



Melaka City

Melaka's remarkable restaurants and cafes p144

Feasting on Peranakan curries, Portuguese seafood, Indian banana-leaf spreads and good coffee.

Chinatown p139

Strolling or cycling around this historic area, discovering galleries, craft workshops and the murals along the Melaka River.

Jonker Walk Night Market p148

Experiencing the razzle-dazzle and street food of Melaka City's weekend night market.

Trishaws p135

Going for a spin around the historic centre in one of these kitschy contraptions.

Baba & Nyonya Heritage Museum p139

Embracing nostalgia at this atmospheric museum in a gorgeously decorated old home.

Explore

Like a peacock, Melaka City is bright and loud and preens with its wealth of home-grown galleries, crimson colonial buildings and showy trishaws.

Since the city's historic centre achieved Unesco World Heritage status in 2008, many old shophouses and mansions have enjoyed makeovers as galleries and hotels. The city's kaleidoscope of architectural styles – spanning Peranakan, Portuguese, Dutch and British elements – is well preserved. Tourism has boomed, particularly on weekends when the vibrant Jonker Walk Night Market provides music, shopping and street food galore.

Inevitably, a strong whiff of commercialism has accompanied this success. However, it's easy to feel the town's old magic (and get a seat at popular restaurants) on quiet weekdays. And Melaka City, as it has for centuries, continues to exude tolerance and welcomes cultural exchange.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** Chinatown (p139)
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Nancy's Kitchen (p144)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Daily Fix (p147)

Top Tip

Avoid visiting on the weekends when there are so many photo-snapping tourists that the whole heritage district can feel like front row at a rock concert.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Air Melaka International Airport** (☎06-317 5860; Lapangan Terbang Batu Berendam), 12km north of Melaka City, has daily flights from Melaka to Penang and Pekanbaru (Indonesia).
- ➔ **Bus Melaka Sentral** (Jln Tun Razak), the huge, modern long-distance bus station, is 5km north of the city. A medley of privately run bus companies makes checking timetables a herculean feat; scout popular routes at www.expressbusmalaysia.com/coach-from-melaka. You can buy bus tickets in advance (not a bad idea on busy weekends or if you have a plane to catch) at Discovery Cafe (p147) in downtown Melaka City – there's a small commission, dependent on the ticket fare.

➔ **Taxi** Taxis to KL (RM184) leave from Melaka Sentral.

➔ **Train** Pulau Sebang/Tampin Station is 38km north of Melaka City. Taxis from Melaka to Pulau Sebang/Tampin Station cost around RM80. Alternatively, there's a half-hourly bus from Melaka Sentral (RM5, 1½ hours). There are regular KTM Komuter (<http://www.ktmb.com.my>) services from Pulau Sebang/Tampin to Seremban from where you can connect with services through to Kuala Lumpur (RM13.70). There are also direct services to Butterworth (from R42, seven hours, two daily), handy for Penang.

➔ **Ferry** High-speed ferries make the trip from Melaka to Dumai in Sumatra daily at 10am (one way/return RM110/170, 1¾ hours; child tickets are half-price). Tickets are available at Indomall Express (Map p137) and Tunas Rupert Follow Me Express (Map p137) near the wharf.

Getting Around

- ➔ **Walking/Bicycling** Melaka City is small enough to walk around or, for the traffic fearless, you can rent a bike for between RM5 and RM10 per day from guesthouses.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 17 runs every 15 minutes from Melaka Sentral to the centre of town, past the huge Mahkota Parade shopping complex, to Taman Melaka Raya and on to Medan Portugis. Find local bus route information at www.panoramamelaka.com.my/routes.
- ➔ **Trishaw** Taking to Melaka City's streets by trishaw is a must – they should cost RM40 by the hour or RM20 for any one-way trip within town, but you'll have to bargain.
- ➔ **Taxis** Charge around RM15 for a trip anywhere around town.
- ➔ **Car** To visit other parts of Melaka state you will find it handy to hire a car. Centrally based Hawk (www.hawkrentacar.com.my) has good rates.

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area Code** ☎06
- ➔ **Location** Melaka City is 149km from Kuala Lumpur
- ➔ **Tourism Malaysia** (www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my)