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

6–8 JULY
2019

Perayaan Warisan George Town
喬治市遺產慶典
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Melaka & 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

**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 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.

**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.

**Wada 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.
STREET FESTIVAL
PERFORMANCES

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

Mak Yong “Dewa Muda”
by Mak Yong Seri Bayu Indra Rupa

Listing 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 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 Fika Resources

Ramli Ahmad 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 Sindhru”
by Temple of Five Arts Penang

Played and sung during Thaipusam to motivate kavadi-carrying devotees along their pilgrimage route, Kavadi Sindhru is a 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 Melayu

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

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
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
石英ulla Meng Eng Soo

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

Dance Floor
Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keiling

6.00 PM
Hanagas Ondo
by Kikyo Hana Group

Performed during the Yamagata Hanagas Festival, Hanagas 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 (imaginative beast in Chinese mythology) maintains household wellbeing and eats gold, silver and jewels but cannot expel it! This harvest dance symbolises the gaining and retaining of wealth.

Giddha and Bangra
by Seema Dhillan Punjabi Dance Group

Giddha is an energetic folk dance with rhythmic clapping performed by women during festivities. Bangra 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.

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.
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-sharing apps, take a bus or carpool to reduce traffic jams.

#GTCH2019: You know what to do. From here!

1. Maffis Menyambut Pengantin
   Learn to play the kompak, a hand drum used in Malay weddings to signal the arrival of the bride and groom. — Datuk Wira Doraisamy Lepuh Achen

2. Maruthani Irava
   A few days before an Indian wedding, the bride’s feet are decorated with turmeric paste while green leaves are tied around them. — Ligea Muthu Achar

3. Einschulung
   In Germany, a child receives a cone filled with treats and toys called Schultuete on the first day of school to celebrate her/his transition from kindergarten to primary school. — Malay-German Society

4. Hitchayaparam
   Net Undriana (sweet gourd jelly) are among the array of sweets on a Verbal tray presented to the bride by the groom during a festival engagement ceremony. — Tamil 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 girls’ day celebration. — Japanese Girl’s Association

6. Duo Zhet
   On a baby’s first birthday, a variety of foods 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. — Perang Hokkien Association

7. Sangeet
   Sangeet, the Gujrati pre-wedding celebrations that brings the couple’s two families together in song and dance. A nice Toru Nangeli pattern is also created, signifying warmth and good well-being. — Gujrati Sangeet Association

8. Mua Gukk
   One-month-old Penangese babies are introduced to the family’s ancestors during this celebration. The Koo Koo, a banana leaf and eggs, as well as hardboiled eggs and other food items, will be sent out to relatives and friends as a sign of blessings and abundance. — Chinese Senior Association

9. Mua Gus
   In Hainanese culture, a sticky rice cake coated with banana flower coconut, Alu Bihai, is offered to ancestors as a tribute during the baby’s full moon celebration. — Hainanese Association

10. Saadung Kazhthial
    Cotters make Kuppal Kooi, a millet seed pancket for puja ceremonies in which girls are dressed in black new clothes and blessed by their elders. — Tamil Hindu Association

11. Perii Jilukkarra Bellam
    The couple applies a paste made of jilla (creamy) and betel (betel leaf or cane sugar) in each other’s hands in the wedding ceremony, symbolizing an unbreakable bond between them through bitter and sweet times. This is followed by a feast of Indian dishes e.g. Sengara. — Telugu Association of Malaysia, Penang Branch

12. Main Nyleet
    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. — Perang Hokkien Association

13. Tirumana Valima Vruntu
    After being showered with nice grains and petals of flowers during the bemanning ceremony, the Indian-Malay couple will play the Pallangull game which acts as an icebreaker between the two. Don’t miss the happy special demonstration of a traditional Indian-Kelantanese wedding ceremony. — Majlis Kapitan Kinta Guppy Committee and Indian-Muslim Community Organization Malaysia (IMCOM)

14. Gaun Batonna
    Everyone takes a break from wedding preparations the night before the big day. After singing traditional songs, the Paung will be placed at the bride and groom’s houses respectively. Dalika is an energetic dance performed at all happy occasions. — Malay Hindu Association

15. Cusk Hue Bing
    Sri Koon is prepared for this Teochew cremated-age ceremony for 15-year-olds. The dumplings, stuffed with ingredients, symbolised a money bag and signifies good health, fortune and financial management. — Perang Teochew Association

16. Makanalchi Raavu
    Olanas in a unqiue Malay song and dance that ladies of the family perform for the bride on the night before. An expert is hired to decorate the brides hands and feet with henna design. — Melayu Alor Setar Association

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

18. Rod Nam Sang
    Learn to make the Phaung, a Malwi flower garland that is draped on the couple’s 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. — Perang Sumatera Association

19. Ké Tshù
    To give the bride’s youth and vitality, a layer of powder is rubbed on her back, arms and face. — Huyu Hary Kuan, Peching (Guang)

20. Wedding Reception
    Popularised in the 10s and 19s, the Cénti remains a favourite choice of dance among Eurasian families here, especially during weddings and in many other joyful occasions. — Perang Eurasian Association

21. Ngón Cùnun
    Before a Caucasians wedding, the macrocrystal bed setting ceremony is held to bless the couple with marra, bila and many children. Woodblock prints of auspicious phrases and designs called Pen Wax are pasted on room doors in the groom’s house for a happy marriage. — Kwangyao and Temegong Association

22. Malyaun
    Malyaun is a 5th wedding ritual in which the couple is covered with a turmeric-v eget mixture to get ready for their wedding day. At the end of the wedding, everyone dances the Sangede Bhangra to celebrate the happy occasion. — 2nd Najapura Subhi Malwai (Penang Branch)