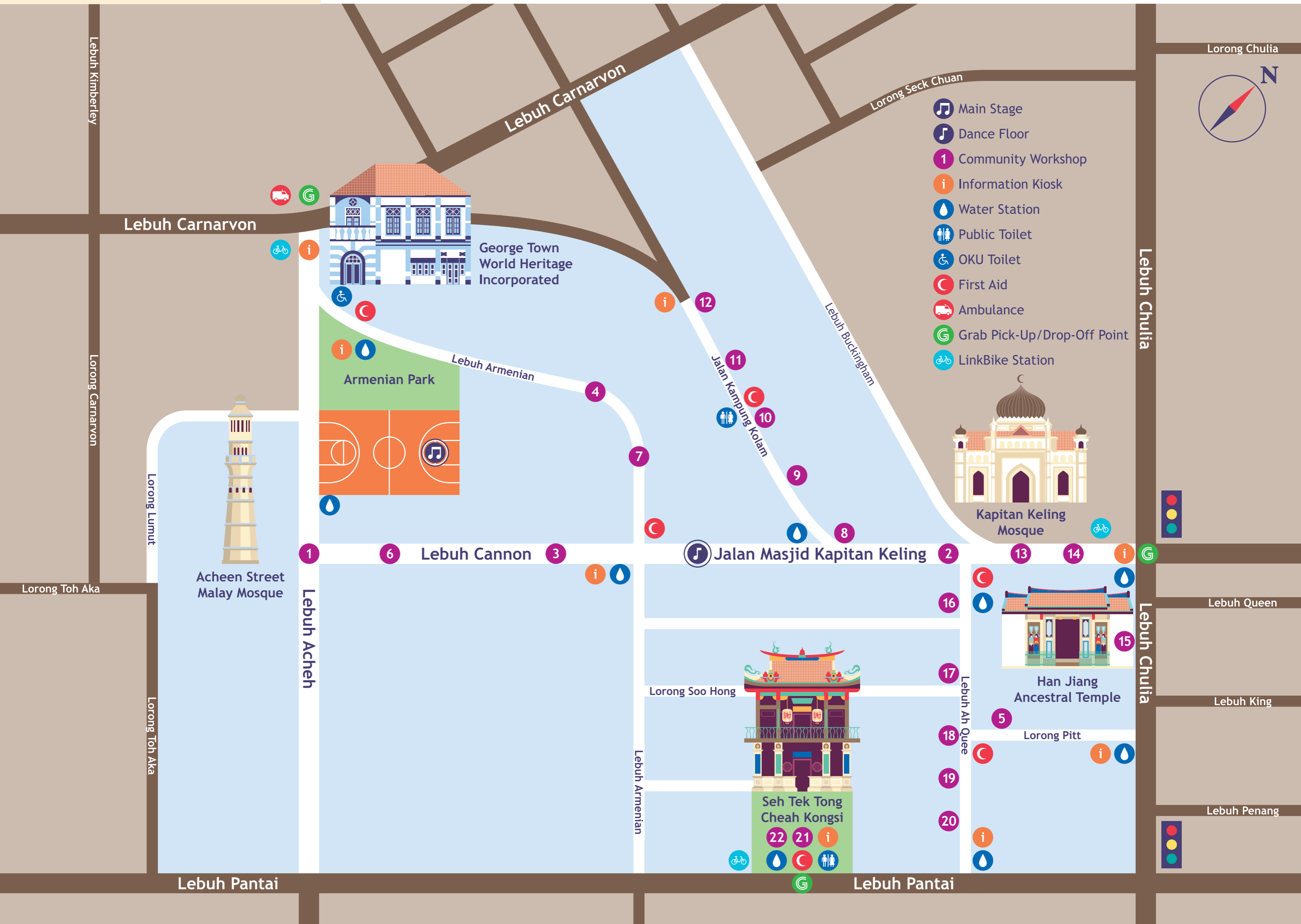
21 Ngon Cuong

Before a Cantonese wedding, the matrimonial bed setting ceremony is held to bless the couple with marital bliss and many children. Woodblock prints of auspicious phrases and designs called Pan Waa are pasted on room doors in the groom's house for a happy marriage.
— *Kwangtung and Tengchow Association*



22 Maiyaan

Maiyaan is a Sikh pre-wedding ritual in which the couple is covered with a turmeric-yogurt mixture to get glowing skin on their wedding day! On the eve of the wedding, everyone dances the Sangeet Bhangra to celebrate the happy occasion.
— *Sikh Naujawan Sabha Malaysia (Penang Branch)*



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Programme Partners



Wadda Gurdwara Sahib Penang



SRI SUKSESARI SARI MALAYSIA (PENANG BRANCH)



Penang Chinese Association



Performance Partners



Penang Philharmonic



Penang Grocers' Association

Seema Dhillon Punjabi Dance Group



Venue Partners



THE MAJESTIC THEATRE

Ride Partners



All information in this brochure is correct at the time of printing. Get the most updated programme details from:

George Town Heritage Celebrations gtwhi.com.my/gthc2019

heritagecelebrations

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