Marking George Town

Take an amazing tour around George Town to discover the unique wrought-iron caricatures with anecdotal descriptions of the streets that they adorn.
Street Art

It all started off with a street art project called Mirrors George Town by George Town Festival 2012. Since then, street art has been popping up all over the inner city and has stirred up quite a media frenzy. Here are a few you will probably come across when you explore George Town.
Marking George Town

1. Jimmy Choo
2. Win Win Situation
3. Mr Five Foot Way
4. One Leg Kicks All
5. Narrowest Five Foot Way
6. Bullock Cart Wheel
7. Cheating Husband
8. Tua Tok Mee
9. Roti Benggali
10. Wrong Tree
11. Too Hot
12. Ting Ting Thong
13. Labourer to Trader
14. Kopi 'O'
15. Untrained Perakweet
16. Three Generations
17. Rope Style
18. Born Novelist
19. Procession
20. Too Narrow
21. Limousine
22. Property
23. Escape
24. Cow & Fish
25. No Plastic Bag
26. Waterway
27. Too Salty
28. Rotan
29. Main Street
30. Beca
31. Quiet Please
32. Mahjong
33. No More Red Tape
34. Temple Day
35. Gold Teeth
36. Gending Rumpit
37. Retail Paradise
38. Pilgrims
39. High Counter
40. Kandar
41. Ah Quee?
42. Duck
43. Shorn Hair
44. Double Role
45. 'Yeah' Only
46. Cannon Hole
47. Same Taste, Same Look
48. Then & Now
49. Ironsmith
50. Chinggay
1. Jimmy Choo
   This is the place where the famous shoe designer, Jimmy Choo, started his apprenticeship.
   *Location: Lebuh Leith / Lebuh Muntri

2. Win Win Situation
   Muntri Street was named after The Orang Kaya Menteri of Larut, Perak, Ngah Ibrahim.
   *Location: Lebuh Muntri

3. Mr Five Foot Way
   Five foot ways were meant to protect pedestrians from the hot sun and rain. With the influx of immigrants, work increasingly became hard to find. Many of the old and unemployed thus began using these corridors to set up small businesses instead. The Hokkiens began calling these ‘goh ka ki’ or ‘five foot way’ trades.
   *Location: Jalan Transfer

4. One Leg Kicks All
   The ‘black and white’ Amahs were Cantonese domestic servants from Guangdong who did all kinds of household chores and would refer to themselves with wry humour as “Yat Keok Tet” (One Leg Kicks All).
   *Location: Lebuh Muntri
Narrowest Five Foot Way
Obviously, this is less than five feet...
The ‘five foot way’ of Wan Hai Hotel is said to be the narrowest in Penang.
*Location: Lorong Stewart

Bullock Cart Wheel
In the days when your money could be as “big as a bullock cart wheel”, this was a popular rest stop for limousines of the time.
*Location: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

Cheating Husband
The local Chinese say the rich men who lived on Muntri Street kept their mistresses here, hence the name ‘Ai Cheng Hang’ or Love Lane.
*Location: Love Lane

Tok Tok Mee
Tok tok mee is so called because hawkers would strike a ‘tok tok’ sound to signal their presence.
*Location: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling / Lebuh China

Roti Benggali
Kulit asing?
Roti Benggali came from the word, ‘Penggali’ (‘shareholder’ in Tamil)
*Location: Lebuh King
Wrong Tree
Also called toddy or palm wine, tuak is an alcoholic beverage made from underdeveloped flower of the coconut palm. The collecting and marketing of tuak were entirely an Indian affair with the majority of its drinkers being Indian labourers.

Too Hot
The famous Weld Quay was the birthplace of Kelinga Mee, a spicy Indian noodle dish created to whet the appetites of sailors and port workers.

Ting Ting Thong
One of the favourite foods sold at Seck Chuan Lane is ‘ting ting thong’ or rock candy, a hardened mixture of sugar, sesame seeds and nuts loved by kids. It has to be “chiselled” and “hammered” to break it into smaller biteable pieces.

Labourer to Trader
The early convict labourers were reputed to have built most of the government buildings in Penang. Some ex-convicts became petty traders and were the core group who started the Chowrasta Market.
Untrained Parakeet

Parrot astrologers were Indian fortune tellers, who used green parakeets to foretell a person’s future.

Three Generations

Kimberly Street is famous for its hawker food. Some stalls have been here for over 3 generations.

Rope Style

Rope walk was named after the rope-making activities on the street.

Born Novelist

The birthplace of Ahmad Rashid Talu, the first to write an original Malay novel with local setting and local characters.
Procession
The Tua Pek Kong Hneoh Grand Float Procession is held in the Year of the Tiger to wash away bad luck and bring great wealth and health.

*Location: Lebuh Arnion*

Too Narrow
The hand-pulled rickshaw was the most popular form of transportation in early Penang.

*Location: Lorong Soo Hong*

Limousine
This was the place to go for Chinese books, stationery, coffins and paper effigies. All the pleasures of the material world can be reproduced in paper and burnt as gifts for the hereafter.

*Location: Lorong Carnarvon*

Property
In the 1800s, shops and godowns on Victoria Street were built at the seafront.

*Location: Lebuh Victoria*
Escape
This old Acehnese godown was originally a jail building already extant in 1805 - hence the thick walls and small windows.

*Location: Lebuh Acheh

Cow & Fish
Not only there were hapless cows bred and slaughtered here but you could also smell the fish hung out to dry.

*Location: Lebuh Melayu / Lorong Ikan

No Plastic Bag
A petty-trading neighbourhood, where you can find activities such as drying of salted fish and basket weaving.

*Location: Lebuh Prangin

Waterway
Prangin River was a bustling waterway for all manner of goods that were shipped to Penang from all over the world.

*Location: Gel Lebuh Prangin
Too Salty
The Tamils refer to this street as Uppukaran Teru or Salt Traders’ Street, a reference to the salt trading activities.
*Location: Jalan Green Hall

Rotan
Thick, Medium or Thin?
*Location: Lebuh Chulia

Main Street
Chulia Street was one of the main streets laid out by Captain Francis Light. Today, it is known as “Backpackers’ Main Street”.
*Location: Lebuh Chulia

Beca
*Location: Lorong Chulia

Quiet Please
To the dismay of parishioners of the Portuguese church there, Church Street also housed the headquarters of the notorious Ghee Hin secret society.
*Location: Lebuh George
Mahjong

Hey! At this hour, still play mahjong!
Mahjong (The game of sparrows) - a favourite pastime for the elderly.

*Location: Lorong Stewart

Budget hotels

At the turn of the last century, many shophouses were turned into cheap hotels, making this internationally-known tourist strip very popular with backpackers.

*Location: Lebuh Chulia

No More Red Tape

Transfer Road is named after the event of the transfer of Straits Settlement from Indian office to Colonial office in Singapore in 1867. It resulted in a more efficient administration and an era of great prosperity of the Crown colonies.

*Location: Jalan Transfer

Temple Day

During the first and fifteenth day of every lunar month, the Goddess of Mercy Temple is packed with devotees seeking divine guidance.

*Location: Lorong Muda
Gold Teeth

Boleh Kasi jadi cincin?
The traditional Indian goldsmith sat cross-legged on a floor mat, bent over a small bench to work. Their work demanded patience, creativity and skill.

Gedung Rumput

While its royal English name sounds very grand, it’s also locally known as Gedung Rumput or Grass Godown, with bullock carts being parked along this wide street.

Spy

In the early 20th century, the slightly risque reputation of this area was further enhanced by the presence of Japanese camera shops which were suspected of covert spying activities.

Retail Paradise

Campbell Street is Penang’s Fifth Avenue, a retail paradise where shoppers can stroll along the row of shophouses and feast their eyes on an array of goods.
Pilgrims

Much of the traffic of pilgrims to and from Muslim Holy Land for the haj went through Acheen Street, where tickets for the trip were sold. Shopping was also a favourite activity for both pilgrims and their well-wishers.

High Counter

The counter of the pawnshop is typically higher for security.

Kandar

Nasi Kandar originated from Tamil Muslim hawking home-cooked curry dishes and rice from containers slung on both ends of a kandar (a wooden stick).

Ah Quee?

The street is named after Kapitan Chung Keng Kwee who generously donated his house to the Municipality for vehicular access, ensuring that his name lives on for posterity.
Duck
Quak! Quak!
Also known as ‘Chicken Alley’, this lane was once used by poulterers.

*Location: Lorong Che Ern

Shorn Hair
Barbers used to operate here. Shorn hair was simply swept into the Prangin canal.

*Location: Jalan Sungai Ujong

Double Role
Fire! Fire!
Up until 1909, the police doubled as George Town’s firefighters.

*Location: Gat Lebuh Chulia

‘Yeoh’ Only
Yeoh Kongsic was established in 1836 to look after the welfare of the newly arrived Yeoh clansmen.

*Location: Gat Lebuh Chulia

Cannon Hole
A cannon shot fired during the 1867 Penang Riots made a large hole in this area, hence the name.

*Location: Lebuh Cannon
Same Taste, Same Look
Not only the ‘pau’ taste same, you also look same! Here you’ll find traditional Cantonese Restaurants serving Dim Sum.

Then & Now
The Hokkiens called this street Pak Thang-Ah Kay or “Coppersmith’s Street”, a reference to the early Malay braziers making brass and copper wares.

Ironsmith
Young man, don’t strike the iron when you’re hot. The striking of the lone ironsmith’s hammer can still be heard along the street where once every tool had to be fashioned by heat and hand, not machines.

Chingay
The Penang Chinese first performed Chingay in 1919 during deity processions. Today, the art has evolved to become a unique multiracial performance.
Penang State Tourism Development and Culture Office
Level 53, Kompleks Tun Abdul Razak (KOMTAR)
10503 George Town, Penang, MALAYSIA
T: +604 261 9012  F: +604 261 8744
E: info@visitpenang.gov.my

Penang Global Tourism (State Tourism Bureau)
No. 8-B (First Floor), The Whiteaways Arcade
Lebuh Pantai, 10300 George Town, Penang MALAYSIA
T: +604 264 3456  F: +604 264 3455
E: info@penangglobaltourism.com

Tourist Information Centre
No. 10 (Ground Floor)
The Whiteaways Arcade
Lebuh Pantai, 10300 George Town
Penang MALAYSIA
T: +604 263 1166

Tourist Information Counter
Arrival Hall (Pick up point)
Main Terminal Building
Penang International Airport
11900 Bayan Lepas
Penang, MALAYSIA

mypenang.gov.my

•V02DEC13•