

## The Babas & Nyonyas

The Peranakans, or commonly known as Babas and Nyonyas, are descendants of the 16th century Chinese immigrants. The community was formed during a time when single male migrants married local women. These local women were often Batak, Burmese or Siamese. A few Babas went back to China to marry or brought their Chinese wives out, but these were few and far in between. Chinese women only began emigrating in larger numbers in the early 20th century.



The Baba community in Malacca is the oldest, while that of Penang was formed in the late 18th and 19th century. They were a prominent community of acculturated Chinese unique to this part of the world, especially in the Straits Settlements (Penang, Malacca and Singapore) hence its other name, the Straits Chinese. Adopting selected ways of the local Malays and later, the colonial British, the Peranakans had created a unique lifestyle and customs which had not only left behind a rich legacy of antiques but its cultural influences like cuisine, clothing, and language are still evident in Penang today.

## Dinner at Pinang Peranakan Museum

The Pinang Peranakan Museum symbolizes the legacies of Peranakan and herald the preservation of one-of-its kind architecture. The architecture of this building is very unique as it incorporates Chinese carved-wood panels with English floor tiles and Scottish iron-works. It is built at the end of the 19th century by one of local history's famous personalities, the 'Hai Kee Chan' or Sea Remembrance Store had once served as the residence and office of Kapitan Cina Chung Keng Kwee. Having survived the many decades of neglect and decay, the mansion has now been restored to its former glory of a stately home.

There are over 1,000 pieces of antiques and collectibles of the era on display at the upper level. Each item in this mansion speaks for itself. You have to come and see by yourself this amazing heritage!

The quaint mansion and its grounds are available for intimate dinner, private gatherings and special events for a group of 20 – 100 persons.



### ENCHANCEMENTS

- Guests to arrive at the museum in thrishaws
- 'Happy Coats' with corporate logo embroidered to be given out as an invitation to the dinner
- Baba Nyonya dance entertainment