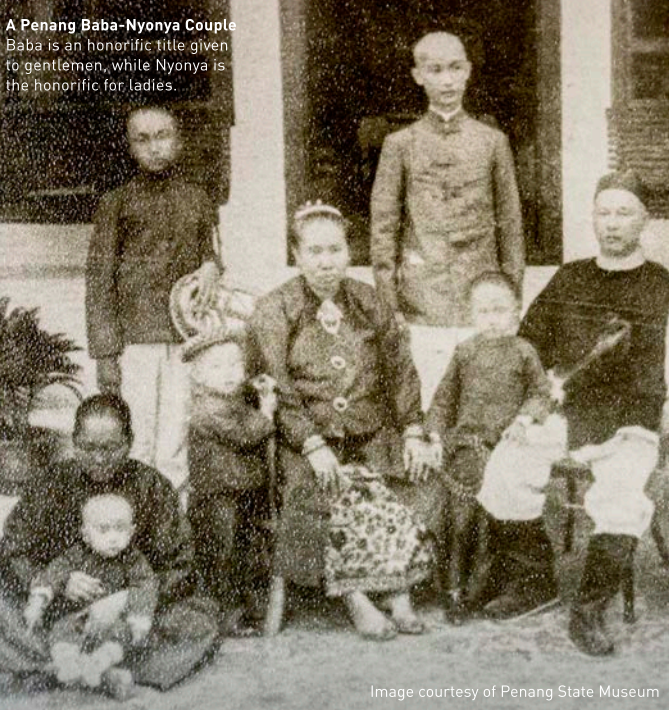


BABA-NYONYA



The Baba-Nyonya or Peranakan Chinese is a group of very early Chinese settlers who immigrated here in northern Malaysia and over the centuries, openly adopted and absorbed local cultures, creating a new and unique culture of their own. Over time, they also married other races into their families.

Although named the Straits Chinese by the British, they arrived much earlier than the formation of the Straits Settlements.

While they kept their Taoist beliefs, they also practised local rituals such as the mandi bunga (floral baths). They infused local cuisine into their recipes, and adopted local symbolic motifs in their fashion.

Members of this community call themselves Baba-Nyonya. The term Baba-Nyonya is more closely associated with those in Penang.

THE BABA-NYONYA OF PENANG & MALACCA

The Penang and Malacca Baba-Nyonya are two slightly different communities of different origins. It is believed that the Malaccans had arrived in the early 15th century as part of the royal entourage of the Chinese Princess Hang Li Po, who was gifted as a bride to the Sultan of Malacca. The Baba-Nyonya of Penang came as seafarers from southern Fujian.

Generally, you could tell one from the other through the language that they use. In Penang, they speak mainly Hokkien with words borrowed from Malay, while the Malaccans have adopted a Malay patois, including many Hokkien words, as their mother tongue.

Through the old trade triangle of Phuket and Medan with Penang, these three cities today share the same Baba-Nyonya lineage. Similarly, Malacca Peranakan Chinese have expanded their families and influence towards the south to Singapore.



THE PERANAKAN HOUSE



The Eclectic Straits Chinese House
Narrow frontage and long depth. The facade is a fusion of ornate Chinese and Western-style details.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town is a living museum of architecture.

While many of the Baba-Nyonya families have moved out from their ancestral homes, their houses have remained largely untouched or restored to their original splendour.

These uniquely charming houses line the quieter streets of the city. You simply have to take a walk around to see them.



MUNTRI STREET
Muntri Street has perhaps the best preserved rows of 19th century Straits Chinese architecture in the country, equivalent to Singapore's Emerald Hill.

Ever since the UNESCO Heritage Site listing of George Town in 2008, Muntri Street has seen the emergence of a bevy of privately-owned

boutique enterprises such as the Ryokan Muntri and the Camera Museum. Peranakan tiles and Western art deco come together to create beautifully-ornate facades. It is said that 'the more flamboyant the façade, the richer the owner of the house is'. The majority of Peranakan Chinese who made their fortune during the tin mining boom in the 19th century built their homes here as a status symbol.

THE CUISINE

Penang Nyonya food not only fuses Chinese and Malay culinary elements but also Thai influences, as a result of the island's rich multi-cultural diversity.

Young Nyonyas would have been expected to help around the kitchen, grinding spices, preparing fresh sambal belachan (chilli with toasted shrimp paste) and chopping vegetables.

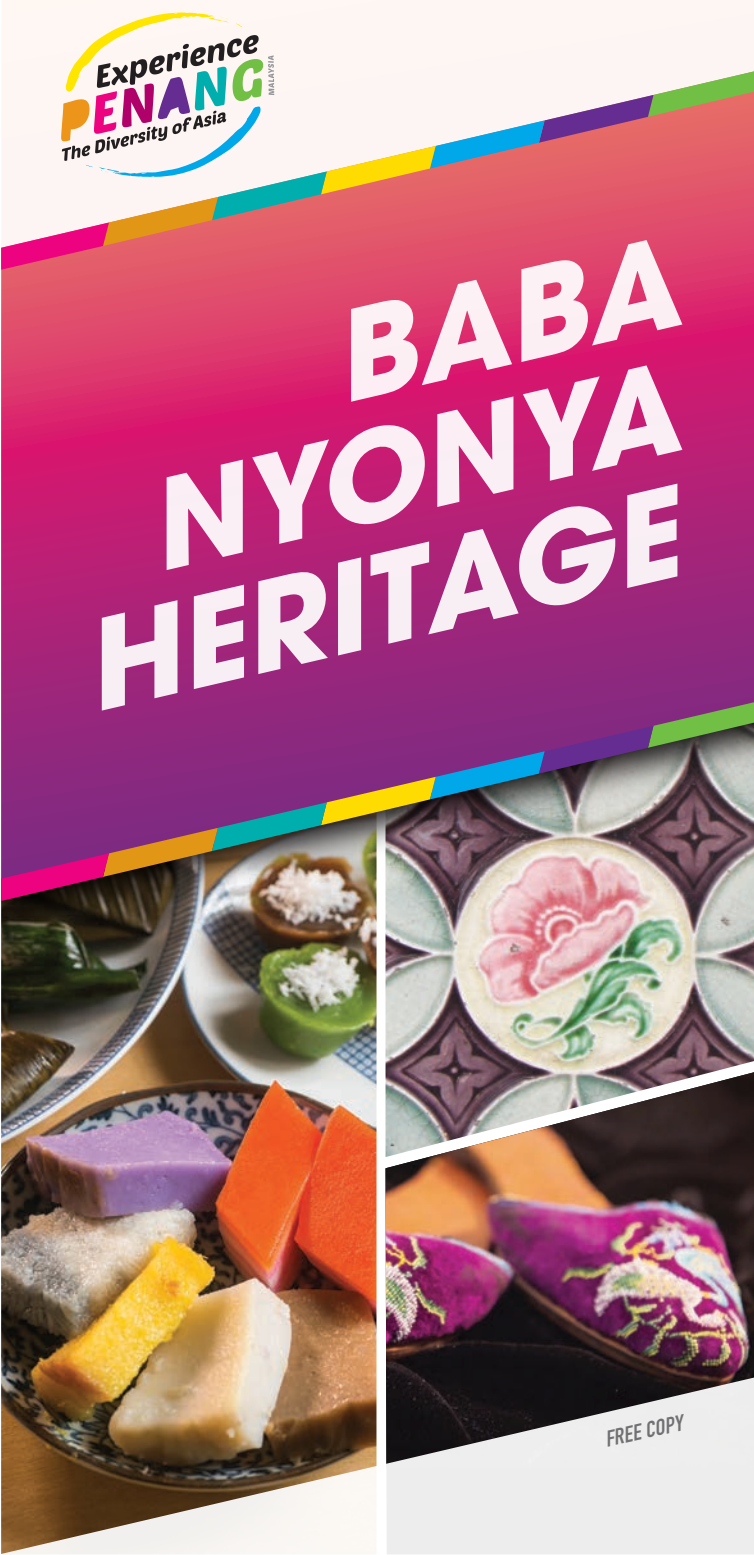
Assam Prawns
An all-time favourite traditional Peranakan dish, tamarind-flavoured fried prawns.



Tiffin Carrier
These display striking hand-painted motifs on an enamel base. A Baba-Nyonya tiffin carrier usually has four compartments, one for rice and three for the accompanying dishes.



Bubur Cha Cha
A Nyonya dessert lovingly made from soft sweet potatoes, yam and coconut milk, fried prawns.



THE QUINTESSENTIAL NYONYA

Nyonyas growing up in wealthy households were expected to learn a variety of skills that ranged from preparing Nyonya dishes to embroidery and beading; all the skills traditionally required for attracting a good husband.

They dress exquisitely well; with their choice of attire as the kebaya, an elegant dress with a Malay influence, that is suitable for most occasions.



The Kebaya
Like their eclectic fusion of food, Nyonya fashion adopted styles from the Malay (the Sarong) and the Chinese (embroidery motifs), among others.



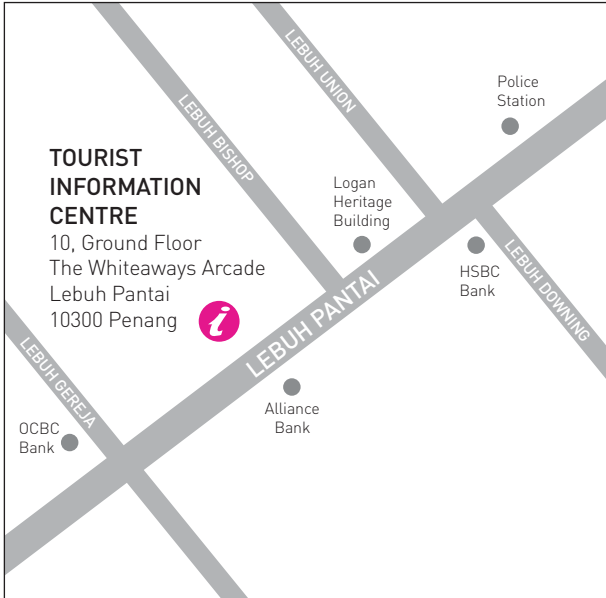
The Mysterious Kamcheng
A richly-decorated Kamcheng or covered jar like this would be used for decoration or given as a gift on auspicious occasions, such as a wedding.



Cucuk Sanggut
Traditional hairpins, often arranged above a garland of fragrant Bunga Melur or Jasmine buds.

THE OBJETS D'ART
The wealthiest Peranakans would often commission various items from craftsmen in China, made to their own specifications. The Kamcheng, for example, would bear Chinese motifs such as peonies and phoenixes.

Kasut Manek
The delicate beadwork of the traditional beaded slipper epitomises Nyonya artistry, as these beautiful shoes would often have been created by their wearer herself. Each pair would have taken months to complete and involved the stitching and stringing of miniscule glass beads - a true labour of love.



The Tourist Information Centre in George Town handles enquiries, provides brochures and directional maps as well as highlights the latest events and happenings in Penang.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE
Mondays - Fridays 9.00am to 5.00pm
Saturdays 9.00am to 3.00pm
Sundays & Certain Public Holidays 9.00am to 1.00pm
Web : mypenang.gov.my
Facebook : Penang Global Tourism
Instagram : penang.experience
LinkedIn : Penang Global Tourism
Tiktok : experiencepenang
Email : info@penangglobaltourism.com
Tel : +604 263 1166

PERANAKAN PLACES OF INTEREST

MUSEUMS

- 1. Pinang Peranakan Mansion**
29 Lebuhraya Gereja
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 264 2929
✉ rmhbaba@gmail.com
🌐 pinangperanakanmansion.com.my
🕒 Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm

- 2. Cheong Fatt Tze - The Blue Mansion**
14 Lebuhraya Leith
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 262 0006
✉ reservations@cheongfattzemansion.com
🌐 cheongfattzemansion.com
🕒 Thu-Sun, Guided Tours at 11am & 2pm

- 3. House of Yeap Chor Ee**
4 Lebuhraya Penang
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 226 1997 / +6012 428 5191
🌐 houseyce.com
🕒 Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm
🕒 Closed on Sat, Sun & PH

NYONYA EATERIES

- 4. Ivy's Nyonya Cuisine (Pork Free)**
58 Jalan Chow Thye
10050 George Town, Penang
☎ +6013 433 7878
🕒 Tue, 6pm-9pm;
Wed-Sun, 12pm-3pm; 6pm-9pm [Closed on Mon]

- 5. Mum's Nyonya Cuisine**
31-D Lorong Abu Siti
10400 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 229 1318 / +6012 669 1318
🕒 Tue-Sun, 11.00am-2.30pm;
6.00pm-9.30pm [Closed on Mon]

- 6. Nyonya Breeze Desire**
3A-1-7 Straits Quay
Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang
10470 Tanjung Tokong, Penang
☎ +604 899 9058, +6019 988 7104
🕒 Mon-Sun, 11.30am-2.30pm; 5.30pm-8.30pm

- 7. The Little Nyonya Cuisine @ Gurney Plaza**
170-B1-32B Gurney Plaza
Persiaran Gurney
10250 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 227 0694, +604 295 8092
🕒 Mon-Sun, 11am-10pm

- 8. The Little Nyonya Cuisine @ Queensbay Mall**
LG-111B, 116 & 117 Queensbay Mall
Persiaran Bayan Indah
11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang
☎ +604 643 7496, +604 611 5183
🕒 Mon-Sun, 11am-10pm

- 9. Kebaya Dining Room**
Seven Terraces
14A Lorong Stewart
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 264 2333 / +6011 1403 3310
✉ kebaya@7terraces.com
🌐 kebaya.com.my
🕒 Mon-Sun, 12pm-2.30pm; 6pm-10pm

- 10. Auntie Gaik Lean's Old School Eatery (Pork Free)**
1 Lebuhraya Bishop
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +6017 434 4398
🕒 Tue-Sun, 12.00pm-2.30pm; 6.00pm-9.30pm
[Closed on Mon]

- 11. Moh Teng Pheow Nyonya Koay & Canteen**
346 Jalan Masjid [Off Lebuhraya Chulia]
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 261 5832
✉ @penangnyonyakuih
🕒 Tue-Sun, 10.30am-5pm [Closed on Mon]

- 12. Heritage Artisans**
53 Jalan Padang Victoria
10400 George Town, Penang
☎ +6016 410 6116
🌐 heritageartisans.com
🕒 Mon-Sun, 6pm-9.30pm
(Reservation Required)

- 13. Jason Nyonya House**
10B Lebuhraya King
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +6018-356 0515
✉ @JasonNyonyaHousePenang
🕒 Mon-Sun, 11am-2.30pm; 6pm-8.30pm
[Closed on Wed]

- 14. Little Kitchen @ Nyonya**
179 Lebuhraya Noordin
10300 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 261 6731
🕒 Mon-Sun, 6.30pm-8.30pm
(Reservation Required)

- 15. Bibik's Kitchen Nyonya Cuisine**
73 Jalan Sri Bahari,
10050 George Town, Penang.
☎ +6012 669 7488
🕒 Tue-Sun, 11.30am-3pm, 6pm-9pm
[Closed on Mon]

- 16. Indigo Restaurant @ The Blue Mansion**
14 Lebuhraya Leith
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 262 0006
✉ cheongfattzemansion.com/restaurants
✉ @Indigoatthebluemansion
🕒 Mon-Sun, 12pm-3pm; 6.30pm-10pm
(Reservation Required)

- 17. Richard Rivalee Nyonya Cuisine Restaurant**
62 & 64 Lorong Macalister
10400 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 227 4888 /
+6012 494 9567 / +6012 421 2511
✉ @richardrivaleedesignerandchef
🕒 Wed-Mon, 11.30am-3pm; 6pm-9.30pm
[Closed on Tuesday]

- 18. CEKI Nyonya Restaurant**
11-A Jalan Sri Bahari
10050 George Town, Penang
☎ +6011 1051 7976
✉ CEKINyonya Restaurant
🕒 Wed-Mon, 11.30am-3pm; 5.30pm-10pm
[Closed on Tuesday]

- 19. Nyonya Palazzo**
29 Church Street
10200 George Town, Penang.
☎ +604 228 0194 / +6017 222 6178
✉ @nyonyapalazzo
🕒 Mon-Sun, 11am-10pm

- 20. Blue Bellvine**
27 Lebuhraya Noordin
10300 George Town, Penang.
☎ +6012-416 8901
✉ elaine.bluebellvine@gmail.com
✉ @bluebellvinepg
🕒 Mon-Sun, 11am-3pm
Tue-Thur, 6pm-9pm
Fri-Sun, 6pm-10pm

NYONYA COOKING CLASSES

- 21. Penang Homecooking School**
85 Taman Berjaya
10350 Pulau Tikus, Penang
☎ +6016 437 4380
✉ penanghomecookingschool.com
🕒 Mon-Sat, 9am-2pm [Closed on Sun]
* For booking, Min.2pax required

- 22. Tropical Spice Garden Cooking School**
Lot 595 Mukim 2, Jalan Teluk Bahang
11050, Penang
☎ +6012 482 7797 /
+6012 423 6797 (WhatsApp only)
✉ info@tropicalspicegarden.com
✉ tsgcookingschool.com
🕒 Mon-Sun [Reservation Required]

KEBAYA MAKERS & BOUTIQUES

- 23. Jade Collection**
170-04-76 Gurney Plaza
Persiaran Gurney
10250 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 226 1153, +6016 425 6169
✉ islandgallery2010@gmail.com
🕒 Mon-Sun, 10am-8pm

- 24. Kenny Loh Couture**
No.24 Solok Mano
10250 George Town, Penang
☎ +6016 202 9977
✉ marketing@kennylohcouture.com
✉ www.kennylohcouture.com
✉ @kennylohcouture
🕒 10am-6pm (Appointment Required)

- 25. County Fair Boutique**
Level 2, 30.2.33 Prangin Mall
Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong,
10000 George Town, Penang
☎ +6016 704 4909 / +6019 449 1909
✉ @countyfairboutique
🕒 Mon-Sun, 12pm-8pm

- 26. Nyonya Beaded Shoe Maker**
4 Lebuhraya Armenian
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +6016 454 3075
🕒 Mon-Sun, 1pm-6pm [Closed on Tue]

PERANAKAN-THEMED HOTELS

- 27. Seven Terraces**
Lorong Stewart
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 264 2333
✉ info@7terraces.com
🌐 georgetownheritage.com/
seven-terraces-hotel/

- 28. Cheong Fatt Tze - The Blue Mansion**
14 Lebuhraya Leith
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 262 0006
✉ reservations@cheongfattzemansion.com
✉ cheongfattzemansion.com

- 29. Noordin Mews**
53 Lebuhraya Noordin
10300 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 263 7125
✉ info@noordinmews.com
🌐 noordinmews.com

- 30. Muntri Mews**
77 Lebuhraya Muntri
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 263 5125
✉ info@muntrimews.com
🌐 georgetownheritage.com/
muntri-mews-hotel/

- 31. Jawi Peranakan Mansion**
153 Jalan Hutton
10050 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 218 9858
✉ info@jawi-peranakanmansion.com
🌐 georgetownheritage.com/
jawi-peranakan-mansion-hotel/

- 32. Muntri Grove**
127, 129, 131A-F
Lebuhraya Muntri
10200 George Town, Penang
☎ +604 264 2626
✉ info@muntrigrove.com
🌐 georgetownheritage.com/
muntri-grove-hotel/

PULAU TIKUS

BAYAN LEPAS

TANJUNG BUNGAH

TANJUNG TOKONG

GURNEY DRIVE

GEORGE TOWN



Indulge in the nostalgia of a bygone era...

A day in the life of a Nyonya! Try out the exquisite kebaya, learn a Nyonya dish or dine at one of the many restaurants opened by local Baba-Nyongas. For in-depth history, pick up a book and read about their daily lives and be charmed by rhymes passed down through generations. Complete the experience with a night's stay at a luxurious Peranakan suite. If the time is right, attend a rare and regal Baba-Nyonya wedding for an eye-opening experience, or better yet, plan a party of your own at this heritage city that promises a memorable affair.

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

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