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Asian Golf Travel Nation - December 2015



Dear Golf Travelers,



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

It's the last month of 2015 and we will soon welcome in 2016. I hope this newsletter finds you with great golf arranged for the holidays, preferably with friends and family.

Over here we're gearing up for the busiest time of the year in golf travel and are ready to welcome golfers on their best golfing experiences


and to the friendliest golf courses on the planet. It's winter in Asia and with lower temperatures and dry weather comes the best golf conditions. Feedback from the main golf destinations indicate that tee time demand is very high. So make your bookings as soon as possible to avoid missing out on the best courses.

Last month I caught up with many friends in Hanoi for the Vietnam Golf Magazine Awards where I was one of the judges for Vietnam's Best Course. Congratulations to [The Bluffs, Ho Tram Strip](#) for being selected as not only the best course in Vietnam, but also best New Course in the World! To find out what is else ongoing around SE Asia in terms of golf, I invite you to read on.

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Golf news from around the region:

Thailand

 Bangkok: [Thana City](#) is shaping up nicely. After hearing reports of ongoing renovations affecting golf play, I decided to check things out myself. Here is the situation. Six greens and surrounding bunker complexes have been rebuilt with five of the new ones back in play and another to open soon. The rest of the greens will be renovated next low season. For the time being, all 18-holes are in play and the course is playing to a full length par-72. In addition, many trees have been removed to make way for spot lights and eventual night golf. This work is just starting and does not affect play. The clubhouse, other facilities, and service levels continue to be good.



In this Issue

- [Regional Golf News](#)
- [Asia Golf Week - Amateur Weeks in Asia](#)
- [Golf Travel Insurance](#)
- [Hua Hin Properties](#)
- [Golf Travel Testimonials](#)
- [Hua Hin Destination Review](#)
- [Featured Golf Course - Black Mountain Golf Club](#)
- [Featured Resort - Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin](#)
- [Golf Trip Idea: Two Week Hua Hin Golf Package](#)
- [Amateur Golf Week Update](#)
- [Golf Course Maintenance Updates](#)
- [Golf Tournaments](#)
- [Chiang Mai Highlands - Just got better](#)
- [Golfing Tips - "Mot Daeng" - Red Ants](#)


Hua Hin: It is with great sadness that I announce the closing of the par-3 course at [Black Mountain](#), what a fun way to settle bets. The good news is that a new championship 9-hole layout will replace the par-3 sometime next year and with 27-holes Black Mountain will be able to better handle the ever increasing tee time demands from visiting golfers. In the meantime, Black Mountain is in great shape and the European Tour's Thailand Classic will be played there on March 10-13, 2016. Expect both Europe's and Asia's leading golfers to compete for top honors.

[Anyone want to attend?](#)



© Richard Castka
Black Mountain Golf Club, Hua Hin

Vietnam

 **Ho Tram:** This month will see the richest golf tournament ever held in Vietnam played at [The Bluffs, Ho Tram Strip](#). The Ho Tram Open, a US\$1.5 million Asian Tour event, features Spain's Sergio Garcia, UK's Robert Rock, Ireland's Darren Clarke, 2006 U.S. Open winner Geoff Ogilvy, Denmark's Thomas Bjorn, and Vietnam's top golfer Nhat Michael Tran. Television coverage will extend across Asia, Europe, and Australia. I will be the bald guy camped out around the 18th green!



The Bluffs, Ho Tram Strip



Legend Hill, Hanoi, Vietnam

Hanoi: It is not often that I golf at 3 new courses in 3 days around here, but that is exactly what I did last week in Hanoi. Long Bien is a challenging Nelson-Hayworth design only 10 minutes from town. Impeccably maintained with lights and a massive clubhouse makes it a good choice for an afternoon/evening round. Open for only 2 months the Nicklaus designed [Legend Hill](#) will be the 2016 best new course in Vietnam, and by a wide margin. Its "2-greens a hole" design is a little gimmicky, but once you play a few holes you appreciate how different the course can be set up each day. Some of the greens are next to each other while others are more than 100 yards apart. Greens are also of the latest dwarf Paspalum grass and are a joy to put on. The [Sky Lake](#), Sky Course has some of the best scenery of any Hanoi golf course and on a clear day you can see all the way back to Hanoi center. Add the Lake Course and very friendly service and you have an excellent 36-hole facility that should be included on any Hanoi bound golfer's itinerary. Golfasian clients exclusively get free range balls and free beer, so [let me know](#) if you want to play.

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

Until the next month, happy golfing and I hope to see YOU in the area very soon!

Mark Siegel
Managing Director of Golfasian

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International Golf Tournaments



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We now offer 3 International Acclaimed Tournaments -
[Centara World Masters Golf Championship](#) 12-18 June 2016
[Mercure Pattaya Ocean Resort 2 Ball Golf Championship](#) 19-25 June 2016
[Accor Vietnam World Masters Golf Championship](#) 4-10 September 2016

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Golf Lessons



Asia Golf Week - Amateur Golf Weeks in Asia



2016 sees some great tournaments planned for Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.

The first tournaments will be starting March 6th with the [Amari Pattaya Golf week](#). We have 4 rounds playing the best golf courses available in Pattaya with caddies and carts included, plus 6 nights' accommodation, daily and overall prizes and prices starting from only THB 40,600. [See full schedule here](#). We have had a great level of interest in the Amari Deluxe rooms in the Tower Wing, and have increased the rooms allocation to 100 rooms to allow more players.



Be one of the first 30 players to register and pay and receive a free round of golf at Burapha Golf club with caddy and cart or one of our overnight travel bags with your name embroidered on it.

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The following week we move across to Hua Hin, again staying 6 nights at the Amari hotel. [The golf courses we are playing in Hua Hin](#) are Black Mountain, Seapines, Springfield and Banyan; a great line up of Hua Hin's best golf courses. Again Black Mountain will be hosting a European tour event the week prior our event, and the last round is on the Sunday 13th so we are able to go watch how the professionals play the golf course. We have tickets so if you would like to attend please get in contact with us.

As part of their early bird offer the Amari Hua Hin has offered players (first 30 bookings) either a free room night OR a room upgrade to deluxe pool view rooms for bookings paid in full prior to 1st January [Full details of the event here](#).

From March we have the [Hooters Golf Week in Phuket starting May 8](#), then onto [Centara World masters in June 8-14](#), then [Cambodia in August](#), followed by the Danang Golf Week in Danang, Vietnam so there are plenty of tournaments throughout Asia that you can enjoy.

For bookings email registration@asiagolfweek.com.

Golf Travel Insurance

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

- Personal accident insurance up to USD 65,000
- Medical treatment up to USD 75,000
- Emergency Evacuation & Repatriation
- Loss/Damage of Baggage up to USD 800
- Hole-In-One up to USD 300
- Loss/Damage of Golfing Equipment up to USD 2,000
- And a lot more!

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



Hua Hin Properties - Reduced - Now under 5m THB

Holiday resort-style private, high-walled swimming pool villas for sale at now reduced price of 4.95mTHB.

Located about 10 minutes West of Hua Hin near to golf courses. Stunning swimming pool, landscaped gardens, privacy wall, 24hr security, internet, satellite, free shuttle bus service, pool and garden maintenance. Low price, good quality, popular location & easy rental - good investment

To find out more about how easy it is to purchase property and how the prices are comparatively much cheaper than those in the West, please contact the GM of our Property Division - Andy Dyett - andy@golfasian.com.

Feel free to [stop by our office](#) and see what we can offer or take our property tour (free of charge).

For a complete listing of Thailand properties [visit our website](#).



We are Member of



Golf Travel Testimonials - Brian O'Connor - Golf in Thailand

Hi, my name is Brian O'Connor and I live in Laguna Beach, California USA.

I've been playing golf for almost 15 years, currently off a handicap of 14, and am a member of the Robert Trent Jones Jr - designed Monarch Beach Golf Links, Dana Point, CA. It's a gorgeous Scottish links-style layout with some fabulous holes laid out along the coast. Whilst a Resort course attached to the St Regis, the Public are welcome.

This was our group's second [golfing trip to Thailand](#), the first last year to Pattaya with Golfasian who did such a fantastic job it was a no brainer booking our Phuket trip with them.

In all we were 9 male golfers, aged between 28 & 65 with handicaps ranging from 4 to 28: the young guys won the ladies hearts, whilst the more mature guys won the golf games...old age and treachery prevailed!

During our 10 Day trip we played 7 rounds of golf plus enjoyed a fabulous private boat trip to Phi Phi Island which was so beautiful.

One of the things we love about using Golfasian is the fact that everything is organized for you so it's all about the golf. As for the golf itself the caddies are all fantastic and you can request your preferred caddie for the next round creating a real team. My favorite course was [Red Mountain](#) which is one of the best courses I've ever played; every hole a picture. I might be a bit biased as I shot my best round there.

After golf we'd enjoy a couple of beers at the clubhouse, change and then drinks back at our perfect, centrally located KEE Resort hotel inevitably followed by a well-earned Thai Massage. This was ideally capped off with a sumptuous Seafood dinner along with our daily Pad Thai.

All in all, things couldn't have been better and one of the most surprising aspects was what great value the whole trip was...we have no complaints, far from it!

[\[Read more testimonials...\]](#)

Hua Hin Destination Review

Hua Hin is the cradle of golf in Thailand. As one of Thailand's oldest resorts, Hua Hin was discovered in the early 1920's by King Rama VII and soon became a favorite of the Royal family and Thailand's upper-class.

Hua Hin is located 2 hours from Bangkok by four-lane highway, on the western side of the Gulf of Thailand. It is one of the highest quality and most convenient golfing destinations in Thailand. There are 8 golf courses located within 20 minutes of downtown Hua Hin, and another 5 golf courses easily reachable in the neighboring provinces. [Black Mountain](#) and [Banyan](#) are 2 examples of leading Hua Hin golf courses.

Green fees and other costs are among the lowest in Thailand, while quality and service rival the best in Asia, if not the world. In addition, Hua Hin golf holidays are centered amongst many excellent resorts, restaurants, entertainment areas, and beaches making it an ideal golf holiday destination for just about anyone.



Brian & Friends at Loch Palm GC, Phuket



Caddie Tee-Off at Red Mountain GC



Golf Tours

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- [Malaysia Golf Tours](#)
- [Bali Golf Tours](#)
- [Laos Golf Tours](#)

[\[Read the entire destination review\]](#)

★ Featured Golf Course - Black Mountain Golf Club

(1st class European Tour & Royal Trophy venue)

Black Mountain was transformed from lush jungle and pineapple plantations and is located around 25 minutes west of Hua Hin. It is set in a valley surrounded by large black granite covered mountains.

The Hua Hin golf course was the site for Asian PGA tour events in 2009 and 2010 and the Europe versus Asia match play Royal Trophy in 2011. In 2012 Black Mountain was selected as one of the 100 best golf courses outside the USA by Golf Digest magazine. In 2014 Black Mountain hosted The Thailand Classic, the first European Tour event to be staged in Thailand. The Thailand Classic is now a major fixture on the European and Asian Tours.



Black Mountain Golf Club, Hua Hin

[\[Read more about one of Hua Hin's Best Golf Courses\]](#)

★ Featured Hotel - Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin

The Centara Grand (formerly Sofitel) Hua Hin is the original Railway Hotel built in 1923 for Thai and visiting royalty and restored to its old colonial glory in 2005. It is set among tropical gardens on a 4 mile beach in the center of Hua Hin. The central Hua Hin location makes it a perfect base for a golf holiday as all Hua Hin golf courses are located within 25 minutes of the Centara. Dining is available in 5 on-site restaurants, 3 bars, tea room or at any of the 6 swimming pools.



Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas

[\[Read more about one of Hua Hin's Best Hotels\]](#)

🧳 Golf Trip Idea: Two Week Hua Hin Golf Package

Hua Hin is the home of golf in Thailand and the area golf courses are conveniently located 20 minutes from the town center. Beachfront resorts range from traditional Thai to ultra-modern design and some properties are located within walking distance to town and all the attractions.

The Banyan and Black Mountain golf clubs are so good that they are constantly ranked as the best in Asia. Be sure to play them both! In fact, why not play at all the Hua Hin golf courses and stay on one of the lovely beaches of Hua Hin?

Recommended Hotels:

- 4 Star [Amari Hua Hin](#)
- 5 Star [Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin](#)
- 5 Star [Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa](#)



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- We have a wide range of 3 - 5 star hotels available. To meet your preferences and budget [please contact us for further information.](#)

[[Two Week Hua Hin Golf Package Itinerary...](#)]



Golf Course Maintenance Updates

Thailand

- **Bangkok**
 - **Green Valley Country Club** - Course will be closed on 14 December in the afternoon for a tournament.
 - **Lotus Valley Golf Resort** - Course will be closed on 3 and 11 December for tournaments.
 - **President Country Club** - Course will be closed on 17, 19 and 27 November for tournaments.
 - **Riverdale Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 4, 10, 13, 17, 20 and 25 December for tournaments.
 - **Summit Windmill Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 21 December.
 - **Thai Country Club** - Course will be closed on 14, 18, 21 and 28 December.
 - **Thana City Golf & Sports Club** - Course will be closed on 17 and 22 December for tournaments.
 - **Vintage Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 18 December for a tournament.
 - **Windsor Park & Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 18 and 19 December for tournaments.
- **Hua Hin**
 - **Banyan Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 4 December for a tournament.
 - **Black Mountain Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 12 December for a tournament and from 1 - 14 March 2016 for the European Tour event.
 - **Royal Hua Hin Golf Course** - Course will be closed on 13 and 19 December for tournaments.
 - **Springfield Royal Country Club** - Course will be closed from 4-16 January 2016 for the Asian Tour Qualifying School.
- **Pattaya**
 - **Burapha Golf Club** - Course will be closed from 5-6 December for a tournament.
 - **Khao Kheow Country Club** - Course will be closed on 18 December for a tournament.
 - **Laem Chabang International Country Club** - Course will be closed from 5-6 and 25 December for tournaments.
 - **Rayong Green Valley Country Club** - Course will be closed from 5-6 December for tournaments.
 - **Siam Country Club, Old Course** - Course will be closed on 22 December for a tournament and from 8 February until 3 March for the LPGA tournament which will take place from 25-28 February.
 - **Siam Country Club, Plantation Course** - Course will be closed on 12, 16 and 19 December for tournaments.
 - **St. Andrews 2000 Golf Club** - Course will be closed from 5-6 December for a tournament.
- **Phuket**
 - **Blue Canyon Country Club, Canyon Course** - Course will be closed from 19-20 December for tournaments.
 - **Blue Canyon Country Club, Lakes Course** - Course will be closed from 19-20 December for tournaments.
 - **Laguna Phuket Golf Club** - Course will be undergoing verticut and top-dressing during 7-

- 14 December and green light top-dressing during 21-24 December.
- **Phuket Country Club** - Course will be closed on 12 December for a tournament.
- **Chiang Mai**
 - **Gassan Marina Golf Club and Resort** - Course will be closed for renovations until the end of May 2016.
- **Chiang Rai**
 - **Happy City Golf Resort** - Course will be closed from 7-9 December for a tournament.
 - **Santiburi Chiang Rai Country Club** - Course will be closed from 9-14 February for the 17th Singha Masters Tournament.

Vietnam

- **Danang**
 - All courses are in great condition.
- **Hanoi**
 - **Sky Lake Resort & Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 6 and 18 December for tournaments.
- **Saigon**
 - **Song Be Golf Club** - Course will be closed from 12-13 December for a tournament.
 - **The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip** - Course will be closed from 30 November - 7 December for the Ho Tram Open.
 - **Vietnam Golf & Country Club** - Course will be closed from 19-20 December for the VGCC Championship.

Malaysia

- **Langkawi**
 - **99 East Golf Club** - Course will be closed until Q3 of 2016 for renovation.

Indonesia

- **Bali**
 - **Nirwana Bali Golf Club** - Course will be closed on 13 December for a tournament.

Cambodia

- All golf courses are in good condition.

Singapore

- **Sentosa Golf Club, Tanjong Course** - Course is closed for major reservation.



Golf Tournaments

Amari Pattaya Amateur Golf Week - March 2016

Date: 6 - 12 March, 2016 | Location: Pattaya, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]

Amari Hua Hin Amateur Golf Week - March 2016

Date: 13 - 19 March, 2016 | Location: Hua Hin, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]

Hooters Phuket Amateur Golf Week - May 2016

Date: 8 - 14 May, 2016 | Location: Phuket, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]

Centara World Masters Golf Championship - June 2016

Date: 12 - 18 June, 2016 | Location: Hua Hin, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]

Mercure Pattaya Ocean Resort 2 Ball Golf Championship - June 2016

Date: 19 - 25 June, 2016 | Location: Pattaya, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]

Cambodia Amateur Golf Week - August 2016

Date: 1 - 9 August, 2016 | Location: Siem Reap, Cambodia [[Find out more](#)]

Accor Vietnam World Masters Golf Championship - September 2016



Date: 4 - 10 September, 2016 | Location: Danang, Vietnam [[Find out more](#)]

Siam Country Club Pattaya Amateur Golf Week - October 2016

Date: 16 - 22 October, 2016 | Location: Pattaya, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]

Chiang Mai Amateur Golf Week - October 2016

Date: 23 - 29 October, 2016 | Location: Chiang Mai, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]



Best of the Blog Thailandgolfzone.com

Chiang Mai Highlands - Just got better

This month I was invited by the General Manager, Derek Schade, to review [Chiang Mai Highland's](#) new nine holes which opened to the public on November 1st. Derek had only taken up his post at Highlands recently after a successful period running Lotus Valley Golf Resort. There was a "return of the prodigal son" element as he had previously managed the Golf Club and enjoyed working closely with the inspirational owner Khun Vichai who persuaded him to re-join the Team. As I hadn't played in the area for several years, and given Chiang Mai Highlands Golf & Spa Resort was in the running for the 2015 Asia Golf Awards Best Golf Resort in Asia Pacific (they subsequently won!), I took the opportunity to explore the whole facility and give readers an insight into what the complete package offers.



Chiang Mai Highlands Golf & Spa Resort

[[Read the entire article](#)]

Other golf stories can be found at the [Thailand Golf Zone](#), [Vietnam Golf Zone](#) and [Phuket Golf Zone](#) where there are over 600 other original articles dealing exclusively with golf in Asia and golf travel.

I would love to hear about any golf tips that any of you may have developed for getting the maximum enjoyment from your golf trips, and can incorporate some in future articles. Therefore if you have any golf tips or suggestions you would like to share, please [let me know](#) by dropping me an email.

➔ Subscribe to our [RSS Feed](#).



Golfing Tips - "Mot Daeng" - Red Ants

One of the things that needs to be considered when golfing in Thailand are the dreaded red ants or *Mot Daeng*. Their nests are commonly located at the base of trees in amongst the roots just off the fairway and they are fearsome creatures inflicting relatively harmless but quite painful bites.

If you are playing vacation golf, just for fun, then it's straightforward to move the ball away from the nest by several feet using your club so you don't get too close to the ants (your caddie will almost certainly warn you of the ants' presence). But if your golf has a measure of seriousness and small wagers are at stake then deal with this natural "hazard" beforehand by agreeing the form of relief. If you agree relief can be taken then it's the nearest point plus one club length.

I've played with groups that take the sensible approach and others that are a bit more hard-nosed...I know which approach I prefer!

[[Read more Golf Tips Articles](#)]

If you have any other questions regarding golf tips to help you with your game email us at



Golf Grip

info@golfasian.com and we will reply in upcoming newsletters

For more golf tips visit www.golfthink.com



Meet Golfasian at these Trade/Roadshows/Fam-Trips

Golfasian has a full schedule of trade shows and roadshows during the next few months.

You can find us at the following events:

- April 24 - 27 - Asia Golf Tourism Convention (AGTC) (Chiang Mai)
- June 26 - 29 - IAGTO North America Golf Tourism Convention (USA)

[Arrange an appointment](#) with Golfasian at one of these exhibits.



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

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