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Asia's Best
Golf Tour Operator
2014



Thailand's Best
Inbound Golf Tour
Operator 2015

November 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.

Asia's high season is officially here. Soon daily afternoon showers will give way to dryer weather with temperatures in the 20's all across the region. In fact, November to March is the very best period climate-wise to golf in Asia, particularly **Thailand**, **Vietnam**, and **Cambodia**. That being said, the demand for golf tours and resort bookings for the high season is already very strong. If you plan to travel this winter, especially over the holidays, book early to ensure you get the best tee times and rooms at the preferred resorts.

To prepare for the high season we have expanded our product range to all destinations. For example, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Myanmar all have new golf courses that we will be using in our golf packages. Our 2017 **Amateur Tournaments and World Masters Events** have all been upgraded to incorporate new challenges and feedback from past participants.















Meanwhile, Golfasian is on the move again with attendance at the Asia Pacific Golf Summit, World Travel Mart in London, World Golf Awards in Portugal, and International Golf Travel Mart in Spain. We hope to meet many of our overseas partners and solidify this winter's business plans with all. We will raise the bar in Asian golf travel and ensure every golf trip exceeds expectations and also offers great value-for-money. Tailor-made itineraries fitting all budgets and needs are our specialty; so please contact us for a competitive quote.

With that I wish all golfers have many great golfing opportunities. For those considering a golf trip, the culture, beauty, service, and wealth of choices throughout SE Asia are perfectly suited for creating 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.

You will find a lot of news and South East Asia golf course updates in this newsletter, which I hope you will find interesting and helpful. So sit back and enjoy this edition of the Asian Golf Nation!

Mark Siegel
Managing Director of Golfasian

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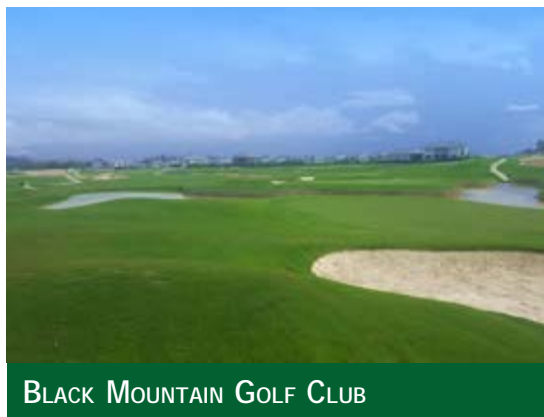
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GOLF NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

 **Hua Hin, Thailand**



BLACK MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB

Black Mountain Golf Club, Thailand's #1 ranked course is set to open 9 new holes

 **Ha Long Bay, Vietnam**



FLC HA LONG BAY

FLC Ha Long Bay is progressing nicely. Completely different from Vietnam's other

by year's end. Referred to as the East Course the new nine features even more challenge and elevation change than the original layout. The course is fully grassed and just waiting for final grow in to be completed. I visited the site last week and can't wait to get in a round.

new courses which are located on large sand dunes, the new Brian Curley designed course is located on top of Bai Tho mountain. Fifteen of the eighteen holes provide a glorious panoramic view of Ha Long Bay. The course is located 45 minutes from the main Ha Long port making FLC Ha Long a great choice for those in the area seeking an overnight cruise of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Course opening is planned for early 2017.



Desaru, Malaysia



THE ELS CLUB - DESARU COAST

South East Asia's newest golf destination is located on Malaysia's East Coast around 1 hour from Johor and 2.5 hours from Singapore. The Ernie Els designed Ocean Course at The Els Club Desaru Coast; the first of two courses, was officially opened last month.

The course features 3 distinct nines named Coast, Ridge and Lakes each with their own challenges. The second 18, named the Valley Course is scheduled to open next year and is a collaborative design between Ernie Els and Vijay Singh. The entire Desaru destination is sprawled across 3,900 acres with 17 kilometers of coast along the South China Sea. Five star hotels will include Aman Resorts & Villas, The Westin Desaru Resort, Anantara Desaru Resort, and Hard Rock Hotel Desaru Coast, all due to open in 2017. Watch this space for updates and course reviews.



Yangon, Myanmar



DAGON GOLF CLUB

Progress at Myanmar's newest Dagon Golf Club is going well. Located only 15 minutes from the Yangon airport, Dagon Golf Club will be an 18-hole, 6,786 yard international standard layout. Built by Pacific Coast Design (same as **Black Mountain Golf Club**), the course is set among mature, forested land.

Expected course completion is by year's end with initial commercial play set for mid-2017.

The new Myanmar golf course will be managed by Absolute Golf Services (same as **Thana City Golf Club**) ensuring high standards of maintenance and operations practices and making Dagon a top tier **Myanmar golf club**.

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BOOK EARLY - SAVE MORE

CENTARA

World Masters Golf Championship
Hua Hin, Thailand

2017 Centara World Masters Golf Championship 11-17 June 2017

LAST CHANCE!!!

*** Book before 30 November 2016 and receive a THB 3,000 TaylorMade shop voucher + 5 bonus entries into the major prize draw. ***

Book NOW!

New 2017 Super Saver Golf Specials

Irresistible Golf Offers

Click to take advantage of these special golf offers in Thailand | Vietnam | Malaysia | Cambodia | Bali



ASIA GOLF WEEK

Asia GOLF WEEK

2017 Events Now Online Register Now

Join Asia's Most Exciting Amateur Golf Week!

In March 2017 we have our two biggest events in the golfing calendar, the **Amari Hua Hin Golf Week** and **Amari Pattaya Golf Week**. Each event sees a field of 120 people from around the world play the best golf courses in each destination. While the tournaments aren't until March 2017, we have 50 players already booked, with most people taking the free room upgrade from the Amari Hotels. Book your position now and don't miss out on a great week of golf!

We have 12 group tours throughout the year and all details of these events can be found on the **Asia Golf Week** website.

If you would like to book one of our events, or have any questions, please email us at tournaments@asiagolfweek.com



GOLF TRAVEL TESTIMONIALS



Hi, my name is Willy Ma. I was born in Hong Kong and moved to Canada to finish high school. I then attended college in the US and made Los Angeles my permanent residence. I am a member at Lakeside Golf Club in Burbank, Los Angeles, California founded in 1924: Bing Crosby was club champion 5 times. I am also a member at Village Country Club at Lompoc, California in Santa Barbara County.

My current SCGA Index is about 14. I started playing golf in the 1980s and take regular golf lessons from various golf schools and PGA Professionals so hope to get to single figures before too long. I often plan golf trips for my group of 8 to 16 golfers from all over the world aiming to play the world's best courses. We've travelled to Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, China, Canada, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos as well as locally in US. Golf in China used to be my favourite but after this Vietnam and Thailand trip arranged by **Golfasian**, I would come back in a heart-beat. I find Southeast Asians are the friendliest and most respectful people... and our dollars go a long way. I would like to plan more trips to Southeast Asia and eventually find a place there to retire. My wife is also an avid golfer but she cannot deal with the humidity and mosquitoes. I also love the food and massages; the only way to end a day's golf. There's no place like Thailand.

[\[Read the entire interview online\]](#)

[\[Read more Testimonials \]](#)



GOLF TRAVEL TESTIMONIALS



Golfasian has started a new series of Golfasian Customer Interviews via live video call. [Watch the first video](#) in this series with Laurie McCourt who scored a hole in one at Springfield Royal Country Club in Hua Hin, Thailand, last month. [Let us know](#) if you would like to take part in this series, we would be delighted to speak to you.



DESTINATION REVIEW

Jakarta, Indonesia



Golfasian is pleased to announce our newest **golf destination, Jakarta, Indonesia**. I was lucky enough to be given the task of inspecting and reviewing the hotels and courses and I was pleasantly surprised with the high quality and very affordable golf on offer.

Most golfers do not consider **Jakarta as a golf holiday** destination however it is well worth the trip and should be on every golfer's bucket list. There are plenty of flights from most major cities to Jakarta and once you arrive you have a selection of around 35 courses located in the 3 main golf regions Jakarta, Bogor and Bandung.

My trip started in the Bogor region. Just a short 1 hour drive from the airport on the Jagorawi toll road. Many well-know courses are in this region with designs by well know architects such as Gary Player, Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer. Bogor is a mountain setting with spectacular views and most courses have great elevation changes and interesting holes. [[Read the complete review](#)]

View our [Jakarta Golf Packages](#) | [Jakarta Golf Courses](#)

FEATURED GOLF COURSE



Royale Jakarta Golf Club is located just 15 minutes from central Jakarta and accessible via the toll road. One of the new breed of Jakarta golf courses, Royale Jakarta was designed as a world class championship course from day one.

The course is the permanent home of the Indonesian Masters. Additionally, Royal Jakarta was awarded Best Course in Indonesia at the 2011-2014 Asian Golf Awards and at the Indonesian 2011 Tourism

FEATURED HOTEL



Stunning architecture, a passionate commitment to outstanding service and completely rejuvenated facilities combine to make this iconic luxury international five star hotel the true benchmark for 21st century luxury in downtown Jakarta Indonesia. **Gran Melia Jakarta's** Spanish heritage ensures that our flair for innovation and absolute customer satisfaction remains alive and well in everything that we do for our most valued guests. All staff are committed to giving

Awards.

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

the best service possible in Jakarta with facilities for business facilities second to none.

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

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GOLF TRIP IDEA

Jakarta City Golf Package










Now is your chance to experience the best two destinations in one package. First you will enjoy golf in the capital city of Jakarta and then you can relax in Bali at its beautiful beaches. After golf you will have the opportunity to explore Indonesia's varied culture.

View the [complete golf holiday itinerary](#).

To meet your preferences and budget [please contact us for further information](#).

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GOLF TOURS

 THAILAND GOLF TOURS	 VIETNAM GOLF TOURS	 CAMBODIA GOLF TOURS	
 MALAYSIA GOLF TOURS	 BALI GOLF TOURS	 LAOS GOLF TOURS	 MYANMAR GOLF TOURS



GOLF COURSES



GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE & CLOSURES

Thailand

Bangkok

Bangkok Golf Club: Course will be closed on 28 November and on 16 & 21 December for tournaments.

Cascata Golf Club: Course will be closed on 18 November and on 7 December for tournaments.

Lotus Valley Golf Resort: Course will be closed on 8-9 December for tournaments.

Muang Kaew Golf Club: Course will be closed on 4, 11 and 25 November for tournaments.

Royal Golf & Country Club: Course will be closed on 3-4 November for tournaments.

Suwan Golf & Country Club: Course will be closed on 12, 17, 23, 25 and 30 November for tournaments.

The Royal Gems Golf and Sports Club: Course will be closed on 4, 19 (afternoon), 21 (afternoon) and 26 November for tournaments.

Vintage Golf Club: Course will be closed on 3, 11 and 25 November for tournaments.

Windsor Park & Golf Club: Course will be closed on 4, 9, 14, 15, 17-18, 20-22 and 24-25 November for tournaments.

Hua Hin

Banyan Golf Club: Course will be closed on 17-18 and on 24-25 November for

tournaments.

Black Mountain Golf Club: Course will be closed on 5 & 13-15 November and 30 November - 4 December for tournaments.

Lake View Resort & Golf Club: Course A will be closed for coring green during 2-13 November and course B will be closed for coring green during 19-30 November. Course will be closed on 14-19 November for a tournament.

Majestic Creek Country Club: Course will be closed on 5, 12, 19 and 26 November for tournaments.

Royal Hua Hin Golf Course: Course will be closed on 26 November and on 24 December for tournaments.

Sea Pines Golf Course: Course will be closed on 28 November and on 25 December for tournaments.

Springfield Royal Country Club: Course C will be closed until 30 November for maintenance. Course will be closed on 26 November for a tournament.

Pattaya

Burapha Golf Club: Course will be closed on 4-5 December for a tournament.

Greenwood Golf & Resort: Course will be closed on 26 November and on 11 December for tournaments.

Khao Kheow Country Club: Course will be closed on 16 December for a tournament.

Laem Chabang International Country Club: Course will be closed on 2, 5, 11-12 and 23 November for tournaments.

Pattana Golf Club & Resort: Course will be closed on 11-13, 20, 24, 26 and 30 November for tournaments.

Pattaya Country Club: Course will be closed on 17 November for a tournament.

Phoenix Golf & Country Club: The mountain course is closed until the end of October.

Rayong Green Valley Country Club: Course will be closed on 3-4 December for a tournament.

Siam Country Club, Plantation Course: Course will be closed on 5 November for a tournament.

St. Andrews 2000 Golf Club: Course will be closed on 19 & 23 November for

tournaments.

Phuket

Blue Canyon Country Club, Canyon Course: Course will be closed on 10-11 December for a tournament.

Blue Canyon Country Club, Lakes Course: Course will be closed on 10-11 December for a tournament.

Laguna Golf Phuket: Course will be undergoing green verticut & topdressing sand during 1-2 & 28-30 November and 26-28 December. Course will be undergoing green topdressing sand during 14-15 November.

Mission Hills Phuket Golf Resort: Course will be closed on 17 December for a tournament.

Phuket Country Club: Course will be undergoing coring green during 1-2 November.

Chiang Mai

Alpine Golf Resort Chiang Mai: Course will be closed on 5-6 November for tournaments.

Chiangmai Inthanon Golf & Natural Resort: Course will be closed on 6 December for tournaments.

Gassan Legacy Golf Club: Course will be closed on 13 November for a tournament.

Mae Jo Golf Club: Course will be closed on 20 and 27 November for tournaments.

Royal Chiang Mai Golf Club & Resort: Course will be undergoing coring green during 3-7 November.

Khao Yai

Bonanza Golf & Country Club: Course will be closed on 26 December for a tournament.

Mountain Creek Golf Resort and Residence: Course will be closed on 18 November for a tournament.

Koh Samui

Santiburi Samui Country Club: Course will be closed on 25 December for a tournament.

 Vietnam

Danang

All courses are in great condition.

Hanoi

King's Island Golf Resort: Course will be undergoing green maintenance until 18 November. The Mountainview course will be closed on 12, 28 and 30 November for tournaments.

Saigon

The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip: Course will be closed on 19 & 27 November for tournaments.

 Indonesia

Bali

Bali Beach Golf Course: Course will be closed on 26 November for a tournament.

 Malaysia

All courses are in great condition.

 Cambodia

Siem Reap

Angkor Golf Resort: Course will be closed on 22-26 November for the Ladies European Tour Asian Qualifier.

Phnom Penh

All courses are in good condition.

 Singapore

Sentosa Golf Club, Tanjong Course: Course is closed for renovation until end of October 2016.

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GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Amari Hua Hin Amateur
Golf Week -
March 2017



Hua Hin,
Thailand



12 - 18
March, 2017

[\[FIND OUT MORE\]](#)

Amari Pattaya Amateur
Golf Week -
March 2017



Pattaya,
Thailand



19 - 25
March, 2017

[\[FIND OUT MORE\]](#)

Centara World Masters
Golf Championship -
June
2017



Hua Hin,
Thailand



11 - 17
June, 2017

[\[FIND OUT MORE\]](#)

Mercure Pattaya Ocean
Resort 2 Ball Golf
Championship -
June 2017



Pattaya,
Thailand



18 - 24
June, 2017

[\[FIND OUT MORE\]](#)

Accor Vietnam World
Masters Golf
Championship -
August 2017



Danang,
Vietnam



20 - 26
August, 2017

[\[FIND OUT MORE\]](#)

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HUA HIN PROPERTIES

"The Clouds" - New Development of Luxury Eco-friendly Pool Villas by Palm Hills

GC



"The Clouds" - by Palm Hills GC

On the doorstep of Palm Hills golf course is this top quality new development from a British builder with 30 years+ building experience in Hua Hin. The project comprises 63 large plots from 900sqm+ for luxury villas with custom options and upgrades available. Standard villas have a living area of 308sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and include a large infinity swimming pool, landscaped private gardens, double glazing, insulation and 3 KVA solar

panels along with a fully fitted European-style kitchen for comfortable living with minimal running costs. Please ask us for more photos and information!

[Find out more!](#)



BEST OF THE BLOG

Golf In Australia 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%)

Australia (10): Most courses are set up for serious Australian golfers, who comprise some 10% of the overall population. The average Australian golf course is far better than most other countries top courses. The top Australian courses include **Royal Melbourne**, Barnboughe Dunes, and **New South Wales**, all of which have hosted major PGA events.

Thailand (7): Thai golf courses vary from average municipal courses to better ones that cater mainly to golf tourists. The best courses like **Thai CC**, Siam CC, and **Red Mountain** all can hold their own when it comes to international golf courses.

[\[READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE\]](#)



GOLFING TIPS

Thailand's Caddies



Thailand's caddies are one of its unique selling points and I get asked a lot of questions about how much to tip them, plus what to expect in terms of their knowledge and skills. Much of our clients' feedback is about how good their caddies were and how they improved the golf experience. Occasionally there is the odd disappointed player mainly because they were allocated an inexperienced caddy who wasn't much help. Golfasian has 6 experienced golfers on its staff who have played in Thailand for years and likely have preferred caddies at many courses. Don't be shy about enquiring if your itinerary consultant has a caddy recommendation that might be booked. I have preferred caddies at 3 courses in Thailand...the very best is Ms "Gai", number 244 at Thana City near Bangkok...better than Steve Williams!

FOR MORE GOLF TIPS VISIT WWW.GOLFTHINK.COM

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 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](#).



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GOLF TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

<p>Personal Accident Insurance up to USD 65,000</p>	<p>Medical Treatment up to USD 75,000</p>	<p>Hole-In-One up to USD 300</p>
<p>Emergency Evacuation & Repatriation Loss/Damage of Baggage up to USD 800</p>		<p>Loss/Damage of Golfing Equipment up to USD 2,000</p>

AND A LOT MORE !

[For more information visit our website.](#)

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MEET GOLFSIAN 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

November

Australia & New Zealand Roadshow

November 7 - 9

World Travel Market (London, UK)

November 14 - 17

International Golf Travel Market (Mallorca, Spain)

ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOLFSIAN AT ONE OF THESE EXHIBITS.



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