

Penang, KL, Sabah ranked among top 10 holiday destinations in Asia



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Sep 25, 2025 @ 3:45pm



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GEORGE TOWN: Fresh off being named one of Asia's top 10 street food cities by Time Out, **Penang** has earned yet another international accolade.

This time, Smart Travel Asia—an online publication focused on travel in Asia since 2003—has listed Penang among the top 10 holiday destinations in Asia for 2025.

Alongside Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Sabah also made the list.

Penang came in seventh, ahead of Kuala Lumpur at eighth place and Sabah, 10th.

Bangkok in Thailand took the top spot, followed by Tokyo in Japan and Bali in Indonesia tied at second place.

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Chiang Mai in Thailand was third.

"Congratulations to Penang for yet another recognition," said state Tourism and Creative Economy Committee chairman Wong Hon Wai, who is currently attending the World Expo 2025 in Osaka.

Meanwhile, the Eastern & Oriental Hotel was named one of the top 10 wedding hotels in Asia, while Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa made the top 10 family hotels in Asia.

According to Smart Travel Asia, this year's votes showed increased interest in Asia from long-haul regions such as the USA, Australia, and the UK, as well as from regional countries including Singapore, India, China, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The search for brand clarity was especially keen, based on the queries received.

The "Best in Travel" poll ran from June to late August.
