

E&O EDITION

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Chapter One

LUXURY AT A LAIDBACK PACE

Wake up to paradise every day when you make island living your reality.

It happens so naturally, so easily that you may not even notice the exact moment it happens but it inevitably does. It slows down, mellows gently and before you know it, you feel that you’re one with the serene surroundings.

We’re talking about your pace, of course, that usually frenetic tempo that determines the speed at which we move through work, errands, conversations and interactions. On a typical day, that’s perennially on fast mode as time is a luxury; it never feels like we have enough of it and we have come to simply accept that.

It’s when we escape from daily routines and get away to say, an island holiday, that we are reminded of the other possibilities: That such relaxing, laidback vibes can be your everyday reality and not just an occasional encounter. That life is, after all, about living and not merely existing.

Think of the Canary Islands in Spain, an archipelago comprising a number of islands, each with its distinct appeal. The largest, Tenerife, is home to Spain’s highest peak, Mount Teide, and is a riot of Canarian festivals that fuse Spanish, South American, and African cultures seamlessly. Gran Canaria supports an excellent live music scene amidst atmospheric historical quarters, Lanzarote is largely unspoiled and caters to board sports enthusiasts, Fuerteventura’s strong winds make it a dream destination for windsurfers and kiteboarders, La Palma is known for its flawless natural landscape, La Gomera is wild and lush, while El Hierro has the best dive sites. On any of these islands, nothing less than living life to the fullest will do.



A rainbow appears over the seafront resorts of Puerto de Santiago, Tenerife; a former fishing village, Playa Blanca has blossomed into one of Lanzarote's most popular resorts

Or how about the private Caribbean island of Mustique? It's hard to pinpoint its main draw as it ticks all the right boxes: Pristine white-sand beaches, balmy tropical weather all year round, scenic coastal trails, jewel-toned waters that beg to be explored, and lavish villas that afford all the privacy you want for an intimate getaway. Lose all inhibitions and simply bask in the idyllic, laidback vibe. Do nothing, or everything—swim or dive into the deep blue, catch the wind as you sail the sparkling waters, snorkel with turtles, or ride a horse on the beach.

Singapore's Sentosa Cove nails the idea too, launched as the country's first and only oceanfront residence set to be the ultimate playground for home lovers who would settle for nothing less than the best. Conceived to be a residential haven, the masterplan features over 2,000 units of oceanfront villas, waterway bungalows, hillside mansions, and luxurious condominiums. The living options are complemented by equally high-end lifestyle offerings in the form of Capri-inspired fine dining and shopping hub Quayside Isle, world-class boating facilities at ONE°15 Marina Club, and 5-star resort W Singapore-Sentosa Cove.

Closer to home, Seri Tanjung Pinang has morphed into Penang's pride since it was launched 12 years ago and is hailed as its new Millionaire's Row. Developed in two phases, the first is spread out over 240 acres and comprises a mix of well-appointed residences that include sea-facing villas, condominiums, terraced and semi-detached homes. Every unit was designed to maximise enjoyment of the sun, sea and sky views while respecting local architectural heritage and promoting a well-rounded lifestyle.

Wellness is given due emphasis, with various fitness and health facilities designed for residents' benefit while a number of initiatives provide platforms for the public to do their bit for the environment and community at large. Straits Quay, Penang's first seafront retail marina, further echoes Seri Tanjung Pinang's concept of elevated living by the sea.

Phase 2 began taking shape last year, a 760-acre undertaking that, when complete, will fully realise E&O's vision for this exemplary development and deliver a slice of tropical paradise, one that celebrates the best facets of island living.



A picturesque Canary Island village on the cape of La Gomera island



From left: These colourful balconies make a striking picture in Santa Cruz city on La Palma island; sun-dappled buildings and streets on a quiet morning in Santa Cruz



Seri Tanjung Pinang, Penang



The exceptional waterpark at Quayside Seafront Resort Condominiums



Clockwise from top: The London skyline, with the Tower Bridge and other landmarks lit up; browse for bargains at Primark; splurge when at Harrods

URBANE LIVING AT ITS BEST

Big cities, bright lights – revel in the buzz that defines the world’s most iconic cosmopolitans.

The bustle is relentless, as is the traffic—be it vehicular or foot—and time seems to be constantly on fast forward. There’s always something new, something to do, some place to be. It’s as easy to meet people as it is to fade into crowds, life can be exciting and at times, overwhelming.

Truly, cosmopolitan living is a wonderful cacophony of contradictions where it often feels like everything is happening at exactly the same time. You won’t find a dull moment and for those who grew up in the cities or have adapted to life as an urbanite, it is precisely that incessant buzz that feeds their imagination, the *raison d’être* to keep going and keep doing what they do.

Excitement beckons around every corner, and you never know who you’ll cross paths with next. People from all walks of life come from all parts of the world, speaking their unique dialects and accents, yet everyone communicates with the same language.

London is the perfect case in point: Diversity is the buzz word among her dwellers and visitors, who speak more than 300 languages collectively, making it one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. It’s also one of the most vibrant capitals that has something for everyone, from restful public parks to royal palaces and everything in between. Art aficionados, in particular, have a soft spot for London, thanks to its array of museums, art galleries, theatres, and orchestras that provide top class entertainment any day of the week.

This is a city where, as locals will attest, anything goes and often, hand-in-hand too. You can indulge in the finest of English traditions one minute and ride the wave of the latest global trend next, segueing seamlessly from one to another. You’d go to Harrods to splash out on that luxury item you’ve been coveting for the longest time, and then make time to pop into Primark to pick up a bargain or two.



Clockwise from top: The Sydney Opera House looks out to Sydney Harbour; fast-paced and exciting, Sydney has it all; the Australian city has been voted one of the world's most liveable

London is also hailed the restaurant capital of the world by renowned chef Alain Ducasse, who has collected no less than 19 Michelin stars to date through his growing culinary empire. Whether you're hankering for fish and chips or pub grub, Asian eats or French delights, London's dining scene is a smorgasbord that's as vibrant as its nightlife.

In the other half of the hemisphere, Sydney takes the crown when it comes to food diversity, as Australians are known for their adventurous palates. The city is equally exciting in its other offerings, having been ranked as one of the world's most liveable.

Sydney's New Year's Day fireworks, which light up the skies over picture-perfect Sydney Harbour—the world's largest natural harbour—are legendary while nearby Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge are equally iconic landmarks. That's just the tip of the iceberg where the dynamic Australian city's most appealing features are concerned. From architecture to arts and culture, fashion to gourmet cuisine and one of the world's most famous beaches, Sydney has it all.

It's a tough act to follow, no doubt, but serves as a great inspiration for Kuala Lumpur, which has been slowly cementing its position as one of South East Asia's most exciting cities. Trendy night spots, shopping malls that open till 10pm, and a growing stable of 5-star hotels cater to every visitor's needs while swanky steel structures housing the offices of corporate giants define the rising skyline.

Still, it is the world-famous Petronas Twin Towers that always steals the show and one of the best vantage points is St Mary Residences. Conceived in the spirit of Manhattan lofts while maintaining a unique Malaysian personality, the chic apartments occupy three towers and command breathtaking panoramas of the Kuala Lumpur city centre.

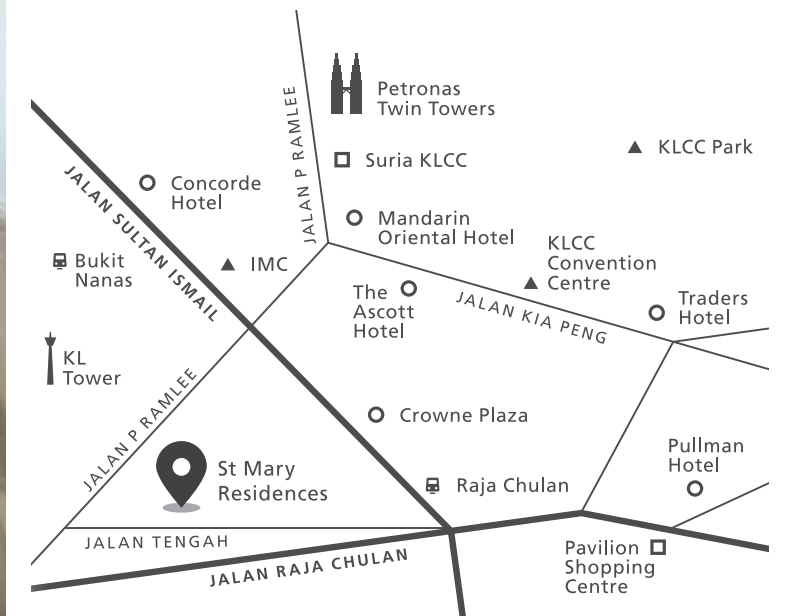
Even more wow factor lies in the 16 Penthouse Suites, each a triplex unit that comes with a personal pool and lavish finishes. A perfect balance of space and luxury, complemented by E&O's brand of hospitality, makes this a world-class residential development. As far as cosmopolitan living goes, it doesn't get better than this.



Inspired by Manhattan lofts, St Mary Residences combines spatial luxury with world-class facilities and breathtaking views of the city



St Mary Residences Kuala Lumpur



st Mary

Residences

C B D · K L C C

PENTHOUSE SUITES

Appreciating the enduring values in people's lives inspires us to create places of true worth.

A vantage point designed with distinction, St Mary's triplex penthouse suites are uniquely appointed with dedicated entrances on the first and second floors. With private pools and sky decks, the final reserve of these Manhattan inspired penthouses commands views over Kuala Lumpur's vibrant Central Business District and secures the fortunate few an unrivalled perspective on life.

Units are completed and inclusive of tenancy. Call our St Mary Penthouse Advisor to secure your private viewing.

Those who know, insist on E&O

St Mary Residences

1 Jalan Tengah, Off Jalan Sultan Ismail 50450, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

T +017 266 1188 **E** enquiry@stmaryresidences.com

www.stmaryresidences.com

Chapter Two

A HOME BY THE SEA

Ariza Seafront Terraces is one of Penang’s most well-planned private residential estates.

Blessed with sweeping views of the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca, the 2½-storey homes that are Ariza Seafront Terraces are the epitome of world-class tropical living. Their unique Straits Chinese-inspired design represent the best of old-world charm and modern luxury.



With built-up areas of over 3,400 sqft and inspiring views, Ariza Seafront Terraces take the idea of seafront living to another level





Every room is a sanctuary that's designed for optimum living and opens out to a private terrace



The well-appointed features extend to every corner of the homes, including the bathrooms



E&O



COASTAL LIVING HAS NEVER BEEN MORE
EFFORTLESS AND ELEGANT

Brought to you by Eastern & Oriental Berhad, Ariza Seafront Terraces sits by the coast of Penang island within the private Seri Tanjung Pinang neighbourhood. These Straits-eclectic style residential terraces present a series of generous and welcoming spaces that are light-filled and breezy, so easy to call home.

Book your viewing today.

SALES GALLERY & SHOW UNITS OPEN DAILY FROM 10AM - 6PM

Seri Tanjung Pinang, Tanjung Tokong, 10470 Penang, Malaysia

T +604 890 9999 **F** +604 899 1122

www.seritanjungpinang.com

SERI TANJUNG PINANG
PENANG • MALAYSIA

Developer: E&O Property (Penang) Sdn Bhd (185302-X) • Developer's Address: The Sales Gallery, Seri Tanjung Pinang, Tanjung Tokong, 10470 Penang, Malaysia. Tel: 604 890 9999 Fax: 604 899 1122 • Developer's License: 9411-39/03-2019/0188(L) (Validity Period: 14/3/2017 - 13/3/2019) • Land Tenure: Freehold • Expected Date of Completion: Feb 2019 • Approving Authority: Jabatan Perancang Bandar dan Desa Pulau Pinang (Reference No.: JPBD/PG/2/PB-0006) • Sales & Advertising Permit: 9411-39/03-2019/0188(P) (Validity: 14/3/2017 - 13/3/2019) • Land Encumbrances: N/A • Total Units: 32 units • Selling Price (RM): RM3,147,300 (Min); RM7,380,100 (Max) • Development Type: 3-Storey Terrace Houses.

ARIZA
SEAFRONT TERRACES

PROPERTY



The best of Straits Eclectic architectural elements can be seen in the wide balconies, generous windows, and airy stairwells that promote air ventilation and natural light



*Foong Kok Ching and Yeap Ah Sin are happy home owners
of 18 East at Andaman*

HEART IS WHERE THE HOME IS

*The Foongs have found the perfect family abode and retirement home
at 18 East at Andaman.*

Foong Kok Ching has a permanent smile on his face. Looking spiffy in a polo tee and shorts, he is a picture of calm and relaxation when we meet at the Seri Tanjung Pinang sales gallery on a Sunday morning. His wife, Yeap Ah Sin, tells us it's his birthday and they will be headed for lunch afterwards at Straits Quay, with a Japanese friend they met after moving into 18 East at Andaman last September.

Foong had just retired prior to that, after more than 30 years with semi-conductor giant, Intel. Having already owned several properties around Penang, the couple were not specifically looking to buy another but had learnt about 18 East through friends. They visited the sales gallery and toured completed units from an earlier phase of the Andaman development. Further encouraged by the fact that their two daughters loved the place as well, the couple were convinced that it would be the perfect fit for them. More than six months since making 18 East at Andaman their home—they were among the first home owners to move in—the Foongs have nothing but praises for the property.

What was it that you found most attractive about 18 East?

Foong: The generous acreage, the security services, and the fact that it's pet-friendly. We have two dogs, a beagle and a cocker spaniel, who have been part of the family for 14 years now. It was important to us that they would be just as welcomed here. I also liked that there is ample buffer between the residential areas and the main road, which means relatively little traffic in the vicinity and a less stressful pace as well.

Yeap: One plus point is the variety of facilities for sports and wellness. I used to do yoga at home, on my own. Now I join the free classes at the club house.

Upon moving in, did the property meet your expectations?

Foong: It has actually exceeded all our expectations! One very good thing about E&O is that, even before our units were ready, they allowed us to access the facilities here. So while waiting to move in, we would occasionally come by and make use of what they offered. Now, we make full use of the facilities and exercise every day—we jog, walk the dogs, cycle, swim ... I've lost 7kg since moving in!

Our lifestyles have definitely become more active, and our lives more sociable and interesting too. One of our daughters, who lives in Kuala Lumpur, now comes home more often—perhaps due to the appeal of this place.



Residents of 18 East at Andaman enjoy concierge services at their block, and a fitness centre that's exclusively for their use

Tell us more about the social aspects of your new lifestyle.
Foong: Through jogging or evening walks, we have met many neighbours and made friends with those we see regularly. It's also very easy to bond with other dog owners.

The developer organises free events for residents during major festivals such as Christmas, Chap Goh Meh, and the Moon Cake Festival. It's a great initiative as it brings everyone together and fosters community spirit.

What are your favourite features of your home?
Foong: The tall ceilings, thoughtful layouts that allow for optimum sunlight, the sea views ... the developers did very well. As home owners, we feel that we got what we paid for.

Also, E&O offers a 24-month unit maintenance warranty assurance, which is something we have not come across at any other properties. I think that's the way it should be, developers should think about buyers' welfare.

Yeap: The sand pool is a great feature. Even though we live on an island, it's actually not all that easy to find a public beach that is clean and accessible. At the pool, we enjoy walking on the sand, which helps remove positive ions from the body.

What do you think of the location?
Foong: I must admit, when I first found out where it was, memories of the tsunami of 2011 flashed across my mind. But it has been years and this area has been very peaceful since. In fact, since moving in and enjoying our lives, I have forgotten about that!

We're very conveniently located—Pulau Tikus is not far from here, Gurney is just a stone's throw away, and Straits Quay is within easy walking distance. We go there practically every evening. We have everything we need here.

What are your top recommendations at Straits Quay?
Foong: For groceries, there's Sam's Groceria. Food wise, we like Blue Reef Fish & Chips, Crab & Lobsters, and Healy Macs. You can catch some shows at PenangPAC, which is pet-friendly too. On occasions, they even allow pets to ride the lifts with their owners.

What do you tell your friends about 18 East at Andaman now?
Foong: It's great for families and retirees. The name E&O used to represent, to me, 'expensive'. But after living here, I'd say it's money well spent and the prices are, in fact, very reasonable for what we got.

WWW.QUAYSIDERESORT.COM/18EASTANDAMAN.PHP



Living space at the two bedroom show unit.



18
EAST
ANDAMAN

Appreciating the enduring values in people's lives inspires us to create places of true worth. 18 East at Andaman is a premium reserve collection of exquisitely-appointed residences with dedicated entrances and personalised privileges. This exclusive seafront condominium is set within a fully-completed 4.5-acre waterpark within Seri Tanjung Pinang, the address of luxury island living and a haven to create memories that last a lifetime.

Those who know, insist on E&O

.....

Call your dedicated 18 East Concierge at the number below or visit our gallery for a taste of life at the pinnacle of the Andaman Sea.

SALES GALLERY & SHOW UNITS OPEN DAILY FROM 10AM - 6PM

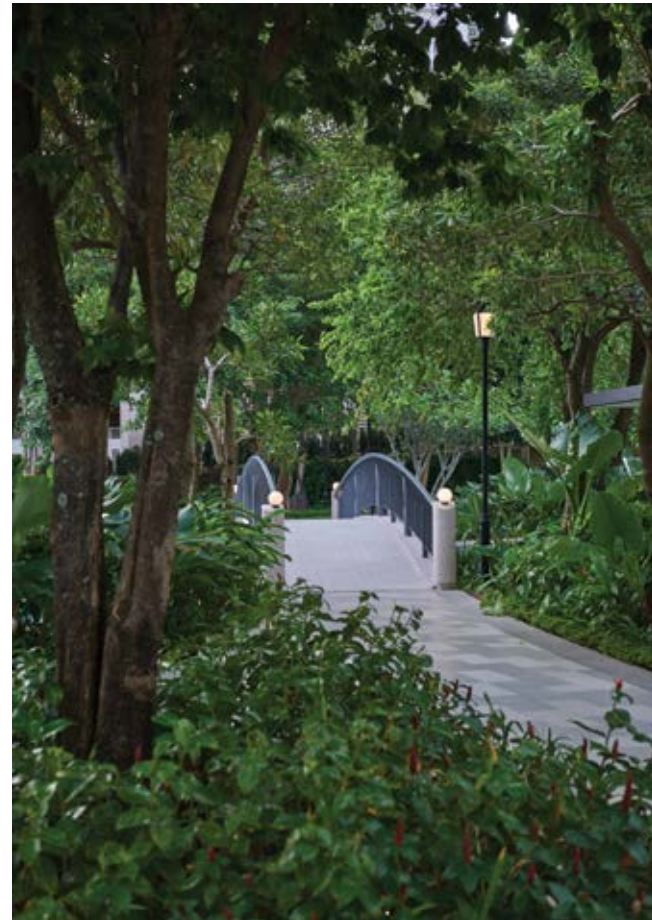
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Wellness facilities, both indoors and outdoors, encourage a balanced lifestyle



AVIRA

GARDEN TERRACES

A 207-acre development, AVIRA is a masterplanned community made up of landed residences, serviced apartments, condominiums and commercial units; a series of urban hubs amidst green spaces that come together in perfect harmony to ensure your physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

One of the few landed properties in Medini, AVIRA GARDEN TERRACES is built with wide frontages that invite the outdoors in, whilst private courtyards and back gardens flow seamlessly into linear parks.

AVIRA Medini Iskandar, brought to life by Eastern & Oriental Berhad and the wholly-owned subsidiaries of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited and Khazanah Nasional Berhad.

READY FOR OCCUPANCY

Property investor special economic incentives :

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- Waivers on Real Property Gains Tax

Those who know, insist on E&O

Avira Sales Gallery

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65 km to CHANGI AIRPORT



Warm hospitality and traditional therapies await at Thai Odyssey

A TOUCH OF THAI

Whether it’s an invigorating rubdown or a relaxing session you’re after, Thai Odyssey will pamper you from head to toe.

If you think that getting a massage is little more than an indulgence or a once-in-a-while treat on special occasions, consider this: Studies show that the body benefits from regular massages in a multitude of ways, including reduced stress levels, relaxed muscles, and improved blood circulation.

At Thai Odyssey, you can easily fulfill this need as they offer an extensive list of body therapies that are designed for ultimate relaxation and to help renew your senses at the end of a long week. The popular Traditional Thai Massage is ideal for rejuvenating tired limbs, while Thai Aromatherapy is gentle and relaxing, and you get to choose your favourite oil.

Tight muscles can be soothed by the Thai Herbal Therapy, which incorporates a herbal poultice, or the Hot Stone Massage using smooth pebbles and heat therapy. After hours of trawling the mall, the perfect antidote is the Traditional Foot Massage and if your upper body is feeling all knotted up, ask for the Half Body Massage. You can also get a Body Scrub to help remove dead cells from the skin and leave it smooth and soft.

For true bliss, make time for the Ultimate Thai Odyssey, a 180-minute journey to paradise that includes a foot bath, body exfoliation, calming milk bath, and Thai Aromatherapy Massage. This luxurious signature treatment can be arranged for couples while the other therapies are available for both men and women. You can select the duration too—their treatments range from 30 to 120 minutes.

Thai Odyssey has multiple outlets nationwide, including at Straits Quay, a tranquil space bathed in a welcoming vibe. Upon entry, you will be met by friendly greetings of “Sawadeekha”. Soft, warm lights and soothing scents envelop the air, immediately putting you in a relaxed, laidback mood. Select your preferred massage, and get started with a quick foot soak before your masseur ushers you into the treatment room where the promise of bliss awaits.

Whether it’s a quick 30-minute massage or a two-hour spa treatment, you will emerge in a better state of being.

THAI ODYSSEY
3C-1-1 & 3C-1-2, FIRST FLOOR, STRAITS QUAY RETAIL MARINA,
JALAN SERI TANJUNG PINANG, TANJUNG TOKONG, 10470 PENANG | T 04 899 9488

WWW.STRAITSQUAY.COM



Clockwise from top: Straits Quay by Khoo Cheang Jin; Membawa Bokor II by Paul Linthor; City Side Hawker Stalls by Datuk Chong Hon Fatt

FOR THE LOVE OF ART

See Penang through the eyes of local artists at Ming Art.

A lone figure lends a subtle contrast to the wooden houses and boardwalk of Chew Clan Jetty, as depicted in an oil painting by Datuk Chong Hon Fatt, one of Penang's most renowned artists. The lotus flower takes centrestage in a series by Soon Lai Wai, who grew up poor in George Town's Campbell area and chose the elegant bloom to symbolise rising above that and towards a bright future. The city's street scenes come alive through the watercolour strokes of Khoo Cheang Jin, while palette knife painting artist Koh Teng Huat captures the rusticity of village life in his *Life in a Kampung*.

These are among the masterpieces that greet visitors at Ming Art, established by art lover and collector, Ooi Wei Ming, in 2016 as a means to spread the word about local art and artists while supporting their visions and endeavours. Art lovers will appreciate the opportunity to admire masterpieces by big names in the Malaysian art scene, and even those who are unfamiliar will relish the treat to their senses.

Marvel at wildlife artist Choo Beng Teong's true-to-life immortalisation of various animals; let Rosalynn Teoh's Chinese brush paintings transport you to a world where nature is always in perfect harmony; be enthralled by the 3D effects in self-taught watercolourist Jayson Yeoh's dreamy depictions of docked boats in *Indefinite Irrelevance*.

While works by Penang artists make up the bulk, the collection also features pieces by international artists such as Mei DongSheng, whose series of oil paintings on Tibetan desert scenes will stop you in your tracks. Dating back at least two decades, they are among the pieces that are exclusive to the gallery, which has a second outlet at Straits Quay housing rare collections.

There, you can view large paintings by well-respected artists the likes of Patrick Lasak and Lim Ah Cheng, who has made horses the main subject of his works for more than 15 years now. Another series that's worth a closer look is Ho Hee Khim's batik orchids, which is finally on public display after being kept in a private collection for 30 years.

Paintings in various mediums aside, Ming Art also carries currency notes from Malaya's Straits Settlement days, as well as Chinese antiques decorative items that would fit well into any art lover's home. They are the sole Malaysian gallery to feature German porcelain house Goebel's Artis Orbis ranges of homeware and tableware; you can take home an art light with Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* or a vase of Monet's *Japanese Garden*.

Whether you just want to immerse in some beautiful art or are looking to invest in a masterpiece or two, you're bound to find something that tickles your fancy among Ming Art's diverse collection.

MING ART

3A-G-3 & 36, GROUND FLOOR, STRAITS QUAY RETAIL MARINA,
JALAN SERI TANJUNG PINANG, TANJUNG TOKONG, 10470 PENANG | T 04 893 0519

WWW.MING-ART.ORG

Chapter Three

STEPPING BACK INTO COLONIAL TIMES AND THE ARMENIAN CONNECTION

WORDS BY CATHERINE YESAYAN

Penang's rich Armenian legacy begins at the E&O Hotel.

If it were not for the cruise that we were going to take in South East Asia, I would not have known much about it, either. Penang is a port in Malaysia which became a British possession in 1786. The British control over Penang brought immigrants and traders from all over the world and it became a bustling cosmopolitan port, where many types of trade developed, from retail to exporting of spice, textile and gold.

As it turns out, according to studies conducted by Dr. Nadia Wright, the first Armenians seeking opportunities in exotic lands arrived in Penang within a decade after the British acquired Penang. Dr. Wright, a retired school teacher who was born in New Zealand, began her research about Armenians in South East Asia in 1985 when her husband was stationed in Singapore. Her mother was Armenian from Egypt, and her father from New Zealand (not Armenian). The fervour for her Armenian heritage led her to extensive fact-finding research of Armenians in that part of the world, which culminated in a book called *Respected Citizens*.

Dr. Wright tells us, “By 1807, there were enough Armenian traders in Penang to justify the naming of Armenian Lane, which later became Armenian Street.” Knowing all about the Armenian legacy in Penang, I could barely contain my enthusiasm to visit. As soon as our ship docked on Sunday, 5th February 2017, I was ready to explore.

As we exited the ship, we got “held up” by two “pirates” (sort of)—we were dodged to pose for a souvenir picture with a guy and a woman, dressed as pirates. After the “hold up,” we proceeded to the terminal, where many privately-owned companies offered city tours. We bypassed them because I knew exactly where I wanted to go.

Outside the terminal, an elderly taxi driver approached us. He agreed to take us around the town for a fixed rate. First on our agenda was the E&O (Eastern & Oriental) Hotel. Dr. Wright has commented about the hotel as such: “Penang would not be Penang without the E&O Hotel and its flamboyant Armenian founders, the Sarkies brothers, in the late 1800s.”



Penang would not be Penang without the E&O Hotel and its flamboyant Armenian founders, the Sarkies brothers, in the late 1800s

Our taxi driver, Umar, told us that the E&O Hotel has the best buffet lunch in town. “I will give you a little tour of the town and then take you to the hotel for lunch,” he said. Umar first took us to a Hindu temple and then to a Buddhist temple, where we saw the iconic reclining or sleeping Buddha, an enormous structure at 33 metres in length.

We then drove through an affluent neighbourhood, where streets were squeaky clean with manicured side lawns and freshly-painted direction lines. The sprawling homes were walled and fenced, but we could still see the hidden luxurious homes.

We arrived at the E&O Hotel around noon, just in time for the buffet lunch. The newly-restored hotel was a testimony to the vibrant past of Penang. The sensation of stepping into the grandeur of yesteryear was intoxicating. Unlike the Raffles Hotel in Singapore, built by the same Sarkies brothers, which bars non-hotel guests from entering the lobby, at E&O, we could freely explore every part of the hotel.

Wandering through corridors and staircases of the hotel gave us great pleasure. The huge circular lobby and spacious corridors leading to different sections of the hotel had shining white marble floors, a reminder of the exquisite life of colonial times. The E&O boasts one of the longest seafronts of any hotels in the world. As we drifted outside to watch the scenery, the undulating palm trees on the beach took my breath away. Everything looked so beautiful, it made me feel like I was dreaming.

Back inside, we discovered the legendary Sarkies Corner, a coffee shop from colonial times. All the decor and the furnishings seemed to be frozen in time.

In the corridor leading to the restaurant where the buffet was served, we saw, in vintage oval frames on the wall, individual portraits of the three Sarkies brothers. All the brothers had thick moustaches, reminiscent of the era. Beneath the pictures sat a half-round console mahogany table. The simple setup looked familiar, as if they were pictures of our great grandfathers, hung in grandma’s parlour. A few steps down, a sign noted the names of the suites which were under the brothers’ names—Arshak, Tigran, and Martin.

We arrived just as the restaurant was opening for the buffet lunch. Everything looked so fresh. There was an array of hot dishes, cold cuts, and desserts. There were already many people inside the restaurant and, not noticing any open seats, we decided to go outside and have our lunch on the patio by the beach. When ready to pay, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that senior citizens paid only half price, which meant a delicious buffet lunch at this exquisite hotel was only USD10 for each of us.

After lunch, we stepped into the courtyard to find our taxi driver, Umar, waiting for us. We snapped a few more pictures, as if wanting to take a piece of history back home with us.





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Now it was time to explore Armenian Street, or Lebuhr Armenian as it is called. Umar took us through colonial quarters with narrow streets lined with two-storey buildings that have turned into businesses. The neighbourhood is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and very well preserved with its original architecture and colonial charm.

On Armenian Street, I saw two homes side-by-side which had turned into lodgings. One was called Armenian House and the other Armenian Suite Heritage Hotel. I entered the latter and met the proprietor, a young Malay woman in her 40s, who had a welcoming smile. I told her that I am Armenian and asked about the name of the lodging. She said, “Many people inquire about the name of the hotel. We chose the name because it is located on Armenian Street.” To me, it sounded strange to have two hotels side by side with Armenian as part of their name.

Next, Umar took us to another hotel just around the corner, and the name of that hotel was Armenia Street Heritage Hotel, a newly-built five-storey building. So there were three hotels in very close proximity with Armenia as part of their names.

As it was a few days into the Chinese New Year, red paper lanterns festively decked the street. I snapped a few more pictures, and then met Umar to continue our sightseeing.

Before going back to the ship, we stopped to visit two more homes built by wealthy Chinese merchants around the turn of the last century. Both were awe inspiring.

I had not expected to see such an amazing city with eclectic neighbourhoods and a thriving economy. Penang has been transformed from a colonial port to a vibrant city filled with high-rise buildings. The juxtaposition of well-preserved colonial neighbourhoods against soaring skyscrapers was stunning. Today, about one million people live on the island, and Penang has become a technology hub for South East Asia, often referred to as Silicon Island.

I was so delighted to discover a rich Armenian legacy, much of it thanks to the Sarkies brothers. Speaking of their reputation, there is a joke that has passed down into history. It is said that at a celebratory lunch at the E&O hotel in 1893, Sir Frank Swettenham, then Resident General of Malaya, was telling of the soaring reputation of the Sarkies brothers and related this story: “A little boy was asked by his teacher in Perak who the Sakais were, and he replied that they were people who kept hotels.” (The Sakais are actually one of the indigenous races of Malaysia, where Perak is a state.)

WWW.EOHOTELS.COM



Portraits of the Sarkies brothers—Arshak, Tigran, and Martin—deck the walls



From left: The E&O's circular lobby and spacious corridors lead to different sections of the hotel; Sarkies Corner maintains a Colonial atmosphere



YESTERDAY'S CHARM. TODAY'S HOTEL

Charming guests since 1948, Batu Ferringhi's oldest hotel continues to impress with its unique blend of warm hospitality, chic contemporary decor and memorable meals at The Bungalow, Matsu and Batubar.

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YOUR SUNDAY JUST GOT BETTER

Tuck into a delectable spread of Anglo-Chinese delights at The Bungalow's Hainanese Sunday Roast.

In its heyday, The Bungalow at Lone Pine was the place to go for some of Penang's finest and most authentic Hainanese fare. Families would make an outing of it on weekends, feasting on well-loved dishes the likes of chicken chop and foo yong crab while basking in the sea breeze and waterfront views.

This unique Anglo-Chinese cuisine, a hybrid of traditional Hainanese recipes with English flavours, lives on as The Bungalow's signature offering. A newly-introduced Hainanese Sunday Roast expands the repertoire while bringing things full circle, back to those idyllic weekends spent in the company of family and friends.

Available for lunch every Sunday, the Hainanese Sunday Roast is highlighted by the rotisserie section, of course, where you can choose from several types of meats: Pink-in-the-middle beef tenderloin, Chinese-style crispy skin duck, herbed chicken, and baby lamb on the spit. Well-marinated and balanced in flavours, the moist and tender cuts are delicious on their own but is more satisfying with a drizzle of sauce, and there are several to complement every protein.

The duck pairs best with the thick, dark hoisin sauce-based dip while the rest would do well with any of the following—a fragrant herb sauce, a mushroom sauce generously studded with slivers of fungi, refreshing mint that goes perfectly with the lamb, and a horseradish sauce if you want a bit of heat.

There's also a reddish dip that's an unusual mix of salty and savoury with a touch of the sour, meant for the *chun peah* or deep-fried Hainanese spring rolls. Chicken mince, carrots, cabbage and jicama form the filling, which is flavoured with five spice powder that renders it a similar hue as the dip. The latter owes its unique taste profile to Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce, an iconic element in Hainanese cooking.

As you work your way through the well-grilled cuts, balance them out with a selection of salads and vegetables, creamy soups, and lighter bites such as the Baked Macaroni Pie. These tiny ramekins are mini delights of macaroni and cheese layered over baked beans and crowned with an egg white soufflé, then baked.

End your Sunday feast on a sweet note from a rotating menu of Malaysian and Western cakes and desserts. *Santan*-rich *bubur chacha*, carrot cake, and crème brulee are among the temptations that beckon but if you have room for just one, make it the banana dumplings, one-bite Filo parcels served with a vanilla sauce.

All in all, The Bungalow's Hainanese Sunday Roast promises an afternoon well spent.

WWW.LONEPINEHOTEL.COM



Dress your roast in a variety of sauces



From left: Besides roast meats, there are also Hainanese delights like spring rolls; vegetables to balance out the meats; fresh fruits and desserts to end every meal



Howard Tan carved his niche as a photographer capturing Penang's street scenes and architecture

FROM SELF-TAUGHT PHOTOGRAPHER TO EXPERIMENTAL ARTIST

Howard Tan is slowly moving away from his camera lenses to spend more time crafting other works of art.

The shophouses are weathered and coated in telling patina, but remain stunning showcases of the intricacies that defined Straits Eclectic architecture. Traditional trishaws rest sedentary against peeling walls. Street portraits depict gentle faces displaying a range of expressions.

These endearing scenes of Penang's streets, people, and architecture welcome guests at the E&O Hotel, where they bedeck walls and walkways in the Victory Annexe. To complement the hotel's understated elegance, the images have had their colour tones adjusted to a more muted palette, a stark contrast to the original visuals by photographer Howard Tan. Known for his vibrant captures of everyday Penang, Howard's photos are available as decorative prints as well as merchandise such as postcards, notebooks, and calendars. You'll find the full range at Shop Howard, whose bright yellow façade is an indication of the bold spectrum that awaits within.

If you're expecting a photography-centric store, you'd be surprised and pleasantly so. Besides his own line of products, the shop also carries antique collectibles—the selection of classic Chinese vinyls will have you wishing for a turntable if you don't already own one—and consignment items by local artists and artisans, to form an extensive selection of souvenirs and gift ideas. This is one of the best places within George Town's Heritage Zone to pick up great designs that are fun, whimsical, and functional. Presented and curated through Howard's eyes, they also reflect the island's essence and its colourful personality.

After all, he was born and raised here, and has spent the last decade or so immortalising its most appealing facets. And it came about in quite a roundabout way. "My father was a fisherman and we lived by the sea. Growing up, I always liked art and drawing and wanted to do something related to photography ... but I couldn't afford to buy a camera," Howard recalls. "After completing school, I worked as a graphic designer and stayed in that job for three years. I didn't have a good feeling about it though; I didn't think I could make a living so I switched to computer science, and went on to work as a software engineer for nearly 13 years."



Even as a young boy, Howard had wanted to dabble in photography, a dream that he realised much later in life

That love for photography remained in him, however, and a work trip to Europe saw him returning with tons of snapshots that he shared with fellow Penangite and organiser of the annual George Town Festival (GTF), Joe Sidek. At the time, Joe was running a weekly bazaar called Little Penang Sunday Market and encouraged Howard to rent a stall to sell his prints. The positive response, particularly among foreigners, led to regular market outings and a permanent display at jeweller Jonathan Yun's shop. When Jonathan moved out, the landlord asked Howard if he was interested to take up third floor space for himself.

Shop Howard was born there, at 88 Armenian Street in 2008, and by then the man behind the name had established himself as a photographer whose niche included heritage architecture and streetscapes. The fact that he had no formal training has never been an issue. "I read a lot, and pored through books and magazines for inspiration and ideas. That's something I learned from my former boss when I was a graphic designer, and I still buy design titles for reference."

His graphic design background also proved useful when Shop Howard began developing its own range of merchandise. As its reputation and popularity grew, so did their collection and today, Shop Howard is two-outlet strong. The original had moved around the corner to Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, while the second outpost is just a stroll away, on Lebuh Armenian. The latter is a shared space with two other artists, with Howard occupying the back portion and the upper floor.

Like his first, this second eponymous shop displays a variety of merchandise, most notably antique items that Howard sourced from small towns around Malaysia that he occasionally travels to. There are more upstairs, a naturally-lit space of bright yellow walls with black accents framing a homey lounge. This is meant to be a gallery for the bigger items in his antique collection, and also serves as event space—he hosted an exhibition here during last year's GTF.



From photo-based merchandise to antique collectibles and small gift items, Shop Howard is a treasure trove of Penang designs



Here, too, is where you can view Howard's newest works that reflect his ventures outside the confines of photography. An invitation to exhibit at Hin Bus Depot last June set him off on this course. "They asked if I wanted to display my photos, but I felt that people already know me as a photographer and they know where to find me," he explains. Instead, he decided to conceptualise mixed media collages, installation art, and sculptures built around a flea market theme.

He sold some 70 percent of the exhibits, a fact that has no doubt buoyed his confidence and more importantly, fanned that creative spark that is pushing him towards becoming an artist. "I still do photography but I want to expand beyond that. I have stopped accepting commissioned work as it's difficult to meet expectations. I don't want to follow other people's ideas, life is just too short for that."

He certainly has no shortage of ideas, with several concepts in the pipeline. "I'm working on a new series based on vintage wedding photos that I hope will become my next exhibition. I'm also doing collages of old photos and at my solo exhibition last year, one of the pieces I showed was of a box filled with random objects—I might develop that into a series." Howard is certain of his onward journey as an artist, but is in no hurry to define his medium just yet. "I'm just exploring until I find a medium that I am comfortable with and that allows me to express who I am."

From a little boy in a fishing village dreaming of owning his first camera to a self-taught photographer and now, an artist in the making, Howard Tan's journey has been as colourful as his portfolio and it's set to become even more so.

Shop Howard is at 154 Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, George Town, Penang **T** 604 2611 917 **Opens** 10am-6pm daily; you can also shop Howard's photographic prints at EmpOrium, E&O Hotel.



From top: A vintage Volvo parked by the side of pre-war buildings in George Town; intricate details, printed tiles and vivid colours are a testament to the finesse of Straits Eclectic architecture



From top: Nostalgic posters and print advertisements dress the walls of this kopitiam; the people of Penang are another of Howard's favourite subjects to photograph

ENTERTAINMENT GALORE AT PENANGPAC

Flamenco or French opera? Catch these and more at the Performing Arts Centre of Penang in the second half of 2017.

JUNE

YEE HIN HOU'S EXHIBITION

1 – 30 Jun @
10.00am – 6.30pm | **gallery 1**

You have the whole month to view Yee Hin Hou's newest masterpieces at this solo exhibition. Admission is free.

SYIOK SENDIRI 6: ONE NIGHT ONLY

3 Jun @ 8.30pm | **stage 1**

Brace yourselves as Syiok Sendiri returns yet again with another round of cheap, trashy, hopelessly unfunny, sorry excuse of a comedy... and this time, they're taking it to the big stage. But there is a God after all for this time around, they're performing for one night only!



SYIOK SENDIRI AT THE MOVIES

6 Jun @ 8.00pm | **stage 2**

Cult favourite *South Park: Bigger, Longer, & Uncut* (1999) promises a laughter-filled evening. Admission is free.

BETRAYAL

16 – 17 Jun @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

This thought-provoking play revolves around three main characters – Emma, her husband Robert, and his best friend Jerry – who are caught in a love triangle. Jerry confesses his love for Emma after a party, and the two begin an affair that will continue for years.

LA FILLE DU REGIMENT

17 Jun @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

18 Jun @ 3.00pm | **stage 1**

La fille du régiment (The Daughter of the Regiment) is an *opéra comique* in two acts by Gaetano Donizetti, set to a French libretto by Jules-Henri Vernoy de Saint-Georges and Jean-François Bayard.

HOKO SASAKI'S FAREWELL CONCERT

25 Jun @ 2.00pm | **stage 2**

Famed Japanese performer Hoko Sasaki entertains fans for the last time with an afternoon of festival songs and flamenco dancing.

JULY

GRACE CHOONG ART EXHIBITION

1 – 31 Jul @
10.00am – 6.30pm | **gallery 1 & 2**

Delight your senses at this month-long exhibition by Malaysian artist, Grace Choong. Admission is free.



WHEN CLASSICAL MEETS POP

2 Jul @ 3.00pm | **stage 1**

Enjoy an afternoon of instrumental music performance – a diverse repertoire that runs the gamut from classics by Mozart and Beethoven to popular hits by Teresa Teng and Bruno Mars and much more.

BENGAL TIGER
AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO

7 – 8 Jul @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

9 Jul @ 3.00pm | **stage 2**

The streets of Baghdad are torn asunder by the Iraq War. Within the city's ruins, two American soldiers and an Iraqi translator are haunted by the spirits of those killed in the conflict. Amidst the chaos, a quick-witted tiger roams the streets attempting to find meaning and redemption, but the reality of war is not so forgiving.

GIVING BACK
CHARITY CONCERT 2017

8 Jul @ 8.00pm | **stage 1**

Dance99 has made it their mission to contribute to the local community annually through dance-related charity events since 2013. This year, all proceeds from the event will go to the Children's Protection Society, Penang.

WORLD'S BEST MOVIES

11 Jul @ 8.00pm | **stage 2**

Lost in Paradise (2011) is a ground-breaking Vietnamese movie that has been shown at several international film festivals. Admission is free.

MACC – NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL
JOKES: VOLUME 8

14 – 15 Jul @ 8.30pm | **stage 1**

MACC's 8th new show promises new material, funny videos, and hilarious song parodies. There are no conspiracies, no scandals and no hidden agendas – just 1.5 hours of healthy Malaysian laughter. All are welcome providing that you can understand English, actually enjoy comedy, and can afford the tickets. See you at the show!

AUGUST

SYIOK SENDIRI AT THE MOVIES

1 Aug @ 8.00pm | **stage 2**

Tamil crime-thriller *Pokkiri* (2007) continues to thrill audiences even after a decade. Admission is free.

MERDEKA! MERDEKA! MERDEKA!
WITH FARIDAH

27 Aug @ 3.00pm | **stage 2**

Let Faridah Merican show you her interpretation of patriotism in conjunction with Malaysia's 60th year of independence. Admission is by donation.

SEPTEMBER

BLACK BOX EXPERIMENTS (BBX)

6 Sept @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

BBX is a platform for local theatre talents to showcase their work. Come and support up-and-coming stars and catch their creative visions. Admission is by donation.

WOMEN ARTISTS ASSOCIATION
EXHIBITION

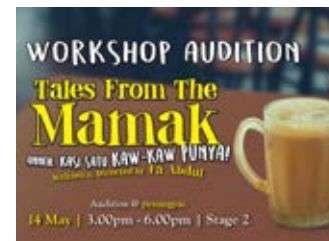
7 Sep – 2 Oct | **gallery 1 & 2**

A showcase of the most recent works by leading women artists in Malaysia. Admission is free.

WORLD'S BEST MOVIES

12 Sep @ 8.00pm | **stage 2**

Heavenly Creatures (1994) is a New Zealand film directed by Peter Jackson, based on the horrific Parker-Hulme murder case that happened in Christchurch. Admission is free.



TALES FROM THE MAMAK

15 Sep @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

16 Sep @ 3.00pm, 8.30pm | **stage 2**

Big Nose Production and penangpac join forces to present this comedy that will resonate among all Malaysians.

OCTOBER

SYIOK SENDIRI AT THE MOVIES

3 Oct @ 8.00pm | **stage 2**

Dead Alive (1992), alternatively titled *Braindead*, is another Peter Jackson classic that tells of a woman who was killed after being bitten by a Sumatran rat-monkey and returns to seek revenge.

SYIOK SENDIRI 7:
HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

13 – 15 Oct @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

Instead of being spooked out, celebrate Halloween by laughing out loud at this comedy performance.

NOVEMBER

SHORT+SWEET PENANG 2017

1 – 4 Nov @ 8.30pm (dance) | **stage 2**

8 – 11 Nov @ 8.30pm (theatre) | **stage 2**

This dance-theatre extravaganza, now a staple in the local arts calendar, returns to delight audiences.

DECEMBER

SYIOK SENDIRI AT THE MOVIES

5 Dec @ 8.00pm | **stage 2**

Usher in an early Yuletide with *Mickey's Christmas Carol* (1983), an animated retelling of Charles Dickens' evergreen favourite.



FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

22 – 23 Dec @ 8.30pm | **stage 1**

Gather the whole clan together and get into the spirit of Christmas at this festive concert.

PENANG CHINESE GIRLS' HIGH
SCHOOL HARMONICA CONCERT

23 Dec @ 8.30pm | **stage 2**

Catch young talents in action in what promises to be a melodious performance.

NOTE

1. All the above performances are held at penangpac.
2. The details above are correct at the time of printing and may be subject to change. For the latest updates, please log on to www.penangpac.org.



Robert and Deirdre Plane

PLANE SAILING ON THE HIGH SEAS

When it comes to seeing the world on your terms, where there is a will, there is a way. Robert and Deirdre Plane tell us how.

At Straits Quay Marina, hundreds of seafarers rest and recharge themselves and their vessels before making another foray into the sparkling waters of the Andaman Sea. Many of them have wondrous tales to share—of adventures on the high seas, of encounters with whales and leatherback turtles, of treacherous archipelagos, and people with the biggest smiles on earth.

Robert and Deirdre Plane are among them. English, with South African connections, the couple and their catamaran, *Plane Sailing*, have been docking at Straits Quay Marina regularly in the past three years. The couple also write and have contributed articles to local yachting magazines while Deirdre has authored a book, *Seaventures of Plane Sailing*. This excerpt captures some of their more exciting encounters out at sea:

“Listening to our daughters, Nicola and Karyn, suggesting that we should plan for retirement and settle in a secure village retreat in Cape Town overlooking both the Indian and Atlantic Oceans and, at the same time, seeing the horrified expression on Bob’s face, I knew it would never happen.

We ultimately decided to purchase a new catamaran with an interior designed to our own requirements. Our choice was a South African-built vessel. During the many months it took to build, watching it gradually transform from drums of glass fibre resin into a splendid, complex artistry of hull, deck and bulkheads, we joined a yacht club hoping to learn to sail. Much to our dismay, the club did not operate a training yacht and the majority of yachts in the marina seldom moved. Our son-in-law, Wayne, strongly advised us to sail around Cape Town’s Table Bay, to gain sailing experience.

“At our age we don’t have a year to spare,” we replied. “If we don’t giddy up we may never actually leave.”

We headed westwards to faraway places, adventures and thrilling experiences that we could never have imagined. We speculated we would never see anything as stunning as the vast, grey, flat-topped buttress of solid rock that is Table Mountain as she majestically sank beneath the horizon.



Plane Sailing is a South African-built catamaran

After departing Cape Town, the first eight days of sailing were daunting, with waves as high as halfway up the mast and blustery 30 to 40-knot winds. This was an intimidating beginning for inexperienced sailors. The sea was wild as we roller coaster-ed up and down the endless waves, plunging off a crest to plummet into the dark trough. Such was our rudimentary sailing knowledge. It was mandatory that we spent hours on navigation, plotting our progression on paper charts.

St Helena appeared, rising starkly out of the ocean early one morning, a gargantuan, austere island of volcanic rock with a ribbon of turbulent white spray thrashing the base of its rocky shore. Viewed from the sea, St Helena resembles a huge brown fruitcake with a portion cut out where the town nestles between 1,000-foot steep cliffs.

Our stay at St Helena—a peaceful, temperate island—was most enjoyable but the biggest thrill of all was speaking to our daughters on the telephone and sending emails to family and friends. We were ecstatic to hear their voices, sensing the subtle change in their attitudes. Now, our daughters were still concerned about our safety but also saying how proud of us they are.

We then embarked on a projected 16-day sail to an island 300 miles off the coast of Brazil, called Fernando de Naronah. As we approached the island, sailing across a bright and unruffled sea, a mournful, lamenting sound that's both haunting and sombre broke the silence. It signalled the presence of five enormous humpback whales surfacing around us, grey and glistening like huge sea elephants.

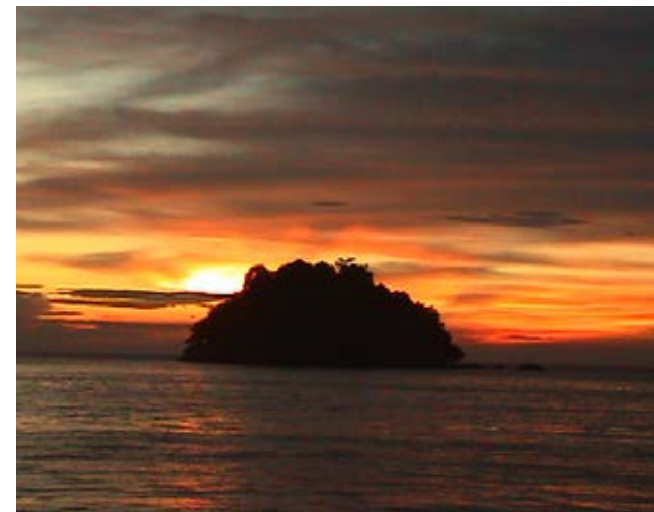
Two of the whales ahead began crossing our path, causing us to quickly change course to avoid them. Another two whales burst through the surface at our port side, gleaming and monstrous in the sunshine. They immediately and aggressively began bumping our bows, pushing us around!

Suddenly, a fifth whale surfaced directly below us, between our hulls. With a great whooshing sound, it ejected a cloud of fetid, stinking vapour from its blowhole through our foredeck trampoline, which washed over us, polluting the air. We were mortified to realise that we were riding on the back of a whale, its head between our two hulls, its tail thrashing behind us. It as an alarming, nerve-racking experience, with the distinct feeling that we were being raised above the surface!

I shouted to Bob, “Do something!”. He started the engines and like magic, the whales disappeared into the enfolding sea. After trimming the sails, we were gratified to see them reappear some distance behind us, their tails thrashing as one whale breached, rising clear of the surface and slamming back down into the sea. Later, we were able to inspect our hulls below the waterline, relieved and amazed to find no damage has been caused to our hulls, rudders or propeller drives.”



It wasn't always smooth sailing but there were certainly no dull moments!



Adventures of all kinds greeted the Planes at every turn

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