

Welcome to
Penang

GEORGE TOWN'S RICH LEGACY

George Town, the state capital of Penang, has an unparalleled collection of buildings from the 19th and early 20th Centuries. It is a living, breathing historic settlement where temples, mosques, churches, guild clan and houses, wet markets, bazaars, retail shops and old-fashioned hawkers have survived the transition into the 21st Century and provide a fascinating window into the past as the city sets its sights on becoming a World Heritage City. Penang teems with enchanting buildings that bear great significance to the history of the region.

Fort Cornwallis 1

Is an old star-shaped fort located on the northeastern coast of Penang. Fort Cornwallis was built by Captain Sir Francis Light after taking possession of the island from the Sultan of Kedah in 1786.

City Hall 2

It is a two-storey building situated at the Esplanade in the state of Penang and has a significant historical and architectural value. It is believed that the building was specifically built to house council/municipal offices in the early days.

St. George's Church 3

It was completed in 1818 on the initiative of the Penang Colonial Chaplain, Rev. Robert Sparke Hutchings and consecrated on 11 May 1819 by the Bishop of Calcutta, Thomas Fanshawe Middleton.

Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion 4

The charming home of a legendary philanthropist - was awarded a special prize by UNESCO for the restoration work done to preserve its heritage. The mansion's indigo-blue outer wall makes it a very distinct building in the area.

Han Jiang Ancestral Temple 5

The Han Jiang Ancestral Temple is located in the historic area of George Town, Penang, which has won the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation. The restoration of the 1870 temple was undertaken by the Penang Teochew Association Conservation Committee, which was set up by the Penang Teochew Association Board in July 2002.

Kapitan Keling Mosque 6

Kapitan Keling Mosque was built in 19th century by Indian Muslim traders. Originally it was a rectangular building with verandas and a hipped roof and had been enlarged several times. British architects commissioned by the Muslim and Hindu Endowments Board gave the mosque its British Moghul Revival appearance in 1916.

Sri Mahamariamman Temple 7

Built in 1883, this is the oldest Hindu temple in Penang, Malaysia, which features fascinating sculptures of gods and goddesses over its main entrance and facade. From its inception, the temple provided an important place of worship for early Indian immigrants and is now an important cultural and national heritage.

Khoo Kongsi 8

The great clan house of the Khoo Kongsi is the largest clan complex in Malaysia and awe-inspiring for its architectural attributes and bas-relief sculptures. A mark of the dominant presence of the Chinese in Penang.

Syed Alatas Mansion 9

The Syed Mohamed Alatas Mansion is one of the many heritage landmarks in George Town. This historical mansion still stands today at the junction of Lebuhraya Armenian and the historical Lebuhraya Aceh. Believed to have been built around the 1860's, the mansion is considered by many as one of the best examples of upper class muslim bungalow architecture still surviving in Penang.

These are just some of the many charming buildings spread all over Penang, which contribute to the great nostalgic ambience of the city where an abundance of outlets still offer the age-old treasures of the East - aromatic spices, colourful silk, rare porcelain and intricately crafted jewellery.



BACK to NATURE

Minutes away from the hustle and bustle of the city is the tropical isle's natural heritage - the emerald green hills and golden sandy beaches. Penang is one place where you can shop, sunbathe, hike, cycle and stroll all day. Leisure activities abound - from scuba diving to beachcombing, tennis, golf, and riding.

Beaches and fishing villages 1 2

Most activities are centred around batu Ferringhi and Tanjung Bunga where popular beach resorts are located. Watersports facilities like parasailing and windsurfing are easily available, as are restaurants and picturesque fishing villages.

Tropical Spice Garden 3

Flourishing with perfumed greenery, the eight-acre garden showcases a collection of more than 500 varieties of flora from around the world, with a particular emphasis on herbs and spices.

Botanic Gardens 4 5

This sprawling 30-hectare garden boasts troops of long-furred monkeys, a waterfall and some of the most colourful plants on the island.

Penang Hill 6

Historically a hot weather retreat for the British colonialists, the hill comprises a series of low peaks which provide a majestic view of the isle. A key attraction is the canopy walk - one of only three in Malaysia.

Penang Bird Park 7

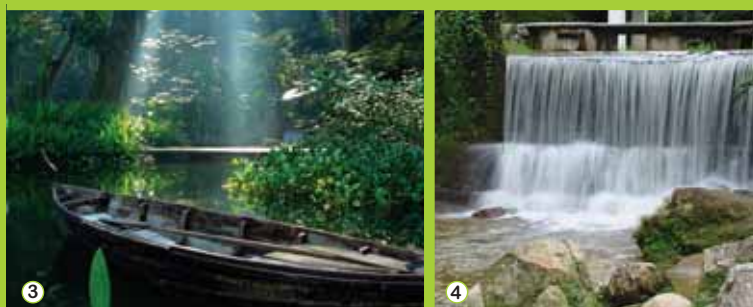
This 2-hectare park is located just 5 minutes' drive from the Penang Bridge. It is home to more than 300 species of birds, as well as fishes, reptiles and deer.

Penang Butterfly Farm 8

Just outside of Batu Ferringhi, the Butterfly Farm is a covered garden teeming with hundreds of species of butterflies. Founded in 1986, it is the first tropical butterfly farm in the world.

Other interesting places to visit

The Penang National Park 9, the Aquarium of the Fisheries Research Institute, Tropical Fruit Farm 10, a traditional Malay village at Kampung Seronok and the Penang Forestry Museum are just some of the many enchanting attractions to explore when you are in Penang.



CULINARY ADVENTURE

Penang stands out as a heaven for food lovers. Known as a hawkers' paradise, the ubiquitous food stalls serve endless varieties of mouth-watering Malay, Chinese and Indian dishes that reflect the different culinary traditions of the multiracial population.

Beginning in the 19th Century, the hawker food culture developed when itinerant peddlers sold food to the largely migrant labourers from China, India, Java and other parts of Asia.

Today, Penang is so popular for its hawker delights that favourites like Hokkien Mee 1, Penang Laksa 2 and Char Koay Teow 3 are sold all over the country. In the Chinese restaurants, Cantonese, Szechuan, Hokkien, Teochew and Hainanese dishes are served daily.

For authentic Malay cuisine, Nasi Lemak 4 - a popular breakfast comprising coconut rice, egg, chilli paste and fried anchovies is a must-try. As is Rojak 5, a mouth-watering mixture of fruits, vegetables, groundnuts and cuttlefish in a sweet, spicy sauce.

Heading the Indian temptations is a spread of breads like naan, puree, chapatti and roti prata, served with thick curry or chutney; unbeatable with the tarik (hot, sweet, stretched tea)! You might want to emulate the locals - the only utensil used is the right hand - for a different dining experience.

The Indian Muslims have their own unique Nasi Kandar 6 which is basically hot, fragrant white rice served with an eye-popping array of spicy meat and curry side dishes. Or you can have roti canal 7 with spicy lentil curry instead. Just look for long queues of people at the many 24-hour outlets and you can't go wrong.

The island's unique mix of races means that Japanese, Italian, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian and American favourites are also easily available at restaurants and bistros around the island.

Desserts, snacks and tea time treats are memorable, too. Chendol 8 a refreshing dessert made with shaved ice, coconut milk, brown sugar, red beans and green mung bean jelly has to be savoured to be appreciated but Tau Sar Pia 9 (green bean biscuits) make a sweet souvenir to take home to your loved ones. These tea snacks are old favourites with everyone.

A not-to-be-missed delight is the Durian 10, known as the King of Fruits. Its yellow creamy flesh exudes an exotic flavour close to none. A commercialised creativity of this fruit is the durian cake - a tasty, slightly spongy, brown congealed cooked mass of durian, coconut flower water, coconut milk, palm sugar, and glutinous rice.

Penang's tantalizing spectrum of delicacies is unsurpassed by any part of Asia and invites an unstinting indulgence of the taste buds.



www.visitpenang.gov.my

Penang
has it all!
MALAYSIA



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M A L A Y S I A

Penang Has It All!

Penang, the Pearl of the Orient, is one of Asia's loveliest islands. Its natural beauty and rich history have been attracting curious visitors for centuries. Travel guides have referred to it as "...a place of mysterious temples and palm-shrouded beaches" while literary giant Somerset Maugham is known to have stayed on the isle and spun tales about the romance of the white planters in South-East Asia.

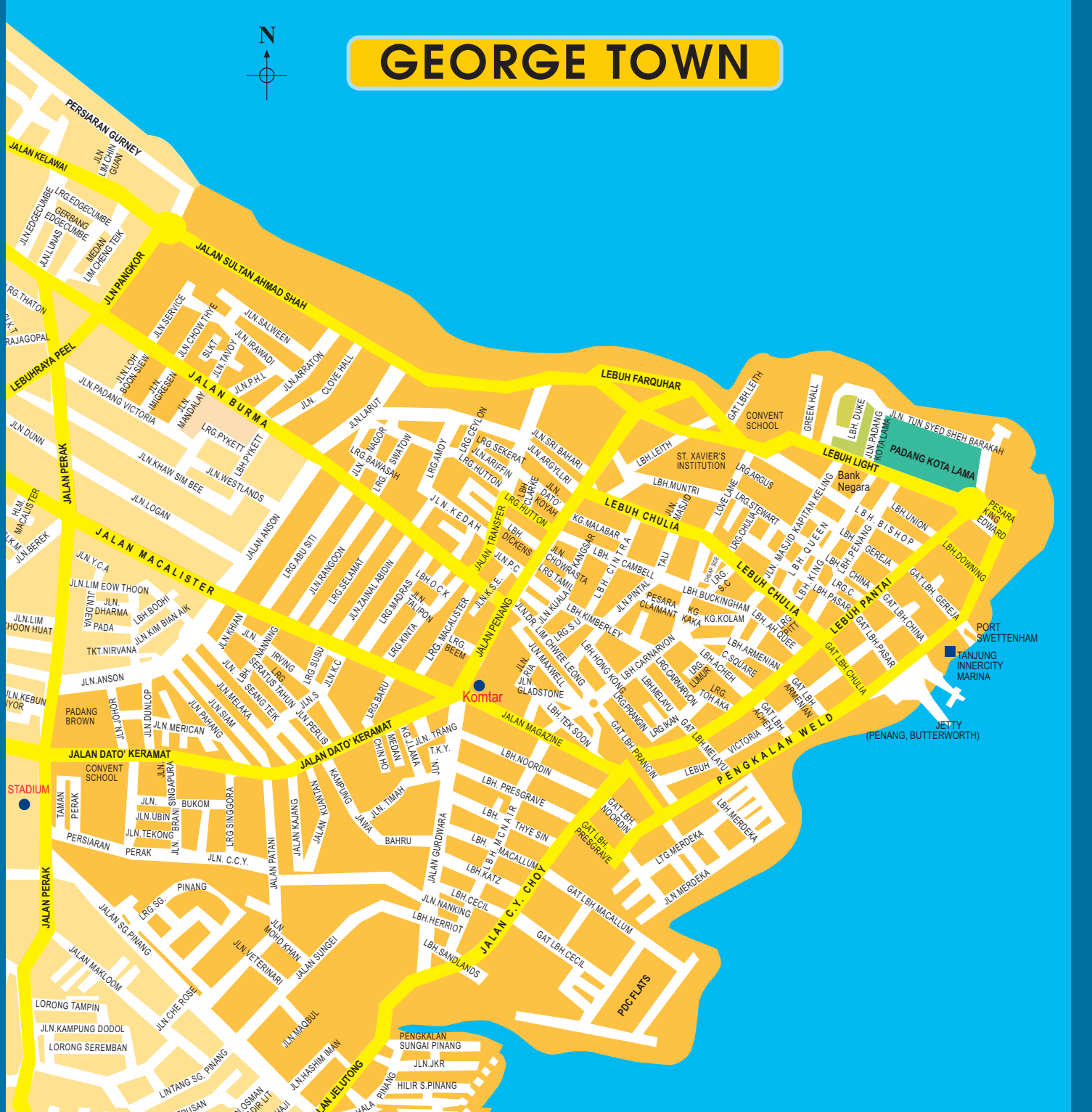
Historically, the state of Penang is made up of a turtle-shaped island and Province Wellesley, a large strip of land on the peninsula. Since 1985, the two have been joined by one of the longest bridges in the world. Travellers might also opt to hop on the ferry for a 20-minute ride across the channel, while international flights from across the globe connect to the easily accessible airport on the isle.

Penang or Pulau Pinang, is very much an exotic mélange of the old and the new - a bustling port, a heritage city and an industrial base, perhaps it had more to offer than any other place in the world. For sheer variety of locales, culture and food, Penang is hard to beat.

The largest collection of intact pre-war buildings in the whole of the region lies untouched by the surrounding high-rise structures in George Town, its capital. Wet markets, traditional trades and aged shrines still continue to throb with life in the presence of dealers and manufacturers of electronic goods and modern fashion items. Where else could you find 200-year-old churches, mosques, Chinese and Indian temples within five minutes' walk? The seamless melding of many peoples and races is wonderfully reflected in the delicious hawker food available round the clock and the bounty of festivals and customary celebrations throughout the year.

Just minutes away from the bustle, idyllic beaches and soothing hills offer respite to the weary while the industrial free trade zone which makes Penang the 'Silicon Island of the East' and the international airport are also within easy reach.

Indeed, Penang welcomes visitors with an unmatched experience brimful of heritage exploration, shopping, beach idylls, hill trekking, food discoveries and cultural delights.



BUSINESS VENUE

PENANG - a perfect meeting place for MICE

Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) are truly memorable when held at a beach resort with palm trees, sea breezes and gleaming sandy beaches or in the posh ambience of a city venue surrounded by temples, markets and the undying heritage of Asia's most culturally gifted peoples.

Penang, as a MICE venue, offers unbeatable value, unforgettable experiences in food, culture, shopping and the beauties of a tropical paradise. Grand halls, ballrooms, malls, hotels, function rooms are geared to this particular niche market, with state of the art facilities, friendly international-class service and speedy internet connections.

MICE packages accommodating tens to thousands are available all year round, with ministers, celebrities and CEOs all going away simply delighted by their stays at what an early guidebook for steamship passengers once described as an island where "...coastal views far surpass those of the Riviera while the panoramic views from the hills and the jungle scenery are not to be found in any other part of the world."

And with the modern penchant for charming surprises, themed MICE events are a breeze! The island's highly experienced banquet coordinators have been known to produce jungle luau and pirate parties for jaded executives looking for a little relief at the end of each day.

A visit to Penang for any reason always promises fun and a break from the hectic and the mundane. For MICE, there's no better place to go!



MYRIAD CELEBRATIONS

Life in Penang exists in a veritable rainbow of culture that churns with a succession of exciting festivals celebrated in a manner not seen anywhere else in the world.

This blending of traditions is believed to have developed after the 'the island of the betel nuts', once governed by the Kedah Sultanate, was opened to the world by the British East India Company in 1786. As the island became a busy center for entrepot trade, it welcomed a diaspora of migrants from many countries. Despite the inter-cultural fusion that has evolved over the years, the individual identities of the ethnic groups have been retained and enhanced through their religious festivals and celebrations.

Events like **Deepavali 1, 2**, **Hari Raya Aidilfitri 3**, **Chinese New Year 4**, **Chap Goh Meh 5**, **Vaisakhi, Wesak Day and Christmas 6** are but a few of the major events celebrated throughout the year. Penang's festive calendar also includes festivals like the **Hungry Ghosts Festival 7**, **Thaipusam 8**, **Songkran, St. Anne's Feast day 9**, **the Nine Emperor Gods' Festival and Easter** while the **Lion Dance** is an integral part of all Chinese celebrations.

Some events like the **Dragon Boat Festival 10**, have become international affairs that draw participants from across the world every year. You can also experience a whole gamut of arts events from plays to theatre or concert performances, exhibitions and competitions during Pesta Pulau Pinang.

A true melting pot of Asia's great cultures, Penang is a pulsing destination alive with the spirit of human cultures kept alive and active for you to experience.

