



The Edison George Town, Penang



From left The elegantly conserved entrance of The Edison; chic outdoor seating with The Lounge at the back

By Karen Yue

LOCATION

Superb location within UNESCO World Heritage Site Georgetown, with the storied streets of Jalan Muntri (where wealthy Chinese merchants and colonial officers once lived), Leith Street (also known as the Hakka Millionaire’s Row) and Love Lane (where mistresses of aforementioned tycoons were conveniently put up) making up its surroundings. Today, these streets house quirky art galleries, chic wine bars and popular street eats.

AMBIENCE

At the peak of its lifetime, the conserved mansion that is the The Edison today was home to a wealthy tycoon and his offsprings across three generations. Its glory days are brought back to life with careful conservation of its doors, marble floors, printed floor tiles, main stairs between the two storeys and

wooden floorboards in guestrooms.

Even the main entrance, where I arrived into in a taxi, looks like it never left the early 20th-century. An ornate fountain with miniature Chinese arched bridges and figurines in ancient dress stands in the middle of the driveway, with the stately white-washed mansion in the background.

The interior takes a chic turn with two brightly painted chairs in the reception area and a courtyard with modern rattan lounges.

ROOMS

My 36m² Deluxe Premium Room on the second floor bears little sign of The Edison’s heritage, adopting a modern décor instead. It isn’t opulent but feels like how a five-star hotel room ought to be – fresh-smelling, furnished with a firm bed covered in smooth sheets, a large work desk and a couch, and with sufficient space between furniture. Wi-Fi comes free.

The colonial-style bathroom comes with gleaming white tiles and a dark-wood framed vanity and wardrobe.

FACILITIES

The Edison is an all-inclusive hotel

where all-day refreshments and occasional hot snacks are offered free to hotel guests in The Lounge. Built to resemble a homely kitchen with a 10-seat high dining table and cosy couches at the sides, I found The Lounge to be a soothing space for reading and writing, and for striking up conversations with fellow guests about the best eats in the vicinity.

At the time of my stay in December, The Edison was awaiting approval for a lap pool for guests.

SERVICE

The Edison is staffed by few smiley staff who are always at the front desk no matter the hour of the day.

VERDICT

By traditional definition, The Edison does not qualify as a luxury hotel since rooms are delightfully affordable, particularly now when the Malaysian ringgit is weak against most major currencies. However, it surely satisfies the comfort and elegance part of the definition, and I’d be glad to return to her embrace.

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