



Volume 10

PP 14252/10/2011(026531)

## Golfing in Perak



*Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort*

**P**erak may not be a big golfing state like Selangor and Penang where the number of courses and clubs per capita is staggering. At last count there are 10 golf clubs in the state ranging in size from the tiny 9-hole to the behemoth 27-hole clubs. The 9-hole clubs are vestiges of the colonial era.

The first golf club in the country was established in Taiping in 1894. The club's fairways, which once straddled the scenic Lake Gardens, are now defunct. Decommissioned in 1992, for reasons of safety, the course has been replaced by a newer 18-hole club at Bukit Jana, Kamunting.

Most of the bigger clubs come with very challenging 72-par courses where PGA-sanctioned tournaments are held regularly. Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort in Batu Gajah has often been regarded as the best golf course by golfing magazines. We will feature five premier golf courses in the state in this issue.

### foreword

#### Dato' Hamidah Osman

State Executive Councillor for Tourism



**T**he month of May has started and ended with a bang, literally. It began with the debut Match Racing Circuit in Lumut on May 11. The circuit has been recognised as one of the four boat races in the build up to the Monsoon Cup in Terengganu in November. It will be a permanent fixture in the state sport calendar forthwith.

Another sporting event of equal significance is the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament which will end on June 3. The tournament has brought six leading hockey nations to our shores. Although Malaysia is not among the top ten teams in the world, our squad, a mixed bag of youthful and seasoned campaigners, proved itself to be worthy opponents to the delight of its adoring fans.

Insofar as Visit Perak Year 2012 is concerned, let me remind the sceptical ones that it is right on track. In the course of the month my staff and I have made efforts to keep it on course by a number of initiatives. One such attempt is to make ambassadors out of taxi drivers. It is no mean task considering the attitude of taxi drivers. But however difficult they may be they can be changed, provided a sustained effort is made. In this respect, I wish to thank the Perak Tourist Guides' Association for walking the extra mile.

The tourism industry in Perak does not thrive on the deeds of a single individual. It is a collective effort which requires everyone in the industry. Therefore, I ask all those in the industry to lend me your hands to make VPY 2012 a success.

We are now into the sixth month of Visit Perak Year 2012. More activities are in the pipeline to ensure that the year-long programme meets its targets. Chinese tourist arrivals, incidentally, have increased. This is made possible by the emergence of an entity that offers itself in the service of these visitors.

I wish to thank Mega Dynasty for making this a reality.

The emphasis in this instalment of Perak Tourism News is on golf clubs. There are 14 golf clubs in Perak, some big and some small. Golf tourism was a huge money-spinner in the 90s and the early 2000s. It is not yet a sunset industry, as the potentials are still there. This issue of the tourism newsletter looks into the services provided by five big names in Perak.



## Royal Perak Golf Club

The club offers a championship 18-hole golf course. Overall the course appears flat and easy but therein lies the challenge. It is the oldest 18-hole golf course in the state with undulating fairways, matured trees and unpredictable greens.

One of its signature holes the 14th hole par 4 index 2 appears friendly. However, the approach to the green is surrounded by 2 bunkers, a stream to the left and a pond to the right. Most 'friendly' indeed.

As you play your round take note of the surrounding limestone hills on the horizon. Walk in green fees for weekdays is RM180 and RM250 for weekends. For info call 605-5423266 or visit [www.royalperak.com.my](http://www.royalperak.com.my).



## Meru Golf and Country Club



The Meru Valley Golf and Country Club is located at the foothills of the Kledang-Saiong Mountain Range a mere 10-minute drive from Ipoh City.

It is also a resort with resort homes surrounding its international 27 holes championship course with each nine having its own signature hole.

The course has been meticulously sculpted alongside the natural landscape and as such its fairways feature gentle rolling terrain and winding clear water creeks along the valley lakes and trees.

Being a resort, the Club offers stay and play packages at its fully furnished serviced apartments suitable for golfers who love their early morning round of golf. For more information call 605-5293333 or visit [www.meruvally.com.my](http://www.meruvally.com.my).

## Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort



The Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort located south of Ipoh City is a 27 holes golf course created around disused mining ponds.

These disused ponds are a legacy left behind from the days when the Kinta Valley in which Ipoh is located was once the largest producer of tin in the world.

The three nines are appropriately named the Raintree, Lakes and Wetlands Nine as the fairways are lined with picturesque rows of shady rain trees and tranquil lakes which make for a very scenic game.

Not surprisingly then that the Resort has received an award for 'Most Scenic Golf Course'. Stay and Play packages are available. For details call 605-3667433 or visit [www.cwsgolf.com.my](http://www.cwsgolf.com.my).



## Damai Laut Golf and Country Club

The award winning 18-hole par 72 championship buggy-tracked golf course is located at Lumut against a tropical landscape with nine holes overlooking the Straits of Malacca and the other nine the estuaries of the Dinding River.

It was awarded the Best Resort Course in Malaysia and its signature 15th hole was awarded the 2nd Most Scenic Hole in Malaysia.

The course was designed such that every hole has an individual character while every green is designed to enhance the breathtaking view of the resort.

Coupled with descending fairways, native trees and side hill lies a golfer will need to apply a diversity of shots to complete the 6,255-metre course.

Damai Laut Golf & Country Club is open Tuesdays through Sundays.

Call (605) 6843333 or visit:  
[www.swissgarden.com](http://www.swissgarden.com).  
Stay and play packages are available.



## Taiping Golf Resort

Taiping Golf Resort located at the foothills of Bukit Jana at Taiping is an 18 holes championship golf course which boasts 6 signature holes all of which are both interesting and challenging.

For instance their 1st hole index 1 par 5 requires the player to tee off over a 160-metre pond before the fairway. Similarly their 18th hole par 5 index 2 has a 60-metre pond to carry to a landing guarded by water and an OB line then onwards via a dog leg to the elevated green.

Alternatively their short par 4 index 13 6th hole is a straight forward drive but a player would be advised to practice course management to negotiate their 8-foot Emkay Bunker guarding the green. The Resort offers competitively priced stays and play golf packages.



For information contact Tel: 05-8836700 or [www.taipinggolfresort.com](http://www.taipinggolfresort.com)

This publication is wholly financed by the Perak State Government via Tourism Perak Management Bhd in collaboration with the Perak Tourism Association.

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Published by Ipoh Echo Sdn Bhd,  
A-G-1, No. 1 Persiaran Greentown 2,  
Greentown Business Centre,  
30450 Ipoh.

Printed by Konway Industries Sdn Bhd,  
Plot 78, Lebuhraya Kampong Jawa,  
11900 Bayan Baru, Pulau Pinang.



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## Tourism Roundup

### TOURISM LOYALTY CARD LAUNCHED



Tourists to Perak stand to gain if they are in the possession of a newly introduced loyalty card. Points collected from the use of the card can be redeemed for gifts or cash, depending on the amount amassed. The card can be obtained free from the Mega Dynasty office in Greentown Business Centre, Ipoh.

Mega Dynasty, incidentally, is a well-known advertising company in Ipoh. General Manager, Daniel Lee said that a thousand cards have been produced and are ready for collection by customers, foreigners and locals alike. "Card owners can use the card to purchase goods at discounted prices at stores and centres that display the card's logo."

Mega Dynasty has gone a step further to help promote Visit Perak Year 2012 (VPY 2012) by entering into an agreement with a travel agent from China. It will help Guijiang Travel (China) care for its Chinese visitors when they are in Perak. A memorandum of understanding to initiate the deal was made. The signing ceremony, held at Kinta Riverfront Hotel and Suites, Ipoh recently was witnessed by Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Tourism.

"The number of Chinese tourists to Perak has increased compared to the same period last year," said Hamidah to reporters. "They're the second largest number of foreign tourists to the state."



## TAXI DRIVERS AS MINI AMBASSDORS



The State government encourages taxi drivers to equip themselves with information on tourist spots in Perak. However, few are interested in doing so, apportioning the blame on time and work load. "It'll be to their advantage if they're willing to learn, as the tourism industry is growing in tandem with the economic growth of the state," said Dato Hamidah Osman, the Executive Councillor for Tourism.

She spoke to reporters at the end of a seminar organised by the Perak Tourist Guides' Association helmed by Roselyn Lim Siew Leng. The one-day seminar held at the Global Institute of Tourism, Ipoh was attended by 40 taxi drivers from four taxi drivers' associations in the city. The seminar is on-going and will be held in other parts of the state. Participants are taught aspects pertaining to touristic products and spots in Perak.

"A well-versed taxi driver will be an attraction in itself. They can be our mini ambassadors," said Hamidah.

## THEME PARK FOR IPOH



A theme park similar to Universal Studio in Singapore will be built in Ipoh soon, as part of the government's strategy to make Perak an animation haven. The park, besides being a source of entertainment for the young and old, will provide facilities for the production of animation films. It will be built on a 12-hectare site at Bandar Meru Raya, Jelapang.

Perak Corporation Bhd has entered into an agreement with Sanderson Group in March for the building of the said park. This was revealed to reporters by Dato' Hamidah Osman, Executive Councillor for Tourism during her working visit to the Kledang Saiong Forest Reserve near here recently. "It'll be the fourth project undertaken by the Sanderson Group after Singapore, China and Vietnam."

The main emphasis of the park will centre on the state's rich biodiversity and natural resources. However, it will also serve as a centre for animation production, providing local talents an opportunity to market their products internationally. "I am certain with the completion of this park it will place Perak on the world tourist map."

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## TOURISM CALENDAR – JUNE 2012

- Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament 2012, Ipoh** – May 24 to June 3 (Malaysian Hockey Federation/Ipoh City Council: **603-89986195/605-2083333**. Link: <http://www.mbi.gov.my>)
- Perak 4x4 Jamboree, Kubu Gajah** – June 2 to 3 (Exco Sports / Pusat Khidmat Adun Batu Gajah: **605-2411537/605-3655882**)
- Asli Fest, Hutan Lipur Kuala Woh** – June 2 to 3 (Batang Padang District Office/ Tourism Perak: **605-4011402/605-5290894**. Link: <http://www.mdt.gov.my>)
- Gua Tempurung International Adventure Challenge 2012, Gua Tempurung** – June 9 to 10 (Kampar District Council/Tourism Perak: **605-4671020/605-5290894**. Link: <http://www.mdkampar.gov.my>)
- God's Little Acre Memorial Service, Batu Gajah** – Saturday, June 16 commencing 7.30am (Malaysian Palm Oil Association, Ipoh: **605-5453560**).
- Ipoh Star Walk, Ipoh** – June 17 (Ipoh City Council / Star: **605-2083333/605-2530402**. Link: <http://www.mbi.gov.my>)
- Pulau Pangkor Fishing Competition (GP Joran)** – June 23 to 24 (Tourism Perak / Berita Harian / Manjung Municipal Council: **605-5290894/605-2491734/605-6871363**. Link: <http://mpm.gov.my>)
- Citra Perak Aman Jaya 2012, Ipoh** – June 30 (Tourism Perak/Ipoh City Council: **605-5290894/95/96 /605-2083333**. Link: <http://www.mbi.gov.my>)
- International Conference on Wildlife Tourism, Royal Belum Rainforest Resort** – July 3 to 4 (Tourism Perak/UTM: **605-5290894/607-5533333**. Link: <http://www.peraktourism.com.my>)

Dates subject to changes.