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April 2018 Edition

Dear Golf Travelers,



Welcome to this issue of the Asian Golf Nation, the source for news breaking information about golf and golf travel in Asia.

Also, unique golf playing tips for SE Asia's tropical environment, announcements of special tours and amateur golf tournaments, and some interesting golf traveler feedback are all integral to today's

newsletter.

Low season is here and with it brings lower prices! Also, this is the time of year we welcome many golfers from Australia and nearby Asian countries. Keeping the fairways busy in low season encourages pristine year-round conditions. And who wouldn't love staying and playing great courses at great prices? Most of the premium courses and resorts we handle within the region are offering very [special deals](#) over the coming months.

For even more fun, plan to be in Thailand, Cambodia, or Myanmar for the New Year celebration April 13-16! It is a time to enjoy all the rituals and festivities of the biggest holiday of the year and to kick your golf game into high gear. For questions and some insider tips about the Songkran Holiday, feel free to [contact me](#) anytime.

Finally, if you're not sure when to travel or don't have anyone to travel with, then check out the [Centara Masters](#) in June and [Pattaya Singles Week](#) in September. Both will raise the bar on tournament golf for club golfers in Asia.

As usual, there are lots of 'happenings' around the region so with that; I invite you to enjoy this edition of the Asian Golf Nation, learn about what's new in golf travel from around the region.

With that I would like to thank once again those of you who have golfed with us recently, it was nice seeing you, and I hope your trip was a memorable one. Thanks to you, Golfasian remains Asia's top golf operator providing guests with services centered around authentic golf experiences and great value. Your recognition of our quick responsiveness, impeccable attention to detail and tailor-made personalized service is what sets us apart.

The golf, culture, and beauty of Asia are perfectly suited for meaningful golf experiences that create memories on and off the fairways that surpass every golfers' expectations. Whether it be playing in one of our organized [golf tournaments](#) or on a tailor-made golf holiday; world-class golf, friendly locals, excellent cuisine, fascinating entertainment and great value is guaranteed! Complete full-service itineraries created for your specific travel preferences, expectations, group size, and budgets are our specialty. Please contact us for a [competitive quote](#).

Until the next newsletter, happy golfing and I hope to see you in Asia very soon!

Mark Siegel
Managing Director

PLEASE VOTE FOR US

A winner of the 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 World Golf Awards, Golfasian has once again been nominated for Asia's Best Golf Tour Operator. Please, vote for us now:





Hua Hin, Thailand

It's going to get a lot easier to [golf in Hua Hin](#). Air Asia announced its first international flight linking Kuala Lumpur and Hua Hin. The four times a week service will begin on May 18 with more flights to be added as Hua Hin jumps in on the bandwagon of popular Asian golf holiday resorts served by international airports. Avoiding the longish overland journey from Bangkok will certainly make the Thai home of golf more appealing to overseas golfers. The two marquee golf facilities at [Black Mountain](#) and [Banyan](#) with the other six experience courses in the area offer something for every golfer.



Siem Reap, Cambodia

The original Siem Reap golf course, [Phokeethra Country Club](#) closed temporarily on April 1. Major renovations including new Bermuda grass greens, course-wide irrigation enhancements, and better cart paths are all planned. Moreover, a few holes will be redesigned by the original Thai course architect to offer a new level of golf in Cambodia. The work is being carried out over the next five months in time for an August reopening. It is always nice to see golf courses upgrade and I am sure once back online Phokeethra Country Club will rank among the best in the country.



Danang, Vietnam

The new Nicklaus-designed nine at [BRG Danang Golf Club](#) opens on April 7. The course features prominent timber walls that frame the water hazards and provide an abrupt edge to the fairway and green areas on most holes. Embankments are more commonly seen in Florida courses and will be a stark contrast to broad waste areas that characterize the Norman-designed Dunes Course. All nine holes are light for night golf, which makes the Nicklaus Course a good choice for those wanting to golf on arrival into Danang. I can't wait to get out for a hit.



Johor Bahru, Malaysia

The Els Club Desaru Coast is gaining a stronger showing these days as both the [Ocean Course](#) and the [Valley Course](#) mature. The three nines at the Ocean Course – The Coast, The Lakes and The Ridge and the 18-hole Valley Course, are providing golfers with excellent quality at reasonable prices. Local hotels under construction include Westin, Anantara, Hard Rock and Aman Resorts. Currently, we recommend combining golf in Desaru with some of the more developed courses and one of the many hotels in Johor itself for a fantastic off-the-beaten-path golf holiday.

GOLF DESTINATION REVIEW: HOI AN



For first-timers, the city of Hoi An is a thirty minutes' drive from the southern part of Da Nang city. Da Nang city is popular not just because of the ultra-modern airport located in the city but also the fact that it is a favorite destination amongst golfers and has the most popular golf club in Southeastern Asia. However, Hoi An seems to have had less and less number of mentions despite having [world-class golf courses](#).

Some of the golf courses in Hoi An are being designed by top golf course designer, Robert Trent Jones II. Rosewood Hotel and Resorts made an announcement that their world-class resort projects were billed to be completed in 2019 alongside the 18-hole golf course. Besides the golf course, the resort also has plans of building tennis courts, fitness centers and residences with swimming pools.

Just 25 minutes' drive to the north of Hoi An are two large golf courses. One is known as the [BRG Danang Golf Resort](#) and was designed by Greg Norman, popularly called the 'Great White Shark.' The golf course features fast greens and sand-dunes and golfers believe it is the best 'link style course' in the whole of South-Eastern Asia, not just Vietnam. [\[Read it all...\]](#)

[Book Your Next Hoi An Golf Holiday Now](#)



FEATURED GOLF COURSE AND HOTEL



★ Ba Na Hills Golf Club

[Ba Na Hills Golf Club](#) is 25 minutes inland from Danang Vietnam near at the foothills of the cable car station leading to Bana Hills. The Da Nang golf course is first Luke Donald designed course not only in Asia, but the world and is managed by IMG. Ba Na Hills is laid out in several valleys of the surrounding mountain ranges. The Ba Na Hills mountain course has a diverse mix of natural topography and vegetation.

[Read More](#)



★ Hotel Royal Hoi An

Located on the banks of the Thu Bon River in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Hoi An, [Hotel Royal Hoi An - MGallery by Sofitel](#) is a perfect blend of historical charm and modernity. Its refined style inspired by Art Nouveau has a delicate touch of Japanese and Vietnamese cultures and offers spectacular views of the river and ancient town. The spa, pool and 2 restaurants make it the perfect destination for golfers.

[Read More](#)

GOLF TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

[Centara World Masters Golf Championship](#)

10 - 16 June 2018

[Mercure Pattaya 2 Ball Golf Championship](#)

17 - 23 June 2018

[AccorHotels Vietnam World Masters](#)

9 - 15 Sep. 2018

[Mercure Pattaya Singles Golf Week](#)

16 - 22 Sept. 2018

[Amari Hua Hin Golf Week](#)

21 - 27 Oct. 2018

[Chiang Mai Golf Week](#)

28 Oct. - 2 Nov. 2018



PRESS RELEASE



A New, Fun & Intimate Golf Week For Golfers

Hua Hin, Thailand, 2 April 2018 — Hua Hin, Thailand's best golf destination, is to host a new and exciting golf week for club golfers aged 35 and over.

Following on from the success of the Centara World Masters Golf Championship which will be celebrating its 5th successful year in 2018, tournament organisers Go Golfing and Golfasian have combined to bring a second Amateur Golf Tournament to the region – The Amari Hua Hin Golf Week, October 21 -27 2018.

The Amari Hua Hin Golf Week, is to be held at four leading courses – Black Mountain, Banyan, Springfield a Jack Nicklaus Course & Sea Pines which boasts spectacular ocean views. Limited to only 100 players, this tournament will have offer a fun, relaxed and intimate experience.

"The Centara World Masters has been such a huge success in Hua Hin, attracting players from all around the world"

"People love our events because they offer more than just golf" he explains. "The Amari Hua Hin Golf Week will host a smaller field size and will offer social and entertainment events every night so that players can foster the fun and friendship"

[Read the Entire Press Release](#)

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Mr. Chris Lee and party at [Banyan Golf Club in Hua Hin](#), Thailand

BEST OF THE INTERNET



What Makes Nikanti GC an Unusual Golf Course?

It seems like the golf architect Pirapon Namatra (Ope) of Golf East listened quite a lot to Tina Turner's famous song 'Break every rule' when he designed Nikanti Golf Club, Asia's first 18 hole, par 72 golf course comprising three six-hole layouts each with two par-threes, two par-fours and two par-fives. Thailand's 291st golf course was opened in May 2014. The Nikanti Golf Club is almost adjacent to Suwan Golf Club.

[Find Our Here!](#)



5 Obscure Golf Rules

Essentially golf is a self-regulating game. All players are expected to know the rules and how to apply them. Sometimes though, golf can be a complex game and depending on the format or competition you are in the rules may vary. In golf there are currently 34 rules, with numerous sub-rules, and sub-sub-rules. In addition to that, the USGA and R&A publish a book called **Decisions on the Rules of Golf**.

[Find Out Here!](#)

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GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCES & CLOSURES

Thailand

Bangkok

- [Alpine Golf and Sports Club](#): Course underwent coring green during 3-4 April.
- [Kiarti Thane Country Club](#): Course will be closed until April 2019 for renovation.
- [Lam Luk Ka Country Club](#): Course will be closed during 16-17 April for Songkran Holidays.
- [Nikanti Golf Club](#): Course will be undergoing maintenance during 1-12 April. Course will be closed on 10-11, 14-18 and 21-24 May for the BMW Tournament.
- [Royal Bang Pa-In Golf Club](#): Course will be undergoing coring green during 10-11 April.
- [Thai Country Club](#): Course will be undergoing annual turf grass cultivation maintenance during 3-11 April.

Hua Hin

- [Banyan Golf Club](#): Course will be undergoing coring green on 9 July.
- [Royal Hua Hin Golf Course](#): Course will be closed during 2-8 April for a tournament.

Pattaya

- [Siam Country Club, Old Course](#): Course will be closed during 3-4 May for a tournament. Course will be undergoing coring green during 14-18 May.
- [Siam Country Club, Plantation Course](#): Course will be undergoing coring green during 19-23 March (Pineapple Course), 16-20 April (Tapioca Course), 7-11 May (Sugar Cane). Course will be closed during 31-31 May for a tournament.
- [Siam Country Club, Waterside Course](#): Course will be closed during 2-6 & 24-27 April and 8-11 May for a tournament. Course will be undergoing coring green during 21-25 May (all 18 holes).

Phuket

- [All courses are in good condition](#)

Chiang Mai

- [Mae Jo Golf Club](#): Course will be undergoing coring green during 5-6 April.
- [The Royal Chiang Mai Golf Club & Resort](#): Course will be undergoing coring green during 2-3 April.

Chiang Rai

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)

Vietnam

Danang

- [Ba Na Hills Golf Club](#): Course will be closed on 15 April for a tournament.

Dalat

- [SAM Tuyen Lam Golf Club](#): Course will be closed in the afternoons of 14 & 30 April for

tournaments.

Hai Phong / Halong Bay

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)

Nha Trang

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)

Saigon

- [Long Thanh Gold Club](#): Lake course will be closed on 14 April & 4 May for tournaments.
- [Song Be Golf Resort](#): Course will be closed on 22 April for a tournament.
- [Vietnam Golf & Country Club](#): Course will be closed on 15, 20 & 26 April for tournaments.

Vung Tau

- [The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip](#): Course will be undergoing maintenance during 16-28 April.

Indonesia

Bali

- [Nirwana Bali Golf Club](#): Course will be closed until 31 July 2020 for major renovation.

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur

- [TPC KL, East Course](#): Tee times only available in afternoon until 31 Aug 2018.
- [TPC KL, West Course](#): Course will be closed for renovation until 31 Aug 2018.

Cambodia

Siem Reap

- [Angkor Golf Resort](#): Course will be closed in the mornings of 7 & 8 April for a tournament. Course will be undergoing aerification and greens top dressing during 17-20 April.
- [Phokeethra Country Club](#): Course will be closed from 1 April - 31 July for renovation.

Phnom Penh

- [Garden City Golf Club](#): Course will be closed on 5 & 27 May for tournaments.
- [Royal Cambodia Phnom Penh Golf Club](#): Course will be closed in the morning of 8 April.

Myanmar

Yangon

- [Pun Hlaing Golf Club](#): Course will be closed during 13-17 April for Myanmar New Year.
- [Yangon City Golf Resort](#): Course will be closed during 13-17 April for Myanmar New Year.

Mandalay

- [Ye Dagon Taung Golf Club](#): Course will be closed on 7 & 8 April for a tournament and on 17 April for Myanmar New Year.

Singapore

- [All courses are in good condition.](#)

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