ArrivalGuides



Penang

Photo: Kelvin Foo/Shutterstock.com



Alan Tan Photography/Shutterstock.com



umarazak/Shutterstock.com



JPL Designs/Shutterstock.com

Although it is Malaysia's smallest state, Penang Island (Pulau Pinang) is one of Asia's most vibrant and cosmopolitan destinations, combining the influences of half a dozen cultures. Within sight of the west coast of the Malaysian peninsula – and linked to it by road bridges – the island is the birthplace of tourism in Malaysia: with great beaches, a mellow climate, a colourful collection of attractions, and several of them claim to be the largest, tallest, longest or oldest of their kind.

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THE ISLAND



Naturalism14/Shutterstock.com

For almost 2,000 years, Penang – strategically located between the Melaka Straits and the Andaman Sea – has been a key gateway to southeast Asia, luring merchant adventurers from the Arab world, India, China and Europe. The most recent invasion has been by holidaymakers from East and West, drawn by golden sand beaches, an exotic culture, great hotels and (for most of the year) a superb climate.

Georgetown, the island's capital, is a creation of British imperialism, founded by a swashbuckling English colonialist, Captain Francis Light, who took possession of the island for the British East India Company in 1786 and launched it on its way to becoming one of the jewels in Britain's colonial crown. Georgetown became a dazzlingly cosmopolitan melting-pot, and Hindus, Muslims, Chinese and Europeans have all left their mark on one of Malaysia's most colourful cities. A large number of its people are Peranakans, people of Chinese (mainly Hokkien) descent whose ancestors emigrated under British rule. Others are the descendants of Indian Muslim sepoys, who served in the East India Company's army, and Tamils from southern India or Bumiputra Malaysians from the mainland.

DO & SEE



Nazrul Iznan/Shutterstock.com

The city's landmarks range from the colonial-era Fort Cornwallis and the 60-foot Clock Tower on the waterfront Esplanade to the mighty Komtar Tower, and Georgetown has a fabulous choice of places to eat, drink and shop.

Batu Feringhi, northwest of Georgetown, was Malaysia's first international resort area, and with fine sand, accommodation to suit all budgets, nightlife, watersports and good shopping, it remains one of the region's most popular and best-equipped beach destinations. Penang Bridge, the island's road link to the mainland, was completed in 1988 – stretching 13.5 km (8.5 miles) from Gelugor on Penang to Seberang Prai in Malaysia, it is the longest bridge in South East Asia, and it is currently claimed to be the third longest bridge in the world.

Batu Ferringhi



Batu Ferringhi is Penang's main resort area, where a long strip of hotels, restaurants, bars and shops has grown up along the island's best beach. This is where most visitors end up staying, as Batu Ferringhi has a choice of accommodation from cheap and cheerful

guesthouses to five-star luxury hotels. The resort area also has a wide choice of watersports, including water skiing, windsurfing, parascending and scuba diving.

Photo: Chris Howey/Shutterstock.com
Address: Batu Feringhi, Penang

Penang Hill



For a superb view over Penang and the Straits, take the funicular railway to the top of Bukit Bendera hill. The ride takes 30 minutes and the summit, 830 m (2,727 ft.) above sea level, is, with an average temperature of 3 degrees Celsius, cooler than the steamy coast.

Photo: UNA143/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Stesen, Bukit Bendera, Penang
Internet: www.penanghill.gov.my
Email: inquiries@penanghill.gov.my

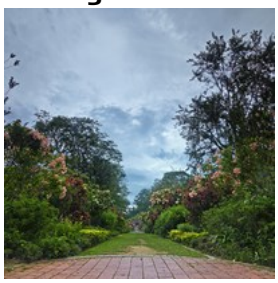
Snake Temple



Dozens of venomous pit vipers slither and coil among the urns, roof beams and potted trees within this bizarre Chinese temple, built in 1850, and sacred to the deity Chro Soo Kong. The snakes – regarded as benevolent spirits – are seen as guardians of the temple.

Photo: Byelikova Oksana/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Tokong Ular, Bayan Lepas, Penang

Penang Botanical Gardens



Hundreds of palms, tropical trees, shrubs, ferns, orchids and other flowering plants grace the 30 hectares of grounds, glasshouses, ponds and nurseries at the Botanical Gardens. A popular picnic spot for local families, as well as for tourists stopping by for having a break from sightseeing.

Photo: Hafizzuddin/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Kebun Bunga, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 5am-8pm
Phone: +604 226 440 1
Internet: http://botanicalgardens.penang.gov.my/
Email: botani@penang.gov.my

Entopia Butterfly Farm



Penang's famous butterfly farm at Entopia Natureland is the world's largest. With garden pavilions and breeding areas for more than 50 species of spectacularly colourful butterflies and insects, which all the same share this ecological space with a variety of other animal species such as invertebrates and small reptiles, up to 4,000 gorgeous living specimens can be seen at any time.

Photo: Sarah Alice Bailey/Shutterstock.com
Address: 830 Jalan Teluk Bahang, Pulau Pinang, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 9am-6pm
Phone: +604 888 811 1
Internet: www.butterfly-insect.com
Email: info@butterfly-insect.com

Kek Lok Si Temple



Claimed as the largest Buddhist temple complex in southeast Asia, Kek Lok Si – the Temple of Paradise – is marked by the Ten Thousand Buddha Pagoda and a statue of Kuan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy. A newer temple to the Goddess was built in 2001-2002.

Photo: Mike Fuchslocher/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ayer Hitam, Pulau Pinang, Penang

Monkey Beach and Penang National Park



Monkey Beach, known as Teluk Dyung and popular for its calm water, fine sand, picnic tables and troop of half-tame macaques, is an attractive destination for a 2-3 hour walk through the tropical woodland of the Penang National Park, Taman Negara Pulau Penang. Check-in at park office before setting off.

Photo: Robert Haandrikman/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Hassan Abas, Teluk Bahang, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-6pm
Phone: +604 881 353 0
More Info: tnpp@streamyx.com

Kuan Yin Temple



Kuan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy Temple, was built during the 19th century by Chinese settlers of Hokkien descent. It is the oldest Chinese temple in Georgetown, named in honour of a devout Buddhist sage.

Photo: Jordan Lye/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Kling, George Town, Penang

Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion



Cheong Fatt Tze, the Blue Mansion, was one of the wealthiest merchants of the 19th century, and Penang Straits Settlement imported artisans from China to build this opulent 38-room mansion. With its five courtyards, carved woodwork, Gothic louvered windows and cast iron, the mansion is a fascinating fusion of East and West culture. The building was restored at a cost of 7.6 million ringgit, and it is crammed with sculptures, antique furniture and tapestries, while now being a unique boutique hotel. However, it is also open for non-residents during guided tours, so book one ahead.

Photo: bigfatcat/Shutterstock.com
Address: 14 Lebu Leith, George Town, Penang
Phone: +604 262 000 6
Internet: www.cheongfatttzemansion.com
Email: reservations@cheongfatttzemansion.com

Khoo Kongsi Association



Khoo Kongsi was built just over a century ago, and it is the finest example of a Hokkien Chinese ‘clan house’ complex in Georgetown. Its grand hall is replete with decorative carvings and ornamented columns, and the red tiled roof is crowned with extravagant carvings of demons, dragons and other creatures from Chinese mythology. The hall is surrounded by a complex of shops, houses and other buildings, within a rectangle of defensive walls.

Photo: Nattee Chalermtiragool/Shutterstock.com
Address: 18 Cannon Square, George Town, Penang

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm
Phone: +604 261 460 9
Internet: www.khookongsi.com.my
Email: info@khookongsi.com.my

Sri Mariamman Temple



The dazzlingly colourful Sri Mariamman Temple is the cultural and religious hub of Georgetown's 'Little India' quarter, home to immigrants from the sub-continent for more than a century. Encrusted with garishly painted statues of deities, demons and mythical creatures, the Sri Mariamman is the oldest of the city's Hindu temples, and it is still in daily use. Within stands a valuable statue of the Hindu deity Lord Subramaniam, lavishly embellished with gold and precious stones.

Photo: Elizaveta Galitckaia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Kling, Georg Town, Penang
More Info: The temple can be found at the corner of Lebuh Chulia and Lebuh Queen.

Penang Museum And Art Gallery



A statue of Captain Francis Light, the English adventurer who founded the Penang Straits Settlement (later: Georgetown), here presides over a collection of maps, prints, photographs, paintings, traditional costumes and antiques.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Farquhar Street, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-5pm
Phone: +604 226 146 1
Internet: www.penangmuseum.gov.my
Email: psm_enquiries@penangmuseum.gov.my

Kapitan Keling Mosque



Muslim Indian sepoys (soldiers) of the British East India Company's Penang garrison built this mosque, Masjid Kapitan Keling, in 1801, and it has been extensively restored and expanded in the two centuries since. Above the yellow domes and turrets of the mosque compound, a tall minaret is towering.

Photo: Lukiyanova Natalia frenta/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, Georg Town, Penang
More Info: Dress modestly, and remove shoes before entering.

DINING



Kjetil Kolbjornsrud/Shutterstock.com

Penang's cuisine shows typical signs as the rest of Malaysian food: multicultural influences and a huge variety. Several specialities originate from multiple ethic touches but do expect plenty of herbs and spices.

Below you will find the best places to eat in Penang, Malaysia:

Café Jen



This restaurant at JEN Penang Georgetown by Shangri-La sets up its own signature by serving a blend of authentic local flavours and international influences. The multicultural heritage combined with a modern fusion kitchen rewards guests with a gourmet experience within a quite elegant surrounding that still is soothing and relaxing as well.

Photo: images.etc/Shutterstock.com
Address: Magazine Rd, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 6am–10pm
Phone: +604 262 2622
Internet: www.shangri-la.com/en/hotels/jen/penang/georgetown/eat

Marco Polo



Marco Polo at the Bayview Beach Resort Penang is a high-quality restaurant that serves both European standards – steak, grills, pasta, and pizza, as well as traditional Chinese dishes. Enjoy the elegant surrounding and a quite sophisticated atmosphere.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.com
Address: Batu Ferringhi Beach, Batu Ferringhi, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 6–10:30pm
Phone: +604 886 1111
Internet: https://bbr.bayviewhotels.com/restaurants-bars/
Email: bayviewbeach@bayviewhotels.com

The Esplanade



At the Esplanade in Georgetown, many food stalls right next to the sea are open until well after midnight – they offer fresh seafood and cold drinks as well as great Malay halal dishes such as Nasi Goreng and Satay.

Photo: scalino/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Padang Kota Lama, George Town, Penang

Gurney Drive



At Gurney Drive in Georgetown, the food stalls are open all day and until midnight, serving Malay, Indian, and Chinese dishes: while rice and noodles are basic, burgers and different drinks are served here as well.

Photo: India Picture/Shutterstock.com
Address: Persjaran Gurney, George Town, Penang

Feringghi Walk



Feringghi Walk, a scene of Batu Feringghi's nightly bazaar, is also lined with hawker stalls selling Malay, Tamil, northern Indian, Chinese meals, and snacks, which are just perfect for travellers on a budget.

Photo: Melimey/Shutterstock.com
Address: Feringghi Walk, Batu Feringghi, Penang

Via Pre



Via Pre, an Italian restaurant, is located in an old warehouse right opposite to the ferries and, thus, somehow hard to find. While serving pizza and pasta dishes as well mouth-watering desserts like tiramisu, the interior is cosy and relaxing, providing a wonderful ambiance and a great stay.

Photo: Elena Yakusheva/Shutterstock.com
Address: 20E Lebuh Penang, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Wed-Mon 12pm-11pm
Phone: +604 261 980 0
Internet: www.via-pre.com
Email: info@via-pre.com

Tree Monkey



Tree Monkey is nestled right in the lush tropical foliage, overlooking the amazing coastline, and the restaurant offers you unique jungle dining experience with dishes such as mouth-watering Thai food and Thai Tapas with lots of flavours. The spice garden is conveniently close to the restaurant which allows the chefs to have access to the finest herbs and aromatics.

Photo: Leelakajonkij/Shutterstock.com
Address: Lone Crag Villa, Jalan Teluk Bahang, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-10:30pm
Phone: +604 881 349 34
Internet: www.treemonkey.com.my

Sri Ananda Bahwan



If you are into great Indian food, head over to the vibrant restaurant Sri Ananda Bahwan in Georgetown, as here, you can enjoy tasteful food for a reasonable price. This restaurant has a few shops across Penang, and the menu offers a wide variety of Indian food, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian.

Photo: Joe Gough/Shutterstock.com
Address: 53 & 55, Penang St, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 8am–8pm
Phone: +60 4 331 0781

Macalister Mansion Dining Room



At this restaurant inside Hotel Macalister Mansion, you can enjoy a dining experience that is out of the ordinary. The high class restaurant offers modern French cuisine with an Asian touch in a luxurious setting and, thus, serve quality food such as smoked and confit duck breast with duck jus, spring vegetable and Parisian mash; or why not have Pan seared miso cod with braised shimeji. Bon appétit!

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com
Address: 228 Jalan Macalister, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7pm-11pm
Phone: +604 228 388 8
Internet: www.macalistermansion.com
Email: contactus@macalistermansion.com
More Info: At the nearby Living Room, you can enjoy similar but more casual dining experience daily from 8am-11pm.

No Eyed Deer



This popular family restaurant provides a great variety of food since 2000, and it is famous for its signature dish Laotian Laksa (rice noodle in a spicy and piquant soup with meat or seafood). However, the staff also serves other mouth-watering dishes such as tender ribeye steaks, fresh fish and chicken parmigiana.

Photo: KYTan/Shutterstock.com
Address: 98-1-26 Prima Tanjung, Tanjung Tokong, Penang
Phone: +604 899 048 8
Internet: www.noeyeddeer.com

Kebaya Dining Room



Kebaya at Hotel Seven Terraces is an Asian Fusion restaurant with an impeccable servicea, and a refined and elegant, yet simple atmosphere. The chefs are using French cooking techniques and innovative produce to create new twists on the menu, and the quality food is well presented with lots of amazing flavours.

Photo: Mike Dexter/Shutterstock.com
Address: 14A Stewart Lane, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 6pm-10pm
Phone: +604 264 233 3
Internet: www.kebaya.com.my
Email: info@7terraces.com

Lily's Vegetarian Kitchen



If you prefer vegetarian food, you should head over to Lily's Vegetarian Kitchen, as here, you will find an array of vegetarian dishes for also good prices, ranging from Nyonya over Oriental and Fusion to Western kitchen. Most of the ingredients are organically grown and brought in fresh from farms in the Cameron Highland.

Photo: Magdanatka/Shutterstock.com
Address: 98 Noble House, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8am-3pm and 4:30pm-8:30pm
Phone: +604 226 038 5
Internet: www.lilysvegekitchen.com

Healy Mac's Irish Bar & Restaurant



This Irish owned restaurant is located in the heart of the Strait's Quay Marina, offering amazing sea views and sunset experiences. At this authentic venue, you can eat traditional dishes such as pork knuckle, spare ribs and stew, while – every now and then – listening to Irish live music.

Photo: avs/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3A-G9 & 10, Straits Quay, Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang, Pulau Pinang
Opening hours: Daily 11am–8pm
Phone: +604 890 3477
Email: guru7healymacs@gmail.com

Tamarind Brasserie



At this open-air brasserie at Parkroyal Penang Resort, you can enjoy authentic delights from Asia as well as also Western food – in fact, it has over 40 different dishes in order to satisfy almost every taste. Check in on Saturdays, as they then offer fresh seafood with lobsters and oysters.

Photo: BlueOrange Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Batu Ferringghi, Penang

Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-11pm
Phone: +604 881 113 3

CAFES



Awirut Somsanguan/Shutterstock.com

Being that close to the beach with sunny weather nearly all year long, grabbing a coffee in Penang might refer to having only an ice-cold one. However, there are coffee shops dotted across the whole city that offer hot beverages and tasty desserts as well as smaller refreshments.

Sarkies



The coffee shop of the Eastern and Oriental Hotel serves tea, coffee, cakes and snacks nearly all day long, while also offering a great breakfast menu in the morning as well as lunch and dinner buffets during special operating hours. Here, you can expect high quality food and a great service.

Photo: Kite_rin/Shutterstock.com
Address: 10 Lebuh Farquhar, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-10:30pm
Phone: +604 222 200
Internet: www.eohotels.com
Email: luxury@eohotels.com
More Info: Lunch buffet 11pm-2:30pm and dinner buffet 7pm-10:30pm.

Crepe Cottage



Billed as ‘the first and only créperie in sunny Penang’, this café dishes up sweet and savoury pancakes, long and short coffees (with and without syrup shots) and other favourites that will sweeten your day.

Photo: zjuzjaka/Shutterstock.com
Address: 77-A Pesiaran Gurney, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Sun-Mon 6:30pm-11:30pm
Phone: +601 944 816 80

siTigun



siTigun landed in Penang after the owner searched all around the world for the right place to open up. His vision was to create an oasis where people could take a break and find some peace of mind, as "A cup of coffee is a cup of culture. A cup of respect. A cup of love."

Photo: Art_Photo/Shutterstock.com
Address: 28 Jalan Nagor, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8am-10pm
Phone: +604 228 710 8
Internet: www.sitigun.com

Old Town White Coffee



This cafe is all about taking time and savouring the precious moments that make up pure life. While they also serve classic coffee drinks, white coffee, their speciality, is made of coffee beans roasted in margarine and then served with condensed milk.

Photo: StudioByTheSea/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jln Perak, Taman Continental, Pulau Pinang
Opening hours: Daily 8am–9:30pm
Phone: +60 16 523 3128
Internet: https://oldtown.com.my
Email: wecare@oldtown.com.my

Hard Rock Cafe Penang



This famous establishment is a great place to visit, and it is located at the popular beach of Batu Feringghi, at the ground floor of the Hard Rock Hotel. The cafe offers food and drink, and it also hosts live music.

Photo: Kate Muki/Shutterstock.com
Address: Batu Feringhi Beach, Batu Ferringhi, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-2am
Phone: +604 881 171 1
Internet: www.hardrock.com/cafes/penang/

China House



China house is a traditional complex of three buildings that house 14 different spaces from shops over galleries to great cafes and restaurants where you can savour food, music and art all together, and all day long. Check out their cafe counter as they display more than 30 mouth-watering cakes.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 153 Lebuh Pantai, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-1am. Fri-Sat 9am-2am
Internet: www.chinahouse.com.my

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Nightlife in Penang is happening, and it is hot: weekends mean nightclubs, pubs, bars, and karaoke, and there are many places to go if you want to dance the night away. Georgetown, however, is the party hub with many party options awaiting you.

BoraBora @ Ferringhi



Is there any better way to spend the evening than hanging out at the beach while sipping colourful cocktails? There is, as BoraBora also offers barbecue cuisine to satisfy your hunger and Tiger beer to quench your thirst. Do not miss their Happy Hour at 4pm-7pm.

Photo: Lux Blue/Shutterstock.com
Address: 72d, Jalan Batu Ferringhi, Pulau Pinang
Opening hours: Tue 12pm–1am, Thu 12pm–1am, Fri–Sat 12pm–2am, Sun–Mon 12pm–12am
Phone: +604 885 1313
Internet: www.borabora.com.my
Email: manager@borabora.com.my

Healy Mac's Irish Bar & Restaurant



This Irish owned restaurant is located in the heart of the Strait's Quay Marina, offering amazing sea views and sunset experiences. At this authentic venue, you can eat traditional dishes such as pork knuckle, spare ribs and stew, while – every now and then – listening to Irish live music.

Photo: avs/Shutterstock.com
Address: 3A-G9 & 10, Straits Quay, Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang, Pulau Pinang
Opening hours: Daily 11am–8pm
Phone: +604 890 3477
Email: guru7healymacs@gmail.com

Soho Freehouse & Penthouse



Soho Freehouse is situated in the heart of Penang's nightlife scene, and it is known for its slogan: "Happy Hour, Every Hour, Every day NOW!". The atmosphere and interior resemble an English pub, and the place serves good English lager, while – late in the evening – the DJ gets the crowd going with party tunes.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com
Address: 50, Jln Penang, George Town
Opening hours: Daily 12pm–3am
Phone: +604 263 3331
Internet: http://sohopenang.com
Email: sohofh@gmail.com

Three Sixty Revolving Restaurant and Rooftop Bar



This open-air rooftop bar (and restaurant) boasts a panoramic view of Georgetown that you will – anyhow comparable – find nowhere else. Located on the top floor of Bayview Hotels, you can chill and listen to hip music in a cosy and breezy atmosphere while savouring a drink.

Photo: Nick Starichenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: 25-A, Lebuh Farquhar, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 4–8pm
Phone: +604 261 3540
Internet: www.360rooftop.com.my/#/

Feringgi Bar



With its stylish and intimate setting, the Feringgi Bar inside Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort and Spa makes an ideal place to relax before or after dinner, with a tasty cocktail or a glass of champagne. The bar also features live entertainment.

Photo: g-stockstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 7-11 Batu Feringgi, 1, Lorong Sungai Emas, Kampung Tanjung Huma, George Town, Pulau Pinang
Opening hours: Daily 5:30pm–1am
Phone: +604 888 8888
Internet: www.shangri-la.com/penang/rasasayangresort/dining/bars-lounges/feringgi-bar/
Email: penangrasasayang@shangri-la.com

Farquhar's Bar



Farquhar's Bar is considered by manyto be the best bar in Georgetown. Located inside Eastern & Oriental Hotel, this colonial-style hotel bar is serving beer, cocktails, a selection of non-alcoholic drinks and delicious pub meals. Do not miss their signature drink, the Eastern & Oriental Sling.

Photo: Maksim Fesenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: 10 Lebuh Farquhar, Georg Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 11am-12am
Phone: +604 222 200 0
Internet: www.eohotels.com/farquhars-bar.php

SHOPPING



View Apart/Shutterstock.com

Penang has everything from antique stores selling Chinese and colonial relics to air-conditioned malls and night markets where you can buy designer brands, cheap clothes and colourful beach wear. Let these markets surprise you.

Komtar



Georgetown's shopping landmark is the 65-storey Komtar shopping centre in the heart of the city. Here you will find boutiques selling reasonably-priced items and also some shops specialising in digital products like cameras, hand phones and computers.

Photo: NaiyanaB/Shutterstock.com
Address: South George Town, Penang

Prangin Mall



Prangin Mall is Georgetown's largest shopping mall and also considered as one of the most popular ones in Penang. The shopping complex with six levels features brand-name stores, dining and entertainment outlets as well as a supermarket and a cinema.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong, Georg Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +604 262 223 3

Penang Road



Penang Road is lined with shops selling duty-free cameras, watches and electronic goods as well as batik textiles, beachwear, jewellery and antiques. Go here to find both good quality and bargains.

Photo: TZIDO SUN/Shutterstock.com
Address: Penang Road, Georg Town, Penang

Island Plaza



Island Plaza at Tanjung Tokon, the midway between Georgetown and Batu Feringgi, is an air-conditioned shopping complex with a range of shops selling brands such as Versace, Nike, Guess and Giordano. You will also find cafes and restaurants here.

Photo: nd3000/Shutterstock.com
Address: 118 Jalan Tanjong Tokong, Pulau Pinang, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +604 890 822 8

Little Penang Street Market



Little Penang Street Market, at the corner of Farquhar Street and Light Street, is held on the last Sunday of every month, and it showcases crafts, clothes, accessories and jewellery created by Penang's finest new designers. You can also find antiques and collectables here.

Photo: BLUR LIFE 1975/Shutterstock.com
Address: Upper Penang Road, George Town, Penang
Internet: www.littlepenang.com.my
Email: littlepenang@gmail.com

Batu Ferringhi Night Market



In Batu Feringgi, local salesmen set out their stalls along Feringghi Walk, while craft workers demonstrate skills such as batik-painting, and there are also plenty of spivs selling knock-off big-brand watches, bootleg CDs and software. Colourful paintings, masks and wood carvings, t-shirts and souvenirs are also easy to find.

Photo: Topphy/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Batu Feringhi, Batu Ferringhi, Penang
More Info: Along Jalan Batu Feringghi, from Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa to Shangri-La's Golden Sands Resort

Queensbay Mall



Queensbay Mall is one of the largest shopping centre in Penang, and it is home to mid-level restaurants, branded clothing stores, electronics shops and even a huge Golden Screen Cinemas complex. Here you can stroll around in stores like D.O.R, Guess Kids, Elle, Forever 21, Nike, Swatch and Scholl.

Photo: Kagai19927/Shutterstock.com
Address: Queensbay Mall, Queens Bay, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-10:30pm
Phone: +604 646 888 8
Internet: www.queensbaymallmalaysia.com

Gurney Plaza



Gurney Plaza is strategically situated in the famous Gurney Drive promanade in Penang. This shopping and entertainment destination is serving both family and tourists alike, and it houses various well-known brands for shopping and dining: Rolex, A|X Armani Exchange, Mark & Spencer, TopMan, TopShop, H.E. by Mango, Calvin Klein Jeans are some of the brands you will find here.

Photo: Ivanko80/Shutterstock.com
Address: Plaza Gurney, Persiaran Gurney, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +604 222 822 2

Internet: www.gurneyplaza.com.my

Chinatown



Chinatown is a unique shopping zone with goods such as jade, traditional costumes, crystals, herbs, traditional Chinese medicines and antiques. Around the area, you will also find early-morning markets, stalls selling all kinds of culinary delights, traditional temples and antique shops.

Photo: Daxiao Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: Lebuh Campbell, Georg Town, Penang
More Info: Along Lebuh Campbell, Lebuh Chulia, Lebuh King, Lebuh Stewart and Lebuh Muntri.

Little India



Little India is centred around Lebuh Pasar, and it is a colourful district filled with shops selling Indian delicacies, spices, saree, gold jewellery and souvenirs, and actors presenting Indian entertainment. This is the perfect place for those seeking a different kind of shopping experience.

Photo: Daniele RUSSO/Shutterstock.com
Address: Lebuh Pasar, Georg Town, Penang
More Info: Along Lebuh Queen, Lebuh King, Lebuh Penang, Lebuh Chulia, Lebuh Pasar and Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling.

1st Avenue Mall



1st Avenue is a seven-storey shopping mall set beside Prangin Mall and Komtar on Jalan Magazine. The Mall opened its doors in 2010, and it is a bright and clean complex with a range of high-end fashion stores such as Coach and Victoria's Secret, but also with affordable mid-range labels such as H&M and Sketchers.

Photo: samritphoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Magazine, George Town, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +604 261 112 1
Internet: www.1st-avenue-mall.com.my
Email: info@1a.asiamalls.com.my

Lorong Kulit Flea Market



Lorong Kulit Flea Market is a must-visit when in Penang, and the only one that operates daily. The market is full with life and colour, and it is a great place to grab a bargain on anything and everything, as the stalls are selling second hand items such as antiques, watches, shoes, clothes, textiles and household goods.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Dato Keramat, Pulau Pinang, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 6am-1pm

Penang Batik Factory



Penang Batik Factory, established in 1973 and operating since, shows off the manufacturing of traditional and handmade batik. Here, you can not only buy beautiful sarongs, scarves and accessories but also join a guided tour for getting to know the production process of those colourful goods itself.

Photo: Arch MerciGod/Shutterstock.com
Address: 669 Teluk Bahang, Kampung Nelayan, Penang
Opening hours: Daily 9am-5:30pm
Phone: +604 885 128 4
Internet: www.penangbatik.com.my
Email: guah@penangbatik.com.my

TOURIST INFORMATION



Izuddin Helmi/Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



Travellers need a passport or an internationally recognised travel document in order to enter Malaysia. The documents must be valid for more than six months from the date of departure. Furthermore, certain nationals require a visa, while others are granted one upon arrival (VOA - Visa on arrival). Visit the following website to check whether you require a visa or not: www.evisamalaysia.com/visa-requirements.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit



Penang is a great place to visit nearly all year long. However, the season between November and January might be best, as the weather is very pleasant and the atmosphere – due to feasts such as Christmas and New Year, when restaurants and bars are full of people – most lively. The time from February to April, in contrast, is less crowded, while the season from May to October is the wettest and, thus, also the most deserted one, when it comes to tourism.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Airport



Penang International Airport is located 20 km (13 miles) from George Town city centre. The most cost effective way of travelling from the airport to George Town and surrounding areas is to take one of the bus services (bus line 102, 306,U401,401, 401A and 401E) that leave every 30 minutes. The bus operator is called "The Rapid Penang", and they have their own ticket counter on the ground floor of the arrival hall.

Taxis operate on a fixed price coupon system: purchase coupon at taxi desk inside arrival hall, and the price depends which zone you are going to. However, be aware that taxi drivers often try to cheat foreigners and refuse to use the meter, so make sure that the meters is always turned on if not a fixed price is already set.

Photo: Juan Garces
Address: Penang International Airport
Internet: www.penangairport.com

Public transport



Taking the bus is probably the easiest and cheapest way to get around in Penang and surrounding areas. The main bus terminals are located in George Town's Weld Quay and KOMTAR buildings. Bus services around the island include Rapid Penang Bus, and it has an

extensive route covering both island and mainland. If you are travelling frequently, you can save money by buying the travel card 'rapid Preferred', as it offers unlimited travel around Penang.

For any inquiries, head over to information counters (Rapid Kiosk):
Lorong Kulit, Rapid Penang Headquarters
Weld Quay & Komtar
Penang Sentral & Bukit Jambul

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair
Phone: +604 238 121 2
Internet: www.rapidpg.com.my
Email: rapidcare@prasarana.com.my

Trishaws



A pedal trishaw is a great way of getting around in George Town or Batu Feringghi – for those who are not in a hurry, as they move not faster than walking speed, but allow passengers to stop anywhere along the way to shop or take photos or videos. There is no set fare, so you must agree a price before setting off – it is easier to bargain for a price by the hour than for a specific journey from point to point.

Photo: Agor2012/Shutterstock.com

Taxi



Taxis are numerous and´they can be flagged down on the street, picked up at ranks or booked by phone or from the hotel reception. Taxi drivers are usually reluctant to turn on the meter (or to admit to speaking English): insist on the meter, or bargain over the fare before boarding.

Standard (red) taxis are more numerous and they are not air conditioned. Air conditioned taxis are much more comfortable, but also more expensive. Shared taxis are also used for longer journeys (including trips to the mainland).

Photo: Taxi

Pharmacy



Pharmacies can be found in George Town and practically every suburb, township and neighbourhood in Penang; while some of them operate independently, there also are a few chaines: Guardian Pharmacy, Georgetown Pharmacy and Eu Yan Sang (for Chinese medicine), and a subsidiary of the first one is found quite central and close to the shopping area of 1st Avenue. Most of the pharmacies, at least the ones of a chain, are usually open from 10am-10pm, and also on Sundays.

Photo: Gemma Garner
Address: 1st Avenue
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +604 261 002 5

Post



The main post office for Penang is the General Post Office (GPO), located within Bangunan Tuanku Syed Putra along Downing Street in George Town.

The post boxes in Malaysia are painted red and some of them date back to the British era.

Occasionally, there is a second post box with yellow colour, and these are for express mails.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Lebuh Downing, George Town, Penang

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm. Sat 8:30am-1:30pm

Phone: +604 261 922 2

Telephone



Country code: +60 Island code: 4

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



240 V. 50 Hz. G

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
Penang State 1.7 million

Currency
1 Malaysian Ringgit = 100 cents

Opening hours
Banks and offices are open Monday-Friday 9:15am–4:30pm, and closed on Saturday and Sunday. Post offices are open Monday-Saturday 8:30am-5pm, and closed on the first Saturday of each month and Sundays. Large shopping malls and department stores are daily open from 10am till 9 or 10pm.

Newspapers
The Star

Emergency numbers
Police and ambulance: 999
Fire brigade: 994
Mobile (all emergencies): 112

Tourist information
Georgetown,
10, Jalan Tun Syed Sheh, Barakbah
10200 Georgetown
Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
+604 262 006 6 / 261 906 7

Penang International Airport
Pulau Pinang
Malaysia
+604 643 050 1