

playit



BY
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HANDARA GOLF & RESORT

Not many may know this but Bali has one of the oldest and coolest golf courses in Indonesia. The Handara Golf & Resort, sited some 1,142 metres (3,750 feet) above sea level and in the crater of a mountain along the Bedugul range, has annual temperatures between 14 and 20 degrees Celsius.

The fact that it is at least two hours away from the beaches of Nusa Dua or the Ngurah Rai International Airport may have contributed to its relative seclusion but once there, Handara offers a golfing experience that is unrivalled anywhere on the island.

Built in 1974, the Peter Thompson and Michael Wolveridge design is a par-72 layout that stretches more than 7,000 yards along deep tropical rainforest with indigenous flora and a backdrop of mountains near the twin lakes of Buyan and Beratan. Formerly ranked by GOLF Magazine as among the "Top 50 Greatest Golf Courses in the World", it is still a joy to behold and tee up in despite its apparent age.

But change is afield here at



Handara Golf & Resort. Last year, it was one of the nominees of the World Golf Awards' "Indonesia's Best Golf Hotel" category. With a new pro-shop, ladies locker room and renovated cottage rooms, the property has taken on an upgraded design to the delight of visitors and guests. A new kids club and gym will also be ready soon.

Recently, the resort has opened up a new dining experience called Breeze Terrace. A new family friendly venue (above) with 180 degrees panorama over the landscape, the lounge is located within the resort and welcomes non-resident guests as well.

Designed by Gregorius Supie

Yolodi, an award-winning architect in Hong Kong, and Indonesian Sammy Hendramianto Syamsulhadi, it is decorated to best suit the natural setting that makes this such a unique destination.

Executive chef, I Gusti Bagus Sastrawan, formerly from Mimpri Resort Menjangan & Gawana Resort & Spa, concocts his dishes – a selection of Indonesian, Japanese and Western fare – with fresh, local, mountain ingredients.

There is also the option of a BBQ dinner for groups looking to sit by a roaring bonfire and cosy up beneath the cool night sky.

"We would like to welcome you as non-golfers, as well as golfers, to enjoy the Breeze Terrace at Handara Golf & Resort Bali," Aliza Saliandra, its president-director offers.

Nature lovers and golfers would certainly take heed.

● SPH Golf Card members (www.sphgolf.com) get complimentary green fees throughout the year with special deals for stay and play at Handara Golf & Resort.

SPH GOLF CARD AFTER ONE YEAR

If you haven't heard of the SPH Golf Card, you have not been playing much golf. After a little more than a year of its launch, the non-estate golf membership has grown to over 1,500 members offering a slew of privileges that is 10 times more than its \$190 per annum (for Ordinary member) fee.

This is largely due to the green fee vouchers that each new and renewed member will get that includes regional courses like Horizon Hills Golf Club, Tanjong Puteri Golf Club, Laguna Golf Bintan, Phuket and Lang Co., and Ria Bintan Golf Club.

This year, the card membership has upped its own ante by adding even more golf courses to the welcome pack. They include Tanjong Puteri in Johor, The Els Club Langkawi and Desaru Coast, Rainbow Hills and Riverside in Bogor, Indonesia, and Bintan Lagoon Resort.

Even more compelling is the fact that Palm Springs Golf Club in Batam and Handara Golf & Resort in Bali are offering year-round complimentary green fee play for members of SPH Golf Card whenever they visit either destination.

All that combines for more than 14 rounds of complimentary green fee play, subject to each club's terms and conditions, or one round per month if used accordingly, for the rest of the year, and then some.

On top of that, preferred rates are offered at all these courses and more, including local golf clubs. There is also complimentary handicapping, global golf insurance, monthly golfing get-togethers, and a travel club that brings members to play at golf courses around the region and even beyond. At less than \$200 a year, there are few other ways that the dollar can be stretched more. The SPH Golf Card is truly the only golf membership that you will ever need.

BITTEN BY THE BUG

The start of the new year can be many things for many people but one thing that everyone certainly thinks of, is planning for a vacation.

According to KAYAK, a leading travel search engine, 23 per cent of Singaporean travellers only plan for their trips one month in advance.

This is based on millions of searches that originate from Singapore for economy return flights made on KAYAK.sg from 1 January 2017 to 15 January 2018 for the travel period 1 January to 31 December 2018.

That is a significant percentage but considering the busy lives that we live in, it is not surprising. Also unsurprising is that the No. 1 most searched destination from that base is Bangkok.

Ranked sixth is neighbourly Kuala Lumpur and Manila in the Philippines comes in at No. 8.

While these numbers account for a predilection to last-minute travel by about a quarter of that base, there are agents and online travel sites out there offering deals that serve all, whether one decides to travel now or later in the year.

The SPH Golf Travel Fair, happening between April 6 – 8 at Marina Square Mall, however, aims to bring together the best deals from



The Els Club Desaru Coast Valley Course's stunning 11th hole.

a host of award-winning golf clubs and tourism boards around the region to present their wares to the visiting public, all in one place.

Malaysia has Gamuda Land's Kota Permai Country Club in Kuala Lumpur and Horizon Hills Golf Club in Johor, Swiss Garden's Damai Laut Golf & Country Club and the new Forest City Golf Course at the mega residential-commercial-industrial project right across the Second Link,

visiting.

For Thailand, Alpine Golf & Sports Club, Black Mountain Golf Club, Siam Country Club and Patana Golf Club will bring their world famous smiles to Marina Square and Ayala Land, one of the largest property group in the Philippines, will showcase their golf courses as well.

And then, there are others, from Banyan Tree's three regional properties Laguna Golf Bintan, Laguna

Golf Phuket and Laguna Golf Lang Co, Palm Springs Golf & Beach Resort in Batam, and the tourism authorities providing any travel related information to assist the visiting public in their decision making.

The SPH Golf Travel Fair is open to public free-of-charge and will showcase a host of entertaining activities to promote the game of golf, including a three-day live broadcast by SPH Radio's ONE FM 91.3.

NEW THIS MONTH

THE START OF EVERY YEAR IS ALWAYS MOST EXCITING FOR GOLF FANATICS. HERE ARE SOME REASONS WHY

TAYLORMADE M3 AND M4 DRIVER

● Twist Face Technology that corrects hooks from high toe hits and slices from low heel hits.

● Raised aerodynamic 5-layer carbon composite crown that is thin and light.

● Y-Track adjustability system that allows all 22 grams (two 11-gram weights) to be moved between heel and toe as well as front and back for more than 1,000 CG configurations. (M3 only)

● 4-degree Loft Sleeve with 12 positional settings

● Hammerhead slot combines central Speed Pocket, Twist Face and stiffening ribs for high ballspeed off a large sweetspot.



COBRA F8 AND F8+

● Multi directional CNC machine milled face for unrivalled precision and improved bulge-and-roll.

● 360 degree Aero Technology uses aerodynamic polymer strips around the clubhead to improve air flow and reduce drag.

● Cobra Connect powered by Arccos to track distance, accuracy and uses data-driven records for better play.

● Ultralight 5-ply Carbon Fiber Crown lowers discretionary weight for lower and deeper CG

● 8-1-1 titanium body and forged face further reduce weight.

● Variable face thickness (E9 Technology) creates sweet spots away from the centre to improve heel and toe shots.

● MyFly8 with Smart Pad offers eight loft settings while maintaining a square clubhead at address.

● Two CG settings, front and back, for choice of lower, more penetrating flight or higher with more spin. (F8+ only)



ADIDAS TOUR 360 BOA BOOST GOLF SHOES

● Full length BOOST midsole foam.

● Premium leather upper with climateproof technology.

● Tour 360 Wrap design.

● Advanced Boa closure system.

● New Torsion Tunnel with new heel that shape follows natural foot contour.

● FitFoam GEO collar, tongue and insole for exceptional support and comfort.

● ETC lining reduces friction and wicks moisture within.

● Advanced dual-density 10 cleat puremotion TPU outsole with Cen-Traxion and ThinTech for extreme grip.



TITLEIST TOUR SOFT GOLF BALL

● Largest Titleist core ever for distance and speed off the clubface.

● Unique 4CE Grafted cover made with four different materials using TCU process technology.

● Spherically-tiled 342 cuboctahedron dimple design for penetrating trajectory and consistent ball flight.

● Softest ball in its class.



tried & tested

19TH HOLE TIPPLES

Suntory The Premium Malt

● Noted for: A craftsman's approach to brewing.

● Characteristics: Rich, floral aroma enhanced by use of 100% barley, hops and natural water.

● Best drunk: Halfway House.

Auchentoshan

● Noted for: Three Wood, triple distilled malt and one of the last active distilleries in the Lowlands.

● Characteristics: Matured in bourbon and finished in Oloroso then Pedro Ximénez casks for an extra layer of rich, sweet fruitiness.

● Best drunk: After golf



FASHION

ADI PURE, ADIDAS, ADICROSS

THREE NEW LINES FROM ADIDAS GOLF PUT THE SPLASH ON YOUR NEW YEAR GOLF GARB

● adi Pure

The most premium of the three lines, adi Pure combines classic inspiration with modern styles using simple lines, clean cuts and colours, subtle stripes and functionality to the fore.

● adidas

The ultimate performance product that conveys confidence, its athletic style includes bright and bold colours with the instantly recognisable three-stripped branding.

● adicross

Urban, funky and versatile, the adicross's styles are made for on and off course wear with bright pink and yellow hues for those who dare.

