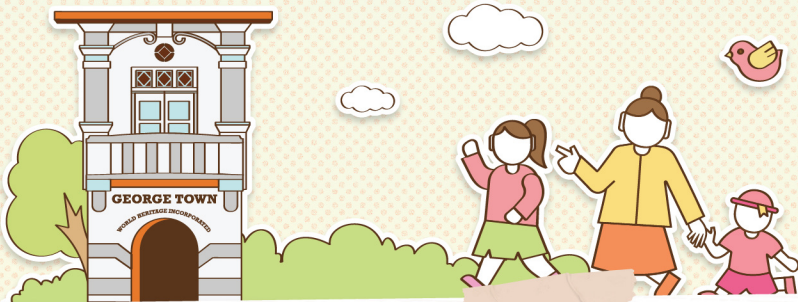




OUR PARTNERS



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

- heritagecelebrations
- George Town Heritage Celebrations
- <https://gtwhi.com.my/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@gtwhi116>

Your Feedback
Helps Us To Improve!



George Town Heritage Celebrations 2025

PERAYAAN WARISAN
GEORGE TOWN 2025

2025年喬治市入遺慶典

2025 - ஆம் ஆண்டின் ஜோர்ஜ் டவுன்
பாரம்பரிய பண்பாட்டு விழா



5-7 JULY 2025

George Town UNESCO
World Heritage Site

ENTRANCE @ Lebuh Aceh

- Chingay Parade**
Penang Chingay Association

FIVE-FOOT WAY @ Lebuh Armenian

- Trishaw Frenzy!**
LUMA
- Preserving Memories:
Rubbing Art Experience**
Thai Pak Koong (Ng Suk) Temple
- Matli Shangar: Decoration
of Earthen Pots**
Gujarati Samaj Penang
- Chinese Painting and
Paper Cutting**
Lum Yeong Tong Yap Temple

LIVING ROOM

@ Armenian Park & Basketball Court

- Layang-Layang Making**
Persatuan Warisan Dato Koyah
- Pastime with
Peranakan Nyonya**
State Chinese (Penang) Association
- Fun with Hokkien:
Learning Through Play**
Penang Hokkien Association Youth Section
- Pathways to Sabarimala:
The Ayyappan Pilgrimage Experience**
Pertubuhan Kebajikan Ayyappan
Batu Uban Pulau Pinang
- Lifeways in
Kadayanallur Tenkasi**
Central Muslim Society
- German Architecture:
Doorway to George Town's Innovation**
Malaysian-German Society

AIRWELL

@ Masjid Melayu Lebuh Aceh

- Heritage Writing Workshop:
The Key to Language and Culture**
Badan Warisan Masjid Melayu Lebuh Aceh

FRONT BEDROOM

@ Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi

- Let's Learn Hakka!**
Penang Hakka Association
- The Colours of Batik**
Warisan Balik Pulau
- Malayali Mundus and
Dazzling Upperis**
North Malaysia Malayali Samajam

REAR BEDROOM

@ Hock Teik Cheng Sin Temple

- Traditional Sikh Wear**
Persatuan Wadda Gurdwara
Sahib Penang
- Doorway to the Milky Way**
The Pink Hibiscus Club

KITCHEN @ Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

- Revival of Pottery Life**
Penang Hindu Association
- Nanyang Coffee Workshop**
Penang Hidden Gems
- Kolkatai: Traditional Food
from the Indian Muslim**
Gabungan Persatuan India Muslim
Pulau Pinang (GAPEIM)
- The Art of Biryani:
A Culinary Journey**
Spice & Curry Production House
- Nagarathar Culinary:
Kuzhi Paniyaram**
Nattukottai Nagarathar Heritage Society
- Demonstration Of Making
Traditional Indian Muslim Food**
Liga Muslim Pulau Pinang

COURTYARD

@ Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi

- Nanyang Childhood Games**
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi
- Mahnora Performance**
Persatuan Masyarakat Siam
Pulau Pinang
- Portuguese Dance**
Penang Eurasian Association
- Bon Giri Renka:
Bon Festival Love Song**
Malaysian-Japanese Society
- Malay Traditional Dances:
Tualang, Ronggeng and Joget**
National Department for Culture
and Arts, Penang Branch (JKNPP)
- Daathubhajana Chirathalaata**
Penang Telugu Biddalu
- The Spirit of Bhanga:
Beats that Define a Culture**
Sikh Naujawan Sabha Malaysia

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

- CIMB x NCER**

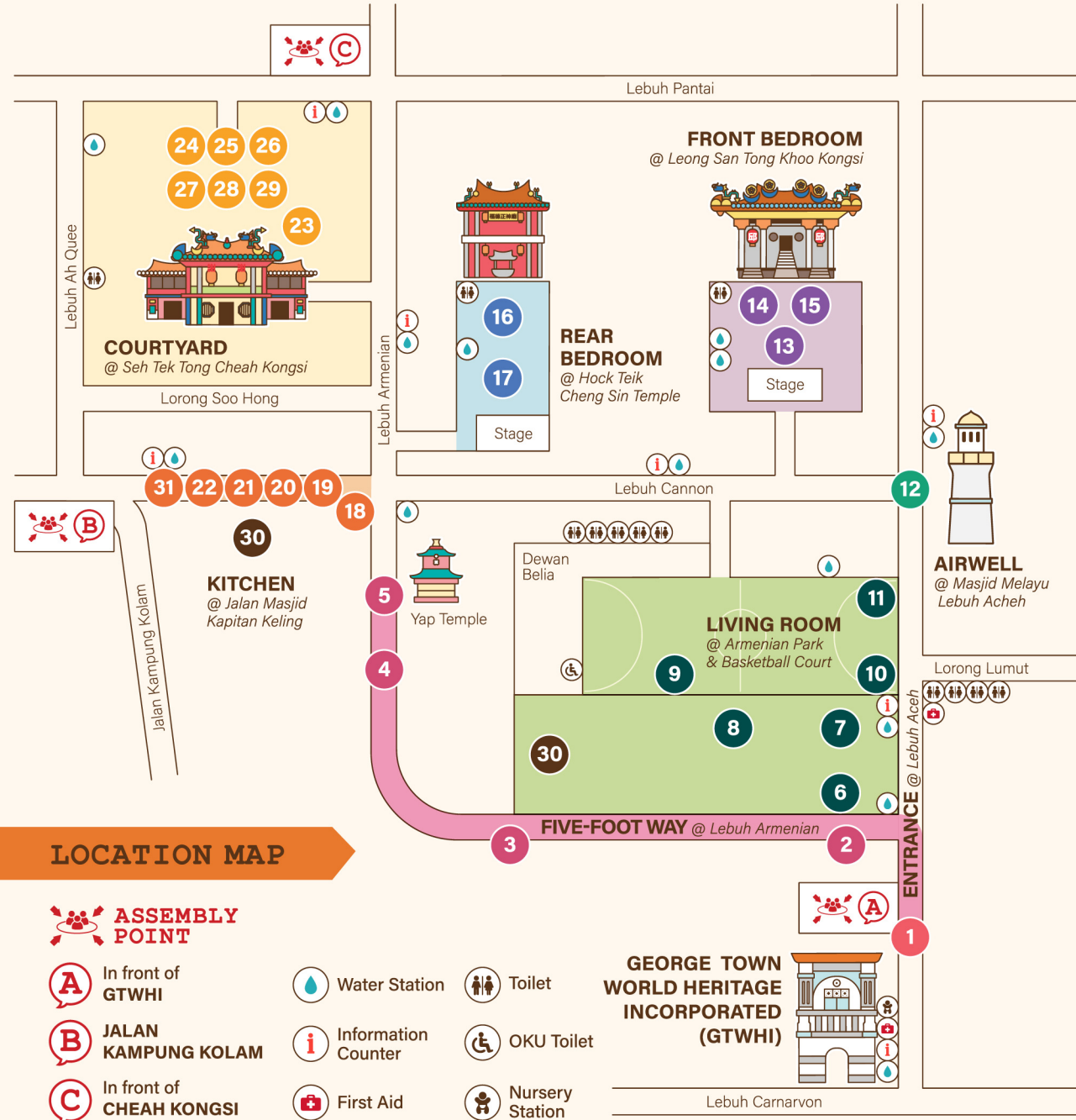


CULTURAL WORKSHOP

5 JULY 2025

6 PM - 10 PM

George Town UNESCO
World Heritage Site



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FOREWORD

EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE

Year 2025 marks the 17th anniversary of George Town's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage site. For a person, 17 is the ripe age of a teenager—bolder, louder, and looking at every opportunity as an exciting brand new adventure (although for cats, it is already way past their retirement age).

The George Town Heritage Celebrations is at that spirited phase—full of motivation and eager to prove itself. The in-between within the stages of life: stepping into adulthood, yet still a teen at heart. We are embarking on new challenges, exploring possibilities, and innovating creative ways in cultural heritage safeguarding and conservation.

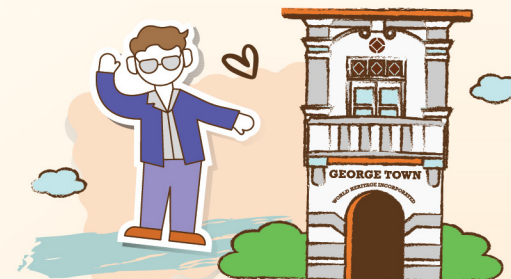
We are 'becoming' and 'reflecting' on our achievements so far, to strive for a more meaningful and fun approach in heritage preservation and education.

"Doors and Doorways" aptly captures this transitional phase. More than just entrances, doors serve as a passage to discover stories, aspirations, and values that define the lifeways of communities in George Town. This year we deepen the storytelling capacities with our communities to better articulate our personal experiences and collective histories that make George Town a World Heritage site.

We invite everyone, especially the youth, to marvel at the beauty of our heritage and feel the pulse of this place that shapes our shared identity. Come flood the streets and relish in the spirit of the Celebrations; interact personally with the communities and experience firsthand the happenings behind every door in George Town.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors and the State Government of Penang for their unwavering support and the continuous commitments from participating communities, partners, volunteers, and visitors for the Celebrations. Above all, I want to express my gratefulness to GTWHI and GTHC teams who have been working tirelessly in making this Celebrations a success. I love you all.

Get on the adventure, and Let's Celebrate!



Dr Ang Ming Chee
General Manager, GTWHI

Executive Producer,
George Town Heritage
Celebrations 2025

15 June 2025

DOORS & DOORWAYS

Narrating George Town's Story

DOORS & DOORWAYS is physical as it is symbolic. The concept extends beyond architectural features, serving as a potent metaphor and a manifestation of George Town's rich cultural tapestry. It embodies the interplay between the town's unique built heritage and the vibrant cultural traditions that continue to shape its identity.

A door is never just a means of entry and exit. It defines boundaries between spaces, a comfort of refuge where cultural knowledge and traditions are quietly passed on—from the loving whisper of a grandmother, the stern advice of a mother, to silent guidance shown by a father. Each door reveals fragments of its inhabitants' life. They narrate stories—often through conspicuous decorative elements—of festivals and celebrations, of birth, coming-of-age, and mourning of loved ones; a complete cycle of life. Together, these individual doors converge into a meaningful shared space that celebrates and acknowledges the multicultural identity of the town.

Doorways, on the other hand, reflect the enduring legacies of the communities residing in various parts of the town. Each enclave, such as the Malays, Hokkiens, Cantonese, Indian-Muslims, and Tamil Indians, marks their presence through their own unique lifeways. They are largely characterised by the mode of professions prominent to each community—the goldsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, spice merchants, and others. These clusters also identify themselves through architectural designs unique to their respective cultures, serving as immediate cultural markers to untrained eyes.

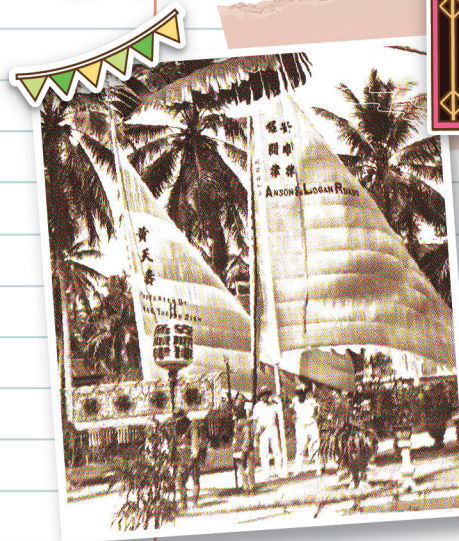
Ultimately, we believe that George Town's story should be told by the communities themselves. Their personal experiences and collective memories contribute to a deeper narrative, creating a richer and more nuanced understanding of George Town—one that is told from the inside out, imbued with the authentic voices and perspectives of its people.

ENTRANCE

Throwback to old days in George Town.

Back then, streets were full of people, laughter, and traditions.

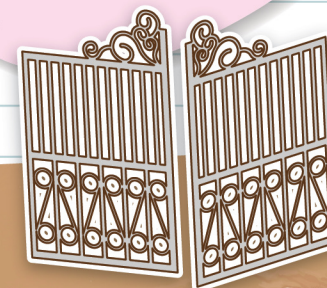
No loudspeakers, no smartphones — just everyone coming together, walking side by side, and celebrate!



From noisy processions to peaceful corners — George Town has changed, but never lost its soul.

It's still full of stories... just being told a little softer now.

This is what George Town used to feel like — lively, real, and full of heart.



1 CHINGAY PARADE

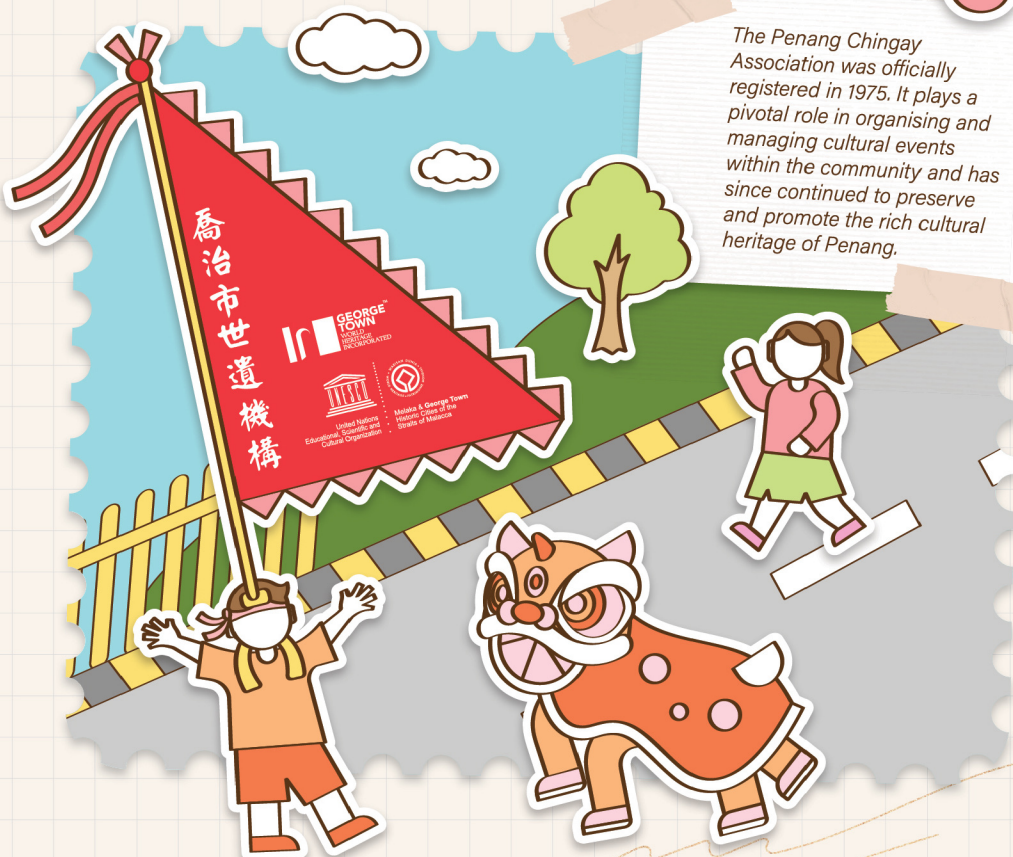
PENANG CHINGAY ASSOCIATION



The Chingay procession, a century-old Penang tradition, is an annual cultural event featuring a range of vibrant cultural displays including lion and dragon dances, stilt walkers, acrobatics, and musical performances. Originating from the Minnan language, Chingay represents unity and heritage preservation across diverse communities in Penang. The main highlight is the acrobatic act of balancing a giant flagpole on different parts of the body, a daring feat joined by various ethnicities. As spectators from all walks of life come together to appreciate this distinctive art form, Chingay truly exemplifies the inclusive nature of the celebrations.



The Penang Chingay Association was officially registered in 1975. It plays a pivotal role in organising and managing cultural events within the community and has since continued to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Penang.

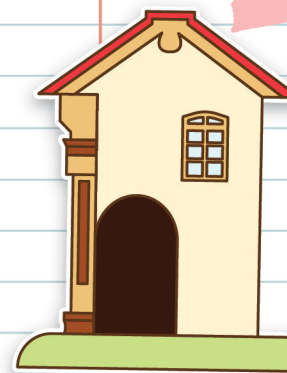


FIVE - FOOT WAY

Make memories at five-foot way



During festivals, my Indian friends' families often create Kolam patterns on the ground in front of five-foot ways to bring good luck and blessings.



2 TRISHAW FRENZY!

LUMA

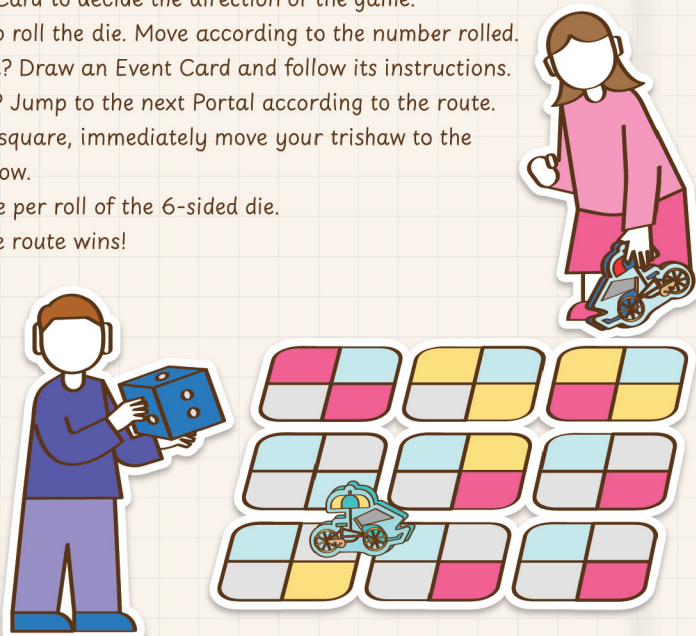
LUMA
Lighting Up Media & the Arts

Experience a giant-sized Trishaw Frenzy! In this Malaysian-designed board game, roll a die and race through a 9-tile map as trishaw riders. Follow route cards, land on squares featuring George Town landmarks and mobile traders for special effects. The first to finish each race wins an exclusive sticker. Trishaw Frenzy! is a tribute to the role played by trishaws in shaping George Town's transportation system in the yesteryears, and still remains an integral part of the town's cultural landscape.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Gather 4-6 players.
2. Shuffle and pick a Route Card to decide the direction of the game.
3. Each player takes turns to roll the die. Move according to the number rolled.
4. Land on an 'Event' square? Draw an Event Card and follow its instructions.
5. Land on a 'Portal' square? Jump to the next Portal according to the route.
6. If you land on an 'Arrow' square, immediately move your trishaw to the square pointed by the arrow.
7. All effects only apply once per roll of the 6-sided die.
8. The first player to exit the route wins!

LUMA @luma.net.my is a LiveWire! initiative to light up arts and culture through media production and board game creation.



3 PRESERVING MEMORIES: RUBBING ART EXPERIENCE

金石雅韻：傳拓技藝體驗工作坊

THAI PAK KOONG (NG SUK) TEMPLE



The Chinese rubbing craft originating from the Wei, Jin, and Northern and Southern Dynasties is a traditional technique for capturing impressions of inscriptions and relief carvings. It serves both documentary and artistic aims, contributing to the preservation of historical texts, artwork, and religious engravings. In Penang, the rubbing art is used in preserving the inscriptions on the now eroded stone steles, serving practical purposes in intangible cultural heritage transmission and tangible cultural preservation.

Workshop Activities

HOW TO RUB

1. Choose a wooden stamp with the design you like.
2. Place a sheet of Xuan Paper over the wooden stamp.
3. Lightly spray water onto the paper.
4. Dip the ink rubbing tool into the ink.
5. Test the tool to gauge the amount of ink.
6. Gently dab the ink onto the Xuan Paper with the tool.
7. Once the entire pattern is covered, carefully lift the Xuan Paper from the wooden stamp.



The Thai Pak Koong (Ng Suk) Temple, including the Thai Pak Koong (Ng Suk) Temple in Tanjung Tokong and the Thai Pak Koong (Ng Suk) Temple in King Street have been jointly managed for over 200 years by representatives from five Hakka clan associations. The temple received the UNESCO-Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation Award in 2021.

4 MATLI SHANGAR: DECORATION OF EARTHEN POTS

GUJARATI SAMAJ PENANG



Earthen pots, known as matlis, are common in Indian households and serve essential purposes like water storage and cooking. Many Gujarati houses still store water in matlis as they keep water cool and it is also believed to have health benefits. Matlis are also commonly used as decorative elements during weddings and festivals such as Janmashtami and Diwali. Common motifs include floral and geometric patterns and cultural symbols. The tradition of decorating matlis is usually done together amongst members of the community, fostering intergenerational interaction, artistic expression, and the transmission of cultural knowledge.



Gujarati Samaj Penang was formally registered in 1951 to safeguard and promote the social, cultural, religious, educational, and general welfare of its members—both in Penang and more broadly across Malaysia. Recently, the community successfully hosted Asean Gujarati Games Carnival 2025, gathering participants from Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Singapore, and India.

Workshop Activities

Use your creativity to decorate your very own matli while learning all of its cultural significance.



Workshop Activities

- Use your creativity to paint your own round paper fan.
- Learn how to cut auspicious words and symbolic shapes.

5 CHINESE PAINTING AND PAPER CUTTING

LUM YEONG TONG YAP TEMPLE

Traditional Chinese painting is an art form that adorns scrolls, walls, and objects with motifs like bamboo (resilience), plum blossoms (perseverance), and landscapes (harmony). They symbolically convey wishes for prosperity, longevity, and unity, acting as visual narratives of cultural beliefs and social values. Paper cutting on the other hand is a folk art traditionally used in celebrations like Chinese New Year and weddings. Auspicious words and symbols are pasted on doors and windows to attract good fortune, ward off misfortune, and celebrate joyous occasions. Both forms of arts hold deep historical and cultural significance for Chinese communities.

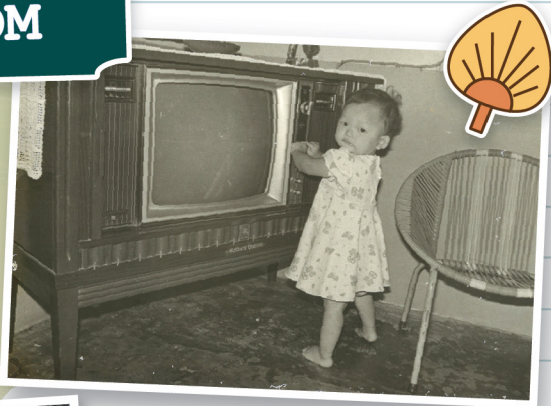


The Lum Yeong Tong Yap Temple Penang was established in 1920 through the merger of two Yap clan groups, with its clan hall completed in 1924. The temple celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024.



LIVING ROOM

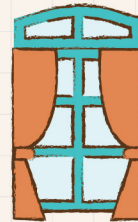
When I was small, I watched the old TV, completely absorbed and full of wonder.



During festive seasons, the living room would be filled with all kinds of offerings. I'd always grab onto the edge of the table—just as tall as I was—and peek over curiously, secretly looking for something tasty.

6 LAYANG-LAYANG MAKING

PERSATUAN WARISAN DATO KOYAH



Workshop Activities

Create your own customised diamond-shaped kite from scratch!

The Persatuan Warisan Dato Koyah community has been responsible for managing the tomb dedicated to Syed Mustapha Idris, a respected Sufi sheikh from South India, since the 1800s.

In the past, when George Town's streets were not as busy as today, it was common to see children flying kites or layang-layang along the roadsides or within clan and temple grounds. The Esplanade (Padang Kota Lama) was one of the favourite gathering spots during windy seasons (especially for kite-fighting!) and remains popular today. More than just a childhood pastime, layang-layang showcases both artistic performance and skilled craftsmanship of one's cultural heritage expressed through the designs and shapes of the kites.



7 PASTIME WITH PERANAKAN NYONYA

STATE CHINESE (PENANG) ASSOCIATION



The Peranakan heritage is a unique blend of cultural influences, primarily Chinese and Malay, with hints of Indian and European traditions that evolved over centuries in the Straits Settlements of Penang, Melaka, and Singapore. This vibrant cultural fusion is most apparent in their exquisite Nyonya cuisine, visually bright and colourful traditional costumes, intricate designs, and elaborate decor. The strong Malay influences can also be seen in their music and dance as symbols of Peranakan cultural heritage.

Workshop Activities

CHERKI

- A traditional Peranakan card game similar to Mahjong. It was once popular in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

CONGKAK

- A traditional mancala game mostly played in maritime Southeast Asia involving strategy, counting, and quick decisions.

INANG

- A traditional Malay dance with graceful and elegant movements, historically performed in royal courts.

JOGET

- A popular Malay dance rooted in the Portuguese folk dance, which became part of Peranakan cultural expression.



The State Chinese (Penang) Association, originally known as the Straits Chinese British Association, was established in 1920 and has since served as the centre of the Peranakan community to promote Peranakan traditions, culture and heritage.

8 FUN WITH HOKKIEN: LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

PENANG HOKKIEN ASSOCIATION YOUTH SECTION

Penang Hokkien is a unique northern Malaysian Hokkien dialect spoken by most Chinese residents in Penang, irrespective of their subgroups. It serves as the common language in markets and on the streets. This dialect is deeply embedded in George Town's cultural fabric, recognised as a crucial aspect of the local heritage and identity. The Hokkien speakers form the largest Chinese community in Penang, with their origins dating back to the late 18th century.

Workshop Activities

The Penang Hokkien Challenge aspires to engage participants in an interactive and fun way to learn the local dialect, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Penang Hokkien amongst the communities.



Complete the Word Matching and Listen & Choose game, collect stamps to redeem limited edition prizes!

The Penang Hokkien Association Youth Section was established on 4 March 1979 and comprises 13 district associations under the Penang Hokkien Clan Association.

9 PATHWAYS TO SABARIMALA: THE AYYAPPAN PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE

PERTUBUHAN KEBAJIKAN AYYAPPAN BATU UBAN PULAU PINANG



The annual pilgrimage to Sabarimala Temple in Kerala is a profound cultural event for the Ayyappan community. This arduous journey acts as a powerful unifying force that strengthens shared cultural identity. Pilgrimage traditions, including vows, wearing the mala (sacred bead), conduct, and devotional singing ensures the intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge and practices. It remains an integral part of their cultural identity in India and within the diaspora including in Malaysia, connecting them to their roots and reinforcing their sense of community beyond geographical boundaries.

Workshop Activities

This interactive exhibition explores the cultural aspects of the Sabarimala pilgrimage and allows participants to learn how it has shaped cultural identities, fostered deep community bonds, and contributed to artistic traditions both in India and within the Indian diaspora in Malaysia.

The Batu Uban Ayyappan Service Society (BUASS), established in 2020, is a community-based organisation committed to serving the local community and dedicated to passing down the knowledge of Ayyappan traditions, rituals, and values to its community.



The Kadayanallur Tenkasi ethnic community has resided in George Town since the 18th century and significantly contributed to its establishment following Captain Francis Light's arrival in 1786. The community was crucial to Penang's social and economic growth, with their heritage deeply rooted in spice trading (both dried and fresh), the nasi kandar business, port worker management, and cultural practices like the Prophet Muhammad's birthday celebration. Numerous tangible heritage remnants remain today, including original settlement houses, stone mortars, spice grinders, handcarts, and their well-preserved old association buildings.



10 LIFEWAYS IN KADAYANALLUR TENKASI CENTRAL MUSLIM SOCIETY

The Central Muslim Society was established on 17 March 1953 as an umbrella organisation to represent the entire Kadayanallur Tenkasi Muslim ethnic group from five Muslim associations namely Persatuan Muslim Bersatu, Persatuan Anjuman Himayathul Islam, Persatuan Hidayathul Islam, Persatuan Muslim Kadayanallur, and Persatuan Nurul Islam.

Workshop Activities

- Exhibition and talk on the heritage of Kadayanallur Tenkasi ethnic community.
- Hands-on workshop in spice grinding using traditional stone mortars and spice grinders (batu giling and batu lesung).



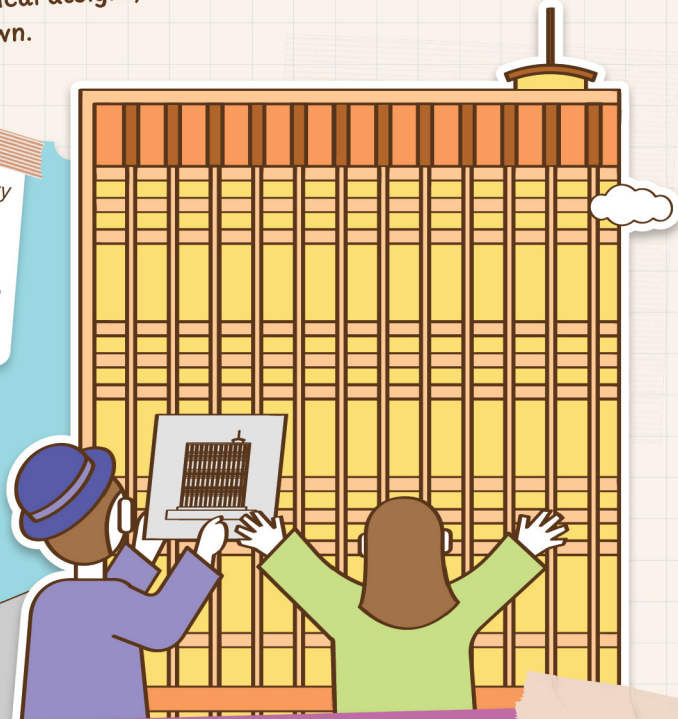
11 GERMAN ARCHITECTURE: DOORWAY TO GEORGE TOWN'S INNOVATION

MALAYSIAN-GERMAN SOCIETY



From the majestic Kapitan Keling Mosque to the elegant Bank of China, these iconic buildings in George Town were the brainchild of a renowned German architect Henry Alfred Neubronner. The German Bauhaus movement influenced the design of new buildings in the 20th century. Bangunan Syed Putra and People's Court Flats are good examples of pragmatic and functional designs characterised by basic geometric shapes, modern materials using steel and concrete, smooth facades, and asymmetrical designs, forming a unique modern architectural landscape in George Town.

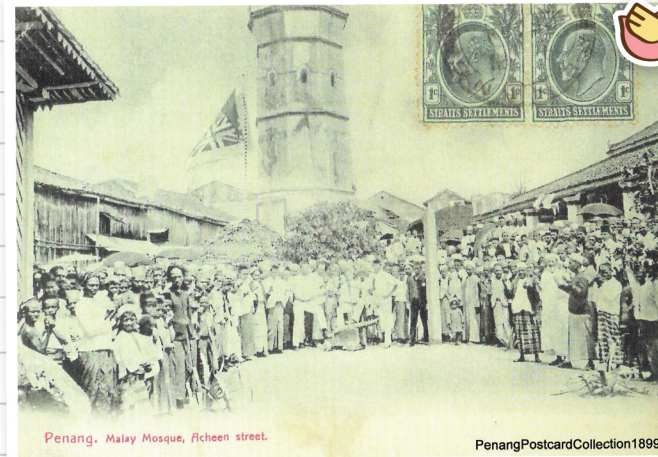
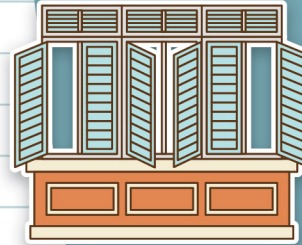
The Malaysian-German Society was founded in 1962 as a friendship society and a language centre striving for mutual understanding between Malaysians and Germans.



Workshop Activities

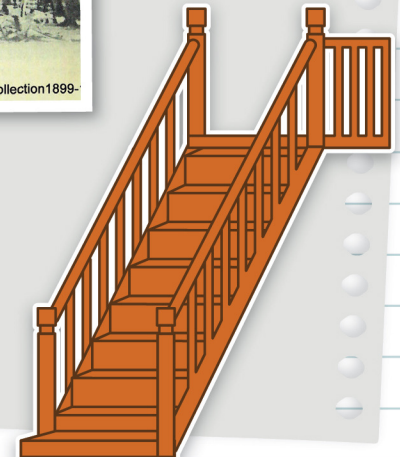
- Exhibition of Bauhaus model buildings and the history of German architecture.
- Hands-on "cut and paste" 3D paper models of German influenced buildings.

AIRWELL



Airwells are a traditional feature of many heritage houses.

They are built for ventilation, cooling and also for sunlight to stream into the house.



Workshop Activities

Explore the multicultural living heritage of George Town through its language. Learn to write in Jawi, Chinese, and Tamil scripts.



12 HERITAGE WRITING WORKSHOP: THE KEY TO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

BADAN WARISAN MASJID MELAYU LEBUH ACHEH

Established in 1993, the Badan Warisan Masjid Melayu Lebuah Aceh works to foster and preserve the history, culture and heritage of Masjid Melayu Lebuah Aceh.

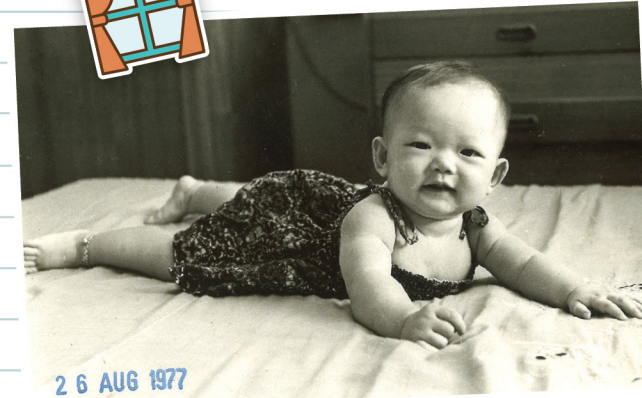


As a multicultural and cosmopolitan historic port city, George Town is buzzing with a multitude of languages and dialects spoken on its streets. This diversity also appears in written form, a testament for the enduring living heritage of the town. The appreciation of these languages connects people to their heritage, fostering cultural exchange and unity.



FRONT BEDROOM

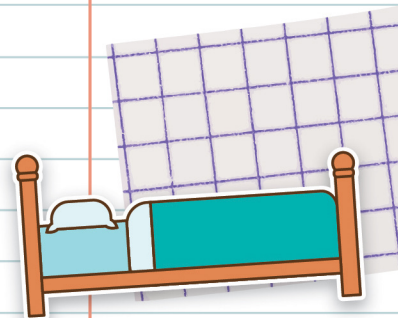
I was only about 1 or 2 years old back then, spending more time in the bedroom than anywhere.



26 AUG 1977

Although my memories of then are fuzzy, I'm pretty sure I said "cheese"!

Wooden furniture were more common in bedrooms of the past.





13 LET'S LEARN HAKKA!

一齊學客家話!

PENANG HAKKA ASSOCIATION

The Hakka people, while comparatively small compared to other Chinese dialect groups, have played an important role in the development of George Town especially during the 19th century. Some influential figures that have left imprints on George Town and Penang include Kapitan Chung Keng Quee, a key figure in the history of Penang and Perak; Cheong Fatt Tze, a renowned merchant and the owner of the iconic Blue Mansion; and Wong Pow Nee, the first Chief Minister of Penang. Additionally, the Hakka language, characterised by its unique phonology and vocabulary, also contribute to the diverse linguistic tapestry of Penang. It remains a vibrant language and continues to be spoken within Hakka households and communities.

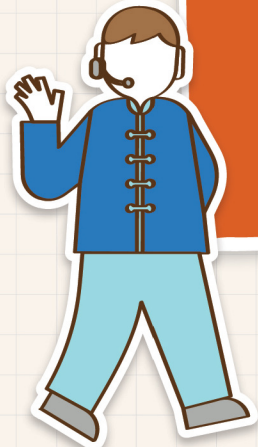
Yong⁴ Pen¹

Workshop Activities

樣般

- Explore the unique facts and knowledge about Hakka language.
- Learn basic Hakka phrases through fun games and activities.
- Watch a live funny Hakka Xiangsheng show (Chinese Cross Talk).

The Penang Hakka Association, established in 1939, is dedicated to the promotion and development of Hakka language, culture, and traditions. Some of the activities include Hakka choir, dances, and drama, as well as online Hakka lessons.



Batik is a traditional art form of the region, passing down through generations as a means of preserving cultural stories, values, and beliefs. The common batik motifs include floral, geometric, and abstract patterns with distinct designs according to localities. In Penang, the batik design often represents the rich cultural tapestry of diverse cultural influences. The motifs and colour palettes employed in Penang batik bear witness to centuries of trade, migration, and multicultural exchange.



14 THE COLOURS OF BATIK

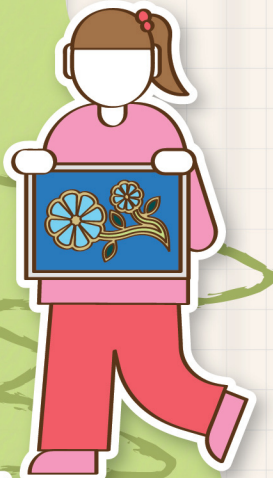
WARISAN BALIK PULAU

Workshop Activities

Express your creativity and create your own mash of colours in fun batik painting activity.



Warisan Balik Pulau, established in 2016, offers traditional cooking and handicraft lessons aimed to safeguard the cultural heritage of the Malay community in Balik Pulau.



15 MALAYALI MUNDUS AND DAZZLING UPPERIS

NORTH MALAYSIA MALAYALI SAMAJAM



Mundu is a traditional wear of the state of Kerala, a white garment worn from the waist down by both men and women that resembles a long skirt or dhoti. The upper garment differs based on gender and age. Typically made of cotton or silk, Mundu is a symbol of cultural identity, reflecting tradition and simplicity. It signifies an essential part of Malayali culture.

Workshop Activities

- Learn how to tie kasavu mundu (men) and mundu neriyathu (women).
- Enjoy traditional Malayali snacks, upperi (banana chips) and quench your thirst with sweet chaaya.

The North Malaysia Malayali Samajam was established in 1951 as the representative body for the Malayali community in the northern region to promote, nurture, and progressively assist in the development of the community in the fields of education and social development as well as the arts and culture.

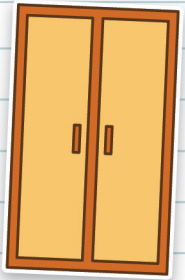


REAR BEDROOM



JUL 5

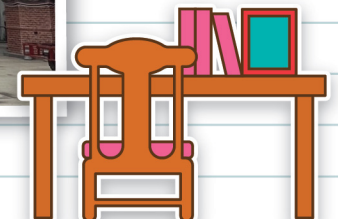
Soft pillow, cozy blanket, and those faded photos on the wall — take me back to the easy, quiet days.

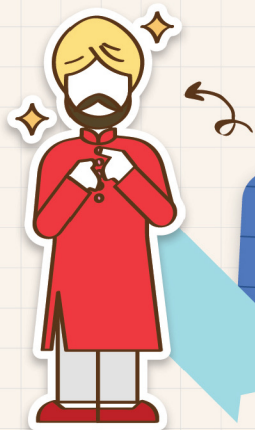


Many children have a bolster as their comfort pillow named as “chou chou”



No stress, just calm moments that feel like a warm hug from the past. Sometimes, that's all you need.





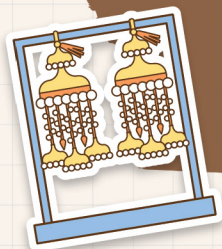
16 TRADITIONAL SIKH WEAR

PERSATUAN WADDA GURDWARA SAHIB PENANG

The traditional clothing of Punjabi Sikhs is a deep reflection of their religion, history, and culture. Each garment and accessory carry layers of meaning, fostering a strong sense of identity and belonging. Items like turban, kara (steel bracelet), and kanga (wooden comb) for instance serve as visual reminders to the Sikhism principles of equality, selflessness, and honesty. The shared visual identity allows Sikhs to recognise and connect with one another, reinforcing their collective identity and shared heritage. It provides a sense of belonging and mutual support, both within local communities and the global Sikh diaspora.

Workshop Activities

- Exhibition and display of traditional Punjabi daily attire.
- Participants will get the chance to try the traditional outfit themselves.



Persatuan Wadda Gurdwara Sahib Penang is one of the oldest Sikh gurdwaras in Malaysia. Over the years, it has become integral to the Penang Sikh community as a hub for service, education, and community support.

17 DOORWAY TO THE MILKY WAY

THE PINK HIBISCUS CLUB

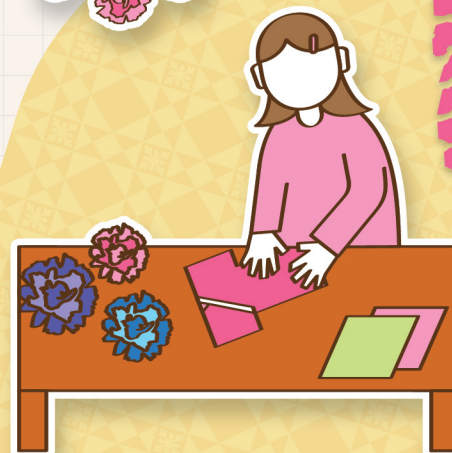


Doorway to the Milky Way (天の川への扉) is a tribute to the Star Festival, known in Japan as Tanabata (たなばた or セタ). It tells the story of the cowherd and the weaver maiden, represented by the stars Altair and Vega. According to the legend, these lovers can only reunite once a year, on the seventh night of the seventh month, crossing the Milky Way on a bridge formed by magpies. During Tanabata, people in Japan and Japanese communities worldwide celebrate this midsummer festival by writing their wishes on colourful paper strips called tanzaku and hanging them on bamboo branches, hoping their dreams will be fulfilled. In Penang, the local community continues this tradition every July, gathering around a bamboo tree, writing wishes, and keeping the optimistic spirit going.



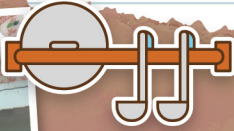
Workshop Activities

- Create your own kimono-shaped tanzaku and write your wish!
- Craft a shidare-zakura blossom decoration.
- Fold a personalised origami magpie for the public mural.



The Pink Hibiscus Club was founded in 2003 as a platform for local Japanese communities to share Japanese culture with fellow Malaysians.

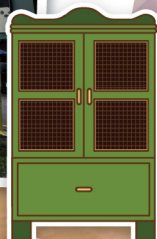
KITCHEN



The kitchen's cutlery is full of memories. They remind me of after-school dinners — simple, warm, and full of love.



The scent of that old kitchen lives on in my memories. Whenever it comes to mind, it's as if I'm wrapped once again in the warmth of home.



18 REVIVAL OF POTTERY LIFE

PENANG HINDU ASSOCIATION



Pottery in Indian heritage serves profound artistic and functional purposes, deeply intertwined with tradition and culture. In ancient days, pottery-making was an important occupation before humans started to use metals, glass, and other materials. For generations, pottery has been an essential part of households due to its longevity and numerous advantages, used for cooking, storage, and other household items. It also plays a vital role in religious rituals and is valued as gifts. The durability of ceramics ensured their long-term importance within families and across

Workshop Activities

- Hands-on workshop for making your own pottery.
- Exhibition on the history of pottery in Indian culture.
- A display of various traditional kitchenware.



The Penang Hindu Association, established in the early 2010s, is a non-profit organisation with a core mission to uplift the underprivileged and marginalised groups through education, social support, religious outreach, and cultural engagement.

19 NANYANG COFFEE WORKSHOP

PENANG HIDDEN GEMS



Kopi Nanyang or kopitiam kopi is a traditional local brew that is deeply rooted in the local breakfast culture and social life across Malaysia and Singapore. Introduced by Chinese immigrants in the early 20th century, it differs from Western coffee by its roasting process using sugar and margarine, creating a rich, dark flavour. For many, a cup of Nanyang coffee in a kopitiam embodies comfort, familiarity, and a taste of home that connects generations. Still woven into daily life, preserving Nanyang coffee is about holding onto something warm, simple, and uniquely ours.

Workshop Activities

Participants are welcomed to explore the stories, skills, and sensory pleasures behind this iconic beverage. This workshop is modular in design, each can be joined separately.

- Learn the traditional bean roasting process.
- Brew your own coffee using a muslin cloth filter, steep bags, or drip-on.
- Taste freshly brewed coffee while learning how to order and appreciate its variations.



Penang Hidden Gems, established in 2020, is a collective of history enthusiasts dedicated to uncovering and sharing the lesser-known cultural and historical narratives of Penang.

Workshop Activities

Learn the significance of Ashura Day in the serving of kolkatai.



20 KOLKATAI: TRADITIONAL FOOD FROM THE INDIAN MUSLIM

GABUNGAN PERSATUAN INDIA MUSLIM PULAU PINANG (GAPEIM)

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar (Hijrah), holds profound significance for Muslims globally. Its tenth day, known as Ashura, embodies powerful themes of remembrance and solidarity. Unlike the widespread tradition of Ashura porridge found in Turkish and Malay cultures, the Indian-Muslim community in George Town centres their observance on kolkatai. This simple yet meaningful food symbolises fertility, reciprocity, unity, and togetherness. Preparing and sharing kolkatai is a vital ritual, strengthening community bonds and connecting generations to ancestral culinary traditions adapted in Malaysia. This communal practice fosters belonging and collective identity, especially during religious reflection and remembrance.

GAPEIM was established in 2018 as an umbrella body uniting 14 Indian Muslim associations across Penang to empower and support the Indian Muslim community through collaborative efforts in areas such as socio-economic development, education, religious affairs, and community welfare.

21 THE ART OF BIRYANI: A CULINARY JOURNEY

SPICE & CURRY PRODUCTION HOUSE

Workshop Activities



Biryani turns a pantry staple into a riot of colour and aroma. The vegetarian biryani showcases Penang's unique multicultural heritage, revealing the fusion of Persian saffron-scented rice and Indian spices. This festive yet familiar cuisine is a popular dish in weddings, temple festivals, and Ramadan buka puasa gatherings. In an era of frequent takeout, learning to prepare layered rice, vegetables, and whole spices at home revitalises cooking skills and preserves local food traditions.



HOW TO PREPARE MIXED-VEGE RAITA

Ingredients

- Plain yogurt
- Cucumber and tomato (crunch)
- Red and green chilli
- Fresh lime
- Salt

Method

Combine smooth, thick plain yogurt with finely diced cucumber and tomato, minced red and green chillies, lime juice, and salt. Mix gently and chill briefly before serving as a side with hot biryani.



Spice & Curry Production House is Penang's first multi-language Indian-theatre company, founded and steered by Artistic Director, Fariza Ariffin.

LEARN HOW TO COOK SUBZ BIRYANI

(सब्ज़ बरियानी / வஜ்ஜிடபிள் ப்ரியாணி), a vegetarian biryani and Mixed-Vegetables Raita (सब्ज़ी रायता).

HOW TO COOK VEGE BIRYANI

Ingredients

- Basmati rice
- Onion
- Tomato
- Cauliflower
- Potato
- Ginger
- Garlic
- Green chilli
- Fresh coriander
- Whole spice
- Ground spice
- Ghee/vegetable oil
- Salt

Method

Bloom whole spices in ghee or oil, followed by sautéing onions, ginger, garlic, tomatoes, and green chillies into fragrant masala. Simmer cauliflower florets and potato slices in the sauce. Layer half-cooked basmati rice over the vegetables, followed by a sprinkle of garam masala and fresh coriander leaves. The pot is sealed for a short dum steam, allowing the aromas and textures to meld. Finally, the lid is lifted to reveal fluffy basmati rice, beautifully stained with turmeric and infused with spices.

22

NAGARATHAR CULINARY : KUZHI PANIYARAM

NATTUKOTTAI NAGARATHAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

PERSATUAN WARISAN NATTUKOTTAI NAGARATHAR
(NATTUKOTTAI NAGARATHAR HERITAGE SOCIETY)
(நாடகத்தார் குழிப் பணியாரம்)

The Nattukottai Nagarathar Heritage Society represents the Nattukottai Chettiars, a Shaivite merchant community that traces its roots to Chettinad in Tamil Nadu, India. The name 'Nattukottai' means "people with palatial houses in the countryside," while 'Nagarathar' refers to "city-dwelling traders and temple people" in Tamil, reflecting the community's dual identity as rural landowners and cosmopolitan merchants.

Kuzhi Paniyaram (குழிப் பணியாரம்) is a specialty dish of rice and lentil dumplings from the Chettinad/Nagarathar community, traditionally enjoyed in both savoury form (paired with tomato chutney) and sweet version (sweetened with jaggery). It is usually served as breakfast, a snack, or a starter. A staple in Nagarathar kitchens, its preparation signified family events and festive occasions, a cooking ritual that bonds the community together.

INGREDIENTS

- Idli rice and raw rice
- Urad dal (split black gram)
- A few fenugreek seeds. Soak the ingredients, grind to a fine batter, and let it ferment.
- Shallots, green chillies, mustard seeds, salt, fresh curry leaves (for savoury version)
- Grated coconut and jaggery/vellam (palm-sugar candy) (for sweet version)
- Tomato-tamarind chutney with dried chillies (savoury accompaniment)
- Paanakkam (a chilled Jaggery-and-spice drink) (sweet accompaniment)



Method

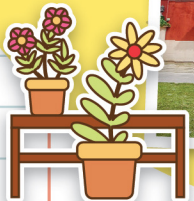
Mix sautéed onions, green chillies, and curry leaves into fermented batter. Grease and heat the kuzhi paniyaram pan. Pour batter into moulds and cook for 2-3 minutes per side until brown. Serve with chutney.

COURTYARD

Courtyards are usually wide open spaces where family reunions most often occur.



The best way to spend an afternoon is by running around freely in the courtyard with my cousin.



The Cheah clan association was established in 1810 to secure the welfare of clansmen from the Seh Tong Seah ancestral village in the Fujian Province of China. The Cheah clan association, together with four other major clans, formed the Hokkien Hoay Kuan to oversee five local Chinese temples in George Town.



23 NANYANG CHILDHOOD GAMES

SEH TEK TONG CHEAH KONGSI

Traditional childhood games in Southeast Asia are deeply rooted in the region's cultural heritage, often reflecting local customs, values, and social structures. For Nanyang communities in George Town, these games served as important tools for socialisation, teaching children essential social skills, cooperation, and friendly competition. They helped preserve and transmit cultural knowledge and values across generations while fostering a strong sense of shared heritage amongst the children and within the larger Nanyang community in George Town.

Workshop Activities

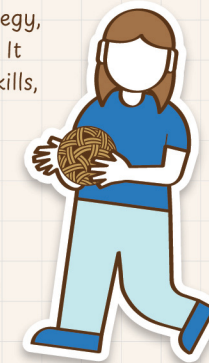


CONGKAK

Congkak serves as a game of strategy, calculation, and social interaction. It helped children develop counting skills, strategic thinking, and patience.

SEVEN STONES

The game is typically played using pebbles, seeds, or small beanbags and is popular amongst girls.



SHUTTLECOCK KICKING (JIAN ZI)

A common game amongst children in Nanyang community that fosters agility, coordination, and footwork skills.

TAKRAW

Also known as sepak raga, the game helps develop footwork, flexibility, and teamwork skills and is popular amongst boys.

INTERACTIVE DANCE FLOOR

24 MAHNORA PERFORMANCE

PERSATUAN MASYARAKAT SIAM PULAU PINANG



Persatuan Masyarakat Siam Pulau Pinang was established on 21 September 1976 to foster unity, cooperation and development among the Siamese community and better understanding with the other ethnicities in Malaysia.

Mahnora Dance originated from Southern Thailand in the Court of Trambalinga (Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phatthalung). This 2,000-year-old theatre infuses myths and legends rooted in the ancient Siamese and Malay shamanism, ritual belief, and Thai Buddhism. As it spread to the northern Malaysian states of Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Perak, and Penang, it also absorbed elements from other theatre forms such as Mak Yong and Wayang Kulit. The traditional dance reflects the fusion of cultural artistic and religious elements in Malaysian Siamese performing arts, an extension of its previous function to fulfil one's vows, grace wedding ceremonies and ordination of monks, as well as healing rituals.



25 PORTUGUESE DANCE

PENANG EURASIAN ASSOCIATION



The Portuguese dance, specifically the Brango, represents a unique blend of Portuguese and local Malay influences. Originating in Melaka during the Portuguese occupation, this dance form migrated with the Eurasian community to Penang, where it has become an integral part of their heritage that symbolises the Eurasian history, identity, and cultural contributions. Traditionally, Brango is performed during social gatherings, weddings, and festivals within the Eurasian community. The dance often tells stories of love, courtship, and daily life, reflecting the experiences and values of the community.



The Penang Eurasian Association is a gathering of a small Eurasian community that traces their history back to the second wave of Eurasians migration to Penang around 1811 led by Father John Pasqual from Phuket.

26

BON GIRI RENKA, BON FESTIVAL LOVE SONG

金ギリ恋歌

MALAYSIAN-JAPANESE SOCIETY



Japanese culture deeply embraces singing and dancing, especially during festive occasions. Bon Dancing is not only an event to welcome and express gratitude to ancestors, but also to promote friendship in the local community. The movements are typically simple and repetitive, encouraging community participation regardless of age or skill level. The songs accompanying Bon Odori often evoke themes of summer, remembrance, nostalgia, and community spirit, reinforcing the festival's significance as a time for both reflection and joyous gathering. For the Japanese community in Penang, celebrating Bon Odori and performing its associated dances allow them to connect with their heritage and share Japanese culture with the local Malaysian community.



The Malaysian-Japanese Society was formed in 1967 to strengthen ties between the people of the two countries, with an emphasis on an exchange of technical, scientific and cultural knowledge.

Malay traditional dances are characterised by fluid, graceful movements with apparent influences from various cultures like Indian, Arab, and Portuguese. Many dances feature intricate hand and arm gestures that tell stories or convey emotions. Each Malay state may have its own distinct dance forms, with unique styles, costumes, and stories.



27 MALAY TRADITIONAL DANCES: TUALANG, RONGGENG AND JOGET

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE AND ARTS, PENANG BRANCH (JKKNPP)

Dance Synopses

• Tari Tualang Tiga

The Tualang Tiga Dance is a traditional performance that embodies the strength, resilience, and wisdom needed to overcome life's obstacles. Taking inspiration from the tall and powerful tualang tree, the dance embodies the spirit of the old Malay community: steadfast, courageous, and united in upholding their dignity and cultural heritage.

• Ronggeng Kepak Tanjung

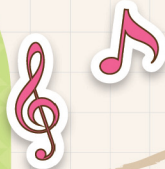
Ronggeng Kepak Tanjung is a new dance creation rooted in the cultural assimilation of Penang communities between the 1930s and 1950s. This piece reinterprets the traditional Malay Ronggeng dance, focusing on its dynamic elements as depicted in the revitalised and engaging "Hati Muda" song. The choreography aims to elevate the Ronggeng genre by offering a contemporary perspective on its historical expression.

• Alabaladin

Inspired by the popular Ghazal Party song 'Alabaladin', this dancers blends desert rhythms. It is performed in pairs by male and female dancers, incorporating props symbolising rebana musical instruments.



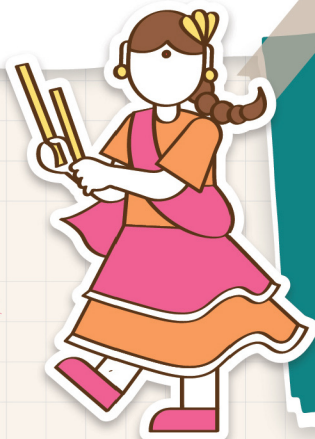
JKKNPP is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the arts and cultural heritage in Penang. The organisation also provides consultation and expertise on traditional artistic expressions and heritage of Penang.



28 DAATHUBHAJANA CHIRATHALAATA

PENANG TELUGU BIDDALU

The Daathubhajana dance is a vibrant expression of joy, unity, and communal harmony within the Telugu community. Together with Chirathalaata, a dance performed during harvest festivals, they create rhythmic movements with energetic footwork and rhythmic hand gestures. The clashing of sticks embodies the strength, resilience, and unity of agricultural communities. Performed to invoke blessings for a bountiful harvest and prosperity, the dance reflects its deep connection to the land and shared livelihoods. Both dances serve as a powerful symbol of togetherness, fostering a strong sense of belonging and reinforce a shared cultural identity within the community.



The Telugu Association of Malaysia is a non-profit organisation established to promote, preserve, and safeguard the language, economy, society, culture, spirituality, and educational guidance of the Telugu people.

Penang Telugu Biddalu is a youth-focused initiative operating under the auspices of the Telugu Association of Malaysia, Penang Branch.



29 THE SPIRIT OF BHANGRA: BEATS THAT DEFINE A CULTURE

SIKH NAUJAWAN SABHA MALAYSIA



Bhangra is more than just a dance. It embodies Punjabi identity, resilience, and celebration that is deeply rooted in the rhythmic tradition anchored in the powerful beat of the Dhol. This energetic dance form not only solidifies a strong sense of cultural identity and pride amongst Punjabis but also plays a crucial role in bridging generational gaps. Contemporarily, Bhangra has evolved beyond the geographical boundaries of Punjab and is increasingly influencing other artistic expressions. Ultimately, it retains its unique capacity to serve as a vibrant cultural conduit, fostering understanding and connection between disparate communities and traditions.

Sikh Naujawan Sabha Malaysia (SNSM) Penang Branch is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the welfare and development of the Sikh community in Malaysia.



HISTORIC BUILDING OPEN HOUSE

7 JULY 2025 | 9 AM - 5 PM



Scan for Digital Map



1 GEORGE TOWN
WORLD HERITAGE
INCORPORATED
No. 116 & 118, Lebuh Aceh



2 KWANGTUNG &
TENGCHOW
ASSOCIATION
No. 50, Lebuh Penang



8 THAI PAK KOONG
(NG SUK) TEMPLE
No. 32A, Lebuh King



7 SUN WUI
WUI KOON
No. 38, Lebuh Bishop



6 ST. GEORGE'S
CHURCH
No. 1, Lebuh Farquhar



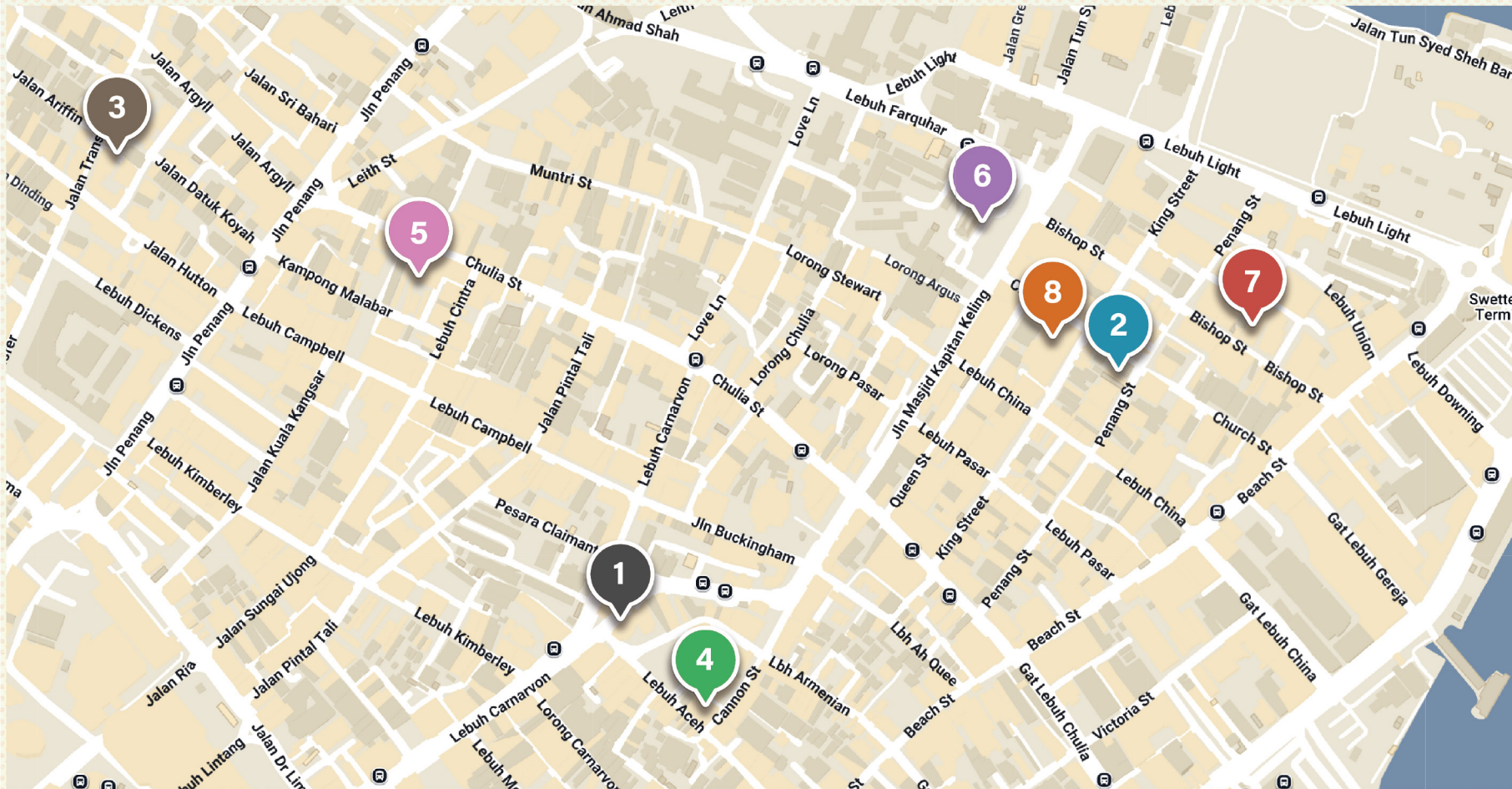
5 NAM HOOI
WUI KOON
No. 459, Lebuh Chulia



4 MASJID MELAYU
LEBUH ACHEH
Lebuh Aceh



3 MAKAM
DATO KOYAH
No. 43, Jalan Transfer



01



GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE INCORPORATED

Do you know that GTWHI Heritage Excellence Centre is also a showroom? The building showcases how modern technology is incorporated into conservation of two century-old shophouses. Look for the mini tags installed around the office and learn how each feature contributes to the sustainability of the buildings.



02

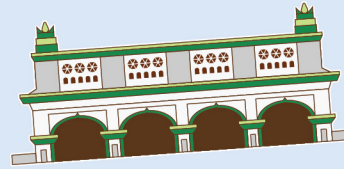
KWANGTUNG & TENGCHOW ASSOCIATION



Can you recognise the early 20th century architectural trend? Trace the lines of this notable Art Deco-style building. Feel free to walk inside and learn all there is to know about the oldest regional organisation in Penang.



03



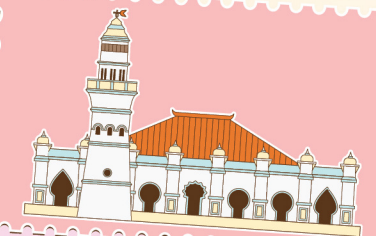
MAKAM DATO KOYAH

Don't miss this rare opportunity to visit one of the most well-preserved Muslim shrines in George Town. Makam Dato Koyah reflects the South Indian architectural influences common to this region. This location is the earliest Malabari settlement within the town.



04

MASJID MELAYU LEBUH ACHEH



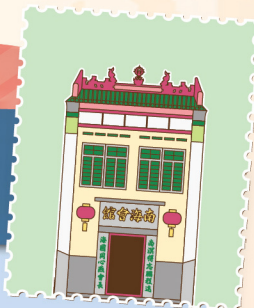
Join the tour of the last surviving Malay settlement in George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site. This small enclave centred around the mosque used to be known as the Second Jeddah for its bustling trade and religious activities.





05

NAM HOOI WOOI KOON



Learn the rich history of the oldest Nanhai association established outside of China. Take a peek at their unique association building notable for its length spanning 200 feet between Chulia Street and Kampung Malabar.



06

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH



Do you know that St. George's Church is modeled after a church with the same name in Madras, India? This first Anglican church in Penang expresses the Georgian-Palladian architectural style inspired by Greco-Roman symmetrical design. Don't forget to look for Francis Light's memorial!

07

SUN WUI WUI KOON



Come and experience the unique Cantonese architecture at the only Sun Wui association building in Malaysia. The traditional Cantonese elements include stone fence with granite gateposts, and original terracotta floor tiles, reflecting aesthetics sensibilities of the late 19th century design.



08

THAI PAK KOONG
(NG SUK) TEMPLE

This temple was established in 1810, dedicated to Tua Pek Kong. It showcases the traditional Chinese craftsmanship with ornate carvings, decorative tiles, and intricate sculptures. Don't miss out on finding the historic stone tablets from the Qing dynasty era here.

THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

The 1972 World Heritage Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that aims to protect unique places worldwide with exceptional cultural and/or natural qualities shared by all humanity beyond national boundaries.

As of 2024, the Convention has been signed by 196 countries. Malaysia ratified the Convention in 1988 and had its first World Heritage site inscribed in 2000.



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE
PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Adopted by the General Conference at its seventeenth session
Paris, 16 november 1972



English Text

MALAYSIA CURRENTLY OWNS FIVE WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

- Gunung Mulu National Park (2000)
- Kinabalu Park (2000)
- Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca (2008)
- Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley (2012)
- The Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex (2024)

There are other UNESCO conventions concerning cultural heritage. For example, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), the Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (2005). Malaysia signed the 2003 Convention in 2013.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

UNESCO World Heritage sites are sites inscribed on the World Heritage List under the 1972 Convention for having cultural, historical, scientific, or other forms of significance, more commonly known as Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

There are three main types of World Heritage sites: Cultural, Natural, and Mixed sites.

As of 2024, there
are a total of 1,223
sites consisting of:

952 Cultural Heritage

231 Natural Heritage

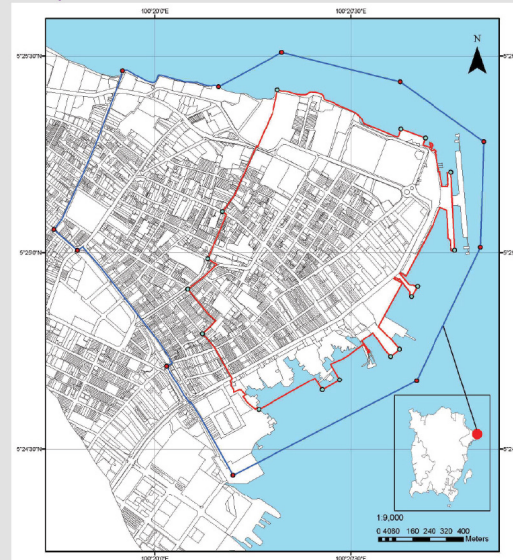
40 Mixed Heritage

Several World Heritage sites are transboundary properties, meaning that they exist along the territory of multiple State Parties with adjacent borders, such as the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru).

Another type of site is serial property, which consists of two or more areas that are physically unconnected but related. An example of a serial property is Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca.

40 Mixed Heritage

GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE SITE



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Melaka & George Town
Historic Cities of the
Straits of Malacca

MELAKA AND GEORGE TOWN, HISTORIC CITIES OF THE STRAITS OF MALACCA

LEGEND

- Area of the World Heritage Property (111.98 ha)
- Buffer Zone Of the World Heritage Property (150.17 ha)
- Total Area (262.15 ha)

© Map published by George Town World Heritage Incorporated, Malaysia, 2022.
Base map provided by the Town and Country Planning Department, Penang and Penang Geographic Information System Centre, Malaysia

MAP OF THE HISTORIC CITY OF GEORGE TOWN

On 7 July 2008, George Town was inscribed on the World Heritage List under a joint inscription of Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca in the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee meeting.



The property of George Town World Heritage Site, also known as the Core Zone, covers an area of 111.98 ha. The property is protected by a Buffer Zone of 150.17 ha, making a total area of 262.15 ha of heritage zone. There are a total of 3,853 buildings listed as heritage buildings in the zone comprising 82 Category I Heritage Buildings and 3771 Category II Heritage Buildings.



The Outstanding Universal Value of GTWHS is being protected under the gazetted Special Area Plan: George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, which is the main document for the management and protection of the site.



OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

George Town (and Melaka) is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site based on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of cultural diversity embodied and embedded in living heritage and built heritage.

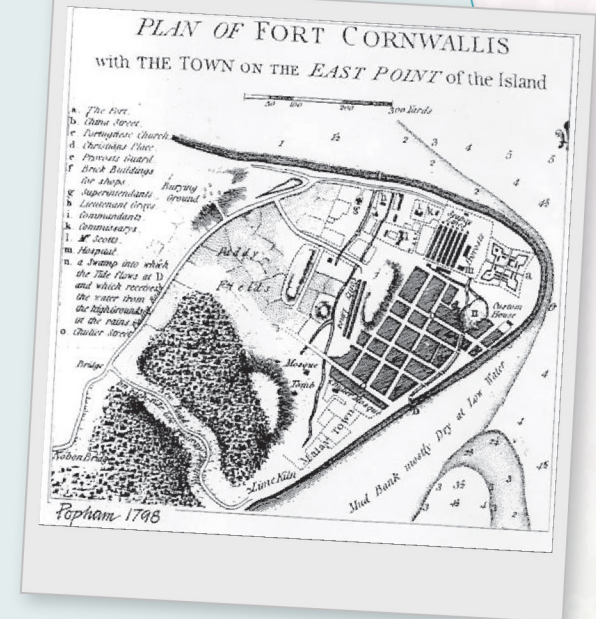
Once an important port city in the Southeast Asian region that linked the East and the West, George Town has been home to a diverse group of people who came and built their lives here. They form the core of the living multicultural heritage of George Town where the many religions and cultures coexist harmoniously.

All these multicultural elements are expressed in George Town's unique architecture, culture, and townscape, which is a testament to its crucial role in the history of the region and the world.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF GEORGE TOWN – A TOWN OF MULTICULTURALISM

George Town exhibits an important interchange of human values, reflected through its historic urban fabric that remains intact until today.

The town's unique configuration is shaped by the existence of various ethnic enclaves that have settled close to each other. This multicultural social life is also expressed in the diversity of architectural designs of different communities.



North of these enclaves, towards Fort Cornwallis, is the Civic District, where the town's administrative function is located. The European-style administrative buildings along Light Street that extend from Beach Street to Weld Quay and its surrounding waterfront demonstrate the European influences on the town's urban architecture and planning, as well as the trading activities at the harbour.

At the local level, one may find a different reference to a street name depending on the community one meets, which marks the intertwined routines amongst segments of the multicultural society.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF GEORGE TOWN – A TESTIMONY OF A MULTICULTURAL LIFESTYLE

George Town is a living testimony to the multicultural heritage and tradition of Asia and European influences. The multicultural aspects of tangible and intangible heritage are always present and can be observed in the daily routines of the town's inhabitants.



Religious buildings that exist close to each other along the major street, Masjid Kapitan Keling Road, provide a glimpse of harmonious coexistence amongst the many communities in the town. Seasonal celebrations and festivals tend to be held in the street and open to the public. Over the years, these festive events have been part of the identity of the multicultural George Town, celebrated across the communities.



Another living heritage that expresses the rich diversity of George Town is the variety of cuisines as a result of the diverse ethnic communities within the town. One may hear multiple languages and dialects spoken at local gathering places like eateries or wet markets, as another testimony of the diverse yet harmonious lifestyle.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF GEORGE TOWN – UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE, CULTURE AND TOWNSCAPE



George Town is an example of a remarkable historic port town that has maintained its authenticity and integrity for over 200 years. The evolution of its architecture and building typology demonstrates a mixture of influences from the East and West and further exhibits its history as a former trading town.



The range of shophouses with their unique stylistic design of the facade serves as a useful reference point for stages of development of the town. Despite being separated by eras, these shophouses were built with similar materials and techniques which further contribute to the uniqueness of George Town's architecture.

All these architectural elements created George Town's streetscape that influences its buildings and land uses. They serve as the foundation for its historic urban fabric, providing the unique streetscape with both historical and aesthetic significance.

PROTECTING OUR WORLD HERITAGE SITE



Protecting our cultural and natural heritage is not just about saving buildings or preserving beautiful landscapes. Natural sites are vital parts of our planet that maintain and provide essential resources for all living things.



Cultural sites on the other hand are irreplaceable pieces of culture that tell the story of humanity, connecting us to the past and enriching our present. They are like a giant family album for humanity, showcasing the unique identities and values of different cultures. They remind us of where we came from, how we have progressed, and the beauty of our shared history. The protection of heritage could also contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, improving the overall well-being of humankind.

UNESCO works with other countries to enforce laws, support conservation efforts, and raise awareness to safeguard these cultural and natural heritage.

More importantly, it is also our responsibility to ensure our future generations will continue to benefit from these heritages.

GEORGE TOWN HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS

George Town Heritage Celebrations is an annual celebration organised by GTWHI to commemorate the city's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage site on 7 July 2008. The Celebrations features interactive and educational programmes such as workshops, performances, and street festivals that take place in the streets of the heritage enclave.



GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE INCORPORATED – THE SITE MANAGER



GTWHI's logo features the five-foot way, a key feature of shophouses that define the historic built environment and streetscape of George Town. It is one of the essential elements that express the Outstanding Universal Value of George Town. The logo was launched on 7 July 2010 during the second George Town Heritage Celebrations.

George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) was established by the Penang State Government on 21 April 2010 as the Site Manager of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town.

As the site manager, our team is responsible for managing, safeguarding, and promoting George Town as a sustainable heritage city. Our work includes providing technical inputs in policy-making, providing free consultation to the public, facilitating opportunities for capacity-building, and empowering local communities to safeguard and conserve the heritage values that make George Town a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The George Town Heritage Celebrations is first and foremost a community celebration. Each year, the Celebrations showcase specific intangible cultural heritage themes to raise awareness of our cultural heritage and traditions, attributes, and Outstanding Universal Value of George Town.



It becomes a platform where local communities come together to celebrate and share their own cultural practices, performances, food, and crafts. On the other hand, the Celebrations is also an opportunity to nurture the local communities and cultivate George Town's rich, intangible cultural heritage.

George Town Heritage Celebrations Team 2025

Executive Producer

Dr Ang Ming Chee

Producer

Ng Boon Nee

Production Manager

Quah Swee Leang (Vick)

Finance Manager

Goh Seok Hong (Amy)

Programme Coordinators (Cultural Workshop)

Tan Khai Li

Yeap Lee Hua (Leaf)

Chua Yi Qin

Programme Coordinator Assistants (Cultural Workshop)

Ng Xin Yi

Nor Faizah Md Akhir

Wan Muhammad Syazwan Mohd Ezani

Programme Coordinators (Interactive Dance)

Razan Rosman

Programme Coordinators (Historic Building Open House)

Ng Xin Yi

Volunteer and Programme Facilitator

Chua Yi Qin

Volunteer Coordination Assistant

Nur Hidayah Jaafar

Publicist

Isabelle Oon

Publicist Assistant

Siti Norhaida Abd Rahman

Media Coordinator

Chuah Ai Kheng

Logistic Coordinator

Tan Chun Feng (Wind)

F&B Coordinators

Goh Seok Hong (Amy)

Amelina Zainudin

Roobbasri Shanmugam

Resource Coordinator

Gan Cheng Huat (Skye)

Copywriter

Razan Rosman

Translators

Ng Xin Yi / *Mandarin*

Razan Rosman / *Malay*

Suseela Nagappan / *Tamil*

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Muhammad Hijas Sahari / *Malay*

Roobbasri Shanmugam / *Tamil*

Ting Siew Jing / *English*

Protocol Team

Muhammad Hijas Sahari

Ting Siew Jing

Homebase Coordinators

Flora Choo

Muhammad Hijas Sahari

Zahari Dahalan

Videographer

Shishoki Production

Photographer

Adpix Studio

Master of Ceremony

Bella Park

George Koh Teng Han

Ng Kim Theng

Nicholas Ong Khang Ning

Creative Team

Double & Two Creative Consultancy

(Lee Xuan Rou, Lim Chee Seong

Teoh Yu Lin, Romond Law)

Stage Manager

Tan Hock Keng

Action Team

Lim Hao Wei

Ch'ng Jia Jie

Chua Zheng Xun

Gan Chun Pin

Hong Kah Soon

Koay Chin Hao

Lim Hao Kai

Lim Jun Jia

Lim Wei Ming

Tan Kai Ern

Tan Wei Jian

Production Execution

Avant Garde Grafik



NOTE :



NOTE :

