



THE MAJESTIC  
MALACCA



## HISTORY ON WHEELS

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Cycle to the foundation of ancient Malacca and enjoy a leisure guided experience around prominent historical landmarks of this 600-year-old coastal port, weaving a beguiling journey through an enchanting heritage.



## THE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE HISTORY OF THE MANSION

The origins of The Majestic Malacca began in 1929 as a private mansion of a tycoon named Leong Long Man who originally came from Guangzhou, China. He commissioned the construction of this mansion to accommodate his large family consisting of 4 wives and 12 children, and carefully adorned the building with imported Victorian tiles, stained glass windows, expensive furniture and fittings. A unique feature of The Mansion are the two separate entrances - the main door reserved only for himself and his first wife, with the second door on the left for his second to fourth wife and children to pass through.

He was considered a rich man in those days, with multiple shops and several businesses in the Chinatown area as well as 150 hectares of rubber plantation. Sadly, he fell ill and died in 1931, just two years after moving in. His son entrusted with the family estates squandered his inheritance and eventually sold the mansion to a businessman from Singapore named Lim Heng Fang in 1955.

Fortuitously, Mr. Lim preserved the building and converted it into The Majestic Hotel. It became quite de rigueur to stay at the hotel in the 1950s and 60s with a clientele that comprised mainly of British planters and even played host to Malaysia's first prime minister when he announced the former British colony's independence in 1957.



Before its doors closed on 31 July 2000, the hotel had taken a turn for the worse, operating as a guest house with a dilapidated air. A public outcry to restore the mansion back to its former glory ensued in the years after its closure.

Acknowledging the need to preserve an integral part of Malacca's rich heritage, YTL Hotels stepped in and the property acquisition was finalised in 2006. Sparing no expense, the historic building was fully restored and reopened as The Majestic Malacca on January 2008 with much fanfare.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

In some of the earliest retellings of Malacca, the undeniable influence of the legendary Admiral Zheng Ho is markedly obvious. It is also evident in the present-day statue dedicated to him in the city's historical square. Zheng Ho's arrival in the city during a time of the Song Dynasty's growing maritime expansion would eventually lead to the return visit of Sultan Mansur Shah to China, who bore ample tributes.

In China, the Sultan requested the hand of the princess Hang Li Po, who would also bring 500 high-ranking young men and a few hundred handmaidens as her entourage, many of whom married into the local populace.

On Bukit Cina (China Hill) the tour arrives at Hang Li Po's well - the oldest recorded well in all of Malaysia built by her followers in 1459 as a main water source, and now a popular wishing well for visitors.

### Princess Hang Li Poh's History and Myth

Hang Li Po (Hàn Libao, or Wang Libao) was reported to be a Chinese princess sent by the Ming Dynasty to be wedded to Malaccan Sultan Mansur Shah (r. 1456–1477), according to the Malay Annals, which is a UNESCO heritage document and the principal source of historical information on the Malay archipelago in the 15th and early 16th century.

Legend has it that Hang Li Po was an important figure in Malaysian national consciousness, as she was a person of Chinese ancestry who lived among Malay Muslims, bearing a royal seal of approval during the early history of the Malay archipelago thus paving the way for the cultural acceptance and social assimilation of Chinese immigrant labourers who were later brought to the Malay Peninsula during the British colonial rule during the 18th and 19th century.



According to historical records, Malacca had sent four royal missions to China in 1412, 1413, 1415 and 1418, while the kingdoms of Siam, Java or Cambodia did not send any royal envoys to China during the same period. It was reported that the Malaccan rulers sought the protection of China in the event of an invasion by Siam.

The princess's vast entourage was recorded to be 500 followers and Sultan Mansur Shah provided a hill as their settlement, now known as Bukit Cina, as a gift to his new Chinese bride, Princess Hang Li Po, in the mid-15th century.



### St Francis Church

The twin-spired neo-gothic edifice was built in 1849, to commemorate St Francis Xavier who was also known as the 'Apostle of the East'.

### Tan Kim Seng Bridge

Tan Kim Seng Bridge is the bridge across the Malacca River. It links Dutch Square with the Chinatown part of Malacca at Jalan Hang Jebat (Jonker Street). It bears the name of the wealthy early 19th century Straits Chinese philanthropist, Tan Kim Seng, who donated it to the town. Tan Kim Seng was a Hokkien who was born in Malacca in 1805.

### Sri Poyyatha Vinayaga Moorthy Temple

First and oldest Hindu temple in Malaysia, built in 1748 by the Chetti Community. Back in the days of Parameswara they were one of the richest communities in Malacca. Built by Thavineyagar Chitty who was the leader of the community.

The Chetti are also known as an Ethnic Community in Malacca, with many intermarriages. Mixed with local Malays. This temple is dedicated to Lord Ganesha. There are many other Gods and Goddesses that are prayed to at this temple.

### Cheng Hoe Cultural Muesum

The museum building is believed to sit at the original site of the warehouse complex Guan Chang, built by Zheng He around 600 years ago to temporarily store goods he acquired during his travels. The warehouse complex originally occupied 10 acres of lowland along the northern bank of Malacca River.

### Blacksmith St & Goldsmith St

Explore some of the oldest streets in Malacca and discover street secrets and stories. At the western end of the street is the intersection with Jalan Hang Kasturi (formerly First Cross Street), after which it continues as Jalan Tukong Besi (Goldsmith Street).



### Masjid Kg Kling

This mosque has a very unique architecture that mixes various cultures that include Chinese, Javanese and European. Built in 1748, Masjid Kg Kling was fully made of wood to cater for the small Indian Muslim communities and was later renovated with bricks in 1872.

### Cheng Hoon Teng Temple

Oldest Chinese Temple in Malaysia. Built in 1673 by 700 monks over the period of 171 years. Made from hard wood. i.e. rosewood, mahogany, chennai, etc that was either brought in from Indonesia or from our local forest. The image features the Goddess of the Sea, Mahzu – believed to protect sailors on their journeys out at sea and also for fishermen to have a bountiful catch.

### Chinatown

Chinatown was known as a fishing village where traders from all over the world lived.

### Chan Koon Cheng Bridge

Chan Koon Cheng was elected as the President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for Malacca in 1908. In 1908, Chan Koon Cheng donated a sum of \$10,000 to build a bridge for public use.

### Hibiscus Street (Jalan Bunga Raya)

Business area since the early 40's. There were textile, goldsmiths, Chinese medicine shops, and even a wet market in the vicinity.



## ITINERARY

The bicycle ride from The Majestic Malacca will take you to the old city of Malacca of the legendary Admiral Zheng Ho, to Bukit Cina (China Hill) at Hang Li Po's well - the oldest recorded well in all of Malaysia, and to the city's UNESCO World Heritage sites.

### The Highlights

- Ride through Jalan Bunga Cina to Hang Li Po's well
- Jalan Temenggong and Jalan Bendahara (Clock Tower, Stadthuys, Christ Church)
- Stopover to enjoy a Cendol treat at 'Cendol Jam Besar'
- Tan Kim Seng Bridge
- Jalan Hang Jebat (Cheng Hoe Museum)
- Jalan Tukang Emas (Harmony Street)
- Second Cross Street and Jalan Kg Pantai
- Chan Koon Cheng Bridge
- Jalan Bunga Raya (Hibiscus Street)
- End of tour and return to the hotel for your Kristang Afternoon Tea



## ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

- Available for guests 16 years and above
- 3 days advance booking is required
- Duration: 2 hours, subject to weather conditions
- English speaking tour guide
- Route is subject to change without prior notice

MYR150++ PER PERSON  
(inclusive of rental of bicycle)



Price is in Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) subject to prevailing service charge and taxes.

For reservations and enquiries, please contact us at [travelcentre@ytlhotels.com](mailto:travelcentre@ytlhotels.com)



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— A YTL CLASSIC HOTEL —