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Asian Golf Travel Nation - November 2013





Dear Golf Travelers,



Welcome to the November 2013 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.

Asia's high season officially starts 01 November and you can expect sunnier and drier weather ahead, November to March is the very best period climate-wise to golf in Asia, particularly Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia. Tailor-made itineraries to your specific travel preferences, expectations and budgets are our specialty; contact us for a competitive quote.

Please be advised that many hotels in popular golf destinations are filling up fast for end of the year bookings and quotas are nearly full for as far ahead as February. Golfasian still has room allocations available, but if you intend to travel in the next 6 months it would be best confirm your needs as soon as possible.

Our amateur golf tournaments in Pattaya and Chiang Mai for next month were sold-out. We had a record of 50 golfers playing and I am recommending interested golfers sign-up our <u>2014 tournament events</u> now.

As for Golfasian we now have many golf properties for sale and excellent villas for rent. Ian (ian@golfasian.com) would be glad to discuss these with you, or feel free to drop by our newest office in Hua Hin. Golfasian Hua Hin is conveniently located in front of the Hilton Hotel and Hua Hin Brewing Company.

As for others, I will be in Bali to meet the courses and discuss a new destination marketing organization, in Pattaya to play in the Siam Country Club Member's Tournament, in Hanoi to attend the Vietnam golf course awards ceremony, and in Danang to finalize the 2014 Golf Coast Vietnam plan. This is quite a bit of travel for sure, but well worth it before things get really busy here. Also, Pascal and Trang are off to Spain to exhibit at the International Golf Travel Mart for Golf In A Kingdom and Golf Coast Vietnam, respectively

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

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

Visit Golfasian Today!

Golf news from around the region:

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Thailand

All Destinations: Thailand won another award and has been named the 2013 Best Golf Destination by the India National Tourism Awards. Thailand is now by far the top international golf destination for South Asia golfers due to internationally designed and championship golf courses, cost competitiveness, unmatched hospitality and excellent infrastructure. Pattaya and Bangkok are booming now with Indian golf holidaymakers arriving by the plane load early each day at Suvanabhumi International Airport. In fact, the last time I was at the airport I could not believe the numbers of Indian's claiming golf bags on the oversize luggage racks at the airport.

Chiang Mai: Jim played <u>Gold Canyon</u> the other day and made the following comments: "The one hour drive to the course is a little longer than <u>Highlands</u> or Alpine, but not as long as Inthanon. The front 9 is fairly open and offers some nice mountain views. The back 9 is tighter and has some weird holes. While it doesn't have much bunkering or as much trouble as many area courses, it gets its' challenge from undulations in the fairways, greens and around the greens and some 'vertical obstacles' - trees in the fairway you have to hit over. Overall it is in reasonably good condition and is a solid area course."

Vietnam

Saigon: Ho Chi Minh City's reputation as an international golf destination has been improved with the opening for visitor play at courses like the 27-hole Twin Doves Golf Club and the 18-hole Jeongsan Country Club. However, the Greg Norman-designed Saigon Golf and Country Club project that was due to open in 2013 is all but shelved. What would have been the closest course to the Ho Chi Minh City center is caught up in red tape politics and likely will never open. Let's hope not and maybe later on when the residential community is finished the golf course will be resurrected.



Danang: New direct air service into and out of Danang along with more accolades for the golf courses are combining to make Danang the natural hub for Vietnam golf. For example, there are a now a total of 28 international destinations with direct flights to Vietnam and representatives form Danang were in Bangkok in October promoting the region and encouraging airlines such as Thai Airways to start direct service between Bangkok and Danang soon. Moreover, Danang Golf Club and Montgomerie Links have been recognized by Vietnam golf Magazine as the best Course in Vietnam and Best Championship course in Vietnam, respectively. I wonder what award Laguna Lang Co Golf Club will win next year?

Malaysia

Langkawi: In regards to October's newsletter, the Datai Bay Golf Club should have been referred to by its new name The Els Club, Teluk Datai. The club should open for play in









Subscription Offer

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!



Golf Lessons



February of next year as it is undergoing a complete renovation as well as design changes to the previous golf course. Enhancements include sand capping of fairways and improved drainage allowing buggies to be driven on the fairways as well as 5 new holes now located adjacent to the Andaman Sea. Located amongst some of Malaysia's most spectacular landscape, the course is nestled within a centuriesold rainforest. It is also located adjacent to the award winning resort, The Datai Langkawi that already

delivers best-in-class resort services and amenities. Once fully opened the Malaysia golf resort should ranking its former ranking among the region's best golf destinations.

Desaru: Another two Els Club golf courses are being built near Desaru on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The Desaru site will be an integration of four luxury resorts, leisure and entertainment offerings, two water parks, and 54 holes of golf. The Coast Course will be a 27-hole Ernie Els designed championship golf course while Valley Course will be a 18-hole course designed by Vijay Singh. Scheduled to open in 2016, Desaru may just prove by then to be the best new golf destination in Asia. Hats off to Malaysia!

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.



In fact, whatever your budget, preferred style of travel, or how small/large your group, we are glad to work with you and suggest a **golf package** that meets all of your needs.

Contact the Asian Golf Experts at info@golfasian.com.

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!

Hole in One - Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ejner who made a Hole in One at Laem Chabang International Country Club during October's Pattaya Amateur Golf Week.

For a complete listing of our 2014 Golf Weeks visit our website.





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

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Golf Travel Testimonials

Hi Jim, I wanted to thank you and all your staff for making our trip our best one in the 17 years we have been running it. GolfAsian was impeccable again and everything ran to perfection.

I thought you might appreciate our appraisal of all the elements of our trip as well.

I rate Chiang Mai as superior to both Bangkok and Hua Hin where I have had previous golf trips. The climate, the city, the restaurants, the available activities and the people were all the finest I have encountered in the world.

Accommodation

Although disappointed to be unable to get into Le Meridien, Dusit D2 did not disappoint and we all enjoyed the facility. Probably it is the only area that Hua Hin was superior with the magnificent Hilton with its awesome pool and sea side location.

Golf

The golf courses way exceeded our expectations with Highlands being the highlight.

Many of our group last year described Banyan as the finest golf experience they had had, but most now agree that Highlands is its equal.

Mae Jo was the surprise and this was a golf course I could happily play for the rest of my life, an absolute deliaht!

Inthanon was only played by a few of us and is a world class layout - brilliant!

Alpine is a true championship course presented beautifully and a joy to play.

Green Valley was also presented brilliantly and the venue for our night golf round, a thoroughly enjoyed evening on a terrific golf course.

Royal Chiang Mai is a lovely golf course, unfortunately the recently renovated and sodden fairways detracted from a very well designed course.

Lanna is underrated and not surprising with the amount of choice available.

Gassan Khuntan was also a surprise to me, described as the most difficult course in the area, it was more a matter of getting to know its funky design features. Breathtakingly beautiful holes were a little spoiled by strange bunkering and outrageous slopes on some of the back nine greens although clearly the course is poorly conditioned due to a lack of funding.

I cannot imagine a more spectacular venue than Chiang Mai for a golf trip and I envy you enormously for living there.

Once again special thanks to you, Bee and our Drivers; Ong and Sawed for all your contributions.

Regards Andrew M. Australia, October 2013 [Read more golf travel testimonials] [Find out about Golfasian's Travel Satisfaction Guarantee]



A Golfer's Take on Singapore

Avid golfers can expect nothing less than world-class courses in Singapore, with over 20 courses and driving ranges that cater to both public and exclusive members. Courses, each carefully designed to deliver a spectacular experience.

On the eastern side of the island right near Changi Airport you will find arguably one of the top 2 courses in Singapore in Tanah Merah Country Club. The Garden Course has hosted major professional events

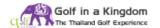




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over the years including The LPGA's HSBC Women's Championship. Nearby you will find the awe inspiring Laguna National World Classic course which has to be seen to be believed.

[Read the entire article]



Thailand Golf Courses

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Malaysia Golf Courses

Bali Golf Courses

Laos Golf Courses

Myanmar Golf Courses

Golf Planner

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Featured Golf Course - Sentosa Golf Club, Serapong Course

Designed by world-renowned golf course designer Ronald Fream, The Serapong Course was opened in 1982 and measures 6,493 metres from the championship tee. A challenging par-72, it is one of the top five championship courses in Asia and home of the prestigious Barclays Singapore Open.

In 2007, The Serapong Course underwent an impressive S\$12 million upgrade under the guidance of Andrew Johnston then Vice President of the Bates Golf Design Group. The refurbishment included both course design and greens technology.

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





🖊 Featured Hotel - The Ritz Carlton, Millenia, Singapore

The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore is the ideal place for Singapore golf travelers from which to marvel at the city's skyline or explore the wonders of Marina Bay. You will not find a more interesting mix of commercial, retail, entertainment and recreational options anywhere.

The Ritz Carlton, along with a hand-picked selection of other 5 and 4 star hotels is available for stay during one of Golfasian's Singapore golf holidays.

[Read more about one of Singapore's Best Golf Packages]





Golf Trip Idea: Singapore - Bintan Golf Package

3 nights in Singapore including a round of golf and the latest tourist attractions, Gardens By the Bay and Marina Bay Skypark. Hop on the ferry for a short trip across the South China sea to the tropical island of Bintan. Here you will enjoy the beautiful beaches, resorts and the famous Ria Bintan and Laguna Bintan Resort golf courses.

[Singapore - Bintan Golf Package Itinerary...]





The 2013 season or the Thailand Amateur Week series finished last week. We are now gearing up for an exciting year in 2014 of Asia's Best Amateur Golf Weeks. <u>Visit our dedicated Golf Tournaments Website to register</u>.



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

We invite you to join club golfers from around the world for <u>Asia's biggest and richest amateur week of golf</u>.

After 18 years in Australia, the Centara World Masters Golf Championship will quickly build a reputation as Asia's best week of golf for club golfers. Golfers from around the world will be drawn to Thailand's royal retreat for a great value week of golf, fun and entertainment.

Joining you in Hua Hin Thailand will be more than 500 golfers from more than 20 countries who share your love of the game and your thirst for fun.

The biggest of all such golf events features 72-holes of stableford competition, lots of gifts and prizes, plus nightly parties and entertainment. At the heart of the event's success 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. Playing with golfers your own age and standard is one of the event's great traditions.

<u>The Centara World Masters</u> 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.

Peter McCarthy and Mark Siegel Tournament Directors

[Register today!]





Golf Course Maintenance Updates

Bangkok

- Panya Indra Golf Club The A, B, and C courses will each be closed for one week renovation respectively. During this time only 2 of the courses are playable while the other is closed.
- Thana City Golf & Sports Club Course maintenance was planned for 3 October. It should take about 3 weeks for the greens to be back to pristine condition.
- Royal Gems Golf City, Klong 6 Greens were cored during 22 24 October. It will take about one month for 100% completion.
- Alpine Golf & Sports Club, Lakewood Country Club, Lam Luk Ka Golf Course, Muang Kaew Golf Club, President Country Club, Riverdale Golf Club, Royal Gems Golf & Sports Club, Royal Golf & Country Club, Summit Windmill Golf Club, Suwan Golf & Country Club, Thai Country Club, are all in excellent condition.

Hua Hin

- Majestic Creek Country Club Course C is closed until ~January 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

- Blue Canyon, Canyon Course Coring green from 4 6 November 2013.
- 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.
- Phuket Country Club Verti-cut & top dressing from 5 6 November 2013.

 Blue Canyon, Lakes Course, Loch Palm Golf Club, Mission Hills Phuket, Red Mountain Golf Club are in excellent condition.

Chiang Mai

- Gassan Khuntan Lake City Course renovation. Expected completion date in April 2014.
- Royal Chiang Mai Golf Resort Coring green on 4 November. Partial fairway renovation to be complete by January 2014.
- Alpine Golf Resort & Chiang Mai Highlands Golf and Spa, Mae Jo Golf Club are in excellent condition.

Chiang Rai

• Santiburi Chiang Rai Country Club is in good condition.

Vietnam

Hanoi

- Van Tri Golf Club, Kings Island Golf Resort excellent condition.
- Hanoi Golf Club and Heron Lake Golf Club & Resort closed every Monday for maintenance

Danang

· Danang Golf Club, Laguna Lang Co Golf Club & Montgomerie Links Vietnam are in great condition.

Saigon

- Vietnam Golf and Country Club The East or West courses are closed every Monday and Friday until 11am. Further, the East course will be closed on the 4th, 7th, 18th & 21st October. The West course will be closed on 11th, 14th, 25th & 28th October.
- Song Be Golf Resort The Palm course is closed every Monday morning. The Dessert course is closed on Wednesday mornings and the Lotus course is closed every Tuesday morning for maintenance.
- Long Thanh Golf Course The Lakeside course will be closed on 24 November and the Hill course will be closed on 29 November.
- · Twin Doves Golf Club is in excellent condition.

Phan Thiet

• Sea Link Golf Course - Some bunkers are under renovation, not affecting playability of this course. One of the 2 practice putting greens is under recovery condition.

Nha Trang

· Vinpearl Golf Club and Diamond Bay Golf Course are in great condition

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.



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

Golf In Laos Versus Golf In Thailand

Here are my rankings on the golfing in these 2 countries on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being best.

Quality (30%)

Laos (5): Laos is behind other neighboring countries with only 7 golf courses open for play. Most Laos golf courses are in the capital Vientiane and are only average in quality. However, Luang Prabang Golf Club, in Luang Prabang is the country's best having hosted 2 Asian Tour events, with spectacular scenery, and excellent playing conditions.

Thailand (7): There are many championship golf courses in Thailand including Siam Country Club (home of the Honda LPGA) and Black Mountain Golf Club (Royal)

of the Honda LPGA) and Black Mountain Golf Club (Royal Trophy and Black Mountain Masters). Golf In A Kingdom includes all of Thailand's best golf courses.



[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 - Gloves & Golf Balls

Golf balls are quite heavy to carry in your golf bag, and with the weight restriction of the airlines, it's a

good option to buy your balls when you arrive. Leather gloves do not last very long in this heat and if you sweat a lot, a good tip is to bring two or three all weather gloves with you, as its likely you will use more than one during a round of golf.

[Read more Golf Tips Articles]

If you have any other questions regarding golf tips to help you with your game email us at info@golfasian.com 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:

- November 11 14, 2013 IGTM (Costa Daurada, Spain)
- January 22 24, 2014 PGA Merchandise Show (Orlando, Florida, USA)

Arrange an appointment with Golfasian at one of these exhibits.





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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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