



Our ABA Reciprocal Clubs - Admiral Marina

Admiral Marina and Avillion Over-Water Chalets Beckon

by Bruce Maxwell



Layout of Admiral Marina's 100 berths. Multihulls are welcome.

Short-haul voyages are made to Nongsa Point Marina and the Riaus, Pulau Tioman and even the Anambas islands from Raffles Marina, but few boaters seem to seriously consider Admiral Marina in Port Dickson (PD).

Why not? According to precise online calculators it is only 143.38 nautical miles away, at 02°28.75'N, 101°50.40'E. That's about 14 hours at 10 knots, so one could leave at 6 am and be there in time for dinner.

During the trip, the wide array of vessels converging on or leaving Singapore at the southern end of the Malacca Straits are always interesting to watch, and PD itself has long been a weekend "escape" for Kuala Lumpur residents, so there is plenty to keep one occupied for a few days.

Carefully check latest CIQ arrangements. See "Marina-CIQ" on the website, and ring beforehand to clarify further. Only Immigration is open on weekends. Marina officer Sara Swathy can supply full CIQ forms and directions. Her direct line is +60 6 648 2514.

Admiral Marina and Leisure Club (AMLC), its official name, has 100 berths for vessels from 20' to 200', with power and water supplied to each. Largest vessels we recall in residence were the Alloy Yachts and then Heesen-built *A Khaliqs*, and after that a 39m or 128' Heesen called *Lady Halima*.

Rates are RM1.60 a foot on a casual basis, and ABA members are entitled to a 20 per cent rebate. Other discounts apply for food and beverage. There is a refuelling facility, 24-hour security, and amenities include the usual water sports and free-form swimming pool, tennis courts and gymnasium. Taxis and hire cars are readily available.

The yachties' online reference guide *Noonsite* says: "This is a very well-designed marina. It is extremely well protected, and there are no problems with depths at the entrance or in the marina itself. The water inside the marina is very clean.

"The approach can be a little unnerving if there is any on-shore wind. You have to head directly for the beach until fairly close in, before turning to starboard to make the entrance. On the beach,



Banana boating is one of the watersports offered



Shady Admiral Marina pool terrace with drinks from the bar



Floating lounge off the Avillion Spa



Avillion's over-water chalets

there are two large block hotels, next to a low-level hotel with pagoda-like rooves. The external marina wall has three luxury homes on it". See also *Southeast Asia Pilot* by Bill O'Leary and Andy Dowden.

AMLC nestles within the Avillion Admiral Cove development, and the unusual Avillion Port Dickson Hotel with its distinctive over-water chalets and spa being a five minute drive away.

All facilities are managed by Avillion Hotels International Sdn Bhd, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Pacific Bhd. The latter is Malaysia's leading tourism, e-commerce, travel and hospitality company, and the first travel company to be listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

Local sightseeing includes the Tanjung Tuan Lighthouse and Forest Reserve, Dutch Well, Pirate Island, and assorted forts and museums. Fishing trips, cruises and "Tough Nation" extreme sports are on offer, while we prefer the excellent wining and dining options in PD and along this beach-strewn coast, where some challenging golf courses are to be found.

Nearby, of course, is KLIA at Sepang for those preferring the aerial route, and the drive from Singapore is about three hours. Apart from easy access to KL, PD bills itself as a gateway to slightly south Malacca and its attractions.

Royal Port Dickson Yacht Club, under the patronage of the Sultan of Negeri Sembilan, is just up the road, and many yachties, particularly with children, will be familiar with the dinghy sailing events that are held here, often in tandem with Royal Selangor Yacht Club at Port Klang.

Admiral Marina may also be the first leg in an island-hopping passage that continues to Royal Selangor, Pangkor and Lumut, Straits Marina at Penang, and Royal Langkawi Yacht Club, thence Ko Terutau, the Andaman Sea and Phuket.

Admiral Marina and Leisure Club

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