



ABOUT PENANG



OLD PENANG

Penang has changed its names like the seasons. Early Malays called it Pulau Ke Satur or Single Island. Later it appeared on sailing charts as Pulau Pinang, or Island of Betel Nut Tree. Once a pirate hideout, it was discovered by Portuguese and later colonised by the British for its profitable spice trade. More known today for beaches, Penang offers a perfect getaway from the hustle and bustle of city life and is fondly known also as Pearl Of The Orient.

MODERN PENANG

When Malaysia achieved independence in 1957, Penang became one of the states of the newly formed Federation of Malaysia, which in 1963 became known as Malaysia. Several initiatives were taken by the State Government to encourage trade and industrialisation. Today Penang is an important growing industrial, commercial and financial region in Malaysia.

LOCATION

Penang lies about 5⁰ north of the equator, situated on the north-western coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The island is separated from the mainland by a channel and is linked by the 13 km Penang Bridge (Asia's second longest bridge) and a 24-hour ferry service.

AREA

Penang consists of the island of Penang (Pulau Pinang) and a coastal strip on the mainland called Province Wellesley. It is approximately 24km north to south and 14.5 km east to west with an area of about 285 sq km.

POPULATION

About 1.2 million people live in Penang with the main concentration in George Town. 55% are Chinese, 30% Malay, 10% Indian and 5% various others.