

Our Reference : PBBPP.UKK.100-2/1/2(46)
Date : 29 April 2025**PRESS RELEASE****PENANG HILL FESTIVAL 2025 (PHF2025): A CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE, NATURE, AND COMMUNITY**

Get ready as **Penang Hill Festival (PHF)** returns with more excitement for its **sixth (6th) edition from 18 to 20 July 2025!** Set amidst the cool, green heights of Penang Hill, this much-anticipated celebration brings together a dynamic blend of nature, heritage, and culture in a three-day extravaganza. Organised by Penang Hill Corporation (PHC), PHF2025 invites visitors to immerse themselves in a rich tapestry of musical performances, eye-opening talks, captivating exhibitions, engaging workshops, and guided discovery walks, each crafted to showcase the hill's unique charm.

This festival's highlight event, "**Music on the Hill – East Meets West**", takes centre stage on **Sunday, 20 July 2025**, and for the first time, will be held at the notable **Bellevue Hotel**. Against the stunning backdrop of Penang Hill, audiences can expect a mesmerising evening where the blend of musical fusion comes together in harmony, offering a soulful evening of rhythm and melody.

More than just a festival, PHF2025 opens the door to Penang Hill's extraordinary wonders, a place that is home to a century-old funicular railway, vibrant cultural landscapes, and lush greenery rich in biodiversity, recognised as the **Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve (PHBR)** in 2021.

With **8 interactive workshops, 32 indoor and outdoor activities, 7 exhibitions, 21 expert speakers and guides, 8 performances by 7 Penang-based music-performing groups and artists, and 17 nature and heritage discovery walks**, there's something for everyone.

Designed to engage and educate, PHF2025 aims to **inspire a deeper appreciation of the hill's natural, historical, and cultural significance**, while offering new learnings and fresh topics to enrich the experience for both visitors and the community.

Each year, more and more people participate, joining in the fun of learning at PHF, and PHF2025 is expected to be no different. With an anticipated turnout of over 25,000 visitors during the three-day celebration, PHF2025 continues to generate interest from both local and international audiences.

"PHF has evolved into a highly anticipated event that brings people together to celebrate the hill's natural beauty, rich history, and cultural heritage, as well as to preserve and conserve the hill. PHC remains committed to enhancing the festival experience by introducing engaging activities and collaborations that foster a deeper appreciation for Penang Hill," said Dato' Cheok Lay Leng, General Manager of PHC.

One of the key highlights of PHF2025 is the first public screening of **“Rising Above: Penang Hill’s Revival”**, a documentary on the hill’s recovery following the 2017 landslides. Co-produced by **PHC and Image Farm Productions**, this special screening takes place on **20 July at Bellevue Hotel** and is free for all attendees.

For those eager to delve deeper into conservation and sustainability, PHF2025 features insightful talks led by leading experts. **“Guardians of Green: Conserving the Flora and Fungi of Penang Hill”** on 18 July at **Penang Hill Gallery@Edgecliff** brings together **Dr. Rosnida binti Tajuddin (USM)**, **Rexy Prakash Chacko (Independent Orchid Researcher)**, and **Joseph Teoh Boon Aun (Nature Guide)** to explore the vital role of plant and fungi conservation in preserving Penang Hill’s unique ecosystem.

On 19 July at **David Brown’s Restaurant & Tea Terrace**, **“Man and the Biosphere Reserve: Who Needs Whom More?”** presents an eye-opening discussion featuring **Siti Nur Ain binti Mohd Isa (Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) Penang)**, **Dr. Abe Woo Sau Pinn (CEMACS, USM)**, and **Joseph Goh (Entopia)**, this session promises to spark thought-provoking conversations about the balance between conservation and human interaction within the **Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve (PHBR)**.

For those with a thirst for adventure, the **Heritage and Nature Discovery Walks** offer captivating journeys through Penang Hill’s breathtaking landscapes. Explore the **Viaduct Trail on 18 July**, the **Moniot Trail on 19 July**, and the **Crag Heritage Trail on 20 July**, each led by expert guides from **NatureWalks@Penang Hill**, who will unveil the hill’s hidden gems along the way.

Adding to the adventure, field experts will lead special exploration sessions, including a **Mushroom Exploration on 19 July**, guided by **Dr. Rosnida binti Tajuddin**, an ardent mycorrhizal fungi researcher from the School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), a **Night Exploration** on the same evening, and the **Junior Rainforest Exploration on 20 July**. These unique experiences promise an up-close look at Penang Hill’s hidden treasures.

Photography enthusiasts won’t want to miss the exclusive workshops hosted by **Canon Marketing Malaysia**. Join the **Bird Photography Workshop on 19 July** and the **Nature & Macro Photography Workshop on 20 July** at **David Brown’s Restaurant & Tea Terrace**, where expert photographers will share their best tips and techniques. Some programmes require prior registration and participation fees. Secure your slot early.

As the festival reaches its grand finale, music lovers can look forward to an unforgettable evening at **“Music on the Hill – East Meets West”** on 20 July at **Bellevue Hotel**. Featuring performances by the **Northern Jazz Unit of Penang Jazz Society**, a dynamic jazz combo led by **Jerome Quah** on piano; **Penang Dhol Blasters**, a high-energy Dhol group delivering traditional and modern Bhangra beats; **Wak Long Music & Art Centre**, a traditional Malay performing arts group in Penang, presenting a mesmerising Mak Yong dance performance; **Shuang 樑**, one of Penang’s most captivating Chinese orchestral ensembles renowned for its modern, innovative, and spirited performances; and **Persona Ritma**, a homegrown

angklung group celebrated for its creative and unique musical presentations, led by the talented **Wan Mohd Kamil**. This special evening blends diverse musical styles to create an unforgettable experience.

PHF2025 also showcases fascinating exhibitions, including **"A Visual Journey of Penang Hill" at Gate House Bel Retiro**, which highlights the ecological significance of the **Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve (PHBR)**, and **"Artistic Expression through Philately" at Penang Hill Station (upper station)**, where **Penang-based philatelist Gary Wan Nyin Keat** presents a creative fusion of stamp artistry and heritage.

The festival is made possible through the support of the **Penang State Government, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC) Pulau Pinang, Tourism Malaysia, Penang Global Tourism (PGT)**, and esteemed partners including **NatureWalks & Nature Green Farm at Penang Hill, The Habitat Penang Hill, David Brown's Restaurant & Tea Terrace, Bellevue Hotel, Little Village, Nepenthes Garden, Canon Marketing Malaysia, the Photographic Society of Penang, and the Hikers Roundtable.**

As Penang Hill's signature event, PHF2025 is set to deliver a truly immersive experience for nature lovers, history enthusiasts, and cultural explorers alike. Whether you're attending an insightful talk, embarking on a heritage walk, or soaking in the vibrant festival atmosphere, the event offers something for all. PHC encourages visitors to embrace the festival's eco-conscious spirit by choosing sustainable transportation and arriving early for scheduled activities.

Gather your family and friends and join us from **18 to 20 July 2025** to **'See the Nature, Feel the History'**. Passionate volunteers are welcomed to be part of this signature event and contribute to an unforgettable experience. Volunteer registration opens in **May 2025**. Please stay updated through Penang Hill's social media and website. For event details, registration, and fees, visit www.penanghill.gov.my/phf2025

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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, undertake the development of socio-economy and infrastructure in Penang Hill and promote the Hill as a major ecotourism destination, in its vision to make Penang Hill the Hill Resort of Choice in Malaysia and the region.

Corporate Communications Unit

Lim Woan May
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880 ext. 304
wmlim@penanghill.gov.my

Ahmad Aizat Bin Khalid
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880 ext. 209
aizat@penanghill.gov.my

Vivien Loo
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880 ext. 303
vivienloo@penanghill.gov.my

Lee Shew Yean
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880 ext. 344
sylee@penanghill.gov.my

Tan Lee Ling
Penang Hill Corporation
Tel: 04-828 8880 ext. 355
ltan@penanghill.gov.my

PENANG HILL FESTIVAL 2025 (PHF2025) HIGHLIGHTS

Screening Session

Rising Above: Penang Hill's Revival – Documentary Screening

Date: 20 July 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Venue: Bellevue Hotel

Fee: Free

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/4i5aEAY>

Join us for an inspiring screening of “**Rising Above: Penang Hill's Revival**” co-produced by **Penang Hill Corporation (PHC)** and **Image Farm Productions**.

It showcases the resilience and dedication of those **working tirelessly behind the scenes to restore Penang Hill after the devastating 2017 landslides**. Featuring the immense efforts poured into revitalising the hill, this documentary highlights the **commitment to ensuring its beauty and heritage are preserved for generations to come**.

As a delightful bonus, immerse yourself in a taste of tradition with Penang Hill's beloved *kacang putih*. Made from a cherished recipe passed down through generations, this nostalgic treat adds a flavourful touch to the experience. Let the crunch of heritage accompany a screening that celebrates resilience, restoration, and the enduring spirit of Penang Hill.

Talks

Guardians of Green: Conserving the Flora and Fungi of Penang Hill

Date: 18 July 2025 (Friday)

Time: 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Venue: Biodiversity Gallery, Penang Hill Gallery@Edgecliff

Fee: Free

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/3EO1L0h>

Prepare to be amazed as we take you into the heart of Penang Hill's rich biodiversity! Join our expert panel of speakers as they share their in-depth knowledge of the amazing natural wonders that call Penang Hill home.

Step into the intriguing and often-overlooked realm of **fungi**, explore the extraordinary beauty and diversity of Penang Hill's **orchids**, and delve into the rich world of **herbs** on the Hill. Learn about conservation efforts to safeguard these natural treasures of the Hill and how you too can play a part.

Register yourself for the talk session – **“Guardians of Green: Conserving the Flora and Fungi of Penang Hill”** and join us to protect the treasured wonders of Penang Hill for generations to come.

Speakers:-

1. Dr. Rosnida binti Tajuddin – Senior Lecturer of School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia
2. Remy Prakash Chacko – Independent Orchid Researcher
3. Joseph Teoh Boon Aun – Nature Guide

Moderator: Dr. Yang Kok Lee – Senior Project Officer of Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve Office, Penang Hill Corporation

Man and the Biosphere Reserve: Who Needs Whom More?

Date: 19 July 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Level 1, David Brown's Restaurant & Tea Terrace

Fee: Free

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/41dXYRq>

Are we the guardians of nature, or does nature sustain us? Dive into this thought-provoking discussion and uncover the intricate relationship between **humans and the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve (PHBR)**.

This engaging talk session will explore the vital ecosystem services provided by PHBR and the profound responsibility we hold to protect and preserve these invaluable resources. From clean air and water to biodiversity and cultural heritage, discover how the biosphere reserve supports life — and why its survival depends on us.

Whether you're an environmental advocate, a curious learner, or simply someone who cares about our planet, this talk is for you!

Speakers:-

1. Siti Nur Ain binti Mohd Isa – Deputy Director of Penang State Wildlife and National Parks Department (DWNP/PERHILITAN)
2. Dr. Abe Woo Sau Pinn – Deputy Director of Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Universiti Sains Malaysia
3. Joseph Goh – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Entopia

Moderator: Dr. Yang Kok Lee – Senior Project Officer of Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve Office, Penang Hill Corporation

Heritage and Nature Discovery Walks

Talk & Walk: Viaduct Trail

Date: 18 July 2025 (Friday)

Time: 8.30am - 11.30am

Meeting Point: In Front of Penang Hill Angsana Stage (Near Dataran Bukit Bendera)

Fees: RM10.00 (Adults), RM5.00 (Children)

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/4gRSjXb>

*The fees are not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

Embark on an exciting adventure in nature with us on the **“Talk & Walk: Viaduct Trail”**! Join the expert guides from **NatureWalks@Penang Hill** as they lead you on a thrilling 7.5-km trek along the Viaduct Trail, where you'll be surrounded by a stunning array of flora and mesmerising views.

But that's not all! Take an invigorating break at **Penang Hill's eco-friendly Nature Green Farm**, where you'll get to explore innovative farming techniques, including hydroponics, aquaponics, and organic wicking-bed agriculture.

Lace up your walking shoes and reconnect with nature on this enriching journey — an experience that will leave you inspired and in awe of the natural world!

Talk & Walk: Moniot Trail

Date: 19 July 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 8.30am - 11.30am

Meeting Point: In Front of Penang Hill Angsana Stage (Near Dataran Bukit Bendera)

Fees: RM10.00 (Adults), RM5.00 (Children)

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/4k7iax8>

*The fees are not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

Step back in time along the **Moniot Trail, Penang Hill's oldest track**, with a rich history dating back to its creation by the British in 1825. Once a route for horse-drawn carriages, this historic trail offers far more than just a glimpse into the past — it invites you to experience the timeless beauty of nature.

Expect to encounter an amazing array of indigenous flora and fauna as you stroll through this 7-km trail led by the experienced guides from **NatureWalks@Penang Hill**. From a narrow pathway to a serene natural stream, the landscape gradually reveals its charm. Be prepared for a peaceful retreat that promises to be etched in your memory!

Talk & Walk: Crag Heritage Trail

Date: 20 July 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 8.30am - 11.30am

Meeting Point: In Front of Penang Hill Angsana Stage (Near Dataran Bukit Bendera)

Fees: RM10.00 (Adults), RM5.00 (Children)

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/431tRPO>

*The fees are not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

Travel back in time and immerse yourself in the vibrant history of Penang Hill with a visit to **The Crag**, a storied landmark that has gracefully endured the passage of time.

Constructed in the mid-19th century, this remarkable structure has played many roles — from a sanitarium to a hotel, and later a boarding school. It has even graced the silver screen, serving as the filming location for “**Indochine**” in 1992 and the backdrop for the British TV series “**Indian Summers**” in 2014.

Take a 3-km nostalgic stroll along the **Crag Heritage Trail**, where every corner whispers tales of the past. For Uplands alumni, reconnect with your roots as you return to your alma mater, reliving treasured memories and rediscovering the charm of yesteryears.

Mushroom Exploration

Date: 19 July 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Meeting Point: In Front of Penang Hill Angsana Stage (Near Dataran Bukit Bendera)

Fees: RM10.00 (Adults), RM5.00 (Children)

Pre-Registration Required: <http://bit.ly/3DaBSar>

*The fees are not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

Get ready to see mushrooms in a whole new light! Conducted by **Dr. Rosnida Binti Tajuddin, an ardent mycorrhizal fungi researcher from the School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)**, you will be introduced to the hidden world of mushrooms and uncover the astounding diversity thriving on Penang Hill.

Discover how these fascinating mushrooms play a vital role in forest ecosystems and even impact our daily lives. From mind-blowing facts to debunking myths about edible mushrooms, this session promises to be both eye-opening and entertaining!

Night Exploration

Date: 19 July 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 7.30pm - 10.00pm

Meeting Point: In Front of Penang Hill Angsana Stage (Near Dataran Bukit Bendera)

Fees: RM40.00 (Adults), RM20.00 (Children)

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/41bVByw>

*The fees are not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

Venture into the enchanting realm of the rainforest after dark, where the jungle comes alive with secrets waiting to be discovered! Under the guidance of expert naturalists, embark on a thrilling nocturnal adventure at Penang Hill and uncover the hidden wonders of the night.

From elusive creatures that emerge under the moon's glow to the symphony of sounds that fill the air, this is your chance to witness the magic of the nocturnal jungle like never before. This remarkable experience will ignite your curiosity and leave you captivated by nature's mysteries!

Junior Rainforest Exploration

Date: 20 July 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 9.00am - 12.00pm

Meeting Point: In Front of Penang Hill Angsana Stage (Near Dataran Bukit Bendera)

Fee: RM30.00 per child (Free for parents accompanying children)

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/4gOF89j>

*The fee is not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

Spark your little ones' curiosity and nurture their passion for the natural world! Kids **aged five to 15** are invited to join us for an unforgettable excursion!

Watch their faces light up with wonder as they discover a diverse range of plants and trees, all while the knowledgeable and amiable guides from **Nature Classroom** provide interesting explanations.

To make the experience even more enriching, each child will receive a copy of the **"Nature Trail Companion 2"** book to take home, sponsored by **Penang Hill Corporation (PHC)**.

The exploration will wrap up with hands-on experience, where the children will participate in **seeding and tree planting activities**. Don't miss this highlight of the **Penang Hill Festival** — an experience your little ones will treasure!

Exhibitions

A Visual Journey of Penang Hill

Dates: 18 - 20 July 2025 (Friday - Sunday)

Time: 9.00am - 6.00pm

Venue: Gate House Bel Retiro

Fee: Free

A **must-visit exhibition** that takes you on an in-depth exploration of Penang Hill – also known as the Great Hill.

Gain insight into the **Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve (PHBR)**, which serves as the Penang island's vital green lung, housing a rich tapestry of flora and fauna across diverse habitats.

Learn about the incredible efforts **Penang Hill Corporation (PHC)** has made over the years to preserve, protect, and maintain this marvellous Hill, along with the monumental 100th-anniversary celebration of the Penang Hill funicular railway.

Make sure to jot the dates down for this enlightening exhibition, exclusively at the **Penang Hill Festival 2025 (PHF2025)**. You won't want to miss it!

Artistic Expression through Philately

Dates: 18 - 20 July 2025 (Friday - Sunday)

Time: 9.00am - 6.00pm

Venue: Level 1, Penang Hill Station (Upper Station)

Fee: Free

Enter a world where postage stamps are transformed into awe-inspiring works of art! Penang-based philatelist **Gary Wan Nyin Keat** invites you to experience his extraordinary exhibition, **"Artistic Expression through Philately"**.

With a passion for collecting and an unwavering creative spirit, Gary breathes new life into thousands of used and duplicate postage stamps, meticulously crafting them into marvellous collages. When viewed under UV light, hidden objects within the designs come to life, revealing a compelling layer of artistry.

Join us to explore Gary's remarkable creations, including the Penang Hill Funicular, the majestic Penang Bridge, the historic Snake Temple, and more!

Photography Workshops

Bird Photography Workshop

Date: 19 July 2025 (Saturday)

Time: 8.00am - 12.00pm

Venue: David Brown's Restaurant & Tea Terrace

Fee: RM20.00 per person

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/3FSiMHe>

Are you passionate about capturing the beauty of birds through your lens? Then this workshop is a must-attend! Join **professional photographers from Canon Marketing Malaysia** as they share expert tips and techniques for stunning bird photography.

Whether you're aiming to become a full-time bird photographer or simply want to improve your shots on your next birdwatching adventure, we guarantee you'll walk away with practical insights and useful takeaways.

Seats are limited on a first come, first served basis. Register early to avoid disappointment!

*The fee is not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

*Please bring your own tripod and filters to get the best shot on that day.

*The workshop will be conducted after the photography session.

*A certificate of participation will be given.

Nature and Macro Photography Workshop

Date: 20 July 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 8.00am - 12.00pm

Venue: David Brown's Restaurant & Tea Terrace

Fee: RM20.00 per person

Pre-Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/3QXIs7C>

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to refine your photography skills and capture awe-inspiring images of nature, showcasing the breathtaking diversity of flora and fauna that adorn the picturesque landscapes of Penang Hill.

But that's not all — join **photography experts from Canon Marketing Malaysia** as they take you step by step to capture compelling macro shots of flowers, butterflies, insects, and more. Learn how to bring out incredible details using your macro lens, transforming the tiny wonders of nature into mesmerising works of art.

Register early to secure your spot and avoid disappointment! Your photography journey is about to reach new heights!

*The fee is not inclusive of the funicular ticket.

*Please bring your own tripod and filters to get the best shot on that day.

*The workshop will be conducted after the photography session.

*A certificate of participation will be given.

Music on the Hill - East meets West

Date: 20 July 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Venue: Bellevue Hotel

Fee: Free

Penang Hill Festival's signature event, "**Music on the Hill - East meets West**", returns by popular demand!

Be blown away by performances that blend cultural traditions with modern artistry, featuring the following prominent performing groups:-

1. **Northern Jazz Unit of Penang Jazz Society**, a dynamic jazz combo led by Jerome Quah on piano, featuring Cain James Peterson on drums, Albert Yap on bass, Issac on saxophone, and Elyssa as the vocalist.
2. **Penang Dhol Blasters**, a high-energy Dhol group delivering traditional and modern Bhangra beats, promising a vibrant and memorable musical experience.
3. **Wak Long Music & Art Centre**, a traditional Malay performing arts group in Penang, who is set to present a mesmerising Mak Yong dance performance, a traditional form of dance-drama from northern Malaysia.
4. **Shuang 棧**, one of Penang's most captivating Chinese orchestral ensembles renowned for its modern, innovative, and spirited performances.
5. **Persona Ritma**, a homegrown angklung group celebrated for its creative and unique musical presentations, led by the talented Wan Mohd Kamil.

Don't miss this wondrous evening of music that will leave you spellbound. Mark your calendars now!