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Golfasian

Banyan Golf Club Hua Hin

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Asia's Best Golf Tour Operator 2014



Thailand's Best Inbound Golf Tour Operator 2015

May 2016 Edition

Dear Golf Travelers,



Welcome to the latest issue of the Asian Golf Nation, the source for news breaking information about golf in Asia. In addition, unique golf playing tips for South East Asia's tropical environment, announcements of golf travel promotions, and our latest tournament offers are all parts of this newsletter.

Asian golf tourism is on the increase again. This month we see the Asian Golf Tourism Convention come to Chiang Mai making Thailand the first country to have hosted this prestigious event multiple times. Then just one month later Thailand Travel Mart will be held with golf tour operators from every country being invited for free. Finally, in August the 2nd edition of the Thai Golf Travel Market will be staged in Pattaya where 200 buyers will get to experience first-hand what playing golf in Pattaya is all about. Stay tuned for their reports.

Not to be outdone, Vietnam has seen a 35% year-on-year increase in rounds played by golf tourists with Golfasian Vietnam leading the way at over 100% year-on-year growth. Vietnam's central government has seen the economic advantages of golf tourism and has completely changed their stand on expanding/approving new golf courses. Currently there are 40 courses open for play, another 40 under construction, and an additional 40 with approved licenses yet to be started. Most all of the new projects are located along Vietnam's extensive coast, making them ideal premium golf course and 5-star golf resort sites. Links golf anyone?

By 2025 there will be well over 100 courses in Vietnam for golf travelers to select from. Let me know if you want to get over to Vietnam to see yourself what the entire buzz is about.

A winner of the 2014 & 2015 World Golf Awards with the title of Asia's Best Golf Tour Operator 2014 and Thailand's Best Inbound Golf Tour Operator 2015, Golfasian has once again been nominated for Asia's Best Golf Tour Operator. Please, vote for us now:

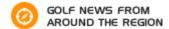


I wish all golf travelers a great golf season ahead. The golf, culture, and beauty of Asia continue to be perfectly suited for unforgettable golf experiences. Tailor-made itineraries fitting your specific needs, expectations and budgets are our specialty. Drop me an email with your request; you will be surprised at the possibilities.

As always there are lots of golf developments around the region, so sit back and enjoy this edition of the Asian Golf Nation.

Mark Siegel Managing Director of Golfasian

In This Issue:







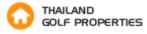






















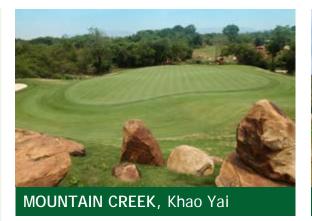


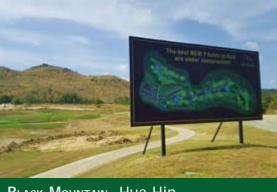


GOLF NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION



Hua Hin, Thailand





BLACK MOUNTAIN, Hua Hin

Do you know what Thais do when they want a relaxing holiday away from the normal hustle-and-bustle? They head 2 hours east of Bangkok to Thailand's largest national park. The Khao Yai area sports many wonderful boutique resorts and private villas. Fortunately, some of Thailand's golf hidden gems are located in the area too. Mountain Creek Golf Resort is one of the best and they have recently completed playability upgrades to all 27 holes, expanded their facilities to better cater for visiting golfers' needs, and appointed an experienced international management team. I was there last month and the whole set-up is very impressive.

Severe drought in the area is affecting play at most of the area courses. Black Mountain, Banyan, and Sea Pines seem to be the only courses with enough water to keep green. Speaking of Black Mountain, the Par-3 course is now closed and construction on the new 9 holes is in full swing and on target to finish late this year. I'm looking forward to seeing Black Mountain becoming a full 27-hole facility.

Danang, Vietnam



Danang Golf Club, Danang

Nha Trang, Vietnam



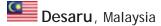
Lotus Cam Ranh, Nha Trang

Bangkok Airways begins four times a week non-stop service from Bangkok to Danang and what once was an 8 hour transit journey will be cut down to 1.5 hours. This will facilitate much better access to Danang and avoid the unreliable domestic connections currently needed via Saigon or Hanoi. It also opens up new multidestination golf tours such as the Bangkok -Danang 2 Destination Golf Package. Now everyone can play great golf and experience great nightlife and shopping all

Down the coast in Nha Trang, earth works are in full swing at the new Lotus Cam Ranh Golf Resort. The 27-hole golf course is located along the Long Beach area of the Cam Ranh Peninsula, very close to the airport and part of a new area being developed with luxury resorts and high end residences. The accelerated project schedule calls for the first 18 holes to be online in early 2017. Once open this 3rd course will greatly enhance the Nha Trang golf destination. With some of the best

on one easy trip.

year-round weather in Vietnam, Nha Trang is already a tourist mecca for watersports and other leisure activities.





Have you never heard of Desaru or thought it is some kind of desert? Well just the opposite. Location on the eastern side of Peninsula Malaysia, Desaru is one of the newest coastal golf courses to be developed. The resort can be easily reached by land from Johor or Singapore. Two new golf courses are just about ready for play. The Els Club Desaru consists of Troon managed courses designed by both Ernie Els (Desaru Coast) and Vijay Singh (Desaru Valley). We visited the site last week and as you can see in the picture, the first course is good resort track that plays in a pine forested valley while the second layout will feature a championship 18 that will test players of all levels. The Els Club Desaru Coast has an ultra-modern clubhouse perched about the course. Area resorts include Datai, Aman, Westin, and Anantara, all premium 5 star properties. The courses should be on par with the award winning The Els Club, Teluk Datai in Langkawi and raise the bar for golf in Malaysia. I look forward to the course opening in the next 3-4 months.

▲ back to top



PLAY MORE - SAVE MORE

We now offer 3 International Acclaimed Tournaments Centara World Masters Golf Championship 12-18 June 2016
Mercure Pattaya Ocean Resort 2 Ball Golf Championship 19-25 June 2016
Accor Vietnam World Masters Golf Championship (*** NOW 25% OFF! ***) 4-10 Sept. 2016







World Masters Golfer's Comment

On behalf of my husband and I, we would like to congratulate you on another wonderful event. We enjoyed the games, the on-course challenges and meeting new friends from around the world.

The team were amazing organising the transport and getting everyone off to a great start at each course.

I congratulate you on the changes you are making to the handicap system and also making the guys play from the tees further back. For most guys they like to play the full course especially the A graders. I think this will also keep the results within a proper margin making your job much easier and hopefully less disgruntled competitors because of the high point scores that came in.

We had a wonderful time and will be back next year. Have a great year.

BOOK NOW FOR BIG SAVINGS!

Register for 2 events - save 10% off your second event. Register for 3 events - save 10% off all 3 events.

BOOK NOW!









GOLF TRAVEL TESTIMONIALS



Hi, my name is Craig Philpott. I am from the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. I travelled to Hua Hin with 4 mates from Nudgee Golf Club in Brisbane. I have played golf for approximately 30 years. My handicap is 4 at the moment. I am a member of Nudgee Golf Club in Brisbane. Nudgee is a members' course but open to guests as well.

This was my first time to Thailand. We selected Hua Hin so we could watch a member of our club, Scott Hend, play in the Thailand Classic, which he duly won so we now have to return next year! Three of the members on the trip have known Scott for quite a few years so this was a cause for much celebration.

My first impression of Thailand was "how good is this". We were picked up by Golfasian at Bangkok airport and transported straight to our hotel at Hua Hin in a very comfortable vehicle. Check-in was swift and I was in my room within 10 minutes of arrival. Next morning we enjoyed a very good breakfast before heading to the front of the hotel ready for golf. The Golfasian driver was waiting for us and we were on our way. We played Sea Pines first and I would recommend this course to anyone. It's a very good course with great views out to sea on the first, second and the last few holes. Played Banyan and it was everything I had been told it would be...

[Read the entire interview online]

[Read more Testimonials]









Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Only an hour's flight from Bangkok, Phnom Penh is not only easy to reach but it also offers a very unusual golf vacation.

Currently there are only around seven golf courses in the country, dwarfed by its neighbour Thailand that has over 230 course, but Phnom Penh has four golf courses all close to the city.

Cambodia however is recovering from the terrible Pol Pot regime of the 70's, and although you cannot forget the horrors of this period, there is definitely a new Cambodia arising, partly helped by the number of tourists pouring into this relatively small country.

When you land at the modern international airport you immediately sense this capital city is getting its act together.

Out of the four courses, the top two are the Jack Nicklaus designed **Grand Phnom Penh Golf Club** and the IMG managed **Garden City Golf Club**.

Read the entire **Phnom Penh golf destination review**.

View our Phnom Penh Golf Packages | Phnom Penh Golf Courses

FEATURED GOLF COURSE



Grand Phnom Penh Golf Club is a private members' club and part of the Grand Phnom Penh International City. The golf course is located 20 minutes northwest of Phnom Penh and on the way to the airport. With little development away from the city, the air and climate tend to be fresher and well-suited for golf.

Grand Phnom Penh Golf Club is designed by Jack Nicklaus. The 7,914 yard course is one of the best maintained in Phnom Penh with immaculate fairways and manicured undulated greens. The fairways are very wide, but significant earth-moving and mounding are featured around all the greens. The course is also relatively exposed, so wind, especially late in the day, can play havoc on a good score.

[Read more about one of Cambodia' Best Golf Courses]

FEATURED HOTEL



The Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra overlooks the magnificent Mekong River. This luxury Phnom Penh hotel welcomes golfers looking for superior accommodation and convenience. The 12 story colonial-style hotel is close to key attractions including local markets, shopping, and entertainment areas. There are 4 on-site restaurants featuring international and Asian cuisines. After golf, guests can relax at any of the hotels 3 bars with an extensive drinks list and snacks. Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel is an excellent choice for Cambodia golfers.

[Read more about one of Cambodia's Best Hotels]

▲ back to top



Best of Cambodia Golf Package



Be one of the first to explore one of golf's best up-and-coming destinations. Visit the Cambodian capital of **Phnom Penh** and site of the Angkor temples; **Siem Reap**. Golf at the top golf courses in the location and in between learn about and experience the ancient Khmer sights and culture. Experience this once-in-a-lifetime exotic golf package with all of the comforts!

View the complete tour itinerary.

To meet your preferences and budget please contact us for further information.

▲ back to top

GOLF TOURS





Vietnam Golf Tourism Dynamo's Remarkable Success

Whatever Thuy Trang, Vietnam's golf tourism dynamo, lacks in stature she makes up in business skills and success.

For the past five years, since establishing Golfasian Vietnam, Trang, 35, has been the driving force behind Vietnam's rise as a major golf tourism destination in Asia.

She and her 11 other staff - seven in Ho Chi Minh City and two each in Danang and Hanoi - built the business to exceed \$US1 million turnover in 2014, a mark they surpassed in the first quarter alone in 2015.

[Read more...]







GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE UPDATES



Bangkok

Cascata Golf Club: Course will be closed on 11, 13, 16, 18, and 23 May for tournaments.

Lakewood Country Club: Course will be closed on 19 & 27 May and on 10, 22 and 29 May for tournaments.

Lam Luk Ka Country Club: Course will be undergoing verticut and coring green on course C (10-13 May) and course D (16-19 May).

Lotus Valley Golf Resort: Course will be closed on 7 May for a tournament.

Nikanti Golf Club: Course will be closed on 13, 17, 23, 27 and 30 May for tournaments.

Riverdale Golf Club: Course will be closed from 2-7 May for a tournament.

Royal Golf & Country Club: Course will be closed on 25, 27 and 30-31 May for tournaments and from 6 June - 15 July will be undergoing coring greens on some holes.

Summit Windmill Golf Club: Course will be undergoing coring greens on 8 May.

The Royal Gems Golf and Sports Club: Course will be undergoing major greens renovations. Holes 9-17 will be closed April - June and holes 1-8 and 18 will be closed

July - September. All 18 greens will be ready for play again in October.

Windsor Park & Golf Club: Course will be closed on 4, 11-12, 18 and 24-26 May for tournaments and will be undergoing coring greens on 9, 16, 23 and 30 May.

Hua Hin

Banyan Golf Club: Course will be closed from 15 - 20 May for a tournament and from 13-14 and 16-17 June for the Centara World Masters Golf Championship.

Palm Hills Golf Club and Residence: Course will be undergoing coring greens during 2-12 May.

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Royal Hua Hin Golf Course: Course will be closed during 2-8 May for the Singha Hua Hin Open and on 28 May and 26 June for tournaments.

Springfield Royal Country Club: Course B is closed during 1 - 31 May and Course C is closed during 1 - 30 June.

Pattaya

Greenwood Golf & Resort: Course will be closed from 21 - 22 May for a tournament.

Khao Kheow Country Club: Course A will be closed for maintenance during 9 May - 16

June and course C will be closed for maintenance during 20-30 June.

Laem Chabang International Country Club: Course will be closed on 13 May and 10 & 23 June for tournaments. Course will be undergoing coring greens on 16 May.

Pattana Golf Club & Resort: Course will be closed from 23 - 28 May and on 5 and 19 June for tournaments.

Phoenix Gold Golf & Country Club: The Ocean Course is closed until 30 June.

Rayong Green Valley Country Club: Course will be closed on 5, 14 and 24 June for tournaments.

Siam Country Club, Old Course: Course will be closed every Monday (except during public holidays) for weekly maintenance until 26 September.

Siam Country Club, Plantation Course: Course will be undergoing coring greens from 3-31 May.

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Siam Country Club, Waterside Course: Course will be closed every Tuesday (except during public holidays) for weekly maintenance until 27 September.

St. Andrews 2000 Golf Club: Course will be closed on 5 June for a tournament.

Phuket

Blue Canyon Country Club, Canyon Course: Course will be undergoing coring maintenance during 13-16 June and 3-6 October.

Blue Canyon Country Club, Lakes Course: Course will be undergoing coring maintenance during 2-5 May and 5-8 September

Laguna Golf Phuket: Course will be undergoing top sand on green during 2 - 6 May, verticut on greens during 16 - 31 May and further maintenance during June.

Loch Palm Golf Club: Course will closed on 18 May for a tournament. Course will be undergoing coring greens on 4 July.

Phuket Country Club: Course will be closed on 14 May for a tournament and undergoing maintenance during 7 - 8 June.

Red Mountain Golf Club: Course will be undergoing coring greens on 6 June.

Chiang Mai

Alpine Golf Resort Chiang Mai: Course will be closed on 13, 15, 29 May and on 4 and 11 June for tournaments.

Chiangmai Inthanon Golf & Natural Resort: Course will be closed on 4 June for a tournament.

Gassan Khuntan Golf and Resort: Course will be closed on 28-29 May and 18 and 26-27 June for tournaments.

Gassan Legacy Golf Club: Course will be undergoing coring greens during 2-3 May and 1-2 June. Course will be closed on 25 June for a tournament.

Gassan Marina Golf & Resort: Course will be closed for renovation from May 2015 until May 2016.

Mae Jo Golf Club: Course will be closed on 21 May and on 2, 4 and 24 June for tournaments.

Royal Chiang Mai Golf Club & Resort: Course will be closed on 7 May for a tournament.

Chiang Rai

Happy City Golf Resort: Course B will be undergoing coring greens during May. Course will be closed on 14 May for a tournament.

Santiburi Chiang Rai Country Club: Course will be closed 15 & 29 May and 5, 19 and

26 June for tournaments.

Khao Yai

Bonanza Golf & Country Club: Course will be closed on 1 May for a tournament.

Kirimaya Golf Resort & Spa: Course will be undergoing coring greens during 2-6 May.

Mountain Creek Golf Resort and Residence: Course will be closed during 9-12 May

for a tournament.

Kanchanaburi

Royal Ratchaburi Golf Club: Course will be closed on 28 May for a tournament.

Koh Samui

Santiburi Samui Country Club: Course will be closed from 13-19 June for a tournament.

Khon Kaen

Dancoon Golf Club: Course will be closed on 7 May for a tournament.

Singha Park Khon Kaen: Course will be closed on 15, 21 and 22 May and on 25 June for tournaments.



Vietnam

Danang

Laguna Lang Co Golf Club: Course will be holding a tournament on 27 and 29 May.

Hanoi

Long Bien Golf Course: Course will be holding a tournament on 7, 21 and 29 May.

Saigon

Twin Doves Golf Club: Course will be holding a tournament on 10, 12 and 17 May.

Vietnam Golf & Country Club: Course will be undergoing coring greens on 25 July &

15 August.

Vinpearl Golf Club Phu Quoc: Course will be undergoing maintenance on 4 May.



Kuala Lumpur

Palm Garden Golf Club: Course will be closed on 5, 7, 12 and 15 May for tournaments.

Saujana Golf & Country Club, Bunga Raya Course: Course is undergoing renovation and is thus closed for tee-off.

Langkawi

99 East Golf Club: Course is closed for renovation until September 2016.



Siem Reap

Phokeethra Country Club: Course will be undergoing coring fairways during 6-8 June.



Sentosa Golf Club, Tanjong Course: Course is closed for renovation until November

▲ back to top



GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Mercure Pattaya Ocean

Centara World Masters Golf Championship -June 2016

Hua Hin, Thailand

12 - 18 June, 2016

2 Ball Golf Championship - June 2016

Pattaya, Thailand

19 - 25

June, 2016

Siem Reap, Cambodia

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1 - 9

August, 2016

[FIND OUT MORE]

Accor Vietnam World **Masters Golf** Championship -September 2016

[FIND OUT MORE]

Siam Country Club Pattaya Amateur Golf Week -October 2016

Chiang Mai Amateur Golf Week -October 2016

[FIND OUT MORE]

Cambodia Amateur Golf

Week -

August 2016



Danang, Thailand



4 - 10 Sept., 2016



Thailand

16 - 22 October, 2016



Chiang Mai, Thailand



23 - 29 October, 2016

[FIND OUT MORE]

[FIND OUT MORE]

[FIND OUT MORE]

▲ back to top



HUA HIN PROPERTIES

Swimming Pool Property Development From Award Winning Builder



This project is the 8th created in Hua Hin by its multi award-winning developer and follows on from the outstanding success of previous builds here in the beautiful seaside town of Hua Hin, Thailand. Built on 33 Rai of land set in idyllic countryside, the development is ideally situated just 10 km from the centre of Hua Hin, 4 km from the bypass, 7 km from the beach and central to Hua Hin's numerous golf-courses and amenities.

A development of 66 Pool Villas, built in 4 different designs, and all promoting healthy outdoor living, with large terrace areas and beautifully landscaped gardens. Included in the sales price is a Furniture Package with a retail value of 700,000 Baht

The 5th, 6th and 7th developments by the same developer all sold out within just 12 months from their launch date, which we believe is testament to their high end construction, finishing and customer care.

These 3 bedroom, luxury garden pool villas offer a wonderful lifestyle choice, with total privacy and exclusivity.

Find out more!

▲ back to top



BEST OF THE BLOG

Amateur Weeks Spice up your Golf Vacation



GOLFING TIPS

Club Rental Service



Golfasian, Thailand's largest Inbound Golf Tour Operator, has been bringing clients to Thailand for amateur tournament golf since 2012. In the following year, for their Amateur Golf Weeks the venues were expanded to include Cambodia and Vietnam.

Although the company has been providing Asia golf packages to clients throughout the world since the late 1990s, including transport, accommodation and golf, a gap in the market was recognised for a 5-star offer with an additional element... competition. Importantly, the tournament play would be run along professional lines with sponsorship, branded shirts, caddie bibs, sophisticated score keeping using the latest software, plus marshalling (in cooperation with course staff), rules officiating and of course prizes; all overseen by Tournament Director PGTAA qualified Mark Penfold, who has over 10 years of experience in the industry.



Your first instinct will be to bring your own golf clubs on your trip. But have a think about how much easier it would make things to hire a set and save on luggage. In Bangkok, Pattaya and Hua Hin Golfasian is in a position to hire you a full set of nearly new Taylor Made clubs including the options for steel or graphite shafts of every stiffness.

We get many compliments about the clubs with some clients even asking if they can buy them during their holiday, certainly considering switching brand on their return home.

Ask us for rental clubs when you plan your next golf holiday with Golfasian.

FOR MORE GOLF TIPS VISIT WWW.GOLFTHINK.COM

[READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE]

Other golf stories can be found at the Thailand Golf Zone, Vietnam Golf Zone, Phuket Golf Zone and Vietnam Golf Tourism Blogs where there are over 1,600 original golf articles & commentary 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 let me know by dropping me an email.



back to top



GOLF TRAVEL INSURANCE

Have you thought about golf travel insurance for your trip? Golfasian has teamed up with Pacific Cross insurance to offer:

Personal Accident Insurance

up to

USD 65,000

Medical Treatment

up to

USD **75,000**

Hole-In-One

up to

USD 300

Emergency Evacuation & Repatriation Loss/Damage of Baggage

up to

USD 800

Loss/Damage of Golfing Equipment

up to

USD 2,000

AND A LOT MORE!

For more information visit our website.

▲ back to top



MEET GOLFASIAN AT THESE TRADE/ROADSHOWS/FAM-TRIPS



Golfasian has a full schedule of trade shows and roadshows during the next few months. You can find us at the following events

June

IAGTO North America Golf Tourism

Convention (USA)

26 - 29

International Golf Travel Market (Mallorca, Spain)

November

14 - 17

ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOLFASIAN AT ON OF THESE EXHIBITS.

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 registered on the Golfasian mailing list!

Sign Up Now!!



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

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MEMBER NO.:7908

MEMBER NO.:5003

























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

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