

SINCE 1396



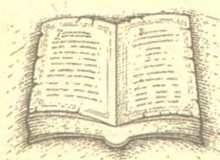
**VISIT HISTORIC MELAKA**  
MEANS VISIT MALAYSIA



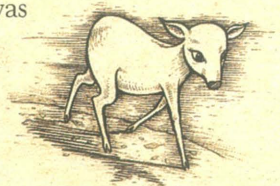


Melaka's Town Square in 1808, which still stands today

## NAMING AN EMPIRE AFTER A TREE



Melaka was founded in cir 1396 by a Malay Sumatran prince named Parameswara. According to the legend, Parameswara was out hunting one day and while resting under a tree, one of his dogs cornered a mouse deer which, in defence, kicked the dog smartly on its nose. Parameswara was so impressed by the mouse deer's courage and also believing what he witnessed as a good omen, decided to build a settlement on that land and named it after the tree he was sitting under, which was the Melaka tree. Under his rule, Melaka grew to be a thriving centre.



Melaka river



Melaka was the Venice of the East

## THE SPICE ROUTE

Spices were the most important commodity in the trade between Europe and Asia during the 15th century. Melaka was the collecting point for spices and the centre of a great trading empire. It was situated at the confluence of major trade routes to China and India while its harbour was free of mangrove swamps and deep enough for safe passage. It was also fortunate to have the monsoon winds blowing in the right direction. The northeast monsoon brought the Chinese, Siamese, Javanese and Bugis vessels in January while the southwest winds in May helped the Arab, Persian and Indian vessels. The port soon became a colourful sight with vessels of various shapes and sizes. Here, gold, silks, tea, opium, tobacco, spices, porcelain, perfumes and countless other items and natural resources were traded or exchanged.

Unfortunately, this fame arrived just when Europe began to extend its power into the East, and Melaka was one of the very first cities to attract its covetous eye. As the Portuguese writer Tome Pires put it, "Whoever is Lord of Melaka has his hand on the throat of Venice."

## THE SPREADING OF ISLAM

It was also through Melaka that the Islamic faith came to Malaysia, arriving along with Muslim traders from western India. By the 15th century, Melaka had embraced the religion. Parameswara's son changed his name to Megat Iskandar Shah when he embraced Islam in 1414. His son, Seri Maharaja ascended the throne in 1424 and later changed his name to Sultan Muhammad Shah. He became the first ruler in the region who assumed the title "Sultan". In 1446, Sultan Muzaffar Shah became ruler and declared Islam as the state religion. The following rulers took the title of "Sultan" and the Jawi script evolved. The rulers also had absolute powers and the undivided loyalty of the people. Malays, Indians and Chinese settlers adapted to the cultures of their kings too. When Melaka's fame grew, the population escalated and soon some non-Muslim traders were also converting into Islam through marriages with the local women. From here Islam spread throughout the Malay peninsula and to the Malay archipelago.

## THE BIRTH OF A NATION

### the rulers of melaka

Sultan Mansor Shah succeeded his father, Sultan Muzaffar Shah in 1458 and during his reign Melaka reached the peak of its glory. This was largely attributed to Tun Perak, the Bendahara. He was responsible for Melaka's rise to power in maritime Southeast Asia, as well as a leading figure in Melakan politics for 42 years. Tun Perak built a formidable fighting force and had brave young warriors under his command. Five legendary heroes under his leadership were Hang Tuah, Hang Jebat, Hang Kasturi, Hang Lekir and Hang Lekiu. They were also known as the "Five Companions". Sultan Mansor Shah was succeeded by his son, Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah. He was an enterprising and able ruler but died young and was replaced by the last de facto sultan of Melaka, Sultan Mahmud Shah. The Melakan Malay Sultanate heritage was extended to most of the other Malay states, especially in Perak, Pahang and Johor.



Hang Tuah



Sultan Mahmud Shah's elder son, Sultan Muzaffar Shah I became the first Sultan of Perak while his younger son, Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II started a sultanate in Johor. Melaka, during the 15th and 16th century also had a society which adhered to certain rules. There existed an administrative and political system established by Seri Maharaja which arrangements and rules form the basis of Malaysia's administrative monarchical system today. The system was called the "Four Great Lords" where the Sultan (Ruler of the country) was assisted by a Bendahara (Prime Minister), a Penghulu Bendahari (Minister of Finance), a Temenggung (Chief of Police) and a Laksamana (Admiral). Below them were the various titled nobles.

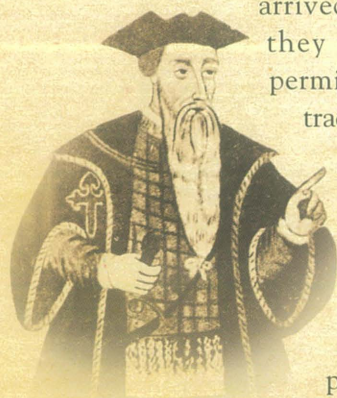
## THE COLONIAL POWERS

In 1509, a Portuguese trading expedition commanded by Diego Lopez de Sequiera arrived in Melaka, where they wanted to seek permission to establish a trading post. However a misunderstanding with the Malays took place and they were attacked, but escaped, leaving behind twenty prisoners. In 1511, the Portuguese under the command of Al'fonso de Albuquerque invaded Melaka and took over the city after sustained bombardment. De Albuquerque set up a Portuguese administration and constructed a massive fortification called A Famosa. A Famosa ensured Portuguese control of the city for the next 130 years, until in 1641, the Dutch after a seven-month siege and fierce battle,

captured it. Over the next 150 years the Dutch rebuilt the city and occupied it largely as a military base, using its strategic location to control the Straits of Melaka. In 1795, when the Netherlands was captured by French Revolutionary armies, Melaka was handed over to the British by the Dutch to avoid capture by the French. Although they returned the city to the Dutch in 1818, it was soon given over to the British once again under the Anglo-Dutch Treaty. From 1824, the English East India Company in Calcutta ruled the city, although it experienced Japanese occupation from 1942 to 1945. Each rule left its mark behind to be forged and blended into a new and unique mix.

## INDEPENDENCE

Soon after World War II, stirrings of nationalism had been felt throughout the country, and Malaysians began to clamour for independence. The day came on 31 August 1957, when Melaka, together with the other states of Malaysia, achieved independence. The struggle for independence is substantially commemorated by the Proclamation of



Al'fonso de Albuquerque



The Peranakans

Independence Memorial Building in Melaka, which contains materials connected with the campaign for independence, including historic documents, films and artefacts. As history evolved, Melaka became the city that boasts a wonderful melange of cultures - Malays, Chinese, Indians, the Chittys, the Peranakans and the Portuguese. The historical melting pot of cultures and races has very much influenced the architectural designs of homes and buildings in Melaka today.

## PRESENT MELAKA

The state of Melaka is located in Peninsular Malaysia, facing the Straits of Melaka. It has an area of 1,658 sq. km., and is divided into three districts, namely, Alor Gajah, Central and Jasin. The climate of Melaka is generally warm and sunny in the days and cool in the nights with occasional rain in the evenings. The temperature ranges from 23°C to 33°C with humidity that usually exceeds 82.3%. The annual rainfall is approximately 3,218 mm. Melaka is currently on course of rapid economic growth and development. Its State Government has set a vision to turn the state into a 'fully industrialised state' by the year 2010. The economic growth will mostly be centred on the manufacturing sector with private investment growing at an average rate of about 10% per annum. Take a journey into the heart of Melaka and discover 600 years of glorious and colourful past. It is definitely a state not to be missed when you're in Malaysia. Every Malaysian and visitor to Malaysia must visit historic Melaka because the history of Malaysia began here. That's why we say, "Visit Historic Melaka Means Visit Malaysia".





# HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

## 14<sup>th</sup> century

- 1396 : A Sumatran prince named Parameswara, fled Temasek, ancient Singapore after a power struggle. He sought sanctuary in a fishing village and decreed his kingdom be built there. The name "Melaka" was given after the name of a tree Parameswara took shade under.



Early Chinese Immigrant

## 15<sup>th</sup> century



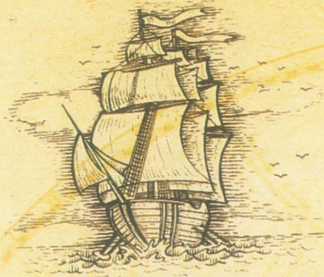
An artist's impression of the palace of Sultan Mansor Shah, Melaka, c. 1455

- 1403 : The first Chinese envoy, Yin Ching arrived in Melaka.
- 1409 : The Chinese Imperial Fleet, under Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho) visited Melaka.
- 1411 : Parameswara visited the Ming Emperor in China.
- 1414 : Parameswara's son, Megat Iskandar Shah embraced Islam.
- 1424 : Megat Iskandar Shah's son, Seri Maharaja, ascended the throne and later assumed the title "Sultan", becoming the first ruler to do so in the region. He changed his name to Sultan Muhammad Shah and ruled according to the principles of Islam, blending with Malay customary laws. He also established palace etiquettes and spread Islam in the region.
- 1445 : Raja Ibrahim, the youngest son of Sultan Muhammad Shah became ruler after his father's death and assumed the name, Sultan Abu Shahid.
- 1446 : Sultan Abu Shahid's accidental death resulted in Sultan Muzaffar Shah, his elder brother, assuming the throne.
- 1447 : The first Siamese attack on Melaka but was repelled by the Melakan fleet.
- 1456 : Tun Perak was appointed as the Bendahara, or Prime Minister, and became the most well known of Bendaharas responsible for the rise of Melaka.
- 1458 : Sultan Mansor Shah succeeded his father Sultan Muzaffar Shah.
- 1477 : Sultan Mansor Shah passed away and was succeeded by his son Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah.
- 1488 : An enterprising and just ruler, Sultan Alauddin died of poisoning in Pagoh. Sultan Mahmud Shah ascended the throne due to the efforts of Tun Perak and Hang Tuah (a legendary warrior).
- 1498 : Tun Perak passed away.





# 16<sup>th</sup> century



Flor D' La Mar



Al'fonso De Albuquerque



St. Francis Xavier

- 1500 : Tun Mutahir, the nephew of Tun Perak, was appointed Bendahara.
- 1509 : The first Portuguese trading expedition, led by Diego Lopez de Sequiera arrived in Melaka with a fleet of ships, becoming the first European to reach this archipelago.
- 1510 : Bendahara Tun Mutahir was murdered. Sultan Mahmud Shah retired temporarily and was succeeded by his son, Sultan Ahmad Shah.
- 1511 : After a 10 day siege, Melaka fell to the Portuguese armada, led by Al'fonso de Albuquerque. The Portuguese rule in Melaka lasted for over 130 years.
- 1512 : Albuquerque returned to Goa in January after completing the "A Famosa" fortress that incorporated a five storey tall tower. Sultan Mahmud Shah attacked the Portuguese in Melaka.
- 1513 : Patih Unus, a Javanese trader who later became Sultan Demak of Sumatra, attacked Melaka.
- 1516 : Laksamana (Admiral) Hang Nadim, son of Hang Tuah attacked Melaka.
- 1518/19: Sultan Mahmud Shah's army surrounded the city for three months.
- 1523 : Sultan Mahmud Shah attacked Melaka.
- 1524 : Admiral Hang Nadim besieged Melaka and cut off its food supply.
- 1537 : First Acehnese attack on the Portuguese in Melaka, which failed.
- 1545 : St. Francis Xavier arrived in Melaka for the first time. He visited Melaka five more times.
- 1551 : Combined forces of Johor, Japara and Perak attacked Melaka and held it under siege for three months.
- 1553 : St. Francis Xavier, who died in Sanction Island, near Canton, China, was buried in St. Paul's Church. After nine months, his remains were moved to Goa.
- 1567/68: With help from Johor, the Acehnese attacked Melaka again but were defeated.
- 1571 : The Acehnese attempted an attack on Melaka again but their invasion was foiled by a storm.
- 1575 : Japara attacked Melaka.
- 1585/8 : Johor attacked Melaka.
- 1588 : The first English visitor, Ralph Ritch, arrived in Melaka.
- 1597 : The Dutch attacked Melaka.



Tombstones from St. Paul's Church



# 17<sup>th</sup> century



An artefact from Cheng Hoon Teng Temple

- 1606 : A combined Dutch and Johor force attacked Melaka. The timely arrival of Portuguese reinforcement from Goa saved Melaka.
- 1615/16: The Acehnese mounted another attack on Melaka.
- 1628/29: The Acehnese held Melaka for eight months before withdrawing.
- 1636 : Dutch ships destroyed Portuguese ships off the harbour.
- 1641 : The Dutch and Johor Malays attacked again. After a fierce battle, the Portuguese were forced to surrender. Dutch rule in Melaka lasted for 154 years.
- 1645 : The Cheng Hoon Teng temple was built by Chinese head man, Lee Wei King. This is the oldest surviving temple in Malaysia.
- 1645/70: Dutch war with Naning in the interior.
- 1650 : The Stadthuys or “City Hall”, the residence of the Dutch Governor, as well as the administrative centre was built.

# 18<sup>th</sup> century



St. Peter's Church

- 1710 : St. Peter's church, the oldest functioning Christian Church in Malaysia, was built by the Portuguese descendents comprising an architectural mix of Oriental and Occidental.
- 1753 : The Christ Church was completed.
- 1756 : The Bugis under Daeng Kamboja attacked Melaka.
- 1784 : Raja Haji landed in Melaka to capture it but was killed.
- 1795 : The British took over Melaka from the Dutch.



# 19<sup>th</sup> century



Victoria Fountain in front of the Stadthuys

- 1806 : The British began the demolition of the Portuguese fortress and total abandonment of Melaka. They planned to transfer the trade and population to Penang in order to weaken Melaka's standing as a trading centre.
- 1808 : The timely arrival of Stamford Raffles, saved Melaka from total destruction.
- 1818 : With the end of the Napoleonic Wars, Melaka was returned to the Dutch under the Treaty of Venice.
- 1819 : Sultan Hussain Mohammad Shah of Johor ceded Singapore to the English East India Company. The Sultan's grave lies within the grounds of the Tranquerah Mosque.
- 1824 : Through the Anglo-Dutch Treaty, or Treaty of London, Melaka was firmly placed under British rule. Along with Penang and Singapore, Melaka was incorporated into the Straits Settlement in 1826.
- 1867 : The administration of the Straits Settlements was transferred from the Governor – General of India's Office to the Colonial Office in London and Melaka became a British colony.

# 20<sup>th</sup> century



Proclamation of independence (MERDEKA)

- 1904 : The Queen Victoria Fountain was erected to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.
- 1942 : The Japanese Occupation forces took over Melaka.
- 1945 : Melaka was returned to British rule after the Japanese surrendered to the British in Singapore.
- 1948 : A state of "Emergency" was proclaimed as Malaya fought against communist insurgency. Melaka joined the Federation of Malaya.
- 1956 : The proclamation of the date of independence by Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister took place at Padang Bandar Hilir (Padang Pahlawan) in Melaka on 20th February.
- 1957 : Malaysia achieved her independence on August 31st. Melaka's last British Resident Commissioner, H.G. Hammet, handed the instrument of independence to the first local Governor.
- 1963 : Melaka became part of the Federation of Malaysia.
- 1989 : Melaka was declared a Historical City on April 15th.



| Melaka Sultanate Palace







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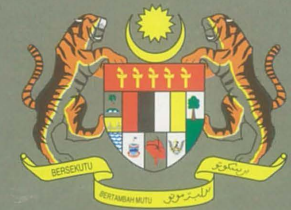
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Message from the

## PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA



Melaka is renowned as the place where the history of Malaysia began. From a quiet fishing village back in the early 15th century, Melaka grew into one of the world's greatest trading empires.

Today, there's a lot more to Melaka in addition to its fascinating stories, legends and historical attractions. Centuries of multi-racial living have produced varied cultures, customs, festivals, food and languages. The Melaka State Government is doing an excellent job in promoting and developing this city while still preserving its historical treasures. By focussing on the various sectors of tourism, every visitor's interests are well taken care of.

I like to commend the Melaka State Government for the publication of

Visit Historic Melaka Means Visit Malaysia. It is completed with detailed information and pictures of what Melaka has to offer to its visitors. Travel agencies will also find this travel guide a helpful source of information for their customers. It is definitely a useful travel guide to have when visiting Melaka.

DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN  
HJ. AHMAD BADAWI  
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA



Foreword by the

## CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA



I wish to record my sincere appreciation to YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Hj. Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia for his kind endorsement of this book.

This publication, Visit Historic Melaka Means Visit Malaysia, is another contribution to the ongoing efforts by the Melaka State Government in further improving the scope and quality of tourism-based services, for the benefit of the travel industry, visitors and tourists to our historical state.

Melaka has so much to offer. This publication presents our main tourism sectors of history, culture, recreation, sports, shopping, conventions, health tourism, education, agro-tourism, makan-makan, Melaka : my second home and youth tourism. All these sectors are more than sufficient to interest travellers to visit Melaka, the state where the history of Malaysia began.

Visit Historic Melaka Means Visit Malaysia plays its role in bringing together updated information of particular interest to personnel and organizations in the travel trade. It also serves as an authoritative guide on places of interest in Melaka as well as a directory on essential services that will make your visit to Malaysia complete.

I am confident that the information contained will unlock some of Melaka's secrets from between the pages of this guide; others are waiting for you to discover for yourself. No matter how strange the sights are to you, there is an innate sense of being in a land that welcomes you to explore it. I sincerely hope you will enjoy exploring Melaka with us.

DATUK SERI HJ. MOHD ALI  
BIN MOHD RUSTAM  
CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA



# WHERE IS MELAKA



Malaysia is situated one to seven degrees north of the equator. The state of Melaka, one of the fourteen within Malaysia, is situated on the South-Western Coast of Peninsular Malaysia facing the Straits of Melaka and sandwiched between the states of Negeri Sembilan and Johor.

Melaka covers an area of 1,658 square kilometres and is divided into three districts, namely Melaka Tengah (Central Melaka), Alor Gajah and Jasin.





# MAP OF MELAKA







The North-South Expressway allows easy highway access into Melaka from the other states of Peninsular Malaysia. It takes about an hour and a half to travel by road from Kuala Lumpur to Melaka and approximately three hours from Singapore to Melaka.

Another way to get to Melaka from Kuala Lumpur is to take a leisurely drive through the coastal and country roads passing through Klang, Morib and Port Dickson. Those coming from Singapore can take the picturesque route passing through coastal kampungs or villages and plantations.



# | Melaka River / Kampung Morten





# | Seri Negeri Ayer Keroh – Melaka State Government Administrative Complex









# | Melaka River Mouth











**Tourism Promotion Division  
Melaka Chief Minister's Department**

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