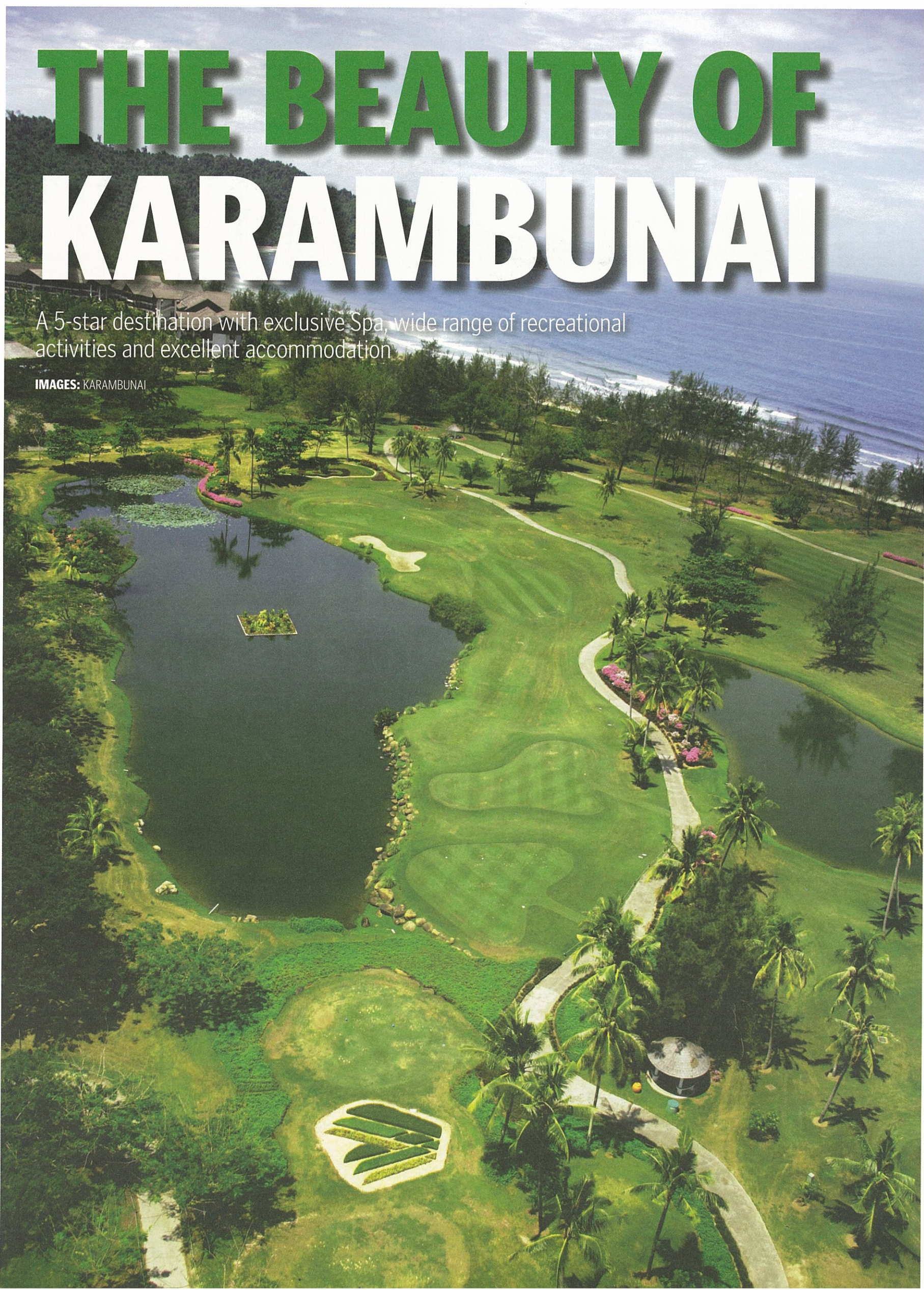


THE BEAUTY OF KARAMBUNAI

A 5-star destination with exclusive Spa, wide range of recreational activities and excellent accommodation

IMAGES: KARAMBUNAI





way through a grove of tropical vegetation. The tee shot must avoid the bunker and grass hollows at the landing area on the right if par or better is to be had here. The putting surface, too, has grassy depressions to make things interesting.

The 10th at Karambunai is a par-5 that is 481 metres in length. It also carries the Index 2 ranking of this tract and is the most difficult on the homeward nine. The main obstacle is a water body that tracks the length of the hole on the left before making its way across the fairway in front of the green. The first landing area has water to trouble the drive, as juts out into the fairway. Thus, a pulled or hooked tee shot will almost certainly be punished accordingly. And then the approach shot must be wary of the stream that runs across the fairway – leaving two landing areas to play for. The green itself features a cluster of bunkers on the right and a smallish one on the left.

Karambunai finishing hole is a par-5 that doglegs to the left. There is a bunker on the left for those who pull their tee shots and water for those who slice. The green can be reached in two with a well-struck fairway wood – from the left, and an eagle putt is not out of the question. However, a water carry to reach the putting surface is necessary and deep pot bunkers at the rear also pose a threat here. But regardless, it is a good finish to a scenic and challenging course.

A full buggy course, Karambunai has a clubhouse that features practice putting and chipping greens, driving range and golf shop. The golfers' terrace and cocktail lounge are pleasantly decorated and ideal to unwind. The club also has conference rooms that are handy for meetings and seminars, before a round of golf.

The accommodation is first-class at Karambunai and features no fewer than 485 superbly-appointed guestrooms, suites and luxury villas. Its dining facilities include eight restaurants and bars, and with a long string of leisure and recreational activities, particularly the water sports, there is something to be had all day and everyday, by the whole family.

For more information please call +60-88 411222, email: info@nexusresort.com or log on to: www.nexusresort.com

HOW TO GET THERE

Karambunai situated on the west coast of Sabah and is accessible via direct or single-stop flights from Kuala Lumpur and several other major Asian cities. These include international flights from Bangkok, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Manila, Melbourne, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo and Xiamen. The resort itself is about 40 minutes from Kota Kinabalu International Airport and Terminal 2 Kota Kinabalu, and 30 minutes from Kota Kinabalu city centre. Transfers can be arranged by coach, taxi or private limousine.





The spectacularly beautiful Karambunai Peninsula is one of Sabah's leading tourist destinations. And given its location and natural allure, it is simple to understand why this so.

It boasts a 6km sandy white beach on the South China Sea - a splendid attraction for visitors, and a 130-million year-old tropical rainforest that sits in the background. Together they elegantly sandwich the Nexus Resort Karambunai, a 5-star development with an Exclusive Borneo Spa and wide range of recreational activities and excellent accommodation and services.

Situated about 30 kilometres north-east of the state capital Kota Kinabalu and some 40km away from the International Airport, the resort is spread over 3,300 acres of untouched terrain and

to the green on this hole is best played from the right side of the landing area, with the bunker and grass hollow on the left of the putting surface being taken note of. Overall, the first hole is pretty straight forward and does provide one with the chance to get off to a good start here.

The third is a par-3 that measures 194 metres and serves as Karambunai's signature hole. It fields a large landing area on the right, where a few hollows have been deliberately crafted to make things tough. The direct route to a small putting surface, if safely negotiated, will bring good reward. And despite the green being undulating, a birdie is a real possibility on this hole; however, only for those who dare to take it on.

The 4th hole carries Karambunai Index 1 rating and off the championship

NOTEWORTHY HOLES

HOLE #1 481 METERS, PAR 5

The primary feature of the opening hole, a 481m par 5, is a meandering waterway which transverses its length. At the first landing area, a lake encroaches from the left and threatens to swallow the pulled or hooked tee shot. As the player approaches the green, a meandering stream diagonally bisects the fairway, creating two target areas. The green itself is protected by a nest of bunkers located to the right, and a small crater-like sandtrap on the left. The moderate length of this hole makes it a realistic birdie opportunity for most players.

HOLE #3 160 METERS, PAR 3

The 3rd hole is a short par 3, though measuring only 160m may be the most interesting. The oblong green is nestled between the densely vegetated hillside to the left and two bunkers below the green on the right. Overhanging trees 50m from the green create additional difficulties. Proper club selection and straight hitting are imperative on this hole.

HOLE #4 390 METERS, PAR 4

At 390m, the dogleg right 4th hole tests each player's long and short game. The drive must be solidly struck to permit a long iron second shot to the green. For those who are capable of maneuvering their golf ball in flight, a slight draw is the approach shot of choice as it takes the water to the left of out of play. A deft putting touch is required to negotiate the bold contouring. Par here will almost certainly win this hole.

HOLE #9 456 METERS, PAR 5

This is a 456m par 5 which doglegs to the left. A bunker will catch those who pull their drive while water will catch the more errant shot to the right. From the left side of the fairway the green can be reached in two with a well-struck fairway wood - its yield, an eagle putt. However, attacking the pin on this hole could prove perilous, as water demands a force carry to reach the putting surface and deep pot bunkers at the rear collect the long ball.

HOLE #12 194 METERS, PAR 3

Hole #12 stretches 194m. To reach the safety of the right half of the putting green, the player must negotiate some grassy hollows while access to the left half of the green requires a force carry over water. For those who are up to this stringent challenge, a birdie opportunity awaits on the gently contoured green.

HOLE #18 344 METERS, PAR 4

The 344m dogleg left, par 4, 18th hole returns the player to the clubhouse through a grove of flowering tropical trees. The tee shot must negotiate a bunker on the right and a series of grass hollows at the landing area, and the green is similarly surrounded by grassy depressions. This hole offers a competitor one last chance to affect the outcome of his match.

Still, it is a fitting conclusion to a scenic and also challenging, round of golf.

A LAYOUT OF UNDULATING FAIRWAYS, WELL-CONTOURED GREENS, NUMEROUS SAND HAZARDS AND WITH SMALL LAKES CRAFTED TO ADD TO ITS VARYING DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

landscaped surroundings that has golf as one of its main drawcards.

The award-winning 18-hole championship layout was designed by American golf course architect Ronald Fream.

The tract's key characteristics are undulating fairways and well-contoured greens, with sand hazards and small lakes ingeniously crafted to add to its varying degree of difficulty.

Just this year Karambunai played host to the Malaysian Amateur Open championship, an international event that drew more than 100 players from more than 25 countries.

Nevertheless, the 6,134-metre course remains a par-72 layout that can be enjoyed by all skill levels.

Golfers at Karambunai are greeted with a 375-metre par-4 opening hole. It features a huge sand trap on the right of the fairway, but only comes into play for the long hitters. The approach

tee box it stretches 485-metre. This par-5 is a genuine test of one's skill and temperament. To start with, it demands a long straight drive. From here, there are a couple of options - one would be to carry the pond, which would then set up a pitch to be played to the green. The option would be to favour the fairway on the right, from where the green can be found with a wedge or 9-iron over a 90-metre bunker. Good course management and a strategic approach to this hole is the best way to counter its meanness. Remaining focused on the job at hand is crucial to achieving this.

However, having said that it is also one that presents a grand picture of Karambunai's sheer beauty. The views of the ocean through the ironwood trees on the left can best be described as breathtaking.

The last hole on the front nine is a 344-metre par-4 that doglegs left towards the clubhouse as it makes its