

PENANG

A visitor's guide to heritage, food, nature and island life

Welcome to Penang, Malaysia — a compact destination where UNESCO-listed heritage streets, celebrated hawker food, colourful temples, green hills and beaches are easy to combine. Allow **3–4 days** for a first visit, or 5 days if you want a slower pace.

HERITAGE	FOOD	NATURE & SEA
Explore George Town's historic shophouses, clan houses, murals and multicultural places of worship.	Try char koay teow, Penang assam laksa, nasi kandar, Hokkien mee and cendol.	Ride the funicular up Penang Hill, relax at Batu Ferringhi or visit the island's green west coast.

TOP PLACES TO VISIT

- 1. George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site** — Walk the heritage core for colonial-era buildings, colourful shophouses, temples, clan houses and street art. Armenian Street and the surrounding lanes are good starting points.
- 2. Clan Jetties** — Traditional waterfront settlements built on stilts. Visit respectfully: these are living neighbourhoods, not just photo spots.
- 3. Pinang Peranakan Mansion** — A richly decorated heritage house showcasing the material culture and history of the Peranakan (Baba-Nyonya) community.
- 4. Kek Lok Si Temple & Air Itam** — A major Buddhist temple complex. Combine the visit with local assam laksa around Air Itam.
- 5. Penang Hill** — Take the funicular railway for cooler air and panoramic views. Queues can build up on weekends and holidays; check ticketing and operating information ahead.
- 6. Batu Ferringhi & the north coast** — A beach area for sunset, seaside dining and a more relaxed resort atmosphere. Consider Teluk Bahang for nature and outdoor activities.

WHERE TO STAY

George Town Best for heritage, cafes, food and walking.	Gurney / Tanjung Tokong Good for shopping, seafront dining and modern hotels.	Batu Ferringhi Best for beach resorts and a holiday atmosphere.
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PLAN YOUR VISIT

A simple 3-day itinerary

DAY 1 — George Town heritage	Morning: walk the UNESCO heritage core and see street art. Afternoon: visit Pinang Peranakan Mansion or another heritage house, then explore the Clan Jetties. Evening: sample hawker food and enjoy the old town after sunset.
DAY 2 — Temple & hill views	Morning: visit Kek Lok Si Temple and try Air Itam assam laksa. Afternoon: ride the Penang Hill funicular and enjoy the viewpoints and forest setting. Evening: dinner in George Town or around Gurney.
DAY 3 — Coast & relaxation	Spend the day at Batu Ferringhi and the north coast, or choose a nature outing around Teluk Bahang. Return to town for shopping, cafes or a final food tour.

WHAT TO EAT

Char koay teow	Wok-fried flat rice noodles, often with prawns, egg and bean sprouts.	Penang assam laksa	Tangy, tamarind-based fish noodle soup.
Nasi kandar	Rice with a choice of curries and side dishes.	Hokkien mee	A prawn-rich noodle soup; recipes vary by stall.
Cendol	Shaved ice dessert with coconut milk, green jelly and palm sugar.	Peranakan food	A distinctive blend of Chinese and Malay influences.

GETTING AROUND

Airport	Penang International Airport (PEN) serves the island. Ride-hailing or a pre-arranged transfer is convenient for reaching your hotel.
Grab / taxi	Useful for moving between George Town, Penang Hill, temples and the beach areas. Check the fare and destination in the app before travelling.
Bus	Rapid Penang buses connect many island and mainland areas. They are economical, but journeys may take longer than a car.
On foot	The heritage core is best explored on foot. Wear comfortable shoes, carry water and take breaks during the midday heat.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

- **Weather:** Tropical, hot and humid year-round, with rain possible at any time. Bring light clothing, sunscreen, a hat and a small umbrella.
- **Money:** Currency is Malaysian Ringgit (RM / MYR). Carry some cash for small stalls and markets; card and e-wallet acceptance varies.
- **Language:** Malay is the national language. English is widely used in tourism; Chinese languages and Tamil are also spoken.
- **Respect:** Dress modestly when visiting religious sites and follow posted rules. Ask before photographing people, worshippers or private homes.
- **Safety:** Keep valuables secure in crowded places, use licensed or app-based transport, and stay hydrated.
- **Before you go:** Check current attraction opening hours, ticket prices, public transport routes and entry requirements for your passport.

USEFUL LINKS

- [MyPenang — official Penang tourism information](#)
- [Getting around Penang](#)
- [First-time visitor guide \(2026\)](#)

This guide is a general overview. Details, fares, opening hours and availability can change; confirm directly with official operators before departure.