THE AUSTRALIAN
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 | Today's Paper | Mind Games

Subscribe Log in



# Magic touches in Penang

A new hotel in Penang's Georgetown delivers a light-filled take on Victorian elegance.

By CHRISTINE MCCABE



The lobby of the Prestige Hotel, Penang.

From Travel September 7, 2019
1 MINUTE READ

Four years in the planning and construction, a new hotel in the heart of Penang's Georgetown takes the area's colonial architecture, together with some clever design sleight of hand, to produce a light-filled take on Victorian opulence.

Interiors at the 162-room Prestige Hotel are by Singapore-based Ministry of Design, which has tackled the long, narrow site (formerly housing an old warehouse) by taking a leaf out of the magician's playbook.



A Deluxe room

In the large reception area, which also incorporates the hotel's conservatory-inspired restaurant and retail spaces, a graphic black-and-white floor pattern seems to magically appear and disappear. The reception desk, clad in mirrored stainless-steel, "balances" on four chrome spheres.

Long guest corridors feature alternating light and dark colour schemes and intricate lattice patterns cast by rotating lights.



The rooftop pool

In the pretty guestrooms, there's a pale pastel palette, neat brass trim and wainscoting crafted along trapezium lines. The bed appears to be cantilevered off the wall, floating above the floor, while the loo, festooned with tropical-themed wallpaper, is concealed behind a hidden door. But all mod cons are immediately apparent: fast Wi-Fi, coffee machine, smart TV.

The hotel is topped with a saltwater pool overlooking Church Street Pier. From 420 ringgit ($150).

• theprestige.my

**Also try** VUE Hotel Houhai Beijing; The Warehouse Hotel, Singapore.

## HOTEL BUZZ

• Sydney's Taronga Zoo opens The Wildlife Retreat on October 10; the upscale lodge has 62 guestrooms, many with harbour views, tucked into bushland; rates from $790 for two include tours, dinner and breakfast; profits will be ploughed back into the zoo and broader conservation programs.

• The 199-room Midnight Hotel debuts as an Autograph Collection hotel, part of Marriott International, later this year; the hotel forms part of Geocon's mixed-use development in Braddon, central Canberra, designed by Fender Katsalidis Architects (the team behind the city's acclaimed NewActon).

• Siem Reap's eco-friendly Aviary Hotel (pictured) is extending its green credentials with a soon-to-open eco-gym; treadmills, cross-trainers and exercise bikes will generate electricity, enabling guests to recycle calories into clean energy.

• Australia's newest luxury lodge, Sequoia in the Adelaide Hills, will open next March with 14 suites overlooking Piccadilly Valley, just below historic Mount Lofty House.

• The Farm at Cape Kidnappers and The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs in New Zealand have extended winter specials to the end of October; available to NZ and Australian guests only, rates start at $NZ775 ($730) a person, including massages or golf green fees.

Share this article