



CITY TRANSPORTATION
Downtown Penang is small enough in size for walking around, especially George Town and its surroundings. One can take in the sights on a trishaw. Alternatively, a free shuttle bus service, the Central Area Transit (CAT) - George Town, provides a convenient way of moving around town.

To get to attractions outside George Town – such as Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang Hill, Batu Ferringhi and Teluk Bahang – standard city buses and taxis are available, including e-hailing services. Always check schedules and fares before deciding on your preferred mode of transportation.

TRISHAW
A great and breezy way of getting around George Town is by trishaw. Be sure to agree on a price before starting your journey – the average rate is RM30 per hour for two persons, depending on the distance between the start and end points.



PUBLIC BUS
The state's public bus service is provided by Rapid Penang and covers an extensive area, both on the island and mainland. It also offers a free Central Area Transit (CAT) bus service within George Town. The terminal at KOMTAR is the central transfer terminal for buses that ply the whole of Penang Island. Simply ask around or look out for signboards to find out which bus route serves you best. Upon boarding the Rapid Penang bus, inform the driver of your destination, pay the amount required and receive a ticket for your trip. Remember to prepare the exact change as all buses do not carry change for safety reasons.

Note: Fares are based on distance travelled. For more info, visit www.rapidpg.com.my

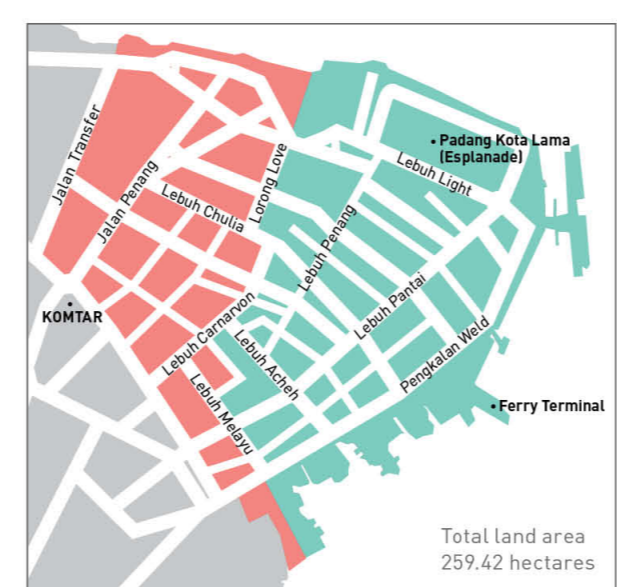
FERRY
The Penang Ferry Terminal is where passengers board Penang's iconic ferries to get to the mainland. Travel time is about 20 minutes. If you are taking a train to Penang from Kuala Lumpur or other cities, you may board the ferry to the island from the ferry terminal at Butterworth, which is located just next to the train station. Although it is possible to travel between the island and the mainland via both Penang bridges, taking the ferry will be a memorable experience.

Operating Hours
5.40am - 12.40am**
Departing from the island to the mainland*

5.20am - 12.10am**
Departing from the mainland to the island

Operating Intervals: 20 minutes
Fare (Pedestrian): Adult RM1.20 / Child RM0.60

Note:
* The ferry ride is free of charge from the island to the mainland; a fare is only imposed from the mainland to the island
** Schedules are an estimation



TAXI
Taxis are commonly available around the island. It is an easy means of getting around. Be sure to agree on a price before boarding a taxi. Start by asking how much it is to get to your destination; you can negotiate on the pricing if you feel that it is too high.

Average Fare
From George Town to Penang International Airport: RM40
From George Town to Penang Hill or Kek Lok Si: RM30

E-HAILING SERVICE
The e-hailing app, Grab, is available in Penang. Simply download the app to start booking your trips. Payment is either by cash or credit card.

RENT-A-CAR
Renting a car offers great flexibility and convenience. Rental rate is charged on a daily basis. Just pay a deposit, and you are free to go anywhere on your own! Car rentals are available at the airport and around town. Most hotels can hook you up with one, too.

RENT-A-BIKE/BICYCLE
Renting a bike (motorcycle) or bicycle is inexpensive, and it's a fun way to explore the island. Bike-sharing system is available in the city and its surroundings, and other bike rentals are also available along the hotel stretch of Batu Ferringhi.

Buffer Zone (150.04 hectares)
The Core Zone is protected by 150.04 hectares of Buffer Zone (not including the sea buffer), bounded by a stretch of sea area around the harbour, Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong and Gat Jalan Prangin to the south-west, and Jalan Transfer to the north-west.

Core Zone (109.38 hectares)
The Historic City of George Town covers an area of 109.38 hectares bounded by the Straits of Malacca on the north-eastern cape of Penang Island, Lorong Love (Love Lane) to the north-west, and Gat Lebu Melayu, Lorong Carnarvon and Lebu Carnarvon to the south-west.

There are more than 1,700 historic buildings within the Core Zone, aligned on four main streets – Pengkalang Weld, Lebu Pantai, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling and Lorong Love – as well as several perpendicular streets: Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah, Lebu Light, Lebu Bishop, Lebu Geraja, Lebu China, Lebu Pasar, Lebu Chulia, Lebu Armenian and Lebu Aceh.

HOP-ON HOP-OFF Sightseeing Tours
The HOP-ON HOP-OFF bus tour is an exciting way to explore Penang! The open-top bus offers great panoramic views of the island and takes you to various places of interests in the city and the beach.

Scheduled tours are available daily. For bookings or further information, visit myhoponhopoff.com/pg



Free CAT Bus Route (George Town)

This is a free shuttle bus service that operates within George Town. It is the most common means of transportation for travellers to get around the city and to get to popular local attractions for free. Look out for Rapid Penang buses that bear a "Free CAT Bus" sign.



Culture and Heritage

From KOMTAR

Pinang Peranakan Mansion
Step into an affluent Straits Chinese, popularly known as Baba-Nyonya, home. The mansion is furnished to provide a peek into the lavish lifestyle and the many customs and traditions of the Baba-Nyonya. Over 1,000 pieces of antiques and collectibles from that era are on display. Be prepared to be awe-struck by the mansion's eclectic design and architecture.

St. George's Church
A few steps away is the Goddess of Mercy Temple, which was built in 1728 and is Penang's oldest Taoist temple. You can have a fortune sticks reading here. Not far away is the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, the oldest Hindu temple in Penang – built in 1833, featuring sculptures of Hindu gods and goddesses on the main entrance and facade. Turn a corner and you will find Masjid Kapitan Keling, a mosque built by Indian-Muslim traders in the nineteenth century. Free guided tours around the mosque are available. You will be required to wear robes which will be provided for you. Entrances to the grounds of these four places of worship are free.

Goddess of Mercy Temple

Sri Maha Mariamman Temple

Masjid Kapitan Keling

Cheah Kongsi
Take a tour of Penang's earliest clan house. Situated a block away from Khoo Kongsi, it has the earmarks of the grand temples and palaces of China. The architecture and design of this building has influences of Malay, traditional Straits Chinese and European motifs.

Boy on Chair Street Art
Snap a photo with the Boy on Chair street art. This mural was painted by Ernest Zacharevic, a Lithuanian artist, in conjunction with George Town Festival 2012. It is a cheeky depiction of a boy standing on tiptoe on a chair to reach a very high hote in the wall.

Khoo Kongsi
Marvel at the intricate and highly elaborate architecture of the Chinese clan temple. The clan temple was built in 1906, at the height of the Khoo clan's prosperity and eminence. The Khoo Kongsi complex is made up of an administrative building with a meeting hall and offices, an opera stage, together with 62 lots of terrace houses and shophouses. These places are accessible through Khoo Kongsi's central building, Leong San Tong. Khoo Kongsi houses a little museum, where the Khoo lineage is charted over the generations.

Cat & Human Happily Living Together Street Art
Take a selfie with the curious cat procession, drawn by artist Tang Yook Khang, who works with Artists for Stray Animals (ASA), in conjunction with George Town Festival 2013 for the 101 Lost Kittens project. The mural advocates animal kindness. The representation of cats in place of humans in the Taoist procession symbolises how it feels like to be in each other's forms.

Clan Jetty
Walk down the pier and catch the sunset from the Clan Jetty. Sit back at a café and order a cold drink as the day draws to an end. Take in the sights at the floating village by the waterfront. Home to a tight-knit community, many families continue to live in the century-old houses built on stilts over the water.

Food and Lifestyle

Moh Teng Pheow Nyonya Koay & Canteen
Your food adventure is incomplete until you have tasted Penang's street food, and where better to sample it all than at the Gurney Drive Hawker Centre. The open-air hawker centre offers a myriad of dishes to satisfy all kinds of taste buds, from the piquant Assam Laksa to Penang's signature Char Koay Teow.

Gurney Plaza

LUNCH
Tek Sen Restaurant (Non-Halal) / Hameediyah Restaurant (Halal)
Rest your feet and fill your tummy at Tek Sen Restaurant, a popular spot among locals and out-of-towners. Alternatively, Hameediyah Restaurant is the perfect place for a plate of hot steamed rice topped with a variety of curries and side dishes. Next, check out Moh Teng Pheow's to sample Penang's famous nyonya kuih, a type of bite-sized glutinous snack freshly made in-house.

Penang House of Music
Prepare to soak in the stories, sights and sounds inspired by the rich diversity of Penang's musical heritage. Step back in time and immerse yourself in Penang's popular music from the 1940s until today. Penang is the birthplace of beloved actor, director, songwriter and singer P. Ramlee, who was credited for 66 films and nearly 400 songs!

Local shopping at Chowrasta Market
Start your day with more retail therapy. The night market is a great place for bargains and delightful deals for works of art. Alternatively, you can also choose to chill the rest of the evening away at G Kelawai's Gravity sky bar.

Day 1

SHOPPING / DRINKS
Batu Ferringhi Night Market / Drinks at Gravity
End your day with more retail therapy. The night market is a great place for bargains and delightful deals for works of art. Alternatively, you can also choose to chill the rest of the evening away at G Kelawai's Gravity sky bar.

Day 2

BREAKFAST
Chowrasta Market
Start your day at one of the oldest and liveliest morning markets in Penang. Chowrasta Market dates back to the mid-nineteenth century. Be spoiled for choice – it is a gastronomic experience and a must-try for all who are in Penang.

From KOMTAR

LUNCH
Restoran Tajuddin Hussain / Kapitan Restaurant
If you haven't yet realised, curry and rice are Penang staples. The consistency of the curries can be thick or watery, and packed with flavour. Try sampling it all by requesting for 'kuah campur', which means a mix of all the curries atop your rice.

SHOPPING
Little India
Step into the vibrant world of Little India, and experience the colourful sights and exotic smells. This is a great place to buy a saree, a traditional Indian female garment.

TEA TIME
Tea's Heritage / Penang Road Famous Teochew Cendol
Time for dessert! Tea's Heritage is an elegant café serving Penang's speciality biscuits and cookies. The Penang Road Famous Teochew Cendol is an excellent choice too. Cendol is served with coconut milk and palm sugar syrup topped with worm-like green rice flour jelly and sweetened red beans.

Message at The Sanctuary Thai Massage at 1st Avenue Mall
Next on your to-do list is a pampering traditional healing Thai massage. This massage is aimed at releasing toxins from your joints, muscles and connective tissues, while stimulating internal organs through gentle pressure on specific energy points.

DINNER
Kebaya Dining Room / Perut Rumah / Hainan Town
Don't miss out on Nyonya food while you are in Penang. Nyonya cuisine is a union of Chinese and Malay cooking; Chinese ingredients are perfectly blended with a variety of distinct spices and cooking methods that are adopted from the Malay community.

Drinks at Lorong Love / Dessert at The Alley / Drinks at Magazine 63 / Drinks at Good Friend's Club (Jalan Gurdwara)
Wind down for the night at these cosy cafés around George Town. Relax over some drinks or satiate your sweet tooth cravings with some desserts.

Welcome to Penang!

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 the era of British rule, Penang has a charm that is unique to itself.

POPULATION
1.7 million

TEMPERATURE
30°C / 25°C
Day Time Night Time

LOCATION
Penang Island is a 20-minute ferry ride from Butterworth. Two bridges connect the island to the mainland: Penang Bridge and the Second Penang Bridge (Jambatan Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah). Penang International Airport sees incoming international flights from many countries such as China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Qatar.

Langkawi Island is a two-hour 45-minute ferry ride away, or a short 35-minute flight. Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur is a 50-minute flight away, or can alternatively be reached by a four-hour train or car ride.

LANGUAGE
Most signs are written in Malay and English, with some in Chinese as well. Although English is widely spoken in many areas, it would be helpful to know basic Malay too, as road signs and main destinations are in Malay.

PENANG HOKKIIEN
Thank you: Kamsiah
You're welcome: Mien kek khi
How much is it?: Gui lui
It's delicious: Hochiak

TELECOMMUNICATION
A local SIM card can be purchased upon arrival at the airport. Simply choose from the different choices of telecommunication operators available. The retail stands are located at the arrival hall, after you exit from the baggage claim area. Most convenience shops offer credit top-up services when your SIM card credit runs out.

Wi-Fi
Penang has Wi-Fi networks befitting a tourist-friendly city. Wi-Fi is provided at the majority of the hotels and is available in most areas of the city. There are 1,550 Wi-Fi spots at tourist attractions and public places throughout George Town. Most cafés also offer free Wi-Fi. For convenience, you may purchase a local SIM card with a data package to access the internet at all times.

Website: penangfreewifi.com.my

CURRENCY
The Malaysian currency is the Ringgit, written as RM. There are six denominations: RM1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100.

50 sen 20 sen 10 sen 5 sen

Accommodation



Penang offers a fantastic choice of accommodation to suit different needs and budgets, from luxury hotels, boutique hotels and serviced apartments to budget hostels, beachfront guesthouses and exciting homestays.

George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS)
George Town has become a favourite with visitors because of its eclectic range of boutique accommodation, which includes beautifully restored traditional shophouses and hip, trendy hotels with hints of local flavours. A stay in the WHS is perfect for exploring George Town on foot or by bicycle, motorcycle or trishaw.

Gurney Drive
Strategically located between the city and the beach, Gurney Drive (Persiaran Gurney)'s high-rise hotels offer breathtaking panoramas of the sea and city. For delightful street food, world-class shopping and nightlife, this iconic waterfront boulevard is where the action takes place.

Batu Ferringhi
Penang's famous coastal strip up north, from Tanjung Bungah to Batu Ferringhi, is home to many 3 to 5-star beach resorts, with plenty of shopping, nightlife and eco-tourism activities close at hand. For an unforgettable kampung experience, there are homestays available in the smaller fishing villages close by.

South-east Zone
The south-east zone is a stone's throw from the island's high-tech parks, the international airport, golf clubs, the two bridges that connect the island to the mainland, and one of Penang's largest shopping malls.

There is a wide variety of business-class hotels to choose from, as well as convention centres, including the Subterranean Penang International Convention & Exhibition Centre (SPICE) and the Penang Waterfront Convention Centre, which is scheduled for completion in a few years.

Seberang Perai Utara
Seberang Perai's northern region is full of paddy fields and local communities, offering one of the most traditional homestay programmes in Penang. Enjoy a stay in a traditional Malay village surrounded by endless paddy fields, and explore mangrove forests that are rich with flora and fauna.



Seberang Perai Tengah
This is the bustling side of Seberang Perai with a number of shopping malls. The Penang Bird Park – the first and largest bird park of its kind in Malaysia is located here. The famous St Anne's Church is located in Bukit Mertajam where the Cherok Tokun relics can be found within its compounds. There are more hotels in this area of Seberang Perai.

Seberang Perai Selatan
Visit Nibong Tebal and the Bukit Panchor Recreational Forest, where you can experience the mangrove ecosystem, explore the surrounding bat caves and take a stroll on the wetland boardwalk.

Homestays
Homestays in Penang provide an alternative to conventional hotels by offering affordable and comfortable accommodation for tourists who wish to stay with locals, or away from the city's hustle and bustle. Holiday-makers will get the chance to experience local cultures and lifestyles in a laid-back atmosphere. Participate in typically rural activities such as fishing, rubber-tapping, fruit-picking, craft-making and so on. Exchange stories with the locals, savour home-cooked meals and even possibly be part of a traditional wedding celebration, or get one organised for yourself!

Penang's homestay programme encompasses 11 areas across the northern region, and each is unique with its own special features that promise tourists a memorable and eventful time. These include:

- Jalan Bahru in Balik Pulau
- Kota Aur
- Pulau Betong
- Pulau Aman
- Sungai Chenaam
- Mengkuang Titi
- Sungai Duri
- Teluk Bahang
- Sungai Semilang
- Sungai Setar Besar
- Lahar Yooi

Nature and Adventure

Penang Hill
Climb or take the funicular train up to Penang Hill (Bukit Bendera), where you can feast your eyes on breathtaking views of the island and mainland. Penang Hill is known for its lush greenery, quaint colonial-style bungalows and buildings, as well as cooler temperatures. Its highest peak is at 833 metres (2,732ft) above sea level.

The Habitat
Spend the rest of your day at The Habitat Penang Hill, which serves as a charming introduction to the Malaysian rainforest. There are walking trails, a canopy walk, tree top walk and a whole garden dedicated to fragrant plants. Use the rest of your time exploring and catching the sights and sounds of tropical birds, flying squirrels as well as dusky leaf monkeys that dwell in these protected grounds.

DAY 1

Turtle Sanctuary
Step foot into one of the smallest forest reserves in the world, which also houses the only Meromitic Lake in Malaysia. Home to over 150 bird species, the national park provides free entry for all. While at the Penang National Park, stop over at Keracut Beach (Pantai Keracut) to visit the turtle sanctuary. The various species of turtles that lay their eggs on the stretch of beach here are sheltered from predators, including humans. The hatchlings are kept here until they are old enough to survive on their own in the wild, whence they will be released into the sea.

Penang National Park & Turtle Sanctuary

Tropical Fruit Farm
Enjoy a platter of local fruits before touring the 25-acre orchard that cultivates rare and exotic fruits with organic fertilisers. The farm has over 250 different fruit species from the region, Central and South America, Central Africa, India, the Middle East, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands.

Entopia
Enter the insect playground, home to more than 15,000 butterflies. Showcased within its grounds are over 200 species of flora and more than 150 species of fauna. Butterflies are free to flutter, fly and even take a rest by landing on you.

DAY 2

Ferry Ride (to Mainland and Back)
Board this cross-strait transit that has been operating since 1894, ferrying both passengers and automobiles daily across the Penang Strait. Observe the numerous boats and ships docking at Weld Quay, and enjoy the panorama of Penang's northern seafarers on your journey back.

Penang Botanic Gardens
Begin your day with a stroll at the Penang Botanic Gardens. Spotting the cascading waterfall on its grounds is relatively easy. See if you can discover the hidden lily pond while you are there.

ESCAPE Theme Park
Gear up for some monkey business. Take your best shot on the Aerobot by swinging through the air. Glide in between the trees high above the ground on the Flying Lemur zipline. Fun water slides await, such as the Family Twister, Mega Drop, Super Looper, Speed Racer, Tubby Tunnel, and Tubby Rapids. This outdoor adventure park promises a heart-pumping and exhilarating experience.