

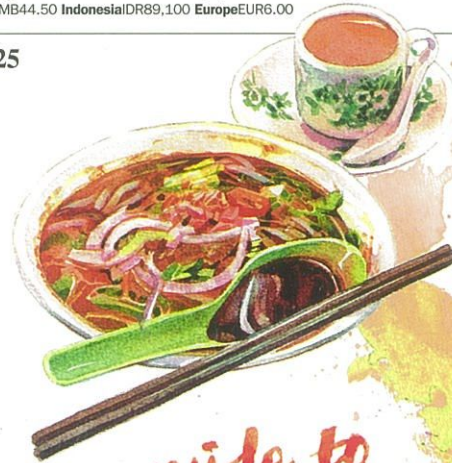
# Time Out

## Penang

KNOW MORE. DO MORE.

United Kingdom GBP5.00 Abu Dhabi AED26.00 Australia AUD8.50 Bahrain BHD2.70  
Hong Kong HKD\$55.50 USA USD7.15 Singapore SGD9.50 India INR455.00  
Beijing RMB44.50 Indonesia IDR89,100 Europe EUR6.00

RM25



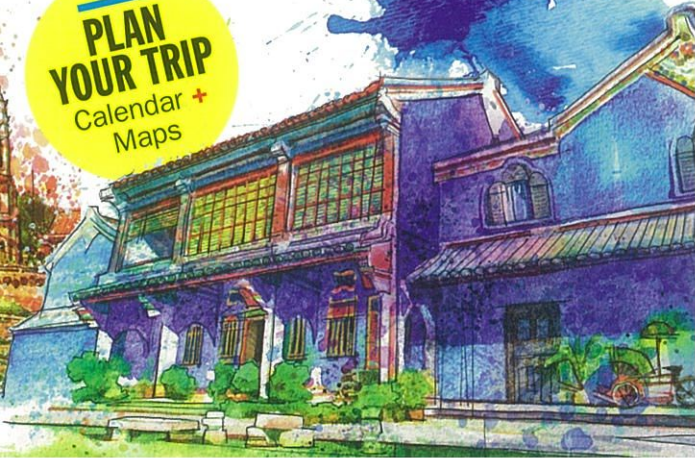
Insider's guide to

# Penang

2015/16

- Eat
- Explore
- Indulge
- Party
- See
- Shop
- Stay

PLAN  
YOUR TRIP  
Calendar +  
Maps



KDN: PP17277/03/2013(031 619)  
ISSN: 2231-7740



detect a hint of coffee in the sauce that comes with your roast beef. Try to score a seat upstairs where the patio overlooks the sea and Penang Bridge. *Pork-free. Credit cards accepted. Tue-Sun, 12noon-3pm & 6-10pm. \$\$*

#### Sip & Chew

71 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, George Town (+6017 531 3480/[www.facebook.com/sipnchewcafe](http://www.facebook.com/sipnchewcafe)). This small but charming café lies a few doors away from Masjid Kapitan Keling. Sip & Chew's uncomplicated menu offers salads, soup, sandwiches, a choice of two pastas, and a few other main courses. For dessert, order the Potted-Plant Ice Cream (an ice cream parfait of sorts that resembles a potted plant) that's been taking Malaysia by storm. *Pork-free. Tue-Sun, 12noon-12midnight. \$\$*

#### SteakFrites@23

23 Love Lane, George Town (+604 262 1323/[www.23lovelane.com](http://www.23lovelane.com)). SteakFrites's straightforward dining experience revolves around just one dish: the European staple of steak and fries. Only two decisions are required of you: 150g or 200g of Australian grass-fed tenderloin? And how well do you want your meat done? *Pork-free. Child-friendly. Daily, (Breakfast) 7-10.30am; (Afternoon Tea) 4.30-6pm; (Dinner) 6-10.30pm. \$\$\$*

#### Suffolk House Restaurant

250 Jalan Air Itam, George Town (+604 228 1109/[www.facebook.com/suffolkhouse](http://www.facebook.com/suffolkhouse)). This period building was once home to Penang Island's founder, Captain Francis Light. Order the afternoon tea set; it's a lavish spread of sandwiches, scones, cake and pie. Cap off your visit with a stroll across the neatly manicured courtyard. *Pork-free. Child-friendly. Disabled-friendly. Credit cards accepted. Free parking. Daily, 10am-11pm. \$\$\$\$*

#### \* That Little Wine Bar

54 Jalan Chow Thye, George Town (+604 226 8182/[www.thatlittlewinebar.com](http://www.thatlittlewinebar.com)). The 'little' in That Little Wine Bar seems a bit misleading, what with the bar's extensive wine list and menu; pore over more than 50 labels of wine and order from an impressive range of tapas, salads, soups, main courses and desserts. Drop by a wine tasting, if not just to get a loaf of baguette which, quoted verbatim from the wine bar's website, is 'the best baguette in Penang'. *Child-friendly. Disabled-friendly. Free parking. Mon-Sat, 5pm-12midnight. \$\$\$*

#### Three Sixty Revolving Restaurant and Sky Bar

Bayview Hotel George Town, Top

## TOP 3 NEW CAFÉS

The recent boom of new cafés may have left you feeling bewildered. Among the sea of new spots to recaffeinate, here are the best ones:

#### NEW Bricklin Bar

These are the guys who brought Feeka to KL and we're glad that they've maintained their deliciousness and interior charm. The very fact that they're situated just beside the Hin Bus Depot makes this all the more unique, besides their excellent coffee and their delectable desserts to pair with it. *Hin Bus Depot, 31A Jalan Gurdwara, George Town (+604 226 6813/[www.facebook.com/BricklinCafeBar](http://www.facebook.com/BricklinCafeBar)).*

#### NEW Macallum Connoisseurs

A little far off from the main town but this is one that we'll take seriously. Their new menu is a splendid array of Western fare that tips the line between classy and casual. This is definitely one for Instagrammers to go wild, what with the natural lighting and picture-perfect coffee art. *1 Gat Lebu Macallum, George Town (+604 261 3597/[www.facebook.com/Macallum](http://www.facebook.com/Macallum)).*

#### NEW PLATES

East meets West in this new culinary venture along the serene Muntri Street and we like that the large space is perfect for group dining and parties. Be it brunches, lunches or simple munches, this little nook is one that we'd keep an eye on. *44 Lebu Muntri, George Town (+604 261 1693/[www.facebook.com/MYplatescafe](http://www.facebook.com/MYplatescafe)).*

*Level, 25-A Lebu Farquhar, George Town (+604 261 3540/[www.facebook.com/ThreeSixtyRooftopbar](http://www.facebook.com/ThreeSixtyRooftopbar)).* This revolving restaurant offers a gorgeous 360-degree panoramic view of Penang. A lovely time to be here is during sunset. *Child-friendly. Credit cards accepted. Mon-Thu & Sun, 4pm-1am; Fri-Sat, 4pm-3am. \$\$\$*

#### \* The Twelve Cups

12, The Whiteaways Arcade, Lebu Pantai, George Town (+604 262 6812/[www.facebook.com/TheTwelveCups](http://www.facebook.com/TheTwelveCups)). The Twelve Cups is worth a pitstop after a sweaty stroll around George Town's heritage spots. We like the black, yellow and white aesthetics and European feel. Besides coffee, the café specialises in mille crêpe cakes and flaky croissants served warm with butter and jam. The young team behind the café is always equipped with cheerful smiles. *Credit cards accepted. Daily, 10am-12midnight. \$\$*

#### NEW Wheeler's Coffee

67 Love Lane, George Town (+604 261 3570/[www.facebook.com/wheelers67](http://www.facebook.com/wheelers67)). This bike-themed café serves myriad varieties of mille crêpe cakes and flavoured coffee. We like the hand-illustrated paper coffee cups that line one wall and the dart machine in the back. *Pork-free. Mon & Wed-Fri, 9am-10pm; Sat-Sun, 9am-12midnight. \$*

#### The Wine Shop

11a, 15 Lintang Burma, George Town (+604 226 1824/[www.thewineshopp.com.my](http://www.thewineshopp.com.my)). The Wine Shop houses 800 wine labels from various international vineyards. Besides its reputation as a dependable wine distributor, the company also runs a wine bar, a restaurant and a delicatessen serving gourmet meats, sausages and cheeses. What we like best: You can buy a bottle from the wine shop and enjoy it at the restaurant minus a corkage fee. *Mon-Thu, 9am-12midnight; Fri-Sat, 9am-1am. \$\$\$*

#### Gurney Drive

**Ben's**  
163C-1-03, 163C-1-04 & 163C-2-02, Gurney Paragon, Persiaran Gurney (+604 228 8909/[www.thebiggroup.co/bens](http://www.thebiggroup.co/bens)). After years of serving KLites, Ben's has finally established its presence in Penang. The restaurant's signature yellow walls coupled with a lavish cake counter make it a cheery hang-out spot. The extensive menu offers both Western delights and dishes with an Asian flair. *Child-friendly. Credit cards accepted. Mon-Thu & Sun, 11am-11pm; Fri-Sat, 11am-12midnight. \$\$\$*

#### Brown Pocket

6.11, Gurney Paragon Mall, Persiaran Gurney (+604 218 9668/[www.brownpocket.com](http://www.brownpocket.com)). Brown Pocket's cool Australian vibe was imbued by its owners who make frequent trips to Melbourne. Those

Eat

Explore

Indulge

Party

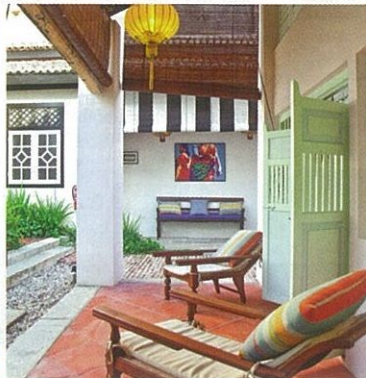
See

Shop

Stay



— 23 —  
**LOVELANE**  
PENANG  
A Boutique Heritage Hotel



AN OASIS IN THE  
HEART OF GEORGE  
TOWN, PENANG  
A UNESCO WORLD  
HERITAGE SITE.

*Winner of the prestigious  
Gold PAM (Malaysian Institute  
of Architects) Awards 2013,  
Conservation.*

*Best of Malaysia Awards  
2013 & 2014  
Best Boutique Stay;  
Excellence Award*

[www.23lovelane.com](http://www.23lovelane.com)

23 Love Lane, George Town, 10200 Penang, Malaysia. T: +604-262 1323 F: +604-263 1323 E: enquiry@23lovelane.com

*penang/rasasayangresort).*

Rasa Sayang is one of the better high-end hotels in Batu Ferringhi. Rooms here are accentuated with contemporary touches with a view of the Straits of Malacca and the island's inner greenery, coupled with CHI, the Spa, Shangri-La's signature state-of-the-art relaxation centre. The location strikes a good balance between the lively night market and the calm private beach. If you need more time to explore the surroundings, take the kids to Adventure Zone (try the 24-foot Drop Slide). If you're looking for a more memorable stay, fork out for a suite. A butler will fix you a bath on your private balcony, draw your remote-controlled blinds, and then leave you alone with your thoughts,

which will likely be about how you never want to leave.

#### **Bayan Lepas Hotel Equatorial Penang**

*1Jalan Bukit Jambul, Bayan Lepas  
(+604 632 7000/penang.equatorial.com).*

For business travelers, the Equatorial is for you. The classic hotel has been perched on its little hill (with spectacular views of the Penang Bridge) for a long time now and with the recent upgrading works, it retains its title at the best accommodation in its area. Close to the airport, this 662-guestroom hotel attracts convention-groups and business travelers. There are abundant facilities such as an 18-hole golf

course, a swimming pool, an outdoor Jacuzzi, a pretty good gym as well as squash and tennis courts. Its location is a bit out of the way as it takes a 30-minute car ride to George Town, but if you want to get out, shuttle services to attractions are provided.

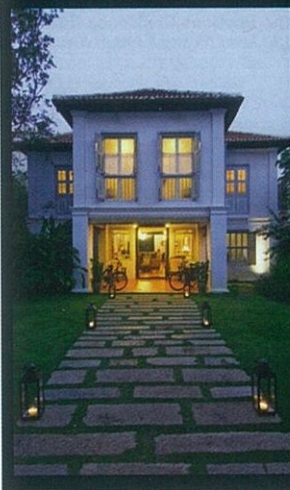
#### **Fig Tree Hill Resort**

*Off Jalan Kenari, Taman Desaria,  
Sungai Ara, Bayan Lepas (+6019  
362 0270/www.figtreehill-resort.com).*

For an off the grid getaway in Penang, head to Fig Tree Hill Resort in Sungai Ara. A half hour's drive from George Town through a narrow jungle road leads you to this little known retreat. A Balinese-style little resort, far away from the bustle of the city and with minimal mobile network connection,

## 23LOVELANE HOTEL

**A**s you might guess from the name, you'll be staying on Love Lane, one of the most historic and charming addresses right in the heart of Unesco World Heritage Site George Town. The award-winning 23LoveLane is a charming spot set in a walled garden with an entrance much like the setting for an old Shanghai film. Amidst tranquil landscaped gardens, the hotel consists of four buildings – the Anglo-Indian Bungalow (the first floor



houses a library!), Straits Eclectic Building, 1920s Jack Roof Annex and Indian Shop House – all of which were carefully restored following strict guidelines.

After you check in, place your phone in its docking station, and then unpack your luggage into the vintage wooden cabinet. A tasteful mix of the old and new (and yes, wifi is available), 23LoveLane is a gorgeous hotel that is definitely worth the slightly upscale price. Centrally located, there's a huge variety of good food and cafés in the area. However, one should know that

visitors near or far come to SteakFrites@23 for their medium-rare steaks.

In 2012 and 2013, the Muntri Suite and Stewart Suite were opened as part of their expansion plans. These two pre-war shop houses are just a couple minutes' walk from the main building, and these units (featuring living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms) are perfect for families or couples. Oh, did we mention that they use L'Occitane toiletries?

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

Eat

Explore

Indulge

Party

See

Shop

Stay

Eat

Explore

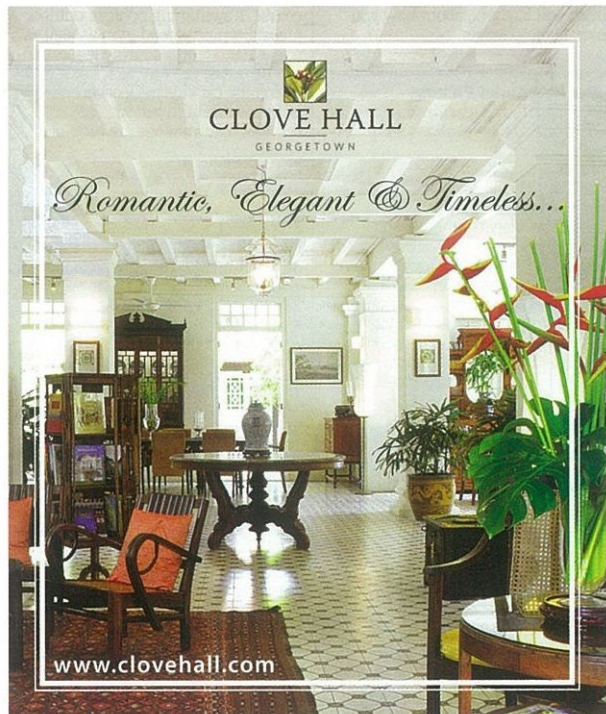
Indulge

Party

See

Shop

Stay



accommodation of this sort is rare in Penang. Choose from a range of unique villas with names such as Lily (with a view of the swimming pool), Lemongrass, Jasmine and Cempaka. Basic breakfast is served in room but one should come prepared as it is quite a distance to drive out for other meals. Barbecue facilities are provided.

**George Town**  
**\* 1881 Chong Tian Cultural (Heritage) Hotel**

38, 40, 42, Jalan Pintal Tali, George Town (+604 263 1881/ www.1881chongtian.com).

This hotel has enjoyed, and is still enjoying, success since the 1800s when it catered to prominent merchants who came to Penang to trade and has since achieved cultural heritage status. With its spacious and comfortable rooms, you are sure to enjoy your time in this 130-odd-year-old building. Guests are transported back in time to relive the wealth and class of Chinese high society of old with the luxurious decorations made up of traditional Chinese furniture from the owners' own collection. In lieu with its heritage preservation efforts, there is also an onsite museum that stores antiques from various dynasties of China.

**\* 23 Love Lane**  
 23 Lorong Love, George Town (+604

262 1323/www.23lovelane.com).

Formerly a private residence owned by a European and later by a local family, this boutique hotel can best be 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

**Tour**  
 The Blue Mansion on one of the three daily tours.

and antiques. We like the brightly decorated library on the upper floor of the Anglo Indian Bungalow, which is filled with books and magazines to read. We are also fond of the 1920s Jack Roof Annex which sleeps a family of four quite nicely.

**29 Ceylon Lane**

29 Lorong Ceylon, George Town (www.29ceylonlane.com).

This quaint boutique homestay feels like a home away from home. Decent in size, the refurbished two-storey home is decorated with a slew of colonial-era teak cabinets, art deco benches, Persian carpets and an eclectic collection of Buddha statues, all testaments to their immaculate attention to detail. A 24-hour surveillance private parking lot is also available for guests. The home is now bookable through Airbnb.

**\* The Blue Mansion**

14 Lebuhr Leith, George Town (+604 262 0006/www.thebluemansion.com.my).

Once called the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, The Blue Mansion is now managed by Samadhi Retreats. The nineteenth-century heritage building has been stunningly refurbished: The mansion's 18 rooms are grouped into six categories – Han, Liang, Zhou, Jin, Tang and '50s Room – though each is a unique blend of modern five star amenities and antique furniture.

Rooms are located around two courtyards and there is also an on-site courtyard restaurant. There are three tours daily around the compound so that you can learn the history of this beautiful building and the ambitious man behind it, Cheong Fatt Tze.

**The Boutique Residence Hotel**  
 133 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

