

## WHV – Cheng Ho and Maritime Silk Road Heritage

### Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2008)

#### PROJECT DATES

12 - 23 September 2024

**THE SITE** - Melaka and George Town, historic cities of the Straits of Malacca have developed over 500 years of trading and cultural exchanges between East and West in the Straits of Malacca. The influences of Asia and Europe have endowed the towns with a specific multicultural heritage that is both tangible and intangible. With its government buildings, churches, squares and fortifications, Melaka demonstrates the early stages of this history originating in the 15th-century Malay sultanate and the Portuguese and Dutch periods beginning in the early 16th century.

**OBJECTIVES** - The project, implemented for the second time after a very successful first experience in 2023, aims at raising awareness about the voyages of Cheng Ho and Melaka's crucial role in the Maritime Silk and Spice Road, while also leveraging the Museum's experience in the protection and revitalization of Melaka's heritage buildings to sensitise local citizens and tourists about conservation needs.

**ACTIVITIES** - This year the project will in particular see the involvement of a research university to support volunteers in conducting hands-on research on heritage themes in the city and leverage heritage knowledge to promote regional tourism. Volunteers will contribute to a mini-exhibition on the Maritime Silk & Spice Road based on the existing exhibition of Cheng Ho Museum. They will take part in thematic presentations about different World Heritage linked to Cheng Ho, such as Islamic heritage, Indian Ocean heritage, Cheng Ho route heritage. Volunteers will also take part in lectures and field investigations on Melaka historical heritage site, to edit the e-book of Dutch Inscriptions in Melaka. They will contribute to a Spice Heritage Day, learning about knowledge of coffee and spices, and will assist NUS Architecture Institute in launching the Melaka Heritage Training Classroom

**PARTNERS** - United Youth Movement of Melaka; PERZIM (Perbadanan Muzium Melaka, State Museum Melaka); MATTA Melaka (Malaysian Association of Tour & Travel Agents Melaka Branch); NUS (National University Singapore), NUS Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Asian Architectural and Urban Heritage in Melaka; MSSR R&D (Malaysia Maritime Silk and Spice Road Heritage Conservation R&D); WARISON Malaysia (National Heritage Department of Malaysia); ICOMOS Malaysia; Jonker Walk Committee Office; JPkk Kota Laksamana Melaka (Jawatankuasa Pembangunan & Keselamatan Kampung); CSCEC Malaysia; Hotel Puri Melaka; Cheng Ho Residence; AIK CHEONG Coffee Melaka.

**Cheng Ho Cultural Museum Melaka**

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<https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers>