HERITAGE TRADERS of GEORGE TOWN

Featuring 23 selected traditional trades







CONTENTS

The George Town World Heritage Site	4
The City's Intangible Heritage	4
Signboard Carver	5
Chinese Seal Cutter and Calligrapher	. 6
Paper Oblation Craftsman	7
Pastry Baker (Coconut Tarts)	8
Pak Tong Kou and Ham Chim Peng	
Maker	9
Kapok Pillow and Mattress Maker.	10
Coffee Roaster	11
Rattan Weaver	12
Stonemason and Tombstone Engraver	13
Shoe Maker (Nyonya Beaded Shoes)	14
Traditional Kitchenware Seller	15
Map of the Traders in George Town	.16
Perfumer	18
Printing Press and Book Binder	19
Spice Merchants	20
Hindu Religious Goods and Indian	
Kitchenware Seller	21
Chinese Medical Hall and Traditional	00
Medicine (Healer)	22
Songkok Maker	23
Sarong and Textile Traders	24
Nasi Kandar Sellers	25
Indian Goldsmith	26
Flower Garland Makers	27
Money Changer and Numismatic	20
Dealer	28
Islamic Books Publisher	29
George Town World Heritage Incorporated	30

THE GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE SITE

On 7 July 2008, Melaka and George Town under serial nomination were awarded the coveted title of World Heritage Site, and were listed under the category of Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO World Heritage

Melaka and George Town's Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) were described by UNESCO as:

- Exceptional examples of multi-cultural trading towns in East and Southeast Asia, forged from the mercantile and civilizational exchanges of Malay, Chinese, Indian and European cultures.
- A living testimony to the multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, where the greatest religions, and cultures met and coexisted in harmony.
- A unique architecture, culture and townscape without parallel anywhere in the East and South East Asia, in particular, a range and exceptional architecture of shophouses and townhouses.

THE CITY'S INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

The intangible heritage of George Town is not only a vital contributing factor to the significance of the World Heritage Site, but it is also what gives the city its richness and vitality.

George Town World Heritage Incorporated's (GTWHI) Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is one of the first steps required to plan measures for the safeguarding of ICH and to ensure its continued sustainability for future generations.

The Inventory project serves to identify and document what constitutes ICH in the particular context of the Historic City of George Town. Beginning in 2012 with a focus on traditional performing arts and artisan skills, and traditional crafts and trades, the project comprised of door-to-door surveys of over 5,000 premises in George

SIGNBOARD CARVER

Mr Lee Chee Cheng SUNG DYNASTY WOOD CARVING 77 Lebuh Carnarvon, 10100 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 018-463 4008 OPENING HOURS 10am - 5pm (Mon-Sat)



Many traditional Chinese businesses and homes in George Town still proudly display wooden signboards over their front doors - the former announce company names or auspicious couplets, while the latter depict family surnames.

Aside from signboards, Lee Chee Cheng also carves ancestral tablets and Chinese deities. The process is as much dependent on skill as it is on calligraphy, principles of feng shui and knowledge of Chinese folklore.





CHINESE SEAL CUTTER & CALLIGRAPHER

Mr Ng Chai Tiam TIAN HUA ARTS & ANTIQUE 85 Lebuh Carnarvon, 10100 George Town.

> CONTACT NO. 017-478 2878 OPENING HOURS 10am - 5pm (daily)

PAPER OBLATION CRAFTSMAN

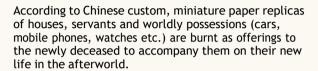
Mr Loh Ah Ban AH BAN PAPER OBLATION SHOP 198A Lebuh Carnarvon, 10100 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 04-261 5292 OPENING HOURS 9am - 6pm (daily)



For over four decades, master craftsman Ng Chai Tiam has carved countless traditional Chinese stone seals which are used by businessmen, traders and calligraphy artists as a signature on official documents and works of art.

Customers choose a particular character style from his sample book, type and size of stone. The more ornate stones are decorated with animals or auspicious objects.



Aside from paper houses, the shop also makes giant paper effigies of Chinese gods which are used to commemorate deities' birthdays and religious festivals.









PASTRY BAKER (COCONUT TARTS)

Mr Leong How Keng LEONG CHEE KEE C8 People's Court Lebuh Cintra, 10100 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 016-401 9211 OPENING HOURS 8.30am - 6.30pm (Mon-Sat)

Leong How Keng's tiny bakery shop is famous for its coconut tarts. Only 300 tarts are made each day, so customers make a bee-line to the bakery bright and early each morning!

Leong learnt his recipes from his father who established the bakery and he has spent over three decades perfecting his craft. His wife runs the shop counter leaving him to concentrate whole-heartedly on baking coconut tarts and other traditional Chinese pastries.



PAK TONG KOU & HAM CHIM PENG MAKER

Mr Yee Kok Heng D2 People's Court Lebuh Cintra, 10100 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 016-487 6425 OPENING HOURS 6.30pm onwards (daily)



Pak tong kou (steamed rice flour cakes) and ham chim peng (deep fried pancakes) are two traditional Cantonese pastries.

Carrying on his grandfather's legacy, Yee Kok Heng, his wife and two brothers prepare all the pastries themselves in their bakery at People's Court. The pastries are then loaded on to their stall which is wheeled to its usual spot at the junction of Lebuh Cintra and Lebuh Campbell.





KAPOK PILLOW & MATTRESS MAKER

Mr Ong Chin Ban CHIN HUAT 78 Lebuh Cintra, 10100 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 016-483 9495 OPENING HOURS 9am - 4.30pm (Mon - Sat)

Kapok is a cotton-like material which comes from the seed pods of the kapok tree (*Ceiba pentandra*) which grows in the wild in Malaysia. This is used as a natural filling for pillows, mattresses and bolsters.

The shop churns out an average of 10 bolsters and 10 pillows a day of varying sizes, including small pillows and bolsters for infants under the age of one! Kapok is also sold in plastic bags so that customers can re-stuff their own pillows.



COFFEE ROASTER

KUN KEE FOOD INDUSTRIES 20 Jalan Cheong Fatt Tze, 10100 George Town.

CONTACT NO.
04-261 2288
OPENING HOURS
8am - 5pm (Mon - Sat)



Kun Kee Food Industries is a George Town success story of a small coffee roaster that has expanded and diversified its products for the export market. The company's famous blend of "Kopi O" is sold in coffeeshops throughout Malaysia and consists of coffee beans roasted with sugar, margarine, salt and sesame seeds.

Although the business is now run by the second generation, the founder, Choot Ching Koon still visits the shop every morning to taste the first batch of coffee that has been roasted.





RATTAN WEAVER

Mr Sim Buck Teik SEANG HIN LEONG 393 Lebuh Pantai, 10300 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 016-4545 686 OPENING HOURS 9am - 6pm (Mon - Sat)

STONEMASON & TOMBSTONE FNGRAVER

Mr Yeoh Gim Huat GIM CHUAN HIN 34, 34A Gat Lebuh Acheh, 10200 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 016-455 7706 OPENING HOURS 9am - 5pm (daily)



Veteran rattan weaver Sim Buck Teik is a "Living Heritage Treasure of Penang". He is a second generation rattan weaver who inherited his skills from his father in their home district of Teochew, China before the family moved to Malaya.

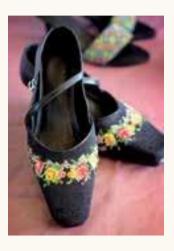
The shop retails a wide variety of rattan baskets, lampshades, canes, chairs, tables and decorative fittings. Aside from retail, customers also drop off their antique rattan furniture for repair at the shop.





Working from a dusty workshop a stone's throw from the Clan Jetties, Yeoh Gim Huat carves a range of Chinese, Muslim and Christian tombstones seven days a week. With technology and heavy machinery, tasks that previously required a team of seven or eight workers can now be carried out by a single skilled artisan. Modern drills cannot replace an artisan's careful touch and all the finishing and detail work for the tombstones is still done by hand.





SHOE MAKER (NYONYA BEADED SHOFS)

Mr Tan Kok Oo HANDMADE NYONYA BEADED SHOES 4 Lebuh Armenian, 10200 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 016-454 3075 OPENING HOURS 9.30am - 6pm (Mon - Sat)

Tan Kok Oo custom-makes Nyonya beaded shoes and slippers which are traditionally worn with the Nyonya kebaya and sarong. His clients can choose their motifs from his catalogues or bring in their own print outs for him to refer to.

Creating a pair of beaded shoes is an incredibly timeconsuming process as the plastic beads are so tiny. It can take up to three months to complete the beading for a single pair of shoes.



TRADITIONAL KITCHENWARE SELLER

Mr Terrence Lim TEOW HIN CHAN 224 Lebuh Pantai, 10300 George Town.

CONTACT NO.
04-261 6659
OPENING HOURS
9am - 5pm (Mon - Sat)

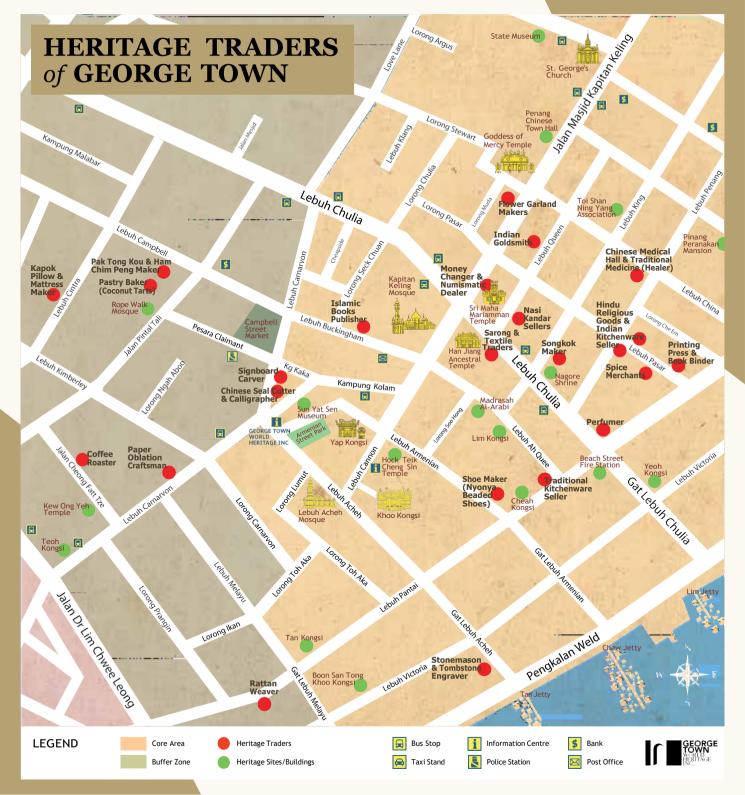


Teow Hin Chan is one of George Town's last purveyors of traditional Chinese kitchenware which is all imported from different regions of China according to the regions' speciality.

Most of the traditional kitchenware in the shop is made entirely or partially by hand. In addition to kitchenware, the shop also stocks a range of porcelain Chinese idols.









PERFUMER

S.M. BADJENID & SON 184-186 Lebuh Pantai, 10300 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 04-2610 766 OPENING HOURS 8am - 5pm (Mon - Thurs) 8am - 12pm, 3pm - 5pm (Fri - Sat)

S.M. Badjenid & Son established in George Town in 1917 is the country's oldest manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer of perfume compounds, essential oils, bakhoor and oudh. The shop also sells canvas and custom-made canvas products including tents and canopies.

Now run by third generation family members, the shop is packed floor to ceiling with thousands of exotic halal perfumes and eau de toilettes (which do not contain any alcohol).



PRINTING PRESS & BOOK BINDER

JOTHEE PRESS

4 Lebuh Pasar, 10200 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 04-261 2284 OPENING HOURS

8.30am - 6.20pm (Mon - Fri)

8.30am - 1pm (Sat)



Jothee is one of Penang's oldest printing presses established in 1935 by S. Letchumanasamy who arrived in Penang as a 10 year old from India. Working at odd jobs from morning till night to support his family, the young man eventually saved enough money to open a printing press at the age of 19.

It was the first press in Penang to produce locally made diaries and handmade accounts ledgers; today it is run by the founder's son Shanmuganathan.





SPICE MERCHANTS

SYARIKAT S Δ P ABDUL SALAM 25 Lebuh Pasar. CONTACT NO. 04-262 3944 OPENING HOURS 10am - 6pm (Mon - Sat)

SYARIKAT ABDUI **GHAFFAR TRADING** 29 & 29A Lebuh Pasar. 10200 George Town. CONTACT NO. 04-261 6803 OPENING HOURS 9am - 8pm (Mon - Sat)

HINDU RELIGIOUS GOODS & INDIAN KITCHENWARE

KANGANAM TRADING

32 Lebuh Pasar (kitchenware). 41 Lebuh Pasar (religious items). 10200 George Town.

CONTACT NO 016-455 8350

OPENING HOURS

10.30am - 9pm (Mon - Sat)



George Town's spice merchants which operate from shops along Lebuh Pasar in the Little India enclave are an enduring legacy of Penang's spice trade. These traders play an integral part in Penang's food industry and culinary heritage. The shops are packed to the brim with spices from all over the world, which are then distributed to wholesalers, small grocery stores, restaurants, grinding mills and housewives.

Kanganam Trading is a retailer of Indian household wares and Hindu religious items established over 60 vears ago. Dealing in religious items requires specialist knowledge of Hindu beliefs, and symbolism, and the shop carries a highly diversified range of religious items such as Pancaloha (sacred five-metal alloys) statues. iconography, charms, hanging decorations and items for Hindu worship (Pooia), geomancy (Vastu Shastra), and meditation.







CHINESE MEDICAL HALL & TRADITIONAL MEDICINE (HEALER)

Mr Chong Yit Leong YIN OI TONG CO. 82-A Lebuh Penang, 10200 George Town.

CONTACT NO.
012-5625 341
OPENING HOURS
9am - 3pm (Mon - Fri)

The Yin Oi Tong is one of SE Asia's oldest traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) halls, established in George Town in 1796.

The current proprietor, Chong Yit Leong has practised TCM for over 50 years. In a matter of minutes he can diagnose patients by taking their pulse, he then prescribes the correct combination of traditional herbs either ground into capsules or boiled as tonics.



SONGKOK MAKER

Mr Haja Mohideen KEDAI SONGKOK OSM MOHD SHARIFF 157 Lebuh King, 10200 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 04-263 1290 OPENING HOURS 10.30am - 9.30pm (Mon - Sat)



A *songkok* is traditional Malay headgear worn by men during important religious and festive occasions such as *Hari Raya*, weddings and the weekly visit to the mosque.

Haja Mohideen who is George Town's last remaining songkok maker learnt the skill from his father who established the business in 1933 in an alcove next to the Nagore Shrine where the business still operates today. He also makes karzi (northern Indian headgear) and fezs.





SARONG & TEXTILE TRADERS

SYARIKAT MEDINA STORE
109 Lebuh Chulia,
CONTACT NO.
04-261 2354
OPENING HOURS
9am - 7pm (Mon - Sat)

FAZAL MOHAMMED BROS. 111 Lebuh Chulia, 10200 George Town. CONTACT NO. 04-261 2029 OPENING HOURS 9am - 6pm (Mon - Sat)

These shops stock a range of high quality textiles imported from Japan and Korea as well as imported sarongs from India and Indonesia, and locally-produced batik sarongs. Some retailers have diversified and also sell religious paraphernalia for Hajj pilgrims such as special luggage labels, bags, outfits and prayer mats.





NASI KANDAR SELLERS

RESTORAN TAJUDDIN HUSSAIN 45 Lebuh Queen, CONTACT NO. 04-262 5367

RESTORAN SULTANIA 57 Lebuh Queen, CONTACT NO. 04-263 6744

RESTAURANT A. DAWOOD 61 Lebuh Queen, 10200 George Town.

OPENING HOURS Approx. 11am - 10pm (daily)



Nasi kandar is a real Penang speciality and takes its name from the Malay word for pole or kandar. In the old days, nasi kandar vendors would carry their baskets of rice and spicy Indian Muslim curries around town balanced across their shoulder on a long pole. Customers would simply stop them, choose their food and eat along the roadside.

Today's *nasi kandar* restaurants offer diners a mouthwatering array of curries, vegetables, fish and meat dishes.





INDIAN GOLDSMITH

Ms Thanalaxmi Veerappan M. THANA'S GOLDSMITH 38 Lebuh Queen, 10200 Penang.

> CONTACT NO. 04-263 3541 OPENING HOURS 11am - 8pm (daily)

M. Thana's Goldsmith is the last remaining traditional Indian goldsmith in George Town which retails only hand-made jewellery. The shop was established in 1923 by Mr Nagumani one of the city's most respected craftsman. When he passed away his niece Thanalaxmi Veerappan took up the reins with her goldsmith husband, Raju.

Raju comes from a long line of goldsmiths and his family based in Tamil Nadu, India has over 200 years of experience in the trade; he crafts all jewellery in the shop by hand.



FLOWER GARLAND MAKERS

Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling (next to the Goddess of Mercy Temple), 10200 George Town.

OPENING HOURS
Approx. 9am - 9pm (daily)



Traditional garland making is a skill that was brought to Penang by Indian immigrants as an intrinsic part of Hinduism, where garlands and fresh flowers are offered at temple shrines and household altars.

Commonly used flowers include, jasmine, marigolds, dahlias and roses, chosen for their fragrance and colour and sourced from flower farms on Penang Hill and as far afield as the Cameron Highlands.





MONEY CHANGER & NUMISMATIC DEALER

M.S.K.M. MOHAMED HANIFFA FOREX 59 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, 10200 George Town.

CONTACT NO. 04-261 0876 OPENING HOURS 9am - 7.30pm (Mon - Sat)

ISLAMIC BOOKS

PERCETAKAN ALMUARIF 16 Lebuh Buckingham, 10300 George Town.

CONTACT NO.
04-2614 139
OPENING HOURS
8.30am - 5pm (Mon - Sat)



Money-changing is a highly competitive business and there are about 60-70 licensed money-changers in George Town alone!

George Town's money-changers are a close-knit Indian Muslim community with about a third of them originating from the same village in India. Ameer Hamsa's father started his own business in 1940; apart from money-changing, the shop's speciality is also in dealing in antique coins and notes.



The Almuarif Press is the largest publisher of Islamic books in Malaysia with a backlist of 500-600 titles including numerous national best-sellers. The company currently has two printing presses in Penang and Bangkok to cope with thriving market demand.

The Koran remains a best-selling text and the Press publishes a variety of different editions and retails a variety of book stands.



GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE INCORPORATED

George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) was established by the Penang State Government as the State heritage agency to spearhead efforts to protect and enhance the city's architectural and cultural assets.

GTWHI is dedicated to protecting, promoting and preserving George Town as a sustainable city, and works in cooperation with the Federal, State, and local governments as well as non-governmental organisations to manage, monitor, promote, and execute heritage-related activities. We identify the problem areas, build a strategy, and call on experts and stakeholders in our vast network to work with us towards the solution.

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