

SPH GOLF TRAVEL FAIR 2019 SET TO BE THE BIGGEST EVER

Since the inaugural SPH Travel Fair held earlier in the year at Marina Square Shopping Mall, interest among the golf and travel industry has piqued towards the second iteration of the highly successful golf-centric travel fair.

In anticipation of more offerings and increasing visitorship, the SPH Golf Travel Fair 2019 will take place at Takashimaya Square and, in addition to the bigger venue, will see the fair stretch across four days from March 21 to 24.

Within this month alone, even more golf clubs from around the region have confirmed their participation such as Foison Golf Club (CHN), Thana City Country Club (THAI) and familiar names among the local golfing community such as Indonesia's Bintan Lagoon Resort, Palm Springs Golf & Beach Resort, Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club and Kota Permai Golf & Country Club in Malaysia.

AccorHotels' Hotel Baraquda Pattaya MGallery by Sofitel and Mercure Pattaya Hotel, located within the increasingly popular beachside destination of eastern Thailand, add to the list of hoteliers that will be present at the upcoming fair.

Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Indonesia and Tourism Malaysia will also be present, where they will feature various golfing destinations within the four Country Pavilions at the fair.

However aside from golf, the SPH Golf Travel Fair 2019 will also place an equal emphasis on the other aspects of golf tourism.

Visitors to the fair can also expect exhibitors such as Royal Brunei Airlines, China golf tour operator HaiKou Nice Golf Co. and Sakura Residence – Malaysia's first luxury prefabricated landed property that utilises Japanese technology, nestled in Sunway Iskandar, Johor.

— Jeremy Theseira



A familiar name among the local golfing community is Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club (above).



BY JEREMY THESEIRA RENAISSANCE PATTAYA RESORT & SPA

Located south of Pattaya City and its main attractions sits a stunning hotel with uninterrupted ocean views amidst a peaceful and tranquil setting, just slightly more than 90 minutes away from Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Opened in September 2017, the Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa is a luxurious beachfront resort, perfect as a romantic getaway for couples or a well-rounded holiday destination fit for the entire family.

The first of its kind for the Marriott International owned hotel chain in Pattaya, the Renaissance Pattaya Resort & Spa has just over 250 rooms that range from a 40 square metre Deluxe room, to a Beachfront Pool Villa with direct pool access, a private jacuzzi and a king size bed within the resort's only 285 square metre villa.

Facilities within the property consists of two outdoor swimming pools, a well-equipped fitness centre with 24-hour access, a luxury spa, as well as Treasure Kids Club and its separate kid's pool to keep the young ones entertained.

Guests can also choose from a range of food and beverage options, each with its own unique set of offerings.

The 609 Kitchen is the go-to place for all-round dining whereas The Pebbles Bar & Grill serves up premium steaks and seafood. After which, post-meal drinks can be enjoyed at the R Bar, a great place to sit back, relax and take in the beauty of the resort.

For the golf traveller, Renaissance Pattaya should be next on the list and for a good reason. Just a short 10-minute drive away is the newly opened Chee Chan Golf Resort, an 18-hole championship golf course which overlooks by the famous Khao Chi Chan – a 110-metre golden carving of Buddha that is a must-visit attraction when visiting Pattaya.



Located in the attractive and tranquil district of Na Jomtien, the low-rise resort offers a fashionable beachfront retreat within easy reach of the city's attractions.

HOTEL BARAQUDA PATTAYA AND MERCURE PATTAYA HOTEL

ACCORHOTEL CATERS TO A FULL SPECTRUM OF PATTAYA VISITORS AT ITS CENTRALLY-LOCATED DEVELOPMENTS

Just 90 minutes from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, Pattaya is fast becoming one of the hottest beachside destinations in the region.

As part of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), Pattaya makes up part of the three eastern provinces of Thailand that is slated for development at an investment of over US\$40 billion over the next five years.

Of the many areas that will be focused on, the expansion of U-Tapao Airport in the Rayong province will facilitate the already increasing amount of tourist arrivals.

Furthermore, plans for a High-Speed Rail linking Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang and U-Tapao have also been approved, with Pattaya being the first stop from U-Tapao Airport. Situated in the Chonburi Province, the resort city that overlooks the Gulf of Thailand is a vibrant metropolis that is popular for its beaches, attractions, shopping and nightlife.

Pattaya is also a great destination for sports with its close proximity to crystal clear diving sites and international standard golf courses such as Siam Country Club, Pattana Golf Club & Resort, and the recently opened Chee Chan Golf Resort with its breathtaking views of the famed Khao Chee Chan Buddha.

Opened in 2015, Hotel Baraquda Pattaya is a luxurious boutique hotel that is mere minutes from the beach.

One of the many boutique hotels of Sofitel's MGallery Collection, the 72 rooms of the five star hotel feature a contemporary and stylish design across three different categories – the Deluxe, Baraquda Suite and Grand Baraquda Suite.

Hotel Baraquda Pattaya also has an in-house spa, an outdoor pool with lounging beds, restaurant with all day dining and the Sunset Lounge for cocktails while enjoying the sunset on Pattaya Bay.

MERCURE PATTAYA HOTEL. For a family orientated getaway, the Mercure Pattaya Hotel is the perfect choice and is located within a short walking distance away from Hotel Baraquda Pattaya.

The 247 rooms of the Mercure Pattaya Hotel are divided into superior and deluxe rooms, corner suites, family suites and two exclusive suites

that are suitable for travellers across the board, including those who travel with their pets.

Although a myriad of activities and dining options are available starting from the foot of the hotel, Mercure Pattaya Hotel is packed with amenities to keep the family occupied on a rainy day.

Activities available range from sweat-inducing sports such as Aqua Gym classes, volleyball, water polo and golf chipping and putting, to more relaxed games such as billiards, darts and foosball. There is also a library and outdoor cinema for guests to sit back while the kids run wild.

Over at the Aqua Pool Bar & Café, an eclectic menu consisting of light bites, main courses and kid-friendly offerings can be enjoyed along with the finest cocktails prepared by skilled mixologists.

And for the sweet-toothed, Gateau Maison Bakery offers a delicious selection of cakes, pies and breads prepared under the watchful eye of Frederic Guison, a French native and former pâtissier at one of Bangkok's most famous bakeries "Le Boulanger", along with his team of bakery artisans. — Jeremy Theseira



Clockwise from above: The S.E.A. Restaurant at Hotel Baraquda Pattaya features all-day dining with an international spread to cater to a multitude of taste buds; The "fish-shaped" swimming pool is surrounded by a large selection of lounging options, with a Pool Bar for refreshing cocktails all day long; The rooftop restaurant offers stunning views of the Pattaya sunset.



A whole host of dining options and family activities can be found within Mercure Pattaya's Aqua Pool & Bar Club.