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## \* ABOUT VIETNAM GOLF COURSES \*

### HO CHI MIN (SAIGON)

#### **Twin Doves Golf Club**

An exclusive members club with top notch facilities, Twin Doves is a 27 hole layout set in the Vietnam countryside made up of three distinctly different nines in the woodlands and lakes style of design. The scenic Luna Course is characterised by numerous small hills bordered by forest, and incorporates all the natural elements of the terrain as challenging hazards. Rolling hills connect five of the holes while the rest are separated by tree-lined fairways. Nature's best continue to feature in the Stella Course as creeks weave between tree-flanked holes, placing a premium on accurate shot making if one is to return a good score. With greens mostly multi-tiered and guarded well by water hazards, the Stella Course wins praise as the most exciting of the three nines. Playing around a lake is the Sole Course, replete with an island green, beach bunkers, and of course a series of water hazards. The presence of the lake enhances visual appeal and the challenge of this unique nine is that it has only one par three and one par five showing up on the score card.

Designer	: P + Z Development Pte, Ltd
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 27 holes par 72/36 (7282 yards) Luna 3605, Stella 3525, Sole 3614
Established	: 2009
Green / Caddy Fees	: 1,290,000 VND (wkday) 2,902,500 VND (wkend) / 107,500 VND
Buggy Fees	: 860,000 VND
Distance	: 32km from Saigon center, 1 hour north of Ho Chi Minh City
Facilities	: Restaurant, driving range

#### **Vietnam Golf & Country Club**

Widely regarded as the country's premier golf club, Vietnam Golf and Country Club has hosted Asian tour events on its two championship courses. The West Course plays long, and tee shots are challenging to narrow landing areas, some of which also feature a lone tree in the center of the fairway. Only single-digit handicap players are advised to play off the back tees. Even from the normal men's tees it can be a very long afternoon of golf, especially if drives are wayward. Standing out as one of the best holes, the 11<sup>th</sup> is a long 408 yard par-4 dogleg left which demands of a drive that must carry over trees on the left to have sight of the green. Complicated by a large tree in the center of the fairway, the approach is then to a slightly elevated, shallow, and wide green bunkered on both sides. The hillier Lee Trevino designed East Course offers more generous fairways but is protected by 110 well-positioned bunkers, water hazards and undulating fast-rolling greens which have been the undoing of many a better player. The key to scoring well here is smart approach shots that set up easier-said-than-done straighter putts on the greens.

Designer	: Chen King Shih / Lee Trevino
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 36 holes par 72/72 (7106/6946 yards)
Established	: 1994
Green / Caddy Fees	: 2,284,000 VND (wkday) 3,009,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy
Buggy Fees	: 970,000 VND
Distance	: 17km / 35 min from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
Facilities	: Accommodation, Massage, Restaurants, Driving Range, Sauna, Spa



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### **Long Thanh Golf Club & Residential Estate**

The immaculately maintained 36 holes of Long Thanh have long been the preferred choice among locals, more so than its famous neighbor, the Vietnam Golf & Country Club. Swaying preferences no doubt are a spare-no-expense elaborate clubhouse and what might be the plushest locker rooms in Saigon. Both the Hill and Coral are walking courses, golf buggies being optional, and feature rolling fairways and large undulating greens, with many high lipped bunkers and water hazards on almost every hole to catch errant shots. Heed the advice of the very experienced caddies, some of whom play to single handicaps themselves. The shorter rough at Long Thanh poses no real problems, though higher handicappers might prefer the relatively flatter Lake Course. All 36 holes have their own shaped character which will pose a good challenge for the serious amateur. The par 3, 4<sup>th</sup> on the Hill Course is the signature hole with a choice of two different greens, both of which require accurate tee shots, to avoid the OB stakes at the back of the longer green; and also the 'Great Wall of Long Thanh' that surrounds the even more difficult shorter green, also guarded by water in the front and a rock face behind. They say you never forget this hole.

Designer	: Ronald Fream, Golfplan
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 36 holes par 72 (Hill 6933 yards / Coral 7109 yards)
Established	: 2001
Green / Caddy Fees	: 1,540,000 VND (wkday) 2,970,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee
Buggy Fees	: 814,000 VND
Distance	: 30km / 1 hour from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
Facilities	: Restaurant, Driving range, Sauna, Spa

### **VUNG TAU**

#### **The Bluffs Ho Tram Strip**

A Greg Norman design, the Bluffs Ho Tram Strip captures the true essence of links-style golf. Set on the coastline with 50 meter elevation changes from the highest to lowest point, holes are routed over and around towering sand dunes shaped by the elements over thousands of years. The strong sea winds which change direction depending on time of year are always a factor, playing havoc and creating extreme challenges for even the best seasoned golfers. The Bluffs is as much a feast for the eyes, one of the most spectacular spots coming on the signature 4th hole where players are treated to a spectacular 360 degree view of the course itself, the lush surrounding forest and wildlife, the expansive Vietnam coast, and the Grand Ho Tram Strip, Vietnam's first integrated casino and golf resort. "This is a very fair and playable golf course, but to shoot a good score, you're going to need a well-rounded game," said Norman of the Bluffs, "The average golfer is going to encounter a number of things they probably don't on a regular basis, such as strong winds, tight lies and variable waste areas."

Designer	: Greg Norman
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 18 holes par 71 (6855 yards)
Established	: 2014
Green / Caddy / Buggy Fees	: NA
Distance	: 80km / 2 hours from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
Facilities	: Casino, Accommodation, Golf Academy, Restaurants, Spa, Swimming Pool

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### DANANG

#### **Danang Golf Club, Dunes Course**

Reminiscent of both Scottish links golf and Australian sand-belt courses, Greg Norman has created something special in the multi-award winning Danang Golf Club. Tagged as one of the 15 best new courses in the world by USA GOLF magazine, Danang's Dunes Course sees generous but firm fast fairways that bleed gently into wild seaside vegetation. There is restrained use of water and OB, however placement is paramount if approach shots are to have a chance at the pins on the well bunkered and undulating greens. The fairways are also lined and well defined by long needle pines; miss into the trees and you will be forced to punch off the sand and pine needles just to get back into play. Wind can also tighten up the course considerably, so look to be creative with bump-and-runs and putting from well off the greens. Danang Golf Club's signature hole is the 148-yard, par-3 16th, which plays to a slightly elevated green framed by two of the course's deepest bunkers and against the back-drop of the South China Sea.

Designer	: Greg Norman
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 18 holes par 72 (7160 yards)
Established	: 2010
Green / Caddy Fees	: Regular Season - 2,450,000 VND (wkday) 3,400,000 VND (wkend), High Season - 2,630,000 VND (wkday) 3,600,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee
Buggy Fees	: 860,000 VND
Distance	: 20 minutes from Da Nang Airport, 20 minutes from Hoi An
Facilities	: Restaurants, Driving Range

#### **Laguna Lang Co Golf Club**

Besides ocean views and an amphitheater-like mountainous backdrop, the Laguna Lang Co golf course has the golfer weaving in between trees, over rice paddy fields and streams, through impressive rock features and alongside the beach. Sir Nick Faldo said of his design, "You want a different feel, requiring different shots." Each hole on the course reveals a character of its own, presenting a myriad of opportunities for interesting and memorable play. The par-3, 5<sup>th</sup> stands out as the signature hole. Incorporating large mounds around the green that mirror a mountain peak in the background, it is the only hole with any obvious man-made influence. Honourable mention must also go to the par-5 finishing hole, an excellent dog-leg that is sure to thrill. Even so, the Lang Co Golf Club can be enjoyed by the most experienced players and beginners alike with its variety of tees ranging from challenging to friendly.

Designer	: Sir Nick Faldo
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 18 holes par 71 (6961 yards)
Established	: 2012
Green / Caddy Fees	: Regular Season - 2,220,000 VND (wkday) 3,050,000 VND (wkend), High Season - 2,360,000 VND (wkday) 3,250,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee
Buggy Fees	: 830,000 VND
Distance	: 1.5 hours / 35 kilometers from Danang and 30 kilometers from Hue
Facilities	: Accommodation, Golf Academy, Massage, Restaurants, Spa

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### Montgomerie Links Vietnam

Moving boldly over a striking landscape of wispy casuarinas, pines and sand dunes, the Montgomerie Links Vietnam is as close to golfing in Ireland or Scotland minus its cold temperatures. Best described as contemporary modern links, sand is everywhere on this course, and it's evident that Colin 'Monty' Montgomerie drew upon childhood memories of famous Scottish links to create a layout featuring abundant sand, prevalent bunkering and an ever-present wind. Monty has implemented classic, old world design elements into this Danang golf course, such as rolling, treeless fairways, thick rough, massive greens and tight chipping areas, with the only departure from tradition coming in the form of several lakes and streams. Although the course doesn't officially have a signature hole, the stunning par-5 12th is truly memorable. Playing slightly uphill to a bunker-riddled fairway, the hole is framed by the clubhouse in the background and has been described as the best par-5 in Vietnam. Thoroughly enjoyable by players of all abilities, Montgomerie Links has been rated as one of Asia's ten most elite courses by the 2012 Forbes Travel Guide.

Designer	: Colin Montgomerie
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 18 holes par 72 (7091 yards)
Established	: 2008
Green / Caddy Fees	: Regular Season - 2,795,000 VND (wkday) 3,685,000 VND (wkend), High Season - 2,935,000 VND (wkday) 3,895,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee
Buggy Fees	: 425,000 VND
Distance	: 15 minutes from Da Nang Airport, 20 minutes from Hoi An
Facilities	: Golf Academy, Restaurants, Sauna

### HANOI

#### Hanoi Golf Club

Located up north, Hanoi Golf Club is the only Japanese managed golf course in all of Vietnam. Open for play in November 2006, it is 18 holes that have been strategically designed with trademark Japanese attention to detail over a vast 108 hectares of gentle, sloping terrain. The founding goal was to build a world-class championship golf course on the hillsides of North Hanoi, and at a lengthy 7,301 yards, what Hanoi Golf Club has today is a solid mature course beautiful to behold and a challenge to play. A course not to be overlooked, as most vacationers to Vietnam are surprised by this golfing gem.

Designer	: Usumu Fujiwara
Holes / Par / Yardage	: 18 holes par 72 (7,301 yards)
Established	: 2006
Green / Caddy Fees	: 2,690,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee
Buggy Fees	: NA
Distance	: 35km from Hanoi center
Facilities	: Restaurant, Lounge, Jacuzzi, Spa, Sauna



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### **Kings Island Golf Resort**

King's Island Golf Resort on the outskirts of Hanoi is arguably the most scenic course in North Vietnam. Getting to the course is by the uniquely Vietnamese way of boat, as the Lakeside Course spans two islands and a peninsula lying in a reservoir. Views are spectacular, with the majestic mountain range as a stunning backdrop to the man-made lake, while the Red River Valley stretches into the distance. It's no surprise that water, in numerous varied ways, is a central feature on 13 of the 18 holes around the gently sloping terrain of the Lakeside Course. Many of the hidden greens require accurate carries over the lake or swampy terrain; as with the par 5, 13<sup>th</sup> hole, where the tee shot has to clear a gorge. The 7<sup>th</sup> hole, another par 5, will most certainly intrigue with its double dogleg from an elevated tee. The Mountainview course design takes maximum advantage of the ambience of the waterside setting, distant mountains and surrounding trees. Guarded by a front bunker, the signature par 3, 8<sup>th</sup> hole is a carry over water to a green that cants diagonally back to front, providing for many challenging hole locations. Another hole of interest is the 12<sup>th</sup>, a dogleg right par 4 with bunkers grouped at the bend to prevent all but long hitters from cutting the corner. Big hitters hoping for a short iron in, have to nail one straight over the bend to avoid being caught by a fairway bunker on the left. The 36 hole layout at King's Island challenges and excites all levels of players .

Designer: Robert McFarland (Lakeside Course), Pacific Coast Design (Mountainview Course)  
Holes / Par / Yardage: 36 holes, par 72 (6,516/6,963 yards)  
Established: 1993  
Distance: 50 min / 45km from Hanoi center  
Green / Caddy Fee: 2,190,000 VND (wkday) 3,190,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee  
Golf Cart: 850,000 VND  
Facilities: Accommodation, Restaurants, Massage, Spa, Sauna, Fitness, Swimming Pool, Riding

### **Tam Dao Golf Resort**

Located high in the mountains, Tam Dao Golf Resort enjoys a cooler climate and the modern resort style golf course plays through a series of lakes and streams, making it one of the most scenic Hanoi golf courses. The course, with its immaculate fairways and generous undulating sized greens, beautifully winds itself through the natural terrain of the National Park lowlands. The key to scoring well at Tam Dao are the approach shots, many of which are to elevated and well-guarded greens. The best hole on the course starts off the round; the par 5, 1<sup>st</sup> is unique in that it requires either a layup short of a water hazard some 200 yards from the green, or for long hitters to go for the green in two. However, there is a large tree fronting the left of the green to catch out shots that don't manage to clear its top branches. Equally challenging is the 11<sup>th</sup> hole, a short par 4 playing to an elevated island green with a closely mown fringe flanked by water on all sides. Anything but accuracy on the approach finds a watery grave. Other memorable holes include the dog leg par 5, 10<sup>th</sup> and the beautiful uphill par 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> hole. Once again, both require good approaches to avoid tricky lies and hazards around the greens. With double cut fairways, white sand bunkers, and close cut greens and fringes, Tam Dao Golf Resort is a real treat to play.

Designer: IMG  
Holes / Par / Yardage: 18 holes par 72 (7,169 yards)  
Established: 2007  
Distance: 1 hr 15 min / 68km from Hanoi center

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Green / Caddy Fee: 1,155,000 VND (wkday) 2,100,000 VND (wkend) / 567,000 VND  
Golf Cart: 630,000 VND  
Facilities: Accommodation, Massage, Restaurants, Sauna, Spa

### Phoenix Golf Resort

With 54 holes, Phoenix Golf Resort is the largest golf facility in Vietnam and second largest in Asia after Mission Hills China. From the clubhouse, the view is spectacular as the limestone outcroppings which frame and come into play on many of the holes resemble those seen in famous Halong Bay. With American, Korean and Japanese design input, its three courses makes use of severe fairway and green undulations as well as clever routing through and around the unique-looking limestone cliffs. Perhaps the most visually appealing of the three, and the longest at 7,486 yards, is the open links-styled Champion Course. The Phoenix Course is the original and more mountainous layout by Ron Fream which gets the most play and is a good test of skill for any level of golfer. While the spectacular Japanese designed Dragon Course has wider and friendlier fairways that will appeal to the higher handicapper or those gunning for a career round. A well thought out design that flows seamlessly, some holes are tricky and calls for accurate approaches into the greens. The front-nine may well leave you speechless in its dramatic splendor and intensity. The inward-nine also contains many beautifully crafted, testing and immaculately presented holes like the long par-4 18th with a deep watery ravine protecting the front left of the green, as tough a closing hole as they come.

Designer: Ronald Fream, Lee Hee-cheol, Dachigawa Hiromitsu  
Holes / Par / Yardage: 54 holes par 72 (7214 yards / 7486 yards / 7281 yards)  
Established: 2005  
Distance: 1 hour / 40 km from Hanoi center  
Green / Caddy Fee: 2,205,000 VND (wkday) 2,625,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee  
Golf Cart Fee: NA  
Facilities: Accommodation, Massage, Restaurants, Sauna, Swimming Pool

### DALAT

#### Dalat Palace Golf Club

Dating back to the 1920s when it was built originally as the personal course for the last Vietnamese emperor, Dalat Palace is a reminder of when the pursuit of leisure was the norm for the French colonialists in 'Petit Paris'. Crossing through stately pine trees, the course is top rated for its excellent layout, many elevation changes, and for being the only golf course in South East Asia with bent grass tees, fairways and greens; bent grass often considered as the ultimate playing surface in golf. Redesigned in 1994 and measuring 7,009 yards, the course is an uninterrupted string of inventive, demanding golf holes, and better players will be tested by a series of lakes, which meander through ten of eighteen holes, as well as strategically placed bunkers, which penalise the miscalculating risk-taker. The recreational golfer will find relief with large accommodating greens normally left open for run-up approach shots, as well as wide, forgiving fairways. With par 3s varying in length from 164 to 234 yards, Dalat Palace's layout tests every club in the bag, a sign of a well-designed course. This is again evidenced by the alternative need for restraint with the shorter clubs for the longer hitter off downhill tees to steer clear of water, and bigger heroic drives for maximum carry at other tee boxes. The intriguing 387 yard 7th hole tempts with a tee shot that carries two lakes,

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though the more conservative may play to the water's left for a longer uphill approach to the green. At 5,000 feet of altitude, Dalat Palace is particularly scenic and enjoyable golf in a cool climate, with the added bonus of longer distances with every club in the bag.

Designer: Brett Stensen  
Holes / Par / Yardage: 18 holes, par 72 (7,009 yards)  
Established: 1994  
Distance: 10 min from Dalat City  
Green / Caddy Fee: 2,200,000 VND (wkday) 2,500,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee  
Golf Cart Fee: 800,000 VND  
Facilities: Accommodation, Golf Academy, Golf School, Massage, Restaurants, Sauna, Spa, Tennis

### **Sacom Tuyen Lam Golf Resort**

Halfway up the mountain to Dalat city, the Tuyen Lam Golf Resort sits deep in a valley on the eastern shores of the Tuyen Lam Lake surrounded by large mountains and lush pine forests, which means it could not but have excellent scenery and year round cooling temperatures. One of the narrower courses on account of its being nestled in a valley, many of the holes play from elevated tees to tight fairways. Most would do well to keep driver in the bag since this new golf course favours accuracy over distance; this of course means an accurate driver of the ball who dares to rip it has a very distinct advantage. But beware the double hazard of pine trees lining the fairways, and the resultant pine needles on the ground beneath the trees. The gently sloping all Bent grass greens make for excellent putting surfaces, and are generous enough to receive the less than perfect shot, but they are well-guarded to punish the errant and wayward. The signature hole comes early on this course; the 4<sup>th</sup> hole is a downhill par 3 where distance control is critical to find the right to left canted green well defended by bunkers in front. Missing left of the green spells trouble and a scramble for bogey or worse is commonplace.

Designer: EKISTIC-Canada  
Holes / Par / Yardage: 18 holes, par 72 (7,276 yards)  
Established: 2014  
Distance: 15 km from City Centre  
Green / Caddy Fee: 1,600,000 VND (wkday) 2,000,000 VND (wkend), inclusive of caddy fee  
Golf Cart Fee: 800,000 VND  
Facilities: Accommodation, Massage, Restaurants