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### Asian Golf Travel Nation - March 2014





#### Dear Golf Travelers,



Welcome to this edition of the Asian Golf Travel Nation, the source for news breaking information about Asian Golf. In addition, unique golf playing tips for Indochina's tropical environment, announcements of golf travel promotions, and our latest subscription offer are all integral parts of today's newsletter.

As owner and Managing Director of one of the largest golf tour operators in Asia and longtime resident of Bangkok, Thailand, I would like to share my personal observations and views regarding the situation in Bangkok with regards to the political demonstrations.

All 3 of the protest sites (Asok, Pathumwan, and Ratchaprasong) that have been affecting tourism for

the past 2 months have been closed down. As of March 3, the entire whistle blowing & flag waving protestors protest guards, and street vendors, along with their blaring loudspeakers and rally stages have all moved to Lumpini Park. This is not too surprising to me, as the few days prior it seemed that the guards and street vendors far outnumbered the actual protestors.

Protests can and sometimes are misunderstood, especially in Thailand. Of course you may have read or seen the travel warnings and media reports issued in foreign countries. While it is true that there have been cases of violence, the media reports for the most part grossly generalized and exaggerated the real situation here. The foreign press likes to dramatize and focuses on sensationalist headlines to sell news, not give accurate assessment of protests. If there were demonstrations in Sydney or New York, would you avoid golfing in the entire country of Australia or the USA?

The reality has been and continues to be that **golf in Thailand** is going on normally and every golfing visitor here has been having a great time. Golfers, nor any other tourists for that matter, have not been involved in nor affected by the protests. All golf courses, airports, hotels, and other tourist attractions in Thailand remain fully operational, and Golfasian continues to welcome golf tourists as usual.

Golfasian, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and other golf tour operators have built Thailand into the world's third largest golf destination and for those in the know and who have travelled here recently, thank you for your support. To others who are thinking about it, I hope to welcome you to our green fairways, sunny skies, and friendly smiles very soon. Travel with this in mind and your trips will be as enjoyable as ever!

As always there are many golf happenings around the region so with that, I invite you to read this edition of the Asian Golf Nation.

→ Visit Golfasian Today!

### Golf news from around the region:

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#### **Thailand**

Bangkok: Here's the latest golf scoop. Thailand's 291st golf course is set to open in May. Nikanti Golf Club is a new high-end development near Nakhon Pathom West of Bangkok and almost adjacent to Suwan Golf Club. Designed and built by Khun Ope of Golf East (the designer of Banyan Golf Club and the construction company for Siam Waterside) Nikanti is Bangkok's newest gem. I toured the course recently and with an extensive earth mounding, abundance of water hazards, sheer rock wall defined greens/fairways, sharply sloping greens, and huge bunker complexes, I am sure the new Bangkok golf course will quickly become one of the toughest courses in Thailand. Watch this space for more on this great new Bangkok golf course.



- Golf Tournaments
- 2 Phuket Golf Courses Are Sisters
- Golfing Tips by lan Morgan - Reading the Greens
- Golfasian
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- Previous Newsletters

#### **Vietnam**

Phan Thiet: May she rest in peace! Ocean Dunes Golf Club in Phan Thiet has been closed forever. The course was recently sold to the owners of the nearby Sea Links golf course and rather than bring the course back to its former glory, the new owners decided it was more profitable develop villas on what was the course. This is a real shame, because to lose the original Nick Faldo designed layout in Vietnam to housing and leave only one remaining golf course in Phan Thiet will certainly not help golf tourism in this coastal resort destination.



# Subscription Offer

Become

a Fan >

Sign Up now for breaking news, cool tips, and great resources about golf in Asia.

You get our Asian Golf Newsletter!! PLUS free access to the latest THAILAND GOLF INSIDER TIPS, a 15 page special report, and you will also be eligible for other great member offers from Golfasian.

Another good reason to be <u>registered</u> on the Golfasian mailing list!

#### **Singapore**

Singapore: More bad news for golf in the region. The Singapore government announced this month their intention to not renew the land lease for several Singapore golf courses. Likely to be affected are Keppel Golf Club, Marina Bay Golf Club, Singapore Island Country Club, Tanah Merah Country Club, and National service Resort and Country Club. The Keppel Club will be converted to housing when its lease expires. The public course at Marina Bay will close and instead one of the Singapore Island Country Club's two 18-hole Bukit golf courses will become a public access golf facility. Courses at Tanah Merah Country Club and National Service Resort and Country Club will be altered to accommodate Changi Airport's



expansion plans. With fewer golf courses in Singapore one can only expect that outbound golf travel from Singapore will grow, especially to nearby countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, so maybe this is not such a bad development after all.

#### Indonesia

Bogor (Jakarta): The additional 9-holes at Rainbow Hills, one of the four best mountain courses in the Bogor Highlands and only 45 minutes south of Jakarta, are moving ahead. JMP Golf Design Group team has battled excessive rainfall causing delays in completion of the third nine. However, construction is back on track and the new nine at Rainbow Hills will come on stream in the next 90 days. Like the Rainbow Hills original 18-holes, the additional 9-holes were designed by JMP's lead designer Bob Moore and should prove to be as great addition to the already top layout. Bob Moore was also responsible for the 27-hole Royale Jakarta Golf Club and the 18-hole Padivalley Course in Sulawesi.





Golf Lessons

With that I would like to once again thank those of you who have golfed with us recently, it was nice seeing you and I hope your trip was memorable one.

The golf, culture, and beauty of SE Asia are perfectly suited for an unforgettable golf experience. This includes playing private members clubs and championship golf courses, enjoying the world's best cuisines and entertainment, taking daily spas and massages, and best of all at prices so reasonable that you will think the costs are too low!

Tailor-made itineraries to your specific travel preferences, expectations, group size, and budgets are our specialty; contact us for a competitive quote.

Until the next newsletter, happy golfing and I hope to see YOU in the area very soon!

Mark Siegel Managing Director of Golfasian

Visit Golfasian Today!











# Centara World Masters Golf Championship 15-21 June 2014 | Hua Hin, Thailand



#### http://www.thailandworldmasters.com/registration/

We invite you to join golfers from around the world for Asia's Biggest & Richest Amateur Golf Week. Joining you in Hua Hin, Thailand will be more than 600 golfers from more than 20 countries who share your love of the game and your thirst for fun. The 72-hole stableford competition features numerous prizes and gifts, plus nightly parties and entertainment. At the heart of the event is the camaraderie developed among participants. This is where lifelong friendships are forged.

So long as you are over 35 and have an official golf handicap, you can tee it up at the Masters. There are 15 tournament divisions based on age and handicap.

The Centara World Masters will see you play at Hua Hin's world class golf courses with all the trappings of a major professional tournament. Black Mountain, Banyan, Majestic Creek and Imperial Lake View will give you the ultimate golfing experience. You will be spoiled by Thailand's friendly caddies.

Much more than a golf tournament, there are lively social and entertainment events every night. International acts will be a highlight at the welcome and farewell celebrations. Thailand's biggest 19th hole moves each night to stunning rooftop, beach, and poolside settings. A decadent farewell dinner caps off the fun filled week.

This event is Thailand's richest amateur tournament with US \$30,000 in prizes to be won. Whether you come on your own or with a party of friends, just don't miss it!

Visit www.thailandworldmasters.com for event updates and join our Facebook Page.

#### Privacy

We take the privacy of our clients and partners very seriously and will not sell or redistribute your sensitive information.

#### Follow Us









#### **Golf Travel Partners**



















[Register today!]

## Congratulations - Another Hole in One!

Congratulations to Mr Kenneth Henry B. who just one a hole-in-one at the 11th hole at Danang Golf Club yesterday!

Kenneth is travelling with a group of 22 Australians throughout Vietnam.

















## Golf Club Set Rental Service

Due to popular demand, Golfasian is now offering TaylorMade Graphite & Steel Golf Club Sets for rent during your stay in Thailand.

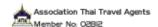
This gives you even more freedom and flexibility when planning your golf trip to Asia. Simply contact our golf travel experts and mention that you would like to rent clubs.

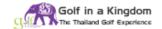
For more information contact us directly.



#### We are Member of

Tourism Authority of Thailand Ucense No: 14/00515















MEMBER

# ■ Hua Hin Properties - Pool Villa For Rent - Luxury Estate Near Black Mountain

Holiday in luxury and style at The Address, within 5 minutes' drive to Black Mountain Golf Course, this huge luxury pool villa will cater for all your holiday needs.

With three very spacious bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms, as well as guest bathroom in the entrance area, generously spacious and top quality kitchen with breakfast counter and all necessary appliances and adjacent dining room with plenty of space for family and friends, huge, high ceilinged lounge and TV area with full surround sound speakers, large flat screen HD TV and satellite TV with international sports and other channels, as well as peacefully quiet and most

Estate Near Black Mountain

pleasant outside covered terrace areas to enjoy the beautiful Hua Hin sunny days - this villa will cater perfectly for groups of golfers as well as families and friends.

Additional facilities include a second story outside covered terrace area and kitchen, perfect for an afternoon BBQ after a round of golf to enjoy the beautiful mountain sunsets.

Feel free to stop by our office and see what we can offer or take our property tour (free of charge).

For a complete listing of Thailand properties visit our website.

**Golf Tours** 

Thailand Golf Tours



#### Golfasian on Twitter & Facebook!

Golfasian is on Twitter and hopefully so are you! If you are keen to be the first to know about golf course updates & golf travel news, join our Twitter Feed at:

#### https://twitter.com/golf\_asian

For more in depth articles, news and Special Offers follow our Facebook Page at

https://www.facebook.com/thailandgolftour



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#### **Golf Travel Testimonials**

Just wanted to thank you for a well planned trip to Thailand.

Ian & Bee took great care of us when we requested changes to itinerary once there & your drivers Rocky in Phuket & the young woman in Hua Hin were exceptional. They provided any information we needed & were able to make changes regarding scheduling around the golf pick-ups when we ended up late or early getting off the course.

It was fun meeting & golfing with Mark. He added his views of living in Thailand and background on Golfasian. He also took us for lunch after golfing which was very generous & appreciated. We will definitely choose your company for our next vacation to South East Asia.

Thanks again, Wendy

Canada, February 2014

[Read more golf travel testimonials]

[Find out about <u>Golfasian's Travel Satisfaction Guarantee</u>]



#### Kuala Lumpur- Destination Review

Kuala Lumpur represents the heartbeat of the nation. Home to a population of 2.6 million, Kuala Lumpur often called KL, covers an area of 244 sq. km. s a bustling commercial centre and the apex of government administration, Kuala Lumpur has always been the pacesetter for trends, activities and campaigns that are eventually felt throughout the country. Most visitors to Malaysia come first to Kuala Lumpur and are impressed by the buildings especially Twin Towers.

Kuala Lumpur has multiple world class golf courses including Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club, The Mines Resort & Golf Club, Royal Selangor, Saujana

Golf & Country Club & Kota Permai Golf & Country Club to name a few. All of these courses have hosted multiple professional tour events and received numerous awards and accolades.

But that's not all!

Kuala Lumpur is a colourful, vibrant city, which truly reflects its multitude of cultural influences. There are the tempting and delicious aroma of numerous cuisines and delicacies plus an overall

atmosphere of warmth and hospitality. Kuala Lumpur also offers some varied and exciting modes of shopping from quaint bazaars and colourful night markets, selling a bewildering array of goods and trinkets, to the modern shopping complexes with a marvellous range of imported goods and designers items

Come experience this dynamic, must-see city for yourself.

#### [Read more golf articles]



#### Featured Golf Course - The Royal Selangor Golf Club

The Royal Selangor Golf Club or The RSGC, has a long history that is associated with the birth and dawn of golf in Malaysia. Located at the "Golden Triangle" in Kuala Lumpur. Against the backdrop of KL city skyline, the RSGC offers two 18-hole standard championship courses and a short 9-hole option. the historic Old Course at 5,915 metres and playing to a par-72, has been the venue for many international tournaments. The New Course at 6,039 metres, par-72 is another fine 18-hole with undulating greens and generous fairway. While the 45-hole are accessible on foot, each hole offers a different playing experience and challenges to test one's golfing approach.



[Read more about one of Malaysia's Best Golf Courses]



#### Featured Hotel - The Ritz-Carlton Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's first full butler service hotel. The 365-room is located at corner of Golden Triangle area. The 365 guest rooms are decorated in traditional Ritz-Carlton style with modern amenities. The facilities include state-of-the-art conference rooms, gymnasium, restaurants, the signature tropical Spa Village, business centre, cross signing facility with JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur. The superb location is a mere stone's throw away from the modern nightlife, upscale shopping heavens of Starhill, Lot 10 and Pavilion KL.







# Golf Trip Idea: Malaysia Golfing Experience

This Malaysia golf holiday includes 7 rounds of golf at some of the most exciting golf courses in Malaysia in two great golf destinations. The Malaysia golf experience golf package is well suited for those wanting to play the best golf courses in Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak, enjoy one of Sarawak's top resorts, and relax in one of Kuala Lumpurs best hotels for golfers famous. Golfers may swap Sarawak for one of Malaysia's beach destinations or any of Malaysia's other great destinations.

[Malaysia Golfing Experience Itinerary...]







## Press Release: Visiting Thailand: Bangkok Returns to Normal

Bangkok, March 4, 2014 - The swathe of negative headlines about safety in Bangkok that has swamped international media in the past three months should now disappear as protestors dismantle barricades in key parts of the city.

Despite the impression that Bangkok has been a city under siege, nothing could have been - or is - further from the truth.

And despite a delicate political impasse that has put a question mark over the future of Thailand's (now interim) government, life and business in Bangkok and the rest of the kingdom has been perfectly normal.



Hopefully, selective images and footage of street marches, police battling protesters and barricades at intersections will now be replaced by reality: tourists and locals eating, socialising, shopping and enjoying all this vibrant city has to offer.

[Read the entire Press Release]



## Golf Course Maintenance Updates

#### Thailand

- - All golf courses in Bangkok are in great condition.
  - Royal Gems Golf City Course will be undergoing coring green on 1 April.
  - Thai Country Club Course will be closed for maintenance program from 31 March 8 April.
- Hua Hin
  - Majestic Creek Country Club Coring green and course maintenance until March 2014.
  - Banyan Golf Club, Black Mountain Golf Club, Imperial Lake View, Majestic Creek Country Club, Palm Hills Golf Club and Residence, Royal Hua Hin Golf Course, Sea Pine Golf Course, and Springfield Royal Country Club are in excellent condition.
- Pattaya
  - · Burapha Golf Course, Greenwood Golf and Resort, Khao Kheow Country Club, Laem Chabang International Country Club, Pattana Sport Club, Phoenix Golf & Country Club, Siam Country Club, St. Andrews 2000 Golf Club & Burapha Golf Club are in excellent condition.
- Phuket
  - Laguna Phuket Golf Club 9 holes (starting with the back 9) will be closed for 18 months from July 2013 onwards. The front 9 are playable until March 2014, while the back 9 are under renovation. The front 9 will start renovation in March 2014 while the freshly renovated back 9 will have been reopened for play.
  - · Blue Canyon Country Club, Lakes Course & Canyon Course, Loch Palm Golf Club, Mission Hills Phuket, Phuket Country Club, Red Mountain Golf Club are in excellent condition.
- · Chiang Mai

- Gassan Lake City Course renovation. Expected completion date in April 2014.
- Alpine Golf Resort & Chiang Mai Highlands Golf and Spa, Chiang Mai Inthanon Golf Resort,
   Mae Jo Golf Club, Royal Chiang Mai Golf Resort are in excellent condition.
- Chiang Ra
  - Santiburi Chiang Rai Country Club is in good condition.

#### Vietnam

- Hanoi
  - Hanoi Golf Club, Heron Lake Golf Club and Resort, Tam Dao Golf Club Closed every Monday morning for maintenance.
  - Chi Linh Golf Club 9 holes are closed every Monday for maintenance.
  - Van Tri Golf Club, Kings Island Golf Resort are in excellent condition.
- Saigon
  - Long Thanh Golf Course, Song Be Golf Resort, Twin Doves Golf Club and Vietnam Golf & Country Club are in good condition
- Danang
  - Danang Golf Club, Laguna Lang Co Golf Club & Montgomerie Links Vietnam are in excellent condition.
- Phan Thiet
  - Sea Link Golf Course, Ocean Dunes Golf Club are in excellent condition.
- Nha Trang
  - Vinpearl Golf Club and Diamond Bay Golf Course are in great condition.

#### Cambodia

- · Siem Reap
  - Angkor Golf Resort, Phokeethra Country Club are in excellent conditon.

#### Malaysia

- · Kuala Lumpur
  - Saujana Golf & Country Club Palm 1 will be under renovation from 1 August 2013 for 8 months. Palm 10 immediately after completion of Palm 1 and will go on for 8 months.

#### Indonesia

- Bintan
  - Ria Bintan Golf Course Golf course maintenance is usually done on Mondays. At any time only 9 holes will be closed while the other 18 holes remain open.



#### Golf Tournaments

Hua Hin Amateur Golf Week - March 2014

Date: March 1 - 8, 2014 | Location: Hua Hin, Thailand

[Find out more]

Pattaya Amateur Golf Week - March 2014

Date: March 8 - 15, 2014 | Location: Pattaya,

Thailand [Find out more]

Phuket Amateur Golf Week - June 2014

Date: June 8 - 14, 2014 | Location: Phuket, Thailand

[Find out more]

## Centara World Masters Golf Championship - June 2014

Date: June 15 - 21, 2014 | Location: Hua Hin, Thailand [Find out more]

Cambodia Amateur Golf Week - July 2014

Date: July 27 - August 4, 2014 | Location: Siem Reap, Cambodia [Find out more]

Vietnam Amateur Golf Week - August 2014

Date: August 4 - 10, 2014 | Location: Danang, Vietnam [Find out more]

Pattaya Amateur Golf Week - October 2014

Date: October 18 - 25, 2014 | Location: Pattaya, Thailand [Find out more]



#### Chiang Mai Amateur Golf Week - October 2014

Date: October 25 - November 01, 2014 | Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand [Find out more]



#### Best of the Blog Thailandgolfzone.com

#### 2 Phuket Golf Courses Are Sisters

Although sister courses, the only thing in common about Loch Palm Golf Club and Red Mountain Golf Club is the common drive way entrance and pedigree.

Owned by MBK (the same company who owns the famous Bangkok shopping center), each of these two Phuket golf courses presents itself to the visiting golfer in very different ways.

Loch Palm is set tranquilly set around a large palm tree lined lake, hence its name of the old Scottish term "Loch" combined with the tropical setting "Palm". The front nine plays across the flat lands of the former open-cast tin mine, while the back nine plays



around some of the cliffs created just before the site was abandoned some 80 years ago. Most holes feature wide fairways which are quite forgiving and allow golfers of all abilities to have a relaxed day golfing in Phuket. In fact, I actually enjoy Loch Palm more than any other Phuket golf course.

#### [Read the entire article]

Other golf stories can be found at the <u>Thailand Golf Zone</u>, <u>Vietnam Golf Zone</u> and <u>Phuket Golf Zone</u> where there are over 600 other original articles dealing exclusively with golf in Asia and golf travel.

I would love to hear about any golf tips that any of you may have developed for getting the maximum enjoyment from your golf trips, and can incorporate some in future articles. Therefore if you have any golf tips or suggestions you would like to share, please <u>let me know</u> by dropping me an email.

Subscribe to our RSS Feed.



#### Golfing Tips by Ian Morgan - How to Get Out of a Bunker

Most golfers have a great fear of being in bunker, leaving the ball in the bunker, fear of blasting it over the green, fear of looking foolish, etc. It's not so difficult with a good technique

#### [Read on]

#### [Read more Golf Tips Articles]

If you have any other questions regarding golf tips to help you with your game email us at <a href="mailto:info@golfasian.com">info@golfasian.com</a> and we will reply in upcoming newsletters

For more golf tips visit www.golfthink.com





#### Meet Golfasian at these Trade/Roadshows/Fam-Trips

Golfasian has a full schedule of tradeshows and roadshows during the next few months.

You can find us at the following events:

- March 31 April 06, 2014 North Asia Golf Media FAM Trip Central Thailand (Bangkok, Pattaya, Hua Hin, Thailand)
- April 20 25, 2014 ASEAN Golf Media FAM Trip (Bangkok & Hua Hin, Thailand)
- April 28 May 07, 2014 Thailand Golf Road Show - South Africa (Johannesburg, Cape Town)
- May 17 23, 2014 North America Golf FAM Trip (Pattaya, Bangkok, Chiang Mai)
- July 24 31, 2014 Thailand Golf Road Show Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane)

Arrange an appointment with Golfasian at one of these exhibits.





#### **About Us & Contacts**



If any reader would like to suggest a topic to be covered or better yet contribute materials, photos, or even commissions an article please contact us by e-mail, we welcome the help.

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- Founder and member of Golf Coast Vietnam (GCV)

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