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Asia's  
Best Golf Tour  
Operator



Thailand's  
Best Inbound Golf  
Tour Operator



Vietnam's  
Best Inbound Golf  
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## February 2018 Edition

**Dear Golf Travelers,**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Welcome to this issue of the Asian Golf Nation, the source for news breaking information about golf in Asia.** Also, 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.

*Happy New Year and "Ruf Ruf" to all golfers!*

February 16th marks the start of the Chinese Lunar New Year, and 2018 is the Year of the Dog. Golfers born in the year of the dog are courageous, so for those who like to make a go at par-5's, this will be your year. However, canine weaknesses are stubbornness. Be extra sure this year to listen to the advice of your caddies, and you will be well-rewarded.

The entire Golfasian staff and I extend to golfers worldwide, the traditional greeting for this season - "Gung Xi Fat Choy"; may the Dog bring you excellent golf experiences throughout the year.

Please note that throughout the region many of the local staff and service personnel

will travel back to their hometowns to celebrate the Lunar New year from the 15th to the 25th of February. Golf courses, hotels, airports, and other attractions will all be open normally. However, expect less than normal duty staff, extra crowds, and some service delays during this period.

Similarly, Golfasian is experiencing record Asian golf travel business. It is a joy seeing all of the happy golfers playing the fairways here. To those who are traveling with us, thank you for your support. To others who are still at home, the winter is not over yet, and I hope to welcome you to the sunny skies and Asia's green golf courses soon.

The golf, culture, and exotic beauty of Asia are perfectly suited for unforgettable golf experiences. Whether it be playing in one of our organized [golf tournaments](#) or on a golf holiday, you are guaranteed to play world-class golf, meet friendly locals, experience excellent cuisines, sample exotic cultures, and enjoy fascinating entertainment. Best of all everything on offer is at great prices. Complete full-service itineraries created for your specific travel preferences, expectations, group size, and budgets are our specialty; contact us for a [competitive quote](#).

With that, I invite you to read on and hear what's new from around the region.

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

*Mark Siegel*

*Managing Director of Golfasian*

## GOLF NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION



### Pattaya

Construction at [Chee Chan Golf Resort](#) marches ahead towards a May opening. The terrain at Chee Chan Golf Resort includes 25 meters of elevation change, just the right amount to create



### Ho Tram

[The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip](#) has retained its status as one of Golf Digest's best golf courses in the world. The latest ranking has Vietnam's sole entry on the list at No. 35, up from No. 74 where it

a challenging and visually dramatic resort course measuring more than 7,200 yards from the championship tees. IMG will oversee operations at Chee Chan Golf Resort, and is benchmarking nearby Siam Country Club for their service and quality. Once opened, Chee Chang Golf Resort will be one of the attractions located in the shadow of the 110-meter spiritual Buddha that already includes Silverlake Winery, Ramayana Water Park, and shopping and restaurant district.

debuted in 2016 as part of inaugural 'World 100 Greatest Golf Courses' ranking.

Designed by legendary golfer Greg Norman, The Bluffs opened to great fanfare in October 2014.

A year later, the seaside links-style track won 'World's Best New Golf Course' at the World Golf Awards and served as the site of the Asian Tour's Ho Tram Open, won by The Master's champ, Sergio Garcia. The Bluffs, located on the East Sea is a two-hour drive from Ho Chi Minh City.



## Bogor

It's no secret among locals that the [Bogor](#) region outside Jakarta is one of the best golf destinations in SE Asia. Cool year-round temperatures, crazy low costs, and excellent golf are three of the main reasons those living here head up to the foothills whenever time permits. It's also good to see some international recognition for Bogor. Recently it ranked among the top three golf destinations in Asia-Pacific. [Riverside Golf Club](#), a Norman standout in the region, ranked third in the Best Courses in Indonesia. Both announcements came at the Asia Pacific Golf Summit. My other Bogor favorites are [Rancamaya](#) and [Rainbow Hills](#). Insiders Tip: Book VIP rooms for before and after your round. The services offered are well worth the price charged!

## GOLF DESTINATION REVIEW: SAIGON



Here in Vietnam, we are lucky enough to celebrate the New Year twice, on 31 December for the Gregorian calendar and on 15 February for the Lunar Calendar. February is coming and spring has just started. The weather is cool with a clear blue sky overhead. This is the ideal time to play golf!

In Ho Chi Minh City (known as Saigon) golfers can play golf all year round. The city has 8 beautiful golf courses within an hour's drive from downtown. If you are planning a golf trip here, don't forget to enjoy a round at Long Thanh hills course and also don't miss playing The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip, voted No. 35 in latest World 100 Greatest Golf Courses rankings by Golf Digest. We are excited for 2 more new courses to be opened this year, namely Harmonie Golf Park, designed by Jim Engh, planned to open in March 2018, followed by the Golden Ponds - Long An Golf Club from Thomson Perrett Company. No doubt that Saigon remains one of our golfers' favorite golf destinations.

There will be fireworks to celebrate the New Year (also called TET). Saigon, "The city that never sleeps", unlike other cities in Vietnam, is very active at night. Sidewalk cafes dot the city, pubs and restaurants stay open late into the night, and entertainment options for golfers are a plenty.

[Book Your Next Saigon Golf Holiday Now!](#)



# FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

## FEATURED GOLF COURSE



### ★ The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip

THE BLUFFS Ho Tram Strip is ranked No. 35 on World 100 Greatest Golf, the 18 hole, par – 71 layout is designed by legendary golf course designer – Greg Norman, set on genuine links land and features stunning ocean and forest view which is 120km from HCM City. In fact, the Bluffs Ho Tram Strip has some of the best geographical traits for a top golf course layout.

[Read More](#)

## FEATURED HOTEL



### ★ Sofitel Saigon Plaza Hotel

Retreat to the serenity of a Ho Chi Minh City luxury 5-star hotel in a quiet enclave just steps from the buzzing city centre. Sofitel Saigon Plaza is located on historic peaceful Le Duan Boulevard just a moment from the city's commercial centre and consulates with its fabulous shopping, dining and tourist attractions like Notre Dame Cathedral, Reunification Palace, and many more

[Read More](#)

# GOLF TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

**Amari Hua Hin  
Golf Week**

11 - 17 March 2018

**Mercure Pattaya 2**

**Avani Pattaya  
Golf Week**

18 - 24 March 2018

**AccorHotels Vietnam**

**Centara World  
Masters Golf  
Championship**

10 - 16 June 2018

**Amari Hua Hin Golf**

**Ball Golf  
Championship**

17 - 23 June 2018

**World Masters**

9 - 15 Sep. 2018

**Week**

14 - 20 October 2018

**CENTARA**  
World Masters Golf Championship  
Hua Hin, Thailand  
10 - 16 June 2018

USD  
**30,000**  
in prizes to  
be won!

Register Now!  
[QR Code]

It's not just a  
**Golf Tournament...**  
**It's a week of FUN!**  
Open to all Male & Female  
Amateur Golfers Aged 35 and Over

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As Seen On: **asiangolf** **GolfAsian** **GoGolfing** **InsideGolf** **GolfMag**

[www.thailandworldmasters.com](http://www.thailandworldmasters.com)

## PRESS RELEASE

**Asia's Best Tournament For Club Golfers Reaches Over  
300 Signups!**



Hua Hin, Thailand, 25 January 2018 — The fifth installment of Thailand's biggest and most enjoyed tournament for club golfers, the [Centara World Masters Golf Championship](#), returns to the popular beach-side resort town on Hua Hin in Thailand from 10 to 16 June 2018.

Such is the event's popularity, more than 300 golfers have signed up for the tournament since registrations opened 3 months ago. Testimony to the events worldwide appeal, golfers from Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, USA, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, India, Pakistan, France, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Papua New Guinea and host country Thailand have already confirmed their participation.

Centara Grand Hua Hin Beach Resort & Villas hosts spectacular welcome and presentation dinners as well Asia's biggest 19th hole with entertainment events every night of the week-long tournament. Centara Hua Hin's old world charm, beachfront location, modern facilities and Thai hospitality makes it a popular place to stay. The hotel is 90% sold-out, with a number of room types already on waitlist.

[Register for the Event!](#)

[Read the Whole Story!](#)

## MEET US

### MEET THE STAFF



#### AJ - Sales Manager

Meet AJ, our Sales Manager and learn why now you should give Hanoi a try on your next golf holiday in Asia.

[Watch the Video!](#)

### MEET THE GOLFER



#### Walter from Switzerland

Listen to what Walter from Switzerland has to say about his current golf holiday in Hua Hin.

[Watch the Video!](#)

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Sanjay Radhakrishnan & Friends at Red Mountain, Phuket, Thailand

## BEST OF THE INTERNET

### BEST OF OUR BLOGS



**Why Indochina Should Be Your Next Golfing Destination!**

### GOLF FUN



**Play it as it lies! Frozen Bunkers!**

When thinking of Indochina, it is easy to conjure up thoughts of peaceful relaxation, Buddhist Monks, iconic temples and a deep-rooted history that awakens the soul and takes you back in time...

[Find Out Here!](#)

My last game in the UK was with my best mates in December 2017 at -2C and we are on the Par 4 8th hole freezing our behinds off! A good blast from the tee found me greenside in one...

[View the Video](#)

## Update Your Info

Want to change your preferred email address where you receive our newsletters or complete your profile with your name and travel preferences?

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# GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE & CLOSURES



Thailand

## Bangkok

- [Kiarti Thanee Country Club](#): Course will be closed until April 2019 for renovation.
- [Lam Luk Ka Country Club](#): Course will be closed during 16-17 April for Songkran Holidays.
- [Muang Kaew Golf Club](#): Course will be closed on 12 March for a private function.

## Hua Hin

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)

## Pattaya

- [Siam Country Club, Old Course](#): Course will be closed during 8 February - 1 March for the Honda LPGA Tournament. Course will be undergoing

coring green during 14-18 May.

- **[Siam Country Club, Plantation Course](#)**: Course will be undergoing coring green during 19-23 March (Pineapple Course), 16-20 April (Tapioca Course), 7-11 May (Sugar Cane).
- **[Siam Country Club, Waterside Course](#)**: Course will be undergoing coring green during 21-25 May (all 18 holes).

## Phuket

- **[Laguna Golf Phuket](#)**: Course will be undergoing green verticut and topdressing sand during 5-6 & 19-27 February and 5-6, 12-16 & 19-20 March.

## Chiang Mai

- **[All courses are in good condition.](#)**

## Chiang Rai

- **[All courses are in good condition.](#)**



## Vietnam

### Danang

- **[Laguna Lang Co Golf Club](#)**: Course will be closed on 3 March for the Faldo Grand Final Junior Series.

### Hanoi

- **[Chi Linh Star Golf & Country Club](#)**: Course will be closed during 15-16 February for Tet Holiday.
- **[Heron Lake Golf Course & Resort](#)**: Course will be closed during 15-16 February for Tet Holiday.
- **[Long Bien Golf Course](#)**: Course will be closed on 16 February for Tet Holiday.
- **[Sky Lake Resort & Golf Club](#)**: Course will be closed on 16 February for Tet Holiday.
- **[Tam Dao Golf Resort](#)**: Course will be closed during 15-17 February for Tet Holiday.

- [Van Tri Golf Club](#): Course will be closed during 16-17 February for Tet Holiday.

### Hai Phong / Halong Bay

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)

### Saigon

- [Jeongsan Country Club](#): Course will be closed on 16 February for Tet Holiday. Course will be closed during 22-23 February for the KPGA Tournament.
- [Song Be Golf Resort](#): Course will be closed on 16 February for Tet Holiday.
- [Tan Son Nhat Golf Course](#): Course will be closed on 16 February for Tet Holiday.
- [The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip](#): Course will be closed on 10 & 20 January.
- [Vietnam Golf & Country Club](#): Course will be closed on 6 & 25 February for tournaments.

### Vung Tau

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)



## Indonesia

### Bali

- [Bukit Pandawa Golf & Country Club](#): Course will be closed on 10 March for a tournament.
- [New Kuta Golf](#): Course will be closed on 17 February for a tournament.
- [Nirwana Bali Golf Club](#): Course will be closed until 31 July 2020 for major renovation.

### Jakarta

- [Royale Jakarta Golf Club](#): Course will be closed during 11-18 December for the Indonesian Masters tournament.



## Malaysia

### Kuala Lumpur

- [Saujana Golf & Country Club, Palm Course](#): Course will be closed during 9-12 February for the Maybank Championship (Asian Tour).
- [TPC KL, East Course](#): Tee times only available in afternoon until 31 Aug 2018.
- [TPC KL, West Course](#): Course will be closed for renovation until 31 Aug 2018.



## Cambodia

### Siem Reap

- [Phokeethra Country Club](#): Course will be closed from 1 April - 31 July for renovation.

### Phnom Penh

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)



## Myanmar

### Yangon

- [Royal Mingalardon Golf and Country Club](#): Course will be closed on 17 & 24 February for tournaments.
- [Yangon Golf Club](#): Course will be closed on 4 February for a tournament.



## Singapore

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)

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TAT No.: 14/00515

VNAT No.: 79-302/2011 / TCDL-GP LHOT



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