

Asian Golf Explorer

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SEPTEMBER 2007 / NUMBER 3

NEW COURSE
HK'S NINE EAGLES
GUIDE
A WEEK IN ZHUHAI

ISLAND SWINGS

HAINAN TEE TIME

LEE PARKER Q&A
HK AIRLINES SPECIALS
CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Sun Valley Golf Club, Sanya, Hainan



HONGKONG AIRLINES GOLF VACATIONS

香港航空高爾夫假期

HK Airlines bring you to the capital of Fujian province - Fuzhou(福州), experience the fabulous courses. We have chosen the downtown top 5 stars Century Empark Hotel to ensure you have a comfortable stay !

1st "Hong Kong Airlines Cup" Golf Tournament

Original Price : ~~HK\$3,100~~ Special Offer **HK\$2,380 , limited slots, first come first serve .**
Free Golf Bag Cover for golfers !

Date : 23 - 26 September 2007
 Format : Stroke Play (New new peoria)
 Prize : Champion, 1st Runnerup, 2nd Runnerup,
 Longest Drive, Closest Pin award

Price

4 Days 3 Nights
 HK <> Fuzhou Air ticket
 Hotspring(溫泉) 18 holes green fee, caddie, locker
 Amai(新東陽) 18 holes green fee, caddie, locker
 5 stars Century Empark Hotel
 Daily breakfast, Welcome Dinner, Prize Presentation Dinner
 Airport <> Hotel <> Club transfer

Golfer Share Twin	Golfer Single Room	Non Golfer Share Twin	Non Golfer Single Room
2,380	2,890	1,390	1,890

Non Golfer Included Air Ticket, Hotel, Breakfast, Welcome Dinner, Prize Presentation Dinner, Airport <> Hotel transfer

Flight Schedule (For reference only)

HX257 HK > Fuzhou Depart 1100 Arrival 1230
 HX258 Fuzhou > HK Depart 1855 Arrival 2055

Itinerary

Day One Transfer to Hotel upon arrival, Welcome Dinner
 Day Two Breakfast, transfer to Hotspring Golf Club for teeoff, transfer to hotel
 Day Three Breakfast, transfer to Amai Golf Club for teeoff (Tournament) , transfer to hotel & prize presentation dinner
 Day Four Breakfast, free for leisure or additional golf at Trans Strait Golf Club, transfer to Airport in late afternoon

Additional Golf (Day Four) Trans Strait Golf Club (Booking must be made before departure) : HK\$590 per person included
 18 holes green fee, caddie, locker, hotel > Club > Airport transfer

Remarks

1. Above prices are in HK dollars excluded airport taxes, security charges, fuel surcharge, buggy fee
2. Non refundable deposit of HK\$1500 per person
3. Balance payment must be made within 3 days upon confirmed reservation.
4. Prices included TIC Levy
5. Flight schedule for reference only.
6. For details terms and conditions, please read here or call us.



Enquiry : 2127 4677 (Ms Jessica Wan / Ms Liddy Tong)



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***EFFECTIVE MOI (eMOI)**

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BOMB AWAY.

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TO GET MORE DISTANCE, you need more speed. Swing speed, clubhead speed, ball speed. Burner[®] with new SuperFast Technology, delivers all of that and more.

It starts with a new 46-inch, 50-gram TaylorMade RE*AX[™] shaft that makes Burner 15-20 grams lighter and an inch longer than any driver we've built. Lighter and longer means more swing speed, which means more ball speed, which means your drives are longer.

We shaped the 460 cc clubhead like a bullet, stealing weight from the crown and moving it lower and deeper to shift the CG to a more distance-enhancing location. Our patented Inverted Cone technology teams with the head's high MOI to boost Burner's eMOI^{*} above 5800, so you save ball speed on mis-hits for big-time distance on every swing.

We even shaved weight from the grip and put it into the clubhead to ratchet clubhead speed even higher.

It all adds up to the fastest, longest, most forgiving driver we've ever built.

BURNER

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Golfing Asian Monthly Highlight

**GOLF
007**
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Chiang Mai (清邁) 4 Days 3 Nights

HK\$3,620/RMB3,511 up

HK ⇨ Chiang Mai roundtrip Ticket by TG
3 Nights Novotel Hotel (Twin Share)
Daily Breakfast
Choice of 2 Rounds Weekdays Green Fee
(Green Valley / Highland / Lamphun / Gassan Khuntan / Marina / Lake City Golf Course)
Airport ⇨ Hotel Transfer

Boracay (長灘島) 4 Days 3 Nights

HK\$4,620/RMB4,481 up

Hong Kong ⇨ Manila roundtrip ticket by PR
Manila ⇨ Caticlan roundtrip ticket by 3K
Airport ⇨ Ferry Pier ⇨ Hotel Transfer
3 nights hotel at Fairways Bluewater Golf & Resort Mulligan Style Room (Share Twin)
Daily breakfast
Fairways Bluewater Golf Country Club 18 Holes weekday green fee

Ho Chi Minh (胡志明) 4 Days 3 Nights

HK\$3,980/RMB3,860 up

HK ⇨ Ho Chi Minh roundtrip Ticket By VN
3 Nights at Windsor Plaza Hotel (Twin Share)
Daily Breakfast
18 Holes Weekday Long Thanh Golf Club Green & Caddie Fee
18 Holes Weekday Vietnam Country Golf Club Green & Caddie Fee
Half Day City Tour & Entrance Fees
English / Cantonese Speaking Tour Guide
Land Transfer

Ria Bintan (民丹島) 3 Days 2 Nights

HK\$3,330/RMB3,230 up

HK ⇨ Singapore roundtrip Ticket by CX
Singapore ⇨ Bintan Ferry Ticket
2 Nights Nirwana Resort Garden View Room (Twin Share)
Daily Breakfast
Ria Bintan 2 x 18 Holes Green Fee, Caddie & Share Cart
Bintan Pier ⇨ Resort ⇨ Golf Club Transfer

Kuala Lumpur (吉隆坡) Deluxe 4 Days 3 Nights

HK\$3,750/RMB3,637 up

HK ⇨ KL roundtrip Ticket by CX
3 Nights Sunway Lagoon Resort (Twin Share)
2 Rounds of Saujana Golf Club Weekday Green Fee
Whole Day Pass for Sunway Lagoon Theme Park & Water Park

Hanoi (河內) 4 Days 3 Nights

HK\$3,890/RMB3,773 up

HK ⇨ Hanoi roundtrip Ticket by HX
3 Nights Stay at Zephyr Hotel (Twin Share)
Daily Breakfast
King's Island 18 Holes Green Fee, Caddie Fee
Chi Linh Star 18 Holes Green Fee, Caddie Fee
Water Puppet Show
Half Day City Tour
English / Cantonese Speaking Tour Guide
Airport ⇨ Hotel ⇨ Golf Club Tourist Spots Transfer

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or call (852)2180 2963, (86)0755 8300 4192

★ All Package Included TIC Levy

It's the Season...

Ho yeah! It's time to play golf again. I'm not sure about you, but my time on the region's courses over the past couple of months has been rather limited to say the least – the blistering heat and downright ghastly humidity – not forgetting the almost constant threat of a thunderstorm – has curtailed the frequency of my golf outings to just one solitary round. But no matter. Now that it's getting cooler we can all look forward to playing as much golf as possible – well, at least as much as golf as our partners, wives, bosses and wallets will allow that is.

One place you might consider trying is the brand new SkyCity Nine Eagles Golf Course out at Chek Lap Kok (Where Eagles Dare; page 16). It might only have nine holes, but it's perfect for a quick hit after work. As we all know – and frequently moan about – Hong Kong's golf courses are pathetically short in number, so the opening of Nine Eagles is obviously a real boon. Try it. You'll be impressed.

If you're considering taking a longer break then our cover story on golf in Hainan will appeal. Unlike Hong Kong, Hainan has really blossomed into a fully fledged golfing destination and the island is now home to a score of fine courses. Indeed,

the quality of golf combined with the great value offered makes it without doubt the most appealing of all China's provinces to visit. And it's all only an hour's flight away.

Elsewhere in this issue we take you on a whirlwind tour of Zhuhai's courses and chat with Lee Parker, one of the most respected pros in the industry. Plus we get the skinny on golf club membership in China, check out the latest equipment and reveal some great golf deals with the SAR's newest carrier, Hong Kong Airlines.

It might have been a quiet last couple of months golf-wise, but methinks that's all about to change.



Alex Jenkins
Editor

Golfing in Guangdong Monthly Highlight

GOLF007
www.golf007.com

Nansha Golf Club

南沙高爾夫球會

Daytrip

Weekday HK\$790 / Weekend HK\$1,150
18 holes green fee, caddie, locker, lunch,
Pier ⇄ Club Transfer,
HK ⇄ Nansha ferry ticket

2 Days:

Weekday HK\$1,360 / Weekday + Weekend
HK\$1,600 / Weekend HK\$1,820
2 x 18 holes green fee, caddie, locker,
breakfast, Club Resort (Twin share),
Pier ⇄ Club Transfer,
HK ⇄ Nansha ferry ticket



Orient Golf Club, Macau

澳門(東方)高爾夫球會

Weekday HK\$560 / Weekend HK\$1,200
18 holes green fee, caddie, shared cart,
locker

* Lunch included on weekend



Firestone Golf Club, Shenzhen

光明高爾夫球會

Weekday HK\$560 / Weekend HK\$920
18 holes green fee, caddie, shared cart and
locker

* Set lunch included on Tuesday &
Wednesday



Green Bay Golf Club, Shenzhen

碧海灣高爾夫俱樂部

Weekday HK\$640 / Weekend HK\$1,110
18 holes green fee, caddie, locker fee

* Cart included on weekend.

No single cart surcharge



Yinli Foreign Investor Golf Club

銀利外商高爾夫球俱樂部

Weekday HK\$650 / Weekend HK\$1,050
18 holes green fee, shared caddie & cart,
locker, set lunch,

Huanggang ⇄ Club Shuttle

* Complimentary breakfast served on
Saturday & Sunday before 10:00



Long Island Golf Club, Dongguan

東莞長安高爾夫球會

Weekdays 2 days special HK\$1,550
2 x 18 holes green fee, shared caddie &
cart, locker, breakfast, One set lunch, Club
Resort (Twin share)

* HK ⇄ Club shuttle is available at
HK\$143 per person



Agile Golf Club, Zhongshan

中山長江高爾夫球會

Weekday HK\$970 / Weekend HK\$1,890
18 holes green fee, caddie, Shared cart,
HK ⇄ Zhongshan ferry ticket



Lotus Hill Golf Club

蓮花山高爾夫球會

Daytrip

Weekday HK\$780 / Weekend HK\$1,180
18 holes green fee, caddie, locker, lunch,
Pier ⇄ Club Transfer, HK ⇄ Lotus Hill
ferry ticket

2 Days

Weekday HK\$1,490 /
Weekday + Weekend HK\$1,900 /
Weekend HK\$2,290
2 x 18 holes green fee, caddie, locker,
breakfast, lunch, Club Resort (Twin
share), Pier ⇄ Club Transfer,
HK ⇄ Lotus Hill ferry ticket



Orient Golf Club Zhuhai

珠海(東方)高爾夫球會

Weekday HK\$640(Tue) HK\$680 /
Weekend HK\$990

18 holes green fee, caddie, locker,
HK ⇄ Zhuhai ferry ticket

* Set lunch included on Tuesday,
Pier ⇄ Club roundtrip Shuttle
available at HK\$55 per person.



Golden Gulf Golf Club Zhuhai

金灣高爾夫俱樂部

Weekday HK\$730(Mon) HK\$830 /
Weekend HK\$1,160

18 holes green fee, caddie, Shared cart,
free range warm up, Pier ⇄ Club Shuttle,
HK ⇄ Zhuhai ferry ticket



Lakewood Golf Club Zhuhai

翠湖高爾夫球會

Weekday HK\$740 / Weekend HK\$1,150

18 holes green fee, caddie, lunch,
HK ⇄ Zhuhai ferry ticket

* Pier ⇄ Club roundtrip Shuttle
available at HK\$55 per person.



Palm Island Golf Resort, Huizhou

棕櫚島高爾夫球會

Weekday HK\$890 / Weekend Special
Offer

18 holes green fee, caddie, shared cart,
locker, HK ⇄ Club Shuttle



Lake Front Golf Resort, Huizhou

湖景高爾夫渡假村

Weekend HK\$820

18 holes green fee, shared caddie & cart,
locker, Huanggang ⇄ Club Shuttle



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DELTA Golf

ZHUHAI

Golf Guide

Great golf in China's most laid-back city.

The Lakes Course at Lakewood Golf Club.



ZHUHAI IS CERTAINLY NO STRANGER TO THE HONG KONG-BASED GOLFER. Indeed, this picturesque corner of Guangdong, perched on the western banks of the Pearl River, has become something of a mecca for those wanting to escape for a few hours with clubs in tow – the regularity of the ferry service and the relatively short travel time makes it one of the most hassle-free golfing destinations around.

But herein lies a problem. Because of its convenience, there aren't too many golfers who consider a longer stay. It is seen – and overwhelmingly so – as the place to go for a one day getaway. This is a shame, because not only is the golf good enough to warrant a multi-day trip, but thanks to Zhuhai's continuing development and prosperity, the city, which was recently voted one of the best places to live on the Chinese mainland, makes for an interesting base with plenty to offer visitors in search of more than just golf.

WHERE TO PLAY

Golden Gulf Golf Club

Troon / Turnberry Course

Yardage: 7,146. Par: 72.

Nairn Course Yardage: 3,742. Par: 36

Designed by Colin Montgomerie (IMG).

Often referred to as just GG (try repeating Golden Gulf Golf Club a few times and you'll understand why), this is a fairly recent addition to Zhuhai's list of clubs and arguably the most complete. Supplementing the Colin Montgomerie-designed 27-hole course is a well-equipped – and stylish – clubhouse, while the accommodation annex houses first-rate rooms. The all turf driving range and excellent short game area, meanwhile, easily makes it one of the best places in all of China to practice.

Located some forty minutes from Zhuhai's ferry pier, GG might not be the most handily placed club in the region, but it's hard to find fault with the course: This is a professionally designed and constructed layout – there's nothing Mickey Mouse about it – and its general conditioning compares favourably with the majority of courses in Guangdong. The one criticism that many Hong Kong golfers often lay at GG is that, because it's situated on pancake flat terrain, the course doesn't offer superlative views of the surrounding countryside and there's little to differentiate between the three nines. They claim – shock! – that it's a little bland. We don't particularly agree and think that the track's combination of wide landing areas, large fairway and greenside bunkers and the recurring presence of water make it a fine strategic test. OK, so there are no sweeping vistas to enjoy, but who cares about that when you're squeezing in your second round of the day thanks to the club's floodlit third nine.

Getting There: 40mins by club shuttle bus.



Lakewood Golf Club

Lakes Course Yardage: 6,729. Par: 72.

Mountain Course Yardage: 6,912. Par: 72.

Both courses designed by J. Michael Poellot.

There was a time, not so long ago, when Lakewood was widely derided by regular Zhuhai golfers. The problem, as was the case with many Chinese courses built during the misleadingly-named boom years of the early 1990s (course construction was booming; the number of golfers wasn't) – was money. Lakewood didn't have much of it, and as a result, the two courses suffered through a lack of upkeep, while the temporary clubhouse – a ramshackle shed of a place – remained a ramshackle shed of a place because the club's plans for a grand new one never got off the ground. Now the club is back with a bit of a bang. Although the old clubhouse is still in use (a gleaming new one will be ready in the New Year, the club's new management says), the courses have been restored to their former glory and it's not a moment too soon, because they're really rather

enjoyable. The Lakes Course, the shorter of the two J. Michael Poellot-designed layouts here, ambles across nicely rolling terrain and encourages you to really give it a go off the tee – the diminutiveness of the par-fives cause even weekend golfers' eyes to light up. The superior Mountain Course, which is normally only open to the club's members on the weekends (it's worth checking beforehand though – you might get lucky), is one of the most underrated courses in the province and features pleasingly ample fairways, strong bunkering, exciting changes in elevation and some wickedly contoured greens. With a little care and attention, Lakewood could one day give some of the better known clubs a good run for their money.

Getting There: 20mins by club shuttle bus.

Pine Valley Sports & Country Club

Yardage: 7,050. Par: 72.

Designed by Bari Paoipio.

Gorgeous Pine Valley (see July Issue of AGE) is arguably the most beautiful of all Guangdong's inland courses and the perfect place to really kick back and relax. Occupying hilly – and at times downright mountainous – terrain, the par-72 course affords jaw-dropping views of the surrounding estate and winds its way through ancient woodland and around an enormous reservoir (where you can get in some great fishing; it's filled with 50lb carp and smaller

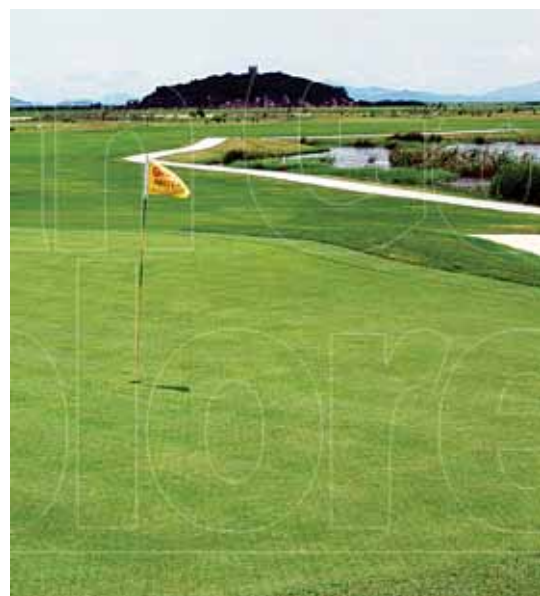


Golfing Zhuhai (clockwise from top right):
a friendly caddie; playing solo at Golden
Gulf; landscaping at GG; the signature
sixth on the Mountain Course, Lakewood;
the club's rustic 19th hole; a spectacular
backdrop at the eighth.





Oriental links (clockwise from top left): Orient's minimalist-style clubhouse; deciding who has the honour on the first; accommodation at Golden Gulf; Orient's windswept course.



Nightlife + Attractions

Known locally as Pub Street (Zhou Bar Gai), Zhuhai's answer to Lan Kwai Fong buzzes after hours and is home to an eclectic mix of hole in the wall joints, stylish bars and upscale restaurants serving both local and a surprisingly wide variety of international cuisine at very reasonable prices.

Zhuhai is famous for its natural hot springs, and a trip to either the Imperial Hot Spring Resort or the much larger Ocean Spring Resort (www.oceanspring.com.cn) located in the south of the region (a short taxi journey from both Golden Gulf and Pine Valley) is a relaxing way to spend an afternoon. Ocean Spring also happens to be one of the largest amusement parks in the China and features Disneyland-like attractions and rides, which might appeal to those who are bringing children in tow.

Orientation

There are frequent ferry departures from both the Hong Kong Macau Ferry Pier in Sheung Wan and the China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui (journey time: 1 hr 10mins). All of Zhuhai's golf clubs provide a shuttle bus from the Zhuhai ferry pier, but for those intending on staying longer and exploring a bit more of the region, the best bet is to book a car and driver through whichever hotel you're staying in. Taxis, of course, are cheaper but making yourself understood could be a bit of a problem unless your Cantonese is up to scratch. Unlike Shenzhen, Cantonese is widely understood and is still the predominant language amongst locals.

tilapia). Visiting Pine Valley, with ducks and geese roaming its fairways, and with no gaudy real estate or commercial sprawl in sight, is really like entering another world. Make no mistake, the place is utterly delightful but it's fair to say there's nothing particularly forgiving about the golf course. This is an undeniably strong challenge and requires almost laser-like accuracy and decent ball-striking the whole way around. Still, even if you're scorecard doesn't look too easy on the eye it's hard not to enjoy your round given the natural splendor of the surroundings.

Getting There: 50mins by club shuttle bus.

Zhuhai Golf Club

Yardage: 7,050. Par: 72.

Designed by JGP.

Just five minutes from Lakewood, and a twenty minute shuttle bus from the Zhuhai ferry pier, lies Zhuhai International – one of the oldest clubs on mainland China. Established in 1985 – making it just a year younger than the famed Palmer Course at Chung Shan Hot Spring – ZIGC was the brainchild of a Japanese conglomerate whose aim was to build a fully-integrated

resort for the large numbers of Japanese expatriates living in the region. While their plans ended up being curtailed somewhat, they did at least manage to produce a delightful 18-hole layout and spacious clubhouse. Because of its age, the course has a definite maturity to it and features many arrow-straight holes flanked on either side by majestic trees. Water plays its part as well, but most of it is used aesthetically rather than strategically. There are exceptions of course, most obviously at the sixth and sixteenth holes – a pair of of long, demanding par threes that feature island-like greens. While the clubhouse interior could do with an overhaul – the restaurant's wicker back chairs and lively patterned carpets are an ode to 70's kitsch – ZIGC is certainly not a bad choice, especially if played in conjunction with neighbouring Lakewood.

Getting There: 20mins by club shuttle bus.



Orient (Zhuhai) Golf & Country Club

Yardage: 7,270. Par: 72.

Designed by T.K. Pen.

Billed as a links course, Orient Zhuhai is part of the Orient chain of golf clubs – a Taiwanese company whose expanding portfolio of courses stretch across the Greater China region. Although Scotsman would throw their hands up in despair at such a description (don't come here expecting pot bunkers and gorse), it's fair to say that the course features a few similarities

Orient features water in abundance and incorporates the use of twin fairways on three holes. Its attractive landscaping of flowers and other shrubbery further belies its links-like categorization. Nevertheless, Orient is certainly interesting to play, and thanks to its convenient location just twenty minutes from the Zhuhai ferry pier – and only fifteen minutes from the Macau border – is well worth a visit.

Getting There: 25mins by club shuttle bus.

to the rugged seaside layouts of the British Isles: Orient is dead flat and because of its proximity to the mouth of the Pearl River, the wind can howl like a banshee. Unlike proper links courses, however,

WHERE TO STAY

Situated within east reach of the centre of Zhuhai, the **Harbour View Hotel** is a modern cream-coloured structure and one of the city's better local hotels. Featuring spacious, well-appointed rooms, many of which overlook the Pearl River and the South China Sea, the hotel also houses a decent array of eateries, including the F1 bar which serves a wide selection of beers. Executive rooms and suites are also available. Another excellent choice is the **Grand Bay View Hotel**, another 5-star offering located slap bang in the heart of the city, and only a short drive to the Zhuhai ferry pier. For those who prefer to stay in an internationally-branded hotel, the **Holiday Inn** – a spanking new glass and steel edifice – features a great selection of accommodations and amenities.

Pine Valley Sports & Country Club **珠海萬盛鄉村俱樂部**



GOLF PACKAGES

Day Trip

Mon & Thu **HK\$780**
Tue, Wed, Fri **HK\$860**
Sat, Sun, Public Holidays **HK\$1,220**
18 Holes green fee,
shared caddie & cart, locker,
HK <=> Zhuhai ferry ticket

Two Days Package

Weekdays **HK\$1,590**
Fri + Sat **HK\$2,020**
Sun + Mon **HK\$1,930**
Weekends **HK\$2,390**
2 x 18 Holes green fee,
shared caddie & cart, locker,
Club Resort (Share twin),
Pier transfer

HK <=> Zhuhai ferry ticket

Enquiry Hotline :

2187 3146



Getting there : Ferry to Zhuhai (Jiuzhou) Port - frequent sailings from both Hong Kong/Macau Ferry

Terminal in Sheung Wan and China Hong Kong City Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui - Journey Time: 1hr10mins.
Club shuttle bus from Zhuhai Pier to Club takes approximately 50mins

珠海高爾夫指南 - 悠閒的高爾夫體驗

相信對香港高爾夫愛好者而言，珠海並不會陌生，這座整潔的城市坐落於珠三角西岸；頻繁的船期，一個小時多的航程，既可選擇從上環或尖沙咀，甚至於屯門出發，令珠海得到高爾夫愛好者的寵愛，成為廣東區其中之一的高爾夫最熱點。

由於其交通方便，令高爾夫愛好者多選擇一天的旅程，來去匆匆，其實，珠海非常適合作為一個兩三天旅程的度假的聖地；近年的高速發展，完善的配套設施如酒店、溫泉、各式娛樂、多元化的美食，令它擊敗眾多中國其他城市，贏得中國最佳居住城市的美譽，所以，珠海不止是高爾夫這麼簡單。



娛樂

酒吧街——「蘭桂坊」式酒吧，時尚及氣氛輕鬆，提供多項選擇之美酒及美食，價格不貴。

溫泉於珠海亦具名氣，有御溫泉渡假村及最新最大的海泉灣渡假村(www.oceanspring.com.cn)，離金灣和萬盛都不遠。海泉灣更備有大型主題樂園，多種機動遊戲，溫和或刺激，老少咸宜。

有關資料

香港船期頻密，可選擇由上環順德中心或尖沙咀中港城，甚至屯門出發，航程一小時十分鐘，所有球會都提供碼頭接送(大部份需收費)，如果你打算多留幾天，遊玩珠海，交通方面，你可乘坐的士，或者想更方便，可透過旅行社包車服務；珠海跟深圳不同的是，廣東話較為普遍，就算「煲冬瓜」不太好，溝通也不會有太大問題。

尋找高爾夫

金灣高爾夫球會

Troon/Tumbery 場長度: 7,146 碼。標準杆數: 72

Nairn 場長度: 3,742 碼。標準杆數: 36

設計師: 蒙哥馬利 (IMG)

金灣屬於珠海區較新的球場，除了是由著名蘇格蘭籍職業球員蒙哥馬利設計的 27 洞球場外，更備有一所又大又華麗的會所，五星級的酒店客房，真草練習場和包括果嶺及沙池的短打練習區。

金灣並非離碼頭最近的球會，從九洲港出發，大概需要四十分鐘車程；金灣口碑來自其專業的設計和一絲不苟的建造，其草坪管理肯定是廣東區內手屈一指的；不過，由於其地勢平坦，少了高低起伏，有部份香港高爾夫愛好者認為它欠缺秀麗的風景和趣味性，然而，我們並不太認同，金灣設計以 Links 為藍本，沙池及水障都經過精心的編排，看似平平無奇卻是危機四伏，但如沒有好的進攻策略，很難打出理想的成績。金灣備有 9 洞夜燈。

交通: 離碼頭約四十分鐘車程

翠湖高爾夫球會

湖場 長度: 6,729 碼。標準杆數: 72

山場 長度: 6,912 碼。標準杆數: 72

設計師: J. Michael Poellat.

曾經，翠湖差點被高爾夫愛好者遺忘，原因是球場管理不善，導致水準日益下降，臨時會所又並不太理想，正式會所的興建遙遙無期，不過，隨著新管理層的上任，翠湖的光彩正逐步回復，正式會所亦有望明年開始啟用；較短的湖場地勢較平，兩個長度短的五杆洞令人蠢蠢欲動，一試兩杆攻上果嶺捉鷹；剛重開的山場只開放給會員使用，煥然一新，精彩的沙池佈局，地勢的高低變化，刁鑽的果嶺線路，令山場趣味性高。相信在新管理層繼續地努力下，翠湖很快便能綻放光彩，再次成為高爾夫愛好者的至愛。

交通: 離碼頭約二十分鐘車程

萬盛鄉村俱樂部

長度：7,050 碼。標準杆數：72

設計師：Bari Paopio

萬盛——我們已經在七月刊號詳細地介紹過，這個在廣東省最漂亮天然之一的球場，倚山環湖而建，高低起伏有致，茂盛的樹林，沒有礙眼的建築物，令景色如詩如畫，水鴨、珍珠雞，甚至火雞的蹤影到處皆是，將萬盛形容為世外桃源一點也不為過。球場設計更令人一試難忘，挑戰性高，距離和準確性都非常重要，五號洞居高臨下，其氣勢磅礴，令人印象深刻，雖然，要爭取好成績不易，或甚至不甚理想，那管得這麼多了，面對這絕色美人，已經教人陶醉不已，其他的都變得不重要了。

交通：離碼頭約五十分鐘車程

珠海高爾夫球會

長度：7,050 碼。標準杆數：72

設計師：JGP

離翠湖只五分鐘，碼頭二十分鐘，這

個只比中國第一家球會——中山溫泉年輕少許的珠海高爾夫球會(1985年開業)；原先，這裡是規劃為一個大型渡假村，供給當地日商耍樂，但不知道因何原因而告吹，然而，仍然建造了這坐十八洞的球場和頗大的會所，正因其悠久的歷史，所以場內環境十分成熟，設計上也較直接，你會發覺很多又直又闊的球道，水障頗多，不過大部份的用途都是作為點綴而已，除了第六及第十六洞這兩個半水果嶺。會所從開業到現在改變不大，由裝修到傢俬擺設，都帶著強烈的七十年代氣息。

交通：離碼頭約二十分鐘車程

東方(珠海)高爾夫球會

長度：7,270 碼。標準杆數：72

設計師：T.K. Pen

中國連鎖式高爾夫球會——東方集團在珠海的球場，以 Links 為藍本（雖然蘇格蘭人未必認同），這裡找不到 Pot Bunker 或長及腰膝的牛尾草，但仍有跟英倫海峽球場相似的特色，東方地勢極為

平坦，靠海令風勢極為強勁；與 Links 最大區別，東方到處都是水障（因為地勢平有時很難看到），及有三條雙球道的設計，還有人工修飾的園藝，這都與傳統 Links 不大相同。雖然這樣，東方仍然有其獨特的趣味性，與及地利的優勢（離九洲港只需 25 分鐘，離拱北關口只需 15 分鐘）。

交通：離碼頭約二十五分鐘車程

酒店指南

怡景灣酒店——位於市中心東面，是珠海市內最好酒店之一，房間寬大舒適，海景房更面向南中國海，多間餐廳提供不同美食。另一間五星級海灣酒店位於市中心，離碼頭僅需數分鐘車程。如果你偏好國際品牌，這裡有假日酒店，裝修豪華有品味，房間亦非常不錯。AGE

Now, nothing against the guys. They can putt the lights out. Still, many of them seem rather intent on scoring all the endorsement dollars they can, even at the possible expense of not having the finest clubs available in their bags.

Care is point, putters.



In Britain, Mr. Harold Smith is known as "The Putting Doctor". Besides running Europe's most esteemed putting school and coaching the

majority of last year's Euro Ryder team, he has also developed and patented what many now consider the world's ultimate putting environment.

His breakthrough, having taught putting for 40 years, was in realizing that most putter faces force a ball to skip, skid and spin slightly in its first several inches of travel. Which leads to deflection and errant shots. So he set out to solve this. And succeeded.

The stroke is in his patented C-Groove. Slanted upward at 20 degrees, when they impact the back of a ball they impart an over-the-top rolling action. This dynamic sets the ball in motion, rolling it forward immediately. Virtually no skipping, spinning or skidding.



This isn't theory. It's been borne out in computer-controlled, high speed video tests (conducted independently). The balls start rolling forward up to six times sooner than when hit with any other brand of putter.

The consistent result is more consistency. When a ball gets rolling forward right away, rather than shattering at first, it's much less likely to be influenced by any aberrations that lie between it and the hole. In short, more putts drop in.

All of this is not lost on the ladies. A real majority of professional sports is most women athletes will don't command the kind of endorsement fees the men do. That stinks. As a quid, however, is this

Just then to show their gear based on performance not endorsements. And guys which putter has become number one on the ladies' tours. Yes, the 'Not because we pay them to use it—as a smaller company we can't afford to. But because it pays them to use it. In truth putts, fewer words.

There's a lesson in that. As many male pros are also starting to learn.



For the hole story, visit golf.com

COULD THE MEN'S TOUR PERHAPS USE A PUTTING LESSON FROM THE LADIES?

yes!

C - G R O O V E P U T T E R S

NEW Course

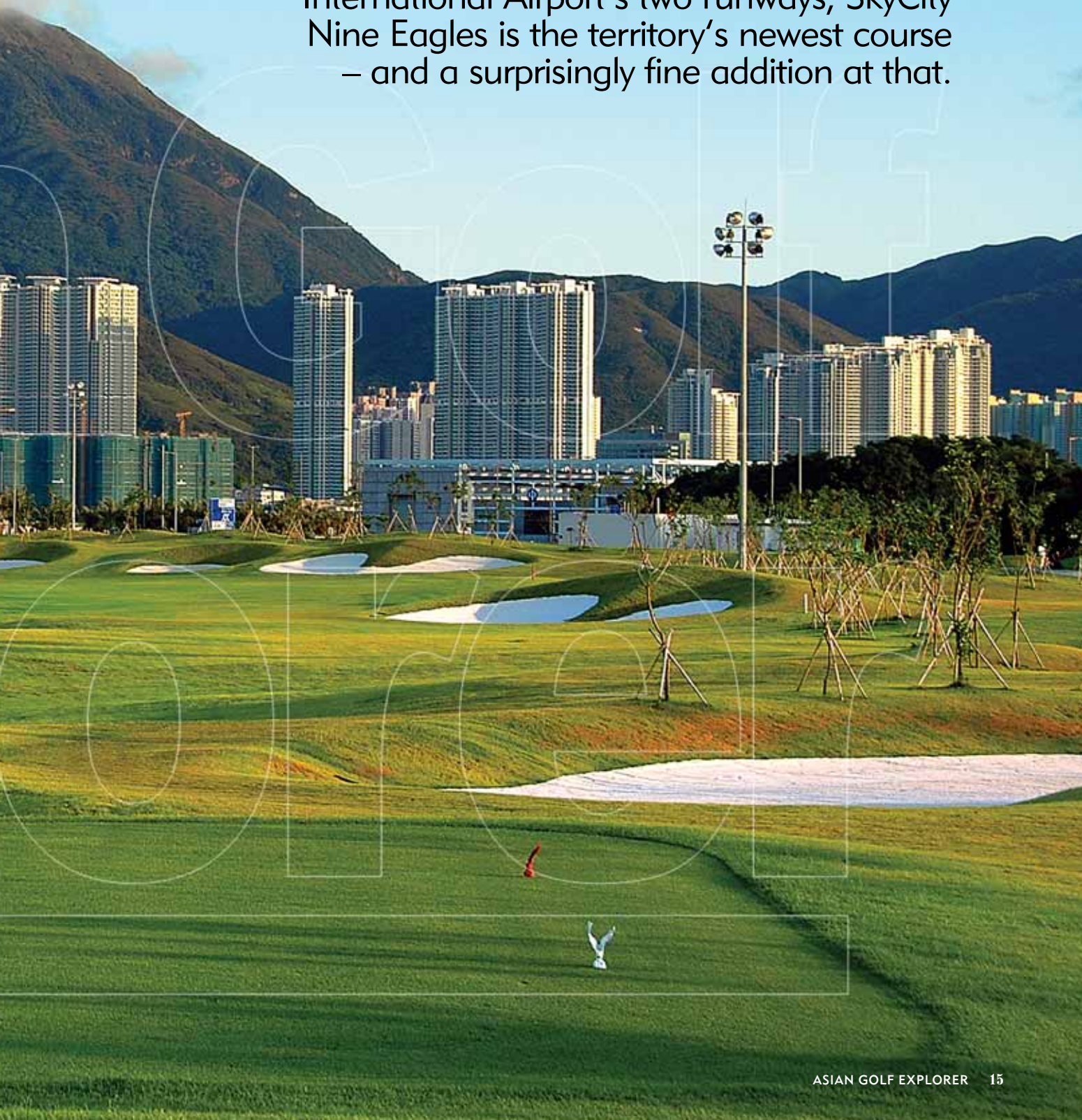
WHERE



Chock's away: Nine Eagles might have opened behind schedule, but it was worth waiting for.

EAGLES DARE

Wedged between Hong Kong International Airport's two runways, SkyCity Nine Eagles is the territory's newest course – and a surprisingly fine addition at that.



NEED TO KNOW

SKYCITY NINE EAGLES GOLF COURSE

Hong Kong International Airport

Booking Tel: +852 3760-6688

Par: 29. Yardage:

1,617 / 1,509 / 1,367

Course/Slope Rating (9x2):

56.0 / 95.0 / 55.6 / 86 / 54.0 / 87

Designed by Sandy Duggie, Urbis Ltd.

Walking course with trolley; caddies

(bag carriers) mandatory.

The course is floodlit for night golf;

open until 10pm.

Fairways: Salem Paspalum.

Greens: Sea Isle 2000.

GETTING THERE

By Car: Follow signs to Asia-World Expo.

By MTR: Shuttle bus available from Tung Chung station. 10mins; advance booking required.

From Airport: Shuttle bus available from Terminal 2. 2mins; advance booking required.

RESTRICTIONS

Open to airport users and airport staff only.

After 6pm on weekdays/weekends + public holidays: handicap certificate required.

COSTS

9 holes (WD/WE & PH):

HK\$320 / HK\$390

18 holes (WD/WE & PH):

HK\$520 / HK\$640

Caddie Fee: HK\$230

Note:

Fees apply to airport users with HKID

Additional charges for night golf

HK\$70- 9 Holes

To be perfectly honest, my expectations for SkyCity Nine Eagles Golf Course – the brand new nine hole track out at Chek Lap Kok – were not high. Upon first hearing of the HK\$100 million project some eighteen months ago, my immediate reaction, like that of many I spoke to, was: “Oh God, it’s going to be another OGC.” In case you never played it, OGC was an overgrown cow pasture of a course that occupied a particularly unlovely corner of the former Kai Tak runway. Billed as an executive course (no executive in their right mind would set foot on it) the place was exactly what Hong Kong golfers didn’t need: an exclusive, poorly maintained cabbage patch designed – I can only guess – with the sole intention of putting people off the game. It was dangerous too – the fizz of golf balls rocketing past your head from some skewed drive (without any call of “fore”, of course) was not an uncommon sound to those who had the misfortune of playing there regularly. I don’t think I would have really minded about any of this, but they were selling memberships for about the same amount as a deposit on a 600sq foot flat in Tung Chung. Its passing late last year, I think it’s fair to say, saddened absolutely nobody.

Nine Eagles is nothing like OGC, and I now feel like a bit of an idiot for ever thinking it would be. This is a professionally run and constructed course, which although short on length (1,671 yards, par-29 from the tips), is certainly long on charm. OK, some might be a bit disgruntled at not being given too many opportunities to wield that latest jumbo-headed titanium driver around – the two par-fours here measure a tad over 300-yards but are soundly guarded to encourage a rather more conservative strategy from the tee – but for what it is, it’s really very good indeed.

The course starts off in a fairly innocuous fashion with a mere pitch of a par-three, the idea being to allow players to ease

themselves into their rounds. Any thoughts that that this is just a jumped-up pitch and putt course are quickly dispelled by the second hole – a meaty 150-yarder – however. It looks straightforward enough but features a turtleback-shaped green designed to dismiss anything but the perfectly flighted iron. The excitement really begins at the third though, named “Sahara” on account of the vast acres of sand that surround the railroad tie-supported green. Again, it only requires a flick with a wedge but the narrowness of the multi-tiered putting surface ensures pars are well-earned.

After Nine Eagles’ first par-four – the water and bunker-laced fourth – and the 123-yard fifth, the course enters a cracking stretch of holes, starting with the mighty 185-yard sixth and its well guarded green. It’s on these longer par-threes that you really get a sense of the wind, which, even in the height of summer, provides some respite from the furnace-like conditions elsewhere in Hong Kong.

The next – the seventh with its island green (in fact it’s Hong Kong’s only island green, as the club has been proud to mention in all their press literature) – is the course’s so-say signature hole, and while it’s exciting to watch your mid-short iron (hopefully) sail over the water to the wide putting surface, the best (and most difficult) hole on the course is the eighth – a 207-yard links-like par-three with its five menacingly deep pot bunkers and strongly contoured green. Nine Eagles was designed by a Scot – Sandy Duggie – so the naming of the eighth – “Sandy’s Pots” – is highly appropriate.

With airliners roaring overhead every couple of minutes, playing at Nine Eagles can be a surreal experience. Especially at night when the floodlights are in operation. But herein lies one of Nine Eagles’ very few faults. Whether or not they were at max power I’m not sure, but it’s not terribly easy picking out the flight



Happy landings (clockwise from top): a big rake job at the third; the green at the par-four fourth is soundly guarded; there's no bail-out at the seventh with its island green.



NEW Course

of the ball under artificial illumination. Also, searching for stray shots can be, quite literally, a stab in the dark. The greens, meanwhile, will take a little while to bed-in fully, but when they do we're sure they'll be excellent surfaces. However, these are really quite minor gripes – and nothing that should put off an early visit.

Off the course, Nine Eagles continue to impress. Housed inside the small but comfortable clubhouse is a well-equipped pro shop, a nicely decorated foot massage area and a bar. But the real clincher is the club's Thai restaurant and outdoor barbeque. Even if you're not a golfer, sitting on the verandah, which overlooks the ninth (a delightful closing par-four), and delving into a selection of tasty morsels from the club's kitchen is worth the trip alone.

十八個月前，當我第一次聽到這個價值一億的計劃時，即時反應是“嘿，又是OGC這些玩意了”，如果您未嘗試過OGC，那我就簡單地說，這個九洞迷你球場曾經坐落於舊機場(啓德)的跑道上，球場設計不值一提，其草坪也只不過是一堆堆的雜草而已，更可怕的是，經常在毫無警告下，炮彈般的球會在頭頂飛過，驚心動魄；它已經成為歷史，去年年底關門大吉。

當我嘗試了 Nine Eagles 之後，我不得不收回我之想法，Nine Eagles 絕對不應該與 OGC 相提並論，因為放眼所見的，都是專業的設計與草坪管理，總長度雖然短，只有1,671碼，標準杆數是29，兩個逾300碼的四杆洞亦令你心愛的一號木派不上用場，不過我仍然好肯定地對你說，Nine Eagles 不僅好，也不平凡。

當你打完第一洞短三杆洞，心裡可能在想：“都不外如是，這樣的球場怎能難倒我”，我勸你最好收拾心情，第二洞150碼三杆洞，其龜背果嶺夠你好受，第三洞名為“撒哈拉”，光從名字上都看得出一二，雖然甚短，但其沙池重重包圍著窄長而又“多層式”果嶺。

接著便會遇到第一個由水障及沙池組成障礙的四杆第四洞，第五洞是短三杆洞



Comfy clubhouse: overlooking the fourth and ninth holes, the club's verandah is the perfect place for a post-round pint.



123 碼，轉到第六洞長三杆 185 碼，馬上感受風的力量，對它既愛且恨，因為它不容易駕馭但卻在炎夏之中，吹走悶熱。

緊接著便是 Nine Eagles 的“標記洞” – 香港唯一的水中果嶺，中距離全程飛越水障，甚刺激的啊！全場最難，可說是第八洞的三杆洞，207碼的超長距離，五個又圓又深的沙池，加上詭異難推的果嶺，打 Par 已經算不錯了，值得一提，這洞甚具 Links course 氣質，大概是蘇格蘭籍設計師 Sandy Duggie，想留下一點“家”的味道，此洞亦命名為“Sandy's Pots”。

跟其他靠近機場的球場一樣，你會不時聽到飛機的起降，在夜燈開啓後猶更明顯；打失的球也不容易找到，尤其在夜裡；果嶺草坪還算幼嫩，不過我敢肯定，再給予多少少時間，它必定會到達近乎完美的效果；不過，這些都僅屬小問題，不會阻礙高爾夫愛好者前往的意慾。

除了球場，會所亦令人刮目相看，雖小但佈置雅緻舒適，既有專賣店也有足底按摩，而最令人留連忘返必定是其泰式餐廳與戶外燒烤，就算你不會打球，亦大可以坐在露天區，放下緊張的生活節奏，選好心愛的食物，懶洋洋地邊吃邊欣賞著第九洞的美景，你說多寫意啊！**AGE**

SkyCity Nine Eagles Golf Course

香港國際機場

電話: (852) 3760 6688

球場資訊:

標準杆數 29, 長度 1,617 / 1,509 / 1,367

球場易難度 Course/Slope Rating (9x2)

56.0 / 95.0 / 55.6 / 86 / 54.0 / 87

設計師 Sandy Duggie, Urbis Limited.

步行場，必須使用球僮

設有夜燈至晚上十時

草種：球道 Salem Paspalum.,

果嶺 Sea Isle 2000

如何前往:

駕車：沿路牌往 Asia-World Expo.

地鐵：於東涌地鐵站有穿梭巴士服務，每十分鐘一班，需提前預訂

機場：於機場二號客運大樓有穿梭巴士服務，每十分鐘一班，需提前預訂

使用條件:

服務只供給機場使用者及機場職員

如在平日下午六點後或假日或公眾假期使用，需出示有效差點卡

打球費用:

九洞：平日 HK\$320 / 假日及公眾假期 HK\$390；十八洞：平日 HK\$520 / 假日及公眾假期 HK\$640；球僮費：HK\$230

備註:

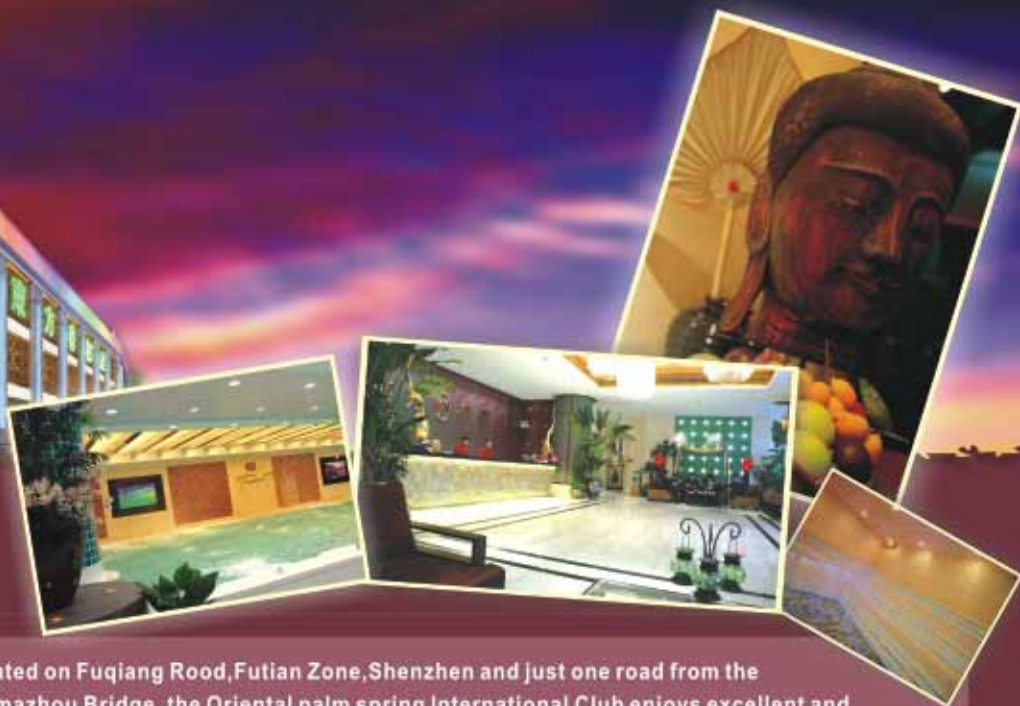
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夜燈另有附加費 HK\$70 – 九洞

ORIENTAL PALM SPRING INTERNATIONAL CLUB



東方棕泉
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Located on Fuqiang Road, Futian Zone, Shenzhen and just one road from the Luomazhou Bridge, the Oriental palm spring International Club enjoys excellent and convenient transportation. Banana trees, Buddha statues made of sandal wood, lotus pool...every little decoration you find here is bought from Thailand to create for you a natural Thai-style environment with world class recreational facilities.

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HK\$2,750 up

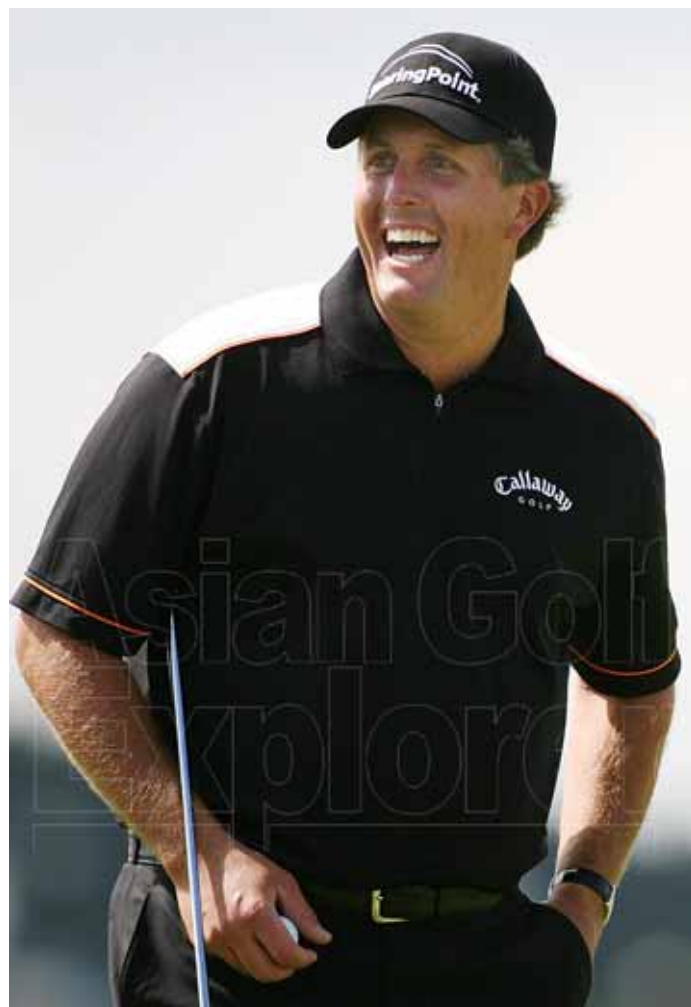
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Lefty's Shanghai and Singapore Swings

For the first time in his stellar career, Phil Mickelson will play competitive golf in Asia. In what is seen as something of a coup for golf in the region, the world number three will tee it up at the **Barclays Singapore Open** (1-4 November) and then at the **HSBC Champions** event the week after (8-11 November) at Shanghai's Sheshan Golf Club. Lefty's announcement surprised many observers of the game: aside from his annual summer foray to the British Isles for the Barclays Scottish Open and the Open Championship, the two-time Masters champ rarely travels outside the United States. And while hefty appearance money from both events is likely to be the prime motivating factor behind his reason to play over here, Mickelson's event debuts will most certainly add sparkle to two of the richest tournaments on the continent. Although Mickelson's Asian fans will be delighted by the news, Tiger fans could be in for a disappointment. The world number one has headlined the first two editions of the HBSC Champions, and although no official announcement has been made on his participation this year, it has been mooted that the thirteen-time major winner will be giving 2007 a miss.



Right: PM and his grin are coming to Asia. Below: Royal Orchid will play host to the Asian Tour.



Asian Tour's Delta Visit

Good news for those who like watching live golf. The inaugural **Midea China Classic** will take place from the 13-16 September at the Nick Faldo-designed Royal Orchid International Golf Club near Guangzhou. Sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the China Golf Association, the tournament – the sixth Asian Tour event to take place in China this year – will feature some of Asia's top pros all vying for a slice of the US\$400,000 total prize purse. *For more information visit www.royal-orchidgolf.com or call the club at +86 (0)757-2667-1999.*

UPDATE

COURSE NEWS

Following the permanent closure of **Masters Golf & Country Club** last month, Guangzhou-based golfers received yet more bad news following the recent announcement that both **Lake Hope Golf & Country Club** in Foshan and **Nanhu Golf & Country Club** in the north of the city will undergo extensive renovation and will be closed for the foreseeable future. Lake Hope, at least, is unlikely to follow the same fate as Masters Golf however. Rumour has it that a well-known Hong Kong developer has stepped into the breach and vowed to turn the club into a world-class golfing resort. We'll see about that at a later date.



Better news for those who like playing their golf after hours in Dongguan. The Peter Thomson-designed **CITIC Changping Golf Club** has introduced floodlights on nine of their twenty-seven holes to allow golfers to hack their way through to the wee hours.

EVENT INFO

If you've got a handicap of 18 or less you can enter the **Macau Men's Amateur Open**, which takes place from 12-13 September at Macau Golf & Country Club. \$700 for two tournament rounds and one practice round (11 September). The **Macau Women's Amateur Open** takes place from 19-20 September. *Enquiries: +853 2883-1555.*

If you've ever dreamed of teeing it up with the pros at the UBS Hong Kong Open then now's your chance. All you have to have is a handicap of 3 or less and then muster the skill to beat off a

host of HKPGA pros and the territory's top amateur players for one of the precious few spots on offer at the **UBS Hong Kong Open Qualifier**, which takes place at Fanling from 8-9 October. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Entries close on 14 September. *Enquiries: 2504-8659; www.hkga.com.*

If you're not quite at that level, then never mind. Instead, you can join the popular **Golf 007 Tour**, which takes place at a different venue in Guangdong each month and promises a great day out even if your game has gone south. *Enquiries: 2187-3146 (ask for Judy) or visit www.golf007.com.*

UBS Hong Kong Open
Championship 2007



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Event Management

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Golf 007: The Golf Event Experts.

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- Budget Estimation
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- Multinational and Local Corporations
- Charity Organizations
- Tradeshows
- Private Celebratory Gatherings

Contact:

852-28821350/event@golf007.com



UPDATE

RETAIL OPENINGS

Whilst the wife's spending madly in the Tsim Sha Tsui branch of Louis Vuitton, cross Canton Road and check out Hong Kong's newest golf shop, **Golf Mart**. Situated on the corner of Peking Road, Golf Mart stocks a vast range of the latest equipment and accessories and also features a large net for you to try out any demo clubs that might take your fancy. The store is open from 11am-8pm Monday thru Friday, 11am-7.30pm on weekends and public holidays.
2/F Chung Fung Commercial Building, Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.
Tel: 2302-1901. Email: golfmart@biznetvigator.com



For the latest in **Callaway** and **Pearly Gates'** trendy lines of apparel, a visit to their new store in Central is a must. Conveniently located on the first floor of Entertainment Building, this stylish outlet also sells a good range of accessories, including a cool series of eyewear and other fashion must-haves.

Shop 1A, 1/F Entertainment Building, 30 Queen's Road Central.
Tel: 2868-9776

Wu Yi Fountain Palm Golf Club



五邑蒲葵高爾夫球會

2 Days Package

Weekday	Weekday + Weekend	Weekend
HK\$1,470	HK\$1,790	HK\$2,090

18 holes green fee, caddie, Shared cart, locker, Club Resort (Share Twin), Pier transfer, HK<>Jiangmen ferry ticket



Enquiry Hotline:

(852)21802963

(86)755 83004733

Getting there :Ferry to Jiangmen Port - available from China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui
Journey Time: 2hr30mins.
Club shuttle bus from Jiangmen Port to Club takes approximately 15mins

Golfing in China Monthly Highlight

GOLF007
www.golf007.com

Lijiang(Jade Dragon & Ancient City Golf Club)Golf Package

麗江高球行

4 days 3 nights: HK\$4,980 up (ZH)
HK\$5,180 (KA)

HK or Shenzhen < Lijiang roundtrip
Ticket by KA / ZH.

3 nights stay at 5 stars Treasure
Harbour Hotel (Twin share)

Daily Breakfast

Jade Dragon 玉龍雪山

18 holes green fee, caddie, shared cart,
locker fee.

Ancient City 古城 18 holes green fee,
Caddie, shared cart, locker fee.

3 x half day local tour admission fee,
transport and guide fee.

Airport < Hotel < Club Transfer



KunMing Special City Golf Package

昆明春城高球行

3 day 2 nights: HK\$ 5,450 (KA)
HK\$5,190 (HX)

HK < Kunming roundtrip Ticket

2 night club hotel or resort (Share twin)

Daily Breakfast, 1 set dinner

2 x 18 holes green fee, caddie, shared
buggy

Airport < Club Transfer



Hainan Haikou Deluxe Golf Package

海口豪華高球行

3 day 2 nights: HK\$ 2,390

HK < Haikou roundtrip Ticket by HX

2 nights at 5 stars beachside New State
Hotel (Twin share)

Daily Breakfast,

West Cost GC 西海岸

18 holes green fee, Caddie, locker

Meishi Mayflower GC 美視

18 holes green Fee

Airport < Hotel < Club Transfer



Hainan Sanya Golf Package

三亞高球行

3 day 2 nights: HK\$2,480

HK < Sanya roundtrip Ticket by KA

2 nights hotel of your choice (Twin
share)

Daily breakfast (Selected hotel only)

Yalong Bay GC 亞龍灣

18 holes green fee

Sun Valley GC 紅峽谷

18 holes green fee

Airport < Hotel < Club Transfer



Huang Shan Golf Package

黃山高球行

4 day 3 nights: HK\$ 3,690

HK < Huangshan roundtrip

Ticket by UO

3 nights 5 stars Club Resort New
Wing Room(Twin share)

Daily Breakfast,

2x18 holes green fee, locker,
share caddie & Cart

Airport < Club Transfer



Guilin Merryland Golf Resort Package

桂林樂滿地高球行

3 days 2 nights: HK\$2,880

HK < Guilin roundtrip Ticket by
KA

2 nights at 5 stars Golf Resort
(Twin Share)

Daily breakfast

2 Lunches at club

2 days UNLIMITED green fee

Airport < Club Transfer



Shanghai Lake Malaren Golf Resort Package

上海美蘭湖高球行

3 days 2 nights: HK\$ 3,280

HK < Shanghai roundtrip Ticket
by FM

2 nights at 5 stars Club Resort
(Twin Share)

Daily breakfast

2x18 holes green fee, caddie
shared Cart, locker

Airport < Club Transfer



Qingdao Golf Package

青島旭寶高球行

4 days 3 nights: HK\$ 4,290

HK < Qingdao roundtrip Ticket
by KA

3 nights accommodation at Tiger
Beach Golf Club (Twin share)

Daily breakfast

2 x 18 holes weekday green fee,
caddie

Airport < Club Transfer



**For more packages,
please visit www.golf007.com
or call (852)2180 2963, (86)0755 8300 4192**

Destination:

Over the past five years, this tropical island – famed for its beautiful beaches and excellent seafood – has exploded onto the Chinese golf scene.

HAINAN



Tropical retreat: the first at the Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed Yalong Bay Golf Club.
Image by Jacky



Orientation

Given Hainan's size – the island is approximately 250km from north to south, 150km east to west – it's possible to explore the best of Hainan's golf without too much fuss by hiring a car and driver or by booking golfing packages through respected agencies such as Golf007 (www.golf007.com). The main golfing centres are found around the island's capital Haikou in the north, Boao in the east, and Yalong Bay near Sanya in the south.

Hong Kong Airlines has direct daily flights from Hong Kong to both Haikou (1hr 15mins) and Sanya (1hr 20mins).

If you have time, a good itinerary is to fly into Haikou and travel down the east coast before spending a few days golfing and hitting the beach in Yalong Bay before flying out of Sanya's Phoenix International Airport.

Climate

The best time to visit Hainan is in the dry autumn and winter months (Oct-Apr) when the temperature hovers between 17 and 24 degrees Celsius and when there's little threat of a typhoon. Summers can be extremely hot, humid and wet, although golf is possible throughout the year.

If, as the saying goes, a week is a long time in politics, then five years in modern China is an absolute eternity. Up until the turn of the century, the only thing most people knew about Hainan was the tasty chicken and rice dish that bares its name. Understandable, given that the bulk of its GDP derived from fishing and agriculture meaning foreigners, looking to make a quick buck or otherwise, had zero reason to be interested in the place.

However, like in the rest of the economic miracle that is the Middle Kingdom of today, vast change has swept through this tropical island situated off the southern Guangdong coast, but not in the same way that has turned the mainland cities of Shanghai, Beijing and Shenzhen into roaring industrial and commercial powerhouses. Instead, Hainan has become the place to kick back and relax, the place to soak up the sun and slosh around in the surf. Think of it, as the Chinese Tourism Politburo (or whatever it calls itself these days) likes to, as the Hawaii of the Orient, just with less oversized retirees attired in zany-coloured shirts.

Hainan's transformation from isolated backwater to traveller haven has been nothing short of staggering. Aided by massive government investment (and attractive tax-free concessions for foreign developers) parts of the island – most significantly along the southern and eastern seaboard – are now awash with luxurious hotels and resorts, all catering for a diverse mix of Chinese and increasingly Asian and European visitors. The Miss World beauty pageant made Hainan its home for the 2004 and 2005 grand finals and the Boao Forum for Asia – Asia's version of the World Economic Forum, which brings together leaders from across the continent – takes place on the island every year. Golf, we're delighted to say, has taken its place in the limelight as well and the province is now extremely well-equipped to handle the demands of travellers who come with the intention of teeing it up.

Haikou

Meishi Mayflower International Golf Club (美視)

88 West Binhai Rd, Haikou City

Website: www.meishi-mayflower.com

Designed by Colin Montgomerie

Yardage: 7,252 Par: 72

This Colin Montgomerie-designed 18 hole layout, one of Haikou's better courses, is bordered by mature pine trees and can be a brute of a track if tackled from the tips. From way back there it measures well over 7,200 yards so a drop down to the whites will ensure a much more enjoyable round for most. Built on flat land to the west of Hainan's capital, the course offers nice views of the coastline and features huge bunkers and enough water to keep even the best golfers on their toes. Hongkongers who play

here will be reminded of that other Monty design in Guangdong province – Zhuhai Golden Golf Club. Meishi is perhaps not the most charismatic of courses but it's certainly convenient for those flying into Haikou.

Wenchang Golf Club (文昌)

Wenchang, Haikou City

Designed by Albert Chua

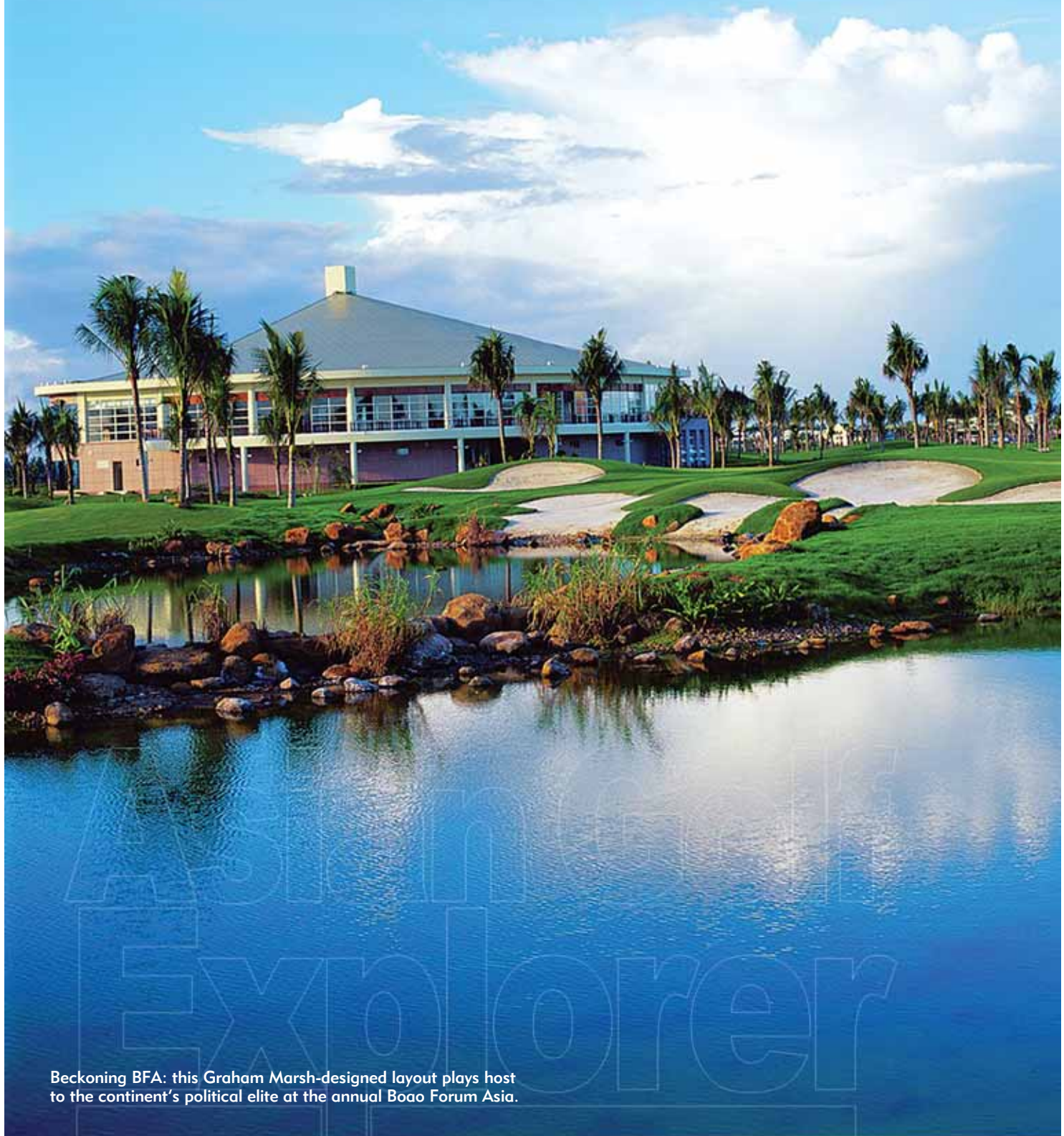
Yardage: 7,129 Par: 72

Beautiful Wenchang, situated about forty five minutes from the city centre on the island's eastern seaboard, is certainly one of those courses you won't forget in a hurry. Narrow landing areas, vast fairway and greenside bunkering and water-guarded greens all add up to make this a considerable test for players of all abilities. Although the course lacks



Island holiday (clockwise from top right): laid-back surrounds at Sun Valley; first-class accommodations prevail on the island; the imposing clubhouse at Meishi Mayflower in Haikou; hit the beaches in the south; stop for a coconut at Kangle.





Beckoning BFA: this Graham Marsh-designed layout plays host to the continent's political elite at the annual Boao Forum Asia.

significant elevation change, the difficulty of Wenchang, like all coastal courses, depends largely on the sea breezes, which can get particularly strong in the afternoon. An added feature of the course is the use of irregular-shaped mounds and humps around the greens. The course is also home to one of the most dastardly par-fours in China – the monster 498-yard sixteenth, which features water and huge bunkers aplenty.

Where to Stay: Located on the coastal strip to the west of the city, **New State Guesthouse**, despite its rather misleading name, is a 5-star resort and a good choice for those who want to combine beach life and golf: it's only ten minutes from Meishi Mayflower Golf Club. **Wenchang Golf Club** has a decent array of rooms and suites in their accommodation annex.

East Coast Region

BFA International Convention Center Golf Club (博鳌亞洲論壇)

Donggyu Island, Boao, Qionghai.

Designed by Graham Marsh

Yardage: 7,129 Par: 72

Situated next to the sumptuous Boao Sofitel hotel, this Graham Marsh-designed resort course was built with the recreational golfer in mind and is a beautifully manicured palm-fringed layout that golfers of all abilities will enjoy. Featuring huge white-sand bunkers but little in the way of elevation change, the course's main defense lies in its highly contoured greens and the wind that blows in off the sea during afternoon play. Certainly not the most difficult course you'll ever play but surely one of the most attractive. Another plus here are the caddies: they're among the most knowledgeable in China and are highly adept at reading the tricky putting surfaces.

Boao Golf Club (博鳌鄉村)

Shapo Island, Boao Aquapolis, Qionghai

Website: www.boaogolf.com

Designed by Yuji Azuma

Yardage: 7,019 yards Par: 72

Undoubtedly the most challenging course on the island, this is a wonderful links track which calls for unerring accuracy from the tee and a deft touch on its small slick greens. To say that true links courses are a rarity in Asia is something of an understatement so Boao Golf Club is a definite 'must-play' during your stay....but only if you're playing well! Like BFA, which is right next door, Boao GC is made even tougher during windy conditions and visitors can be forgiven for thinking they had just been transported to the east coast of Scotland when playing here. Travelling time from Haikou International Airport to both clubs is around one hour.

Where to Stay: The **Sofitel Boao** is one of China's truly great hotels and extremely convenient for those wanting to stay within pitching wedge distance of BFA and Boao Golf Club. The hotel is located on the beachfront and offers an array of watersports which might come in useful if you're travelling with non-golfers.



Wanning

Kangle Garden & Spa Golf Club (康樂園)

Xinglong Town, Wanning

Website: www.kangleresort.com

Designed by Robert McFarland

Yardage: 7,201 Par: 72

Situated about an hour's drive north of Sanya, the up-and-coming Wanning district of Hainan is now home to a few courses, of which Kangle, part of the ever-expanding Hainan Airlines HNA resort, is the oldest and still one of the best. The clubhouse interior might be beginning to show its age but this 18-hole course is a wonderful tree-lined layout that is known for its meticulous conditioning and offers plenty of risk-rewards opportunities. While the fairways are generous – some of the holes feature a unique design concept: twin fairways – golfers will have to avoid the water which borders many of the holes. Look out for the seventeenth – it's a par-three with an island green, reminiscent of the famous seventeenth at the TPC Sawgrass, home of the PGA's Players' Championship.



Wanning welcome: Kangle's water-laced seventeenth and starter's hut.

REGIONAL Golf

Sun River Golf Club (太陽河)

Xinglong Town, Wanning

Website: www.kangleresort.com

Designed by Robert McFarland

Yardage: 7,235 Par: 72

The second course developed by HNA, Sun River is one of the most enjoyable courses on the island to play, and the perfect place for the recreational golfer. This is a course of two halves. The front nine allows golfers to ease themselves into the round, because of the nice wide landing areas and large, generally flat greens. But all this is a bluff, designed to catch you off guard before playing the much more testing back nine. Constant elevation change, long carries over water, large unforgiving bunkers, narrow fairways, small greens and blind shots characterize this final stretch of holes, and it'll take all your concentration to master it in anything close to your handicap.

Rubber Tree Golf Club (橡樹林)

Xinglong Town, Wanning

Website: www.kangleresort.com

Designed by Robert McFarland

Yardage: 7,201 Par: 72

This brand new course, the third in the HNA Kangle stable, is arguably the toughest in southern Hainan for the recreational golfer to play. Sited on undulating terrain, the dramatic layout features narrow fairways surrounded by unforgiving jungle-like rough and ravines. Put simply, this is one course where you *have* to keep it on the fairways. Water, too, is very much in play, so visitors should come armed with an ample supply of balls. Although it's undoubtedly challenging, Rubber Tree is also a staggering beautiful track, because of its magnificent natural setting. Watch out where you play from though: from the blue tees it measures in excess of 6,700 yards, so a step down to the whites might be preferable for first timers.



Where to Stay: The HNA Resort at Kangle Garden houses some 700 rooms and includes a plethora of other leisure pursuits, including swimming pools, hot springs, massage and ten pin bowling. Dining options include a seafood restaurant, a Korean restaurant and a poolside barbeque.

Yalong Bay National District (Sanya)

Yalong Bay Golf Club (亞龍灣)

Yalong Bay National Resort, Sanya City

Website: www.yalongbaygolfclub.com

Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Yardage: 7,116 Par: 72

Hainan's most famous course, this very playable 18-hole layout, a thirty minute drive from Sanya's Phoenix International Airport, was designed by legendary American architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., and has hosted numerous professional tournaments since opening in 1999. Yalong Bay is generally flat but features exciting bunkering and plenty of water making it a stern challenge in places, especially when the wind picks up. Thousands of palm trees dot the course and with Yalong Bay's beautiful crescent beach just a five minute walk from the well-equipped clubhouse, there's a definite tropical feel about proceedings here. Perhaps because the club is so used to preparing for international tour events, course conditioning is usually second to none.

Sun Valley Golf Club (紅峽谷)

Yalong Bay National Resort, Sanya City

Designed by JMP(Mark Hollinger)

Yardage: 7,875 Par: 73

Just a ten minute drive from the resorts of Yalong Bay, Sun Valley Golf Club is one of the most intriguing courses to have opened in China in recent years. Part desert-feel, part tropical-feel, this lengthy par-73 layout lies on quite rugged terrain and features some memorable holes, the most famous of which is the 828-yard par-six eighteenth – the longest hole in the Middle Kingdom. Although it is long and well-bunkered, the course is made all the more playable by generally wide fairways. Definitely worth a visit and its proximity to Yalong Bay Golf Club means that playing thirty-six holes in one day is a distinct possibility.

Where to Stay: Yalong Bay is crammed full of five-star hotels and resorts so you're really spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing first-rate accommodations. The **Hilton Sanya Resort**, situated on a sandy stretch of shore at the western end of Yalong Bay, has made waves since opening in 2006, while the **Sheraton Sanya Resort** has an equally enviable reputation. Despite not being located slap bang on the beach (although it does have beach access), the **Crowne Plaza Sanya** is another fine option and boasts some of the best rooms in Yalong Bay. **AGE**

TO BOOK CALL + 852 2187 3146



Heavenly Hainan (clockwise from top): Miss World at Yalong Bay; don't miss the fairway at Sun River; part desert feel, part tropical feel at Sun Valley (2); view from the Sofitel Boao.



Airways to Fairways...

With Hong Kong Airlines Golf Vacations

The SAR's newest carrier, Hong Kong Airlines, has launched a series of affordable golf packages to cities across China and Vietnam. Equipped with the youngest passenger fleet in the world (each of their next-generation 737-800s has come straight from the Boeing production line) and an ever-expanding network, the carrier's arrival is a welcome boost for golfers across Hong Kong. Apart from adding an exciting list of new golf destinations for us to try, the airline have committed themselves to not including golf bags as part of the overall baggage allowance – hallelujah! No wonder they bill themselves as the airline of choice for Hong Kong golfers.

For more packages and offers visit www.hkagolfvacations.com or call (852) 2127 4677.



HONGKONG AIRLINES
香港航空

SOUTHEASTERN DEALS

Still the best: Spring City in Kunming reigns supreme.

THE PLACE	KUNMING 昆明 -Flight time: 2hrs 20mins.	KUNMING 昆明 -Flight time: 2hrs 20mins.	GUILIN 桂林 -Flight time: 1hr 20mins.	NANNING 南寧 -Flight time: 1hr 30mins.
THE DEAL	<p>Spring City (春城) Package: 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at Lake + Mountain courses; club resort stay; daily breakfast; one dinner; airport transfer; 1 complimentary round for Mon + Wed departure.</p> 	<p>Sunshine (陽光) + Lakeview (滇池) Package: 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at Sunshine + Lakeview; Harbour Plaza Hotel (海逸酒店) stay; daily breakfast, airport transfer.</p> 	<p>Merryland (樂滿地) Package: 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 days unlimited golf; club resort stay; daily breakfast; 2 club lunch; airport + club transfer.</p> 	<p>Nanning Package: 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; unlimited golf at Gentle Uptown (嘉和城) + Greenville (青秀山); Jin Hua Hotel (錦華大酒店) stay; daily breakfast; access to Gentle Uptown hot spring; airport + club transfer.</p> 
THE GOLF	<p>Golf doesn't get any better than at Spring City. The Nicklaus-designed Mountain Course is a breathtaking track that winds its way through pine-clad countryside, while the Lake Course, a Trent Jones Jr. creation, is a superb test featuring plenty of water and elevation change. Both courses are in routinely superb condition.</p>	<p>Nick Faldo's Lakeview is a fabulously bunkered course and offers great variety, while the Trent Jones Jr.-designed Sunshine offers spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. Both courses benefit from that superb Kunming climate, meaning the playing surfaces are first-class.</p>	<p>The pick of the courses in beautiful Guilin, this rolling course features plenty of water and is part of the impressive Merryland resort area, which also includes a five-star hotel, children's theme park and a variety of leisure pursuits for the active traveller.</p>	<p>Beautiful lakes and cavernous greenside bunkering typifies the five-star golf resort of Gentle Uptown, while Greenville, situated at the foot of Qingxiu Mountain and along the banks of Yongjiang River, occupies one of the most dramatic locations of any course in China.</p>
PRICE	<p>From HK\$4,290 (twin-share). From HK\$4,290 (non-golfer; includes spa package).</p>	<p>From HK\$4,090 (twin-share). From HK\$2,490 (non golfer).</p>	<p>From HK\$3,190 (twin-share). From HK\$2,390 (non-golfer).</p>	<p>From HK\$2,990 (twin-share). From HK\$1,990 (non-golfer).</p>
EXTRAS	<p>HK\$1300 upgrade to business class.</p>	<p>HK\$1300 upgrade to business class.</p>	<p>HK\$1,800 upgrade to business class.</p>	<p>HK\$1,900 upgrade to business class.</p>

*Prices exclude airport tax, security charge and fuel surcharge. Additional expenses for carts and caddies may be required locally. Visit www.hkagolfvacations.com or call +852 2127 4677 for details.

SOUTHERN DEALS



Blinding bunkering: the BFA course at Boao features great swathes of white sand.

THE PLACE	HAIKOU 海口 (Hainan Island 海南島) - Flight time: 1hr10mins.	HAIKOU 海口 (Hainan Island 海南島) - Flight time: 1hr10mins.	HANOI 河內 (Vietnam 越南) - Flight time: 2hrs.
THE DEAL	<p>Boao BFA (博鰲亞洲論壇) /Sofitel: 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at BFA; Sofitel Hotel (索菲特酒店) stay; daily breakfast, airport transfer; access to hotel hot spring and pool; 1hr foot massage.</p> 	<p>Haikou Deluxe (Sheraton): 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at West Coast (西海岸) and Meishi (美視); Sheraton Hotel (喜來登酒店) stay; daily breakfast; airport + club transfer.</p> 	<p>Hanoi Package: 4 days / 3 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at King's Island + Chi Linh Star; Zephyr Hotel stay; daily breakfast; half day city tour; airport, club + tourist spots transfer.</p> 
THE GOLF	<p>BFA is a beautifully manicured Graham Marsh-designed resort course featuring generous palm-fringed fairways, spectacular white sand bunkers and the imaginative use of water. Undoubtedly one of the top resorts in China; suits players of all standards.</p>	<p>West Coast GC is an exciting water-laced layout from the world famous Dye Design Group, while Meishi Mayflower is a lengthy Colin Montgomerie-designed track known for its large greenside bunkering and excellent playing surfaces.</p>	<p>Perched on the shores of beautiful Dong Mo Lake, King's Island has two tracks: the traditional-style Lakeside Course and the newer, more modern Mountainview Course. Chi Linh Star, meanwhile, is an excellent 18-hole course featuring plenty of risk-reward opportunities.</p>
PRICE	<p>From HK\$2,290 (twin-share). From HK \$2,190 (non-golfer).</p>	<p>From HK\$2,780 (twin-share). From HK\$1,990 (non-golfer).</p>	<p>From HK\$3,890 (twin-share). From HK\$2,990 (non-golfer).</p>
EXTRAS	<p>HK\$1,600 upgrade to business class.</p>	<p>HK\$1,600 upgrade to business class.</p>	<p>HK\$3,000 upgrade to business class. Additional rounds: HK\$760 (King's Island) HK\$610 (Chi Linh Star). Sheraton Hotel also available.</p>

*Prices exclude airport tax, security charge and fuel surcharge. Additional expenses for carts and caddies may be required locally. Visit www.hkagolfvacations.com or call +852 2127 4677 for details.

EAST COAST DEALS



Closely kept secret: linksy Trans Strait Golf Club is an absolute gem.

THE PLACE	QINGDAO 青島 - Flight time: 3hrs	FUZHOU 福州 - Flight Time: 1hr 30mins	XIAMEN 廈門 -Flight time: 1hr 35mins.
THE DEAL	Tiger Beach (海洋旭寶)+ Tian Tai (天泰): 4 days / 3 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at Tiger Beach + Tian Tai; club resort + downtown hotel stay; daily breakfast; airport + club transfer. 	Fuzhou Package: 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at a choice of Trans Strait (海峽), Fuzhou Hot Spring (福州溫泉), Summit + Amai (新東陽); Ramada Hotel (華美達酒店) stay; daily breakfast, airport + club transfer. 	Kai Kou Package: 3 days / 2 nights; roundtrip flights; 2 rounds at Kai Kou (凱歌); club resort stay; daily breakfast; airport transfer. 
THE GOLF	Windswept Tiger Beach Golf Links, with its pot bunkers and knee-high fescue, is undoubtedly the most unique course in Asia, one that wouldn't look out of place on the east coast of Scotland, while Tian Tai is a more modern-style track situated at the foot of mystical Mount Tai.	Fuzhou could be the best kept secret in Chinese golf. All four of these courses are situated in scenic surrounds and offer contrasting challenges to the recreational player. Special mention, though, for Trans Strait GC: a cracking Trent Jones Jr.-designed links-style track, one of the true hidden gems in Asian golf.	This Greg Norman-designed thriller features plenty of risk-reward features and breathtaking challenges. Situated on hilly terrain, the course is a definite test for players of all skill levels, although the Shark has kept the fairways wide to allow higher handicappers to enjoy themselves.
PRICE	From HK\$3,890 (twin-share). From HK\$2,690 (non-golfer)	From HK\$2,790 (twin-share). From HK\$1,780 (non-golfer).	From HK\$2,290 (twin-share). From HK\$1,590 (non-golfer).
EXTRAS	HK\$2,500 upgrade to business class. Shangri-La Hotel upgrade available.	HK\$2,100 upgrade to business class. Shangri-La Hotel upgrade available.	HK\$1,600 upgrade to business class. Extend trip by one night (HK\$600) and enjoy unlimited golf on day 4.

*Prices exclude airport tax, security charge and fuel surcharge. Additional expenses for carts and caddies may be required locally. Visit www.hkagolfvacations.com or call +852 2127 4677 for details.

INTERVIEW

There haven't been many people better placed to witness the development of golf in Hong Kong than Lee Parker. Since arriving in the territory over three decades ago, Lee has seen it all at first hand, firstly as a teaching pro at the Hong Kong Golf Club in Deep Water Bay and then later as director of golf at Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club. We caught up with Hong Kong's most experienced golf professional for this month's Quick 18.

A Quick 18: LEE PARKER

AGE: What attracted you to apply for the job at the then Royal Hong Kong Golf Club, and what was the application process?

LP: The early 70's was not a great time to be in the UK, and while I had built up a good coaching business at my home club, economic necessity and ambition got me looking around for 'my own job'. Also, I was a bit fed up with the weather and as I had just married an Austrian girl, the idea of finding pastures new overseas was not difficult. After looking for work in the UK and Europe, without much success, I saw an advert in *Golf Illustrated* for a teaching position at Royal Hong Kong Golf Club. That was in the spring of '75 and I met with Joe Hardwick. Joe interviewed 6 from the original 56 applicants and said he was looking for a teaching pro to work at Deep Water Bay and who was interested in coaching and not tournament play. He also stipulated that he wanted someone who was married with no children and a non-drinker! After a second meeting with the wives and Joe's two young daughters he told me that subject to committee approval I had got the job. I arrived in HK on 29th Oct 1975 and took up residence at Deep Water Bay in December.

AGE: How long did you think you'd be in Hong Kong?

LP: When I first arrived I thought five to seven years. My ambition was still to

be a club pro and in '75 there was only one in Hong Kong, which was about to become available. By the end of the 70's though, Discovery Bay and Clearwater Bay were becoming realities and I guessed there would be opportunities when they opened.

AGE: What were your impressions of the state of golf in Hong Kong when you arrived?

LP: Small but very active, and not enough facilities.

AGE: What do you think of the state of golf in HK today?

LP: Bigger and more active. Kau Sai Chau has changed things immeasurably for the better. There are still nowhere near enough facilities for a rich city of 7 million. It would be great if their more permanent ranges and full length nine hole courses, which would introduce more people, youngsters especially, to the game. Clearly, building courses in such a mountainous place as Hong Kong is expensive, but you certainly don't need 7000-yard 'Championship' courses to make the game more available and less costly. Golf doesn't have to be a considered or be a rich man's game, nor environmentally damaging.

AGE: How do Hong Kong golfers differ in their approach to learning golf as opposed to, say, the English?

LP: Hong Kong golfers spend more time on the range, making full swings, less on course playing, because of the lack of facilities. I sense that here there is a belief that the game can be taught rather than something that has to be learned; being a physcomotorskill and not a subject like maths or physics. Knowledge first, then understanding and finally skill, which is a product of 'doing'.

AGE: What's the most common mistake you see amateur golfers make?

LP: Poor holding of the club and poor aiming. Not 'reading' the lie of the ball well and not choosing the right club or type of shot for the 'shot at hand'.

AGE: How important is custom club fitting for amateur golfers?

LP: Very. Accurately fitted clubs improves posture and therefore the ability of the golfer to make a dynamically balanced swing motion. A shaft that has the weight and bending characteristics that helps the golfer time the shot. Loft that matches swing speed and maximizes launch angle and carry, together with a grip size that allows the golf to hold the club effectively. Head design, blade, perimeter weighting, off set, non-offset. All of these and much more can either help or hinder the golfers ability to create the ball flight and swing motion they are looking for. The ball only reacts to golf club! The golfer reacts to the golf ball!

AGE: How often are you playing nowadays?

LP: More than at any time in the last 20 years. 70 rounds in '06. Trying for more in '07; 3 times a week every week would be great. I love the game and it's endless challenges and variety. The walking is great exercise; always feel I have played more when I've walked. Driving around in a cart doesn't quite seem like golf to me.

AGE: What's your lowest ever round?

LP: I have shot 66 twice. The first time at Batchwood Hall and the second time around the Old Course at Fanling.

AGE: What's the biggest myth in golf?

LP: That it's a power game. How can that be when 70% of shots played are less than 100 yards long? Clearly to play golf at the highest levels you have to hit the ball far enough, but those who do play at the highest levels all have unbelievably good short games and are excellent putters.

AGE: Favourite courses in Asia?

LP: I enjoy courses where the wind is a factor, so I would have to go with Clearwater Bay and the North Course at Kau Sai Chau. The variety of the three courses at Fanling is unique and very special.

AGE: Favourite course in the world?

LP: Cruden Bay, near Aberdeen, Scotland.

AGE: Favourite hotel in Asia?

LP: The Peninsula Hong Kong.

AGE: What's the most bizarre thing you've seen on a golf course?

LP: Two golfers coming to blows after a near miss with a golf ball and an 'insincere'



Lee Parker Bio

Born in Stockport, Cheshire, England and grew up in St Albans, Hertfordshire where he learned and played golf at Batchwood Hall, a local public course where an annual junior season ticket cost just one pound and ten shillings.

Lee turned pro there in October 1966 as a 15-year-old 8 handicapper, which meant working in the pro shop and learning the 'trade': keeping the stock clean, doing club repairs, selling balls, tees and gloves. Received one lesson a week from his boss and practiced before and after work, picking up his own balls – on a practice green, not a driving range. Watched his boss coach, and eventually started teaching, which he found really enjoyable and especially satisfying when his students improved.

In January 1971, Lee attended and qualified for PGA membership at the PGA Training School in Lilleshall. It was a 2-week residential program – focusing on club repairs, coaching, pro shop management and a playing ability test – with a written, oral, and practical examination at the end. He arrived in Hong Kong in 1975 and was installed at Deep Water Bay as a teaching pro, where he stayed until 1982. Lee was then appointed director of golf at Clearwater Bay, and remained so until 2001. Lee is currently the regional director of Asia for Henry-Griffitts Precision Cut Golf Clubs, the director of training at the Hong Kong Professional Golf Association and is a partner in the Golf School of Hong Kong along with fellow pros Mark Smith and Vaughan Mason.

Playing Achievements

Hong Kong World Cup Representative in 1980 and 1983.

HKPGA Champion 1982.

Hong Kong Representative Dunhill Cup Asia-Pacific Qualifiers in 1985.

Contact

To book a lesson with Lee contact him on 9126-1413 or email him at lee@thegolfschool.hk.

apology. Secondly, a golf cart sliding gracefully, fully loaded into a water hazard.

AGE: What do you hate to see on the golf course?

LP: Junior golfers riding on golf carts. Golfers who don't repair ball marks, replace divots, repair ball marks, walk up the front face of bunkers and slow golfers. Design-wise I don't like seeing forced carries, which offer no alternative shot to the green or fairway.

AGE: If there were one rule you could change, what would it be?

LP: Prohibit the use of long putters.

AGE: Who's the best player in the history of Hong Kong golf?

LP: I'll give you two. Firstly, Yau Sui Ming. He beat David Graham, a US Open Champion, around the Old Course, St Andrews at the 1985 Dunhill Cup. Secondly, Jock Mackie who, to the best of my knowledge, is the only HK golfer to play in the Open Championship – Muirfield in 1959.

AGE: Dream fourball?

LP: Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Joe Hardwick and myself. **AGE**

Lee's Bag

All Henry-Griffitts:

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Fairway Wood
Rescue 3
Rescue 4
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PW 48 degrees
TW 52 degrees
SW 56 degrees
H-G Fit 2 Aim putter
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TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY...

Considering joining a club in southern China? We sat down and quizzed the nice folk at Sandia, Hong Kong's membership experts.

AGE: For those who are unfamiliar with golf club memberships in China, how does one go about joining?

Sandia: There are two ways of buying club membership in China. Firstly, you can buy directly from the club, but only if they haven't already sold their quota of memberships. If they have availability then you can apply directly through them. This is a usually a very simple

process, but the price of the membership is fixed by the club. Alternatively, you can buy on the second hand market when someone who owns membership wishes to sell. The price is generally less than buying a first hand membership. If there are many people trying to sell their memberships of a particular club then the second hand price of that club could be as much as 50% cheaper than the club's

original fixed price.

The only way to sell a membership is through the second hand market. If the seller holds a debenture then they can request a refund of the debenture through the club, but there are usually many restrictions which apply. For instance, many clubs will only refund debentures if the seller has held membership for a minimum of ten years.

AGE: What is the current state of the club membership market in China – does demand meet the supply?

Sandia: If you consider China as a whole then no it doesn't. Take Shanghai for example. While the number of local Chinese who join clubs is increasing, the majority of members are still foreigners – Taiwanese, Korean, Japanese and even Hong Kongers. However, in Guangdong, and the clubs closest to Hong Kong in particular, the situation is much better. Club management has improved, which, along with the strong economy, has encouraged more people to buy memberships. In this region, demand meets supply.

AGE: But why should anyone buy golf club membership in southern China when the majority of clubs are not strictly private and allow visitors to play there?

Sandia: Not all the clubs are open to the public seven days a week; indeed, a few of the especially well-regarded clubs won't permit visitors to play at any time. Also, many clubs reserve the weekends for members' play only. As a member of a club, you have a number of special privileges: no need to pay green fee, you can make advance bookings and you can invite guests. Golf club membership symbolizes stature and many people buy it for this very reason.

AGE: Many people look at buying golf club membership as an investment. Should it be treated this way?

Sandia: The membership market is not like the stock market or the property market, where it is easy to buy and sell. First of all, there aren't that many memberships available for either buying or selling on the second hand market. If you want to sell a membership, it can take a relatively long time to do so, because there has to be a buyer. The process can take as much as six months in some cases. Also, you have to pay a transfer fee to the club when you sell, which is usually between 10-50% of the original membership price. The number one reason why people should buy membership is if they love golf. Then they can get full use and enjoyment out of it. The price of golf club memberships don't generally fluctuate a vast amount over a short period of time. There are some exceptions of course.

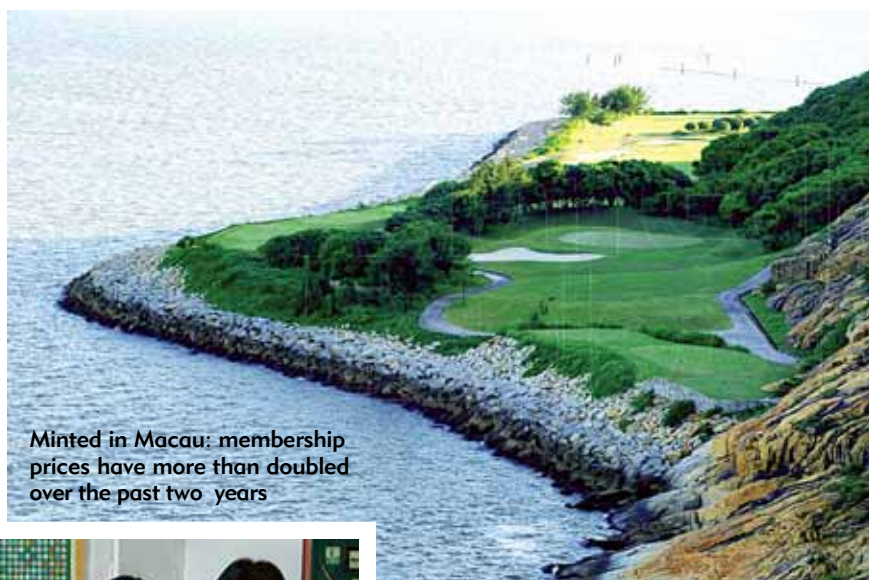
AGE: Care to name an exception?

Sandia: Macau Golf & Country Club is a good example. Its current market price is almost HK\$500,000, which is more than double what it was only two years ago.

AGE: What about renting memberships. What are the pros and cons?

Sandia: There are risks when you consider renting a membership. Renting a membership is typically limited to only one or two years and you cannot extend it, unless the owner agrees to extend the lease when the contract expires. Therefore, if you wish to rent for longer you need to find another owner -or another club - and pay another re-nomination fee. If you're likely to play a lot of golf then renting can work out to be good value. But there can be problems for people wanting to rent out their own membership as well. Golf clubs don't regard renting as an official method of membership and some clubs have been known to block rentals by rejecting re-nominations.

AGE: What is the advantage of using a club membership agency such as Sandia?



Minted in Macau: membership prices have more than doubled over the past two years



About Sandia

Originally established in Japan, Sandia is Hong Kong's oldest specialized membership broker and has operated in the region since 1990. For a full list of current club membership prices and more information visit their website at www.sandia.co.jp/mship or email them directly at sandiahk@sandia.co.jp

Sandia: A reputable agency will firstly help find either a buyer or seller and help negotiate a price and the payment terms. Furthermore, an agency will arrange all the transfer documents so that you don't have to deal with the club. They will also act as a consults and can advise which clubs to consider depending on your circumstances and needs.

AGE: Rumour has it that a corporate debenture at Hong Kong Golf Club will cost over HK\$8 million. Is this true?

Sandia: Well, there are very few corporate debentures at the Hong Kong Golf Club – less than two hundred out of the total membership of around 2,400 – and none are currently available on the market. If one does become available, however, we expect the price – including the transfer fee – to be around HK\$8.4 million. The transfer fee alone is over HK\$1.6 million.

AGE: And there are people out there willing to fork out that kind of money?

Sandia: Oh yes, corporations mostly. There wouldn't be much problem finding a buyer, that's for sure. **AGE**



Nike Dri-Fit Tiger Woods Shirts While everyone else sweated their way around Southern Hills Country Club during last month's ultra steamy PGA Championship, Tiger Woods, sporting the new Nike DRI-FIT line of lightweight polo shirts, was the epitome of cool as he notched up his thirteenth major championship. "He's incredible," noted one of Woods' playing competitors, "not only does he play better than the rest of us; he doesn't seem to feel the heat as much as us either. When it's as hot as it is here, that's a huge advantage." Now released on general sale, you too can look the part in the same four colours that Tiger wore during the tournament: blue for Thursday, white for Friday, yellow for Saturday and, of course, that trademark red for Sunday.

**HK\$680-HK\$770. Call (86)755-2550-1361
or visit www.nikegolf.com**

Tifosi This super-cool range of affordable eyewear, models of which are available from branches of Royal Sporting House stores, don't just look great - they feature a whole bunch of nifty technology that golfers and non-golfers alike will just love. Top of the list of features are extremely durable, flexible and lightweight frames and shatterproof polycarbonate lenses, which make them pretty much indestructible.

HK\$259-HK\$499. Call (852)2270-0730 or visit www.tifosioptics.com



Yes! Golf: Abbie + Valerie Yes! Golf is on something of a roll (seriously, no pun intended). Not only is the brand, famed for its C-Grooves which help generate more topspin on putts, popping up in the bags of more and more tour pros, but the Denver-based company is starting to introduce new models at the rate of its larger competitors. And their latest release – the Abbie – could be the best of the lot. Forged from 1025 carbon steel, the Abbie is a traditional cavity back blade and offers an amazingly soft feel. Combine this with its classic looks and you have one of the most beautiful putters in existence. The manufacturer's other new release is the Valerie, an attractive mallet-style putter with a single sight line for easy alignment. Both models feature 2.5 degrees of loft and a lie angle of 72 degrees as standard.

Approximately HK\$2,340 (Abbie) HK\$1,480 (Valerie).
Call (852)2889-1050 or visit www.yesgolf.com



Valerie

Abbie



TaylorMade Women's Burner

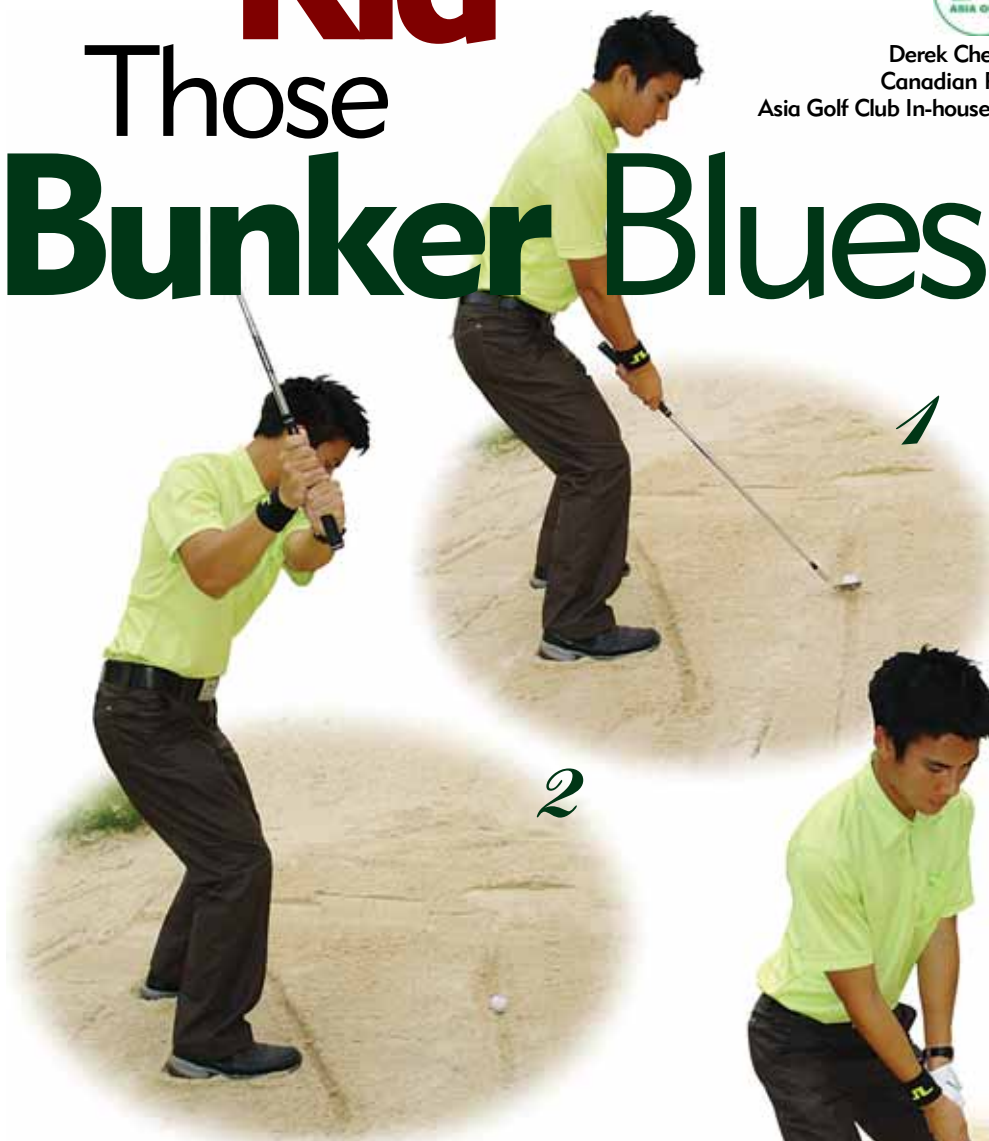
Following the successful launch of the TaylorMade Burner range for men, the brand has introduced three new Burner models for the ladies: a driver, fairway wood and rescue hybrid all decked out in a light blue colour scheme. Each of these sleek new clubs incorporates advanced technologies developed, the manufacturer says, to make it easier for women golfers to swing faster and to launch the ball into the air on a higher, longer-carrying flight. Like the men's version, the women's Burner range features a longer lighter weight shaft than standard and Winn grips.

HK\$4,475 (Driver) HK\$2,400 (Fairway) HK\$2,200 (Rescue). Call (852)2149-3888 or visit www.taylormadegolf.com

Rid Those Bunker Blues



Derek Cheung
Canadian PGA
Asia Golf Club In-house Pro



A common error in the bunker for most golfers is the set up. The first thing that needs to be done is to have an **open clubface**, but be careful now; this is when it starts to get tricky. The leading edge of the blade must be aligned with the target; in order to achieve this, your **stance must be aiming left** and open to the target (photo 1). Widen your stance and dig your feet into the sand as this will ensure a **solid base**. As for lower body movement, your legs are to be relatively 'quiet' while your shoulders, arms, and upper body rotate.

The backswing during a bunker shot should be in an upright direction – take the club back **almost outside the swing plane** (photo 2). On the way down you want to **cut across** the line without turning your right hand over, leaving the clubface open with the grooves facing towards you in the finish position. Contact should be made as if the ball is sitting on top of a \$100 bill (photo 3), awaiting your club head to **BLAST IT OUT** onto the green. The club head should enter the sand at the edge of the bill approximately **2 inches behind the ball**. Always be sure to follow through the ball and **don't decelerate**. Confidence is key when playing from bunkers, so remember to practice this before your next game. Good luck! **AGE**

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