

0008 Photos of the year (2024)

These photos show some of everyday scenes that I see regularly in Malaysia and Thailand, photographed by myself when I happened to see them. This listing was started in Dec 2022 and each section covers several months.

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Scroll down to see the photos, arranged in date order.

All images are © Brian Walling 2022-2024.

Photos of the year 2023-2024

COMMERCIAL FISHING BOAT

Another uncommon sighting of a commercial fishing boat, heading into Penang port for some reason. The registration, PKF A9702, shows it to be from Perak (PK), the next state southwards, with the F after PK confirming it as a commercial fishing boat. The wheelhouse/superstructure on these larger fishing boats (which in this photo looks improbably top-heavy) must be painted in the identification colour of the registration state – in this case yellow for Perak.

3 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MV MARELLA DISCOVERY 2

One of the cruise ships of the cruises arm of German travel group TUI, seen arriving early morning and leaving early evening, with a brief daytime stopover in Penang. This one is based in Singapore, providing 1-2 weeks cruises around the SE Asia region and is an occasional visitor to Penang. With 1,800 passenger capacity, it is not quite as large as the typical 2,500 capacity vessel that we generally see here. This one is also adults-only, reflecting a growing trend in the hospitality and tourist industry to provide customers with the option to enjoy services without the distraction of children and child-oriented activities.

3 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MV MEIN SCHIFF 5

The German TUI travel group's Mein Schiff 5 emerges from behind our building on an evening departure to Singapore. It has passenger capacity of up to 2,500.

4 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

PENANG HILLS

An early morning view (misty morning) of the hills in the centre of Penang Island.

6 Mar 2024, from Gleaneagles Hospital car park, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

OUR BREAD SHOP

Parked in a downtown side-street waiting for Carolyn to return with the next few days' bread supply. We buy our bread every few days from a local artisanal baker who makes outstanding sourdough bread. The site on the left with the trees and flowering shrubs is in fact the depot of the local council's landscaping team.

8 Mar 2024, Outside Yin's bakery-cafe, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

CHINTZY COFFEE SHOP

Another photo of the inside of the coffee shop in Penang that we are currently patronising. Ultra-chintzy, but thankfully no loud music, no screaming children and good service.

8 Mar 2024, inside Winter Warmers coffee shop, G Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

FRANGIPANI TREE IN BLOSSOM (Plumeria Rubra)

Native originally to tropical central America, this small shrub-like flowering tree was introduced by the Spanish colonists into the Philippines in the 1500s, from where it has spread all over tropical SE Asia. It has migrated similarly to most other tropical parts of the world. While best known for its versions with white flower and yellow centre, it is now found with a wide range of sub-varieties in colours and mixtures of white, red, pink, yellow and brown that have resulted from extensive cross-propagation. Although the shrubs drop leaves at a certain point in the annual cycle, they flower almost continuously throughout the year. The prime characteristic of the flower is perhaps its strong fragrance: sweet and opulent, with a hint of almond. The shrub acquired the common name of Frangipani, after an Italian family of perfumiers with this name who developed a perfume that matched the Plumeria fragrance in the 1500s.

10 Mar 2024, in the gardens at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

RAMADAN DECOR

It is nice to see here and there some tasteful decoration for the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, that begins tomorrow. This is in contrast to the increasingly ugly and overdone décor for the festivals of Christmas/New Year and Chinese New Year that we have enjoyed in the last two months. Green is a colour typically associated with Ramadan. The card at the top of the décor in the photo means “happy Ramadan”. The green baskets in this display (inside a hotel’s restaurant arcade) probably represent fish traps, used to capture fish in the waters of flooded rice fields – but they may also represent another food symbol, the cage that is used to hold live chickens in local markets.

10 Mar 2024, at G Hotel, Gurney Plaza, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

YELLOW TRUMPET TREE (TECOMA STANS)

Another one of the flowering trees that are very colourful here in the early months of the year.

11 Mar 2024, in the gardens at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

GURNEY PLAZA SHOPPING MALL

A typical view inside this shopping centre, which is Penang's most upmarket retail mall.

13 Mar 2024, inside Gurney Plaza shopping mall, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MS AMBIENCE OF AMBASSADOR CRUISES

The Ambience cruise ship of Ambassador Cruises makes a late afternoon departure from Penang, on a 120 day round the-world cruise, heading for East and South Africa, South America and then return its home port of Tilbury, UK. This is a small start-up UK cruise operator with two vessels at present and that operates out of UK ports. It focuses on the over-50s and only a few of its summer cruises accept children. The Ambience is a relatively old vessel (1991) that has gone through multiple changes of ownership and several substantial modernisations. It carries up to 1400 passengers.

13 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SUNRISE

The sun has risen a few minutes ago and is now just visible behind one of the other towers of our apartment complex.

14 Mar 2024, from our building at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

LOKE MANSION – A PENANG HERITAGE BUILDING

This is a 100 year old heritage building that was originally right on the sea front (this is a view from the land side). It was built in 1924-5 in the English “Arts and Crafts” architectural style and was the residence of a wealthy Chinese business family. The family had Scottish connections and these are remembered in the decorative iron gates (next page).

14 Mar 2024, Gurney Drive, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

LOKE MANSION – A PENANG HERITAGE BUILDING

These 100 year old decorative iron gates contain family symbols and Scottish decoration. Particularly noticeable are the thistle flowers and leaves.

14 Mar 2024, Gurney Drive, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

A COLONIAL-ERA BUNGALOW

This is one of several other old colonial-era residences close to the Loke Mansion. This one is typical of the Indian/Burmese style of the 1920s found quite widely in Penang. The front entrance is usually protected by a port cochère with decorative plasterwork. These detached residences of two (sometimes three) storeys have always been known as “bungalows”, which locally means a substantial, multi-storey, free standing house – and not the basic, no-frills, small, single-storey house that the word identifies in England.

14 Mar 2024, in Lorong Kelawai, near to Gurney Paragon shopping mall, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

A COLONIAL-ERA BUNGALOW

Close-up of the front entrance and porte-cochère.

14 Mar 2024, in Lorong Kelawai, near to Gurney Paragon shopping mall, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

ANOTHER COLONIAL-ERA BUNGALOW

This one includes elements of Chinese style, but still has the porte-cochère and the very colonial-looking Indian/Burmese frieze work around the edges of the roof. See also next page .

14 Mar 2024, Jalan Pemenang, corner of Jalan Kelawei, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

ROOF-EDGE FRIEZES

A detail from another view of the previous house.

14 Mar 2024, Jalan Pemenang, corner of Jalan Kelawei, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

THAI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

The principal stupa in the Thai Buddhist temple in Pulau Tikus, Penang. Its colouring and its unique shape make it stand out dramatically among all the other buildings of the area.

14 Mar 2024, Jalan Kelawei, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

BURMESE TEMPLE

Some of the rooftop decor on the Burmese Buddhist temple that lies adjacent to the Thai temple.

14 Mar 2024, from Jalan Kelawei, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

BAKERY AT PENANG MARRIOTT HOTEL

A total contrast to the chintzy decor of the Winter Warmers coffee shop pictured once or twice earlier. This is a new coffee shop in the just-opened 5-star Marriott Hotel on Gurney Drive in Penang.

14 Mar 2024, inside the Lava Java bakery cafe, Marriott Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



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Mar

2024, inside Winter Warmers coffee shop, G Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.

Photos of the year 2023-2024

CAFÉ LIÉGEOIS

A most unexpected reminder for us – in the Marriott Hotel's bakery – of our time in Liege, Belgium, 50 years ago. This café liégeois patisserie bears no resemblance to the true dish of that name in Liège (where it is an ice cream-based dessert dish).

14 Mar 2024, inside the Lava Java bakery cafe, Marriott Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SUNRISE AGAIN

Same time as yesterday's photo. The sun is clearly rising further to the left (ie further north).

15 Mar 2024, from our building at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.

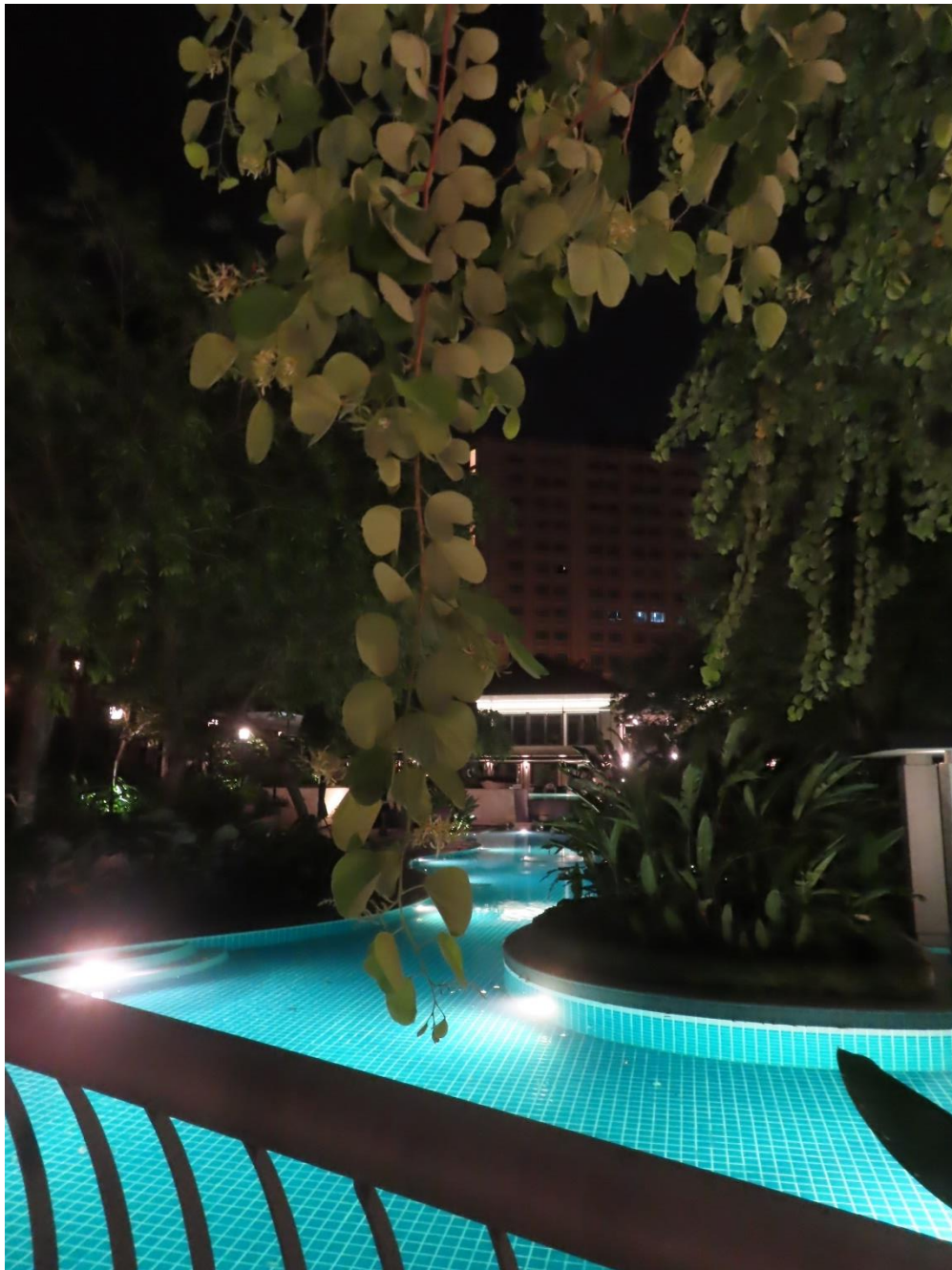


Photos of the year 2023-2024

EARLY MORNING AT THE POOL

On our way to swim at 0615.

16 Mar 2024, in the swimming pool area of Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia..

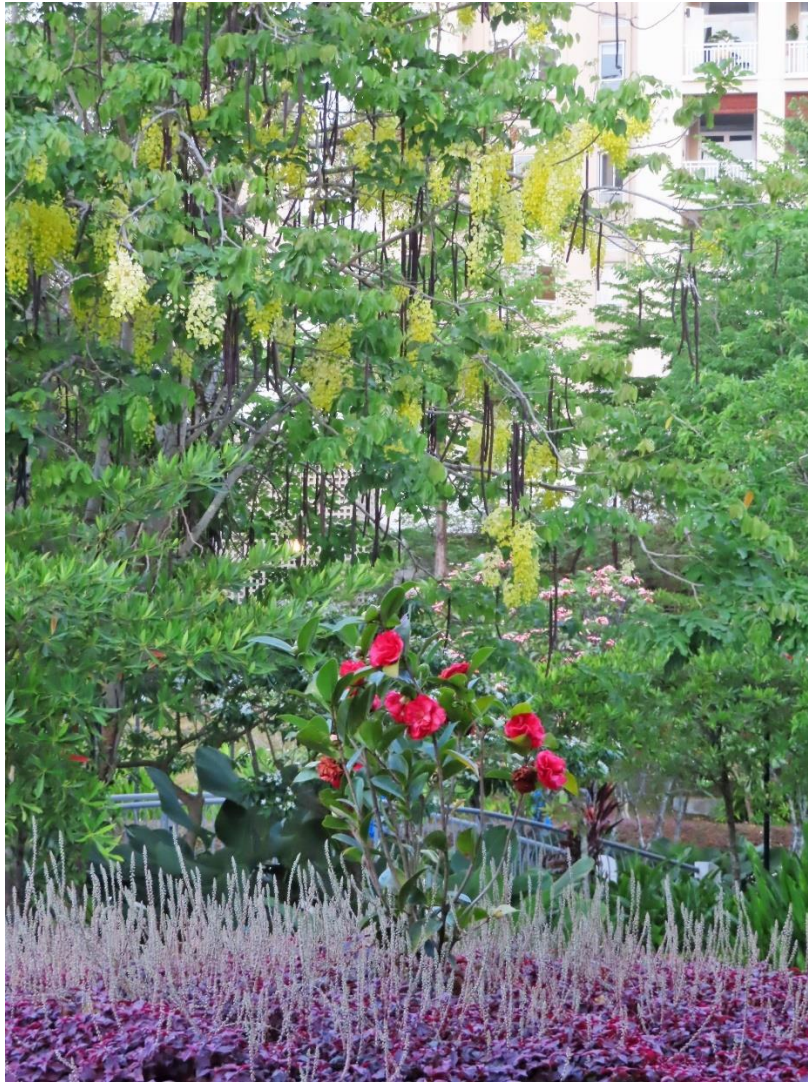


Photos of the year 2023-2024

COLOURS AT THE POOL

Some of the colourful plant and trees around our pools.

16 Mar 2024, in the swimming pool area of Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia..



Photos of the year 2023-2024

GURNEY PLAZA SHOPPING MALL

Another view of the inside of Gurney shopping mall in Penang.

18 Mar 2024, inside Gurney Plaza Shopping Mall, Penang, Malaysia.



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Photos of the year 2023-2024

RAMADAN - EID AL FITR DECOR

Some of the shopping mall's decor for the current Muslim festive period. Peaceful, rustic village scenes seem to be favoured.

18 Mar 2024, inside Gurney Plaza Shopping Mall, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

RAMADAN - EID AL FITR COSTUMES

Some of the colourful ladies' wear on display in the Parkson department store in Gurney Plaza shopping mall for the Muslim month of Ramadan and the approaching Muslim holiday of Eid-al-Fitr

18 Mar 2024, inside Parson store in Gurney Plaza retail mall, Penang, Malaysia.



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Photos of the year 2023-2024

MARELLA DISCOVERY

The cruise vessel emerges from behind our building on its late afternoon departure from Penang port to its next destination port. See 18 Feb for more details on this vessel.

18 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MARELLA DISCOVERY

The ship after fully emerging from behind our building on its way to the next port

18 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SUNRISE AGAIN

Sunrise after we finish our early morning swim. Three days ago the sun was rising half behind the building at right; now it has moved noticeably to the left (northwards).

19 Mar 2024, from our building at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

CARGO BUSINESS

In contrast to the various large passenger vessels that call at Penang, there is a steady stream of small-to-medium cargo vessels that call here, connecting with ports all around south-east Asia. This one is a small container ship, equipped with on-board cranes for loading and unloading of containers in ports that are not equipped with specialist container gantry cranes. Navios is a large US-based shipping operator specialised in movement of bulk dry cargo. It was originally a wholly-owned subsidiary of US Steel, transporting iron ore from south America to USA.

19 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

INDIAN LABURNUM TREE FLOWERS (Cassia Fistula)

A good cluster of flowers on one of our Indian Laburnum trees.

21 Mar 2024, in the gardens at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SEVEN SEAS MARINER CRUISE SHIP ARRIVES

On a hazy morning the cruise ship **Seven Seas Mariner**, of **Regent Cruises**, arrives off Penang among the various in-shore fishing boats that are at work today in this area. The vessel has just taken on the pilot for the last stretch of the journey into the port and the pilot boat can be seen leaving at speed just in front of the **Mariner's** bow.

21 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SEVEN SEAS MARINER

A clearer view of the vessel as it closes in on Penang. This is a very high-end luxury vessel (Regent Cruises being the luxury segment of its owner, Norwegian Cruise Lines), carrying only 700 or so passengers.

21 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SEVEN SEAS MARINER CRUISE SHIP

Passing our building on a misty morning arrival into Penang. The vessel is on a 132-day westwards round-the-world cruise, Miami to Miami and is making a brief daytime stop in Penang before making its way towards India, Middle East, Mediterranean and then home to Miami. This cruise line (together with Oceania Cruises, another part of Norwegian Cruise Lines) is offering an even longer world cruise of 154 days in 2026 in this same vessel.

21 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SEVEN SEAS MARINER

The vessel sets out again from Penang at dusk, en route now to Phuket, Colombo, Maldives, India and via Suez and Mediterranean back to Miami on 17 May.

21 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

OUR BREAD SHOP

The artisanal bakery shop where we buy our bread. The top line of the shop simply sign says, in Malay, bakery shop and café.

22 Mar 2024, in Pesara Claimant, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia

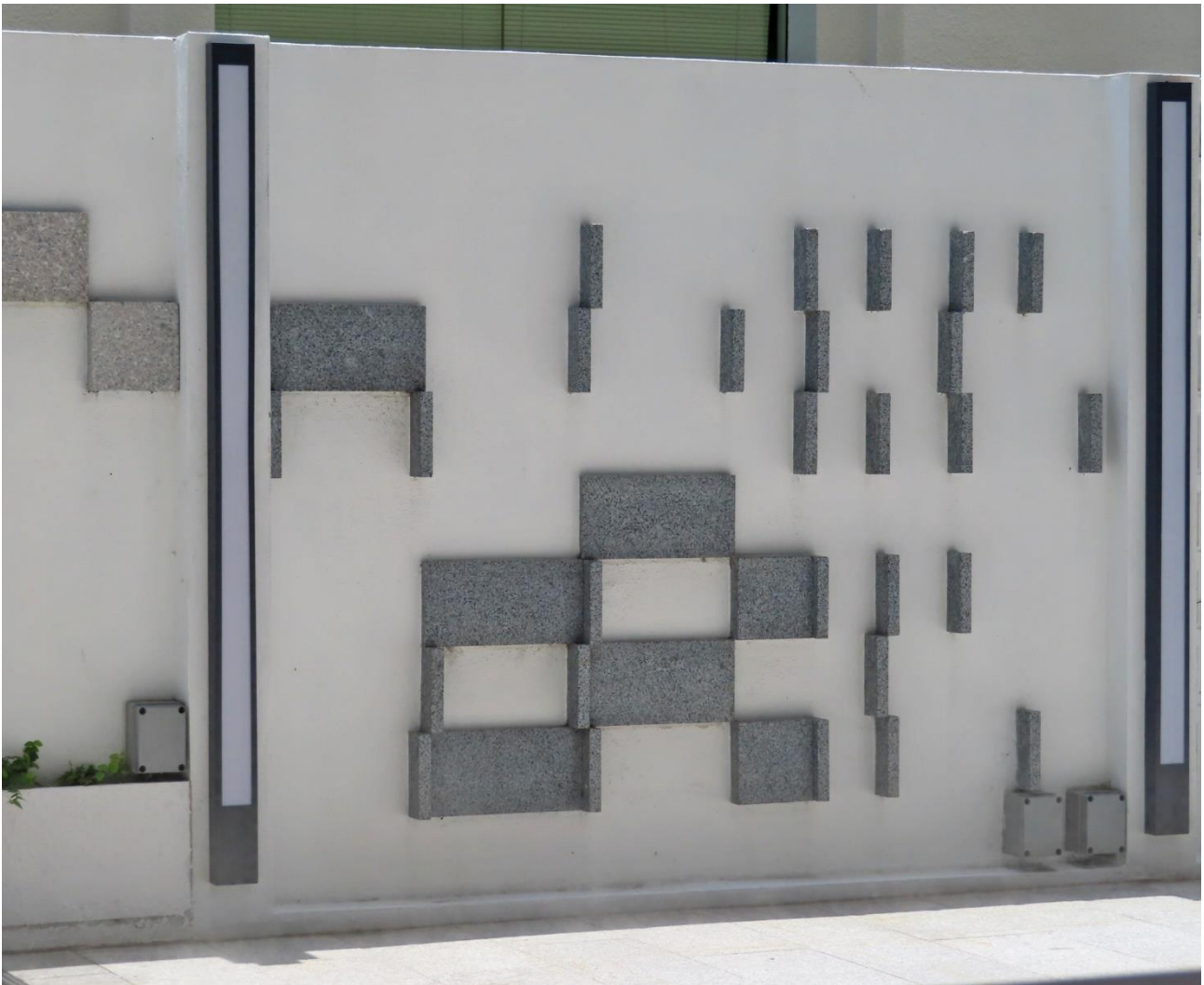


Photos of the year 2023-2024

ARTISTIC WALL DECORATION

Unusually artistic decoration on the dividing wall between the Marriott Hotel and the next property.

22 Mar 2024, from the window of the Lava Java bakery in the Marriott Hotel, Gurney Drive, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

UNUSUAL SUNSET PICTURE

An unusual vessel – probably supporting maritime research vessel or specialist offshore-oilfield services – reflects the sunset from its side.

22 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SUNRISE

The rising sun (nicely shaded by some heavy air pollution today) appears further left and will disappear in the next few days behind the building at left.

23 Mar 2024, from our building at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

CATAMARAN

Unusually, a catamaran is moored for a while inside the little fishing harbour close to our apartment.

24 Mar 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

VIEW FROM E&O

The classic sea-view from the E&O car park always pleases.

25 Mar 2024, from the E&O Hotel carpark, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

E&O BALLROOM

The ballroom was open as we walked past its door today on a visit to the hotel. The staff kindly switched on the lights to give us a better shot. This is Penang's most traditional venue for prestige performances and gatherings.

25 Mar 2024, inside the E&O Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

INSIDE THE E&O HOTEL

This corridor in the E&O Hotel is no older than a couple of decades, being built in the major reconstruction of 1996-2001. However, it does a good job of reflecting the elegance of 1920s Penang – the era that the oldest parts of today’s structure date from. (None of the earlier hotel structures on the site, dating back to the hotel’s founding around 1885, survive today.)

25 Mar 2024, inside the E&O Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

QUEEN MARY 2

The stern of the Cunard Line cruise ship Queen Mary 2 protrudes from the Penang Cruise Terminal, in this view from the gardens of the E&O Hotel. The vessel is homeward bound on a 123-day cruise that started on 3 Jan with an itinerary of New York, Southampton, South Africa, Australia, SE Asia, Middle East, Suez, Mediterranean, Southampton, New York arriving 5 May. The QM2 carries up to 2,600 passengers. Cunard is now a wholly owned subsidiary of the US cruise group Carnival Corp (as are a number of other well-known cruise brands) but the Cunard branding and colour scheme is preserved

25 Mar 2024, from the E&O Hotel seafront, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

QUEEN MARY 2

The Cunard Line Queen Mary 2 seen later from the 24th floor of our apartment block. The vessel is still moored at one of the long piers of the Penang cruise terminal where we saw it earlier today. This is about 6 km away from the camera at this point. The Malaysian mainland, clearly visible in the background, lies 3 further km beyond the QM2.

25 Mar 2024, from 24th floor, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

DOORMAN FROM AN EARLIER ERA

Some of the E&O's doormen still wear their traditional colonial-era uniform. .

28 Mar 2024, at E&O Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

COLOURS OF FRANGIPANI (*Plumeria Rubra*)

A wide range of colour is found among the subvarieties of this tropical small tree in the gardens of our apartment complex. See 10 March 2024 note for background on this tree.

31 Mar - 4 April 2024, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

PENANG CENTRAL FIRE STATION

A view of the side of the 1907 Central Fire Station in Georgetown, Penang.

2 April 2024, looking west in Ghaut Chulia Street, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

YEOH KONGSI COMPLEX, PENANG

A view into the courtyard of the Yeoh Kongsi complex in Penang, showing some interesting wrought iron décor on a first floor balcony. The inscription on the facade tells us that these buildings were erected in 1929. The Kongsi are Chinese Hokkien clan associations, open to those of the same background and bearing the same family name (in this case Yeoh) and they date from the mid-1800s when various groups of Hokkien Chinese migrated to Penang. There are five surviving such Kongsi in Penang; this one dates from 1836. The other four Kongsi are: Cheah, Khoo, Lim and Tan.

2 April 2024, Ghaut Chulia Street, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

OLD MALAYAN RAILWAYS BUILDING

This 1907 building was originally the Penang headquarters of Malayan Railways and in the centre of its facade can be seen the imprint: 1907 M.R. The railway lines, right up to today, terminated across the strait and never extended from the mainland over to Penang Island. It was always necessary to take a ferry from Penang Island to reach the railhead at Butterworth on the mainland – until 1985 when the first bridge was opened and it became possible to reach the railhead by road. Early on, the building was taken over and used as its local headquarters by the Malaysian Customs Department. It now seems that some restoration work is starting on this historic structure, which has lain deserted for some time. See additional information on the building under the note of 16 November 2023.

2 April 2024, Ghaut China Street, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

RESTORED OFFICE BUILDINGS

The end of this street is marked by a pair of near-identical old Chinese Art Deco buildings, dating from about 1937. The one on the left, carrying the name Bangunan (= building) U. A. B., was originally a bank building housing the India Overseas Bank and later the United Asia Bank (hence the U.A.B. in the building name). Subsequent more recent office tenants have included Kazanah Nasional (Malaysian National Wealth Fund – a government controlled investment fund) and Think City, one of the organisations planning and coordinating heritage restoration activity in Georgetown. The building on the right carries the name Bangunan Wawasan, a fairly recent name, identifying the fact that it is now operated as part of the Wawasan Open University campus in Penang, set up in 2008 to provide distance learning for Malaysians unable to enter tertiary education through conventional channel Wawasan in Malay in this context means vision.

2 April 2024, Gat Lebu China & Lebu Victoria, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

RESTORED OFFICE BUILDING

A closer view of one of the restored Chinese Art Deco buildings shown in the previous image.

2 April 2024, Lebuhr Victoria, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MV MARELLA DISCOVERY 2

Here it is again on one of its early evening departures from Penang during one its cruises with up to 1,800 passengers within the local region. See 18 Feb 2024 note for more background on this vessel. Note the contrast in size with the small inshore fishing boat seen in the foreground

2 April 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.

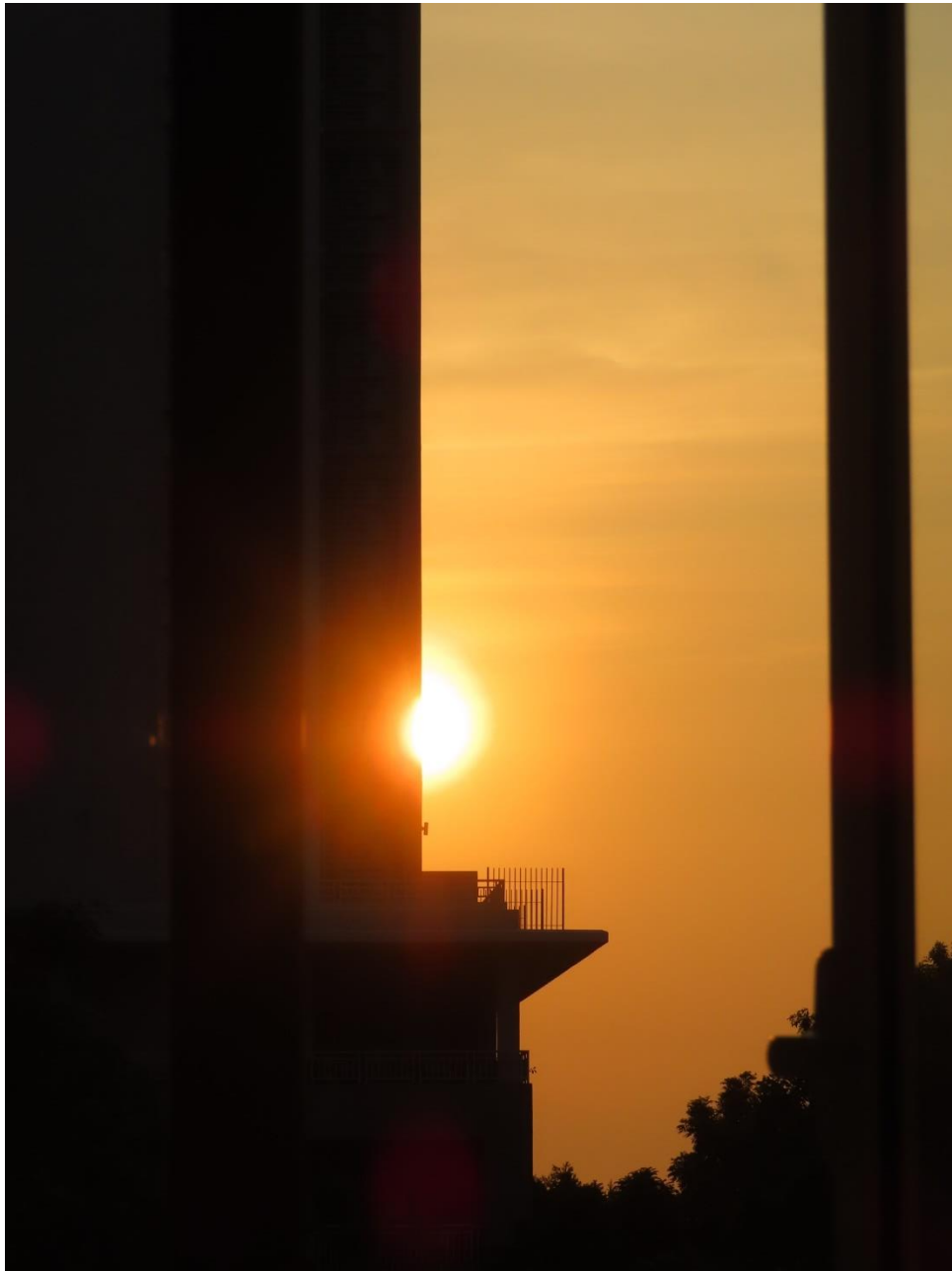


Photos of the year 2023-2024

SUNRISE STILL SHIFTING

The sunrise is now shifting further northwards and will disappear behind this neighbouring building in a day or so. (I pass this window everyday at the same time on returning from the pool at 0735.)

3 April 2024, from our floor at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

GOING OVER THE HORIZON

An Evergreen Line (Taiwanese) container ship seen from our balcony just before it slides out of sight over the horizon. It is about 25 km or 15 miles away in this image.

3 April 2024, from our balcony at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

YELLOW TRUMPET TREE (TECOMA STANS)

A better shot of this tree's yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers. The trumpets are about 5-6 cm (2-2½in) long.

7 April 2024, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

A BALCONY AT YEOH KONGSI

A closer and better shot of the wrought-iron balcony at the Yeoh Kongsi meeting hall, seen previously on 2 April 2024. The lettering on the balcony top edge simply repeats the words seen on the building pediment above it – which basically mean: this is the Yeoh clan community meeting hall.

8 April 2024, Ghaut Chulia Street, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

TROPICAL SUNSET

A truly exotic-looking sunset today, after a day of high temperatures (35°) and some light evening rain).

10 April 2024, from our balcony, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MALAYSIA AIRLINES

A clear shot of the colourful livery as one of their Boeing 737 planes takes off just after sunrise.

12 April 2024, seen from the swimming pool, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

SHOE-SHOP

While independent shoe shops and chains of specialist shoe shops have long disappeared from Penang, the top local department store still has a large shoe department that carries a wide variety of shoe brands.

25 April 2024, in Parkson department store in Gurney Plaza shopping mall, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MV SERENADE OF THE SEAS

One of Royal Caribbean Lines mid-sized cruise ships (2,100 passengers) passes us on an evening departure from SE Asia back to Europe and the Mediterranean for its summer cruising programme.

26 April 2024, seen from our balcony, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

INDIAN GARLANDS

A colourful splash is made by these artificial flower garlands on sale in a street in the Indian market quarter of downtown Georgetown, Penang. The garlands are used for decoration in many celebrations and ceremonies among the Indian community here.

29 April 2024, in Lebuhr Pasar (Market Street) in Little India, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MV RIVIERA

This vessel belongs to Oceania Cruises, one of the subsidiaries of Norwegian Cruise Lines, the 3rd largest international cruise ship group. This mid-sized vessel (1,200 passengers), reflects the setting sun as it passes us on departure from cruising in SE Asia back to Europe and the Mediterranean for its summer cruising programme – like the Royal Caribbean Lines vessel of 4 days ago, also heading back to the Mediterranean for the summer. Scheduled Cruise ship arrivals into Penang are now very few in the calendar for the next few months

30 April 2024, seen from our balcony, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MALAY LANGUAGE

This notice illustrates a couple of the surprising features of the Malay language as found today in Malaysia.

One: many modern words in the language have been borrowed from English but have had their original English spelling adjusted/simplified to reflect local perceptions of how the English word is spoken. “Pam” is the modern Malay word for “pump”; its spelling reflects how it is perceived to be spoken. My list of these borrowed English words with their modified spellings can be seen in the same folder as these photo notes.

Two: a number of Malay words mean something quite different from what they would seem to mean in English. “Air” in Malay means “water” (coming from an old proto-Austronesian word-form with this meaning). At petrol filling stations here you will see signs referring to “Air” and “Angin”. These mean “water” and “air”, not what they appear to mean at first sight.

The Malay words on the notice correspond to:

ROOM PUMP

POOL WATER

2 May 2024, in pool changing rooms, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

OLD GATE PILLAR

An eye clinic in Penang that we visit is located in an old 1920s colonial era mansion. The original gate pillars are still there and well preserved – a good example of the Art Deco styling much beloved by wealthy Chinese-origin residents of Penang at that time.

3 May 2024, at Optimax Eye Clinic, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

CROISSANTS

We regularly partake of coffee and croissants in the newly opened Marriott Hotel in Penang.

3 May 2024, at Marriott Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

LENG POH TEAN TEMPLE, PENANG

This is a new (2012) Chinese temple in a new residential area. This is a surprise view of it that you get from a window (see second image) when walking through a local shopping complex. The railings with the TP logo belong to the Tanjung Park condominium block which is adjacent to the temple.

5 May 2024, seen from Village Grocer supermarket at City Junction, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

CLASSIC VIEW AT THE E&O

The classic view of the sea at Penang's E&O hotel.

14 May 2024, from the car park at E&O Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

LUXURY AT E& O HOTEL

One of the “props” (a Bentley limousine) at the E&O’s main entrance during a wedding photo shoot.

14 May 2024, at E & O Hotel, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

ANOTHER SUNSET

15 May 2024, from our balcony, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

WAX ROSE (Pereskia Bleo)

A so-called wax rose in full bloom, with many more buds to follow, in this early morning shot at our swimming pool. (This shrub is botanically a member of the cactus family, and not a rose.)

19 May 2024, at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

MARRIOTT HOTEL PENANG

A shot of the stylish lobby at this new hotel in Penang.

20 May 2024, at Marriott Hotel, Gurney Drive, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

RESIDENT CAT

We often see this cat, waiting outside the restaurant that seems to have adopted it, when we pass by there early in the morning before business has started.

22 May 2024, at the Gurney Paragon shopping mall, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

OLD PENANG

This staircase, in the Gurney Plaza shopping mall, always strikes us as a perfect example of Penang's building style in commercial premises in the late 80s/early 90s: metal railings painted green or grey-green; suggestions of Italian styling; varnished natural wood handrail on top. We often use this staircase for exercise (instead of the lift) to come up from the underground car park.

23 May 2024, at the Gurney Plaza shopping mall, Penang, Malaysia.

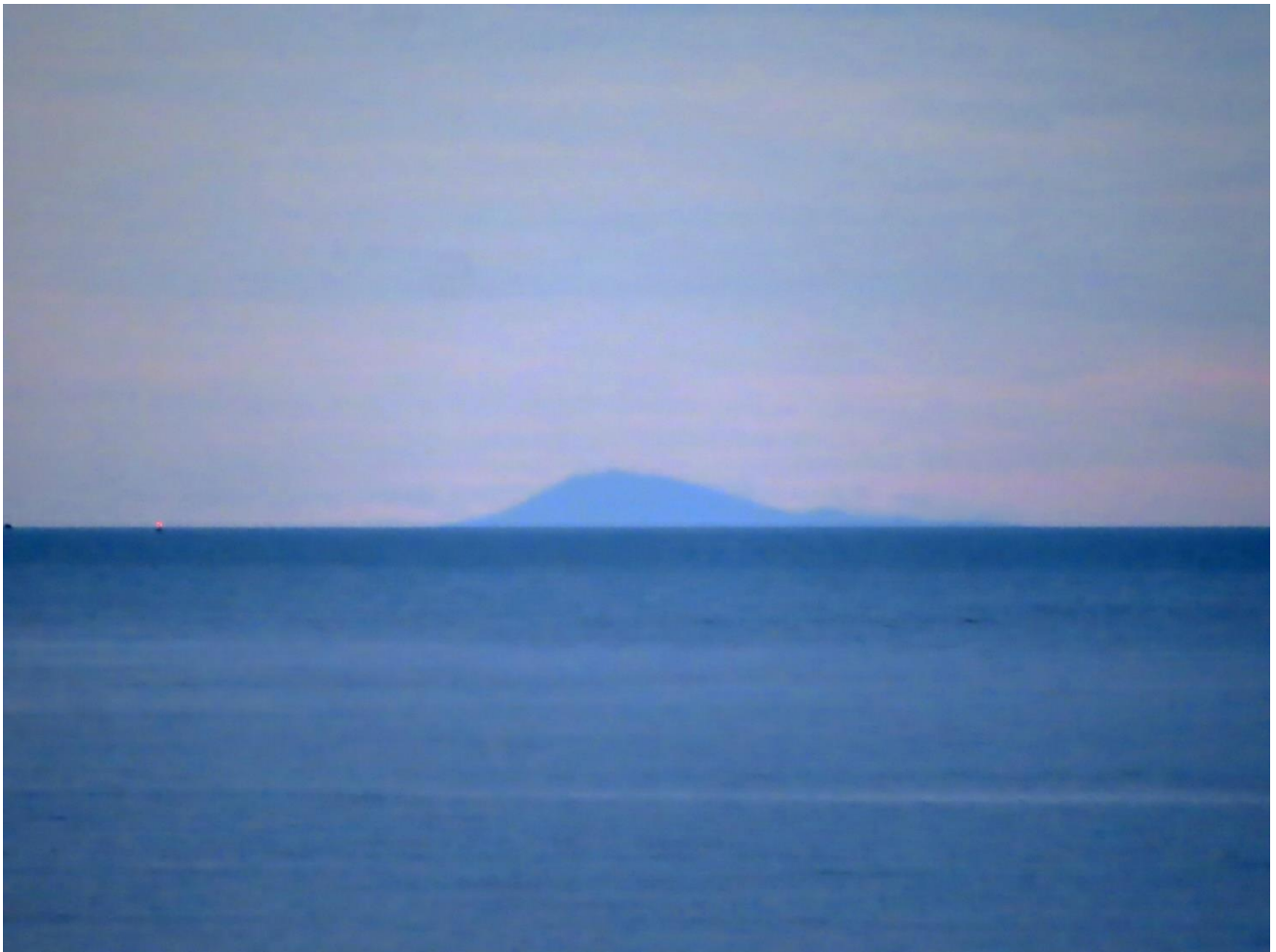


Photos of the year 2023-2024

LANGKAWI

An unexpected view at dusk of the top of the main island of Langkawi, 114 km away. Atmospheric conditions, when the air is dry and clear, usually give us sight of Langkawi only in the middle of the day. Recent rainy conditions have rendered all long-distance views, such as this, unusual at any hour. The island's peak, Gunung Raya, whose tip is seen here, is 881 m high (2,890 feet)

24 May 2024, from our balcony, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



Photos of the year 2023-2024

ANOTHER SUNSET

An unusually colourful sunset this evening.

29 May 2024, from our balcony, Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia.



