

# Malaysia's Top Ten

## West Course Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club

**A**WESOME, truly mesmerizing! Those were the words that swiftly crossed my mind the moment I cast my eyes on the sweeping view of the lush fairway right in front of me.

That was a year ago when I had the opportunity to test the back nine of the still under renovation West Course. A recent visit last month confirmed my belief that this layout is without a doubt the best in the country!

Even before the mammoth revamp that took close to a year to complete, the 36-hole Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club is already a prestigious golfing establishment, easily one of the leading clubs in the Klang Valley.

Originally designed by Nelson & Haworth design firm in 1991, the West Course already boasts of championship pedigree as it hosted the Maybank Malaysian Open in 2006, won by Korean Charlie Wi.

Learning from the experience of hosting the national Open, the owner Sime Darby, decided to take Kuala Lumpur GCC a step further in the right direction, committing millions of ringgit to revamp both the West and East Courses, as well as the clubhouse and other key facilities.

Ted Parslow was roped in to oversee the extensive makeover, which involved the total reconstruction of the course from the subsoil drainage to the turf. Tee-boxes on the sixth, eighth, 11th, 15th, 16th and 18th were completely reconstructed from scratch.

In keeping with time, the 'Salam' Seashore Paspalum grass now adorns the luscious fairways, tee-boxes and roughs while greens are turfed with Paspalum Supreme providing smooth, true roll putting surfaces.

The layout's many lakes were also reshaped and some extended, adding more challenge as well aesthetic value to the site. Around 50 new sand traps were added to the layout, each equipped with the latest drainage systems, the Bunkermat technology that prevents face erosion.

Looking at the fantastic results now, it was absolutely money well-spent as the West Course is comfortably the indisputable number one in the country with legit claim to be one of the region's best.

As a golfing challenge, the West Course stands at 6,368-metre, par-72 off the championship tees. It is not monstrously long but as rightly pointed by some, the layout is a thinking man's course.



**tee times**  
Malaysia's  
**Top 10**  
Golf Courses

**1**

**tee times rating**

■ Design	★★★★★
■ Visual Appeal	★★★★★
■ Playability	★★★★★
■ Maintenance	★★★★★
■ Uniqueness	★★★★★
■ Service	★★★★★
■ Affordability	★★★★
■ Accessibility	★★★★★
■ Location	★★★★★
■ Facilities	★★★★★

The first nine plays to a distance of 3,127 metres with the second at 3,241 metres. Practically every hole is memorable for its stunning view. Personally for me, the 406-metre, par-four second hole is standout on the outward nine.

For a short-hitter that I am, this index 1 hole is as difficult as it gets. Too short a drive from the elevated tee-box and bunkers, positioned strategically in the landing area, lie in wait, ready to mete punishment. Going for the green with a long iron is a scary prospect as water lurks on the left behind the green.

The tenth hole is a superb par-five of 511 metres with the realigned lake running on the right side of the fairway. It opens with a downhill tee-shot to the generous fairway before gently climbing up to the green, again well bunkered to trap errant shots.

As far as finishing holes go, the 18th is in a class of its own. At 580 metres, this is the longest hole on the course with sand traps aplenty. The tee-shot plays downhill and requires perfect positioning.

Even the hardest hitters out there will think twice about trying to reach the bunker-riddled elevated green in two as there's simply no room for error. If you find yourself in the trap, trying to get close to the pin on a green that slopes away from you is nigh on



The 11th hole.



The par-five, tenth hole.

impossible.

Next March, it will be interesting to watch the top players from the European and Asian Tours take on the West Course in the Maybank Malaysian Open. Certainly, at the end of that week, West Course's reputation will be further enhanced.

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**KUALA LUMPUR**  
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

## FIVE-STAR FACILITIES

#### CLUBHOUSE

THE Clubhouse was designed by William Moisson in the graceful Spanish style of Southern California. The completion of renovations will see an approximate of 236,000 sq ft of covered and exclusive state-of-the-art facilities carefully planned to guarantee a smooth flow of activities in the functional area.

#### DRIVING RANGE

THE new driving range, comprising of 3 levels accommodating 78 bays, has been completely reconstructed to provide more challenging targets for all golfers to aim at. New larger grass tees have been constructed to full golf course tee specifications with the same paspalum grass as is found in the golf course.

The range itself has been reshaped to resemble the golf course. The target greens are scaled imitations of 4 of the West Course greens, Holes 5, 14, 18 and 11. The greens are now relatively flat to give a more realistic feel and allow golfers to see where their ball actually finishes.

The entire range is covered with artificial grass of different colours and where possible slopes are such that balls will run to the automatic ball collection drains. The netting at the back has also been raised to lessen the number of balls exiting the range.

#### OTHER AMENITIES

- 11,000 sq ft gymnasium
- Tennis, Badminton and Squash Courts
- Ten-lane Bowling Alley
- 1 Olympic-sized lap pool
- 1 resort-styled pool
- Pro Shops
- Function Rooms
- Banquet Hall
- Golfers' Terrace
- Piano Lounge
- Alfresco Dining
- Japanese Restaurant
- Chinese Restaurant
- Fine Dining Restaurant
- VVIP Suites
- Members' Lounge
- Business Centre
- Cigar Lounge
- Karaoke Lounge
- Pool Room
- Theatre
- Steam Bath & Sauna
- Florist
- Salon

A sweeping view of the West Course, Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club

