



# 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.



Kids on Bicycle



Old Motorcycle



Boy on Chair



Kungfu Girl



Trishaw Man



Cultural Girls



Minions



Skippy



No Animal Discrimination Please



Bruce Lee



Please Care & Bathe Me



Love Me Like Your Fortune Cat



Cats & Humans Happily Living Together



Lion Dance



Magic



Penang: Past, Present & Future



Children Playing Basketball



Brother and Sister on a Swing



NORTH



**Tourist Information Centre**  
Operating Hours  
Monday - Friday  
09.00am - 05.00pm  
Saturday  
09.00am - 03.00pm  
Sunday & Certain Public Holidays  
09.00am - 01.00pm

- Information centre
- Money changer
- Post office
- Hotel
- Shopping
- Bus stop

**Core Zone**

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 and Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong to the south-west corner. There are more than 1700 historic buildings within this Core Zone aligned on four main streets of Pengkalan Weld, Lebu Pantai, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling and Lorong Love and several perpendicular streets of Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah, Lebu Light, Lebu Bishop, Lebu Gereja, Lebu China, Lebu Pasar, Lebu Chulia, Lebu Armenian and Lebu Aceh.

**Buffer Zone**

The Core Zone is being protected by 150.04 hectares of Buffer Zone (does not include sea buffer), bounded by stretch of sea area around the harbour, Jalan Prangin to the south-west corner and Jalan Transfer to the north-west corner.

- Route of 'Hop On Free' CAT Bus from KOMTAR to Jetty
- Route of 'Hop On Free' CAT Bus from Jetty to KOMTAR

- Marking George Town
- Street Art
- Tangible Heritage
- Intangible Heritage
- Street of Harmony

# Marking George Town



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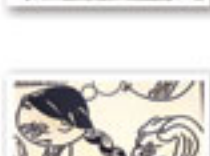
41 High Counter



16 Three Generations



42 Kandar



17 Rope Style



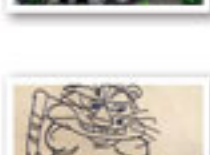
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19 Procession



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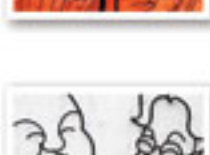
46 Double Role



21 Limousine



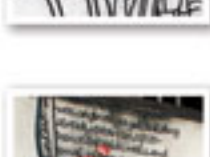
47 'Yeoh' Only



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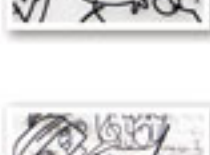
50 Then & Now



25 No Plastic Bag



51 Ironsmith



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## ← Jimmy Choo

This is the place where the famous shoe designer, Jimmy Choo, started his apprenticeship.

\*Location: Lebuhr Leith / Lebuhr Muntri

1

## Win Win Situation →

Muntri Street was named after The *Orang Kaya Menteri* of Larut, Perak, Ngah Ibrahim.

\*Location: Lebuhr Muntri



2



## ← 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

3

## 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: Lebuhr Muntri



4



5

## ← 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



6



7

## ← 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



8



9

## ← 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.

\*Location: Lorong Pasar

## 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.

\*Location: Pengkalan Weld



## ← 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.

\*Location: Lorong Seck Chuan

## 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.

\*Location: Jalan Kuala Kangsar





## ← Kopi 'O'

One Tall, Double Shot,  
Decaf Espresso  
**KOPI-O'-KAU!**

\*Location: Lebuh Kimberley

14

## Untrained Parakeet →

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

\*Location: Lebuh King



15



## ← Three Generations

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

\*Location: Lebuh Kimberley / Jalan Sungai Ujong

16

## Rope Style →

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

\*Location: Jalan Pintal Tali



17



## ← Born Novelist

The birthplace of Ahmad Rashid Talu, the first to write an original Malay novel with local setting and local characters.

\*Location: Lorong Lumut

18





23

## ← Escape

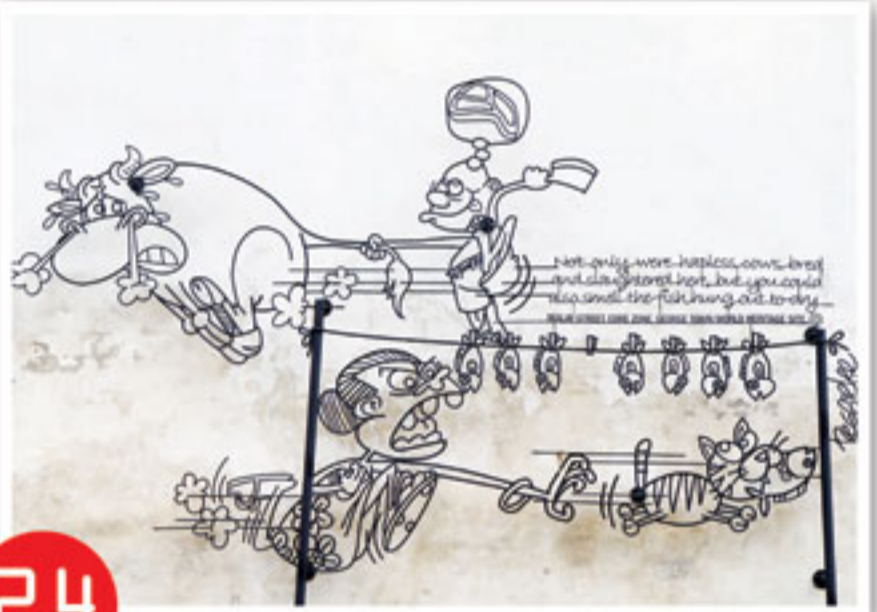
This old Acehnese godown was originally a jail building already extant in 1805 - hence the thick walls and small windows.

\*Location: Lebuh Aceh

## 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



24



25

## ← No Plastic Bag

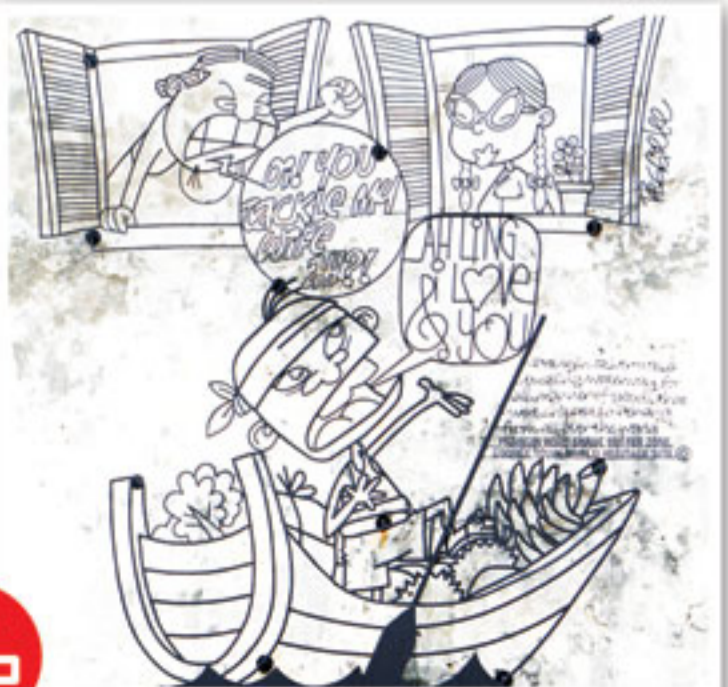
A petty-trading neighbourhood, where you can find activities such as drying of salted fish and basket weaving.

\*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: Gat Lebuh Prangin



26



27

## ← 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



28



29

## ← 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 →

*Next...here, here and here!*  
Locally known as 'beca'  
Most of the trishaw paddlers also doubled as tourist guides.

\*Location: Lorong Chulia



30

## ← 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 Gereja



31

## Mahjong →

*Hey! At this hour, still play mahjong!*

Mahjong (The game of sparrows) - a favourite pastime for the elderly.

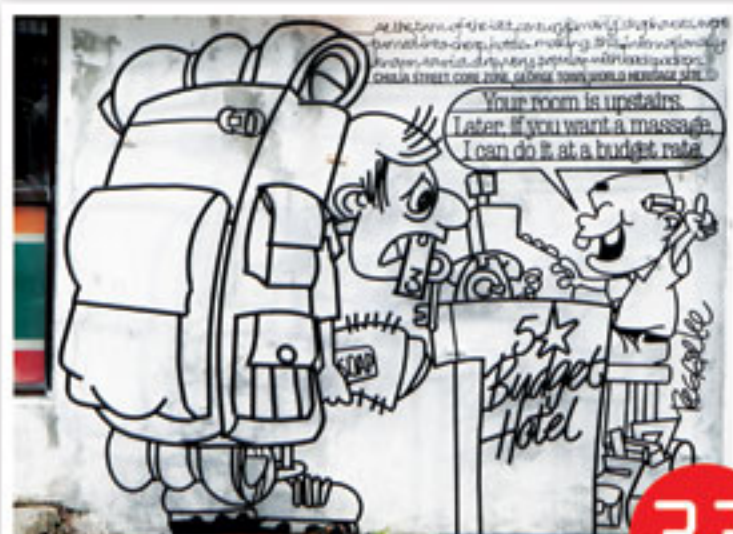
\*Location: Lorong Stewart



32

## ← 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.



33

\*Location: Lebuhraya 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



34

## ← Temple Day

*Incense? Candles? Oil?  
Joss stick? Flowers? Help ! Help!*  
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



35



36

## ← 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.

\*Location: Lebuh Queen

## 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.

\*Location: Lebuh Queen



37



38

## ← Spy

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

\*Location: Lebuh Cintra

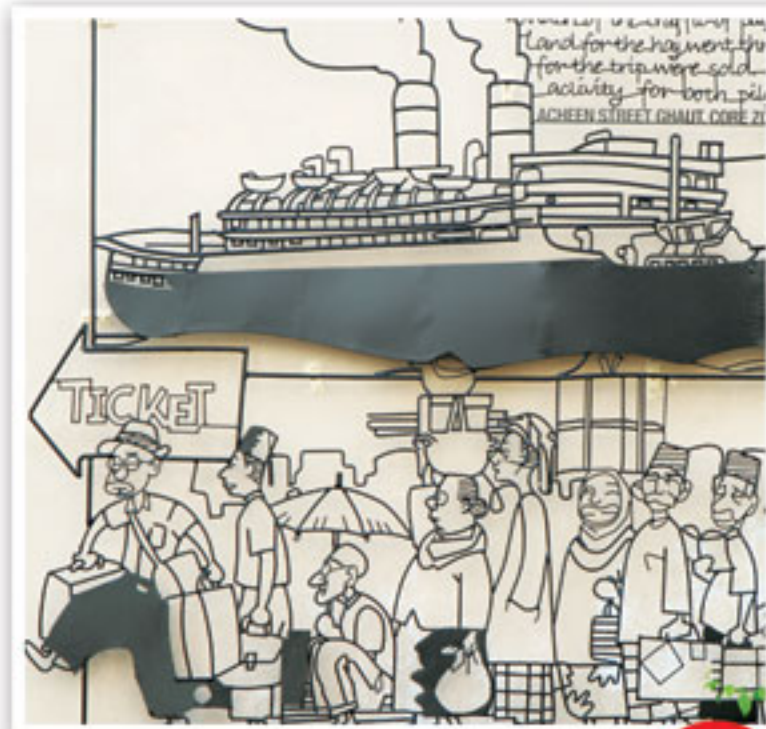
## Retail Paradise →

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.

\*Location: Lebuh Campbell



39



40

## ← 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.

\*Location: Gat Lebuh Acheh

## High Counter →

The counter of the pawnshop is typically higher for security.

\*Location: Lebuh Camarvon



41



42

## ← 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).

\*Location: Lebuh Ah Quee

## 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.

\*Location: Lebuh Ah Quee



43



44

## ← Duck

*Quak! Quak!*

Also known as 'Chicken Alley', this lane was once used by poulterers.

\*Location: Lorong Che Em

## Shorn Hair →

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

\*Location: Jalan Sungai Ujong

45



## ← Double Role

*Fire! Fire!*

Up until 1909, the police doubled as George Town's firefighters.

\*Location: Gat Lebu Chulia



46

## 'Yeoh' Only →

Yeoh Kongsí was established in 1836 to look after the welfare of the newly arrived Yeoh clansmen.

\*Location: Gat Lebu Chulia

47



## ← Cannon Hole

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

\*Location: Lebu Cannon



48

## Same Taste, Same Look →

*Not only the 'pau' taste same, you also look same!*  
Here you'll find traditional Cantonese Restaurants serving Dim Sum.

\*Location: Lebuh Cintra

49



## ← 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.

\*Location: Lebuh Armenian

50



## 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.

\*Location: Lorong Tok Aka

51



## ← Chingay

The Penang Chinese first performed Chingay in 1919 during deity processions. Today, the art has evolved to become a unique multiracial performance.

\*Location: Pengkalan Weld

52





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