

# The Asian Reporter

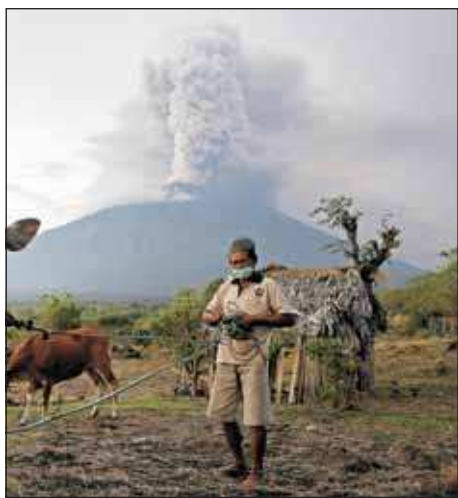
Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 27 Number 23 □ December 4, 2017 □ [www.asianreporter.com](http://www.asianreporter.com)

## On Penang island, it's all about art, eats & old streets



Police use elephants to clear habitat

Page 2



Mount Agung erupts in Indonesia

Page 5



Easy-to-make recipe: Greek-Style Rice Pilaf

Page 13



**INTRIGUING ISLAND.** A woman looks at street art on a wall in George Town on the island of Penang, Malaysia. George Town oozes a hauntingly rustic charm, with colorful street art that is as much a draw as the historical architecture and one of Southeast Asia's tastiest street-food scenes. (AP Photo/Adam Schreck)

By Adam Schreck  
The Associated Press

**G**EORGE TOWN, Malaysia — Penang is the rare tropical island where hitting the town beats lazing on the beach.

Fortune-seekers from China, Europe, and India have been drawn to this Malaysian island for more than two centuries, creating along with local Malays an eclectic mix that can feel both seductively familiar and exotic at the same time.

The colonial capital they've left behind oozes a hauntingly rustic charm, with colorful street art as much a draw as the historical architecture and one of Southeast Asia's tastiest street-food scenes.

### Wander the old town

There are plenty of tourist-friendly stretches of sand if that's what you're

looking for. The most popular are along the resort strip of Batu Ferringhi on the island's northern coast.

Where Penang really shines, though, is in the scrappy but alluring lanes of the provincial capital of George Town. Its historical center is listed along with Melaka, another enchanting Malaysian city further down the coast, on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Although founded by the British as a trading hub, Penang has strong Chinese influences, including the legacy of waves of migrants who settled here for work generations ago.

Craftsmen still tinker away in Chinese-signposted shophouses nestled up against busy dragon-topped temples swaddled in incense, and gather for rounds of *mahjong* as the sun sets.

"Penang people ... are very slow and very relaxed. We are living on a small island so we are happy with the situation," explains local artist Ch'ng Kiah Kiean, who grew up in the shadow of a traditional Chinese clan meeting hall known as a *kongsi*. "We still keep a simple lifestyle in George Town."

A handful of restored heritage buildings such as the Penang Peranakan Mansion and the grand Khoo Kongsi clan house offer glimpses into how Chinese immigrants both shaped and were influenced by their adopted home.

### Soak up street art

Less than a decade ago, it was George Town's tumbledown architecture and umbrella-topped cycle rickshaws that first caught the eyes of visitors.

Turn a corner these days and you're

Continued on page 16

### GOT HEALTH INSURANCE?

Enroll today to avoid possible penalty!  
Call (503) 610-6144 for FREE assistance!



Tina VanPhung  
Principal Broker

- HealthCare.gov (ACA Marketplace)
- Medicare
- Prescription Drug Plan
- Dental / Vision
- Short-Term Care

tina@nw365insurance.com • NPN: 15821312  
1827 N.E. 44th Avenue, Suite 110, Portland, OR 97213

**ATE-OH-ATE**  
HAWAIIAN RESTAURANT

2454 E BURNSIDE ST  
5200 SE WOODSTOCK BLVD  
WWW.ATE-OH-ATE.COM

STRAIGHT BROKE DA MOUTH  
SINCE 2010

**ACCIDENT & WELLNESS**  
Chiropractic

Physical Therapy & Massage  
Auto & Work Injuries

4124 SE 82nd Ave., #700  
Portland, OR 97266  
(Inside Eastport Plaza)  
(503) 206-8863

6035 SW 185th Ave.  
Aloha, OR 97078  
(Farmington Rd. & 185th)  
(503) 992-6080

AccidentWellness.com

The Asian Reporter  
922 N. Killingsworth St.  
Portland, OR 97217 USA

Change Service Requested

**Winter Riches**  
TOP PRIZE  
\$25,000 A YEAR  
FOR 10 YEARS!

**This Holiday Season**  
**Give Scratch-its**

OREGON LOTTERY

Lottery games are based on chance, should be played for entertainment only and should not be played for investment purposes.