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CLUB FOCUS
NIRWANA BALI GOLF CLUB

NIRWANA





IN THE LATEST FEATURE IN *ASIAN GOLF MONTHLY'S* CLUB FOCUS SERIES, WE TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON INDONESIA'S ACCLAIMED NIRWANA BALI GOLF CLUB, ONE OF THE MOST DECORATED VENUES IN THE HISTORY OF THE ASIAN GOLF MONTHLY AWARDS.

Nirwana



The stunning par-three seventh hole at Nirwana Bali, with the Tanah Lot Temple on the left.

According to the latest edition of the *Pocket English Dictionary*, one of the meanings of nirvana is: 'A place or state of relief from pain or anxiety'. As thousands have discovered over the course of the past 14 years, that description holds true of the Nirwana Bali Golf Club.

More than a golf course, this **Greg Norman Design** masterpiece is truly a magical offering in a remarkable 103-hectare setting along the mystical shores of Bali's southwestern coastline, atop bluffs overlooking the Indian Ocean.

While many Asian courses that are, in truth, mediocre at best are showered with awards based to a large extent on hype and self-promotion, Nirwana Bali, in the shadow of the sacred island temple at Tanah Lot, is genuinely deserving of every accolade that comes its way.

And there have been, and continue to be, plenty of those. As well as being honoured as Indonesia's top golf course at last year's 17th annual World Travel Awards, Nirwana Bali was voted Best Clubhouse in Asia-Pacific in the 2010 Asian Golf Monthly Awards.

For 2011, it's been shortlisted among the top-three contenders in two categories of the Asian Golf Monthly Awards: Best Golf Resort in Asia Pacific and Best Course in Indonesia. The results will be announced at a Gala Dinner in Pattaya, Thailand at the conclusion of the fifth Asia Pacific Golf Summit on November 2.

Appearing at last year's Asia Pacific Golf Summit in Bangkok, Norman spoke with pride of his involvement with the course and how it was of paramount importance not to meddle with the natural Balinese-style features that provide much of the distinctiveness.

The two-time British Open champion said: "Every golf course designer dreams of the perfect landscape to fashion into a beautiful and challenging golf course. There is no doubt that the physical characteristics of the Nirwana Bali Golf Course site were conducive to doing just that.

"When I first saw the site, I was immediately taken by the dramatic location, the fascinating local culture and the rolling hills covered with rice paddies. I was determined to keep all these features while building a golf course that would challenge even the world's best.



About Indonesia

Where is Indonesia? Indonesia is the largest archipelago and the fourth most populous country in the world with 232 million citizens. Consisting of five main islands (Sumatra, Jawa, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Papua) with 33 provinces, 30 smaller archipelagos, it has a total of 17,508 islands of which about 6,000 are inhabited. The Republic of Indonesia is located in Southeast Asia and stretches 5,150 kilometres between the Australian and Asian continental mainland and divides the Pacific and Indian Oceans at the Equator. The capital city is Jakarta. The country shares land borders with Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Malaysia. Other neighbouring countries include Singapore, the Philippines, Australia, and the Indian territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

What's the climate like? Indonesia climate is distinctly tropical. The east monsoon from

June to September brings dry weather while the west monsoon from December to March is moisture-laden, bringing rain. The transitional period between these two are interposed by occasional rain showers, but even in the midst of the west monsoon season, temperatures range from 21 to 33 degrees Centigrade. Heaviest rainfalls are recorded in December and January. Humidity is between 60% and 100%.

Language and Dialects: There are more than 583 languages and dialects spoken in the archipelago. Bahasa Indonesia is the national language. In all tourist destination areas, English is the number one foreign language, both spoken and written.

Travel Formalities: All travellers to Indonesia must be in possession of a passport valid for at least six months from date of arrival and have proof (tickets) of onward or return passage.

Free Tourist Visa: A Free Tourist Visas for a period of 30 days is granted to nationals

from 12 countries on the basis of reciprocity: Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Chile, Morocco, Peru, Vietnam and Equador.

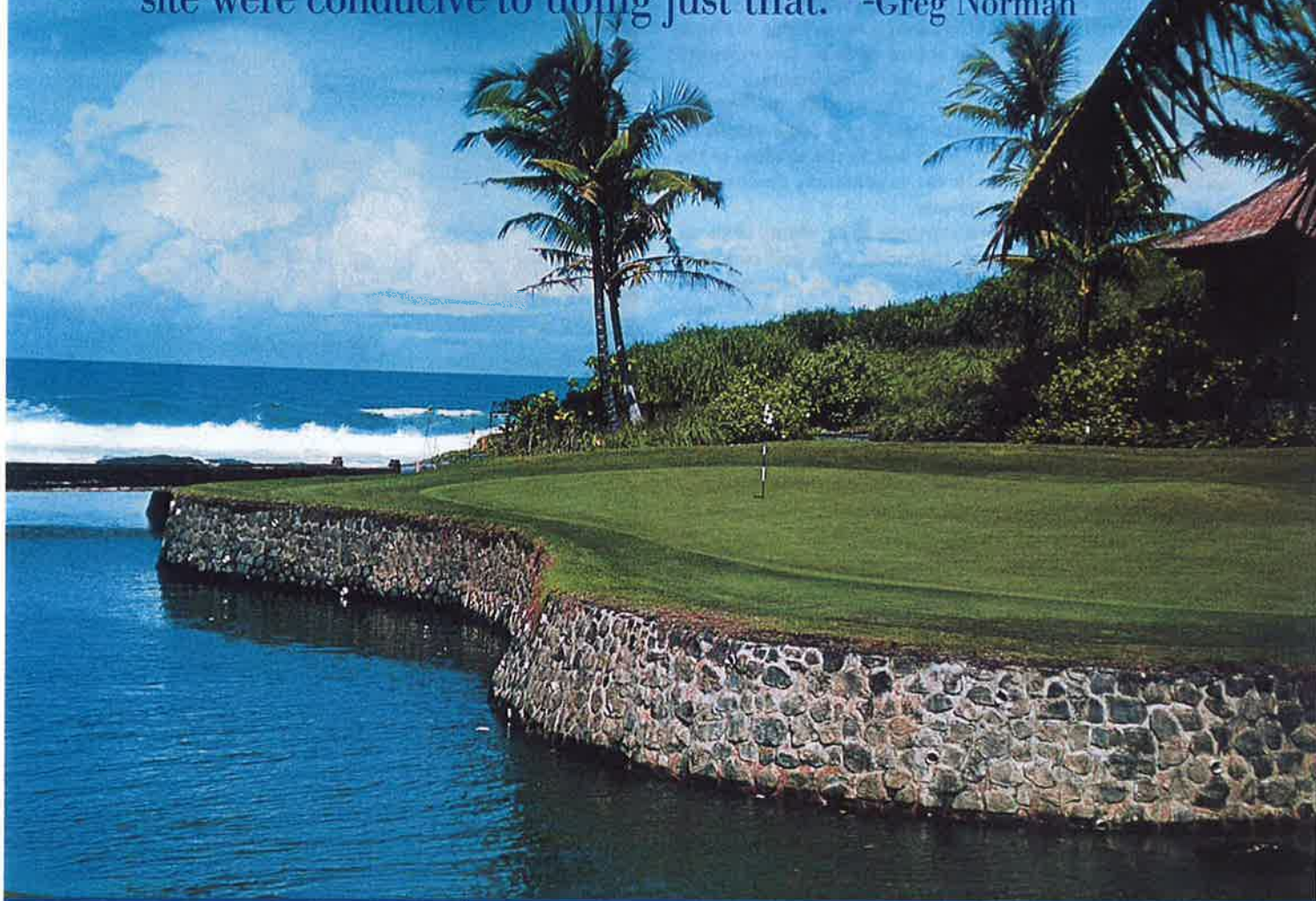
Visa on Arrival (VOA): Visa on arrival is valid for 30 days and maybe extended under the permission of Indonesia.

Currency: Rupiah (Rp) IDR comes in note denominations of 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000 and 100,000. US dollar bills of 50 and 100 and other major currencies in banknotes or travellers cheque are exchangeable in banks or at authorised money changers in main tourist destinations.

Airport Tax: An airport tax (Rp 100,000) is imposed for travellers on international routes and Rp 30,000 for those on domestic routes.

Tipping: At most hotels and restaurants service charge is added to the bill. An airport or hotel porter expects Rp 5,000 per bag. Taxi

“Every golf course designer dreams of the perfect landscape to fashion into a beautiful and challenging golf course. The physical characteristics of the Nirwana Bali site were conducive to doing just that.” -Greg Norman



drivers will round up to the nearest Rp 500 or Rp 1,000. Leaving the change is appreciated but not mandatory.

Telephone: Dial 62 from outside Indonesia, then the city code and telephone number. Within Indonesia, the city code must be preceded by a zero (0) from most phones. To dial an international call press 001 or 008.

Etiquette: It is inappropriate to use the left hand to eat or to give or receive anything.

Clothing: Dress is normally casual and light clothing is advisable due to the hot, humid climate.

Electricity: Power supply is usually 220 volts/50 cycles in the big cities, but 110 volts is still used in some regions. Normal outlets are plugs with two rounded prongs. It is advisable to check before using your appliances.

-Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Indonesia

NIRWANA BALI GOLF CLUB FACT FILE

Number of Holes: 18

Course Par: 72

Course Designer: Greg Norman

Course Opening: 1997

Course Yardage: **Shark Tees: 6,805 yards; Championship Tees: 6,308 yards; Resort Tees: 6,002 yards; Ladies Tees: 5,157 yards**

Course Rating/Slope Index: **Shark Tees: 146/74.2; Championship Tees: 142/73/1; Resort Tees: 134/70.7; Ladies Tees: 136/72.5**

Resort Guest Green Fee (including cart and caddie): **US\$95+**

Non-Resort Guest Green Fee (including cart and caddie): **US\$165 (weekday); US\$175 (weekend)**

Sunset Golf Green Fee (tee-off after 2:30 pm): **US\$70+**

Caddie Fee: **The club says that 'a caddie's performance should be your guide in deciding the amount to pay for her services'. As a suggestion, they recommend Rp100,000-plus per round for each caddie.**

Golf Club Rental: **TaylorMade and Callaway sets available for rent for men, women and children at US\$45+**

Golf Shoe Rental: **FootJoy shoes available for rent at US\$10**

Club Address: **Jalan Raya Tanah Lot, Kediri Tabanan 82171, Bali, Indonesia**

Contact Details: **Tel: +62 361815960; Fax: +62 361815961/2**

Email: **info@nirwanabalgolf.com or golfreservation@panpacific.com**

Websites: **www.nirwanabalgolf.com/ and www.panpacific.com/bali**

"While keeping this site's natural features, we created some of the most dramatic holes in golf. The seventh hole is especially challenging, requiring the golfer to hit a middle iron from the cliff-side tee across a piece of the ocean to a scenic and well-guarded green."

It was in July 2010 that Pan Pacific Hotels Group assumed management of the golf course and 278-room, seaside destination resort sanctuary that was previously under the banner of Le Meridien. In the ensuing 14 months, there have been several upgrades and changes with the notable arrival of Paul Lightbody as Director of Golf, and Adam Calver as new golf course superintendent, while new club membership packages have been made available for the first time in 10 years.

With the owners making no secret of their desire to host a professional tournament and made-for-TV events in late 2013 or early 2014, Lightbody and Calver have been overseeing strategic course renovations and agronomic improvements to the course as well as an upgrading of the pro-shop.

Lightbody, a native Scot who was based at Jumeirah Golf Estates when it hosted the 2009 Dubai World Championship, said: "There is no finer golf course in a more spectacular setting than here at Nirwana. But golf travellers, and golfers who live here in Bali, are ever more sophisticated, and we're determined to stay ahead of the competition."

As for the pro-shop, he added: "We've aligned ourselves with leading golf brands such as adidas, Nike, FootJoy and Greg Norman, creating a truly complete golf retail outlet in the clubhouse. The idea is to offer a better selection and attractive prices to our members and guests." That's not all. "They can also expect one of the finest coaching academies in Asia, with sophisticated video equipment that helps players properly align their swings."

At Nirwana, Calver, a Canadian national who also arrived via Dubai where he oversaw construction and grow-in of both the Fire and Earth courses at Jumeirah Golf Estates, has been charged with keeping in the finest fettle an extraordinarily diverse golf course whose 18 holes play along the oceanfront, dart through thick jungle, skirt working rice paddies and feature no less than 13 Hindu temples.

"Like many golfers, I had seen pictures of the wonderful par-three seventh at Nirwana, which plays across an ocean inlet with the temple just out to sea," said Calver. "You can see why it's among the most photographed golf holes in the world. But I wasn't prepared for the experience in person -

with hundreds of worshippers wading out to the island, through the surf, and the smell of incense blowing past. It's quite something."

The first four holes at Nirwana loop inland from the award-winning, Balinese-style clubhouse and serve as a fitting introduction to both the golf course and the Balinese landscape. The opening drive is actually played across rows of staggered rice paddies; it must avoid deep bunkering inside the dog-leg to set up a downhill approach to the putting surface, where the sound of rushing water reveals a jungle stream surrounding the green's edge.

Lightbody said: "We have cut back a bit of the vegetation there, so golfers can see the stream and not merely hear it. The same applies to several of the temples out there on the course. These are such unique features. Just gorgeous. However, several have been somewhat overtaken by the rapacious vegetation here. We want to show them off to golfers and show them the proper respect by giving them a little breathing room."

“There is no finer golf course in a more spectacular setting than here at Nirwana.” -Paul Lightbody

While overseas guests continue to make up a significant proportion of the number of rounds played, Nirwana also operates as a members club and the new managers at Pan Pacific have introduced several new benefits, including improving club discounts and privileges throughout the resort.

To that end, the club has extended its relationship with IMG Golf Course Services in a consulting capacity. John Berndt, General Manager of the resort, said: "We are confident IMG's expertise and experience will be invaluable as we build a new level of product and quality service standards to refresh and update the resort experience. IMG's support and advice will help us make our vision for the resort a reality."

No wonder Lightbody is so bullish for future prospects. "The Indonesians love their golf," he said. "And the members here give the place an atmosphere, a sense of collegiality that is unusual for a resort club but very welcome indeed. It's another aspect of golf here at Nirwana that sets us apart."

