

# Extraordinary Golf Experiences

*Expertly Crafted*





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In creating **Extraordinary Golf Experiences**, we were driven by one guiding principle; we wanted to help golfers complete their bucket lists.

Throughout the brochure, you will find 18 unique experiences that will aim to inspire and ignite the spark that leads you on an unforgettable, life-changing journey.

More than a checklist, it is the course guide that will take you around the world.

Find the first hole on page six, which will take you to the Algarve's finest golf resort, in the company of golfing royalty.

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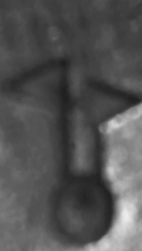


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We're in the business of making the impossible happen.

Stainless Steel



\* Jack Nicklaus



U.S. MASTERS

Stainless Steel



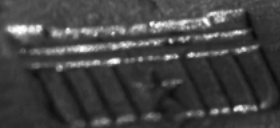
\* Jack Nicklaus



U.S. MASTERS

Steel

Jack Nicklaus



U.S. MASTERS

# An Introduction

FROM YOUR GOLF TRAVEL CEO, **ROSS MARSHALL**

*When we decided to create this brochure, we knew it would be unlike anything we have ever sent to our valued customers before; we seamlessly organise golf holidays every day, but these elite experiences make up the very best of golf travel.*

We want to show you that, not only can we get you the best tee times on the most exclusive courses in the World, but our Concierge team can arrange anything you need to make your next golf holiday the trip of a lifetime.

Throughout this brochure, you'll discover 18 unique and inspiring ways to elevate your golf holidays into the extraordinary. From private air travel to Royal Suites to private courses, there is a reason why we are the world's largest golf travel company. We make things happen that others cannot.

With input from many of our travel experts here at Your Golf Travel, we provide unrivalled insight into many of the world's bucket list destinations; expect to be blown away by new levels of luxury.

From exploring the surreal landscape of South Africa to joining up a once in a lifetime trip to Miami with tickets to the Superbowl, we've poured every ounce of experience, knowledge and expertise into this brochure, making these once in a lifetime holidays a reality for you.

I hope you enjoy reading about these experiences as much as we have enjoyed putting them together.

Hope to see you on a fairway soon,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross A. Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ross" being particularly prominent.

Ross Marshall  
Your Golf Travel CEO & Co-Founder

# Your Golf Travel Specialists

CREATING UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

*“Forget your opponents; always play against par.”*

*- Sam Snead*

Our dedicated travel specialists live and breathe golf. With an average handicap of 8.2 across our sales, concierge and Select teams, you are in safe hands, speaking to fellow golfers that understand your needs and aspirations.

Rather than simply booking what is asked, our specialists draw upon their own experiences and are able to recommend anything from hotels and courses to local restaurants and nightlife.

Whether you're a solo traveller or a golf society, they will take the time to understand your preferences, even if you don't.

From the moment you make contact with Your Golf Travel to beyond your date of return, you'll receive a personalised service that no other golf travel company is able to offer.

What's more, with the launch of our Select membership programme and concierge team, the unique service is elevated even further.

Follow the 18-hole course throughout this brochure to find a direct number for each in-house specialist.



## Extraordinary Captaincy

Polish your game with the help of ex-Ryder Cup captain, Paul McGinley at Quinta do Lago.

1

Quinta do Lago is one of The Algarve's most sought after golf resorts. What better way to enjoy Europe's best golf destination (World Golf Awards, 2015, 2016) than by taking part in a Q&A and short game clinic. There will be a host of celebrities playing in this event, which is exclusive to Your Golf Travel Select customers.

To book your place, call Richard Tidman or Nick Bishop of Your Golf Travel Select on 020 7157 1553.



## Meet Our Authors and Contributors

*Clockwise from Left:  
Rory Anderson and  
Lee Westwood in Dubai;  
Andrew Harding;  
Nick Bayly;  
Gareth Llewellyn;  
Paul McGinley;*

### Nick Bayly, Editor of Golf News

As a golf journalist for over 25 years, I have edited and written for a wide range of consumer and trade publications, including Golf Monthly, Golf News, Golf World and The Times. I have interviewed most of the world's top pros, played many of the world's top courses, and continue to travel the globe in search of great golf destinations, an elusive hole-in-one, and a decent bacon roll.

### Andrew Harding, Co-Founder

Since co-founding Your Golf Travel in 2005, the success of the business has afforded me plenty of opportunities to experience the very best of what's on offer in the world of golf. My favourite golf course? Put a gun to my head and I might have to go for Adare Manor in Ireland.

### Lee Westwood, Chief Holiday Officer

As the world's most travelled golfer, I am delighted to represent Your Golf Travel as Chief Holiday Officer. Having played in 44 countries throughout my career, I know all the best spots, on and off the course.

### Gareth Llewellyn, Head of Tournament & Long Haul

I have been lucky enough to attend The Masters nine times, and as you would expect, I still get the same excitement walking through the gates at Augusta National. The US is my destination of choice, with the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island being a favourite.

### Rory Anderson, Video Producer

In eight years at Your Golf Travel, I have travelled the world, creating videos that hopefully entertain people, but also give Your Golf Travel clients an insight into places they can visit and courses they can play. I'm on 22 countries & counting, so I've been around the block as far as golf travel goes!

### Paul McGinley, Ex-Ryder Cup Captain

Paul McGinley has worked with Your Golf Travel for over five years, hosting various events and golf days across the globe, ensuring attendees come away with memories to treasure and an improved game.

## Extraordinary Miami

Get on the field at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami for Super Bowl LIV.

# 2

The greatest show on Earth is watched by over 150 million people, and you can get closer to the action than ever before.

Follow your round at Trump Doral or TPC Sawgrass with an In-Stadium Suite, where you can get post-game on-field access and walk in the footsteps of America's greatest athletes.

To make this happen, call Gareth Pullen, our American Sports Specialist, on 020 7336 5362.





# Super Bowl, Super Golf

COMBINE CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES  
WITH THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

*Come and join Your Golf Travel's very own Super Bowl party in 2020. America's biggest sporting event swings into Miami, Florida, home to the Dolphins NFL team and some of the country's most celebrated golf resorts.*

*Words by Nick Bayly*

It's a measure of the popularity of the Super Bowl—the climax of America's National Football League season—that a recent poll of avid NFL fans reported that more than half would rather watch the game than attend their own child's birthday party.

OK, so quite a few dads I know here in the UK would probably consider giving their son or daughter's birthday bash the swerve if their team made it to the FA Cup final at Wembley, or England were on the brink of an Ashes victory at Lords. But, suffice to say, the Super Bowl grips America's collective psyche in a way that no event on this side of the pond quite does.

Today, thanks to a global TV audience of over 150 million and growing social media hype, the Super Bowl is bigger than ever. And even though your team might not be playing, it's almost impossible not to get caught up in the razzmatazz that surrounds this sporting juggernaut. Following Atlanta's staging of the event in 2019, which resulted in the lowest-scoring match of all time with New England Patriots' 13-3 win over the LA Rams, 2020 sees the Super Bowl roadshow

roll into sunny Miami for the eleventh time in its history, and 'The Magic City' is once again gearing up for an almighty party.

The 54th renewal, which takes place at the Miami Dolphins' Hard Rock Stadium on February 2nd, will have bigger significance than ever, with the NFL celebrating its centenary in 2020 and promising fans a nostalgia-packed programme of events. And while specific celebrations for the week leading up to the big game are still being finalised, the creation of a 54-acre Super Bowl Park in the centre of Miami will certainly help get everyone in the party mood. Spanning 14 blocks, the park will allow visitors to explore Miami's pulsating nightlife while also experiencing 100 years of NFL history for a week before the game kicks off.

For UK-based aficionados of American Football (who don't mind putting up with endless renditions of the Star-Spangled Banner and can stomach a foot-long hotdog), the timing of the Super Bowl is perfect for escaping the mid-winter gloom and combining a trip to the self-proclaimed 'Greatest Show on Earth' to play some top-quality golf courses under cloudless skies. South East Florida and the region around Miami is packed with a superb selection of golf resorts and courses on which to while away the hours either side of the match.

Donald Trump might not be everyone's cup of tea when it comes to politics

or global affairs, but the 45th President of the United States is big news—and not of the fake kind either—when it comes to golf in this part of the world. As owner of the Trump National Doral, he has sunk \$200m since he bought the famed resort for \$150m in 2012, transforming it into a luxurious 800-acre golfing playground where no fewer than five 18-hole golf courses compete for your attention, as well as a host of five-star facilities.

Of course, all visitors will want to tackle the beast that is the Blue Monster, the iconic venue that hosted a PGA Tour event for 55 consecutive years between 1962 and 2016, and if you like a bit of self-flagellation of the golfing kind, then by all means be our guest.

Gil Hanse's stunning redesign in 2013 resulted in the course being lengthened and strengthened in equal measure. Playing 7,608 yards off the back tees, it has been heavily bunkered, even more heavily watered, and boasts ankle-deep rough, so if you like golf on steroids, then this is it.

For a bit of light (though not easy) relief, a game on either of the resort's Red Tiger and Golden Palm courses is also highly recommended. Both are typical Floridian layouts, featuring acres of water, copious numbers of white sandy bunkers, and a high quota of island greens. As ever, Trump doesn't stint on the après-golf, with the resort, which offers over 650 deluxe rooms, boasting a wide range of gourmet dining

experiences, a sumptuous spa, and plenty of swimming pools to lounge by and soak up the Florida sunshine.

Staying with the tour venue theme, the PGA National Resort & Spa, located further up the coast in Palm Beach, is home to the PGA Tour's Honda Classic, with its Champions course having also hosted the Ryder Cup in 1983, where Europe lost out by a single point.

Jack Nicklaus, who skippered the US team that year, was brought into redesign the course some years later, and he toughened up the closing stretch considerably, giving rise to the last four holes being nicknamed 'The Bear Trap'. The resort boasts four other courses—Palmer, Fazio, Squire and Estates—so, like Trump Doral, you could comfortably spend a few days here without ever playing the same hole twice.

Returning closer to Miami's northern city limits, golfers should consider fitting in a game at JW Marriott Turnberry Miami, formerly known as Turnberry Isle, which boasts two 18-hole courses. The showpiece Soffer course has hosted several LPGA events, and following its redesign by Ray Floyd several years ago, presents a typical Florida challenge of water hazards and vast greens.

For those looking for something a little more old school, a stay at the recently renovated Biltmore Hotel, located a few miles west of downtown Miami, has much to recommend it. Opened

*Clockwise from Left:  
Miami Skyline at Sunset;  
Miami Harbour;  
Trump Doral.*





during the 1920s, its iconic 275-bed hotel, with its 300-foot central tower, provides a suitably impressive backdrop to an 18-hole course first designed by legendary architect Donald Ross, but brought up to date by Brian Silva, who has added length and bunkers to present a stiffer challenge, while retaining many of Ross' classical features.

And for those who like to not only play a bit of golf, but watch a bit of golf too, Super Bowl 2020 takes place just before the PGA Champions Tour's Florida Swing gets underway. It tees off the following week at the Oasis Championship at Boca Raton, followed by the Chubb Classic at Lely Resort in Naples. OK, so it's the over-50s circuit, and there are only three rounds, but when else are you going to get the chance to watch Colin Montgomerie getting all hot under the collar when goaded by a group of obnoxious American golf fans? It would be worth the cost of the Super Bowl ticket alone!

Call Your Golf Travel today on 0800 193 6628 to arrange your perfect stateside getaway. As well as golf, flights and accommodation, we can also arrange Super Bowl and PGA Tour tournament tickets.

### Extraordinary Monster

Play the 7,608-yard "Blue Monster" at Trump National Doral.

3

Well known as one of the most daunting courses in World golf, the Blue Monster, designed by Gil Hanse, is a must for anyone visiting the Sunshine State.

The helipad at Trump Doral also allows for a quick exit from Downtown Miami for those staying elsewhere.

To arrange a helicopter transfer with your round, speak to our Concierge team on 0800 193 6626.

### Extraordinary 5th Major

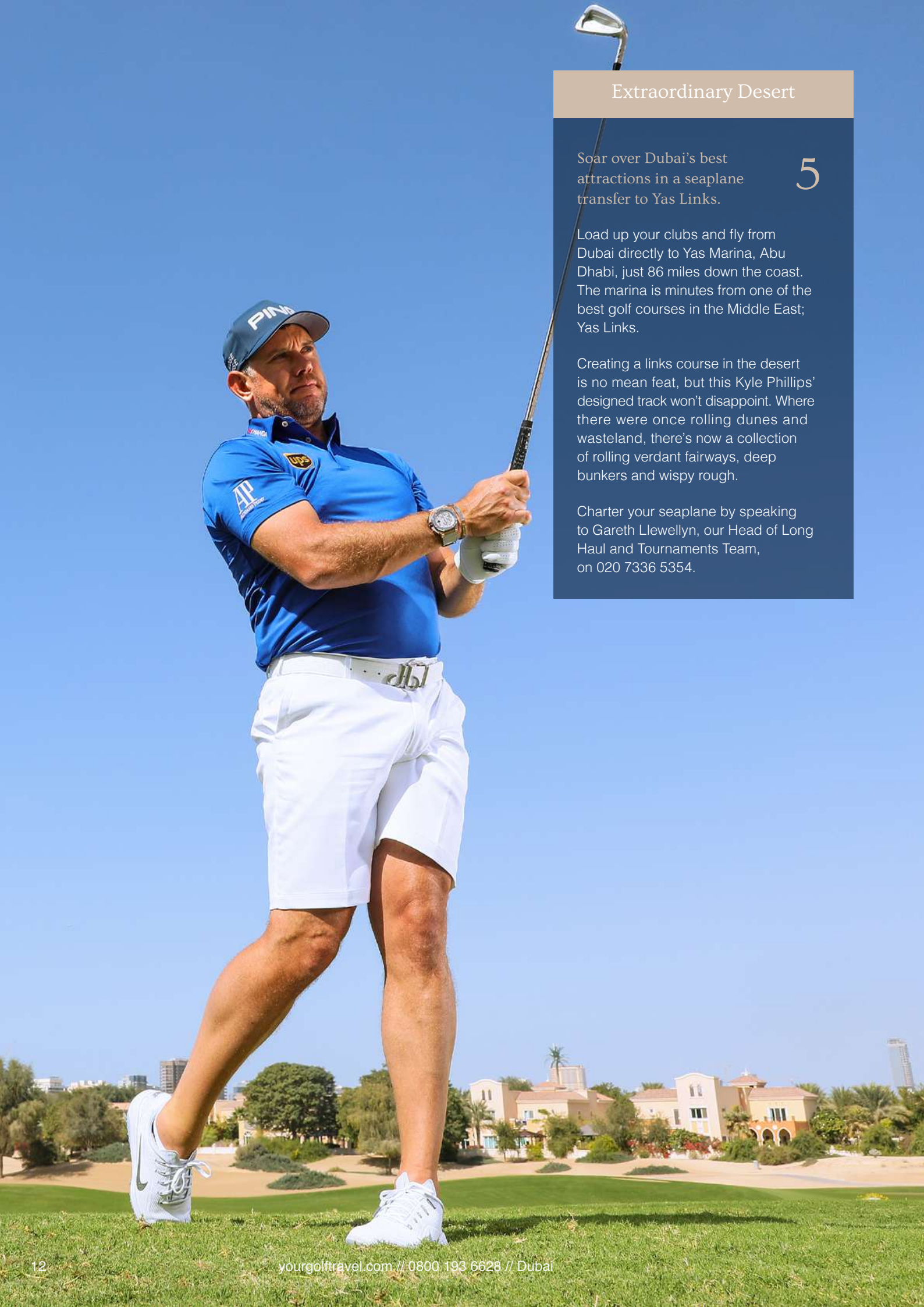
Watch your step as you play through the alligators at TPC Sawgrass.

4

Some would argue the 17th at TPC Sawgrass is more fearsome than the reptilian residents, but you'll be forgiven for wanting to avoid slow play and rush through.

Alligators are a common sight and can make TPC Sawgrass a truly unforgettable experience.

To arrange your round, call Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team on 020 7336 5354.



## Extraordinary Desert

Soar over Dubai's best attractions in a seaplane transfer to Yas Links.

5

Load up your clubs and fly from Dubai directly to Yas Marina, Abu Dhabi, just 86 miles down the coast. The marina is minutes from one of the best golf courses in the Middle East; Yas Links.

Creating a links course in the desert is no mean feat, but this Kyle Phillips' designed track won't disappoint. Where there were once rolling dunes and wasteland, there's now a collection of rolling verdant fairways, deep bunkers and wispy rough.

Charter your seaplane by speaking to Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, on 020 7336 5354.

# Destination Dubai

DEFINED BY VARIETY AND OPULENCE,  
ON AND OFF THE COURSE

*With its emerald green fairways set against a sandy oasis, as well as a towering city skyline, golf in Dubai turns landscape logic on its head. However, if you're after top class links under cloudless skies, with a heavy dose of pampered luxury, then the UAE's party capital ticks plenty of boxes.*

*Words by Nick Bayly*

For an understanding of Dubai's immense commitment to attracting visitors to its sandy shores, you needn't look further than the city's real snow indoor ski slope. Despite snowfall being highly irregular in the UAE, if people want to ski when the outside temperature is over 100 degrees, then they absolutely can.

The same principle has been applied to almost every other aspect of human existence in the United Arab Emirates, especially golf, which partially explains why, in a country where fresh water is just as valuable a commodity as the oil that has funded all the development, golf courses have been built at such an incredible rate.

With golf now a hugely popular addition to holidays in the UAE, Dubai's rulers would rather you played here than anywhere else in the world. You want to see the Pyramids or climb the Eiffel Tower? Don't bother going to Egypt or France, just book a flight

to Dubai. Want to eat in a Gordon Ramsay restaurant, drink vodka in an ice bar, sleep underwater, bathe in goat's milk, skydive over a man-made island, or watch Little Mix in concert? You've guessed it, come to Dubai. Golf's growth in Dubai has, not surprisingly, mirrored that of the explosion of the expat community, which currently represents over 90 percent of the total population of two million. Many of the UAE's 20-plus golf clubs, a dozen or so located in Dubai itself, survive on a steady supply of corporate outings, a few local members and a growing number of travelling golfers, who can jump on a plane from the UK and be playing championship courses in just six hours.

One thing golfers visiting Dubai can be assured of is never having to worry about rain affecting their round. During the summer months, especially July and August, temperatures regularly push past 50 degrees Celsius, which can be too hot for most to hit the course. Thankfully, golfing authorities in Dubai thought this through and have built a number of courses which can be played at night under floodlights, making for more sensible golfing temperatures.

Due to its location where East meets West, Dubai has carved itself out a unique place on the golfing map. It's home to a growing number of tour

pros who make the most of convenient travel to America, China and Europe, while enjoying a superb winter climate for off-season practice. Dubai is also a handy-stop off for tourists en-route to more distant destinations, with duty-free bargains in vast shopping malls and overnight stays in luxury hotels providing a perfect way to break up a 24-hour flight.

While Dubai is hugely popular with tour players, there's no shortage of amateurs looking to sample the pro experience for themselves, and definitely no shortage of places to do it. Old favourites like the Majilis and Wadi courses at the Emirates Golf Club, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, will always be preferred due to the innovative design and links to the annual Dubai Desert Classic tournament. Meanwhile, newer kids on the block, such as the Greg Norman-designed Earth Course, The Els Club, the Montgomerie Course at Emirates Hills, and the most recent openings, Trump International and Dubai Hills, continue to make waves.

While neighbouring emirate Abu Dhabi is fighting to become a golf destination in its own right, thanks to its trio of top-class tracks, including Yas Links and Saadiyat Beach, the majority of visiting golfers still choose to base themselves in Dubai and make the short drive—or even shorter helicopter ride—to play these superb courses.

For a spot of night golf, visitors should gallop off to Meydan, Dubai's only genuine pay-and-play course. The course is located inside the city's racetrack, which is home to the Dubai World Cup; the World's richest horse race. The 9-hole course is brilliant during the daytime but come the evening it is truly something special when the floodlights light up the fairways and your ball can be tracked against the night sky. This isn't the only night-golf experience available in Dubai, though, as the 18-hole Faldo course at the Emirates Golf Club is also fully floodlit.

For those looking to combine a golf holiday with some top-class tournament action, Dubai is also home to the Dubai Desert Classic, which takes place on the Majilis Course in February and has been a mainstay of the European Tour since it began in 1989. If you want to stray away from golf, the Dubai World Cup boasts the richest purse in horse racing, with over

*Below (Top to bottom):  
Falcon Trainer,  
sand dunes of Dubai;  
Night golf at Emirates.*



## Extraordinary Emirates

Play under the lights with an after-hours round at Emirates Golf Club.

6

You can play nine or 18 holes on the Faldo Course to cooler temperatures and a stunning backdrop, which becomes even more impressive after dark.

The view from the 6th tee box is unobscured and simply unforgettable. Manhattan, eat your heart out.

To include night golf in your trip, speak to Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, on 020 7336 5354.





## Extraordinary Seven Star

The Royal Suite at  
Burj Al Arab.

7

Relax after your round at Dubai Hills, Emirates Golf Club or the Els Club in the most opulent way possible.

Boasting a private cinema room, a selection of 14 pillow styles and an army of staff at your disposal, this will take some beating.

Residents of the Royal Suite also have the privilege of using the hotel's helipad, made famous by Tiger Woods in 2004. Bring your clubs and a few balls to turn it into the best driving range in the World.

Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, can make this happen. Call now on 020 7336 5354.

Above:  
*The Royal Suite  
at Burj Al Arab.*

\$7m going to the winner of the 10-furlong race. Famed for its lavish fashion and spectacular affair, the event is a best seller for Your Golf Travel's sister company, Racing Breaks.

Away from the golfing action, Dubai presents a heady mix of Middle Eastern and Western attractions, from its glittering shopping malls packed with luxury brands and the aforementioned ski slopes, to Legoland and IMG's World of Adventures (the world's largest indoor theme park). Visitors looking to escape the bright lights should take a trip out on the creek in a traditional wooden Arab dhow or head to the desert, where a night or two spent camping under the stars in Bedouin tents will serve to quieten the mind.

But if you prefer an air-conditioned roof over your head and fine-thread cotton sheets on your bed, then Dubai's vast array of luxury hotels, such as the iconic Burj Al Arab, Atlantis The Palm, or the Bulgari Resort, are there to soothe your mind and body, if not your soul.

Competing for your visual attention as well as your custom is the 828-metre Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, which dominates the Vegas-like skyline. It's observation deck on the 148th floor, which is only two-thirds of the way up, is a must visit to get an idea of the extent

of Dubai's development. Experience the Burj Khalifa in all its glory by staying in the opulent Royal Suite, with a personal elevator and butler service.

If fine dining floats your boat, Dubai is not short on epicurean pleasures too, with many of the world's leading restaurateurs having set up Michelin-starred outposts in the city's top hotels. In addition to the Japanese-inspired Zuma and Nobu, current culinary hot spots include Coya, an on-trend Peruvian restaurant located in the Four Seasons Resort, Torno Subito, a beachside Italian run by famed chef Massimo Bottura at the luxurious Dubai Hotel, and Folly by Nick and Scott, a stylish modern European eatery with Arabic influences in the heart of the Souk Madinat Jumeirah.

Dubai has ensured it has something for everyone, making its rise to dominance within the golf holiday market unsurprising. Head there on a golf holiday with Your Golf Travel and experience new levels of luxury, opulence in abundance and some truly exquisite golf courses.

## Extraordinary Thailand

Receive your invitation  
to play the private  
Ayodhya Links.

8

This exclusive course is well into the World's Top 100, is playable by invite only and is usually reserved for Thailand's high society. Booking through Your Golf Travel can ensure you can play what others can't.

The course, situated 40-miles north of Bangkok city centre measures 7,639-yards from the back tees, but five sets ensure high handicappers can enjoy it too.

Call Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, on 020 7336 5354 to arrange your round at Ayodhya Links.





# Lee Westwood's Favourite Holiday Destination

*Lee Westwood, Your Golf Travel's Chief Holiday Officer, has played in almost every part of the world during his 25 years on tour, but there's one place that he enjoys playing and staying in above all others: Thailand.*

**You've travelled all over the world during your career and visited a lot of amazing golf destinations. If you could narrow it down to one country, which would it be?**

I've been lucky enough to travel a lot and see so many amazing places, which makes it hard to narrow down to one. However, I've always loved playing in Thailand and have actually won a few tournaments there, especially in and around Bangkok; the whole country is incredible.

**What specifically sets Thailand apart from the other places you've visited?**

More than anything, it's the people and the culture. The Thai people are just so unbelievably friendly and welcoming wherever you go. Not just at tournaments and hotels, but whenever you're out and about.

The hotels and resorts are incredible, and so is the food. And, if you like it hot (which I do), the climate is superb too, so it ticks a lot of boxes for me as a golfer and as a holiday destination.

**Which golf courses in Thailand stand out for you?**

Amata Spring Country Club, a venue I've been lucky enough to win at a couple of times, is obviously one of my favourites.

Just an hour's drive outside of Bangkok, it has hosted the Royal Trophy a couple of times and is a Ryder Cup-style tournament between Europe and Asia, but I won the first Thailand Golf Championship there in 2011. I remember shooting 60 in the opening round—a career best for me—and then I won the tournament again at Amata in 2014.

The course is pretty flat, but there's a lot of water to contend with, so you need to hit it straight to stay out of trouble and the greens are super quick. The standout hole is the par-three 17th, which features a floating and moveable island green. It's quite a novelty and all presented in incredible condition.

There's also a course called Alpine Golf Club, which is 20 minutes outside of Bangkok, which I really rate. It was originally built on a flat piece of land, so all the hills and elevations are man-made, but it's a really fun course to play. I won the Johnnie Walker Classic there in 2004, and I remember it being very lush, and made you almost feel like you were playing around a tropical garden. Once again, water is a big feature of the course, and I recall a couple of cracking par threes to semi-island greens.





## Extraordinary Red Mountain

Experience the best views over Cape Panwa, Phuket.



Spread over 40-acres of tropical rainforest and frequented by Sergio Garcia, Sri Panwa luxury villas in Phuket offer incredible views over the cape.

What's more, Red Mountain Golf Club's championship course is less than an hour's drive away and is worth the trip for the highly elevated par-3 17th hole.

To arrange accommodation and golf in Thailand, speak to Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, on 020 7336 5354.

**In addition to your two wins in Thailand, you've won nine events in Asia during your career. What is it about the courses and the playing conditions out there that suit your game so well?**

Yes, Malaysia and Thailand have both been pretty good to me over the years as far as tournament wins are concerned. The golf courses are all presented in superb condition, the greens are always in great nick, and I love playing in warm weather, so it really sets up well for my game.

**Are you keen to try local foods when you travel to more exotic destinations?**

You don't get to be the size that I am without going out for a few meals and trying all different kinds of foods!

Having said that, during tournament weeks there is often little time to see the sights or hunt for specific local restaurants, although occasionally we get to go and try more off-the-beaten-track places. I love Thai food, as I like a bit of spice, so I always like to try something new whenever I get the chance.

**Which is your favourite hotel in Thailand?**

I've stayed at the St Regis in Bangkok a few times, and I would have to say that it's not just my favourite place to stay when I'm playing in Thailand, but one of my favourite hotels in the whole world.

It occupies an amazing spot right in the heart of the city and overlooks a golf course and a horse racing track, which is another favourite sport of mine.

The rooms are huge, and the floor-to-ceiling windows offer a great view of the city, which looks even better at night. Each room even comes with its own private butler, no matter what size of room you've got.

It also has an open-air swimming pool overlooking the city, and there's a great choice of local and international restaurants on site; it's even got its own train station that comes right to the front door. Not many hotels can say that!

**What are the ingredients for your perfect holiday?**

Nice beach, warm sea, decent weather—the usual suspects. While I do like to chill out when I'm on holiday, I also need plenty of places to see and things to do, along with a good choice of restaurants.

**Where is on your bucket list of places to go on holiday?**

For sheer relaxation, I'd love to go to Langkawi in Malaysia. It's a group of islands off the west coast, with amazing beaches, luxury hotels and great seafood.

I've also never been to Hawaii, so that's definitely on the list, and not just for the golf courses, which look incredible. I'd also like to see a lot more of New Zealand, as I love the landscape and the outdoor lifestyle.

Visit [yourgolftravel.com](http://yourgolftravel.com) today to find out more about Lee's favourite destination.

*This page*

*Above: Cape Panwa;  
Next page (clockwise  
from top left)*

*Alpine Golf Club;  
Bird's eye chillies;  
Siam Country Club;  
Monastic Monks;  
Bangkok by night.*



## Extraordinary Leopard

Combine golf and safari and see the 'Big 5' at Leopard Creek Country Club.

10

Regular sightings of hippos, crocodiles, antelopes, buffalo and elephants make Leopard Creek a must-play course in South Africa.

Designed by Gary Player and a regular host of the Alfred Dunhill Championship, birdies and eagles are a bit harder to come by.

To make this happen, call Jason Launder, our South Africa Specialist, on 020 7336 5440.

# Savouring South Africa

*If you're looking to treat yourself to great golf, luxury hotels, stunning scenery, and breathtaking wildlife, not to mention some of the world's finest epicurean experiences, then South Africa has got to be on your golf holiday horizon. Words by Nick Bayly.*

Having been fortunate to have travelled the world sampling golf courses for the best part of 25 years, I'm often asked by slightly jealous friends and, quite often, complete strangers, where I'd chose to go back for one last trip should the 19th Hole In The Sky be imminently calling. And my answer is always the same – South Africa.

Ever since I first went there in the mid-90s to explore the golf courses and wine lands of the southern Cape, to a more recent trip where I got up close and personal with a family of leopards while on a golf/safari trip to the Kruger National Park, South Africa has left a lasting impression on me.

As someone who looks for more than just a heart-stopping par three on their golf trips abroad – although it does have one or two of those, more of which later – it's hard to think of a destination that delivers such a diverse range of stunning landscapes and life-enhancing

experiences than are offered within the vast confines of Africa's ninth largest country, which covers almost half-a-million square miles.

From spotting the 'Big Five' all in one day at a private game reserve in Kruger, to catching sight of a pod of whales off the coast of Durban; and from sipping a chilled glass of Chenin Blanc as the sun sets over the south Atlantic at a beachside bar in Cape Town, to sitting around a camp fire by the Limpopo River eating barbecued steak under the stars, I've got some memories that will stay with me forever. And that's without including the breathtaking golf courses I've played, and the amazing hotels I've been lucky enough to stay in.

But enough about me. This is about you, and the incredible experiences that await anyone wishing to explore this stunning country and meet its generous and welcoming people.

# Safari Golf: Birdies And Buffaloes

For adventure seekers and wildlife enthusiasts, no trip to South Africa would be complete without sampling the thrill of catching sight of a pride of lions basking in the sunshine, a herd of elephants marching in line through the bush, or a family of rhinos rolling about in the mud on a riverbank. Here you can do just that in the wild and at numerous well-managed game reserves, many of which feature golf courses nearby.

'Safari Golf' is a game of its own, with the qualities particular to this version including having to occasionally move your ball away from sizeable animal droppings, navigate your way around ants nests, watching out for spitting cobras when searching through the rough, while keeping a keen eye open for hungry crocodiles when playing near water. Along with these rather novel hazards, there is also the opportunity to view some of Africa's finest wild animals while hunting for birdies and eagles of your own on a variety of stunning golf courses carved out of the Bushveld.

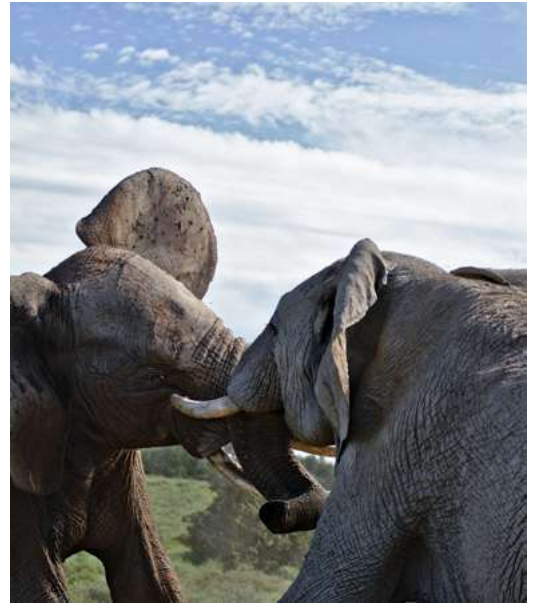
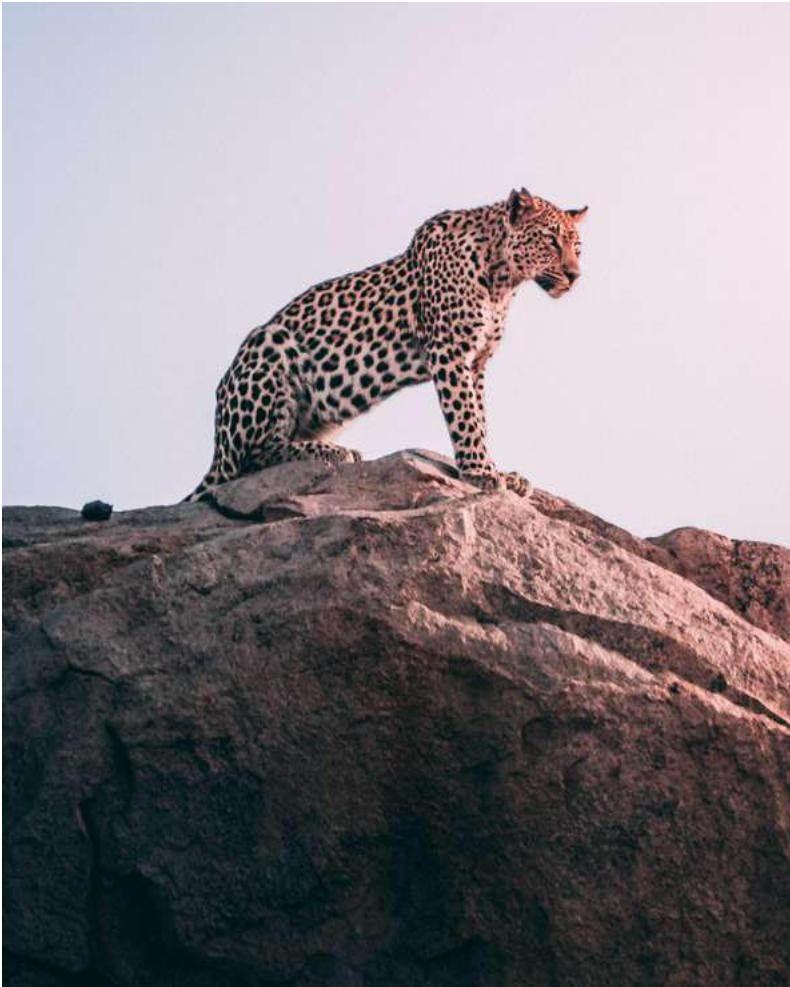
For those set on seeing the 'Big Five'—lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros—

a visit to the province of Limpopo (formerly Northern Transvaal) is highly recommended. Serving as the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe, this region is home to 80 per cent of the country's private game reserves, as well as a growing number of five-star golf resorts, such as Koro Creek Golf Estate, Elements Private Golf Reserve, Zebula Golf Estate and Spa, and the daddy of them all, Legend Golf & Safari Resort.

Built on a grand scale, with a huge game reserve surrounding the manicured estate, Legend boasts a luxury hotel, plus a number of private lodges, and a 7,100-yard golf course that features 18 signature holes designed by some of the game's top players of today and yesteryear, including Justin Rose, Luke Donald, and Sergio Garcia. Although it's a superb course in its own right, its fame is mainly due to the launch of its 'Extreme 19th', a loosely designated par-3 hole which requires a helicopter ride to the top of a mountain, from where you are required to launch a tee shot over the edge of a 400-metre escarpment to a green shaped to look like Africa on the valley below.

*Below:  
Fancourt South Africa;*





Have a swipe with a driver and wave goodbye to your ball—most never see it again.

No luxury golfing/safari trip to this corner of South Africa would be complete without a game at the magnificent Leopard Creek Country Club, which is located at the southern tip of the Kruger National Park and close to the exclusive Buhala Game Reserve. A four-hour drive from Johannesburg or 40 minutes by plane, Leopard Creek is widely recognised as South Africa's No.1 course. Combining superbly designed holes in a spectacular wildlife setting overlooking the Kruger National and the Crocodile River, this stunning Gary Player design is a wonderland of lakes and streams, scenic vistas and wildlife watching. Sightings of hippo, crocodile, antelope, buffalo and elephant are common, although birdies and eagles are harder to come by on this tour-standard venue, which is a regular host of the European Tour's Alfred Dunhill Championship.

And if we're in the mood for box-ticking iconic venues, no golf holiday should end without a night or two spent in Sun City, South Africa's

most spectacular resort, located 100 miles northwest of Johannesburg in the heart of the African bushveld. By day, this oasis in the semi-desert is dominated by two quality golf courses, the Gary Player Country Club, where 30 tour pros compete for the \$1.25m first prize in the Nedbank Golf Challenge every November, and Lost City, where hackers try to hit over a crocodile pit to the green at the infamous par-3 13th. By night, guests at the five-star Palace of the Lost City Hotel gamble at the casino tables, followed by lavish floor-shows in the Cascades. It's a jarring mix of entertainment that seems somewhat at odds with the surrounding countryside, but somehow it works.

With a minimal time difference, no language barrier, a generous exchange rate, and just about the most dramatic scenery to be found anywhere in the world, you are going to be hard pushed not to find a South African golf holiday that you will be talking about for years to come.

*Clockwise from Left:  
Kruger National Park;  
Palace of the Lost City;  
Elephants at Kruger  
National Park.*

# Golf & Wine: A Heady Mix

Golf and wine have long been comfortable bedfellows in South Africa, so it's no surprise that grape and green rub gently alongside each other in the country's main Winelands, offering golfers and oenophiles the chance to sample an intoxicating mix of both activities without having to wander too far from the fairways or, indeed, the tasting rooms.

It doesn't matter whether you are a certified wine snob, or someone who just likes a chilled glass of something white over lunch (and a bottle of red at dinner), it's hard to think of another country in the world that does wine tourism better than South Africa.

The winery tours are informative and entertaining in equal measure, while most wineries boast superb restaurants, offering the chance to pair your favourite wines with the finest cuisine in the region. A glass of Pinotage will taste all the better accompanied by a plate of cured meats, while you'll find a seafood platter slips down a treat with a well-chosen Sauvignon Blanc.

A good place to start your golfing/wine itinerary is Constantia, one of South Africa's most revered wine regions, located 30 minutes south-west of Cape Town. Here, among the numerous wine estates, you will discover Steenberg Golf Club, which, rather handily, has its own winery, hotel and restaurant. Thankfully, the course isn't too hard, and the generous fairways will be a godsend for those feeling the after-effects of an afternoon's tasting. Nearby Paarl offers the chance to sample South African golfing legend David Frost's latest vintage at his winery, after which a game at the wonderful Jack Nicklaus designed Pearl Valley is essential.

If you're still feeling thirsty, you should swing by Stellenbosch, the spiritual home of Cabernet Sauvignon in South Africa, which is home to more than 150 wine estates. One of the most popular stops in town is Ernie Els's eponymous winery, which is also home to the Big Easy Restaurant and a tour-standard chipping and putting green. Surrounded by the beautiful Helderberg Mountains, Stellenbosch itself is a thriving university town filled with gorgeous

## Extraordinary Stellenbosch

Sip and chip with the Big Easy at Ernie Els' Winery, Stellenbosch.

11

Ernie Els' vineyard fittingly sits in the heart of Stellenbosch, the heart of South African wine and is only six miles from Stellenbosch Golf Club.

His passion for wine is only rivalled by his passion for golf, exemplified by the tour-standard chipping green sitting at the front of the terrace.

You can visit Ernie Els Winery or create a bespoke wine tour with the help of Jason Launder, our South Africa Specialist, who is available on 020 7336 5440.







## Extraordinary Legend

Drive the green at Legend Golf & Safari Resort's famous 19th hole.

# 12

Somewhere on a mountain above the 19th green at Legend Golf & Safari lies a tee box, set up for the longest par-3 in the world.

Due to its 440-yard elevation, a helicopter is required to reach the top and a 295-yard drive is needed to reach the green.

Arrange your round by calling, Jason Launder, our South Africa Specialist, on 020 7336 5440.

Cape Dutch architecture, a huge array of restaurants, and some fantastic nearby courses, including the magnificent Stellenbosch Golf Club, venue for five renewals of the South African Masters and the 1999 South African Open.

If you pick this route, also be sure to stop in Franschhoek, where French Huguenots landed 300 years ago after being chased out of France. The South Africans invited them to stay on the condition they grow their wine—not a bad deal for the South Africans as it turned out.

For those who prefer a lighter style of wine, a trip to the cooler climate of the dozen or more wineries in Hemel-en-Aarde—translated as ‘Heaven on Earth’—is well worth the trip east of Cape Town, towards the coastal town of Hermanus, where you can sample some of the region’s finest examples of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. You should also be sure to book a tee time and an overnight stay at the magnificent Arabella Hotel & Spa, located just a few miles away. Featuring high up the course ranking lists, this stunning design is located on the banks of the Bot River lagoon and features rolling fairways, deceptive bunkers and a variety of challenging water hazards. Travel a little further along the beautiful Garden Route and you will find some of South Africa’s best

golf, including the three fabulous courses at Fancourt, Ernie Els’s Oubaai Golf Club and the breathtaking Peter Matkovich/Darren Clarke-design at Pinnacle Point.

Located about a five-hour drive from Cape Town on the Garden Route, Gary Player has described Fancourt Links as his greatest design, and who are we to argue? Host course for the 2003 Presidents Cup, The Links is true to its name. Windswept, undulating terrain and dune-style landscape give players lots of opportunities for a variety of shots low to the ground. The Links is spectacular, but exceptionally tough, while the Montagu and Outeniqua courses are more suited to more relaxing holiday golf. All of these immaculately-maintained courses are only available to guests staying at the resort, so it’s essential to check in for the night here if you want to enjoy these iconic layouts.

*British Airways and South Africa Airways offer plenty of direct flights to Cape Town and Johannesburg from UK hubs, while the more recent addition of a direct flight to Durban with British Airways has created further itinerary options for those wishing to explore the region around the Eastern Cape and the Garden Route. Direct flights take about 11-12 hours.*

*Above:  
Helicopter landing at  
Legend Golf & Safari.*

# Signature Collection

PARTNERED TO DELIVER THE BEST

*“An excellent resort with exceptional staff who always look after you well. The whole experience was fabulous, from the minute we arrived until we were picked up for our return airport transfer.”*

We've carefully selected a handful of resorts from around the world, and partnered up to deliver unforgettable golf holiday experiences. Throw into the mix the in-resort services unique to Your Golf Travel, and this is what we have become accustomed to hearing when receiving the many pieces of feedback from our happy clients. Welcome to the Signature Collection by Your Golf Travel.

## Magnificent Monte Rei, Portugal

If you are looking for a luxury European break, look no further than Monte Rei Golf & Country Club. Situated in Portugal's Eastern Algarve, only 45 minutes from Faro Airport, the luxurious villas on site provide a perfect base for a tranquil stay. Built in a traditional Portuguese style, each of the 300 square-metre villas consists of three en-suite bedrooms plus a spacious kitchen and lounge area, and the daily housekeeping and evening turndown service are synonymous with a top 5\* hotel.

The Jack Nicklaus designed Monte Rei North Course is rated as one of the finest golf courses in Europe. Your unforgettable on-course experience starts with the Monte Rei team cleaning your clubs before the round, then placing them on your buggy and showing you down to the practice ground where an elegant pyramid of balls awaits your arrival.

With 12-minute tee time intervals and no pairing up with other two-balls, the feeling of exclusivity is constant during your round, and there are many moments where the stunning views can zap your attention away from the challenge in front of you. The last six holes on the North Course are as good a finish as you're likely to play, with the dramatic 18th hopefully providing you with a glorious chance to finish with a birdie before waltzing up to the iconic clubhouse for a well-deserved drink on the veranda overlooking the stunning course. Resident Sommelier, Nuno Pires, has created a cellar at Monte Rei that is filled with his personal selection of outstanding wines that will not disappoint.

*Below  
(Clockwise from Left):  
Monte Rei, Portugal;  
Greenkeeper, Oak  
Hill Country Club;  
Rockliffe Hall,  
County Durham.*





## Extraordinary Casa

13

Arrive via the private aviation terminal at La Romana airport, Dominican Republic.

It's no wonder Casa de Campo is billed as a millionaires' playground when La Romana's private jet terminal is just 10 minutes from the number one ranked course in the Caribbean; Teeth of the Dog.

Take the hassle out of travelling with superb, personalised service, arranged by Your Golf Travel.

Call Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, on 020 7336 5354 to charter your flight and secure your tee time.

Above:  
Casa de Campo,  
Dominican Republic;

*"Every visit to a Signature Resort is consistent, so my expectations are managed. The added value and extra service outside the 'normal package' format are what exceed my expectations and why I continue to book Signature Resorts with Your Golf Travel"*

Our Signature Collection venues each offer extra services on top of what might be described as a 'normal package'. A private check-in area can remove the stress from a holiday, while room upgrades, late check-out, or discounts on spa treatments can make it memorable.

### Captivating Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic

For a long haul tropical escape, Casa de Campo offers an unparalleled experience in the Caribbean giving access to three private white sand beaches, a new beach club, seven restaurants and a marina. The Dominican Republic's most luxurious resort, set in the southeastern part of the island and just under one hour's drive from Punta Cana airport, provides accommodation in the form of sublime private villas or glorious hotel rooms.

The three Pete Dye-designed golf courses are all world class and offer fantastic variety for your golfing vacation, but activities aren't limited to golf, with clay pigeon shooting also available. Teeth of the Dog is ranked number one in the Caribbean with Dye stating that "God created seven of the holes", so prepare to be wowed by the mind-blowing views on this stunning but testing course. The Dye Fore course and The Links course will not disappoint either, with arguably some of the best views on the island. All three courses include complimentary buggies, so you don't have to expend too much energy before enjoying a delightful cocktail whilst discussing a memorable golfing experience.

### Ravishing Rockliffe Hall, England

Situated in the heart of Northern England, Rockliffe Hall is a 5\* resort that oozes world class luxury. Each room in the hotel is unique, overlooking the beautiful surrounding countryside of County Durham. With the four-bedroomed Woodland Mews Luxury Holiday Cottages as an alternative option for accommodation, guests can opt to enjoy a private escape with the feel of a stately country home. The cottages serve up the option of having one of Rockliffe Hall's top chefs prepare a three-course meal in the comfort of your own property.

The championship golf course at Rockliffe Hall is the longest golf course in Europe, measuring 7,897 yds from the back tees. Don't be too daunted though: there are five sets of tees to begin from, so the course is set up to suit handicappers high and low.

Call 0800 193 6628 to speak with one of our Signature Collection experts and discover the best venues Your Golf Travel has to offer.

## Extraordinary St Andrews

Tick off the ultimate bucket list item; The Old Course at St Andrews.

# 14

The approach over the burn to the first green, the drive over the hotel on the 17th and the walk up the fairway on the 18th.

They are sections of the course you've seen hundreds of times. Isn't it time you played them?

Call Robert Houston, our Head of UK and Ireland Tours Team, on 020 7336 5353 to secure your guaranteed tee time at the Old Course, St. Andrews.



# Homing In On The Home Of Golf

## SCOTLAND'S FINEST GOLF EXPERIENCES

*With The Open Championship returning to the Old Course at St Andrews in 2020, there has never been a better time to start planning a visit to the Home of Golf and some of Scotland's other top golf destinations with Your Golf Travel.*

*Words by Nick Bayly*

Although Old Tom Morris would probably spin in his grave at the thought of St Andrews being called a 'golf resort', the ancient town on Fife's east coast is one in all but name, with golf tourism being its main source of income since the game was first played here 400 years ago.

The fabled Old Course is clearly the sun around which all the other courses in the town draw their heat and getting a tee time on the 'Auld Lady' seems to be as hard as ever. There's rarely a let up in demand for a chance to walk in the footsteps of the great champions that have graced this course at 29 Open Championships since 1873, and will do so again next July, when the tournament returns for the 30th time.

The Old Course remains the ultimate bucket list course and is a must-play for any golfer with a pulse. Half of all of the starting times are selected through a daily ballot, so there's a fair chance of getting on if you haven't pre-booked, but thankfully Your Golf Travel has an exclusive range of packages that offer guaranteed tee times, taking out all of the luck of the draw, and allowing you to plan your trip with absolute certainty. And what a treat you will have in store!

Offering the most nerve-wracking opening tee shot in golf, despite possessing one of the widest fairways in the world, the Old Course sets up iconic shot after shot. From your approach over the burn to the first green, to the drive over the corner of the Old Course Hotel on the 17th tee, and that putt up the Valley of Sin at the closing hole, it's a

beguiling journey through golfing history that will have you wanting to do it all over again as soon as you walk off the 18th.

St Andrews is long on quality and quantity, with the Links Trust offering no fewer than seven other superb layouts on which to test your mettle, with the New Course being the pick of those in the immediate vicinity. Less quirky than the Old, it shares many of its qualities, including several double greens, but the holes are more defined. If you're looking for more thrills and spills, then I'd recommend a game at the Castle Course, a 6,759-yard cliff-top layout which enjoys stunning views over St Andrews from around the bay. Talking of bays, Fairmont St Andrews Golf Resort & Spa, located in St Andrews Bay, is also a popular luxury stopover, with its two championship courses, Torrance and Kittocks, providing 36 holes of cliff-top golf with a links feel, while the five-star hotel offers 209 guest rooms, a spa, and no fewer than six dining options.

For golfers looking to stay more centrally in St Andrews, the MacDonald Rusacks Hotel, which sits half way up the right-hand side of the 18th fairway, is perhaps the more authentically Scottish venue. Although, the Old Course Hotel, which is situated on the dogleg of the Road Hole 17th, with the fabled Jigger Inn within its grounds, is the popular and obvious choice, with its course-facing suites providing a suitably luxurious vantage point from which to soak up the golfing atmosphere.

Moving away from St Andrews, no five-star visit to Scotland should miss out on the chance to visit Gleneagles, the self-styled highland playground of the rich and famous down the years. Golfers have been queuing up to play the resort's PGA Centenary Course ever since it hosted the Ryder Cup in 2014, and interest in the Jack Nicklaus-designed layout will ramp up once again following the staging of the Solheim Cup in 2019.



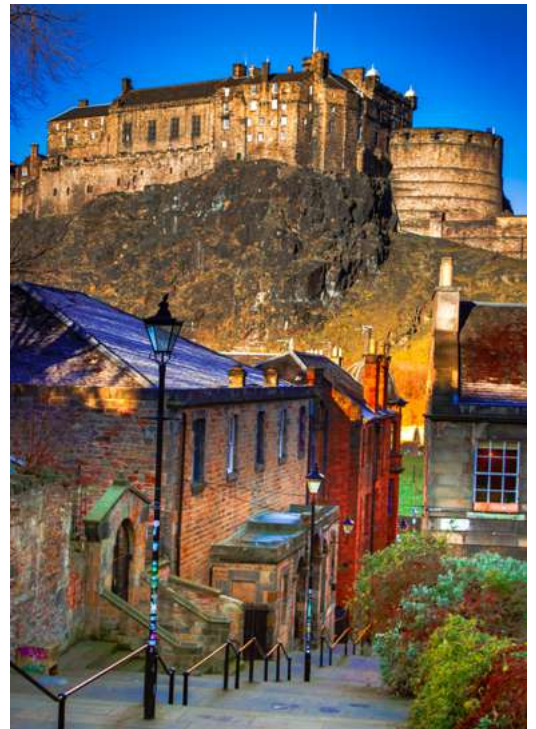
Although not a classic Scottish course by any stretch of the imagination, you'd be mad not to want to follow in the footsteps of the European and American teams, although make sure you also play the resort's other two more mature layouts, the century-old King's and the Queen's. Both have recently benefited from significant renovations, returning them to the challenge that James Braid first intended.

Whichever courses you play, you can be guaranteed a good night's sleep in the AA Five Red Star Gleneagles Hotel, which is luxury at its most Scottish. Guests can choose to stay in either a range of rooms and suites in the hotel—including the ten ultra-luxury suites that occupy the top floor of the hotel—or rent one of the two, three and four-bed private lodges that are located on the estate. For those visitors flying in or out of Edinburgh, a stop off for a round at the Renaissance Club has much to recommend it. Located between Gullane and North Berwick, and only a 30-minute drive from the airport, Renaissance opened as a private members' club in 2008 on the Archerfield Estate, a pitching wedge away from Muirfield, but with far better views over the Firth of Forth. Tom Doak, the creative genius behind Pacific Dunes in

Oregon and Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand, has created a series of compelling holes carved out of the coastal pine forest, and others stretching along the coastline high on the cliff tops above the Firth. After a round, guests can relax in the comfortable surroundings of the palatial clubhouse, while the quality of the accommodation, which comes in the form of 23 suites within a lodge, is well above par.

After tackling the tried and tested Open Championship courses at Carnoustie and Muirfield, golfers looking to test themselves on something altogether newer, but no less challenging, should head over to Trump Turnberry, where a whole-scale renovation of the iconic Ailsa Course has been drawing rave reviews since re-opening last year. The most controversial change is to the par-4 9th, which has been converted to a long par three that relocates the entire hole closer to the lighthouse, while several other seaside holes have been pushed closer to the water, to add further to the drama.

Elsewhere, a new Trumpified clubhouse offers diners the chance to chow down on lobster mac 'n' cheese or one of numerous cuts of Scottish-reared steaks cooked on an open grill in the Duel in the Sun



*Previous Pages  
St Andrews Old Course  
This Page  
(Clockwise from Left)  
Fairmont St Andrews;  
Sign at St Andrews;  
Edinburgh Castle;*

restaurant, while the hotel itself has received a similarly spectacular renovation, although thankfully 'The Don' has gone easy on the gold leaf.

Staying with the Trump theme, it would be a sin to miss out on a trip to the US President's other golfing gift to Scotland, the controversial Trump International Golf Links on the north-east coast. Ranked as the best new course in GB & Ireland when it first opened in 2015, the Hawtree-designed links has softened into its landscape in the intervening years, with the narrow ribbons of fairways that split the mountainous dunes rippling gently under your feet like ill-fitting carpets.

Those looking for weak holes soon accept that they're just not there. From the show-stopping par-3 3rd, which offers one of the rare views of the sea, to the brutal 651-yard par-5 18th, it demands total respect at every turn. The hotel that Trump renovated to accompany the course, Macleod House, is pretty special too. Almost understated by Trump's standards, the boutique residence is the very epitome of Highland cool, with plenty of tartan on show amongst the Italian marble bathrooms, Egyptian cotton sheets, and 50-inch wall-mounted plasmas in

the 19 luxuriously-appointed guest suites.

For a final Scottish fling, golfers should head to the only course in the country to be built on a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Machrihanish Dunes, which transports visitors back over 120 years to a time when golf was at one with nature. Amazingly, only seven of the 260-odd acres of the site have been disturbed to make way for the rumpled fairways and punchbowl greens of the David McLay Kidd-designed 7,082-yard course, which makes for a truly unique links experience, and one that requires pinpoint accuracy to score well, especially when the wind gets up, as it often does on this remote outcrop on Scotland's most westerly coast.

Away from the course, the resort's American owners have set about creating a village atmosphere, with numerous white-walled cottages to rent, two comfortable hotels (The Ugdale and The Royal), and its very own pub in which to drown your sorrows after a tough round.

*Below;  
Gleneagles;*

## Extraordinary Old Whisky

Enjoy a private whisky tasting at the Old Course Hotel Whisky Lounge.

# 15

Follow your round with a journey through time with a private tasting session of a carefully selected number of malts.

Particularly rare choices include a Killyloch 1967, a Highland Park 40yr and a Glen Grant 1949.

Call Richard Tidman, or Nick Bishop of Your Golf Travel Select on 020 7157 1553, in order to arrange a private hire of the newly refurbished Whisky Lounge.



## Extraordinary Racing

Private Suite  
at Punchestown Festival

16

Each private suite has dedicated staff to ensure an intimate hospitality experience and will be in contact to ensure the bar is stocked to your requirements prior to the event.

The suites are located on the top floor of the Panoramic and Grand Stands, so a superb view of the finishing straight and track beyond is guaranteed.

Robert Houston, our Head of UK and Ireland Tours Team can arrange a private transfer on to Adare Manor. Call now on 020 7336 5353.



# To The Manor Born

## WORLD CLASS GOLF ON THE EMERALD ISLE

*Ireland is blessed with dozens of world class links, but it's an inland venue that has been bagging all the golfing headlines of late following the reimagining of Adare Manor, a luxury retreat in County Limerick which has been on the receiving end of a €50 million makeover.*

Given that Ireland boasts a fifth of all the true links courses in the world, it seems a sacrilege to travel to the Emerald Isle to play a parkland course, but so great has been the reception given to the renovation of Adare Manor, the Limerick-based resort bought by Irish entrepreneur JP McManus in 2014, that I felt it my duty to find out whether the hype was justified.

And so it was that I found myself flying over the Irish Sea, landing at Shannon Airport, and taking a 30-minute taxi drive south west of Limerick to the closely guarded gates of Adare Manor.

Having stayed and played here 20 years ago, not long after the golf course first opened in 1995, I was eager to find out what impact a reported €50 million renovation would have on the resort as a whole, and on a golf course that, although a pleasant enough track—and host of two renewals of the Irish Open over a decade ago—is currently being talked about as the likely venue for the 2026 Ryder Cup.

The answer is, in short, a lot. The renovation of the hotel has taken place from the

bottom up, with no stone or pane of glass left untouched in the pursuit of luxury. Meanwhile, the reconstruction of the 7,509-yard championship course, which was originally designed by Robert Trent Jones, has taken two years to complete, and is nothing short of a masterpiece in terms of design and presentation.

The par-72 course, which boasts the rare feature of having no rough, is the first in Europe to boast super fine Bentgrass greens, while a similar strain of sward was chosen for all approaches, enabling players to pull their putters out with confidence when they're not short-sided by one of the numerous greenside bunkers.

Adare is also one of only three courses in Europe to feature a SubAir system on all 18 greens. The system, which was installed on Wentworth's West Course two years ago, and is also in place at Augusta, is used to remove moisture through vacuum pumps, guaranteeing firm, fast greens all year round. So firm, in fact, that Rory McIlroy, who played here in a match at the official unveiling last April, along with Shane Lowry, Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley, said it was like playing in summer conditions, such were the pace and purity of the putting surfaces, which are significantly raised and heavily contoured.

Harrington and McGinley, Ryder Cup captains present and past, were both closely involved in the redesign project, aiding world-renowned architect Tom Fazio on the final routing, contouring and grass and sand selection. It's hard to think that

both players won't have a hand in where the next Ryder Cup will be played.

And what of the course itself? From a visual perspective, the main changes I noted from its presentation for the Irish Open in 2007 and 2008, are to the 9th and 18th holes. The 9th green has been relocated right of the original site, with the effect of creating a stunning backdrop of the extended Manor House, all the way back to the tee. The removal of trees, and considerable cleaning out of the undergrowth, is especially evident around the 18th green. From about 200 yards down the fairway, there is now a beautiful, framed image of the manor partially hidden by a 400-year-old cedar tree on the right, and the charming bridge over the River Maigue, which was constructed in the resort's earlier incarnation.

The par-72 layout features water on 14 of the 18 holes, and while the front nine is packed with impressive holes, including the par-five 7th which curves dramatically around a lake, it saves its most exciting tests for the final stretch. Four of the last five feature water of some description, starting on the par-four 14th, which plays towards a green overhanging a lake, set

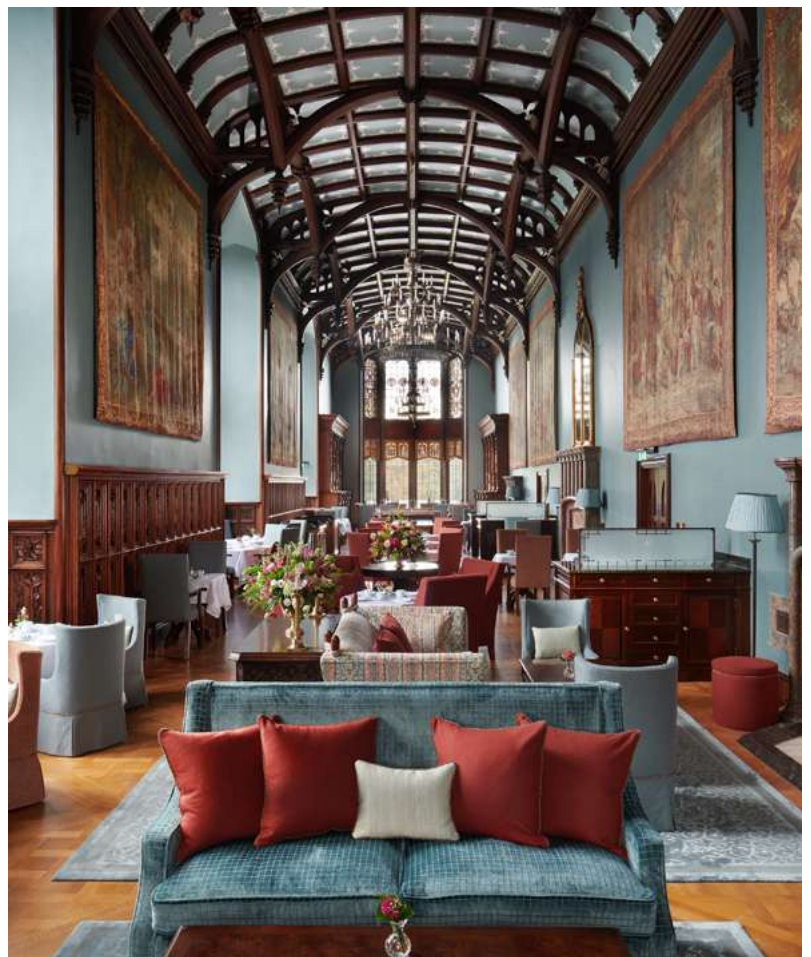
against the backdrop of the Desmond Castle, and finishing with the par-four 18th, whose diagonal approach across the same lake is played to a green in front of the castle.

With 50 full-time greenkeepers, it'll be no surprise to learn that there isn't a blade of grass out of place on the entire 850-acre estate, with tees that most club golfers would be happy to putt on, and fairways that gently roll out like VIP carpets at a Hollywood film premiere. It truly is a chance to play a piece of golfing land that has had as much thought and care put into every blade of grass as those at Augusta.

Rebuilt with tournament play in mind, the course will host the JP McManus Pro-Am in 2020, while its formal bid to stage the 2026 Ryder Cup is expected to be announced in the coming months.

Your Golf Travel ambassador—Lee Westwood—who may have an important role to play in the future Ryder Cups—is among a handful of top pros to have experienced the pleasures of staying and playing at Adare, having recently stayed there to celebrate his birthday, and to pay a visit to the Punchestown Festival.

*This Page  
Jameson Whiskey  
distillery;  
Adare Manor.*





The Ryder Cup star said he was ‘blown away’ with the hospitality on and off the golf course, putting the hotel straight into his ‘all-time top three’, and being impressed with the quality and design of the golf course, which he said was ‘easily up to tour standard’.

Off the course, the commitment to perfection continues in the perfectly-appointed clubhouse, The Carriage House, which offers a bar, restaurant, boutique pro shop and numerous meeting rooms. The refurbished neo-Gothic hotel, which was voted the world’s best at the 2018 Virtuoso Best of the Best Awards, now offers 104 bedrooms, 42 of which are located in the new wing which is seamlessly linked to the original building. All rooms have king or super king beds and boast views of the River Maigue, the golf course, or the estate’s extensive gardens.

The expansion project also incorporated a new ballroom, which can host up to 350 guests, while the hotel’s flagship dining experience, The Oak Room, is overseen by award-winning head chef Michael Tweedie. Guests can enjoy breakfast and afternoon tea in the stunning surroundings of The Gallery—which has the

distinction of being Ireland’s second longest room—while spa lovers can relax in the only La Mer Spa in the British Isles.

Added together, the hotel and golf facilities are a marriage made in heaven, and it’s easy to see why Lee is considering hosting his wedding here next year.

And while you’re in this beautiful corner of Ireland, it would be churlish not to tackle a few other golf courses for which the country is famous for, so a tee time at nearby Lahinch, venue for the 2019 Irish Open, is a must, while the links at Tralee, Doonbeg and Ballybunion, all within a short helicopter ride from Adare, are all showstoppers in their own right.

*This Page  
Adare Manor (all).*

## Extraordinary Augusta

Play the replica greens in Augusta's most exclusive hospitality area; Berckman's Place.

# 17

Tucked away discreetly off the fifth fairway, Berckman's Place is a modern version of the famed Antebellum-era clubhouse.

Along with four themed bars and restaurants, the ultimate Masters VIP room has replica greens of the 7th, 14th, 16th holes with the pins matching each day's location. You'll have the choice to either listen to the caddy or trust your instincts...

Secure your place by calling Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, on 020 7336 5354.



# Golf's Golden Ticket

## EXPERIENCE THE MASTERS IN AUGUSTA

*Making the pilgrimage to Augusta to watch The Masters should be on every golf fans' bucket list. Your Golf Travel can make it happen, in style.*

With tickets to The Masters about as hard to come by as birdies on the back nine on Sunday, it's only by travelling with regulated travel companies like Your Golf Travel that you can guarantee your place at Augusta National.

Augusta's nearest airport is Atlanta, although travelling spectators can also enjoy new direct flights to Charleston with British Airways. Whichever you choose, YGT can arrange car hire, coach transfers as well as tournament tickets and convenient and comfortable accommodation. Oh, and if you're hoping to play some golf during your trip, guaranteed tee times at the region's best courses will be sorted, covering all the bases for your unforgettable trip to The Masters.

Whether you want to attend one of the practice days on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, including the Par-3 Championship, or experience the electric atmosphere of a tournament day, Your Golf Travel can provide you and your group with guaranteed tickets.

Whichever option you choose, our professional and experienced events team are on hand throughout the week, providing a friendly face at the bespoke hospitality unit outside the course. It's here that your tickets, car parking and transfers can be sorted, as well as any other questions you may have. The hospitality also acts as a personal clubhouse for the duration of your visit to The Masters.

After the day's play, a private coach or car will take you back to your hotel, whether that be in downtown Augusta, where the party mood is always guaranteed, to the larger resorts to be found an hour's drive away in Columbia—South Carolina's biggest city—or Athens, which is another popular spot with Masters' fans. Both venues offer a wealth of off-course activities to enjoy after a day spent walking the fairways, as well as a great choice of bars and restaurants to kick back and relax in.

Asked what makes a trip to The Masters so special, Your Golf Travel's Head of Long Haul and Tournaments Team, Gareth Llewellyn, who has experienced nine visits to The Masters says: "For any golf fan who pays close attention to the Majors, The Masters and Augusta are the holy grail. It's a course where every hole is familiar, and you've watched your favourite players play almost every shot from every angle. Just from watching on TV you know which bunkers are in play, when the ball is likely to spin into the water and even how putts break but seeing that happen in front of your very eyes is something completely different. I urge everyone, who like me, may have watched every Masters from their sofa since they were a kid to come at least once; trust me, you won't be disappointed."

"Leading up to departure, all clients heading to Augusta will receive our detailed 'Masters Info' pack, which becomes their 'golf bible' for the week," says Gareth. "It's packed with what to see, what to do, and, just as importantly what not to do, as well as local area guides and information about bars and restaurants and other vital holiday ingredients."

Asked what tips he would offer to the first-time Masters' visitor, Rory Anderson, with three trips to Augusta under his belt and commonly known as YGTRory on Youtube, draws a deep breath. "Wow, there are so many things," he says. "It's very easy to wander around Augusta with your eyes on stalks, marvelling at the sheer beauty of the place, but it's essential to formulate a proper plan of action and narrow down what you want to see, who you want to see, and where you want to see them doing it."

"If you're attending on tournament days it will be easy enough to check the start sheet to work out what times your favourite players will be arriving at certain holes, but practice days are more awkward, as your guy might choose to walk off after nine, or jump on the back nine, so if you stumble across your favourite player, it's probably wise to stick with them."

He adds: "It's worth remembering that cameras aren't allowed on tournament days, so there is no chance of getting a selfie with Tiger from Thursday to Sunday, although there is an official photographer that will take a snap of you in front of the clubhouse. That alone is good reason to book yourself in for one of the practice days, as you'll not only get to see the players in a more relaxed mood, but you'll also be able to get the odd snap of them doing it, as well as bag some social media bragging rights with your friends and colleagues back home."

Rory also has another nugget that will serve you well. "A Masters chair is essential. It costs \$35, and can be bought on the door, but I guarantee that it'll be the best \$35 you've ever spent. We were sceptical, having been told you can plop your chair down at your favourite spot and leave it unattended for as long as you like, but having bitten the bullet and put this to the test I'm happy to report it's true. Just be sure to get to the course early to secure one of the best locations and its job done for the day. We now offer a chair as part of our Masters packages, so that's a valuable addition that we can provide our customers."

YGT co-founder and chief executive, Andrew Harding, who hosted that first intrepid group of clients back in 2006, and a veteran of 12 Masters trips, has his own words of advice when it comes to course strategy.

"The first time I went to The Masters I, like so many, headed straight to Amen Corner to experience those iconic holes around the turn, and then followed play into the 18th. Looking back, I remember feeling a little annoyed that I hadn't seen anything between the first tee and the 9th green. So, my advice would be to try and experience the whole course, not just the holes we all know and love from watching on TV, as there are some great holes, like the 3rd and 4th, which look so different in real life and are amazing design examples in their own right."

*This Page:  
Augusta National*





### Staying & Playing

If watching the world's best players in action gets your own swing twitching, then there are plenty of top class courses within easy reach of Augusta to bolt on to your trip and release your inner tour pro, all of which can be arranged by Your Golf Travel.

If you don't want to stray too far, Augusta Country Club is next door and shares the infamous Rae's Creek, while Sage Valley, The Reserve Club, West Lake and Champions Retreat are all within 15 minutes of downtown Augusta.

Columbia, where many fans stay, is surrounded by a sizeable choice of local country clubs, all open to Masters patrons for the week, including Wood Creek, Windermere, Lexington, and Columbia Country Club to name a few. However, many guests choose to book longer holidays and head further afield, driving the two-a-half-hours to the South Carolina coast, where the world class resorts of Kiawah Island, Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head are all within easy reach, while the eight magnificent courses on offer at the Pinehurst Resort are just a four-hour drive away in North Carolina.

Whether you choose to focus purely on watching The Masters or mix and match a bit of watching and playing, Your Golf Travel Select has packages to suit all your needs. All that remains is for you is to stop dreaming and start believing and let YGT do the rest.

## Grab a Slice of Major History

If you fancy watching the world's best players in action over some of America's finest courses, and want to enjoy the cultural delights of San Francisco and New York, then it's time to check out Your Golf Travel's exclusive tournament packages to the 2020 US Open and 2020 US PGA Championship

While visiting The Masters is top of the tree when it comes to catching a slice of major action in the United States, there are plenty of other opportunities to watch the world's best players tackle some of America's most iconic courses, with the US Open and the US PGA Championship being among the hottest tickets in town.

Following the recent shake up to the major calendar, the US PGA Championship has moved to the middle of May and is now the next major on the schedule after The Masters. And 2020 shakes up the order of things still further by visiting San Francisco's Harding Park, a publicly-owned course that has never previously staged a major championship.

Although traditionally boasting the strongest field of all four majors, the PGA Championship has a long history of throwing up surprise winners, and with no tour pros having played the

course before under major conditions, it will be interesting to see how the world's best fare on this tight, tree-lined course that underwent its last significant renovation in 2003, ahead of its hosting of a WGC event in 2005.

Visiting fans will be spoilt for choice where it comes to off-site entertainment, with the course located right in the heart of San Francisco, one of America's most cultural and vibrant cities. Guests can take their pick from a wide choice of luxury hotels and a great selection of restaurants around the bay area, while those with a taste for the finer things in life will want to head over to Napa and Sonoma Valley, where some of the world's finest wineries are within easy reach.

There are golfing options aplenty, from the quirky 18 holes on offer at Presidio, a former military golf course that overlooks the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, to the upmarket venues at the Olympic Club, a multiple host venue of the US Open, and the exclusive Lake Merced. For resort golf you'll need to head 45 minutes due south to the 36-hole Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay, and it would be foolish not to punch on another hour or so south to the magnificent Monterey Peninsula and tackle the holy triumvirate that is Pebble Beach, Spanish Bay and Spyglass Hill—although you'll have to stay at the resort to secure a tee time, which is no great hardship.

The following month sees the 2020 US Open

return to Winged Foot Golf Club in Westchester, New York, the scene of Colin Montgomerie and Phil Mickelson's last hole slips in 2006, which opened the door for Australia's Geoff Ogilvy to take the spoils.

It will be the sixth time that America's oldest major has returned to Winged Foot's spectacular West Course and presents a superb opportunity to visit one of America's most revered private clubs, as well as enjoy a break to 'The City That Never Sleeps'.

The parkland-style West Course, which first opened in 1923, has recently received a significant makeover by respected architect Gil Hanse—designer of Rio's Olympic course—which has served to open up what had become a very tight, tree-lined layout and made it far more playable, while offering better viewing for fans. Having said that, he's also rebuilt the greens, returning them to their vast original acreage, and added 250 yards to a course that already measured over 7,260 yards when it hosted the US Open in 2006, so expect big hitters to hold sway in the race for the trophy.

Your Golf Travel Select has a wide range of tailor-made packages to visit these two great tournaments, so the only hard decision for you is which one to go to. Why not both?

*Below:  
The Ryder Cup, Le  
Golf National, Paris;*



## Extraordinary Ryder

Support Team Europe  
at Whistling Straits,  
Wisconsin in 2020.

# 18

Join us at the exclusive  
Your Golf Travel afterparty  
in 2020, where the noise levels are  
likely to be louder than the chants  
of the boisterous American crowd.

Le Golf National set the standard  
for future Ryder Cups with an electric  
atmosphere in Paris last year, and  
2020 will be no different.

For tickets, flights and accommodation,  
call Gareth Llewellyn, our Head of  
Long Haul and Tournaments Team  
on 020 7336 5354.





## Travel In Comfort & Style, Arrive Relaxed

A truly elite golf holiday experience is not only about your destination. We believe every aspect of your journey deserves the best, which is why we go the Extra Yard to provide you with the perfect transportation option that suits your needs.

Have you ever wanted to enjoy the experience of flying in your own private jet? Whatever the size of your group and budget, we can organise a private plane so you can travel in style.

Or if you are travelling to a destination such as Dubai, with its incredible views and iconic skyline, travelling by helicopter is an ideal way to take in the sights and get a bird's eye view of the golf courses before you make a grand entrance.

If you prefer a more subtle but luxurious way to travel, experience new levels of comfort with British Airways' new Club World Class. Experience the

newly designed Club Suite, featuring retractable dividers between centre seats and a privacy door so you can switch from a social to a more private setting. You'll also enjoy non-stop entertainment options, restaurant-style fine dining and ergonomically designed seating with luxurious bedding supplied by The White Company to ensure a restful journey.

As a preferred partner of British Airways, Your Golf Travel has access to fully ATOL protected preferential fares and we include golf carriage in any long haul booking.

Whatever your preferred mode of travel, we'll be more than happy to arrange it for you to ensure your travel experience is as memorable as the rest of your golf holiday.

Call our specialist aviation team on 0800 193 6628 for more information and to book your seats.



*From top to bottom:  
Private Charter Flight  
(Image courtesy of 365aviation.com);  
British Airways Club Suite;  
British Airways on-board catering;  
British Airways 787 Dreamliner.*

# The 19th Hole

HOW FAR WILL WE TAKE YOU?

*“The most important shot in golf is the next one”  
- Ben Hogan*

Even the greatest golf courses in the World finish on the 18th hole. With Your Golf Travel, nothing is impossible and your travel experience truly never has to end.

We're golfers too. We understand the thoughts, emotions and questions that run through your head after a round. 'If only that ball had dropped', 'What if it had landed on the fairway?' but most importantly...

'Where can I play next?'

We're in the business of making the impossible happen, from Augusta to St Andrews, there is no fairway we cannot get you on.

But we won't stop there – as time spent off the course is as important as time spent with your clubs; the finest wine, the best food, unreal views. We'll put it all into your experience.

Like you, we have our own big question;

'What can we make possible for you?'

We are expert curators,  
at your service.

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There are some spectacular bucket-list experiences throughout this brochure, but we don't believe in limits at Your Golf Travel.

Whatever your needs, big or small, we can make your golfing dreams come true. Our golfing experts can arrange or inspire your perfect trip.

Please get in touch with your Select Account Manager on 020 7157 1553 to see where we can take you.



Call now to craft your own  
extraordinary golf experience.

Nick Bishop and Richard Tidman,  
Your Golf Travel Select:

020 7157 1553

Dedicated Concierge Team:

0800 193 6626

Gareth Llewellyn,  
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