
Malaysia

Ipoh Perak

Cultural Cities Profile
East Asia

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Introducing Ipoh

Ipoh is a rising creative city, with a distinct youth culture and a vibrant independent scene working to re-imagine the city's distinctive heritage landscape. Recent grassroots movements to preserve and activate the city through the renovation and preservation of historical buildings and heritage assets have given a new edge to the cultural profile of Ipoh within the country. The city also has a robust music and subculture scene.

Ipoh, the capital of the state of Perak, is situated on the Kinta River in the North-Western part of Peninsula Malaysia and is surrounded by Kinta district as the metropolitan area. It is known historically for its tin deposits and has been a major industrial (mining) and transportation hub within West Malaysia.

“

Perak is known for its unique culture and traditions, from language, food, arts, buildings and traditional costumes, to name a few. It is crucial to prioritise efforts in preservation and conservation of our cultural heritage for the sake of future generations.

**Tan Kar Hing, Perak State Tourism,
Arts and Culture Committee Chairman¹**

Ipoh Railway Station.

Photo © Tourism Malaysia

¹ <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/491681/rumah-kutai-perak-govt-identifying-heritage-products-funding>



City Vision/Mission/Slogan

The vision of the Perak State government is to become ‘transformational leader of the Perak public service delivery system by 2025’.

- Its mission is to drive the transformation of the management and development of the state of Perak with integrity and through efficient, innovative and creative governance for the welfare of the people.²

The Ipoh City Council vision is to have a ‘*Clean, Green and Progressive Ipoh*’ while its mission is to be ‘the leading strategic and innovative urban governance towards a conducive and sustainable city for the well-being of its citizens.’³

Creative Industries and Cultural Services

Since 2010s, grassroots movements to preserve and activate the city through the renovation and preservation of historical buildings and heritage assets have given a new dynamic edge to the cultural profile of Ipoh within the country.⁴



Ipoh is seeing its own regeneration, and is now frequently compared to Penang in the same breath. Like George Town, it boasts good local food, heritage buildings and even street art painted by Ernest Zacharevic, the same street artist who caused a frenzy in Penang with his murals.

p.32, [Mapping Creative Hubs in Malaysia, British Council](#)⁵

² Translation by Penang Institute. Vision and Mission of Perak State. <https://www.perak.gov.my/index.php/en/suk-perak/info-suk/visi-misi-objektif>

³ Translation by Penang Institute. Vision and Mission of Ipoh City Council. <http://www.mbi.gov.my/en/mbi/profile/mission-vision>

⁴ <https://www.malaymail.com/news/eat-drink/2013/11/29/ipoh-heritage-trail-this-town-is-made-for-walking/571339>

⁵ https://creativeeconomy.britishcouncil.org/media/resources/Malaysia_Creative_Hubs_Report_final.pdf

While the independent scene has been hit hard by the pandemic, the city council has pledged to successfully position Ipoh as one of the most well-known tourism destinations in Malaysia by 2025 through a ‘curated’ approach to enhance the quality of place and increase leisure infrastructure.



Culture in Ipoh is varied – there are traditional components as well as modern, from contemporary to experimental. The city is very open to staging contemporary and fresh culture without neglecting traditional arts and culture.

**Nur Hanim Dato’ Mohamed Khairuddin, curator and artist,
General Manager PORT**

Ipoh and Metropolitan Kinta in Numbers

Kinta has **3 government hospitals** and **37 government clinics** as of 2018

Kinta Valley Geopark is **≈ 1952km²** and consist of **18 geo-sites**

Kinta District, Metropolitan Area of Ipoh Population

≈ 835k citizens

in 2019

Warm Equatorial Climate

≈ 24°C to 32°C
on Average

Ipoh

51 metres
(167 feet)
Above Sea Level

Kinta District Land Area

≈ 1,305 km²

Perak State GDP
RM31,668

≈ GBP5,575
in 2019

1 Malaysian Ringgit
(RM)

≈ 0.2 Pound
(GBP)
in 2019

Ipoh Railway Station

was constructed in **1917**

and served as a shooting location for the Hollywood movie production,

Anna and the King

Ipoh Heritage Trail consists of **27 historical buildings and locations**

Ipoh is twin city with **Fukuoka, Japan**

In 2018, a total of **634 choices of visitor accommodation** were available in and around Ipoh

Context

Ipoh gained Municipal status in 1962 and was granted city status on 27 May 1988.⁶ Ipoh City Council and Batu Gajah District Council are the local governments administered under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and the Perak State Government's policies.

Located on the Kinta River, Ipoh is roughly 180 kilometres (110 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur. The river also divides the city into the new town and old town.

- Ipoh is well-connected with both the *Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad's* (KTMB) electric train service along the west coast routes, aiming for completion in 2022, and the North-South Expressway, which cuts through the city.
- Ipoh is also home to the Lumut Maritime Terminal and the Lekir Bulk Terminal, which acts as the sea gateway providing coal to the Sultan Azlan Shah Power Plant, which provides 18% of the country's power capacity.
- Ipoh Railway Station was constructed in 1917 in the Neo-Moorish/Mughal/Indo-Saracenic/Neo-Saracenic architectural style. The station also served as one of the shooting locations for the movie *Anna and the King*, starring Jodie Foster.

Ethnic Diversity

The Malay language as the national language is the most common spoken language in Malaysia. English is another compulsory subject in the national education system. Other common languages in Malaysia are Mandarin and Tamil, and the dialects of different ethnic groups. It is worth mentioning that Cantonese is predominantly used in Ipoh.⁷ In 2019, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. Kinta district has:

- Bumiputera 340K
- Chinese 345K
- Indians 114K
- Other 2.6K
- Non-citizens 32K

⁶ Ipoh Heritage Trail Map 1.

⁷ Malaysian Cantonese vs. Hong Kong Cantonese. <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/geo/divercity/local/blog14.html>

Cultural, Arts and Civic Policy

Ipoh is known for its cuisine, distinctive fine grain urban landscape, the limestone caves and temples.

The current Perak State Executive Council, formed in December 2020, combines the portfolio of housing, local government and tourism into one committee. The upgraded Ipoh Tourism Information Centre was launched in January 2021 and, prior to Covid-19, was expecting five million domestic tourists to visit the state in this year.⁸



[A]mong projects currently being developed were a rose garden, an extreme park and an urban farm... We need to continue to be a vibrant city with more products so we can be among the top cities with tourist attractions in the country by 2025.

Datuk Rumaizi Baharin, Ipoh's Mayor⁹

Key Policies in Cultural Industries

For arts and culture, besides the State Culture and Arts Department (JKKN Perak), Perak has also set up a company to helm a unit called PORT (People of Remarkable Talents) with the motto of 'Unity Thru Arts'. PORT is a platform for the public, especially Perak youth, to hone their talent in the arts sector and other creative fields. Their recent launch of the Black House, a community art centre is a testament to their youth development commitment.¹⁰

⁸ Perak govt expecting five million domestic tourists this year, says Nolee. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2021/01/12/perak-govt-expecting-five-million-domestic-tourists-this-year-says-nolee>

⁹ <https://www.ipohchecho.com.my/2020/10/07/digital-perak-collaborates-with-nepolink-and-pois>

¹⁰ <https://www.ipohchecho.com.my/2020/07/06/black-house-perak-arts-platform>

PORT Ipoh, 2011 – present

PORT (People Of Remarkable Talents) is a unit under the *Kampung Karyawan Amanjaya Sdn Bhd*, a wholly-owned company of the Perak State Government. It was created for the public to give them access to arts by continuously developing art related activities that include well-known domestic and foreign art and cultural artists. Their motto 'Unity Thru Arts' signifies the importance of arts and culture as an avenue of bringing together diverse ethnic communities.¹¹



The Ipoh International Art Festival and Ipoh Music Symposium, both fully sponsored by the Perak State government via PORT, can be seen as benchmarks for making Ipoh an important city for world class arts and culture festivals... What we need is to grow arts appreciation in the public realm by holding regular festival events, symposiums, residencies and workshops. Ipoh also needs more arts centres such as galleries, black box venues to hold small and medium performances, resource centres or archives dedicated to the visual arts, music and performance arts both traditional and contemporary... In addition, we need to increase the publication of books on arts and culture, artists' directories and journals for documentation and education purposes.

**Nur Hanim Dato' Mohamed Khairuddin,
curator and artist, General Manager PORT**

¹¹ Port Ipoh. <https://www.facebook.com/port.kolonikaryawanamanjaya>

Eco and Heritage Tourism



In the **Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER)**'s Strategic Development Plan for Perak, the state has pledged to further develop priority sectors rooted in historical legacy.

These include:

- Eco-tourism and heritage tourism,
- Modern agribusiness,
- Automotive,
- Creative industries.

Under Heritage Tourism, three projects will be

undertaken in Ipoh:

- Sound and lighting fixtures at the Ipoh Padang to showcase the city's rich history and culture;
- Conversion of the Ipoh Town Hall into a Performance Art Centre;
- Transformation of the Old Post Office into an Art and Digital Centre.

The Kinta Riverfront will also be improved by renovating the current kiosks, bridge and lighting and incorporating a new promenade as well as an entrance statement structure.¹²

Capacity Building and Digital Development

As one of the states within the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), Perak is working closely with the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) to catalyse human capital and digital economy development.

Perak has begun its digital transformation by:

- Committing to improve state-wide digital infrastructure – especially the quality of telecommunications service,
- Setting up a portal to automate government

services online and devising plans to set up a statewide digital ecosystem,

- Rolling out cashless payment systems,
- Implementing digital literacy programmes

In line with the Perak 2040 Structure Plan, Greater Ipoh will anchor one of the growth corridors, with its MSC status technology park, which is expected to attract strategic private investment. The latest Ipoh Draft Local Plan has included proposals to rezone areas to industrial zones, development zones or increase density to facilitate further development.

Ipoh International Art Festival 2019.

Photo © PORT Ipoh



¹² NCER State, Perak and Ipoh Heritage Tourism.



Moving from conventional methods to digitalised systems will help increase sources of income, productivity and service quality, which realises business intelligence.

Meor Rezal Fitri Meor Redzuan, Chief Executive Officer for Digital Perak¹³

Outcome of Key Policies in Digital Infrastructure

Meru Raya Smart City

Meru Raya City was identified as Perak Corporation Limited's flagship city for the development of townships.

- It also serves as Ipoh's satellite metropolis, a place that combines work, live, play and learning in one destination,¹⁴ and is being developed as a smart city.¹⁵

Silvervalley Technology Park (SVTP)

SVTP, Asia's first Digital Disruptive Technology Park, is a human-centric and environmentally sustainable project that aims to improve upon Ipoh's liveability and entice skilled labour to the city.

- SVTP is to act as a platform to assist with the development of emerging applied technologies and attract core technology clusters.¹⁶
- SVTP was initiated in 2019 and is projected to be completed in 2024.¹⁷

Digital Perak Corporation Holdings (DPCH)

Digital Perak Corporation Holdings (DPCH) (Formerly known as KPerak Implementation and Coordination Corporation, KPerak INC Corporation) functions as the Information & Communications Technology (ICT) for the Perak State Government, under the portfolio of Communications and Multimedia.

- Its main tasks revolve around the development of smart cities, digital culture, digital economy and government digitalisation of Perak.¹⁸

Innovation & Multimedia Hub (Hub Inovasi & Multimedia, HiM)

The Innovation & Multimedia Hub (HiM) was created to produce a skilled workforce and reduce the digital divide, following the Perak State Government's aspiration to become an IT literate society and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0). The programmes being offered are categorised according to the different groups of people:

- ICT programmes for students and school leavers; practical IT training and corporate digital training for professionals; and ICT awareness programmes for communities.¹⁹

¹³ <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/2020/10/07/digital-perak-collaborates-with-nepolink-and-pois>

¹⁴ New Attractions and Projects. <http://www.perakcorp.com.my/page/266/Attraction-Centers>

¹⁵ Perak bids to make Meru smart city. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2018/10/03/perak-bids-to-make-meru-smart-city/1678881>

¹⁶ Silvervalley Technology Park (SVTP). <https://www.ncer.com.my/strategic-projects-programmes/thematic-industrial-parks/silvervalley-technology-park-svtp>

¹⁷ Perak Hi-Tech Industrial Park to be revived this year, says Exco. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2019/04/18/perak-hi-tech-industrial-park-to-be-revived-this-year-says-exco/1744481>

¹⁸ Digital Perak. <http://www.digitalperak.com.my>

¹⁹ Hub Inovasi & Multimedia. <http://www.digitalperak.com.my/services.php?MenuId=3>

Perak Interactive Open Resource TV (PiOR.TV)

Perak Interactive Open Resource TV, initiated on 16 May 2019, offers a digital technology-based platform in information delivery with regards to activities, incentives and initiatives from the State Government to Perakians.

- It is equipped with a studio consisting of equipment for the production of creative content, and provides other services like advertising slots, video editing, montage development, corporate video, commercial video, documentary, event videography and studio rental.²⁰

Silver Trails of Arts, Research and Techniques (START)

Silver Trails of Arts, Research and Techniques is a programme under PORT (People Of Remarkable Talents) to help artists in Perak gaining greater exposure in the market. It collaborates with several entities to produce online art and craft documentation.

- It also provides opportunities and space for Perak young generations to use the creative field as a source of income.²¹

Regional Partnerships and Networks featuring Ipoh

National Networks and Groups

Malaysian Association of Local Authorities (MALA), 2000 – present

The association includes local authorities (Hall/City Councils, Municipal Councils, District Councils, and etc.) of Malaysia, and plays an essential role in coordinating their activities to enhance their development and progress. Two local authorities of Kinta District are members.²²

Regional Networks and Groups

The United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)

UCLG ASPAC is one of the Regional Sections of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and was established in Taipei in 2004. It represents one of the top knowledge management hubs on local government issues in Asia Pacific. The Malaysia Association of Local Authorities (MALA) is a member of UCLG ASPAC.²³

Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth-Triangle (IMT-GT)

IMT-GT was formed by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in 1993 to quicken economic transformation and welfare growth in their least-developed regions. It covers 14 provinces in Southern Thailand, 8 states in Malaysia (Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Penang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor), and 10 provinces in Indonesia.²⁴

International Networks and Groups

Tourism Promotion Organization for Asia Pacific Cities (TPO)

The organisation is an inter-city network to develop the tourism industry and economies of Asia Pacific cities as a whole. Ten cities from Malaysia are members of TPO. Ipoh is one of them.²⁵

²⁰ Perak Interactive Open Resource. <http://www.digitalperak.com.my/services.php?MenuId=4>

²¹ START. <http://portipoh.com.my/start.html>

²² Malaysian Association of Local Authorities. <https://www.mala.com.my>

²³ The United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific. <https://uclg-aspac.org/en>

²⁴ Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle. <https://imtgt.org>

²⁵ Tourism Promotion Organization for Asia Pacific Cities. <http://aptpo.org/eng>

Environment and Sustainability

Ipoh city is characterised by its location at the heart of the Kinta Valley, surrounded by limestone hills with three rivers.

- The Kinta Valley was declared a national geopark in 2018.
- The Lenggong Valley to its north is also set to be declared the state's second national geopark.
- The hills surrounding Ipoh are said to be one of the oldest karst landscapes in the world, with rich flora and fauna, cave networks and thus a key part of Malaysia's geological heritage.

This landscape features strongly in Ipoh's identity and narrative with its rich geological, ecological and cultural values. On clear days or mornings when the hills are shrouded in mist, the landscape changes the mood of the city.

However, this rich limestone and even marble deposit is both a boon and bane to the city with increasing quarrying changing its landscape and threatening its geopark status.

There is a legend that limestone makes the water in Ipoh special – thus endowing its women, bean sprouts and tofu with extra special qualities! It is undisputed that (pottery) clay from Ipoh is of high quality and at one time, the city was known as the ceramic capital of the world.

The lifestyle related to mining and the natural landscape enabled by the environment have been tapped as a resource for cultural and eco-tourism in recent years.



It's not limited to geological heritage alone but encompasses elements of biodiversity, archaeology, history, arts and culture... Kinta Valley Geopark can be the pioneer in eco-tourism, geo-tourism, educational activities and international research which in turn will help promote Perak to the nation and the world in line with the entity's development concept as defined by UNESCO.

Tan Kar Hing, Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts and Culture²⁶

²⁶ <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2019/05/16/kinta-valley-geopark>

Liveability and Sustainability



Efforts have been made by the state and city to not only preserve the natural environment as a part of the Ipoh identity, but also to ensure sustainable development and increase the quality of life for its citizens.

Perak State Mineral Policy

The State Mineral Policy was amended in 2018 to balance mining and rehabilitation activities.

Quarry operators are required to submit rehabilitation plans along with mining permit applications to prevent soil erosion.

Ipoh Local Plan 2035

The new Ipoh Local Plan 2035 aims at turning Ipoh into a sustainable, competitive and liveable city.

The plan will replace the Ipoh Local Plan 2020 and Ipoh Heritage Tin City Special Area Plan 2020 that were gazetted in 2012 and 2014 respectively. It is presently under public inquiry and will remain that way until March 2021.²⁷



Clean, Green and Progressive Ipoh.

Ipoh City Council

Culture, Environment and Urban Landscape – case studies

Trash Hero Ipoh (THI)

Founded in January 2019, Trash Hero Ipoh is a group of volunteers from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds who come together once a week to clean up around Ipoh.

- The group also visits local schools to give educational materials, educate school children about the importance of a cleaned environment, and encourage them to join cleaning programmes around Ipoh.²⁸

Global Environment Centre (GEC), 1998 – present

The Global Environment Centre, a non-profit organisation, focuses on environmental issues at the regional and international levels. GEC has undertaken many projects in different parts of Malaysia including Perak, Penang, Kelantan and Selangor.

- From 2015 to 2017, they worked on a community-based waste management project in Pulau Pangkor and presently, they are running a project that aims to conserve the upper catchment of Kinta River Basin, a water supply to Orang Asli and local communities.²⁹

²⁷ The Star and Edge Prop

²⁸ Trash Hero Ipoh. <https://trashhero.org/network/trash-hero-ipoh>

²⁹ Global Environment Centre. <https://www.gec.org.my/index.cfm?&menuid=61>



Our main mission is to reduce current and future rubbish by inspiring long-term behaviour change in both individuals and institutions while providing solutions to avoid single-use plastics... We are trying to change people's perspective and push the idea that sometimes a small change can have a big impact on the future.

Norhazira Jalik, one of the founders of Trash Hero Ipoh

South Perak Region, 2015 – present

The region of South Perak offers many economic development opportunities due to its rich natural environment and available tourist attractions and land, in addition to those close by in Greater Kuala Lumpur.

- The Perak Corporation Berhad (PCB), a subsidiary of the Perak State Development Corporation (*Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Perak*) was assigned to drive the region's economic growth. Some of the plans include the establishment of new townships and commercial areas and industrial developments in the region.³⁰

Ipoh Train Station Integrated Development Project, 2019 – present

The RM5 billion integrated development project at the Ipoh railway station and areas in close proximity, a venture between the state government's Menteri Besar Incorporated (MB Inc) and Railway Assets Corporation (RAC), is expected to be finalised between 10 and 15 years starting from 2019 and to comprise housing areas, hotels, educational institutions, commercial buildings and natural parklands.³¹

³⁰ Regional Development. <http://www.pknpgroup.com.my/page/162/Proper+>

³¹ RM5bil project to turn Ipoh railway station into transport hub. <https://v-nation/2019/10/10/rm5bil-project-to-turn-ipoh-railway-station-into>

Cultural Ecosystem and Infrastructure



Ipoh is a city that is very open to stage contemporary and fresh culture without neglecting traditional art and culture. The Ipoh International Art Festival and the Ipoh Music Symposium, which are fully sponsored by the Perak State Government through PORT, can be the best example of the benchmark to make Ipoh as an important city for arts and cultural activities that meet international festival standards.

**Nur Hanim Dato' Mohamed Khairuddin, curator and artist,
General Manager PORT**

Projek Rabak is a multidisciplinary artist collective. Their name celebrates the organic nature of '*rabak*' (slacking and hang loose) – an identity that is in the DNA of Ipoh's youth culture. Slow-paced as it might be in spirit, the programming of Projek Rabak is robust and has won it a national reputation for modelling on the internationally-renowned Indonesian collective Ruangrupa.³²

New mixed-use space Tin Alley³³ is based above an old sign maker's shopfront. The hub hosts talks, exhibitions and events.³⁴ The space is founded by entrepreneur Tan Kai Lek who aims to bring tourism to the city through art and culture. In order to achieve this goal, Lek also initiated and sponsors a talent development project Tin Alley Cultural Creative Awards 2019 to support young creative entrepreneurs to pitch for ideas that can revive the city.³⁵

³² https://creativehubs.my/creative_hub/projek-rabak

³³ <https://www.facebook.com/TinAlley.my>

³⁴ <https://www.ipophecho.com.my/v4/article/2019/07/01/arts-and-culture-new-curator-space>

³⁵ <https://www.ipophecho.com.my/v4/article/2019/02/01/tin-alley-cultural-creative-awards-2019>

Tin Alley Cultural Creative Awards 2019

The Tin Alley Cultural Creative Awards was created to enable young and driven entrepreneurs to establish their business through cultural creativity, and to facilitate tourists' and visitors' in-depth exploration of the city.

- The competition is opened to all creatives (local and foreign individuals or groups) under the age of 45.

- Applicants must submit their business proposals to Ipoh Tin Valley Sdn. Bhd. and include the following information: commodity, service, style, selling point and marketing strategy.
- Successful applicants may receive up to one-year free rent and be given assistance from an enterprise mentor, interior designer and professional promotional team.³⁶



The objective of the award is to attract young, passionate entrepreneurs to realise their business via cultural creativity, enabling tourists and local visitors to explore Ipoh in-depth.

Tan Kai Lek, the organiser of the Tin Alley Cultural Creative Awards 2019³⁷

Perak Creative Fund (Dana Kreatif Perak @ PORT, DKP), 2019 – present

The Perak Creative Fund, an initiative from the Perak State Government, seeks to provide assistance with regards to visual arts, performing arts and music to artists born in Perak and aged between 18 to 45 years. Each application, which is reviewed by a specially appointed Advisory Panel Committee, must include a proposal and cannot exceed RM10,000.³⁸

T-City, 2016 – present

T-City, worth RM15.1 billion, is Malaysia's first motorsports-themed modern integrated township development project situated about 10km from Ipoh's city centre. Sponsored by Goodland Group and Citrine Capital, it is projected to be finalised in 10/20 years starting from 2016 and to include a range of motor racing circuits, a water-themed park, a motorsports country club, shop offices, auto-galleries and commercial offices, specialty food and beverage outlets, hotels, serviced apartments and a land transport terminal.³⁹

³⁶ Tin Alley Cultural Creative Awards 2019. <https://www.ipohhecho.com.my/v4/article/2019/02/01/tin-alley-cultural-creative-awards-2019>

³⁷ <https://www.ipohhecho.com.my/v4/article/2019/02/01/tin-alley-cultural-creative-awards-2019>

³⁸ PORT Ipoh. <https://www.facebook.com/portipohevent/photos/pcb.464316437832959/464316364499633>

³⁹ T-City, a RM15 billion motorsports-themed development, to rise in Perak. <https://www.nst.com.my/news/2016/11/187819/t-city-rm15-billion-motorsports-themed-development-rise-perak>; Official website: <http://tcity.com.my>

Daybreak Society

Daybreak is an acronym for 'Disabled Adults and Youths Being Rewarded, Encouraged and Accepted in Kinta'.

- The society was founded by the Canning Garden Methodist Church in 1992 and registered with the Registrar of Societies in 1996.
- It provides programmes that focus on developing the abilities of trainees in a broad range of skills and work situations including handicraft, vegetable

farming, socks manufacturing, assembly and packaging, and general cleaning.⁴⁰

Leadspire Academy, 2018 – present

Leadspire Academy, founded by Soonufat Supramaniam (Sir Soon), is an education centre that focuses on innovation in learning via four key pillars being Performing Arts, Leadership Training, Language Mastery, and Communication Skills to make learning fun and relevant to students.⁴¹

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[In Ipoh, we have] numerous creative communities. Looking at art and culture, for example, we have film photography and film developer as well. Not to forget visual art and literature art. Most importantly is the music art community in Ipoh. Music is what we can say that starts the spark of what we have now in Ipoh. Sport is now taking place in Ipoh too. We have communities that turn their hobbies into work of art where they gather and take their hobbies seriously and beneficially. Such as cycling and jump rope. In Ipoh too, we have a lot of collectors that collect collectible items such as toys, compact discs, apparel as their hobby and turn it into a business. Some are doing it full-time. And some are doing it as a side job.

Mohd Adam Bin Jalaludin, Founder of Peace Be Upon You (PBUY)⁴²

⁴⁰ Leadspire Academy. https://creativehubs.my/creative_hub/leadspire-academy/; Official website: <https://www.leadspireacademy.com>, accessed in July 2021.

⁴¹ Persatuan Daybreak. <http://daybreak.org.my>

⁴² Interview by Penang Institute.

Heritage Assets and Activation

Ipoh possesses a rich cultural heritage mainly inherited by Chinese immigrants.

- In the late 19th century, the Kinta Valley was a key employment centre for migrant Chinese – who greatly influenced Ipoh’s cultural practice.
- In 1921, the Chinese population in the Kinta Valley was estimated to be at 123,278 and consisted mainly of Cantonese (around 48%) and Hakka (around 38%).



Maintaining a heritage site is important. It is part of our history and that is why a location is gazetted as a national heritage... locals play an important role in maintaining heritage sites... We should all do our part such as cleaning the site and throwing away rubbish in garbage bins.

Law Siak Hong, Perak Heritage Society President⁴³

This resulted in the Perak government declaring the first two days of the Chinese New Year as public holidays and allowing the firing of fire festival crackers on permitted times as well as organisation of Chinese festivals. These cultural traditions are still being observed.⁴⁴

Recently Ipoh has experienced a tourism boom and ‘cultural renaissance’ specifically around the Old Town quarter after a series of successful heritage activation projects. (see heritage activation case studies below)

- In 2018, this has resulted in a rise of unique boutique hostel offering, totalling 634 choices of visitor accommodation in and around Ipoh.⁴⁵

⁴³ <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/01/555840/public-must-take-pride-heritage-assets>

⁴⁴ Nasution, K. H. & Lubis, A. R. .2005. Kinta Valley – Pioneering Malaysia’s Modern Development. P. 206

⁴⁵ <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2018/11/16/the-ipoh-renaissance-old-town-out-of-control>



Ipoh is enjoying a reawakening of sorts. The old town of Ipoh has been revitalised – new hipster cafes and outlets are springing up and street art can be seen throughout.

Shawn Lourdasamy of DMR Productions, Singapore⁴⁶

Intangible Culture – Passing on the Torch



Founded in 1924, **Ipoh Chinese Chinwoo Athletic Association** offers a variety of traditional cultural classes such as folk dances, Chinese drums and wushu martial art, lion and dragon dances for the association's younger generation to preserve and

ensure that their culture is passed down to future generations.

It is a cultural hub where the community network, practice cultural tradition and pass on their lifestyle.⁴⁷

UNESCO Titles

Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley, 2012 – present

Category: Cultural

The area consists of four archaeological sites in two clusters which span close to 2 million years. It is considered one of the longest records of early man in

a single locality, and the oldest outside the African continent. Located in the lush Lenggong Valley, it includes open-air and cave sites with Palaeolithic tool workshops.

- The number of sites found suggests the existence of a quite large, semi-sedentary population with cultural remains from the Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Metal ages.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ <https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/singapore-malaysia-art-and-culture-festival-heads-to-ipoh>

⁴⁷ Ipoh Echo.

⁴⁸ Archaeological Heritage of the Lenggong Valley. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1396>

Heritage Activation – case studies

Ipoh heritage features strongly in the development of the city and the NCIA has plans to highlight Ipoh Heritage Tourism. Among its initiatives are:

- To transform the Town Hall into a performing arts centre,
- The old post office into an art and digital centre and
- Upgrading selected heritage buildings and the riverfront with sound and lighting,

Ipoh City Council has also promoted the Ipoh Heritage Trail on a dedicated microsite and the city council's channel *Radio TV Bandaraya Ipoh*. Its Town and Country Planning department also shares information online like guidelines on heritage conservation, and the city's heritage inventory.

Following the success of the mural trail in George Town, Ipoh also developed one that takes visitors around the old town. This has also sparked other mural initiatives city wide increasing this mode of public art. These trails are promoted as one of the city's tourism attractions.⁴⁹

Buildings in the old town have also been taken over by new businesses, creating new boutique hotels, eateries and indie merchandise that are frequented by local tourists.

- This regeneration has also attracted increased weekend and day visits from other nearby cities such as Penang and Greater KL. Success stories such as boutique hotel Sekeping Hong Keng⁵⁰ has been a well-recounted tale of urban revival.
- Although the pandemic has hit businesses hard forcing some to close, there is still energy and optimism in the old town with the recent inclusion of a large book chain Bookxcess setting up shop in an old bank vault in one of the heritage buildings.⁵¹

Ipoh Heritage Trail

The Ipoh Heritage Trail consists of 27 historical buildings and locations situated from the old town of Ipoh to the business area such as Town Hall Building, the Ipoh Railway Station, the Birch Memorial and many more, all of which showcase Ipoh's rich history, both pioneer and sovereign.⁵²

“

There will be more mural paintings and we'll be repairing buildings and areas along the heritage trail. Even so, basic structures of these buildings will be conserved to retain their historical identities.

Dato' Rumaizi Baharin, Mayor of Ipoh⁵³

Sam Poh Tong Temple.

Photo © Tourism Malaysia

⁴⁹ <https://www.malaysia-traveller.com/ipoh-mural-art-trail.html>

⁵⁰ <https://www.sekeping.com/kongheng/home.html>

⁵¹ <https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/pulse/2019/04/478437/bank-bookstore-bookxcess-opens-its-door-ipoh>

⁵² Ipoh Heritage Trail. <http://ipohheritage.mbi.gov.my/index.php/map>

⁵³ <https://www.ipohchecho.com.my/2020/10/24/exploring-the-main-heritage-assets-of-ipoh>





[In Ipoh we have a] creative culture – where mostly everyone moves independently, [come together to] form a community. For instance; music culture, sport culture, film photography culture and a lot more. From there, it creates another opportunity that grows Ipoh’s economy. Ipoh now has various coffee houses, eatery shops and also alternative event spaces.

Mohd Adam Bin Jalaludin, Founder of Peace Be Upon You (PBUY)⁵⁴

Sample of ‘Movers and Shakers’ in the Cultural and Creative Sector of Ipoh

The indie music scene in Ipoh is proud of what they believe is their distinctive sound, making the city a birth place of creative talents.⁵⁵ In Greater Ipoh, art collectives like Kapallorek Artspace and Projek Rabak, on top of the higher education institutions such as the Universiti Teknologi MARA Perak Branch, act as linchpin of the cultural scene.

⁵⁴ Interview by Penang Institute.

⁵⁵ https://www.nme.com/en_asia/news/music/mohd-jayzuan-announces-new-compilation-of-ipoh-indie-rock-and-experimental-music-2777812

“

Once a week, we still have events, and in between weekends, we have forums, workshops. So it's very healthy and very happening. That's what we see most clearly, the most visible change in Ipoh. A few of the people that we know have come to Ipoh just for the art scene. That is one of the impacts that we can observe. They moved to Ipoh because they know Ipoh has forums, has workshops, has collectives like Projek Rabak that push people to make art.

Mohd. Jayzuan, Khizanat/Projek Rabak⁵⁶

Event at Khizanat.

Photo © Projek Rabak



⁵⁶ https://creativeeconomy.britishcouncil.org/media/resources/Malaysia_Creative_Hubs_Report_final.pdf

Table 1 Selected Ipoh stakeholders⁵⁷

Media/Film/Digital	Arts	Crossover – Culture/Arts/Lifestyle
Eksentrika, 2016	Bernice Lew, cake designer	Cook with Ipohbunny, n.d.
Ipoh Echo, 2006	Datin Rosalina Ooi-Thong, president of the Perak Society of Performing Arts	Ipoh World, 2004
Perak Film Office (PFO), 2017	Dato Lat (Mohd Nor Khalid), cartoonist	Law Siak Hong, president of Perak Heritage Society
Sharpened Word (SW), 2015	Fadly Sabran, artist	Tan Kai Lek, owner of Tin Alley and Wood Museum
Sugu Pavithra, Youtubers	Keith Tan Jian Li, pianist	Jovian Lee, curator of Yasmin Neusuem
	Mohd Jayzuan, musician	Ng Seksan, Sekepening Kong Heng
	Nur Hanim Khairuddin, curator and artist, General Manager PORT	Dexter Song, founder Burps and Giggles
	Shahirah Mohd. Nasir, writer	Perak Academy
	Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh, actress	
	Yoke Lin Eu, poet	
	Fazleena Hishamuddin, poet, writer, actress and theatre director	
	Subain Singham, musician and president of the Greentown Indian Cultural Society	



Ipoh is such a small town that knowing each other so well creates a tremendous, strong and wide support system among all the communities.

Mohd Adam Bin Jalaludin, Founder of Peace Be Upon You (PBUY)⁵⁸

⁵⁷ For the purpose of this report, cultural influencers are defined as the media or cultural sector go to people comprising key opinion leaders who are networked into the public, private and cultural scene. They or their organisations, where possible, have a substantial following (>50,000 followers) especially on social media and/or digital channels and are seen as credible experts in their field and can influence change, innovating culture and arts practices through their programmes. In order to provide a sampling of the movers and shakers, they have been categorised into 3 key sectors comprising media, film and digitals, the arts, and those within a crossover of culture, arts and lifestyle.

⁵⁸ Interview by Penang Institute.

Media/Film/Digital

Eksentrika, 2016 – present

Eksentrika is a community platform for writers, artists and creatives from different artistic backgrounds to interact and work with each other, discuss current issues, and share their works. Founded in 2016, Eksentrika was born to promote local creatives who are lesser known in the country and give these talented creatives a voice in the context of Malaysia through articles and published work.⁵⁹

Ipoh Echo, 2006 – present

Ipoh Echo is a community-based newspaper established with the sole aim of providing a platform for the residents of Ipoh to voice and share their views, concerns and happenings. It acts as a medium to bridge the gap between the authorities and the citizens.⁶⁰

Perak Film Office (PFO), 2017 – present

The Perak Film Office from Digital Perak Corporation Holdings is an initiative that aims to encourage local and foreign filmmakers to choose Perak as a filming location due to its rich history, colonial buildings, various cultures and natural landscapes hence making it the perfect venue for 'realism'.⁶¹

Sharpened Word (SW), 2015 – present

Sharpened Word is an interactive and educational platform under the auspices of Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA). The platform enables different types of creative and aspiring artists to share their work, using English as a medium, with the public and communities.⁶²

Sugu Pavithra, Youtubers

The *Sugu Pavithra* Youtube channel is run by a husband-and-wife team – M Sugu and S Pavithra. Pavithra was named an Ipoh City icon as one of the recipients of the '2020 Iconic Perakeans Award' for her contribution to the city. Her cooking videos promoting local cuisine are shown on YouTube and their channel received the 'Silver Play Button' Award by YouTube, for having 100,000 subscribers. The channel presently has over 820,000 subscribers.⁶³

⁵⁹ Eksentrika. https://creativehubs.my/creative_hub/eksentrika

⁶⁰ Ipoh Echo. <https://www.ipoecho.com.my>

⁶¹ About Perak Film Office. <http://pfo.digitalperak.com.my/index.php/about-film-office>

⁶² Sharpened Word. <https://www.pspaipoh.org/sharpened-word>

⁶³ Pavithra an Iconic Perakean. <https://www.ipoecho.com.my/2020/07/21/pavithra-an-iconic-perakean>

⁶⁴ From New York to Ipoh: Ipohite Creates Bespoke Cakes for All Occasions. <https://www.ipoecho.com.my/2020/12/31/from-new-york-to-ipoh-ipohite-creates-bespoke-cakes-for-all-occasions>

⁶⁵ Performing Arts Stalwart Chosen For Prestigious US Fellowship. <http://www.ipoecho.com.my/v4/article/2015/07/01/performing-arts-stalwart-chosen-for-prestigious-us-fellowship-1>

⁶⁶ History of Dato Lat. <http://datolatdigitallibrary.blogspot.com/p/history-of-dato-lat.html>

⁶⁷ Fadly Sabran. <http://fadlysabran.blogspot.com/2017/09/biography.html>

Arts

Bernice Lew, cake designer

Bernice Lew, is a cake designer who initially worked for three years at BCakeNY, a US reputable cake studio with a celebrity clientele, before returning to Ipoh, her home town, to start an online home-based custom cakes business. She offers many different types of cakes ranging from sculpted to multi-tier with most of the ingredients sourced locally.⁶⁴

Datin Rosalina Ooi-Thong, president of the Perak Society of Performing Arts

Datin Rosalina Ooi-Thong is the president of the Perak Society of Performing Arts. She is well-known in the performing arts scene and is passionate about teaching, developing and promoting it in Malaysia. Her 2011 musical play entitled '*Shiny Black Gold*', depicting the lives and hardships of Chinese immigrants during the tin mining era in Perak received rave reviews from the audience. In 2015, she was selected to join the New Leadership Fellows Programme of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) in the US.⁶⁵

Dato Lat (Mohd Nor Khalid), cartoonist

Dato Lat is a well-known and iconic Malaysian cartoonist who won the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2002. He has published more than 20 volumes of cartoons, focusing on the country's social and political scenes, with its most famous graphic novel being *Kampung Boy*, depicting a boy's experience growing up in a rural village.⁶⁶

Fadly Sabran, artist

Fadly Sabran is one of the founders and a Director at Kapallorek Art Space as well as a media artist, researcher and lecturer at the Department of Fine Art, Faculty of Art & Design at Universiti Teknologi MARA Perak. He was a member of the group SOsound Experimental Performance Art from 2007 to 2012. His work focuses on combining media art and technology and he has taken part in many local and international group exhibitions and performances.⁶⁷

Keith Tan Jian Li, pianist

Keith Tan Jian Li is a pianist who has recorded 35,000 streams from 35 countries on Spotify and released two consecutive albums entitled *'Strings of Fate'* and *'Wander'* in February and April 2020.⁶⁸

Mohd Jayzuan, musician

Mohd Jayzuan is a popular indie and alternative rock singer-songwriter and performer who has recorded and released many EPs and albums with his bands Free Love and Bloodymary. He is also a writer, with over ten published books, and a curator who has organised many projects notably the annual *Ipoh Kreative*, a week-long multidisciplinary arts festival in Ipoh. With a profound interest in music, film, literature and youth culture, he co-founded Rabak-Lit, a publishing house; Khizanat, an indie art space; Projek Rabak, a multidisciplinary artist collective; and Rumah Khizanat, an artist community house.⁶⁹

Nur Hanim Khairuddin, curator and artist, General Manager PORT

Nur Hanim Khairuddin is a multi-talented artist, editor, writer and curator. She is now the General Manager of PORT.

- She has joined many exhibitions in cities such as Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the Teratak Nuromar company, which publishes *sentAp! Contemporary Visual Art Magazine*. She was also co-editor-in-chief for three volumes of the *Narratives in Malaysian Art* publication consisting of republished documents and conversations on contemporary art in Malaysia. She was a curator for the Perak Arts Foundation from 1997 to 2010 and has curated many solo exhibitions for prominent Malaysian artists. She was also the Co-Director of HOM Management and Malaysian Art Archive and Research Support (MARS).⁷⁰

Fazleena Hishamuddin, poet, writer, actress and theatre director,

Poet, writer, actress and theatre director, Fazleena's productions have been nominated for the Boh Cameronian Awards. She wrote the lyrics for *'Penawar'* performed by Margosa, the winners of the 2020 Malaysia Indie Music Awards. She is currently based in Kuala Lumpur.

Subain Singham, musician and president of the Greentown Indian Cultural Society

Subain Singham is a musician and president of the Greentown Indian Cultural Society⁷¹. The cultural society organises many Indian cultural events in Ipoh through the society, with JKKN and PORT.⁷²

Shahirah Mohd. Nasir, writer

Shahirah, or also known as ladsheer, is slowly being recognised in the local arts scene for her writings and poetry. Together with 10 other writers, she wrote a novel entitled *'Novel Eksperimental'*. She also occasionally performs at events held by Projek Rabak, a multidisciplinary artist collective.⁷³

Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh, actress

Michelle Yeoh is an internationally acclaimed actress, has starred in nearly 30 films including global hits 007's *'Tomorrow Never Dies'*, *'Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon'*, *'Memoirs of a Geisha'*, *'Mummy 3'* and recently the soul-stirring biopic *'The Lady'*.⁷⁴

Yoke Lin Eu, poet

Bridget Eu Yoke Lin, a poet from Ipoh, Perak, has given poetry recitals locally and internationally, in Japan, USA, Singapore, and Italy. She is the author of two poetry books entitled *'When Footsteps Merge'* and *'A Horizon of Jewels'* and her poems have been published in several anthologies including anthology *'Voices on the Wind'*, anthology WCP/WAAC Taiwan 2015 and anthology WCP/UPLI California 2016.

- She has received many international poetry awards including 3 awards consecutively in the 21st, 22nd, 23rd Dancing Poetry Festival in San Francisco, a bronze medal in the First Global Poetry Contest UPLI and 3 major awards in the Founders Memorial Poetry Contest [WCP] in California 2016.⁷⁵

⁶⁸ Creativity under Constraint: Ipoh Boy Debuts Two Consecutive Albums. <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/2020/09/24/creativity-under-constraint-ipoh-boy-debuts-two-consecutive-albums>

⁶⁹ Mohd Jayzuan. <https://www.cendana.com.my/corporate/about-us/industry-advisory-panel/mohd-jayzuan>

⁷⁰ Nur Hanim Khairuddin. <https://www.cendana.com.my/corporate/about-us/industry-advisory-panel/nur-hanim-khairuddin>

⁷¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Greentown-Indian-Cultural-Society-1498713243711864>

⁷² <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2018/06/05/mesmerising-showcase>

⁷³ Personality: Shahirah Mohd Nasir. <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/2017/06/16/personality-shahirah-mohd-nasir>

⁷⁴ Michelle Yeoh. <https://www.facebook.com/yeoh2016>

⁷⁵ Yoke Lin Eu. <https://www.apwriters.org/author/yokeu>, accessed in July 2021.

Crossover – Culture/Arts/Lifestyle

Cook with Ipohbunny, n.d.

Cook with Ipohbunny, founded by Alexandra Wong, is an online community platform for food lovers and cooks to share and look for local recipes, support one another, and share stories about their culinary journey, restaurants/cafés, and food art among others.

- Alexandra is a writer and author of the book 'Made in Malaysia: Stories of Hometown Heroes and Hidden Gems' and the biography 'Beauty Is More Than Skin Deep: The Recollections of Malaysia's First Lady Dermatologist' which were respectively published in 2014 and 2017.⁷⁶

Ipoh World, 2004 – present

Ipoh World is an education-based, not-for-profit organization established in 2004 to promote awareness and appreciation of Perak, the Silver State of Malaysia and its unique, diverse and rich heritage, with particular focus on Ipoh and Kinta Valley.⁷⁷

Law Siak Hong, president of Perak Heritage Society

Law Siak Hong was born in Kampar and educated in Australia. He has researched and documented heritage buildings throughout Perak.⁷⁸ He is currently the president of Perak Heritage Society.⁷⁹

Tan Kai Lek, owner of Tin Alley and Wood Museum

Tan Kai Lek is the managing director of 'Bukit Merah Wood Products Sdn Bhd', a company that formerly produced quality woodwork for developers, private homes, interior designers and architects. Tan Kai Lek's dedication for the preservation of the wood's heritage led him into the accommodations sector, where he used his storage of lumber and wood components to construct three hotels, each possessing unique formidable attributes and features. He also established the Tin Alley and Wood Museum to inculcate an appreciation of wood in the community and enable them to experiment and develop their artistic ability.⁸⁰

Dexter Song, founder, Burps and Giggles, 2012 – 2020

Upon returning from Melbourne Australia, Dexter Song restored six pre-war shophouses in Ipoh's historic Old Town, and set up Burps and Giggles. The cafe was one of the catalysts in the rejuvenation of the old town. Burps and Giggles quickly became one of Ipoh's hipster café pioneers. It is famous for its throwback furnishings, whimsical decor – the space is peppered with old biscuit tins, vintage posters, murals, wall quotes, wooden and rattan chairs and quaint lights, which has made it a favourite go-to spot for avid Instagrammers. It shut down temporarily in 2020 due to the pandemic.⁸¹

Jovian Lee, curator of Yasmin Newseum

Jovian Lee is an advertising copywriter who had the privilege of working closely with the late Yasmin Ahmad from 1990 until her passing in 2009. In an homage to her and her curious fascination for Ipoh, several Ipoh boys (including Ng Sek San) got together to open the Yasmin Newseum in the famous Kong Heng Square. Jovian Lee is one of the curators of the museum.

Ng Sek San, Principal of Seksan Design

Sek San who grew up in Ipoh, has been responsible for catalysing the rejuvenation of the historic Old Town beginning with Sekeping Kong Heng and the subsequent, Yasmin Newseum. He is the Principal of Seksan Design: Landscape Architecture & Planning in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Trained in civil engineering before studying landscape architecture in New Zealand, he has solely concentrated on the latter and is known as someone who believes in simple, affordable and local solutions. His projects are driven by a belief in ecologically sustainable architecture and in making works that reflect an egalitarian lifestyle.

Perak Academy

Perak Academy is dedicated to making the state a centre of excellence in thought, culture and technology. It has a rich programme that ranges from performance, talks, screening to book launches.⁸²

⁷⁶ Hop Into Cooking with Ipohbunny. <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/2020/07/14/hop-into-cooking-with-ipohbunny/>; Official Website: <https://www.cookwithipohbunny.com>

⁷⁷ Ipoh World. <https://www.facebook.com/ipohworld>

⁷⁸ Champion of Heritage. <https://www.born-in-malaysia.com/champion-of-heritage>

⁷⁹ 'Public must take pride in heritage assets. <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/01/555840/public-must-take-pride-heritage-assets>

⁸⁰ Tan Kai Lek's Undying Passion. <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/2020/01/31/tan-kai-leks-undying-passion>

⁸¹ Ipoh's pioneer hipster cafe Burps and Giggles takes hiatus due to Covid-19. <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2020/06/13/ipohs-pioneer-hipster-cafe-burps-and-giggles-takes-hiatus-due-to-covid-19/1875098>

⁸² <http://perakacademy.com>

Events, Festivals and Creative Marketplaces (selected)

The Ipoh arts scene is both supported by state funded bodies like PORT and independent creative and cultural communities like Projek Rabak, Sharpened Word and Perak Academy to name a few.

National agencies like MyCreative also toured their RIUH in the city creative bazaar and event to Ipoh in 2019. Co-organised with Sama Sama Perak⁸³, the event attracted about 12,600 visitors indicating that the city is open to more of such programmes.

The Kong Heng Square Artisan Market⁸⁴ offers Ipohites a chance to gather at pop-up stalls offering food, drink, crafts and other items. The PBUY (PeaceBeUponYou)⁸⁵ store not only sells merchandise but also offers spaces for events and gatherings – formal or informal.



The arts festival model is changing rapidly. It's not about a big tent circus coming to town. We have to recognise and support local artistic communities, and create a festival platform that has a lasting impact and place in a city's contemporary culture. Ipoh today is a vibrant city for the arts and the IAF (International Ipoh Art Festival) has arrived at the right time to engage the masses.

**Nur Hanim Mohamed Khairuddin, artist and curator,
General Manager PORT⁸⁶**

⁸³ <https://www.facebook.com/samasamaperak>

⁸⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/Kong-Heng-Square-Artisan-Market-890977381043697>

⁸⁵ <https://peacebeuponyou.co>

⁸⁶ <https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/culture/2019/11/26/ipoh-international-art-festival-celebrates-the-strength-of-city039s-creative-communities>

The Other Festival, 2015 – 2019

Organiser: Kakiseni and Perak Tourism

The Other Festival celebrates Ipoh Old Town's living art, culture and heritage and offers different events such as music performance, art shows, film screenings, guided tours, food trails, bazaars, and many more. It seeks to highlight Ipoh's creative endeavours and its heritage buildings.⁸⁷

Ipoh Kreative, 2015 – 2017

Organiser: Projek Rabak

'The *Ipoh Kreative*' festival was first organised from 25 to 31 January 2015 in 7 different locations in Ipoh. The festival consisted of various programmes involving many different artists and was held to establish the city as a creative hub, boost the tourism sector in Ipoh, and further develop and strengthen Ipoh's pop art and culture.⁸⁸

Ipoh Music Festival, 2017 – present

Organiser: Joyous Music Centre
(supported by Perak Tourism)

Ipoh Music Festival is a classical music festival that focuses on four areas being competitions, concerts, workshops and the city of Ipoh. The festival seeks to attract musicians from all over the world to facilitate international exchange and enable the local communities to be exposed to this genre of music and appreciate its beauty.⁸⁹

Ipoh International Art Festival, 2019 – present

Organiser: Port Ipoh and Tourism Perak

The Ipoh International Art Festival is a festival that aims to help Ipoh become one of the major cities carrying its own 'signature' annual art festival for domestic and international artists, tourists, art lovers, cultural researchers and art collectors.

- The first festival was held in 2019 and involved more than a hundred arts practitioners across the country, as well as artists from more than ten countries, namely Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippine, Myanmar, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, Finland, Turkey, Austria, Lebanon, Sweden and Syria. The festival offered many programmes and events such as art exhibitions and workshops, bazaar, film screenings and many more.⁹⁰
- The inaugural Ipoh International Art Festival (IIAF 2019)⁹¹ presented its showcase under the theme, CLIMATE, prioritising works that incorporate recycle/upcycle materials as support to the eco-tourism of Perak.
- The second edition is scheduled to be held in December 2021⁹²

Ipoh Food Festival, 2019 – present

Organiser: *Pusat Aspirasi Kanak-Kanak* (PASAK), *Sama-Sama Perak*, and tourism department of Perak Government

The festival is a celebration of food and features food from all over Perak, including traditional and street food from different ethnicities such as Malay, Chinese, Indian, Punjabi and Orang Asli. Its aim is to highlight Perak's local food produce, ingredients, products and cooking schools.⁹³

Festival Kolektif, 2019

Organiser: Gerakan Seni Ipoh

The Festival Kolektif involved the participation of nine different collectives with programmes focusing on film, music, theatre, art discourse, visual and youth activities. The festival aimed to promote and showcase youth culture for the public to gain a better understanding of what it is all about. One of the encouraging outcomes of the festival was the establishment of an inter-discipline audience who attended different types of events.⁹⁴

Noh Salleh Acoustic Night (Music Show Event) in 2020.

Photo © PBUY Archives

⁸⁷ The Other Fest. <http://kakiseni.org/the-other-festival>

⁸⁸ Ipoh Kreative. <https://www.facebook.com/ipohkreative>

⁸⁹ Ipoh Music Festival. <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2017/08/16/ipoh-music-festival>

⁹⁰ Ipoh International Art Festival 2019. <https://www.portipoh.com.my/phone/ipoh-international-art-festival.html>

⁹¹ <https://www.portipoh.com.my/phone/ipoh-international-art-festival.html>

⁹² Ipoh International Art Festival 2021 Pre-Fest. <https://www.jfkl.org.my/events/iiaf2021prefest>

⁹³ Ipoh Food Festival. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/event/nR/ipoh-food-festival>

⁹⁴ What Is Festival Kolektif All About? <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2019/05/01/what-is-festival-kolektif-all-about>



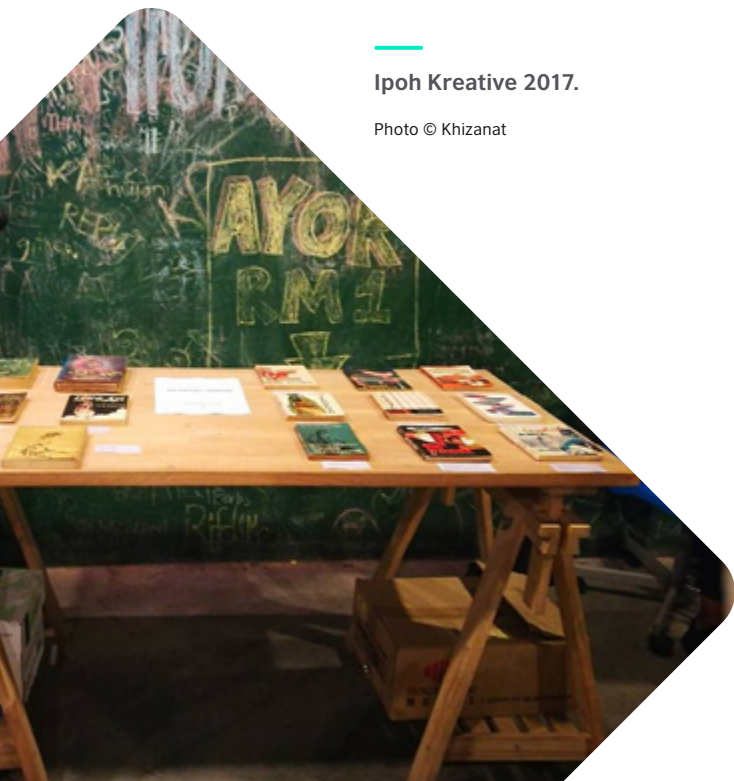
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It's nice to see people from various races coming together to celebrate the one and only thing that unites everyone – food... Ipoh is known to be a food haven and this should be recognised by not only locals but also people from beyond the state... This event makes me proud to be a Perakian.

Angie Teh Shim Hui, visitor at the 2019 Ipoh Food Festival⁹⁵

Ipoh Kreative 2017.

Photo © Khizanat



⁹⁵ <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/05/07/celebration-of-food-ipoh-style>

Cultural Infrastructure, Creative Hubs and Assets (selected)

Ipoh is famous for its hipster cafés housed in regenerated shopfronts. These venues are often mixed-used and become a hub for local art and culture communities to gather and for local and domestic cultural lovers to enjoy a sip of coffee and a bite.

Co-working spaces such as incubator4u⁹⁶ are also catering to a growing base of ‘nomadic’ cultural and digital workers that is drawn to the city.

For more information on creative hubs in Ipoh, see British Council Creative Hub Malaysia: <https://creativehubs.my>



The youth culture in Ipoh is very happening. Ipoh is the city with the most collective and alternative space other than Kuala Lumpur (which is of course the centre of everything). There are always cultural arts activities and programs performed by any space or collective. In fact, I believe that one of the attractions in Ipoh now is our alternative spaces and also the collective movement of young people. Ipoh is very relaxed, making it have its own style that is not too tense and celebrates the processes more than the final result or the final image that is always sold normally. There is a humorous and sloppy side of Ipoh artists that makes it different from other big cities that are normally more serious.

Mohd. Jayzuan, Khizanat/Projek Rabak⁹⁷

⁹⁶ <http://incubator4u.com.my/#contact-us>

⁹⁷ Interview by Penang Institute.

Tun Razak Library, 1931 – present

Tun Razak Library operates as the centre for information, science, technology and education in Ipoh City and provides various services such as school folio materials and study tours among others to all residents of Ipoh.⁹⁸

Dream Project Hall, 2006 – present

Dream Project Hall is a small independent recording studio as well as an art, music and event space located in Ipoh since 2006.⁹⁹

Casuarina Convention Centre (CCC), 2012 – present

Casuarina Convention Centre is the biggest hall in Ipoh, capable of accommodating 2,500 guests. The hall comes with a comprehensive range of spaces and facilities for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE).¹⁰⁰

Han Chin Pet Soo Museum, 2013 – present

Han Chin Pet Soo, which used to be the Hakka Miners' clubhouse, is a museum showcasing the past activities of the club house such as prostitution, gambling, opium smoking and triad activities as well as providing an insight into the tin mining industry of the city and history of Chinese immigrants in Ipoh.¹⁰¹

Projek Rabak, 2011 – present

Projek Rabak is a multidisciplinary artist collective. Inspired by Jakarta-based collective, Ruangrupa, it was created to build a similar ecosystem to support Malaysian contemporary artists and multidisciplinary collaborations. It has developed programmes, festivals, and workshops for the creative community both locally and internationally. Its publishing house, Rabak-lit, introduced in 2011, has produced Malaysian pop culture and creative literature in the form of poetries, travelogues, anecdotes and art critics. Khizanat, another initiative created in 2013, is an alternative-space in Ipoh which focuses on hosting creative programmes, talks, sharing sessions, workshops, and music showcases.¹⁰²

• Khizanat, 2013 – present

Khizanat is a cultural hub developed by Projek Rabak in collaboration with Miker to bring together all artistic, creative and cultural activities—with emphasis on contemporary arts, youth culture and lifestyle. The hub is home to an artist studio space, art gallery, alternative cinema and concept store containing books, records and other merchandise.¹⁰³

Yasmin at Kong Heng Newseum, 2014 – present

The Newseum showcases the late director Yasmin Ahmad's films and ads. The late director selected Ipoh as the location for her internationally-acclaimed movies 'Sepet', 'Gubra', 'Muallaf' and 'Talentine'.¹⁰⁴

Ho Yan Hor Museum, 2016 – present

The Ho Yan Hor Museum (HYHM) details the stories of Ho Yan Hor, the most trusted household brand of Chinese herbal tea since 1941 that originated from Ipoh. It provides the discovery of the origins and evolution of Ho Yan Hor. The museum also shares the inspirational life of Dr. Ho Kai Cheong, the creator of the health-giving Ho Yan Hor tea.¹⁰⁵

22 Hale Street Heritage Gallery, 2017 – present

22 Hale Street is a heritage gallery with a café which also offers an event space for rent. The café sells food as well as merchandise made from people with disabilities from the Daybreak Society. Some of the merchandise include bags, dresses, and many more.¹⁰⁶

Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS), 2017 – 2020

The Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS), the first ever in Malaysia and Asia, was opened to the public on 26 June 2017 but closed its doors on 28 January 2020. The park consisted of over 40 rides including Malaysia's first DreamWorks Animation focused area with characters such as *Mr Peabody and Sherman*, *The Croods*, *Megamind*, and *Casper the Friendly Ghost*.¹⁰⁷

⁹⁸ Perpustakaan Tun Razak. <http://ptripoh.mbi.gov.my>

⁹⁹ Dream Project Hall. <https://www.facebook.com/DreamProjectIpoh>

¹⁰⁰ Casuarina Convention Centre. <http://www.perakcorp.com.my/page/176/Convention-Centre>

¹⁰¹ For further information go to website: <https://www.malaysia-traveller.com/han-chin-pet-soo.html>

¹⁰² Projek Rabak. https://creativehubs.my/creative_hub/projek-rabak; Official website: <https://www.facebook.com/projekrabak>

¹⁰³ Khizanat. <https://www.facebook.com/khizanat>

¹⁰⁴ The Yasmin Newseum. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/RoR/the-yasmin-newseum>

¹⁰⁵ Ho Yan Hor Museum: <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/J62/ho-yan-hor-museum>

¹⁰⁶ 22 Hale Street. <https://www.ipohhecho.com.my/v4/article/2017/09/16/22-hale-street-1>; Official Website: <https://22halestreet.business.site>

¹⁰⁷ Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS). <http://www.perakcorp.com.my/page/266/Attraction-Centers>

Casuarina Sini-Drive, 2020 – present

Casuarina Sini-Drive is the first drive-in cinema in Malaysia. It was launched in 2020 and caters to up to 70 vehicles.¹⁰⁸

Made in Ipoh, 2020 – present

‘Made in Ipoh’ is a History and Heritage Gallery-Museum featuring artworks that focus on the following two themes: ‘*The Last Kapitan Of Malaya*’ and ‘*Ipoh, The City That Tin Built*’.

- It also occasionally serves as a space for exhibitions, educational talks, events and other functions related to History, Heritage, Arts and Culture.¹⁰⁹

Creative Hubs and Networks

Perak Art Society, 1970 – present

Perak Art Society is a Chinese art association founded in 1970.¹¹⁰ Their 45th Anniversary Art Exhibition was held at Soka Gakkai Malaysia (Perak Branch) for three days in 2015 and featured 60 art pieces on heritage buildings, Ipoh Old Town, limestone hills, fishing villages, flora and fauna of Perak.¹¹¹

Ipoh Fine Arts Society, 1989 – present

The Ipoh Fine Arts Society (IFAS) was created in 1989, to inculcate an appreciation for performing arts in all cultures. Over the years, they have welcomed many different artists to Ipoh, both local and international.

- IFAS also organised events for local artists to showcase their talents such as the 30-piece Perak Woodwind Orchestra who performed contemporary western classics and the 4-piece Chinese symphony orchestra who played traditional Chinese music.¹¹²

Perak Society of Performing Arts, 1996 – present

Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA) was initiated to promote and encourage a performing arts culture and build a better understanding of arts in the state by collaborating with different groups such as schools, music centres, and others and supporting those wanting to venture in the performing arts among others.¹¹³

Percha Art Space, 2009 – present

Percha Art Space, registered as Galeri Percha, is a creative arts hub that showcases Malaysian modern and contemporary art to boost the art sector and related activities in the district of Manjung, Perak. Percha also holds art exhibitions and public programmes in its independent gallery, situated at the Lumut Centre of Crafts (*Pusat kraf Lumut*), Lumut Jetty Terminal.¹¹⁴

Urban Sketchers Ipoh, 2013 – present

Urban Sketchers Ipoh was created by Chin Kok Yan after being inspired by Urban Sketchers Penang. Based on its slogan ‘*Sketching Ipoh for Future Generations*’, they organise events for artists to meet up in different indoor and outdoor places and draw on location based on what they can see and observe for the benefit of future generations.¹¹⁵

Comic Government (Kerajaan Komik), 2014 – present

Comic Government is an online archive containing information about local activities and events on comics.¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁸ Casuarina Sini-Drive. <http://www.perakcorp.com.my/page/266/Attraction-Centers>

¹⁰⁹ Made in Ipoh. <https://made-in-ipoh.business.site>

¹¹⁰ Perak Art Society. <https://www.facebook.com/perakartsociety>

¹¹¹ Announcement: Perak Art Society 45th Anniversary Art Exhibition. <https://www.emily2u.com/announcement-perak-art-society-45th-anniversary-art-exhibition>

¹¹² Ipoh: The Next Arts Hub? <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2016/07/01/ipoh-the-next-arts-hub>; Official website: Ipoh Fine Arts Society. <https://www.facebook.com/Ipoh-Fine-Arts-Society-841575912553011>

¹¹³ Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA). <https://www.pspaipoh.org/about-us>

¹¹⁴ Percha Art Space. https://creativehubs.my/creative_hub/percha-art-space; Official Website: <https://percha-artspace.business.site>

¹¹⁵ Urban Sketchers Ipoh. <https://www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2016/12/01/urban-sketchers-ipoh>

¹¹⁶ Kerajaan Komik. <https://kerajaankomik.com>

Event at Kapallorek Art Space.

Photo © Kapallorek Art Space



Kapallorek, 2014 – present

Kapallorek was created by Fadly Sabran, a New Media Artist involved in the Malaysian contemporary art scene. It is an independent and non-profit art space in Seri Iskandar, Perak that promotes interactions among diverse groups of people as well as discussions and exhibitions of Perak's local art and culture.¹¹⁷

Gerakan Seni Ipoh, 2019 – present

Gerakan Seni Ipoh was established to gather together various art, cultural and creative collectives from Ipoh and the state of Perak by organising different programmes such as events, festivals and workshops featuring local and foreign artists and practitioners.¹¹⁸

Cultural Assets

Paloh Ku Miu (Old Paloh Chinese Temple), 1872 – present

The Old Palo Chinese temple was constructed in 1872 by Leong Fee, a tin miner and philanthropist, originally from the Mei Xian district in the Guangdong Province of China. The temple is believed to be the oldest Chinese temple in Ipoh.¹¹⁹

The Royal Ipoh Club, 1895 – present

The Royal Ipoh Club is the oldest social club in Ipoh. Although it was temporarily utilised as a laundry house during the Japanese occupation, it was converted back into a private club. Presently, the club also functions as a hotel providing seven 3-star rooms to guests.¹²⁰

Ipoh Field (Padang Ipoh), 1898 – present

Padang Ipoh was established in 1898, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Over the years, it has served many roles ranging from parade ground for the army, playing field for the Perak Cricket Association, and gathering place to participate in a bowing and allegiance ceremony during the Japanese Occupation. The ceremony for the declaration of Ipoh as Municipality was also held at Padang Ipoh on 31 May 1962.¹²¹

Panglima Kinta Mosque, 1898 – present

The Panglima Kinta Mosque, designed in the British, Moghul and neoclassical architectural style, is one of the oldest mosques in Ipoh. It is easily recognisable for its white and blue colours and the big dome at the top of the building.¹²²

S.P.H. De Silva Building, 1903 – present

Designed in the Renaissance architectural style, the S.P.H. De Silva building is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Ipoh. Originally named Macalister's Building, it was known as the manufacturer of trophies, shields and medals. In 2013, this historic building started undergoing restoration works after being left vacant for at least 20 years.¹²³

The Straits Trading Building, 1907 – present

The Straits Trading Building, built in the Italian Renaissance architectural style, was the property of the Straits Trading Company, a major tin ore exporter during the tin mining era in the Kinta Valley. It presently houses OCBC Bank.¹²⁴

Indian Muslim Mosque, 1908 – present

This iconic landmark with Moghul-style architecture, is also known as the 'Town Padang Mosque' as it is located opposite of the town 'padang' (field). Its construction was funded by a wealthy Indian Muslim, named Shaik Adam, as a result of an argument with Malay Muslims.¹²⁵

Birch Memorial Tower, 1909 – present

Birch Memorial Tower, a project initiated by E. W. Birch, was erected in memory of his late father, J.W.W. Birch, the first British Resident of Perak, who was murdered in 1875 in the state of Perak by followers of a local Malay chief, Dato' Maharajalela. The memorial tower's four corners are adorned with figures depicting the four virtues of British administration: Loyalty, Justice, Patience and Fortitude.¹²⁶

¹¹⁷ Kapallorek Art Space. https://creativehubs.my/creative_hub/kapallorek-art-space; Official website: <https://kapallorek.com>

¹¹⁸ Gerakan Seni Ipoh. <https://www.facebook.com/gerakanseniipoh>

¹¹⁹ Paloh Ku Miu (Old Paloh Chinese Temple). <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/RgR/paloh-ku-miu-old-paloh-chinese-temple>

¹²⁰ Ipoh Royal Club. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/R6q/royal-ipoh-club>

¹²¹ Open Spaces in Urban Malaysia. P. 35

¹²² Panglima Kinta Mosque. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/qjr/panglima-kinta-mosque>

¹²³ S.P.H. De Silva Building. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/9rx/sph-de-silva-building>

¹²⁴ The Straits Trading Building. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/105/the-straits-trading-building>

¹²⁵ Indian Muslim Mosque. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/31M/indian-muslim-mosque>

¹²⁶ Birch Memorial Tower. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/oYj/birch-memorial-tower>

St Michael's Institution, 1912 – present

St Michael's Institution, founded by Father Jean B. Coppin, dates back to 1912. The current school building, designed in the European Gothic architectural style, was erected and expanded over a period of thirty years from 1922. It served as the headquarters of the Japanese Administration in Perak during the Japanese occupation.¹²⁷

Kellie's Castle, 1915 – present

Kellie's castle is named after its owner William Kellie Smith, a Scottish planter. The castle, and the remaining shell, with Moorish style arches and windows, resembles the great British Raj palaces in India. The making of the castle started in 1915 but was not completed due to the passing of William Kellie Smith in 1926.¹²⁸

Ipoh Town Hall/Old Post Office, 1916 – present

The Ipoh Town Hall/Old Post Office building was designed by A.B. Hubback, the same architect responsible for the Ipoh Railway Station. The construction of the building began in 1914 and was finalised in 1916. It was used as the venue for the inaugural congress by the Malay Nationalist party in 1945. Presently, the hall, which is under the care of the Ipoh City Council, is available for rent and is generally utilised for official and social events.¹²⁹

F.M.S. (Federated Malay States) Bar & Restaurant, 1923 – present

Durbar F.M.S. Bar, formerly named F.M.S. Bar & Restaurant, was founded by a Hainanese immigrant in 1906. Originally situated along Belfield Street (*Jalan Sultan Yusof*), it moved to its present location in 1923. Believed to be the oldest bar-cum-restaurant in the country, it was frequented by colonial planters, tin miners and other expatriates.¹³⁰

The Chartered Bank Building, 1924 – present

The Chartered Bank opened its branch in Ipoh in 1902. During the tin mining era, it was considered the leading bank in the city, giving credit to companies such as Straits Trading Company and Eastern Smelting Company. Presently, the bank still occupies the building but had its name changed to Standard Chartered Bank.¹³¹

Perak War Memorial, 1927 – present

The Perak War Memorial, situated in the Square facing the Ipoh Railway Station, was constructed in memory of 'the men from the state of Perak who fell in the Great War 1914 – 1918 and to those who died in the 1939 – 1945 War'. These fallen heroes are paid respect in June every year by war veterans from Malaysia as well as Australia and the United Kingdom during the wreath laying ceremony. The event is also attended by members of the armed forces and police, representatives of diplomatic missions, and school children.¹³²

Perak Hydro Building, 1930 – present

The Perak Hydro building, designed in the Neo-Renaissance Victorian architectural style, was founded in 1930 by the Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company to supply power to the tin mines and dredges in the Kinta Valley. The building is presently occupied by the national electricity board, Tenaga Nasional Berhad.¹³³

The Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank Building, 1931 – present

The Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank branch in Ipoh opened in 1910 in an unassuming wooden building facing the post office, to attract a new clientele like professionals, businesses and mining companies. In 1911, the bank moved to the Straits Trading Company building along Station Road (*Jalan Dato' Maharajalela*) and in 1931 to the Neo-Renaissance architecture building at the junction of Belfield Street and Hale Street, the tallest building at that time.¹³⁴

¹²⁷ St Michael's Institution. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/Z6J/st-michaels-institution>

¹²⁸ Kellie's Castle. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/yP7/kellies-castle>

¹²⁹ Ipoh Town Hall/ Old Post Office. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/vgm/ipoh-town-hall-old-post-office>

¹³⁰ F.M.S. Bar & Restaurant Building. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/5yB/fms-bar-restaurant-building>

¹³¹ The Chartered Bank Building. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/j2R/the-chartered-bank-building>

¹³² Perak War Memorial. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/j25/perak-war-memorial>

¹³³ Perak Hydro Building. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/Nk6/perak-hydro-building>

¹³⁴ The Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank Building. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/82m/the-hong-kong-shanghai-bank-building>

The Mercantile Bank Building, 1931 – present

The Mercantile Bank building, which was designed by Danish architect Berthel Michael Iversen, was fully acquired by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank by 1959. This three-storey building, in the Art-Deco style, featuring bold geometry and intricate detailed work, is part of the well-preserved heritage buildings located in Old Town.¹³⁵

Dr. Seenivasagam Park, 1950s – present

Located in the heart of Ipoh, Dr. Seenivasagam Park, originally known as the Coronation Park to honour the installation of Queen Elizabeth II, was renamed in honour of the president of the Municipal Council of Ipoh city, who was also the founder of the People's Progressive Party in Ipoh, Dr. Seenivasagam.

- The main features of the park include recreational fields, an artificial lake filled with various types of fish, a nursery for plants, and a children's playground. There are also beautiful arches, shelters, pedestrian paths, and the Ipoh tree which gave the city its name. The latest addition is the newly landscaped Japanese Garden featuring a typical Japanese Carp pond. The fresh atmosphere and variety of flora are also part of the main attractions of this park.¹³⁶

Sam Poh Tong Temple, 1962 – present

Built by a Buddhist priest from China in 1962, the temple which houses over 40 Buddha statues, is located within Ipoh's famed limestone at Gunung Rapat, about 5 km from Ipoh. A charming Oriental rock garden which greets visitors at the temple, includes 11 artificial hills and waterfalls, and many of the bonsai plants and other oriental shrubs are imported from Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.¹³⁷

Sultan Idris Shah II Mosque, 1978 – present

The construction of the Sultan Idris Shah II Mosque was initiated in May 1966 and finalised in August 1968. It was officially inaugurated in September 1978 by Sultan Idris Iskandar Shah II of Perak, in conjunction with His Royal Highness's 54th birthday celebration.¹³⁸

Gunung Lang Recreational Park, 2020 – present

Situated about 5 km from Ipoh, Gunung Lang Recreational Park is one of the numerous limestone mountains in Perak. The area was identified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area under the Ipoh Local Plan Study 2020 and only allows activities related to eco-tourism, research and education.¹³⁹

Concubine Lane, n.d.

Concubine Lane is the most well-known lane in Ipoh and a popular place offering a wide range of candies, desserts and other delicious treats. Two versions of the origin of Concubine Lane exist, the first version being that it was utilised by rich men to hide their mistresses from their wives and the second version being that it was constructed by the mining tycoon Yao Tet Shin for his three wives, with the following names given for each lane: Wife Lane, Concubine Lane and First Concubine Lane.¹⁴⁰

Dataran Ipoh, 1984

Dataran Ipoh is a civic square that was developed in 1984 by the Ipoh Municipal Council. This rectangular green lawn covers an area of 4.05 acres and is bordered by the Ipoh Municipal Council and government buildings on one side and commercial development on the other side. While it is a popular recreational and meeting point among the locals, it is also used to hold various formal and informal events such as the annual Merdeka Day celebration.¹⁴¹

Qing Xin Ling Leisure & Cultural Village, n.d.

The Qing Xin Ling Leisure & Cultural Village provides lakeside and recreational activities such as bicycle riding while showcasing art and cultural exhibitions.¹⁴²

¹³⁵ The Mercantile Bank Building. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/g5Y/the-mercantile-bank-building>

¹³⁶ Open Spaces in Urban Malaysia. P. 60

¹³⁷ Ibid. P. 80

¹³⁸ Sultan Idris Shah II Mosque. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/r0E/sultan-idris-shah-ii-mosque>

¹³⁹ Gunung Lang Recreational Park. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/ZV6/gunung-lang-recreational-park>

¹⁴⁰ Concubine Lane. <https://www.tourismperakmalaysia.com/place/Elk/concubine-lane>

¹⁴¹ Open Spaces in Urban Malaysia. P. 43.

¹⁴² What to do at Qing Xin Ling Leisure and Cultural Village in Ipoh. <https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/travel/2018/03/19/qing-xin-ling-leisure-cultural-village>

