

TOURGUIDES

WELCOME GUIDE FOR TOUR OPERATORS

Thank you for your keen partnership to keep our Peranakan heritage alive through your tours! Here is a quick guide to the rates of our museum, some house rules, and contact people for your assistance.

ENTRANCE FEES

Adults: RM12.00

Children 5-12 years old : RM5.00

For approved schools/tour operators: RM8.00 per student

OPENING & TOUR TIMES

Our opening times are

Mon-Thursday: 10am-12:30noon, 2pm-4:30pm

Sat-Sunday: 9:45am-4:30pm

ADVANCE BOOKINGS FOR TOUR GROUPS

For groups of 10 persons or more, please ensure you have made a booking in advance, to avoid any disappointment due to overcapacity. You can make a booking through the “book a tour” facility on our website or contact Madam Carmel at +606-283 1273

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & CLOSING TIMES

We are open to the public on most public holidays. In the cases where we will be closed and a tour has been booked in advance, we will send out an e-mail / fax to you two weeks prior to closing.

HOUSE RULES

We only have a couple of house rules which we ask you to respect in order for us to maintain this beloved heritage home. Please do not touch the artifacts unless expressly given permission to. In order to protect artifacts within the home, the management kindly requests that **no photography or videography** of the house be taken. We reserve the right to request you delete any photos or videos, and to ask you or any of your party to leave the house if this simple rule is not adhered to.

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY & HOUSE

The Baba & Nyonya Museum was once the residential home of Mr Chan Cheng Siew, J.P (Justice of the Peace) who lived between 1865-1919. Cheng Siew was a Straits-born Chinese, a baba, who made his fortune through gambir, rubber plantation, and later property acquisition. He died at the young age of 54 years old, leaving his estate to his wife Chee Gee Geok Neo (Mak Gemuk) and his son Chan Seng Kee to be the trustees. Seng Kee preferred staying in Klebang Besar to the townhouse on Heeren Street. The family stayed in the house intermittently in the years before and the after the war, the Heeren Street house was used as an office and rumah abu (ancestral home). It was only in 1986 was the house reopened again through the vision of Seng Kee’s eldest son, Mr Chan Kim Lay, J.P who saw the potential to open the house and the Peranakan culture to the world.

WHO ARE THE PERANAKANS

From as early as the 16th Century, when migrants travelled from their home country some began to adopt the local culture and inter-married with the locals. Indeed, there are many tales that attempt to trace the origins and identity of this unique hybrid culture termed *Peranakan*. There are the Peranakan Jawi (Arab-Malays), Peranakan Dutch (Indonesian-Chinese), Peranakan Serani (Eurasians) and Peranakan Chitty (Chitty-Malay), Peranakan Thai (Thai-Chinese). The beginnings of the Peranakan Chinese in South East Asia dates back to the 12th Century. Many Southern Chinese merchants had actively engaged in trade more than 2000 years ago, but the first permanent settlements in cities on the isle of Java and the Malay Peninsula were not established until the 13th Century. The Peranakans spoke a patois that was a mix of Malay, Hokkien and English.

Baba is an honorific word given to gentlemen. Its origins are known to have come from Northern India.

Nyonya is an honorific word for lady. Its origins are known to come from the Portuguese language, referring to grandmother.

Bibik is a term used for an older Nyonya.

PRESERVATION OF A “RUMAH ABU”

Rumah Abu refers to ancestral home. Many Peranakan Chinese embraced a mixed religion of ancestral worship, Daoism, Confucianism and Buddhism. Ancestral worship is imbued into the culture as a way for the younger generation to perform acts of filial piety to their ancestors. The house is still respected as a *rumah abu*, and conservation efforts are made to keep all parts of the house and its artifacts in optimum condition for future generations to come.

Should you have any enquiry or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Madam Carmel at admin@babanyonyamuseum.com or at +606 283 1273. We look forward to your kind partnership with us, as we uphold the culture, heritage and history of our country together!

Sincerely yours,
Baba Nyonya Museum, Melaka
UNESCO World Heritage City