# Ireland's No.1 Golfing Newspaper

#### Vol 29. No. 1 Spring/Summer 2024 Edition



#### DOWNLOAD FREE THIS EDITION TO YOUR COMPUTER, iPAD OR SMARTPHONE www.selectmedialtd.com/igwemag.html McILROY WINS HERO DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC Roy McIlroy won a record-breaking fourth Hero Dubai Desert Classic as he successfully defended his title on a dramatic afternoon at

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#### KILLARNEY TO HOST PRESTIGIOUS EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

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#### **AMATEUR GOLF 2024**

Significant changes to the AIG Irish Women's and Girls' Close Championships, Mid-Amateur championships at national and regional level, and a return to the traditional format of the West of Ireland Amateur Open Championship are among the highlights of the 2024 championship programme in Ireland. Golf Ireland will also reintroduce the Irish Boys' and Irish Girls' Amateur Open Championships as stand-alone events in 2024.

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Class courses and stay with our many excellent accommodation providers. Make the Emerald Isle part of your plans for 2024.

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Headfort Golf Club in Kells has gained quite a reputation for itself as a premium Golfing destination in Ireland. This is thanks to its wonderful contrast of experience with Old and New Courses offering 36–holes of Golfers paradise and key location being only 90 minutes from Belfast. The Headfort Arms Hotel focuses on its rich tradition of personal Irish service, familiar faces & its reputation of fine food. Relax by the open fire or stroll in the beautiful garden after a day exploring the



richest heritage Ireland has to offer in the Boyne Valley.

Also, Black Bush Golf Club with 27 holes of a well drained parkland course, who are open most of the year for play. They also have three interchangeable 9-hole courses that keep things moving. Black Bush Golf Club is situated only minutes from Fairyhouse Racecourse. Mature trees leading up to well maintained greens line the fairways.

Moving to County Kildare and the worldrenowned K Club which is home to the Smurfit and Palmer courses. Designed by Arnold Palmer, The Palmer Ryder Cup Course and The Palmer Smurfit Course are considered two of Europe's finest Championship Courses. The K Club played host to the 2016 Irish Open.

Craddockstown Golf Club is a golfing jewel waiting to be explored. Situated on

the outskirts of Naas and five miles from the K Club, they are nestled between Punchestown, the Curragh and Naas Race courses.

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> Turn to Page 32

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## News **AMGEN ANNOUNCED** Credits **AS MEN'S IRISH OPEN** TITLE SPONSOR

mgen (NASDAQ:AMGN) recently announced it will serve as the title sponsor of the Irish Open starting in 2024, following the acquisition of Horizon Therapeutics plc in October 2023. Horizon Therapeutics, a leading Irish company, began sponsoring the tournament in 2022 as part of a multi-year commitment to the Irish community.

The 2024 Amgen Irish Open, part of the DP World Tour, will take place at the Royal County Down Golf Club in Northern Ireland from Sept. 11-15, 2024. Amgen will also become a partner to the KPMG Women's Irish Open.

Irish professional golfers Shane Lowry, Pádraig Harrington, Séamus Power and Brendan Lawlor served as golf ambassadors on behalf of Horizon Therapeutics, and they will now become Amgen golf ambassadors, wearing the Amgen logo while in competition. "Sponsorship of the Amgen Irish Open marks an important milestone in Amgen's 25-year history in Ireland, and today's

announcement further demonstrates our commitment to the communities where our people live and work," said Robert A. Bradway, chairman and chief executive officer at Amgen.

"We are especially pleased to sponsor the Amgen Irish Open, recognizing that the tournament contributes significantly to the Irish economy, and is a source of national pride."

Amgen established a commercial presence in Ireland in 1998, and in 2011 it acquired a manufacturing facility in Dun Laoghaire, which it has since developed and upgraded with \$1 billion in additional investment.

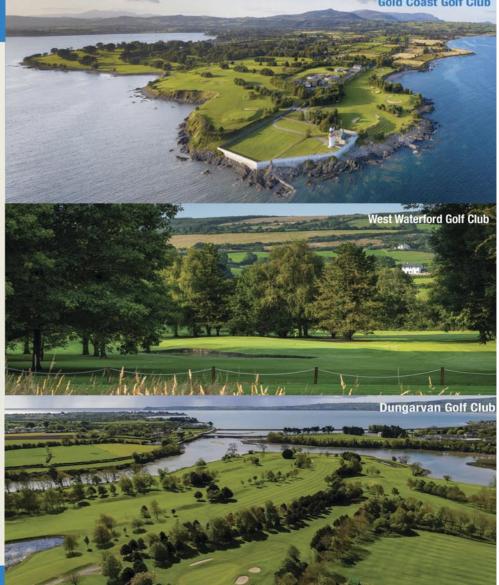
Today Amgen employs approximately 1,250 people in Ireland. Irish patient organizations supported by Amgen include the Irish Osteoporosis Society, Multiple Myeloma Ireland and CROÍ, a charity to prevent heart disease and stroke. Award-winning biology education programs sponsored by the Amgen Foundation have reached 500 science teachers and nearly 60,000 students across Ireland.

For details on the Amgen Irish Open 2024

https://www.europeantour.com/dpworld-tour/horizon-irish-open-2024/

### DUNGARVAN GOLF TRIANGLE





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<u>News</u>

## **McILROY CONFIRMED FOR AMGEN IRISH OPEN**



ory McIlroy will tee it up on home soil later this year after confirming his appearance at September's Amgen Irish Open at Royal County Down. Royal County Down will host the Amgen Irish Open for the second time in its history from September 12-15 as the island of Ireland's national open returns to Newcastle for the first time since 2015.

Four-time Major Champion McIlroy, who last year claimed his fifth Race to Dubai title after topping the season-long standings, will return to his home County where he honed his skills as a junior and to the venue where he represented Great Britain & Ireland at the 2007 Walker Cup.

The Northern Irishman grew up in Holywood, less than an hour from the prestigious venue, and he will bid for a second Irish Open crown after claiming victory at The K Club in 2016.

"Since making my first appearance at the Irish Open nearly 20 years ago, it has been such a special tournament to play in, but it will be doubly so for me this time round," said McIlroy.

"I'm incredibly excited to have the opportunity play in this year's Irish Open at a venue so close to home. Royal County Down is a fantastic venue and I still have some great memories from the 2007 Walker Cup.

"The crowds are always so supportive of all the Irish golfers taking part and the atmosphere is unlike any other we have at a golf tournament. Time and time again the fans prove that they are some of the best in the world and I can't wait to see them out in support of us again."

McIlroy has started his 2024 season in fine fashion, finishing runner-up in his first start of the year at the Dubai Invitational and then successfully defended his Hero Dubai Desert Classic title, winning the tournament for a record fourth time.

The 34-year-old will join fellow former Irish Open winner, Major Champion and Ryder Cup star Shane Lowry in the event which assumes a key position on the DP World Tour's 2024 Global Schedule as part of the 'Back 9'.

The 'Back 9' encompasses nine of the Tour's most historic tournaments and national opens, running from August to October and will give members their final opportunities to secure their playing rights for 2025 and also advance to the season-ending 'DP World Tour Play-Offs'.

Last year, Sweden's Vincent Norrman claimed his second DP World Tour title as he fired a final round 65 at The K Club to win by one stroke, to secure his second victory in the space of just six worldwide starts.

First played in 1927, the Irish Open is one of the world's most celebrated national opens, with a list of former champions that includes Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo, Pádraig Harrington, Shane Lowry, Colin Montgomerie, José María Olazábal, Bernhard Langer and Sam Torrance.

Tickets are selling fast for next year's event and fans are urged to act now to avoid disappointment. In addition to General Admission, limited Premium Experience options are still available with The Ballroom and Green on 18 packages. Ticket+ options are also available for purchase.

To find out more https://www.europeantour.com/dpworld-tour/horizon-irish-open-2024/tickets-packages/



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# News

## **KILLARNEY TO HOST PRESTIGIOUS EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**



illarney Golf & Fishing Club has been confirmed as the host of the 2025 European Amateur Team Championship. Golf Ireland was awarded the event by the European Golf Association following a detailed bidding process.

16 teams will compete for the premier men's amateur team event in Europe, which will take place on the Killeen Course between 8-12 July 2025, as Killarney celebrates the 50th anniversary of their last hosting of this event.

The Killeen Course has previously hosted four European Tour events, with the Irish Opens in 1991, 1992, 2010 and 2011, along with the 1996 Curtis Cup.

Ireland had an historic double last year when Alison Taylor (Malahide) and Eddie McCormack (Galway Bay) were victorious in the European Senior Ladies' and Men's Championship in Douglas.

In 2007 the Irish trio of Rory McIlroy, Shane Lowry and Jonathan Caldwell won Gold in the European Amateur Team Championship at Western Gailes. Meanwhile, Ireland landed a bronze medal last year and Golf Ireland CEO Mark Kennelly is excited to see the event return to the island next year.

"We are all looking forward to hosting these brilliant championships back in Ireland again in 2025," said Kennelly.

"It was great to see two Irish competitors picking up silverware in the senior championships last year and it will be interesting to see how our team can perform in the wonderful surrounds of Killarney."

Many of the world's best have competed in the European Amateur Team Championship over the years. Masters champion, Jon Rahm, was part of the Spanish team in 2014. Fellow Ryder Cup star, Bob McIntyre, represented Scotland two years later, while 2023 Amgen Irish Open winner, Vincent Norrman, teamed up with another Ryder Cup sensation, Ludvig Åberg, in 2019.

Killarney Golf & Fishing Club are overjoyed to announce that they will once again play host to the prestigious European Amateur Team Championship.

It returns for the first time since 1975 and will present a wonderful opportunity for the club to showcase their magnificent championship courses and practice facilities alongside the breathtaking backdrop.

"The prospect of witnessing the finest amateur golfers on our home turf is a source of excitement and delight for our members," said Killarney Golf & Fishing Club Captain John O'Mahony.

"We look forward to working closely with everyone involved to make the event a huge success for the club, the historic town of Killarney, and for golf in Ireland.

"We have no doubt that the world-class accommodation, exceptional restaurants, and the famous Irish welcome are perfectly poised to provide an unforgettable experience for participants and spectators alike."

For more on Killarney Golf & Fishing Club https://killarneygolfclub.ie/

### QUINTA DO LAGO HOSTS WORLD'S FIRST EDGA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CAMP



uinta do Lago has played host to the first ever EDGA Player Development Camp, an initiative created by EDGA to help prepare potential future G4D Tour players. Held from January 21 to 25, 12 emerging talents in golf for the disabled (G4D) were able to experience the Portuguese sports and lifestyle resort's excellent training facilities and golf courses as they were joined by specialists to help them envision what it takes to become a G4D Tour player.

The 12-player group – made up of golfers from ten countries who have yet to play in a G4D Tour or EDGA Professional Tour event – learnt from coaches, nutritionists, performance experts and marketeers as they took part in an intense week of learning. Those who took part in the camp are the latest in a long-line of aspiring golfers hoping to launch their careers at Quinta do Lago. Home to three 18-hole championship golf courses – the North, South and Laranjal – Quinta do Lago has a rich history in helping to develop the talent of tomorrow. On eight separate occasions – including in 2023 and 2022 – the resort has played host to the Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf Championship.

Quinta do Lago is also home to the only Paul McGinley Golf Academy in the world, founded in October 2011 by Europe's victorious 2014 Ryder Cup captain. With a strong involvement from McGinley himself, who is a regular visitor to the resort, the academy aims to cultivate and improve golfers' play by providing them with the tools and techniques used on the professional Tours.

Sean Moriarty, CEO of Quinta do Lago, said: "When EDGA reached out to us regarding hosting the Player Development Camp, we were more than happy to help.

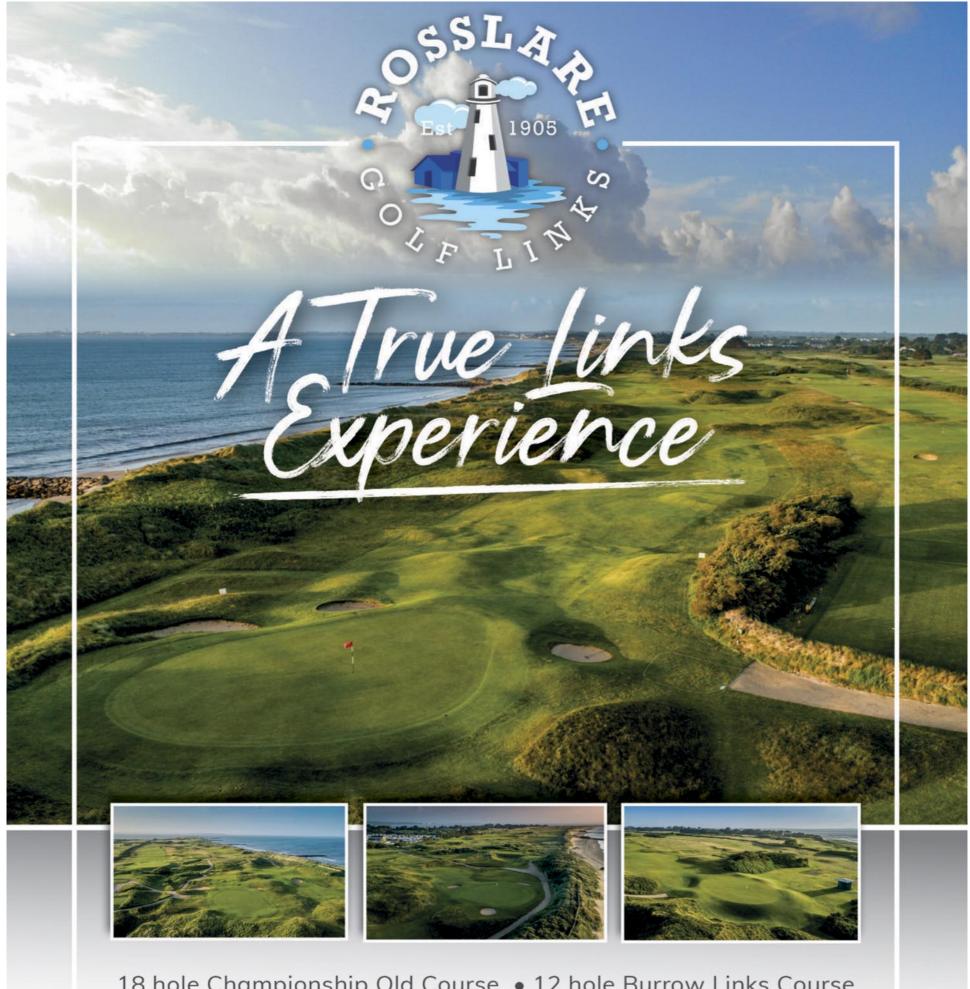
"With three 18-hole championship courses and state-of-the-art practice facilities, Quinta do Lago is ideally set up for training camps for all golfers. We hope all those who attended enjoyed the week and will be sure to keep an eye out to see how their careers within the game develop."

Launched in 2022 by the European Tour Golf and EDGA, the G4D Tour sees golfers with a disability compete on the same course during the same week as the DP World Tour.

As well as attracting golfers, the world-class performance hub, The Campus, is a popular venue for top athletes and sports teams from all over the world. The premier multi-sports facility welcomes residents and guests of Quinta do Lago to enjoy a lifestyle of health, fitness and wellness, and includes a high-performance gym, tennis and padel courts, swimming pool, cycling, group classes and personal training, recovery suites and sports rehabilitation.

Alongside an unparalleled sport offering, guests staying in the 2,000-acre Algarve resort can enjoy 14 first-class bars and restaurants or discover the picturesque Magnolia Hotel. Blessed with the backdrop of one of Europe's most beautiful natural regions, Quinta do Lago offers the perfect place to soak in golden sands and sapphire seas, with facilities for every need close at hand.

www.quintadolago.com for details



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# MCILROY WINS FOURTH HERO DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC

Rory McIlroy won a record-breaking fourth Hero Dubai Desert Classic as he successfully defended his title on a dramatic afternoon at Emirates Golf Club.

he Northern Irishman claimed a maiden Rolex Series crown at this event 12 months previously but came into the weekend ten shots back before a stunning third-round 63 put him into the final group on the Sunday. He then turned a twoshot deficit into a four-shot lead with six holes to play before a bogey on the 13th gave the chasing Adrian Meronk and Cameron Young a glimmer of hope.

Pole Meronk cut the lead to one as he signed for a 71 but McIlroy held his nerve down the stretch and carded a 70 for a 14 under par total and a one-shot win.

American Young finished with a 74 to sit at 12 under, two shots clear of Canadian Aaron Cockerill, Spaniard Pablo Larrazábal and Chilean Joaquin Niemann.



The win takes McIlroy past Ernie Els' hat-trick of Desert Classic victories and hands him his third Rolex Series triumph, having won three of the last five blue riband events.

He also becomes just the second player to successfully defend this title after Stephen Gallacher lifted the Dallah Trophy in 2013 and 2014 and makes it six wins in Dubai with his two victories at the DP World Tour Championship.

"It's a great start to the season," he said. "I started well last year with the win here. A couple of little things still to work on but these weeks are great. You learn a ton from them and obviously great to get the competition and come out on top as well.

"I thought on Friday night, I thought ten under for the weekend, I would have a really good chance to win. I shot 11 and ended up winning by one.

"I've played the game long enough to sort of know how these things are going to go. Thankfully I played the golf I needed to and it's just incredible to get my fourth win here at the Emirates.

"The pivotal point for me came on the eighth and ninth hole - making two threes there, that sort of set me up to try to control it on the way in.

"I made that one blunder on 13 and made bogey there but felt like I steadied the ship well over the last few holes and it was one of those days where there wasn't a ton of fireworks just because the course was so difficult. I held on as best as I could and thankfully no one around the top of the leaderboard made much of a run."

McIlroy drove the 351-yard par-four second and got down in two to sit one behind overnight leader Young, with Meronk also moving to 13 under with the help of a stunning bunker shot on the par-five third.

Young missed a five-footer as he failed to get up and down from the sand on the fourth to make it a three-way tie but McIlroy would soon lead alone as his rivals faltered.

Young had a stroke of bad luck as his drive at the sixth clipped a person down the side of the fairway and ended up next to a tree, causing him to play out left-handed and drop a shot, while Meronk chipped into the water on the seventh and made a double-bogey.

That left McIlroy one ahead and he put his foot down, holing a huge right-to-lefter from 31 feet at the eighth and a 16-foot putt on the ninth to lead by three at the turn.

The advantage was briefly trimmed as Young got up and down from the sand at the par-five tenth but he missed the green at the next two holes and a pair of missed par putts from inside six feet put McIlroy four ahead.

Meronk had missed a short par putt after finding sand on the ninth but hit back with an upand-down after another excellent bunker shot on the tenth and a two-putt birdie from the fringe at the 13th.

Back down the par-five, McIlroy was in the trees after going a long way left off the tee and as he made a bogey, Meronk put an approach to four feet at the 14th and cut the lead to one.

It was back to two after Meronk found nasty rough with his first and second on the 16th, a hole where McIlroy made a brilliant par save after sending his drive into the waste area and Young holed a 25-footer to rejoin Meronk in second.

Meronk then made a two-putt gain on the last and while that was not enough for the win, it did give him solo second as Young finished bogey-birdie, with McIlroy parring the last for the title with the minimum of fuss.

**66** I held on as best as I could and thankfully no one around the top of the leaderboard made much of a run - Rory McIIroy



### **AMATEUR GOLF AMATEUR GOLF 2024** Significant changes to the AIG Irish Women's and Girls' Close Championships,

Mid-Amateur championships at national and regional level, and a return to the traditional format of the West of Ireland Amateur Open Championship are among the highlights of the 2024 championship programme in Ireland.

olf Ireland will also reintroduce the Irish Boys' and Irish Girls' Amateur Open County Sligo Golf Links Championships as stand-alone events in 2024, with Flogas extending their sponsorship to include these events as well as their continued support of the Irish Men's and Women's Amateur Open Championships.

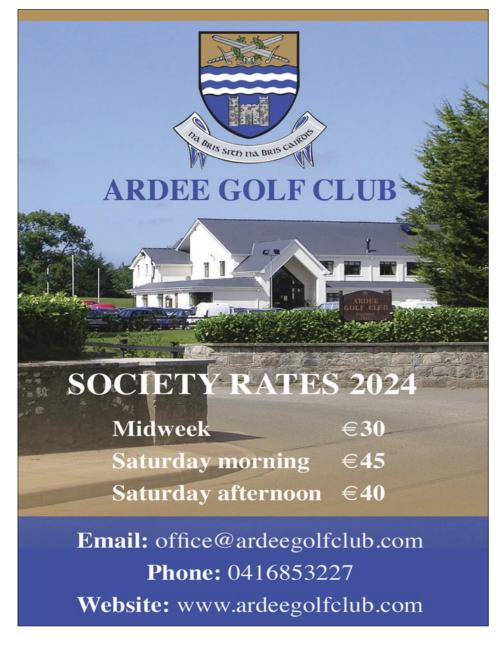
Following a detailed process, Golf Ireland will stage three Women's and Girls' competitions over a four-day period in a new 'AIG Irish Women's and Girls' Amateur Close Championship week' which will take place from 30 July to 2 August in Roscommon Golf Club.

On Days 1 and 2, there will be two 36-hole stroke play championships - the AIG Irish Girls' Amateur Close Stroke Play Championship and the AIG Irish Over-18 Women's Amateur Close Stroke Play Championship.

The winners of each will be crowned AIG Close Stroke Play Champion in their respective category, with the top-12 scores across both of those championships joining four exempt players based on WAGR positions in the AIG Irish Women's Amateur Close Championship on Days 3 and 4, which will consist of four rounds of match play.

Exemptions will only be given to players who have entered the Close but who are competing in the European Ladies' Amateur Championship the previous weekend, and where fewer than four exemptions are extended, additional places will go to players based on scores on the first two days of the AIG Close Championship week.

In addition, the next 16 best scores in the AIG Irish Girls' Amateur Close Championship on Days 1 and 2 will contest the Irish Girls' Amateur Plate on Days 3 and 4. Likewise, the next 16 best scores in the AIG Irish Over-18 Women's Amateur Close Championship will contest the Irish Women's Amateur Plate on Days 3 and 4.





Another key change for 2024 is the reduction of the lower age limit for Men's Mid-Amateur Championships to 25. This is being done in response to the introduction by the European Golf Association of a European Mid-Amateur Team Championship for Men and Women; however, there will be a proviso in the regulations to ensure that at least 75% of the field in Mid-Amateur Championships going forward will be from the previously-eligible pool of over-30s.

The Irish Women's Mid-Amateur Championship will remain open to any female players over-18 years of age, consistent with the over-18 championships at Regional level.

The ISPS Handa Irish Open for Players with a Disability will be once again played at Roganstown, but with both Roganstown and Swords Open courses playing host to different categories within the event, which will be open to an expanded field.

The West of Ireland Men's Amateur Open Championship at County Sligo will return to its familiar format of 36 holes qualifying followed by six rounds of knockout match play contested by the leading 64 players. The traditional format returns as a result of a review by the Championship Committee following a two-year trial of an alternative format of 54 holes stroke play with 16 qualifying for match play.

County Sligo will also be hosting the Flogas Irish Men's Amateur Open Championship on 9-12 May. An added carrot for this year's event will be a Challenge Tour start in the Irish Challenge at the K Club in early August for the winner of the Championship, and for the leading Irish player if an overseas player wins the title.

The Flogas Irish Women's Amateur Open Championship takes place in Woodbrook once again, but on the new date of 15-17 June in an attempt to capitalize on the large influx of overseas players in Ireland for the Women's Amateur Championship, which takes place in Portmarnock the following week.

For all details https://www.golfireland.ie/

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## THE MASTERS 2024 A world-class line-up will descend on Augusta National in Georgia, USA for a mouth-

watering contest from April 11-14.



he first "Augusta National Invitational" Tournament, as the Masters was originally known commenced in 1934, and was won by Horton Smith, who took the first prize of \$1,500.

The Big Three of Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, and Jack Nicklaus dominated the Masters from 1960 through 1978, winning the event 11 times among them during that span. After winning by one stroke in 1958, Palmer won by one stroke again in 1960 in memorable circumstances. Trailing Ken Venturi by one shot in the 1960 event, Palmer made birdies on the last two holes to prevail. Palmer would go on to win another two Masters in 1962 and 1964.

Jack Nicklaus emerged in the early 1960's, and served as a rival to the popular Palmer. Nicklaus won his first green jacket in 1963, defeating Tony Lema by one stroke. Two years later, he shot a then-course record of 271 (17 under par) for his second Masters win, leading Bobby Jones to say that Nicklaus played "a game with which I am not familiar."

The next year, Nicklaus won his third green jacket in a grueling 18-hole play-off against Tommy Jacobs and Gay Brewer. This made Nicklaus the first player to win consecutive Masters. He won again in 1972 by three strokes. In 1975, Nicklaus won by one stroke in a close contest with Tom Weiskopf and Johnny Miller.

Gary Player became the first non-American to win the Masters in 1961, beating Palmer, the defending champion. In 1974, he won again by two strokes.

Non-Americans collected 11 victories in 20 years in the 1980s and 1990s, by far the strongest run they have had in any of the three majors played in the United States since the early days of the U.S. Open. The first European to win the Masters was Seve Ballesteros in 1980. Nicklaus became the oldest player to win the Masters in 1986 when

he won for the sixth time at age 46. Other European winners during that golden era included Nick Faldo, Jose Maria Olazabal, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle.

At age 21 in 1997, Tiger Woods won the Masters by twelve shots and broke the 72-hole record that had stood for 32 years. Woods completed his "Tiger Slam" by winning his fourth straight major championship at the Masters in 2001. He won again the following year, making him only the third player in history to win the tournament in consecutive years, as well as in 2005 when he defeated Chris DiMarco in a playoff for his first major championship win in almost three years.

The 2003 tournament was won by Mike Weir, who became the first Canadian to win a men's major championship, and the first left-hander to win the Masters. The following year, another left-hander, Phil Mickelson, won his first major championship by making a birdie on the final hole to beat Ernie Els by a stroke. Mickelson also won the tournament in 2006 and 2010.

In 2011, the tournament was won by South African Charl Schwartzel, who birdied the final four holes to win by two strokes. In 2012, Bubba Watson won the tournament on the second play-off hole. Watson's win marked the fifth time that a left-hander won the Masters in the previous ten tournaments. Prior to 2003, no left-hander had ever won the Masters. The 2013 Masters was won by Adam Scott, the first Australian to win the tournament after many attempts from the great Greg Norman. Watson won the 2014 Masters by three strokes over Jordan Spieth and Jonas Blixt. It was his second Masters victory in three years. In 2015, Spieth would become the second-youngest winner in just his second Masters and twelve months later Sergio Garcia would claim his only Major to date.

In 2019 Tiger Woods won his fifth Green Jacket, and fifteenth major, by one stroke ahead of three runners-up. It left him one shy of Jack Nicklaus' record six Masters win, and three short of his record eighteen major wins. At age 43 he became the second oldest winner, again only bettered by Nicklaus who won at age 46. There was no Masters in 2020 due to Covid-19 while the recent winners have come from Dustin Johnson, Hideki Matsuyama, Scottie Scheffler and Jon Rahm.

In what promises to be a fascinating spectacle over the four days there are high hopes that Rory McIlroy despite many disappointments can be a contender While he has never delivered at Augusta there is no doubt the game is in place to at some point wear the famous jacket. You can also expect a strong showing from 2019 Open Champion Shane Lowry. Keep a watch also for Viktor Hovland, Brooks Koepka and Jordan Speith as some of the favourites to emerge with the coveted green jacket.

For more details www.masters.com

**66** At age 21 in 1997, Tiger Woods won the Masters by twelve shots and broke the 72-hole record that had stood for 32 years

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### ARDS AND NORTH DOWN Home to Rory McIlroy and Ireland's oldest golf course, The Royal Belfast.

Scrabo Tower, Newtownards,



fter the success of Northern Ireland hosting the Open Championship in 2019 and the confirmation of its return in 2025, coupled with Irish Opens and PGA events being held here in recent years, it shows how highly the country is viewed in golfing circles.

The quality of courses, regarded as some of the best in the world, alongside a guaranteed Northern Irish welcome, makes us a must-stop for any golfing traveller. Ards and North Down is at the heart of this offering. Golf in the area dates back over 125 years, when The Royal Belfast became Ireland's first club, in 1881. Boasting 12 diverse courses, designed by the likes of H.S. Colt and James Braid, it sums up the quality on offer.

Alongside stunning scenery including views of breath-taking Loughs and even Scotland, most courses are located within 15 minutes' drive of each other, making playing two clubs in one day accessible.

As an added bonus, we are situated on Belfast's doorstep, with easy access to the ports and airports. Bangor City Centre, Northern Ireland's newest City, is only 20 minutes from Belfast by car or 30 minutes by train.

With award-winning accommodation, from 5\* luxury to B&B's, renowned eateries and great craic plentiful, Ards and North Down is the perfect destination for your next golfing break.

For information on golf in the area contact: T: +44 (0)28 9127 0069 or +44 (0)28 9182 6846 E: bangorvic@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk or ardsvic@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk visitardsandnorthdown.com/golf

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Ards and North Down Borough Council

# **DUNGARVAN FOR GOLF & SO MUCH MORE**

Anyone interested in playing golf on three charming and equalling challenging courses should look no further than Dungarvan in Co. Waterford.



ungarvan boasts three 18hole golf courses all located only 10 minutes from each other and all only 5 minutes from Dungarvan town centre.

Dungarvan Golf Club, Gold Coast Golf Club and West Waterford Golf Club make up this three course golf triangle where you can play all three courses any day of the week for as little as €84, and who said golf in Ireland was expensive.

All three courses welcomes every visitor, and all catering needs are well looked after within the clubhouses of Dungarvan and West Waterford, Gold Coast having its own Gold Coast Golf Hotel on site.

All three clubs have a good working relationship with each other which has

resulted in the concept of playing the three courses over a few days, and this is done by using the very popular Golf Triangle Ticket. The Dungarvan Golf Triangle Ticket for €84 offers probably

green fees available. The ticket is available Monday to

one of the best value three course

Sunday and is for sale in each of the three golf courses. All 3 rounds don't

6 6 Dungarvan Golf Club, Gold Coast C. 16 Club Gold Coast Golf Club and West Waterford Golf Club make up this three course golf

triangle where you can play all three courses any day of the week for as little as €84

have to played consecutively, you can use the ticket over 1,2 or 3 visits to Dungarvan.

Full details on our website located at www.dungarvangolftriangle.com.

Dungarvan Golf Club is set against the backdrop of the Comeragh Mountains and runs adjacent to Dungarvan Bay. This Championship Parkland course has been architecturally designed with seven lakes and man made hazards strategically placed to test all levels of golfer. At Gold Coast Golf Club you will find a scenic and challenging 18 hole golf course bordered by the Atlantic ocean with unrivalled panoramic views of Dungarvan Bay and the Comeragh Mountains. At 6,788 yards off the back tees, the course will present a real challenge for the discerning golfer wishing

#### **IRISH GOLF WORLD • 17**



to test their skill in a magnificent and spectacular location.

The West Waterford Golf Club is built on 150 acres of rolling parkland on the banks of the Brickey river with the back- drop of the Comeragh Mountains to the east, the Knockmealdowns to the north and Drum Hills to the south. The Brickey river traverses the southern boundary which makes this a very challenging golf course.

Other than golf, the picturesque town of Dungarvan, the county town of Waterford has plenty to offer. Beautifully situated at the head of a broad bay which sweeps past spectacular cliff scenery to Helvic head and the wild beauty of the Comeragh mountains, this thriving centre of activity has much to offer the visitor. Walking tours, an EU Blue flag beach, watersports, fishing, boat hire, horse riding facilities are all on your doorstep and easily organised. Eating out, whether for mid–day lunch, afternoon tea or a romantic candlelit dinner is made easy in any of the town's award– winning and fine restaurants. For night–life and your favourite pint, there are over fifty pubs to choose from. A multi–plex cinema, trendy shopping stores, three hotels with leisure centres all afford the visitor plenty to choose from.

After a relaxing break and happy golfing

memories you'll reluctantly bid farewell, longing to return to this haven in the sunny South East.

Dungarvan is home to the Waterford Greenway, a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail which travels through time and nature across eleven bridges, three viaducts and through the atmospheric tunnel all the way from the river to the sea from stunning

Dungarvan all the way to the quays of Ireland's oldest city Waterford.

www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Dungarvan Golf Club 18 – Hole Par 72 – 6,708 yards Tel: 058 43310 Email: office@dungarvangolfclub.com www.dungarvangolfclub.com

Gold Coast Golf Club 18 – Hole Par 72 – 6,788 yards Tel: 058 44055 Email: golf@goldcoastgolfresort.com www.goldcoastgolfclub.com

West Waterford Golf Club 18 – Hole Par 72 – 6,712 yards Tel: 058 43216 Email: info@westwaterfordgolf.com www.westwaterfordgolf.com

Dungarvan Golf Club



# **APHRODITE HILLS RESORT, CYPRUS**

A golfer's paradise in the heart of the Mediterranean.



phrodite Hills Resort, located on the stunning island of Cyprus, in the heart of the Mediterranean is a multi award-winning 5-star golf, leisure and real estate development, elegantly situated over a 2.3 million square metre plot. This historical and mythological area boasts breathtaking panoramic views overlooking the phenomenal beauty of the glistening blue Mediterranean Sea and the birthplace of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. The Resort's remarkable and unique journey of excellence begun back in 2002 when Aphrodite Hills Golf Course, which is now today's mesmerizing PGA National Cyprus, along with the Golf Clubhouse, were both completed and became fully operational.

The Aphrodite Hills, PGA National Cyprus Golf Course is the perfect mix of challenging pot bunkers, manicured fairways of lush Bermuda grass and generous tiered greens. Visually spectacular, the course expands through indigenous olive and carob trees and is built on two plateaux, separated by a dramatic ravine with outstanding views over the Mediterranean Sea. The staggering 130-metre gorge dividing tees at the 7th hole is an enticing challenge for all lovers of this beautiful game. The course handicap requirement is 28 for men and 36 for ladies.

Aphrodite Hills Golf is a buggy mandatory course and all buggies are equipped with the latest GPS technology. It's the only golf course in Cyprus that offers this service. The GPS functionality is an excellent tool to assist every player around this beautiful facility. The multi award-winning professional golf course, which is also GEO Certified, is designed for golfers of all standards and ages. It has also recently attained the highest standard recognition in golf - the PGA National Cyprus. The first and only golf course in Cyprus carrying the prestigious PGA title.

The elegant Aphrodite Hills Golf Clubhouse overlooks the 18th green, and offers an intimate



and friendly ambience, combined with first class standards of comfort and quality. The Golf Pro Shop carries an extensive range of golfing equipment, accessories, clubs, travel bags and stylish apparel from the world's leading brands, with knowledgeable staff on hand to discuss individual needs. The Golf Clubhouse Restaurant serves a wide range of distinctive à la carte choices offering delectable upmarket international gourmet cuisine, breakfast and an exclusive brunch menu, plus a varied selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. The Caddy Masters Team provides an unparalleled service from arrival to departure, as well as expertise on the course.

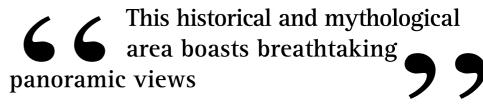
Aphrodite Hills Resort is evolving beautifully, showing great respect to the environment and the sport of golf. The first PGA National Academy 6 holes Par 3 course opened in June 2023; working closely with the PGA team and the prominent golf course architect Cabell B. Robinson.

The Aphrodite Hills Golf Academy has first class facilities including a 350m double-ended Driving Range with targets and a variety of short game practice facilities due to be finalised in early 2023. Professional PGA qualified Golf Instructors are also on hand to offer expert advice on all aspects of the game of golf, and also offer a wide variety of individual or group lessons.

### APHRODITE HILLS RESORT IS A CITY ON ITS OWN WITH AN ECLECTIC CHOICE OF 5-STAR AMENITIES THAT OFFER A UNIQUE LIFESTYLE:

- Award-winning 5-Star Aphrodite Hills Hotel by Atlantica
- Self-catering Villas & Apartments
- Banqueting Centre with outstanding conference facilities
- Championship Tennis Academy, with 9 professional
- tennis courts as well as 3 Padel Tennis Courts
- Basketball Court
  - Multi award-winning Retreat Spa with 27 treatment rooms
  - Physiotherapy Centre
  - Dream Team Soccer Academy
  - Nature trails for walking and jogging
  - Horse Riding Club
  - Archerv
  - Cycling facilities and Cycle Hire
  - Children's Club & Splash Park
  - Supermarket & Bakery, Pharmacy and numerous branded
  - cafes and shops
  - Medical Centre
  - Picturesque St. Catherine's Chapel
  - 18 Restaurants & Bars
  - Swimming Pools and a Gym

Aphrodite Hills Resort proudly hosted 2 consecutive European Tour events in 2020, the Cyprus Open and the Cyprus Showdown. The results which travelled around the world were highly impressive. The DP World Tour (formerly known as the European Tour) will return in the future.







Immerse yourself in the luxurious embrace of Aphrodite Hills Resort, where our PGA-accredited and GEO-certified golf course unfolds as a verdant oasis, crafted for the discerning golfer.



#### **GOLF & HOTEL PACKAGE**

- ▶ \*7 nights in Deluxe Garden/Pool View
- Bed & Breakfast basis
- 3 rounds at Aphrodite Hills PGA National, Cyprus, including seat on buggy
- ▶ 1 round at Secret Valley
- I round at Minthis or I round at Elea

STARTING FROM €930.00/person

#### **GOLF & APARTMENT PACKAGE**

- \*7 nights in a 1-bedroom apartment
- Self-catering basis
- 2 rounds at Aphrodite Hills PGA National, Cyprus, including seat on buggy
- ▶ 1 round at Secret Valley
- 1 round at Minthis
- 1 round at Elea

STARTING FROM €950.00/person

#### BOOK YOUR STAY | SPORTS@APHRODITEHILLS.COM

# **THE ALGARVE 2024**

As the southernmost region of Portugal, The Algarve is known for all year round sunshine and beautiful, sandy beaches and of course stunning Golf.



ate Autumn to early Spring is the best time to visit this coastal region for golf although there are many who understandably like to combine their favourite sporting activity early in the morning of a hot summer's day before indulging in some sun bathing. Sounds good, really good, when you think about it!

With over 3,000 hours of sun a year or 300 days of sunshine, the climate in the Algarve makes it a favourite holiday destination. Take into account Algarve's mild climate, reasonably priced restaurants, bars and accommodation, charming seaside towns, lively nightlife and it is easy to see why the Algarve makes a perfect base for a holiday. The Algarve benefits from natural reserves and national parks making it a haven for zealous walkers and those interested in outdoor pursuits.

#### INTRODUCTION

When considering golf in the Algarve, it is key to note that it is the southernmost region of Portugal and the most western point of Europe so we again draw the reader's attention to its agreeable climate, perfect for golfing enthusiasts and challenging courses

Voted the World's Best Golfing Destination several times by the IAGTO (International Association of Golf Tour Operators), the Algarve has become the destination of choice for aolf lovers.

From the outset, courses in the Algarve were singled- out by 'Rheingold' and 'Golf Digest' Magazines, which ranked the San Lorenzo Course and Vilamoura Old Course among the top 100 golf courses in the world.

Golf courses in the Algarve are blessed with a well-preserved natural setting, which allows you to play all year round on internationally recognised courses, where the high quality of their facilities and course design is acknowledged by top professionals and legendary champions.

Among the factors that make the Algarve a top golfing destination are its environmental setting, quality courses, accessibility and professionally-run transport systems plus the entire infrastructure that goes into supporting them. There is a network of hotels, transfers and even the airlines themselves that make access easy and contribute to a pleasant and appealing stay.

#### **VILAMOURA : A PARADISE IN SHADES OF GREEN**

Few will dispute that there is any region of its size anywhere in the world to measure up to the amazing quality of golf available at Vilamoura. And it's no surprise that it continues to attract major professional and amateur tournaments - much to the delight of players, officials, spectators and media.

The accommodation, the restaurants and bars, the marina, the value, the weather and above all the courses, what golfer could ask for more?

Occupying a privileged location in Portugal, Vilamoura is regarded as a unique European golfing venue. With five 18-hole courses, each of outstanding design and with different levels of difficulty, as well as an elite Golf Academy, Vilamoura tests the skill of professional players to the utmost and provides an exciting challenge for golfing enthusiasts. The Old Course is one of the most well-known and acclaimed courses in

EMERALD ISLE TOURS TAILOR MADE LUXURY HOLIDAYS WORLDWIDE

Europe, its exacting fairways demanding precision owing to the forests of umbrella pine which surround them.

The Pinhal Golf Course, flanked by a magnificent pine forest, has small greens that require the highest degree of accuracy. The Laguna Golf Course is an open course, embellished by waterfalls and the Millenium Golf Course, one of the most beautiful courses built in Portugal, combine to form an 18-hole course.

The Victoria Clube de Golfe, with its lakes and waterfalls that make it a genuine hymn to nature, and where major golfing competitions take place, such as the Algarve World Cup and the Portugal Masters, completes the list of golfing options in Vilamoura. This investment in quality has been rewarded with the chance to hold many tournaments there each year. The Taça do Presidente (President's Cup), the Grande Troféu de Vilamoura (Vilamoura Grand Trophy) and the Expresso/ BPI Golf Cup are the examples most widely praised by amateur players and leading professionals alike.

It boasts many outstanding golf holes, notably the sporting par 5, 17th where the professionals are tempted to go for the green in search of a precious birdie but all too often plunge into the lake fronting the green. The 18th is a tremendous par four with water all the way up the left and craftily placed bunkers threatening the overly careful tee shot on the right. Padraig Harrington chipped and putted both for a crucial birdie and par on the way to victory in 2016.

When it comes to considering accommodation with easy access to golf and Algarve beaches, Hilton Vilamoura As Cascatas Golf Resort & Spa is well-recommended. Set amid five acres of landscaped gardens, the resort is adjacent to the prestigious Dom Pedro Pinhal Golf Course. Central Vilamoura is a kilometre from the door, and a free shuttle covers Vilamoura Marina and Falesia private beach.

Also included is the prestigious 7 Seven Spa, the second largest of its kind in Europe where relaxing and tranquility are first and foremost.

In the heart of the Algarve you will find Vilamoura Garden Hotel. This boutique 4-star hotel is the perfect accommodation choice for those looking to experience the beaches, nature, hospitality and golf in southern Portugal. Located just a 12-minute walk from the beach and in close proximity to some of the best golf courses in Europe there is plenty to explore.

#### WESTERN ALGARVE

Framed by a valley that zigzags through steep slopes, the Golf Santo António at Parque da Floresta - is an impressive arena that has already been the stage for Europro Tour events.





**66** When it comes to considering accommodation with easy access to golf and Algarve beaches, Hilton Vilamoura As Cascatas Golf Resort & Spa

is well-recommended

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FEATURING : THE ALGARVE, LISBOA & ESTORIL, PORTO, AZORES & MADEIRA



Palmares Golf in Lagos is used to organising the Amendoeiras em Flor Tournament in February when the almond trees are covered in pink and white blossom. It makes for a very beautiful scenario.

Boavista Golf & Spa is one of the Western Algarve's premier resorts. With an exceptional 18-hole championship course it is one of the most beautifully manicured courses, bordered by properties all designed to harmonize with the land's natural contours. With two distinctive sections, Boavista course offers a variety of holes, the first nine climb to the highest point of the resort before descending steadily to water features, streams and lakes that finish at the clubhouse.

The challenging 18-hole, par 72 course at Espiche Golf, in Lagos, has been designed to complement the distinctive Western Algarve landscape by embracing a sustainable and eco-friendly ethos. The lakes, streams and indigenous planting scheme work to enrich the local biodiversity, while creating a unique golfing game and environment for golfers in the Algarve.

The Le Meridien Penina Golf & Resort, in Portimão is a centre with an excellent course, which has won prizes many times as one of the finest in Europe. Penina was the first 18–hole course opened in the Algarve and has benefited considerably from sensible and wise updating over the past fifty years or so.

In Lagoa, the magnificent Quinta do Gramacho course at Carvoeiro, designed by Ronald Fream, hosts the Algarve Ladies Open, a tournament that forms part of the Ladies European Tour. In Albufeira the Salgados Golf Club combines lakes, waterfalls and rolling sand dunes.

The Pestana Golf Resort is superbly located on a level plateau, close to the picturesque fishing village of Carvoeiro, just a few minutes away from the most beautiful beaches in the Algarve and less than three hours away by plane from the main European capitals. Discover the world-class courses: Gramacho, Vale da Pinta, Silves Golf, Alto Golf and Vila Sol. The resort offers a secure and family environment.

#### EASTERN ALGARVE

One of the many attractions to golf tourism in the Algarve is the proximity of the Faro international airport and especially at the eastern end of the one hundred kilometre stretch.

Benamor Golf in Tavira has been introduced into an area where golf is starting to emerge as a leisure destination without spoiling its existing character and countryside. The views of the mountains to the North and the Atlantic Ocean to the South are stunning.

Located in the heart of the Parque Natural de Ria Formosa (Formosa Estuary National Park), the Quinta da Ria and Quinta de Cima courses, in Vila Nova de Cacela, are among the most beautiful of the region. The Quinta da Ria now hosts the prestigious Europro Tour and the Quinta de Cima, the Algarve Seniors Tour, a competition that forms part of PGA European Senior Tour. Also in this town, at the Monte Rei Golf & Country Club, you are surrounded by a stunning landscape and immersed in total tranquillity.

At Castro Marim, the Castro Marim Golfe and Country Club and the Quinta do Vale Golf Resort provide a thrilling challenge within a natural environment, unique for its panoramic views of the Guadiana River.

#### **CENTRAL ALGARVE**

Quinta do Lago is nestled within the Algarve and the privacy and security of the Ria Formosa nature reserve. A clean & safe destination, here, world-class golf - including the 7 million upgraded South Course - surrounds award-winning real estate, sublime restaurants, a premier sports hub, boutique hotel and golden sand beach. Quinta do Lago has been at the forefront of international golf since its creation.

The San Lorenzo Golf Club in the Ria Formosa has won many prizes, rightly being nominated as one of the best courses in Europe.

Another success story is the Vila Sol – Beach, Golf & Country Club in Vilamoura which only eight months after it opened hosted the Portugal Open for two years running.

Also well-known to the world of golf is the Vale do Lobo, in Almancil, which has played host to the Portuguese Open and the 'Skins Game'. The resort is the home of the two most difficult and stunning golf courses in Europe: the Ocean Golf Course and the Royal Golf Course, where the cliff top par three 16th hole is one of the world's most famous and most photographed settings for golf.

When deciding on accommodation in Quinta do Lago, consider Four Seasons Fairways, whose villas and luxury apartments blend Portuguese architecture with the landscape of its beautiful gardens.

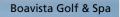
#### **CAR RENTAL**

When it comes to car rental, NICE RENT is a company with a great reputation whose goal is to provide the highest standard of service. Their experienced and professional staff and diversified new fleet will ensure a quality and personalised assistance to customers. The head office and main depot is located near Faro Airport, and they provide services all over the Algarve and Lisbon Airport.

For further information on Golf in the Algarve www.algarve-tourist.com

For Golf Tours into the Algarve in 2024 Contact Emerald Isle Tours Email : info@selectmedialtd.com

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isit Algarve Portugal

### PESTANA GOLF RESORTS The Pestana Golf Resort Carvoeiro is nestled in 260 hectares of unrivalled beauty, close to

the picturesque fishing village of Carvoeiro, and just a few minutes away from the most beautiful beaches in the Algarve and less than 3hrs away by plane, from the main European capitals.





ocated within 5mn of Ferragudo village, the Gramacho Residences complex is the newest addition to Pestana Golf Resorts. Overlooking the fairway of the 8th hole of Gramacho Golf, and with excellent views over the countryside, the complex comprises of 34 high standard apartments, with a choice of studios, one and two bedrooms, as well as 23 Classic double rooms.

The apartments are fully equipped and furnished, decorated with modern and minimalist lines, making it a good choice for either holidays or a second home. For those looking for investment, Pestana Golf Real Estate offers a special rental programme that guarantees 5% return on investment on the first two years.

This complex also offers The Four Owner Plan, a convenient rotating system that gives each owner the opportunity to enjoy the mild climate of the Algarve throughout the year, for a relatively small investment, being part owner of a freehold property, with three other independent parties, each quarter secured by individual title deeds. Purchasing through this well proven system considerably reduces the cost of ownership as it is split into four equal parts, each owner using the property for thirteen weeks of the year.

In the complex surroundings, large green areas and swimming pools are available, where guests can relax and enjoy the wonderful Algarve's sun.

Among the services offered, is included a gymnasium and spa, and guests can also benefit from the nearby facilities, like a covered heated pool, a tennis court, Sauna & Jacuzzi, located at Gramacho Golf, 2 Clubhouses, Snack-Bar/Restaurant and the pro shop. A transfer service to nearby courses Gramacho and Vale da Pinta, is also available



on request. At the Pestana Golf Academy, which is **Visit** Algarve **Portugal** located at Vale da Pinta, a driving range with covered bays is available, as well as chipping and putting areas.

Additionally, to provide our quests and clients a great golf experience at our resorts. Pestana Golf has come up with special conditions for guests staying at our resort, where guests can rent a golf bag with a full set of Taylormade golf clubs, for only €45 per seven days. (more info at www.pestanagolf.com)

The Resort includes a Golf Academy, a driving range with covered bays, tennis courts, swimming pools. SPA and Gymnasium facilities, bars and restaurants, Additionally, Pestana Golf runs another 3 golf courses in Algarve, Silves Golf, Alto Golf and Vila Sol and one in Sintra - Lisbon, Beloura Golf.

In the outskirts of the resort, guests can enjoy a large offer of different activities, like Sport Fishing, Diving, Surfing, Windsurfing, Water Ski, Water parks and also natural walking trails, along the coast.

The secure and family environment makes Pestana Golf Resort a reference, whether you are looking for a holiday destination or to buy a "second home".

Find out more at www.pestanagolf.com

In the complex surroundings, large green areas and swimming pools are available,

where guests can relax and enjoy the wonderful Algarve's sun









Pestana Golf & Resorts - Carvoeiro 3 Nights + UNLIMITED GOLF ROUNDS From €323,25 7 Nights + UNLIMITED GOLF ROUNDS From €629,25 Europe's Best Golf Venue Pestana Gramacho Residences 3 Nights + UNLIMITED GOLF ROUNDS From €270,50 7 Nights + UNLIMITED GOLF ROUNDS From €607,25 Portugal's Best Golf Hotel Pestana Alvor Atlântico 3 Nights + UNLIMITED GOLF ROUNDS From €221,25 7 Nights + UNLIMITED GOLF ROUNDS From €516,25 Prices per person, based on shared apartments in December and January. Unlimited Golf Rounds at 5 pestana Golf Courses.

Gramacho Silves Golf Alto Golf Vale da Pinta Vila<sup>®</sup> Sol

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### **BOAVISTA GOLF & SPA** Boavista Golf & Spa offers year-round activities for those who wish to participate.



ositioned strategically to the west of the historic town of Lagos in Portugal, Boavista Golf & Spa nestles within a site of outstanding natural beauty and offers residents and visitors the essence of luxury living. One of the most beautifully manicured golf courses in the Algarve, the Resort enjoys far reaching views of the Monchique mountains to the north, whilst the pristine waters of the Atlantic Ocean provide a radiant seascape to the south.

Opened in 2002, the Boavista Golf course designed by Howard Swan, presents itself as a challenging course for players of all levels, particularly holes 6 and 8 where golfers have to hit the ball over a ravine.

The design of the course took into account the natural contours of the terrain and subtly took advantage of the surrounding landscape, providing views of rare beauty.

At the top of the hill the Clubhouse restaurant overlooking the city of Lagos, with two spacious terraces, is the perfect place to enjoy the views of the beautiful bay of Lagos. Here you can appreciate a relaxing sunset and chill out with a drink, try many snacks or taste the menu which covers both international and local cuisine with options for all.

Whether you prefer to have a challenging workout at the gym, a sauna or steam, spoil yourself with a day of beauty, or just relax by the pool, Essential has you covered. Cliff top location at Boavista Golf & Spa, with the backdrop the glorious Atlantic, you can enjoy striking panoramic views from the warm waters of our indoor swimming pool or jacuzzi.

While you go the distance on one of our elliptical machines, or sculpt your body with a state-of-the-art Technogym equipment, you can keep your eye on the ball on the 18th green.



Bela Colina Village's luxury accommodation affords magnificent views of either the pristine waters of the Atlantic Ocean or the rolling Monchique mountains. Furnished to a high standard, each townhouse provides 2 double bedrooms and living areas that cater for all needs. Guests have direct access to pools and leisure areas which are set in private landscaped gardens amongst palm, olive and almond trees.

Set in the five-star Bela Colina Village, La Bistro restaurant serves a rich and varied buffet breakfast to suit all tastes. At La Bistro you can try our delicious homemade pizzas as well as a selection of snacks and refreshing drinks. Sit out on the terrace

open to the lawn, perfect for the little ones to play as you enjoy a **main visit** Algarve meal. Take away service is also available.

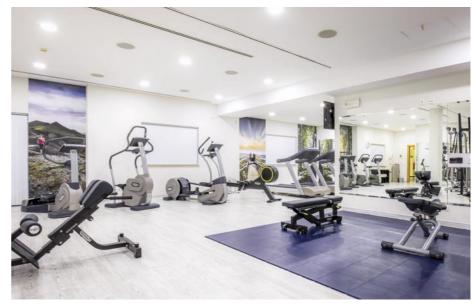
Portugal

Whether one is looking for an active holiday, a base from which to explore the area or simply to relax, Boavista Golf & Spa will exceed all expectations.



### **66 6** Boavista Golf & Spa nestles within a site of outstanding natural beauty and

offers residents and visitors the essence of luxury living





LAGOS • ALGARV PORTUGAL



Discover the best kept secret of the Western Algarve. Set between the sea and the mountains, Boavista Golf & Spa includes an 18-hole golf course. For a golfing holiday or simply relaxing at Essential Fitness & Spa, the Boavista Resort will exceed your expectations.





### ESPICHE GOLF: UNIQUE GOLFING EXPERIENCE IN THE WEST ALGARVE

### The Western Algarve has long enjoyed a reputation for offering a more authentic taste of Portugal than the central region.

Ithough requiring a slightly longer drive from Faro airport, the Western Algarve is easily reachable thanks to the A22 motorway which runs the length of the coast, making Lagos and its golf courses within an hour's drive from the airport.

Located just a few minutes from the coast and the city of Lagos, in the picturesque and less touristic "barlavento" Algarve, Espiche Golf is a golf course that combines sport with contemplation and respect for the surrounding nature, taking advantage of being located in a nature reserve.

Espiche Golf provides an exceptional golfing experience in a beautiful natural environment. The architect Peter Sauerman designed the shape of the course to integrate harmoniously with the surrounding landscape, and with its maintenance a great concern is taken for preserving the natural ecosystem and unique reserve. Espiche Golf offers a challenging 18-hole course, par 72. Its lakes, streams and indigenous vegetation enrich and promote the biodiversity of this area and the exceptional view, surrounded by fields and vineyards, lurking on the horizon of the beautiful Serra de Monchique.

The course was the vision of Peter Thornton, a musician in the 70's and his friend Paul Langley, a property developer from London. From the start they could see the possibilities the land had to offer. Espiche Golf has given the local community an elegant, warm, friendly and sociable active hub with its award-winning clubhouse, restaurant and the





surrounding golf course that appears as if it has always been there, constructed by the hand of nature over time.

The greens and fairways of Espiche Golf course have been carefully placed to balance the dual demands of the golfer and the environment, with indigenous planting throughout creating a beautiful backdrop and some challenging obstacles.

The course requires careful thought along the 5862 metres (6411) yards from the back tees and a deft touch on the short game. Bunkers guard most greens whilst the greens themselves are large and undulating, requiring a soft hand with the putter. This is a shot-maker's course, where each hole poses a new challenge thanks to the variety of the layout. Golfers are pushed to take risks with their game with rich rewards for those who make the most of their golfing skills and who best judge the course.

Espiche Golf takes exceptional pride in its responsibility to its course maintenance and its history in environmental research. It is committed to an ongoing process of research and development for sustainability. Espiche Golf has been selected as a case study by the Portuguese Golf Federation and the UK's prestigious Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI). It is one of the annually visited courses in Europe for the winners of the prestigious "Golf Environment Awards" as an example of best management practices and for its unique integration of warm season grasses into the existing landscape. Espiche Golf is also a participating member on "GEO Foundation" OnCourse® program. Committed to continually improve in the areas of sustainability of nature, water, energy conservation, supply chain, pollution control and community. The commitment to maintaining natural resources is one that will allow Espiche Golf to continuously contribute to a sustainable future.

Espiche Golf Clubhouse won 3rd placing in "Golf Inc Magazine's" prestigious "Clubhouse of the Year" Architectual Award in 2015 – the first club outside the US to pick up this prestigious award. The Clubhouse award was judged for its design intergration into its environment and efficiency. Reference is also made to the choice of materials used for the building construction, its resource management and interior design. The exceptional location of the Clubhouse, situated on top of a hill overlooking the resort, offers breath-taking views across the golf course and the nature reserve. The views, coupled with the exceptional quality of the food available, makes the Clubhouse a reference for both lovers of golf and those who value the tranquility and beauty of nature itself.

For further information, please visit us at www.espichegolf.pt or contact us via email : reception@espichegolf.pt and Tel : +351 282 688 250.

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#### Martin Z 3 comentários

★★★★★ há 3 semanas NOVA

I rented a car from them for 2 weeks on short notice and I can only agree with what other users have reported. If you look for a reliable, friendly and hassle-free car rental company in Faro you do not need to look any further. Personal and friendly service contact, no overcharging or trouble with extra insurances, direct car delivery and hand back at the airport terminal, free second driver, free child seat, new and clean car and they even provided two body boards for our kids to surf for free. It was really like renting a car from a friend. I can 100% recommend them.

#### Michał Kąciak (Jimmy) Local Guide · 117 comentários · 73 fotos \*\*\*\*\* há 4 semanas

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It's hard to believe that can rental comapny can be real family company. While hiring a car, you feel like you hire it from a friend. You have to trust these guys. Greath thanks!

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3 comentários ★★★★★ há 3 meses

Andra Z

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Best car rental company ever. The owner and his wife met us at the airport, they were on time and they were very lovely and polite! The car rental process was simple and efficient. I wish they had a branch in every country! I strongly recommend this company!

**GOLF IN IRELAND 2024** 

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Starting in the Midlands East Region and the Royal County of Meath, home to Killeen Castle, proudly hosts the magnificent Jack Nicklaus signature course which is spaciously rambling over 350 acres among superb natural woodlands.

Royal Tara Golf Club is nestled at the foot of the Historic Hill of Tara and is among Ireland's most enjoyable and conveniently located golfing retreats. Reputably, it is recognised as one of the finest inland members Golf complexes and renowned for its welcome to visitors. With 27–holes in mature parkland the main features of Royal Tara are the avenue of trees that each golfer must negotiate to come in with a decent score.

Headfort Golf Club in Kells has gained quite a reputation for itself as a premium Golfing destination in Ireland. This is thanks to its wonderful contrast of experience with Old and New Courses offering 36–holes of Golfers paradise and key location being only 90 minutes from Belfast. The Headfort Arms Hotel focuses on its rich tradition of personal Irish service, familiar faces & its reputation of fine food. Relax by the open fire or stroll in the beautiful garden after a day exploring the richest heritage Ireland has to offer in the Boyne Valley.

Also, Black Bush Golf Club with 27 holes of a well drained parkland course, who are open most of the year for play. They also have three interchangeable 9-hole courses that keep things moving. Black Bush Golf Club is situated only minutes from Fairyhouse Racecourse. Mature trees leading up to well maintained greens line the fairways.

Moving to County Kildare and the world–renowned K Club which is home to the Smurfit and Palmer courses. Designed by Arnold Palmer, The Palmer Ryder Cup Course and The Palmer Smurfit Course are considered two of Europe's finest Championship Courses. The K Club played host to the 2016 Irish Open.

Craddockstown Golf Club is a golfing jewel waiting to be explored. Situated on the outskirts of Naas and five miles from the K Club, they are nestled between Punchestown, the Curragh and Naas Race courses.

The 7,419 yard Palmerstown House Estate's Course presents players with feelings of tradition, excellence and quality. Golfers of all skill levels will find enjoyment and challenge on their well-designed 18-hole championship course. This challenging course is set amidst thousands of mature trees that boast a variety of colour throughout all four seasons, and each hole has its own individual charm.

Into County Westmeath where golfing at Glasson Golf Club is an experience not to be missed. Glasson Golf Club has justifiably earned an international reputation as one of the most challenging and scenic golf courses in Ireland. Designed by Ryder Cup star, the late Christy O'Connor Jnr., no matter what your level of golf expertise, the course is cleverly crafted so you can tee off for a relaxing round while soaking up the Glasson atmosphere, or test your game to championship level. Enjoy a luxury overnight stay at Glasson Lakehouse.

Athlone Golf Club is situated in the centre of Ireland, in the beautiful Hodson Bay area. It offers a unique opportunity to play on what is regarded as one of the most picturesque golf courses in Ireland. The course is remarkably wet weather tolerant, due to the underlying Esker, which makes it a delight to play all year round.

Tullamore Golf Club is a mature 18–hole parkland championship course situated on the outskirts of Tullamore, County Offaly. Located here since 1926, the James Braid course was re-designed in 1995 by Patrick Merrigan. The result is a magnifecent course which is enjoyed by members and visitors alike.

Next stop is County Wicklow and Old Conna Golf Club which was designed by Ireland's renowned golf course designer Eddie Hackett. This beautiful parkland course located only twelve miles south of Dublin, combines panoramic sea-scapes and mountain views with exceptional wooded terrain.

Also, Tulfarris Golf Club, part of Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort, designed by the celebrated golf architect, Patrick J. Merrigan. The 18-hole championship golf course blends the natural landscape with inspired features to create a challenging golfing layout.

Bray Golf Club, is a magnificent USGA-standard parkland course, situated between Bray Head and the Sugar Loaf Mountain with magnificent views of Killiney Bay and the Wicklow Mountains. Described as "spectacular in every aspect", Bray combines stunning scenery with a classic layout.

While in Wicklow, a visit to Powerscourt Golf Club in Enniskerry is a must. The East course was designed by David Mclay Kidd whose portfolio also includes the acclaimed Bandon Dunes in Oregon. Like the East, the West course offers a variety of challenging holes presenting a fresh perspective on the stunning scenery of the Powerscourt Estate.

Not to be missed when in the 'Garden of Ireland' is Arklow Golf Club which was formed in 1927. Since the very beginning, the club has extended a warm welcome to all its visitors from at home and overseas and will ensure your visit is much more than a round of golf.

Moving into the Capital, Dublin, which is populated with superb parkland courses and testing links courses, offering every type of challenge, suitable for both the novice and experienced golfer.

Howth Golf Club, which is an 18–hole, Par 72 heathland course, located on the beautiful scenic peninsula of Howth in North–East County Dublin, and features wonderful views over the city of Dublin, South to Dun Laoghaire, Bray and Co. Wicklow, North over Co. Dublin and Co. Louth and the Sea to the East.

Over 100 years ago, St. Anne's Golf Club was founded as a 9-hole course with a modest clubhouse. Today it boasts a spectacular 18-hole links course, sitting on the UNESCO Wildlife Sanctuary of Bull Island only 5 miles from Dublin city centre.

Malahide Golf Club is a real gem of a Parkland Course, where Society Golfers and Visitors are both warmly welcomed, with many returning year after year. 2017 saw the club celebrating its 125th Year as well as the reopening of the Blue Nine following a development by the renowned golf architect Martin Hawtree. Why not experience the 'Magic of Malahide' for yourself and book a round.

Situated on the shoreline of a rugged peninsula, St. Margaret's Golf & Country Club is one of Ireland's premier championship parkland courses. Previously home to the Ladies Irish Open, the Seniors Irish Open and the Irish PGA Championship, the 18 holes offer golfers a wonderful variety.

The golf course at Luttrellstown Castle is a spectacular course which was designed by Tom MacKenzie and Donald Steel (whose work includes Turnberry, St Andrews and Royal St Georges), close to Dublin city and a short drive from the airport. This Par 73 is firmly established as one of Ireland's premium courses. It has a superb club-house, two excellent restaurants, a driving range, a short game area and a 3-hole short course designed to sharpen the wedge game.

Rathfamham Golf Club, founded in 1899, is set in the rolling foothills of the Dublin Mountains. The course offers challenging but fair golf to Members, visitors and societies. With a beautifully appointed clubhouse, views over the course, mountains and the city, and within easy reach of the M50, Rathfarnham Golf Club will provide you with a relaxing and friendly environment in which to enjoy your golf.

**66** Kilkenny Golf Club offers a warm atmosphere on its championship golf course and welcomes individuals, societies and groups

#### **GOLF IN IRELAND 2024**

Grange Castle Golf Club founded in 1998 was designed by Patrick F. Merrigan. This 18 hole championship course is regarded as one of the finest public golf courses in Ireland. Measuring 6,800 yards from the blue tees and 6,450 yards from the white tees, the golf course is ideally set up to suit golfers of all levels.

Moving into Northern Ireland and the province of Ulster home to Major Champions Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and Darren Clarke and renowned for its stunning natural golfing country, Northern Ireland has many spectacular links courses that attract worldwide attention

In the land of the mythic Giant's Causeway, the Royal Portrush Golf Club joins the top ranked Irish courses in the World and hosted The Open Championship in 2019. The club is located on the world famous Causeway Coast in Co Antrim. Founded in 1888, it has two championship courses - the renowned Dunluce Course and the smaller, but equally enjoyable Valley Course.

Portstewart Golf Club hosted the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open in 2017. Founded in 1894 and re-designed by Willie Park Jnr in the 1920's this championship links course received its greatest makeover with the purchase of land known as "Thistly Hollow" in 1986. This enabled the club to build a stunning new seven holes through towering dunes and fabulous and natural links land. Designed by Des Giffin the Strand Course is the jewel in the Portstewart portfolio.

Hilton Belfast Templepatrick Golf & Country Club is home to one of the country's finest courses. Designed by the winner of many European pro tournaments, David Jones, in consultation with David Feherty, one of Northern Ireland's most successful colfers, the course makes full use of the spectacular scenery, including streams, rivers and mature trees.

Roe Park Resort has 155 acres of scenic parkland, an 18-hole golf course and a luxury spa. The City of Derry Airport is a 15-minute drive away. The beautiful bedrooms at Roe Park each have a cosy seating area. Many rooms have views of Benevenagh Mountain, and all feature a TV, work desk and free internet access. The impressive Roe Spa offers indulgent treatments and therapies, and features a swimming pool, spa bath and sauna.

In the Mourne County where Royal County Down Golf Club is among some of the most breathtaking golf courses in the world. Situated south of Belfast on the edge of Dundrum Bay and set against the backdrop of the Mourne Mountains, the club has two links courses, including the Championship links, which is rated among the Top 10 courses in the world and has hosted many great events including The Walker Cup.

Ards and North Down is steeped in golfing history and first class courses.

It was Rory McIlroy himself who declared Northern Ireland, "the golfing capital of the world". With six major wins, Rory victorious in four, collected by golfers from these shores over the past few years who could argue! Courses designed by names such as H.S. Colt, James Braid and Peter Alliss sum up the quality on offer. The Royal Belfast, Bangor, Clandeboye, Kirkistown Castle and Rory's own club, Holywood, have all been awarded the "Quality Assurance" stamp by Tourism Northern Ireland.

In County Fermanagh, Lough Erne is a 5 Star Golf Resort making it one of the finest in Northern Ireland. Lough Erne Resort is home to two Championship Golf Courses - The Faldo Course and Castle Hume Golf Course.

In the Breffni County of Cavan is the stunning Radisson Farnham Estate parkland course which is spread over 500 acres of rolling countryside and dense woodland. The two nines are quite contrasting in nature. Also, County Cavan Golf Club which is one of the oldest and most mature parkland courses in Ireland and presents the golfer with a challenging and unforgettable experience.

Ardee Golf Club in County Louth, has become one of the premier golfing destinations in Ireland's North East. Situated in the centre of Co. Louth and only 5 miles west of the M1 Dublin-Belfast motorway (junction 14), it is only 45 minutes from Dublin city, making it very accessible from both north and south.

Set on an elevated site above the seaside village of Blackrock, Co Louth, the parkland course at Dundalk Golf Club offers magnificent panoramic views across Dundalk Bay to the legendary and imposing Cooley and Mourne mountains.

Moving into the South West which is renowned for its spectacular beauty and its golf courses which have utilized the natural landscape to create a combination of links and traditional parkland courses offering the visiting golfer both choice and challenge.

Fota Island Golf Resort in Carrigtwohill is a fine example, where the splendid woodlands are woven into a challenging Par 71 championship course. A 5 Star Hotel and Luxury Spa are also available.

Also, Cork Golf Club. Founded in 1888 and re-designed in 1927 by Alister Mackenzie, this well renowned championship parkland course is as graceful and mature as its age would suggest.

A visit to Cork would not be complete without a round of golf at the Old Head Links of Kinsale. The Old Head Golf Links is built on a 220-acre diamond of land. The promontory is almost an island with numerous caves running beneath your feet as you play the course.

Like Cork, County Kerry has a wealth of excellent golf courses on offer including the Ring of Kerry Golf Club located in Kenmare and also Waterville Golf Links; a mature links course where champions of the British Open are known to practice.

One of the oldest Irish clubs, rated among the top 5 in Ireland and the top 20 links courses in the world, Waterville's Golf Links course is highly acclaimed, both nationally and internationally, and by a host of some of the world's leading professionals. A combination of sand dunes, gorse and native grasses, from teeing ground to putting green this 18-hole

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course reflects the rugged charm of the Irish West. Also, the Waterville House is highly recommended for all your accommodation requirements.

Close by in Killarney where the natural lakeside courses at Killarney Golf & Fishing Club are uniquely designed to offer a variety of challenges to the golfer. Sample its three courses Mahony's Point, Lackabane and Killeen all built to modern specifications with sand-based greens and tree–lined, undulating fairways.

Travelling further north is Ballybunion Golf Course, where the fine links of the Old and Cashen courses are bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and overlook the mouth of the Shannon Estuary amidst the most beautiful of scenery.

While visiting the Kingdom of Kerry, Tralee Golf Club is not to be missed. Built by Arnold Palmer, this stunning setting represents a true paradise for those willing to challenge what is widely acclaimed as one of the finest links courses in Ireland.

Nestled on the edge of Ireland's dramatic south-west coastline, Dingle Golf Links is a very special place to visit and is an ideal location for your golfing holiday in Kerry.

Moving to County Limerick which is just a short distance north from Kerry and home to some of the top courses this side of the Shannon.

Adare Manor Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland golf course provides an historic Irish golfing experience. The Desmond Castle (dates back to 1200 AD) is a magnificent backdrop to the 1st and 15th greens, while the ruins of the Franciscan Abbey (1464 AD) dominate the centre of the course.

The Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort owned by JP McManus is a five-star luxury experience. The golf course which will host the 2027 Ryder Cup is one of Ireland's finest parklands.

Newcastle West Golf Club is a unique golf course, featuring strategic bunkering, water hazards, many groves of trees, and well-designed risk and reward holes. The course is playable all year round, and is maintained to the highest standards, with the widely acknowledged best greens in Munster.

The course at Limerick Golf Club is a mix of demanding holes interspersed with some good birdie chances, notably the tenth and the short fifteenth. The long eight is an outstanding hole, with a stream meandering its way through it, coming into play for all shots to a severely sloping green.

In keeping with its neighbouring counties County Clare can also lay claim to some of the most challenging and spectacular golf courses in the Mid West region.

One such course is found at Dromoland Castle Golf & Country Club, which is one of the finest 5 star hotels in Ireland and has a golf course to equal the splendour of the setting. Also, The Inn at Dromoland is recommended and which combines high levels of service, sumptuous dining and new renovated rooms and facilities.

POWERSCOURT

Lahinch Golf Club is a world–renowned links golf course. Founded in 1892 it has often been described as the "St. Andrew's" of Ireland. Lahinch is actually two 18 hole courses, the Old Course, is between the road and the sea, and situated at the opposite side of the road from the Old Course is the Castle Course. The Castle Course is a flatter links named after the ruins of a nearby castle tower that stands to the north of the course.

Moving to the South-East, a golfer's paradise with courses to suit all tastes and skills. Starting in Waterford, Gold Coast Golf Resort welcomes visitors and societies to its parkland by the sea. The 18–hole championship course offers wonderful views of Dungarvan Bay.

Dungarvan Golf Club is a class 18 hole Championship Parkland course located outside the town of Dungarvan, County Waterford. The course is adjacent to Dungarvan Bay and set against the backdrop of the Comeragh mountains.

West Waterford Golf and Country Club designed by the late Eddie Hackett is an 18-hole par 72 championship golf course situated 4km west of Dungarvan. The club is maintained in excellent condition offering superb playability throughout the year. Societies and Visitors are warmly welcomed.

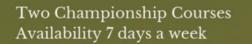
Ireland's only true island golf course surrounded by the River Suir, accessed by complimentary car ferry is Waterford Castle Golf Club which enjoys idyllic seclusion located minutes from Waterford city centre, 90 mins from Dublin and Cork. The 18–hole par 72 Des Smyth designed course, located on the 310–acre private island is ranked in the top 30 parkland courses in Ireland. The Waterford Castle Hotel & Golf Resort is a truly stunning 5 Star experience and a must visit in Ireland's South East.

Waterford Golf Club was founded in 1912 and overlooks the historic city of Waterford. With its magnificent views, this 18–hole parkland course, Par 71, is a gem. The irregular city, with its towers and steeples spread before the eye along the valley, and in the west, Slievenamon and the Comeragh Mountains, make a background of enduring splendor.

Nearby Tramore is a small but charming seaside village twenty minutes from Waterford city. Tramore Golf Club, an 18–hole parkland course is situated on the outskirts of Tramore and offers visitors a superb gently undulating course and top notch facilities including a pro shop, club bar and restaurant.

Dunmore East Golf Club overlooks the village of Dunmore East, County Waterford in the South East of Ireland. With panoramic views of the village, the bay, the Hook Peninsula, Waterford Harbour estuary, the Saltee Islands and the Irish Sea, this seaside parkland course offers idyllic surroundings, fresh clean sea air, combined with stimulating and challenging golf.

Also, Faithlegg Golf Course, which was designed by the late Patrick Merrigan and includes undulating greens, water hazards and perfectly placed sand traps, all of which, complete and heighten the challenge.



Ireland's most popular Corporate & Society Venue, located just 15 mins from Dublin To Book Contact eoin.collopy@powerscourt.net or 01-2046033 www.powerscourtgolfclub.com Like Waterford, Wexford has a selection to suit everyone. On the outskirts of Wexford Town stands Wexford Golf Club, an 18–hole parkland course situated on the slopes of Mulgannon Hill and offering stunning views of the harbour.

Established in 1905, New Ross Golf Club is a mature parkland golf course situated between the scenic Barrow and Nore valleys with the magnificent Brandon and Blackstairs mountains providing the backdrop.

Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club is situated in 300 acres of breathtaking parklands in the former Hall-Dare Estate on the Carlow Wexford border. Opened in 2009, it is ranked in the top 21 parkland courses in Ireland and was voted 'The Best Hidden Gem in Ireland'. Designed by Jeff Howes, the Championship course runs over 7000 yards on the banks of the river Slaney and has a diversity of golf holes, rarely seen on one golf course.

Stretching along the curve of Rosslare Bay is Rosslare fishing village. Here Rosslare Golf Links boasts a spectacular landscape standing on a narrow peninsula with the Irish sea on one side and Wexford harbour on the other. Two courses are on offer at this club including an 18–hole championship course and a 12–hole layout known as the Burrow Course that opened in 1992.

While in Wexford, visit St. Helen's Bay Golf Resort, a club steeped in history and boasting a challenging course with spectacular views over the Irish Sea.

For accommodation, The Ashdown Park Hotel is tastefully designed and highlyrecommended for your golfing visit to the South–East. Enjoy the food on offer all day or just relax with regular live entertainment. Facilities include conference & banqueting facilities, the award–winning Rowan Tree Restaurant, Ivy & Coach Bars, Leisure Club & Beauty Studio and complimentary car park. All public areas are wheelchair friendly.

Kilkenny Golf Club offers a warm atmosphere on its championship golf course and welcomes individuals, societies and groups. It is a course worth visiting in 2024 when making your plans into the South East.

Mount Juliet Golf Club is set on lush parkland 20 minutes from Kilkenny. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, Mount Juliet golf course first opened in 1991 with a friendly match between Jack Nicklaus and the late Christy O'Connor Snr. Set in a world of its own, on lush parkland in the south east of Ireland, the course is both captivating and memorable.

Rathsallagh Golf & Country Club is a Championship Course measuring close to 7,000 yards with a par of 72. Set on 270 acres of rolling parkland. The course is remarkable for the number, position and maturity of the trees on the course and the definition they give on approach to the excellent U.S.G.A specified greens. The bunkering has been described as some of the best in Ireland, both in terms of construction and intelligent placement.

Carlow is an in-land town offering visitors an exciting array of activities from exhilarating outdoor pursuits, vibrant shopping to spectacular golf courses.

The Mount Wolseley Hotel Spa and Golf Resort is situated in the tranquil countryside of County Carlow, just one hour from Dublin City. Carlow Golf Club itself boasts two courses: with the Championship 18-hole Deerpark course and the 9-hole (Par 35) Oakpark Course which opened in 2002.

In County Tipperary and within a peaceful countryside location, the 4–star Great National Ballykisteen Golf Hotel offers spacious accommodation and superb facilities, including a leisure centre, spa and golf course. The 18–hole championship golf course provides a challenge for all levels of leisure golfers.

Also, Tipperary Golf Club overlooking the stunning Glen of Aherlow is one of the finest parkland courses in the region. Membership is open and Society and Groups are also welcome.

Clonmel Golf Club founded in 1911 is one of the oldest clubs in the province of Munster. A rolling parkland course designed by the renowned Eddie Hackett, it is a mature 18–hole par 71 course measuring 6,366 yards. The ladies course measures 5,445 yards, par 74. Set in the foothills of the Comeragh Mountains with magnificent views across the valley of the River Suir and the rolling Waterford and Tipperary countryside.

Cahir Park Golf Club is situated half a mile from Cahir town. The 18-hole golf course is divided in two by the River Suir and displays mature trees, lakes and streams. Stay in the Cahir House Hotel in the centre of the heritage town and experience simple old world charm and elegance.

Heading to the West coast into County Galway, you should consider Galway Bay Golf Resort. Other options to consider while in Galway include Glenlo Abbey, Gort, Loughrea, Tuam, Galway Golf Club, and Connemara Golf Links to name but a few.

Tuam Golf Club is one of the premier parkland courses in the West of Ireland. The club was founded in 1904 and includes a magnificent clubhouse facility, incorporating bar, restaurant, private visitor area, games room, professional shop and changing rooms. Visitors are always welcome to Tuam Golf Club.

From the golfing novice to the aficionado, Glenlo Abbey Golf Course offers a unique and challenging experience. With the many lakes, trees, large greens, and the wind whipping from Lough Corrib, it plays differently every day. This is a 9–hole parkland golf course originally designed by Christy O Connor Jnr and a must visit when in Galway.

Into Sligo, and the links land jewel in the crown is Co Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point about six miles from the town of Sligo. Created towards the end of the 19th century on glorious golfing territory between majestic Ben Bulben on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, it is renowned for its scenery, the demanding but fair nature of its challenge and superb golfing atmosphere.

And this is by no means the only top–class links course in Co Sligo. Enniscrone Golf Links, affords panoramic views of Killala Bay, Bartra Island and sandy beaches with Nephin and the Ox Mountains forming the backdrop.

Castle Dargan Golf Resort is home to one of the premier parkland golf courses in the North West of Ireland. Making the most of the natural ebb and flow of the Sligo estates grounds, Darren Clarke course designer has woven eighteen beautiful golf holes through majestic trees, natural lakes, burns and around the ancient stone walls and ruins which dominate this romantic landscape.

Moving to Strandhill golf course which contains 5,804m of undulating fairways & unforgiving shortcuts, and a promise of an unforgettable experience by all who play it. The par 70 course is challenging but rewarding!

To County Mayo where you will find Ballina, Westport and Castlebar Golf Clubs. Also recommended is Carne Golf Links in North Mayo which lies in magnificent unspoiled sand dunes overlooking Blacksod Bay and the wild Atlantic. Carne is an 18–hole, par 72 and was the last links course designed by the late Eddie Hackett.

Further North into Donegal where outstanding golfing venues trip easily off the tongue. While in Donegal you should consider Donegal Golf Club at Murvagh, which is an outstanding links golf course. Designed by the legendary course architect, Eddie Hackett, it is continually featured in Golf World's Top 100 courses in Ireland.

The Abbey Hotel Donegal is renowned for its unique setting and idyllic views, situated in the centre of the beautiful and historic coastal town of Donegal, located on the banks of Donegal Bay. Surrounded by the extraordinary beauty of churches, castles, shops and monuments, the Abbey Hotel is an ideal starting point for family, leisure and business travellers. Located near beautiful coastal drives and signature discovery points, the Abbey Hotel is ideally situated for planning your golf visit to the North West.

Also the stunning links of Portsalon where golf has been played since the 1880's. Originally designed by Thompson of Portrush, the layout has evolved over the decades with significant changes being undertaken under the guidance of Pat Ruddy in 2000. Portsalon continues to progress, with the 2014 Ryder Cup captain, Paul McGinley, guiding further improvements.

Bundoran Golf Club is a challenging par 70, which sweeps along the rugged and picturesque Donegal Bay coastline with a mixture of dunes and undulating terrain making up the 18 holes.

The pages of Irish Golf Review and Irish Golf World will continue to keep you updated on great golfing options throughout our editions in 2024.

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# ROE PARK RESORT

The Roe Park Resort, Limavady is located on the edge of the Roe Valley Country Park, and boasts an 18-hole parkland golf course and driving range.



he hotel is renowned as one of Northern Ireland's Premier Golf and Spa Resorts, equipped with 118 guest rooms and luxury suites, two self-catering properties, a luxurious spa and health club with gym, pool, sauna and jacuzzi, as well as a cosy bar, and superb restaurant.

The Roe Park Resort is the ideal location to explore the stunning Northern Ireland coastline and its most popular attractions, with the resort located just 20 minutes from Benone Beach and close by to the Giant's Causeway.

The North Coast is world-renowned for its golf courses and the Roe Park Resort is perfectly placed for those intending to enjoy the nearby famous links courses.

Beyond the resort's highly acclaimed golf course, a first-class clubhouse is surrounded by excellent facilities including a recently upgraded Indoor Studio featuring the latest Trackman 4 Launch Monitor technology, allowing for a fantastic coaching and custom fitting experience. The Indoor Studio is also available for Simulator Play, with over 160 world class courses available for virtual golf for up to 4 golfers at a time.

The Roe Park Resort Golf Training Academy offers private or group lessons with PGA accredited professionals for golfers looking to improve their game. The Academy at the Roe Park Resort is a Northern Ireland-based centre of excellence designed to provide the best possible facilities to help golfers improve their game, whether you are an absolute beginner or more advanced.

The facilities at the Academy include an 18-bay driving range, golf shop, short game area and putting green, chipping, and bunker area.

Michael McCrudden, Golf Pro at the Roe Park Golf Course said, "We look forward to welcoming even more guests to the resort this year. The success of the Roe Park Golf Course and Golf Academy is a direct result of the emphasis that has been placed on our investments in the world-class facilities available at the resort.

"As well as our superb golf course and the powerhouse technologies that we have available in the Golf Academy, our proximity to the picturesque North Coast is a key factor in the success of the resort, as we are near to some of Ireland's most renowned links courses."

The resort launched a £1.7 million investment programme last year, which included the recent expansion of its weddings and events space, the Danny Boy Suite. As part of the



development programme, the hotel has also invested in the refurbishment of bedrooms and upgrading the hotel's technologies, as well as investing in state-of-the-art solar panels, making it one of a few hotels in Northern Ireland that will be powered with renewable energy.

The four-star Roe Park Resort in Limavady has also recently announced a £720K sustainability strategy investment, as it becomes a member of Green Tourism and works towards a target of net zero by 2050.

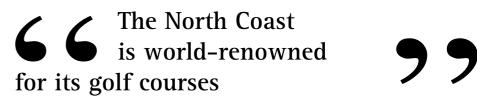
The resort has two superb restaurants, the Coach House Brasserie and The Courtyard. With an extensive menu on offer throughout the day, The Coach House Brasserie is the perfect location for a spot of lunch, a relaxed evening meal or a family occasion. The restaurant, which has views over the green, has been sympathetically restored in 18th Century Coach House style, adding to the traditional charm of the resort.

With its relaxing atmosphere and live music every Friday and Saturday night, O'Cahan's bar is the perfect spot if you are in the mood for an early evening cocktail or a nightcap.

Roe Park Resort's award-winning spa, offers a wide range of luxurious beauty therapies and treatment packages across 4 brands, including Elemis, OTO CBD Wellbeing, Natural Spa Factory & Made for Life Organics which caters for any client at any stage of their medical journey as well as those with limiting health issues.

As an official training academy for Elemis, the Roe Park Resort has invested heavily in modernising its Spa treatment facilities to offer visitors technologically advanced beauty and skin care treatments. The Spa also has a sauna, steam suite, heated pool and gymnasium for guests to enjoy some well-deserved indulgence.

For more information about Roe Park Resort or to make a reservation visit www.RoeParkResort.com







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iscover the allure of Dublin's heart at our exquisite 18-hole championship golf course, just 20 minutes away from both the bustling city centre and Dublin Airport. Nestled within enchanting castle grounds steeped in centuries-old history, Luttrellstown Castle boasts a noble spirit, offering visitors a warm and character-filled experience.

#### THE ULTIMATE GOLFING EXPERIENCE

#### THE COURSE:

Prepare for a challenge on our 7,347-yard championship course, a true test for golfers of the highest standard. With water features gracing 11 holes, precision and strategic course management are essential for a victorious game.

#### WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES:

Luttrellstown Castle is proud to offer one of Dublin's largest grassed practice areas. Sharpen your skills at our short game practice area, complete with bunkers and a chipping green. Benefit from expert guidance from our resident PGA professional. Relax in the inviting ambiance of the Spike Bar or indulge in exquisite dining at Rugged Lane Restaurant. Explore our well-stocked Pro-Shop, offering the latest season's apparel and golf essentials.

#### CORPORATE EXCELLENCE:

Elevate your company's Golf Day at Luttrellstown Castle Resort, the ultimate corporate event venue. Our top-notch facilities scattered across the estate are sure to impress your



clients and guests. Our professional and attentive staff will cater to all your needs. Plus, our close proximity to Dublin ensures a convenient and luxurious experience for everyone.

## CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP: EMBARK ON A JOURNEY BEYOND A CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

Luttrellstown Castle's corporate membership opens the doors to premium services, exceptional dining, and a pristine golf course, all nestled in a tranquil oasis at the heart of Dublin city.

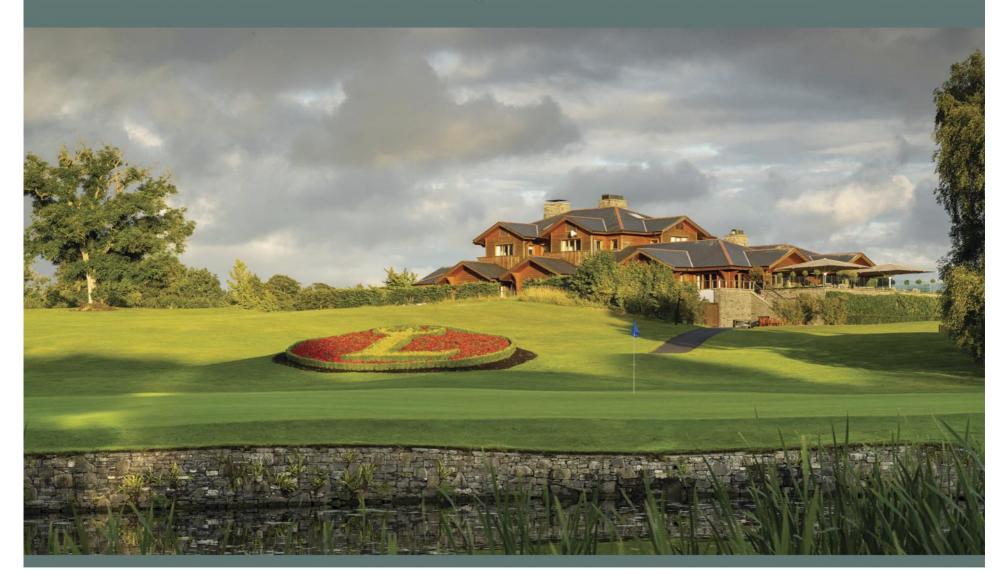
Experience golfing excellence at Luttrellstown Castle – where history meets luxury, and every swing tells a story.

To find out more contact – Chris Watt, Director of Golf on Tel: 01 8609600 or Email: cwatt@luttrellstown.ie Web: www.luttrellstowncastle.com.

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## **Golf Ireland Member Rates**

T&C's apply

W: luttrellstowncastle.com/golf/

# **ST HELEN'S BAY GOLF RESORT**

In 2023 St Helen's Bay Golf Resort celebrated its 30th Anniversary. We had a very good golfing season despite the poor weather conditions throughout the summer followed by a lot of rain in the autumn and winter.



ur greenkeeping staff: Kevin Caroll Head Green Keeper, Christopher Hayes Assistant Head Green Keeper, Aidan Furlong and Martin Furlong Greenkeepers, did sterling work to maintain excellent course conditions throughout the golfing season.

As with all Golf Courses the past few years have been challenging but a positive trend is certainly returning to the golfing industry. At St. Helen's Bay Golf Resort we are committed to our community, and providing affordable and relevant Golf Memberships is our priority for 2024. We want our members to enjoy competitive rounds, a challenging course, quality facilities, friendly atmosphere and value for money. Please call for more information.

Societies are well looked after at St. Helen's and we offer a very competitive package. Prices start from only  $\in$ 25 per person off peak to  $\in$ 35 per person peak season. A Golf & Meal package of  $\in$ 40 per person is our most popular package. **Call now for availability on 053- 9133234.** 



St. Helen's offer many Golf Open Competitions throughout the year and this year we are Running a Festival of Golf from 27th July. To check dates of our Opens, visit www.golfnet.ie or call the Pro Shop on 053 9133234. Green Fees from €30, booking advisable. Services include: 2 Seat Golf Buggies & Pull Carts. Competitive Group Booking Rates. Please contact the Pro-Shop for all enquiries on Tel: 053 9133234 or email: info@sthelensgolfresort.com. Visit us on www.sthelensgolfresort.com

#### **GET INTO GOLF PROGRAMME**

This year St. Helen's Bay Golf Club ran a Women's Get into Golf programme which was a Golf Ireland initiative designed specifically to introduce women to the game of golf. It was an 8-week programme which included four 1-hour weekly group tuition sessions with a PGA professional and four 2-hour weekly sessions of on-course tuition and practise with club mentors. On completion of the programme, participants were offered a reduced 6-month membership and almost 20 of the women joined the club. It is anticipated that most of the new members will continue into 2024 where a much reduced 12-month membership is being offered to participants in this programme. St. Helen's Bay are delighted to welcome so many new women to the club.

#### PGA TANKARD WINNER EILEEN WALSH

The PGA Tankard competition is run annually by the PGA where over 10,000 participants nationally take part. It is a three-stage competition where the club winner of the PGA tankard competition for both men and women go on to play in a second round competition with those qualifying from that round going on to play in the final. This year's PGA Tankard final was held in the K Club on 2nd October and the overall ladies winner was St. Helen's Bay's Eileen Walsh, who beat a strong field of competitors to take the title. Very well done Eileen – we're all very proud of you!

The Clubhouse Seaview Lounge at St. Helen's boasts one of the most impressive views in Ireland. The area enjoys a sunny climate where relaxation is the main theme enjoyed by all. 2024 we are introducing a new exciting menu – everyone welcome.

**66** We want our members to enjoy competitive rounds, a challenging course, quality facilities, friendly atmosphere and value for money

# **18 Hole Championship Course**





GOLF RESORT

€ 475.00

€ 850.00

€ 475.00

€ 250.00

€ 150.00

€ 100.00

## **St Helens Bay Golf Resort Rates**

30	31
20	24
-	

2024 Fees	Age Group	Rate
Veterans Rate	80 plus	€ 47
Full	36-79	€ 85
Couple	36-79	€1,6
Under 35	25-35	€ 47
Intermediate	18-24	€ 25
Junior	10 Years to 17 years	€ 15
Juvenile	7 years to 9 years	€ 10
Plus GUI Fees		

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to 11th August

## **ROSSLARE GOLF CLUB** -A TRUE LINKS EXPERIENCE. TWO COURSES – ONE DESTINATION

Rosslare Golf Links is the only true 'links' golf course in the Southeast of Ireland offering golfers of all abilities that unique links golfing experience.



Situated on the narrow, sandy peninsula at Rosslare, overlooking Wexford Harbour to the West and the Irish sea to the East, the club is home to two unique and challenging golf courses.

Founded in 1905, the Rosslare Golf Club initially began as a 9 hole course and in 1926 extended to 18 holes when the famous firm of Hawtree and Taylor, Golf Course Architects, was commissioned to design the 'new' 18 hole course. While changes and improvements were to follow down through the years, that original design by Hawtree & Taylor can be enjoyed today by the members and visitors playing the 'Old Course'.

The championship 'Old Course' is consistently rated in Ireland's top 100 courses and is fast becoming a must play course for golfing enthusiasts. As a traditional links, it uses the land's natural contours and coastal sand dunes to shape each hole as you play out the Burrow Peninsula and then turn back for home.

"They say a picture speaks a thousand words and, in this case, I could wax lyrical about the wonderful terrain and landscape but only scratch the surface of what a wonderful golfing experience this venue is.



"This golf course is a joy to play and experience. It requires a sensible strategic play with your tee shots to provide the best opportunity to hit the greens with an approach in regulation. The fairways are subtle, rippled and changing, cruelly so on occasion. That is the beauty of links golf. A full understanding of the swales and runs around the greens is also needed unless you are blessed with the chipping skills of a Shane Lowry or Graeme McDowell." - Andrew Picken, GolfShake.com

The 12 Hole 'Burrow Links' course is a Christy O'Connor Jnr designed executive course which is ideal for time-tied golfers while taking in some of the most scenic views of Wexford Harbour and Raven Point. However, it takes more than just a golf course to make a golf club, and Rosslare is a welcoming and social club. The Links Bar & Restaurant has a casual, laid-back atmosphere where members & visitors alike can enjoy some tasty food and a drink on the terrace after a round of golf.

Other facilities on offer to our visitors include a short game practice area, chipping green, putting green, and driving range. The club's head PGA professional, Jamie O'Sullivan, is always on hand in the pro shop.

Rosslare Golf Links is in peak condition and has the advantage of being playable all year round allowing us to host open competitions well into the 'winter' months. These include our ever-popular Wednesday Open Singles and our Open Singles / Fourball competitions on the weekends.

If your group or society is interested in adding a true links championship course to your calendar, then make sure to get in touch. We'd love to welcome you to Ireland's sunniest links.

To book your tee time visit www.rosslaregolf.com or for group & society enquiries phone 053 91 32203 or email office@rosslaregolf.com

**66** Rosslare Golf Links is in peak condition and has the advantage of being playable all year round allowing us to host open competitions well into the 'winter' months





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"During the construction process we can assist in setting out, volume controls drainage networks and As built drawings. Using GPS and robotic Total Stations we can also measure a Golf course for yardage for submission to the GUI."

For further information contact Hector on Tel: 049 8542168, Mobile: 086 8549611, or Email him at: hrnelson2@outlook.com HECTOR R.NELSON

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# <u>Golf Travel News</u> CARROSSA HOTEL & SPA MALLORCA

Mallorca's ultimate stay-and-play golfing paradise is getting even better thanks to a fivenight golf package at Carrossa Hotel & Spa..



ew for 2024, the luxury resort has distilled the best of Mallorca's golf and lifestyle into one irresistible holiday – including a round at the renowned Club de Golf Alcanada, regarded among the best in Spain.

Designed by prolific architect Robert Trent Jones Jnr, Alcanada has recently featured on Sky Sports as host of the Rolex Challenge Tour Grand Final supported by The R&A in 2019, 2022 and 2023.

The par-72 layout is the island's only true coastal course, offering sweeping views out to the historic Alcanada Lighthouse and Mediterranean Sea as the route guides players through a challenging mixture of holes.

As well as Alcanada, the package includes one green fee per guest at Canyamel Golf and Capdepera Golf, both within a twenty-minute drive of the hotel's historic manor house. Canyamel, a picturesque par-73 layout set to a backdrop of sprawling mountains, was designed by renowned architect José Gancedo in 1988.

Meanwhile, Capdepera Golf is perhaps best known for its par-3 15th hole, continuously voted the most beautiful hole on the island.

Thanks to the unmissable package, golfers can also indulge in daily gourmet half board and take advantage of an exclusive 50% discount on Callaway or PING rental golf clubs to sweeten the deal. For the 2024 season, Carrossa have added 20 brand new sets of PING clubs to their offering - the renowned brand's G430 and G Le3 ranges for men and women, respectively.

With over 300 years of history, Carrossa is blessed with a secluded location overlooking the Mallorca countryside. Much of the original architecture has been preserved across generations of refurbishments – including the former stables, which are now home to several luxurious suites.

The grounds are now home to a world-class Spa run by highly skilled therapists, where guests can indulge in saunas, swimming pools and a steam bath as well as try a wide range of treatments.

From the comfort of poolside cabanas, guests are treated to sweeping panoramic views over the surrounding olive trees, across the bay of Alcudia and out to the Mediterranean Sea. The resort also boasts a variety of culinary options, including fine dining at Restaurant Carrossa, the more relaxed Bistro Badia and the popular Bar Oro, which serves expertly crafted cocktails until late and is served by an on-site wine bodega.

The new package starts at  $\in$ 1,090pp and joins Carrossa's existing seven-night package - which also includes a round at Alcanada - and the popular four-night offering to complete a diverse line-up of packages guaranteed to have something for every group.

Carrossa has long been a firm favourite with golfers visiting Mallorca thanks to a strong line-up of venues in the area; must-play options also include the José María Olázabal-designed Pula Golf, which is also part of Carrossa's seven-night Premium Golf Package, and Son Servera Golf on the Eastern coast.

For more information on Carrossa's golf packages and to book https://www.carrossa.com/rates-packages/packages











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