PENANG HILL BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Penang Hill was designated as **Malaysia's third Biosphere Reserve** under **UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme** on **15 September 2021**. It is unique in spanning diverse landscapes and ecosystems, from hill forests to coastal marine area.

Covering **12,481 hectares**, the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve (PHBR) comprises three zones: **the Core Area, Buffer Zone and Transition Area**, which together support the conservation of nature alongside sustainable human activities. The Core Area provides strict protection for important ecosystems and biodiversity, while the Buffer Zone supports activities such as research, monitoring, and education. The Transition Area is where communities and sustainable socio-economic activities take place. Penang Hill, including its main tourist and summit areas, is located within the Transition Area.

A Multi-Sensory Experience at the Peak of Penang

Welcome to Penang Hill - the peak of Penang Island offering many activities and attractions all year round.

Established as a military observation post by Captain Francis Light in the late 1700s, Penang Hill is one of the oldest colonial hills in Southeast Asia.

1700s The earliest mode of transport up to the hill was by Sumatran pony or sedan chair attached to a pair of bamboo carrying poles (called a "doolie") hand-carried by 4 to 8 porters.

1800s Penang Hill is a repository of bungalows featuring a fusion of British colonial and modern Asian architecture dating back to the early days of the British settlement and the 1800s in Penang. One of the oldest buildings, Convalescent Bungalow, was built in 1803. Since then, many other opulent bungalows were built, such as Richmond and Fernhill Bungalows, which remain standing today. Built over a century ago, the funicular is now Penang's iconic piece of history; where the railway idea was first initiated by three British residents in 1897, but their plan to use a steam engine failed.

1900s A second railway was commisioned in 1909, and works for the second line started in 1913 with a budget of 1.5 million Straits Dollars. On 1 January 1924, the 2,007-metre-long funicular railway was officially opened by the then Governor of the Straits Settlement, Sir L.N. Guillemard. The last upgrade was in 1977, before a complete overhaul of the system in 2010.

2011 The current 3rd-generation system began operating in 2011; it plies the 1,996-metre track in approximately 5 minutes, making it one of the fastest, steepest and longest funiculars in the region.

Plan Your Trip

Ticket Counter

Daily : 6.15am - 9.45pm

Funicular Schedule

Daily : 6.30am - 11.00pm
(Departure time every 30 minutes)

Travel Duration : 5 minutes - 15 minutes
(Non-stop) (Substation stop*)

Scan Here for More

*Funiculars stop at substations every half hour except during peak season.
- Last trip from the lower station to the upper station is at **10.00pm**.
- Last trip from the upper station to the lower station is at **11.00pm**.

Funicular Fares

Kindly visit www.penanghill.gov.my for the latest funicular fares.

How to get here?

- Taxi / Car (Waze / Google Maps: Penang Hill Lower Station)
- Rapid Bus - 204 (From Jetty / KOMTAR to Bukit Bendera)

Multistorey Car Park

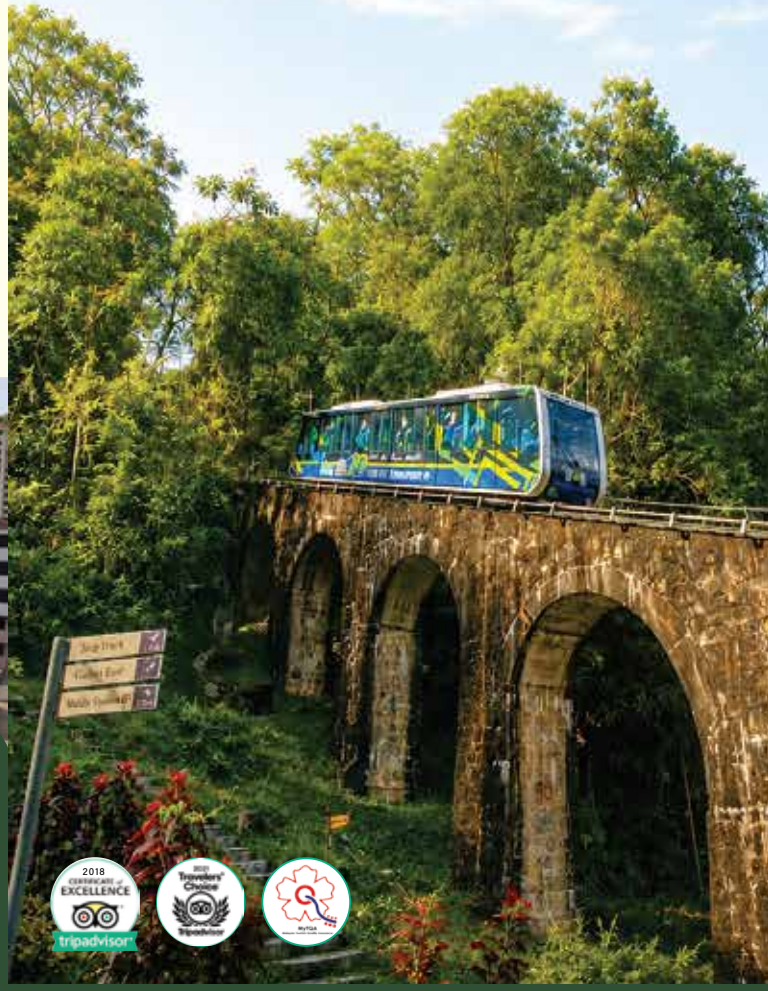
Upload fond memories of your trip and hashtag #mypenanghill on social media!

For more information, please contact us at:

PERBADANAN BUKIT BENDERA PULAU PINANG
Jalan Stesen Bukit Bendera, 11500 Air Itam, Pulau Pinang.
Tel: 04-828 8880 Fax: 04-828 8868
Email: inquiries@penanghill.gov.my
(Office Hours Only: Mondays - Fridays, 8.30am - 4.30pm)

PENANG HILL

A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve



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SEE

Rise early and catch the first funicular up the hill and you will be rewarded with a magnificent glimpse of the sunrise on clear days or feel the cotton-like mist floating in the air on cooler days.

With a total of 6 peaks and the highest standing impressively at 833 metres (2,732 ft) above sea level, Penang Hill offers the best look-outs in Penang. Enjoy a spectacular 180° view of George Town from the SkyWalk and SkyDeck as you bask amidst the breezy atmosphere.

As dusk sets in, watch George Town light up, providing a magical ambience against the evening sky. At Penang Hill, it is always an unforgettable, refreshing and enriching experience. And if you wish to linger around the hill till late, the last funicular down is at 11pm.

FOLLOW

Apart from the fantastic views, immerse yourself in the lush greenery as you take a leisurely pace along the trails. As flora and fauna thrive in abundance all over the hill, discover some of the most remarkable and unique plants, such as Witch Hazel *(Maingaya malayana)*, White-Collared Pitcher Plant *(Nepenthes albomarginata)*, and Penang Slipper Orchid *(Paphiopedilum barbatum)*.

Explore the undulating greens as nature greets you along the trails. From neatly paved paths to adventurous bypaths, there's so much more to discover at Penang Hill!

Penang Slipper Orchid *(Paphiopedilum barbatum)*

White-Collared Pitcher Plant *(Nepenthes albomarginata)*

Witch Hazel *(Maingaya malayana)*

Edgecliff Gallery@Penang Hill

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and rejuvenate in the cool temperature. The serenity at the peak will melt away your stress, keeping you calm and relaxed as you breathe in the pristine oxygen-rich air.

Marvel at the heritage ambience of picturesque antiquated pre-war colonial-style bungalows and buildings nestled among embracing trees. Feel the surreal charms and sensation of the European countryside in the lush rainforest like no other.

On your lucky day, spot some of the fascinating animals, such as Dusky Leaf Monkey *(Trachypithecus obscurus)*, Black Giant Squirrel *(Ratufa bicolor)* and Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *(Dicrurus paradiseus)* in the tropical rainforest of Penang Hill. They can be spotted occasionally during mid-mornings and late afternoons.

The Black Giant Squirrel *(Ratufa bicolor)* is one of the largest squirrels in the world.

FEEL

Spot the cute Dusky Leaf Monkey *(Trachypithecus obscurus)* with its trademark "spectacles".

Welcome to Penang Hill - a Designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
Malaysia's Hill Resort of Choice
The Perfect Fusion of Nature, History and Heritage

Come indulge in the unspoilt wonders of Mother Nature amidst one of the world's oldest rainforests in the region! Trekking along different foot trails offers glimpses of heritage structures on the hill built during the British colonial era that are guaranteed to transport one back in time. Other attractions include an outdoor garden, eco-tourism discovery centre, al fresco restaurant à la English, street food eatery and others.

I'm Tupai, Penang Hill's mascot. Are you ready to explore the hill with me?

1 FIRST-GENERATION FUNICULAR COACH
5 Minutes

Admire the distinctive beauty of the wooden replica of the funicular coach which operated from 1923 to 1977!

2 PENANG HILL FOOD ALLEY (TEMPORARY)
5 Minutes

From local favourites and refreshing drinks to delightful desserts, there is something for everyone at this vibrant food and beverage eatery. Take a break from exploring Penang Hill and enjoy a casual meal here.

3 EL WALK
1 Minute

Enjoy scenic view of the lush valley while strolling across this shaded, elevated walkway from the Penang Hill Station leading to the Penang Hill Food Alley.

4 SKYWALK
2 Minutes

This 360° observation deck offers breathtaking views of George Town, the mainland and both the iconic bridges of the Pearl of the Orient.

5 DAVID BROWN'S RESTAURANT
3 Minutes

This highest restaurant in Penang treats guests to a memorable dining experience with tantalising dishes amid spectacular views.

6 EDGECLIFF GALLERY @PENANG HILL
5 Minutes
Entrance Fee Applies

A beautifully restored Art Deco-style heritage bungalow repurposed as a gallery, giving visitors a glimpse into historical exhibits surrounded by lush greenery.

7a SKYDECK (EAST)
2 Minutes

7b SKYDECK (WEST)
15 Minutes

Beautifully landscaped vantage points allowing one to bask in stunning sceneries.

8 PENANG HILL FRAME
3 Minutes

Capture beautiful moments with your loved ones at the Penang Hill Frame showcasing the beauty of Penang Hill, a designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, at the lower level of SkyDeck (East).

9 HENNA ART & SPA
3 Minutes

It is hard to resist adorning one's hands with intricate Mehndi designs by Penang Hill's henna artist.

10 TOY MUSEUM
6 Minutes
Entrance Fee Applies

Perfect for children and the young at heart, this attraction features life-sized displays of a wide variety of toys, with plenty of fun photo opportunities.

11 PENANG HILL KACANG PUTIH
5 Minutes

A pushcart serving an assortment of crunchy Indian snacks, such as murukku and pani puri, seasoned with a family-secret blend of spices passed down through three generations.

12 NATUREWALKS@ PENANG HILL
5 Minutes

Suitable for hikers and nature enthusiasts who wish to explore the natural beauty, history, and heritage of Penang Hill with eco-heritage guides.

13 BELLEVUE THE PENANG HILL HOTEL
8 Minutes

This historical property is revered for some of the best panoramic views of George Town. It is also famed for its palm and ginger garden, which houses plants from all eight families of the order Zingiberales.

14 THE HABITAT PENANG HILL
10 Minutes
Entrance Fee Applies

Nestled on the edge of a virgin forest, this eco-tourism discovery centre offers unique rainforest experience, especially to nature lovers.

15 SRI ARULOLI THIRUMURUGAN TEMPLE
12 Minutes

Known as the Penang Hill Hindu Temple, it is among the oldest Hindu temples in Penang built in the 1800s and dedicated to the Hindu deity, Lord Murugan.

16 32-POUNDER CANNON
12 Minutes

Weighing 2,500kg, the majestic cannon was capable of firing a 32-pound cannonball at a velocity of 1,600 ft per second!

17 PENANG HILL MOSQUE
15 Minutes

Offering a serene place for prayer, Masjid Bukit Bendera stands out with its elegant minarets and domes, adding a distinctive touch of Islamic architecture to otherwise mostly colonial buildings of Penang Hill.

18 GATE HOUSE BEL RETIRO
15 Minutes

This historical structure built for the governor of Penang features a classic façade and once welcomed royalties and prominent figures.

19 VICTORIAN POST BOX
20 Minutes

One of the oldest post boxes in Penang, its embossed VR insignia indicates its installation during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901).

20 HILLSIDE RETREAT
30 Minutes

This heritage bungalow makes for a cosy stay in the tranquillity of nature, providing a peaceful retreat for guests seeking to unwind and immerse themselves in the charm of Penang Hill.

21 NEPENTHES GARDEN
30 Minutes
Entrance Fee Applies

An outdoor garden featuring assorted pitcher plants native to Malaysia and neighbouring Indonesia, highlighting the incredible diversity of these carnivorous plants.

LEGEND:

- Information Centre
- Bypath A - Bamboo Walk (1.5 km, estimated 45 mins)
- Bypath B - Heliconia Walk (2.0 km, estimated 60 mins)
- Bypath C - Palm Walk (2.5 km, estimated 75 mins)
- Bypath D - Fern Walk (3.1 km, estimated 100 mins)
- Hiking Trail (Bypaths E - J)
- Heritage Trail
- EL Walk
- Walking Path
- Penang Hill Angsana Stage
- Roundabout
- Open Area/Dataran
- Dusky Leaf Monkey
- Black Giant Squirrel
- Sunrise Spot
- Sunset Spot
- Buggy Service Counter
- Estimated Time from Penang Hill Station
- Automated External Defibrillator
- Clinic (Temporary)
- Nursery (Pelawan)
- Police Station
- Toilet
- Campsite
- Substation
- Hotel
- Restaurant
- Rest Area
- Playground

DISCLAIMER:

Penang Hill is a natural environment with freely roaming wildlife. Visitors are advised to comply with all safety guidelines, warning signs and advisories at all times. By visiting Penang Hill, you acknowledge and accept the risks associated with your visit, including those related to wildlife and animal encounters, weather conditions and uneven terrain.