

where2 december 2011 + january 2012



# Welcome 2012

**Batik Master:** his enduring legacy

**Worldly Penang Assam Laksa**

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Tourism Blueprint

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ride  
on  
earth**

**Penang's  
funicular tram**



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# A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**A Day for Sharing,  
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@ Palms Restaurant**

## Christmas Eve Celebration - 24th Dec 2011

Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner

7:00pm - 10:30pm

RM88.00++ Adult

RM44.00++ Senior Citizen

RM44.00++ Child

Inclusive of:

- Complimentary one glass of beer or wine (Adults only)
- Santa Claus & Santarina Goodies Giveaway
- Live band performance
- Caroling

## Christmas Day Hi-Tea

25th Dec 2011

12:00pm - 4:00pm

RM45.00++ Adult

RM22.50++ Senior Citizen

RM22.50++ Child

## Christmas Kids Party

Free for children with parents dining at the Hi-Tea.

Inclusive of:

- Santa Magic Show & Kids Activity

## Christmas Day Buffet Dinner

25th Dec 2011

7:00pm - 10:30pm

RM45.00++ Adult

RM22.50++ Senior Citizen

RM22.50++ Child

# VIVA LAS VEGAS

## NEW YEAR EVE CELEBRATION

New Year Eve Gala Buffet Dinner @ Crystal Ballroom

31st Dec 2011

7:00pm - Midnite

RM188.00++ Adult

RM 94.00++ Child

Welcome arrival with  
Fire Juggling & Fire Eating Performance

Inclusive of:

- Complimentary one glass of beer or wine (Adults only)
- Live band & cabaret performance
- Fear Factor
- Fantastic lucky draw to be won!
- Fireworks display

## New Year Hi-Tea @ Palms Restaurant

1st Jan 2012

12:00pm - 4:00pm

RM45.00++ Adult

RM22.50++ Senior Citizen

RM22.50++ Child

## New Year Day Buffet Dinner @ Palms Restaurant

1st Jan 2012

7:00pm - 10:30pm

RM45.00++ Adult

RM22.50++ Senior Citizen

RM22.50++ Child

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11100 Penang, Malaysia.

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Photo courtesy of  
**Panaroma Langkawi**



Caramelised Banana Crepe with Coconut Ice Cream @ The Brasserie Langkawi



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## Editor Speaks...

Year end is a time for the well-deserved break; to either pick up a new hobby or vacation elsewhere.

It is also the occasion to celebrate Christmas and join the throngs of revellers for the New Year Eve's count down, which will keep you busy and engaged. Notwithstanding these festive events; where2 takes you to Langkawi, an island that continues to mesmerise our team during our forays up North.

We pack this issue with a 20-page edition with information of exciting happenings that won't disappoint you. And this includes a special message from Langkawi Development Authority general manager Datuk Azman Umar on plans to turn Langkawi into the world's top 10 island destinations. Read on for more.

where2 welcomes on board two personalities; both foodies but one a self-professed food guide, Baldy Khoo, while the other a food blogger, C.K. Lam. Lam tells us why we should not take Assam Laksa for granted while Khoo rues over the "fried banana" he misses so much.

With them are Helen Ong and Himanshu Bhatt. Helen is an uncompromising food critic while Himanshu, a journalist-cum-dramatist, tabs the pulse of Penang's arts scene; reminding us in this issue of our own batik master, the late Chuah Thean Teng, and the legacy he left behind.

This issue also celebrates the Lunar Chinese New Year, the Year of the Water Dragon. Water! It sprouts water! Let it be an outpouring of good fortune and prosperity!

As where2 grows its brand, it is expanding from Penang, undisputedly a gourmet's paradise, to Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. Read what we have in store for you inside!

A good read? You decide and let us know via facebook @ where2 magazine.



# Selamat Datang

(Welcome!) to Penang, the Pearl of the Orient

Come join us as we, at **where2**, and party-goers and revelers embark on the coming Christmas and New Year's eve celebrations. Check out our sampling of live entertainment, international performances, midnight dance parties, and champagne toasts.

Just as we bid goodbye to 2011 with nostalgic renditions of Auld Lang Syne, we embrace New 2012 with much vigour and fireworks.

**Where2** welcomes this Chinese Lunar New Year - Dragon - and wishes all a year of good health, wealth and prosperity.

## GETTING THERE

### By Air

Penang is one of the hubs for the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle.

It also has air links with major capitals of the region such as Singapore, Medan, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Banda Aceh, Guangzhou, Jakarta, Phuket, Taipei and Surabaya. The Penang International Airport is 16km away from bustling George Town. There is also a bus service from the airport to town and to the touristy Batu Ferringhi beach.

### By Rail

The service connects those travelling from the south to Butterworth, onwards to the border town of Padang Besar and Bangkok, Thailand. Train tickets are also available at the ticketing station next to the Pengkalan Tun Uda ferry terminal on the island.

### By Sea

You can get to the island from mainland Seberang Prai by the colourful ferries, which cater for both passengers and vehicle. One-way charges are levied and collected at the Sultan Abdul Halim terminal in Butterworth. There are regular boat services between Penang-Medan and Penang-Langkawi. The Port Swettenham caters to international and regional cruise liners.

### By Bridge

The opening of the Penang Bridge in 1985 has made the island more accessible. The journey by car across the bridge now takes less than 13 minutes.

### Taxis

Although there are stickers indicating no haggling of fares are permitted, most taxi drivers still ignore the ruling. Ensure the meter is switched on or agree on the fare before you board the taxi.

### Trishaw

These tricycles are once known as the "King of the Road" a decade ago. Hop onto one of them to enjoy a slow ride through the busy town anytime of the day. There is no standard fare, but make sure you agree on the fare before jumping in.

### Buses

The Hop-on-free Central Area Transit (CAT) takes visitors around the George Town city for free. The service is available every 15 minutes from 6am until midnight. It plies between Pengkalan Weld at the harbor area and Komtar, making 19 stops within the heritage enclave. Check out the rapidPENANG Bus Routes Guide at [www.rapidpg.com.my/journey-planner/route-maps](http://www.rapidpg.com.my/journey-planner/route-maps).



Golden Sands Resort



# FactFiles

Check out attractions in the **WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

You will find Penang's heritage attractions a joy to get to know. Best surveyed on foot or by trishaw, it will take about two hours to complete this historic enclave which takes you to the oldest civic buildings and religious institutions.



## the Trails

- Fort Cornwallis, Lebuh Light
- State Legislative Assembly House, Lebuh Light
- City Hall, Jalan Padang Kota Lama
- Court Buildings, Lebuh Farquhar
- Penang State Museum, Lebuh Farquhar
- St George's Church, Lebuh Farquhar
- Pinang Peranakan Mansion, Lebuh Gereja
- Goddess of Mercy, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling
- Little India, Lebuh Pasar
- Mahamariamman Temple, Lebuh Queen
- Teochew Temple, Lebuh Chulia
- Kapitan Keling Mosque Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling
- Yap Kongsí, Lebuh Armenian
- Dr Sun Yat-Sen's Penang Base Lebuh Armenian
- Islamic Museum (Syed Alatas Mansion), Lebuh Armenian
- Malay Mosque, Lebuh Aceh
- Khoo Kongsí, Medan Cannon
- Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsí Lebuh Armenian

### Foreign Consulate

Australia	04 263 3320
Austria	04 656 8525
Bangladesh	04 262 1085
Britain	04 227 5336
Canada	04 389 3300
Denmark	04 262 4886
Finland	04 229 4300
France	04 642 2611
Germany	04 647 1288
Hungary	04 644 9957
India	04 250 5000
Indonesia	04 227 4686
Japan	04 226 3030
Netherlands	04 647 3333
Sweden and Norway	04 226 3459
Thailand	04 226 8029

### Tourism Enquiries

Tourism Malaysia (Komtar)	04 261 0058
Tourism Malaysia (Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah)	04 262 0066
Penang Tourism Action Council	04 262 0202
Penang Heritage Centre	04 261 6606
Penang Global Tourism	04 634 0285



Chef Bruce Lim

Khoo

## OUR LOCAL FOOD GUIDE

### FOODIES' NOTE BY B.L. KHOO

Khoo Boo Lim is a helpful hotel manager and an intrepid gourmet guide rolled in one.

He is the executive assistant manager at Lone Pine Hotel. Before moving to Lone Pine four years ago, he was with E&O Hotel for seven years.

Today, this affable and ever-jovial guy with a ready smile on his face is closer to us and joins where2 as our local food guide. He will share his mouth-watering tales and food adventures.

Turn to page 6 to read what he has to say.

*Khoo is shown here with Chef Bruce Lim of the Philippines, host of Tablescapes of the AFC fame, after a judging session during the heats of the E&O Search for AFC's Next Celebrity Chef.*

## EMERGENCIES

Emergency	999
Emergency (when using mobile phone)	112
Operator Service	100
Operator Assisted Calls (Domestic & International)	101
Directory Enquiries	103
Penang Police	04 269 1999
Penang Tourist Police	04 899 3222

### HOSPITAL (ISLAND)

Penang Hospital	04 222 5333
Bagan Specialist Centre	04 332 2800
Penang Adventist Hospital	04 238 8888
Gleneagles Medical Centre	04 227 6111
Island Hospital	04 228 8222
Lam Wah Ee Hospital	04 657 1888
Loh Guan Lye Specialist Centre	04 238 8888
Mount Miriam Cancer Malaysia	04 890 7044
Tanjung Medical Centre	04 226 2323
Pantai Hospital Penang	04 643 3888

### HOSPITAL (MAINLAND)

Hospital Bukit Mertajam	04 538 3333
Hospital Kepala Batas	04 562 3333
Hospital Seberang Jaya	04 382 7333

### AIRLINES

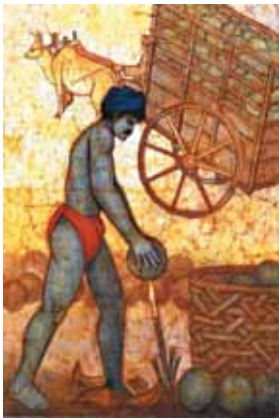
Penang International Airport	04 643 4411
Malaysia Airlines	1 300 88 3000
Air Asia	03 2171 9333
Cathay Pacific Airways	04 226 0411
China Airlines	04 228 6227
China Southern Airlines	04 227 8177
Thai Airways	04 226 6000
Korean Airlines	04 644 2099

### TAXI

CT Radio Taxi Service (George Town)	04 229 9467
Island Taxi and Tours (George Town)	04 226 6690
Maju Jaya Transportation Cooperative (Butterworth)	04 323 2045
Penang Taxi Drivers' Association (George Town)	04 262 5721
Taxi Drivers' Cooperative (Bayan Baru)	04 642 5961

### TRAIN

Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB)	
- Butterworth	04 331 2796
- Pengkalan Weld Jetty	04 261 0290



# THE LEGACY OF A Batik master

■ Words by HIMANSHU BHATT  
Photos courtesy of Yahong Art Gallery

For decades now, celebrities and artists from around the world have visited the unassuming and modest Yahong Art Gallery located in Batu Ferringhi whenever they step in Penang. It was here that the legendary artist, Datuk Chuah Thean Teng, hailed as the pioneer of batik art painting, lived till he passed away at the age of 96 two years ago.

Chuah's paintings in batik are so evocative and inimitable that UNICEF has used his art images for its greeting cards, and publications like Reader's Digest have used them for their covers.

Indeed, Chuah's images have become icons of an unadulterated Asian romance with rustic tranquility. His human figures, particularly children and women, radiate with serene celebration of rural life, with themes like pastoral labour and kampung living.

When Chuah held his earliest exhibition in 1955, it caused a stir in global art circles. It was the first ever viewing of

art paintings made in batik. One prominent critic called his exhibition "the most unusual one-man show ever to be seen in Singapore." "In Chuah Thean Teng," University of Malaya art lecturer Dr Michael Sullivan excitedly announced, "Malaya claims to have found her first national painter."

When the works were then taken for a solo exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute in England, the Daily Mail hailed him a revolutionary in world art. "Finding an entirely new and immediately convincing method of pictorial expression is a rare occurrence," wrote its critic Pierre Jeanneret. "The last I can think of was the invention of lithography between 1796 and 1798. Now comes another."

For his place in our nation's history, it is only apt that we gave due recognition to the legacy of Chuah Thean Teng. It is time that Chuah's profound contribution to our culture and art is celebrated, perhaps in the same vein that Holland prides in Vincent van Gogh, Spain in Salvador Dali and China in Xu Beihong.

*Yahong Art Gallery in Batu Ferringhi is now operated by the late Chuah Thean Teng's family.*



Spiced kicap Masala chicken, a signature dish available daily at this delicious South Indian cuisine outlet. Taste this home-cooked food prepared with tomato sauce, kicap, garam Masala, and mixed spices of cinnamon, clove, Indian garlic while listening to piped-in evergreen oldies.

## Passions of Spices

40, Jalan Service  
(Burmah Square)  
10050 Penang  
Opens daily:  
12 noon – 3 pm  
6 pm – 10.30 pm  
T: 04 229 2570  
Mobile: 012 550 5714  
E: saravanan.thiagarajan@yahoo.com



## ROCK N' ROLL CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

This is the way to go.  
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A Merry Christmas



**Starz** 24 December 2011  
**Christmas Eve Dinner**  
**RM158++** per person  
**RM198++** per person  
(with free flow beer, wine  
and soft drinks)

**Starz** 25 December 2011  
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For reservations, call +604 8811 711 Ext 8057  
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**Hard Rock** 24 December 2011  
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# Y.B. (Your Best) CHOICE!



Words by BL Khoo

It was about 10 pm and, yes, it was my dad coming back home on his old faithful Honda 50 cub and, like always, it's SUPPER time for me and my siblings!

Though an average wage earner, he had had no qualms digging into his pocket for that extra dollar and to seek out the best that is to be offered when it comes to food or his favourite durians in Penang.

His palate for good food and passion has rubbed off on me; for I too became intrigued for good food and in particular, the famous hawker fare of Penang.

I grew up around Jalan Hamilton and as a small child; my favourite was "goreng pisang" from a stall opposite Convent Green Lane school. I craved daily for the deliciously crispy deep fried bananas that this "Uncle" in his white "pagoda"

t-shirt, whom we kids would call, frying bananas, sweet potato and yam over a wok of hot cooking oil.

Yes! This is the uncle that actually made famous the "Goreng Pisang" stall of Green Lane. He would only use "Pisang Rajah" that he claimed to be the best type of banana for frying. His technique of deep frying bananas dipped in batter twice over gives to it a real crispy bite. Even better when the bananas were fried split in halves. Simply divine!

Today, there are two stalls there; actually riding on this old man's reputation but I am not sure if any had managed to replicate the "uncle" recipe.

This is one particular memory that sets me upon my journey to discover more culinary delights and my infatuation to learn and savour the famous street foods of Penang.



## MORE THAN A HOTEL

Words by HELEN ONG

**SHEER BLISS...** the overhead fan was whirring away silently, and I was just vaguely aware of the sounds of holidaymakers enjoying themselves in the 2400-sq metre pool (the largest free-forming Penang). Yes, I was having a massage at the Hard Rock Hotel Penang's Rock Spa, their service treatment centre which promises to recharge and "decompress after the night you've just had" – read into that what you will!

Even better, I wasn't stuck in a treatment room somewhere in the bowels of the hotel; the rustic private cabana, complete with attap roof, was on the beach, literally a stone's throw from the sea, and nothing is more relaxing than the sound of waves lapping gently on the beach.



Equipped with two treatment beds, they are a perfect way for couples to chill side by side, and you can choose from the 30-minute "Rub my Back" to body scrubs and wraps, to reflexology and full body massages including a 1½ hr "Hot Rock Massage". Mine was their signature "Hard Rock Massage", an hour-long rejuvenating

Rock spa  
Hard Rock Hotel Penang  
Batu Ferringhi Beach, 11100 Penang  
T: +604 886 8071  
[www.hardrockhotels.net](http://www.hardrockhotels.net)

treatment which is apparently highly effective in eliminating toxic build up. Rock on!





# Home-cooked flavours of Edelweiss Café

A hearty dish featuring zesty flavoured, jumbo bratwursts (pork sausages) – grilled and topped with tomato sauce and sprinkling of Madras curry powder – merits equally macho name. The menu entrée states “B52 has landed at Edelweiss Café’s... armed with French fries, salad and mustard.” It ranks among the café hot sellers.

Another favourite is *Rosti* (Swiss potato pancake) which goes very well with the B52 as its sauce makes for delicious dips for both dishes.

“The Swiss regard *Rosti* as an all-day snack to eat with anything at all for breakfast, lunch, tea or dinner. It is made by first half-boiling whole potatoes and leaving them overnight in the fridge; so they also called it overnight potato,” café proprietor Teresa Pereira Capol says.

She became adept at Swiss cooking following marriage to a Swiss guy keen on fighter planes and had named that bratwurst dish the “B52”. Now as their children are grown up, she can continue to cook a lot at Edelweiss Café – which sits at the heart of George Town World Heritage Site.

Teresa does her cooking like at home with no artificial flavouring, colouring, MSG or use of canned food. “Those coming to eat here must be prepared to wait half an hour for the food as we prepare it fresh,” she says.

Edelweiss Café  
38, Armenian Street, 10200 Penang  
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[www.edelweissscafe.com](http://www.edelweissscafe.com)

## PINANG PERANAKAN MANSION

A MUSEUM OF STRAITS CHINESE CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Two Men. A Mansion. And the Hundred Years In Between.

Words by LILLIAN TONG

A century went by; and Hai Kee Chan (or Sea Remembrance Hall) built in 1894 was finally restored in its stately grandeur to rise again as the present day Pinang Peranakan Mansion at Lebuhraya Gereja in the heritage enclave of George Town.

In between the years, the old walls, open courtyards and worn timber floorings had echoed of its dwellers; their migrant lives, bitter-sweet stories and remembered clan history of George Town.

Kapitan Cina Chung Keng Kwee, the patron of the Engineer’s Institute, spared no expense in building this magnificent mansion by encompassing and drawing from all the majesty of Victorian England, Qing Dynasty China, Indo-European, Arabic and Colonial grandeur that landed on the shores of Penang in ocean going vessels.

The acculturated Straits Chinese imprinted Penang with its layers of Chinese, Malay, European lifestyle; cultures and customs that left behind a heritage of antiques and cultural influences like cuisine, language that are still evident in the state today.

The finest of Baba-Nyonya antiques and collectibles are kept in the Pinang Peranakan Mansion. This private collection of antiques was continually upgraded and recorded in this book. This collection includes the wedding attire and accessories of European origins, famed exquisite Chinese embroidery and rare photographs of pre-war Chinese Peranakan families.

This book describes in detail the restoration of Kapitan Cina’s Hai Kee Chan from timberwork to iron work, glass panels and floor tiles.

The book is a compendium that traces the history of the two men behind the Mansion; the Kapitan Cina Chung Keng Kwee and antique collector Peter Soon who owns the collection, and the history of a hundred years in between and its Straits Eclectic architecture, Baba Nyonya antiques and European collectibles.

Author: Chan Suan Choo  
Design and layout by Chris Woolley Designs



Tong holding up a mock up of the book



George Town • Penang  
UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE CITY

**MUST  
VISIT**



## PENANG HILL

*the place to relax, rejuvenate and remember*

For a cool retreat and fabulous views of George Town city, take a five-minute funicular train ride up from the Air Itam railway station to Penang Hill, the state's only hill resort.

At its peak of 830m above sea level, the hill is pretty quiet and can serve as a recuperative getaway, far from the madding crowd and city heat.

The best time to go up the hill is before 6.30am as the temperature is considerably cooler, ranging from 20 to 25 degree Celcius at that time.

Much said, Penang Hill, originally known as the Flagstaff Hill, is the place to be where you can relax, rejuvenate and remember. Whether you are going up or coming down, you will love this trip. Nature lovers can opt to take a six-kilometre hike up by nature trails accessible from the Moon Gate entrance, about five minutes' walk from the Botanical Gardens.

Another way to go up the hill via the jeep track is by hiring a 4WD vehicle.

## Exploring Esplanade

**STEP** into this Unesco World Heritage site and be embraced by its old world charm. Feel as if you were stepping back into time.

Penang has so much to see and offer that a visitor will never get enough to explore all that she has to offer.

There is no mistaking that Esplanade is a very famous place in Penang island. This popular promenade is actually the stretch of waterfront renovated with paved walkway, where standing from there, one can see Kedah's Gunung Jerai on a very clear day. In front of the promenade is Padang Kota (field) where the New Year eve's countdown is celebrated annually. Many major festivals, celebrations, parades, sporting events and live-band performances are also held here.

Besides the international cruise terminal at the Swettenham Pier, the Esplanade is also home to numerous historic sites and heritage buildings all of which are located within walking distance. Take a trip to the star-shaped Fort Cornwallis, City Hall, Town Hall, state legislative assembly building the World War I cenotaph or tombless war memorial, the Queen Victoria memorial clock tower and the Penang founder Sir Francis Light's statue.

There is also a light house towards the end of the promenade.



# NEW DISHES AT SIGI'S

■ Words by HELEN ONG

Difficult to believe, but Sigi's Bar & Grill by the Beach at the Golden Sands Resort is already one and a half years old, and, under the stewardship of Executive Sous Chef John Brock, it's been going from strength to strength.



Pumpkin and Ricotta Rotolo

Return guests come back to tuck into popular favourites he introduced from Day One like the Kataifi Wrapped Prawns, beer-battered Fish and Chips, salads, pizzas and pastas (like the ever-popular Peppino's Lasagna), but like any other savvy F&B operator, he knows when to come out with something different.

"About half the menu has changed," the Kiwi chef explains, "and we have tried to go back to the 'grill' part of Sigi's." That means a whole section now on MSA (Meats Standards Australia)-certified grain-fed Black Angus from south Australia's Barossa and Limestone Coast.

I love the fact that diners can now choose their desired cut (sirloin, tenderloin or rib-eye, the latter available up to 400g for the more carnivorous – tasty and juicy, despite the thickness), sauce (from Café de Paris Butter to Black Pepper) and complementary side dishes which include hand-cut chips and Grilled Button Mushrooms with blue cheese. New mains include Grilled Spatchcock Chicken and Twice-Cooked Duck.

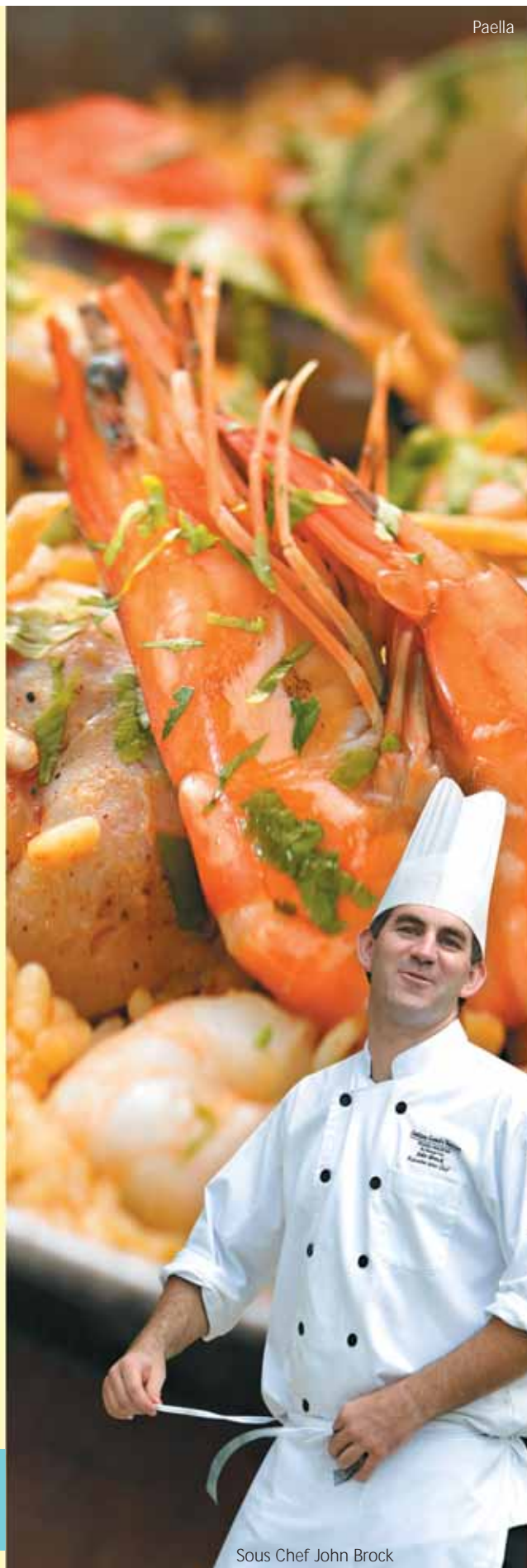
SIGI's Bar & Grill,  
Golden Sands Resort, Beach Front, Batu Ferringhi  
T: 604 886 1852  
Operating hours: 11am - 12midnight



Tandoori Pizza



Kataifi Prawns



Paella

Sous Chef John Brock



# Artistry

Words & Images by  
LILLIAN TONG

## LET LOOSE IN GIFT SHOP

14 Living Story at Lebuh Armenian



A young, whimsical shop opened at Lebuh Armenian. 14 Living Story is a colourful wonderland of unique and ‘historical’ souvenirs and gifts peculiar to old Penang.

Inside this small space, artistic talent is let loosed on common household items found in most Penang homes long ago – waxed paper umbrellas are now splashed in the most bright gay colours, bird cage turn mobile, wooden clogs that are used for the wet kitchen courtyard is now painted with images of ducks, bamboo, blossoms, and stuck with braids and decorative haberdashery that makes them seem good enough to dance in!

Hot water flasks in happy lime green, pinks and reds with painted peonies nudge for space between parades of smiling patchwork bunnies, lovingly stitched puppies together with other ‘pets’ standing in line eagerly waiting for a cuddle. Wooden crates doubled up as display shelves, and on it baskets full of little purses made with cotton material from the local market, ethnic friendship bands, and trinkets spill from giant glass jars inviting one to pick a favourite piece to bring home. Back to the 1940s, Shanghai girls in coy poses lean on the wall, alongside images of Penang’s trishaw and the old island’s scenes as magnets.

Sunlight streams in from the open courtyard, making the space bright and cheerful. Strong beams holds up the paneled wood floorboard upstairs. My favourite items are the framed pastel embroidered kebaya samplings hanging randomly

from the wooden beams. Naked light bulb reminiscent of my great-grandmother’s kampung house gives these suspended sulam kebaya samples a halo effect.

A chair stands in a corner, its iron frame holding a patterned seat woven from strips of nylon. Who would have made a chair of that! But Desmond and Hun Jin did. Along with good friends Derek and Elsa, piping in for planning, ideas and concept, they found this little shop house to start a small local gift and souvenir shop.

The small profit goes to maintain their “free admission” Living Story Exhibition of George Town. Different from the museums and clan houses in and around George Town, 14 Living Story does not collect expensive antique items as they reckon too many people are already doing that. They, instead, display household items typically found in the homes of the ordinary regular class of people that inhabits George Town all their lives since Penang became an early shipping port and settlement.

Derek reiterates, “We need more stories behind the building ... a living story” of the people who live in the back lanes and beyond the wooden doors lining the five-foot ways of heritage George Town.





# CHEEKY DUCK



An interior view of the restaurant



Outdoor view looking out into the marina



Pan fried turnip cake



Stuffed prawn meat in dried chilli garlic

Fronting the open sea where a fleet of luxury yacht are docked, Straits Quay's Cheeky Duck restaurant is a great place to be at, meet or watch people go by.

Cheeky as it sounds, this F&B outlet however does not sell just about roast duck.

Operated by a Hongkee Paul and his Penangite wife, Jessie, the couple coined the name of their restaurant simply because they felt it was easy for their customers to remember.

This is their second outlet. Their first was in Newcastle's China Town in England where they have operated under the same name for more than 20 years.

The opportunity to open Cheeky Duck in Straits Quay arose when both Paul

and Jessie came back to Penang for a break.

"We instantly fell in love with this place and decided to open our first ever branch in Malaysia," says Jessie.

Their signature dish, of course, is the famous Peking duck; crispy and aromatic. There are favourites such as suckling pig, king prawns in spicy cream sauce and stewed pork belly with Chinese wine. The small eaters can try Cheeky Duck's congee and rice roll (chee cheong fun).

The restaurant can seat 140 customers and has a long bar with a full range of spirits, beer and wines. Diners look out into the marina through the glass paneled walls.

Paul and Jessie has added more than 50 choices of dim sum in their menu backed by popular demand from their customers.



Congee and rice roll



King prawn in spicy cream sauce

**CHEEKY DUCK ASIAN KITCHEN & BAR**  
3A-G-6 & 3A-G-7, Block A  
Ground Floor, Straits Quay  
Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang  
Tanjung Tokong.

T: 604 899 9989



Marinated duck tongue





# Rejoice

it's Christmas and Gong Xi Fa Cai.

The season of giving and receiving has come.

Kids go wild with gifts and presents they received while the older partake in joy and merriment. The Christmas joy of sharing will remain unabated until the frenzy hits its zenith during the 15-day Chinese New Year celebrations.

Year end also means mega sales, school holidays and family vacations. This year's Chinese New Year falls early on January 23, 2012.

The Year of the Water Dragon will bring good tidings and a profusion of wealth and prosperity.

Chinese New Year's Eve is religiously observed for family reunion dinners; a joyous occasion not only to tuck in home-cooked food but for the young and unmarried to start collecting as many angpows (red money packets) as they can.

And all won't miss the joyous tossing of Yee Sang - the Dish of Prosperity that is packed with the compulsory 27 ingredients including slices of raw fish during the auspicious occasion.

According to Chinese folklore, those born in the Year of the Dragon are likely to spend more money yet charitable not only to themselves but also the under-privileged. This auspicious Dragon Year is a fruitful year too; there are more births as Chinese families love to have "dragon" children.

Supermarkets and departmental stores will be festooned with festive decorations and shoppers will shop to the tunes of Christmas carols and Chinese New Year songs. It's carnival time!







# HYDRO HOTEL

PENANG

## The place for work, rest and play

Be at the Hydro Hotel Penang to share with loved ones in a night of mirth and joy come this Christmas and New Year's Eve.

The celebration kicks off with a Christmas Eve buffet dinner that comes with a complimentary glass of beer or wine for adults.

Santa Claus and Santarina will be present to give away goodies as diners join the three-piece band,

"The Electromix", the hotel's latest musical sensation from the Philippines, for an unforgettable night and carolling.

There will be a Christmas Day hi-tea celebration @ Palms Restaurant while children can look forward to a kids' party which also includes a Santa magic show.

Stay on for a sumptuous Christmas Day buffet dinner from 7pm onwards at the same restaurant. Also join us for our Viva Las Vegas New Year's Eve celebration gala buffet dinner @ the Crystall Ballroom where fantastic lucky draws are to be won before the countdown for 2012. A fabulous fireworks display will lit up the midnight sky right after.

Our New Year Hi-tea will be held at Palms Restaurant followed by the New Year Day buffet dinner.

Hydro Hotel Penang has 322 guest rooms with stunning sea views. Each room features modern

amenities, in-room safe, IDD telephone access, coffee/tea making facilities, high speed WiFi internet access at minimal charge.

Hydro Hotel also offers a variety of dining options available with meeting and banquet facilities, audio visual equipments and Executive Lounge cum Business Centre with free WiFi internet access to cater to guests, be it family, business or company outings. You can even enjoy live music entertainment in the pool-view lounge and for those who want to get active, the Hotel offers a wide variety of recreational and kids' activities with the gym featuring modern equipment including free-weights and cardio machines for a full body work-out.

Whether for leisure or business, a wedding or a corporate outing, Hydro Hotel Penang has it all.



Miami Beach, Batu Ferringhi,  
11100 Penang, Malaysia.  
T: +604 890 5999 F: +604 890 5100  
E: [sales@hydrohotelpenang.com](mailto:sales@hydrohotelpenang.com)

# Royal IPOH CLUB

Though an exclusive club, its banquet hall is open for private functions.

In the early days, the Royal Ipoh Club was a meeting place for planters, miners, businessmen, professional and civil servants serving the British Colonial regime.

It has strict code of non-entrance for locals at that time but over the years things have changed and now its banquet hall which can seat 300 people is open for private company dinners, weddings and seminars.

The club was established in 1895 and is 116 years old based on existing records. The club overlooks the Ipoh Padang in the heart of the city and is adjacent to the century-old St Michael's Institution. Both have been declared heritage buildings.



After major refurbishment, it now boasts of three-star rooms, a posh banquet hall, Idris Bar, Long Bar and sports facilities for darts and snooker. Club members relax in the evening while tucking in a good meal or catch up with reading in its well-stocked library.

The day-to-day running of the club is handled by a committee headed by its president Dr S. Kanagasabai.

Royal Ipoh Club  
Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab  
P.O.Box 3, 30700 IPOH, Perak Darul Ridzuan  
T: (605) 254 2212 / 5646  
F: (605) 255 8610



## Award-winning THE BANJARAN HOTSPRINGS RETREAT

The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat, nestled amid lush tropical jungle, a natural geothermal hot springs and a cluster of magnificent limestone hills in Tambun in Ipoh, Perak, is Malaysia's first luxury wellness retreat.

It is a self-contained sanctuary consisting 25 luxury villas that blend with their natural surroundings that are built on eco-friendly practices.

"The environment and philosophy is geared towards relaxation, rejuvenation, fitness, healthy eating habits and overall renewal. Basically, the retreat encourages a healthier lifestyle change to all who visit," says Hanley Chew, chief executive officer of Sunway International Hotels & Resorts.

Here, one can try out a variety of wellness experience including holistic exercise disciplines such as yoga, qi gong and tai chi practised in the amazing natural setting apart from a host of unique offerings such as the natural hot springs and thermal steam cave, a 400-



million-year-old meditation cave, outdoor rainforest shower and a foot reflexology walk.

A 15 minutes' drive from Ipoh city, the Banjaran also has its own line of aromatherapy skin and body care products and amenities using natural and traditional recipes.

It recently won the FIABCI Malaysia's Malaysia Property Award 2011 for the "Best Resort" category.



The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat  
1, Persiaran Lagun Sunway 3  
31150 Ipoh, Perak.  
T: +605-210 7777 F: +605-210 7778  
E: [www.thebanjaran.com](http://www.thebanjaran.com)



## Precious Old China Restaurant & Bar

The Precious Old China Restaurant & Bar is the city's quaintest place to dine. Furnished with local and Asian antiques, the restaurant located in Central Market Kuala Lumpur offers local cuisine including Straits Chinese or Nyonya-ware food.



With a seating capacity of about 100 diners, the premises is popular for company functions and product launches that require a venue with a true, old world charm.

As one steps through the 2.6m high Art Deco chengal (Malaysian hardwood) doors, one is immediately drawn to the equally massive chengal bar counter which spans 4.9m long. The bar counter - sourced from a Colonial-era club in Ipoh - is matched with three, equally huge, teak cabinets that stretch 4.9m long altogether and 2.6m high.

The dining area next to the bar has private dining "booths" of the 1950s as high-back, teakwood seats, also from Ipoh - a tin-mining centre of

Malaysia - offer a fun place to have your meals.

As the visitor steps through a unique set of eight coloured-glass panels with auspicious motifs, the main dining hall opens up to a grand vista. You won't fail to notice the over-sized crystal chandelier and ornate altar tables plus wooden carvings of Chinese deities that once graced temples.



Another set of folding glass-panels of the 1930s, screens off the private dining room. Inside, the room is decorated with 19th Century lattice panels. The 4.2m long, chengal dining table comes from Penang. Matched with elaborately carved blackwood chairs, the room looks even more regal with a vintage oil painting of Dr Sun Yat Sen hanging above the host's seat.

Of particular note in this hall, is the collection of Victorian-style chairs which were formerly props used in the movie, Anna & The King. After filming, the props laid forgotten in a warehouse in Malacca until they were resurrected as quaint dining chairs here.

Another display cabinet features over-sized antique pewterware including incense burners, candle stands and tea caddies - reminding visitors that Kuala Lumpur owes its existence and prosperity to tin.

There are many more objects here which were once used with reverence by the Chinese communities in various countries but they are no longer held with such esteem as lifestyle changes. Thus, "Precious" refers to, and reminds,

visitors the precious heritage that are slowly but surely - disappearing.

At Precious, the emphasis is on traditional favourites of the Straits Chinese communities of Malacca and Penang.

*Menu highlights include: Fish Head Curry, Devil Curry, Beef Rendang, Chicken Pong Teh, Jungle Fern in Laksa Gravy, Bittergourd Omelette, Lobak, Ju Hu Char (Shredded Cuttlefish & Turnip), Kerabu Okra, Asam Prawns, Cincalok Chicken, Black Pepper Seabass, Itik Tim (Duck Soup) & Ginseng Soup.*

**Must-Try:** Precious Nyonya Laksa & Blue Nasi Lemak. Most unusual dish is the Buah Keluak or Jungle Nut gravy cooked with chicken. For durian lovers, the Santan Durian dessert is heavenly.

Precious Old China Restaurant & Bar  
Lot 2, Mezzanine Floor, Central Market  
Kuala Lumpur.  
Opens: 11am - late  
T: +603-2273 7372 F: +603-2274 5687  
E: precious@oldchina.com.my



Lot B2 & B3, The Garage, No. 2 Jalan Penang, 10000 Penang.

The Longest Bar in Town



Kari Kapitan (Captain's Curry)

Images by ADRIAN CHEAH



Otak Otak (Spicy Fish Packets)

# Nyonya Pearl F

Words by HELEN ONG

There is no question about it – next to hawker food, our *nyonya* cuisine must be the next most well-known in Penang. For those who may not be so familiar with it, here's a brief introduction to the cuisine and some of its most popular dishes. They can generally be found at “economy rice” stalls and in *kopi tiams* (coffee shops), but some may only be available in *nyonya* restaurants.

## The Peranakan Baba Nyonya

The Peranakan were Chinese who came over a few centuries ago and integrated into local life, adopting many aspects of the culture into their own, resulting in a unique fusion of cuisine, attire and lifestyle which exists to this day. The men were called “*babas*” and the women “*nyonys*”, hence the description of this type of food as “*nyonya* cooking”, which uses many local ingredients.

### Tau Eu Bak (Chicken or Pork Stewed in Soya Sauce)

Generally cooked with pork or chicken, garlic, a pinch of sugar and five-spice powder and two types of soya sauce (light and dark), it's one of the mainstays of *nyonya* home cooking.

### Gulai Assam Tumis (Fish in a Spicy Sour Curry)

This is a popular *gulai* (curry) similar to Tom Yam made with a *rempah* (paste) of finely-minced onions, garlic, lemon grass, *belacan* and chilli which is then fried in oil (*tumis*) until fragrant, then tamarind and fish are added.

### Kari Kapitan (Captain's Curry)

The name apparently came about because of a European captain's love of curries for his tiffin



# Palatables: nya ood

“I’m going to feature a few local favourites every issue, but be warned go early, or they sell out quickly!”



Penang Foodie Helen Ong is also the author of “Great Dining in Penang 2”, a guide to some of the many restaurants we have.



Kerabu Bok Nee

(lunch). Every day his amah (maid) used to ask him, “Curry, Kapitan?” It’s different from the spicier more commonly-found Chicken Curry which is usually made with curry powder and coconut milk.

## Purut Ikan (Spicy Sour Vegetable Curry)

Literally translated to “Fish Stomach” because it is traditionally made with pickled fish intestines, *Purut Ikan* is a true conglomeration of finely julienned local vegetables and herbs in sour, spicy gravy.

## Otak Otak (Spicy Fish Packets)

Like the previous dish, the name might be slightly off-putting as it means “brains” and indeed the dish did use fish brain but nowadays the primary ingredients are prawns and fish meat. But nowadays, it is just a spicy, fishy custard steamed in banana leaves.

## Jiu Hoo Char (Fried Yam Bean with dried Octopus)

A Hokkien delicacy of fried julienned *bangkuang* (yam bean) and dried octopus strips, this is a sweet, savoury vegetable dish usually eaten at feast time, particularly Chinese New Year.




Acar Fish

## where2 find nyonya food

Nyonya food tends to be home-cooked, but as mentioned earlier, they can be found in “Economy rice” stalls stationed in kopitiams (coffee shops) and nyonya restaurants.


1. Every morning, Ah See sells over 40 items from her stall just outside the Pulau Tikus market, all cooked by herself. She’s been doing this for over 30 years.
2. At the Café Tanjung in Tg Tokong, you’ll find a selection of popular dishes economy-rice style by Alex. They also do laksa and other fried noodles.
3. Named in honour of their mother, 3 sisters run Mama’s Restaurant in Abu Siti Lane serves up a large selection of popular dishes, including some which have not been seen for a while: Ruby, their cook, specialises in Tau Eu Bak.
4. Over in Straits Quay, try Nyonya Breeze Desire; cook Rosie, another true-blue Nyonya, learnt cooking the traditional way: helping her mother and grandmother in the kitchen.





## “If it swims, we have it”

Golden Thai Seafood Village is the latest restaurant serving seafood and authentic Oriental & Thai cuisine with live performance of Malaysian Cultural Show in the tourist belt of Batu Ferringhi, the resort island of Penang, Malaysia.



Golden Thai Seafood Village, Batu Ferringhi, No: 69-A, Jalan Batu Ferringhi, 11100 Penang. T: 604-881 1362



# George Town • Penang

UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE CITY



## HERITAGE SITES

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Fort Cornwallis             | 13 Christian Cemetery          |
| 2 Clock Tower                 | 14 Residence of Ku Din Ku Meh  |
| 3 State Assembly Building     | 15 St. Francis Xavier Church   |
| 4 Church Street Pier          | 16 Benggali Mosque             |
| 5 War Memorial                | 17 Hainan Temple               |
| 6 City Hall                   | 18 Kapitan Keling Mosque       |
| 7 Town Hall                   | 19 Teo Chew Temple             |
| 8 Cathedral of the Assumption | 20 Dr. Sun Yat Sun Penang Base |
| 9 Penang State Museum         | 21 Islamic Museum              |
| 10 St. George's Church        | 22 Yap Kongsı Temple           |
| 11 Goddess Mercy Temple       | 23 Seh Tek Tong Cheah Kongsı   |
| 12 Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion    | 24 Khoo Kongsı                 |

## COOL PLACES TO HANG OUT

- 1 One Club
- 2 Segafredo
- 3 MOIS Dance Club
- 4 Soi 11
- 5 Fame Dance Club
- 6 Slippery Seniorita
- 7 Uptown Bistro
- 8 SOHO Free House
- 9 CAFE 55
- 10 Edelweiss Café
- 11 Gops Mart



# PENANG ASSAM LAKSA

is internationally acclaimed

*It's so good, try it to find out*

■ Extracts from C.K. Lam @ [what2seeonline.com](http://what2seeonline.com)

Penang's Assam Laksa has been voted No. 7 under CNNGo International Food Survey as "foods worth traveling the world to gorge on". This is a great testament to the hawkers who work hard to make sure Penang Assam Laksa is not only delicious but as authentic as to what their forefathers did.

The fish base soup noodle combines many tastes – tangy, spicy, herbal, and salty with slight sweetness to give this dish a unique flavour. The spicy and fishy soup is sour because of the large quantity use of tamarind, which is also known locally as assam.

On the other hand, the generous use of Chinese lettuce, shredded cucumbers, onions, chopped pineapples, mint leaves and finely chopped ginger buds give the dish a distinct aromatic and pungent

flavour. Finally the thick sweet and salty shrimp paste, also known as "hae ko" enhances the dish with a strong fishy taste.

I have met several foreign food journalists and each time we met, assam laksa seems to appear in their top list of cuisines they would like to try. I have never given it much thought. I guess like many Penangites, we have taken this dish for granted as it can be found nearly in every street corner. I could never have imagined their eagerness to try this dish.

We can talk and write about the taste and ingredients paragraphs after paragraphs but the credit should be given to the Penang hawkers who toil through long hours, painstakingly preparing this splendid dish. Check them out at:

- Assam Laksa Air Itam Market
- Ivy's Kitchen
- Taman Emas coffee shop
- Khean Hooi Restaurant
- Chuan Heong Café





**Holiday Inn Resort**  
Jalan Batu Ferringhi, Penang  
04-881 1601



**Hard Rock Hotel Penang**  
Batu Ferringhi Beach, 11100 Penang  
04-881 1711



**Hydro Hotel Penang**  
Miami Beach, Jalan Batu Ferringhi,  
Penang. 04-890 5999

COME  
STAY  
WITH  
ME



**Eastern & Oriental Hotel**  
Lebuh Farquhar, Penang  
04-222 2000



**Shangri-La Rasa Sayang & Spa**  
Jalan Batu Ferringhi, Penang  
04-888 8888



**Copthorne Orchid Hotel Penang**  
Jalan Tanjung Bunga, Penang  
04-892 3333



**Paradise Sandy Beach Resort Penang**  
Jalan Tanjung Bunga, Penang  
04-899 9999



**Tanjung Bungah Beach Hotel**  
Jalan Tanjung Bunga, Penang  
04-890 8808



**Lone Pine Hotel**  
Jalan Batu Ferringhi, Penang  
04-886 8686



**Golden Sands Resort**  
Jalan Batu Ferringhi, Penang  
04-886 1911



**Flamingo by the Beach Hotel Penang**  
Jalan Tanjung Bunga, Penang  
04-892 7111



Dec **1-4**



### 8th Penang Island Jazz Festival

Time: 11am - 11pm

Venue: Gardens, Bayview Beach Resort, Batu Ferringhi

This four-day event will see a congregation of artists from the jazz and big band genre who will use this platform to showcase their performances. Local and international performers will also participate in the annual musical festival at various selected venues on the island.

Dec **10-11**



### Pesta Dragon Boat Race

Time: 8am - 6pm

Venue: Teluk Bahang Dam

This thrilling traditional event is held in conjunction with the annual Pesta Pulau Pinang where more than 900 local and international rowers will battle it out in the water to be the champions amidst the vigorous beating of drums onboard their dragon boats.

Dec **18**



### Pesta Chingay, Lion and Dragon Dance Parade

Time: 7.30pm - 11pm

Venue: Padang Brown to City Hall, Esplanade

Enjoy the spectacular display of skills by the chingay troupe members balancing gigantic flag poles as high as 10 metres on various parts of their body complemented by lion, dragon and cultural dance troupes, as well as marching band and a procession of decorative trishaws.

Dec **24**



### Christmas Eve and Christmas parties at Upper Penang Road

Time: 6pm - 12 midnight

Venue: Upper Penang Road

Have a jolly good time at this happening hot spot where Penangites hang out to celebrate Christmas. There is no shortage of live band performances and dance shows as revellers gather for the joyous countdown.

Dec **31**



### New Year Countdown 2012

Time: 6pm - 12 midnight

Venue: Esplanade, Gurney Drive, Queensbay Mall, Straits Quay, Auto-City

New Year countdown is held every year with night-long celebrations and live band performances at the Esplanade, Gurney Drive, Queensbay Mall and the new promenade at Straits Quay on the island and also at mainland Auto-City. Enjoy the brilliant display of fireworks and revellers welcome the New Year joyfully.

## Calendar of events

**1.1.2012**

Our best wishes to  
all readers for

*A Happy New Year*

Jan **14**

### Ponggal

Venue: Botanical Gardens carpark

Ponggal or the harvest festival, is celebrated over four days with the last day called Kanni Ponggal. This festival involves rituals of spiritual renewal, thanksgiving, worship and prayers for matrimonial blessing. Witness participants having fun cooking ponggal soru (sweet rice cooked in milk) in clay pots.

Jan **23**



### Chinese New Year

2012 Chinese New Year will be the year of the dragon. The Chinese mythology says that this will be the year of strength as it will be represented by the Water Dragon and is considered auspicious in the Chinese culture. Happiness, wealth and longevity are the hallmark of the Chinese New Year, celebrated over 15-long days.

Jan **28**



### Chinese New Year Cultural and Heritage Celebration

Time: 12pm - 12am

Venue: Unesco World Heritage Site, Lebuh Armenian

2012 Chinese New Year will be the year of the dragon. The Chinese mythology says that this will be the year of strength as it will be represented by the Water Dragon and is considered auspicious in the Chinese culture. Happiness, wealth and longevity are the hallmark of the Chinese New Year, celebrated over 15-long days.

Dec **11**



**Chinese New Year 2012  
Album Promo Tour**  
Time : 8pm – 10pm  
Venue : Sky TV

Dec **18**



**Penang State Christmas Celebration**  
Time : 6pm – 10.30pm  
Venue : Sky TV

## Calendar of Events @ Autocity

Dec **30**-Jan **1**



**New Year Countdown  
2011-2012**  
Time : 5pm – 12am

Dec **31**-Jan **1**



**Malakoff Interstate Ride 2011-2012**  
Morning - Afternoon

# Xian Ding Wei



1808-1809E, Jalan Perusahaan  
Autocity North-South Highway  
Juru Interchange  
13600 Prai, Penang.

T: 04-502 1317  
Operating hours:  
11.30pm - 1.00pm

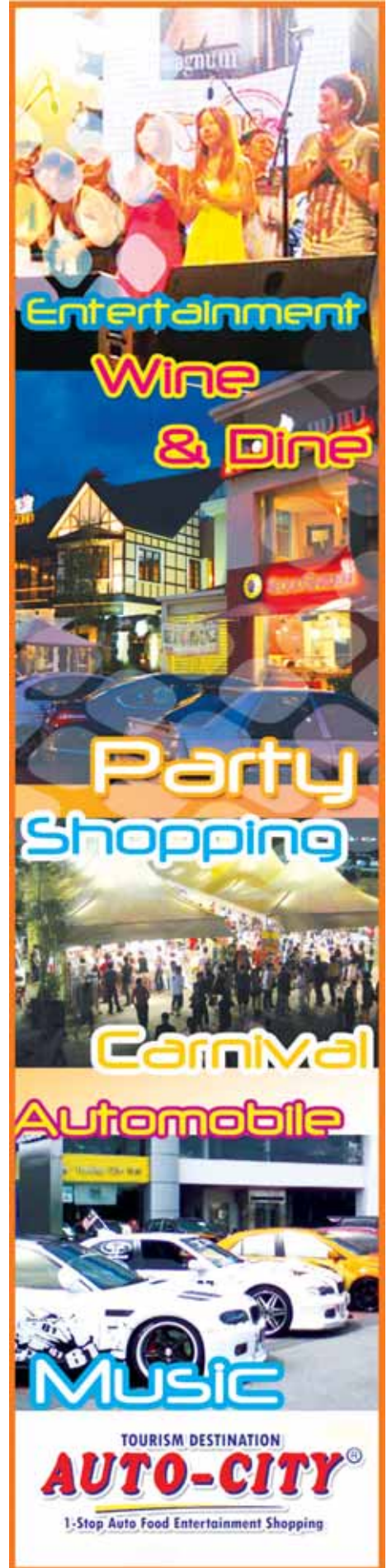
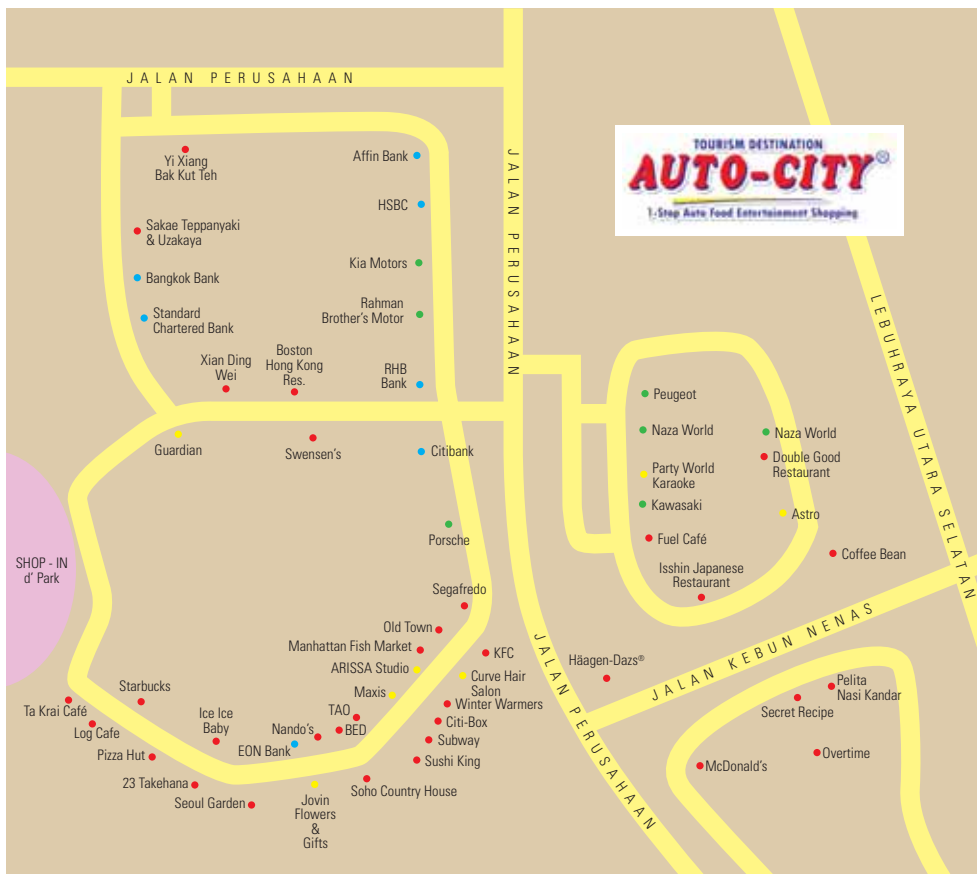
# Over time



1688-G8, Jalan Perusahaan  
Autocity North-South Highway  
Juru Interchange  
13600 Prai, Penang.

T: 04-507 1699 F: 04-508 3699  
[www.overtime.com.my](http://www.overtime.com.my)





**BED**  
04-507 0725  
[www.bed.com.my](http://www.bed.com.my)

**Citibank**  
04-508 4003

**Double Good Restaurant**  
04-501 4188

**Fuel Café**  
04-502 3835

**Haagen-Dazs**  
04-508 4220

**Winter Warmers**  
04-507 7848

**ISSHIN Japanese Restaurant**  
04-501 3899

**Jiu Jiu Szechuan Restaurant**  
04-501 3899

**Old Town White Coffee**  
04-502 2328  
[www.oldtown.com.my](http://www.oldtown.com.my)

**Party World Karaoke**  
04-502 2003

**Nasi Kandar Pelita (Samudra)**  
04-530 8018

**Pizza Hut**  
04-507 3561  
[www.pizzahut.com.my](http://www.pizzahut.com.my)

**Sakae Teppanyaki & Izakaya**  
04-508 0269  
[www.sakaesushi.com.my](http://www.sakaesushi.com.my)

**Secret Recipe**  
04-502 4363  
[www.secretrecipe.com.my](http://www.secretrecipe.com.my)

**Seoul Garden Restaurant**  
04-501 9339  
[www.seoulgarden.com.sg](http://www.seoulgarden.com.sg)

**SOHO Country House**  
04-507 0079  
[www.sohopenang.com](http://www.sohopenang.com)

**Starbucks Coffee Café**  
04-502 1879

**Sushi King**  
04-507 1295  
[www.sushi-king.com](http://www.sushi-king.com)

**Swensen's Café**  
04-502 2850  
[www.swensenicecream.com](http://www.swensenicecream.com)

**23 Takehana Restaurant**  
04-501 4888/501 4889

**Yi Xiang Bak Kut Teh**  
4-508 7131

**Jovin Flowers & Gifts**  
04-508 4343

**Boston Hong Kong**  
04-508 4296

**Xian Ding Wei Restaurant**  
04-502 1317

**Ta Krai Café**  
04-501 1192

**Affin Islamic Bank**  
04-507 7522  
[www.affinbank.com.my](http://www.affinbank.com.my)

**CIMB Bank**  
04-508 9358  
[www.cimbbank.com.my](http://www.cimbbank.com.my)

**Citibank**  
04-240 1111  
[www.citibank.com.my](http://www.citibank.com.my)

# 20 THINGS WE LOVE about Penang



- 1 Savouring Penang's Assam Laksa, voted as one of the top seven "foods worth traveling the world to gorge on"
- 2 Admiring fire flies at Sungei Krian in Nibong Tebal at night
- 3 Eating at the ever busy and popular Gurney Drive night hawker centre
- 4 Being seen at the entertainment centre in Upper Penang Road
- 5 Feasting on Peking Duck at Cheeky Duck Asian Kitchen & Bar in Straits Quay
- 6 Soaking up the sun along the Batu Ferringhi beach tourist belt
- 7 Marveling the fireworks while ushering the New Year at Esplanade with thousands of revelers
- 8 Enjoying the beautiful garden and the tranquility of the Penang Botanic Gardens
- 9 Viewing the magnificently spectacular panoramic view of George Town and the Penang Bridge from Penang Hill Top
- 10 Walking the George Town Heritage Trail and visiting stilted wooden houses at clan jetties
- 11 Riding on a trishaw around the Unesco World Heritage Site
- 12 Enjoying Dim Sum at Bali Hai Restaurant in Gurney Drive
- 13 Taking a ferry ride from the island to the mainland
- 14 Experiencing the Penang Nasi Kandar
- 15 Climbing the pagoda at the seven-storey Kek Lok Si Temple for awe-inspiring views
- 16 Eating steam crab at Gee Seng Seafood Restaurant in Bukit Tambun, mainland Juru
- 17 A typical charcoal-toasted bread and half-boil eggs at Toh Soon cafe in Lebuhraya
- 18 Free rides around George Town on the shuttle buses
- 19 Experience the sights, smells and sounds of the wet market at Chowrasta market
- 20 Taking part in the annual Penang Bridge marathon

**What do you love about Penang?**  
Tell us your views and post it in [where2](#) Facebook page and we'll consider it for the next issue.





# LIMA '11

L A N G K A W I



20-page  
edition

## Langkawi Orientation

Keep this magazine near you, in case of needs such as checking out a nice place to eat or an emergency number to dial.

We have packed as much information into this special edition to make your stay a pleasant and fruitful one.

Within it are a list of ins and outs of navigating Langkawi and a stylish map to guide you there. And to start things off, here's our highlights on the popular bi-annual Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) exposition.



Langkawi plays host to the biennial 11th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA), starting from Dec 6 to 10. A sure crowd-puller is the air show lasting four hours daily by various types of airplanes out to demonstrate their advanced electronics features and capabilities.



The highlights will be the death-defying stunts performed by the 1Malaysia Aerobatics Team from the RMAF using the single-seat turboprop aircraft extra 330L.

LIMA is the premier destination for aerospace and maritime manufacturers targeting the Asia Pacific growth markets. More than 42 aircraft and 30 ships will take part. Among the exhibitors are major aircraft manufacturers like AIRBUS, Boeing, Dassault, Gulfstream, Sukhoi, Eurocopter, Agusta Westland, Sikorsky, Bell Helicopters and

shipbuilders like Daewoo Shipbuilding, Damen Shipyard, Lurssen and Goa Shipyard.

You can have a close-up look at the world's sophisticated fighter jets on display at the Langkawi International Airport apron or visit the aerospace exhibition at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre and the maritime exhibition at Awana Porto Malai, where Malaysia's second submarine, KD Tun Abdul Razak, will be berthed.



# LANGKAWI

## Getting to

## Going around

### *By bicycle*

You can rent bicycles in many of the hotels. They are chargeable between RM10 and RM30 per day.

### *By taxi*

A taxi ride from the Airport to Pantai Cenang costs RM18. Coupons are available at the taxi counter at the airport. The fare from the ferry terminal to Pantai Cenang is RM24 and RM8 to Kuah town.

### *By car or motorcycle/ scooter*

Renting a car or motorcycle/scooter is highly recommended due to the lack of public transport. This can be done at the airport, Jetty Point or from shops along Pantai Cenang. Refrain renting from touts, as many of them operate illegally and do not provide insurance coverage. It is important to check on your fuel level regularly as most petrol stations are located a distance from each other.

### *By Air*

Langkawi International Airport is located at Padang Matsirat, about 20km from Kuah, and 8km from the beach resorts in Pantai Cenang. The airlines offering service to/from Langkawi are AirAsia, Malaysia Airlines, Firefly and SilkAir. Direct flights are also available to Penang and Kuala Lumpur; Singapore; and Hat Yai and Phuket in Thailand.

### *By Road*

Visitors travelling by road have to drive to Kuala Kedah or Kuala Perlis – the two main take-off points by ferry to Langkawi. Ample car parking facilities are available at both the ferry terminals.

### *By Sea*

Langkawi Ferry operates air-conditioned express ferry services from Kuala Perlis for RM18 one way (75-minute trip), Kuala Kedah for RM23 (105-minute trip), Penang RM60 (165-minute) and Satun, south Thailand for RM30 (75-minute) daily.

## Necessary Numbers

Just in case, these are the numbers you may need

### EMERGENCY

Police.....	999
Ambulance.....	999
Fire Brigade.....	994
Langkawi District Hospital.....	04 966 3333
Langkawi Tourist Information Centre Kuah.....	04 966 7789

## Langkawi Tourist Information Centre

Langkawi International Airport.....	04 955 1311	Customs Department Teluk Ewa.....	04 959 1077
Post office.....	04 966 3271	Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) Tourism Unit.....	04 966 7186
Tenaga Nasional Berhad.....	04 966 6020	LANGKAWI TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE	
Telekom.....	04 966 6210	Kuala Perlis Jetty.....	04 986 1899
Registration Department.....	04 966 6330	Kuala Kedah Jetty.....	04 762 6295
Immigration Department.....	04 959 1076		
Customs Department Kuah.....	04 966 6227		





# Special Message

by Langkawi Development Authority  
(LADA) general manager Datuk Azman Umar



## *Langkawi aspiring to become world's top 10 island destinations*

The efforts to re-position Langkawi as the premier eco-tourism destination is the primary focus of the Langkawi Tourism Blueprint which the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has announced during his 2012 budget speech in the Parliament.

Langkawi has been allocated RM420 million for a five-year (2011- 2015) plan to implement 14 initiatives that the Economic Planning Unit has endorsed.



My vision for Langkawi is to see this legendary island becoming the top 10 island destinations in the world. Our target is to get more tourists; especially quality tourists who will stay longer and spend more.

With the concerted efforts from the State Government of Kedah, Forestry Department and Langkawi Municipal Council, we will maintain and preserve the natural beauty of Langkawi; the Jewel of Kedah. I would love to see the involvement of every resident in Langkawi in tourism-related activities as it will benefit them directly or indirectly.

We welcome investors to grab the opportunities from the many tourism potentials in Langkawi; such as in the building of more four-star or five-star accommodations. We hope to achieve the target of three million tourist arrivals to Langkawi by the year 2015.

The initiatives, among others, are to:

1. Turn Laman Padi and Makam Mahsuri into living museums.
2. Promote 'niche' MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Conference and Exhibition) up to a capacity of 200 persons.
3. Improve and set new strategy for marketing and branding.



LADA Complex



Pulau Anak Tikus  
in Kilim Geopark

4. Upgrade ground mobility on the island.
5. Provide new facilities and activities for Geo-park.
6. Improve on health and sanitation.
7. Secure more new investment in luxury hotels and resorts.
8. Set up Tourism Langkawi Academy.
9. Improve on air connectivity especially direct flights from strategic cities to the island.
10. Upgrade Kuah Jetty and Langkawi International Airport as the main entry points to the island.

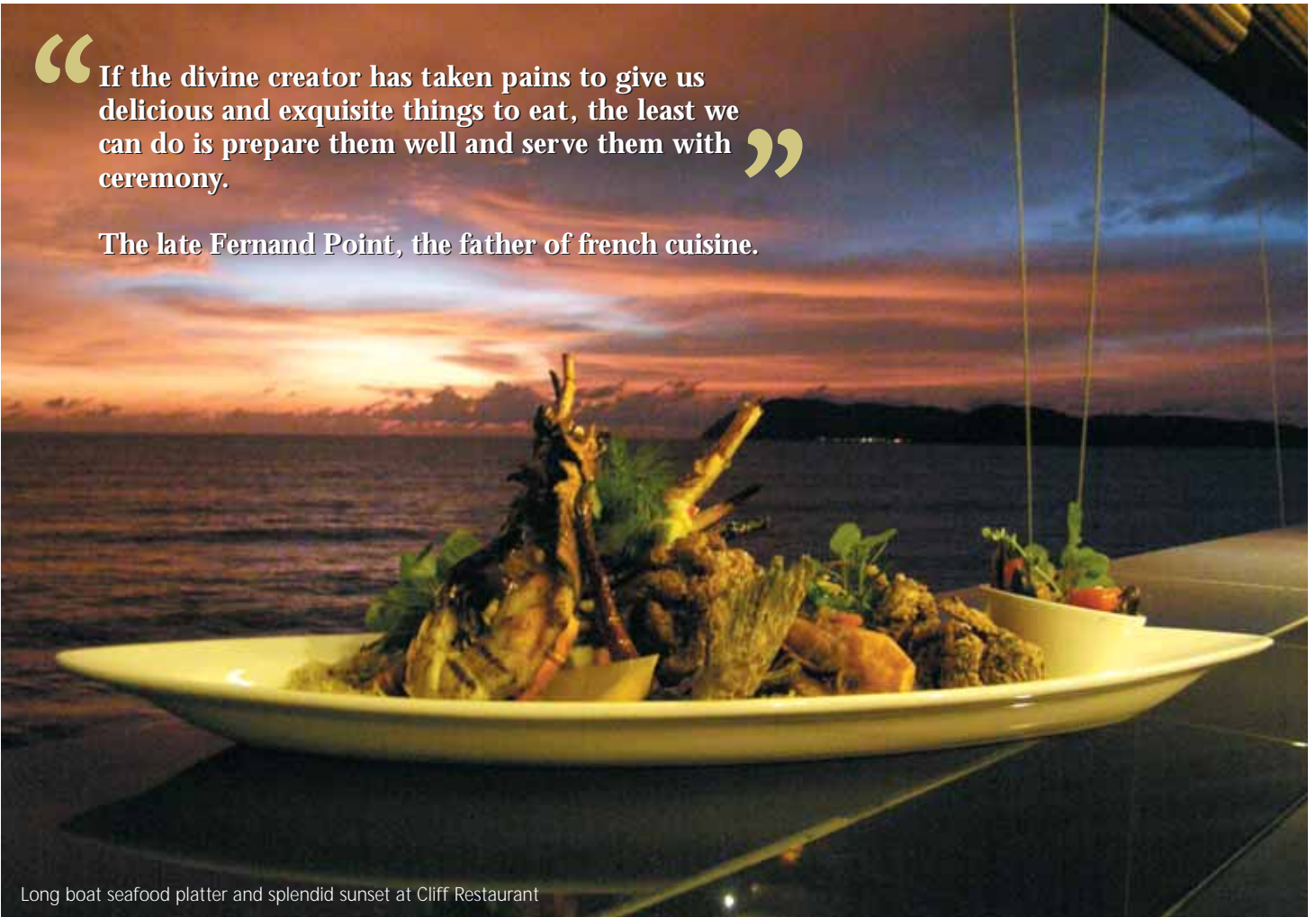
With the right people in our office and the right attitude of the island's people, I'm sure we can together drive these initiatives. I'm very confident of achieving the target of the world's top 10 island destinations by 2015.



Pantai Tanjung Rhu

“If the divine creator has taken pains to give us delicious and exquisite things to eat, the least we can do is prepare them well and serve them with ceremony.”

The late Fernand Point, the father of french cuisine.



Long boat seafood platter and splendid sunset at Cliff Restaurant

# Fine Dining

## By The Sea

● Words & Images by TUNKU SHERI

**Meticulous** and adding finishing touches to the meals, Chef Khairusshahri Ghazali makes sure that his excellent presentation tastes as delectable on palate as they look on the platter.





"This is very important to me, I need to ensure that my customers leave this restaurant happy and that they return here as often as they can," says the Executive Chef of The Cliff Restaurant at Jalan Pantai Cenang.

A youthful looking Khairusshahri, 33, has packed 13 years of culinary expertise in his hands, working at 5-star resorts.

His scrumptious cuisine includes "Sampan Panjang" (Long Boat) which is a platter of lobsters, fish, and cuttlefish served with fragrant briyani rice. The lobster is tenderly cooked and the fish served with tamarind sauce for the tangy taste.

The Cliff Restaurant is the ultimate dining experience in a relaxing ambience. This is where you can dine against the backdrop of setting sun or enjoy lunch on the terrace as you absorb the busy beach activities overlooking Pantai Cenang.

Of course a good meal washes down well with a full or medium bodied bottle of wine and the chef's choice of "Tiga Sekawan" for dessert; bread butter pudding, green apple strudel and strawberry compote (gelato which melts slowly) placed on a thin slice of almond crumble.

Manager A. Ramesh Somu supervises 30 staff to indulge diners to the best food and a fine-dining experience.

"One must have a passion for food and enjoy pampering people in order to succeed in the food industry."

"Customers can eat anywhere but our return guests come back as they love the ambience and find our cuisine comparable with what's served in 5-star resorts."

#### ***The Cliff Restaurant***

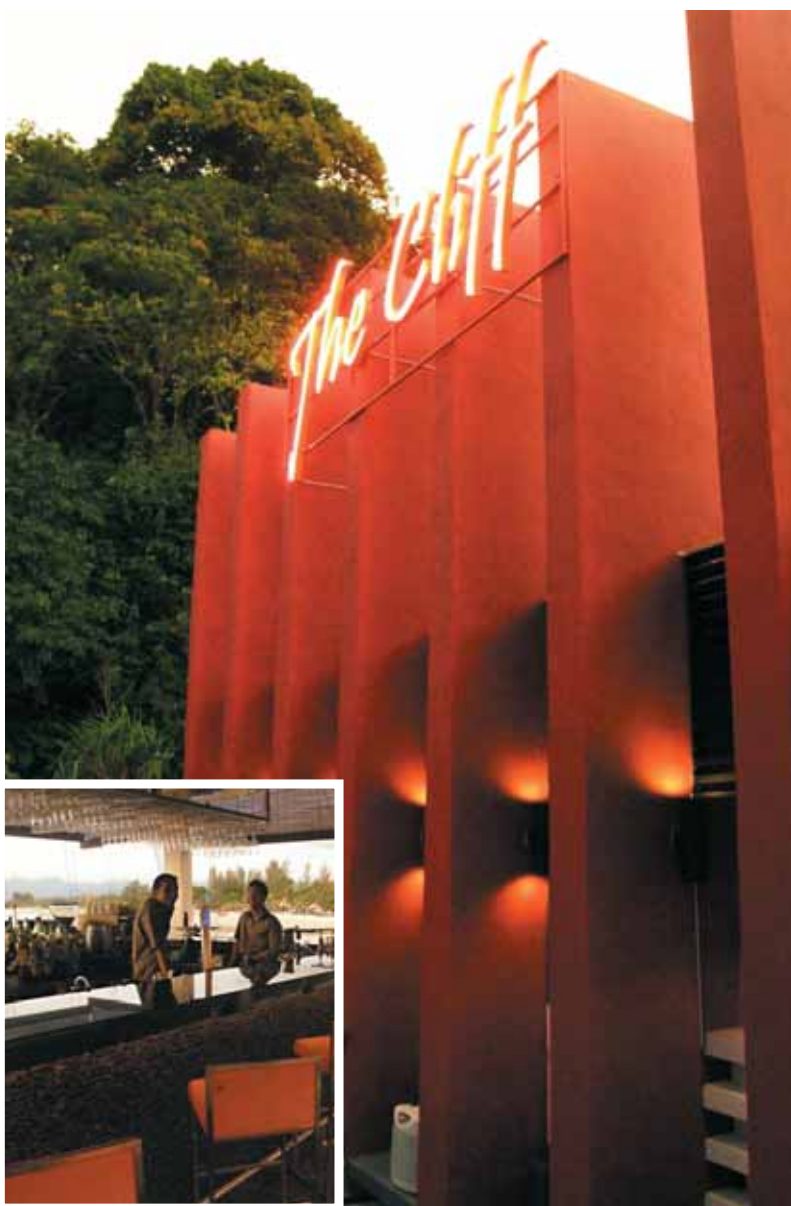
*Lot 64 & 40, Jalan Pantai Cenang*

*07000 Pulau Langkawi, Kedah Darul Aman.*

*Opens daily: 11am to 11pm*

*Reservation: call 604-953 3228*

*Email: thecliff888@gmail.com*





## where2stay

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Awana Porto Malai Resort           | 14 Mutiara Burau Bay Beach Resort |
| 2 Berjaya Langkawi Resort - Malaysia | 15 Tanjung Sanctuary Resort & Spa |
| 3 Bayview Hotel Langkawi             | 16 Tanjung Rhu Resort             |
| 4 Bon Ton/Temple Tree                | 17 Rebak Island Resort            |
| 5 Casa Del Mar Langkawi              | 18 The Andaman                    |
| 6 The Frangipani Resort & Spa        | 19 The City Bayview Hotel         |
| 7 Four Seasons Resort Langkawi       | 20 The Datai                      |
| 8 Grand Continental Hotel            | 21 Sheraton Langkawi Resort       |
| 9 Holiday Villa                      | 22 Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa   |
| 10 Langkawi Lagoon Resort            |                                   |
| 12 Hotel Langkasuka Langkawi         |                                   |
| 13 Meritus Pelangi Resort & Spa      |                                   |

## where2eat

- 1 Rafii's Beach Café
- 2 Red Tomato
- 3 The Cliff Restaurant
- 4 Orkid Ria Seafood Restaurant
- 5 Shin Mi Seafood Village
- 6 Langkawi Hainanese Café

## Beaches

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Pantai Beringin   | 7 Pantai Kok         |
| 2 Tanjung Rhu Beach | 8 Pantai Teluk Burau |
| 3 Black Sand Beach  | 9 Pantai Batu Hampar |
| 4 Sandy Skull Beach | 10 Pantai Cenang     |
| 5 Pebble Beach      | 11 Pantai Tengah     |
| 6 Pantai Datai      |                      |

## Places of Interest

- |                             |                              |                            |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Craft and Culture Centre  | 7 Legenda Park               | 12 Perdana Quay            |
| 2 Air Hangat Village        | 8 Eagle Square               | 13 Telaga Tujuh Waterfall  |
| 3 Kilim Geopark             | 9 Pulau Dayang Bunting       | 14 Skycab & Skybridge      |
| 4 Galeria Perdana           | 10 Underwater World Langkawi | 15 Temurun Waterfall       |
| 5 Durian Perangin Waterfall | 11 Laman Padi                | 16 Langkawi Crocodile Farm |
| 6 Langkawi Wildlife Park    |                              | 17 Makam Mahsuri           |



# LUXURY CRUISE

*Like no other*

The yacht S.Y. Kayu Manis, a large traditional schooner fitted with luxury amenities, is currently plying between Penang and Langkawi in Malaysia and Krabi and Phuket in neighbouring Thailand until the end of March. It is also available to cruise in Singapore and Indonesia.

The Langkawi-Phuket route takes you to the fine sands and crystal clear waters of the Butang Archipelago (Koh Lipeh) and Phi Phi for lunch, diving, snorkeling or stargazing next to a beach fire.

Do like what we did, sail on Kayu Manis to Koh Lipeh for a few days. Enjoy cocktails on the large top deck sofa while watching sunset and resting after exploring the reef at Koh Adang. This will be the most satisfying holiday experience and one that

leaves behind a life-long memory.

Kayu Manis (or cinnamon) was built in Sulawesi (the home of the indigenous commercial fleet plying the Indonesian archipelago) and combines traditional feeling with modern comfort.

*Getting there:* Kayu Manis is using Langkawi as one of her home ports. Telaga Harbour Park or Kuah Harbour is a mere 15-minute drive from Langkawi International Airport. From the airport, you can reach Kuala Lumpur under an hour or Singapore in a little more than one hour.

For more details, check out [www.sy-kayu-manis.com](http://www.sy-kayu-manis.com)



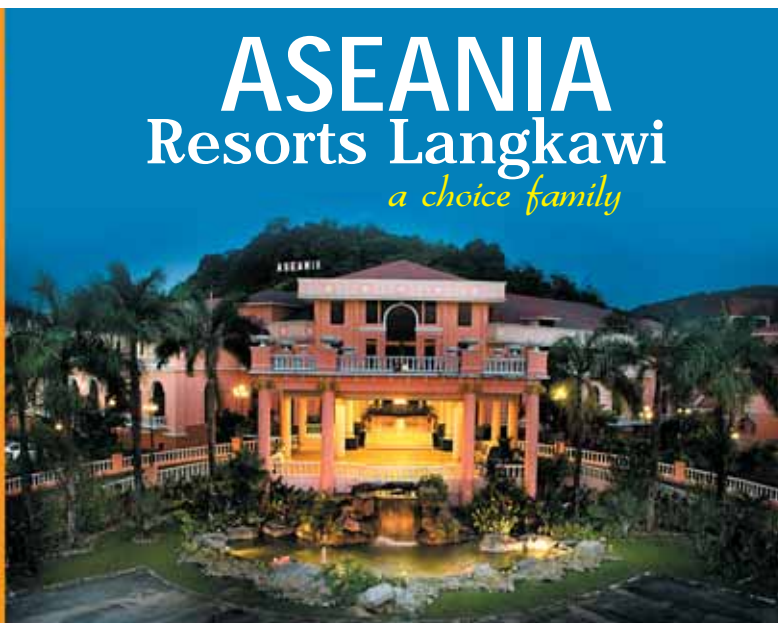
## ASEANIA Resorts Langkawi

*a choice family*



**Aseania Resort Langkawi is a classy 217-room resort located on 7.5 acres of land along the beach of Pantai Tengah in Mukim Kedawang, Langkawi.**

It boasts of its own mini water park with attractions such as a wave pool, slides and lazy river and a 154.4 meter long swimming pool recognised as the longest pool in Malaysia by The Malaysian Book of Records.



Its multi-cuisine restaurant, Laguna, offers you a wide selection of sumptuous dishes, from Asian to local favourites to time-tested Western dishes while Rempah Ratus, its traditional Malay cuisine restaurant serves deliciously home cooked Malay cuisine for dinner only.

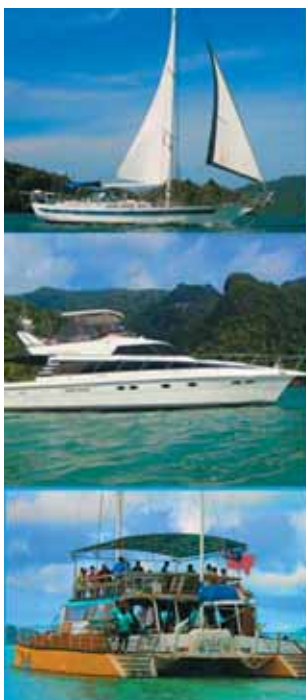
The Dewan Aseania convention hall has a capacity of 500 people and a host of other smaller rooms and halls with capacity ranging from 80 to 160 people.

Aseania Resort is in the vicinity of the popular tourist belt of Pantai Cenang and a short 25-minute drive to Jetty Point, 10 minutes to Langkawi International Airport and walking distance to Underwater World, Duty Free Shopping Centre and Main Souvenir Market.



**Aseania Resort Langkawi,**  
Simpang 3, Jalan Pantai Tengah,  
Mukim Kedawang, 07100 Langkawi.  
T: +604 - 955 2020  
F: +604 - 955 2115  
E: [enquiry@aseanialangkawi.com.my](mailto:enquiry@aseanialangkawi.com.my)  
W: [www.aseanialangkawi.com.my](http://www.aseanialangkawi.com.my)





# Safe and sound *sailing*

Thinking of having a whale of a time sailing where safety is well taken care of? Then opt for Tropical Charters where you are spoilt for choice with the most diverse yacht charters in Langkawi.

If you looking for a luxurious cruise, the Suka Suka yacht has all the modern trappings and cozy ambience or if you want to party with friends, then the Sensation

(catamaran) would be a better choice. For fishing buffs, jump on a speedboat.

The various cruises cater for a host of activities including weddings, barbeque, saltwater "Jacuzzi" where a rope net is towed at the back of the catamaran or at the side of the yacht. Nothing beats the fun of being washed by waves of seawater as you settle comfortably and safely on the net as your Jacuzzi is being towed along.

You can watch the most awesome sunset as you sail back to port at dusk after a hearty barbeque meal while being entertained onboard by the chirpy crew.

Tropical Charters offer cruises ranging from day sailing, cocktail and dinner sunset sailing, beach and wedding, honeymoon, to theme and incentive cruises. Yachts and boats for private charters are also available.

All yacht charters have the required insurance coverage. For details, email: [info@tropicalcharters.com.my](mailto:info@tropicalcharters.com.my) or call +604 955 3407 / +6012 588 3274.



## Guide to Langkawi's Marinas *a haven for yachties.*

There are four mooring locations in Langkawi and the yachties love berthing here as they find it a safe place to leave their boats while visiting the island.

### Royal Langkawi Yacht Club

T: 604 966 4078

[www.langkawi yachtclub.com](http://www.langkawi yachtclub.com)

This exclusive 200-berth marina in Kuah can accommodate a variety of vessels including sailing boats and mega yachts up to 60 metres.

### Awana Porto Malai

T: 604 955 5111

[www.awana.com.my](http://www.awana.com.my)

Noted for its Mediterranean architecture and as a terminal for ocean-going cruise ships which regularly call here on their way to and from Singapore and southern Thailand.



Royal Langkawi Yacht Club

### Telaga Harbour

T: 604 959 2202

[www.telagaharbour.com](http://www.telagaharbour.com)

A Mediterranean-themed harbour town, located at the beautiful Pantai Kok.

### Rebak Island Marina

T: 604 966 5566

[www.rebakmarina.com](http://www.rebakmarina.com)

This first class marina can accommodate vessels up to 30m in 189 wet and 70 dry berths.





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Pantai Cenang  
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Dimiliki Oleh: SUNRISE EQUATION SDN. BHD. (801933-M)



**Perdana Quay**  
**Year End Event**  
**2011**



**December 2011**  
**LIMA '11 Promotions**

**6th - 12th**

19:30 - 23:30hrs

2 piece Stroller (Guitarist/Saxaphonist)

**24th - 28th**

19:30 - 23:30hrs

Traditional Culture Music

/Dance Performance

Angklung

Fire Eater Performance

Live Band Performance

2 piece Stroller (Guitarist/Saxaphonist)

**29th - 31st**

19:30 - 23:30hrs

Theater - Jikey

Angklung

Traditional Dance Performance

Live Band Performance

2 piece Stroller (Guitar/Saxaphonist)

**1st January 2012**

Traditional Culture Music/Dance

Performance

Angklung

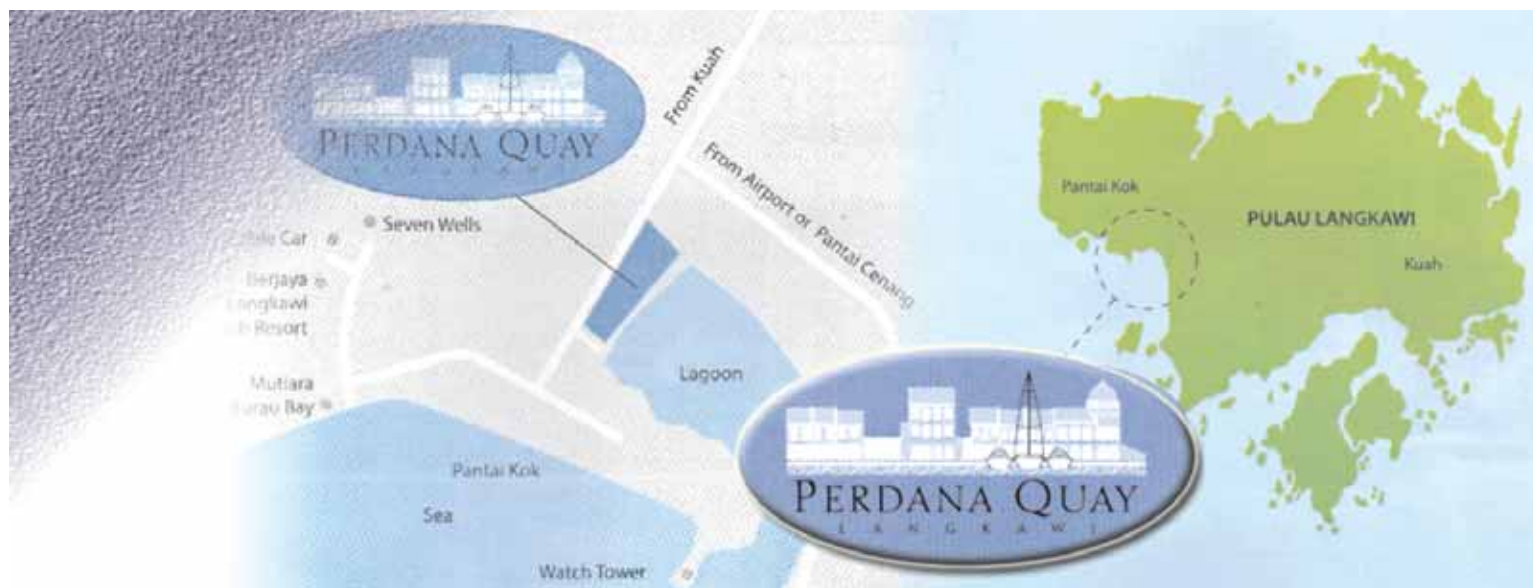
Fire Eater Performance

Live Band Performance

2 piece Stroller (Guitarist/Saxaphonist)

Perdana Quay





# Great Place Great Taste

Located next to Pantai Kok and overlooking the lovely Telaga Harbour marina, Perdana Quay is the most elegant dining place in Langkawi. There's a posh Japanese-style bakery and bistro, which is owned by Malaysia's former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and upscale restaurants offering a wide range of international cuisines (Spanish Tapas, Italian, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Malaysian Cuisine and more). The famous yacht "Jalur Gemilang" belonging to Datuk Azhar Mansor who is Malaysia's well known mariner for having completed sailing solo around the globe in 1999 is on display at the marina.

Perdana Quay was originally constructed to resemble a Mediterranean coastal town so the architecture here has a European look not seen anywhere in Langkawi.

Although most people come here for dinner, it's actually better to come here for lunch. Since the restaurants are all alfresco, you'll get great view of the harbour and the luxury yacht during the daylight hours.

With the boutique Hotel The Danna next door, Perdana Quay with its Mediterranean architecture and its up-market ambience, is geared to draw diners and tourists.

Some of our F & B outlets:







Gym

**FOUR  
POINTS**  
BY SHERATON  
Langkawi Resort

Langkawi has a new resort, the Four Points by Sheraton Langkawi Resort in Padang Matsirat, which opened for business recently.

This new resort was the former Langkasuka Hotel which was upgraded in a multi-million ringgit refurbishment exercise.

This new resort is Starwood Hotels & Resorts' first Four Points by Sheraton resort in the Asia Pacific region. It caters to the mid scale leisure and meetings market in Langkawi.

Four Points by Sheraton Langkawi Resort is situated in a secluded idyllic 3 km-long white sandy beach, just a mere 1.5 kilometres away from the Langkawi International Airport and, within walking distance to the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre.

Oozing comfort and equipped with the island's largest infinity pool, this resort has 214 rooms, an all-day Eatery restaurant that can seat 400 guests, Wrapped Deli & Lounge, a 100-seater Specialty Restaurant, fitness centre and an all-glass walled ballroom with panoramic views of the scenic Andaman Sea.

Signature dishes served at the Eatery are Sarawak's favourites such as Foochow Mee, Sarawak Laksa, Chicken Rice, Burger and Chicken Boxing.

The resort is ideal for conferences, events and social functions with its state-of-the-art meeting facilities, hi-speed internet access, and complimentary WiFi in its public areas.



Bright, cheerful and stylishly designed

The Four Points by Sheraton Langkawi Resort complements the three other Starwood resorts on the island. They are Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa, Sheraton Langkawi Resort and The Hotel Helang.

The Hotel Helang will be upgraded and renamed Four Points by Sheraton Langkawi Airport in March next year after undergoing another multi-million refurbishment exercise.



Langkawi's largest infinity pool

Four Points by Sheraton Langkawi Resort  
Kuala Muda, Padang Matsirat  
07000 Langkawi.  
T: +604 955 6888 F: +604 955 5888





# RED TOMATO

restaurant & lounge

**Delectable food is integral to the effusive hospitality that is alive at the Red Tomato Restaurant and Lounge in Pantai Cenang.**

Tanya, a German lass who has made her home here, makes sure that customers would feel at home at her restaurant when they tuck in wholesome and healthy European and Mediterranean meals and breakfasts throughout the day.

Tanya, who makes her own bread, pastas and pita, serves travelers with gluten-free grains such as corn, tapioca, rice in her food she prepares.

Tomatoes, olives, onions and garlic make up the core of the ingredients in the range of soups, salads, pastas, spaghetti's and steaks available on the menu.

Breakfast is the best time to sit outdoor while eating to observe the casual daily life of Pantai Cenang waking up.

Tanya, a qualified draftsman, is the Chef while her local husband Oly Khalid, an artisan, looks after the general maintenance of the restaurant as the general manager.

Bright red wooden main doors usher guests into the interiors that is chic and trendy. A red colour piano sits at a corner and bird cages with a wooden stick man trapped inside hang over a bar top. Art paintings adorn the walls and add aesthetic character to this restaurant.

Combining their respective artistic and culinary skills, Oly and Tanya have founded a thriving food business and believe they made the right decision to stay put to enjoy the easy, laid back lifestyle in this tourist island.

Red Tomato, Casa Fina Avenue, Pantai Cenang  
Opens daily: 9am to 11pm  
T: 604 955 4055  
E: redtomatogardencafe@gmail.com







# tsunami

## a blessing in disguise

The 2004 tsunami left a trail of destruction and debris including the sea-front chalets in Cenang Beach belonging to Zailina Mohd Zain and her husband Abd Manaf Majid.

But this couple saw an opportunity which turned out the tsunami was a blessing in disguise for them.

While they saw the destruction, a huge tree, Pokok Jambu Laut, on the beach withstood the fury of the tsunami.

Manaf then told his wife that he would build tree-top chalets on the huge tree and believing that even in the rare recurrence of another tsunami hitting the same beach, his guests would be safe!

"At first, I thought it was a crazy idea but our five tree-top chalets at Malibest Resort in Cenang Beach have turned out to be our best-selling accommodation among our chain of chalet hotels

here," said Zailina, managing director of Baron Group of Companies.

The Baron Group operates a three-star chain of five chalet hotels offering 500 rooms in Kuah and Cenang beach.

Apart from Malibest, the group's De Baron Resort - a four-storey budget resort in Kuah - was slated for completion by year-end. The RM6 million 92-room resort is 70 per cent completed and operational next year.

The Group is currently upgrading all its hotel rooms in Kuah and Cenang Beach and has plans to build at least 500 more rooms within the next five years.





BARON GROUP OF COMPANIES  
Remember Langkawi Remember Baron

*Light Up Your...*  
*holidays. Feel Good Today. Feel Great Tomorrow.*  
*De Baron Resort — Million Dollar View Within Your Grasp.*

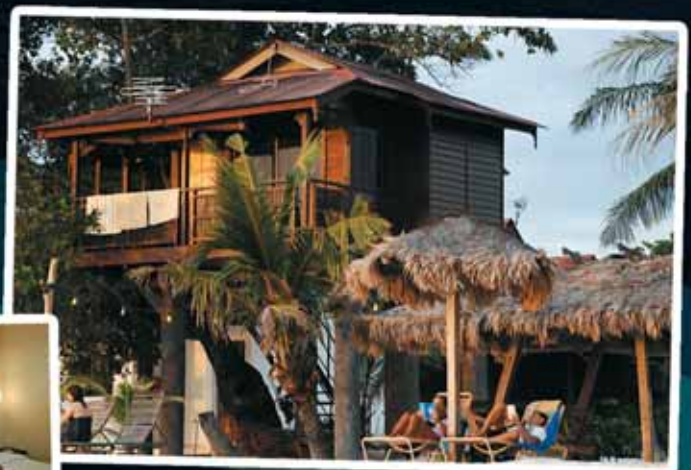


De Baron Resort Langkawi, Bandar Baru Baron, Off Jalan Putera, Kuah, 07000 Langkawi. T: 04-966 2222

*Experience the Difference*



*Malibest Resort*



**Malibest Resort**, Pantai Cenang,  
Pantai Cenang, 07000 Langkawi.  
T: 04-9558222 / 9558202

# WELLNESS DESTINATION LANGKAWI

Words by KAMILA DELART

## LANGKAWI-BASED EUROPEAN SPA CONSULTANT & WELLNESS WRITER

Langkawi... A pristine tropical island with natural beauty that will simply take your breath away. But as I quickly discovered, Langkawi has so much more to offer! Fascinated by the unbelievable number of Spas on this tiny island, I set out to put together the Langkawi Spa Guide. And the project became the most amazing wellness journey of my life!

A crossroad of ancient maritime trade routes, the island embraces spa rituals reflecting the distinctive blend of Malaysia's diverse cultures: healing and beauty ceremonies of Orang Asli - the aboriginal rainforest tribes, indigenous Malay treatments, Ayurvedic practices native to India, and traditional Chinese medicine. Instead of utilizing commercially manufactured products, the rich massage oils and delicious body scrubs are blended following ancient recipes, incorporating freshly harvested tropical fruits and

spices, and medicinal plants from the rainforest. Combined with the caring nature and outstanding skills of the therapists - you are in for a real treat!

You will find an authentic Malay Home Spa hidden deep in the rainforest with monkeys peaking through the windows during your treatment, open air Spa pavilions with a spectacular view of the Andaman Sea, a luxurious wellness oasis with a private aroma-steam bath, Jacuzzi, and a dreamlike bale 'floating' on a reflecting pond... Whether you are looking for an indigenous experience or a lavish treat, the choices are boundless!

The individual taste certainly varies, but if asked for my personal recommendation...

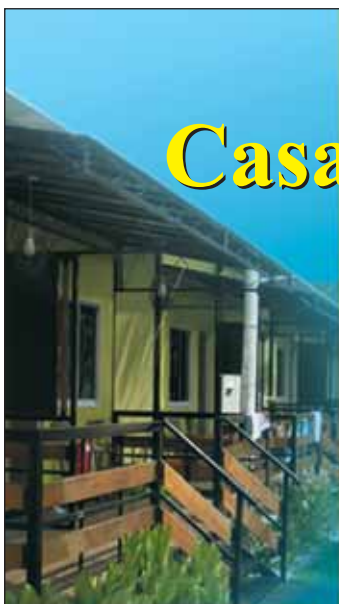
Facial	: Bellis Spa
Manicure & pedicure	: Teratai Reflexology
Massage	: The Spa at The Datai
Overall Experience	: The Spa at Four Seasons Resort

*Editor: views expressed here are explicitly those of writer and do not reflect the stand of [where2](#) magazine*

To find your own favourite – get inspired by Spa reviews at [www.langkawi-gazette.com](http://www.langkawi-gazette.com)

## Welcome to Casafina Fine Homes & Avenue

where we provide the ultimate “home away from home” experience for you and your family right in the centre of Langkawi’s popular tourist top spot at Pantai Cenang.



Casa Fina Fine Homes & Avenue,  
Lot 53, Persiaran Pantai Cenang,  
Mukim Kedawang, 07000  
Langkawi  
T: 604 9533 555  
F: 604 9533 556  
[www.casafina.my](http://www.casafina.my)

To save you travelling time, we are strategically located a mere 10-minute drive from Matsirat Airport opposite the Underwater World Langkawi. We are also located at the mid-way between Kuah and the Cable Car in Pantai Kok.

Our rates provide you with a value for money from RM138 onwards and our contemporary design will give you a feeling of quiet comfort as you enjoy your holiday.

To add to the convenience, our surrounding facilities include;

- Wifi area
- Restaurants
- Souvenir Shops
- Leather Shops
- Satellite TV
- Pubs & Bistros
- Convenience Stores
- Close to the beachfront



# Steepest cable car ride on earth



Come and enjoy the steepest cable car ride on earth that promises a spectacular view of Langkawi and takes you to the hill-top of Langkawi's second highest mountain, Mount Machinchang.



Ebi Azly

Cable Car Station, Oriental Village  
Bureau Bay, 07000 Langkawi  
T: +604 959 4225/1225  
F: +604 959 1121/4121  
E: info@panoramalangkawi.com

After stepping out of the ride - SkyCab - on top, join in another exhilarating adventure of walking along a high-curve hanging bridge - "SkyBridge" - and be thrilled looking down to the sea 700 meters below.

The two "must-do" world-class products for visitors are experiences that sum up Panorama Langkawi's new tagline "Welcome to Happiness" for its visitors.

Once atop the twin viewing stations, visitors will glow in the kind of excitement and awe that come with happiness; a breath-taking vista that will greet them with the panoramic 360 degree view of the whole of Langkawi.

"This is the kind of happiness that's unique - it's fun, educational, healthy, family oriented and it's all borne out of the natural geographic greenness that surrounds our venue," the company's Chief Operating Officer Ebi Azly Abdullah says, adding that no one else in the Malaysia's tourism industry has ever sold "happiness" as a brand proposition to consumers.

This new brand proposition is part of the rebranding exercise that started with the renaming of Langkawi Cable Car into Panorama Langkawi

Sdn Bhd early this year.

"We want our target market to know that when they come here, they will experience the kind of happiness that's defined by two world class infrastructure which are the world's steepest cable car ride and one of the world's most spectacular observation bridge that connects the tips of two mountains at over 700 metres above sea level."

"Panorama Langkawi will hit 5-million ridership sometime mid-December and we have some surprise gifts for the lucky passenger."

## Fancy sending a 'I was here' postcard from Mount Machinchang?

Visitors can share their 'I was here' moments with their loved ones back home by posting a postcard or greeting card that features mountain top views of Langkawi and pictures of local flora and fauna.

A post box with a writing station complete with stationery placed at the Top Station atop Mount Machinchang is the first in Malaysia.



# Langkawi the good ole days of yore

■ Words by JOHN CHIN

There were more buffalos than cars on the main road and the verdant fields inland were swaying with golden ripening paddy. That was unspoilt Langkawi two decades ago.



Burau Bay

This island was better known by its moniker “German” isle. German tourists then had arrived in droves in chartered flights from Frankfurt. A sizeable number stayed on. This isle is however literally going “Dutch” now; their number has swelled, outnumbering Germans and they converge on long stay in a choice foothill address in Ulu Melaka, which has assumed the name Kampung Belanda (or Dutch Village).

Those days, islanders were also fixated with the 100-day feat, twice over, accomplished by developer Tan Sri Ting Pek Khiing who built the first five-star hotel, Sheraton Langkawi Resort, and the 1,000-room Delima Village within three months; and completed them in time for the staging of the first Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) exposition in 1991.

Langkawi appears to have shirked off the seven-generation curse of bad luck by Mahsuri – a beautiful maiden falsely accused of adultery and



Laman Padi

killed. This curse was “finally” broken in 1987 when Langkawi was granted “duty-free” status and prospered. Intrigued by the folklore, her mausoleum – a cultural icon - has remained a must-see tourist attraction and her name immortalised when the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre was named after her.

Fast forward, Langkawi is now dotted with six-star resorts to back-packers’ lodges, and the rich paddy fields are mainly confined within a 14-acre land at Laman Padi (Rice Museum) at Pantai Cenang.

This 3km-long tourism belt that once had one five-star beachside resort and a few ramshackle chalets is one of the busiest beaches on the island. Last year, Langkawi attracted 2.6 million

visitors of whom one million are foreigners.

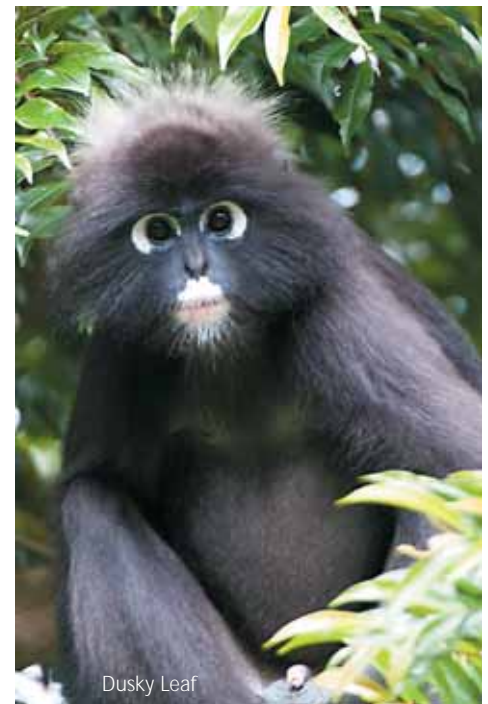
German Willy Hueners, who operates a restaurant called “Sheela” with his wife, recalls the laid-back 1990s when he moved to Langkawi to start his food outlet, he has had to put up hedges to keep out the buffaloes grazing into his land. Nostalgic of the days of yore, he has recreated a well-manicured garden out of swamp land and planted it with flowering scrubs and fruit trees to attract birds to roost and under its canopy runs an open café.

The authority like Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) is like-minded in preserving the island as a world-class marine habitat. A five-year plan will transform the island into an eco-tourism destination.

LADA general manager Datuk Azman Umar says the future of the island rests with green development to preserve Langkawi’s alluring features of white sandy beaches, green hills, waterfalls, Geo-park and Pulau Payar Marine Park.




Kayaking



Dusky Leaf





## Learning made easy with quiz on nature

**Come** to the Langkawi Wildlife Park to learn about the island's flora and fauna and test your own knowledge of nature.

At the Wildlife Park, you will find a treasure trove of information of animals for both the young and old.

Bantings lined the roads leading to major hot tourist spots come with a poser such as "Ever wonder what colour a squirrel cannot see? and "I pee on my legs to cool down myself. Who am I?"

These bantings will lead visitors the way to the wildlife park, says general manager John Teoh.


Every visitor with an entrance ticket into the wildlife park will be given one entry form containing a list of 10 objective questions in English and Malay. They stand to win a prize if they answer all the questions correctly.

Teoh says while these questions are both tricky and informative; it's a breeze for those who have some knowledge to pick the right answers. The quiz is on until Dec 31.

Visitors can also have a first-hand look at the "Brahminy Kite" eagle that is the emblem of the island Langkawi which in Malay means "eagle" and "reddish brown". The park opens daily.

Langkawi Wildlife Park  
Lot 1485, Jalan Ayer Hangat  
Kampung Belanga Pecah  
Mukim Kuah, 07000 Langkawi, Kedah.  
T: 04-966 5855 F: 04-966 1855  
E: [www.wildlifeplanet@gmail.com](mailto:www.wildlifeplanet@gmail.com)

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## Gunung Raya

Gunung Raya is Langkawi's highest peak at 880 metres. It can be reached via a winding road passing through fascinating forests. Hornbills and bird of prey are common sights. Stop at the parking bays and observe the forest from the canopy level, look listen and then let the wildlife come to you.



*Not to Miss!*

Besides the sun, sea and sail factor, Langkawi packs a big punch. With so much to see and do, it can be hard to know where to begin your visit.

# Tourist SPOTS

Check out our recommended must-see places – many of which can be completed in four hours or less.



## Langkawi Geopark

is Malaysia's first geopark with a total land area of about 478km<sup>2</sup>. It was declared by Unesco on June 1, 2007 as the 52nd geopark in the world. There are three geoforest parks within the Langkawi geopark - Machinchang geoforest; Kilim geoforest and Dayang Bunting marble. Langkawi is also the geopark in the world with a duty free status.



**TANJUNG SANCTUARY**  
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## Worth a Visit... Worth a Lifetime

An enchanting archipelago of 99 islands lapped by the azure waters of the Andaman sea, **Langkawi** is a multifaceted gem of beautiful beaches, ancient rain forest, a rich cultural heritage and mystical Legends. We invite you to take a journey through this **UNESCO Global Geopark** and discover why it is a truly unique holiday destination.



For more information  
[www.lada.gov.my/tourism](http://www.lada.gov.my/tourism)

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