

George Town
Heritage
Celebrations 2026

Perayaan Warisan George Town 2026

2026年喬治市入遺慶典

2026 - ஆம் ஆண்டின் ஜோர்ஜ் டவுன்
பாரம்பரிய பண்பாட்டு விழா



KONGSI CERITA



GEORGE TOWN UNESCO
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

4^{JUL} 2026 STREET
FESTIVAL

5^{JUL} 2026 GEORGE TOWN
HERITAGE WALK

5^{JUL}-7^{JUL} 2026 HISTORIC BUILDING
OPEN HOUSE

18th Anniversary Celebration
GEORGE TOWN
UNESCO World Heritage Site



PENANG
2030

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Malaysia 2026
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<https://gtwhi.com.my/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/@gtwhi116>

KONGSI CERITA



Stories are gateways into other worlds.

Myths and legends, folklore and fables—we devoured them all, imagining what it would be like to be part of different countries, cultures, and even historical eras! Movies and dramas added sound and colour, making history exciting. Want to find out more about an annual celebration or event? There's probably a TikTok for that.

And yet, what we truly learnt about the world came from smaller, quieter moments. From stories our parents shared, from listening to them gossip with friends in kitchens and kopitiams. From asking ourselves, "What would Mum and Dad do in this situation?"

Often, we don't even know why we do these things because we've never thought to ask. What we've learnt is these habits were shaped by the generations that came before, for reasons that can be traced through culture and history.

How did Chingay come about, and where did dikir barat come from? Why do we make ketupat palas in northern Peninsular Malaysia while Eurasians make sugée cakes and tarts? And what do the colours of the Kathakali masks mean?

Follow Sara's stories as she discovers the many traditions of multi-cultural George Town. Join workshops, games, performances, and food demonstrations as the communities in George Town gather to kongsī cerita—sharing cultural heritages passed down through generations, not just through story and song, but through the very foods, arts, and crafts that we love.

Then kongsī cerita with your own community, preserving and extending the memories, voices, and wisdom that have shaped George Town throughout the years.

We'll see you around!



KONGSI CERITA: FROM SOUL-TO-SOUL

I started 2026 on a sick bed, reflecting on life and searching for ways to live more meaningfully. From that experience emerged this year's theme for George Town Heritage Celebrations (GTHC): Kongsı Cerita—a space where souls may meet, stories may be shared, and where we shall fall in love with George Town all over again.

As we mark the 18th anniversary of George Town's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site this year, George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) continues its efforts to strengthen GTHC as a healthy ecosystem and a shared platform for collective action in safeguarding and celebrating our heritage.

From 4 to 7 July 2026, we hope souls may meet, conversations may flourish, and reflections may be made. During this celebrations, it is timely for us to grow and rethink our roles and responsibilities in the stewardship of George Town's heritage, which we shall pass on to the future generations.

The Street Festival on the evening of 4 July has expanded into a larger area to accommodate 42 workshops hosted by our community partners. The 5km family-friendly George Town Heritage Walk on 5 July has seen stronger participation from young families and youths. The Historic Building Open House programme returns from 5 to 7 July, featuring 12 heritage buildings. The Cultural Heritage Hub (CH2) groundbreaking ceremony will also be hold on 7 July 2026 to create a vibrant hub for creativity, collaboration, and cultural exchange.

GTHC 2026 is only possible with the strong collaboration and support of our 62 communities and partners, comprising more than 800 dedicated souls who have worked alongside us since January 2026. Our deepest appreciation also goes to our 19 full-time staff, 60 project staff, 331 volunteers, and more than 200 contractors and subcontractors, whose enduring commitment has ensured that these celebrations come to life. Above all, we are indebted to the Penang State Government, GTWHI Board of Directors, especially YAB Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, for their unwavering support and the much-needed resources that have made all this possible.

So come and enjoy the city. Create memories. Fall in love. Tell your story.
We are listening.

Dr Ang Ming Chee
Executive Producer



**4 JUL
2026**

RONGSI CERITA: STREET FESTIVAL

5PM - 10PM

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!



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.
- #GTCH2026: You know what to do. Have fun!



Scan for more info

WORKSHOP

- A Truly Artistic Parade**
Penang Chingay Association, Penang Chingay Team, Penang Grocers' Association
Explore the true art of Chingay, a spectacular street performance which combines intense physical endurance and artistic discipline. Learn how traditional religious rituals rooted in Penang Hokkien heritage evolved into a vibrant performance that now incorporates multicultural participation.
- Tanglung Tales**
LUMA
Play Tanglung, LUMA's new tabletop game by Mark William, where every move is a conversation and every tanglung, or lantern, tells a tale. Craft tales of your own through decorating mini lanterns with stickers of the 6 tanglung animals from the game, illustrated by Yuki Koe Galk Kee.
- Iron Rod Puppet Won't Rust**
Teochew Puppet & Opera House
View a short Teochew iron rod puppetry demonstration and display of traditional puppets and performance props. Create a small keychain inspired by the traditional opera prop known as the horsewhip (马鞭).
- Baby's First Beads**
Persatuan Warisan Dato Koyah
Tie your own Paal Mani as a bracelet, anklet, or necklace.
- In Every Single Note**
The Penang Hindu Sabha
Learn the basics of playing the nadaswaram, a traditional South Indian wind instrument, and experience how nadaswaram music brings energy and joy to any occasion.
- Fairy Tales, Schmairy Tales**
Malaysian-German Society
Join a quiz about German folklore to win German prizes and goodies.
- The Painted Faces of Kathakali**
North Malaysia Malayali Samajam
Paint your own Kathakali mask based on the templates provided.
- Rolling Rhymes, Rolling Dice**
Penang Hokkien Association Youth Section
Learn Penang Hokkien nursery rhymes through singing and clapping, as well as the Bo Bing (Mooncake Festival Dice Game), a festive tradition from Fujian.
- Fresh Leaves, Fresh Weaves**
Badore Warisan Masjid Melayu Lebuhraya (Acheen Street) Pulau Pinang
A hands-on workshop on the traditional craft of weaving ketupat using fresh palas leaves.
- Unbreakable Siblings' Bonds**
Gujarati Samaj Penang
Design and tie your own rakhi, a decorative thread that binds siblings together.
- Oral Wisdom from the Nursery**
Penang Hakka Association
Learn to recite Hakka nursery rhymes and poems, including the meanings behind them.

- The Art of Relaxation**
Penang Hindu Association
Observe expert demonstrations of Varma Kalai and Yoga, physical moves designed to relieve stress and improve body awareness. Then discover the fermentation process of thosai batter and learn how to achieve a golden, crispy texture.
- The Colours of Batik**
Warisan Balik Pulau
Choose a simple Batik colouring activity or level up to try Batik canting as well, which involves drawing the outline of the design using melted wax.
- The Art of Sculpting Patience**
Loh Ban Thatt & Teoh Han Hoon Traditional Dough Figurines
Create your own simple dough figurines themed around the classic fable "The Tortoise and the Hare".
- The Drum Comes A-Clacking**
Lum Yeong Tong Yap Temple
Dive into the history of the Battle Drum, a handheld percussion instrument dating to the Han Dynasty. This creative session allows the public to colour and decorate their own drum, with this year's designs inspired by the Year of the Horse.
- A Lesson in Origami**
Pink Hibiscus Club
Journey back to the 1920s with Taisho as Kakpoot brings him around Penang's famous locations. Explore an exhibition of old photos and postcards of Penang taken by Japanese photographic studios, then learn how to make your own origami camera.
- Paper Folded Prayers**
Thai Pak Koong (Ng Suk) Temple
Discover the significance of Chinese paper folding to Malaysian Chinese as you learn to fold basic designs.
- Preserving Stone Memories**
The Kwangtung & Tengchow Association
Create your own rubbing works by hand, and experience how inscriptions gradually emerge on paper.
- Steamed Stories**
Liga Muslim Pulau Pinang
Explore the heritage of traditional Indian Muslim staples such as kiyappam, idli, and kolikatal, which are made of rice flour and various spices.
- Saved by the Lions**
Sim Art Studio
Learn about the guardian lions of George Town, then use the art of Chinese stone rubbings to bring the story to life!
- Gaming the Past**
Penang Hidden Gems
Step into the roles of 19th-century Penangites and navigate a world of historical intrigue and cultural exchange through tactile storytelling.
- Patterns of Connection**
Nattukottai Nagarathar Heritage Society
Engage in a hands-on guided experience to create the Nadu Veetu Kalam, a sacred and large-scale geometric floor art form unique to the Nagarathar (Chettiar) community.

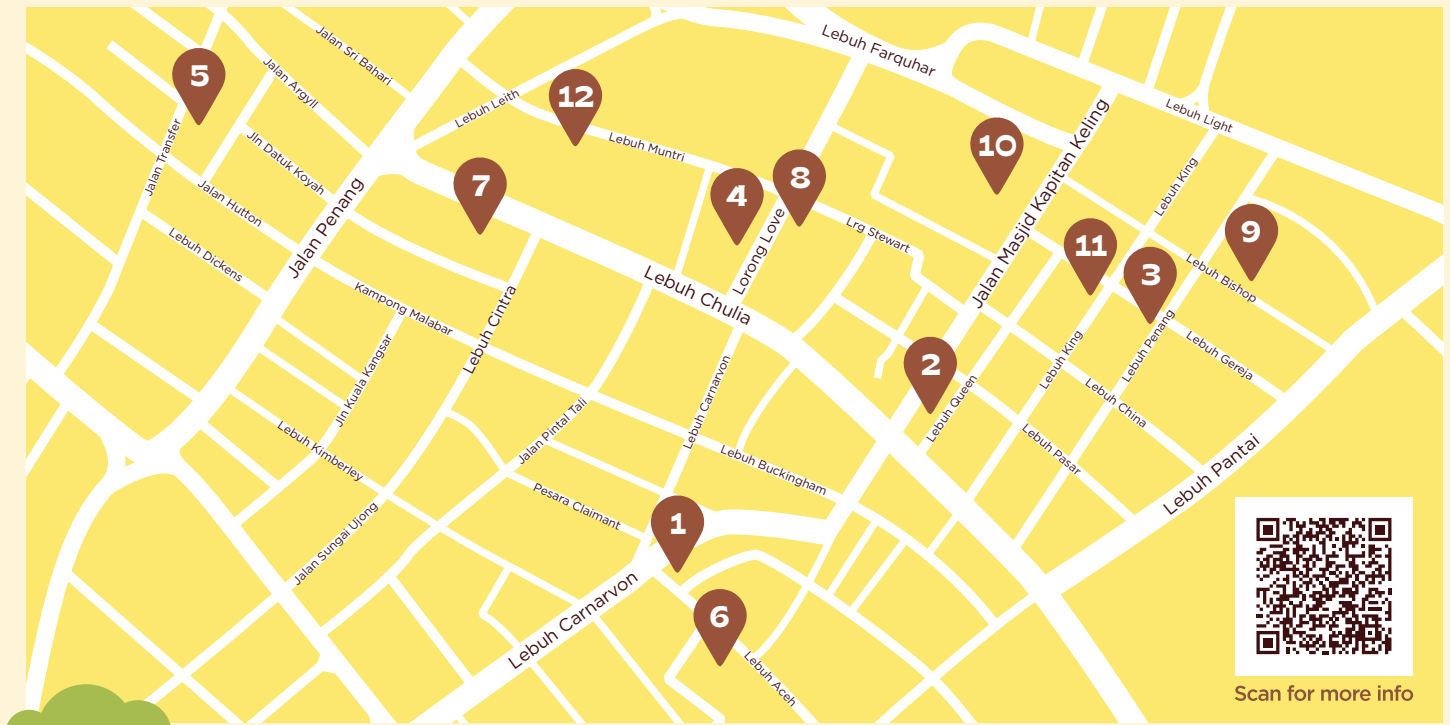
- A Taste of Comfort**
Gabungan Persatuan India Muslim Pulau Pinang (GAPEIM)
Observe and/or assist in the traditional preparation and cooking of Paratha Kanji, a dish unique to the Indian Muslim community.
- The Rice of a Million Slices**
State Chinese (Penang) Association
Learn how to make Peranakan Nasi Ulem, a herbal rice salad.
- All's Fair in Love and Games**
Indian Muslim Community Organisation Malaysia (IMcom)
Play two fun games played after an Indian Muslim wedding: Finding the Ring in a Sombu and Chocolate Coin Shower.
- The Board that Connects Two Hearts**
Jawatankeusa Karlah Masjid Kapitan Keling
Play PaLanguli, a traditional board game similar to congkak, that's central to the Sevee Katté function in Indian Muslim wedding customs.
- Full Moon Traditions**
Penang Hainan Association
A hands-on experience of preparing Art Bua, a Hainanese Kueh made from glutinous rice, flour, coconut, and palm sugar.
- Nectar from Heaven**
Pertubuhan Kebajikan Ayyappan Batu Uban Pulau Pinang
Attend a live demonstration and storytelling session about Panchamritam, a traditional South Indian sweet mixture known as "five nectars".
- Sugar, Spice, & Everything Nice**
Penang Eurasian Association
Join a hands-on session on making suggee cake and pineapple tarts.
- Ladies and Ladoos**
Sikh Nauwajan Sabha Malaysia Penang Branch
Participate in a hands-on session making Ladoos, traditional sweets from rural Punjab, while listening to Punjabi folk songs performed live.
- Servings of Generosity**
Persatuan Wadda Gurdwara Sahib Pulau Pinang
Gain hands-on experience in the Langar by learning the art of making chapatti.
- The Cookies that were not Cookies**
Pertubuhan Pembangunan Wanita Tamarai Pulau Pinang
Explore the heritage of traditional Indian staples, specifically the Paruppu Vadi, a flattened disc-shaped snack.
- Sambal Hustle**
Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsi
Experience making authentic Penang Peranakan Sambal with a traditional stone mortar and pestle.
- Threads and Tales of Kadayanallur Tenkasan**
Central Muslim Society

INTERACTIVE DANCE FLOOR

- Colourful Sailors of Boria**
Kumpulan Boria Omara (Omara Ventures)
Boria is the sole traditional form of Malay theatre in Penang. It consists of four main elements: an opening sketch, a lead singer (Tukang Karang), poetic verses, and a chorus (sailors).
5:00PM 8:00PM
- The First Step Dance**
Malaysian-Japanese Society
Ippome Ondo, which translates to "The First Step Dance", is a cheerful Japanese festival song often performed during community celebrations and cultural gatherings.
5:20PM 8:20PM
- The Joyful Rhythm of Siam**
Persatuan Masyarakat Siam Pulau Pinang
Kantun and Ramwong are traditional Isan folk dances from northeastern Thailand, performed to songs with Khmer lyrics that focus on fun and local culture.
5:30PM 8:30PM
- Ruchipudi Dance**
Telugu Association of Malaysia, Penang Branch
Kuchipudi, known for its graceful movements, expressive facial expressions, and rhythmic footwork, is one of the eight classical dance forms of India. The audience will have a chance to imitate the dancers and be part of the performance.
5:50PM 8:30PM
- Sweetness at Your Fingertips**
Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi & SJKC Sin Kang
The process of making Nyonya kuih shifts from the kitchen to the dance floor, as each kuih takes on its own lively rhythm through the movements of the little Nyonya.
6:10PM 9:10PM
- Synchronised Hands, Synchronised Hearts**
Dikir Barat Suara Mutiara
Experience a lively Dikir Barat performance featuring group singing, rhythmic movement, and traditional musical elements, then join an interactive session that's open to all.
6:20PM 9:20PM
- Enjoy the Beat of Dhol**
Penang Dhol Blasters
Experience the vibrant energy of Punjabi culture through the powerful beats of the dhol and lively Bhangra movements. This hands-on experience allows you to not only observe but also participate.
6:40PM 9:40PM
- Traditions In Motion**
Wak Long Music & Art Centre
Traditions in Motion is a music medley that combines various traditional performing art genres, such as wayang kulit, fusion gamelan music, traditional dance, and interactive dance.
7:00PM

5-7
JUL JUL

KONGSI CERITA: HISTORIC BUILDING OPEN HOUSE



Scan for more info

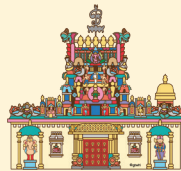


1 | George Town World Heritage Incorporated

No. 116 & 118, Lebu Aceh

5-7 JUL

9AM-5PM | 7PM-9PM



2 | Arulmigu Sri Maha Mariamman Temple

No. 58, Lebu Queen

5-7 JUL

9AM-1PM | 7PM-9PM



3 | Kwangtung & Tengchow Association

No. 50, Lebu Penang

5-7 JUL

9AM-5PM



4 | Loo Pun Hong

No. 70, Lorong Love

5-7 JUL

9AM-5PM



5 | Makam Dato Royah

No. 43, Jalan Transfer

5-7 JUL

9AM-1PM



6 | Masjid Melayu Lebu Aceh

Lebu Aceh

5-7 JUL

9AM-5PM



7 | Nam Hooi Wooi Roon

No. 463, Lebu Chulia

5 JUL

9AM-5PM | 7PM-9PM



8 | Soon Tuck Wooi Roon

No. 51, Lorong Love

5 JUL

9AM-5PM



9 | Sun Wui Wui Roon

No. 38, Lebu Bishop

5-7 JUL

9AM-5PM



10 | St. George's Church

No. 1, Lebu Farquhar

5-6 JUL | 7 JUL

9AM-5PM 9AM-5PM

(Heritage Cafe)

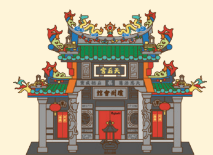


11 | Thai Pak Roong (Ng Suk) Temple

No. 32, 32A & 34, Lebu King

5-7 JUL

9AM-5PM



12 | Thean Hou Temple (Penang Hainan Association)

No. 93, Lebu Muntri

5-7 JUL

9AM-5PM

Supported by



Programme Partners



All information in this brochure is correct at the time of printing.
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 George Town Heritage Celebrations
George Town World Heritage Incorporated

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