

The History of Ipoh

Ipoh is the capital of Perak. It is located in the Kinta District, 205 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur and 170 kilometres south of George Town, Penang. Ipoh is the fourth largest city in Malaysia with an estimated 2009 population of 702,464 (Source: Wikipedia).

Ipoh developed from the Malay villages of Kampung Ipoh and Kampung Paloh along the banks of the Kinta River. The tin rush of the 1880's caused the town to boom. By this time, Ipoh consisted of about 340 houses and about 4,000 people. On 1 June 1892 a fire broke out and destroyed over half the town. The damage was estimated at \$100,000 Straits Dollars.

The Great Fire of Ipoh gave planners the opportunity to lay out the streets in a more orderly grid pattern, and the town was rebuilt in time for the second tin rush. Vast numbers of people, especially Chinese miners, descended upon Ipoh, transforming it into a business and social centre. The town that tin built became known as the "City of Millionaires".

When Kuala Lumpur was chosen as the capital of the newly formed Federated Malay States (FMS) in 1896, the residents of Ipoh expressed their great displeasure over the decision. However, Ipoh continued to flourish.

Between 1905 and 1914, Yau Tet Shin expanded the town across the Kinta River. By 1908, he had built 216 houses in this "New Town" of Ipoh, including a theatre and food market.

By 1914, the town was beginning to take on its current appearance. Ipoh's population was also increasing – from 23,978 in 1911 to 27,500 in 1914.

Ipoh's geographic location in the rich tin-bearing valley of the Kinta River made it a natural centre of economic growth. Throughout the 1920's and 1930's the town continued to grow rapidly, largely as a result of tin mining and rubber production in the surrounding region.

Ipoh was invaded by the Japanese on 15 December 1941. During the Japanese Occupation, Ipoh was made the capital of Perak, in place of Taiping. In March 1942, St. Michael's Institution became headquarters of the Japanese administration. After liberation in 1945, Ipoh remained as the capital of Perak.

Ipoh gained Municipal status on 31 May 1962 and was granted City status on 27 May 1988.

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PERAK



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IPOH HERITAGE TRAIL MAP 2



MALAY MOSQUE, IPOH, PERAK

PERAK, MALAYSIA

The History of Dato' Panglima Kinta (The Lord of Kinta)



Dato' Panglima Kinta Mohammad Yusuff (far left) and Perak Sultan Idris Shah (seated)



Dato' Panglima Kinta Mohammad Yusuff's residence in Douglas Road (Jalan Bukit Gantang Wahab)

The title is bestowed by His Royal Highness the Sultan of Perak. In full it reads 'Orang Kaya-Kaya Panglima Kinta Seri Amar Bangsa Di Raja', but commonly it is referred to as Dato' Panglima Kinta or the Lord of Kinta.

Before the advent of the British administration, Kinta was the fief of the Dato' Panglima Kinta, one of the eight Chieftains in the Perak socio-political hierarchy. Even after the arrival of the British in Kinta in 1878, the only person of rank residing in Ipoh was the Dato' Panglima Kinta. The District Collector and Magistrate (later, the District Officer) was south in the District Capital of Batu Gajah. The British Resident was even further away, in Taiping, then capital of Perak. The Sultan of Perak was in Kuala Kangsar.

There are two versions about the origin of the Dato' Panglima Kinta.

According to one legend, the first holder of the title was a Sumatran sea captain who came to Kinta probably in the 16th century. He was chosen by a genie to be the 'Kulop Kinta'. He took an Orang Asli wife and started the line of the Dato' Panglima Kinta. The Sultans later recognised his descendants as the Territorial Chiefs of Kinta.

In another version, the second Sultan of Perak, Sultan Mansur Shah was invited in 1577 to be ruler of Aceh in Sumatra. On his journey downstream the Sultan stopped at the confluence of the Perak River and Kinta River, where he married the daughter of an Orang Asli village chief. The Sultan decreed that when a son was born he would be bestowed with the title 'Maharaja Kinta' and vested with the power to rule the Kinta Valley.

According to both versions, the Dato' Panglima Kinta was the result of a liaison with an Orang Asli woman, whose child was recognised as the ruler of the Kinta Valley.

Ipoh began to boom under the tenth Dato' Panglima Kinta Mohammad Yusuff (see photos), who held the title from 1884 until 1903. He encouraged Chinese, Sumatran, Indian and other immigrants to come to Ipoh in 1884 by subdividing vast tracts of his land on the west bank of the Kinta River and in Kampung Paloh into building lots which he then sold.

As a result, the town became increasingly cosmopolitan. His open-door policy benefited not only the new immigrants but also the Malays, many of whom prospered because of increased trade opportunities. By the 1890's, the Dato' Panglima Kinta himself was reported to be one of the richest Malays in the country, owning mining land, commercial properties as well as palatial residences in Ipoh, Kuala Kangsar and Taiping.



The current Dato' Panglima Kinta is Dato' Seri Dr. Abdullah Fadzil bin Che Wan who is the seventeenth holder of the title.

FROM END OF MAP 1

Market Lane

Lorong Bijeh Timah

> from Ipoh Railway Station

IPOH HERITAGE TRAIL MAP 2

Walking Duration: Approx 2 hours

Hugh Low Street (Jalan Sultan Iskandar)

Jalan Mesjid

OLD TOWN

Jalan Koo Chong Kong

Birch Street (Jalan Othman Talib)

Hill Street (Jalan Koo Chong Kong)

Patrick Street (Jalan Persiaran Bijeh Timah)

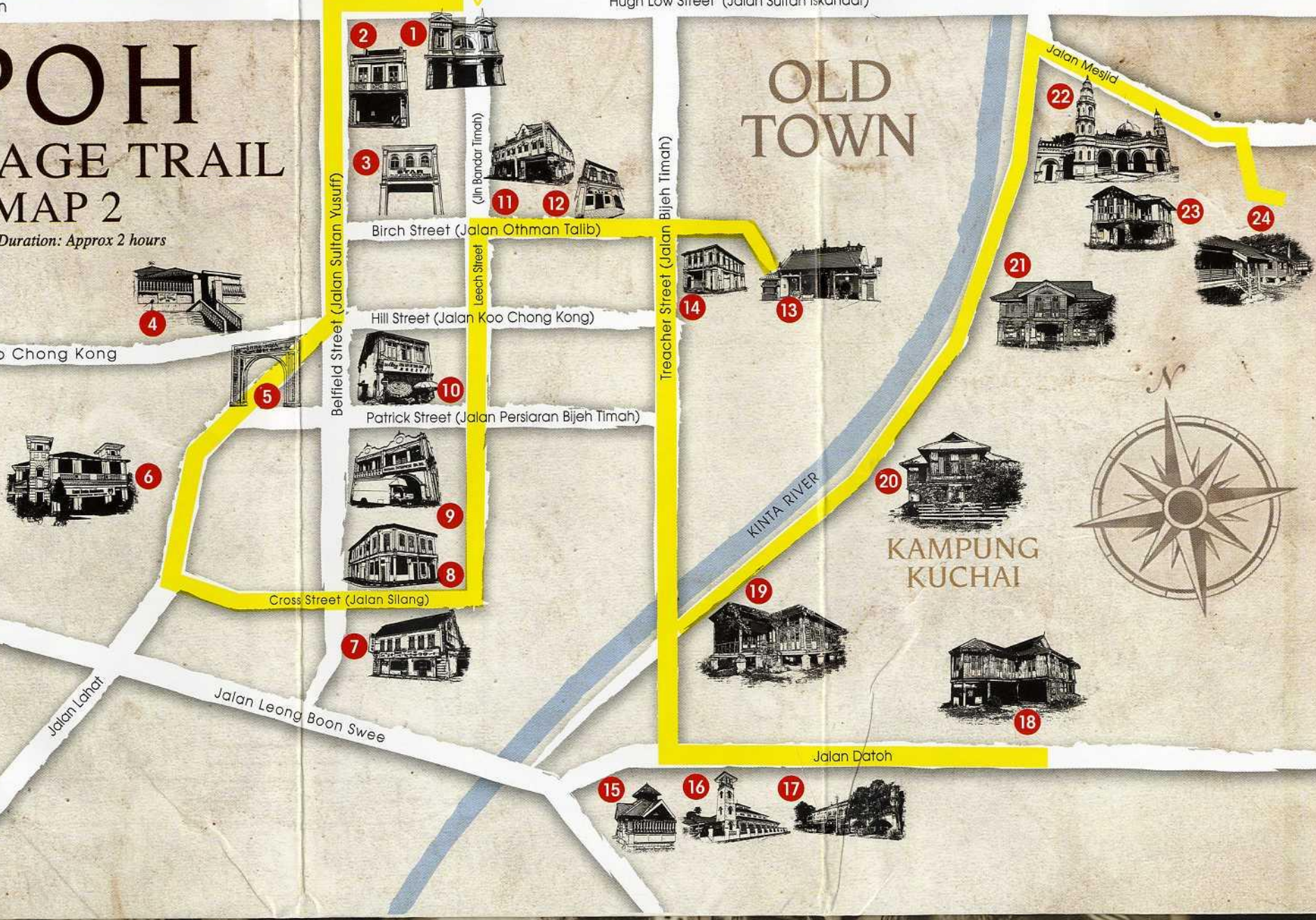
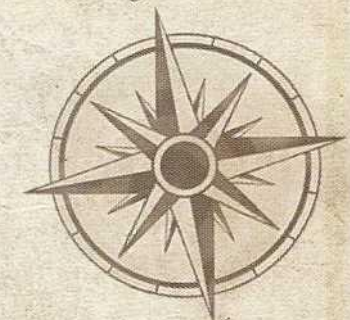
Cross Street (Jalan Silang)

Jalan Leong Boon Swee

KINTA RIVER

Jalan Datoh

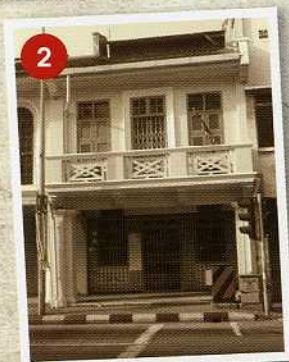
KAMPUNG KUCHAI



Selamat Datang (Welcome) to Ipoh



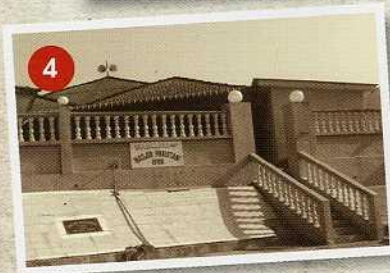
Oversea Building,
12 & 14 Hugh Low Street
This building, with its imposing Classical façade, occupies two shop lots and was built sometime in the late 1920's. It served as the Ipoh branch of the Singapore-based Oversea - Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd.



Ambika Estates Office,
4 Hugh Low Street
M. Meyyappan, a Tamil Chettiar, was the proprietor of the Ambika Estates which had very large interests in the rubber industry and landed property holdings. The interior of the building has been beautifully preserved in near original condition.



Star Printing Works,
75 Belfield Street
This South Indian printing press was established in 1933. Many Tamil journals, such as Forward (1946) and Nagarigam (1951-53) were printed at these premises. In the 1950's, the Pan Malayan Dravidian Central Association was based here.



Pakistani Mosque,
Hill Street
The "Police Mosque" was built in 1930 for the Punjabi Muslim Police who, by 1938, numbered 20 families. Subsequently, from the 1950's, the Pakistani Association of Malaya was based here.



Little India District
Little India was established in the early 1900's as the centre for the Indian community. The majority of early migrants were Nattukkottai Chettiars from South India, who acted as money lenders to the Chinese tin miners, especially those who could not obtain loans from the Colonial Banks.



Yau Tet Shin Mansion
Club Road
Originally the mansion of Yau Tet Shin, pioneer and builder of Ipoh's New Town, the building housed the Anglo-Chinese Girls School in the 1920's. After the Second World War it became the State Medical and Health Office.



Straits Trading Company Warehouses,
1-3 Belfield Street
These warehouses belonged to Straits Trading, a company established by Herman Muhlinghaus in 1889 that undertook to purchase tin-ore from miners on cash terms. The Ipoh offices were located at No. 2 Station Road.



Kinta Aerated Water,
1-3 Leech Street
Kinta Aerated Water was founded by Shaik Adam and continued by his son Jan Sahib. Jan Sahib was also a long-serving member of the Kinta Sanitary Board and chief trustee of the Indian mosque founded by his father. The building was later taken over by the Singapore Cold Storage.



Gabled Shophouses
7-15 Leech Street
This row of 5 Gabled Shophouses, built in the early 1900's, is a fine example of Renaissance architecture. The Shophouses include a Toy Wholesaler & Retailer at No.7, a Chinese Medical Hall at No.13 and Maysara Enterprise Wholesale & Retail at No. 15.



Sin Yoon Loong,
15A Leech Street
Established in 1937, Sin Yoon Loong Coffee Shop is famous for its Ipoh white coffee. Using both evaporated and condensed milk, the coffee is pulled to make it rich and frothy. This shop was reputedly a favourite of the Japanese military during their occupation of Ipoh 1942-1945.



Eu Yan Sang
36-38 Leech Street
Eu Yan Sang was founded by Eu Kong, a Chinese tin miner in 1879, as a medical shop prescribing herbal cures to opium addicts. His son, Eu Tong Sen (1877-1941) took over the business and turned it into a Chinese pharmaceuticals empire. (Refer to feature overleaf).



Eu Yan Sang,
2 Birch Street
This shophouse was originally connected to the main Eu Yan Sang store by a first floor bridge and was used as warehouse facilities. As well as Chinese pharmaceuticals, Eu Tong Sen was also a leading tin miner and entrepreneur who had 11 wives and many palatial mansions in Ipoh, Gopeng, Kampar, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Hong Kong. (Refer feature overleaf)



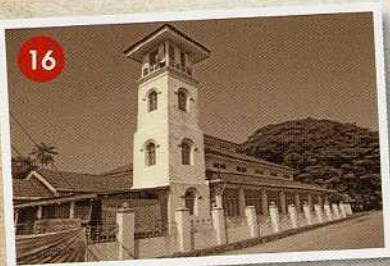
Paloh Ku Miao Temple
Dedicated to Tua Pek Kong, the founding spirit of the Chinese Settlement, this temple was founded in 1872. Originally a timber and thatch building, it was rebuilt in 1894 with a decorative roof ridge, temple bell and stone lions. Yau Tet Shin was one of the main sponsors of the rebuilt temple. Although the temple has been restored many times, the traditional plan and symmetrical layout have been maintained.



Chinese Wholesale District, Treacher Street
A large part of Treacher Street, between Hugh Low Street and the Kinta River, is taken up by Chinese wholesalers. The range of products sold here is enormous and the large amount of business activity is represented by the number of trucks loading and unloading at the various premises.



Wan Muhammad Saleh Mausoleum, Jalan Dato
This is the mausoleum of Dato' Seri Adika Raja Wan Muhammad Saleh (1861-1917), who was made Orang Kaya Kaya Adika Raja in 1892. Held in high regard by Sir Frank Swettenham, he began as a clerk and rose to the positions of Superintendent of Penghulus and Assistant Collector of Land Revenue. He was awarded the Imperial Service Order in 1903 by King Edward VII.



Kampung Paloh Mosque, Jalan Dato
The mosque was built during the reign of Sultan Idris Shah (1887-1916), and completed in 1912 by Orang Kaya Kaya Dato' Seri Adika Raja Wan Muhammad Saleh, I.S.O., his wife Toh Puan Hajjah Sharifah Rodiah, Encik Mahmud bin Mohd. Taib and Tuan Haji Muhammad Kassim bin Banjar Jagra.



Warta Kinta Office, 5 Jalan Dato
Warta Kinta, "The Cheapest Malay Daily Newspaper in Malaya" was published here in the 1920's. After the newspaper moved to Hale Street in the 1940's, the premises became a hostel for press workers. It later served as the premises for the Kinta Branch of the Persatuan Melayu Perak (The All Malaya Muslim Missionary Society).



Dato' Seri Adika Raja's House, 20 Jalan Dato
This site was originally agricultural land leased to 'Sarepah binti Duakal'. This residence was built around 1910, probably by Dato' Seri Adika Raja Wan Muhammad Saleh (1861-1917) and his wife Toh Puan Sharifah Rodiah. (Refer to 15 & 16).



Home for Destitute Boys, Treacher Street South
Located on the eastern bank of the Kinta River, this Malay house was originally acquired by the Government as part of the Kinta River widening project. It was spared however in 1931 when the Rotary Club founded a home for wayward boys. In 1935, it became known as the "Home for Destitute Boys" in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary.



Kampung Kuchai Houses
Within Kampung Kuchai, very few kampung houses remain as residences. However, there is a small enclave, dating from the early 1900's, a short distance from the main Kinta River path. One kampung house, dating from 1903, is a particularly fine example of kampung architecture.



Malay House, Kampung Kuchai
Set back from the Kinta River, this grand two-story home with roofed porch extending from the entrance of the building over the driveway was probably built by a wealthy Malay sometime in the early 20th century. It was also built in close proximity to the Dato' Panglima Kinta Mosque.



Dato' Panglima Kinta Mosque, Jalan Masjid
The mosque was built in 1898 by Dato' Panglima Kinta Mohammad Yusuff in memory of his principal wife who died in the same year. It is designed with both Mogul and Neoclassical motifs. Next to the mosque was Madrasah Kamaliah, a pre-war religious school, revived in the 1950's as Ipoh's first Arabic and Islamic school. It ran until the 1970's.



Malay House, off Jalan Masjid
This two-story home was built with a roofed porch and window shutters and air vents on both the upper and lower levels. It was probably built by a wealthy Malay sometime in the early 20th century. It was also built very near the Dato' Panglima Kinta mosque.



Malay School, off Jalan Masjid
This Government-sponsored school was established in the early 1900's to encourage families to send their children to school by offering religious classes. Originally two buildings, it was later extended to three, with the main classroom walls being made of plaited bamboo strips.

The History of Eu Chateau, Ipoh



Eu Chateau

Eu Chateau was built in 1913 by Eu Tong Sen (1877 – 1941), a leading Chinese tin miner and businessman in Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong from the late 19th to mid-20th century. He is perhaps most famous for the 'Eu Yan Sang' Chinese pharmaceutical empire. (Refer to 11 and 12 on the Map).

Although Eu Tong Sen was Chinese, he was also an English-educated Anglophile, who had a fascination with fine English architecture gained from his travels to England in 1911. As one of Malaya's best known millionaires, he was invited to the homes of the rich and famous and even attended the 1911 Coronation of King George V.

Eu brought those ideas back to Malaya, wanting to show the British administration that there was a Chinese who could deliver the same fine European architecture.

With regard to the construction of Eu Chateau, The Times of Malaya reported in 1913:

Quite the biggest building being put up in Ipoh today, next (in splendour) to the railway station, is Mr. Eu Tong Sen's new Mansion in Gopeng Road. This will be a magnificent mansion fit to compare in style and luxury with some of the finest houses in England. It will contain a smoking room, library, gymnasium and other appurtenances of the up-to-date dwelling place of a modern man of wealth.

Originally set on a 95 acre estate, Eu Chateau was widely known as the finest private residence in Ipoh, and soon became famous for its lavish parties thrown for both Ipoh's high society as well as visiting dignitaries.

During the Japanese Occupation Eu Chateau became the residence of the Japanese Governor of Perak, Mr Kubota. After Japan was defeated, the mansion was used as accommodation for British army families. In 1957, it was sold to a local housing developer, who subdivided the 95 acre property into 200 lots, keeping the original house on 8 acres.

It was at this time that Ipoh Town Council's Assistant Town Planner, Mr F Watkinson, suggested that the Chateau on its 8 acre site be bought by the Government and turned into a museum. The idea was not taken up at the time.

In 1961, Eu Chateau was acquired by the Perak branch of the All-Malaya Muslim Missionary Society for use as a vocational school for girls. The school continues to this day, although in newer buildings behind the original now empty Chateau.

After more than 50 years since the original suggestion, there are plans finally afoot to restore Eu Chateau before its 100th birthday in 2013 and turn it into a museum celebrating the history of Ipoh and Eu Tong Sen.



Garden Villa

Eu Chateau, also commonly referred to as Forest Lodge, or more recently, the Bulan Bintang building, is located at No.9 Jalan Seruan, off Jalan Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah (Jalan Gopeng), only a few minutes drive from the city centre. The original guest quarters of Eu Chateau, Garden Villa, located at No.5 Jalan Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah (Jalan Gopeng) is currently being used as a free not-for-profit community centre managed by Kinta Heritage Group Sdn Bhd.

For more information on Eu Tong Sen, read Ilsa Sharp's excellent book "Path of the Righteous Crane – The Life & Legacy of Eu Tong Sen" published by Landmark Books in 2009.

For information on Eu Yan Sang, go to www.euyansang.com.