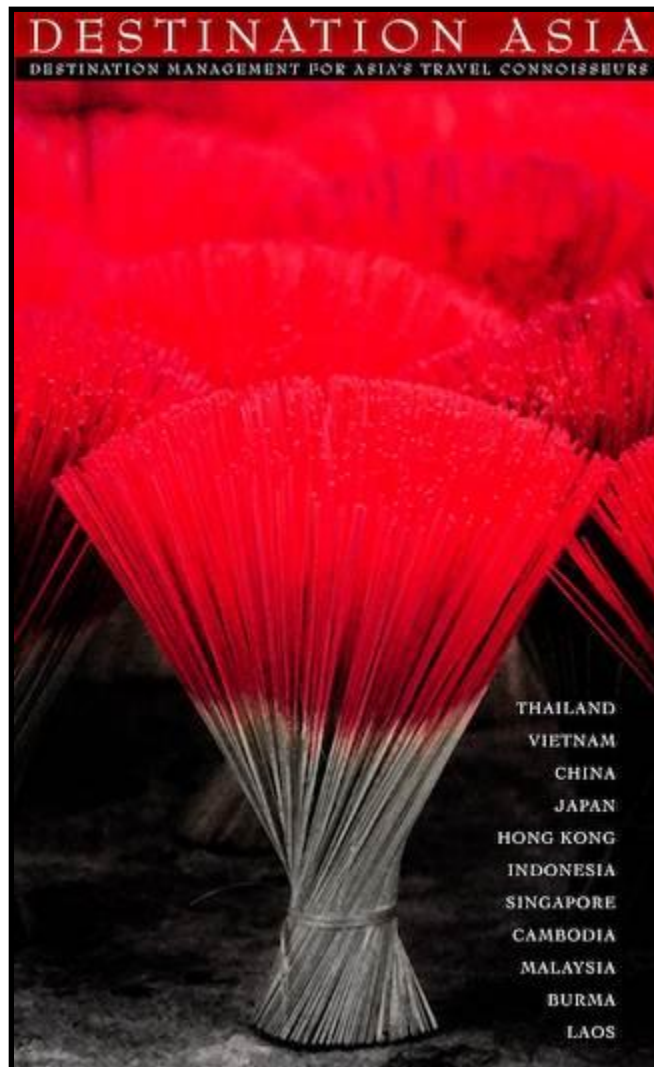


DESTINATION ASIA

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL CONNOISSEURS



5 Days Malaysian Art - Architectural Art, Thumbprints of Feng Shui & Historical Art
Valid for travel until 31 March 2016

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Itinerary – Malaysia

5 Days Malaysian Art - Architectural Art, Thumbprints of Feng Shui & Historical Art



Arts have a long tradition in Malaysia. One can find many Islamic, Chinese and Indian cultural influences in everything you see. From old buildings to the cutlerys used. Different destinations offer different insight into our history. Colonial architectures, Chinese shop houses that are built around the elements of feng shui, the Colorful Dutch and Portuguese influences to the intricate details that adorn places of worships. Let's not forget the Straits Chinese's own unique architectural influences. It's become a cultural symbol for Malaysia.

Start this art experience in Malaysia with the little-known Ipoh Heritage Walk, a superb example of colonial architecture, completed in 1917 and designed by the prolific and talented British architect, A.B Hubback, who also built Kuala Lumpur's famous station. Via Kuala Kangsar, we move northbound towards Penang, where an overnight at the Blue Mansion literally will be staying around history and art. Comfortably cradled in a crook of Perak River, Kuala Kangsar is a well preserved old Royal Town where its serenity and its well-maintained old palaces are worth a mention.

More than enough small corners around this iconic building in Penang are truly photo genetic. With plenty of other sights around Penang to stimulate your art senses – such as the Kek Lok Si Temple situated in the island of Penang, Malaysia, is one of the largest and finest temples complexes in Southeast Asia -, fly back to the capital and tour the Islamic Arts Museum. To give a more intimate impression of these sacred spaces, the gallery includes a re-creation of a mosque interior. For those who appreciates art works from around the world, you will be intrigued with works of art from countries like China, India and the Malay World.

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Day 1

Ipoh



The Ipoh Heritage Walk starts at the Railway Station, a superb example of colonial architecture, completed in 1917 and designed by the prolific and talented British architect, A.B Hubback, who also built Kuala Lumpur's famous station. The building also houses the Majestic Station Hotel which calls itself a 'Grandiose Moorish Colonial Hotel' and is sometimes referred to by the locals as the Taj Mahal Of Ipoh.

Across the street, the neo classical style Town Hall and Old Post Office building which staged since First World War. Next walk along Jalan Dewan, where you can see Birch Memorial, built in 1909 to commemorate the first British Resident of Perak State, JWW Birch, whose somewhat heavy-handed attempts to extend British authority over the area resulted in him being stabbed to death in 1875.

Walk through shop house once housed the Mikasa Photo Studio, where a Japanese spy called Masaji Fukabori was said to have operated prior to World War Two. There were 4 Japanese run photo studios in Ipoh alone in the 1930s some of which called themselves 'photographers for mines and estates'. A convenient cover for snooping around!

Heading up Jalan Dato Maharajalela, you will pass the impressive Chartered Bank building (1924). Nearby is another bank building, Mercantile Bank, built in 1931 in art-deco style. Now occupied by a beauty products company, the building remains in excellent condition. Mercantile Bank was taken over by Hongkong Bank in 1959. Opposite is an unusual heritage building, Malaysia's first multi storey car park. It only has two floors and there are no ticket machines - parking is still free!



On the next corner sits the premises of the former Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company, formed in London in 1926 and for many years the largest power supplier in Malaya. Continued to the white neo-classical High Court building (1928) and The Church of St. John The Divine, when finished in 1912 was the largest church in Malaya. Its bricks were cemented with coconut fibre, sugar and egg whites among other things. Continue to Museum Darul Ridzuan and proceed to last spot, Town Padang Mosque (1908), constructed in Moghul style and features similar to those in the Red Fort, Delhi. It was financed by a wealthy Muslim Tamil businessman, Shaik Adam.

After a long day, proceed to check in at a very interesting hotel, the M Boutique. One of the most frequently asked questions in M Boutique Hotel is, "Is it a Boutique or a Boutique Hotel?" including other variations. The M Boutique is a Boutique Hotel with its very own Boutique! Not forgetting their very own cheeky, naughty manner which they deliver their service! The hotel believes in playing at work, while working at play!

Meals included
Accommodation

Local lunch
M Boutique Hotel

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Day 2

Ipoh

Penang

Today, depart Ipoh and continue up north towards the island of Penang. Enroute pass by Kuala Kangsar. Comfortably cradled in a crook of Perak River, Kuala Kangsar is a well preserved old Royal Town where its serenity and its well-maintained old palaces are worth a mention.

In the old part of Kuala Kangsar, the roads are narrow and pleasant and great for a stroll as it winds round the grassy knoll. One of the more dominant architecture during the colonial era in the area is the Ubudiah Mosque. Sultan Idris, (1887 - 1916) the ruler then and a close friend of the British resident, Sir Hugh Low, laid the foundation of the mosque in 1913. Unfortunately, the mosque's completion was delayed due to World War 1 and an incident that involved a couple of royal elephants who ran amok in the grounds, ruining the especially imported Italian marbled floor. Sultan Idris' successor, Sultan Abdul Jalil officiated this Moorish-styled mosque for it was only completed a year after his death. Beside the mosque is the royal mausoleum, the resting place of Perak rulers since the mid-18th century.



Continue on across the Andaman Sea towards the Island of Penang.

Tonight you will be staying at the Blue Mansion – literally !

Though the lavish doors to the venerable Blue Mansion were first thrown open in as early as the 19th Century, the tradition of architecture and craftsmanship applied to the building's construction dates much further back - a precipitous 3000 years to the Su Chow dynasty, to be exact. Built in the Hakka - Teochew style on sturdy foundations of Southern Chinese building typologies and materials, the Blue Mansion commissioned by Cheong Fatt Tze in the face of a trend in the construction of modern Anglo-indian abodes - stands today as a model of the traditional paradigm Chinese courtyard house



Meals included
Accommodation

Breakfast
The Blue Mansion

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Day 3 Penang

This morning, join in the House Tour and continue to explore the mansion where you will be intrigued by its design motif. Details of the Mansion's master-builder and his team of artisans (shipped in with tools in hand from Southern China) are sketchy - but their proudly standing work is testament to their collective architectural genius. As for the man who commissioned their work: the Mansion served to demonstrate both Cheong Fatt Tze's fascination with Western artisanship and his rising stature as a Chinese official. The house is indeed cosmopolitan in design, bearing an eclectic architecture which exemplified the times at the end of the 19th Century, when the myths and magic of the Chinese Kingdom attempted to embrace the glory of the British Empire within the Malay world.

In the afternoon, visit the newly opened Colonial Penang Museum will bring visitors back to Penang's colonial past. Experience the lifestyle of both the British Administrators and the wealthy merchants of Penang and appreciate the intricate art form from the past.

Visitors can find unique antiques such as personal handwritten document by Captain Francis Light, founder of Penang, Francois Linke (1855 -1946) the Belle Epoque of French Furniture, the white carrara marble statues by Atelier R.Bigazzi Florence, reverse painting by William Morris & Company (Westminster) Ltd., (Ruskin House), Stained Glass window by Hubert McGoldrick / Alfred Ernest Child and Katherine O'Brien and many more.

The museum can also be used as an educational instrument for students to promote the understanding and significance of our rich heritage.

Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	The Blue Mansion



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Day 4 Penang

Today, head towards the Kek Lok Si Temple. Built since the year 1891, Kek Lok Si Temple situated in the island of Penang, Malaysia, is one of the largest and finest temples complexes in Southeast Asia.

With millions of magnificent images of Buddha and hundreds of beautiful meaningful carvings, sculptures and murals in the interior and exterior of the temple halls, pagodas and archways, Kek Lok Si Temple is not just a center for Chinese culture and Buddha teaching, but also an unique heritage treasures that have Mahayana Buddhism and traditional Chinese rituals blend into a harmonious whole, in temple architecture and daily activities of worshippers.



Meals included Breakfast
Accommodation The Blue Mansion

Day 5 Penang Kuala Lumpur

Depart Penang and head towards the capital of Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur.

In Kuala Lumpur, explore the exhibition space of the Islamic Arts Museum. Architecture was one of the earliest expressions of Islamic cultural identity and has retained its importance ever since. Conveying the splendour of this monumental art form in a museum setting has been achieved by using a comprehensive collection of scale models. These range from the colossal grandeur of the holiest mosque in Islam – Mecca's Masjid al-Haram – to the more desolate beauty of Central Asian mausoleums dedicated to Timur and Amir Albukhari. Every corner of Islam is covered in miniature, including the widely overlooked mosques of China and Southeast Asia. To give a more intimate impression of these sacred spaces, the gallery includes a re-creation of a mosque interior. For those who appreciates art works from around the world, you will be intrigue with works of art from countries like China, India and the Malay World.

Meals included Breakfast & Local Lunch Stop at Rest Stop

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