

Our Reference : PBBPP.UKK.100-2/1/1(91)
Date : 18 June 2023**PRESS RELEASE****PENANG HILL RAILWAY: A CENTENARY CELEBRATION (1923 – 2023)
EXHIBITION**

Penang Hill Corporation (PHC) is honoured to present the **Penang Hill Railway: A Centenary Celebration (1923-2023) Exhibition**, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the iconic Penang Hill Railway. This exhibition will showcase the history of the railway, captivating visitors with its remarkable journey over the past century.

The exhibition will be held at two locations at Penang Island and Penang Mainland, which are **Sunway Carnival Mall (UG Floor Entrance) from 15 – 18 June 2023** and the second exhibition at **Gurney Plaza (Extension Wing, Ground Floor) from 22 – 25 June 2023**.

During this exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to learn and have a glimpse of the remarkable stories, archival photographs and records that narrate the development and evolution of the Penang Hill funicular system. Since its opening on 21 October 1923 to its current status as a century-old landmark, the Penang Hill Railway has played a significant role in the socio-economic transformation of Penang Hill and its surrounding areas.

Both exhibitions will feature informative panels and a display of three generations of funiculars, showcasing the evolution of this engineering wonder. This captivating showcase will allow visitors to delve into the history and engineering wonder of one of the steepest tunnels in the world built over a century ago; the **Penang Hill Railway**.

From the first experimental train to the construction phases of the railway, the exhibition will take us back in time through the time tunnel and walk us down the

memory lane of the past 100 years, fostering a better appreciation for the challenges, hardships, sweat, and blood that went into building the iconic railway.

Comprising 20 panels, the exhibition will offer an insightful narrative that looks into multiple facets of the Penang Hill Railway. It will shed light on the conception of the funicular construction, highlighting Penang Hill's historical significance as a favoured retreat for the British seeking respite from the tropical climate and its role as an esteemed observatory.

Furthermore, the exhibition will showcase captivating stories and highlight the significant contributions of historical personalities who played important roles in the development of the funicular railway since its inception. It also tells how this remarkable achievement was made possible through the efforts of engineer A.R. Johnson, who was appointed by the Federated Malay States Railways to revive the railway project in 1909 after the initial attempt by the Penang Hills Railway Co. Ltd had failed.

The exhibition also chronicles the official opening of the railway and showcases the evolution of the funicular system through the changes from second to third generation, marking a significant milestone in the history of Penang Hill that has transported over 47 million visitors.

Transformed from a mere mode of transportation, this remarkable engineering wonder has made Penang Hill into a popular tourist destination, offering visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the breathtaking views and captivating heritage of Penang Hill.

PHC extends a warm invitation to everyone to visit the Penang Hill Railway: A Centenary Celebration (1923 - 2023) Exhibition at both Sunway Carnival Mall and Gurney Plaza. This specially curated event serves as a platform for people from all walks of life to come together and discover the rich heritage of Penang Hill and its iconic funicular railway.

For those who are eager to discover the history and beauty of this iconic landmark, make sure to visit **Penang Hill Gallery@Edgecliff**, a must-stop to know Penang Hill. The gallery features four main sections, each associated with a specific theme:

Funicular, Heritage, Cultural and Biodiversity. It provides insights, encompassing the pioneering Penang Hill Railway, which stands as the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, along with the natural biodiversity and cherished heritage assets.

Since 15 September 2021, Penang Hill and its surrounding areas have been officially designated as the **Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**. This prestigious recognition adds yet another accolade to the hill. It signifies the importance of preserving and conserving its unique biodiversity, natural, and historical heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Additionally, "**The Great Hill: A Short History of Penang Hill**" book authored by Enzo Sim, is a highly recommended and easy-to-read resource for those interested in exploring the rich heritage of Penang Hill. This captivating book is available for purchase at **Penang Hill Merchandise Store** and **Penang Institute**.

PHC would also like to express heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors and partners who have made this exhibition possible. The support and dedication given by all involved have enabled visitors to appreciate the heritage and significance of Malaysia's one and only iconic hill railway.

Follow Penang Hill on social media channels to stay updated on the latest news and updates, or visit www.penanghill.gov.my.

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About Penang Hill Corporation

Penang Hill Corporation was established in 2009 through an enactment passed by the Penang State Legislative Assembly. Its main focus is to manage the funicular system, maintain and develop Penang Hill as a major ecotourism destination in its vision is to make Penang Hill the hill resort of choice in Malaysia and the region.

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