





Although Malacca and Penang are relatively crowded during the holiday season, we say go for it! Embrace the elements of locality and traditions that go into the architectural and interior aspects of these two hotels; they tell plenty.

HISTORY

The Majestic Malacca stands out with its own distinct personality, flaunting beautiful Portuguese porcelain tile flooring, bed runners, decorative plates, teakwood fittings, and stained glass windows that have been retained since the property's former life as a Straits Settlement private mansion belonging to a tycoon named Leong Long Man.

1931 • Leong Long Man passes on two years after moving into the mansion

1995 • The mansion is sold to a businessman named Lim Heng Feng who converts the building and establishes it as The Majestic Hotel.

31 July 2000 2006

- Majestic closes its doors and is abandoned. It takes six years for YTL owner, Dato' Mark Yeoh, who recognised the need to restore heritage buildings, to finalise the
- * Restoration works were done by architect Zaidan Tahir over 15 months. *

2008 to day • The Majestic Malacca re-opens. It welcomes guests with original architecture, flooring, fittings, and windows intact

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM The bathroom at The Majestic Malacca's Deluxe Room.

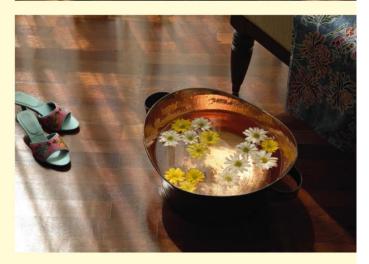
The Mansion Restaurant displays a beautiful fusion of cultures

Enjoy a foot bath at the spa.

OPPOSITE Enjoy the serene atmosphere and the hotel's beautiful facade in the courtyard.











MALACCA

The Majestic Malacca has an exterior that adopts the unique pilasters and friezes of the original mansion, which are paired with green shutter doors and colourful stained-glass windows. It boasts a harmonious balance between a neat and quiet colonial aesthetic and more contemporary Eastern elements.

If you're one to enjoy beautiful architecture and design, book a stay at The Majestic Malacca. Guests can experience the designs of various cultures right from the hotel's entrance to the lobby, to the courtyard, and the restaurants.

At The Majestic Malacca, guests can embrace the simplicity of Dutch architecture, and the warm and cosy interior that reflects the traditional aesthetics of differing cultures ranging from intricate Portuguese designs to colonial furnishings, and the more ornate and vibrantly coloured Baba Nyonya and Peranakan decorations and furnishings.





Look out for the low swing doors, which were commonly used by the Baba Nyonya community in their townhouses.

To complete the holistic experience of life as a local, munch on local snacks, which are readily available in glass jars at the lounge and the reception areas. Guests can also enjoy a wide selection of Nyonya Kuih, cakes, pastries, sandwiches, and freshly baked scones paired with a pot of fragrant Chinese tea in the comfort and privacy of their rooms, or at The Library.

After a tiring day of exploring Malacca, indulge in a spa treatment, or retreat to the intimate setting of the rooms. Here, guests can unwind in a large clawfoot bathtub, or relax comfortably on the chaise lounge overlooking the Melaka River. For sleep, guests can retire to beautiful bedrooms with silk drapery for curtains, warm timber flooring, and luxurious four poster beds in dressed in cool cotton, which warrants a

good nights' sleep.

Indulge in a scrumptious meal at The Lounge or have a drink at The Bar, located at The Mansion. Restless guests can also opt to join the hotel's "Guided Walking Tour" along the river, and visit historical landmarks, religious institutions, and shophouses with interesting architecture for free!

Visitors to Malacca can learn about the architectural styles applied to significant landmarks and buildings. Those interested will also discover more about the dying traditional craft scene from the remaining ateliers. Think of wooden bucket making, Chinese calligraphy, wood carving, and even the making of lotus shoes for the now-extinct tradition of footbinding.

Guests who want to take home a taste of Malacca can attend cooking classes at The Majestic Malacca, where they'll pick up the skills necessary to cook Peranakan cuisine at home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SLH.COM/HOTELS/MAJESTIC-MALACCA-HOTEL. DON'T FORGET TO LOOK OUT FOR AN EXCLUSIVE STORY ABOUT RESTORATION WORKS ON THE MAJESTIC MALACCA ON OUR BLOG!

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM Enjoy local tea with homemade pickles.

The low swing doors of the Baba Nyonya community is featured at the Spa Village.

The hotel's cosy library flaunts vibrant tiles.

Treatment room

OPPOSITE The hotel's entrance exudes a colonial charm.







PENANG

HISTORY

Prior to its rebirth as The Edison George Town, this mansion, originally built in 1906, belonged to Chinese tycoon Yeo Wee Gark. It was designed by internationally renowned architect David Nathaniel, and was converted into a hotel in the 1940s. Twenty years on, architectural changes were made. It wasn't until 2014 that the beautiful colonial hotel was rebranded as The Edison George Town.

renovation and refurbishment works were done by K.H. Tan Architects with the guidance of Tan Yeow Wooi Culture & Heritage Research Studio, which provides restoration consultancy services. The renovators were required to bring in new electrical cabling and plumbing in the upgrading of the building so as to adhere to the latest fire code. It was completed as recent as 16th of July 2016. With an emphasis on amenities and warm and personalised services, ET Hospitality Ventures Sdn Bhd aims to provide guests with unique experiences, hospitality, and comfort

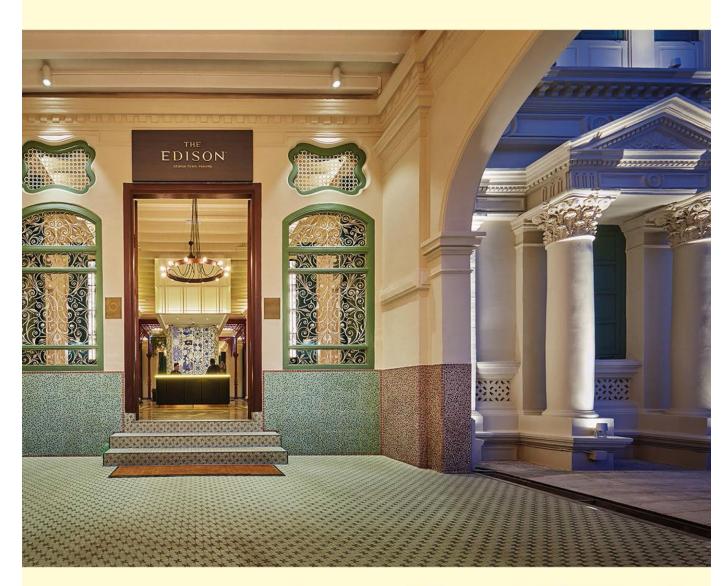


Make a grand entrance at The Edison George Town's spacious and open concept lobby lounge and reception area which closely resembles a gorgeous jewellery box, a hotel fit for royalty. To reflect our Malaysian identity, Blu Water Studio, which was in charge of the interior design, incorporated both modern and true-to-local heritage designs into every inch of the space. Nestled within the architecture supported by colonial-inspired

beams, it is rich with patterns, specifically elaborate floral motifs, colours, and oriental furnishings that come in auspicious yellow and deep jade green.

Apart from the Dutch and Peranakan references, reflective panelled walls bring a luxurious look to the space while white doors stand magnificently to the left, closely resembling the great arches and pillars of its facade. Guests can go for a swim, or





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM The hotel's main entrance is rich with colours and motifs. The old-school charm is reflected through the curry window frame, tiled floorings with glazed trimmings and the archway.

Visitors can get a view of the courtyard, looking out of these white window panes.

OPPOSITE
The beautiful
courtyard highlights
the Peranakan
style balusters with
intricate detailings.







TOP LEFT TO RIGHT Lights play an important role in creating a sophisticated and dramatic look to the hotel's facade during the night.

George Suite.

CENTRE Outdoor seating.

BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT The family room is vibrant with floral motifs as compared to the Deluxe King room on the right.







head towards The Edison's library for a read. Cocktails are available by the pool the shady Cabanas, making it a great socialising spot. In contrast to the casual practice of self-service counters, the mid-century green and black furnishings boast of sophisticated.

The hotel features four different types of bedrooms: King Deluxe, Twin Deluxe, Premium King Deluxe, and King Suites.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SLH.COM/HOTELS/THE-EDISON-GEORGE-TOWN



RIGHT The main entrance of Eko-In.

B O T T O M The large hall at the temple hosts annual ceremonies and a dining room for large parties.



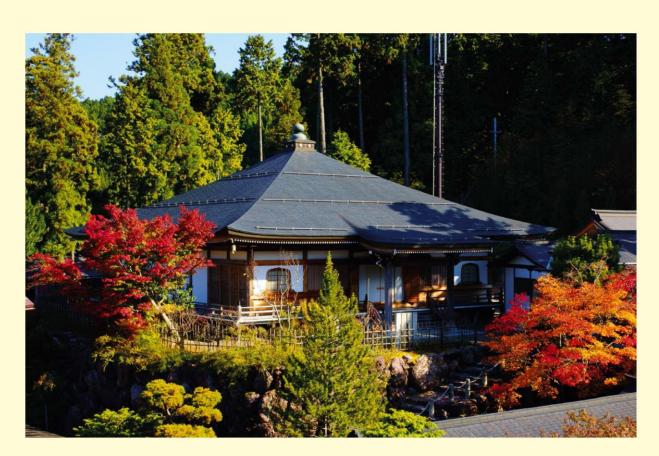
Japan is a country where most hotels provide a bounty of creative activities for guests to participate in, be it making wind chimes or attending pottery workshops. There are an assortment of hotels to choose from, including those with hot springs. Take your vacation to the next level with temple stays.





When you just need to get away from the city, spend some time listening to the sounds of birds chirping and the lapping of water at a serene garden, complete with a Japanese Garden Lantern. Surrounded by nature, the 1,200 year old temple Eko-in promises a spiritual retreat, especially during the Autumn or Spring seasons.

The entrance beckons you into the temple, which was founded by monk Kobo Daishi's disciple, Dosho. Upon arrival, guests can take a hot bath, and stretch out in the 'soaking tub' at the shared bathroom. Filled with natural spring water directly





A B 0 V E Ekoin offers a tranquil and serene atmosphere to its guests.

from the Koyasan mountains, the baths are known to possess healing properties for the skin.

Guests can enjoy traditional healthy vegetarian meals, 'Syojin Ryori' on Tatami mats, overlooking a beautiful Japanese garden. Chairs are available upon request. Large groups of four and above may head towards the temple's large hall, which doubles up as a dining hall when annual ceremonies are not being held within.

Those seeking to pick up some skills can learn Ajikan meditation and Sutra writing for free at the Ajikan Practice Hall, though prior reservations are required. What's unique about Eko-in is that guests can hold memorial services for their ancestors and have mortuary tablets placed within the space after.

Bookworms can immerse themselves in books on esoteric Buddhism. Those in need of the internet can also make use of the PC corner. The more adventurous can also go on an Okunoin Cemetary Night tour – one that takes guests through what is hailed as Japan's largest cemetery.

At night, guests can rest on futon beds behind paper-screened doors, experiencing tranquillity at its best at Eko-in.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.EKOIN.JP/EN

photos EKOIN

♥ France

There is more to France than art, barquettes, and popular tourist sites. When visiting the country, you don't want to miss out on the vineyards. You can hardly call it a vacation when your family members are missing out on activities that panders to their interests, or when you don't have some alone time with your partner.





This luxury hotel definitely makes dream vacations a reality, with several seasonal packages customised for guests with different needs and lifestyles, from the health conscious, to gourmet lovers, to families looking forward to turning an ordinary day extraordinary.

CAUDALIE

Imagine arriving in the fairyland of this luxury hotel's vineyard by horse-drawn carriage. Festive packages include a stay in a large suite for three nights, inclusive of gourmet breakfasts, a lunch at the delicatessen, a dinner at the country-inn restaurant, and an exclusive Christmas Eve dinner at a two Michelin-starred restaurant. Guests can also snack their afternoons away, alongside wine tasting experiences and a surprise gift for all.

In a spacious Large Suite and terrace, The Family Life package offers more than just breakfast for a family of four. Guests can opt to go hiking, cycling in the forest, swimming in the heated indoor and outdoor pools, and visiting nearby grounds:

the Jardin des Abeilles (Bee garden), a small farm, and a kitchen garden brimming with fruits, vegetables, and herbs. With advanced booking, guests can arrange for a sports coach to train their children to swim, and play tennis, as well as various other sports.

Babysitters can be booked 48 hours in advance, leaving guests to spend some time on their own attending a Patisserie workshop (only available during the Christmas season). The service is also great for parents who want to spend some time relaxing alone. Otherwise, the concierge gladly provides colouring books, storybooks, and board games for keeping the little ones occupied. Necessities for newborns are also available; these include a baby monitor, bottle warmer, and a changing mat.

As these packages are seasonal, it's recommended that prospective guests check on their availability. Aside from the beautiful vineyards and lakefilled gardens, guests are also treated to a panoramic cigar bar and a spa offering grape-based therapies. The choice of rooms and suites available include L'il aux Oiseaux Suite on stilts, which provides guests with a view of the Les Sources de Caudalie lake.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SLH.COM/HOTELS/LES-SOURCES-DE-CAUDALIE



TOP TO BOTTOM Sweet! Caudalie has a spa offering grapebased therapy.

The little garden farm encourages interactivity between parents and their children.

End your day with a relaxing soak in the bathtub of the L'lle Aux Oiseaux suite.







LOOKING FOR SWEET, QUIET RETREATS TO READ BY THE FIRESIDE OR A HOTEL WITH A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE BEACH, LAKE, OR MOUNTAIN TOP? CHECK THESE HOTELS OUT:

♥ *United Kingdom*

RIGHT A beautiful view of the lake.

B 0 T T 0 M Adams Brasserie offers a rustic and cosy atmosphere.



Nothing beats an English Christmas, all curled up by the fireside, sipping on hot chocolate or eggnog.



Set in the rural English countryside, the mansion has a unique and intriguing architectural structure complemented by luxurious interiors and rooms with individual personalities. The River Lea flows through the grounds of Luton Hoo to form 50 acre lakes. Apart from the 18-hole golf course, Luton Hoo also consists of private fishing lakes and walking trails. After a pampering session in one of the heat therapy rooms at the hotel's spa, guests can take a leisurely stroll at its lush 1,000 acre garden and parkland.



TOP TO BOTTOM Take a stroll at the peaceful garden. Some of the Mansion Junior Suites come with marble fireplaces and ornate ceilings.

They include a seating area within the bedroom and the space is large enough to accommodate three additional beds.

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Guests' who are staying at Luton Hoo from the 25th to the 27th of December will find their itineraries filled with activities. These include exploring the hotel's grounds, a spa session for the ladies, whiskey tasting, and a tour of the mansion while getting to know the family who have hosted many Christmas events for royalty.

Traditional tea is served in the afternoon at the lounge, while scrumptious dinners await at the Wernher Restaurant. Religious guests can also attend midnight mass in Harpenden and return to hot toddies and mince pies. There are more activities for night owls, but the children can expect a visit from Father Christmas by the grand marble staircase. Family time at the pool, story time, Christmas card making, a show with ice cream and popcorn as treats can all be enjoyed. And just before bedtime, milk and cookies are available by the Childrens' room!

Even after Christmas, guests can stay on and expect more exciting activities. Traditional Boxing Day sports such as clay pigeon shooting and archery will be held at the Lion Lawn.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SLH.COM/HOTELS/LUTON-HOO-HOTEL/

photos SLH

♥Switzerland



Get away from Malaysia's hot and humid climate and move into the cold and snowy Switzerland. The country is known for their chocolate, watches, knives, and of course their beautiful Alps.



Enjoy a White Christmas at Cambrian Adelboden! Guests can enjoy a pristine view of the Swiss Alps, punctuated with freshly fallen snow through the window, and can also toboggan away like Santa Claus at the sledding routes. Whether beginners or experts, guests can master the Alps by skiing and snowboarding with proper equipment from local sports stores.



BOTTOM RIGHT The family suite with either a king size or two single beds is perfect for kids. The room comes with a shower, WC, WiFi, hair dryer, a safe and a telephone.



T O P Get close to nature with a mug of steaming hot chocolate in hand.

MIDDLE TO BOTTOM RIGHT Take in the beautiful scenery of Bernese Oberland, lounging on comfortable chairs close to the fireplace.

The space is converted into a sun terrace once winter is over.

The hotel's facade during winter.







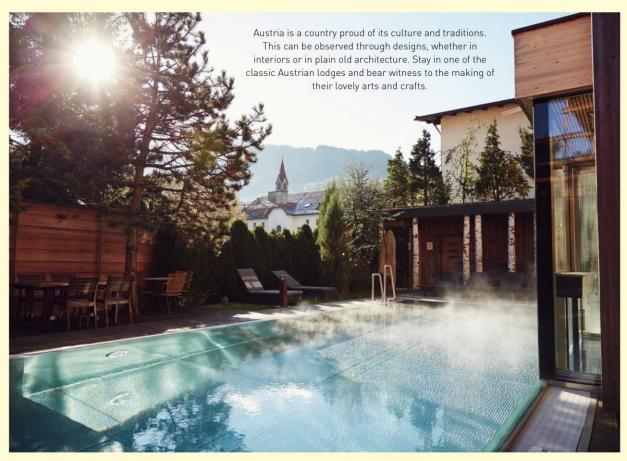
Guests are spoilt for fresh air in Switzerland. Enjoy it to the fullest by attending a Paragliding School, or organise boat trips at any Swiss lake, or opt for excursions to nearby cities.

Afterwards, rejuvenate at the Spa where one can enjoy a swim in a heated indoor or outdoor pool. Relaxing steam baths and rain showers at the Finnish sauna are a must. Healthy hearty meals are specially crafted for guests, post-activity such as salmon trout, après-ski feasts or post-spa salads that are paired with the recommended wine. Guests can choose from a variety of aperitifs, mains, starters, soups, and desserts.

The pet-friendly Scott's bar or Cambrian's winter garden and sun terrace overlooking the alpine are both perfect places for enjoying the peaceful atmosphere. Guests can choose from Deluxe rooms, Junior, Family, Cambrian, Adelboden, and Presidential Suites. All come with a view and are also furnished with furniture from B&B Italia and Porada, making for the ultimate luxurious relaxation retreat in which to relax and watch DVDs, or to surf the internet in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.THECAMBRIANADELBODEN.







Rustic Alpine lodges may seem to only exist in the movies, but in reality, accommodations such as Das PostHotel really do live up to expectations outside the silver screen.

Raw pine, oak, and native spruce creates a cosy atmosphere in the rooms and suites of Das PostHotel. Staying true to the deeply rooted mountain traditions, ecoconscious designs are paired with heritage-inspired pieces ranging from the colourful fabrics to contemporary furnishings. Here, guests can ski all year round.

T O P One can book rooms, apartments, suites, summit suites, and sky lofts at Das PostHotel.

Apart from the Pine Relaxation room, the hotel has other sauna facilities including an infrared cabin, aromatic steam bath, ice fountain, and bucket shower.





There are bikes available for rent, hiking trails to explore, and numerous types of saunas to try out at the Boutique Spa. Guests can relax in the solar heated pool or enjoy a healthy, organic meal at the HeLeni restaurant. End the day snuggling in bed, stargazing from the balcony, and enjoying a nightcap in front of an open-fire.

2016 is a special year at Das
PostHotel! Guests are greeted by a waft
of freshly baked goods like cookies and
sweets in the hotel lobby. The hotel
will also be hosting their own indoor
Christmas market where guests can
purchase local arts and crafts pieces.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SLH. COM/HOTELS/DAS-POSTHOTEL/

80 photos SLH

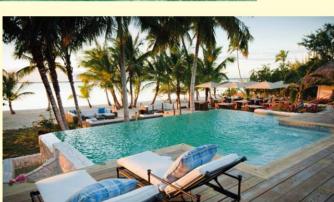


Bahamas

Looking for something more tropical and private to spend your Christmas holidays? The Bahamas is where to go if you're looking to rent an entire island.



Planning a huge family reunion or a party with your friends? The Bahamas is your answer. Guests can rent the entire island or Tiamo Resort, which features 10 eco-friendly beachside cottages crafted of local Pine wood with thatched roofs overlooking the Caribbean. Nap on the hammock or sail through the calming South Bite waters using one of the boats from Tiamo Resort. The more adventurous can go snorkelling at The Crack or Scuba dive between Andros and Nassau. Lucky travellers may even spot turtles and dolphins. Guided tours to see iguanas, sea birds, and wild orchids are also available. The island is accessible only by boat or seaplane.









TOP TO BOTTOM

Guests can indulge in activities such

as diving and

Enjoy the scenery from the pool.

The pathway to Cool Villa.

also offer a wide selection of wine.

Dine on Caribbean cuisine. They

kayaking.



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