

'Selamat Datang' – welcome to one of Sabah's best



Malaysia has become a much more appealing destination thanks to Brunei Airlines' daily flights from Melbourne to Brunei, writes Sam Arthur

Sutera Harbour Resort

AS an avid golfer, there is nothing quite like the thrill of travelling to an exciting, off-the-beaten-track golfing destination.

It's even more awakening if the destination is Sabah, Malaysia where the weather is a consistent 25°C in the morning and sneaking up to 34°C at lunch-time all year round.

It really is the perfect winter escape and something you can warm to especially during Australia's winter months.

The other appealing fact is it only takes seven hours to fly to Brunei from Melbourne and

another short 45-minute flight to Kota Kinabalu (KK), Sabah.

That allows you to hit the ground running because there's so much to see and do.

We stayed at **Sutera Harbour Resort** where Australian golf course designer **Graham Marsh** has carved out a 27-hole championship golf course on reclaimed land.

Marsh has done an exceptional job shaping the golf course. Some of the holes beside the South China Sea are spectacular, and having the opportunity to play the course was definitely one

of the highlights of the trip.

The three sets of nine holes are contrasting in style and layout and aptly named Lake, Heritage and Garden courses.

They are a great combination of nines and the pleasing aspect is you don't have to be a gorilla to be successful. In fact, on a number of holes the smart play is to take an iron off the tee to avoid the strategically-placed bunkers.

The putting surfaces are excellent, which is the standard all year round.

The Garden nine is something special as you

play your way out to the ocean holes before finishing on tight, tree-lined fairways.

The 24th hole, a par-4, is without a doubt the signature hole. It's only short at 330 metres, but it's a classic as the South China Sea occupies the left side of the hole.

We loved this nine-hole stretch so much that we played it twice and on both occasions in the late afternoon just as the sun was setting. You won't find a better sunset anywhere in the world.

The resort is massive. Set over 380 acres with two five-star hotels, a 100-berth marina, more

The Ultimate Golf Car Trailer

CONVEYORCART

Your golf car and equipment deserve a quality built secure home on wheels like this. Very user friendly with multiple uses.



Ideal For: Golf Car, Motorcycle, Luggage/Bus Trailer, Camping

Call (03) 5852 1516
or 0407 521 550



www.conveyorcart.com.au



Are you sick of hiring an old golf car?

Play more than twice a week?



It may be cheaper to own a new Yamaha!

BRAND NEW YAMAHA from \$39/week



(07) 5529 1855

7 Gateway Drive, Labrador Queensland 4215

Repayment details. This repayment is intended as a guide only. An exact quote must be obtained at time of application. The weekly equivalent, is based on a \$7999.50 consumer loan over 60 months at an interest rate of 12.75%. Finance to approved applicants only, fees and charges have been calculated into this estimate, the comparison rate is 13.83% and is based on a secure loan of \$30,000 for 5 years.

www.goldcoastgolfcars.com.au

Macquarie Inn

Situated on the Northern tip of Lake Macquarie and only 25mins from Newcastle CBD

PLAY & STAY PACKAGES FROM \$125 pp twin share*

Package includes:

- 18 Holes of Golf
- Overnight Accommodation at the 4 star Macquarie Inn
- A full hot breakfast
- A Dinner voucher and Drink Ticket for Club Macquarie

Other:

- FREE Internet access
- Transfers can be organised on request
- Ample FREE off-street parking
- Small or Large group bookings welcome

Packages available with Newcastle Golf Club, Merewether Golf Club, Shortland Waters Golf Club, Toronto Country Club and Waratah Golf Club; Also located within 30mins of 3 other golf courses (*MID WEEK SUN-THU)



For Bookings call **(02) 4958 8499** | 458 Lake Rd, Argenton, NSW 2284 | www.clubmacquarie.com.au/accommodation

than 950 luxurious rooms, day spas, tennis courts, bars, pubs the whole shebang.

Just a five-minute taxi ride away and you're in the centre of KK city where you'll find thriving markets, shopping, more hotels, and plenty of bars and night clubs and even the best one-hour massages \$A20 can buy.

Before we teed off, we ventured out to **Manukan Island** – just a 15-minute boat ride from Sutera Harbour. It's an idyllic place to escape to for a day.

They have a great buffet and bar and you can even stay in your own villa. There are 12 available on the island where snorkelling, fishing, paragliding are par for the course.

The locals are extremely friendly and willing to help you every step of the way.

Yes, this really is one golfing destination worth visiting as there are five world-class golf courses within a couple of hours of each other (more reviews next month).

KK is quite unique and we felt at ease at all times because there are plenty of Aussies and expats around although the locals are wonderful and go out of their way to help you as you explore the city.

The nightlife, like most of KK, is great and caters for people with varying tastes and interests-- and that's a good thing.

Most nights we started at the Cock & Bull, then we'd venture over to Shanagans at the Hyatt before making our last stop the White Room, which pumps out live music well into the wee hours. The locals certainly know how to party.

For example, at each venue, you can purchase a bottle of bourbon or Vodka and they set you up at a table with glasses, a number of mixers and a bucket of ice. With apologies to teetotalers, but that's how to enjoy a drink.

Mixing your own drinks in a nightclub is a great experience although we did feel awkward as we felt we were breaking the rules.

Sabah, Malaysia is a great destination and one I will be returning to in the not too distant future. •

The 24th hole is a standout



Lessons in paradise



IT never hurts to refine your golf swing before playing a quality golf course with your friends.

The Golf Academy Borneo, established by British PGA professional Neil Douglas in 2009, is the perfect venue to iron out any flaws in your game.

Neil has plenty of support in fellow British PGA professionals **Fraser Pook** and **Rory Young**. They offer a wide range of lesson packages on one of the best facilities in the country. Not only will they repair any glitches, they'll also show you around the town. How's that for service.

Check them out: www.golfacademyborneo.com / e: info@golfacademyborneo.com / Neil: +6014 334 3565

Explore the world through a golfer's eyes with Golf Concierge

GOLF Concierge is an exciting new golf travel business owned by PGA Professional and Avid Sports managing director James Cooper and managed by multi tournament winner Dale Walsh.

"Avid Sports had been looking to make it easy to play some of the great courses we have in our portfolio like Natadola Bay and Sea Temple. Dale and I came up with Golf Concierge concept and went about setting it up," Cooper said.

Dale and James did their PGA Traineeships together 20 years ago, James at Coolangatta Tweed Heads and Dale at Palm Meadows. Since then they have traveled the world and have played golf courses that would make an enviable bucket list.

Golf Concierge has put together a great portfolio of travel play and stay packages, corporate and group outings and is building an impressive calendar of events.

Golf Concierge will head to Fiji for the inaugural **Natadola Bay Fiji Classic presented by Drummond Golf**. Played from the 25th to 28th October, golfers will enjoy world class golf at **Natadola Bay Golf Course** and stay in luxury at the **InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort and Spa**.

Golf Concierge will also host the **Coral Sea Cup** at **Sea Temple Golf Club** in Port Douglas in November, with golfers travelling from all over Australia and as far north as PNG and Fiji to compete.

In January, golfers will be able to join them for the trip of a lifetime to **Scottsdale, Arizona** to play a week of golf with two-time PGA Tour winner Gabriel Hjertstedt, visit the PING factory and attend the final rounds of the **Phoenix Open**, home of the famous party hole, the par-3 16th where Tiger Woods and Jarrod Lyle have set the crowd alight with holes in one.

Golf Concierge's new website offers discount Stay "N" Play Packages, Golf Schools, Group Tours, PGA Club Pro Getaways and Corporate Golf days.

More information: www.golfconcierge.com.au, 07 3857 1030.

FAMILY FUN IN THE SUN

at Radisson Resort Gold Coast



Family Fun Package from

\$159*

per family per night

Escape to the Gold Coast with your family and enjoy:
Accommodation in a Resort Room
Buffet breakfast for two adults and two children
Resort shuttle pass to Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach and Robina

Upgrade to a family Ultima Suite for only \$60 per room per night

*Subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Valid until 30 Dec 2012.

Palm Meadows Drive Carrara QLD 4211 · 07 5555 7700
www.radisson.com/goldcoastau · goldcoast@radisson.com

Radisson
RESORT GOLD COAST