



BINTAN TRIATHLON

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Bintan Triathlon hits highest participation record

Bintan island will welcome this weekend the highest number of triathletes in its 14 years of history. 1,300 athletes will flock to beautiful Bintan Resorts to participate in Asia's leading international triathlon festival.

Traveling from 22 different countries and representing 46 nationalities, a vast majority of the athletes combine their participation in the event with a short family holiday.

Asia's best amateur triathletes will be on the start line of the Olympic Distance race consisting of a 1.5km swim, a 40km bike ride and a 10km run. Accompanying families and friends can be part of the action in the shorter sprint race and kids races.

Indonesian athlete Andy Wibowo will be back this year after a year of hiatus. Following his victory in 2015 and 2016, all eyes are on him for a possible triple crown. In the women field, the outright favourite, and 2017 defending champion, is German athlete Jennifer Zenker. The Indonesian favourites are national athlete Eva Desiana and Ironman athlete Inge Prasetyo.

Honouring the event of their presence as ambassadors will be world-class professional triathletes Kate Bevilaqua and Guy Crawford. Kate has three Ironman titles to her name and won Ironman Bintan in 2016.

The weekend of sport will splash off from Nirwana Gardens, the event head-quarter, with the Sunset Swim Classic, a timed 1000m open water swim on Friday that will serve as a warm-up to the triathletes competing the next day.

In the Olympic Distance triathlon the swim start is meant to be more friendly this year as competitors have a choice of three starts based on their swimming ability. The rest of the course is known to be challenging with rolling hills on the bike course and the run course.

Although elite athletes are well represented, the event attracts 18 percent of first timers this year. Others, such as Japanese participant Kosaku Miyazawa, are doing their first Olympic Distance race and use it as a stepping stone to Ironman 70.3 Bintan this August. "I'm a first year triathlete, trying to achieve full IRONMAN by the end of this year. I have completed MetaSprint Series and this is the next step."

Added this year to the competition is the Club Challenge that allows club members to defend the colours of their club and cumulate points that count towards the MetaSport Club of the Year contest. 38 clubs, primarily from Singapore will be represented this weekend.

The enthusiastic support of friends and families around the spectator-friendly lapped course around Bintan Resorts is another feature of the Bintan Triathlon. Kids are kept entertained at the kids club with face-painting and foam pools and more while the parents are racing.

The crowds are out again on Sunday for the final day of the festival which features the Kids, Youth and Fun Duo races where children as young as six are eligible to enter.

For more information on the Bintan Triathlon, visit www.bintantriathlon.com.
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