



lonely planet

Malaysia Singapore & Brunei

Best planning
advice

Local food
feature

Expert
recommendations

4 easy-to-use sections

1

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Your planning tool kit

Photos & suggestions to help you create the perfect trip.

2

ON THE ROAD

Your complete guide

Expert reviews, easy-to-use maps & insider tips.

3

UNDERSTAND

Get more from your trip

Learn about the big picture, to make sense of what you see.

4

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your at-a-glance reference

Vital practical information for a smooth trip.

How to Use This Book

Look for these symbols to quickly identify listings:

 Sights

 Beaches

 Activities

 Courses

 Tours

 Festivals & Events

 Sleeping

 Eating

 Drinking

 Entertainment

 Shopping

 Information & Transport

All reviews are ordered in our authors' preference, starting with their most preferred option. Additionally:

Sights are arranged in the geographic order that we suggest you visit them and, within this order, by author preference.

Eating and Sleeping reviews are ordered by price range (budget, midrange, top end) and, within these ranges, by author preference.


These symbols and abbreviations give vital information for each listing:


 Must-visit recommendation


 Sustainable or green recommendation

 No payment required

 Telephone number


 Opening hours

 Parking

 Nonsmoking

 Air-conditioning


 Internet access


 Wi-fi access

 Swimming pool

 Vegetarian selection

 English-language menu

 Family-friendly

 Pet-friendly

 Bus

 Ferry

 Tram

 Train

apt apartments

d double rooms

dm dorm beds

q quad rooms

r rooms

s single rooms

ste suites

tr triple rooms

tw twin rooms

For symbols used on maps, see the Map Legend.

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Penang

04 / POP 1.65 MILLION / AREA 293 SQ KM

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Teksen (p176)
- ➔ Lg Baru (New Lane)
Hawker Stalls (p177)
- ➔ Pulau Tikus Hawker Stalls
(p177)
- ➔ China House (p176)
- ➔ Hai Boey Seafood (p189)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Campbell House (p173)
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- ➔ Ren i Tang (p171)

Why Go?

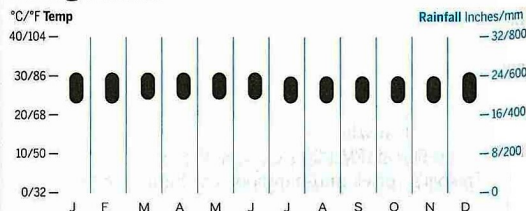
Located at the intersection of Asia's great kingdoms and Europe's powerful colonial empires, the island of Penang has long served as the link between Asia's two halves and an important outlet to the markets of Europe and the Middle East.

This history has resulted in a culture that is one of Malaysia's most diverse, cosmopolitan and exciting. The culmination of this is undoubtedly George Town, Penang's main city, and an urban centre that delivers old-world Asia in spades; think trishaws pedalling past watermarked Chinese shop-houses, blue joss smoke perfuming the air.

Yet it would be a shame to neglect Penang's abundant tropicalness, its palm-fringed beaches and fishing villages, its mountainous jungle and farms growing exotic produce such as nutmeg and durian.

If there's a more compact, convenient and exciting microcosm of the exotic East than Penang, we've yet to find it.

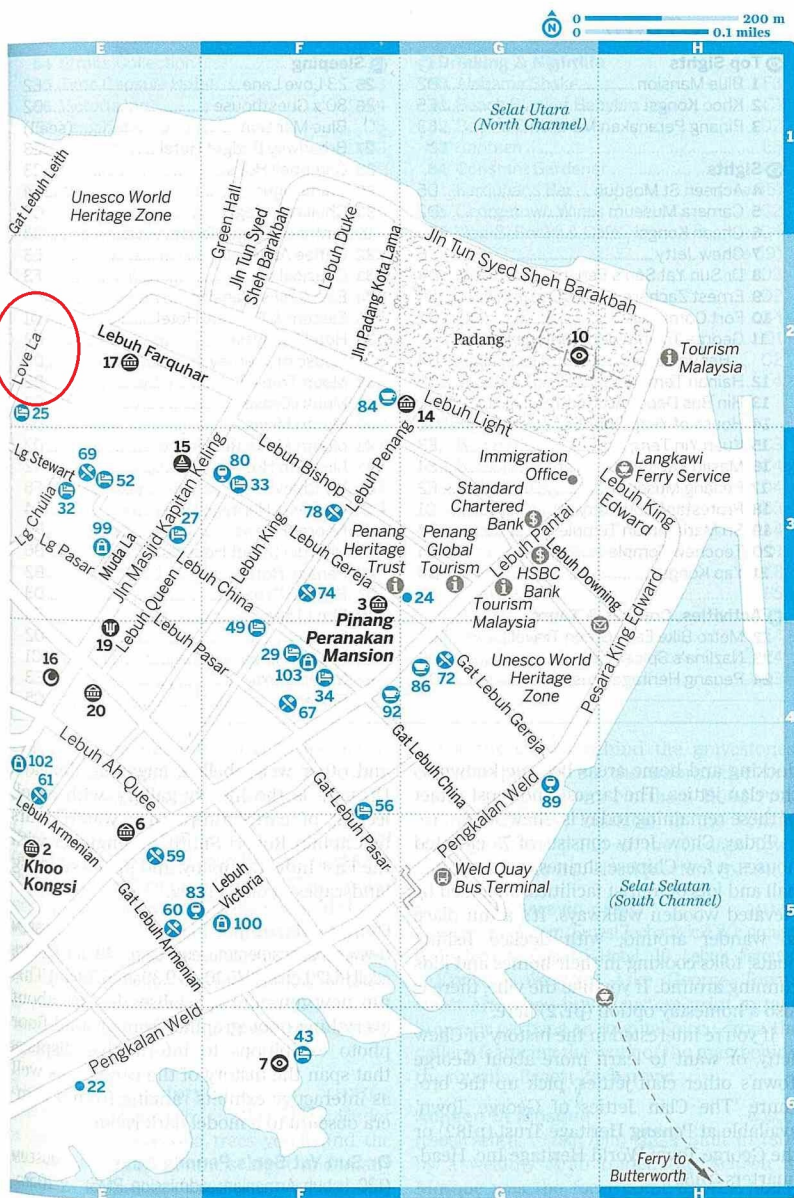
When to Go George Town



Jan-Feb Book accommodation in advance if visiting George Town during Chinese New Year.

Jun-Jul Penang's famous durian and other fruit are at their peak.

Nov-Dec Penang's 'winter' is the most comfortable time to visit the island.



After visiting the house, be sure to also check out Chung Keng Kwi Temple, the adjacent ancestral hall.

Chew Jetty

(Pengkalan Weld) During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, George Town's Peng-

HISTORIC NEIGHBOURHOOD

kalan Weld was the centre of one of the world's most thriving ports and provided plentiful work for the never-ending influx of immigrants. Soon a community of Chinese grew up around the quay, with floating and stilt houses built along rickety docks; these

George Town

📍 Top Sights

- 1 Blue Mansion D2
- 2 Khoo Kongsi E5
- 3 Pinang Peranakan Mansion F3

📍 Sights

- 4 Acheen St Mosque D5
- 5 Camera Museum D2
- 6 Cheah Kongsi E5
- 7 Chew Jetty F6
- 8 Dr Sun Yat Sen's Penang Base D4
- 9 'Ernest Zacharevic x E&O D1
- 10 Fort Cornwallis G2
- 11 George Town World Heritage Inc.
Headquarters D4
- 12 Hainan Temple C2
- 13 Hin Bus Depot Art Centre A6
- 14 House of Yeap Chor Ee G2
- 15 Kuan Yin Teng E3
- 16 Masjid Kapitan Keling E4
- 17 Penang Museum E2
- 18 Protestant Cemetery C1
- 19 Sri Mariamman Temple E4
- 20 Teochew Temple E4
- 21 Yap Kongsi D4

📍 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 22 Metro Bike Easy Green Travel E6
- 23 Nazlina's Spice Station D4
- 24 Penang Heritage Trust G3

📍 Sleeping

- 25 23 Love Lane E2
- 26 80's Guesthouse D2
- Blue Mansion (see 1)
- 27 Broadway Budget Hotel E3
- 28 Campbell House C3
- 29 China Tiger F4
- 30 Chulia Heritage C3
- 31 Cintra Heritage House C3
- 32 Coffee Atelier E3
- 33 Couzicats F3
- 34 East Indies Mansion F4
- 35 Eastern & Oriental Hotel D1
- 36 Hotel Malaysia C2
- 37 House of Journey D4
- 38 Moon Tree 47 D2
- 39 Muntri Grove C2
- 40 Muntri Mews D2
- 41 Muntri Mews Residence D2
- 42 Museum Hotel A2
- 43 My Chew Jetty F6
- 44 New Asia Heritage Hotel C4
- 45 Noordin Mews B6
- 46 Noordin Street House B6
- 47 Penaga Hotel B2
- 48 Reggae Penang D3
- 49 Ren i Tang F4
- 50 Ryokan D2
- 51 Segara Ninda C1
- 52 Seven Terraces E3
- 53 Sinkeh C5

docking and home areas became known as the clan jetties. The largest and most intact of these remaining today is Chew Jetty.

Today, Chew Jetty consists of 75 elevated houses, a few Chinese shrines, a community hall and lots of tourist facilities, all linked by elevated wooden walkways. It's a fun place to wander around, with docked fishing boats, folks cooking in their homes and kids running around. If you like the vibe, there is also a homestay option (p172) here.

If you're interested in the history of Chew Jetty, or want to learn more about George Town's other clan jetties, pick up the brochure 'The Clan Jetties of George Town', available at Penang Heritage Trust (p182) or the George Town World Heritage Inc. Headquarters (p159).

Penang Museum

MUSEUM

(www.penangmuseum.gov.my; Lebuhr Farquhar; admission RM1; ☎9am-5pm Sat-Thu) Penang's state-run museum includes exhibits on the history, customs and traditions of the island's various ethnic groups, with photos, videos, documents, costumes, furniture

and other well-labelled, engaging displays. Upstairs is the history gallery, with a collection of early-19th-century watercolours by Captain Robert Smith, an engineer with the East India Company, and prints showing landscapes of old Penang.

Camera Museum

MUSEUM

(www.penangcameramuseum.com; 49 Jln Muntri; adult RM20, child RM5-10; ☎9.30am-6.30pm) This fun new museum specialises in just about everything photographic, from ground-floor photo exhibitions to informative displays that span the history of the camera, as well as interactive exhibits ranging from a camera obscura to a model dark room.

Dr Sun Yat Sen's Penang Base

MUSEUM

(120 Lebuhr Armenian; admission RM5; ☎10am-5pm Mon-Sat) Dr Sun Yat Sen was the leader of the 1911 Chinese revolution, which established China as the first republic in Asia. He lived in George Town with his family for about six months in 1910; this house was the central meeting place for his political party. Today the structure is a museum documenting Dr Sun Yat Sen's time in Penang, and

East Indies Mansion

HOTEL \$\$\$

(☎ 04-261 8025; www.eastindies.com.my; 25 Lebuuh China; r incl breakfast RM285-650; ㊦㊧) This Chinese-style shophouse has been converted into a secluded-feeling small hotel. The seven rooms vary considerably, with some spanning two floors, but are united in a design theme that brings together retro touches and colourful, chunky furniture, not to mention the open-air courtyard and other inviting communal areas.

China Tiger

APARTMENT \$\$\$

(☎ 012-501 5360, 04-264 3580; www.chinatiger.info; 29 Lebuuh China; r RM500; ㊦㊧㊨) Fancy

feeling at home even when you're away? Then consider a stay at one of China Tiger's two open-concept, self-catering, apartment-like rooms. They can accommodate up to five people, and include heaps of space, natural light and functional kitchenettes.

Muntri Mews

HOTEL \$\$\$

(☎ 04-263 5125; www.muntrimews.com; 77 Jln Muntri; r incl breakfast RM380; ㊦㊧㊨) This building's original owners would no doubt be shocked to learn that their former stablehouse (mews) is today an attractive boutique hotel. The 13 rooms have a minimalist, studio-like vibe, with each boasting retro-themed furniture,

GEORGE TOWN'S BEST HERITAGE HOTELS

After decades of neglect, locals (and increasingly, outsiders) have come to realise the value of George Town's buildings, and have transformed many into some of the region's more unique accommodation.

Indeed, today's George Town is home to so many so-called 'heritage hotels' that the term is used to describe anything from a hostel to a featureless contemporary hotel. With this in mind, we list our favourite places that we feel embody the true meaning of 'heritage' by retaining the inherent old-world charm and atmosphere of the city's architecture.

Campbell House (☎ 04-261 8290; www.campbellhousepenang.com; 106 Lebuuh Campbell; r incl breakfast RM350-460; ㊦㊧㊨) This former hotel, dating back to 1903, is seeing a new life as a thoughtful, sumptuous boutique. The European owners have employed their extensive experience in the luxury world to include amenities such as fragrant, locally sourced toiletries, beautiful Peranakan tiles in the bathrooms, Nespresso machines and high-quality mattresses – this in addition to excellent service and overwhelmingly positive feedback from guests. Highly recommended.

23 Love Lane (☎ 04-262 1323; www.23lovelane.com; 23 Love Lane; r incl breakfast RM800-1200; ㊦㊧㊨) The 12 rooms here, which are found both in the main structure (a former mansion) or the surrounding buildings (former kitchen and stables), tastefully combine antique furniture and fixtures with modern design touches and artsy accents. There's lots of open spaces and high ceilings to catch the breezes, inviting communal areas, a peaceful aura, and service that complements the casual, homely vibe.

Straits Collection (☎ 04-262 7299; www.straitscollection.com; 89-95 Lebuuh Armenian; ste RM530-570; ㊦㊧㊨) If, after having explored George Town, you have fantasies of living in a restored Chinese shophouse, then consider a stay here. Each residence is essentially a house (but with no cooking facilities), decorated with eye-catching art, regional antiques, bright-coloured cushions and rugs. Each is different but all have some sort of unforgettable detail such as light-well courtyards, wooden Japanese bathtubs or ancient sliding doors.

Blue Mansion (☎ 04-262 0006; www.thebluemansion.com.my; 14 Lebuuh Leith; r incl breakfast RM800-1050; ㊦㊧㊨) If you were impressed with the Blue Mansion (p159), you don't necessarily have to leave. This house museum is home to one of Penang's first boutique hotels, and after a recent renovation, holds its own among the city's best. Rooms are spacious and cool, and come outfitted with charming antique furniture. But best of all, you get the chance to eat, sleep and live in one of the city's most emblematic buildings.

Coffee Atelier (☎ 04-261 2261; www.coffeatelier.com; 47-55 Lg Stewart; ste incl breakfast RM380-440; ㊦㊧) Unlike the rather slick heritage hotels you'll find elsewhere in town, the renovation of these two shophouses dating back to 1927 has left them feeling wonderfully rustic, and the peeling paint and quirky original furnishings provide heaps of character. Each house is divided into two units, with a second smaller bedroom on the first floor and huge courtyard-style bathrooms on the ground floor.