

# Rejuvenating break in city centre



By RENA LIM

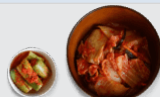
**METRO NEWS**

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Najmia Zailie and wife Najwa Syifaa taking a wefie at Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park in George Town. — ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

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A NEWLYWED couple taking a break enjoyed a blissful stroll at Sia Boey Urban Archaeological Park in Penang.

Engineer Najmia Zailie Rosli, 26, and nurse Najwa Syifaa Mahamud, 23, from Kepala Batas, were relieved that the park was not crowded. They got married in May this year.

“We have heard so much about this park and we are not disappointed.



A visitor cycling across the canal.

“We are on a day trip to unwind and relax,” said Naiwa Svifaa when met at the park recently.

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Her husband Najmia said they also visited other scenic places in the George Town heritage enclave, including the Esplanade.

“We just wanted to rejuvenate ourselves after staying home for so long.



Fish swimming in the Prangin Canal.

“This is considered our unofficial honeymoon.

“I hope that after this, we are able to visit other states,” he said.

Another visitor who wanted to be known only as Wu was seen having lunch while reading a Chinese daily there.

“I like it here during the day as it is quiet with few visitors.





Wu reading the newspaper while having his lunch.

“It is a good place to sit and relax. I bring my lunch or dinner here to enjoy while reading the newspaper,” said Wu, 50, who takes the bus or walks to the park as he lives in nearby Jalan Datuk Keramat.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the park was always packed with tourists and locals.

The free attraction which opened in 2019 is touted to be the first Urban Archaeological Park in Malaysia.



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Its main role is to help transform Sia Boey into an area that facilitates the coexistence of development and heritage conservation.

Last year, Penang Development Corporation spent RM18,500 to clean up the 250m-long Prangin Canal at the park with the aim to restore the ecosystem.

Its chief executive officer Ahmad Zuhairi said the park, especially the canal, was regularly maintained by contractors.

“They carry out maintenance and cleaning works at the canal on a monthly basis,” he said.

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