



# Paradise found

Els Club Teluk Datai and The Andaman Resort, Langkawi, Malaysia.

The Els Club Teluk Datai - Malaysia

WORDS PAUL PRENDERGAST

**IF YOU'RE FORTUNATE** enough to travel the world for recreation with a little golf thrown in, it can be rare for both the destination and the golf to be as equally breathtaking and high quality as each other.

There are many world class resorts in idyllic settings with golf courses that don't match up to these high standards and, equally, the reverse can apply where the reputation of the golf course alone is the primary reason for visiting.

It didn't take much past the first impressions to be totally convinced that the combination of The Andaman – a Luxury Collection Resort – and nearby Els Club Teluk Datai golf course in Langkawi, Malaysia is one such ideal location.

The cavernous and traditional Kampung-styled lobby is luxuriously impressive in itself but we were utterly transfixed when drawn to the view from the balcony edge, down to the free form pool built in harmony with the existing rainforest, and the turquoise expanse of Datai Bay beyond.

'Paradise Found' indeed and no matter the length of your journey and flagging energy levels on arrival, I defy anyone not wanting to 'get amongst it' and immediately seek to explore

every nook and cranny of this vast yet intimate resort, integrated perfectly within an ecosystem teaming with birds and unique wildlife.

The bulk of the rooms of this recently upgraded resort feature mesmerising views of Datai Bay, surrounding forested hillside and near and distant islands.

Many of the rooms and suites have private or shared plunge pools but all manage to inspire a unique phenomenon, in that no matter how many times you've grabbed a camera to capture the intoxicating outlook, you find yourself reaching for it again and again in search of the next perfect shot.

Few pictures do it justice however.

The Andaman features all you would expect of a world-class resort – restaurants and bars of superb quality, unsurpassed vistas and an array of laidback water sports including snorkelling the coral reef directly off the beach.

Perched high on a bluff with commanding Bay views, V Integrated Wellness is arguably one of the most scenic spa treatment centres on earth and there are many tranquil, secluded spots under the canopy of trees at the beach or

around the pool area to disappear with a book and your thoughts.

As impressive as The Andaman's physical attributes are, their philosophy towards conservation measures is at the very heart of the Resort's ethos and operations.

Impacted as it was by the 2004 tsunami, the reef areas located in the shallows off Datai Bay are being systematically and lovingly restored by an inspirational partnership between The Andaman and marine biology students from local university campuses on Langkawi.

Guests can dive with students based at The Andaman to retrieve living coral specimens from the bay, relocating them to a conservation pool that has been established on the grounds. Guided snorkelling tours are also available for guests to view the marine life being nurtured to more robust health before their eventual return to the bay.

The Andaman's Marketing Executive Edeline Berg also points out the resort's passion for sustainability and support for the community by seeking as much local produce as they can.

Native fruits and vegetables indigenous to Langkawi are integrated into menus and seafood

is purchased twice a week from local fishermen who pull their boats up to shore outside the beautiful beachfront restaurant, Jala.

The entire seafood menu of Jala ('Fisherman's Net') is determined by the catch of the day with guests able to choose and discuss the preparation of their dishes directly with the executive chefs.

Jala, the adjacent Beach Bar and Tepian Laut restaurant are all a step from the beachfront and the sound of waves gently lapping against the shore. Barefoot dining is encouraged but especially so at the sand floored Jala, to heighten 'all five senses' during your dining experience.

After a few days of rejuvenation at The Andaman, I eagerly took the short trip up the road for a game at one of the most exciting 'new' golf courses in the world – the Els Club Teluk Datai, or 'Datai Bay' on translation.

Australian brothers, Geoff and Ted Parslow, designed the original course over 20 years ago and Ernie Els was brought in to undertake a redevelopment of the layout and the obvious re-naming to the Els Club Teluk Datai over the past few years. >>

# lifestyle GOLF CARS

Operating under  
**NEW MANAGEMENT**  
and with a **NEW** location in  
Sanctuary Cove Village



- New & Used Buggies
- Parts & Accessories
- Trade-Ins Welcome
- Servicing All Brands
- Rental Buggies
- Custom Designs
- On-site Repairs Available  
– We Come To You

**Ph: 5577 8093**

[info@lifestylegolfcars.com.au](mailto:info@lifestylegolfcars.com.au)

[www.lifestylegolfcars.com.au](http://www.lifestylegolfcars.com.au)

Agents for **EZGO**

6A Masthead Way, Sanctuary Cove



The Andaman Resort - Malaysia



In past visits, I'd never played golf here but marvelled from a road that dissected part of the course from the Andaman coastline at a green perched seemingly on the edge of the turquoise sea, with nothing between it and the islands in the distance that form part of Thailand.

How exciting it was to return to find local authorities had conceded to re-routing the road to enable Els to bring more of this spectacular coastline into play.

Each of the nines meander into the ancient rainforest framed by jagged mountainous peaks before returning to the coast with a visual assault of blue that takes your breath away.

The rich green carpet of turf was flawless and provided beautiful playing conditions, as inquisitive dusky leaf monkeys rustling in the trees or the awesome wingspan of eagles soaring overhead added pleasantly to the visual distractions of this gorgeous location.

Managed by Troon Golf, the remodelled layout and world-class clubhouse and practice facilities have attracted rave reviews and international recognition but perhaps none more validating than the recent *Golf Digest* ranking of the 'World's Top 100 Courses', which has the Els Club Teluk Datai debuting at No. 83.

The 19th Hole at the Els Club was a comfortable sanctuary after the round but so too was my '20th hole' later that afternoon on return to The Andaman, with a refreshment or two in lazy chairs at the Beach Bar drinking in the setting sun over the picturesque bay as the cool of the evening slowly enveloped us.

This was one tough place to drag yourself away from but in doing so, we were resolute in our determination to return to again soak up the unique experience that The Andaman and Els Club Teluk Datai combine to provide. ●

# 5 MEMBERSHIPS, 1 LIFESTYLE.

**GOLF ACCESS  
MEMBERSHIP  
NOW AVAILABLE**



## WITH 5 LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP, SANCTUARY COVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB HAS A MEMBERSHIP TO SUIT EVERY LIFESTYLE.

**Equity Membership** – Full Membership including unlimited golf on The Pines and The Palms golf courses along with access to The Country Club fitness centre, the exclusive Golf Clubhouse, and world class practice facilities.

**Golf Access Membership** – Restricted Membership for junior golfers aged 32 and below, including limited access to The Pines and The Palms golf courses along with access to The Country Club fitness centre.

**Social Access Membership** – Restricted Membership including unlimited access to the exclusive Golf Clubhouse for social activities and Members and Members' guests only social events.

**Corporate Access Membership** – A strictly limited number of Memberships are now offered to those businesses seeking the very best in corporate entertaining for themselves and their guests.

**Country Club Membership** – A Membership providing access to over 45 aerobic classes per week, the latest gymnasium equipment, four air-conditioned training rooms including a cardio room, weight training room, secluded yoga studio and group fitness room, five flood lit tennis courts, a 25-metre heated pool with BBQ gazebo, private spas and saunas, specialised treatment rooms, our first-class Kidz Club, a coffee shop, and our highly trained professional staff.

Contact our Sales Team today for further information on 5699 9000

Sanctuary Cove Golf and Country Club  
Gleneagles Drive, Sanctuary Cove, QLD  
[www.sanctuarycovegolf.com.au](http://www.sanctuarycovegolf.com.au)

Conditions apply for each Membership category.

SANCTUARY COVE  GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB