

penang

MALAYSIA



05	OVERVIEW
	Climate
	Public Holidays & Festivals
	Local Culture
	Preparation
	Local Languages
	Telecommunications
	Banks & Currency Exchange
	Arrival
	From the Airport to the city
	Transportation
18	HERITAGE
20	ARTS & CULTURE
22	FOOD & LIFESTYLE
24	NATURE & ADVENTURE
28	MICE, CRUISE & WEDDING TOURISM
30	HEALTH TOURISM & EDUCATION
32	ACCOMMODATION



PENANG PROVIDES AN AUTHENTIC TASTE OF ASIA, WITH A LAID-BACK CHARM THAT IS WOVEN INTO ITS TAPESTRY OF CULTURE, HERITAGE AND NATURAL BEAUTY

Welcome to Penang!



*Map is not drawn to scale and is for illustration purposes only.

OVERVIEW

Penang is a vibrant State with its capital, George Town, having the rare distinction of being a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a true melting pot of cultures with its blend of Eastern and Western influences. Retaining many of the values adopted during its era of British rule, Penang bears a charm that is unique to itself.

Location

Penang Island is a 15 to 20-minute ferry ride from mainland Penang on the Malaysian Peninsula. There are two bridges connecting the island to the mainland, namely Penang Bridge and the Second Penang Bridge (Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Bridge). Penang International Airport sees incoming flights from many international countries, such as China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Qatar.

Langkawi Island is a 2-hour-45-minute ferry ride away, or a short 35-minute flight. Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur is a 50-minute flight away, or can alternatively be reached by a 4-hour train or car ride.



CLIMATE



Church Street Pier

Penang enjoys a year-round tropical climate where it is warm and sunny all year round, with plentiful rainfall due to its geographical location and the monsoon climate.

It is usually warmest in the months of January and February, during the period of Chinese New Year, and rainy during the southwest monsoon from April to September.

The average temperature is above 30°C in the day and above 25°C at night. The weather in Penang is suitable for strolls or cycling around the city, be it day or night.

Call 999 for any emergencies:

- Police / Ambulance
- Fire and Rescue Department
- Civil Defence



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

Penang is a multicultural society with people from different ethnicities and cultures. The city celebrates festivals that are linked to culture, religion and tradition, and observes public holidays that are in commemoration of events of national, regional or local importance. Please note that a particular holiday in Penang may not necessarily be a holiday in other states, and that the dates of certain festive holidays, especially those based on the lunar calendar may change from year to year.

Apart from official holidays, there is also a variety of events such as the Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, Penang International Food Festival, George Town Festival, George Town Heritage Celebrations, Penang Island Jazz Festival and more. The foundation of a great holiday is to check out public holidays and festivals when drawing up travel plans.

Official Holidays

Date	Public Holiday/Festival Name	Description
1 January	New Year's Day	A city walk is held every New Year where participants walk around George Town's World Heritage Core Zone.
1 May	Labour Day	Labour Day
7 July	George Town World Heritage Day	An anniversary, held only in Penang to commemorate the day George Town got listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008.
31 August	National Day	Malaysia's independence day
16 September	Malaysia Day	A commemoration for the establishment of the Malaysian federation, marking the joining together of Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak to form Malaysia.
25 December	Christmas	Christmas

*Other Holidays

Public Holiday/Festival Name	Description
Chinese New Year	Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year)
Thaipusam	A Hindu festival associated with penance and atonement, and a day for repentance.
Wesak Day	A Buddhist festival that commemorates Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death.
Birthday of SPB Yang di-Pertuan Agong	The official birthday of Malaysia's King.
Nuzul Al-Quran	An Islamic event that commemorates the day when the words of the Qur'an were first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, on the 17th day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.
Hari Raya Aidilfitri (Eid al-Fitr)	A festival that marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.
Birthday of the Governor of Penang	The official birthday of the Penang Governor.
Hari Raya Haji (Eid al-Adha)	Muslim Festival of sacrifice
Awal Muharram	Islamic New Year
Deepavali	A Hindu festival of lights celebrated every year in autumn in the northern hemisphere, when they light up lamps, give thanks and pray for blessings.
Mawlid	Prophet Muhammad's birthday

*Dates of these festivals vary from year to year

LOCAL CULTURE



Kapitan Keling Mosque

As a multicultural destination and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is difficult to define Penang in just one word. As such, knowing the local culture beforehand will help you understand Penang better.

Languages

Most signs are written in Malay and English, with some in Chinese too. Names of roads and main destinations are in Malay as well. It would be helpful to know some basic Malay although English is widely spoken.

Fares for visitors

In Penang, quite a number of attractions offer subsidised fare for Malaysians. Visitors may notice the word "MyKad" stated on some price boards. MyKad refers to the Malaysian national identity card, where statements stating "Price for MyKad holders" refer to prices applicable to Malaysian nationals. Entrance fees and fares are usually visibly displayed to avoid confusion. In the occasion where prices are not stated, do remember to check before proceeding.

Tipping Culture

Service charges are already included in places such as hotels and restaurants, so additional tipping is not required. You may tip as a gesture of your appreciation for the services rendered.

Things to note during Ramadan

'Ramadan' is a major Muslim event that occurs during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims fast daily from dawn to sunset and refrain from drinking water during this time. Out of respect for those fasting, try not to waste large amounts of food or behave imprudently in the presence of Muslims during Ramadan.

Things to note for pedestrians

Walking around George Town is common and is one of the best ways to tour this UNESCO heritage city to discover hidden delights like small quirky lanes. Traffic lights for pedestrians are available at most main streets. Pedestrians are advised to obey the pedestrian crossing lights for safety reasons.



Kek Lok Si Temple



St. Anne's Church

PREPARATION



Lebuh Aceh

Holiday Outfit

As Penang has a tropical climate, it is advisable to wear cool clothing. It is usually sunny, but the heat is moderate and still comfortable to walk around outdoors. Shopping malls and restaurants are equipped with air-conditioning so you may want to carry along a light cover-up. If you are attending a formal function, a western-style suit or a batik shirt for men is permissible. To be sure, check with your host before the event. It is a requirement to dress modestly when visiting places of worship. Mosques will often prepare appropriate cover-ups for tourists. Shoes should also be removed when entering places of worship.



When on holiday



When visiting a mosque

Travel Tips

The Malaysian Immigration laws require that every person entering Malaysia must possess a valid passport with more than six (6) months validity from the date of entry into Malaysia, so do check your passport before you plan your travels.

Have a small umbrella on hand when you are planning outdoor activities, and always carry a bottle of water to keep hydrated amid all that excitement. It is not advisable to drink tap water directly.

ELECTRIC VOLTAGE AND COMPATIBILITY

Electrical sockets in Malaysia supply electricity between 220 and 240 volts. You will need a type G socket adapter in order for your plugs to be compatible for use in Malaysia.



LOCAL LANGUAGES

The official language of Malaysia is Malay, but many locals are proficient in English as well. Most Penangites are competent in more than two languages. Almost all Chinese speak 'Penang Hokkien', which is unique because of the blend of Chinese with many 'adopted' Malay words and some English words. Penangites' most common greeting is "Dah makan kah?" (Malay), "Chiak pa boi?" (Hokkien), "Saptacha" (Tamil) which literally means "Have you eaten?".

Here are some basic Malay and Penang Hokkien phrases to add more fun to your holiday!

MALAY

Good morning	Selamat pagi	Street	Lebuh
Good afternoon	Selamat tengah hari	I'm sorry	Minta maaf
Good evening	Selamat petang	How much is it?	Berapa harga
Good night	Selamat malam	It's expensive	Mahalnya
Good bye	Selamat tinggal	Check, please / I'd like to pay	Tolong kira
Thank you	Terima kasih	Please give me a receipt	Tolong bagi resit
You're welcome	Sama-sama	It's delicious	Sedapnya
Road	Jalan	Food court	Medan Selera
Lane	Lorong		

PENANG HOKKIEN

Thank you	Kamsiah	How much is it?	Gui lui
You're welcome	Mien kek khi	It's delicious	Hochiak



TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Buying a SIM Card

A local SIM card can be purchased upon arrival at the airport. Simply choose from the different choices of telecommunication operators available. The retail stands are located in the area after immigration and baggage claim, just before the exit. Most convenience shops offer credit top-up service when your SIM card credit runs out.

Wi-Fi

Penang has Wi-Fi networks befitting a tourist-friendly city. Wi-Fi is provided in majority of the hotels and available at most areas in the city. There are 1,550 Wi-Fi spots at tourist attractions and

public places throughout George Town. Most cafés also offer free Wi-Fi. For convenience, you may purchase a local SIM card with data package to access the internet at all times.

Website : penangfreewifi.com.my

To make IDD calls

Calling from both landline or mobile phones:

1. Enter international call access code: 00
2. Country code
3. Area code
4. The desired telephone number

BANKS & CURRENCY EXCHANGE



Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling [Pitt Street]



Malaysia's Currency

The Malaysian currency is the Ringgit, written as RM. There are six denominations – RM 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100.

Cash Exchange

• Local Exchange

Money changers are widely present in George Town, shopping centres, and at the airport. Foreign currencies such as the US dollar cannot be used locally and it is advisable to purchase a small amount of local currency prior to your arrival.

Banks

Penang's financial district is right in the heart of George Town on Lebuh Pantai (Beach Street). Local and International banks can be found here as well as other locations in Penang for your banking purposes.

Banks in Penang:

- Affin Bank
- Alliance Bank
- AmBank
- Bank Muamalat
- Bank of China
- Bank Rakyat
- Bank Simpanan Nasional
- CIMB Bank Berhad
- Citibank
- Hong Leong Bank
- HSBC
- Maybank
- OCBC
- Public Bank
- RHB
- Scotiabank
- Standard Chartered
- UOB

ARRIVAL



Connecting Flight

Many airlines operate direct flights to the Penang International Airport from various parts of China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Qatar.

Where there are no direct flights, Penang can be reached via connecting flights from Kuala Lumpur. There are two main airports operating in Sepang - KLIA (Kuala Lumpur International Airport) and KLIA2 (Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2), and another in the city - the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang. KLIA is Malaysia's primary international aviation gateway while KLIA2 is the world's largest airport for budget airlines including Malaysia's Air Asia.

Upon arrival at any of the above-mentioned airports, a transfer flight to Penang is required. It is a short hour-long flight from Kuala Lumpur to Penang. Over at both KLIA and KLIA2, there are over 160 weekly flights to Penang via multiple airlines including Air Asia, Malindo Air and MAS. At the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, there are international flights as well as flights to Penang via Malindo Air and Firefly. Different airlines operate from different airports with Malaysia Airlines flights from KLIA. AirAsia and other low cost airlines operate from KLIA2 and the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport.

You will go through immigration at KLIA to the domestic area for your onward journey to Penang. There is no special immigration procedure. Simply go through the transfer queue and get a stamp on your passport. As it varies between different airlines, some offers the service of checking your luggage right through to Penang. For airlines that don't, you can collect your luggage at KLIA or KLIA2 and have them checked in again to Penang.

Direct Flight

Upon arrival at the Penang International Airport, proceed to Immigration, after which collect your luggage at the baggage claim area before exiting.

For more information on visa requirements, please visit www.imi.com.my

Note that your passport must be valid for at least six months of use.

The domestic journey is convenient as there are no documents to be filled during the flight from KL to Penang.

Penang International Airport

Address : Jalan Lapangan Terbang, Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang

Telephone: +604-643 4411

Website : penangairport.com

FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE CITY

Rapid Penang Bus

At RM2.70, this is the cheapest way to get into George Town from the airport. Prepare some small change beforehand, as all buses do not carry change for safety reasons. The journey into George Town takes about 40 minutes.

Buses to George Town / KOMTAR :
102, 401, 401E, Airport Transit (AT)

Fare : RM2.70

Website : rapidpg.com.my

TIP: If heading to Penang from other cities by bus

If heading to Penang from other cities like Kuala Lumpur by bus, arrival is at the intercity 'Sungai Nibong Express Bus Terminal'. Depending on each bus company, passengers can get off at George Town. Before purchasing tickets, check if it is possible to be dropped off in George Town.

Taxi

There is a specific taxi service from the Penang International Airport called 'Airport White Taxi'. Fares for this service are set according to the eight areas they cover. Simply purchase a voucher at the taxi counter located before the exit and pass your voucher to the taxi driver to get to your destination. A list of fares for the various areas is available at the counter. The fare also varies depending on the size of the taxi, and an extra charge is applicable during late hours.

Fares based on area

Area	Taxi Type	Standard Fare	Late-night Fare	Corresponding Area
1	Standard (4-seater)	RM 18.00	RM 27.00	Airport surroundings
	Van (10-seater)	RM 36.00	RM 54.00	
2	Standard (4-seater)	RM 26.90	RM 40.30	Bayan Baru, Permatang Damar Laut, Kampung Seronok
	Van (10-seater)	RM 53.80	RM 80.70	
3	Standard (4-seater)	RM 31.40	RM 47.00	Queensbay Mall, Sunshine Square, etc.
	Van (10-seater)	RM 62.80	RM 94.20	
4	Standard (4-seater)	RM 36.90	RM 55.30	Batu Lanchang
	Van (10-seater)	RM 73.80	RM 110.70	
5	Standard (4-seater)	RM 44.70	RM 67.00	George Town, Gurney Drive, KOMTAR Terminal
	Van (10-seater)	RM 89.40	RM 134.10	
6	Standard (4-seater)	RM 54.70	RM 82.00	Tanjung Tokong surroundings
	Van (10-seater)	RM 109.40	RM 164.10	
7	Standard (4-seater)	RM 69.00	RM 103.60	Tanjung Bungah surroundings
	Van (10-seater)	RM 138.00	RM 207.00	
8	Standard (4-seater)	RM 74.00	RM 111.00	Batu Feringghi, Tropical Spice Garden etc.
	Van (10-seater)	RM 148.00	RM 222.00	

TRANSPORTATION



Downtown Penang is small enough in size for walking around George Town and its neighbourhood, and enjoying the sights in a trishaw. A free shuttle bus service - Free CAT Bus (Central Area Transit), provides a convenient alternative for moving around the downtown area.

To get to attractions out of George Town such as Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang Hill and places in Batu Feringghi and Teluk Bahang, standard city buses and taxis are available including e-hailing services. Always check schedules and fares before deciding on your preferred mode of transportation.

Trishaw

Driven purely on manpower, the iconic trishaw is great for going around George Town. Opt for a trishaw ride to enjoy a breezy ride. Be sure to agree on a price before starting your journey. The average rate is RM30 per hour for two-persons, depending on the distance between starting and ending points.

Public Bus

The main public bus service is by Rapid Penang and it covers an extensive area both on the island and mainland. It also operates a Free CAT Bus service within George Town. KOMTAR terminal is the central transfer terminal for buses that cover the whole of Penang Island. Simply ask around or look out for signboards to find out which bus route serves you best. Upon boarding the Rapid Penang bus, inform the driver of your destination, pay the amount required and receive a ticket for your trip. Remember to prepare the exact change as all buses do not carry change for safety reasons.

*Fares are based on distance travelled.

Rapid Penang Bus Transportation Card (1-week use)

Fare

- Adult RM30 (Malaysian/Foreigner)

Application Preparation

- 1 copy of applicant's IC or passport

Rapid Penang Bus Transportation Card (1-month use)

Fare

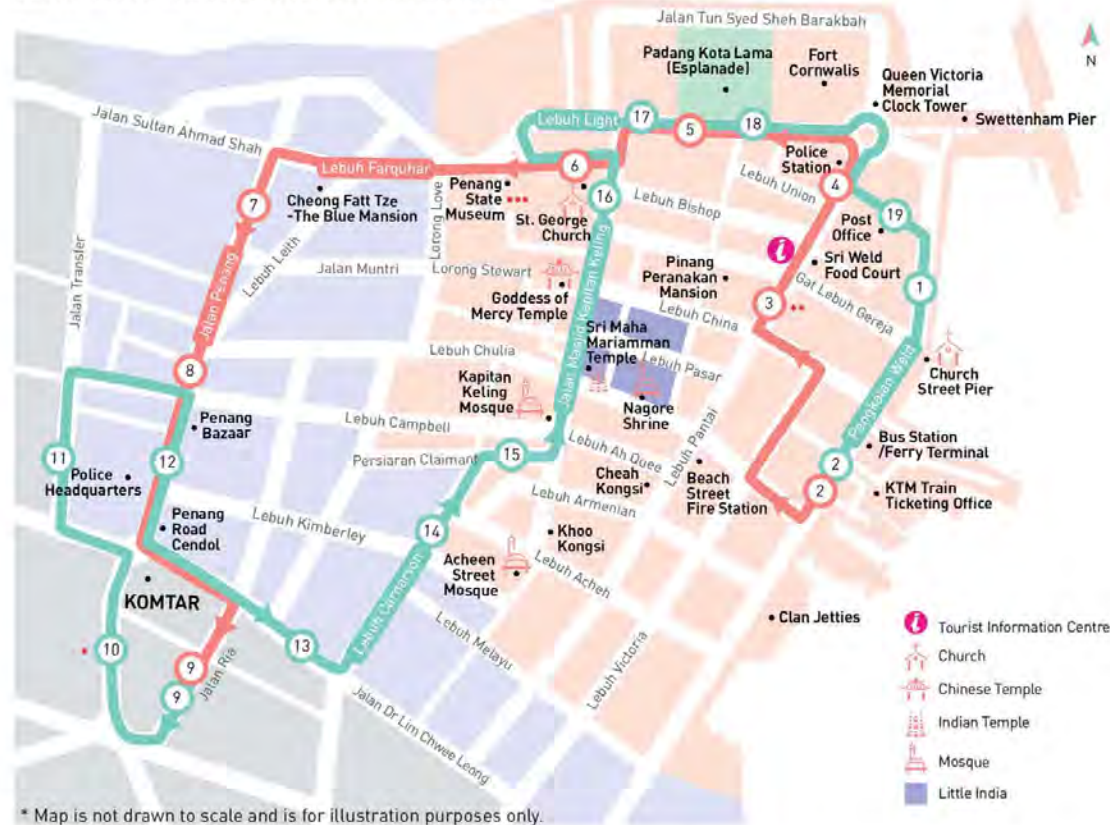
- Adult RM110 (Foreigner), RM75 (Malaysian),
- Student RM55 (Foreigner), RM35 (Malaysian)

Application Preparation

- 1 ID photo
- 1 copy of applicant's passport
- 1 copy of student ID
- fee of RM5

Website: rapidpg.com.my

MAP OF GEORGE TOWN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE



* Map is not drawn to scale and is for illustration purposes only.

Core Zone

The Historic City of George Town covers an area of 109.38 hectares bounded by the Straits of Malacca on the north-eastern cape of Penang Island, Lorong Love (Love Lane) to the north-west and Gat Lebuh Melayu, Lorong Carnarvon and Lebuh Carnarvon to the south-west corner.

There are more than 1,700 historic buildings within this Core Zone aligned on four main streets of Pengkalan Weld, Lebuh Pantai, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling and Lorong Love, as well as several perpendicular streets of Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah, Lebuh Light, Lebuh Bishop, Lebuh Gereja, Lebuh China, Lebuh Pasar, Lebuh Chulia, Lebuh Armenian and Lebuh Acheh.

Buffer Zone

The Core Zone is protected by 150.04 hectares of Buffer Zone (not including sea buffer), bounded by a stretch of sea area around the harbour, Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong and Jalan Gat Prangin to the south-west corner and Jalan Transfer to the north-west corner.

Bus Stops from Ferry Terminal to KOMTAR

2 Ferry Terminal → 3 Little India → 4 Immigration → 5 Bank Negara → 6 Museum → 7 Muntri Street → 8 Campbell Street → 9 KOMTAR

Bus Stops from KOMTAR to Ferry Terminal

9 KOMTAR → 11 Kedah Road → 12 Chowrasta Market → 13 KOMTAR East → 14 Carnarvon Street → 15 Kampung Kolam → 16 Penang Supreme Court → 17 Dewan Sri Pinang → 18 Fort Cornwallis → 19 Downing Street → 1 Weld Quay → 2 Ferry Terminal

○ Free CAT Bus Stop (George Town)
Bus Stops from Ferry Terminal to KOMTAR

○ Free CAT Bus Stop (George Town)
Bus Stops from KOMTAR to Ferry Terminal

- No stops made at bus stop no. 10
- No stops made at bus stop no. 3 every Sunday from 7am - 1pm
- State Museum is closed for 3 years from 2017

Free CAT Bus

This is a free shuttle bus service that operates within George Town. It is the most common means of transportation for travellers for being able to travel within the area and to popular local attractions for free. Look out for Rapid Penang buses that bear a "Free CAT Bus" sign.

Fare : Free
Operating Hours : From 6am to 11.45pm



Taxi

Taxis are easily available around the island; it is a common means of getting around by visitors. Be sure to agree on a price before boarding the taxi. Start by asking how much it is to get to your destination; you can negotiate on the pricing if you feel that it is too high.

Average Fare

From George Town to the airport : RM40
From George Town to Penang Hill or Kek Lok Si : RM30

E-hailing Services

Apps such as Grab is available in Penang. Simply download the app to start booking your trips. Payment is either by cash or credit card.

Ferry

The Ferry Terminal or Jetty is where passengers board the ferry that plies between Penang island and the mainland. Penang island is just a 20-minute ferry ride from Butterworth. If you are taking

a train to Penang from Kuala Lumpur or other cities, you may board the ferry to the island from the ferry terminal at Butterworth, which is located next to the train station. Although it is possible to travel between the island and the mainland via both Penang Bridges, taking the ferry is quite a memorable experience.

Operating Hours

5.40am - 11.40pm**
Departing from the island to the mainland*

5.20am - 11.40pm**

Departing from the mainland to the island

Operating Intervals : 20 minutes
Fare : Adult RM1.20 / Child RM0.60

Note

* Note, the ferry ride is free of charge from the island to the mainland - fare is imposed only from the mainland to the island.

** Schedules are an estimation.



The George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site features Malaysia's best restored and re-adapted traditional architecture as well as a multitude of heritage trades and arts.

The world-renowned "Street of Harmony" reflects the influence of the diverse communities that have made Penang their home. At only 2.5 sq km, the George Town World Heritage Site is compact enough to be explored by foot, bicycle or trishaw.

George Town's Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs)

According to UNESCO, the city represents an exceptional example of a multicultural trading town in Southeast Asia forged from the mercantile and civilisation exchanges of Malay, Chinese, Indian and European influences.

The city is a living testimony to the multicultural heritage and traditions of Asia, where various religions and cultures meet.

The city also reflects the coming together of cultural elements to create a unique architectural and cultural townscape unparalleled anywhere in East and Southeast Asia.



Living Heritage

George Town's unique architectural style paints an eclectic backdrop to the foreground scenes that play out the daily lives of the city's inhabitants. Some of the ongoing trades here have been in existence for just as long as the centuries-old buildings.

As with many local traders, techniques, skills and know-hows were all passed down from parents to their children, and inherited by the current practitioners to continue the family business. While with others, enterprising individuals learnt the trade when young

only to have perfected their craft over the decades or built it to the big industry it is today.

Local artisans and practitioners who are still perfecting their crafts and serving locals and tourists within the site include the paper oblation craftsman, joss stick maker, songkok maker, shoemaker, watch maker, calligrapher, rattan weaver, Indian goldsmith, spice merchant, and trishaw maker, among others.



Thaipusam Festival

Penang has a rich blend of Malay, Chinese, Indian, Peranakan and European influences. Heritage is not only confined to museums and can be found thriving along the city's five-foot ways – thus providing a vibrant living celebration of George Town's UNESCO World Heritage status. Experience a spirit of authenticity and joy in its traditional festivals, stunning architecture, spontaneous street art and old world charm.



'Kids On Bicycle' Street Art

Traditional trades & crafts

Traditional trades and crafts continue to flourish in Penang, where artisans diligently practise skills handed down from generation to generation. Watch how giant joss sticks, intricate gold jewellery, beaded shoes and stone seals are made.

Vibrant street art

Penang's quirky murals and street art have made international headlines. There is a work of art waiting to be discovered at almost every street corner.



Museums & galleries

For a small state, Penang is not short of museums and art galleries that offer a fascinating glimpse into Penang's history as well as its cultural landscape. Most of the museums and art galleries in George Town are within easy walking or cycling distance.



Peranakan beaded shoes



George Town Festival

Penang Peranakan culture

The Baba-Nyonya or Peranakan Chinese are early immigrants from China. They openly adopted local beliefs and practices, resulting in a unique culture that is solely their own. Peranakan culture in Malaysia can be found in Penang and Malacca but the Penang Peranakans differ from their Malaccan counterparts in some ways.

Although both Peranakans use a mixture of Hokkien and Malay languages, the Penang Peranakans speak mainly Hokkien with some borrowed Malay words whereas in Malacca, the Peranakans have adopted a Malay patois, with some Hokkien words included.

The Peranakan style of cooking fuses Chinese and Malay elements. In Penang, there is an added Thai influence in the Peranakan



Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta

cuisine, bringing in a sweet and sour edge that differentiates it from the Malaccan version.

From rituals, cuisine, dressing to language, the Peranakan Chinese have created a fusion of cultures that stand as a true hallmark of Penang's rich multi-cultural diversity.

Festivals like no other

Penang's vibrant festivals are a colourful reflection of the state's multiculturalism. Traditional festivals such as Thaipusam, Hungry Ghost Festival, Nine Emperor Gods Festival, Ramadan, Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Chingay Parade and Chinese New Year have retained an authenticity that is unmatched in Asia.

Home-grown arts festivals are increasingly popular with global travellers such as the highly anticipated George Town Festival

and the international award-winning George Town Literary Festival.

Others to watch out for throughout the year is the Last Friday, Saturday and Sunday (LFSS) programme that happens each month-end in George Town, where cultural shows, music performances and interesting walkabout tours happen and most of them are free. Other annual events such as the Catholic St Anne's Feast Day, the Penang International Food Festival, Penang Anime Matsuri, Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, Japanese Bon Odori Festival, George Town Heritage Celebration, Penang Bridge International Marathon and Penang International Dragon Boat Festival are not to be missed in Penang.

Asia's food capital

With its multi-ethnic cultures, Penang offers an amazing variety of food still prepared to age old tradition and a kaleidoscope of flavours for even the most jaded food lovers and connoisseurs. From a choice of traditional hawker stalls to old school coffee shops and its fine dining establishments influenced by Asia's culinary traditions, the only dilemma is deciding where to eat that next great meal.

Heavily influenced by Malay, Chinese, Indian and Thai flavours, the Nyonya and Jawi Peranakan cuisine is unique to Penang and highly sought-after by true foodies. Fine dining dishes incorporating Penang flavours are a must if you are a foodie. For café lovers, strategic planning is probably needed to explore as many cafés as you would love to. Penang is filled with hip and quirky cafés, where many are unique.

For veggie lovers

Penang is also an ideal destination for vegetarians as the veggie food scene in Penang is ever growing. There is an abundance of Chinese and Indian vegetarian food outlets that are suitable for vegans too. A number of Chinese vegetarian restaurants serve the vegetarian version of Penang's local street food such as Laksa, Char Koay Teow, Nasi Lemak, Curry Mee and Loh Bak, where mock meat and fresh vegetables are used. There are also restaurants that serve purely organic food packed with loads of goodness.



Penang Assam Laksa



Banana Leaf Rice



Char Koay Teow



Nyonya Kuih

Must-eats!

Penangites don't just eat to live, they live to eat! Some of the must-eats include:

Penang Assam Laksa

Noodles in a sour spicy fish based soup, famous the world over!

Nasi Kandar

Spicy curries of every imaginable type.

Char Koay Teow

Charcoal aromatic rice noodles fried with prawns, cockles and Chinese sausage.

Oyster Omelette (Oh Chien)

A calorie-laden omelette full of the ocean's finest.

Nyonya Kuih

Local cakes that come in different shapes, colours and texture with a selection of sweet and savoury tastes.

Hainanese coffee and toast

A popular Penangite breakfast



Design Village



Little India



Living Story



Gurney Drive Hawker Centre

Shopping

Whether you are a fan of modern shopping malls or traditional bazaars and street markets, Penang has something for everyone including Design Village, Malaysia's biggest outlet mall on the mainland for bargain lovers.



George Town itself is a great place for antique hunters and vintage lovers. Traditional craftsmen and modern artisans, inspired by the city's ebb and flow as a trading centre, create a wide range of unique products. Carved signboards, contemporary and traditional Indian jewellery, and fused glasses are among those widely sought-after. For an insight of the local market scene, Chowrasta Market is one of the oldest markets in the country that offers daily goods and local products.

Bliss out

Experience real Penang indulgence at luxury spas or seek out traditional Asian medicine practitioners to melt those worries away. Finish off a relaxing day with a sunset dining cruise.

After dark

Shopping malls and shops are open till 10pm, and there is plenty of time to wonder around and work up a thirst at the many watering holes and cafés in George Town and the beach area of Batu Ferringhi. There are hawker centres and some restaurants that remain open into the small hours for supper.

For those interested in arts and cultural events, local and international performances and concerts are held at various times of the year. For more information, visit mypenang.gov.my



Getting back to nature is easy, as Penang's compact size and good road network make it convenient for visitors to get around, with the sea, hills and jungle adventure only minutes away. Experience the contrast between Penang's bustling commercial and heritage centre, and its beautiful green jungles.

Penang National Park

The Penang National Park is one of the world's smallest forest reserves and is also home to the only Meromictic Lake in Malaysia. It is estimated that over 150 bird species alone have made their home in the National Park. Entrance is free and there are plenty of interesting jungle trails of varying challenges and pristine sandy beaches. Take a day trip in a hired boat to explore the mangrove swamps, and BBQ arrangements can be made should you decide to cook your own food. There is a turtle sanctuary at Pantai Kerachut where Green Giant Turtles come to lay their eggs between April and August and the Olive Ridley Turtles come here during September and February. Turtle Sanctuary keeps the young turtles until they are old enough to be released in the wild.



Entopia by Penang Butterfly Farm



Teluk Bahang Forest Reserve

Teluk Bahang Forest Reserve

The Teluk Bahang Forest Reserve spans 873 hectares, containing a buzzing chunk of Penang's virgin rainforests. Hiking trails are available, showcasing Penang's greeneries and fantastic views.

Entopia by Penang Butterfly Farm

Relaunched after an extensive facelift, Entopia by Penang Butterfly Farm is a large butterfly enclave with about 15,000 butterflies, dragonflies, and fireflies. It is an ideal place to entertain and educate both children and adults alike.

ESCAPE

A departure from the conventional idea of roller-coaster rides, ESCAPE is an outdoor adventure play theme park, sprawled over 17.8 hectares with challenging activities and games suited for children and adults.

Waterplay is ESCAPE's new attraction based on its ethos and philosophy of promoting family fun in a natural environment – this time in the water. The 4.5-hectare waterpark features over 20 rides and games, some of which appearing for the first time in the waterpark industry.



The Habitat Penang Hill

Penang Hill

Penang Hill or Bukit Bendera is an excellent vantage point with lush greenery and quaint British bungalows; the perfect location for afternoon tea amid cooler climes. The funicular train takes passengers to the top in seven minutes, while the fitter and more adventurous can opt for a jungle hike.

The Habitat Penang Hill

With world-class facilities, dramatic natural beauty, and a commitment to conservation and environmental awareness, The Habitat on Penang Hill is a place to visit for the most complete, exciting and educational Malaysian rainforest experience. When you walk through the gates of The Habitat, you enter into a magical natural kingdom of genuine beauty. Rolling hills, pristine rainforest, lush flora, enormous granite boulders and distant views make The Habitat on Penang Hill a must-see attraction. The first of its kind in Malaysia, The Habitat aims to promote environmental consciousness and conservation awareness.

Bukit Mertajam Recreational Forest

Bukit Mertajam Recreational Forest is a great place for the health-conscious as its green environment is perfect for outdoor activities like hiking and jogging.

Golfing in Penang

Whether one chooses to tee off amid lush greenery or by the valley fringes, there are excellent golf courses that are designed to international standards. Penang is indeed an ideal destination that combines a memorable vacation with an exciting game of golf.



Among the popular golf courses in the state are:

- **Penang Golf Club**
 - 18-hole with 5,763m, par 72 golf course
 - Famous for its 10th hole with its tee box perched 100 feet above the fairway on the valley floor
- **Bukit Jawi Golf Resort**
 - 36-hole international championship golf course spreads over 315 acres of fairways
 - Hill Course: 18-hole, par 72 championship course playing to 6,385m in length
 - Lake Course: 18-hole, par 72 course with 6,163m in length
 - Practise Course: two-tier, 48-bay driving range
- **Penang Golf Resort**
 - 36-holes, divided into West and East course, each consists of 18 holes
 - West Course: 18-hole, par 72 playing to 6,247m in length
 - East Course: 18-hole, par 72 playing 6,324m in length
- **Penang Turf Club Golf Course**
 - 9-hole, par 33
 - Men: 2,409m, slope rating-117, course rating-32.4
 - Ladies: 2,130m, slope rating-114, course rating-33.4
- **Mountain View Golf Resort**
 - 287-acre golf course
 - 18-hole, par 72 with 7,028 yards in length



Penang Botanic Gardens

Right at the foot of the hiking trail to Penang Hill is the Penang Botanic Gardens, one of Asia's oldest botanical institutions, packed with exotic species of tropical fauna and flora. There are a few excellent nature trails of varying lengths for joggers and hikers.

Balik Pulau

Slow the clock down with a trip to Balik Pulau, a town in Penang's tranquil, rural heartland surrounded by lush hills, fruit plantations, paddy fields and quaint fishing villages.

The town of Balik Pulau is still wonderfully laid-back and famous for its great food and rural atmosphere.

Located within Balik Pulau, Jalan Bharu offers an idyllic Malay *kampung* or village lifestyle with exciting outdoor activities. Enjoy a homestay and explore the rural surroundings by bicycle against a picturesque green backdrop. Pamper yourself with a traditional massage and herbal steam bath.

Off the beaten track...

Seberang Perai, a thin strip of land on the peninsula across from the island is best explored by car. Drive across the Penang Bridge or the Second Penang Bridge (Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'Adzam Shah Bridge), which is the longest bridge in Southeast Asia, or catch a ferry across the channel.



Pulau Aman

Pulau Aman, also known as "Island of Peace" is a traditional Malay village located on the Southeast of Penang island. It is an island off the coast of Bukit Tambun, Seberang Perai, covering an area of about 115 hectares. Famous for its fresh seafood, you can enjoy a bowl of mee udang (prawn noodle) or any of their 'catch of the day' as soon as you get to Pulau Aman Jetty.

There are homestays on Pulau Aman that offer visitors a taste of life in a traditional Malay fishing village.

How to get there:

Drive south along the North-South Highway to the coastal village of Bukit Tambun.

Catch a boat to Pulau Aman from the nearby town, Bukit Tambun, Seberang Perai.

Boat schedule:

- Heading to Pulau Aman : 10am, 1pm, 4pm & 7pm.
- From Pulau Aman : 8am, 12pm, 3pm & 6pm.

Fare:

Return : Adult RM6 / Child RM4
One way : RM4

Seafood Galore!

Seberang Perai is famous for its many seafood restaurants including the ever-popular Tambun Seafood Restaurant. The restaurant serves up all kinds of fresh local seafood and visitors get to dine right above the fish farm – it doesn't get any fresher!



Beaches

Penang is not only a culture and arts destination but offers numerous beaches as well. Majority of the beach resorts will usually have fun activities to join, or you can relax at a secluded spot to work on a tan.

The very popular Batu Ferringhi or Tanjung Bungah beaches are well serviced with resorts, hotels and dining venues from fast food outlets to bars and restaurants.

The less frequented Miami Beach lies not too far from the bustling Batu Ferringhi. Beaches in the Teluk Bahang area are accessible through boat rides or by hiking through the Penang National Park. Mas Beach and Kerachut Beach are perfect spots for a relaxing dip and a peaceful lie-down.



Birdwatching

Penang is home to an estimated 420 species of birds, including several rare specimens. Both the island and mainland are known for its abundant variety of bird species, making it an avian paradise for amateur and experienced bird watchers.

Some of the diverse bird habitats include lowland forests, mangrove forests, tidal mudflats, wetlands and paddy fields. Commonly spotted birds throughout Penang include various species of eagles, owls, song birds, waders and water birds that consist of resident and migrant birds.

Great locations on the island and mainland for bird watching are:

- Penang National Park
- Penang Hill
- Penang Botanic Gardens
- Bukit Panchor State Park
- Air Hitam Dalam Education Forest
- Bukit Mertajam Amenity Forest
- Bukit Juru Forest Reserve
- Sungai Burung in Balik Pulau
- Teluk Air Tawar in Butterworth
- Byram - Pulau Burung in Nibong Tebal

MICE, CRUISE & WEDDING TOURISM



Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower



Straits Quay Convention Centre (SQCC)



Subterranean Penang International Convention and Exhibition Centre (SPICE)

Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau (PCEB)

PCEB is a state bureau established in early 2016 to develop the Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) industry in Penang. Its objective is to position Penang as the preferred hub for MICE activities in the region. PCEB serves as Penang's focal point for the coordination of all MICE activities, providing expert assistance to organisations and MICE planners at every step of their planning.

For details, visit pceb.my

Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE)

Penang's unique blend of modernity and Asian traditions, coupled with a well-established hospitality industry have marked it out as a popular MICE destination.

Penang offers business travellers a range of modern, state-of-the-art convention centres, including its largest indoor venue, the Subterranean Penang International Convention and Exhibition Centre (SPICE), with a maximum capacity of 13,000 people, and the Straits Quay Convention Centre (SQCC) which seats 2,500 people and affords breath taking views of the sea.

In the pipeline are the Penang Waterfront Convention Centre (PWCC) and the Penang World City (PWC) convention centre to be located in the island's Southeast Zone.

Penang also offers a range of unique venues that include historical buildings, iconic landmarks and eco-tourism parks, all offering the promise of a memorable backdrop for the perfect event.



Photo courtesy of Royal Caribbean International

Cruise

The Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal is Penang Port's latest and most significant addition after a major rebuild in 2010. The new pier accommodates Quantum-class cruise ships, with a main berth capable of handling larger cruise vessels. Among the huge liners that have called at the port are Quantum of The Seas and Ovation of The Seas by the Royal Caribbean Cruisers, and the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth.

Other notable cruise operators such as Costa Crociere, Princess Cruises and Celebrity Cruises have been frequenting Penang Port as well. Till end of 2018, the total number of international calls to the port was 176, with a passenger load of more than 341,000.

Wedding Tourism

Warm sunny beaches, lush tropical forests, awe-inspiring architecture - these provide the ideal setting to say "I do" for life.

Penang offers more than just a wedding destination. Penang boasts a mélange of multi-cultural traditions where Malay, Chinese, Indian and European influences co-exist. For this, Penang has a wide range of themed weddings from contemporary to traditional Peranakan, Chinese, Malay and Indian. Coupled with these, the breathtaking sights and unique locations in Penang offer a memorable once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site in George Town provides a glimpse of the past decades.



Home to many Penangites, George Town has a fascinating fusion of eastern and western influences. Till today, you can explore George Town in vintage trishaws as well as discover and learn traditional trades that are popular among tourists and locals. Iconic sites like Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion and Pinang Peranakan Mansion are heavily steeped in history, inviting everyone to reminisce the good old days.

Our famous north coast strip comprising Tanjung Bungah, Batu Ferringhi and Teluk Bahang is home to world-renowned beach resorts, shopping and nightlife. This is where the sun sets painting a beautiful beginning for every newlywed.



Health Tourism

Malaysia is currently ranked among the world's top medical tourism destinations. A large number of medical tourists choose Penang as their preferred destination due to its affordable and high quality medical facilities.

Medical tourism in Penang is closely monitored by the Malaysian Ministry of Health and Ministry of Tourism to ensure that visiting patients receive the best level of care.

Penang's leading private healthcare institutions meet the Malaysian Society for Quality in Health (MSQH) standards. In addition, many hospitals are also ISO 9001 accredited for Quality Management Systems and have Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation.

For more information, visit pmed.my



Education

Penang is evolving into a world class educational hub, offering a professional learning experience, for students all over the world. With its variety of courses offered in top class internationally recognised colleges and universities, Penang has become a prime choice to pursue higher education.

Penang is proud of its legacy of an excellent education system, with a history that stretches back to the early days of the British administration.

Many of the public schools in Penang are among the best and oldest in the country and the region.

Building on this illustrious history, and with English widely spoken, Penang is well-poised to become a centre of educational excellence.

For more information, visit studypenang.gov.my

ACCOMMODATION



Penang offers a fantastic choice of accommodation to suit different needs and budgets, from luxury hotels, boutique hotels and serviced apartments, to budget hostels, beachfront guest houses, and exciting homestays.

George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS)

George Town has become a favourite with the Condé Nast set with its eclectic range of boutique accommodation, which includes beautifully-restored traditional shophouses and hip, trendy hotels with hints of local flavours. A stay in the WHS is perfect for exploring George Town on foot, bicycle, motorcycle or trishaw.

Gurney Drive

Strategically located between the city and the beach, Gurney Drive's (Persiaran Gurney) high-rise hotels offer breathtaking panoramas of the sea and city. For delightful street food, world-class shopping malls and nightlife, this iconic waterfront boulevard is where the action takes place.

Batu Ferringhi

Penang's famous north coast strip from Tanjung Bungah to Batu Ferringhi is home to many 3 to 5-star beach resorts, with plenty of shopping, nightlife and eco-tourism activities close at hand. For an unforgettable *kampung* (village) experience, there are homestays available in the smaller fishing villages close by.

Southeast Zone

The Southeast Zone is a stone's throw from the island's high-tech parks, the international airport, golf clubs, the two Penang bridges that connect the island to the mainland, and some of Penang's largest shopping malls.

There is a wide variety of business-class hotels to choose from, as well as convention centres including the Subterranean Penang International Convention and Exhibition Centre (SPICE) and the Penang Waterfront Convention Centre, which is scheduled for completion in a few years' time.



Seberang Perai Utara

Seberang Perai's northern region is full of paddy fields and local communities, hence offering one of the most traditional homestay programmes in Penang. Enjoy your stay in a traditional Malay village surrounded by endless paddy fields and explore mangrove forests that are rich with flora and fauna.

Seberang Perai Tengah

This is the bustling side of Seberang Perai with a number of shopping malls. The Penang Bird Park is also located here, the first and largest bird park of its kind in Malaysia. The famous St Anne's Church is located in Bukit Mertajam, where some Cheroke Tokun Relics can be found within the compound of the church. There are more hotels in this area of Seberang Perai.

Seberang Perai Selatan

Visit Nibong Tebal and take a stroll at Bukit Panchor Recreational Forest, where you can explore its mangrove life forms, bat caves, and wetland boardwalk.

Homestays

Homestays in Penang provide an alternative to conventional hotels by offering affordable and comfortable accommodation for tourists who wish to stay with locals, or away from the city's hustle and bustle. Holiday-makers will get the chance to experience local cultures and lifestyles in a laid-back atmosphere. In the village or *kampung*, participate in typically rural activities such as fishing, rubber-tapping, fruit-picking, crafting and so on. Exchange stories with the locals, savour home-cooked meals and even possibly be a part of a traditional wedding celebration, or even get one organised for yourself. Penang's homestay programme encompasses 11 areas across the northern region, each uniquely its own with special features that promises tourists a memorable and eventful time. These include:

- Jalan Bahru in Balik Pulau
- Kota Aur
- Pulau Betong
- Pulau Aman
- Sungai Chenaam
- Mengkuang Titi
- Sungai Duri
- Teluk Bahang
- Sungai Semilang
- Sungai Setar Besar
- Lahar Yooi



**IT'S ALL IN PENANG,
EXPERIENCE IT.**



Set up to promote, market and generate tourism for the Penang State in Malaysia, Penang Global Tourism is a State tourism bureau which serves as a focal point for coordinating all tourism activities. PGT, as it is affectionately known, works with various key tourism industry players locally and abroad in hosting tourism-related events such as familiarisation trips to Penang.

PGT participates in overseas sales missions at world-renowned trade shows, and the exposure has contributed to Penang's popularity as a destination, investment and habitat choice for many from around the world. On the home front, PGT supports annual events such as the Penang Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, Penang International Food Festival, Penang Anime Matsuri, George Town Festival, George Town Literary Festival and more.

PGT has set up a Tourist Information Centre in the city where tourists can obtain additional information on Penang. PGT also gathers and monitors data pertaining to tourism, and provides free information leaflets and booklets on Penang. All these efforts are targeted at promoting Penang as Asia's destination of choice.



+604-264 3456

No.8-B (First Floor), The Whiteaways Arcade, Lebuh Pantai,
George Town, 10300 Penang, Malaysia



Website




Weibo




E-coupon





Wechat


 mypenang.gov.my

 Penang Global Tourism

 [penang.experience](https://www.instagram.com/penang.experience)

 [penangXperience](https://twitter.com/penangXperience)

 檳城旅游局

 info@penangglobaltourism.com

V04Feb2019