

Penang & Perak – great golf amidst old world charm



■ Penang Golf Club.

SITUATED on the northwest coast of Peninsular Malaysia, Penang and Perak are ready to welcome visitors to their unique part of the world.

Sitting along the Strait of Malacca, Penang is made up of two parts, Penang Island, where the capital city, George Town and international airport is located, and Seberang Perai, on the Malay Peninsula, the two halves physically connected by the Penang Bridge. Penang is a state known as a multicultural hotpot of cultures influenced from East and West.

Sharing a border with Penang is Peninsular Malaysia's second largest state, Perak. Perak is renowned for its stunning limestone hills and ancient caves, as well as its growing gastronomy scene and old-town charm of its capital city, Ipoh.

A tourism and cultural hotspot, Penang and Perak also offer quality and memorable golf options, on courses ready to welcome and challenge golfers of all levels.

Penang

Penang Golf Club

Boasting rolling fairways and manicured greens, the course at Penang Golf Club features Bermuda grass fairways and tee boxes, and Tif Dwarf greens.

Golfers can enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of Penang, including its iconic bridges, the course providing a nature-immersed atmosphere of tropical flora, with the variety of native trees adding to the local touch.

Measuring 5,848 metres, the par-72 Penang Golf Club layout has a number of strategically placed bunkers

and water hazards, with the course demanding careful club selection.

In addition to the golf course, there's a 32-bay, two-tier driving range and a practice putting green, with lessons available from qualified professionals for those eager to improve or looking to take up the game.

Widely recognised for its excellent playing condition, Penang Golf Club has played host to professional tournaments and was the venue for the 1992 Malaysian Open, won by former world number one Vijay Singh.

Bukit Jawi Golf Resort

A superb year-round golfing paradise, set amidst a picturesque setting, the Bukit Jawi Golf Resort is situated in Sungai Bakap, a mere 30 minutes from Penang Island.

Bukit Jawi is a 36-hole golf resort, with two courses featuring fairways and tee boxes carpeted with Zoysia Matrella, greens covered with Bermuda Tifdwarf, and spread over 315 acres of palm-fringed fairways, contoured lakes on undulating terrain. Both the Hill and Lake courses boast all the elements that make for an enjoyable and challenging golfing experience.

Playing to 6,385 metres in length, the Hill course is a 18-hole par 72 championship layout and a true test of skill for even the most seasoned golfer, characterised by long and undulating fairways and strategically placed hazards ready to challenge every aspect of the golfer's game.

Slightly shorter at 6,163 metres, the Lake course is also 18-holes with a par of 72. With numerous water hazards and bunkers protecting the greens, the Lake course puts a premium on accuracy and short game skill. The charming setting of the Lake Course guarantees a truly memorable round, highlighted by the signature hole, the island green par-three 15th.

The Resort Escapade at Bukit Jawi is tastefully decorated with full amenities, rooms that feature open verandas overlooking the golf course, with the practice putting green right outside the door allowing golfers to sharpen their short game at anytime.

For the ultimate golf escapade in Penang, check out the Bukit Jawi Golf Resort Play & Stay package.

Perak - Ipoh

Royal Perak Golf Club

In the heart of Ipoh, Royal Perak Golf Club (RPGC) was founded in 1879 and has a rich history as one of the oldest golf clubs in Malaysia. The par 72, 18-hole course, measuring 6376 metres, has a slope rating of 136 from the back tees and accommodates golfers of all skill levels, from beginners to elite professionals.

The 'Tiger Lane' course both starts and finishes with a par five, while a variety of challenges await in between, on a what is a scenic course set on undulating terrain with fairways flanked by mature trees.

The clubhouse of Royal Perak Golf Club is a colonial-style building, over 100 years old, with panoramic views of the course, while the RPGC Garden Hotel offers luxury accommodation in the heart of nature, where guests can enjoy a peaceful stay surrounded by lush greenery and fresh air. Stay and play packages are available.

Complementing the course, hotel and clubhouse is an array of facilities including a practice range and putting green, with lessons from qualified professionals available, a swimming pool, six lane fully air conditioned bowling alley, eight all weather tennis courts, billiard tables, squash courts, a games and card room and gymnasium.

Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort

Designed by Tim Woolbank from Australian Golf Management, the Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort is a 27-hole golf facility, the Raintree and Lakes Nine's coming together to make up

one of the most challenging and picturesque courses in South East Asia.

Accuracy off the tee imperative and inconsistency punished, while if there was a signature hole, it would be the 18th, a hard dogleg left par five, cut the corner at your peril, the hole requiring a water carry, while forcing golfers to avoid what is described as an annoying tree in the fairway, one prone to attract golf balls.

In addition to the Rainforest-Lakes 18 holes, the Wetlands Nine, a unique Par-3 course, is the ideal challenge for those seeking a short and enjoyable game. The Wetlands offers an interesting selection of 135 to 210 metre holes that start and finish by the water on either side of the course.

Besides challenging golf, the Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort also offers many other facilities including a driving range, pro shop, restaurant and activities which range from nature walks to bird watching.

A basic cluster of 30 chalets are available on site at Clearwater Sanctuary for golf groups wishing to stay at the resort.

Explore and Enjoy Penang

The Habitat Penang Hill

A must-visit eco-tourism site on Penang Hill is The Habitat, a first-of-its-kind in Malaysia, The Habitat Penang Hill boasts magical views and superb attractions, from the Curtin Crest Tree Top Walk – the highest public viewing point on the island, to the Langur Way Canopy Walk for an unobstructed view of the virgin jungle canopy. There are also nature trails across themed gardens and optional guided walk experiences led by expert naturalists for fascinating



■ Pomelo gazebo dinner at the Banjaran.
Photo: The Banjaran Hot Springs Retreat, Ipoh Malaysia.

insights into the unique 2,500 species of flora and fauna within the area. Such as dusky leaf monkeys and giant black squirrels.

George Town

The colourful, multicultural capital of the Malaysian island of Penang, George Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its unique architecture of British colonial buildings and Chinese shophouses, as well as a bountiful streetfood and street art scene.

Prepare your appetite as you stroll and munch on the many street food options in Penang. Popular spots include Gurney Drive, Chulia Street, and New Lane, with Char Kway Teow, Asam Laksa and Nasi Kandar being our must-try dishes.

While in George Town explore the history and splendour of the Cheong Fatt Tze 'Blue' Mansion. Conceived and constructed before the end of the 19th century, it sets the standard for Penang's boutique heritage hotel landscape and stands as one of the most iconic boutique hotels in Malaysia.

Batu Ferringhi Beach

While the pristine beaches with gently rolling waves are a huge draw, there's so much more to

do in Batu Ferringhi Beach. Frolic with the delicate residents of a butterfly farm, explore tropical spice gardens and fruit farms. Save some energy for the Night Market, a lively scene of stalls where good-natured bargaining skills come in handy.

Perak

Ipoh Old Town

The beautiful limestone hills flanking the highway indicate the arrival in Ipoh, with its unique and historical colonial-era buildings, to hipster cafes, a destination which is a perfect blend of the classic and modern.

Visit Concubine Lane, teeming with famous eateries and coffee shops, cool cafes, and dessert houses, which has been given a modern makeover by street artists, while Kong Heng Square, with its orange bricks, old wooden windows, ruin walls, to mural paintings by local and international painters, is the perfect place to take beautiful photos.

An artisan market sells an assortment of handcrafted items, such as pillows, jewellery, books, and other accessories, most handmade by local vendors for charity purposes.



■ George Town - Street Art.

Banjaran Hot Springs Wellness Retreat

Built around the beauty of nature, The Banjaran Hot Springs Retreat is Ipoh's first luxury natural hot springs wellness retreat, offering bespoke holistic experiences for ultimate relaxation and restoring overall wellbeing.

The Banjaran's Day Pass programme is the ultimate ticket to revitalise the body and mind, enjoying the use of their unique spa features while taking in breathtaking views. A package open to non-guests only, it includes use of the characteristic features around the retreat in the Geothermal Hot Springs Dipping Pools, Thermal Steam Cave, Ice Bath, Meditation Cave, Crystal

Cave, Garra Rufa Doctor Fish Pool, Fitness Centre and Freeform Swimming Pool.

Alternatively, book accommodation and stay and discover Banjaran with access to all features and unique packages including the Stay Longer Special or the two-night Grand Secret Escape.

Visit Malaysia

- For More Information

For travel and holiday ideas and opportunities, visit the Tourism Malaysia website at

www.malaysia.travel/

For packages or more golfing information, go to www.malysiagolfholiday.com



■ The Habitat Penang Hill.



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