

Time Out

Malaysia

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2016
2017

Malaysia

for visitors

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Heritage downtown



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*** Queensbay Mall**

100 Persiaran Bayan Indah, Bayan Lepas (+604 619 8989/www.queensbaymall.com.my). This five-storey mall is located just a short distance away from the Penang Bridge. There's a comprehensive selection of brands both local and international that ranges from fashion and sports to lifestyle and entertainment. If tummies start growling, there's no shortage of dining choices as well. *Daily, 10.30am-10.30pm.*

Markets

*** Air Itam Market**

Jalan Pasar, Air Itam. The number of fruit and vegetable vendors at Air Itam Market has grown significantly in recent years. Shop here for fresh spices, street food, apparel and Chinese medicine. This market is also home to several popular Penang *assam laksa* vendors and the celebrated Sisters' Curry Mee. *Daily, 7am onwards.*

Batu Ferringhi Night Market

Jalan Batu Ferringhi, Batu Ferringhi. Be prepared to haggle at this night market where most goods are sold at 'tourist prices'. This is kitsch at its worst (or best depending how you look at it). It warrants a quick stroll through but no more than that. *Daily, 6pm-late.*

*** Chowrasta Bazaar**

Jalan Penang, George Town. In operation since 1963, Chowrasta Bazaar has been tempting locals and travellers with its traditional goods, local snacks and street eats. Head to the second floor where stacks of secondhand and comic books are arranged in ceiling-high piles. *Daily, 8.30am-10pm.*

Little Penang Street Market

Upper Penang Road, George Town (+6012 475 9079/www.littlepenang.com.my). This monthly market serves as a platform for locals who want to sell their arts and crafts, books, clothing and jewellery. It's a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon. *Last Sunday of every month, 10am-5pm.*

Lorong Kulit Flea Market

Jalan Dato Keramat, George Town (fb.com/orongkuliti). This market was once known as Thieves' Market since much of the wares were 'illegally procured' and its bad reputation preceded it. Today, the market is less dodgy but also less exciting with eclectic antiques replaced by cheap knick-knacks. *Daily, 6am-1pm.*

NEW Occupy Beach Street

Lebuh Pantai, George Town (+6012

430 2251/fb.com/occupybeachstreet). Endorsed by the Penang State Government, this family-friendly market is a riot of colours and sounds. Look out for the drummer who bangs out tunes on old Milo tin cans. *Every Sunday, 10am-1pm.*

Stay

Deluxe

*** 23 Love Lane**

23 Lorong Love, George Town (+604 262 1323/www.23lovelane.com).

Formerly a private family residence, this boutique hotel is best described as a labour of love, from the detailed renovation works undertaken to restore the original buildings' architecture to the inclusion of the owner's personal collection of Southeast Asian art and antiques. We like the brightly decorated library, which is the ideal place to relax after a day of exploring.

*** Eastern & Oriental Hotel**

10 Lebuh Farquhar, George Town (+604 222 2000/www.eohotels.com). The Sarkies brothers were hoteliers who knew that luxury accommodation was necessary in the major entrepôts of Asia. Their first property was the E&O in Penang followed by The Raffles in Singapore and The Strand in Rangoon. Rooms here hark back to an opulent British past but are enhanced with every conceivable mod con.

*** NEW The Edison**

15 Lebuh Leith, George Town (+604 262 2990/www.theedisonhotels.com).

Now a luxury hotel, the building has gone through several drastic changes from being a tycoon's private estate to a brothel and opium den, and even a dance hall. It's now The Edison with tastefully decorated rooms, Appelles Apothecary & Lab toiletries, and complimentary nougat and orange-infused water delivered to the rooms. Hand-woven bags are placed in each room for guests' use – an eco-friendly initiative to eliminate the use of plastic bags; which is another plus point of this hotel.

G Hotel Gurney

168A Persiaran Gurney, George Town (+604 238 0000/www.ghotel.com.my).

G Hotel Gurney is a stylish property along bustling Gurney Drive, with sea views and is a short stroll away from Gurney Paragon and Gurney Plaza. The contemporary design is

enhanced by furniture from Kartell and Cappellini, and to unwind head to the pool or the Danaï Spa.

G Hotel Kelawai

2 Persiaran Maktab, Jalan Kelawai (+604 219 0000/www.ghotel.com.my).

Cutting-edge lifestyle and sleek corporate touches meet in the G Hotel Kelawai. We like the striking design in the lobby and the rooftop infinity pool where you can grab a cocktail at Gravity, their poolside bar, and take in the beautiful panoramic views. Also, hotel rooms are furnished with comfortable touches like Serta beds, Herman Miller chairs and eco-friendly Appelles toiletries.

*** Hard Rock Hotel Penang**

Batu Ferringhi Beach, Batu Ferringhi (+604 881 1711/penang.hardrockhotels.net).

Part of the successful Hard Rock chain, this resort is popular with families and those looking for a fun-filled beach stay. All 250 well-designed rooms offer Rock 'n' Roll service and amenities, and families with little ones can check in at the Lil Rock Suite kitted out everything to make Junior's stay a great one. The free-form swimming pool is a big draw and there is a lively kids' club as well. For entertainment head to Hard Rock Café for live bands every night. *Checked*

Lone Pine Hotel

97 Batu Ferringhi (+604 886 8686/www.lonepinehotel.com).

This hotel began operations in 1948, but recent refurbishments make it a charming place to stay. The tall Casuarina trees provide shade and a lovely view, while the hammocks are a popular afternoon escape.

Rooms are airy and face either the sea or garden, and there are family options available.

*** Macalister Mansion**

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

The refined English charm and luxury of the mansion was designed with Colonel Norman Macalister in mind. A member of the Design Hotels group, the hotel features classic and contemporary works of art with the rooms retaining their originality, but with the addition of indulgent mod cons like a pillow menu and Bang & Olufsen BeoSound Systems.

*** Malihom**

Jalan Balik Pulau, Balik Pulau (+6012 428 5191/+604 261 0190/www.malihom.com).

