

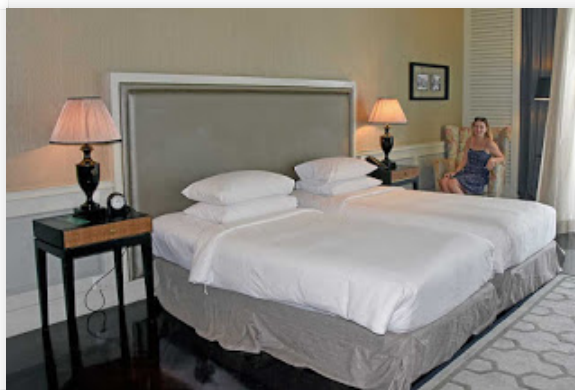
Historic George Town, Penang - Hello E&O, China House, Murals and More.



Love on a Bicycle



Eastern & Oriental Hotel



Elegant Suite Room E&O Hotel, Victory Annexe

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Historic George Town, Penang - Hello E&O, China House, Murals and More.

When I go to Penang I like to split my time between Batu Ferringhi and George Town. In George Town I like to stay at the colonial-style, luxurious Eastern & Oriental Hotel. My daughter and I shared a suite in the Victory Annexe which was huge, well-appointed and had great views of the bay from the balcony.



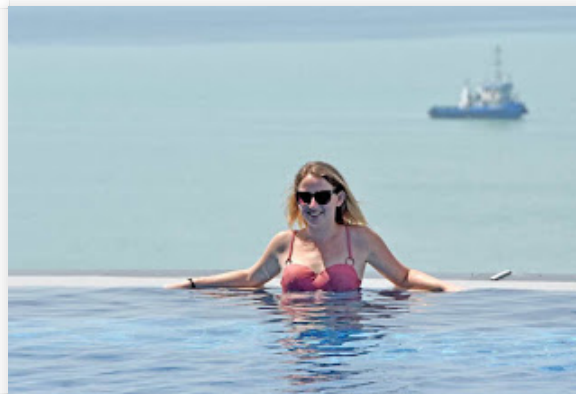
The Heritage Wing is currently closed for renovation but is on schedule to re-open in December 2019. Keep an eye out for details.



Breakfast at Sarkies



The Lobby - Victory Annexe, E&O Hotel



Infinity Pool - Level 6, Victory Annexe

The E&O was established by four Armenian brothers, the Sarkies, in 1885 and has retained its charm, character and elegance with the addition of modern conveniences including, an infinity pool, spa, gym, excellent food and drink outlets and an upmarket souvenir shop.

After a sumptuous breakfast at Sarkies, which serves a tremendous buffet of international and local cuisine Sarah had a quick dip in the pool before we set off to explore George Town.

Seeing the Big Picture

I love street art and George Town was one of the first to make it popular and market the giant sized images as tourist attractions. There is so much art it deserves to, and will, feature in a future blog of mine but here are a few highlights, some dating back to 2012 when Ernest Zacharevic got things started and is still has the most on show.



Trishaw Man by Ernest Zacharevic

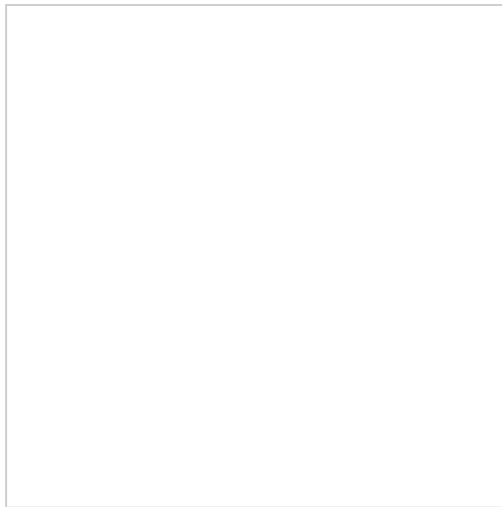
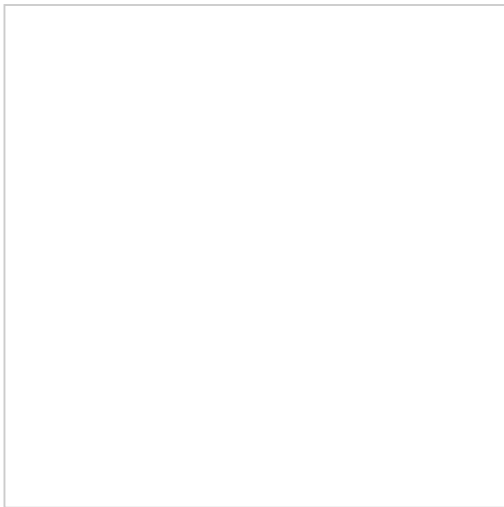


The Indian Boatman by Julia Volchkova



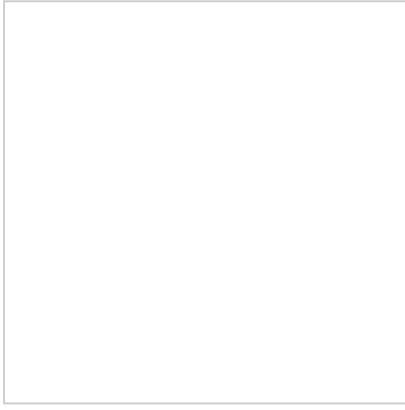
Pick up a free map "Marking George Town" by Penang Tourism and enjoy the walk and visual treats.

Two more examples by Ernest Zacharevic are shown below, "Kungfu Girl" on Muntrie Street and the extremely popular "Kids on a Bicycle" on Armenian Street where tourists queue up to have their photo taken.



ChinaHouse

Sooner or later you will pop into the iconic 400 foot long ChinaHouse founded by the equally iconic Australian Narelle McMurtie who has lived in Malaysia for years. The three heritage buildings, linked by a courtyard, have been converted into 14 spaces and comprise shops, cafes, restaurants, bars, art galleries, live entertainment and an absolutely amazing bakery selling hundreds of slices of dozens of different types of cakes daily.



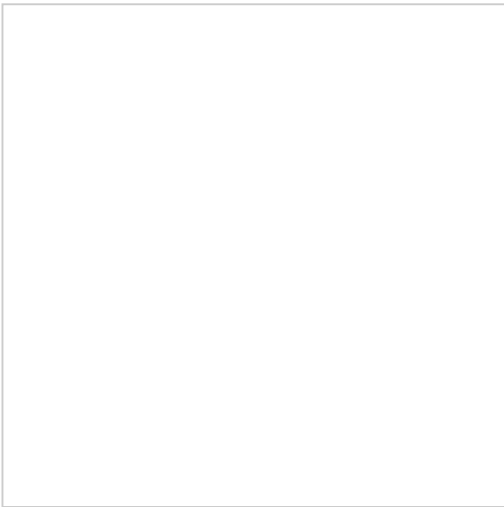
The Longest Cafe in Penang

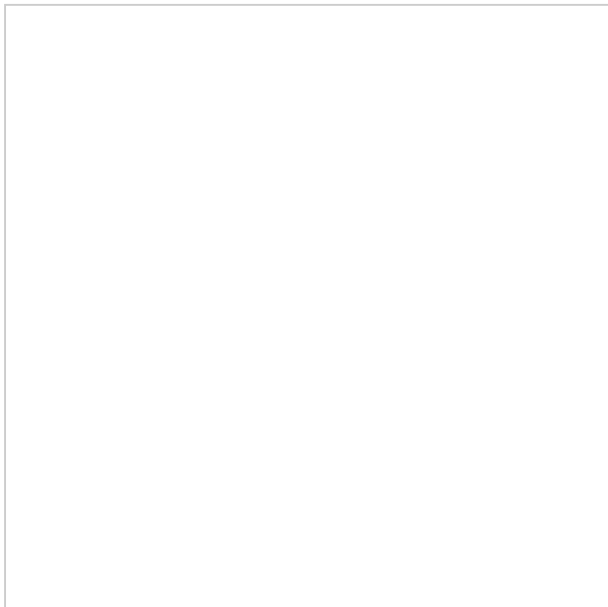


Afternoon Tea

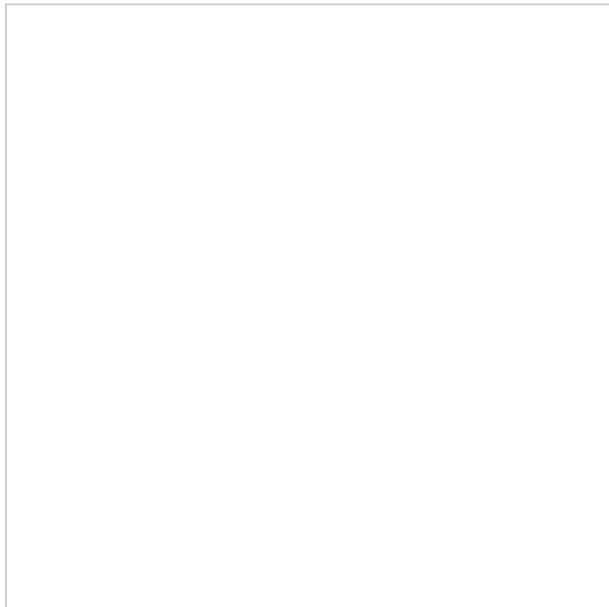
The ambiance changes from hour to hour, day to day and space to space but for sure you will not be disappointed. I had English style afternoon tea from the bakery in "the Reading Room", which is quite a social "people-connector". Cucumber sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and raspberry jam, a huge slice of chocolate cake and pot of tea, a bargain for the equivalent of 12 Singapore Dollars. Oh yes - I got a beer too, that was a few dollars extra but a necessity on a hot and humid day!

Getting Around





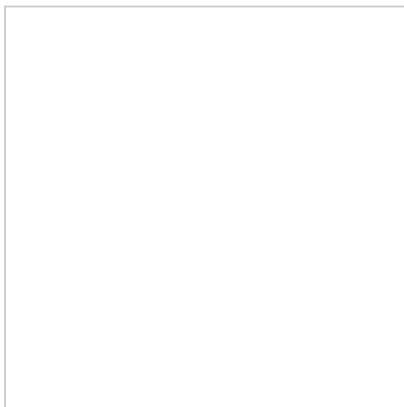
Hertz Today - Gone Tomorrow thanks to Photoshop



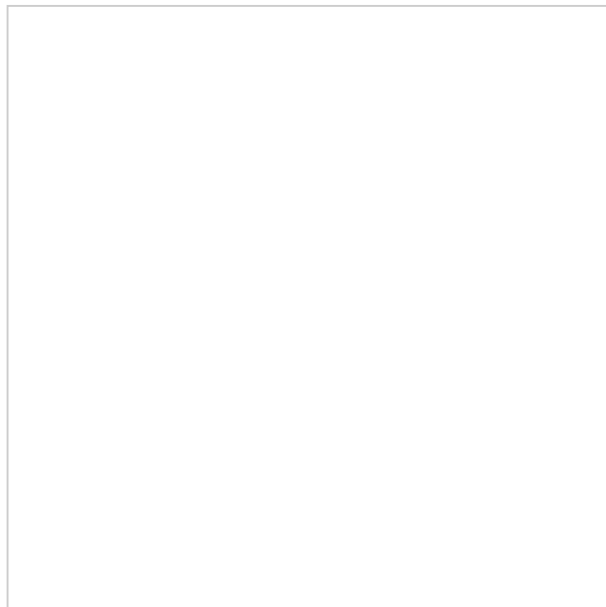
We mostly "walked George Town" but bicycles, buses and taxis / Grab are easy options. Trishaws are popular too. Times must be tough at Hertz; apparently they have restructured to become a car and trishaw rental company as shown above.

Down at the Jetty

I found the jetties to be crowded, commercial and barely worth the effort but the views are interesting and one of Singapore's most famous street artists Yew Yip Chong has an entertaining mural on Chew Jetty depicting the life of a fishing village family.



Folklore by the Sea
by Yew Yip Chong





Ancient and Modern.

The oldest section of George Town has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. There are hundreds of protected buildings, mainly representing the British era from the end of the 18th Century. Many of those looking a bit worse for wear are being lovingly restored.



Central Fire Station



Love Lane - Pubs!

Love Lane is a nice mix of old buildings and new pubs. I must confess to sipping a few beers there!

Shopping



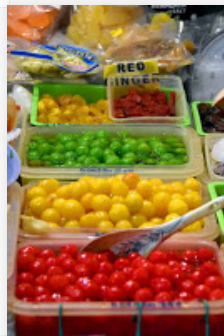
Bargain Hard



Shopping never goes out of fashion. Little India, Armenian Street and wet markets all have their charm. Sarah was rather grossed out when the jovial wet market stall holder invited the "perempuan putih" to have her picture taken holding a goat's head but she sportingly obliged.



Goat's Head



Makan Time

Penang is rightly famous for food. We didn't have time to try everything but enjoyed Penang Laksa at Ren I Tang Heritage Inn, a boutique hotel where we also stayed a night, char kuay teo and local noodles. Refreshing drinks are served at Alley Catz Cafe next to lots more murals.



Penang Laksa at Ren I Tang Heritage Inn



Refreshing Lemonade by Yemani server at Alley Catz Cafe



Oodles of noodles

At the Bus Stop

Hin Bus Depot is now an art and community space with a cool coffee shop, pop up cafes, a weekend market with live music and of course murals. I thoroughly enjoyed the hour we spent drinking coffee and admiring more works by Ernest Zacharevic and others.





Seen Better Days

Drinks & Dinner at E&O Hotel

After a long day looking at tiles and murals we decided to splurge out on Sarah's last night and have a semi-formal dinner at E&O Hotel.

It turned out to be the best decision we made all week. For less than 80 Singapore dollars per head we had a seat by the infinity pool overlooking the sea, enjoyed a four course meal including a superb filet mignon steak with free flow of excellent white and red wines and beer.

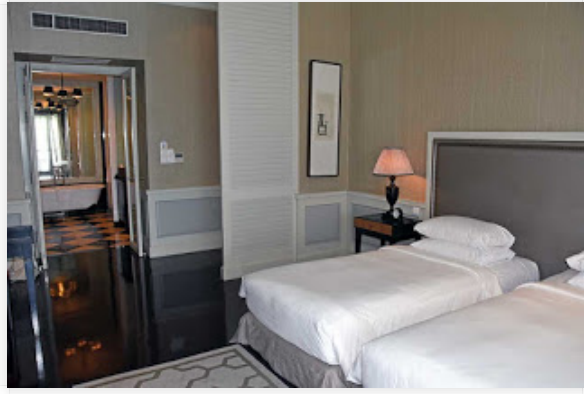
Surprisingly we were the only guests (it is limited to 10 people; and be sure to ask for a sea view) and had our own personal, young waiter and exceptional service. A wonderful finale to our time in Penang, George Town and the E&O.



On the Tiles



Planters Lounge E&O



Suite E&O

I am really looking forward to the re-opening of the Heritage Wing at E&O and experiencing that. In addition there are still dozens of murals I didn't get chance to see and lots more to taste at ChinaHouse. I will be back!

Fast Facts

Hotel George Town - Eastern & Oriental Hotel - <http://www.eohotels.com>

Airline: - SilkAir flies from Singapore to Penang - <https://www.singaporeair.com>

ChinaHouse - <https://www.chinahouse.com.my>

Boutique Hotel George Town - Ren I Tang Heritage Inn - <https://www.renitang.com/>

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