

News



Greg Bennett and Samantha McGlone taking a victorious ride on a young elephant at the finish line of the 2005 Laguna Phuket Triathlon

High resolution image available at <http://www.lagunaresorts.com/~ftp/dm/Pictures/Greg&Samantha4.jpg>

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Press Release

Phuket, Thailand

11 April 2006

Defending Champions Return To 2006 Laguna Phuket Triathlon

The 2005 Thai Airways Laguna Phuket Triathlon champions, Greg Bennett from Australia and young Canadian Samantha McGlone have confirmed that they will return to Phuket on 3 December 2006 to defend their titles. Both Bennett and McGlone, who were newcomers to Phuket last year, thoroughly enjoyed their experience and warm Thai welcome, and are looking forward to racing in Phuket again this year.

For the first time in the history of the event, registration was closed prior to the 2005 race with a record number of triathletes from over 30 countries entered. The race office is anticipating another sell-out this year after receiving a tremendous amount of positive feedback from athletes, sponsors and spectators following the 2005 race.

Event Director, Paula Himel, attributes the overwhelming success to a number of factors. "The popularity of triathlon in Southeast Asia and around the world has taken off, and continues to do so. I believe this continued growth, and the fact that we offer a unique and fun event in such a spectacular setting, makes this a race that the pros and amateurs from all over the world truly look forward to every year."

As in past years, the 2006 course will comprise a 1.8km swim, a 55km cycle and a 12km run which for the first time will wind its way around the award-winning Laguna Phuket golf course. The Laguna Phuket Triathlon offers a US\$20,000 Pro Prize Purse and 25 guaranteed entries into the 2007 Ironman Australia to the highest place finishers in each age group.

Once again, a 6km Fun Run will be held on race day, set to begin once the triathletes have transitioned to the bike course.

Online registration will begin on 1 May and all five Laguna Phuket hotels will offer discounted room rates.

In addition to offering a spectacular race course, Laguna Phuket also offers a list of leisure activities suitable for travel companions including spa treatments, golf, water sports, kid's clubs, local day trips and much more. The Laguna Phuket Triathlon is a magnificent race and an experience of beauty, tranquility and excitement. This truly is a race you will never forget.

For online registration or further information and updates, please visit

www.lagunaphukettriathlon.com, or contact

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Note to the Editor

Laguna Phuket is Asia's finest destination resort comprising five deluxe hotels: Banyan Tree Phuket, Dusit Laguna Resort, Laguna Beach Resort, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket and Allamanda Laguna Phuket, which all share 600 acres of tropical parkland and three kilometres of beach frontage with the Laguna Phuket Golf Club, Canal Shopping Village, Banyan Tree Spa, four Angsana Spas, Laguna Wedding Chapel and Quest Laguna Phuket Adventure, a leading corporate training and outdoor recreation facility.