

Asian GOLF & More

GOLFING - LEISURE - LIFESTYLE

EDITION 2 - SEPTEMBER 2024

17
COURSES

THE BEST
COURSES
IN ASIA

11
ATTRACTIONS

TO VISIT IN
THE REGION

**Brian
Curley**
DESIGNER
INTERVIEW

Golfasian



Asia's Ultimate Golfing Lifestyle Experience

Championship Golf Course • Stay & Play • Luxury Course-side Properties

Come and enjoy playing one of the most scenic championship golf courses in the whole of Asia. Voted Best Course in Thailand by Golf Digest, Black Mountain Golf Club has hosted both Asian Tour and European Tour events.

Drawn by Hua Hin's cosmopolitan charm and ideal year-round golfing climate, an increasing number of discerning golfers are choosing to make Black Mountain their second or permanent home. We are now building luxurious new 4-bedroom

two-story course-side "Twinhouses" for just 19.9M Baht and 3 bedroom pool villas for 29.9M Baht, both accompanied by two lifetime golf club memberships, so there has never been a better time to sample the renowned Black Mountain lifestyle. Visit us to play, or even book into one of our luxury private pool Hotel Villas for a relaxing "stay & play" break.

We look forward to welcoming you here soon. More info at www.blackmountainhuahin.com



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Editor's Letter...



Bringing You the Best of Asian Golf

Dear Reader,

Time has flown by, and we are thrilled to present the 2nd edition of Asian GOLF & More! We aimed to provide you with an extra memorable experience when considering a visit to SE Asia, and based on the positive reactions and responses to our first edition, it seems we succeeded.

In this second edition, we have gone above and beyond to bring you a much more extensive magazine. It includes captivating interviews, insightful reviews, engaging articles, and more.

Asian Regions: We take you on a journey to three remarkable regions – Phuket, Northern Vietnam, and Cambodia – where we explore the best golf clubs and provide valuable insights into each area.

Course Reviews: Don't miss our reviews of Nikanti, Ba Na Hills, and Bali National, all exceptional golf courses.

Exclusive Interview: We have had the privilege of interviewing leading course designer Brian Curley, who has created over 150 courses, many of them in Asia. He sheds light on the unique challenges golf courses face in Asia, particularly the need to accommodate extra wear and tear from Caddies.

The Grass Under Your Feet: Our conversation with Brad Burgess, one of the World's top turf experts, reveals how they manage extreme heat and rain in the region.

Away from the Greens: In this issue, we offer an array of exciting activities for you to explore, from visiting

temples and attending buffalo races to taking a train ride on the River Kwai and experiencing Asia's most extended Zip Line.

Cruising: For those seeking a more relaxed experience, we delve into the delights of cruising around Halong Bay in Vietnam.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our advertisers. With their continuous support, we can fulfill our vision of promoting Asian golf and travel worldwide. Thanks to them, we can provide you with Asian GOLF & More for free!

We are delighted to inform you that over 33,000 of you downloaded our first issue, with many also obtaining printed copies from our vehicles across six countries. This overwhelming response encourages us to invite you and your friends to register with us so you can access all our editions and enjoy our popular Asian Golf Guide: www.asiangolfandmore.com.

Exciting news awaits! To offer you the latest news and information around the clock, we will soon launch our dedicated website, www.asiangolfandmore.com. We invite you to visit our website, provide feedback, share your stories, and offer exciting observations and advice.

Mark Siegel
Editor-in-Chief, Asia GOLF & More

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DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF PHUKET'S FINEST GOLF DESTINATIONS

The Ultimate Golfing Experience in Phuket

LOCH PALM and RED MOUNTAIN

These exceptional courses offer a blend of relaxation and challenge, making them perfect for golfers of all skill levels.

RED MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB

“The Most Exciting Golf Course In Phuket”

Sculpted into the rugged rock terrain, the Red Mountain Golf Course is a scenic delight and a true challenge destined to become a golfing landmark in the region. The par 72 is a highly strategic course, with numerous risk and reward opportunities creating a stimulating test for golfers of all levels. Coursing through 6,781 yards, the course designed by Jon Morrow and Al Tikkanen cleverly exploits the dramatic land forms and elevation changes remnant of the tin mine.

Hotline : +66 (0) 81-968-8169

E-mail : reservation@redmountainphuket.com

MBKGOLF.COM



LOCH PALM GOLF CLUB

“The Most Relaxing Golf Course in Phuket”

Meandering around Phuket's largest lake, quarried during the tin mining days, Loch Palm is picturesque with undulating hills and palm lined fairways reflected in the open water and enveloped by a jungle-covered mountain backdrop. Loch Palm is regarded as Red Mountain's older and softer sister. Loch Palm Golf Club offers a more relaxing game with a variety of challenging hazards and green to confront golfers of all abilities.

Hotline +66 (0)81-893-6302

E-mail: reservation@lochpalm.com

MBKGOLF.COM





18 holes with par 72, Riverdale Golf Club was crafted an intriguing challenge featuring 'up hill and down dale' golf never before seen in the Thai Capital's predominantly flat golf landscapes.

Several holes feature play from elevated tees to fairways laid out in valleys below with forested hills and waste areas with native grasses framing a number of holes. Nature will play its part in determining your final score – pockets of wetlands create wildlife havens continuing an eco-friendly theme prevalent.



RIVERDALE GOLF CLUB

“ The Perfect Challenge ”

Riverdale Golf Club features Salam Paspalum grass on the tees and fairways, and MiniVerde Ultradwarf on the greens ensuring year-round playability.

“ UP hill and DOWN dale ”

“ A Championship Golf Course ”

In 2021 – 2023, Riverdale Golf Club was held a legend golf tournament "Thailand Open", The Royal Cup of King Rama IX.



BANGKOK GOLF CLUB

“ Never Ending Challenge ”

Bangkok Golf Club is one of the best famous fastest located in Pathum Thani.

Bangkok Golf Club was opened in December 1993. It is a 6,549 yard championship layout and also one of the most delightful, offering golf on cleverly designed but extremely testing fairways and greens to complete your perfect golfing experience. We welcome all golfers to enjoy golf in a fun, friendly environment every day of the year.



A feature of the course are our greens which are considered amongst the finest in Bangkok. They are grassed with Tiff Eagle grass which is cut much lower than many of the grasses found locally and provide improved putting speeds and consistency. Utilizing turf types that deliver quality playing conditions is paramount and our Zoysia fairways contribute to consistent, quality playing conditions throughout the year.



Table of Contents

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Next issue will be published
in March 2025.

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It is all happening in SE Asia.....	9
Bet you have probably played on a course designed by Brian Curley.....	10
Regions to visit...	
Phuket	16
Phuket is a golfers dream.....	17
Golf with Stunning Landscapes. Northern Vietnam	24
The Grass Under Your Feet.....	26
Golf in Cambodia: Inception to Modern Fare Journey	30
Why Cambodia?	40
Tee Off in the Sun and Finish in the Dark.....	42
The First 6-6-6 Course Layout in Asia.....	44
Creeks, Canyons, and Tropical Birds awaits at this Amazing Bali Course... ..	45
Know your General Manager... Jack Hedges, Thai Country Club	46
Beat the Snow and Head to Asia for some Sunny Golf.....	48
Off Course activities.....	50
Events and Festivals in Asia Worth Checking Out.....	52
Attractions not to be missed....	54
Ravines, Lakes, and Mountains all add to the experience....	58
A Unique Course... Where Philippines, US History and Golfing Excellence Meet	60
Golf Like a Pro: Five Tips and Tricks for Your Next Asia Golf Trip	62
Exploring the Majestic Beauty of Halong Bay through Cruising.....	64
Here is an overview of the weather across SE Asia in January	66
Home is Where your Heart is....	68
Amateur Golf Tournaments are booming across Asia.....	70
Golfing Paradise in Malaysia.....	74
What was it really like taking an Asian Golf Vacation?	76
Caddies... all part of a wonderful Asian Golf Vacation	78
Golf can sometimes be taken too seriously. Here you have to laugh.	80
Can we help organize your own tournament with friends?	81

It is all happening in SE Asia



Hann Reserve Aerial photo

Three New Courses for Clark City in the Philippines

Located just two hours North of Manila in New Clark City, Philippines, Hann Reserve is a spectacular new 450-hectare, integrated luxury resort development, comprising 54 holes, clubhouses, driving range, golf academy, hotels, villas, townhouses, branded residences, casino, international school, public park, retail and commercial area. The golf courses are designed by Nicklaus Design (Mountain Course), KJ Choi (Valley Course) and Sir Nick Faldo (River Course). IMG is providing Golf Management services to Hann Reserve. First course designed by Nicklaus will open in 2025 so watch this space.



New BRG Nicklaus Designed Golf Course near Hue

Thua Thien Hue province in Vietnam will have a new golf course , when the Golden Sands Golf Resort opens this September. Only 20km east of Hue Ancient Capital this course is the strategic partnership between BRG Golf and Nicklaus Design. With a world-class standard length of 7,445 yards, Jack Nicklaus has created a coastal course that is expected to become one of Vietnam's top golfing destinations due to its heritage design mimicking the authentic playability of links courses of old. Hue boasts stunning palaces, majestic temples, and serene pagodas that offer a glimpse into the country's royal past, making it a must-visit destination for travelers seeking a unique experience in Vietnam.

Calendar Tournaments not to miss in Asia

OCTOBER 2024
Two of Thailand's most prestigious golf clubs will host back-to-back Asian Tour events in October, with the Black Mountain Championship taking place at Black Mountain Golf Club from 17-20th October.

OCTOBER 2024
The International Series Thailand following a week later at Thai Country Club from 24-27th October. With a US\$2 million purse for both tournaments, expect to see some of the stars from the LIV Golf tour competing in Thailand for world ranking points.

NOVEMBER 21-24, 2024
The Hong Open, part of the Asian Tour, will take place on November 21st-24th at the Hong Kong Golf Club. New Zealand's Ben Campbell drained a 15th foot birdie on the 18th last year. Who will win the US\$2million in 2024?

FEBRUARY 2025
Will see the top 50 LPGA players return to the Siam Country Club's Old Course again for the prestigious Honda LPGA Thailand. Exact dates TBC.



FLC Quang Binh Ocean Dunes Hole 18 (Brian Curley)

Bet you have probably played on a course designed by **Brian Curley**

Brian Curley has created over 150 courses worldwide; however, he is perhaps best known for his work in Asia, so we caught up with him recently.

Having been involved with many golf course designs during your career, what are the three most important facets of creating a great 18 holes?

It can be overcome with heaps of money, but starting with a great site is number one. I would note that the “site” is impacted by the surrounding property (think most of any course set at an oceanfront). Second would be a great vision by the ownership that knows how to employ a great team. Third can be any number of things, including money to construct and the money to endure slow times at the onset of operations.

Working with the great late Pete Dye, what did you learn from him?

So much! And not just design. Pete came from an insurance sales background and had a great way with people. As for design, he had toured links courses early in his career and brought that mentality of quirk and odd elements to his designs, while other parkland designers felt the need to adhere to the norm. Pete was all about the angle of attack, not a bowling alley through trees.

You have designed worldwide; however, how did you start with design contracts in Asia?

The gentleman who ran the World Cup of Golf came to our company office in the California desert just after Fred Couples and Davis Love won the China event at Mission Hills in 1995. He said they wanted more courses, and the rest is history! I eventually did twenty-two courses with Mission Hills alone, and I have since worked in about ten different Asian countries.

What are the different issues in creating 18 holes in Asia as against, say, in the US?

First, most courses in Asia are in hot, humid climates. This requires grasses that can survive and fairly extensive drainage to ensure the best turf conditions. Other issues stem from operations (such as caddies that add double the foot traffic) that you must factor into the design.

Name a few courses you were involved with in Asia that you feel made the grade.

In Thailand, we extensively remodeled the Siam



BC On-Site Quang Binh, April 2018

Country Club Old Course, the Plantation courses, the newest course, Rolling Hills and Amata Spring which is considered a Top 100 course by Golf Digest. There are several courses at Mission Hills China, including the Olazabal Course (which has hosted the World Cup), Faldo Course, Pete Dye Course (the premier membership), and the Rose/Poulter course, all at the Shenzhen complex.

In Vietnam, I have a few courses with the FLC Group, including Quang Binh along the coast, which I feel are the most natural in all of Asia. The other FLC course that garners a lot of attention and rounds is Halong Bay. Stone Valley (South of Hanoi) made the list of GOLF Magazine's Top 100 in Asia; in fact, we have 10 of the GOLF Magazine Top 100 in Asia courses!

Many of our readers would have played at Siam Country Club Old Course or seen the 18 holes on TV. Would you describe the 18th as one of your more challenging holes?

Absolutely! That final approach to the uphill green site and a diabolical green can create a lot of drama and swings in scores, all on a hole with no water in play.

How do you select a signature hole before you hand over the final course to the owner, and do you think they are necessary?

They are rarely “selected” unless the site gives you the obvious (such as a heroic par three over an ocean cove). Generally, they evolve, and even then, they are



BC On-Site Kunming Sun Hill Dec 2012

not always the best hole, but perhaps the most talked about.

Are you working on any other new courses in Asia?

Yes, I have a new design partner, Jim Wagner. (now Curley-Wagner Design), and we are busy all over Asia, including Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and a new, spectacular site with wild terrain and mountain/volcano views in Indonesia that I believe could eventually become a Top 10 in Asia.

SIAM COUNTRY CLUB

HOME OF LPGA THAILAND

Siam Country Club has a rich history and tradition. It is known as the home of the LPGA Thailand. Its challenging terrain and fast greens have made it a top golfing destination. Since its establishment in 1970, the club has hosted prestigious golf events, including the renowned Honda LPGA Tournament for 17 consecutive years.

As one of Thailand's leading courses, it continues to attract golfers and critics with its enduring appeal and exceptional standards, creating a solid connection to its rich history.

SIAM COUNTRY CLUB OLD COURSE

Siam Country Club Old Course, designed by I. Izumi, has just been completely renovated with Schmidt-Curley Design Inc. As a course architect. The project includes newly refurbished facilities. The club's long history will ensure the golf course's continuing maturity.



SIAM COUNTRY CLUB PLANTATION

The golf courses are designed by a well-known Arizona-based, Schmidt & Curley Design Inc. The "PLANTATION" name was given in honour of the historic Sugar Cane, Tapioca, and Pineapple plantations, and each 9-hole is named accordingly.



SIAM COUNTRY CLUB
WATERSIDE

Golf Course Architect IMG Design Inc. Strict environment care, esthetic beauty, challenge and friendly play are the emphasis of the Waterside design with absolutely distinct differences from the famous Old Course and Plantation.

SIAM COUNTRY CLUB
ROLLING HILLS

Golf Course Architect
Schmidt-Curley Design Inc.
Rolling Hills's design is a hybrid of
traditional elements and natural
courses of the past. The Talk of
the Town will be No. 15 hole,
the "WALL OF DEATH".

SIAM COUNTRY CLUB
BANGKOK

Golf Course Architect
Toby Cobb Golf Design Former Coore
and Crenshaw Design Associate.

"THE PARADISE IS HERE" at Siam Country Club Bangkok, a luxury hybrid-links 18-hole championship course in Bangkok.

SIAM COUNTRY CLUB ROLLING HILLS THE NEW FACELIFT



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siamcountryclub.com

Regions to visit...

Phuket

Phuket, Thailand's largest island, is a gem in the Andaman Sea. Known for its fantastic golf courses, stunning beaches, vibrant nightlife, and rich cultural heritage, Phuket has evolved from a quiet fishing community to a bustling golf mecca. The island's history is deeply intertwined with its strategic location on ancient trade routes, attracting merchants from India, China, and Europe. Phuket's architecture, cuisine, and festivals reflect this cultural melting pot.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Phuket's history dates back to the 1st century BC when it was part of the maritime Silk Road. The island's name is derived from the Malay word "Bukit," meaning hill, which describes its hilly terrain and coincidentally characterizes its many golf courses. Over the centuries, Phuket has seen influences from various cultures, including Indian, Chinese, and Portuguese, which have left an indelible mark on its cultural landscape.

The island's culture is a blend of traditional Thai customs and the influences of its diverse settlers. Festivals like the Phuket Vegetarian Festival, with its unique and sometimes extreme rituals, highlight the island's rich cultural tapestry. The architecture in Old Phuket Town, with its Sino-Portuguese buildings, offers a glimpse into the island's colonial past.

ACTIVITIES IN PHUKET

Phuket offers many activities beyond golf, catering to all interests and age groups. Here are some must-try activities:

Beach Hopping: With over 30 beaches, Phuket is a beach lover's paradise. Patong Beach is famous for its vibrant nightlife, while Kata and Karon beaches offer a more laid-back vibe. For a quieter experience, head to Nai Harn or Surin Beach. **Island Tours:** Explore the nearby islands, such as Phi Phi Islands, James Bond Island, and Similan Islands. These tours offer opportunities for snorkeling, diving, and

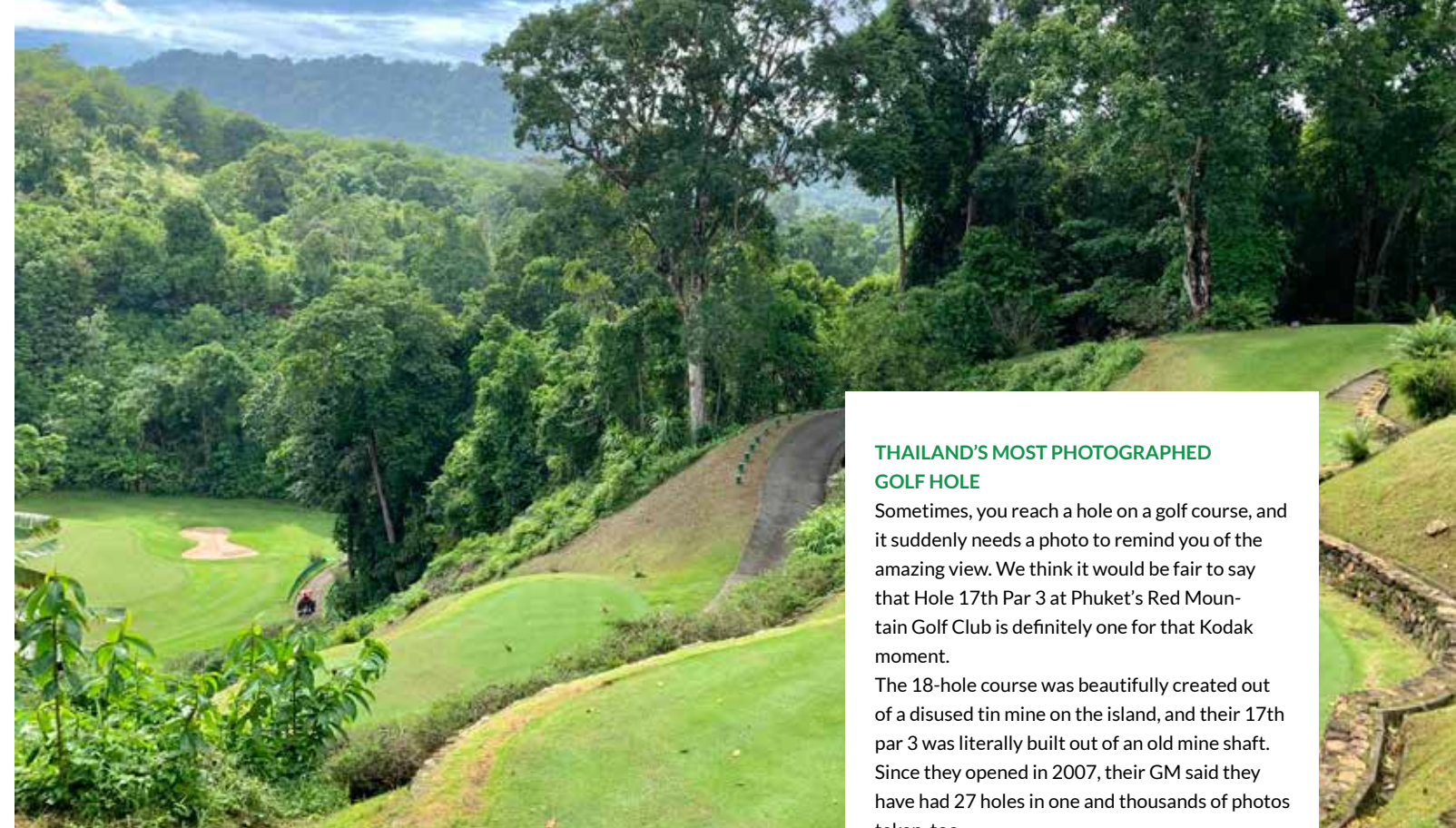
enjoying the stunning marine life.

Cultural Tours: Visit the Big Buddha, Wat Chalong, and Old Phuket Town to immerse yourself in the island's rich cultural heritage. The Sunday Walking Street Market in Phuket Town is a wonderful place to experience local food and crafts. **Adventure Activities:** For thrill-seekers, Phuket offers activities like zip-lining, ATV rides, and bungee jumping. The island's diverse terrain makes it an ideal destination for adventure sports.

Spa and Wellness: Phuket has numerous spas and wellness centers offering traditional Thai massages and holistic treatments. Indulge in a relaxing spa day to rejuvenate your body and mind. **Nightlife:** Patong Beach is the epicenter of Phuket's nightlife, with its bustling Bangla Road lined with bars, clubs, and entertainment venues. For a more sophisticated evening, visit one of the beach clubs or rooftop bars offering stunning views of the sunset.

CONCLUSION

Phuket is a destination that truly has it all. Whether you're a golf enthusiast, beach lover, or adventure seeker, the island offers diverse activities to suit every taste. Its rich history and vibrant culture add depth to the experience, making Phuket a must-visit destination for travelers worldwide. So, pack your bags, grab your golf clubs, and get ready to explore the tropical paradise of Phuket!



Red Mountain Golf Club

THAILAND'S MOST PHOTOGRAPHED GOLF HOLE

Sometimes, you reach a hole on a golf course, and it suddenly needs a photo to remind you of the amazing view. We think it would be fair to say that Hole 17th Par 3 at Phuket's Red Mountain Golf Club is definitely one for that Kodak moment. The 18-hole course was beautifully created out of a disused tin mine on the island, and their 17th par 3 was literally built out of an old mine shaft. Since they opened in 2007, their GM said they have had 27 holes in one and thousands of photos taken, too.

For more information on this beautiful golf course, check out www.golfasian.com/golf-courses/thailand-golf-courses/phuket/red-mountain-golf-club/

Phuket is a Golfer's Dream

Located in the Andaman Sea of southern Thailand, Phuket's name is said to derive from two Thai words: Phu (mountain) and ket (jewel). Much has been written about this well-known island, and now, with the recent expansion of its international airport, many airlines can fly you there.

The island offers some of Thailand's best golf courses, spectacular scenery, tropical sunsets over palm-lined clear blue beaches, and a vast array of nightlife. Golf holidays in Phuket are a golfer's dream, with eight championship golf courses, picturesque beaches, first-class resorts, and unsurpassed Thai hospitality. Combine the relaxing appeal of warm island breezes with beautiful beaches and some of the best golf tours in Thailand, and you will find it hard to leave!

Although the island is the largest in the country, space is running out, and it is unlikely that there will be room to create any new golf courses. Therefore, supply and demand dictate, and getting a prime tee time, especially in the high season, is tough. It is worth noting that the

top tour operators will have pre-booked their slots and can get you on to the first tee at a sociable time.

We mentioned that there are, in fact, eight courses on the island; however, here is the pick of the crop:

BLUE CANYON COUNTRY CLUB

Opened in 1991 with its Canyon Course and became famous as the venue for the 1994 Johnnie Walker Classic, returning twice, with Tiger Woods winning in 1998.

The course, created out of an old strip mine, has streams filled with rust-colored water, and a massive canyon adds to the fun. The course re-

Phi Phi Islands





Laguna Golf Phuket Aerial Shot

opened this year after a two-year closure and upgrade and recently attracted a KLPGA tournament.

The front nine plays up and through palm-oil tree-lined fairways, while the back nine ramps up the excitement with holes 11-15, arguably the best five-stretch in Thailand. Their par four, 13th over a canyon, tempts the daredevil in every golfer, and the following Par 3, 14th, from an elevated tee down to a small island green is one of the most beautiful yet challenging holes you will experience.

The club opened a second 18-hole course, known as the Lakes course, in 1999. It is a par 72 course at 7,179 yards. Less challenging than the Canyon course, the Lakes course appeals to a broader range of golfers.

Blue Canyon's large clubhouse has everything to make your visit memorable. Spend some time looking at the photos of the famous golfers who have gone before.

LAGUNA GOLF PHUKET
Opened in 1993, is a popular resort course that benefits from pleasant sea breezes from the Andaman Sea. It, too, has had its fair share of major events, having hosted Asia Tour events in 2009 and 2021 and regularly welcoming the Faldo Series.

Re-designed in 2014, it's on a valley floor overlooked by low wooded hills and marshlands. The course is undulating with superb playing surfaces, fairway tiers, depressions, mounds, and wide fairways.

Their front nine defines the existing naturally landscaped water bodies, while the back nine meanders through mature stands of trees. In contrast, their strategically placed bunkers add to the overall challenge.



Blue Canyon par 3



Blue Canyon Lakes Course

Their modest clubhouse has a first-class restaurant; afterward, golfers can wind down at the adjoining luxury spa facilities. Located in the Laguna area, there are many hotels and restaurants to explore.

RED MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB
Opened in 2007 and is still the new kid on the block. Often referred to as Phuket's most exciting course. Its 6,905

yards will give you thrills all around if you are looking for a challenging and fun experience.

Here is a course where you genuinely need a golf cart (in fact, they are compulsory), as some elevations are monstrous. Englishman Jonathon Morrow has cleverly created a masterpiece from a genuine disused tin mine.

Red Mountain is undoubtedly one of the region's most enjoyable hilliest courses, with landforms and dramatic elevation changes. Here, you will come across towering cliffs and flooded canyons; every hole is a challenge.

If you like elevated tee boxes, you will be in heaven here. All 18 holes offer variety, with large and small undulating greens to conquer. Bermuda grass is used on the impeccable greens, and Seashore Paspalum is used on the tee boxes and fairways.

The closing six holes and the final stretches get much more challenging, and the red rocky cliffs and dense tropical vegetation combine to make these holes some of the most spectacular in Asia.

Expect to return to the clubhouse with loads of photos, especially at the 17th par 3, which literally plays down a mine shaft. Perhaps the most photographed hole around! Everything works like clockwork, and the modern clubhouse has an excellent restaurant overlooking the 18th hole. This is a bucket-list golf experience not to be missed.

LOCH PALM GOLF CLUB
Run by the owners of Red Mountain and shares the same main entrance. While Loch Palm is not the longest Phuket golf course, it is one of the most enjoyable and consistent. Nestling among a range of jungle-clad hills, Loch



Aquella Golf & Country Club

Palm is easygoing, although still capable of throwing down many challenges and giving any Phuket golfer a thorough workout. As the club's name suggests, palm trees are liberally dotted around this parkland layout, although never too densely.

AQUELLA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Located on the stunning Andaman Sea coastline in Phang Nga province, approximately 45km or 30 minutes from Phuket International Airport, however we have still included it as a local course.

This par 72, 7,019-yard course is the latest addition to the area, opening in 2021, and stretches along 2.5 km of breathtaking beachfront. The undulating land results in many uneven lies while at the same time, wide fairways playable for resort golfers. Many risk-reward opportunities create excitement for all golfers.

Boasting a resort hotel, lavish pool villas, a marina, and a beach club, this resort offers a relaxing break from the hustle and bustle.

Loch Palm Golf Club



WHEN TO PLAY
March is the hottest month in Phuket with an average temperature of 29°C (83°F), and the coldest is January at 27°C (81°F), with the most daily sunshine hours at 9 in April. The wettest month is September, which has an average of 400mm of rain. The best month to swim in the sea is in April, when the average sea temperature is 30°C (86°F).

Laguna Golf LĂNG CÔ



18-HOLE



PAR 71



7,000 YARDS

Lagunalangco.com/golf



Situated in the heart of Lăng Cô, the course has been wonderfully designed by six-time major winner, Sir Nick Faldo. The course delivers an unforgettable golfing experience that can be enjoyed by the most advanced player and beginner alike, measuring almost 7,100 yards from the championship tees and a beginner-friendly 5,263 yards from the front tees.

ALL-INCLUSIVE INDULGENCE

Laguna Lăng Cô's lifestyle offers finest entertainment and amenities at every level whether it is for wellness or entertainment, leisure and golf.

- 3 Brand Hotels: Banyan Tree Hotel, Angsana Hotel - Laguna Parkside
- 10 Restaurants and Bars
- 2 Spas and Kid's Club
- 2 Gymnasiums and Yoga Pavilions
- Indoor & Outdoor Centre with more than 100 activities
- Golf Course
- South East Asia's longest 300-meter mega pool



Banyan Tree Lăng Cô



Angsana Lăng Cô



Laguna Parkside Lăng Cô



Laguna Golf PHUKET



18-HOLE



PAR 71



6,770 YARDS

lagunagolfphuket.com



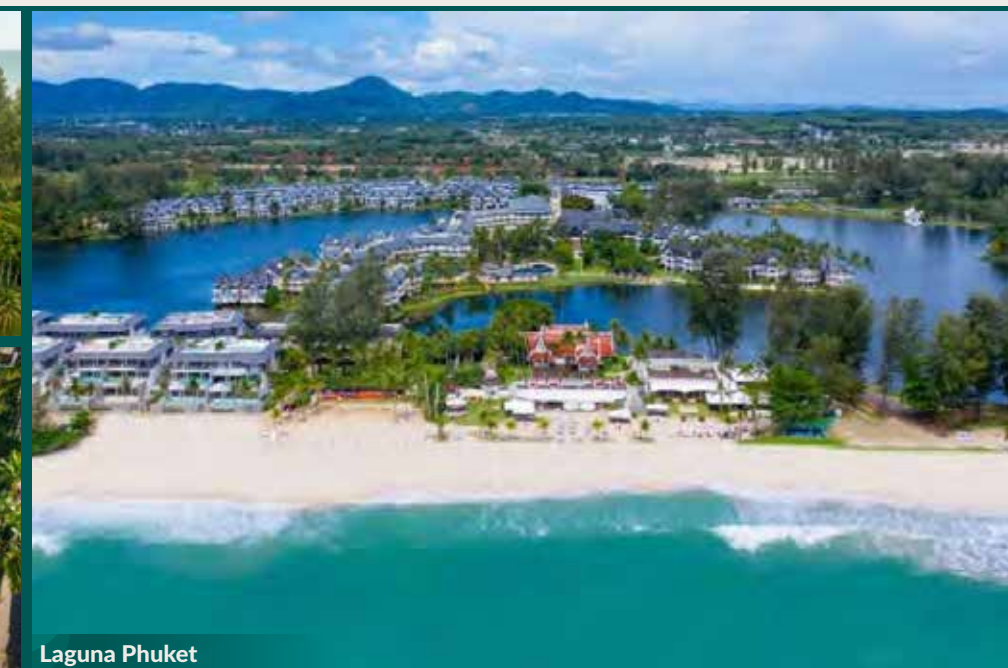
Nestled within the stunning Laguna Phuket, this award-winning golf course has been meticulously designed to provide a challenge for golfers at every level of expertise. The beautiful natural surroundings, with a variety of wildlife, offer an enchanting experience that will captivate both golf lovers and nature enthusiasts.



Banyan Tree Phuket



Angsana Phuket



Laguna Phuket

Laguna Golf BINTAN



18-HOLE



PAR 72



6,890 YARDS

lagunagolfbintan.com



Designed by Greg Norman, this course offers an exhilarating test with breathtaking views. Spanning 60 hectares, the thrilling layout navigates through jungle terrain and beachfront coconut groves. Laguna Golf Bintan ensures a golfing experience that invigorates the body and mind, making it an unbeatable choice for golf enthusiasts.

Asia's Best Golf Destinations

Laguna Golf Clubs, situated on breathtaking beach coasts in central Vietnam, southern Thailand or westside of Indonesia. Golf enthusiasts are offered a selection of finest services within integrated golf resorts in Asia, the perfect getaway also offers unique stay & play packages. After golfing, guests can enjoy luxurious accommodations, dining, spa treatments, and beach activities within the resort. With its seamless integration of golf & leisure, Laguna Golf provides the perfect ambience that enlivens the senses for an unforgettable vacation.

lagunagolf.com



Revel In Golf Paradise

Laguna Golf

🚩 LĂNG CÔ, VIETNAM

🚩 PHUKET, THAILAND

🚩 BINTAN, INDONESIA





Sky Lake

Northern Vietnam



Thanh Lanh Golf Club

Are you a golf enthusiast heading to Northern Vietnam? You're in luck! This region boasts stunning natural landscapes and a growing number of high-quality golf courses. From challenging terrains to breathtaking views, you'll find everything you need for a memorable golfing experience. In this article, we'll explore some of the best places to play golf in Northern Vietnam and offer tips on making the most of your trip.

One of the prime golfing destinations in this region is Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. Hanoi is home to several top-notch golf courses that cater to golfers of all levels. The **Sky Lake Resort & Golf Club** is highly recommended for those seeking a challenging game. This 36-hole championship golf course, designed by Korean architect Ahn Moon Hwan, is located amidst the peaceful countryside, offering players a truly serene and picturesque setting. With its undulating fairways, strategically placed bunkers, and large lakes, Sky Lake promises an unforgettable golfing experience.

Moving further north, you'll stumble upon the coastal city of Ha Long, known for its magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site – Ha Long Bay. The **FLC Ha Long Bay Golf Club** is within this breathtaking backdrop, a paradise for golfers seeking a seaside golfing experience. Designed by Schmidt-Curly Design, this 18-hole championship

golf course combines impeccable links-style layouts with stunning ocean views, creating a truly unforgettable golfing journey.

Thanh Lanh Golf Club, nestled in the picturesque foothills of Northern Vietnam, offers an exclusive golfing experience that seamlessly blends natural beauty with world-class amenities. This 18-hole championship course, designed by renowned golf architect Nick Faldo, features lush fairways, strategically placed bunkers, and undulating greens that challenge players of all skill levels. The club's meticulously maintained landscape is complemented by panoramic views of the mountains and lakes, creating a serene and inspiring environment for golfers. Beyond the course, Thanh Lanh Golf Club boasts exceptional facilities, including a modern clubhouse, fine dining options, and luxurious locker/changing rooms, making it an ideal destination for Asian Golf & More readers.

In conclusion, Northern Vietnam is a golfing haven waiting to be explored. With its stunning natural landscapes, top-notch golf courses, and warm hospitality, this region offers everything a golfer could dream of. Whether you're seeking a challenging game on a championship course or a serene golfing experience amidst breathtaking scenery, you will find it in Northern Vietnam. So, pack your clubs and prepare for a golfing adventure you won't forget!

Facts and Figures

Key Insights On Vietnam's Growing Appeal To Golf Travelers

94.1% Recovery Rate

As of the first quarter of 2024, Vietnam ranks third in Southeast Asia for tourist arrivals, following Thailand and Malaysia. The tourism industry in Vietnam has achieved an impressive recovery rate of 94.1% compared to 2019.

300,000 Tourists

In the first seven months of 2024, Vietnam welcomed approximately 10 million international visitors, including 300,000 international golf tourists.

The top factors attracting Golf Travelers to Vietnam were:

Spectacular Courses. 72.5%

of Golf travelers are drawn to Vietnam's golf beauty, from the limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay Country Club to the pristine Links course of Hoiana Golf Club and The Bluffs, Ho Tram.

Rich Cultural Heritage. 45.2%

of golf tourists are attracted by Vietnam's cultural experiences, including ancient temples, traditional festivals, and unique culinary offerings.

Affordability. 45.4%

of golf tourists appreciate the value for money Vietnam offers, with affordable green fees, accommodation, food, and transportation.

Relaxing Atmosphere. 25.8%

of golf visitors seek out Vietnam for its peaceful and relaxing environment, especially with the caddies at every golf course and in rural areas and smaller towns.

Vietnam's multifaceted appeal, from its stunning golf course and rich culture to its affordability and safety, positions it as a leading golf destination. The golf & tourism industry's strong growth and resilience highlight the ongoing opportunities for further golf travel.

Flc Ha Long Bay Resort with Golf Course



The Grass Under Your Feet....

It is a testament to the skills of the S.E. Asia's sports turf industry that we almost take for granted that the courses will be in top condition when we tee off.

Brad Burgess, known in the trade as one of the leading experts in the sports turf industry, brings a wealth of experience to the table. As a former Golf Course Construction and Maintenance Superintendent, he has worked with many of the top golf course Architects in extremely diverse situations. Now, as the head of Sports Turf Solutions (STS) with operations in several countries, his expertise is unparalleled. This month, he was in Japan, Australia, and the USA, so we managed to catch him while he jetted around the world.

How did you first get into this specialized industry?
I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to relocate to Indonesia in 1995 and work on a Coore &

Crenshaw golf course in the virgin rain forests of West Papua. Here they provided some of the world's best Agronomy Consultants to train me.

Although you now own a company that works world-wide, please explain why Thailand is your HQ.
Thailand is my home, it's a wonderful place to live and work, plus it's a base for my wife and our four children. Singapore is the company headquarters for various reasons, lower taxes, and it's a central hub to all our offices in Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Maintaining a golf course can be an expensive business, so has modern technology helped groundskeepers keep their 18 holes in greater condition?
Good question. I just conducted a seminar for the Asian Tour Referees last month and one topic was the rising cost of maintenance machinery. While the technology is better, although, at times too advanced for the local Equipment Managers, the costs of these machines are too expensive now for most golf courses to purchase. Golf Courses in general can't afford to replace their machinery as often as they need to.

With global warming posing challenges to the seasons, have you managed to stay ahead of these challenges?
The introduction of new varieties of Zoysia grasses to Asia almost 10 years ago has been a game-changer. These grasses, cross-bred into more durable varieties, can withstand extensive heat and dry periods, are 90% more pest and disease-resistant, and require far less nutrient and water inputs. Their playability is a cut above anything else introduced to Asia in the past 30 years, offering a promising future for the sports turf industry.

Hoiana Shores Vietnam



Chhun On

Is it possible to reduce the costs of your clients' courses?
By improving the quality and playability of clients' courses while reducing costs and promoting environmental sustainability, we are reshaping the sports turf industry. The older turf varieties introduced to Asia since the construction booms of the 90's haven't adapted to the harsh growing environments, requiring vast amounts of nutrients and additional maintenance. In contrast, the improved Zoysia turf varieties native to the region are far more cost-effective and sustainable, ensuring a brighter future for the industry.

Please explain how you experiment with new types of turf and is there one particular variety that your company has developed to cope with this region's climate in particular?
There are no breeding facilities in Asia that are producing new varieties, so we get our grasses from Texas and Georgia in the USA. The varieties that survive a stringent testing process in the USA are then taken by us and we conduct our own trials over several years to ensure they are adaptable to the Asian climates. We have a number of Zoysia varieties that have been successful for us, Zeon Zoysia is the most proven Zoysia variety around the world for Tees, Fairways and Roughs but is now being superseded by Stadium Zoysia which Architects and Developers love the darker natural green color.

Many of Thailand's courses opened in the late 90's and now need a bit of tender loving care.
Back then, most of the courses were built with imported 419 Bermuda grass from the USA. It's a nice fast-growing grass but requires more nutrients and chemicals for it to out compete weeds and recover from high traffic. Paspalum was introduced in the 2000's as a beautiful green lush turf with a wow factor, but again, requires a lot of maintenance. These challenges have led to the need for new, more sustainable turf varieties.

Since our introduction of the various Zoysia Grasses, we've renovated several courses, with the Canyon Course at Blue Canyon Country Club being one of our highlights. This renovation involved replacing the existing turf with our Zoysia grasses, significantly improving the course's playability, and reducing maintenance costs.



Empire Club Hanoi



Brad Burgess (center) and team

Other courses that have converted to our Zoysia grasses include Singapore Island Country Club, Seletar Country Club, Vietnam Golf & Country Club, and Laem Chabang International, to name a few. We have also grassed more than 30 other new golf courses throughout Asia, and we have some exciting new projects under construction at the moment.

Finally, do you still get a chance to relax and play a few rounds of golf yourself? If so, what are your favorite courses?
My most enjoyable course to play in Thailand is Chee Chan Golf Club. It's designed by a good friend of mine, David Dale. I'm also a member of the Old Course, Siam Country Club and enjoy all those courses. The Lakes Course at Blue Canyon Country Club is probably the most underrated course in Asia. It needs a few adjustments to some of the greens, but that's a course I would love to restore the greens, Fairways and Bunkers on at some stage.

We've collaborated with some amazing architects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Thailand. Stonehill Golf Club that hosted the LIV Golf event in 2022 is an amazing property, so too are Hoiana Shores, KN Links and Royal Golf Club in Vietnam. One of our initial projects was Myotha Mandalay Golf Club in Mandalay, Myanmar. It's a must for any golf enthusiast who wants a unique cultural experience.



VATTANAC GOLF RESORT

TRON GOLF

Located on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, which was recently ranked as the 9th Top trending destinations by Trip Advisor, Vattanac Golf Resort is managed by Troon, the leader in upscale hospitality management and provides a luxury experience across 36-holes designed by Sir Nick Faldo. Located within a spectacular setting around famous cultural expressions which include scale replicas of UNESCO World Heritage Site Angkor Wat, Preah Vihear, Terrace of The Elephants, and The Bayon, Vattanac Golf Resort is a must-visit and an experience not to be missed.



Since opening in 2019, Vattanac Golf Resort has accumulated a staggering array of accolades. The prestigious list of recognitions includes a 59-Club Gold Flag Award in 2023, being listed in the golf.com Top-100 Golf Resorts in the World for 2023 and 2024, ranking the No. 3 Resort in Asia Pacific in 2023 at Asia Pacific Golf Awards, an Association of Golf Merchandisers Best-of-the-Best recognition, and No. 1 in Cambodia four consecutive years.

The East Course is a strategic golf course which utilizes dramatic water features, creative bunkering, and various forms of native fauna to challenge golfers of all levels.

The West Course has distinctively different features from East Course including narrower and more undulating fairways, a variety of unique water features, and testing Paspalum greens.

Vattanac Golf Resort's Night Golf Venue, The Dragon Turn holds unique and significant character being named after the shape of the Dragon Lake which sits in the middle of three holes of this exciting layout. The Dragon Turn was recognized as the Worlds Best 9-Hole Golf Course in 2021 at the World Golf Awards. In Q4 2024, The Dragon Turn will become a fully lit 18-hole night golf course, the first and only 18-hole night golf experience in Cambodia.

Where to Stay

About Hôtel KVL

Hôtel KVL is situated in central Phnom Penh, overlooking the Tonle Sap river just minutes from most major tourist attractions, with The Royal Palace and National Museum within easy walking distance. As night falls, Phnom Penh's vibrant restaurant and nightlife scene is right on your doorstep.

About Rosewood Phnom Penh

Rosewood Phnom Penh presents an ultra-luxury experience at the heart of the Cambodian capital. Soaring 188 meters above the heart of Phnom Penh, the hotel occupies the top 14-floors of Vattanac Capital Tower, the city's most iconic, contemporary structure which is a symbol of the city's growth and development. The hotel is a true masterpiece of modern architecture, offering a unique blend of luxury and sustainability. The hotel is a true masterpiece of modern architecture, offering a unique blend of luxury and sustainability. The hotel is a true masterpiece of modern architecture, offering a unique blend of luxury and sustainability.



Our Phnom Penh

Whilst you're visiting the Phnom Penh, enjoy local delicacies, activities and attractions. This is our edit of things to do, see and eat whilst taking a break from your golf.

Where to Socialize

Ember Korean BBQ

The city's most sophisticated Korean dining experience located in the heart of PhnomPenh at Vattanac Capital Lifestyle Park. Serving authentic South Korean barbeque with high quality meats such as Hanwoo beef enabling the experience of cultural taste and the true essence of Korean cuisine.

Eleven Degrees Brewpub

Eleven degrees sounds chilly, but it's the temperature you need to make good beer. That is what Eleven Degrees does with originality, expertise, and a lot of love. Eleven Degrees is also Phnom Penh's latitude north of the equator – fitting for a city where beer truly is the drink of the people.

Sora Sky Bar

Unwind high above the city at one of the best bars in Asia, including a stylish whiskey bar, specially curated cocktails and a mesmerizing view. Built around Japanese mythology and derived from native Cambodian ingredients, Sora's cocktail menu; THE BOOK OF YOKAI, promises a world class socializing experience.

Cuts

Cuts offers a unique blend of casual dining, grill room, dining suites, and the Wine Vault. Cuts specializes in hand-cut artisanal meats and has an extensive wine collection. With over 3,000 bottles from 279 varieties, it is a true haven for connoisseurs.

Sushi Zo

Sushi Zo brings a Michelin Star dining Omakase experience to Phnom Penh. Founded in Los Angeles in 1991 by Osaka-born sushi master Keizo Seki, the restaurant has earned one Michelin Star at to Los Angeles restaurants for its omakase menus which feature only the highest quality seafood shipped daily from Japan.

Where to Visit

Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda

Phnom Penh's Royal Palace is a prominent cultural and architectural landmark offering a glimpse into the nation's regal past and the splendour of Khmer craftsmanship. History, tradition, and spirituality blend beneath traditional Khmer golden curved roofs.

Cambodia National Museum

The National Museum of Cambodia houses one of the world's greatest collections of Khmer cultural material including sculpture, ceramics and ethnographic objects from the prehistoric, pre-Angkorian, Angkorian and post-Angkorian periods.

Sunset Cruises on the Mekong River

The Mekong is the world's twelfth longest river and runs from the Tibetan plateau through Southwest China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Southern Vietnam. A Mekong River sunset cruise is an incredible way to experience the Phnom Penh evenings.

Where to Shop

Vattanac Capital Mall

Vattanac Capital Mall is a home of international luxury brands across three sectors: beauty, fashion, and home. The brands are Brioni, Balenciaga, Boss, Bottega Veneta, Burberry, Canali, Christofle, Clarins, Dolce & Gabbana, Salvatore Ferragamo, Frette, L'Occitane in Provence, Moncler, Poltrona Frau, Stefano Ricci, and more.

Central Market (Phsar Thmei)

The busy central market is a must-visit during your time in Phnom Penh. Housed in the art deco building the market offers an authentic glimpse into Cambodian culture and a chance to buy souvenirs and more!



ROYAL PALACE AND SILVER PAGODA



SUNSET CRUISES ON THE MEKONG RIVER



VATTANAC CAPITAL MALL



CENTRAL MARKET (PHSAR THMEI)

Golf in Cambodia: Inception to Modern Fare Journey

Golf, a sport known for its precision and patience, has seen a remarkable rise in **Cambodia**, intertwining its rich cultural tapestry with the tranquil greens of its golf courses. The history of golf in Cambodia is a tale of resilience, growth, and an increasing appetite for international sporting standards.

Angkor Golf Resort.





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Stay. Inspired



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Village 10, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
<https://www.sunandmoonhotelgroup.com/hotels/riverside-hotel/>
Stay. Inspired



Phokeethra Country Club



Garden City Golf Club



Chhun On Golf Resort

The early 2000s saw a continued interest in golf, driven primarily by expatriates and visiting tourists. The demand for high-quality golfing experiences drove investments into developing more courses nationwide. By 2004, the Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort opened in Siem Reap, combining luxury

with the historical aura of the nearby Angkor Wat temples. This course brought international attention, marrying the allure of Cambodia's ancient wonders with the sophisticated charm of golf.

MODERN DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Cambodia's golf scene hit its stride in the 2010s, with several new courses being designed by renowned international architects. The Angkor Golf Resort, designed by Sir Nick Faldo, offers world-class facilities and challenging layouts. Opened in 2008, it quickly became a premier destination for golf enthusiasts and has hosted numerous international tournaments, placing Cambodia firmly on the global golf map. Also in Siem Reap is the Phokeethra Country Club.

Phnom Penh's golf offerings expanded with top-tier courses such as Garden City Golf Club a signature -managed IMG offering some of the best golf experiences in Cambodia. Then there is Vattanac Golf Resort which has 36 holes of golf across East and West Courses both designed by Sir Nick Faldo. Both their courses have meticulously maintained greens, There is a 5-star luxury resort, and state-of-the-art amenities catering to local players and international visitors.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Looking ahead, Cambodia's golfing future appears promising. With ongoing investments designed to upgrade existing courses and develop new ones, golf's footprint is set to expand. The 36-hole Chhun On Golf Resort comes online this year, and three more courses are under construction around Phnom Penh. Add this to the myriad of announced projects in the southern provinces of Sihanoukville and Battambang. The government's support, through tourism boards and sports authorities, further underscores the strategic importance of golf in the country's socio-economic development.

In conclusion, golf in Cambodia has evolved from humble beginnings to an internationally recognized sport, reflecting the country's broader narrative of growth and modernization. The continued blend of cultural heritage with contemporary golf courses guarantees to make Cambodia a cherished destination for golfers worldwide.



Golf Digest Award for Editor's Choice BEST IN RESORTS / INTERNATIONAL 2022



Garden City Golf Club
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
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Email: info@gardencityclub.com
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SIEM REAP GOLFING GETAWAY At Anantara Angkor Resort

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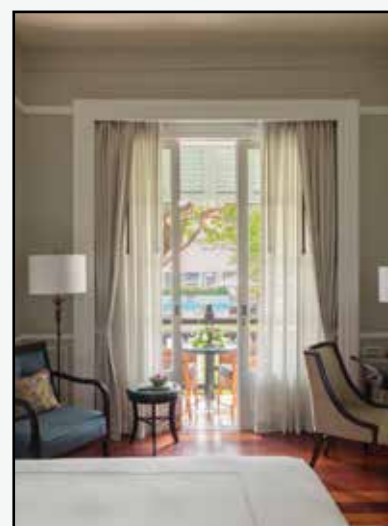
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To set foot in Raffles Le Royal is to participate in a story that began when the hotel first opened in 1929. With each day that passes and each resident that stays, a new page is written.



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Phnom Penh

Experience the perfect golf getaway in Phnom Penh at the Courtyard by Marriott, centrally located in the heart of the city. Just a short drive from some of the best golf courses in the region, our comfortable and stylish accommodation provides the ideal base for your golfing adventure.

Discover a golfer's paradise within easy reach of our hotel, with lush fairways and challenging holes less than an hour away. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner looking to improve your game, Phnom Penh offers a range of courses to suit every skill level.

After a day on the greens, unwind in the modern and inviting ambiance of Courtyard by Marriott Phnom Penh. Indulge in our well-appointed rooms, featuring plush bedding and contemporary amenities to ensure a restful night's sleep before hitting the links again.

With our convenient location at the city center, you'll have easy access to vibrant dining and entertainment options to complement your golfing experience. Plus, our attentive staff is always on hand to assist with any additional arrangements or recommendations to make your stay even more enjoyable.

Make your next golf retreat unforgettable with a stay at Courtyard by Marriott Phnom Penh. Book now and tee off for an extraordinary golfing escape in the heart of Cambodia's capital city.

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Holistic Blend of Romance & Harmony

Built in an exotic design of luxury French art decor, coupled with Cambodian cultural touch, the Lotus Blanc Resort, provides a timeless, holistic and harmonious experience to intimate guests who are looking for a tropical bliss landscape in Siem Reap.

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A wide-angle photograph of Angkor Wat at sunrise. The temple's silhouette is reflected in the calm water of the moat, with the sun rising behind it, creating a bright glow and lens flare.

Sunrise view of popular tourist attraction ancient temple complex Angkor Wat Siem Reap, Cambodia

Why Cambodia?

Cambodia, a Southeast Asian gem, is a country with a rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landscapes. From ancient temples to lush jungles and serene beaches, Cambodia offers a plethora of activities and attractions that will leave any traveler awestruck.

One must-visit destination in Cambodia is the incredible Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest religious monument in the world. This ancient temple complex from the Khmer Empire era is an architectural masterpiece that will transport you back in time. Exploring the intricate carvings, grand halls, and towering spires is an unforgettable experience.

For those seeking tranquility, a visit to the idyllic beaches of Sihanoukville is a must. With its crystal-clear waters and white sandy beaches, it's the perfect spot to relax and soak up the sun. Whether you prefer swimming, snorkeling, or simply lounging under a palm tree, Sihanoukville's beaches provide the ultimate beach experience.

History enthusiasts shouldn't miss a trip to the Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh. These somber sites are a stark reminder of the atrocities that occurred during the Khmer Rouge regime. It's a humbling and educational experience, allowing visitors to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and learn about Cambodia's turbulent past.

Adventure seekers will be thrilled by the opportunity to explore Cambodia's jungles. The impressive Cardamom and Mondulkiri regions offer stunning landscapes, home to diverse wildlife, waterfalls, and trekking trails. Embarking on a jungle trek or wildlife safari is a chance to connect with nature and discover Cambodia's hidden gems.

In addition to these attractions, Cambodia also boasts vibrant markets, delicious cuisine, and a warm and friendly local population. Exploring the bustling markets of Phnom Penh or Siem Reap offers a sensory delight, with colorful textiles, traditional handicrafts, and flavorful street food tantalizing your taste buds.

In conclusion, Cambodia is a country that promises a plethora of experiences to satisfy every traveler's desires. Whether you're fascinated by ancient history, natural beauty, or seeking adventure, Cambodia is a destination that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression.



New Routes into Asia....

British Airways (BA) is expanding its code-share partnership with Bangkok Airways and increasing frequencies to Thailand this winter. Additionally, BA announced earlier this year plans to resume nonstop service between London Gatwick and Bangkok Suvarnabhumi from Oct. 28, operating 3X-weekly using Boeing 777 aircraft. It has now been confirmed that frequencies will rise to up to 5X-weekly between January and March 2025.

Thai Lion Air has opened a new route to India with the launch of flights connecting Bangkok Don Mueang and Ahmedabad. Service commenced on Aug. 15 and will operate four times per week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Indonesia AirAsia has launched a 3X-weekly service between Bali and Cairns, Australia, using Airbus A320 equipment. The route is expected to provide 28,000 seats into the Cairns market in its first year. "Having a new direct route into Cairns from Denpasar opens up the Far North to more tourists."



Philippines-based LCC Cebu Pacific is adding its seventh domestic destination from Clark, as well as international destinations including Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Tokyo Narita.

Ethiad is increasing frequencies to Thailand. Additionally, frequencies to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi will rise from 18X-weekly to 3X-daily from Oct. 27, and service to Phuket will rise from 2X-daily to 20X-weekly from the same date.



Ba Na Hills night golf

Tee Off in the Sun and Finish in the Dark



Ba Na Hills

When taking a golf vacation, it is always fun to try out a new experience, and Ba Na Hills Golf Club in Danang definitely ticks a lot of those boxes.

You can arrive and play the front nine in the afternoon, and then continue on as the sun sets, because all 18 holes are floodlit. Designed by the current European Ryder Cup Captain, Luke Donald, and managed by IMG, this club in a very short time (it only opened in 2016) has become a world class facility. Located at the foothills of the famed Ba Na Hills on Vietnam's central coast, located 25 minutes from downtown Da Nang. It has been awarded 'Vietnam's Best Golf Course' for six consecutive years and also won the fifth 'Asia's Best Golf Course' in 2021.

Set amongst one of the most impressive mountain ranges in the region, the multi award winning Championship golf course will play away from the coastline, at elevation, in a cooler setting typically void of wind. Stretching over 7,858 yards from the championship tees — making it the longest layout in Vietnam — and comprising a non-stop succession of undulating greens. Every hole and vantage point are framed by a beautiful backdrop of local native forest.

The modern clubhouse has all you need with a large pro shop, excellent restaurant, and great facilities. A class act!



Designed by Luke Donald and managed by IMG, Ba Na Hills Golf Club is a world class facility located at the foothills of the famed Ba Na Hills on Vietnam's Central Coast. Located just 25 minutes from downtown Da Nang, Ba Na Hills Golf has been awarded "Vietnam's Best Golf Course" for 6 consecutive years and is a MUST PLAY.



The First 6-6-6 Course Layout in Asia

Nikanti's unique course measures 6,789 yards from the back tees, with each group of six holes having a distinctive look, design, and play.

This incredible Bangkok course has a different routing. Rather than having a traditional front and back nine, Nikanti comprises three loops of six, starting and ending at the main clubhouse. Each loop consists of two par-3s, two par-4s, and two par-5s. Having an equal number of par-3, par-4, and par-5 holes is somewhat controversial, but why not? Par-72 is still on offer, allowing golfers to play a wide variety of holes throughout the round.

Meticulously manicured fairways and fast undulating greens are a few of Nikanti's renowned hallmarks, and the various landscape features will challenge even the most experienced golfer. While the length can be advantageous for those playing from the back tees, Nikanti places value on skilled shot-making and course management.

This 6-6-6 concept takes inspiration from the six senses in Buddhism and is part of Nikanti's brand

Nikanti



philosophy. The golf course was expertly designed by Khun Pirapon (Ope) Namatra, one of Thailand's premier golf course design firms. He also designed Banyan (now Pineapple Valley).

The whole golfing visit is enhanced by a superb clubhouse with a five-star chef, even a spa with steam and jacuzzi, and everything works like clockwork. It's definitely a Bucket List experience not to be missed.

As this is a page suggest you insert the photo of the jacuzzi next to the main photo or maybe within the text....up to you.

Nikanti spa.



Bali National

Creeks, Canyons, and Tropical Birds await at this Amazing Bali Course...

Whether you are a beginner, a pro or just a casual weekend golfer looking for a relaxing Bali golf holiday, Bali National Golf Club is an experience not to be missed.

A Robin Nelson and Rodney Wright designed Hawaiian-styled golf course; the Golf Club re-opened in 2013 after undergoing extensive renovations. Being located at the southern tip of the island puts Bali National near many of the top hotels. It is only a short 15-minute drive by the new 4-lane tollway from the Bali International Airport.

The club has three distinct playing environments throughout the 18-hole 7,166-yard course. Holes 1 through 9 feature creeks, canyons and native vegetation filled with tropical birds, whilst holes 10 through 16 offer the golfer lush gently sculptured fairways through a mature grove. Finally, the island green hole 17 and lakeside hole 18 are the challenging finishing holes to test every golfer.

The course has been awarded numerous accolades including Best Golf Resort in Indonesia 2017 by Golf Digest USA, Best Golf Courses in 260 Countries in 2018 by Golf Digest USA and First Runner-up Best Golf Resort in Asia Pacific 2019 by Asian Golf Awards.

Their clubhouse has well-appointed Locker Rooms, a well-stocked Pro Shop, plus The Golfer's Lounge & Terrace serving exquisite cuisines. Bali National is a must visit place for your unforgettable luxurious golfing experience in Bali.

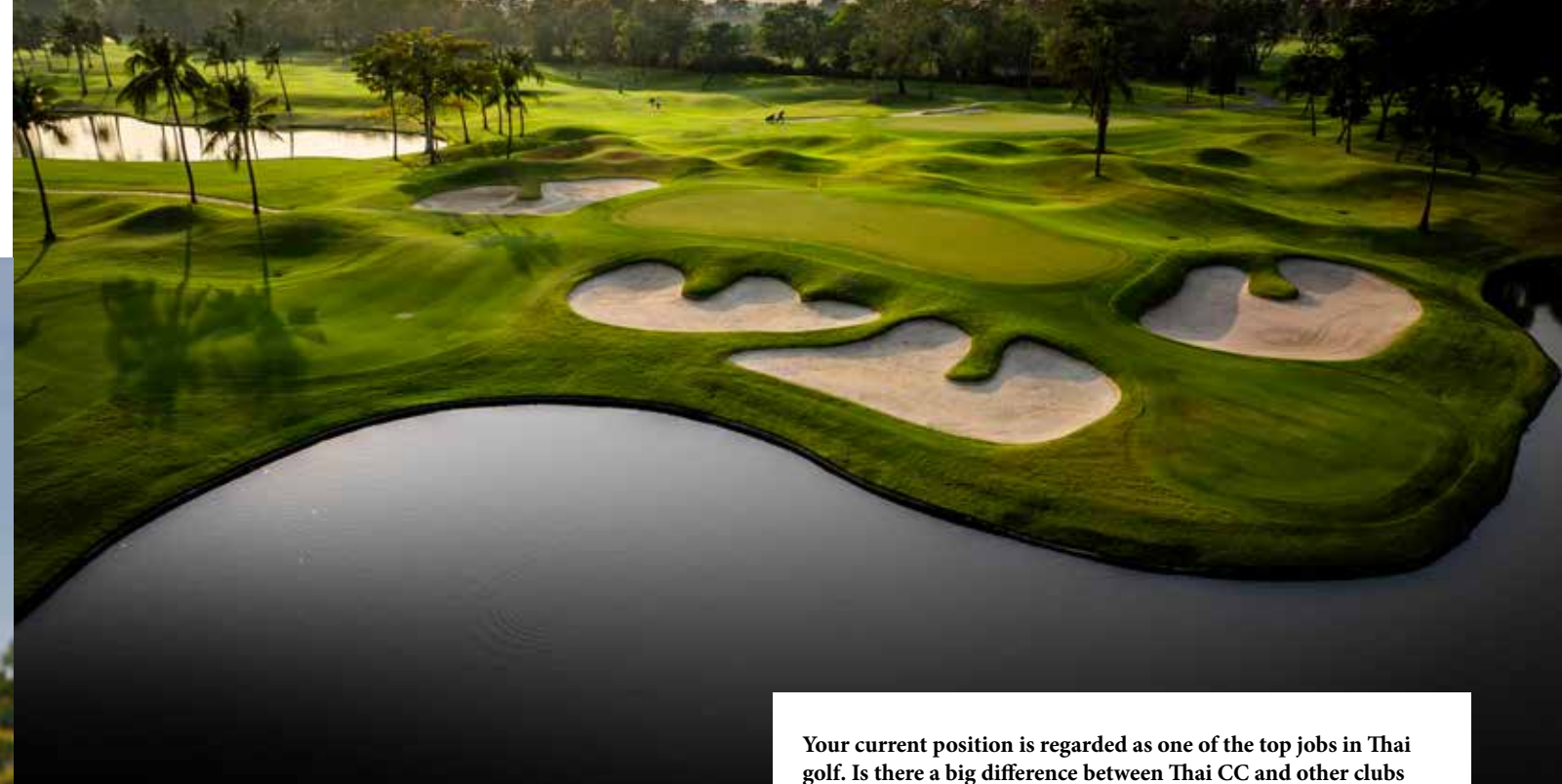


Bali National Hole 1



Jack on the course

Know your General Manager... Jack Hedges, Thai Country Club



Thai Country Club



Thai Country Club's Clubhouse

Where are you from originally?

Originally from a small village called Binfield, Berkshire, UK, about 15 minutes from Windsor.

What kick started your career in golf management?

My work experience in Thailand at the age of 18 was a game-changer for my career in golf management. I was working under a great GM of a well-known club in Thailand, and he opened my eyes to a whole new world within the world of golf. It gave me an honest look at how a golf facility runs and sparked a fire in me for the industry. This experience pushed me towards a management career. It showed me the wide world of opportunities out there, inspiring me to seek roles in various countries, eventually leading to my first job in Cambodia.

Please name all the golf clubs you have worked for.

- Sand Martins Golf Club – Berkshire, UK
- Phokeethra Country Club (Sofitel) – Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Pine Rock Golf Club – Beidaihe, China
- Ba Na Hills Golf Club – Danang, Vietnam
- The Players Club – Beijing, China
- Thai Country Club – Bangkok, Thailand

Your current position is regarded as one of the top jobs in Thai golf. Is there a big difference between Thai CC and other clubs in Asia?

Every club has its unique characteristics, and Thai Country Club is no different. The club has a great reputation in the region, largely due to its exceptional level of hospitality and service. This has always been the differentiator. Yes, the golf course is always in good condition, and the hardware, in general, is maintained very well, but the sense of community, through hospitality and a focus on the experience, is what really defines us. This has been the case for nearly 30 years. I won't say there is a big difference with other clubs in Asia, but I will say all clubs are different in their own unique way.

What are your goals at the club over the next few years?

Over the next few years, we have some key objectives that we are excited to pursue:

1. Due to the wear and tear of three decades, our golf course needs upgrades in various areas. We are committed to enhancing the infrastructure by improving irrigation, drainage, cart paths, and more.
2. We aim to leverage technology to provide our members with efficient solutions that enhance their overall experience. This will also help us streamline operations, allowing us to focus on more critical tasks.
3. Sustainability remains a top priority for us.

After achieving GEO certification last year, we are dedicated to maintaining and expanding our sustainable practices and solutions. We take pride in our progress and are determined to continue making positive strides.

What are your favorite courses to play in SE Asia?

That's a really tough question to answer because the reality is there are so many. We are very fortunate to have such a great selection of courses in the region. My favorites vary depending on where I am traveling to, but I'm a big fan of Sentosa GC in Singapore, Clearwater Bay in Hong Kong, Bali National, and Ba Na Hills in Danang, to name a few! The truth is, I find it fascinating to play different courses because every single one has a different experience.

Beat the Snow and Head to Asia for some Sunny Golf



Asia's tropical weather currently provides excellent temperatures at around 27c this morning....perfect for a few rounds of golf!

As you prepare to see your local golf club close during the harsher winter conditions back home, here in Asia, we can enjoy balmy days, and any likely snow showers are very remote. In fact, it only snowed once in Thailand, back in January 1955, when it fell in Chiang Rai for just 14 hours.

Apart from great golf, Asia has it all, from mouthwatering cuisine to cultural masterpieces not to be missed.

Of course, you can come over and book an individual golf vacation, or why not check out a number of Amateur tournaments that you can enter across Thailand, The Philippines, and Vietnam over the next few months at www.golfasian.com/events/.

They are well organized, and the 19th hole parties are legendary too.

Oh, and remember to dump your snow boots and bring the Factor 50!

Seaside Golf Course



Immerse Yourself in the Golfer's Paradise at Thana City Country Club

THANA CITY COUNTRY CLUB

BANGKOK, THAILAND



DESIGNER:	Greg Norman
HOLES / PAR / YARDAGE:	18 holes par 72 (7,008 yards)
EISTABLISHED:	1993
DISTANCE:	25 minutes from downtown Bangkok

Conveniently situated near Bangkok's center, Thana City Country Club offers a unique golfing experience as Thailand's only Greg Norman-designed course. The 7,008-yard par-72 layout is intertwined with a prominent condominium project and borders Suvarnabhumi Airport, where golfers can witness planes swooping just above the fairways. With a rich history of hosting prestigious tournaments, including the Thailand Open, Thana City challenges golfers of all skill levels with its flat fairways, well-manicured greens, and strategically placed bunkers.



A haven of golfing excellence and luxury, Thana City Country Club is just a short commute from downtown Bangkok and conveniently located just 15 minutes from the Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Escape the city and immerse yourself in an unrivaled golfing experience on our meticulously maintained course, crafted to challenge and delight players of all levels. With floodlights illuminating the greens until 19:30, you can extend your playtime after the sunset and enjoy your time on the course. After a rewarding round, unwind in our elegant clubhouse and indulge in friendly relaxed dining options. Discover a golfing journey tailored to perfection at Thana City Country Club, where every moment enhances your love for the game.





Train near River Kwai

Off Course activities....

Once you have finished your round on some of Asia's finest courses, many will head to the beach or maybe a local spa for a relaxing massage. However, for the more adventurous, here are a few original distractions to add to your bucket list.

Hanoi



River Kwai. While in Thailand, one experience worth taking is to board a train, either from Bangkok's Thonburi Station or The Death Railway at either Kanchanaburi Station or River Kwai Bridge Halt. You can then visit the Bridge on the River Kwai and the Hell Fire Museum, which explains what happened during WWII.

The Golden Bridge (Vietnamese: Cầu Vàng) is a 150 meter long (490 ft) pedestrian bridge in the Bà Nà Hills resort near Da Nang, Vietnam. It is designed to connect the cable car station with the gardens (avoiding a steep incline) and to provide a scenic overlook and tourist attraction. <https://banahills.sunworld.vn/en>

The Marble Temple in Bangkok. Wat Benchamabophit Dusitvanaram is a Buddhist temple in the Dusit District of Bangkok, Thailand. Also known as the Marble Temple, it is one of Bangkok's best-known temples and a tourist attraction.

Hanoi Train Street is a narrow train bypass in Hanoi that sees a twice-daily train pass close to buildings on either side of the tracks (the railroad tracks take up nearly the entirety of the "train street"). The French built the track in 1902, and it is still an active rail line as of 2023.

The Sanctuary of Truth is a wood sanctuary built by Mr. Lek Viriyaphan, the founder of the ancient city and Erawan elephant museum. It is the largest wood building in Thailand, built only with wood in the ancient Thai carpenter style. Inside

Off Course...



In the photos.
From top to bottom:
The Sanctuary of Truth Pattaya.
The Marble Temple, Bangkok
Thailand. The Danang Bridge and
Borobudur Temple in Indonesia



this sanctuary, there are wood statues and carvings that tell the philosophy of life. It is located in North Pattaya.

The longest and highest Zip-line in Asia! Challenge yourself with a 3,600 meter long zip-line over the Chiang Mai Mountains Thailand forest. Test your body-controlling skill on various platforms, including bridges, nets, and spiral staircases. King Kong Smile Zip-line is an exciting and fun experience you must try! kingkongziplines@gmail.com



Mount Kinabalu is in the state of Sabah, Malaysia. Due to national park regulations, climbers must be accompanied by accredited guides at all times. One of the two main summit routes of Mount Kinabalu starts at the Mesilau Nature Resort and is called the Mesilau Trail. Watching the sunrise from Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Malaysia, is a high point.

Explore diving in the Philippines!
The Luzon region near Manila is the perfect place to begin your scuba adventure. With easy beach entries and plentiful macro life, thousands of divers use the area to get certified yearly. For wreck diving, Subic Bay offers divers the chance to get up close and personal with sunken WWII warships. Soft coral, turtles, many fish species, and sea snakes call the wrecks home.



Borobudur Temple in Indonesia is considered one of the World's Seven Wonders. It is famous because it is the world's most significant Buddhist temple compound. The temple features hundreds of Buddha statues, decorative relief sculptures, and stories from the life and teachings of Buddha. It is located 17.4 km from the nearest city of Magelang and about 40km northwest of the city of Yogyakarta in Central Java.



Nyepi in Indonesia

Events and Festivals in Asia Worth Checking Out....

Asians will make any excuse to hold a local festival; in fact, Thailand boasts one of the highest numbers of public holidays in the world.

If you wish to combine a golf vacation with local events, we have highlighted some more exciting events and festivals in SE Asia over the next few months.

October. Each year at the beginning of October, the Chonburi Buffalo Races in Thailand are a series of highly competitive sprints held in front of the town's Municipal Office. P'chum Ben takes place on the 15th day of the tenth month in the Cambodian calendar. It is the time of the year when Khmer people believe that the spirits of dead ancestors rise and walk the earth.

November is one of the most magical and much-anticipated months on the Thailand event calendar, with the annual Loi Krathong celebrations (November 15th), and the Pattaya Music and International Fireworks Festival.(November 29th-30th).

December has Thailand's version of Glastonbury, called Wonderfruit Festival held near Siam Country Club in Pattaya. (December 12th – 16th)

January 1st is celebrated as New Year with massive firework displays in all major Asian cities. In Thailand it is worth taking a river cruise in Bangkok. Also, on January 29th, the whole country will celebrate the Chinese New Year. With its significant Chinese heritage, Phuket transforms into an epicenter of festivity with the streets coming alive with the sounds of traditional Chinese music and lion dances. Têt, or the Vietnamese New Year, means “the Feast of the first Morning of the first day,” and across the

Off Course...



Flower Festival in Chiang Mai



Muay Thai Festival

country, there are celebrations. Bo Sang Umbrella & Sankampang Handicrafts Festival 2025 (January 17th to January 19th, 2025) is due to take place in Chiang Mai. This festival is all about art, and umbrellas made by the local craftspeople will blow your mind away with their sheer creativity.

February. The Amazing Muaythai World Festival 2025 (February 2nd -5th), with over 600 competitors from across the world, is held at the Lumpinee Stadium in Bangkok. The Chiang Mai Flower Festival (February 1st—3rd) has been running for over 43 years and celebrates the beautiful flowers in bloom during this time.

March. Nyepi in Indonesia. At this unique festival in Bali, you won't hear any music, cheers, or laughter from people. Nyepi, which takes place every year on March 9th, is Bali's annual Day of Silence. The festival is unique to Bali's Hindu culture and commemorates the 'Isakawarsa' New Year.

Attractions...



Elephants at Fantasy show

Attractions not to be missed....

Thailand... Fantasy of a Kingdom Show

Inspired by the colorful heritage of Thailand, "Fantasy Of A Kingdom" is an audio-visual extravaganza that for the first time anywhere, incorporates Thai culture with magical illusions, 4-dimensional in-theater effects, aerial ballet, acrobatics, indoor pyrotechnics, special effects, elephant performances and stunts, into one unforgettable theatrical masterpiece that is guaranteed to thrill and delight visitors from all around the world.

From the first moment on, visitors are taken on a journey through Thai history, across its great regions, and discovering along the way the exotic songs and dance that make the kingdom so dazzlingly attractive. The host, the Prince of Kamala, brings illusions to life with great battles that seemingly blow up the stage or acrobats who fly through the air in an outstanding aerial ballet, and throughout it all, the magical elephants haunt the stage, appearing and disappearing at will in a masterpiece of illusion that is in a class of its own.



Fantasy of a kingdom show

The show takes place in a massive indoor theatre at a theme park called Phuket Fantasea in Kamala Phuket and performances are every Tuesday, Friday & Sunday; 17:30 – 23:30 hrs. Check for details at <https://phuketfantasea.fun/eng/show.php> Their new theme park is called Carnival Magic, located next to Phuket Fantasea. Please check it out at www.carnivalmagic.fun.



15 YEARS OF



GOLF CLUB HUA HIN

EXCELLENCE

Established in 2009 in a former pineapple plantation, the course was thoughtfully designed by Thailand's number one golf course architect, Pirapon Namatra to maximize the use of the natural terrain.

Voted best golf course in Thailand 2023 by Golfasian's 15,000 travelers.





Indonesia Bali. Legong and Barong Waksirsa Dance

Legong Dance is one of Bali's most visually alluring royal court performances. The dance is considered one of the island's most revered classical pieces, known for its physically demanding postures and fast-paced movements which require a significant level of flexibility among its generally young female performers. Choreographed to a set pattern with the finest detail, the dance has been well-preserved through generations. Legong Dance Show is performed at Ubud Palace Bali Indonesia – check here for more details <https://www.ubudcenter.com/ubud-things-to-do/>

Legong and Barong Waksirsa Dance

Vietnam... Hoi An Memories Show

The Hoi An Memories Show is the centerpiece, featuring more than 500 actors and dancers performing 400 years of history on a 25,000 square meters outdoor stage.

The show begins in the 16th century. Hoi An is a rural village, represented by a single farmer's home and his family's humble life. The city erupts around them, and the show progresses through the centuries from there.

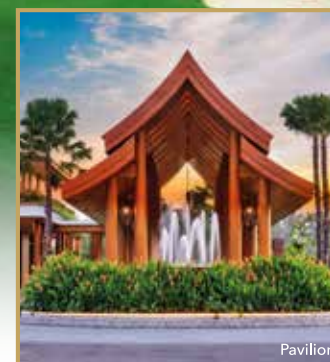
Though the show presents major historical moments, the real magic in its delicate representations of ordinary daily life. Hundreds of actors go about the business of living as it's been done for hundreds of years. There are no dialogues or scripts. There is no language. The city itself is the main character and the narrator is the



Ho An Memories Show with 500 actors

thread of time. As the lighting shifts and changes to illustrate years and seasons, it is impossible not to realize that each spectator is also a character. This moment is a plot point in the script. Our present tense, utterly

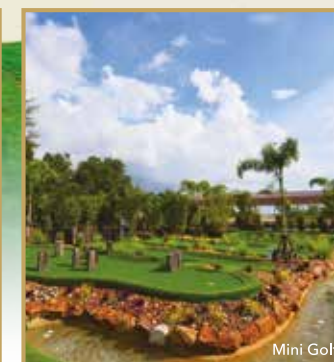
inseparable from the memory of its past. The Memories Show runs every evening except Tuesdays, from 19.30 to 20.45hrs. Check for details at <https://hoianmemoriesland.com/en/ky-uc-hoi-an-s1>



Pavilion



The Approach



Mini Golf



Driving Range



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The magnificent 18-hole championship course







Parahyangan Golf Course

Ravines, Lakes, and Mountains all add to the experience....

Parahyangan Golf Bandung is a five-star golf course and clubhouse located in Bandung, Indonesia's Kota Baru Parahyangan area.



This luxurious 18-hole, 7,298-yard golf course is nestled amidst mountains and valleys, surrounded by lush green fields and a lake. Its dramatic and captivating natural beauty offers comfort and a unique experience for golfers.

It was designed in 2018 by renowned golf course architect Bob Moore of the JMP Golf Design Group, based in the United States. They have cleverly created a layout that flows along deeply incised ravines and lake edges and climbs onto the flanks of surrounding mountains, offering commanding views of the valley floor.

The course also features a highly strategic layout featuring multiple lines of play on virtually every hole. The front nine sets out from the valley into an awe-inspiring landscape dominated by steep hills and mountains, home to ravines and thousands of year-old deep gorges.



Parahyangan Golf Bandung

The mountains are home predominantly to local farmers who make a living from agriculture and vegetable farming. Their workspaces seamlessly integrate with the golf course. The back nine routing is to an open plain that borders Lake Saguling.

After your round, relax in their luxury clubhouse with an upscale restaurant specializing in Sundanese cuisine, Sangkan

Herang, and other menu options representing Asian and Western cuisines.

This may be a country golf course; however, it has garnered numerous awards, including The Best Indonesian Golf Course at the 2023 World Golf Awards.

Check out their website for further details: <https://www.parahyangangolf.com/>



PATTANA
ACTIVELY TOGETHER

PATTANA SPORTS RESORT

We offer three courses of varying abilities with 27 holes total, creating a challenging layout and ideal training ground for both experienced and leisure golfers. Undulating fairways, panoramic views, varying wind conditions, fast greens and a signature par-six hole are just some of the obstacles waiting to be tackled.

A mountainous backdrop, elevated greens, deep bunkering and grass mounds result in a visually appealing yet challenging course for players of all levels. Water is abundant at Pattana Sports Resort where both tee and approach shots require careful placement.



Golf Courses 27 holes



Driving Range 30 Lanes



Digital scoring and 3D yardage book



Accommodation



Swimming pool



International cuisine

Unique Course...



Mimosa Plus Hole 16

A Unique Course.... Where Philippines, US History and Golfing Excellence Meet



Mimosa hole 4



Mimosa Hole 18



Tiger Woods playing at Mimosa in 1998

The exquisite Mimosa Plus Golf Course lies nestled amidst the lush greenery and rolling hills of Clark Freeport Zone in the Philippines. This world-class golfing facility is known for its stunning landscape, challenging fairways, rich history, and significant relationship with the US Armed Forces.

The origins of the Mimosa Plus Golf Course can be traced back to the 1960s when the United States Air Force established its Clark Air Base in the region. At its peak, the base had over 15,000 personnel. With a strong tradition of promoting recreational activities for its military personnel, the US Armed Forces

developed a golf course catering to the golf enthusiasts stationed at the base.

The golf course, originally constructed in 1969, was known as the Mimosa Golf and Country Club. It attracted military personnel and civilians alike. Mimosa was the only Philippine golf course that Tiger Woods visited, playing a one-on-one with then-Philippine No. 1 Cassius Casas in his first international exhibition.

The former US air base was damaged in 1991 by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, and as a result, the US military abandoned the base and its 18-hole course and returned it to the Philippine authorities. Golf architecture firm Nelson & Wright was hired to design a completely new 36-hole golf complex on the former Clark Field.

Today, Mimosa Plus Golf Course is still a testament to the close bond between the US Armed Forces and the Philippines. The golf course not only provides a significant source of recreation but also serves as a reminder of the strong ties between the two nations.

What sets Mimosa Plus Golf Course apart from other golfing destinations is its meticulous attention to detail in course maintenance. Whether you are an amateur golfer or a seasoned professional, the course's multiple tee boxes and strategically placed hazards challenge players of all skill levels.

The course is now spread across 77 hectares of rolling terrain and features 36 holes divided into the Acacia and the Lakeside. Both courses provide a unique blend of challenging holes, breathtaking views, and a serene atmosphere that allows golfers to connect with nature. Mimosa Plus Golf Course also boasts exceptional facilities, including a driving range, putting greens, and a fully stocked pro shop. Additionally, the clubhouse offers excellent dining options, allowing golfers to relax and unwind after a challenging round.

With its beautiful landscape, outstanding facilities, and storied history, this incredible golfing facility is a testament to the enduring relationship between the US Armed Forces and the Philippines. So, grab your clubs and prepare for an unforgettable golfing adventure at a very unique golf course.

Preparation...

Golf Like a Pro Five Tips and Tricks for Your Next Asia Golf Trip

Planning a golf trip can be as enjoyable as the game itself, with the right tips and tricks. Here are five expert recommendations from Golfasian to ensure your next golf vacation is a success:

TRAVEL LIGHT:

Bring only the essentials. Asian golf destinations offer all amenities and items found at home, with most available at lower prices! Fewer bags mean more freedom, easier maneuvering, and avoiding baggage fees. Several courses will rent out golf clubs, and as a bonus, Golfasian also has high-quality rental clubs, allowing you to travel without the hassle of lugging your set.



Clubs for rent at Red Mountain



Caddy will hold your umbrella

BOOK EARLY:

Bring only the essentials. Asian golf destinations offer all amenities and items found at home, with most available at lower prices! Fewer bags mean more freedom, easier maneuvering, and avoiding baggage fees. Several courses will rent out golf clubs, and as a bonus, Golfasian also has high-quality rental clubs, allowing you to travel without the hassle of lugging your set.



Sunscreens on the course

PACK SMART:

Don't forget essential items like sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, spare golf gloves, and comfortable golf shoes. The weather can be hot, so packing heavy clothes is unnecessary. Keep it light!

4. STAY HYDRATED:

Golf can be demanding, especially in warmer climates. Keep hydrated to maintain peak performance. Water, electrolytes, and sports beverages are preferable for the course. Alcoholic drinks are excellent after the round and in the evenings.

RELAX AND ENJOY:

A golf trip is about having fun and creating memories. Enjoy the scenery, the courses, the locals, and the experience. Your Asia golf trip is your time to relax and create a memory of a lifetime.

Black Mountain Hua Hin



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Halong Bay

Cruising...

Exploring the Majestic Beauty of Halong Bay through Cruising

Planning a golf trip can be as enjoyable as the game itself, with the right tips and tricks. Here are five expert recommendations from Golfasian to ensure your next golf vacation is a success:

Nestled in the northeastern region of Vietnam, Halong Bay is a stunning natural wonder that captivates visitors with its breathtaking scenery and rich cultural heritage. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994, Halong Bay features nearly 2,000 limestone islands and islets scattered across its emerald-green waters, making it an ideal destination for cruising enthusiasts. Here's an in-depth look at why cruising in Halong Bay is an unforgettable experience and what travelers can expect. The Allure of Halong Bay Halong Bay is renowned for its ethereal beauty, towering karst formations, secluded beaches, and hidden caves. The

name "Halong" translates to "Descending Dragon," a nod to local legends that describe a mythical dragon descending into the bay and creating the islands with its flailing tail. This mystical ambiance adds a layer of enchantment to every cruise journey.

TYPES OF CRUISES

Cruising in Halong Bay is diverse, catering to various preferences and budgets. Options range from budget-friendly day trips to luxurious overnight stays. Here are the main types of cruises available:

1. Day Cruises: Ideal for travelers with

limited time, day cruises offer a glimpse of Halong Bay's highlights. These trips typically include visits to popular sites such as Thien Cung Cave, Dau Go Cave, and Ba Hang Fishing Village, along with opportunities for kayaking or swimming.

2. Overnight Cruises: Consider an overnight cruise for a more immersive experience. These excursions allow for a deeper exploration of the bay, with stops in less crowded areas. Guests can enjoy activities such as squid fishing, cooking classes, and Tai Chi sessions at sunrise, all while savoring the tranquility of the bay at night.

3. Luxury Cruises: These cruises are aimed at discerning travelers and provide top-tier amenities such as spacious cabins, fine dining, and personalized services. These cruises often venture further into Bai Tu Long Bay or Lan Ha Bay, offering a more secluded and serene experience.

TOP ATTRACTIONS

While cruising, visitors have the opportunity to explore several iconic spots within Halong Bay:

1. Sung Sot Cave (Surprise Cave): One of the largest and most impressive caves in Halong Bay, Sung Sot Cave features two vast chambers filled with remarkable stalactites and stalagmites.

2. Titop Island: Famous for its panoramic views, Titop Island boasts a sandy beach and a steep climb to the summit, where visitors are rewarded with breathtaking bay vistas.

3. Luon Cave: Accessible by a small boat or kayak, Luon Cave is a picturesque lagoon surrounded by cliffs, home to various wildlife.

ACTIVITIES

A cruise in Halong Bay isn't just about sightseeing; it also offers numerous activities for adventure seekers and culture enthusiasts:

1. Kayaking: Explore the bay's hidden corners and get up close to its limestone formations and caverns.

2. Swimming: The calm, clear waters provide a perfect setting for a refreshing swim.

3. Cooking Classes: Learn the art of Vietnamese cuisine with on-board cooking classes, including how to make traditional dishes like spring rolls and pho.

4. Visiting Floating Villages: Gain insight into the lives of local fishermen by visiting floating villages such as Cua Van and Vung Vieng.

CONCLUSION



On Board



Halong Bay Cruise



Aerial View of Halong Bay

Cruising in Halong Bay offers a unique opportunity to experience one of the world's most mesmerizing landscapes. Whether you're gliding through its tranquil waters on a day trip or indulging in the luxury of an overnight voyage, the magic of Halong Bay is sure to leave an indelible mark on your heart. Embrace the adventure, the culture, and the unrivaled beauty of this Vietnamese gem, and let the descending dragon's legend guide you through a journey of wonder and discovery.

Weather...



Farmer carrying dripping rice sprouts from small area farm to replant in rice farm in Sakon Nakhon, Thailand

Here is an overview of the weather across SE Asia in January

Planning a golf trip can be as enjoyable as the game itself, with the right tips and tricks. Here are five expert recommendations from Golfasian to ensure your next golf vacation is a success:

Bali. Has a tropical climate, with hot and humid weather all year round. Throughout the year, the temperature in Bali stays between 20°C and 32°C, and the humidity remains consistently above 75%. January is the rainiest month in Bali, with an average rainfall of around 350 mm. While the rain can be heavy at times, it usually doesn't last all day, so you can still enjoy outdoor activities.

Cambodia. January in Phnom Penh is a time of mild and dry weather, with an average temperature of around 31°C (88°F) during the day and around 21°C (70°F) at night. The low rainfall in January makes it an ideal time to comfortably explore the city's famous landmarks and museums.

Malaysia. During January, most of Malaysia will be bathed in sunshine, with very little rainfall expected; the only exception is the east coast and its islands. As such, it's the perfect time to head to the beaches of Langkawi, visit the capital, or explore Malacca. Average temperatures sit at a comfortable 30°C. However, Kuala Lumpur expects about 10 rainy days and a monthly rainfall of approximately 172 mm.

Philippines. The climate is generally tropical maritime, with a relatively cool season from December to February. Weather conditions in the Philippines make it a good trip destination. In January, you can expect warm and sunny days with average temperatures between 22.0°C and 31.0°C. However, it's worth noting that the weather can be unpredictable, with possible peaks as low as 14°C and high as 34°C as observed in previous years. The average sliding 31-day rainfall during January in Manila is rapidly decreasing, starting the month at 3.4 inches.

Thailand. January in Thailand offers warm evenings, with temperatures dropping to a cozy 22°C. The sea temperature is a pleasant 28°C, perfect for swimming, while the high humidity adds to the cozy feel. With only 123 mm of rain over ten days and seven hours of sunshine from the 12 hours of daylight each day, Thailand in January is a warm and inviting destination.

Vietnam. In the cooler north, average temperatures are 18°C during January. The south has warmer temperatures of around 26°C, while central regions are 23°C on average. Rain is not likely in the north or south of the country, while the inland mountains may experience a few wet days at the beginning of the month.



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Home is Where your Heart is....



View from the terrace of a Sense8 Samui Seaview villa

Are you dreaming of owning a slice of paradise in Thailand? With its vibrant culture, stunning landscapes, and friendly communities, the Land of Smiles, as it is often referred to, can be an ideal destination for those looking to invest in a tropical haven. But before you put your money where your mouth is, you should understand the property ownership laws for foreigners.

Here are various options, including:
Buy a Condominium—For a buyer who insists on 'Freehold in my Name,' this is the best and most clear-cut option available.

Lease land or property. A long-term lease is the only way for a foreigner to have full control over a piece of land in Thailand using their own personal name.
Secured leasehold (with a share of the Freehold) is rapidly becoming most buyers' preferred method as it lends itself well to securing the asset for the foreigner as well as ensuring the continual maintenance and upkeep of the entire development, which the buyer also has a share of.

Purchasing Freehold with a Thai Limited Company. It has been uncommon in the past for foreign investors to set up a Thai Limited Company in order to control the

Freehold of land and property. It must never be overlooked (as it so often is) that a Thai company must have a function, a purpose & objectives. It must have income and expenses and should pay tax annually and be audited semi-annually.

BOI direct investment Through an application process with the 'Board of Investment' (BOI) in Thailand. An individual investor who invests the equivalent of, or more than 40,000,000 THB in Thai Government Bonds or other assets deemed beneficial to the Thai society. Will be given the right to buy and own up to 1 rai of land under section 96 of the Thai land code (1996).

Foreigner with a Thai spouse If you are married to a Thai spouse and madly in love, then why not buy a property together. In this modern-day world, there are many ways to protect you both and

your loved ones in the event that your love is not everlasting.

To understand your options and before you part with any cash, like in most countries, it is highly recommended that you take on the help of a reputable local lawyer when buying real estate.

PRIMARY REGIONS FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT IN THAILAND

Bangkok

The metropolis of Bangkok has been experiencing a property boom over the last couple of years. Prices in the central areas have soared, especially for the CBD. There is good demand for condominium units in the central areas however the competition is heavy. Housing is practically only available outside of the central areas and therefore not very popular among foreigners.

Koh Samui

The island of Koh Samui experiences heavy interest from investors and buyers as it has practically everything it needs to compete with other locations. Many buyers prefer Koh Samui for the laid-back, casual experience of the tropics. With Chaweng area being the main tourist and entertainment location, real estate developers now focus more on other areas for development. Especially in the pristine and untouched south there is still good land available for medium to high-end developments. Land prices are relatively low compared to other beach locations in Thailand and therefore the island bears some good opportunities for investors.

Phuket

Phuket is Thailand's largest island and is experiencing an ongoing development boom, which is turning the island into a metropolis. It features some of the finest beaches but has not much seafront or sea view property left for sale, at least



Sense8 5 bed villa in Samui

not for reasonable prices. Therefore, the property market is focusing mainly on the very high-end market, comprising hotels and luxury villas. As land prices have skyrocketed, there is a large demand for condominium units for sale and rent.

Pattaya

Beach and entertainment town Pattaya is seeing a revival of its property market as there is now good demand for low to medium-priced second homes. As the city is only two hours away from Bangkok, there is good demand from expats working in Bangkok and from the wealthier Thai community. They will eventually benefit from the proposed high-speed railway between

Hua Hin

The relatively small town of Hua Hin is a long stretch along the beach of the western coast of the Thai Gulf. Most hotels were built in the eighties and are located directly at the beach. Hua Hin is also profiting from the ongoing property boom in Thailand, with some high-end products for foreign nationals currently being constructed. Still, the main interest comes from Thais looking for secondary housing. In summary, the correct right of possession and location depends on you, your circumstances, and your objectives for buying property in Thailand. It also depends on the property you choose and from whom you buy it. Therefore, there is no one solution that suits everyone, and it's essential to work with advisors who recognize this and ask you questions before presenting any solutions.

Editor's note: The photos shown here are from Sense8 Samui Villas, an award-winning real estate developer with a track record of completing, managing & maintaining villas in Koh Samui. Sense8 Samui has been developing condominiums and private pool villas in Koh Samui, Thailand for more than ten years.

Having already completed and sold out all of our previous developments and with a thriving rentals business now behind us, the Sense8 Samui group is now launching our 4th villa project in Chaweng Noi with breathtaking sea-views.

Consisting of just ten 3, 4 & 5 bedroom detached pool villas, Sense8 Samui Sea View Villas promises to be our most exciting project to date. For more information, visit www.sense8samui.com

Amateur Golf Tournaments are booming across Asia

This year, 350 golfers from seventeen countries gathered in Hua Hin, Thailand, for an extraordinary week of competition, camaraderie, and celebration.

The 9th Centara World Masters Golf Championship has already captivated the hearts of golf enthusiasts from around the globe. The tournament held in June was hosted at three of Hua Hin's most prestigious courses: Pineapple Valley Golf Club, Springfield Royal Country Club, and Palm Hills Golf Resort and Country Club.

The week-long tournament is now recognized as Asia's largest and most esteemed amateur golf tournament. Participants in this year's tournament flew in from Australia, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States, highlighting the event's international appeal and the universal love of golf.

Golf vacations have changed over the years. Originally people would book a two-week private vacation taking in a few courses. However, that seems to be changing, as people are now keen to play in well run tournaments, and more importantly wish to make loads of new friends and to have FUN.

Golfasian's Managing Director Mark Siegel reflects on these events and their impact. "The Centara World Masters not only



Centara World Masters Gala Dinner



Group at Red Mountain Phuket

brings together golfers from around the world, but also fosters a spirit of unity and goodwill. Each year, we see returning golfers who bring new friends and spread the word about the incredible experience here in Hua Hin."

Golfasian now expects over 2,000 competitors of all ages and standards to enter their events, planned for Thailand, Vietnam



Centara World Masters

and for the first time in early 2025 the Philippines will be joining too.

Run as professional tournaments, with caddies wearing the golfers' names on their bibs and even sponsors hoardings, all events are hosted at top class championship courses. Everyday they hold 19 holes parties and there are welcome and gala dinners too. Even the non-golfers are looked after with trips



Girls having fun

to local attractions, cooking lessons and even the odd massage. For detailed information about the tournament schedules and to stay updated with the latest golf events, visit <https://www.golfasian.com/events/> Embark on an extraordinary golfing journey where camaraderie flourishes, memories are made, and the love of the game reigns supreme.

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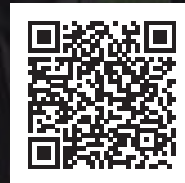
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Malaysia...

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The Els Club Malaysia Teluk Datai 7th hole

Els Club Teluk Datai Malaysia



The award-winning The Els Club Teluk Datai is located in one of Southeast Asia's most sensational settings, often described as a tropical paradise by tourists and earning the club a well-deserved reputation as the most scenic of Malaysia's many breath-taking golfing venues.

A million-years-old rain forest is the backdrop to the course, with the surrounding appeal of the crystal-clear blue waters of Straits of Malacca. The five holes, which skirt the water's edge, bring the other islands in the archipelago and Langkawi's white, sandy beaches into full view, to the delight of all golfers.

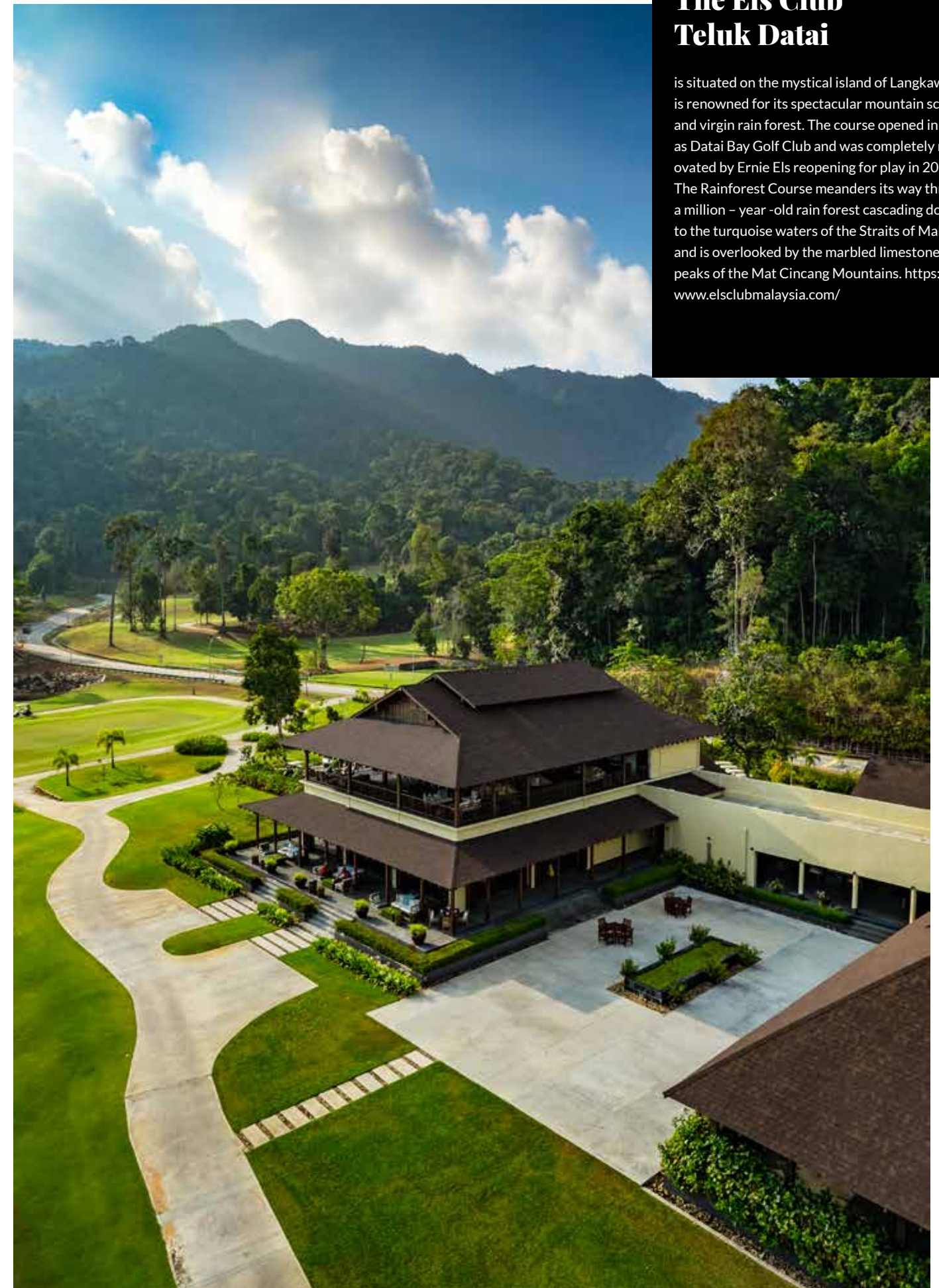
The flawlessly manicured playing surfaces at these 18 holes are a constant, in true tribute to the design which carries its creator's name. With no bunkers on the course, the 6,734-yard layout relies on strategically placed tree lines and a naturally meandering stream. The spectacular views across the Straits of Malacca and shadowed by the Mat Chinchang Mountains, are breathtaking.

The Big Easy said: "This is, without doubt, the most spectacular golf course setting I have had the pleasure of working on and I am incredibly excited about the prospect of inviting the first visitors to come and enjoy The Els Club Teluk Datai."

Els added "The course is truly breath-taking, and I am delighted with what we have achieved here. I endeavored to make the most of this unique location and I believe that we have done just that."

Although located in an old rain forest, the facilities are very much 20th century, with all golf carts having the latest state-of-the-art GPS system.

Their contemporary clubhouse features a wide range of amenities including plush locker rooms, a well-stocked pro shop, and restaurant. Golf equipment for hire is available and is also of good quality. The Hornbill Café offers the perfect place to enjoy a casual dining experience while overlooking the course. <https://www.elsclubmalaysia.com/> Enjoy!!!!



The Els Club Teluk Datai

is situated on the mystical island of Langkawi and is renowned for its spectacular mountain scenery and virgin rain forest. The course opened in 1992, as Datai Bay Golf Club and was completely renovated by Ernie Els reopening for play in 2014. The Rainforest Course meanders its way through a million-year-old rain forest cascading down to the turquoise waters of the Straits of Malacca and is overlooked by the marbled limestone peaks of the Mat Cincang Mountains. <https://www.elsclubmalaysia.com/>

What was it really like taking an Asian Golf Vacation?

Who better to ask about getting the best out of your vacation than the golfers themselves? So here we have printed genuine comments and photos we received from a few international travelers who came to Asia recently.

ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK TO HO CHI MINH

Allan Cuaton, an ex-Air Force Officer, combines his Friends in New York with Mates from the Philippines to enjoy their golf altogether in SE Asia. They now travel once a year and have covered Hua Hin and Ho



US Philippine Couples Golf Tours



Group from Florida

A GROUP OF FRIENDS FROM THE SAME CLUB IN FLORIDA REALLY ENJOYED DANANG.

Chi Nguyen, who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, said, "We all belong to private Country Clubs and love to travel to play golf all over the world." They played at Hoiana Shores, Montgomery Links, Legend Da Nang Golf Resort, Norman Course, and Sir Nick Faldo's course, Laguna Lang Co. They all stayed at the TIA Resort in Da Nang, which they loved. "The resort was a real treat with excellent service and fabulous spa treatments!" Added Chi. It definitely paid to have the full backing of a dependable tour operator on the ground, said Chi.

10,000TH CLIENT IN HUA HIN

Kevin Woods from Australia recently became the 10,000th Golfasian client to enjoy the delights of golfing in the Thai resort of Hua Hin with his wife Denice.

The Australian couple has now enjoyed seventeen golf vacations to Hua Hin, Pattaya, Bangkok, and Vietnam.

Kevin said, "Playing in the tournaments is such a wonderful experience. They are extremely well run, and everything is done for you. All we have to do is make sure we are on the bus, sit back, and enjoy the golf on world-class courses."

"My top three courses over the years have been Black Mountain and Banyan in Hau Hin and Ba Na Hills in Vietnam's coastal resort of Danang."



Kevin and his wife in Hua Hin

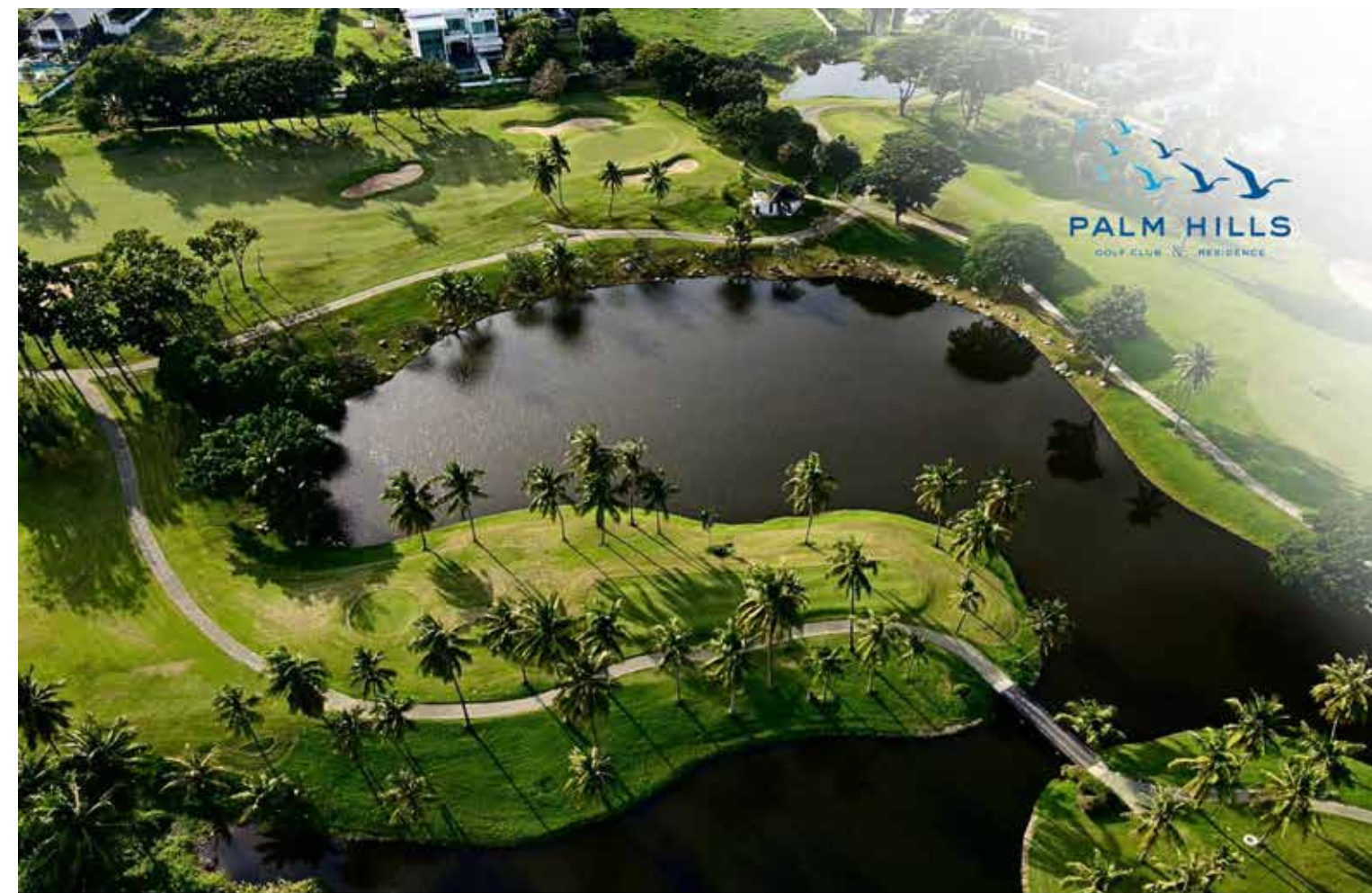


Indian group at Pattaya

INDIAN GOLFERS LOVED THE WIDE FAIRWAYS IN THAILAND.

We caught up with a group of Indian golfers in Pattaya, and they explained the big difference between playing golf and playing golf in Thailand.

Back in India, the fairways are very narrow as the land is expensive, and they are normally surrounded by real estate and many trees. The Thai fairways are much wider, the courses are in better condition, so we found it relatively more straightforward to golf. Sundai said, "What also worked for us was the direct four-hour flight to Bangkok, and getting a visa on arrival was very easy, too."



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Thai Caddie

Caddies... all part of a wonderful Asian Golf Vacation

When you arrive at an Asian golf course possibly the first person you will meet will be a number of smiling caddies.

Mainly female, they are well trained to look after you for all 18 holes, and hopefully may lower your score too. Apparently in Thailand alone, the golf industry employs over 25,000 caddies. They are mainly freelance and survive on part of the Caddie Fee that their club charges us golfers before we tee off. They will pull the trolley or drive the golf cart, select your clubs, give you the yardage on the fairways and read the greens. If it is sweltering day, some will carry ice packs, and they will also hold your umbrella to protect you from the sun or perhaps during a tropical downpour.

It is worth taking their advice particularly on the greens. Remember they have played those holes for several years, so can read them like a paperback!

In fact, many play golfer too....they even have their own caddie championships.



Your personal driver

It is customary at the end of the round to give them a tip and although they will say "it's up to you," we recommend a tip of between US\$15-25.

As Thailand's PGA star Thongchai Jaidee states, 'Caddies are Asian golf's secret weapon!'

US\$ 15-25

Seems to be the ideal range for a tip. Aim for a higher rate if the day was hot and humid.



Vietnamese Caddies

The funny side...

Golf can sometimes be taken too seriously. Here you have to laugh.

1. What should you do if your round of golf is interrupted by a lightning storm? Walk around holding your 1-iron above your head, because even Mother Nature can't hit a 1-iron.

2. Golf balls are like eggs. They're white, sold by the dozen, and a week later you have to buy some more.

3. What do you call an angry golfer? Teed off!

4. In golf, people tend to get their numbers mixed up. They shoot a "six," yell "fore," and write "five."

5. Golfer: The doctor says I can't play golf. Caddie: Oh, he's played with you, too, eh?

6. Q: When is the course too wet to play golf?
A: When your golf cart capsizes.

7. Golfer: I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course.
Caddie: Try heaven. You've already moved most of the earth.

8. Brand new golf balls are attracted to water, and the power of the attraction is in direct proportion to how much the balls cost.

9. Hear the one about the bad-tempered



Water Retriever

golfer who bought a new set of TaylorMade R7 clubs. After playing with them for a couple of rounds he returned to his pro shop and told the pro, "These were the best clubs I have ever played with. In fact, I can throw these clubs 40-yards further than my old ones!"

10. "Caddy, why do you keep looking at

your watch?" asked the curious golfer." It's not a watch, sir. It's a compass" Please feel free to email editor@golfasian.com with some of your own gems, and we will post them on our website. Keep them clean!!!



You have to laugh



Golfer's Feet



Players and Caddies

Can we help organize your own tournament with friends?

We know that you may have enjoyed a few golf vacations in Asia before and told all your mates back at your local golf club what an amazing time you had.... I bet a few were quite envious!

We at Golfasian have a very competent events team, and in addition to our own amateur golf tournaments, we also handle smaller groups. In September, a group of sixty golfing friends from India asked us to help organise a four-day trip to play golf in Bangkok. Next year, a group from Germany and Austria is planning to visit, too.

Why not bring a group over as well?

Your group can be as little as a couple of four balls, up to 200 golfers and non-golfers.

Tee Times: We can arrange tee times at all the top courses, as we have contracts with all the best courses. (Remember, tee times, especially during high season, are often fully booked.)

Ground Transport: We can arrange to collect you all at the airport, take you to your selected hotel, and then arrange transport to and back from the golf courses and even out at night to local restaurants. You relax, and we drive!

Hotels: Again, after 15 years in the business, we have contracts with a selection of 3 – 5-star hotels to fit your budget.

Golf: If you plan to hold a tournament, we can arrange the scoring and prize giving and even provide branded bibs for the caddies to wear with each player's name and country flag. Check out our events page at www.golfasian.com/events/ or email us at info@golfasian.com and one of our events managers will get back to you.



What's the Best Golf Experience in Asia? |



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- **Visit www.golfasian.com** to start planning your dream golf holiday.

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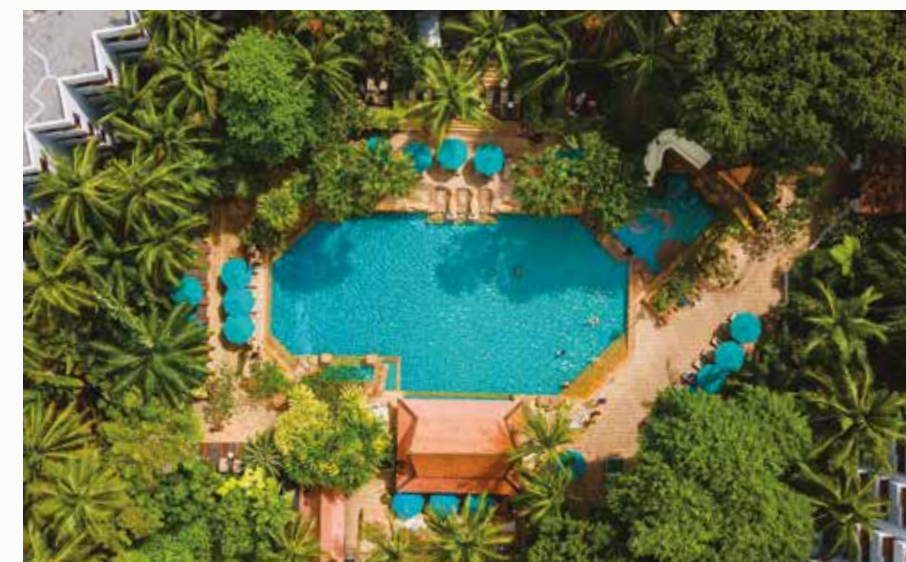
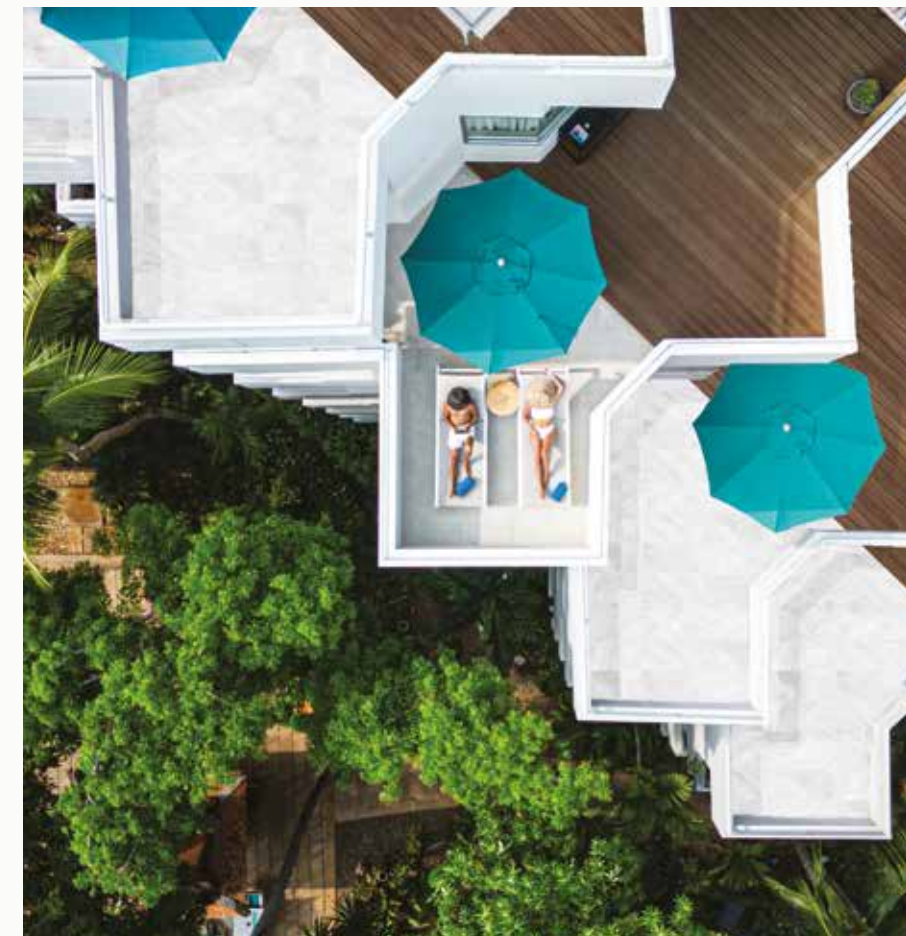
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