BALIK PULAU


Historical Balik Pulau Roundabout

Surrounded by scenic landscape, Balik Pulau is a township at the southwest of Penang island. Its name in Bahasa Malaysia translates to "the other side of the island" which reflects its geographical position on the island.

With numerous natural attractions such as farms, orchards and paddy fields dotted throughout Balik Pulau, picturesque views are aplenty. The one and only Balik Pulau Roundabout is a must-see landmark as it is small in size yet big in history. Built in 1882 to commemorate the visit of Sir Frederick Weld (Governor of Melaka), this is where three main roads converge.

Balik Pulau Roundabout
Small in size yet big in history, this must-see landmark was the town's public pump as well as water trough for elephants and horses in the 18th century. The monument was built in 1882 by a wealthy farmer, Koh Seang Tatt to commemorate the visit of the Governor of Melaka, Sir Frederick Weld to Balik Pulau. The roundabout marks the convergence of three main roads from different parts of the island.


Beautiful Roman Catholic church

Another prominent landmark is the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus. Built in 1854, it is one of the oldest churches in Penang. Over the years, this Roman Catholic church underwent a series of renovations comprising the nave, sanctuary, two wings, stained-glass windows, bell tower and tenor bell. Today, it has a splendid architectural design.

Balik Pulau Market is a must-visit spot where there are food stalls as well as a wet market and dry goods section. Breakfast delicacies, fresh fruits, preserved fruits, meat and sundry goods are readily available here. Among the most sought after products are nutmegs, cloves, fish crackers, juice and coconut. Meanwhile, the food court serves local favourites such as assam laksa, char koay teow, pasembur and wan tan mee.

These attractions combined with the colonial era buildings, traditional fishing villages and Malay houses contribute to the rich historical charm of this quaint township. The emergence of modern developments can be seen with more coming up in the future. As such, Balik Pulau gives visitors a taste of old school Penang charm without compromising a slower and more relaxing pace of life.

LEISURE & PLEASURE

Enjoy a laidback walk or ride along the tree-lined roads and pathways. It's the perfect place to relax your mind as you breathe in crisp fresh air and take in the awe-inspiring views. With so much to see and discover, Balik Pulau is an ideal getaway for nature sightseeing and outdoor activities.


Relaxing countryside cycling

Balik Kampung at Balik Pulau provides bicycle rentals which allow you to experience rural life such as paddy fields, river estuaries and mangroves as well as watching fishing boats and villagers planting vegetables. Most importantly, you can witness the gorgeous sunset at Pantai Malindo. All these can be experienced within a 4km trail (to and fro). Bicycle rental costs RM10 while a tour guide is available for RM50 per group. Visitors touring on bicycles are recommended to leave at 8am or 6pm for the sunset view.


Tranquility at Fisherman Village

A favourite among children of all ages, pedal boats can be rented at RM5 (20 minutes) and RM8 (20 minutes) for adult-sized boats.


A paradise of fun, sun and sea at Pasir Panjang Beach

Embark on a wonderful vacation with a dash of fun in the sun at the picturesque beaches! As you relax your mind and body at Pasir Panjang Beach, you can soak up the sweeping views of the long stretch of golden sand leading to the vast expanse of the sea.

Malay Kampung
Known as "kampung" in Bahasa Malaysia, these Malay villages have traditional architectural forms that are preserved from several generations. They are detached and usually have no fences. Designed for comfort and practicality, these homes are elevated by stilts that protect them from flood and have many windows for good air ventilation.

Want to get an upclose view and feel of a traditional and rustic Malay village? Book a room at **Home Stay Jalan Bharu**! You can live with a local family who will gladly show you around various attractions namely durian farms, paddy fields and beaches.


Relaxing at Balik Kampung Malay Village

Interested to learn more about Malay culture? Savour lots of Malay food at dinner with the host family and even play popular traditional Malay games such as congkak and gasing. Furthermore, you can also gain first-hand experience of Malay weddings by attending one or the family will create a Malay wedding ceremony specially for you!


Traditional architecture of a Malay Home

Embrace an authentic Malay village lifestyle at **Home Stay Jalan Bharu**. Ideal for outdoor enthusiasts, it offers a multitude of activities ranging from mountain bike riding on three trails to visiting fisherman villages and houses reflecting the 19th century of Penang. You can unwind at the end of the day with a traditional massage and herbal steam bath.


Rustic comfort for all guests

SPECTACULAR SPECIALTIES


Durian farm

Interested in Balik Pulau's unique specialties? Discover them all as you make your way around here. With agriculture playing a significant role in the town's economy, Balik Pulau's specialties are largely derived from fresh produce that are available at a myriad of well-frequented places.

Durian
Dubbed the 'King of Fruits' in Southeast Asia, durian is a must-try tropical fruit with a deliciously sweet taste! You can easily find a variety of durians at the roadside stalls throughout Balik Pulau.

If you love eating durians, don't pass up the opportunity to visit Bao Sheng Durian Farm. More than just an orchard, it offers accommodation options for an unforgettable durian experience. During your stay, you will be among the first to taste the special flavour of the newly dropped durians. Durian season starts from May to July. Call to confirm and reserve.


Blocks of shrimp paste

Belacan
Keen on trying shrimps? Be sure to visit Chop Kim Hoa Belacan Factory! You can buy fermented shrimp paste and add this condiment to your favourite food.

Chop Kim Hoa Belacan Factory is a third-generation family business which makes shrimp paste from krill to block. The company takes six to twelve months to complete the entire process in order to ensure high quality in terms of taste, scent and colour.



Nutmeg oil and balm

Nuts about nutmeg? Head over to Ghee Hup Nutmeg Factory! You can find many products at its store such as pickled nutmeg, candied nutmeg, jam, concentrated juice, nutmeg balm and so much more. This educational factory also gives you the opportunity to learn about the nutmeg-making process as well as the nutritional value and uses of nutmeg.

Nutmeg
Did you know that nutmeg has many health benefits? Nutmeg juice helps relieve cough and throat irritation while nutmeg oil alleviates minor sprains and arthritic pain. This spice also detoxifies the body and promotes digestion.


The inside of a nutmeg



Face powder and its main ingredient

Rice is not just food; it is a key ingredient used to make a traditional beauty product known as cooling face powder (bedak sejuk). It is believed to help remove skin blemishes, improve the appearance of skin and relieve itchiness. At Lean Seng Cooling Face Powder, you can buy quality face powder and get a hands-on experience of making this product. Requiring only rice and water, the process takes up to a month for proper fermentation, grinding, filtering and drying.

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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND
BALIK PULAU

Experience PENANG 2020 MALAYSIA
The Diversity of Asia

DELICIOUS & DIVERSE FLAVOURS


A bowl of flavourful laksa

Laksa
The noodles are served with various ingredients such as shredded fish, cucumbers and onions. Steaming hot spicy soup is added to this mixture, giving it a delectable taste that will linger long after the last spoonful.


Tasty prawn noodles


Popular black sugar buns

With freshly grown fruits, vegetables and spices widely available year-round, Balik Pulau contributes to Penang's reputation as the food capital of Malaysia. These produce enhance the delightful taste of popular traditional dishes. Whether you're in the mood for some local favourites or delicious seafood, it's all here for your indulgence!

If you're looking to get a taste of local flavour, be sure to have some laksa! This famous Penang noodle soup delivers an irresistible mix of sweet, sour and spicy flavours that will make you come back for more. Soft and chewy, the flavourful laksa is complemented by savoury broth and vegetable garnishes such as shallots and lettuces. Kim Seng Kopitiam, Cafe Ko Cha Bi and Laksa Pokok Janggus are some of the places that serve the best laksa. Want a light snack? Try the black sugar buns in Balik Pulau!


Hakka Village


Farm-to-family venue


Variety of Hakka food

Hungry for local variety? Treat yourself to some Hakka Chinese food! Characterised as salty and fragrant, they usually contain stewed, braised or roast meats and preserved vegetables. Some of the must-try dishes are yong tau foo (tofu filled with meat or vegetables), yam abacus, Hakka noodles and braised pork belly.

Hakka Food
Hakka cuisine originates from the cooking style of the Hakka people. Staples of this cuisine comprise rice, tofu, pork, and soy sauce while rice wine, ginger, garlic and salt are used to preserve and flavour the food.

You can savour a delicious array of Malay food such as assam laksa, kuih bahulu (traditional Malay mini egg sponge cake), deep fried banana and potato fritters available throughout the town. During your journey, remember to keep an eye out for the local delights ranging from eu cha koay (Chinese-style deep fried breadsticks) to coconut drinks!


Refreshing coconuts



Delicious local Malay eateries

FLORA & FAUNA

A beautiful rural landscape awaits you at this idyllic dream destination. Enjoy the serene atmosphere and fresh air as you feast your eyes on the amazing views of animal farms and stables.


Feeding and petting rabbits

Audi Dream Farm
Love animals? This well-maintained farm has abundant livestock ranging from fish to pigeons. Combined with a tranquil environment and wide open spaces, this is a fun-filled destination for both adults and children.

Want a fun and authentic farm experience? Come on over to Audi Dream Farm! This family-friendly destination has a chemical-free vegetable garden and a mini petting zoo. Designed for easy exploration, the stone pathways wind around various animals such as goats, horses, camels, geese and rabbits. Besides feeding the animals, you can get upclose and interact with them.


Planting numerous types of vegetables on the farm

Saanen Dairy Goat Farm is a family-run farm housing Saanen goats imported from Australia and New Zealand. You can opt to participate in a guided tour for a minimum of 20 people and maximum of 60 people, inclusive of a bottle of goat's milk. Goat's milk is a better alternative to cow's milk as it is high in calcium and fatty acids but low in cholesterol as well as easier to digest.


Farm goats

Countryside Stables
Did you know that there are many different breeds of horses with varying sizes and colours? Here, you can discover various breeds such as miniature and pure bred Arabian horses as well as Shetland, polo, Thai, Myanmar and Malaysian ponies!

A galloping good time awaits you at Countryside Stables Penang! Currently home to 35 horses of various breeds, it offers a host of exciting activities ideal for the whole family. Joy rides and guided rides are available to cater to both beginners and experienced riders. You can interact with the horses by petting and feeding them.


Various horse breeds at the farm


Horse rides for all levels of experience

Love adventures and the outdoors? Sign up for the Matahari Cycle tours! You can enjoy mountain biking on dirt tracks via the tours - Beautiful Balik Pulau Countryside Tour (maximum of 8 persons), The Twist (maximum of 8 persons) and The Penang Highlands Premier Ride (private outing). Whether rain or shine, you can stay active and experience adrenaline-pumping thrills in every ride!
www.cyclematahari.com
+6019-448 0440


Cycling amidst nature

Mangroves
There is a stretch of mangrove forest reserve located at the western shore of Balik Pulau. Open to the public, it has wooden boardwalks whereby you can partake in a quiet walk and explore the natural surroundings.


Panoramic sea view

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL MASTERPIECES


Fisherman wall mural

Get your camera ready to capture many unique and timeless work of art! A hub for budding and established artists alike, Balik Pulau is home to a variety of art ranging from traditional handicrafts to street murals. These aesthetically pleasing creations are mostly inspired by Penang's colourful historical and cultural background.

For a glimpse into some of the best handicrafts in town, visit Stepping Stone Work Centre. A part of Asia Community Service's Support Centre for Community Living project, it provides opportunities to people with special needs. Products such as scarves, batik, candles, soaps and pottery, along with paper making, batik painting, hand weaving and soap making courses are available. Contact the centre for more information.

Crazy about ceramics? Drop by SILA Studio! An acronym for Senses Ingenuity Love Authenticity, this gallery displays ceramics by the principal artist, Shamsu Mohamad and his friends. The distinctive designs of the accessories, platters, bowls, mural and sculptures will definitely appeal to ceramic collectors and enthusiasts. The studio offers 3 hours of ceramic making as well as one-day and one-month courses.


Arts and crafts


Artistic sculptures on display

Discover a world of art like no other at Balik Pulau International Artist Village (Artopia). Founded by Artopia Education Trust, the art village serves as a platform for all artists to express their creativity and showcase their outstanding talent. Featuring an array of works of art and culture, it is the ideal place for artists and art lovers alike.

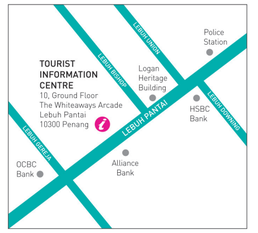
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For Tourism enquiries:



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Monday-Friday
9.00am to 5.00pm

Saturdays
9.00am to 3.00pm

Sundays & Certain Public Holidays
9.00am to 1.00pm

Web : mypenang.gov.my
Facebook : Penang Global Tourism
Instagram : penang.experience
Twitter : PenangXperience
LinkedIn : Penang Global Tourism
Tiktok : experiencepenang
Email : info@penangglobaltourism.com
Tel : +604 263 1166

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All event information is correct at time of print and is subject to changes without prior notice.

PEOPLE'S CHOICES & RECOMMENDATIONS

TASTY FOOD, GREAT MOOD

1. **Balik Pulau Food Court (Wet Market)**
   33, Jalan Tun Sardon, 11000 Balik Pulau
   Food Court Peak Hours: 6am - 1pm
   (Closed on Wed)
   Wet Market Operation Hours: 6am - 12pm

2. **2F+ Coffee Roastery@Balik Pulau**
   A quaint little café offering coffee and desserts.
   164C, Jalan Pondok Upih, MK 6,
   11000 Balik Pulau
   +6012-421 1714
   12pm - 7pm (Tue - Fri) &
   10am - 10pm (Sat - Sun) Closed on Mon

3. **Nan Guang**
   Serves assam laksa.
   67, Main Road, 11000 Balik Pulau
   +6017-446 4959
   10am - 5pm (Thurs-Sun)

4. **Cafe Ko Cha Bi Balik Pulau**
   Assam laksa and lemak laksa.
   110, Jalan Besar, 11000 Balik Pulau
   +6012-474 5178
   10am - 6pm daily. Closed on Thu

5. **Yeh Lin Seafood Restaurant**
   Home-cooked and delicious Chinese seafood restaurant with reasonable prices.
   Jalan Air Putih, 11000 Balik Pulau
   +6012-569 3103
   11am - 10pm daily. Closed on Tue

6. **Botanica Mansion**
   A breathtaking restoration of an English plantation house that offers accommodation, a garden wedding venue and a blend of Malaysian cuisines and Western-style dishes.
   2a, Jalan Sungai Air Putih, Bandar Baru Air Putih, 11000 Balik Pulau
   +6019-662 1673
   botanicamansion
   12pm - 10pm daily. Closed on Wed

7. **Kim Seng Kopitiam**
   (Original Khoo laksa)
   20, Jalan Sungai Air Putih, Bandar Baru Air Putih, 11000 Balik Pulau
   +6012-428 6235
   11am - 5pm. Closed on Mon & Tue

8. **Bahulu Balik Pulau**
   No. 3, Ruang Niaga Perda, Jalan Kuala Sungai Pinang, Taman Nelayan, 11000 Balik Pulau,
   +6019-481 5948
   Bahulu Balik Pulau
   9am - 6pm daily. Closed on Sat & Sun

9. **Laksa Pokok Janggus**
   Serves delicious Malay-style laksa as well as other Malay food such as ice kacang, pisang goreng and rojak.
   Jalan Kampung Perlis, Kampung Perlis,
   11020 Balik Pulau
   +604-866 8819
   +6012-472 8819 / +6019- 516 3007
   3.30pm - 8pm daily. Closed on Wed

10. **Hakka Village**
    61, Jalan Bukit Kebun Kha, Pulau Betong,
    MK 7 11020 Balik Pulau
    +6016-411 6666
    (Pre-booking required)
    www.balikpulaulodge.com
    11am - 3pm (Tue - Sun) Closed on Mon

11. **Bukit Genting Hill Leisure Park and Thai Restaurant**
    A breezy place on a hill to enjoy delicious Thai food with the best view of the Southern side of the island.
    Jalan Teluk Kumbar, 11000 Bayan Lepas,
    +6016-492 8778
    11am - 10.30pm daily

FUN-FILLED ATTRACTIONS

12. **Church of the Holy Name of Jesus**
    Jalan Balik Pulau, 11000 Balik Pulau
    +604-866 8545
    www.hnjpenang1854.com/

13. **Audi Dream Farm**
    145, MK B, Sg. Rusa, 11010 Balik Pulau
    +6012-499 9099
    www.audipenang.com
    9am - 7pm daily

14. **Ghee Hup Nutmeg Factory**
    MK 3, 202A, Jalan Tanjung Bungah, Kampung Sungai Pinang, 11000 Balik Pulau
    +6016-433 6303
    9am - 6pm daily

15. **Bao Sheng Durian Farm**
    150, Mk2 Sungai Pinang, 11010 Balik Pulau
    +6012-411 0600
    www.durian.com.my
    11am - 3pm (Reservation only),
    3pm - 7pm (Visiting hours)

16. **Saanen Dairy Goat Farm**
    298 MK 1, Sungai Pinang, 11010 Balik Pulau
    +6019-516 3017
    Saanen Dairy Goat Farm
    10am - 5pm (Mon - Fri) &
    10am - 6pm (Weekends & Public Holidays)

17. **SILA Studio Ceramics**
    Pusat Incubator Kraftangan Balik Pulau,
    Jalan Sungai Rusa, 11000 Balik Pulau
    +6018-942 3788
    Sila Studio : Senses Ingenuity Love Authenticity
    9am-5pm (Mon to Fri). Opened on Saturday on request.

18. **Balik Kampung at Balik Pulau**
    Other than bicycle rentals, Balik Kampung is famous for local food and fresh seafood.
    278, Jalan Bharu, Kampung Kuala Muda,
    11000 Balik Pulau
    +6013-323 7777
    Balik Kampung at Balik Pulau
    Call for reservations

19. **Lean Seng Cooling Face Powder**
    No. 160, Mukim-D, Kuala Jalan Bharu, 11000 Balik Pulau
    +6016-428 4896 / +6019-474 4684
    Perniagaan Bedak Sejuk Lean Seng
    8am - 8pm daily

20. **Countryside Stables Penang**
    Lot 10050, Jalan Sungai Burung, Sungai Burung, 11000 Balik Pulau
    +6012-408 0678
    Countryside Stables Penang
    10am - 12pm & 2pm - 7pm daily

21. **Stepping Stone Work Centre**
    53 Jalan Baru, Mk I Pulau Betong,11000 Balik Pulau
    +604 - 8665349
    www.asiacommunityservice.org/
    9am - 5pm (Weekdays) Closes on Weekends

22. **Chop Kim Hoa Belacan Factory**
    No. 390, MK. 7, Pulau Betong, 11020 Balik Pulau
    +604-866 8245

23. **Home Stay Jalan Bharu**
    349, MK D, Jalan Bharu, 11000 Balik Pulau
    +6012-448 8571 / +6016-461 8553

24. **Pasir Panjang Beach**
    Jalan Pulau Betong, 11000



GETTING AROUND BALIK PULAU

It's best to travel on foot at the town centre and ride a bicycle around the countryside. If you're going towards the north of Jalan Teluk Bahang, make sure you're on a motorised transport as the road is mountainous.

Congestion Alleviation Transport (CAT) free bus shuttle service:

1 Via Terminal Balik Pulau
Jetty to Balik Pulau via LCE (401E)
Terminal Balik Pulau to Pulau Betong (403)
Terminal Balik Pulau to Pantai Acheh (404)
Terminal Balik Pulau to Teluk Bahang (501)
Jetty to Balik Pulau via Paya Terubong (502)
Return route covers Jalan Pondok Upeh [CT3] and Jalan Balik Pulau and passes through Lintang Pondok Upeh twice

2 Via Balik Pulau
Jetty to Balik Pulau (401E)
Jetty to Balik Pulau via Paya Terubong (502)

TIMELESS ART FROM THE HEART

Wrinkled Old Silversmith
by Ernest Zacharevic
GPS 5.352653, 100.236330

Fisherman
by Julia Volchkova
GPS 5.351839, 100.235673

Hakka Dancing Girl
by Julia Volchkova
GPS 5.349820, 100.234219

The Silat Master
by Julia Volchkova
GPS 5.349398, 100.233800

Rubber Tapping
by Julia Volchkova
GPS 5.350992, 100.232978

* Map is not drawn to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.