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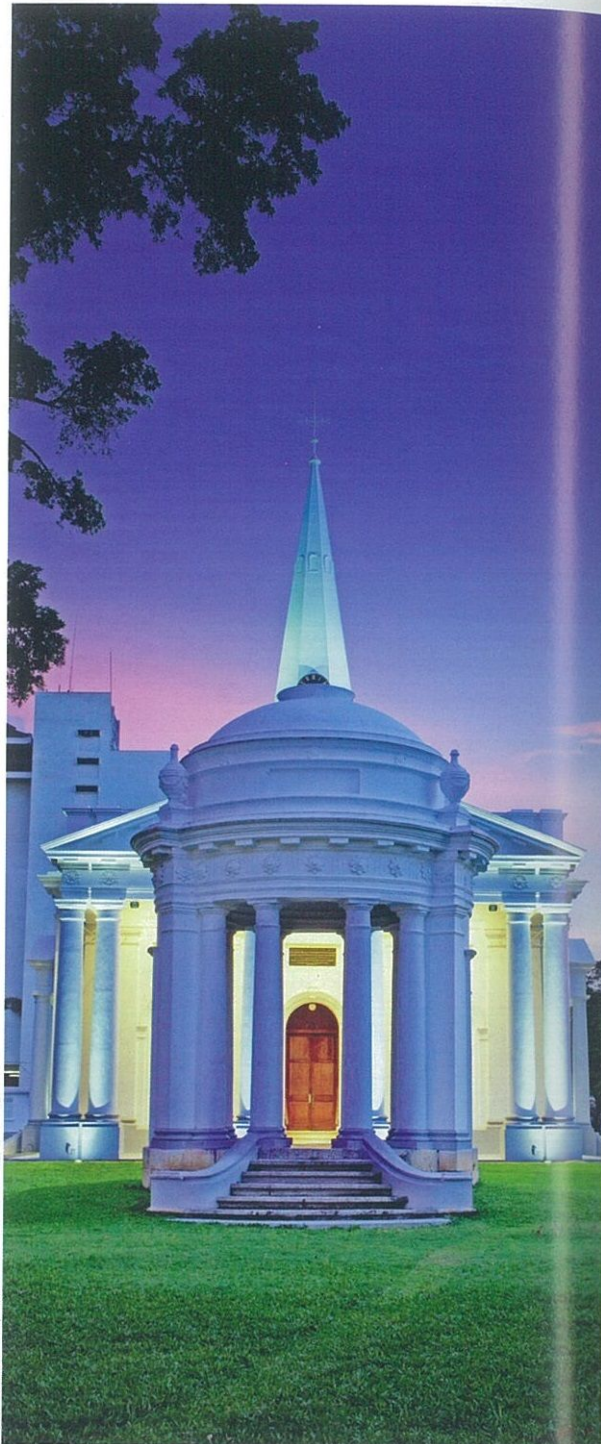
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Penang

Penangites have a strong local identity and a great deal of pride in their state. Spend a day wandering around George Town, visiting museums, admiring heritage architecture and grazing on delicious street food and you're bound to see why locals love Penang so much. For more information, visit timeoutpenang.com.





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cooking up a storm in the kitchen, but the Nyonya food remains authentic. Savour the likes of curry *kapitan*, wild boar *rendang* and fish curry at this family-oriented restaurant. If you're lucky, you might run into some of Mama's famous clients including Datuk Jimmy Choo, squash player Datuk Nicol David or Hong Kong director Ang Lee. *Child-friendly. Kids' menu. Disabled-friendly. Tue-Sun, 11.30am-2.30pm; 6-9.30pm. \$\$\$*

*** Restoran Pinang Peranakan**
4 Logan Heritage, Lebuh Pantai, George Town (+604 261 2269). As an extension of the Pinang Peranakan Mansion, this Peranakan restaurant echoes the mansion's charming ambience. Though slightly pricey, the dishes here are both authentic and beautifully presented, thus justifying the bill. Heed our advice and try the *assam* prawns or the *sambal* chicken carrying whiffs of lemongrass. *Daily, 12noon-11pm. \$\$*

Pork/Non-halal
NEW Naughty Nuri's Warung
114 Jalan Burma, George Town (+604 226 3171/www.facebook.com/NaughtyNurisWarungGeorgeTown). Succulent pork ribs and cocktails make a great combination at Naughty Nuri's. This restaurant hails from Bali and brings with it a menu that runs the gamut from Balinese fried rice to Mexican nachos, with a whole lot of pork in between. *Daily, 12noon-12midnight. \$\$*

Seafood
Bali Hai Seafood Restaurant
90 & 90A-90D, Persiaran Gurney, George Town (+604 228 1272/+604

228 8272/www.balihaiseafood.com). Situated on bustling Gurney Drive, this seafood restaurant is quite a sight, given the rows and columns of fish tanks housing a plethora of seafood from rainbow lobsters to geoduck clams. Bali Hai is hardly a high-brow restaurant (the glaring neon lighting and hordes of tourists are slight annoyances) and prices are higher than normal, but the seafood is as fresh as it gets.

Pork-free. Child-friendly. Kids' menu. Disabled-friendly. Credit cards accepted. Free parking. Daily, 5pm-12midnight. \$\$\$\$

*** Ocean Green Seafood & Restaurant**
Paramount Hotel, 48F Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, George Town (+604 227 4530/+604 227 2681/www.paramounthotel.com.my). Ocean Green is perfect for hosting large groups, which makes it a popular venue for family reunions. It's one of the oldest seafood restaurants around, and the high influx of customers is a testament to the quality of food served. Grilled crab meat topped with cheese, boiled tiger prawns and deep-fried salt and pepper mantis prawns rank among the better dishes. *Disabled-friendly. Credit cards accepted. Daily, 12noon-11pm. \$\$*

Southeast Asian
Thai
Sukhothai Beef Noodles House
238 Jalan Burma, George Town (+6016 438 7788); Level 5, Gurney Paragon Mall, Persiaran Gurney (+6012 433 5588/Facebook: Sukhothai-Beef-Noodles-House). This small and simple restaurant is known for its Thai beef noodles (terrific comfort food). The à la carte

menu consists of around 20 selections of pork, chicken, fish and vegetables dishes.

Daily, 10am-10pm. \$

*** Tree Monkey Restaurant**
Tropical Spice Garden, Lone Crag Villa, Lot 595, Mukim 2, Jalan Teluk Bahang, Teluk Bahang (+604 881 3493/www.treemonkey.com.my). Sharing a space with Tropical Spice Garden has its perks; Tree Monkey's chef enjoys exclusive access to fresh herbs and spices. Don't judge the restaurant by its Balinese aesthetics as it is, in fact, a Northeastern Thai restaurant. We love the alfresco dining amid tall, shady trees, though it can get hot up here during the day. Order a plethora of Thai tapas such as *sambal*-marinated fried chicken drumlets or *otak-otak* and wash it down with something cold yet equally spiced: We recommend the iced spiced coffee, with its hints of cardamom, cinnamon, clove and star anise, or the *tom yam* margarita, the perfect accompaniment to the view. Bring mosquito repellent if you plan on an evening visit. *Child-friendly. Kids' menu. Credit cards accepted. Free parking. Daily, 9am-10.30pm. \$\$\$*

Steakhouse
SteakFrites@23
23 Love Lane, George Town (+604 262 1323/www.23lovelane.com). SteakFrites's straightforward dining experience revolves around just one dish: the European staple of steak and fries. Only two decisions are required of you: 150g or 200g of Australian grass-fed tenderloin? And how well do you want your meat done? *Pork-free. Child-friendly. Daily, 7-10.30am; 4.30-10.30pm. \$\$\$\$*

Tree Monkey Restaurant



KL & Surrounds	<p>Paragon Mall. Since opening its doors in July 2013, Gurney Paragon Mall is frequented for its range of upmarket eateries and shops such as Sephora, H&M and ALDO. <i>Daily, 10am-10pm.</i></p>	<p>famous <i>pasar malam</i> (night market). You'll find CDs, DVDs, football jerseys, T-shirts, artworks and plenty of food. But you don't have to shop to enjoy this strip; simply window shop, soak in the lively ambience and head to Bora-Bora to watch the sun set. <i>Daily, 7pm-late.</i></p>	<p>great variety and bargain prices. Your luck simply depends on serendipity. <i>Daily, 6am-1pm.</i></p>
East/Malaysia	<p>Gurney Plaza <i>Persiaran Gurney, George Town (+604 222 8222/www.gurneyplaza.com).</i> Gurney Paragon Mall's more affordable sibling is located on prime real estate with heavy foot traffic. Bustling with locals and tourists alike, the mall houses diverse retail options and a multiplex cinema. Another advantage to coming here is its proximity to Gurney Drive Hawker Centre. <i>Daily, 10am-10pm.</i></p>	<p>Cecil Street Market <i>Lebuh Cecil, George Town.</i> Rise early and head to this morning market to get dubs on fresh produce and other merchandise. Cecil Street market sells dry and wet goods, as well as clothes and household items. Don't skip the great hawker centre that serves some of Penang's best dishes like duck meat <i>kuey teow th'ng</i>, <i>chee cheong fun</i>, <i>assam laksa</i> and <i>Nyonya kuih</i>. <i>Daily, (market) 7am-12noon; (hawker centre) 7am-late.</i></p>	<p>Pulau Tikus Market <i>Jalan Pasar (off Jalan Burma), George Town.</i> Pulau Tikus translates to Rat Island, which is ironic seeing as the neighbourhood is one of Penang's most affluent. For this reason, the wares at this local market are priced higher, but you're not here to compare prices – soak in the sights and sounds of traders and housewives haggling over produce. <i>Daily, (morning market) 6am-1pm; (night hawkers) 6-10pm.</i></p>
Johor	<p>* Straits Quay <i>Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang, Tanjung Tokong (+604 899 5228).</i> This development by E&O has locals and visitors heading over in droves. The best part about this project is its seaside venue. Take the opportunity to check out the luxury yachts moored in the dock after dining at one of the many upmarket restaurants. Visitors often swing by the School of Hard Knocks at Royal Selangor Visitor Centre and the Performing Arts Centre of Penang. <i>Daily, 10.30am-10.30pm.</i></p>	<p>* Chowrasta Bazaar <i>Lebuh Tamil, George Town.</i> Open since the late 1800s, Chowrasta Bazaar is the place to go for dried or pickled food items. Locals still pile into the market early every morning to pick up fresh meat from the wet market at the back. Join the frenzy of stocking up on traditional sweets and pickles from the stalls up front. On the second floor, you'll find a selection of secondhand bookshops marked by towering stacks of books. <i>Daily, 8.30am-8pm.</i></p>	<p>Stay Deluxe 23 Love Lane <i>23 Love Lane, George Town (+604 262 1323/www.23lovelane.com).</i> Formerly a private residence, this boutique hotel can best be described as a labour of love. Despite extensive renovation, the building maintains its original architecture and houses the original owner's personal collection of Southeast Asian art and antiques. Choose from different interior styles ranging from the Indian Shop House to the 1920's Jack Roof Annex. Our pick? The Anglo Indian Bungalow filled with books and magazines. The hotel also has a suite for physically handicapped guests, complete with wheelchair access and a specially designed bathroom. With only ten rooms in total, it's best to make advance reservations.</p>
Kedah & Perlis	<p>Queensbay Mall <i>100 Persiaran Bayan Indah (+604 619 8989/www.queensbaymallmalaysia.com).</i> Queensbay Mall in Bayan Lepas (a short trip down the east side of the island from George Town) is one of Penang's largest shopping centres. The mall houses similar brands to Gurney Plaza, a good variety of mid-range eateries, AEON department store and a Golden Screen Cinemas complex. Did we mention the mall also faces the sea? <i>Daily, 10.30am-10.30pm.</i></p>	<p>Little Penang Street Market <i>Upper Penang Road, George Town (www.littlepenang.com.my).</i> What began as a small community project is now a staple market for locals. This monthly market focuses on crafts and home-cooked food. You can even attend a live concert, visit an art exhibition or sit in on a book reading. The atmosphere is lively, the vendors are friendly, and the street buzzes with culture and creativity from sunrise till sunset. Bring an umbrella to stave off the heat. <i>Last Sunday of the month, 10am-5pm.</i></p>	<p>* Eastern & Oriental <i>10 Lebuh Farquhar, George Town (+604 222 2000/www.eohotels.com).</i> Former guests of the E&O reportedly include Somerset Maugham, Rudyard Kipling and Mary Pickford. This is one of Asia's truly great hotels. Everything harks back to an opulent British colonial past but the old-fashioned (intentionally so) rooms are now equipped with TVs and telephones. A sundowner at Farquhar's Bar is an absolute necessity before checking out the many eateries and bars located a short stroll away.</p>
Kelantan & Terengganu	<p>Markets Air Itam Market <i>Jalan Pasar, Pekan Air Itam, Air Itam.</i> Apart from its popular <i>assam laksa</i>, this open-air market is hugely popular among the Air Itam community for its supply of fresh spices, fruits and vegetables. As with any morning market, it's peppered with food stalls, which makes it ideal for breakfast runs. <i>Daily, 11am-7pm.</i></p>	<p>Lorong Kulit Flea Market <i>Jalan Dato Keramat, George Town (www.facebook.com/lorongkulit).</i> Penang's sole flea market is a treasure box for knick-knacks and vintage gems. Poke around for old records, books and electrical items in the midst of much, much more. The market has gained quite a reputation among Malaysians and tourists for its</p>	<p>Eastin Hotel Penang <i>1 Solok Bayan Indah, Queensbay, Bayan Lepas (+604 612 1111/www.eastin.com/pg).</i> Located right by the Bayan Lepas waterfront near Queensbay Mall, Eastin Hotel is great for shopaholics. Tourist attractions are a taxi ride away, but you'd have a lot more</p>
Malacca & Surrounds			
Pahang			
Penang			
Perak			

Live music
performances are staged at Straits Quay on Sunday evenings

Cheap eats
are aplenty at Pulau Tikus Market

a kids club and more. This American hotel located in the north-western part of Penang Island isn't far from Batu Ferringhi's bustling night market, which is a great venue for shopping and sampling street food.

Hotel Equatorial Penang

1 Jalan Bukit Jambul (+604 632 7000/www.equatorial.com/pen). Outfitted for business travellers and convention groups, this classy hotel perched on a hill offers spectacular views of Penang Bridge. Close to the airport, the hotel houses abundant facilities such as an 18-hole golf course, a swimming pool, an outdoor Jacuzzi, indoor squash courts and a decent gym. Its location is a bit out of the way (a half hour car ride to

George Town), but shuttle services make up for this.

Lone Pine Hotel

97 Jalan Batu Ferringhi (+604 881 1511/www.lonepinehotel.com). The oldest hotel on the coastal stretch of Batu Ferringhi is fringed with swaying pine trees and decked out in neo-colonial décor. The rooms are bright and spacious, and some suites even have private pools. End your holiday on a positive note with a massage at Pure Energy Spa or beachside meal at the in-house restaurant, The Bungalow.

* Macalister Mansion

228 Jalan Macalister, George Town (+604 228 3888/www.malikhom.com).

malikhom.com).

Once the mansion of a prominent Chinese family, Macalister Mansion is synonymous with good eating. The hotel houses myriad eateries under one roof. Enjoy a cigar and whisky at The Den, order an elaborate meal at Dining Room, or chit chat over coffee at Living Room. The eight-suite boutique hotel boasts of individually-designed rooms. Room Four, for instance, is adorned with a specially commissioned wire sculpture of Sir Norman Macalister and his wife by local artist Low Chee Peng.

Malihom Private Estate

Jalan Balik Pulau, Air Itam (+604 261 0190/www.malikhom.com). Malihom gives new meaning to the

23LOVELANE HOTEL



A relic in its own right, 23LoveLane Hotel dates back to the 1800s. Initially a private residence, the property constantly changed hands and was eventually transformed into a hotel. The multi-award winning business welcomed its first guests in December 2011.

23LoveLane Hotel offers vast and varied choices of accommodation, each with their own assets and novelties. Bookworms, scholars and writers might want to book The Petite Bedroom in the Anglo Indian Bungalow, which is right next to the library.

If you like a touch of luxe, opt for The Grand Bedroom, which comes furnished with a majestic four-poster bed. The Straits Eclectic Building is wheel-chair accessible, while The Muntri Suite and The Stewart Suite boast of a Jacuzzi. If you treasure your privacy, ask for the 'secret room' in a separate part of the building.

Hunger pangs kicking in? Head to 23LoveLane's in-house steakhouse. As its name implies, SteakFrites@23 dishes out mean cuts of meat for dinner. Each order is served in the French tradition: with a side salad and piping hot fries. For lighter fare, snack on tasty

tidbits and beverages at the Lobby Bar and the Library Lounge.

There's plenty to explore in the vicinity, as 23LoveLane is idyllically located on one of George Town's quaintest streets. History buffs would do well to visit the Penang Museum while gourmets can gorge themselves silly at the likes of Penang Cat Café, Mish Mash, Rainforest Bakery and more. Convenience stores and banks are a stone's throw away from the hotel, as are bars and dance spots for night owls. 23 Love Lane, George Town, Penang (+604 262 1323/www.23lovelane.com).

