

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021



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.

This is the place where boundless excitement surrounding countless festivities never ends, such as the acrobatic lion dances during Chinese New Year, the intricate weaving of Ketupat (rice dumplings) during Hari Raya Aidilfitri (Eid Mubarak), and the unbelievable body piercings seen on devotees during Thaipusam (a Hindu religious festival). These festivals happen almost every month as the people in Penang celebrate all year-round festivals including religious, cultural, and arts.

Homegrown festivals such as the George Town Festival and the international award-winning George Town Literary Festival have also put Penang on the world map. In addition, sports events such as the annual Penang Bridge International Marathon is popular around the globe among marathoners and sports enthusiasts.

However, with the recent Covid-19 pandemic, many have decided to opt for a virtual/ hybrid platform to showcase these festivals and celebrations. Meanwhile, all physical events will adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set by the government.

Whether you are drawn to the drama of a street parade, the spirituality of a prayer ritual, the beauty of an avant-garde theatre performance, or the thrills of running on the state's iconic bridge, there is bound to be an event around the corner waiting to be experienced, physically or virtually.

## Penang International Container Art Festival (PICAF) 1 Jan – 31 Dec




- Prangin Mall – George Town
- Karpal Singh Drive – Jelutong
- Kampung Terang – Balik Pulau
- Aspen Vision City – Batu Kawan
- Dataran Pemuda Merdeka – Butterworth

 Penang International Container Art Festival


Penang International Container Art Festival (PICAF) is an international street / urban art festival, featuring murals on container installations to celebrate Penang's vibrant street art scene.

## Kek Lok Si Display of Lights 7 Feb - 11 March




 +604-828 3317

 Kek Lok Si Temple, 11500, Air Itam, Penang

 kekloksitemple@gmail.com


 www.kekloksitemple.com


 Kek Lok Si Temple

The Kek Lok Si temple is a famous tourist attraction, especially during Chinese New Year. The 130-year-old temple, which is annually lit up, showcases more than 10,000 lights and Chinese lanterns.

## Pongal Celebration 14 Jan



 +604-650 5125

 www.hebpenang.gov.my

Pongal is a harvest festival celebrated by Hindus, usually in January or February, when crops like paddy and sugarcane are harvested.

## Chinese New Year 12 & 13 Feb



Chinese New Year is celebrated on the first day of the Lunar Calendar, with each year ushering in a zodiac animal ruling sign. The year 2021 is the year of the Ox. Celebrations start on the eve of Chinese New Year where family members gather for a Reunion Dinner.

## Penang Chinese New Year Virtual Celebration (Miao Hui) 12 - 20 Feb



☎ +6012-4387796  
+6016-4751866

📍 Virtual Event

✉ pgcny@inheritors.org.my

🌐 www.pgcny.my

Penang CNY Celebration (Miao Hui) is an annual event held during CNY to showcase and promote Chinese traditional culture. This year, the celebration is held virtually through social media and webinar platforms.

## The Wedding Affairs



🕒 8am - 6pm

☎ +604-281 4469

📍 Queensbay Mall

✉ info@tlmevent.com

👤 TLM Event

The Wedding Affairs is a gathering of the most sought-after bridal houses, wedding venues, and wedding-related services in town to assist brides and grooms in planning their dream wedding. The event is organised by TLM Event.

## Covid-19 Heroes: Those who made a difference for Penang 6 - 31 Mar



☎ +604-261 6466

📍 3rd Floor, Penang State Gallery, Dewan Sri Pinang

🌐 www.penangmuseum.gov.my

👤 Penang State Museum & Art Gallery

Dr. Teoh Wei Kium, a Penang artist has come forward to donate 50 of her artworks as a tribute to selected recipients, namely those who have contributed to the community of Penang during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Penang Water Colour Society's 38th Annual Exhibition 2021 10 - 25 Apr



☎ +604-261 6466

📍 3rd Floor, Penang State Art Gallery, Dewan Sri Pinang

✉ www.penangmuseum.gov.my

👤 Penang State Museum & Art Gallery

An annual exhibition of the Penang Water Colour Society to showcase the water colour works of its members, as well as to promote the use of water medium.

## Thai Water Festival (Songkran)

13 Apr



📍 Wat Chayamangkalaram Thai Buddhist Temple & Dharmikarama Burmese Buddhist Temple

Songkran or Water Festival is a traditional festival celebrated by Thai and Burmese devotees to mark the beginning of a New Year. It is celebrated by liberally splashing water on each other.

## Kompleks Bukit Jambul (KBJ) Ramadan Bazaar 13 Apr – 12 May



🕒 11am – 10pm

☎ +604-645 6788

📍 Promenade Area & Summer Wing Concourse, Kompleks Bukit Jambul

✉ admin@kbj.com.my

📍 Kompleks Bukit Jambul

In Kompleks Bukit Jambul (KBJ), Ramadan is greeted with a riot of colourful and tasty food. Set up at the Promenade Area of Kompleks Bukit Jambul, the Ramadan Bazaar features stalls selling various delicacies and drinks for “buka puasa” (breaking of fast).

## Ramadan Bazaar

13 Apr – 12 May



📍 KOMTAR Pedestrian Walk & along many streets

During the Muslim fasting month, a sumptuous array of food, local delicacies, festive cookies, clothing, and religious items are sold at month-long evening Ramadan Bazaars around the state.

## Vaisakhi

14 Apr



🕒 8am – 12pm

📍 Wadda Gurdwara

✉ waddagurdwarasahibpen@gmail.com

📍 Wadda Gurdwara Sahib Penang

Vaisakhi marks the harvest festival and the start of the Punjabi New Year. The occasion is observed by the Sikh community with prayers in Sikh temples.

## Nuzul Al-Quran

29 Apr



On the 17th day of the holy Ramadan month, a national-level celebration called the Nuzul Al-Quran is held to commemorate the day Prophet Muhammad S.A.W first received the revelation from heaven. It is observed as a public holiday in most states.

## Hari Raya Aidilfitri

13 & 14 May



In Malaysia, the Muslims celebrate the start of the month of Syawal with their families and friends. It marks the end of a month-long fasting during Ramadan.

*IMPORTANT NOTICE: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, kindly check the status of the event closer to the date. Physical events taking place will adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set by the government.*

## Wesak Day

26 May



- ☎ +604-226 2690
- 📍 Malaysian Buddhist Association
- 👤 Malaysian Buddhist Association

Wesak Day is observed by devotees to celebrate Buddha's birthday, enlightenment and achievement of Nirvana. The occasion is observed by devotees with prayers in temples.

## Penang Durian Festival

1 June - 31 Jul



- 📍 Penang Island:
  - Jalan Burma
  - Jalan Macalister
  - Jalan Anson
  - Anjung Indah Balik Pulau
  - Bao Sheng Durian Farm
- 📍 Seberang Perai:
  - Chai Leng Park
  - Sungai Baong • Sungai Bakap
  - Tasek • Kubang Semang

Durian is one of the most popular fruits in Penang, and a must-try for all visitors. There are many award-winning durians in Penang such as Ang Hae, D16, Ang Bak, Ang Jin, D700, and plenty more.

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## George Town Heritage Celebrations

7 July



☎ +604-261 6606

📍 George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site

✉ info@gtwhi.com.my

🌐 www.gtwhi.com.my

👤 GTWHI

George Town Heritage Celebrations is an annual event held to celebrate the living heritage of George Town and to raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding our shared cultural heritage. The event is held online this year so festival enthusiasts can expect interactive and educational programmes.

## George Town Festival (GTF)

10 - 18 July



☎ +6012-664 6251

📍 George Town

✉ ask@georgetownfestival.com

🌐 www.georgetownfestival.com

👤 TLM Event

George Town Festival (GTF) is an annual festival held in Penang, in honour of the city's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. This year's Festival is reimagined and curated as a hybrid festival, integrating traditional forms of on-site entertainment with modern virtual elements.

## Penang Anime Matsuri 2021

17 & 18 Jul



🕒 10am – 8pm

📍 Setia SPICE Arena

📺 Penang Anime Matsuri

👤 SOZO Pte Ltd

The Penang Anime Matsuri is a two-day event featuring fascinating anime characters, anisong artists, cosplayers, guests, stage activities, and collectible items.

## St. Anne's Festival

23 Jul - 1 Aug



☎ +604-538 6405

📍 Minor Basilica of St. Anne's, Bukit Mertajam

✉ stanne@stannebm.org

🌐 www.minorbasilicastannebm.com

👤 Minor Basilica of St. Anne's

A 10-day religious occasion to observe St. Anne's feast day.

## Hungry Ghost Festival

8 Aug - 6 Sept



- 🕒 7pm onwards
- 📍 George Town & Around Penang

The Hungry Ghost Festival is believed to be when the Gates of Hell are opened for spirits and ghosts to roam freely. Makeshift altars are erected at roadsides where giant joss sticks are lit and food offered. Staged operas are also conducted for the entertainment of ghosts, spirits, and the public on a nightly basis.

## Penang International Food Festival (PIFF) 14 – 29 Aug



- 📍 Around Penang
- ✉ [info@piff.com.my](mailto:info@piff.com.my)
- 🌐 [www.piff.com.my](http://www.piff.com.my)
- 👤 TLM Event

The Penang International Food Festival (PIFF) is an annual event that will take place for 16 days, offering visitors an exciting experience to indulge in Penang's famed food. Presenting endless delectable choices, PIFF is the place for food, stories, experience, culture and traditions.

## Awal Muharram

10 Aug



Also known as Maal Hijrah, it marks the first day in the Islamic Calendar (Hijrah Calendar). It is equivalent to the 1st of January in the Gregorian Calendar. In most states, it is gazetted as a public holiday.

## Merdeka Day

31 Aug



- 🕒 8.30am – 11.30am
- 📍 Penang Esplanade
- 👤 Penang State Government

To commemorate Malaysia's Independence Day, the Penang State Government organises an annual Merdeka Parade, where contingents representing various government agencies take part in the occasion.

## Penang Coffee & Desserts Festival



- ☎ +604-281 4469
- 🕒 10am – 10pm
- 📍 Gurney Paragon Mall
- ✉ info@tlmevent.com
- 👤 TLM Event

Inspired by the rapid growth of specialty coffee and confectioneries in Penang, the Penang Coffee & Desserts Festival is designed to celebrate the wide varieties of coffee and desserts in the state. The 3-day festival brings together exceptional exhibitors to showcase the lifestyle of urban coffee and desserts scenes in Penang.

## Malaysia Day 16 Sept



A significant date in the history of Malaysia as it marks the joining together of Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak to form Malaysia in 1963.

## Nine Emperor Gods Festival

6 - 14 Oct



- ☎ +604-331 8717
- 🕒 7pm onwards
- 📍 Tow Boo Kong Temple, 894 & 896, Mk14, Jalan Raja Uda, Butterworth; Macallum Street & Burma Road Tow Boo Kong Temple
- 📍 Tow Boo Kong Temple Butterworth
- 👤 Tow Boo Kong Temple

The Nine Emperor Gods Festival is celebrated on the 1st till 9th day of the ninth month in the lunar calendar. Throughout this festival, rituals such as skewering and fire walking ceremonies are carried out. On the last day, the Gods are sent off to the sea accompanied by many other colourful floats.

## Navratri Festival

7 - 14 Oct



- 🕒 7pm onwards
- 📍 Main Hindu Temples

The Navratri Festival is a Hindu religious festival. For 9 days, devotees pray to the Goddess Durga, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswathi in hopes of being bestowed with power, wealth, and education.



## Deepavali

4 Nov



This colourful festival is also known as "The Festival of Lights" and is celebrated by Hindus all around the world. Oil lamps are lit and decorated in their homes on Deepavali morning as a way of thanking the Gods for happiness, knowledge, peace, and wealth.

## George Town Literary Festival (GTLF)

25 - 28 Nov



- ☎ +604-261 6161
- 📍 Around George Town
- 🌐 [www.georgetownlitfest.com](http://www.georgetownlitfest.com)
- 👤 PCEB

Held annually in the World UNESCO Heritage Site of George Town, GTLF is the most prominent literary platform of free speech in Malaysia and has a specific focus on world literature.

## Penang Orchid Show

11 - 19 Dec



- ☎ +6012-489 1577
- 📍 Penang Botanic Gardens
- ✉ [kimlean1229@gmail.com](mailto:kimlean1229@gmail.com)
- 👤 Federation of Malaya Orchid Society (FOMOS)

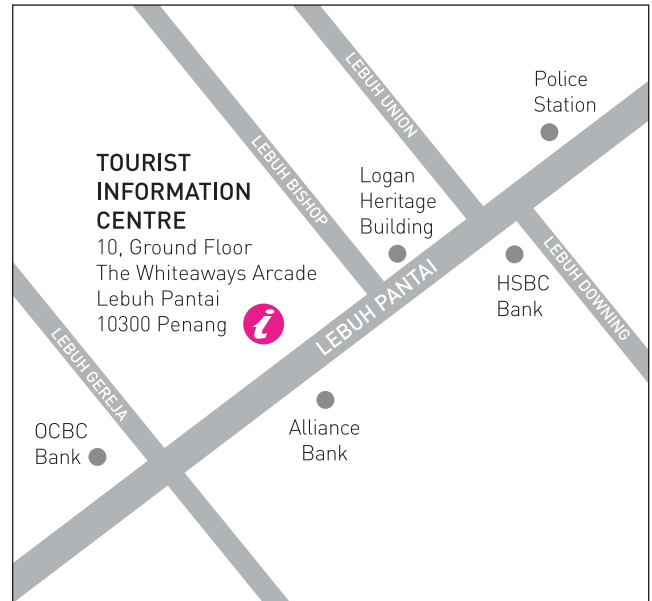
The Penang Orchid Show 2021 is a festival for orchid lovers and enthusiasts. It is a week-long event focusing on competitions and sale of orchids.

## Occupy Beach Street (OBS) Christmas Run 2021



- ☎ +6012-438 0062
- 🕒 7am
- 📍 Lebuah Pantai
- 📍 Occupy Beach Street
- 👤 TLM Event

Occupy Beach Street (OBS) Christmas Run 2021 is held to celebrate the joyous festive season of Christmas, in conjunction with the 8th anniversary of OBS. Runners can expect snowy streets and the appearance of Santa Claus.



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

**Monday-Friday**  
9.00am to 5.00pm

**Saturdays**  
9.00am to 3.00pm

**Sundays & Certain Public Holidays**  
9.00am to 1.00pm

**Web** : [mypenang.gov.my](http://mypenang.gov.my)  
**Facebook** : Penang Global Tourism  
**Instagram** : penang.experience  
**Twitter** : PenangXperience  
**LinkedIn** : Penang Global Tourism  
**Tiktok** : experiencepenang  
**Email** : [info@penangglobaltourism.com](mailto:info@penangglobaltourism.com)  
**Tel** : +604 263 1166



\* All information is correct at time of print and subject to change without prior notice.  
 \* Visitors must adhere to the rules and regulations of the featured events and exercise caution at all times.