

jom! **stay**

Rockin' fine stay

At Hard Rock Hotel Penang, everyone is a star, writes **Ridhatul Rizki Sayuti**



Clockwise from top: Chill out at the Rock Royalty Lounge; View of the pool and sea; Hotel employees explaining the various clothes and music instruments on display.

PICTURES BY SHAHNAZ FAZLIE SHAHRIZAL

THIS is just so Hollywood — warm smiles from the members of legendary English rock band The Beatles, the oh-so-hard-to-ignore Lady Gaga at the corner and the upbeat *The Zephyr Song* by Red Hot Chili Peppers in the background.

This is Hard Rock Hotel Penang. We just drove five hours from Kuala Lumpur but the ambience at the lobby makes us feel like it's a different world.

These "celebrities" are among 100 memorabilia items displayed in the hotel. Recently, the hotel has installed new ones like Steve Aoki's Stage Worn Outfit, Lady Gaga's White Pants, Taylor Swift's Beige Tank Dress, Christina Aguilera's Black Ribbed Dress, Alicia Key's Gold Beaded Fringe Dress and Rihanna's Dark Purple Dress and Custom Guitar. Pretty cool right?

While the "celebrities" are life-sized statues of the rock stars, the clothing and accessories are real. They travel from one Hard Rock Hotel to another around

the world. The maximum duration for one memorabilia remaining in one hotel is about five to seven years. It's amazing I can be that close to my idols (at least their past collections).

Once we've checked in, the hotel representative greets us with "Have a rockin' stay!" and that sets the Rock Star mood to our holiday immediately.

ROCKIN' ROOM

Our Rock Star Suite is so sexy! The room has cool grey and purple shades to create a visually stimulating atmosphere and purple illuminated walls to add a sense of fun and cosiness to the room. With a touch of rock flavour and stylish decor, the suite connects a private living space and one bedroom.

It is also equipped with DVD/CD player, 50-inch LED screen TV, BOSE Sound System, complimentary WiFi and wired connectivity, and an interactive IPTV system which offers complimentary movies on demand.

While my husband gets a thrill out of the opportunity to jam to his favourite songs in our room with the Fender guitar he rents from TABU Teens Club, I, on the other hand, adore "the one-guitarist show" through a bathroom window as I plunge into a bathtub.

The Fender guitars can be rented from TABU Teens Club for free but with deposit of RM2,000 via credit card. Guests are allowed to bring the guitar anywhere in the hotel or even set their own mini studio in the room. Other than that, TABU Teens Club includes a mini-theatre, pool tables, foosball table, computers, gaming console and more for teenagers to rock it out.

Not only for teenagers, almost all

facilities in the hotel meant for everyone like Body Rock gym for fitness junkies, Roxity Kids Club for children 4-12 years of age to have fun activities and even a Business Centre and a library of books, magazines and DVDs for those who want a quiet moment.

The hotel has the largest swimming pool in Penang at 2,415 sq m. With a large play area, the pool is a hit with children. In fact, the hotel offers daily poolside activities such as Sumo Wrestling, Dunk Tank and Kayak Polo.

ROCK ROYALTY PRIVILEGE

Although the world famous Hard Rock Cafe leads a line-up of six F&B outlets at Hard Rock Hotel Penang, we opt for the newly remodeled Pizzeria that serves a variety of delectable Italian gastronomy from mouth-watering pastas to a variety of fresh pizzas for dinner.

Pizzeria, which is situated by the poolside and beachside of the hotel, offers a friendly and comfortable atmosphere where one can enjoy the sea breeze and views of the pool and beach while savouring pizzas and pastas. The restaurant now has a new look with new tiled floor and LCD flat screen TVs and revamped Italian inspired menu.

As we're staying in a Rock Star Suite, we get to dine at Rock Royalty Level Lounge for a more quiet breakfast, an afternoon tea and an evening of canapes while watching the sun set. Guests staying in Rock Royalty Seaview, Seaview Studio Suite and Kings Suite also enjoy this privilege. However, other guests may also enjoy these Rock Star privileges at an additional RM170++ per room per night and RM85++ for the third guest. traveltimesfnst.com.my



The spacious Rock Star Suite.



FAST FACTS

HARD ROCK HOTEL, PENANG

Batu Ferringhi Beach, Penang, Malaysia

TEL: 04-881 1711

EMAIL: reservations.penang@hardrockhotels.net

WEBSITE: penang.hardrockhotels.net

STAY

250 rooms which include Hillview Deluxe, Seaview Deluxe Terrace, Lagoon Deluxe, Roxity Kids Suite, Roxity Kids Suite Courtyard, Rock Royalty Seaview Deluxe with Balcony, Seaview Studio Suite, Rock Star Suite and King Suite.

EAT

Six F&B outlets. Leading the list is the Rock Cafe which serves American food. Head for Starz Diners for Asian and International cuisine, or The Shack, which is a bar by the pool, that serves refreshing beverages.

If you love Italian gastronomy, the Pizzeria serves fresh pizza, pastas and more. There's also the Lobby Lounge where you can just chill and enjoy the sunset. The Sand Bar, on the other hand, is a rustic beach bar which serves refreshing beverages.

DO

Plenty of activities for all ages. Roxity Kids Club is opened for children aged 4-12 who love fun and games. Teenage (or the young at heart adults) can go to TABU Teens Club which offers variety of entertainment consist of PS3, Xbox 360, foosball table, pool table and more.

At Rock Spa, guests can rejuvenate their body and soul. There is also the Body Rock gym and a 2,415 sq m swimming pool with a sand island.

GO

Batu Ferringhi Night Market is just five minutes' walk from the hotel. You can also drive to Georgetown and Penang Hill.

HIGHS

The beach and exclusivity.

LOWS

Not for those who want a quiet stay.

RATES

Starts from RM400 - RM3,000 per night which includes breakfast for two adults and two children aged below 12. Room rates fluctuate daily.