

EASTERN & ORIENTAL HOTEL'S VICTORY ANNEXE



Saya Travel had the opportunity to experience staying at Eastern & Oriental (E&O) Hotel's Victory Annexe, the grand property's new wing and latest addition to E&O Hotel's offerings.

TEXT | JEREMY KHALIL
IMAGES | JEREMY KHALIL & EASTERN
& ORIENTAL HOTEL



but also throughout Victory Annexe – we suspect that the chairs are properly imparted with ergonomic principles because sitting in them feels divine.

Planter's Lounge has two non-air-conditioned spaces: first is a wide balcony that is open to the sweeping vista of the strait all the way to the mainland, while the other is adjacent to a pool that seems to begin in a rectangular form and sheltered on one end and then opens up to a full square that is entirely exposed to the elements. Like its interior, both spaces are graced with colonial-inspired tropical furnishing and well-matched earthen colour scheme.

As the day progresses and the weather becomes

unbearably hot and humid, guests who dine at the balcony of the Planter's Lounge in the morning may need to adjourn indoors, yet still able to enjoy the expansive view of the Penang Strait through the floor-to-ceiling glass panels. The lounge also offers free-flowing tea and coffee to all of its guests, including refreshing mixed beverages and delectable canapes during the daily cocktail hour (from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.).

Guests can choose to have breakfast in a more peaceful setting at the Planter's Lounge, albeit with limited choices compared to the bountiful spread served in Sarkies on Victory Annexe's Ground Floor. Sarkies, which serves lunch and dinner in buffet style, is fast becoming one of George Town's dining establishments of choice due to

its impressively wide range of local and international fare.

Staying at the E&O Hotel's Victory Annexe was just too blissful that it took some effort to get ourselves out of the property to explore the surrounding area on foot. The E&O Hotel, sitting at the intersection of the Farquhar Street and Penang Road, is only 15 minutes' walk away from George Town's UNESCO World Heritage Area that includes historical landmarks such as Fort Cornwallis, the City Hall and the Penang State Museum, including countless street food fare that make Penang popular. For those who prefer to venture further by checking out another elegant beachside property in Batu Ferringhi that also belongs to E&O called the Lone Pine, or to E&O's Marina called the Straits Quay, they may use

the shuttle service available at specific hours of the day, which takes guests to both properties.

But we have made up our minds that when staying at the E&O Hotel, it is all about being cocooned in a highly sophisticated and tasteful environment. We almost did not see the point of having to go out at all, except for obtaining essentials or attend business meetings, which after all can also be comfortably done at the hotel. Without doubt, E&O Hotel's spanking new Victory Annexe, especially its luxurious Corner Suite, has now become our preferred boltholes whenever we are in Georgetown, Penang. We believe that many guests who have been smitten by the property would also be thinking the same too...



All suites are beautifully appointed with well thought layouts and elegant furnishings accompanied by masculine and relaxing subtle tones. The accommodation units come in two categories: the Corner Suite (which are 123 metres square in size) and the Superior Suite (55 metres square).

There are only five over-sized Corner Suites in this new wing, each boasting separate living area, guest washroom, expansive balcony and dining area with sea view, while the other 118 accommodation

units are Superior Suites. Travelling families or groups are encouraged to opt for the Corner Suite as it is extraordinarily spacious and even have connecting doors to the adjacent Superior Suite for that additional space.

Each suite comes with all expected state-of-the-art appliances, including coffee makers. The beds are also large and ultra-comfortable. The bathroom in the Corner Suite is equipped with deep sinks, clawfoot bathtub and rainshower overheads, including double vanity counters. Meanwhile, the Superior Suite possesses luxurious marble bathroom with twin vanities. Other pluses about staying at Victory Annexe include the fact that soft drinks in the mini bar are all complimentary and fast Wi-Fi connectivity is made available throughout the entire property, making it a boon

for those who crave to be connected online at all times.

The smart Planter's Lounge – which is Gaya Travel team's favourite spot in the hotel and located on Level 6 – plays the same role as a Club Lounge in large chain hotels. However, unlike in other hotels where its entrance is limited to those who stay in only certain category of rooms, Planter's Lounge permits all guests who stay at Victory Annexe.

Gaya Travel simply loves to relax at the Planter's Lounge by sitting in the large and comfortable wing tipped chairs at a corner and read through the selections of magazines that are neatly arranged on the coffee table. Honestly, our team is quite taken in by those custom made chairs that are used not only at Planter's Lounge

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First opened in March 2013, this new wing, which we consider as timelessly handsome, is targeted for corporate or business-related clientele, compared to the Heritage Wing which is more appropriate for those who want to soak in the romance of old world charm and deep sense of nostalgia.

The architecture of Victory Annexe alludes to and complements Heritage Wing’s stately colonial elegance but come replete with contemporary touches

such as modern conveniences, high-speed Wi-Fi broadband connection, a fully equipped gym and an infinity pool. The design of this new wing indicates E&O’s mastery in blending beautiful architectural proportions with humane comfort - the hotel, especially the new wing, looks grand yet not at all imposing, timeless yet current, luxurious yet inclusive and upmarket yet accessible.

Besides being new, the only other difference compared to the Heritage Wing is that the rooms do not come with butler

service. The Victory Annexe also has a separate entrance, lobby and reception, so rather than having to go to the old wing, guests can head directly to the new wing. However, as in the Heritage Wing, the employees at the Victory Annexe still deliver impeccable standards of service.

The 15-storey Victory Annexe is bestowed with accommodations that are among the most spacious, smart and luxurious on Penang island.