



# PERBADANAN BUKIT BENDERA PULAU PINANG

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## PRESS STATEMENT

# <sup>1<sup>st</sup> Inaugural</sup> Penang Hill Festival

July 21 – 29, 2018

*"See the Nature. Feel the History"*

The first inaugural **Penang Hill Festival 2018** (PHF2018) will be held from July 21 to 29. Its main objective is to celebrate Penang Hill's glorious history, natural habitat, and cultural heritage. 230 years ago in 1788, Sir Francis Light commissioned a horse path up the hill and the first building, the Bel Retiro, was built in 1789. It became a hill retreat for British officers to escape the heat and humidity of the tropical lowlands.

Sited within a 130-million-year-old rainforest, Penang Hill is home to many exotic flora and fauna. The historical, natural, and cultural aspects of the hill are to be celebrated and programmes held for the festival are so that visitors can '**See the Nature. Feel the History**'. Elaborate programmes lined up for the festival bridged the last 2 weekends in July and they will be angled to its central theme, each celebrating a different aspect of Penang Hill.

The events planned varies widely and everyone can find something to suit their taste. Those interested in getting close to nature will find many guided tours on different historical trails aimed at introducing various pathways around Penang Hill to the public, such as guided walks along **Moniot Trail** and **Viaduct Trail**. Others like the **Night Exploration** and the **Herpetology Walk and Talk** are conducted to educate people on animals and their natural habitat.

History buffs will appreciate talks conducted during the festival, such as **Heritage and History of Penang Hill Talk** as retired award-winning architect and botanic researcher, Datuk Seri Lim Chong Keat, Marcus Langdon, Dato' Ir. Dr. Lee Yow Ching and Dato' Ong Eng Khuan delivers an interesting talk on Penang Hill's past. Those who studied at Uplands School and fans of Indian Summers will gather and share their interesting stories during **Walk Down Memory Lane ~ The Crag / Old Uplands School**. Dr Saw Leng Guan, curator for Penang Botanic Gardens will be talking during the **Rainforest Discovery Talk and Walk** to discover Penang Hill's rich diversity important to Penang Hill. Professor Dr Siti Azizah Mohd Nor and academics from USM will discuss Penang Hill's efforts in the **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Talk** while those interested in astronomy are invited to gather at Bellevue Hotel to observe a lunar eclipse and Mars opposition happening together on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July.

Exhibitions held throughout the festival showcase Penang Hill's past. **Penang Hill Photo Exhibition** is an opportunity for visitors to appreciate the hill in its earlier years. The public is encouraged to submit old photographs of Penang Hill from their personal collection to a Selection Panel for this exhibition. Selected photos will be

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included and showcased in the exhibition. The submission deadline is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. A **Nature Photography Workshop and Exhibition** sponsored by Canon Malaysia and David Brown Restaurant is held in conjunction with the festival. Photography enthusiasts wishing to learn the finer points of nature photography will have much to pick up from the professional photographer conducting the session.

Finally, music performances are held (28<sup>th</sup> July) with a special day dubbed **Music on the Hill "East Meets West"** dedicated to celebrating the hill's cultural heritage. The highlights of the day are a **Local Music and Culture Performance, Traditional Music Instruments Performance** and **Symphony Orchestra** held at the Dataran, Penang Hill.

The programmes described are only a part of **Penang Hill Festival 2018**. Please refer to our website [www.penanghill.gov.my/phf2018](http://www.penanghill.gov.my/phf2018) for latest update. Do mark out the dates on your calendar and watch out for more details that will be released soon. For any enquiries, kindly email us at [phf2018@penanghill.gov.my](mailto:phf2018@penanghill.gov.my).

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List of Events Scheduled in Chronological Order:

21 July 2018 (Saturday)

- ❖ Rainforest Discovery Talk & Walk @ The Habitat
- ❖ "Wild Roads" by Langur Project Penang
- ❖ Penang School Marching Band Championship
- ❖ Night Exploration with Steven Wong

22 July 2018 (Sunday)

- ❖ Nature Walk to Moniot Heritage Trail
- ❖ Discover the Secret of Monkey Cup Talk @ Monkey Cup Garden
- ❖ Young Explorer and Family Walk by Nature Classroom – 1<sup>st</sup> session

23-27 July 2018 (Monday to Friday)

- ❖ Free Special Heritage Guided Tour
- ❖ Penang Hill Rainforest Exploration
- ❖ Mars Opposition and Penang Hill as Portal to the Universe (Friday)

28 July 2018 (Saturday)

- ❖ The Exploration of Viaduct Trail Walk
- ❖ Heritage and History of Penang Hill Talk @ Bellevue Hotel
- ❖ Local Music & Culture Performance
- ❖ Penang Hill Effort in UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Talk @ The Habitat
- ❖ Music on the Hill "East Meets West"
  - Traditional Music Instruments Performance
  - Symphony Orchestra by Musica Sinfonietta
- ❖ Herpetology Walk & Talk @ The Habitat

29 July 2018 (Sunday)

- ❖ Sun Salutations at Curtis Crest @ The Habitat
- ❖ Walk Down Memory Lane ~ The Crag/Old Uplands School
- ❖ Young Explorer and Family Walk by Nature Classroom – 2<sup>nd</sup> session

21, 22, 28, and 29 July 2018

- ❖ English Afternoon Tea & Demonstration @ David Brown

The following activities are available over the entire festival period

- ❖ Penang Hill Photo Exhibition
- ❖ UNESCO Biosphere Exhibition
- ❖ MyPenangHill Exhibition

### **About Penang Hill**

Penang Hill is sited within a 130 million-year-old tropical rainforest rich in exotic flora and fauna. It is also a natural habitat for many rare animals synonymous with the Hill like the Dusky Leaf Monkey, Black Giant Squirrel and Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo. It was first established as a hill retreat for British officers from the heat and humidity of the tropical lowlands during the colonial days in 1788.

The first buildings on the Hill were set up in the late 1700s and early 1800s; this includes the Bel Retiro (which served as the hill residence for the Governor), the Convalescent, the Fernhill, and other bungalows that remain standing today.

With various vantage points on the summit, Penang Hill also offers visitors exquisite views of Georgetown at any time of the day, be it the magnificent view during sunrise or the magical ambience when dusk sets and the city lights up.

Work on a funicular track and railway commenced in 1901 but the first train to ply the 1,996m track only commenced operation in 1924. The current 4<sup>th</sup> generation funicular train now covers the distance in approximately 5 minutes.

### **About Penang Hill Corporation**

Penang Hill Corporation was established in 2009 through an enactment passed by the Penang State Legislative Assembly. The main focus is to manage the funicular train system, develop and maintain Penang Hill as a major ecotourism site, and become a world class tourism hot spot in Malaysia and the region.

### **Media Contact**

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