

POGO 26

25-28 February 2025
Penang, Malaysia

Hosted by:



Travel Information sheet: Penang, Malaysia

General Information on POGO-26 Annual Meeting

Meeting Venues:

POGO Annual Meeting Plenary & Poster sessions
(25-27 Feb, all delegates)

Gurney Bay Hotel
53 Persiaran Gurney 10250 Penang,
Malaysia [[Website](#)] [[Location – Google Maps](#)]

POGO Members' Annual General Meeting
(28 Feb, POGO members only)

Gurney Bay Hotel (as above)

Logistical Information & useful links

Malaysia location & climate

Malaysia is a Southeast Asian nation consisting of 13 states and three federal territories, divided into two regions by the South China Sea: Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia on Borneo. It shares borders with Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The capital city is Kuala Lumpur, while Putrajaya serves as the administrative centre. A federal constitutional monarchy with a population of over 34 million, Malaysia is known for its diverse, multicultural society, where Malays, Chinese, Indians, and indigenous peoples coexist. The official language is Malaysian Malay, with English widely used as a second language. Malaysia has a tropical climate and is one of the world's megadiverse countries. Historically, it was under British rule and gained independence in 1957, later forming Malaysia in 1963. The country has a developing, industrialized economy, driven by natural resources, commerce, and tourism, and plays an active role in international organizations such as ASEAN and APEC.

Malaysia has a tropical climate characterized by consistently warm temperatures and high humidity throughout the year. The mean annual temperature is 25.4°C, with minimal seasonal variation—temperatures range from 24.9°C in January to 25.9°C in May. The hottest months are typically April, May, and June. Rainfall is abundant year-round, averaging 3,085.5 millimetres annually, with monthly precipitation varying from 200 mm in June and July to around 350 mm in November and December. Malaysia experiences two monsoon seasons: the Southwest Monsoon (April-September) and the Northeast Monsoon (October-March). On average, the country receives about six hours of direct sunlight daily, with cloud cover more prevalent in the afternoons and evenings.

Penang, Malaysia

Penang, located on the northwest coast of Peninsular Malaysia along the Strait of Malacca, is a Malaysian state consisting of two parts: Penang Island, home to the capital city of George Town, and Seberang Perai on the mainland. These two regions are connected by the Penang Bridge and the Second Penang Bridge. With a population of 1.74 million, Penang is one of Malaysia's most densely populated states, known for its cultural diversity with significant Chinese, Malay, Indian, and expatriate communities. George Town, a historic city established by Francis Light in 1786, was part of the British Straits Settlements and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognized for its unique blend of architectural and cultural heritage. Penang's economy has evolved from entrepôt trade to electronics manufacturing and services, making it one of Malaysia's most developed states with the highest GDP per capita. Penang is also the country's leading exporter, with major exports facilitated through Penang International Airport, the nation's third busiest.

Currency

The Malaysian currency is the Ringgit, abbreviated as RM, and its international currency code is MYR. The Ringgit is subdivided into 100 sen and is issued by Bank Negara Malaysia, the country's central bank. Introduced in 1967, the Ringgit replaced the Malaya and British Borneo dollar. Banknotes come in denominations of RM1, RM5, RM10, RM20, RM50, and RM100, while coins are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, and 50 sen. The Ringgit is a free-floating currency, with its value influenced by global market forces, including trade, investment, and economic conditions. It is widely used in Malaysia for all forms of transactions, including tourism, commerce, and daily living expenses. The currency plays a significant role in the country's growing economy, driven by sectors such as manufacturing, exports, and services.

Airport

The local airport is **Penang International**. For delegates flying into Kuala Lumpur, connecting flights from **Kuala Lumpur International Airport** (KLIA1 or KLIA2) to Penang are readily available.

KLIA1 handles most full-service international and domestic flights, while KLIA2 is the hub for low-cost carriers. Both terminals offer frequent domestic flights to Penang, typically taking about 1 hour. Delegates arriving via international flights at either terminal can easily transfer to a domestic flight to Penang. It is recommended to allow at least 2-3 hours for connecting flights between terminals.

Local Transport:

Upon arriving at **Penang International Airport**, buses and taxis are available for transportation to the meeting venue. Ride-hailing services like Grab are also a convenient option for local travel within Penang. A Grab ride from Penang International Airport to Gurney Drive typically costs between RM20 - RM30 and takes around 30-40 minutes depending on traffic conditions

Entry Requirements into Malaysia

Information related to types of Visa, Visa payment, getting Visa information, Visa fees by country, get social tour pass and Visa requirement based on country. Kindly visit to

<https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/subcategory/1543>

Special Promo Rate for Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines has offered to support participants' travel to the meeting, with a special promo code. Please find the details as follows:

Event Name	MH Promocode	Selling Period	Travel Period	Discount	O&Ds
POGO (Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean) Science Conference 2025	MHPOGO25 (Applicable on MH/MH FY)	1 Aug 2024– 24 Feb 2025	17 Feb –7 Mar 2025	15%	All (into PEN)

Please note the following:

1. All discounts are applicable on the available fare class and NOT applicable to promotional fares and are subject to seat availability.
2. The promo code is not applicable for codeshare flights.
3. The discounts will be made available to all participants via [Malaysia Airlines website](#) only.

Accommodation options

<u>HOTEL NAME</u>	<u>STAR RATING</u>	<u>RATING (BOOKING/ AGODA)</u>	<u>AVERAGE ROOM RATE (USD)</u>	<u>BOOKING LINK</u>
GURNEY BAY HOTEL <i>(POGO-26 MEETING LOCATION)</i>	5 stars	8.3/10 (Booking.com)	\$115	Form for preferential booking rate: https://pogo-ocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Gurney-Bay-Room-Reservation-Form-POGO-25-28-Feb-2025.pdf
ASCOTT GURNEY PENANG	5 stars	8.8/10 (Booking.com)	\$110	https://www.agoda.com/ascott-gurney-penang/hotel/penang-my.html
G HOTEL GURNEY	5 stars	8.4/10 (Booking.com)	\$130	https://www.booking.com
EVERGREEN LAUREL HOTEL	5 stars	7.8/10 (Agoda)	\$95	https://www.agoda.com
WANG'S HOTEL @ GURNEY DRIVE	3 stars	6.5/10 (Booking.com)	\$50	https://www.booking.com
PENANG MARRIOTT HOTEL	5 stars	9.2/10 (Booking.com)	\$150	https://www.booking.com

MARRIOTT RESIDENCES PENANG	5 stars	9.5/10 (Agoda)	\$140	https://www.agoda.com
VOUK HOTEL SUITES	4 stars	6.9/10 (Booking.com)	\$75	https://www.booking.com
MANSION ONE SUITES	3 stars	7.5/10 (Agoda)	\$60	https://www.agoda.com
GOOD HOPE HOTEL JALAN KELAWAI	3 stars	6.9/10 (Booking.com)	\$45	https://www.booking.com