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Asian Golf Travel Nation - November 2011



Dear Travel Partners & Golf Travelers,



Welcome to the November edition of the Asian Golf Travel Nation. As in the past, this newsletter contains original and news breaking stories on the state of golf in Asia as well as provides useful golf course information, unique golf playing tips for Asia's tropical environment, and special golf travel promotions.

Asia's winter season is officially here with sunnier and drier weather ahead. In fact, November to March is the very best period climate-wise to golf in Asia, particularly Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Tailor-made itineraries to your specific travel preferences, expectations and budgets are our specialty; [contact us for a](#)

[competitive quote.](#)

Please be advised that many hotels in popular golf destinations have already closed for bookings around Christmas, and quotas are already nearly full for as far ahead as February. Golfasian does have limited room allocations still available, but if you intend to travel it would be best confirm your needs as soon as possible.

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

Mark Siegel
Managing Director of Golfasian

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Golf news from around the region:

Thailand



Bangkok: Floods in Thailand have caused disruption to some golf courses around Bangkok, but NOT elsewhere in the country.

Courses in Pattaya, Phuket, Hua Hin and Chiang Mai/Chiang Rai are completely unaffected. Several courses on Bangkok's outskirts have closed temporarily, mostly due to access difficulties rather than flood damage. Some, like **Thai Country Club** and **Muang Kaew**, have remained open, as has Suvarnabhumi airport. If in doubt, check with individual courses around Bangkok to ascertain the situation.

Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai: I just returned from a FAM trip to Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai with the European golf media. The golf was excellent, especially at [Chiang Mai Highlands](#) and [Santiburi Chiang Rai](#) and all of the journalists commented favorably on the golf quality, range of cultural activities, and service levels at the Northern Thailand resorts. Look out for their stories to start appearing in the golf magazines and online in the next couple of months.

Khao Yai: Are you a golf pro looking to play free golf in Thailand like you can do across Europe and the



© Richard Wessling
Thai Country Club, Bangkok

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USA? [Panorama Golf and Country Club](#) is a fabulous 18-hole championship golf course. The Club, under the management of Quality Golf and ranked in the Top 20 Courses in Thailand, Unique to Thailand, the course encourages PGA card holders to make Panorama their venue of choice by permitting them to play the course on a complementary basis. What a deal!

Vietnam



Hanoi: "Good news for golfers; Vietnam's courses just became more accessible!" Vietnam's Transport Minister has banned his senior staff from playing golf, saying it distracts them from their work too much. The ministry posted a statement ordering senior officials and executives of corporations not to play golf. Golf has become more popular among Vietnam's growing middle class, including Communist Party officials, and as such the courses have become overcrowded, particularly on weekends. Let's hope the new directive helps ease the situation and opens up more tee times for foreign golf visitors.



Ngoc Son Pagoda, Hanoi, Vietnam

Danang: Air Asia has implemented non-stop Kuala Lumpur to Danang flights. This new route improves the accessibility to Danang without having to transit in Saigon. Next up are non-stop Bangkok to Danang flights. Contact Golfasian for specially priced [Danang golf packages](#).

Malaysia



Langkawi: [The Golf Club Datai Bay](#) is now closed for renovations which makes [Gunung Raya](#) the only 18 hole Langkawi golf course open for play. However, progress at the new 99 East Golf Club is good with 9 holes already open and the back nine scheduled to be completed in the next few months. Let's hope so as Langkawi golf visitors need a second course to play this season.



The Golf Club Datai Bay, Langkawi

Cambodia



Siem Reap: Recent flooding has had some impact on the [Siem Reap golf courses](#). While [Angkor Golf Resort](#) is in good shape, Phokeethra and [Angkor Lake](#) are not. Give it another month and things should dry out and be back to normal.

Remember if you want to get regular updates about golf in Indochina, then [sign-up](#) for uninterrupted email delivery of this newsletter. In addition, all persons signing up will automatically receive the latest "Thailand Golf Insider Tips" special report.

I look forward to a smooth fall season. Until the next newsletter, happy golfing!

*Mark Siegel
Managing Director of Golfasian*

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Featured Golf Course - Siam Country Club, Plantation Course, Pattaya

It didn't take long for this layout, about six kilometers from the Old Course, to attract a major event. Exactly one year after opening in 2008, it served as site of the Honda LPGA Thailand, won by world No. 1 Lorena Ochoa. The 27-hole, Schmidt-Curley design is situated on a former pineapple and tapioca plantation and home to Asia's first triple green, shaped like a clover and shared by the Pineapple nine's 378-yard, par-4 fourth and 400-yard, par-4 ninth and the Tapioca nine's 172-yard par-3 seventh.

The sleek, ultra-modern clubhouse overlooks this

THAILAND GOLF INSIDER TIPS, a 15 page special report, and you will also be eligible for other great member offers from Golfasian.

Another good reason to be [registered](#) on the Golfasian mailing list!



Asian Golf Monthly



Now in its 12th year, Asian Golf Monthly is firmly established as one of the world's most prominent English-language magazines on golf.

It is unique as the only global title with an Asian perspective. [Read more](#) about how Asia's best players and destinations have grown from strength to strength on the global stage.

Golf Properties



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Siam Country Club, Plantation Course

3,000-square-meter marvel. The Sugar Cane nine was built last, but possesses many of the same characteristics - large ravines, multi-tiered Novotek greens and spectacular views of Pattaya's beaches - as the 'older' nines.

[\[Read More about one of Thailand's Best Golf Courses\]](#)

★ Featured Hotel - Hilton Pattaya

The Hilton Pattaya, located in the heart of the city overlooking Pattaya Beach and the Bay, is situated atop the new Central Festival Pattaya Beach complex. This 250,000-square-meter facility includes more than 300 international-caliber shops and restaurants, a 10-screen cinema, a 16-lane bowling alley, a gourmet supermarket and a variety of recreation facilities. The Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK) is located approximately 90 minutes north of the Hilton.



Hilton Pattaya

The Hilton Pattaya's well-appointed, spacious guest rooms and suites are equipped with a long list of modern conveniences including balconies, 37-inch HD-flat screen televisions, generous work surfaces, wired and wireless high-speed internet services, and the luxurious Serenity Bed Experience™. Wireless HSIA is conveniently available throughout the hotel. Stay in one of the property's Executive Floor rooms or suites and enjoy the panoramic views from the Executive Lounge on the 33rd floor. Selected suites and rooms feature bathtubs on large private balconies.

[\[Read more about one of Thailand's Best Hotels & Resorts\]](#)

🌸 Siam Country Club is Expanding

You read it here first: Siam Country Club at Pattaya is building another 18 holes to complement the 45 holes it now has in play. Managing director, Prasertchai Phornprapha, last week confirmed the new but as-yet-unnamed layout will be open in 2014. With 27 holes at its Plantation course (opened in 2008) and 18 holes at the Old Course (the first privately-owned golf course in Thailand that opened in 1970 and was redesigned by Schmidt-Curley in 2007), Siam Country Club is regarded as the premier course of some 17 that can be played in the Pattaya region. Its superb conditioning, outstanding clubhouse facilities and views make it one of the great golfing experiences in Thailand.



Golfasian's Mark Siegel & Khun Chai of Siam CC

Khun Chai says the two Siam CC courses, neither of which accepts members, currently attract more than 80,000 rounds a year. He expects that after the new course opens, the venue will record more than 130,000 rounds a year, easily making it the premier single golf destination in Thailand.

"I am really proud of the Pattaya area," K. Chai told us. "There is something here for everyone and a great variety of golf courses to suit all types of players and budgets. It is a true golf course destination."

your sensitive information.

Forward

Think this may interest your friends, relatives, or colleagues? To forward this newsletter to them right now, click [FORWARD].

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Meet Our Staff: Marco Scopetta - Sales & Marketing Director

Marco Scopetta, a young Swiss man aged 41 years, has been in the golf industry for the past 20 years and will bring his experience and support to Golfasian events. His career path includes being a PGA Golf Professional, General Secretary of the Swiss PGA, General Manager of the Golfpark Signal de Bougy, Player at the World Team Cup and former Swiss PGA Champion.

Coming from Switzerland he speaks four languages fluently (German, French, Italian and English). After visiting Thailand a few years ago and loving it there so much, he decided to move from his home country to the Land of Smiles. [\[Read more about Marco Scopetta\]](#)



Marco Scopetta at Thai Country Club

Golf Trip Idea: Malaysia Golfing Experience - 12D/11N

This Malaysia golf holiday includes 7 rounds of golf at some of the most exciting golf courses in Malaysia in two great golf destinations. The Malaysia golf experience golf package is well suited for those wanting to play the best golf courses in Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak, enjoy one of Sarawak's top resorts, and relax in one of Kuala Lumpurs best hotels for golfers famous.

Golfers may swap Sarawak for one of Malaysia's beach destinations or any of Malaysia's other great destinations. [\[Malaysia Golfing Experience Detailed Itinerary...\]](#)



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Press Release: Golf Tourism Shows Its Resilience

Bangkok, October 27, 2011 - Golf is one of few international tourism sectors continuing to grow despite global economic uncertainty, according to the chief executive of the International Association of Golf Tourism Operators, Peter Walton.

Addressing members of Thailand's [Golf In A Kingdom](#) destination marketing program in Bangkok this week, Mr Walton said golf tourism had recovered more quickly than other sectors since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. And despite continuing problems, especially in Europe, the sector was continuing to grow. [\[Read the entire Press Release\]](#)



IAGTO's Peter Walton with GIAK members

Event Announcements / FamTrips

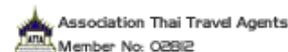
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November 2011

Date: November 26 - December 03, 2011 | Location: Hua Hin, Thailand [[Find out more](#)]



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Playing and Staying on a Thai Golf Course

There is no better feeling than waking up to the sound of wildlife and knowing that you are about to experience a great round of golf.

Many of the 250 golf courses across Thailand offer first class accommodation along, with sports facilities, bars, swimming pools and restaurants.

With the high cost of golf course maintenance many clubs now also rely on real estate to help their cash flow, and several courses offer luxury villas and condominiums beside the course too.

[Read more about "Playing and Staying on a Thai Golf Course"](#)



Other golf stories can be found at the [Thailand Golf Zone](#) where there are over 500 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 - Improve Your Game on a Thai Golf Course

I have been coming to play in Thailand, in fact mainly Phuket for over 10 years and when I first came here I had a two, three and four iron in my bag as playing golf in windy conditions and on links style golf courses these clubs were invaluable. Now, many years on and not just because I am older and not because I don't hit it as far, I found that these three clubs are now sitting in a back room in my house!

Why? Well the grass over here in Phuket is so strong to resist the extreme high temperatures that I found I couldn't hit down on the ball as much as I used to and found that the only way to get a good distance was to take the ball more cleanly off the top of the grass. So now I carry a seven wood and two hybrids that cover distances from 175 yards to around 210 yards and I find that its more consistent and I can also hit the ball a lot higher and stop the ball on the green.

Try it, I am sure it will help your game no matter what handicap you are!

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

If you have any other questions regarding golf tips to help you with your game email us at info@golfasian.com and we will reply in upcoming newsletters

For more golf tips visit www.golfthink.com





Meet Golfasian at these Trade/Roadshows/Fam-Trips

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

You can find us at the following events:

- November - US Golf Pros / Tour Operators Fam-Trip
- November 14 - 17, 2011 - IGTM (Belek, Antalya, Turkey) [\[Find out more\]](#)
Golfasian Thailand - Stand B32
Golfasian Vietnam - Stand B20
- January 26 - 29, 2012 - PGA Merchandise Show (Orlando, Florida, USA)



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



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Golfasian Co., Ltd.



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](#), I welcome the help.

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