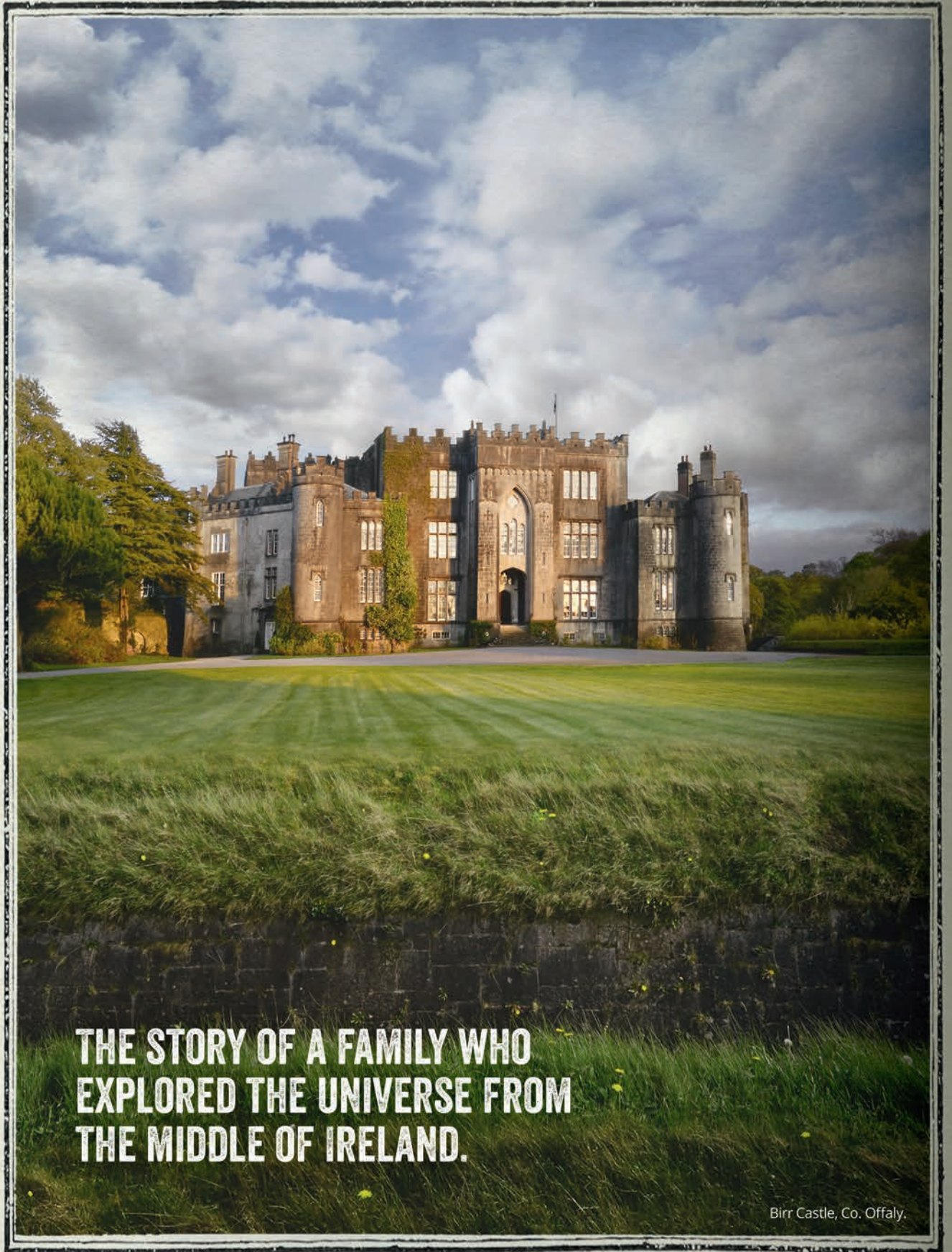


IRELAND GOLF GUIDE 2017

- Championship Links Golf Courses
- Championship Parkland Golf Courses
- Hidden Gems Around The Island
- Where To Play - Where To Stay
- Essential Travel Information



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**IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST®**

Welcome ● Patrick O'Donovan T.D.

A message from the Minister of State at the
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport



WESTPORT, CO MAYO



his 2017 guide to Ireland's world class golf product will provide you with everything you need to plan your golfing holiday in Ireland.

Ireland boasts over 400 golf courses, hosts almost one third of the world's links golf courses and its parklands have hosted some of the world's biggest golf tournaments, from the Ryder Cup to the Solheim Cup. We continue to play a significant role on the European Tour's calendar of events each year, as we host the ever popular Irish Open.

65% of those golfing tourists asked in recent research indicated that they had played golf in Ireland before, showing that our golf product and overall golf experience continues to deliver on a wonderful experience for our guests. Research is also showing that Ireland is scoring highly both on satisfaction levels and value for money for our overseas guests – with 96% saying that they are very satisfied with key aspects of their holiday.

Our golf courses suit every skill level, from beginner to pro, and we have golf to suit every budget. Our standards have never been higher and a growing number of golf courses and resorts have achieved our Golf Quality Assurance Scheme. Keep an eye out for the Quality Assurance shamrock when choosing your next golfing destination in Ireland.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you and your friends to come and experience golf in Ireland for yourselves. We can assure you of a good time on the course and a warm Irish welcome when you come off it.

Patrick O'Donovan T.D.

Minister for State at the Department
of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Magnificent links courses of Ireland





Magnificent parkland courses of Ireland





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TRALEE GOLF COURSE



ROCKFLEET CASTLE, CO MAYO



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Wild Atlantic Way

1 One of the most beautiful and diverse landscapes in the world, the Wild Atlantic Way stretches along the rugged and dramatic coastline of Ireland's west coast. From the iconic Cliffs of Moher to the stunning Ring of Kerry, this route offers a unique and unforgettable experience for all who venture along its length. Discover the best of the west coast, from the wild and beautiful to the charming and historic. The Wild Atlantic Way is a must-see for anyone visiting Ireland.

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Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is a beautiful and diverse region, offering a unique and unforgettable experience for all who venture along its length. Discover the best of the north, from the wild and beautiful to the charming and historic. Northern Ireland is a must-see for anyone visiting Ireland.

Welcome • Using the guide

Ireland is a country full of friends you haven't met yet and memories just waiting to be made, and this guide is your key to unlocking the holiday of a lifetime

About the guide

The 2016 Ireland Golf Guide is designed to provide all you need to know about playing golf and travelling around the beautiful Emerald Isle. We hope that it's user friendly, and that it helps you discover the many ways in which you can get the most out of your trip to Ireland.

Golf clubs and courses

Ireland has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to golf courses. The island might be small, but it is jam packed with many of the most illustrious, historic and talked-about courses, including one third of the world's links. With over 400 courses to choose from, deciding where to play is never easy – but it is always fun.

Green fees

Special golf passes, early birds, group discounts – there are many ways to get a bargain at Irish golf courses. Contacting the club, or speaking with your tour operator, is always a good idea, but we'd like to be the first to dispel the myth about golf in Ireland being expensive – it's not. For the calibre of the courses, the service and welcome you'll receive, once you play here we think you'll agree: golfing in Ireland is great value and a priceless experience.

Caddies, clubs, buggies and carts

Because of the unique environmental character and history of many of Ireland's golf clubs, the experience might be a little different to what you're used to. It is not always possible to use a buggy, but if you speak with the club about your special needs you'll find them to be always friendly and accommodating. Caddies are almost always available, but should be booked in advance, and many courses these days now offer club hire also.

Dress code, soft spikes and handicaps

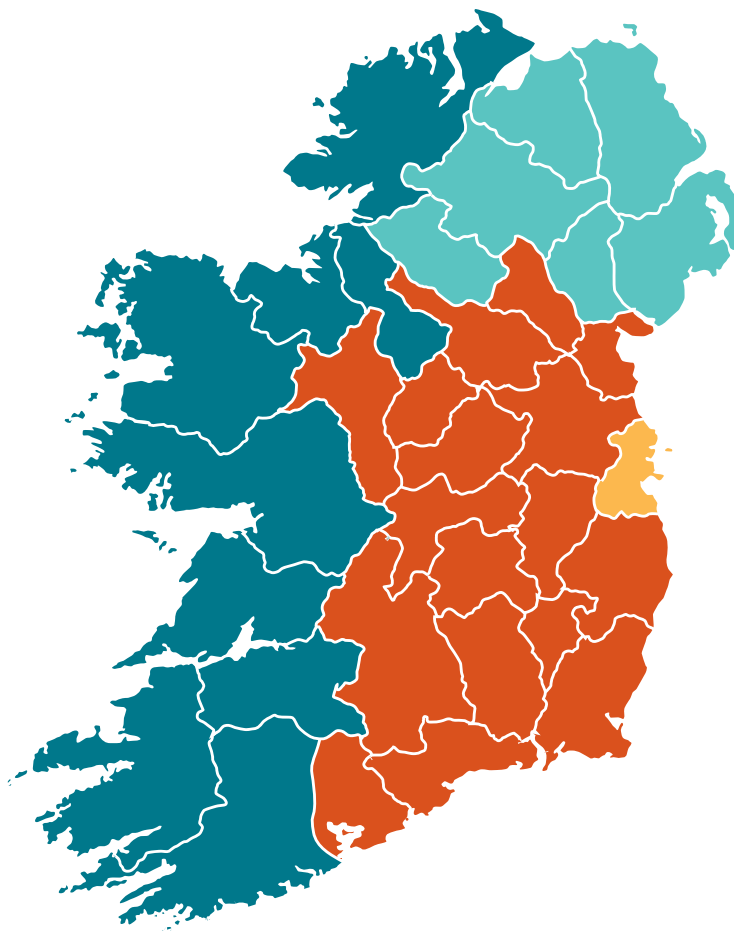
Golfing in Ireland is always a relaxed, friendly affair – but clubs do like to keep their traditions alive. Jeans and sneakers are best avoided, while if you dress smart casual you'll be perfectly attired for most tastes. Occasionally, some clubs will require a jacket and tie for the dining room. Soft spikes are advised, as some clubs will not allow traditional spikes any longer. Handicap certificates should be brought where possible.



APPROVED GOLF CLUBS



Whenever you see this symbol these golf clubs have been assessed to Fáilte Ireland's golf standards. For more information visit our website: www.ireland.com/golf



Dublin

Dublin is the vibrant capital city of Ireland bursting with a variety of surprising experiences where city living thrives side by side with the natural outdoors

Ireland's Ancient East

Enjoy some of the world's best golf courses in Ireland's Ancient East - from breath-taking links and championship parklands to magnificent golfing resorts

Wild Atlantic Way

The magnificent links courses along the Wild Atlantic Way exploit the spectacular coastal scenery and beaches to the full and provide some of the most challenging and exhilarating golf in the world

Northern Ireland

Home to Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell, Darren Clarke - and some of the world's best golf courses

ICONS The facility icons listed for hotels and golf clubs have not been independently verified by the Fáilte Ireland Golf Guide. The icons shown are based on information supplied directly by the venues themselves. Errors and omissions excepted.



Every effort has been made to make this guide as comprehensive as possible. If we have overlooked any detail or club in any of the seven regions, please contact our office for inclusion in the 2017 guide. Walton Media Tel: 01 419 9604.





FAIRWAYS and FUNDAYS

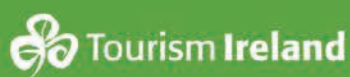
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“Throughout my career in sports and business I have travelled the world. From recent experience I can honestly say that Fairways and FunDays are the most professional Travel company that I have ever dealt with. I would definitely recommend Fairways and FunDays to anyone considering a golf vacation to Ireland. There is no doubt they are the best”.

Eamonn Coghlan - former 5,000 metre World Champion

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Useful Info • Making the most of your break



Irish Climate

Ireland generally has a temperate climate and tends not to suffer extremes of heat or cold. The average annual temperature is about 9-10 °C. Drops in temperature below freezing occur infrequently during winter and snow is rare. January and February are the coldest, with the average around 7°C. In summer, daytimes are a comfortable 15° to 20°C. There are about 18 hours of daylight daily during July and August. However, the Irish weather is certainly going to offer the visitor rain at some point, with wet weather common throughout the year. Pack accordingly!



Car Hire Companies:

Most of the major international car hire companies, as well as a number of indigenous Irish car hire companies, have desks conveniently located at all the major airports as well as at ferry terminals and in the city centres. Car hire can be pre-booked prior to travel. The Car Hire Council (www.carrentalcouncil.ie) offers a full list of their member companies, all with contact details and links directly to an individual car hire company's website and reservations.

Airports in Ireland

The three main airports serving the Republic of Ireland are:

- Dublin Airport: 00 353 (0)1 814 1111
www.dublinairport.com
- Cork Airport: 00 353 (0)21 431 3131
www.corkairport.com
- Shannon Airport: 00 353 (0)61 712000
www.shannonairport.ie

Ireland is also served by the following regional airports:

- Donegal: 00 353 (0) 74 954 8284
www.donegalairport.ie
- Kerry: 00 353 (0) 66 976 4644
www.kerryairport.ie
- Ireland West Knock: 00 353 (0) 94 936 8100
www.irelandwestairport.com
- Waterford: 00 353 (0) 51 846 600
www.flywaterford.com

In Northern Ireland, the main airports are:

- Belfast City Airport:
00 44 (0) 28 9093 9093
www.belfastcityairport.com
- Belfast International:
00 44 (0) 28 9448 4848
www.belfastairport.com
- City of Derry:
00 44 (0) 28 7181 0784
www.cityofderryairport.com



Airline operators

Ireland is well served by a number of the major international carriers, many of which offer non-stop connections from major gateways in the US and Europe. Contact details for most of the airlines are readily available on the website of your destination airport in Ireland.

Ireland by car

Travelling by car in Ireland is a great way to see the country at your own pace and time.

Some tips when driving in Ireland:

- Always drive on the left.
- All speed limits and distances are designated in kilometers. The maximum speed on motorways is 120 km/h. In urban areas, speed is restricted to between 30 and 50 km/h.
- Tourists require a driving licence issued by their country of origin.
- Drink driving is a very serious offence in Ireland and the best advice is not to drink and drive.
- The wearing of seat belts is compulsory in front and rear seats for all passengers.

Ireland by coach

The national bus company, Bus Éireann, operates a wide variety of services available to tourists. These include connections to and from all the main airports as well as Expressway services linking Ireland's main cities and towns. For more information go to their website: www.buseireann.ie.

In addition, there are quite a number of private coach companies dedicated to serving the needs of tourists. These coach operators offer individualised service to groups, as well as regular sightseeing tours.

Ireland by rail

Irish Rail is the national rail company, with a comprehensive list of Intercity services across the country. For full details on destinations, routes, timetables and fares, visit their website: www.irishrail.ie.

In addition to the national rail links, there are two commuter rail lines serving

the Greater Dublin Area: – the Luas Lines (www.luas.ie) and DART Lines (www.irishrail.ie). Both of these offer tourists a reliable and inexpensive method of seeing the capital city.

Tipping in Ireland

Ireland does not have as strong a tipping culture as exists in other countries. However, locals and visitors tend to tip for restaurants and taxi services. A rough general rule is around 10% and all tips are at your own personal discretion, based on the quality of service delivered. In restaurants with table service, if you have received exceptional service you can tip slightly higher.

Currency/Credit cards

In common with most of the European Continent, the Republic of Ireland uses the Euro. The Euro has denominations of €500, €100, €50, €20, €10 and €5 in paper notes. Coinage consists of €1 and €2 coins, plus smaller denominations of 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c. (Note: the "c" refers to cent). Banking hours are generally 10.00am to 4.30pm Monday through Friday, with some banks open on Saturday. ATM (cash) machines are located at most banks and Irish ATMs accept cards that have the CIRRUS, ACCESS or PLUS symbol. The ATMs may also issue cash on major credit cards. Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards are widely accepted in Ireland.

The Irish language

In the Republic of Ireland, both English and Irish (Gaelic) are the official languages, but most residents will use English as their primary language. Street name signs and directional road signage are all bilingual. In Gaeltacht areas of the country (typically found in the west around Galway, north in Donegal and south around Kerry), Irish is spoken daily. However, even in these regions, people will also speak English.

Festival Times • Cultural events in 2017

Golf is just one of the many great activities on offer in Ireland.

From world class horse racing to the biggest and best cultural festivals and concerts, there's never a shortage of excitement.

ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

DUBLIN / VARIOUS

16-19 March 2017

St Patrick's Day, Ireland's national day, is a festival celebrating Ireland's identity, arts and cultures. It will showcase the very best of Irish and international talent. The legendary parade in Dublin will travel across the city and will amaze with its its myriad of colourful performers and floats.

www.stpatricksfestival.ie



St Patrick's Day Festival
16-19 March 2017

BLOOMSDAY FESTIVAL

DUBLIN

11-16 June 2017

Bloomsday is a celebration that takes place in Dublin and around the world. It celebrates Thursday 16 June 1904, which is the day depicted in James Joyce's novel Ulysses. The day is named after the central character in the book, Leopold Bloom. A lively celebration of all things Joyce, join avid Joyceans from all over the world as they descend on Dublin.

www.bloomsdayfestival.ie

IRISH DERBY FESTIVAL

THE CURRAGH

23-25 June 2017

This three-day racing festival promises a spectacle of fashion, entertainment, music and the finest racing from 23rd to 25th of June. The Derby is the ultimate destination to be enthralled and get swept up in the magic of an unmissable summer celebration with friends.

www.curragh.ie/visiting-the-curragh/derby-festival/



Dubai Duty Free Irish Open
5-8 July 2017

DUBAI DUTY FREE IRISH OPEN

PORTSTEWART

6-9 July 2017

Portstewart Golf Club will host the 2017 Dubai Duty Free Irish Open. Described by last year's winner and four-time major winner Rory McIlroy as "an excellent links course, and one of Northern Ireland's hidden gems", Portstewart will host our national Open for the first time in its history.

GALWAY ARTS FESTIVAL

GALWAY

17-30 July 2017

Every July, the Galway Arts Festival turns the City of Tribes into a festival party with literature, drama, theatrics and pop-up surprises. Right on the Wild Atlantic Way, the festival is packed with history. The festival packs in over 200 shows in 25+ locations over 14 days.

www.giaf.ie



Irish Derby Festival
23-25 June 2017

FLEADH CHEOIL NA HEIREANN

ENNIS

14-22 August 2017

An estimated 400,000 visitors are expected in Ennis from 14th-22nd August to take part and enjoy the Fleadh Cheoil, an Irish traditional music competition. There will be competitions for instruments such as violin, tin whistle, harp and banjo, as well as singing and dancing. It is a unique and welcoming festival of the best of traditional arts that offers a wide range of activities to be enjoyed by all.

www.fleadhcheoil.ie



Galway Arts Festival
17-30 July 2017

ROSE OF TRALEE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

TRALEE

16-22 August 2017

The Rose of Tralee International Festival is going into its 58th year in 2017. It brings young women of Irish descent from around the world to County Kerry and connects the global Irish community in a carnival atmosphere of street entertainment, live music and selection of the Rose of Tralee.

www.roseoftralee.ie

**LISDOONVARNA
MATCHMAKING FESTIVAL**
LISDOONVARNA, CLARE

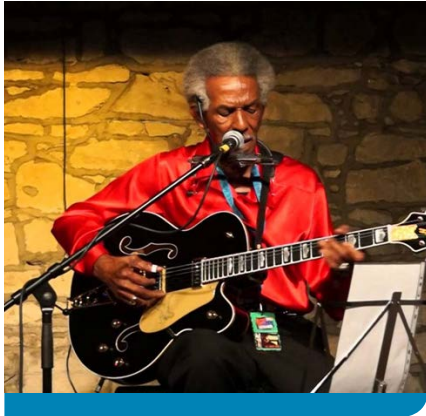
25 August - 1 October 2017

If you're looking for an Irish mate, this may be for you. Europe's largest matchmaking festival draws throngs of people to Lisdoonvarna every year. Age is no barrier, those attending range from 18 to 80. People don't necessarily come to look for a spouse – they come in their thousands in search of a good time.
www.matchmakerireland.com



**NORTHERN IRELAND OPEN
BALLYMENA**

The Northern Ireland Open is a golf tournament at Galgorm Castle on the European Challenge Tour and a stepping-stone to the 'big time' of world golf. It continues to grow every year and is truly a golf festival for all the family, with the NI Open Food Festival, exhibitors, live music, golf art exhibition and Fun Golf Area all included in the NI Open Village. www.niopen.golf



**HARVEST TIME BLUES
FESTIVAL**
MONAGHAN

1-3 September 2017

The Harvest Time Blues Festival is an annual musical festival held in Monaghan. Several international blues acts play over three days in the Marquee and the bars of Monaghan as the entire town gets gripped by blues music. Several noted performers have appeared in the past including Fleetwood Mac's Peter Green and Van Morrison.
www.harvestblues.ie



Electric Picnic
5-8 July 2017



Rose of Tralee International Festival
16-22 August 2017

ELECTRIC PICNIC
STRADBALLY, LAOIS
September 2017

Electric Picnic is an annual music and arts festival, which since its inception has consistently attracted some of the biggest names in music, emphasising the indie/alternative and dance genre. Along with the world-class musical performances, the festival also showcases art, theatre, comedy, food and holistic health.
www.electricpicnic.ie

**GALWAY INTERNATIONAL OYSTER
AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL**
GALWAY
22-24 September 2017

First celebrated in 1954, each year Galway City celebrates the 'bold man that first ate an oyster' (Jonathan Swift) at the Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival, the world's longest running Oyster festival. It has been described by the Sunday Times as "one of the 12 greatest shows on earth" and was listed in the AA Travel Guide as one of Europe's Seven Best Festivals.
www.galwayoysterfestival.com

10 Natural Attractions • Beautiful Irish landscape

For a relatively small island, Ireland has no shortage of natural wonders.

From dramatic rock formations to some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, Ireland has some unique must-see natural attractions.



CLIFFS OF MOHER

The magnificent Cliffs of Moher are Ireland's most visited national attraction. Standing 214m (702 feet) at their highest point, they stretch for eight kilometres (5 miles) along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland. From O'Brien's Tower at the highest point of the cliffs, landscape from Connemara to Kerry can be seen on a clear day.

Nearby Courses

Lahinch Golf Club,
Trump International Doonbeg



▲ GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Legend has it that this area of 40,000 interlocking basalt columns was built by an Irish giant called Fionn Mac Cumhaill, who was challenged to a fight by the Scottish giant Benandonner. Geographically speaking, Giant's Causeway, off the coast of County Antrim, was the result of an ancient volcanic disruption. The tallest columns are about 12 metres (39ft) high, and the solidified lava in the cliffs is 28 metres (92ft) thick in places.

Nearby Courses

Royal Portrush, Portstewart Golf Club



GLENDALOUGH ▶

Glendalough is a glacial valley in County Wicklow. It is renowned for an Early Medieval monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by St Kevin. In Irish mythology, Glendalough had an unwanted monster in the upper lake but St Kevin entreated the creature to move to the lower lake. The combination of stunning scenery and fascinating monastic history makes it an outdoor experience not to be missed.

Nearby Courses

Macreddin Golf Club, The European Club



◀ THE BURREN

A karst landscape of bedrock, The Burren is well worth visiting in County Clare. It incorporates a vast cracked pavement of glacial-era limestone, with cliffs and caves, fossils, rock formations and archaeological sites. The limestone pavements are also known for their remarkable assemblage of plants and animals, from butterflies to spring gentians.

Nearby Courses

Dromoland Castle, Ennis Golf Club

DINGLE PENINSULA ▶

Ringed by beautiful sandy beaches and craggy cliffs, the Dingle Peninsula is the most westerly point of Ireland. One of Ireland's highest mountains, Mount Brandon forms part of a ridge with stunning views over North Kerry. Conor Pass is the highest mountain pass in Ireland, a narrow twisting road that weaves its way around the rugged Kerry coastline.

Nearby Courses

Tralee Golf Club,
Dooks Golf Links

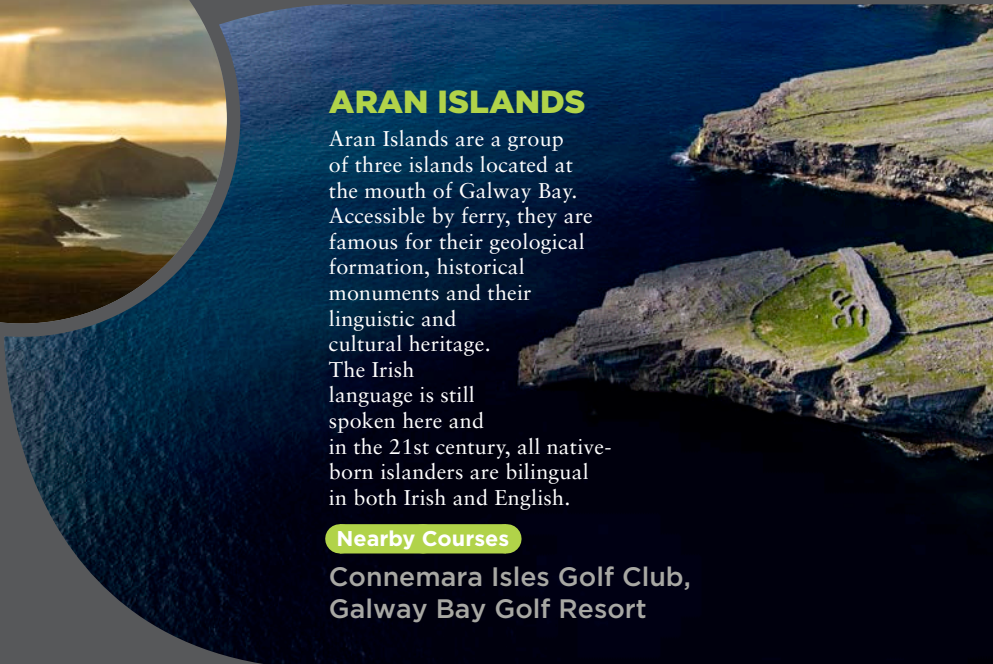


ARAN ISLANDS

Aran Islands are a group of three islands located at the mouth of Galway Bay. Accessible by ferry, they are famous for their geological formation, historical monuments and their linguistic and cultural heritage. The Irish language is still spoken here and in the 21st century, all native-born islanders are bilingual in both Irish and English.

Nearby Courses

Connemara Isles Golf Club,
Galway Bay Golf Resort



◀ MOURNE MOUNTAINS

The Mourne Mountains are a granite mountain range in County Down that include some of the highest mountains in Ireland. The Mournes are visited by many tourists, hillwalkers, cyclists and rock climbers each year. Aside from the grasses, the most common plants found in the Mournes are heathers and gorse. The Mourne Mountains influenced C.S. Lewis to write the Narnia series of books.

Nearby Courses

Royal County Down, Ardglass



▼ SLIEVE BLOOM WAY

The Slieve Bloom mountains in County Laois are the oldest mountains in Europe and are ideal for a hiking trip. Hike along leafy forest trails passing waterfalls and streams or cycle down peaceful country roads. The upland blanket bog on the Slieve Blooms is considered to be one of the best and least disturbed areas of mountain blanket bog habitat in the country.

Nearby Courses

Tullamore Golf Club,
The Heritage



▲ MARBLE ARCH CAVES

The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark features a series of natural limestone caves, located in County Fermanagh. Visitors are guided through a fascinating natural underworld of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers while stunningly beautiful cave formations glisten all around. Journey underground and prepare to be awe inspired.

Nearby Courses

Lough Erne Resort, Slieve Russell

▲ SLIEVE LEAGUE

Slieve League is a mountain on the Atlantic coast of County Donegal. There are terrific views of the Atlantic Ocean, the Sligo Mountains and Donegal Bay as you walk towards the terrifyingly high top of Slieve League, where the cliff face of Bunglas rises over 601m (1972ft) above the raging ocean. For thousands of years, there was a Christian pilgrimage here and it was part of the Donegal Corridor which helped the Allies during WW2.

Nearby Courses

Narin & Portnoo Golf Club,
Donegal Golf Club

Irish Tours • 10 of the best

As well as having natural beauty, Ireland has its fair share of excellent day trips

GUINNESS STOREHOUSE

DUBLIN



Enjoy the brewery experience telling the tale of Ireland's most famous drink, with tastings and a rooftop bar. The home of the 'black stuff' is the most visited tourist attraction in Ireland.

WWW.GUINNESS-STOREHOUSE.COM

BOOK OF KELLS

DUBLIN

Visit the Book of Kells, the grand library location for illuminated illustrations of the world's most famous medieval manuscript, dating from 800 AD. It is located in the grounds of Trinity College Dublin, Ireland's oldest and most prestigious university.

WWW.TCD.IE/VISITORS/BOOK-OF-KELLS/

KILMAINHAM GAOL

DUBLIN



Kilmainham Gaol is a former prison, which is now a museum run by the Office of Public Works. Many famous Irish figures who fought against the British in the Irish War of Independence were detained here.

WWW.KILMAINHAMGAOLMUSEUM.IE

CROKE PARK

DUBLIN

The home of Ireland's national sport, Croke Park is a GAA stadium of 82,300 capacity, the third largest stadium in Europe. It hosts the All-Ireland finals of Gaelic Football and Hurling and has also been used for concerts and other events.

WWW.CROKEPARK.IE

TITANIC BELFAST

BELFAST



The RMS Titanic, which featured in the second highest-grossing film of all-time Titanic in 1997, was built in Belfast. Titanic Belfast is the world's biggest Titanic exhibition remembering the former Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast's Titanic Quarter.

WWW.TITANICBELFAST.COM

GAME OF THRONES TOUR

NORTHERN IRELAND



Just 40 minutes from Belfast, visit 20 key filming locations of the world-acclaimed TV show, including Winterfell Castle, Robb's Camp and more. Walk in the footsteps of Tyrion Lannister and Jon Snow and recreate your own favourite Game of Thrones tour scenes.

WWW.GAMEOFTHRONES-WINTERFELLTOURS.COM

BLARNEY CASTLE

CORK



Blarney Castle is a medieval stronghold, built by the MacCarthy of Muskerry dynasty in 1446. The famous Blarney Stone is built into the Castle. According to legend, kissing this stone endows the kisser with gift of the gab (great eloquence or skill at flattery).

WWW.BLARNEYCASTLE.IE

NEWBRIDGE SILVERWARE

KILDARE

Newbridge Silverware is a contemporary shopper's paradise, housing a complete range of products. It incorporates an award-winning Silver Restaurant along with the famous Museum of Style Icons, from Marilyn Monroe to Michael Jackson, on-site.

WWW.NEWBRIDGESILVERWARE.COM

NEWGRANGE

MEATH



Visit the prehistoric Newgrange tomb in County Meath, a 5000-year-old passage tomb. Older than Stonehenge and the Ancient Pyramids, it is aligned with the rising sun and its light floods the chamber on the winter solstice.

WWW.NEWGRANGE.COM

ROCK OF CASHEL

TIPPERARY

The Rock of Cashel is a historic site, which was the traditional seat of the kings of Munster for several hundred years prior to the Norman invasion. It features prehistoric raths, medieval monasteries and more.

WWW.CASHEL.IE

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Irish Whiskey Tours

Where to try out whiskey in Ireland

Ireland is credited with having invented whiskey and Irish Whiskey Tours guide you through everything that is best about whiskey in Ireland. They include the whiskey distilleries of Ireland – past and present – but also the best whiskey pubs and bars in the country, the finest whiskey shops and some top class hotels and golf courses, where whiskey is as much at home as is excellence and hospitality.

WHISKEY DISTILLERIES

Visit some of the best whiskey distilleries in the world in Ireland. The Old Jameson Distillery in Dublin is one of the most popular tourist attractions on the island. It was where Jameson Irish Whiskey was distilled until 1971. The current distillery is in Cork and is under redevelopment but will be reopened in March 2017. The Old Bushmills Distillery, less than a 10-minute drive from Giant's Causeway, is another popular tourist attraction in Antrim. The oldest distillery in Ireland, it produces the smooth tasting Bushmills whiskey. Other distilleries of note include Teeling Whiskey Co., Dingle Distillery, Kilbeggan Distillery and Glendalough Distillery, which is Ireland's first Craft Distillery.

IRISH WHISKEY MUSEUM

The recently opened Irish Whiskey Museum offers a unique whiskey experience in Dublin, telling the history and tales of the rise and fall of Irish whiskey. The museum on Grafton Street, just opposite Trinity College, offers guided tours tracing the history of whiskey through interactive exhibits, plus a tasting at the end.



IRISH WHISKEY TRAILS

Irish Whiskey Trails are not just for people interested in whiskey - it is also for anyone who wants to enjoy some of the very best Irish traditional pubs in the country or who is simply interested in Irish history and culture. Visit pubs from McCaul's in Cavan in the north to the Brian Boru Pub in Dublin, from Folk House Bar in Cork in the south to Lowry's Pub in Galway to the west.

WHISKEY SHOPS

Buying the best whiskey comes sometimes from specialised whiskey shops, others are off-licences attached to pubs, but each offers you an exceptional choice of Irish whiskeys. Many of the whiskeys available in these shops cannot be found in airport duty free shops or on ferries, so they are well worth checking out if you are looking for the fullest possible choice of Irish whiskeys.



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Like any other European nation, Ireland has a complete spectrum of shops and stores, from corner stalls to multi-national department stores



When you come to Ireland, there is a great selection of gifts to take home from Ireland's top fashions and the best of Irish design. Ireland is known for its home products such as Irish crystal, Aran sweaters and Irish tweed, which are mentioned in detail elsewhere in the guide. Homemade pottery and souvenirs are popular in gift shops across the country.

Dublin is a modern European city and the very best brands are available in stores throughout the capital. It was recently voted fifth best shopping city in the world, with praise for the city's 'eclectic mix of shops, cafés, galleries and restaurants'.

Ireland's elegant flagship clothing department store, Brown Thomas, is located in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway and with designer brands from Chanel to Armani, it is a popular haunt of Northern Irish star Rory McIlroy around Christmas time.

In Dublin, shopping centres (malls) are common. The largest of which is Dundrum Shopping Centre, which is one of the biggest in Europe, spanning more than 125,000 square metres, with over 170 shops and

eateries. Blanchardstown Shopping Centre has over 180 stores (including four Starbucks), with a nine-screen cinema and Leisureplex. Others include Liffey Valley, Stephens Green, Jervis, Ilac and Omni Park Shopping Centres, which include all your favourite stores.

Just outside Dublin, Kildare Village is home to all your designer brand needs. Luxury goods on sale include Louise Kennedy, Gucci and Armani, which offer up to 60% off all year around. Whitewater Shopping Centre in Newbridge, Co Kildare is Ireland's largest regional shopping centre. A whole host of retailers are awaiting your needs, from Debenhams to M&S, from Zara to H&M.

In Cork City, the newly added Opera Lane outdoor shopping mall and street has become a haven for shoppers. It offers the best shopping mix in Munster. It is home to premium fashion stores and the prestigious Apple computer dealership, Compu B, in the home city of Apple's European headquarters.

In Belfast, Victoria Square Shopping Centre is home to over 70 stores, cafes and restaurants including House of Fraser, Apple, Topshop and Cruise. It is beautifully designed with a massive glass dome measuring 35m (115 ft) in diameter. One of the most expensive property developments ever undertaken in Northern Ireland, there is a wonderful 80 ft viewing area for families to enjoy.





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Irish Food • Savoury cuisine

From Irish stew to oysters, eat well during your time in Ireland



Ireland may be better known for its drinks than its savoury cuisine but there is still an abundance of traditional Irish food for visitors to feast on.

Ireland is famous for the potato, which has been the staple dish for the vast majority of Irish families for centuries. The potato arrived in the 16th century and the overreliance on the vegetable led to the Great Irish Famine in the 19th century, when a potato disease commonly known as potato blight ravaged crops in the country.

Potatoes are involved in a lot of traditional Irish meals, including the famous Irish stew. The exact recipe is not consistent from place to place but common ingredients include lamb or mutton as well as potatoes, carrots, onions and parsley.

Other traditional dishes include: bacon

and cabbage (which consists of unsliced back bacon boiled with cabbage and potatoes), boxty (an Irish potato pancake) and colcannon (mashed potatoes with kale or cabbage).

Visitors can enjoy the traditional Irish breakfast before a round of golf or a day of sightseeing. The Irish breakfast includes bacon rashers, pork sausages, fried eggs, white pudding, black pudding, toast and fried tomatoes. Black pudding is made from blood, grain (usually barley) and seasoning. Tea or coffee is usually included also.

Ireland is surrounded by the sea and has a fine seafood industry to be enjoyed by tourists. Oysters from the West Coast are popular, and celebrated at the Galway Oyster & Seafood Festival every year. The European Flat Oyster is native to Irish shores, and Gigas Oysters, Wild Mussels and Wild Surf Clams are harvested within Galway Bay.

Fish and chips can be enjoyed across the country, from Howth to Kinsale to Dingle, where there are a host of top-class fish restaurants. Trout, salmon, mackerel, cod and shellfish are also common seafood meals.

Ireland has some of the best dairy produce in the world. This

is down to the amazing grass-fed system used by farmers all over the country. A temperate climate and lots of rain guarantees a healthy growth of grass through the spring, summer and early autumn. All cows graze outdoors on fresh green grass, which is the essential ingredient which makes milk so special, so rich and so full of flavour.

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Irish Cottage Industry • Authentic Wool

In Ireland, everything was home produced in our grandparents time and some of those traditions still thrive today



The earliest known evidence in Ireland of woven material dates from about 1600 B.C., as pottery from that period shows signs of woven material in which the clay was placed before firing. A fragment of cloth in the National Museum, found in a bog in County Antrim, is dated from at least 700 B.C.

So important were the skills of spinning and weaving in early Ireland that the Brehon Laws, written about 600-800 A.D., included a part of a wife's entitlement in case of divorce that she keep her spindles, wool bags, weaver's reeds and a share of the yarn she had spun.

Historically, weaving in Ireland took two forms. Firstly, the rural handweaver working in his own home, supplying his own and his neighbours' needs. Secondly, from the thirteenth century onwards, the more organised urban craftsmen weaving for a larger domestic and export market. This latter was largely destroyed by restrictive laws imposed on the export of Irish woollen cloth at the end of the seventeenth century and did not revive again until the late nineteenth century.

By the twentieth century, there were power mills, handweaving mills and individual

weavers operating. The handweavers were also encouraged by the Irish Homespun Society, which was founded in 1936.

Aran Sweaters are one of the most famous products of the Irish Cottage industries. Often known as a Fisherman Sweater, they are distinguished by their use of complex textured stitch patterns, several of which are combined in the creation of a single garment.



Aran Sweaters were knitted using unscoured wool that retained its natural oils, which made the garments water-resistant and meant they remained wearable even when wet.

Kerry Woollen Mills is one of these last surviving traditional woollen mills still manufacturing in the beautiful

Kerry countryside. The mill is set in a rural location with many of the three hundred-year-old buildings still standing and functional. The company produces natural fibres in classic and traditional styles & colours.

World-famous for its warmth and durability, the hand-weaving skills of Donegal Tweed have been passed down through many generations. Today, most Donegal Tweed comes from the Magee, Molloy & McNutt factory power looms which yield 600 or more yards a day, but there are still about 25 local craftsmen working at home, turning out the all-wool, handwoven fabric that is treasured throughout the world.

Cushendale Woollen Mills in Graiguenamagh, Co Kilkenny dates back to Cistercian monks in the early 13th century and Flemish weavers in the 17th century. In the 19th century, a man called Patrick Cushen began making wool there and the business is still run by relatives of that family.

You can visit the various mill shops to view the full range of Irish wool and tweed available.



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Irish dance and the music of Ireland have been inextricably linked over centuries. An assortment of instruments has provided music for dancing and singing.

Irish traditional music began as an oral tradition, passed on from generation to generation by listening, learning by ear and without formally writing the tunes on paper. It originated with the Celts 2,000 years ago, who were influenced by music of the East. It's believed that the traditional Irish harp may have originated in Egypt.

It wasn't until the 18th century that music was officially written down for the first time and the collecting of music continues today in the Irish Traditional Music Archive in Dublin.

Traditional music has travelled much further than Ireland thanks to our long history of emigration, especially during the Great Famine, where vast numbers of Irish moved to the States and brought their music with them.

Today, Irish music can be found in bars and ceils throughout the country. Common instruments used to play traditional music

include the fiddle, tin whistle, flute and Uilleann pipes. Instruments such as the accordion made their appearances in Irish traditional music in the late 19th century. The 4-string banjo and guitar are also regularly used.

The bódhran drum is famous in Irish traditional music, measuring from 35 to 45 cm. A goatskin head is tacked to one side, with the other side open-ended for one hand to be placed against the inside of the drum head to control pitch and timbre. The harp is one of the chief symbols of Ireland and the Celtic Harp is a beautiful wire-strung instrument requiring great skill and practice to play.

Irish traditional songs are written in English and Irish. Vocals unaccompanied by music are called sean nós and are considered the ultimate expression of traditional singing. Songs called caoineadh are also sang, which are typified by lyrics stressing sorrow and pain and are

often sang for the departed at funerals.

But most of Irish traditional music is upbeat and very much suits lively Irish dancing. Jigs, reels and polkas are all danced. Ireland is famous for the Riverdance show, which took off as an interval performance act during the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest, featuring Irish dancing champions Michael Flatley and Jean Butler. It has since visited over 450 venues worldwide and been seen by over 25 million people, making it one

of the most successful dance productions in the world.

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UNDERTAKER PUB McCarthy's Fethard, Tipperary

With a tagline of 'We'll wine you, dine you and bury you', McCarthy's Fethard in Tipperary is a pub, restaurant and undertaker service all rolled into one. Open since the 1850s, it has functioned as everything from grocery shop to draper. The counters and packed cabinets are throwbacks to its quirky history and traditional Irish music is common.



OLDEST PUB Sean's Bar, Athlone

Sean's Bar in Athlone, County Westmeath is the oldest pub in Ireland, dating back to 900 A.D. from the time of Celts and Vikings. In 2004 the Guinness World Records listed Sean's Bar as the oldest pub in Europe. It is located on the west Bank of the River Shannon in this midlands town. During renovations in 1970, the walls of the bar were found to be made of wattle and wicker, dating back to the tenth century

One of Ireland's main exports to the rest of the world, Irish bars are among the most popular pubs in almost every major world city. Unsurprisingly, pubs are not in short supply in Ireland and are the social hub of much activity in towns and villages across the country.

In Ireland, the local pub was considered as a pillar of the community in the same way the local church would be. It functions as both a place to consume alcohol at leisure as well as a place in which to meet and greet people of the locality. A warm and friendly atmosphere is extended to outsiders and it is not uncommon for strangers and tourists to be drawn in to conversations with locals. While not all Irish pubs will feature live Irish music, it is an important part of the culture,

along with hearty food and drink and sports.

Drinks include a variety of spirits and beers on tap but one can expect Guinness and Irish whiskeys such as Bushmills or Jameson on tap in every pub. The quality of the Guinness in Ireland is unmatched elsewhere, and a pint of the 'black stuff' is an essential experience for all visitors in the country.

Dublin, the home of Guinness, has a vibrant nightlife and Temple Bar, the capital's cultural quarter, is popular with tourists. Galway and Cork have some of the most enjoyable Irish pubs with live music to boot for the true Irish pub experience. In truth, every urban area, no matter how small in Ireland has its fair share of interesting pubs and even when you pass rural areas you will come across some of the most authentic Irish drinking experiences around.

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Uachtarain to the White House and the Vatican. Tipperary Crystal focuses on high-end design and excellent quality. It collaborated with fashion icon Sybil Connolly on an exclusive collection for Tiffanys in the early 1990s. It is now the official sponsor of the Rose of Tralee Festival.

Other well-known Crystals in Ireland include Dublin Crystal and Cavan Crystal.

T rue quality remains very much in demand no matter what your tastes, so it's no surprise that Irish Crystal remains a strong Irish export. Irish Crystal as we know it only became possible after the discovery of lead glass in the late 1600s, created by adding lead oxide to the silica mixture used to make glass.

Most Irish Crystal is still made entirely by hand. The process starts with molten glass, which is blown into various shapes by Master Blowers using traditional wooden tools to shape and mould the hot glass as they blow it. The plain glass shapes are then cooled in special cooling ovens, which drop the temperature very slowly, before they are sent to be cut. Craftsmen outline the pattern of the cuts on the surface of the glass in ink and then using diamond tipped wheels cut the intricate shapes into the surface of the glass by hand.

The best-known crystal manufacturer in Ireland is Waterford Crystal, which has become the largest crystal manufacturer in the world. It remains a brand that has long been associated with special occasions.

That explains why it is so familiar to sports lovers, especially golfers, who have seen the likes of Rory McIlroy and Jason Day hoist its trophies in triumph over the past year. They produce the likes of the Players Championship trophy, the Tour Championship trophy and, of course, the Irish Open trophy.

Waterford Crystal also design the pieces for the prestigious Peoples' Choice Awards as well as the Times Square Ball – the 'ball drop' in the famous New Year's Eve celebration in New York City. You can visit the House of Waterford Crystal in Waterford and take a guided factory tour to see exquisite pieces of crystal created before your eyes.

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Pádraig's people

Ireland's golf ambassador and three-time major winner Pádraig Harrington speaks about why you should come to Ireland for the golfing holiday of a lifetime.

By **Brian Keogh**

There are many reasons to come to Ireland to play golf. But if you ask three-time major winner Pádraig Harrington the reason Ireland is so popular with visitors is simple - it's the friendliness of the people that keeps them coming back for more.

"Why come to Ireland to play golf? For the people," Harrington says. "There's also a variety of places to stay that will hopefully fit most people's budgets. So you can go all the way from five star hotels down to modest B&Bs.

"You have a variety of golf courses that are accessible but ultimately you are coming to Ireland for the people. It's a constant thing I hear from people who come to Ireland.

"They had the holiday of a lifetime - okay, it is very much a bucket list thing because it can be expensive - but it is a holiday of a lifetime.

"And when asked why, they always say, 'it's the people'. It's always the people. How friendly the people are."

Laughing at what visitors consider friendly, Harrington adds: "Hey, what they call friendly we call nosy - 'Where are you from?', 'What do you do?' But it's definitely the people that attract visitors.

"You don't have to spend a fortune to come to Ireland either. There is no shortage of companies that will prepare a five-star package for you, but you can definitely do it on a budget.

"There are plenty of golf courses where the green fees aren't so expensive and the courses are

accessible. But you can also work the system where you get in there, you make friends with locals and they'll bring you out for a member's green fee.

"If you want to have your fourball, that's different. But if you are travelling maybe around Ireland as a husband and wife, the husband can go shopping and the wife can go and play golf!"

There are stuffy golf clubs all over the world, places of privilege where the ordinary Joe will never tread unless he's fitting new tiles in the showers or dropping someone there in his taxi.

Thankfully for lovers of the Irish game, those places are rare on the Emerald Isle, where strangers are simply friends that haven't met yet.

Take Lahinch, known far and wide as the St Andrews of Ireland given the role that men such as the legendary "Old" Tom Morris or Augusta National designer Alistair Mackenzie played in the creation of the wonderful County Clare links, just a few miles from the world famous Cliffs of Moher.

Many visitors had the pleasure of playing golf there with the legendary

Ennistymon butcher Mick O'Loughlin, who was a fine amateur golfer in his day. Years ago, when a couple of American visitors asked about the chance of a game with some of the local members, club secretary Brud Slattery offered to join them, adding: "And I'll send one of the caddies up to the village to fetch the butcher."

O'Loughlin duly arrived, wiping his hands on his bloody apron before removing it for battle. After a few holes, one of the bemused visitors turned to Slattery and whispered: "Say, if the





LAHINCH GOLF CLUB

“You don’t have to spend a fortune to come to Ireland either. There is no shortage of companies that will prepare a five-star package for you, but you can definitely do it on a budget” - Harrington

local butcher is so readily available to play golf, he sure can’t make much money.” To which ‘Brud’ replied: “No, but he sure makes a lot of friends.”

That anecdote says it all about Ireland, which has more than 420 golf clubs. That may not seem like a great number compared to the 20,000 or so to be found in the United States. After all, Ireland is smaller in area than Indiana and only slightly larger than South Carolina.

It would be naive to think you’re going to see it all on a short trip. It is a pretty small place until you get into a hire car. Yet that’s where the real fun starts according to Harrington, who knows every back road and breen of Ireland as well as he knows the manicured fairways of Augusta National.

He’s Ireland’s official golfing ambassador and many of the people who join him for pre-tournament programs around the world are planning to visit Ireland for that golfing trip of a lifetime.

So what kind of advice does he give them?

“It all depends,” says Pádraig, who’s travelled all over the 32 counties, 26 in the Republic of Ireland and six north of the border, since his amateur days. “This is a once in a lifetime trip for most people and many of them have

been saving up for years.”

As a qualified accountant, Harrington knows that finance plays a crucial role in planning any major venture.

“A lot of what you might plan do is determined by your budget. But the most important thing to remember is that road maps can be deceptive! If you can, hire a driver to take you from golf course to golf course. If you can’t, remember that if the course you want to play is 60 miles away on a map, that doesn’t necessarily mean you are going to get there in 45 minutes.

“But that’s the beauty of Ireland. You could head north from Dublin for a game at Royal County Down and end up stopping off at Baltray, which is about halfway up the coast outside Drogheda. Not many people know that you can get a room in the clubhouse and stay the night there. And the Boyne salmon in the restaurant is famous.

“Planning what to do when you finally make that trip all depends on your expectations. The scenery in the North West of Ireland, say Donegal and Sligo, is what many people imagine Ireland to be like. My advice is to stick with the B&B’s in that part of the country because you are going to get great value.

“If you go down to the



BALLYLIFFIN GOLF CLUB

south-west, they have great golf courses and it is pretty much set up for tourism. But go to the north-west and they have great golf courses and it is kind of rugged. To be honest, the north-west is a bit more what people are expecting in Ireland with a bit more rugged countryside.

“In Northern Ireland you have great golf courses and you will get a great welcome. Go to Dublin and you have all the nightlife and all the restaurants and yet you have fantastic golf courses that are accessible if you are staying right in the centre of the city.

“One of the underestimated tourist destinations is staying in the centre of Dublin city and travelling from there. You probably have half a dozen great links courses within 30-40 minutes of where you are staying. It’s a great golfing destination.”

Push Harrington for a favourite course and he’s reluctant to single out one for special praise. But it’s clear he’s got a soft spot for the north-west and the courses of Sligo and Donegal.

County Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point is one of golf’s holy places but there’s also Murvagh (aka Donegal Golf Club) which is isolated from the outside world by a forest of evergreens, washed on one side by the great Atlantic Ocean and by Donegal Bay on the other.

The Narin & Portnoo Golf Club has to be one of the most

picturesque courses in all of Ireland but if you head further north you will come to nine-hole Cruit Island, a beautiful and natural links, crowned by the intimidating par-three sixth where considerable skill is needed to negotiate a yawning cove if you are to find the sanctuary of the green.

The scenery at nearby Rosapenna Hotel and Golf Resort combines the old with the new. Indeed, it would be remiss not to take in somewhere as wild and wonderful as Ballyliffin on the rugged Inishowen Peninsula.

As Harrington says, it’s not just the golf courses and the scenery that makes these places memorable, it’s the people.

County Sligo
Golf Club at Rosses
Point is one of golf’s
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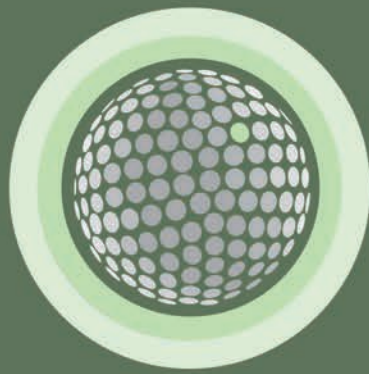


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Designed with a flourish

Some of the greatest names in the history of golf have designed courses in Ireland. From the flamboyance of Arnold Palmer and Seve Ballesteros to the controlled precision of Colin Montgomerie, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer or Jack Nicklaus, they've all left an indelible mark on the Irish golfing landscape.

By **Brian Keogh**

Nothing stirs the golfing senses like touching greatness and you can feel even closer to some of golf's greatest minds by playing the courses they built in Ireland.

Clubs rich and poor called on the greats of their day to create golfing playgrounds from Old Tom Morris, Harry Colt and Dr Alister MacKenzie to the superstars of the modern game.

Big name designers have always been with us, even if the fees they were paid vary wildly from the modest to the generous.

According to the club's history, Old Tom Morris was retained by Royal County Down in July 1889 for a fee "not to exceed £4" whereas Dr Mackenzie redesigned and extended the Old Course at Lahinch in 1927 for a fee of £2,000.

Those who have come since might have cost a little more but as they say, quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten.

For example, if you haven't played Bernard Langer's wonderful Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links for a while, a return visit is long overdue.

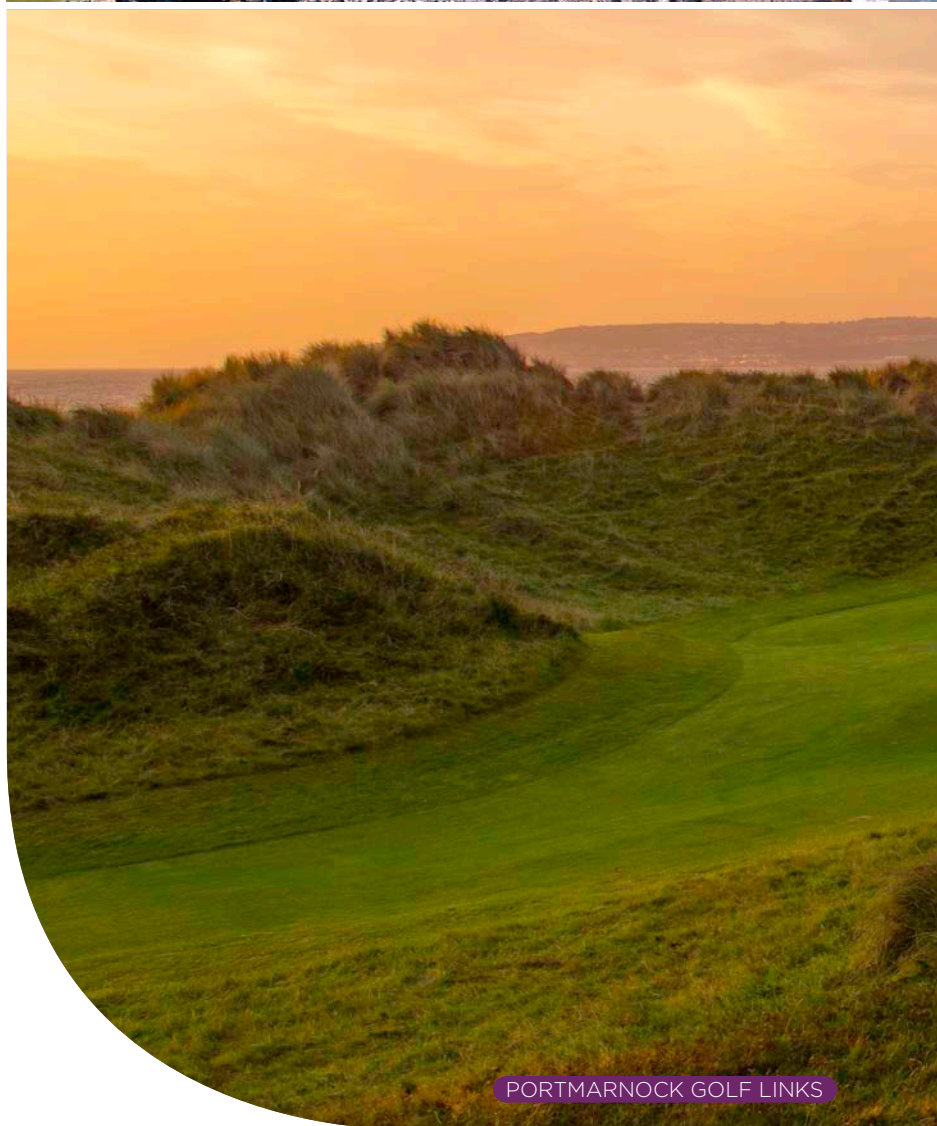
Langer's desire to improve his links game took him to Ireland many times and early in his career he travelled as far as County Sligo to play at Rosses Point and ended up heading to Enniscrone, where he spent longer than he had planned.

"I came for a day but ended up staying for a week," Langer recalled with a grin.

By April 1993 he was a three-time Irish Open and two-time Masters champion. So when IMG were called in to develop a course on land once owned by the Jameson family of whiskey fame



TRALEE GOLF CLUB



PORTMARNOCK GOLF LINKS

at Portmarnock, adjoining the famous Portmarnock Golf Club, Langer was their man.

Once part of the ancestral family estate, the Jameson family had a 12-hole golf course which stretched as far as the current 15th at the more famous links.

In the mid 1990s, Langer was appointed to design the new course that was to become Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links in conjunction with landscape architect Stan Eby, renowned for his work on such great designs as PGA Golf de Catalunya in Catalonia or the Faldo Course at Sporting Club Berlin, amongst many others.

With Eby's help, Langer incorporated some of the original "Jameson" holes into his new masterpiece and the course opened to great acclaim in 1995.

It has moved with the times too, undergoing major upgrading and

renovation work in 2011 and again this year, making it a regular stop for many Irish tour professionals seeking perfect conditions all year round, including three-time major winner, Pádraig Harrington.

The death of Arnold Palmer in late 2016 was a sad day for golf worldwide and his loss was noted with sadness in Ireland, where he designed three great courses.

The first was the new links at Tralee Golf Club, which opened at Barrow in October 1984 after moving from its nine-hole course at Mounthawk near Tralee.

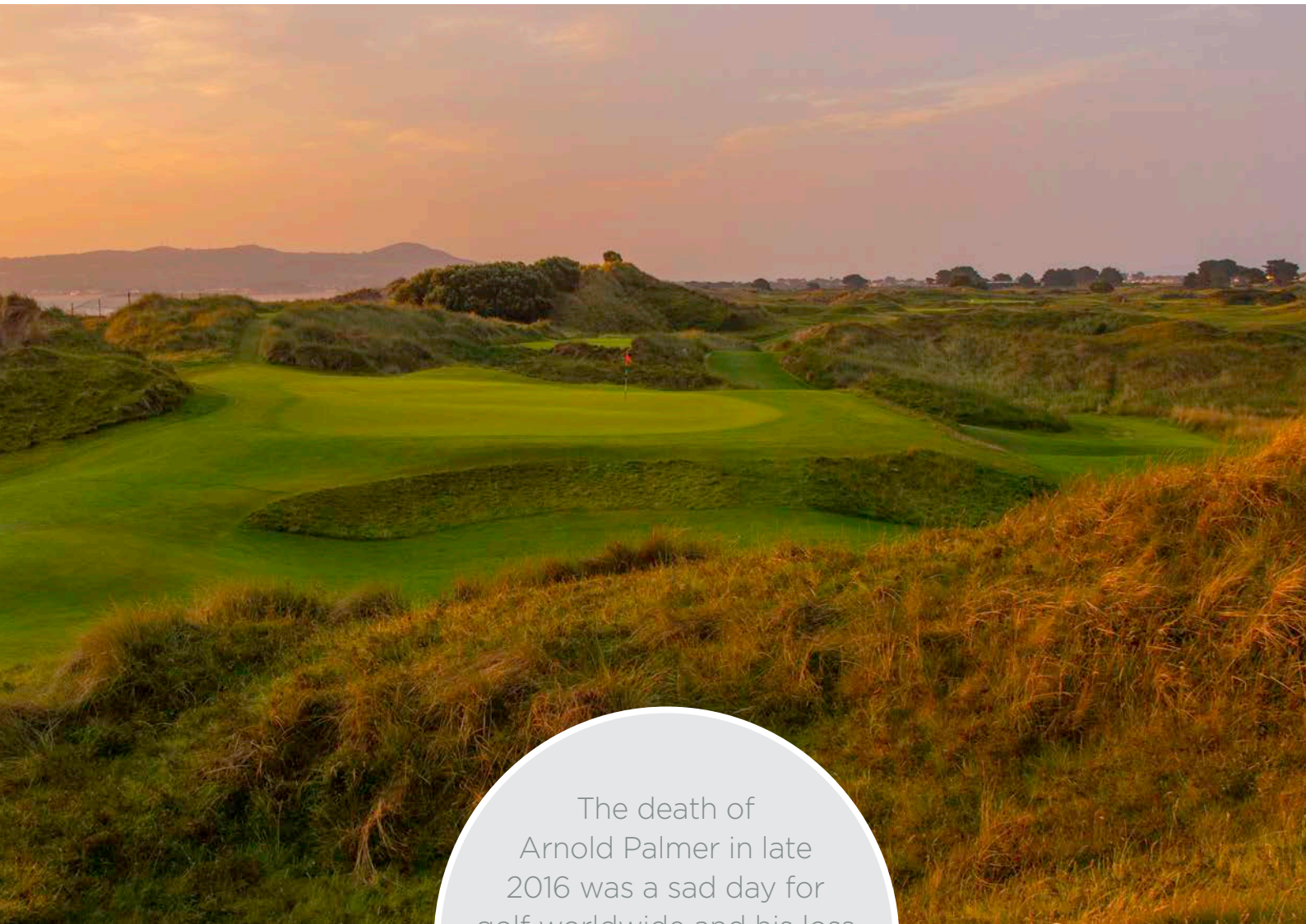
Measuring just under 7,000 yards from the championship tees, it was Palmer's first European design and it has stood the test of time with the King once commenting: "I have never come across a piece of land so ideally suited for the building of a golf course. I am happy that we have one of the world's great links here."



PALMER COURSE, K CLUB



MOUNT JULIET



The death of Arnold Palmer in late 2016 was a sad day for golf worldwide and his loss was noted with sadness in Ireland, where he designed three great courses

The late, great golf writer Peter Dobereiner agreed with him.

“As a spectacle, Tralee is in a different class...” Dobereiner wrote. “The setting is quite the most magnificent backdrop for a golf course I have ever encountered.

“It thus passes with distinction my first test of a course, which is that it should be an exhilarating place to walk around regardless of how well or badly you may be playing.”

Palmer’s second Irish course, the Palmer Course at The K Club, opened in 1991 and quickly became known as one of the best parkland courses in Europe, famously hosting the Ryder Cup in 2006,

In 2003, the Palmer designed Smurfit Course — a spectacular inland links — opened on the south bank of the River Liffey at The K Club to make the venue one of Ireland’s must-play resorts.

Of course, Jack Nicklaus has also got

a huge presence in Ireland with two great courses, Mount Juliet in Thomastown in Co Kilkenny and Killeen Castle in Co Meath both hosting several major international events.

Mount Juliet first opened in 1991 with a friendly match between Nicklaus and Christy O’Connor Snr.

Since then, the course has established itself as a premier venue for top professionals from around the world,

hosting three successive Irish Opens and the WGC American Express Championship in 2002 and 2004.

Tiger Woods won the first of them, hailing the perfect greens as the best he’d played on all year and the course is regarded as one of the most manicured in Ireland, as well as a great strategic test.

Killeen Castle is similarly spectacular, as the top women in the game discovered in 2011 when it hosted the Solheim Cup between Europe and the United States of America.

The expansive, par-72 course can play 7,677 yards from the back tees to 6,118 yards from the forward markers. Yet that is not all that Killeen Castle has to offer.

The stunning Dave Pelz Scoring Game School - the first of its kind outside the United States - was lovingly designed by the former NASA scientist, who has helped that short game wizard Phil

Mickelson capture five major championships since they started working together in 2004.

Mickelson is a short game wizard but even the left-hander would admit that Seve Ballesteros was in a class of his own.

The Spaniard was much loved in Ireland, winning three Irish Opens between 1983 and 1986 and his Irish design, the Heritage Golf and Country Club at Killenard in Co Laois, is superb.

Set on over 300 acres of prime farmland in the shadow of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, no expenses were spared in the creation of this Jeff Howes collaboration.

Year-round playability was one of principal objectives at the planning stage and with 80 miles of sand-slitting, 25,000 metres of four-inch drains and 5,000 metres of storm drains, it is in prime condition all year round and a superb test.

With five lakes to negotiate and a stream meandering through the course,

water is in play on 10 holes, no more so than the twin ninth and 18th, which so entertained the best in the game during the 2007 Seve Trophy matches.

Carton House, the ancestral seat of the Earls of Kildare and Dukes of Leinster situated less than 40 minutes from Dublin City centre on the Kildare-Meath border, offers not one but two signature courses.

The Mark O'Meara Course is a sumptuous parkland design in the magnificent, walled demesne with the stretch holes along the River Rye (watch out for the famous Shell Cottage, decorated outside and inside with seashells) sure to add some drama to your day.

The O'Meara's sister course is the inland links Montgomerie, designed by eight-time European Tour Order of Merit winner Colin Montgomerie.

It opened in 2003 and hosted

the Irish Open in 2005, 2006 and 2013 with its deep pot bunkers providing a stern and challenging test for the best players in the world.

If you are heading northwest from Dublin to play the links of Donegal and Sligo, why not stop off at the five-star splendour of Lough Erne Resort to play the Nick Faldo designed Faldo Course.

Set on the shores of the lough, it's got some spectacular holes with the peninsula green at the 10th one of Faldo's personal favourites.

The course opened in 2009 and Faldo still loves what was achieved at the 10th.

"The 10th hole is a stunning part of the golf course," Faldo said. "That hole has all the aspects that you are looking for - memorability, a little bit of the wow factor."

Killeen Castle is similarly spectacular, as the top women in the game discovered in 2011 when it hosted the Solheim Cup between Europe and the United States of America



O'MEARA COURSE, CARTON HOUSE



THE 2011 SOLHEIM CUP AT KILLEEN CASTLE



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GOLF RESORT
OF THE YEAR

Counties in this section: **Dublin**

Hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to the capital each year to see the great sites of Ireland's capital city, Dublin, where four of Ireland's 18 Ryder Cup players, 12 Walker Cup stars and one British Open champion learned to play the game.



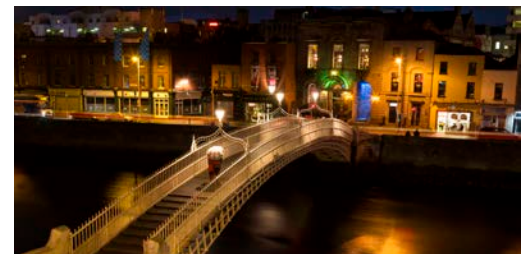
ood puzzle would be cross Dublin without passing a pub,” mused Leopold Bloom in James

Joyce’s classic novel Ulysses.

It’s a conundrum that has intrigued literary visitors to the city for years but with more than 30 clubs in the capital, crossing Dublin without coming close to a golf course is another serious challenge that might prove more

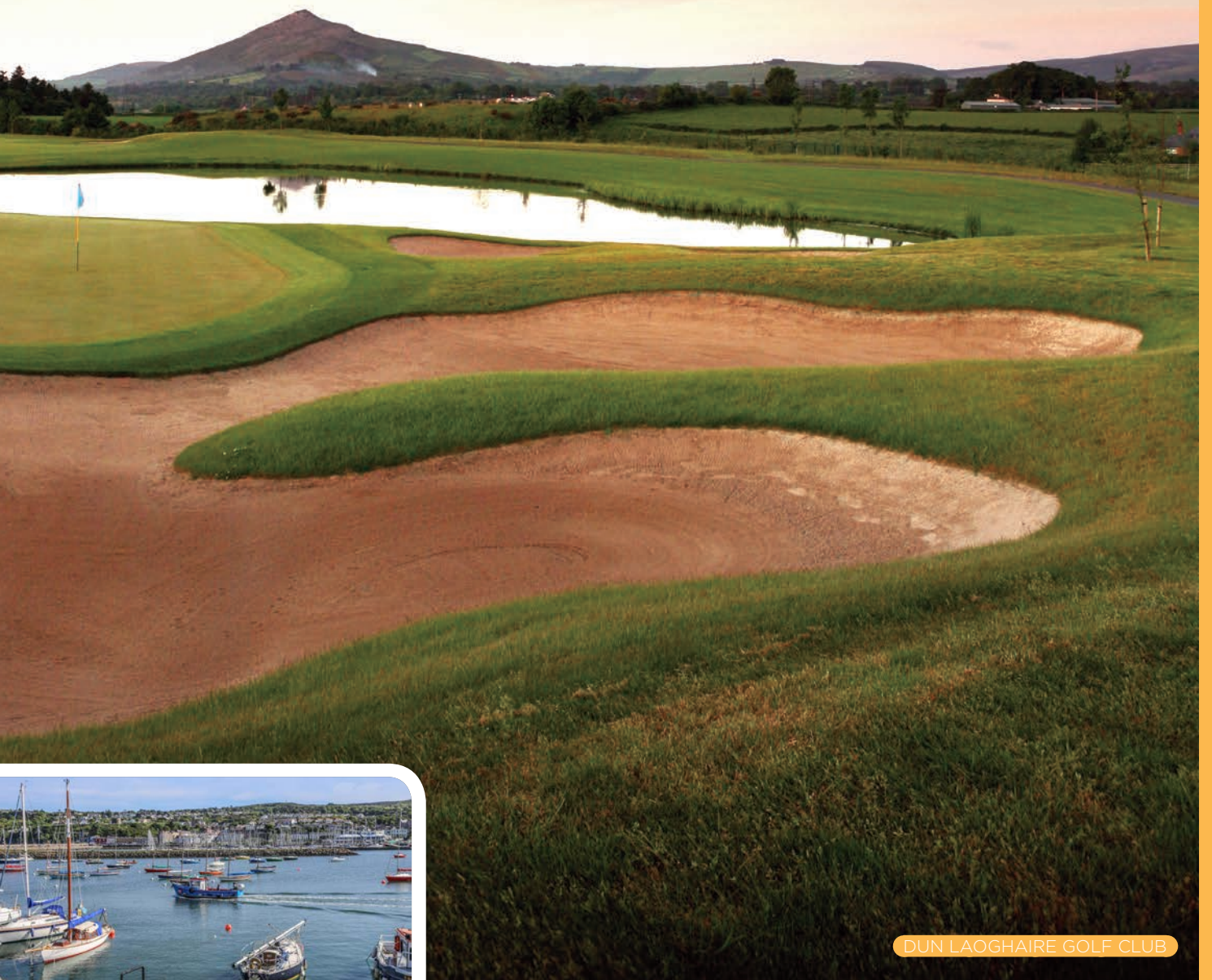
difficult that it sounds.

Visitors flock to the capital in their hundreds of thousands every year and many of them come, not just to see the sights, but also to play golf on the courses where four of Ireland’s 18 Ryder Cup players, 12 Walker Cup stars and one British Open champion learned to play the game.





Dublin
*A Breath of
Fresh Air*



DUN LAOGHAIRE GOLF CLUB



PORTMARNOCK GOLF LINKS



MALAHIDE GOLF CLUB



ROYAL DUBLIN GOLF CLUB



LIFFEY RIVER

There are great parkland courses around almost every corner and yet links enthusiasts know well that you don't have to travel to Kerry or the west or even to Donegal or the Causeway Coast to play links golf - there are half a dozen within a short drive of the city and one in the city itself.

For example, the legendary links at Portmarnock Golf Club, which will host the matchplay stages of the Amateur Championship in 2019, is a must-play course for anyone with a passing interest in the history of the game.

Just 12 miles from the city centre, the famous links is regularly voted as one of the top golf courses in the world.

It hosted the British Amateur Championship in 1949 and the Canada Cup (or World Cup) in 1960, when Arnold Palmer, representing the United States, won in partnership with Sam Snead.

It was Palmer's first ever experience of links golf, which became quite a distinction, especially after his victories in the 1961 and 1962 Open Championships. "It's the first time I've played a course like this one," he said, "and I've learnt a lot of shots - shots I've never played before in my life."

Host venue for 12 Irish Open Championships, Portmarnock echoes with memories of great players, from Harry

Bradshaw and Christy O'Connor to Tom Watson, Ben Crenshaw, Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazábal.

As three-time major winner Pádraig Harrington said: "Portmarnock is the fairest links I have ever played, which is unusual because links golf by its very nature can be unfair. It is almost perfectly balanced in that it is both challenging and demanding for every level of golfer."

Tiger Woods has thanked Ireland, and Portmarnock in particular, for his major success.

"Coming here has been instrumental in preparing for the British Open, not only for getting me adjusted to the time difference but also for getting used to playing links golf," he said in 2000, a year where he won 9 PGA Tour tournaments and three majors.

"We've played Portmarnock just about every year. It's one of the most enjoyable links course I have had the opportunity to play."

Bernhard Langer won the Irish Open at Portmarnock in 1987 and found time to come back to the area less than a decade later to create the wonderful test at Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links just next door to the famous links, on the grounds of what was once home to the Jameson whiskey dynasty. It combines all the charm of a traditional style layout


with the challenges of the modern game.

Of course, Langer will always be associated with that other great Dublin golfing destination of Royal Dublin, where he lifted the Irish Open for the first time in 1984.

Also known as the "Old Lady" of Dollymount, the historic Royal Dublin played host to the greatest pioneer in the history of the game, Old Tom Morris, who played two matches there in 1894.

Royal Dublin has been played by all the greats, from Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino to Greg Norman and Ernie Els as well as showbiz stars Danny Kaye, Bob Hope and Sean Connery.

It's still as popular as ever with visitors to this island. Indeed, soon after his US



“We’ve played Portmarnock just about every year. It’s one of the most enjoyable links course I have had the opportunity to play”
– Tiger Woods

Room’, where one can see the trophies and memorabilia of the Irishman’s great achievements.

Along the coast, few are better than The Island near Donabate. Bordered on three sides by water, its massive dunes are its only protection from the winds that appear to blow almost incessantly. The Island was only accessible by boat — the old clubhouse was situated near where the boats came ashore, close to to the current 14th.

Golfers rowed across the estuary from Malahide from its founding in 1890 right up until 1973 when the burgeoning membership opted for the car as its preferred mode of access.

While they now have to take the long way round to reach their course, it is still a joy to play and in 2019 it will host the qualifying rounds of the Amateur Championship with Portmarnock.

Far from easy, this par-71 challenge now measures just over 7,000 yards and has arguably produced more single figure golfers per square yard than any other golfing enclave in Ireland.

Darren Clarke has fond memories of The Island from his amateur days and some mixed ones as a professional. In 1999 he shot an eight-under-par, course record 63, in the second round of the Irish PGA Championship but took 74 on the third day and eventually finished second, three shots adrift to a young Royal Dublin assistant by the name of Neil Manchip, who is now the GUI’s head coach and coach to Shane Lowry.

North of the Liffey, traditional members’ clubs such as Malahide, Rush, Skerries and Donabate are always worth a visit. Bring your bucket and spade along with you, as fantastic beaches are not far away.

There’s also Balbriggan Golf Club, just 15 minutes from Dublin Airport, which has been newly developed by Eddie Connaughton with USGA standard sand-based greens and tee boxes along mature tree-lined fairways and well-placed hazards.

Open win at Oakmont in 2016, Dustin Johnson played at Royal Dublin to fine-tune his links game for the Open Championship at Troon, and thoroughly enjoyed the test.

Renovated by the golf architect Martin Hawtree in recent years, Royal Dublin would not exist at all had it not been for a distinguished survivor of the mutiny on the Bounty in 1789, Captain William Bligh, who suggested that a breakwater be built to provide shipping with a safe, deep and straight passage into the heart of Dublin.

The Bull Wall was built and the silting up which followed became the Bull Island, a nature reserve and home of a fabled club where the Irish Amateur Open was played in 2016. Bull Island is also home to another fine links in St Anne’s Golf Club.

A classic links test, St Anne’s is a tight course with holes nearby and parallel to each other, where the final three holes will send you to the clubhouse with a smile.

O’Connor Snr has, of course, been part of Royal Dublin folklore, but another name that will forever be linked with the club is Dr David Sheahan, who upstaged the professionals by winning the first Jeyes Tournament in 1962 when still a medical student.

While he was brought up near Mullingar, Sheahan was a member of Grange in the south Dublin golfing enclave of

Rathfarnham until his death last year.

It was there that 2014 Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinley learnt the game and Eamonn Darcy, another Ryder Cup star, took his first faltering steps as an assistant.

The tree-lined course might boast six par-threes but it is far from an easy test and the addition of six new holes on the “new lands” close to neighbouring Marlay Park, offer plenty of variety.

McGinley spent many a long hour picking the brains of former club professional Wattie Sullivan in the master’s workshop as he set about learning every aspect of the game.

But Sullivan was also a respected teacher and coach and occasionally received visits from a Cork-born Dublin policeman and his son, who lived just a five-minute drive away.

That policeman was Paddy Harrington and his youngest son, Pádraig, would go on to become the first Irishman for 60 years to lift the Claret Jug after winning the Open Champion at Carnoustie in 2007, before adding another Open title and US PGA to his list of achievements the following year.

Harrington’s club, Stackstown, sits high above the city in the Dublin mountains, offering panoramic views of the metropolis and its golfing delights. Visitors can bask in the history of Harrington’s major wins at Stackstown with the ‘Harrington

One of the more scenic locations to play golf in Ireland is Howth Golf Club. Meandering across the Hill of Howth, this challenging heathland course commands panoramic views of Dublin Bay and the north Dublin coast.

Along with the golf at Howth Golf Club, visitors can enjoy a day at the picturesque fishing town of Howth. With its fair share of world-class seafood restaurants, a tasty traditional fish and chips meal can be enjoyed after a long day on the golf course.

North of the city, there are also newer additions like St Margaret's, Roganstown, Hollywood Lakes and Hollystown that ensure a fun day out.

If staying in the city centre, there are even courses accessible by Dublin's expansive public transport system of rail, tram and bus. Access the 4 bus to arrive at Silloge Park Golf Club,

one of only four public courses in Dublin, for great budget golf. Meanwhile, the 61 bus and the Green Luas line bring you to an interesting test of golf at Milltown Golf Club.

Within the limits of the M50 motorway there are many more Dublin courses worth the trip, from Elm Park to Clontarf. One of the oldest clubs in the Greater Dublin area is Grange Golf Club, where there are over 75 bunkers and mature trees that line both sides of every fairway.

Follow the Liffey upstream and you will meet Castleknock, Hermitage and Lucan. Hermitage Golf Club, a quality parkland course, continues to improve. Blessed with a verdant, rolling setting, it is within the part of the beautiful Liffey Valley known as the Strawberry Beds.

Not far from Castleknock and Hermitage is Luttrellstown Castle, another parkland gem. Cast by the same design team that created the likes of Turnberry and Royal St George's, Luttrellstown is an impressive venue with a great course in excellent condition. The clubhouse facilities further complement the wonderful on-course experience.

It's beautifully maintained all year round and run with precision by former European



LUCAN GOLF CLUB

Tour player and Spanish Open winner Peter Lawrie.

As the nation's capital, Dublin serves as a superb access point to visit the many, many fantastic golf courses across the island. But it is sometimes east to forget that there are 28 clubs in Dublin's fair city alone, with another 31 in the rest of the county.

And with the capital attracting the majority of tourists who come to Ireland every year, golf must rank as one as our most under-used assets.

Follow the Liffey upstream and you will meet Castleknock, Hermitage and Lucan. Hermitage Golf Club, a quality parkland course, continues to improve.



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A-Z GOLF COURSES IN DUBLIN

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Balbriggan | 15. Dublin City | 29. Howth | 42. Silloge Park |
| 2. Balcarrick | 16. Dublin Mountain | 30. Killiney | 43. Skerries |
| 3. Ballinascorney | 17. Dun Laoghaire | 31. Kilmashogue | 44. South County |
| 4. Beaverstown | 18. Edmondstown | 32. Leopardstown | 45. St. Anne's |
| 5. Beech Park | 19. Elm Park | 33. Lucan | 46. St. Margarets |
| 6. Carrickmines | 20. Elmgreen | 34. Luttrellstown Castle | 47. Stackstown |
| 7. Castle | 21. Forrest Little | 35. Malahide | 48. Sutton |
| 8. Castleknock | 22. Foxrock | 36. Milltown | 49. Swords |
| 9. Citywest Hotel & Golf | 23. Glencullen | 37. Newlands | 50. The Island |
| 10. Clontarf | 24. Grange | 38. Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links | 51. Portmarnock Golf Club |
| 11. Corballis Links | 25. Grange Castle | 39. Rathfarnham | 52. The Royal Dublin |
| 12. Corrstown | 26. Hazel Grove | 40. Roganstown | 53. Westmanstown |
| 13. Deer Park | 27. Hermitage | | |
| 14. Donabate | 28. Hollystown | | |

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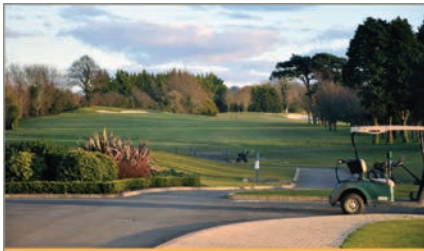
TRAVEL TIMES BY AIR

Adare Manor	
00:20	Ballybunnion
00:20	00:30 Doonbeg
00:25	00:30 00:45 Killarney
00:20	00:20 00:10 00:30 Lahinch
00:35	00:40 00:45 00:30 00:50 Old Head
00:30	00:35 00:20 00:15 00:30 00:35 Tralee
00:40	00:30 00:35 00:20 00:45 00:35 00:20 Waterville

TRAVEL TIMES BY ROAD

Adare Manor	
01:10	Ballybunnion
01:30	01:30 Doonbeg
01:30	01:15 02:30 Killarney
01:30	02:00 00:30 02:40 Lahinch
02:15	02:45 03:30 01:45 03:30 Old Head
01:30	00:50 02:30 01:00 02:30 02:30 Tralee
02:20	02:00 03:30 01:15 03:30 03:00 01:45 Waterville





Balbriggan Golf Club

Blackhall, Balbriggan, Co Dublin

Tel 353 (0) 1 8412229
Email balbriggangolfclub@eircom.net
Web www.balbriggangolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,077 metres
Par 72

Balbriggan is ranked in the Top 100 Courses in Ireland following a superb course re-development. Located 15 minutes from Dublin Airport, this exciting course with many water features is surrounded by rolling parkland with views of the Mourne Mountains. All visitors will find a warm welcome, a fully stocked pro-shop and excellent clubhouse catering. Green fees: midweek €30-35, midweek early bird special €20.



Deer Park Golf

Howth, Dublin

Tel 353 (01) 832 3487
Email sales@deerparkgolf.ie
Web www.deerparkgolf.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,293 metres
Par 72

Deer Park in Howth, Dublin boasts one of the largest golf complexes in Ireland. Popular with golfers of all skill levels, it includes 2 traditional courses, Deer Park 18 hole & St Fintan's 9 hole, 18 hole pitch and putt, 18 hole FootGolf course and the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Cuchulainn, Ireland's legendary curling hero on the Poc Fada golf course.



Dun Laoghaire Golf Club

Enniskerry, Co Dublin

Tel 012721866
Email admin@dlgc.ie
Web www.dunlaoghairegolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,533 Metres
Par 72

The course sits nestled at the foot of the majestic Sugarloaf Mountains in the postcard-picturesque Ballyman Glen, on the borders of Counties Dublin and Wicklow. Set out on 330 south facing acres, it is widely acknowledged as one of Ireland's most spectacular and challenging courses.



THE ROYAL DUBLIN



The Island Golf Club

Corballis, Donabate, Co Dublin

Tel 353 (0)1 8436205
Email info@theislandgolfclub.com
Web www.theislandgolfclub.com
Course Links
Length 6,479 Metres
Par 71

Located only 20 minutes from Dublin Airport and 30 minutes from Dublin City Centre, this traditional links course is nestled among towering dunes and provides breath-taking vistas. Venue for The Open Championship Qualifying and British Amateur Open Qualifying it offers golfers of all levels a wonderful challenge in serene surroundings.





Portmarnock Golf Club
Golf Links Road, Portmarnock, Co Dublin

Tel 353 (0) 1 846 2968
Email info@portmarnockgolfclub.ie
Web www.portmarnockgolfclub.ie
Course Links
Length 6,926 yards
Par 72

Portmarnock Golf Club was established in 1894 and is widely considered one of the top links courses in the world. It has hosted 19 Irish Opens, Walker Cup, Canada Cup (World Cup), Irish Amateur Championships, numerous other top class amateur and professional events. Please contact the office for green fee information.



Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links
Strand Road, Portmarnock, Co Dublin

Tel 353 (0) 1 866 6592
Email info@portmarnock.com
Web www.portmarnock.com
Course Links
Length 6,444 metres
Par 71

Bernhard Langer Championship designed links. Only links golf resort in a capital city. Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links is an oasis for golfers looking for a true links experience near the buzzing metropolis of Dublin.



The Royal Dublin Golf Club
North Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount, Dublin 3

Tel 353 (0) 1 833 6346
Email info@theroyaldublingolfclub.com
Web www.theroyaldublingolfclub.com
Course Links
Length 7,269 yards
Par 72

Founded in 1885, Royal Dublin provides a traditional championship links test, which was recently re-designed by Martin Hawtree. The signature "garden" hole has a 483 yard dog-leg with the green located under the clubhouse windows, and has been the scene of many exciting finishes in tournament golf. Green fees: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday €150. Friday to Sunday €160.



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buzzy ambience".*

New York Times

A: 7 Ballsbridge Terrace Ballsbridge Dublin 4 **T:** 00353-1 6682611 **E:** ireland@rolysbistro.ie **W:** www.rolysbistro.ie

The Royal Dublin Golf Club



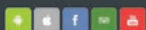
On an island in Dublin Bay, you'll find a natural golf links fashioned in a classic style in the early part of the last century by the great Harry Colt.

Over the years, many of the legends of golf have played here. Now the course has been enhanced for the modern era by Martin Hawtree, making one of Ireland's greatest golfing tests, well, even greater.

Green fees: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday €150. Friday to Sunday €160

The Royal Dublin Golf Club, North Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount, Dublin 3, Ireland

[+353 1 8336346](tel:+35318336346) info@theroyaldublingolfclub.com www.theroyaldublingolfclub.com



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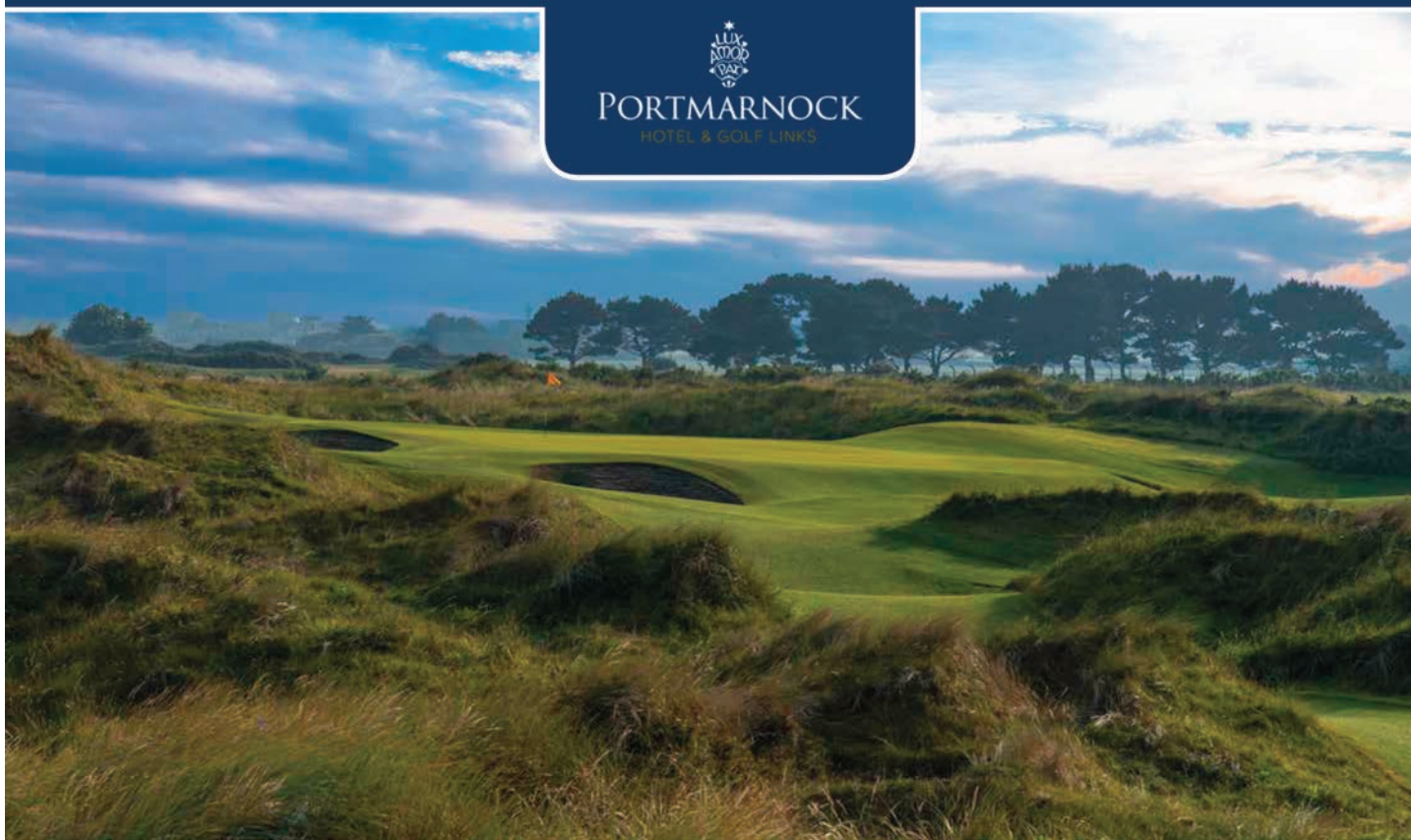


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Club listings in Dublin

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Blackhall, Balbriggan, Co Dublin
www.balbriggangolfclub.com
balbriggangolfclub@eircom.net
00 353 (0) 1 841 2229

Balcarrick

Corballis, Donabate, Co Dublin
www.balcarrickgolfclub.com
baccarr@iol.ie
00 353 (0) 1 843 6957

Ballinascorney

Oldfield, Kilmashogue Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
www.ballinascorneygc.com
info@ballinascorneygc.com
00 353 (0) 1 493 7755

Beaverstown

Beaverstown, Donabate, Co Dublin
www.beaverstown.com
office@beaverstown.com
00 353 (0) 1 843 6439

Beech Park

Johnstown, Rathcoole, Co Dublin
www.beechpark.ie
info@beechpark.ie
00 353 (0) 1 458 0522

Carrickmines

Golf Lane, Carrickmines, Dublin 18
www.carrickminesgolfclub.ie
info@carrickminesgolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 295 5972

Castle

Woodside Drive, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14
www.castlegc.ie
info@castlegc.ie
00 353 (0) 1 490 4207

Castleknock

Porterstown Road, Dublin 15
www.castleknockgolfclub.ie
info@castleknockgolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 640 8736

Citywest

Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co Dublin
www.citywesthotel.com
proshop@citywesthotel.com
00 353 (0) 1 401 0878

Clontarf

Donnycarney House, Malahide Road, Dublin 3
www.clontarfgolfclub.ie
info@clontarfgolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 833 1892

Corballis Links

Corballis Road, Donabate, Co Dublin
www.corballislinks.com
info@corballislinks.com
00 353 (0) 1 843 6583

Corrstown

Corrstown, Kilsallaghan, Co Dublin
www.corrstowngolfclub.com
info@corrstowngolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 1 8640533

Deer Park

Deer Park Hotel, Howth Demesne, Howth, Co Dublin
www.deerparkgolfclub.com
sales@deerparkgolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 1 832 2624

Donabate

Balcarrick, Donabate, Co Dublin
www.donabategolfclub.com
info@donabategolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 1 843 6346

Dublin City

Ballinascorney, Tallaght, Dublin 24
www.dublincitygolf.net
info@dublincitygolf.com

00 353 (0) 1 451 6430

Dun Laoghaire

Ballyman Road, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow
www.dunlaoghairegolfclub.ie
golf@dlgc.ie
00 353 (0) 1 2721866

Edmondstown

Edmondstown Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
www.edmondstowngolfclub.ie
info@edmondstowngolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 493 1082

Elm Park

Nutley House, Nutley Lane, Donnybrook, Dublin 4
www.elmparkgolfclub.ie
office@elmparkgolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 269 3438

Elmgreen

Castleknock, Dublin 15
www.elmgreengolfclub.ie
admin@elmgreengolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 823 4671

Forrest Little

Cloghran, Swords, Co Dublin
www.forrestlittle.ie
margaret@forrestlittle.ie
00 353 (0) 1 840 1763

Foxrock

Torquay Rd, Foxrock, Dublin 18
www.foxrockgolfclub.com
fgc@indigo.ie
00 353 (0) 1 289 3992

Glencullen

Glencullen, Co Dublin
www.glencullengolfclub.com
info@glencullengolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 1 2940898

Grange

Whitechurch Road, Rathfarmhan, Dublin 14
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Grange Castle

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Hazel Grove

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Hermitage

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00 353 (0) 1 626 8491

Hollystown

Hollystown, Dublin 15
www.hollystown.com
info@hollystown.com
00 353 (0) 1 820 7444

Hollywood Lakes

Ballyboughal, Co Dublin
www.hollywoodlakesgolfclub.com
secretary@hollywoodlakesgolfclub.com
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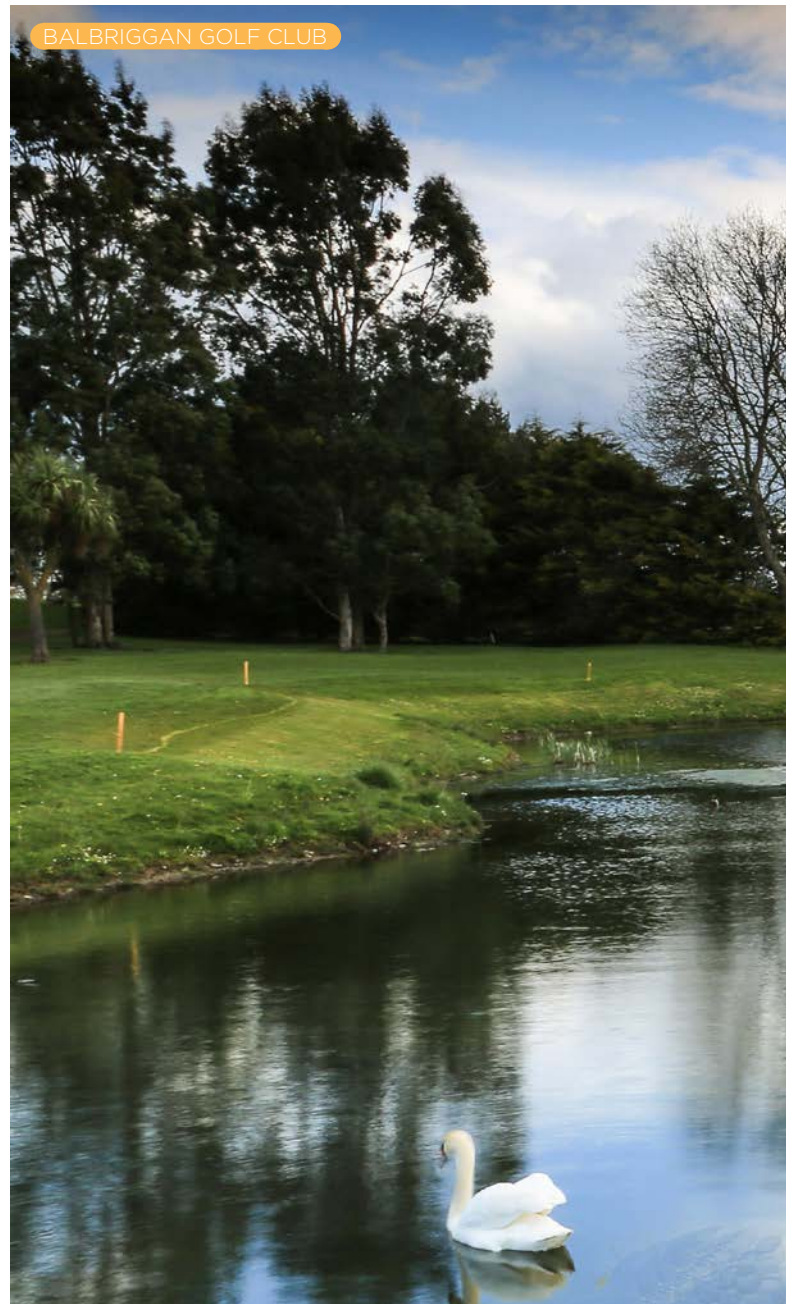
Howth

Carrickbrack Road, Sutton, Dublin 13
www.howthgolfclub.ie
secretary@howthgolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 832 3055

Killiney

Ballinclea Road, Killiney, Co Dublin

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www.killineygolfclub.ie
killineygolfclub@eircom.net
00 353 (0) 1 285 1983

Kilmashogue

St Columba's College, Whitechurch, Dublin 16
www.kilmashoguegc.ie
kilmashoguegc@eircom.net
00 353 (0) 1 495 2237

Leopardstown

Leopardstown Race Course, Foxrock, Dublin 18
www.golf.leopardstown.com
info@leopardstowngolfcentre.com
00 353 (0) 1 2895341

Lucan

Celbridge Road, Lucan, Co Dublin
www.lucangolfclub.ie
admin@lucangolf.ie
00 353 (0) 1 628 2106

Luttrelstown Castle

Porterstown Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15
www.luttrelstowncastlegolf.com
info@luttrelstown.ie
00 353 (0) 1 8609600

Malahide

Beechwood, The Grange, Malahide, Co Dublin
www.malahidegolfclub.ie
manager@malahidegolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 8461611

Milltown

Lower Churchtown Road, Dublin 14
www.milltowngolfclub.ie
info@milltowngolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 1 497 6090

Newlands

Newlands Cross, Dublin 22
www.newlandsgolfclub.com
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Portmarnock

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 00 353 (0) 1 493 1201

Roganstown

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Rush

Sandyhills, Rush, Co Dublin
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info@rushgolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 1 843 8177

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info@sillogeparkgolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 1 842 9956

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admin@skerriesgolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 1 849 1567

Slade Valley

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www.sladevalleygolfclub.ie
info@sladevalleygolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 1 458 2183

St. Anne's

Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount, Dublin 5
www.stanneslinksgolf.com
info@stanneslinksgolf.com
 00 353 (0) 1 833 6471

St. Margarets

St. Margarets, Co Dublin
www.stmargaretsgolf.com
reservations@stmargaretsgolf.com
 00 353 (0) 1 864 0400

Stackstown

Kelystown Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
www.stackstowngolfclub.ie
manager@stackstowngolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 1 4941993

Sutton

Cush Point, Sutton, Dublin 13
www.suttongolfclub.org
info@suttongolfclub.org
 00 353 (0) 1 832 3013

Swords Open

Balheary Ave., Swords, Co Dublin
www.swordsopengolfcourse.com
info@swordsopengolfcourse.com
 00 353 (0) 1 840 9819

The Island

Corballis, Donabate, Co Dublin
www.theislandgolfclub.com
info@theislandgolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 1 843 6205

The Royal Dublin

North Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount, Dublin 3
www.theroyaldublingolfclub.com
info@theroyaldublingolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 1 833 6346

Westmanstown

Clonsilla, Dublin 15
www.westmanstowngolfclub.ie
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Nearby Golf Courses:

Royal Dublin, Portmarnock, K Club, Druids Glen



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Email booking@thegrand.ie
Web www.thegrand.ie

Grand Hotel Malahide offers stunning coastal views in many of the 203 bedrooms including 2 Penthouse Suites. Facilities include 2 bars, Coast Restaurant, Conference Suites & the Arena Fitness Centre & Pool. Malahide, a fabulous coastal village with interesting shops, restaurants & pubs, is only 9km from Dublin airport and close to the city centre. There are many great links and parkland courses in the area.

Nearby Golf Courses: Portmarnock GC, Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links, The Island, The Royal Dublin GC



King Sitric Fish Restaurant & Accommodation

East Pier, Howth, Co Dublin

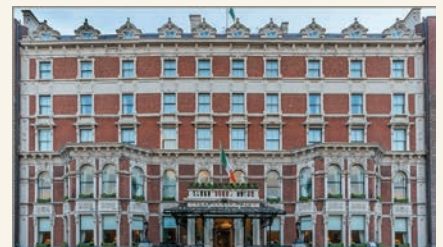
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Established in 1971 Aidan and Joan MacManus have earned an international reputation for fresh seafood and hospitality in their harbour-side restaurant in the picturesque fishing village of Howth. Eight guest rooms, all with sea views. Lots to do - stay a few days! Dublin City is 25 min by DART. Airport is 25 mins drive.

Nearby Golf Courses: Portmarnock, Royal Dublin, Howth, The Island, The K Club, St. Margaret's, Luttrellstown



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Nearby Golf Courses: Portmarnock, Royal Dublin, The Island, Powerscourt, K Club, Druids Glen





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Counties in this section: **Carlow, Cavan, Cork, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow**

Come to Ireland's Ancient East and you'll find 5000 years of history, in lush green landscapes, and some of the best places to play golf on this wonderful island as well

From megalithic tombs to medieval monasteries, Ireland's Ancient East is a treasure trove of history as well as a golfing paradise.

According to legend, St Patrick baptised his first convert near the spot where the River Nanny meets the sea at Laytown, or An Inse, a place of great natural beauty, and the setting for one of the finest and lesser known

links courses in Laytown and Bettystown.

The history of the club starts in 1885, when Tom Gilroy, a retired Scottish banker and golf enthusiast, built a rudimentary course amongst the dunes that meander along the coast from Laytown to the Elizabethan Maiden's Tower at Mornington, overlooking the famous Boyne estuary.





**IRELAND'S
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Wander Through Time



K CLUB PALMER COURSE



COUNTY LOUTH GOLF CLUB

K CLUB - PALMER

Built by King Henry II of England, in the 12th century, Trim Castle features prominently in the 1995 Mel Gibson blockbuster "Braveheart" and is one of many fascinating ancient sites in the area.

As the land here was plagued by rabbits, Gilroy eventually abandoned his private course and headed across the river to Baltray, where he helped found County Louth Golf Club in 1892.

Happily for a century of golfers at Laytown & Bettystown, this decision did not mean the end of golf on the south side of the river. Indeed, golf has thrived in Ireland over the past 150 years and while the "Wild Atlantic Way" has its great golfing charms, the Ancient East is replete with both great golf and amazing historical sites that date from pre-Christian and early Christian times to the medieval period.

Fortunately, Ireland's golfing and cultural gems now sit side by side in places like Kells in County Meath, where the famous Book of Kells was created and kept for centuries before it was moved to Trinity College library in Dublin.

Kells is now popular with golfers thanks to Headfort Golf Club, where the New Course designed by the late Christy O'Connor Jnr is one of the best in the country.

By making maximum use of its trees, water and natural features, O'Connor Jnr created a stunning course with some of the best par-threes in the country.

Headfort boasts two courses that take full advantage of the natural beauty of one of Ireland's oldest and finest estates. But if you head further east toward the coast, you come to the port town of Drogheda on the banks of the River Boyne.

Oliver Cromwell put nearly 3,500 townsfolk to the sword there in the late 17th century but today, it is one of the centres of golfing excellence with three great links courses within a few minutes' drive of the town centre.

On the north side of Drogheda, near the village of Baltray, County Louth Golf Club lies side by side with the newer Seapoint Golf Links. On the southern bank of the river in neighbouring County Meath, lies what became Gilroy's sporting links at Laytown and Bettystown.

Laytown's links is easily identifiable from afar as the Elizabethan Maiden Tower and the Lady's Finger at Mornington at the north end of the links. Folkloric tales have sprung up about both structures but it is likely, given Drogheda's links to the river and the sea, that they were navigational aids.

Nearby County Meath Golf Club, better known as Trim, is well worth a visit and the ideal excuse to go and see Trim Castle, the biggest Norman castle in Ireland and still well preserved.

Built by King Henry II of England, in the 12th century, it features prominently in the 1995 Mel Gibson blockbuster "Braveheart" and is one of many fascinating ancient sites in the area.

Nearby Killeen Castle is now home to a magnificent Jack Nicklaus designed golf course, which hosted the 2011 Solheim Cup, while next door lies Dunsany Castle, which is possibly Ireland's oldest home in continuous occupation, having been held by the Cusack family and their descendants from the 12th century to the present day.

Many great Irish Opens have been played at venues in and around Dublin, especially in the golfing heartland of Kildare.

The K Club's Arnold Palmer designed Ryder Cup course left an indelible mark on the Irish sporting psyche back in 2006 and did so again in 2016 when Rory McIlroy captured his first Irish Open there.

The great demesne at Carton House is well worth a visit, where you tee off the first in County Meath and, with any luck, your drive should land in County Kildare on the



TRIM CASTLE



forms part of the Irish Mythological Cycle.

Nearby New Forest in County Westmeath, designed by former amateur legend Peter McEvoy, is an undulating parkland gem featuring some of the finest putting surfaces and fairways in Ireland.

Head slightly further north to counties Cavan, Monaghan, Longford and Roscommon and there is an ancient world waiting to be discovered.

Bordered by six counties - Leitrim to the west, Fermanagh and Monaghan to the north, Meath to the south-east, Longford to the south-west and Westmeath to the south - Cavan is known as "The Lakeland County" as it has 365 lakes, one for each day of the year.

Its name in Gaelic is "An Cabhan", an old Irish word meaning "The Hollow", which perfectly describes a land that's ideal if you want to relax and escape the stresses of daily life.

Its difficult terrain of lakes and drumlins made it easier for the natives to defend themselves from attack. But it's also perfect for creating stunning golf courses and there are several in the county from the magnificent Slieve Russell Hotel and County Club in Ballyconnell and the Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Golf and Spa Resort to storied County Cavan Golf Club or nine-hole gems such as Belturbet, Blacklion or Virginia.

Nearby County Monaghan, bordering Northern Ireland, is now hugely popular with golfers with the creation just a few years ago of Concra Wood Golf Club in Castleblayney by the late Christy O'Connor Jnr, gloriously set on the backdrop of Lough Muckno. Known as the Drumlin county, from the Irish words for "littlest ridge", some other great courses to try include Rossmore Golf Club and Nuremore Hotel and Country Club.

County Longford, home of the Legend 'The Wooing of Étain', is a place of magic, myth and mystery.

But it also has its own 18-hole championship golf course in Longford town which is ideally located in the heart of the 'Lakelands and Inland Waterways' region, making it a perfect place for those with a love of water sports.

High kings, stately houses, subterranean

other side of the River Rye.

It's an historic venue that has played host to everyone, from Queen Victoria to Peter Sellers and is home to the Golfing Union of Ireland as well as two great courses, the Montgomerie and O'Meara.

Wicklow is beautiful and the 'Garden of Ireland' boasts wonderful landscapes, where you can visit the ancient monastic settlement at Glendalough - literally "The Valley of the Two Lakes" - and admire the round towers the monks built as protection against raiding Vikings as well as take in the breath-taking scenery.

Within the limits of the M50 motorway there are many Wicklow courses worth the trip, from wonderful Woodbrook, hard on the coast on the Wicklow border, to 2016 Curtis Cup venue Dun Laoghaire. Don't forget to play the world-class links at The European Club, 'Ireland's Augusta' Woodenbridge, or Paul McGinley's Macreddin Golf Club either.

The magnificent Druids Glen in Wicklow is where Sergio Garcia won his first professional event - the 1999 Irish Open - or Seve Ballesteros famously defeated Colin Montgomerie in one of the great head-to-head matches in Seve Trophy history.

In Laois, the stunning Heritage Resort and Spa in Killenard was created by the great Seve

Ballesteros in partnership with Jeff Howes. It's a special place and so well built that it's playable all through the winter and spring, no matter how much rain might fall.

These renowned venues boast on site accommodation of the highest order to match the championship golf on offer, plus benefit from their easy access to Dublin's city centre.

There are several fine castles in County Westmeath but one of the more interesting is Killua Castle near Clonmellon. Around 200 metres from the house lies an obelisk, erected in 1810 by Sir Thomas Chapman, which marks the position where Sir Walter Raleigh planted some of the first potatoes he imported to Ireland.

Head south from Clonmellon and you come to the great market town of Mullingar. Famous for the annual Scratch Trophy, the 72-hole tournament at Mullingar Golf Club has been won by the likes of Rory McIlroy, Darren Clarke and Shane Lowry.

The town is also renowned for its neighbouring lakes - Lough Owel, Lough Ennell and Lough Derravaragh - which attract many anglers.

Lough Derravaragh is also known for its connection with the Irish legend of the Children of Lir - four children changed into swans by their wicked stepmother - which

mine tours and a jail reputed to have had the only hangwoman in Ireland - Lady Betty - are just a taste of what lies in store in Roscommon.

But there is also great golf on offer at nine-hole tracks such as Strokestown, Castlereagh, Boyle and Ballaghaderreen or more demanding 18-hole tests such as Carrick on Shannon, Roscommon or Athlone on the shores of Lough Ree.

Head south through Roscommon and you will find yourself in the Faithful County of Offaly, famous for its bogs, which have gifted Ireland a treasure trove of Bronze Age artefacts that date to between 6,800 – 6,000 BCE.

The Dowris Hoard, dating from the late Bronze Age and discovered in a bog at Dowris near Birr, is the largest collection of Bronze Age objects ever found in Ireland and includes more than 200 items including spearheads, axes, trumpets, and crotals (a kind of bell or chime instrument, unique to Ireland).

Of course, you will have your own weapons for golf at great venues such as Tullamore or Esker Hills, where Offaly native Lowry learned the game.

Counties such as Carlow, Kilkenny, Cork, and Limerick are also replete with history, culture and wonderful golf courses.

Carlow Golf Club, regarded as one of the finest of the older parkland courses in Ireland, hosts the annual Midland Scratch Cup that's been captured by many of the game's greats.

There are other nearby gems such as Mount Wolseley or Mount Juliet in County Kilkenny, which twice hosted the WGC-American Express Championship with Tiger Woods and Ernie Els emerging with victories.

Mount Juliet Estate has always been one of those special places of Irish golf but nothing brings the colour back to your cheeks like a massive injection of capital.

To that end, an investment by the new owners in excess of €4 million has made one of Ireland's most luxurious parkland enclaves an even bigger treat than it was when it first opened in 1991, exactly 25 years ago.

It's a venue that's famous for attracting repeat business from its loyal customers and that's no surprise considering the charms of the spectacular, yet fair, Jack Nicklaus designed course.

Every golfer who takes on this Nicklaus delight - a par 72 that can play up to 7,300 yards from the championship tees - will leave with happy memories of some great holes, some delightful countryside and perhaps even a glimpse of the wandering pheasants.

Once the medieval capital of Ireland, Kilkenny has a rich medieval heritage visible though its narrow streetscapes, its historical buildings and landmarks.

It is far older than that however, with St Canice (who gives Kilkenny its name)

One of Irish golf's historic clubs, Cork Golf Club was formed in 1888 by prominent Cork businessmen undergoing a major redesign by Dr Alister MacKenzie - the future designer of Augusta National, Cypress Point, Royal Melbourne and Pasatiempo - in 1926.



CORK GOLF CLUB

founding a monastic settlement there in the 6th century.

Cork city is the third biggest on the island and a treat for the visitor with a host of attractions for lovers of music, the arts and sport.

Not only are you within a short drive of the Blarney Stone, it's also a great place to golf with up to a dozen clubs within easy reach from historic Cork Golf Club and the newer but equally challenging championship courses at the Fota Island Resort to such traditional gems as Douglas, Mahon, Lee Valley or Muskerry.

One of Irish golf's historic clubs, Cork Golf Club was formed in 1888 by prominent Cork businessmen undergoing a major redesign by Dr Alister MacKenzie - the future designer of Augusta National, Cypress Point, Royal Melbourne and Pasatiempo - in 1926.

The good doctor proposed three entirely new holes, created new greens and, radically, installed sand filled bunkers. The MacKenzie course has remained largely unchanged as the club hosted dozens of major championships

and though it has been considerably upgraded and modernised with the help of top designer Frank Pennick and Dave Thomas, it remains a huge favourite.

You can head back towards the east coast and Dublin via Limerick, where there is excellent golf to be played at Limerick Golf Club, where Tiger Woods teed it up in the JP McManus Pro-Am in 2000.

The event was held on the other side of Limerick in 2005 and 2010 when Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort played host and millionaire businessman McManus was clearly impressed as he bought the property for a reported €30m in 2014.

A 7,453-yard masterpiece, which was the last major golf course designed by Trent Jones Senior, opened in 1995 before shooting to fame worldwide in 2007 when Pádraig Harrington became the first home winner of the Irish Open for 25 years.

The hotel, built in the gothic style, is Lord Dunraven's former home with its 52 chimneys to commemorate each week of the year, 75 fire



DUNDRUM HOUSE



ROSSLARE GOLF CLUB



MOUNT WOLSELEY

places and 365 leaded glass windows.

Major improvements to the hotel and course in progress at this wonderful, 840-acre 18th century estate complete with spectacular manor house and an adjoining spa, with the new-look hotel scheduled to re-open to the public in autumn 2017.

Explore the Viking Quarter in Waterford, home to great courses such as Waterford Castle, West Waterford and Tramore or head off for the day to see Hook Head Lighthouse in County Wexford and take in a game on the superb links at Rosslare Golf Club along the way or wonderful Faithlegg House Hotel and Golf Resort.

A true championship course, this enticing parkland challenge was designed by the great Patrick Merrigan, taking advantage of mature trees, rolling parkland and no fewer than five lakes.

Now a thriving resort that's popular with golfers and families alike, it seems incredible to think that 24 years have passed since it opened in 1993, going on to host the Ladies

Irish Open Championship in 2000 and 2001 and the PGA Europro Tour's Irish stop from 2007 to 2009.

It certainly carries Merrigan's familiar stamp of difficulty - undulating greens, water hazards and perfectly placed sand traps - all of which, complete and heighten the challenge.

Faithlegg offered Merrigan a perfect canvas to display his artistry and he did it justice, seamlessly working the holes into a wonderful, rolling landscape and allowing the great, mature trees of the historic estate to frame his creations.

Merrigan's trademark undulating greens and cleverly placed water hazards add to the difficulty of holes that often offer the rookie player an easy option from the tee before presenting him with a tougher question on the approach.

The course layout is exemplified by its memorable finishing holes with the 16th, 17th and 18th providing an exhilarating end to a golfing that is proving increasingly attractive to groups from all over Ireland.

There are few greener counties in Ireland than Tipperary and it's no surprise that it's also home to some wonderful parkland courses from Clonmel and Cahir Park to the Philip Walton designed Dundrum House, Tipperary Golf Club, Ballykisteen Golf and Country Club or Thurles Golf Club

The county is brimming with wonderful attractions such as the Rock of Cashel - a spectacular collection of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale.

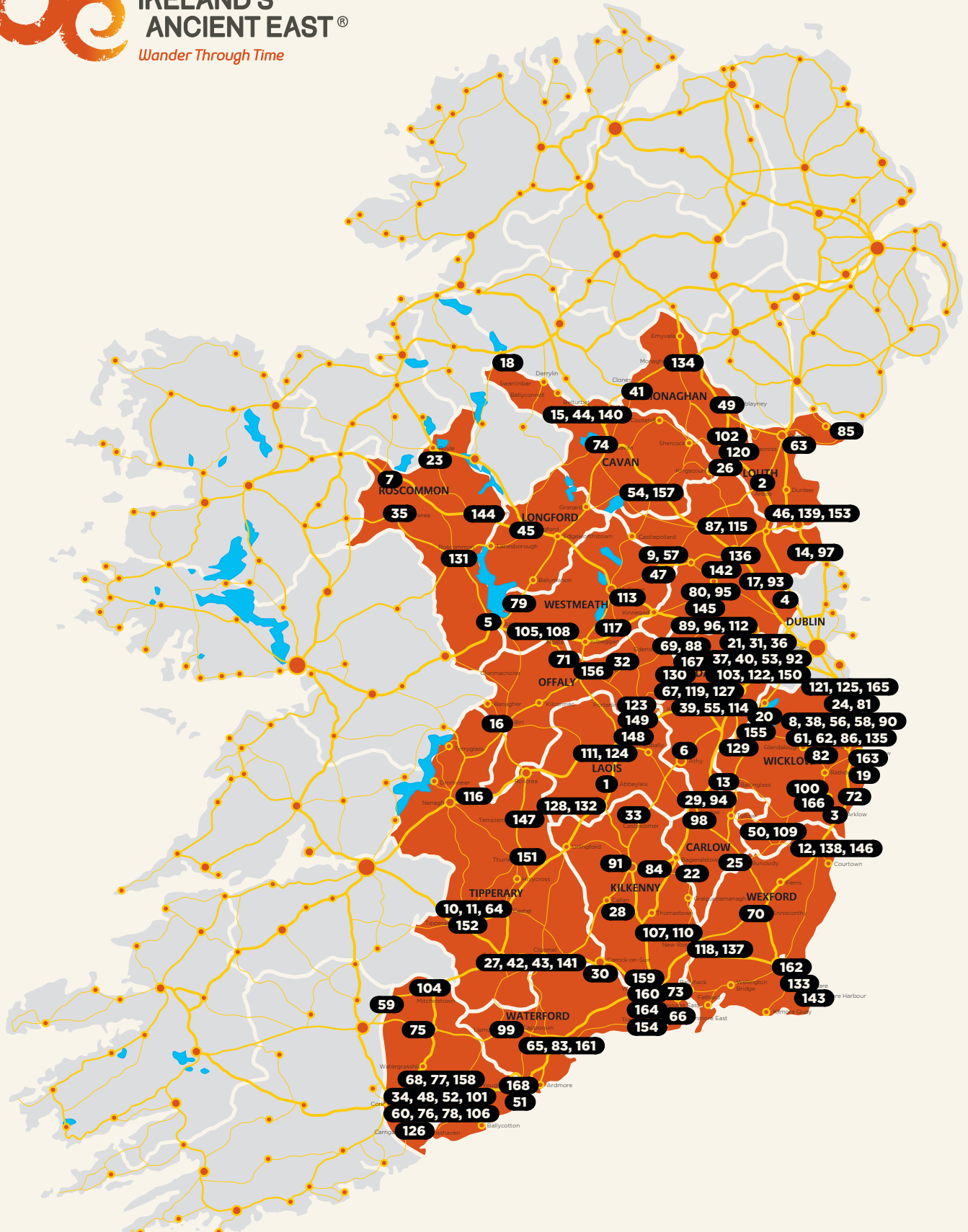
The ruins include a 12th century round tower, high cross, Romanesque chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century castle and the Hall of the Vicars and it is believed to be the place where St Patrick converted the King of Munster in the 5th century.

Walks in the spectacular natural surroundings of the Glen of Aherlow, just a few miles west of Cashel, are not to be missed either. The Galtee Mountains have long been known as a walker's paradise and the Glen of Aherlow has a variety of mapped walking routes across forest tracks and open moorland.



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A-Z GOLF COURSES IN IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

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|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Abbeyleix | 58. Djouce | 115. Navan | 143. St. Helen's Bay |
| 2. Ardee | 59. Doneraile | 116. Nenagh | 144. Strokestown |
| 3. Arklow | 60. Douglas | 117. New Forest | 145. Summerhill |
| 4. Ashbourne | 61. Druid's Glen | 118. New Ross | 146. Tara Glen |
| 5. Athlone | 62. Druid's Heath | 119. Newbridge | 147. Templemore |
| 6. Athy | 63. Dundalk | 120. Nuremore | 148. The Heath |
| 7. Ballaghaderreen | 64. Dundrum House | 121. Old Conna | 149. The Heritage |
| 8. Ballinastoe | 65. Dungarvan | 122. Palmerstown Stud | 150. The K Club |
| 9. Ballinlough Castle | 66. Dunmore East | 123. Portarlinton | 151. Thurles |
| 10. Ballykisteon | 67. Dunmurry Springs | 124. Portlaoise | 152. Tipperary |
| 11. Ballykisteon Hotel
& Golf Resort | 68. East Cork | 125. Powerscourt | 153. Townley Hall |
| 12. Ballymoney | 69. Edenderry | 126. Raffeen Creek | 154. Tramore |
| 13. Baltinglass | 70. Enniscorthy | 127. Rathcore | 155. Tulfarris |
| 14. Bellewstown | 71. Esker Hills | 128. Rathdowney | 156. Tullamore |
| 15. Belturbet | 72. European | 129. Rathsallagh | 157. Virginia |
| 16. Birr | 73. Faithlegg | 130. Ringenane | 158. Water Rock |
| 17. Black Bush | 74. Farnham Estate | 131. Roscommon | 159. Waterford |
| 18. Blacklion | 75. Fermoy | 132. Roscrea | 160. Waterford Castle |
| 19. Blainroe | 76. Fernhill | 133. Rosslare | 161. West Waterford |
| 20. Blessington Lakes | 77. Fota Island | 134. Rossmore | 162. Wexford |
| 21. Bodinstown | 78. Frankfield | 135. Roundwood | 163. Wicklow |
| 22. Borris | 79. Glasson | 136. Royal Tara | 164. Williamstown |
| 23. Boyle | 80. Glebe | 137. Scarke | 165. Woodbrook |
| 24. Bray | 81. Glen of the Downs | 138. Seafield | 166. Woodenbridge |
| 25. Bunclody | 82. Glenmalure | 139. Seapoint | 167. Woodlands |
| 26. Cabra Castle | 83. Goldcoast | 140. Slieve Russell | 168. Youghal |
| 27. Cahir Park | 84. Gowran Park | 141. Slievenamon | |
| 28. Callan | 85. Greenore | 142. South Meath | |
| 29. Carlow | 86. Greystones | | |
| 30. Carrick-on-suir | 87. Headfort | | |
| 31. Carton House | 88. Highfield | | |
| 32. Castle Barna | 89. Kilcock | | |
| 33. Castlecomer | 90. Kilcoole | | |
| 34. Castlemartyr | 91. Kilkenny | | |
| 35. Castlereagh | 92. Killeen | | |
| 36. Castlewarden | 93. Killeen Castle | | |
| 37. Celbridge Elmhall | 94. Killerig | | |
| 38. Charlesland | 95. Knightsbrook | | |
| 39. Cill Dara | 96. Knockanally | | |
| 40. Clane | 97. Laytown &
Bettystown | | |
| 41. Clones | 98. Leinster Hills | | |
| 42. Clonmel | 99. Lismore | | |
| 43. Clonmel Golf Club | 100. Macreddin | | |
| 44. Co Cavan | 101. Mahon | | |
| 45. Co Longford | 102. Mannan Castle | | |
| 46. Co Louth | 103. Millicent | | |
| 47. Co Meath | 104. Mitchelstown | | |
| 48. Cobh | 105. Moate | | |
| 49. Concra Wood | 106. Monkstown | | |
| 50. Coolattin | 107. Mount Juliet | | |
| 51. Cork | 108. Mount Temple | | |
| 52. Courtown | 109. Mount Wolseley | | |
| 53. Craddockstown | 110. Mountain View | | |
| 54. Crover House | 111. Mountrath | | |
| 55. Curragh | 112. Moyvalley | | |
| 56. Delgany | 113. Mullingar | | |
| 57. Delvin Castle | 114. Naas | | |





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- Tuition
- Food & Drink
- Buggy hire



Arklow Golf Club

Abbeylands, Arklow, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0)402 32492
Email info@arklowgolfinks.com
Web www.arklowgolfinks.com
Course Links
Length 6,505 yards
Par Men 69/Ladies 72

Only 50 minutes from Dublin and enjoyed since 1927, one of Golf Digest's top Irish Golf Courses, Arklow Championship Golf Links is home to The Irish PGA Club Professional Tournament, where Hazel Kavanagh made history in 2014. This traditional links has been described as a "hidden jewel" and can be enjoyed all year round and is open to visitors Monday-Sunday with rates from €20 to €60.

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Athlone Golf Club

Hodson Bay, Athlone, Co Roscommon

Tel 090 6492073
Email athlonegolfclub@gmail.com
Web www.athlonegolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6160 / 5100 metres
Par 71 Men / 75 Ladies

Celebrating 125 years of golf, Athlone Golf Club is a superb 18 hole parkland course situated on the shores of Lough Ree in the centre of Ireland. With its undulating fairways and stunning views of the lake, you could play it 100 times and each time would be a new and exciting experience. Come and see for yourself! Summer rates from €30 and winter rates from €20.

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Blainroe Golf Club

Blainroe, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0)404 68168
Email info@blainroe.com
Web www.blainroe.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,800 yards
Par 72

With sea views from all 18 holes, this enjoyable and challenging USGA spec course carries the prestigious Hawthtree & Son design signature. Host of the Irish Seniors and many other championship events. Golf buggies available, visitors welcome everyday. Book online for best available rates. A Fáilte Ireland quality assured course. Green fees: from €25-€50.

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Bray Golf Club

Greystones Road, Bray, Co Wicklow

Tel 01 276 3200
Email info@braygolfclub.com
Web www.braygolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,652 metres
Par 71

Bray Golf Club, the first stop for golf in Wicklow, 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. A "MUST PLAY" golf course.

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Bunclody Golf & Fishing Club

Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co Wexford

Tel 353 (0) 53 9374444
Email proshop@bunclodygfc.ie
Web www.bunclodygfc.ie
Course Parkland
Length 7,164 yards
Par 72

Bunclody Golf & Fishing Club is situated on 300 acres of breathtaking parkland on the banks of the River Slaney. The all weather course ensures the opportunity to enjoy golf at anytime of year, followed by the comfort of the traditionally thatched clubhouse for a relaxing drink or meal in the panoramic bar. PGA Pro: Gary McLean, Pro Shop Manager: Caroline Dunne. Green fees: from €25-€55.

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Clonmel Golf Club

Clonmel, Co Tipperary

Tel 353 0 526124050
Email cgc@indigo.ie
Web www.clonmelgolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,821 metres
Par 71

A well developed parkland course with good variety of holes presenting a test for golfers of all handicaps. Set in the foothills of the Comeragh Mountains, 5km south east of Clonmel Town, with magnificent views of Clonmel and across the valley of the River Suir with Slievenamon in the background.

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County Cavan Golf Club

Drumelis, Cavan, Co Cavan

Tel 00353494331388
Email info@cavangolf.ie
Web www.cavangolf.ie
Course Parkland
Length 5,627 metres
Par 70

Enjoy a unique golfing experience in the Lakeland Region. Many of our fairways are lined with mature trees, in particular the last 4 holes. This is sure to provide you with an enjoyable and unforgettable experience. Visitors and societies welcome. Open singles Thursdays €15. Green Fees €20 - €25. Visit website for special offers.



County Louth Golf Club

Baltray, Drogheda, Co Louth

Tel 00 353 41 9881530
Email liam@countylouthgolfclub.com
Web www.countylouthgolfclub.com
Course Links
Length 6,328 metres
Par 72

Classic traditional Links course located on Ireland's East coast, one hour north of Dublin. Host to many Championships over it's 125 years, including the Irish Open in 2004 and 2009. A member owned club that offers a warm welcome to visitors from all over the world.



Concra Wood Golf & Country Club

Castleblayney, Co Monaghan

Tel 353 (0) 42 974 9485
Email info@concrowood.ie
Web www.concrowood.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,048 Metres
Par 72

Concra Wood Golf and Country Club was designed by Christy O'Connor Junior and Christy O'Connor Senior. We have now hosted three PGA Europro Tour Events. Eleven holes lure you to the water's edge, promising danger and excitement time and again. It is a stern and beautiful test of golf, whatever your ability. Green fees available on request.



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With sea views from all 18 holes, this enjoyable and challenging USGA spec course carries the prestigious Hawtree & Son design signature. Host of the Irish Seniors and many other championship events. Golf buggies available, visitors welcome everyday. Book online for best available rates. A Failte Ireland quality assured course. Green fees: from €25-€50.



Blainroe Golf Club

Blainroe, Co. Wicklow

'A Hawtree Design'

Book tee-times online at www.blainroe.com

Tel: 0404 68168
Email: info@blainroe.com



Bray Golf Club, the first stop for golf in Wicklow, 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. A "Must Play" golf course.

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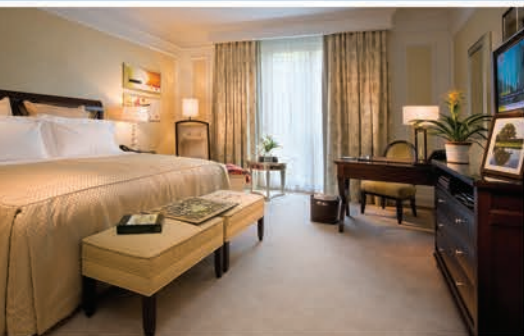
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IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

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Cork Golf Club

Little Island, Co Cork

Tel 353 (0) 21 4353451
Email info@corkgolfclub.ie
Web www.corkgolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,192 metres
Par 72

Founded in 1888 and redesigned in 1924 by Alister MacKenzie, Cork Golf Club has matured to become one of the finest inland courses in Ireland. It has a unique location, situated as it is in a disused limestone quarry. Green fees €60/€65 and early bird €48.



Craddockstown Golf Club

Blessington Road, Naas, Co Kildare

Tel 353 (0)45 897610
Email enquiries@craddockstown.com
Web www.craddockstown.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,133 metres
Par 72

Craddockstown Golf Club is a top class golfing experience that is greatly complemented by a friendly and efficient service from the administrative, bar and catering staff. Society groups are guaranteed a memorable and enjoyable visit. Green fees: Mon - Thurs €25, Fri - Sun €30.



Douglas Golf Club

Maryborough Hill, Douglas, Cork

Tel 353 (0)21 489 5297
Email douglasgolf@eircom.net
Web www.douglasgolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 5,825 metres
Par 72

Awarded 'Golf Club of the Year 2016' by the Cork Business Awards, the course is maintained in immaculate condition and is renowned for having some of the best greens in Ireland. Spectacular views of Cork City and Harbour. Situated just 5 minutes from both Cork City-centre and Cork Airport. A must play course in Cork.

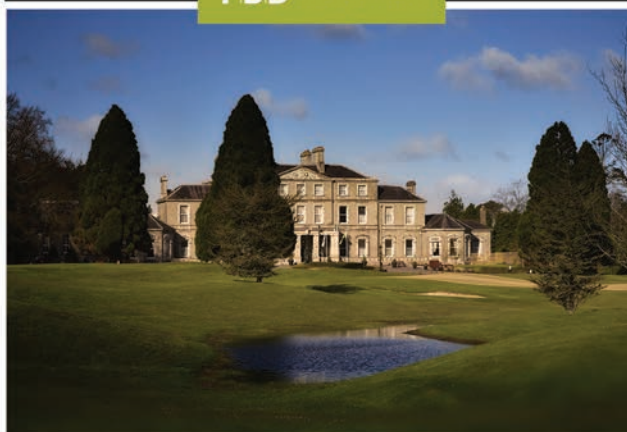


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FBD Hotels & Resorts





Druids Glen/Druids Heath Golf Club

Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (1) 287 0800
Email reservations@druidsglenresort.com
Web www.druidsglenresort.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,202 (Glen) / 6,049 (Heath)
Par 71 for each course

Druids Glen golf course known to many as the "Augusta of Europe" is famous for hosting the Irish Open for four consecutive years along with the prestigious Seve Trophy. Druids Heath course which hosted the Irish PGA Championships is known as "nature's gift to golf" and weaves its way around quarries, trees, lakes and pot bunkers. Green fees from €30 - €50 (Druids Heath) from €60 - €120 (Druids Glen).



Dundrum House Golf & Leisure Resort

Dundrum House Resort, Co Tipperary

Tel 353 (0)62 71717
Email golfshop@dundrumhouse.ie
Web www.dundrumhousehotel.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,922 m
Par 72

This magnificent 18 Hole Championship Course has been woven into the fabric of a mature Georgian Estate and is a real challenge to golfers of all levels. The Resort offers golf lodge accommodation adjacent to an excellent clubhouse and leisure club. Renowned for its warm, friendly welcome and great food. Green Fees from €20-€35.



Fota Island Resort

Fota Island, Co Cork

Tel 353 (0)21 488 3700
Email reservations@fotaisland.ie
Web www.fotaisland.ie
Course Parkland
Length 7043/7183/7416 Yards
Par 71/72/73

Fota Island Resort, host to the Irish Open 2001, 2002 and 2014, has three championship courses set amongst beautiful scenery and maintained to the highest standards. Fota Island Resort is the ideal venue for any golfing break with a five-star hotel and self-catering lodges available on site. Green fees: €80 to €100. Group and residential rates available.



KILLEEN CASTLE



Macreddin Golf Club

Designed by Ryder cup winning captain Paul McGinley

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- Dedicated short game practice are including putting green



One of the best and most unique parkland courses in Ireland
 Top 10 Sunday Times • 100 Golf Digest • 54 Golf World UK
 Meandering fairways, free flowing brooks, yellow blooms of Gorse and statuesque Pines are synonymous with Macreddin Golf Club. Designed by Ryder Cup winning Captain Paul McGinley. Paul has created a challenge for all golfers. Rated 9th best course in Ireland by the Sunday Times. Situated adjacent to the four star Brooklodge Hotel and Wells Spa in an area of outstanding natural beauty in the heart of the Wicklow countryside. Green Fees from €40 - €50.

Macreddin Village, Aughrim, Co Wicklow | Phone: 0402 36999 | Email: info@macreddingolfclub.com
www.macreddingolfclub.com




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golfreservations@mountjuliet.ie





Mount Juliet, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland
 E: golfreservations@mountjuliet.ie mountjuliet.ie

Venue for the WGC - American Express Golf Championship 2002 & 2004 and Irish Opens of 1993, 1994 & 1995.



Headfort Golf Club

Navan Road, Kells, Co Meath

Tel 353 (0)46 924 0146
Email info@headfortgolfclub.ie
Web www.headfortgolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length New 6,741 / Old 6,532 yards
Par 72

Established in 1928, Headfort Golf Club is one of the finest 36 hole complexes in Ireland. Headfort has two magnificent parkland courses, with the Christy O'Connor Jnr designed Headfort New course recently voted 6th highest ranked parkland course in Ireland. Green fees: contact club or see website for offers.



The K Club Palmer Course

Straffan, Co. Kildare

Tel 353 (0) 1 601 7200
Email sales@kclub.ie
Web www.kclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,720 metres
Par 72

Ranked regularly in the top 3 parkland golf courses in Ireland, this Palmer designed golf haven is a must play 'badge of honour' that has hosted the top golf players in the world. Recognised as one of Europe's most spectacular courses, the Palmer Ryder Cup Course features a dramatic layout with numerous water hazards.



The K Club Smurfit Course

Straffan, Co. Kildare

Tel 353 (0) 1 601 7200
Email sales@kclub.ie
Web www.kclub.ie
Course Links
Length 6,654 metres
Par 72

Described as the greatest inland golf course in Ireland, the Arnold Palmer designed Smurfit Course features a dramatic landscape with dune type mounding throughout and some 14 acres of water worked into the course design.



Kilcock Golf Club

Gallow, Kilcock, Co Meath

Tel 00353 1 628 7592
Email info@kilcockgolfclub.ie
Web www.kilcockgolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 5,870 metres
Par 72

Kilcock is a treat to play and easily accessible just off the M4. The course was recently renovated and includes USGA standard greens and fairways and has become known to have some of the best greens in the area. Combined with the uncluttered hole design this is a hidden gem that you must play.



MOUNT JULIET

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

- No. holes
- Club shop
- Practice Facilities
- Club hire
- Tuition
- Food & Drink
- Buggy hire

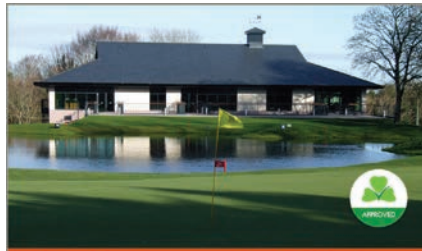


Killeen Castle Golf Club
Co Meath

Tel 353 (0) 1 6893000
Email info@killeencastle.com
Web www.killeencastle.com
Course Parkland
Length 7,019 metres
Par 72

In the grounds of one of Ireland's oldest and finest 12th century Norman castles, the 600 acre estate is home to a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course, Dave Pelz Scoring Game School and Foregolf. Proud host of the 2011 Solheim Cup.

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Monkstown Golf Club
Monkstown, Co Cork

Tel 353 (0) 21 484 1376
Email office@monkstowngolfclub.com
Web www.monkstowngolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,672 metres
Par 70

100 years old in 2008. Mature and scenic parkland course with a good variety of holes. Pleasant to play and presenting a good test to all standards of golfers. New clubhouse and well known for high standard of catering. Green fees: €30-€35.

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Mount Juliet Golf Club
Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

Tel 353 (0) 56 777 3000
Email msheehan@mountjuliet.ie
Web www.mountjuliet.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,600 metres
Par 72

Set on 500 acres of rolling pastures in Ireland's sunny South East, the course is both captivating and memorable. Mount Juliet is consistently regarded as Ireland's leading parkland golf course. Mount Juliet Golf Course has improved on an already outstanding layout and facilities, in its ongoing pursuit of golfing excellence - a perfect golfing venue.

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Moyvalley Hotel & Golf Resort
Moyvalley, Co Kildare

Tel 046 9548080
Email golf@moyvalley.com
Web www.moyvalley.com
Course Inland Links
Length 6,184 metres
Par 72

The Twin Oaks Championship Course at Moyvalley Hotel & Golf Resort was originally designed by Ryder Cup Captain Darren Clarke. It is an inland links design with tall fescue grass, grand putting surfaces with heavy contouring, run offs and firm surfaces. Title Sponsor & Host Venue of the 2016 & 2017 Irish PGA Championship. Green-fees from €50. Visit www.moyvalley.com for special offers.

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Palmerstown House Estate
Johnstown, Co. Kildare

Tel +353 4590 6901
Email golf@palmerstownhouse.ie
Web www.palmerstownhouse.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,750 metres
Par 72

Golfers of all skill levels will find enjoyment and challenge on our 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. The course presents players with feelings of tradition, excellence and quality.

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Powerscourt Golf Club

Enniskerry, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0) 1 204 6033
Email golf@powerscourt.net
Web powerscourtgolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 6416 metres
Par 72

Nestled in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains and surrounded by breath-taking views, The East & West Courses at Powerscourt Golf Club are a magnet for both novice and experienced golfers. With its spectacular vista, delectable food from a varied menu and friendly staff, Powerscourt has all the makings of a great day out!



Rathsallagh Golf Club

Dunlavin, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0)45 403316
Email golf@rathsallagh.com
Web www.rathsallaghgolf.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,984 metres
Par 72

Situated less than 50 minutes from dublin airport, Rathsallagh is a stunning parkland. 2017 green fees rates from €35 individual, €30 groups. Full bar & catering available. Buggies, Carts and Clubs for hire. Driving Range, Short Game practice area & Putting Green. Fully stocked Pro shop.



Rosslare Golf Club

Rosslare, Co Wexford

Tel 353 (0)53 9132203
Email office@rosslaregolf.com
Web www.rosslaregolf.com
Course Links
Length 6,800
Par 72

Rosslare Golf Links is the hidden gem of Irish links golf courses. Situated in the sunniest part of the country, it stands on a narrow peninsula with the Irish Sea on one side and the huge expanse of Wexford Harbour on the other. High Season €80.00. GUI /ILGU Rate €50.00 Wends €40.00 W.days. Shoulder Season and Low Season from €25.00. For group rates and special Offers call 053 9132203 or visit our website www.rosslaregolf.com.



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Sunday Independent.

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Email: info@headfortgolfclub.ie

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Website: www.headfortarms.ie

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Rathsallagh

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drink as you overlook the 18th hole.

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www.rathsallaghgolf.com

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The shape and flow of the golf course are perfectly complemented by the drumlins that roll across the countryside. This easy rhythm adds to the beauty and challenge of the course; and with 11 holes luring you to the waters edge, it promises a stern and beautiful test of golf whatever your ability.



For all golfing enquiries:
Call: 042 9749485 Email: Info@concrowood.ie Web: www.concrowood.ie

Address: Dundalk Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.
Just 15 minutes off Jct. 17 on the M1 at Dundalk, and 1 hour from Dublin and Belfast

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

No. holes Club shop Practice Facilities Club hire Tuition Food & Drink Buggy hire



Royal Tara Golf Club

Bellinter, Navan, Co Meath

Tel 353 (0)46 902 5508
Email info@royaltaragolfclub.com
Web www.royaltaragolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,980 metres
Par 72

Nestling at the base of the historic Hill of Tara in County Meath, Royal Tara Golf Club is among Ireland's most enjoyable and conveniently located golfing complexes with 27 holes set in mature parkland. All visitors are assured of a warm welcome to a royal golfing gem with terrific facilities. Venue for the All Ireland GUI Clubs Cups & Shields Finals 2013. Green fees: contact the club or see website for offers.

18 Club shop Practice Facilities Club hire Tuition Food & Drink Buggy hire



Seapoint Golf Links

Drogheda, Termonfeckin, Co Louth

Tel 353 (0)41 9822333
Email golflinks@seapoint.ie
Web www.seapointgolflinks.com
Course Links
Length 7,150 yards
Par 72

Seapoint is one of the most beautiful links courses in the world. Playing this course means you are becoming part of an exclusive club. Experience this impressive course on a stunning stretch of coastal land, with breathtaking views of the Mountains of Mourne alongside a sweeping Irish Sea. Green fees from €45-€100.

18 Club shop Practice Facilities Club hire Tuition Food & Drink Buggy hire



Tramore Golf Club

Newtown Hill, Tramore, Co Waterford

Tel 353 (0)51 386170
Email info@tramoregolfclub.com
Web www.tramoregolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length Old Course: 5,823 metres
 Newtown 9: 2,762 metres
Par 72 Old course, 35 Newtown

Tramore Golf Club is a superb parkland course redesigned by Jeff Howes. The Old Course, has hosted many championships and is a challenging test for golfers of all standards. An additional nine holes are quickly becoming established as a stern test in their own right and with our noted hospitality and welcome, Tramore is a must visit on any itinerary. Societies, club outings and individuals welcome. Green Fees: €35-€50

18 Club shop Practice Facilities Club hire Tuition Food & Drink Buggy hire



Tulfarris Golf Club

Blessington Lakes, Blessington, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0) 45 867609
Email proshop@tulfarris.com
Web www.tulfarrishotel.com
Course Parkland
Length 7,165 yards
Par 72

Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort offers a spectacular 18-hole lakeside golf experience. The luxurious four-star hotel and elegant 18th century manor, nestled amid 200 acres of mature woodland against the backdrop of Wicklow's rolling hills fuse seamlessly with the championship course to make the perfect golfing destination. Having hosted the Irish Seniors Open and PGA Championships, this Patrick Merrigan design is a must-play course. Green fees: €25 - €40.

18 Club shop Practice Facilities Club hire Tuition Food & Drink Buggy hire



KNIGHTSBROOK



Tullamore Golf Club

Brookfield, Tullamore, Co Offaly

Tel 353 (0)57 932 1439
Email tullamoregolfclub@eircom.net
Web www.tullamoregolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,472 yards
Par 70

Founded in 1896 and at its present venue since 1926, the course which was designed by James Braid was upgraded by Patrick Merrigan in the 1990s making it a memorable experience for golfers in all categories to enjoy. The course has been the venue for many championships including the GUI Cups & Shields finals. Green fees are from €30 to €38 with a Tuesday fourball €100. (Winter Deal: Nov & Mar €25 and Dec to Feb €20). Check our website for opens.



Waterford Castle Hotel & Golf Resort

The Island, Waterford City

Tel 353 (0) 51871633
Email golf@waterfordcastleresort.com
Web www.waterfordcastleresort.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,854 metres
Par 72

For the ultimate golfing experience that will stay with you for a lifetime, Waterford Castle truly is an island dream. Designed by Des Smyth and opened in 1992, this 18 hole par 72 championship golf course, complete with luxurious clubhouse leads you through mature woodland and parkland.



West Waterford Golf Club

Dungarvan, Co Waterford

Tel 058 43216
Email info@westwaterfordgolf.com
Web www.westwaterfordgolf.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,903 metres
Par 72

West Waterford is a family owned par 72 Championship Course. Designed by legendary Eddie Hackett, the club has enjoyed unprecedented success at junior golf level. Home club to Olympian & PGA player Seamus Power & European Challenge Tour player Gary Hurley. See our Website for Green Fee and other Special Offers.



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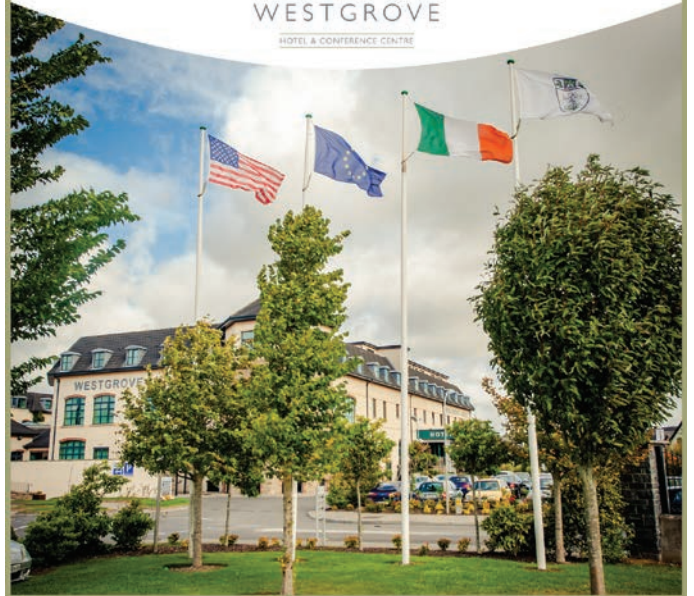


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Contact Ryan Madigan, WCGC's Golf Manager, PGA Professional for more information

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www.woodenbridgehotel.com

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

- No. holes
- Club shop
- Practice Facilities
- Club hire
- Tuition
- Food & Drink
- Buggy hire



Wicklow Golf Club

Dunbur Road, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0)404 67379
Email info@wicklowgolfclub.ie
Web www.wicklowgolfclub.ie
Course Seaside
Length 6,035 yards
Par 71

Set between the scenic splendour of the Irish Sea and the Wicklow Mountains, you will find 18 holes of unbeatable golfing pleasure. Wicklow Golf Club is a picturesque seaside course which follows the coastline of Wicklow Bay and is situated just outside the historic town of Wicklow. Please view our website for open days. Green fees: from €20-€35. Go to our website to book online.

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Woodbrook Golf Club

Dublin Road, Bray, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0) 1 2824799
Email golf@woodbrook.ie
Web www.woodbrook.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,961 metres
Par 72

Established in 1921 by Sir Stanley Cochrane as his private club, Woodbrook was first affiliated to the Golfing Union of Ireland in 1926. Sir Stanley has previously indulged his enthusiasm for cricket at Woodbrook, a fact that is still reflected in the pavilion-style clubhouse and the cricket bell, which tolled the start and finish of play and now hangs in the bar. Green fees: From €65-€75.

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Woodenbridge Golf Club

Avoca, Co Wicklow

Tel 353 (0) 402 35202
Email reception@woodenbridge.ie
Web www.woodenbridge.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,341 Yards
Par 71

Surrounded by rivers and mature forests, Woodenbridge Golf Club is situated just south of the village of Avoca in Wicklow, where the Avoca and Aughrim rivers meet some 45 minutes from Dublin. Woodenbridge was described by the legendary Joe Carr as "Ireland's Augusta" and "the most scenic golf course in Ireland, a hidden gem".

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POWERSCOURT



Club listings in Ireland's Ancient East

Abbeyleix

Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix, Co Laois
www.abbeyleixgolfclub.ie
abbeyleixgolfclub_shirley@hotmail.com
 00 353 (0) 57 873 1450

Ardee

Townparks, Ardee, Co Louth
www.ardeegolfclub.com
ardeegolfclub@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 41 685 7472

Arklow

Abbeylands, Arklow, Co Wicklow
www.arklowgolflinks.com
info@arklowgolflinks.com
 00 353 (0) 40 232492

Ashbourne

Archerstown, Ashbourne, Co Meath
www.ashbournegolfclub.ie
info@ashbournegolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 1 835 2005

Athlone

Hodson Bay, Athlone, Co Roscommon
www.athlonegolfclub.ie
athlonegolfclub@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 90 649 2073

Athy

Geraldine, Athy, Co Kildare
www.athygolfclub.com
info@athygolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 59 863 1729

Ballaghaderreen

Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon
www.ballaghaderreengolfclub.com
info@ballaghaderreengolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 94 986 0295

Ballinastoe

Ballinastoe, Roundwood, Co Wicklow
www.ballinastoeogolfclub.com
fergal.mulligan@comreg.ie
 00 353 (0) 1 281 8480

Ballinlough Castle

Clonmellon, Co Westmeath
www.ballinloughcastle.com
golf@ballinloughcastle.com
 00 353 (0) 46 943 3760

Ballykisteon

Ballykisteon, Co Tipperary
www.ballykisteengolfclub.com
golf@ballykisteonhotel.com
 00 353 (0) 62 32117

Ballykisteon Hotel & Golf Resort

Limerick Junction, Co Tipperary
info@ballykisteonhotel.com
 00 353 (0) 62 33333

Ballymoney

Ballymoney, Gorey, Co Wexford
www.ballymoneygolfclub.ie
ballymoneygolfclub@ymail.com
 00 353 (0) 53 942 1976

Baltinglass

Baltinglass, Co Wicklow
www.baltinglassgolfclub.ie
baltinglassgc@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 59 648 1350

Bellewstown

Bellewstown, Drogheda, Co Meath
www.bellewstowngolfclub.ie
info@bellewstowngolf.com
 00 353 (0) 41 988 2757

Belturbet

Erne Hill, Belturbet, Co Cavan
belturbet@golfnet.ie
 00 353 (0) 49 952 2287

Birr

The Glens, Birr, Co Offaly
www.birrgolfclub.ie



CARTON HOUSE

birrgolfclub@eircom.net
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Black Bush

Thomastown, Dunshaughlin, Co Meath
www.blackbushgolfclub.ie
info@blackbushgolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 1 825 0021

Blacklion

Toam, Blacklion, Co Cavan
www.blackliongolf.com
blackliongc@gmail.com
 00 353 (0) 71 985 3024

Blainroe

Blainroe, Co Wicklow
www.blainroe.com
info@blainroe.com
 00 353 (0) 404 68168

Blessington Lakes

Baltyboys, Blessington, Co Wicklow
www.blessingtonlakesgolfclub.com
info@blessingtonlakesgolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 45 867146

Bodenstown

Sallins, Co Kildare
www.bodenstown.com
bodenstown@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 45 897096

Borris

Deerpark, Borris, Co Carlow
www.borrisgolfclub.ie
info@borrisgolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 59 977 3310

Boyle

Knockadoobrusna, Boyle, Co Roscommon
jpcmooney@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 71 966 2594

Bray

Greystones Road, Bray, Co Wicklow
www.braygolfclub.com
info@braygolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 1 276 3200

Bunclody

Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co Wexford
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info@bunclodygfc.ie
 00 353 (0) 53 937 4444

Cabra Castle

Kingscourt, Co Cavan
www.cabracastle.com
sales@cabracastle.com
 00 353 (0) 42 966 7030

Cahir Park

Kilcommon, Cahir, Co Tipperary
www.cahirparkgolfclub.com
cahirgolfclub@hotmail.com
 00 353 (0) 52 7441474

Callan

Geraldine, Callan, Co Kilkenny
www.callangolfclub.com
info@callangolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 56 7725136

Carlow

Deerpark, Carlow, Co Carlow
www.carlowgolfclub.ie

carlowgolfclub@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 59 9131695

Carrick-on-suir

Garravoone, Carrick-on-Suir, Co Tipperary
www.carrickgolfclub.com
info@carrickgolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 51 640047

Carton House

Maynooth, Co Kildare
www.cartonhouse.com
reservations@cartonhouse.com
 00 353 (0) 1 5052000

Castle Barna

Castlebarnagh, Daingean, Co Offaly
www.castlebarna.ie
info@castlebarna.ie
 00 353 (0) 57 9353384

Castlecomer

Drumgoole, Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny
www.castlecomergolf.ie
info@castlecomergolf.com
 00 353 (0) 56 444 1139

Castlemartyr

Castlemartyr, Co Cork
www.castlemartyrresort.ie
golf@castlemartyrresort.ie
 00 353 (0) 21 421 9001

Castlereea

Clonalis, Castlereea, Co Roscommon
www.castlereagolfclub.com
castlereagolf@oceanfree.net
 00 353 (0) 94 962 0068

**Castlewarden**

Castlewarden, Straffan, Co Kildare
www.castlewardengolfclub.ie
info@castlewardengolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 1 458 9254

Celbridge Elmhall

Hazelhatch, Celbridge, Co Kildare
celbridgeelmhall@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 1 628 8208

Charlesland

Charlesland, Greystones, Co Wicklow
www.charlesland.com
golf@charlesland.com
 00 353 (0) 1 2878200

Cill Dara

Little Curragh, Kildare, Co Kildare
www.cilldaragolfclub.com
cilldaragc@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 45 521295

Clane

1 College Road, Clane, Co Kildare
www.clanegolfclub.ie
clanegolfclub@iolfree.ie
 00 353 (0) 87 829 4299

Clones

Hilton Park, Clones, Co Monaghan
www.clonesgolfclub.com
info@clonesgolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 47 56017

Clonmel

Lyreanearla, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
www.clonmelgolfclub.com

cgc@indigo.ie
 00 353 (0) 52 612 4050

Clonmel Golf Club

Mountain Rd, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
 00 353 (0) 52 6124050

Co Cavan

Arnmore House, Drumelis, Cavan
www.cavangolf.ie
info@cavangolf.ie
 00 353 (0) 49 433 1541

Co Longford

Glack, Dublin Road, Longford
www.countylongfordgolfclub.com
colonggolf@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 43 334 6310

Co Louth

Baltray, Drogheda, Co Louth
www.countylouthgolfclub.com
reservations@countylouthgolfclub.com
 00 353 (0) 41 988 1530

Co Meath

Newtownmoynagh, Trim, Co Meath
www.countymeathgolfclubtrim.ie
info@countymeathgolfclubtrim.ie
 00 353 (0) 46 943 1463

Cobh

Marino, Carrigaloe, Cobh, Co Cork
www.cobhgolfclub.ie
info@cobhgolfclub.ie
 00 353 (0) 21 481 2399

Concra Wood

Dundalk Road, Concra, Castleblayney,
 Co Monaghan
www.concrawood.ie
info@concrawood.ie
 00 353 (0) 42 974 9485

Coollattin

Coollattin, Shillelagh, Co Wicklow
www.coollattinogolfclub.com
coollattinogolfclub@eircom.net
 00 353 (0) 53 942 9125

Cork

Little Island, Co Cork
www.corkgolfclub.ie
info@corkgolfclub.ie
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Courtown

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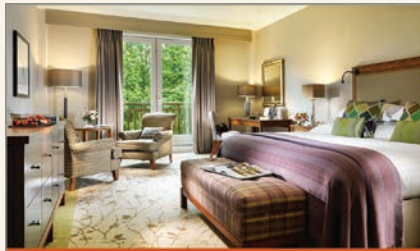
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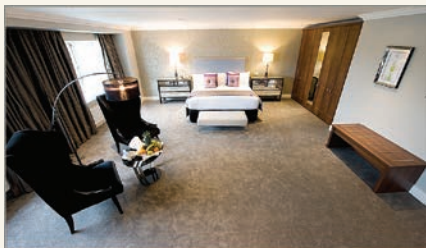
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Ireland - Land of Champions

Find out about some of the courses that made our major champions, which include four-time winner Rory McIlroy and three-time winner Pádraig Harrington. By **Brian Keogh**



GRAEME MCDOWELL



PADRAIG HARRINGTON



RORY MCILROY



For years Ireland was known as the Land of Saints and Scholars, a flickering light of learning during the Dark Ages when vandals and Vikings rampaged across Europe.

The raiders still come today but they're here for fun and adventure and the golfers want to see the courses that produced major winning legends like Pádraig Harrington, Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and Darren Clarke.

Instead of swords and longships, they come armed with drivers and putters as they try to conquer the great courses that have helped Irish golfers win 10 major titles since 1947 and an amazing nine titles in the last nine years.

The sixty-year wait between Fred Daly's Open Championship win of 1947 and Harrington's 2007 triumph at Carnoustie, felt almost eternal.

As it turned out, Pádraig's playoff win over Sergio Garcia was the victory that opened the Major Championship floodgates.

It led to two more wins for the Dubliner, followed by four by boy wonder Rory McIlroy and one each for his Northern Ireland compatriots Clarke and McDowell over the past few years.

All five men were brought up playing the links and parkland courses that are now famous worldwide - the same courses where you will have the chance to test yourself during your trip.

What better place to start that Royal County Down in Newcastle, where the famous mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea.

This is a thinking man's links but even the shrewdest players ever to play the game have been flummoxed by the guile of what is arguably Irish golf's finest course where an American Walker Cup team, featuring future stars Dustin Johnson and Rickie Fowler, claimed victory over McIlroy's Britain and Ireland team in 2007.

While modern equipment has made many great courses virtually obsolete in recent years, the great links at Newcastle defies graphite and the modern ball.

It is a unique test in the game with its myriad blind shots, subtle run-offs and fringe-topped bunkers, not to mention those tricky winds that can whip in from Dundrum Bay.

Former European No 1 and Ryder Cup player Ronan Rafferty is a native of County Down and he described the challenge perfectly, when he said: "The kids today play a different style of game. They play aggressively and you can't be aggressive round here. This is not their style of golf course and they have got to adapt to it. This golf course doesn't compromise; they have to."

There are a lot of great courses between Newcastle and Dublin from Kilkeel and Warrenpoint to Seapoint Golf Links, County Louth at Baltray or The Island near Donabate.

But all the greats of Irish

golf have played tournaments and championships at Portmarnock in Dublin, where the great Arnold Palmer got his first taste of links golf.

Situated on a two-mile long peninsula in Dublin bay, when he joined forces with Sam Snead to win the Canada Cup (now the World Cup) at the course in 1960.

the following week, finished tied for third in the individual tournament as the USA took the title with eight strokes to spare.

The links has hosted many Irish Opens with the list of winners that looks like a who's who of golf with Bobby Locke, Ben Crenshaw, Hubert Green, Seve Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam, José



PORTMARNOCK GOLF CLUB

The man who would go on to become the "King", arrived in Ireland for his first tournament appearance in Europe as the reigning Masters champion.

"It's the first time I've played a course like this one," Palmer said. "I've learned a lot of shots. Shots I've never played before in my life."

Palmer, who would go on to play in his first Open Championship at St Andrews

María Olazábal, and Michael Campbell on the roll of honour.

Palmer called the short 15th the best par three in the world and Crenshaw would suffer there en route to his Irish Open victory in 1976, joking it was "the toughest par-five I ever played."

Sit down at any 19th hole and debate amongst the aficionados is always fierce when it comes to picking Ireland's best course.



ROYAL COUNTY DOWN

Whatever the conclusion, Royal Portrush in County Antrim is sure to feature on every list with its famous Dunluce links set to host The Open once again in 2019.

If you're looking for an excuse to play Royal Portrush, then whiskey could be the answer because they've been distilling 'Old Bushmills' just four miles down the road for the past 400 years.

A drop or two of the hard stuff might be just what you need to keep the cold away as you tackle the famous links where the flamboyant Max Faulkner won the only (British) Open staged outside mainland Britain in 1951.

American golfers may already be familiar with Royal Portrush following the 2010 US Open at Pebble Beach, where Portrush native Graeme McDowell became the first European for 40 years to lift the title.

McDowell learned the game on Portrush's second course, the less challenging but still wonderfully enjoyable Valley Course. But it's the Dunluce links that's the jewel in the crown and it's understandably a favourite of Darren Clarke.

The list of great Irish courses goes on and on

with Waterville, Tralee and Ballybunion in Co Kerry ever present in every Top 10.

Head up the south west seaboard and you will come to Doonbeg, designed by Greg Norman and recently enhanced by Dr Martin Hawtree, has since now been bought by President Donald

All the greats of Irish golf have played tournaments and championships at Portmarnock in Dublin, where the great Arnold Palmer got his first taste of links golf

Trump and re-named into Trump International Golf Links, Ireland.

Nearby lies Lahinch, known far and wide as the St Andrews of Ireland. Steeped in golfing history, it is the pride of County Clare, just a few miles from the world famous Cliffs of Moher.

The course has been altered



ROYAL PORTRUSH



TRUMP INTERNATIONAL



LAHINCH

“The West” as it is popularly known, is played every Easter and where McIlroy first became a star, becoming the youngest champion at the age of just 15 in 2005



COUNTY SLIGO GOLF CLUB

many times since Old Tom Morris laid out the original course in 1894, but its essence is very much intact and the club remains central to daily life in this small seaside town, buffeted year round by the breeze from the Atlantic Ocean.

Dr Alister MacKenzie, who would go on to create Augusta National with Bobby Jones, was retained to design a new course in 1926 and the famous links remained largely untouched until 2000, when Dr Hawtree was retained to modernise it.

The result was a resounding success but happily for anyone with an interest in the history of the game and it was there that Darren Clarke won the South of Ireland amateur title.

It's not far from Lahinch to County Sligo and the great links at Rosses Point and on your way make sure you stop in Galway to play the three true gems in Connemara, Galway and Galway Bay.

The west of Ireland is one of the wonders of the world for its scenery and while Westport,

Carne and Enniscrone are all very special.

County Sligo Golf Club enjoys a setting like no other.

Sitting in the shadow of great Ben Bulbin mountain, hard by the wild Atlantic Ocean, this Harry Colt links is the traditional home of the West of Ireland Championship and one of the golfs great places.

“The West” as it is popularly known, is played every Easter and where McIlroy first became a star, becoming the youngest champion at the age of just 15

in 2005.

The young Hollywood talent is known all over the island and won almost everywhere, from Westport to Rosapenna in Co Donegal, where there's a great links golf course to play every day of the week.

Donegal is a treasure trove and whether you love Dunfanaghy, where Paul McGinley spent many a day in his youth, Portsalon, Ballyliffin or the wonderful test at Murvagh, a Darren Clarke favourite, there's something for everyone.



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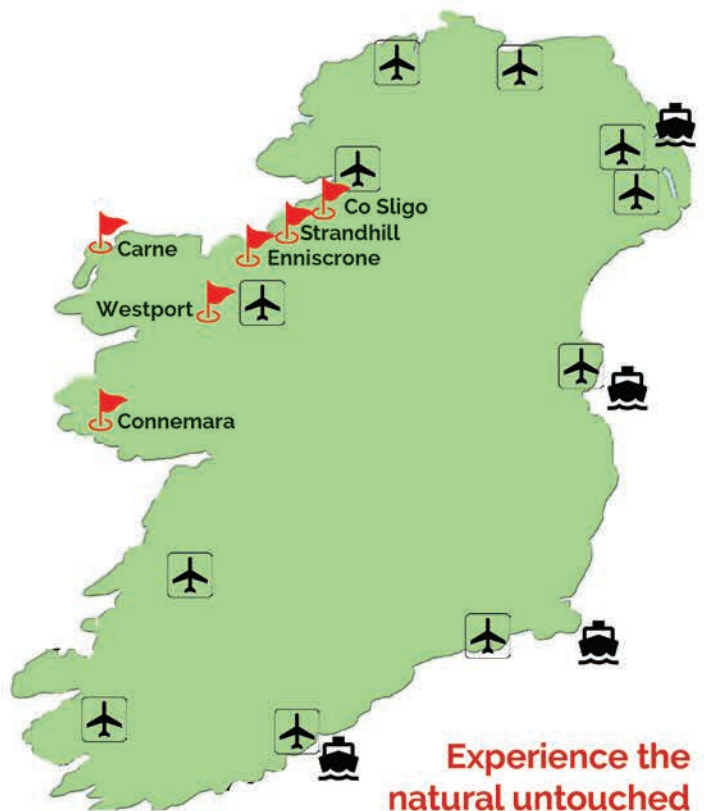
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Counties in this section: **Clare, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Leitrim, Limerick, Mayo, Sligo**

The Wild Atlantic Way is a sensational journey of soaring cliffs and buzzing towns and cities, of hidden beaches and epic bays, and some of the world's highest rated golf courses.

It's one of the great wonders of the world, a 2,500 kilometre, hair-raising, awe-inspiring touring route that passes through nine counties and three provinces, stretching from County Donegal's Inishowen Peninsula on the north coast to the picturesque heritage town of Kinsale in County Cork in the south west.

The Wild Atlantic Way is also a dream route for golfers looking for the thrill of a lifetime, taking them on a fantastic voyage to some of the world's most historic courses where legendary names such as Old Tom Morris and Harry Colt created golf holes with little more than hand tools and horsepower.





WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SLÍ AN ATLANTAIGH FHIÁIN



CLIFFS OF MOHER



BALLYLIFFIN GOLF CLUB

Donegal is one of Ireland's most beautiful counties and it's renowned for the quality of its courses with County Donegal Golf Club, known as Murvagh by all, undoubtedly one of the best

It's a treasure trove of golfing history, from Royal Portrush, Ballyliffin and Rosapenna to the wonders of the west and south west as you tumble down the coast from Rosses Point to Lahinch, Doonbeg, Ballybunion, Tralee and Waterville.

Ask golfers worldwide to name the courses on their bucket list and the odds are that a handful of them are within a few miles of each other in Ireland's great western seaboard.

In other words, golf along the Wild Atlantic Way is a never to be forgotten odyssey. And if you have ever tried to imagine what golf in Ireland is like, it's probable that the rugged north and north west links come closest to those dreams.

Donegal is one of Ireland's most beautiful counties and it's renowned for the quality of its courses with County Donegal Golf Club, known as Murvagh by all, undoubtedly one of the best.

Designed by the great Eddie Hackett, the father of Irish golf design, Murvagh is isolated from the outside world by a forest of evergreens, washed on one side by the great Atlantic Ocean and by Donegal Bay on the other.

Described as the Muirfield of Ireland, it

offers huge, panoramic views of the Bluestack Mountains while the fine beach that runs along the Atlantic border is one of the best in Ireland.

It's not just the scenery that makes Murvagh special. The course is truly spectacular, featuring two loops of nine holes - the first nine, an outer loop and the second nine an inner loop running in the opposite direction.

It can also be a long and testing examination, measuring nearly 7,300-yards from the championship tees or 7,000-yards from the medals.

The serious golfer needs to be at their best, while the more leisurely player will still enjoy the course as it offers a chance on each hole to win a battle, if not the overall war.

Darren Clarke, the 2011 Open champion, is a member and he describes Murvagh as one of his favourite courses in the world.

It's little wonder. There isn't a weak hole

to be found.

Not far away lies Narin & Portnoo Golf Club, which has to be one of the most picturesque courses in all of Ireland.

It opened in 1930 along with three other clubs that have since disappeared - a case, no doubt, of survival of the fittest.

The course is quintessentially old fashioned but as golf scribe Charlie Mulqueen wrote, "It's another delightful links in the Donegal chain... one must wait till the sixth for the first view of the sea, but the panorama from the sandhill that houses the eighth tee says it all about Donegal. It is simply breathtaking!"

Several courses came and went in the area until Narin and Portnoo was founded in 1930, when some local men decided that the warren in Narin had the potential once again to be developed into a testing links. Improvements were made to the nine-hole layout before the decision was taken in 1960 to rent more land.



ROSAPENNA

Sheephaven House was transformed into a small 12-bedroom hotel with bar and clubhouse. It is here that the Rosapenna Hotel stands today and has flourished since Frank and Hilary Casey bought the property in 1981.

Rosapenna has undergone a complete transformation over the years. The four-star hotel now has 65 bedrooms, including 16 Bayview suites, the Vardon restaurant overlooking Sheephaven Bay and extensive leisure facilities, including a spa and indoor pool.

Recent additions to Rosapenna come in the form of the Sandy Hills Links designed by the irrepressible Mr Ruddy, which opened for play in 2003 with the Old Tom Morris links also getting a facelift and undergoing some routing changes.

An 18,000 square feet, two storey Golf Pavilion was built a decade ago and is the centre of operations for all visiting golfers hoping to play either course.

Now that visitors have ventured into Donegal, it would be remiss not to take in somewhere as wild and wonderful as Ballyliffin on the rugged Inishowen Peninsula. It's little wonder that six-time Major winner Nick Faldo fell in love with the place. In fact, he loved Ballyliffin so much that he tried to buy it.

The answer regarding a potential sale of Ballyliffin with its two magnificent links courses was a polite "No". When the opportunity to play either the Glashedy Links or Old Links at Ballyliffin, there is only one answer, a resounding "Yes".

Driving south from Donegal into Sligo, visitors will discover wonderful links at Enniscrone and Strandhill not to mention world famous County Sligo Golf Club at Rosses Point, where Rory McIlroy won the 2005 West of Ireland Amateur title at the age of just 15 and then came back the following year and retained it.

It was an epic achievement and there is something epic about the venue, as the great golf writer Pat Ward-Thomas poetically recorded when he covered "the West" for the Manchester Guardian in 1962.

"It all lies on a peninsula between the bays of Drumcliff and Sligo; to the north, Ben Bulbin rises like the prow of a great

Head further north and you will come to nine-hole Cruit Island, a beautiful and natural links course crowned by the intimidating par-three sixth where considerable skill is needed to negotiate a yawning cove to find a small target. The scenery is breathtaking as the course hugs the rugged coastline and eventually takes you on to Portsalon Golf Club, which opened in 1891.

Nearby Rosapenna Hotel and Golf Resort combines the old with the new - the Pat Ruddy designed Sandy Hills Links and the Old Tom Morris Links, created by Old Tom of St Andrews in the 19th century and updated in the 1900s by Harry Vardon and James Braid.

The land was once part of the massive, 95,000-acre holdings of the infamous 3rd Earl of Leitrim, who was ambushed and killed at Cratlagh Wood, just a few miles from the resort, by disgruntled tenants in 1878.

Few lamented the passing of the 3rd Earl, a hard-hearted landlord, especially in Donegal. But his vast estates passed eventually to his nephew Robert, who was immensely popular and initiated new developments on his estates in Donegal,

including golf.

In 1891 he brought Tom Morris over to design a nine-hole course on the grounds of his home in Carrigart, but according to local legend, it was only when Old Tom was brought out for a day trip around the locality and excitedly spied the massive dunes and pristine links land at Rosapenna that plans to build an 18-hole course were settled.

The Earl began to build a hotel at Rosapenna shortly before his death in 1892. The rest, as they say, is history. It is a story, not only of the Earls of Leitrim, Eddie Hackett and Pat Ruddy, but of a Donegal family, the Caseys, that has created a little bit of heaven in one of the remotest corners of Ireland. The Caseys have nurtured what has grown to become a true mecca for the discerning golfer and nature lover.

Two thirds of the 'Great Triumvirate of Golf' alongside JH Taylor, the great Harry Vardon and James Braid both journeyed to Rosapenna and made some changes to the course, adding length and bunkering to Old Tom's layout but wisely leaving his perfect greens intact.

With the original timber hotel completely destroyed by fire in 1962, the adjacent

ship heading for eternal seas and away to the south is Knocknarea, where the cruel Queen Maeve lies buried high above her Connacht kingdom.

“The mountains inland appear unbelievably clear beneath cloud-flecked skies and the long, blue line of the Mayo coast stretches far into the Atlantic that has gleamed silver and peaceful in the sunshine.”

Make the turn at the testing, par-three ninth and stop a moment to take in the sights of Sligo and Drumcliff Bays. If you look closely, you can just make out Lissadell House, where Yeats courted the Gore-Booth sisters, gleaming in the distance.

With clubs in the boot of the car, there is arguably no greater adventure on your doorstep than the trip from Donegal through Sligo and on down to Galway, Mayo, Clare and Kerry.

From County Sligo, it's not far to Strandhill and Enniscrone and once there you simply must head west into Mayo to tee it up at one of Hackett's masterpieces, the great Carne Links at Belmullet, which now boasts 27 holes following the addition to a new nine a few years ago.

From the towering dunes of Carne Golf Links there is a sensational drive through Co Mayo to Westport Golf Club, where Paul McGinley claimed the third of his four Irish Professional Championship wins in 2002.

From there it will be impossible to avoid being drawn towards the delights of Galway.

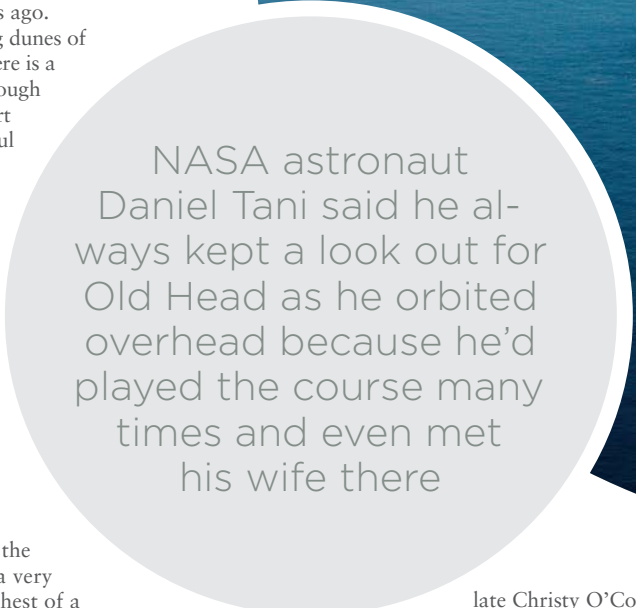
Connemara Golf Links is one of Galway's great venues - a starkly beautiful links golf course, designed by the saintly Hackett for a very modest fee at the behest of a group of locals led by an enthusiastic curate.

The term God's own country is not in the least out of place when it comes to describing this course created from the natural beauty of Connemara; the design genius of Hackett and the vision and foresight of Fr Peter Waldron, the local parish priest who pushed to get the course built.

The course opened for play in 1973 and has received many illustrious visitors over the years, including five-time Open champion Tom Watson, who called it “a true Championship links course” and raved about the elevated greens on the back nine, calling them “spectacular”.

“If there were a course like this on the west coast of England it would surely host the British Open,” said another illustrious visitor, the former Ryder Cup star and doyen of television commentary, Peter Alliss.

There's also historic Galway Golf Club, home of multiple Ryder Cup players, the



NASA astronaut Daniel Tani said he always kept a look out for Old Head as he orbited overhead because he'd played the course many times and even met his wife there

late Christy O'Connor Snr and Christy O'Connor Jnr, who learned the game at the Salthill course laid out by Dr Alister MacKenzie nearly 100 years ago.

Galway has undergone an extensive upgrade programme in recent years, but has lost none of its original charm. When the gorse is in full bloom and Galway Bay as a backdrop, it's no exaggeration to say it's one of the most welcoming and wonderful clubs in Ireland.

As for Galway Bay, created by the late, great O'Connor Jnr, it's a championship quality course that has been transformed into a sensational golfing enclave thanks to a major investment programme. The biggest hazard there is the Atlantic Ocean, which virtually surrounds the entire course.

Featuring gently rolling fairways, dotted with mature trees and small water hazards, Galway Bay hosted the European Tour's West of Ireland Open in 1999 and is clearly a championship standard venue.

“This is a true championship links golf course but a fair test of golf to all who discover this gem,” said O'Connor Jnr. “Washed on three sides by the wild Atlantic Ocean, laden with pot bunkers together with natural water hazards, it all combines to make Galway Bay one of the truly great courses of Ireland.”

From there you will head south into Co Clare and where Lahinch, created by Old Tom Morris and revised by Dr Alister Mackenzie and, later, Dr Martin Hawtree is a modern masterpiece.

Dr Hawtree recently revamped the original Greg Norman links owned by US President Donald Trump at Doonbeg — Trump International Golf Links, Ireland — which means that visitors can now play two sensational links courses and take time off in between to go and see the spectacular Cliffs of Moher nearby.

When it reopens in late 2017 after a major upgrade to its hotel and golf course, you can stop off at wonderful Adare Manor on the



OLD HEAD GOLF LINKS

banks of the River Maigue before moving on to the wonders of Kerry and Cork.

The Old Head of Kinsale Golf Links is one of the more recent additions to Irish golf, built on a spit of land that protrudes more than 3km into the heaving Atlantic Ocean not far from the site where the RMS Lusitania was sunk by German torpedo in 1915.

NASA astronaut Daniel Tani said he always kept a look out for Old Head as he orbited overhead because he'd played the course many times and even met his wife there.

The Illinois astronaut successfully completed five space walks in his 12-year career with NASA, including the 100th spacewalk on the International Space Station. During his 130 days in space, Tani often found his eyes and mind wandering to Kinsale on the southwest of the Wild Atlantic Way.

"I started going to Ireland when I was single," he recalls, "just to play golf on vacation. That's how I would spend my holidays. I have played up and down the

coast, right along the Wild Atlantic Way – Connemara Golf Club, Tralee, Lahinch, Doonbeg, Waterville and Dooks.

"From my experience, the links golf in Ireland is wilder - big dunes, plus incredible cliffs and scenery."

He left out Ballybunion's famous Old Course that left such an impression on the great American golf writer Herbert Warren Wind.

"A tourist driving through Switzerland is staggered by its prodigal beauty; around the bend from the most wondrous view he has ever beheld he comes upon a view that surpasses it—and so on and on, endlessly," Wind wrote. "Ballybunion is something like that.

"I do not mean to suggest that there are vistas that put the one from the second tee to shame—there aren't—but there is a correspondence in the way one stirring hole is followed by another and another."

Ireland is blessed with some wonderful links but one of the greatest and oldest in the

land is another Kerry venue and possibly one you've never heard of - Dooks Golf Links.

Founded 127 years ago in 1889, it is situated on stunning Dingle Bay and is one of the 10 oldest golf clubs in Ireland. With the Atlantic Ocean lapping the shores nearby and the McGillicuddy Reeks standing sentinel, this former nine-hole gem is regarded as one of the true hidden gems of Irish golf.

Of course, not all Ireland's great venues have 18 holes and Lisselan House, on the banks of the Argideen River in Clonakilty on Co Cork, is one of the best nine-hole courses in the country.

Famous for its hotel and its wonderful gardens, the great Ryder Cup player Christy O'Connor Snr described it as possibly the "most unique course in the whole world" given it features two short ski lift rides that take you up from the first green to the second tee and from the third green to the fourth tee. It's hilly but also easy to walk - and given its beauty, it shouldn't be missed.



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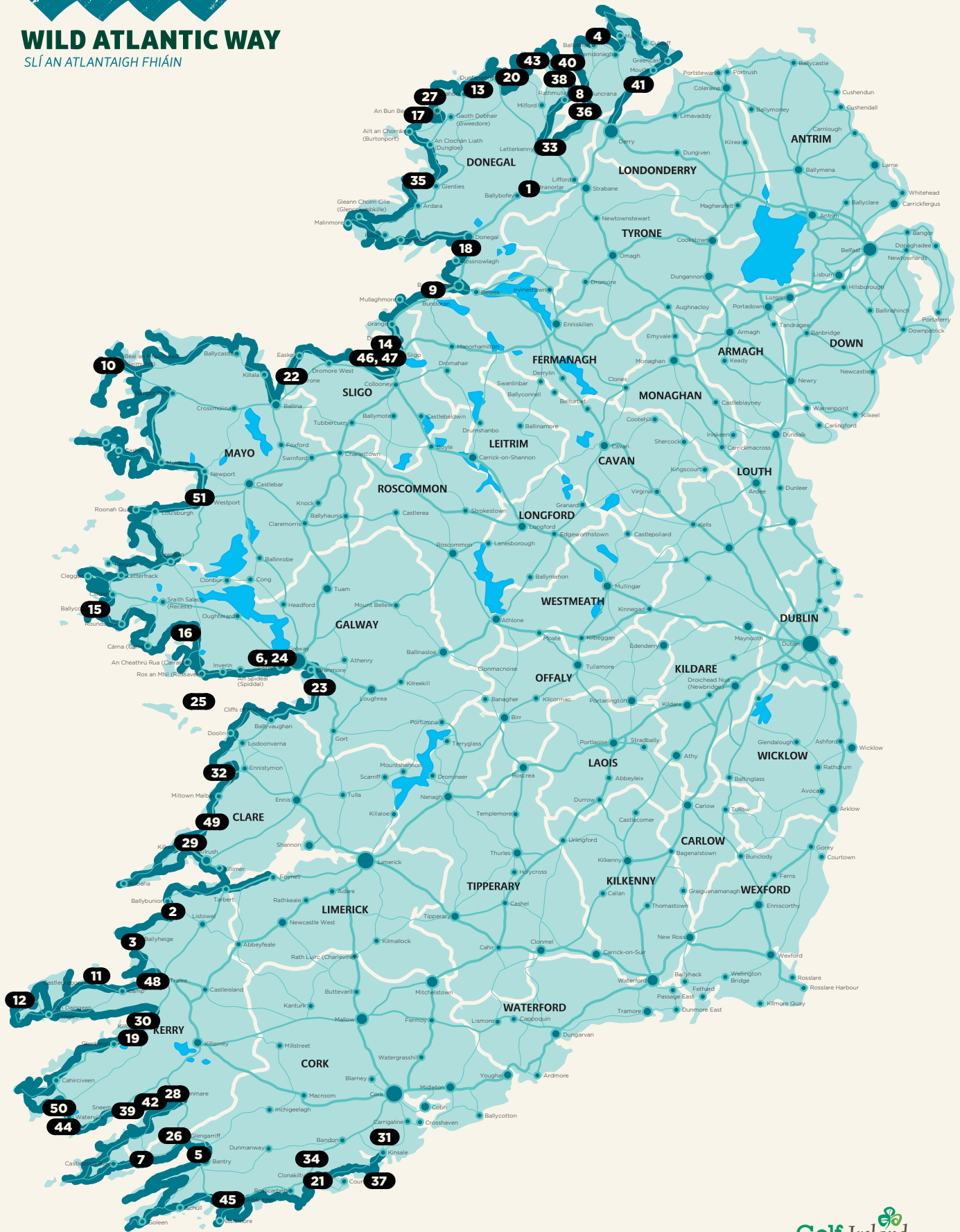
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WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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More information on courses along the Wild Atlantic Way at www.ireland.com/golf

A-Z GOLF COURSES ON THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



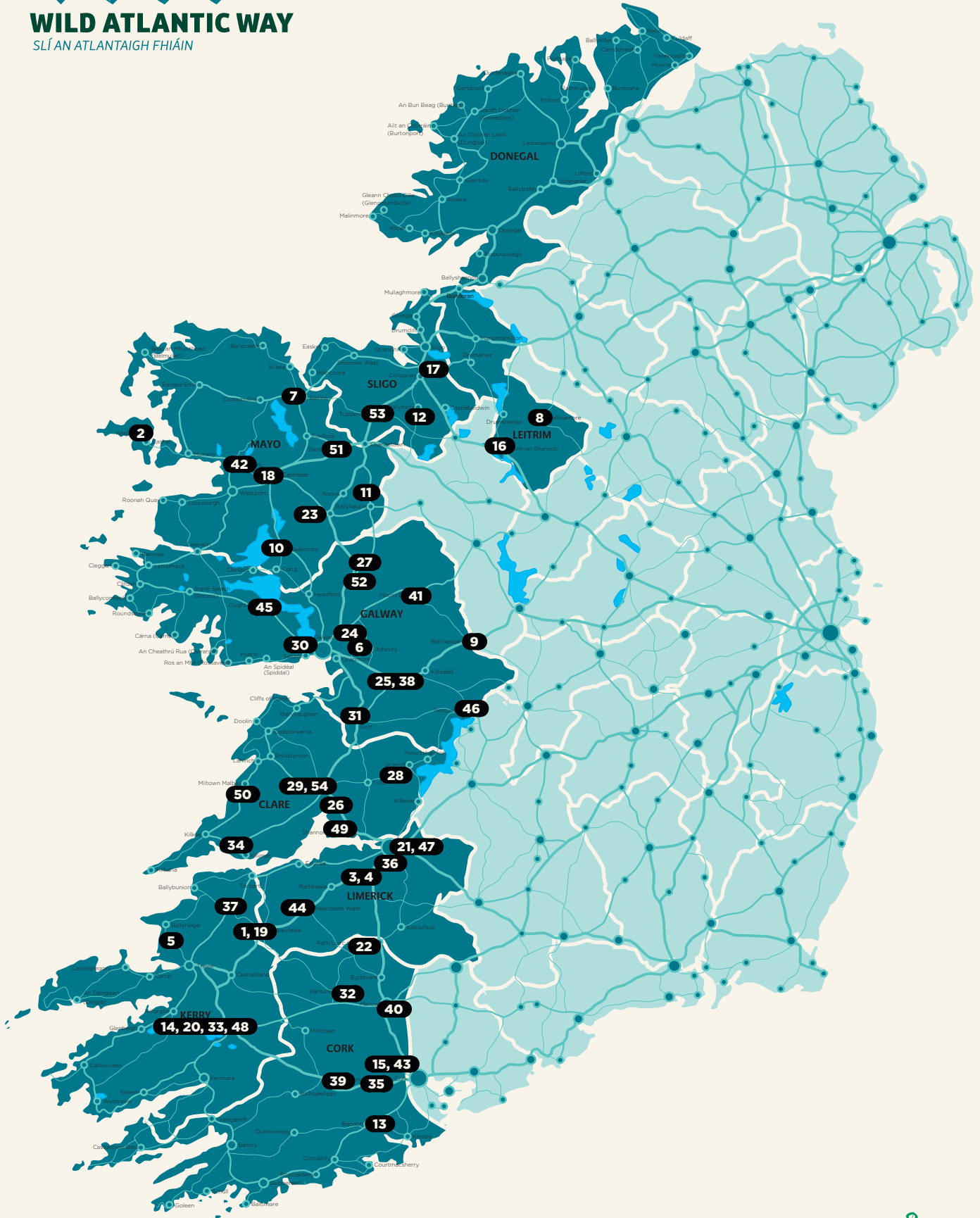
BALLYBUNION GOLF CLUB

1. Ballybofey & Stranorlar
2. Ballybunion
3. Ballyheigue Castle
4. Ballyliffin
5. Bantry Bay
6. Bearna
7. Berehaven
8. Bunrana
9. Bundoran
10. Carne (Belmullet)
11. Castlegregory
12. Dingle Links (Ceann Sibeal)
13. Cloughaneely
14. Co Sligo
15. Connemara
16. Connemara Isles
17. Cruit Island
18. Donegal
19. Dooks
20. Dunfanaghy
21. Dunmore
22. Enniscrone
23. Galway Bay
24. Galway
25. Glengarriff
26. Greencastle
27. Gweedore
28. Kenmare
29. Kilkee
30. Killorglin
31. Kinsale
32. Lahinch
33. Letterkenny
34. Lisselan
35. Narin & Portnoo
36. North West
37. Old Head
38. Otway
39. Parknasilla
40. Portsalon
41. Redcastle
42. Ring Of Kerry
43. Rosapenna
44. Skellig Bay
45. Skibbereen & West Carbery
46. Sligo Golf Academy
47. Strandhill
48. Tralee
49. Trump International
50. Waterville
51. Westport



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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More information on these golf courses at www.ireland.com/golf

A-Z GOLF COURSES IN COUNTIES ON THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



ADARE MANOR

1. Abbeyfeale
2. Achill
3. Adare Manor
4. Adare Manor GC
5. Ardferd
6. Athenry
7. Ballina
8. Ballinamore
9. Ballinasloe
10. Ballinrobe
11. Ballyhaunis
12. Ballymote
13. Bandon
14. Beaufort

15. Blarney
16. Carrick-on-Shannon
17. Castle Dargan
18. Castlebar
19. Castleisland
20. Castlerosse
21. Castletroy
22. Charleville
23. Claremorris
24. Cregmore Park
25. Curra West
26. Dromoland
27. Dunmore
28. East Clare

29. Ennis
30. Glenlo Abbey
31. Gort
32. Kanturk
33. Killarney
34. Kilrush
35. Lee Valley
36. Limerick
37. Listowel
38. Loughrea
39. Macroom
40. Mallow
41. Mountbellew
42. Mulranny

43. Muskerry
44. Newcastle West
45. Oughterard
46. Portumna
47. Rathbane
48. Ross
49. Shannon
50. Spanish Point
51. Swinford
52. Tuam
53. Tubbercurry
54. Woodstock



SHANNON



Ballybunion Golf Club

Sandhill Road, Ballybunion, Co Kerry

Tel 353 (0) 68 27146
Email info@ballybuniongolfclub.ie
Web www.ballybuniongolfclub.ie
Course Links
Length 6802 Yards (Old)
 6306 Yards (Cashen)
Par 71 (Old), 72 (Cashen)

Located on the north west coast of county Kerry on a beautiful stretch of sand dunes overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, you'll find two wonderfully challenging and unique links golf courses at Ballybunion - the Old Course consistently rated among the top courses in the world and the Trent Jones designed Cashen Course. Green fees: see website for offers.



Ballyliffin Golf Club

Ballyliffin, Inishowen, Co Donegal

Tel 353 (0) 74 9376119
Email info@ballyliffingolfclub.com
Web www.ballyliffingolfclub.com
Course Links
Length 7,210 yards (Glashedy)
 6,937 yards (Old)
Par 72 Glashedy / 71 Old

Ballyliffin has two of the finest championship links courses in the world. The Old Links and Glashedy Links are set in stunning duneland overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. A majestic clubhouse offers fine dining and boasts the warmest welcome in golf. Visitors to Ballyliffin will always return for this unforgettable golfing experience. Open all year and visitors always welcome. Complimentary club hire for international visitors.



Bearna Golf Club

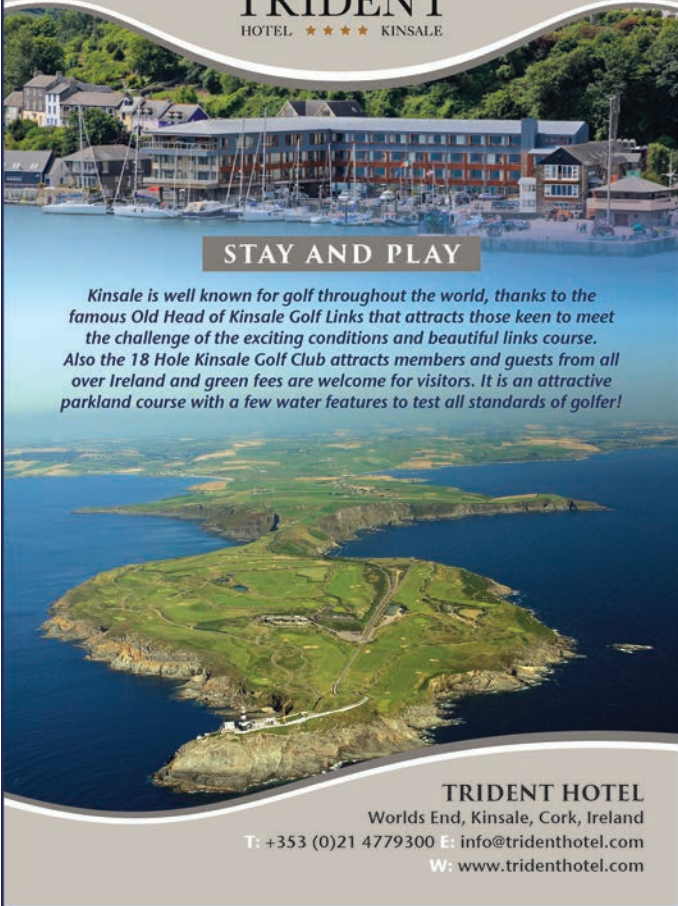
Corboley, Bearna, Co Galway

Tel 353 (0)91 592677
Email info@bearnagolfclub.com
Web www.bearnagolfclub.com
Course Moorland
Length 6,094
Par 72

Located at the gateway to Connemara in the Gaeltacht, with commanding views of Galway Bay, the Burren and the Aran Islands, and only five miles from Galway city. Built on Connemara moorland with breathtaking views, features, plant and animal life that you won't find elsewhere. Wonderful characteristics of gorse bushes, ditches, humps and bumps, twists and turns, all surrounded by authentic Irish peat bog, make for a thrilling round of golf.




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STAY AND PLAY

Kinsale is well known for golf throughout the world, thanks to the famous Old Head of Kinsale Golf Links that attracts those keen to meet the challenge of the exciting conditions and beautiful links course. Also the 18 Hole Kinsale Golf Club attracts members and guests from all over Ireland and green fees are welcome for visitors. It is an attractive parkland course with a few water features to test all standards of golfer!

TRIDENT HOTEL
 Worlds End, Kinsale, Cork, Ireland
 T: +353 (0)21 4779300 E: info@tridenthotel.com
 W: www.tridenthotel.com



GOLFING IN KINSALE

Actons
 of Kinsale



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www.irelandgolf.com



Connemara Championship Links
Ballyconneely, Clifden, Co Galway

Tel 353 (0)95 23502
Email info@connemaragolflinks.net
Web www.connemaragolflinks.com
Course Links
Length 7,055 yards
Par 72

This 27 holes Championship Links course situated along the majestic coast of Connemara was designed by Eddie Hackett in 1973. A truly natural links with the unique addition of a rugged, rocky landscape is a challenge to all. Host to the Irish Amateur Close Championship in 2013. Green Fees: View website for rates.



Dingle Golf Links
Ballyferriter, Dingle, Co Kerry

Tel 353 (0)66 915 6255
Email dinglegc@iol.ie
Web www.dinglelinks.com
Course Links
Length 6,696 yards
Par 72

Founded in 1924, Dingle Golf Links moved to Ballyferriter in 1970. The course was designed by Eddie Hackett and Christy O'Connor Jnr. The townland of Ballyferriter occupies a very special and historic corner of Kerry. Each hole on this glorious links is carved from the natural landscape of one of the most unspoiled parts of Europe. Green fees: €35-€70.



Donegal Golf Club
Murvagh, Laghey, Co Donegal

Tel 353 (0)74 973 4054
Email info@donegalgolfclub.ie
Web www.donegalgolfclub.ie
Course Links
Length 6,349 metres
Par 73

Donegal Golf Club 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 and Great Britain. We now feature an online availability facility and you can also view the course through our new virtual tours. Green fees: contact club.



Donegal Golf Club

It is described by
British Champion
Darren Clarke as

*“one of my favourite
courses in the world”*

Lying in the bosom of Donegal Bay, this superb links occupies an elegant peninsula which is backed by the magnificent Bluestack Mountains by the North West Atlantic





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AVIS

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Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry
Tel: + 353 (0) 66 976 8205
Email: office@dooks.com | Web: www.dooks.com

Find us on  



When you are playing the finest links courses in Ireland, such as Waterville or Dooks, then you deserve to stay in the finest boutique townhouse in Kerry.

QC's guests can explore the wonderful charms of the Wild Atlantic Way and unwind in luxury boutique rooms, all individually decorated in a unique and quirky style. Dine at QC's award winning seafood restaurant supplied exclusively by our family's fishing boats.

Quinlan & Cooke

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Stylish, spacious and unique, each room boasts comfortable king-size beds and a Monsoon rain shower. Guests can relax with a flat-screen TV, in-room mini-fridge and Nespresso coffee.



Recognised locally as one of the finest places to eat we create top class dishes that will amaze every diner. We serve only fresh, wild Irish fish, supplied by the family company, Quinlan's Kerry Fish.



We have the only FSX Golf Studio in Ireland, an educational and intuitive golf simulation, where you can play some of the most iconic courses...a round at Hazeltine anyone?



There is also a small, well equipped modern gym available to Quinlan & Cooke residents. It is designed for golfers to stretch, warm up and flex before heading to the tee.

Quinlan & Cooke
3 Main St, Cahersiveen, Ring of Kerry.
Email: andrew@qcbarm.com
Telephone: +353 66 947 2244
Mobile: +353 87 260 0748
Website: www.qcbarm.com
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18 89





Dromoland Golf Club
Newmarket on Fergus, Co Clare

Tel 353 (0) 61 368444
Email golf@dromoland.ie
Web www.dromolandgolf.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,824 yards
Par 72

In 2003, the course was redesigned by renowned architects Ron Kirby and J.B. Carr. The 18 holes sweep through 410 acres of shady woodland, open rolling pasture, feral lakes, streams and the significant and stunningly beautiful 16th century castle. It also boasts magnificent views from the signature 7th hole. Please contact the club or see website for special offers. Green fees: available on request.



Enniscrone Golf Club
Enniscrone, Co Sligo

Tel 353 96 36297
Email info@enniscronegolf.com
Web www.enniscronegolf.com
Course Links
Length 6,430 metres
Par 73

Established in 1918, Enniscrone Golf Links began as a nine hole course on a spectacular piece of links land near a picturesque seaside resort in County Sligo, Ireland. Today there are 27 holes of golf situated on a 400 acre promontory on Killala Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. A true links with spectacular dunes.



Galway Golf Club
Blackrock, Salthill, Galway

Tel 353 (0) 91 529783
Email info@galwaygolf.com
Web www.galwaygolf.com
Course Parkland
Length 5,974 metres
Par 72

Situated less than 4 km's from Galway City Centre and in the Heart of the Seaside Resort of Salthill. Host Club to the 2017 Irish Close Championship. 2017 Green Fee Rates from €35.00 Individual & €30.00 for Groups. Non GUI Member Rate €85.00. Full Bar & Catering Facilities Available. Buggies, Carts & Clubs for Hire. Short Game Practice Area, Putting Green, Driving Nets & Practice Area.



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Kenmare Golf Club

Kenmare, Co Kerry

Tel 353 (0)64 664 1291
Email info@kenmaregolfclub.com
Web www.kenmaregolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,086 yards
Par 71

This picturesque course was established in 1903. It is set alongside the quiet waters of the River Roughy and nestled amongst the Caha Mountains. The golf course features very interesting holes, using all the natural terrain to offer the golfer a fair and satisfying round. The course is maintained to a very high standard. Green fees: available on request



Killarney Golf & Fishing Club

Killarney, Co Kerry

Tel 353 (0)64 663 1034
Email reservations@killarneygolfclub.ie
Web www.killarneygolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length (K) 7,249 yds, (MP) 6,780 yds
Par (K) 72, (MP) 72

Killarney Golf & Fishing Club is one of the oldest clubs in the country and the home of golf in Ireland. The two Championship courses, Killeen and Mahony's Point, nestled amidst unrivalled lake and mountain scenery Killeen has been a four-time host of the Irish Open, while Mahony's is one of the most traditional layouts in the country. For green fee rates contact the club, or visit our website www.killarneygolfclub.ie.



Lahinch Golf Club

Lahinch, Co Clare

Tel 353 65 7081003
Email info@lahinchgolf.com
Web www.lahinchgolf.com
Course Links
Length 6,950 yards
Par 72

The Old Course is a classic links set amongst the famous dunes with subtle contoured greens in true MacKenzie style. The world famous Klondyke & Dell, designed by Old Tom Morris, have remained unchanged for over 100 years. Since Martin Hawtree's redevelopment in 2003 the Old Course is consistently ranked in the Worlds Top 50.



DOOHOMA HEAD



Lee Valley Golf Club

Clashanure, Ovens, Co Cork

Tel 353 0 21 7331721
Email reservations@leevalleygcc.ie
Web www.leevalleygcc.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,185 metres
Par 72

Located only 15 minutes from Cork city, Lee Valley Golf & Country Club is situated in one of the most beautiful parts of southern Ireland. Enjoy a game of golf around our picturesque, 18-hole Championship golf course, or get away from it all with a stay at one of our four star holiday homes.





Visit Killarney Golf & Fishing Club and experience this slice of golfing heaven on the doorstep of one of the most popular towns in Europe. The Championship courses at Killarney have hosted multiple European Tour and Ladies European Tour events. They have undergone significant development in recent years ensuring a fantastic playing experience for golfers of all abilities. The friendly relaxed atmosphere, unrivalled setting and legendary après-golf make Killarney a unique and unmissable experience.

Offering superb facilities including a Golf Academy, Pro Shop and a stunning bar and restaurant. Visitors, societies and corporate events welcome. Limited Overseas Membership also available.



Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, Killarney, Co. Kerry *Tel:* +353 64 6631034 *Fax:* +353 64 6633065
Email: reservations@killarneygolfclub.ie *Website:* www.killarneygolfclub.ie





Limerick Golf Club

Rosbrien, Ballyclough, Co Limerick

Tel 353 (0) 61 415146
Email information@limerickgolfclub.ie
Web www.limerickgolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,610 yards
Par 72

Limerick Golf Club is located on the outskirts of Limerick city and is one of the oldest golf clubs in Ireland, founded in the same year as the Golfing Union of Ireland, 1891. The club boasts a mature parkland course, with a number of holes designed by Dr. Alister McKenzie, architect of Lahinch and Augusta National.



Narin & Portnoo Golf Club

Portnoo, Co Donegal

Tel 353 (0)74 9545107
Email narinportnoo@eircom.net
Web www.narinportnoogolfclub.ie
Course Links
Length 6,269 metres
Par 73

Situated in West Donegal, overlooking sweeping views of Gweebarra Bay, this outstanding 18-hole links golf course is considered one of the finest courses in Ireland. A warm and friendly welcome awaits visitors and societies to the golf club and due to its links terrain, it is ideal for year-round golf. Green fees €25-€75.



Newcastle West Golf Club

Newcastle West, Co. Limerick

Tel 068 76500
Email info@newcastlewestgolf.com
Web www.newcastlewestgolf.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,451 metres
Par 71

This is a unique golf course, featuring strategic bunkering, water hazards and well designed risk and reward holes. The course is playable all year round and is maintained to the highest standards. The club house offers visitors the very finest of Irish hospitality and has earned the reputation as 'Munster's Friendliest Golf Club'



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Old Head Golf Links, Kinsale, Co. Cork, P17 CX88, Ireland.
Telephone (+353) (0)21 477 8444 | Email reservations@oldhead.com

www.oldhead.com



KILLARENEY GOLF AND FISHING CLUB



Old Head Golf Links

Old Head of Kinsale, Kinsale, Co Cork

Tel 353 (0)21 4778444
Email info@oldhead.com
Web www.oldhead.com
Course Links
Length 5,345 - 7,208 Yards
Par 72

Located in County Cork on the South West Coast of Ireland, as the incredible brainchild of the late John O'Connor together with his brother Patrick, the Club has developed into one of the most recognised and sought after golf experiences anywhere on earth. It is a sanctuary for those seeking the finest in personalized service. Green fees: €260 high season, €170 low season.



Portsalong Golf Resort

Fanad, Co Donegal

Tel 353 (0) 749159459
Email portsalongcmanager@gmail.com
Web www.portsalonggolfclub.ie
Course Links
Length 6,172 metres
Par 72

A fantastic course on the banks of Lough Swilly, one of the founding clubs of the GUI. A must for any golfer. Paul McGinley has been working with the club in recent years and the benefits are truly spectacular.



Ring of Kerry Golf Club

Templenoe, Killarney, Co Kerry

Tel 353 (0) 64 66 42000
Email info@ringofkerrygolf.com
Web www.ringofkerrygolf.com
Course Heathland
Length 6,663 metres
Par 73

Positioned overlooking the stunning panoramic vista of Kenmare Bay and the Beara Mountains, Ring of Kerry Golf Club is a unique heathland course that epitomises the essence of golf in Ireland. Designed by Eddie Hackett, the course provides an idyllic landscaped setting offering a mix of undulating fairways and large borrowing greens. Green Fees €75 per round.



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Ballybunion

County Kerry, Ireland
www.ballybuniongolfclub.ie



Rosapenna Golf Resort
Downings, Letterkenny, Co Donegal

Tel 00353 (0)74 915 5000
Email golf@rosapenna.ie
Web www.rosapenna.ie
Course Links
Length Old Tom Morris 6,901 yards
 Sandy Hills 7,183 yards
Par Old Tom Morris 71/Sandy Hills 72

The Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Resort is set alongside the beautiful Sheephaven Bay in North-West Donegal. The two championship links courses have the luxury hotel on site providing great value play & stay packages from March-October. The Old Tom Morris Links & Sandy Hills Links welcome visitors for green fee play seven days with online offers available on our website. Green Fees: see our website for all online offers.



Shannon Golf Club
Shannon, Co. Clare

Tel 353 61 471849
Email info@shannongolfclub.ie
Web www.shannongolfclub.ie
Course Parkland
Length 6,184 metres
Par 72

Mature tree lined fairways along with sand based and traditional greens protected by strategically placed bunkers ensures this will be an enjoyable challenge for all golfers. Water hazards feature on 5 holes including the signature hole, a par 3 playing over the Shannon Estuary which requires a dedicated shot.



Trump International Golf Links & Hotel, Doonbeg
Doonbeg, Co. Clare, Ireland

Tel 00353 (65) 905 5600
Email Doonbeg.Reservations@trumphotels.com
Web www.trumpirelandhotel.com
Course Links
Length 7,026 yards / 6,425 metres
Par 72

The course follows nature along 1.5 miles of crescent-shaped beach and dunes, with ocean views from 16 of 18 holes and has recently been resigned by Dr Martin Hawtree. With natural routing among dunes resulting in an uncommon combination of 5 par 3s and 5 par 5s. Variation in wind speed assures the course plays differently almost every day; most holes feature 5 or more tee locations to allow for a range of conditions and abilities.



You are invited to play on the links at
Enniscrone Golf Club

Enjoy 27 holes of picturesque golf in a seaside setting.

With over 15 hotels locally, this beautiful course is perfect for a weekend or midweek getaway with friends or family.

The Dunes Championship Links at Enniscrone Golf Club is ranked #12 in Ireland Top 100 Courses by Golf Digest.

14 UK/ROI with Golf Digest • 53 UK/ROI with Golf World

Enniscrone, Co. Sligo Tel: 353 96 36297 E-mail: info@enniscronegolf.com
 www.enniscronegolf.com



LEE VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Located only 15 minutes from Cork city, Lee Valley Golf & Country Club is situated in one of the most beautiful parts of southern Ireland. Enjoy a game of golf around our picturesque, 18-hole Championship golf course, relax and eat a hearty meal in the Lee Valley Bar & Restaurant or get away from it all with a stay at one of our four star holiday homes. To compliment your day, Lee Valley Golf & Country Club offers a bus service to all its guests. Airport collections and returns can be arranged, while group and society collections as well as a drop home service are also available.

T: 00 353 0 21 7331721 | E: reservations@leevalley
 www.leevalleygcc.ie



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A winning blend of natural beauty and golfing adventure, the championship golf course at Galway Bay Golf Resort is regarded among the very best golf courses in Ireland.



COURSE FACTS

Architect: Christy O'Connor Junior
Course Length: Blue Tees: 7308 yards
No. of Holes: 18 holes

Practice Facilities: 20 bay grass driving range, Short game greens (2nr), Putting Green
Hire Services: Golf Buggies, Powered Golf Carts, Caddies. Ladies and Gents club Rentals

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Waterville Golf Links

Waterville, Co. Kerry

Tel 353 (0) 66 9474102
Email info@watervillegolflinks.ie
Web www.watervillegolflinks.ie
Course Links
Length 7,355 yards
Par 72

Mystical links on the roaring Atlantic. Founded in 1889 and ranked among the top three of Ireland and the top 100 in the world. Golf at Waterville is a mystical experience - the beauty of classic links land, surrounded by sea, yet forever challenged and shaped by the elements. Visitors and societies welcome. For accommodation, tee times, rates and reservations please contact the clubhouse.

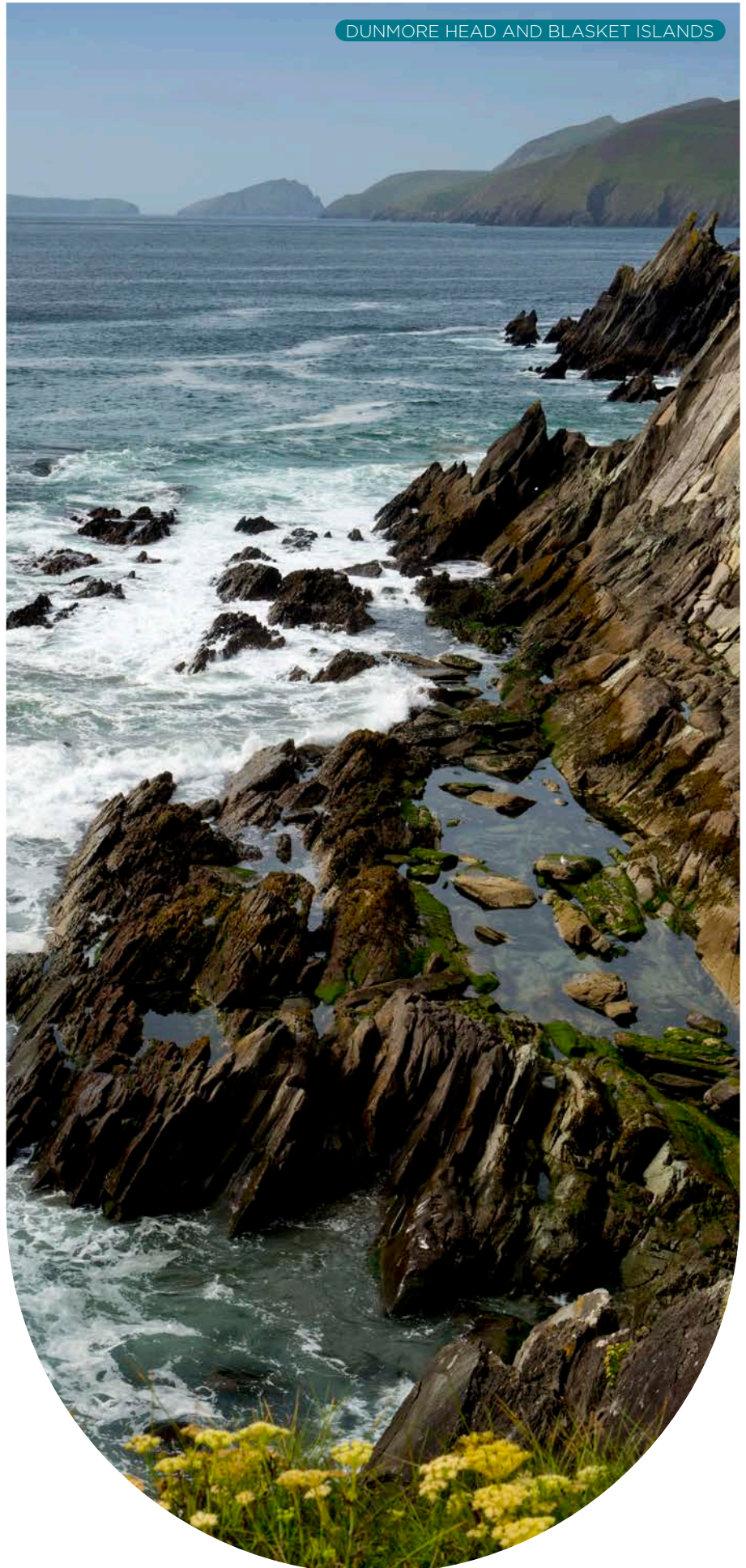


Woodstock Golf Club

Shanaway Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

Tel 00353656829463
Email proshopwoodstock@eircom.net
Web www.woodstockgolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 5599 metres
Par 72

18 Hole parkland, situated on the outskirts of Ennis town, on the N85, on the way to Lahinch. Holes 6,7,8 are all trying holes with the 7th being our feature hole Index 1 crossing water. Followed by par 3 8th, Holes 16, 17, and 18 are the making or breaking of a good score.





Club listings on the Wild Atlantic Way

Ballybofey & Stranorlar

Stranorlar, Ballybofey, Co Donegal
www.ballybofeystranorlar.com
info@ballybofeyandstranorlargoifclub.com
00 353 (0) 74 913 1093

Ballybunion

Sandhill Road, Ballybunion, Co Kerry
www.ballybuniongolfclub.ie
info@ballybuniongolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 68 27146

Ballyheigue Castle

Ballyheigue, Co Kerry
www.ballyheiguecastlegolfclub.com
golf@ballyheiguecastlegolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 66 713 3555

Ballyliffin

Ballyliffin, Inishowen, Co Donegal
www.ballyliffingolfclub.com
info@ballyliffingolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 74 937 6119

Bantry Bay

Bantry, West Cork, Co Cork
www.bantrygolf.com
info@bantrygolf.com
00 353 (0) 27 50579

Bearna

Corbole, Bearna, Co Galway
www.bearnagolfclub.com
info@bearnagolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 91 592677

Berehaven

Filane, Castletownbere, Co Cork
www.berehavengolf.com
info@berehavengolf.com
00 353 (0) 27 70700

Buncrana

Buncrana, Inishowen, Co Donegal
www.buncranagolfclub.com
info@buncranagolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 74 9362279

Bundoran

Bundoran, Co Donegal
www.bundorangolfclub.com
info@bundorangolfclub.com
00 353 (0) 71 9841302

Carne (Belmullet)

Carne, Belmullet, Co Mayo
www.carnegolflinks.com
info@carnegolflinks.com
00 353 (0) 97 82292

Castlegregory

Stradbally, Dingle Peninsula, Co Kerry
www.castlegregorygolflinks.com
info@castlegregorygolflinks.com
00 353 (0) 66 713 9444

Dingle Links (Ceann Sibeal)

Ballyferriter, Dingle Peninsula, Tralee,
Co Kerry
www.dinglelinks.com
dinglegc@iol.ie
00 353 (0) 66 915 6255

Cloughaneely

Ballyconnell, Falcarragh, Co Donegal
www.falcarraghgolfclub.ie
info@falcarraghgolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 74 916 5416

Co Sligo

Rosses Point, Co Sligo
www.countydogolfclub.ie
info@countydogolfclub.ie
00 353 (0) 71 917 7134

Connemara

Ballyconnelly, Co Galway
www.connemaragolflinks.com
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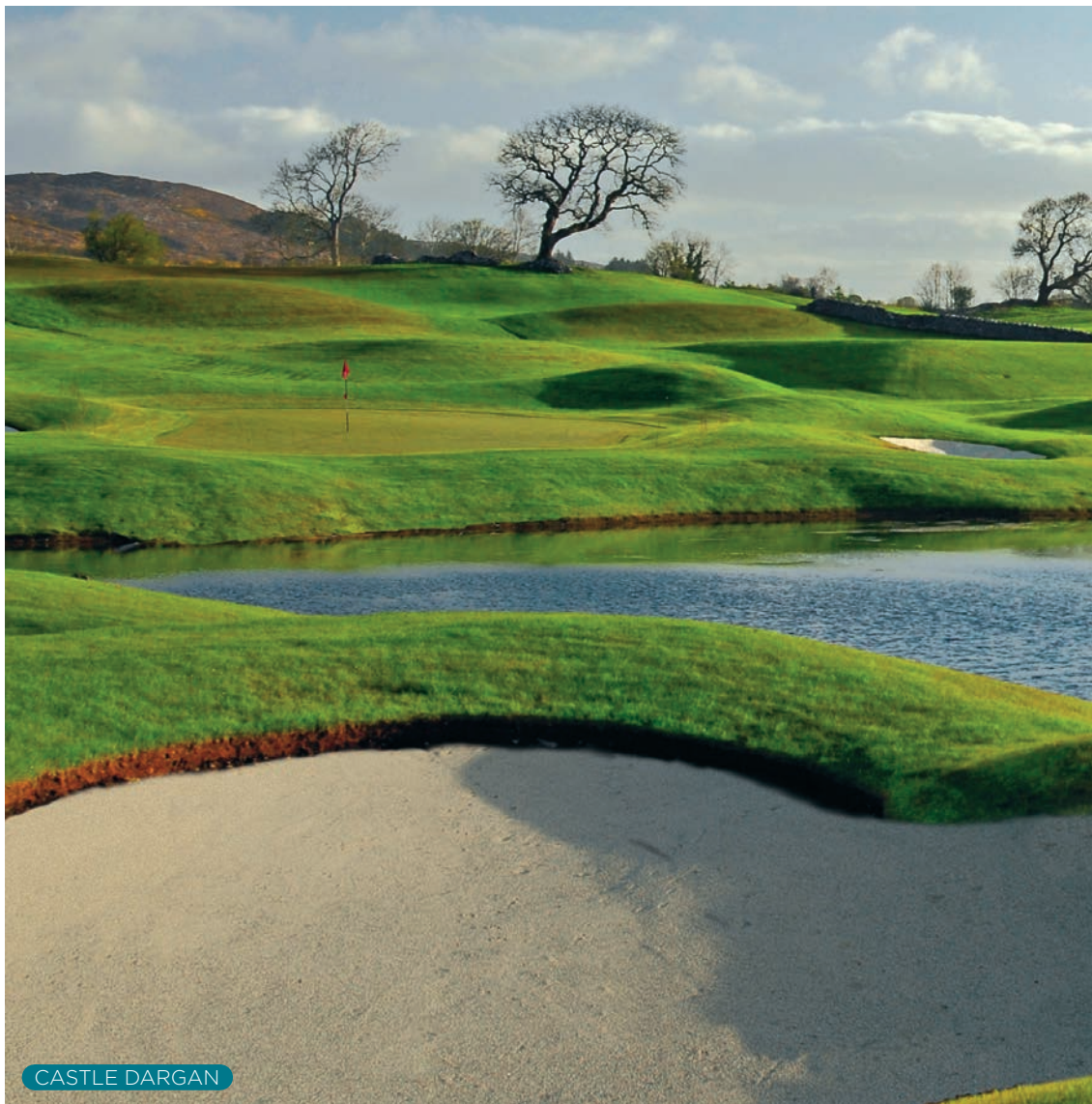
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DOWNPATRICK HEAD



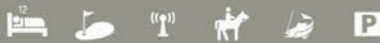
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TRAVEL TIMES BY AIR

Adare Manor	
00:20	Ballybunnion
00:20	00:30 Doonbeg
00:25	00:30 00:45 Killarney
00:20	00:20 00:10 00:30 Lahinch
00:35	00:40 00:45 00:30 00:50 Old Head
00:30	00:35 00:20 00:15 00:30 00:35 Tralee
00:40	00:30 00:35 00:20 00:45 00:35 00:20 Waterville

TRAVEL TIMES BY ROAD

Adare Manor	
01:10	Ballybunnion
01:30	01:30 Doonbeg
01:30	01:15 02:30 Killarney
01:30	02:00 00:30 02:40 Lahinch
02:15	02:45 03:30 01:45 03:30 Old Head
01:30	00:50 02:30 01:00 02:30 02:30 Tralee
02:20	02:00 03:30 01:15 03:30 03:00 01:45 Waterville





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Nearby Golf Courses:
 Galway, Bearna



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History in the making

With the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open at Portstewart Golf Club becoming a part of the Rolex Series from 2017, a boosted prize fund and world-class field mean that it promises to be one of the best Irish Opens in history. By **David Gorman**



World-class golf will return to Northern Ireland this year, as

Portstewart Golf Club hosts the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open, Hosted by the Rory Foundation from July 6-9.

With its new place on the calendar just two weeks before golf's oldest major The Open Championship, these are exciting times for Ireland's national Open. Indeed, the European Tour has designated it special status as a new Rolex Series event from 2017, with a minimum prize fund of €6.5m (\$7m).

It signifies the full recovery of one of the European Tour's most loved events, which had struggled for sponsors after the economic crash of 2008. 2017's prize fund will be over four times that of 2011 and at a premium time on the calendar, it will surely welcome one of the best fields we've ever seen here

for an Irish Open.

Much credit for the event's rebirth has to go to Rory McIlroy, whose personal involvement in the Irish Open has elevated its prestige. The Northern Irishman is a four-time major winner and has spent 95 weeks on top of the Official World Golf Rankings at the age of only 27.

Last year, McIlroy won the event at the K Club in a swashbuckling fashion that was played all around the world.

One shot behind after 15 holes, McIlroy finished three under for his final three holes, playing two of the best shots that he will ever hit to set up eagle chances on the 16th and 18th holes.

McIlroy sealed an emotional victory over Scotsman Russell Knox, and donated his prize fund of €630,000 to three charities supported by The Rory Foundation, his own foundation



RORY McILROY AND TIGER WOODS

which hosts the event.

His gripping performance in Kildare was the clincher for The European Tour in including the event in the Rolex Series. With its fantastic courses and a guarantee of the European Tour's marquee player every year, the Irish Open is becoming a major player on the world stage.

Keith Pelley, Chief Executive of the European Tour, said: "Thanks in no small part to Rory McIlroy's personal commitment alongside that of his Foundation, the Irish Open has unquestionably grown in stature over recent years. We also must thank our partners in the championship – title sponsors Dubai Duty Free and the

Northern Ireland Government – for their continued vision and commitment not only to this event, but to the European Tour as a whole.

"Northern Ireland has some of the most passionate and knowledgeable golf fans in the world and I know how much our members enjoyed the recent Irish Opens at Royal Portrush and Royal County Down. I have no doubt that next year's edition at Portstewart will add another memorable chapter to the history of this great championship."

With its new place on the calendar from July 6-9, Portstewart Golf Club should serve as the perfect warmup for the world's best golfers, ahead



PORTSTEWART GOLF CLUB

McIlroy asked Tiger Woods to play at The K Club before he was ruled out by injury last year, and the American has not ruled out playing this year yet as he finalises his Tour schedule

of the battle to be named Champion Golfer of the Year at Royal Birkdale two weeks later.

“I think the date two weeks before The Open entices guys to come over early an acclimatise to the conditions and get to play links golf,” McIlroy said.

“So I wouldn’t be surprised to see a couple of the Americans from the Ryder Cup come over and play this year.”

McIlroy asked Tiger Woods to play at The K Club before he was ruled out by injury last year, and the American has not ruled out playing this year yet as he finalises his Tour schedule.

“We’d love Tiger to play but we haven’t reached out in any capacity.” McIlroy’s assistant Sean O’Flaherty said. “With Tiger, the request would have to come from Rory and he did text Tiger last year.

“A good number of players will be asked by the Rory

Foundation – Patrick Reed, Sergio Garcia, Dustin Johnson and Jason Day will all be asked. If not next year, hopefully they will commit to playing one of the years.”

One of the Irish Open’s main attractions is the prospect of playing in front of a superb crowd in Ireland. The Irish Open consistently enjoys one of the largest galleries on the European Tour.

In 2012, the Irish Open at Royal Portrush, right beside Portstewart Golf Club, had an attendance of 112,000 over four days and at that point was the highest attendance ever recorded

on the European Tour.

In 2015, 107,000 people watched the Irish Open at the majestic Royal County Down, Golf Digest’s No 1 Course in the World. Stars such as Sergio Garcia, Rickie Fowler and Martin Kaymer joined Rory McIlroy in making it a special week on the links of Newcastle, as Dane Søren Kjeldsen won the title.

“The crowds always turn up and show their support, and that’s one of the main reasons why I enjoy playing in Ireland,” two-time major winner Martin Kaymer said.

“The Irish people love their golf and really get behind the players, so it should make for a

The whole world will see the superb Des Giffen-designed Strand Course, set on Ulster's famous causeway coast, with high dunes complemented by stunning views across the bay.



GRAEME McDOWELL

great atmosphere, especially with such a strong field there.”

Similar crowds are expected at Portstewart Golf Club this year, a course that has been considered a hidden gem on the island for many years.

Founded in 1894 and long considered one of the country's finest links courses, Portstewart will be staging a European Tour event for the first time. The whole world will see the superb Des Giffen-designed Strand Course, set on Ulster's famous causeway coast, with high dunes complemented by stunning views

across the bay. The winner will have every shot in the bag tested at Portstewart.

Enhanced in 1986 on natural links land known as 'Thistly Hollow', the Strand Course has hosted numerous amateur tournaments, including one strokeplay qualifying round for the 2014 Amateur Championship, which was won by Bradley Neil.

Michael Moss, outgoing General Manager of Portstewart Golf Club, said: "We are delighted to team up with the European Tour to host the 2017

Dubai Duty Free Irish Open.

"The Club will embrace the challenge, and we have no doubt that the Strand Course will provide nothing less than a worthy test of golf."

Portstewart played slightly tougher than Royal Portrush when it hosted the strokeplay qualifying for the Amateur Championship in 2014 and could prove a tough test if the famous sharp coastal winds are in play.

"The lowest score on either course for the British Amateur was 66," Mr Moss explained.

"And the CSS both days at Portrush was 75 and both days here it was 75. I think the players were very pleasantly surprised by the quality and the challenge of the course."

It has hosted one of Ireland's biggest amateur tournaments, the Irish Close Championship, three times. Incidentally, future European Tour player Gary Murphy beat Rory's caddie JP Fitzgerald 2&1 there in 1992.

Fitzgerald will be able to pass on this information to Rory as he looks to defend his title, but all the Irish stars – Padraig Harrington, Graeme McDowell and Shane Lowry among them – will be well aware of the challenges that the Strand Course will present.

While Harrington (2007) and Lowry (2009) have won the Irish Open, one of the few things missing 2010 US Open champion McDowell's golfing resumé is an Irish Open victory. He admits that raising that Waterford Crystal trophy would be one of the most special moments of his career. It would be even more special at Portstewart, as he grew up in Portrush, only a 10-minute drive from the course.

"There's no doubt The Irish Open is on my golfing bucket list," he said. "It's an event I would love to win and I would love to add it to my CV. To win your National Open is a very special win in a player's heart."



PORTSTEWART GOLF CLUB

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Rory McIlroy - Winner of the 2005 Irish Close Championship at Westport Golf Club

Paul McGinley, 2014 Ryder Cup European Team Captain shot a course record of 65 at
Westport Golf Club on his way to capturing the Smurfit PGA Championship in 2002



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Counties in this section: **Armagh, Down, Antrim, Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh**

Names such as Rory McIlroy, Darren Clarke and Graeme McDowell are as much the stuff of legend in this part of the world as venerable courses like Royal Portrush, which will host The Open Championship for the first time in 68 years in 2019.



Northern Ireland has produced a long list of world beating golfers but even Rory McIlroy, Darren Clarke, Graeme McDowell and Fred Daly would agree that they would never have made it as world stars had it not been for the wonderful array of golf courses on their doorstep.

From humble parkland

layouts such as Holywood and Dungannon to world class championship links of the calibre of Royal County Down, Royal Portrush or Portstewart, which will host this year's Irish Open, young guns looking to learn the game can test themselves and play every shot under the sun.





**Northern
Ireland**



ROYAL COUNTY DOWN

It's thanks to the exploits of McIlroy, McDowell and Clarke that this smart but picturesque corner of Ireland has been thrust into the spotlight in recent years, yet it has always been sacred ground in Irish golfing circles.

People have been enjoying the Royal and Ancient game here since the sport's earliest days, and visitors now come from far and wide to enjoy the many varied courses and the unspoiled landscape that allows the game to be played as it should be.

Fly into Belfast and you will be spoiled for choice with Royal Belfast, just a stone's throw from McIlroy's Holywood home, or Belvoir Park and Malone, just three of the best parkland courses in the entire country.

While Royal Curragh is acknowledged as the oldest golf club in Ireland, Royal Belfast has been one of the great places of Irish golf since the club moved to the 140-acre estate at Craigavad House, overlooking Belfast Lough, in 1925.

Motoring up the Ling Avenue to the majestic clubhouse, it isn't hard to imagine how the great designer Harry Colt might have felt as he made that journey for the first time.

That the course he created remains largely unchanged as nearby Samson and Goliath, the giant Harland & Wolff gantry cranes that dominate the city skyline, is a testament to a classic design that has been enhanced in recent years with the restoration of many of the famous Colt bunkers.

Little wonder that McIlroy, who grew up just a mile or two down the road in Holywood and has a house just a five-minute drive away, is a member and a regular on what is a superb, par-70 course measuring every inch of its 6,300-yards.

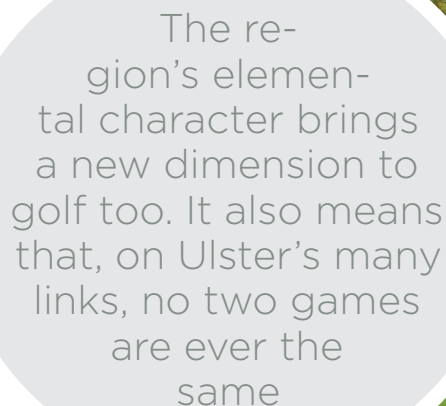
It's a "proper" test of golf and its opening three holes are as stout a trio of par-fours as you are likely to find anywhere. The fourth is a delightful par three, the shortest hole on the course at 137-yards from the medal tees.

Don't forget to have lunch in the Herdman Room, where visitors can peer out at the silvery waters and imagine the ill-fated Titanic, built in Belfast's shipyards, gliding past those sash windows over a century ago.

In fact, if food is your thing, treat yourself to a round of golf and the best view of Belfast you will find anywhere as you sit down for a meal in The View, the modern clubhouse restaurant set high above another Colt masterpiece at Belvoir Park.

It's less than three miles from Belfast city centre to the gates of Belvoir Park, the Lagan Valley and the Belvoir Park Forest. That means it's no more than a 10-minute drive down the famous Ormeau Road to a club, which was founded in 1927 and hosted the Irish Open in 1949 and 1953.

'The Beauty of Belvoir', as it is fondly coined, is more than a stunningly beautiful parkland course set on 136 acres of mature woodland, but a wonderful test of golf



The region's elemental character brings a new dimension to golf too. It also means that, on Ulster's many links, no two games are ever the same

LOUGH ERNE

designed by the great Mr Colt and benefits from its location in the heart of the city.

It's little wonder that Belvoir Park is one of the few Irish venues to have hosted the Irish Open, Irish Professional Championship and the Irish Amateur Close - a distinction it shares with such revered Irish clubs as Royal Dublin, Cork, Portmarnock, Ballybunion, Woodbrook and Royal County Down.

The list of proud members is too long to mention but suffice to say that the genial club manager, Mr Jim Cullen, was bursting with pride when revealing the magnificent, panoramic view from the modern clubhouse.

While whales have been seen frolicking in the ocean off the coast of Co Kerry and the sun setting on the dunes of Portrush, it's worth dropping in to Belvoir Park just to drink in the spectacular vista from the clubhouse terrace.

Set high above the tree-lined course, the open plan club restaurant, featuring a huge, curving window and balcony, has been christened "The View".

The golf course can also take your breath away, not because there are a couple of

testing little climbs — they're nothing for a player in reasonable golfing condition — but because the holes are so wonderfully framed by the trees.

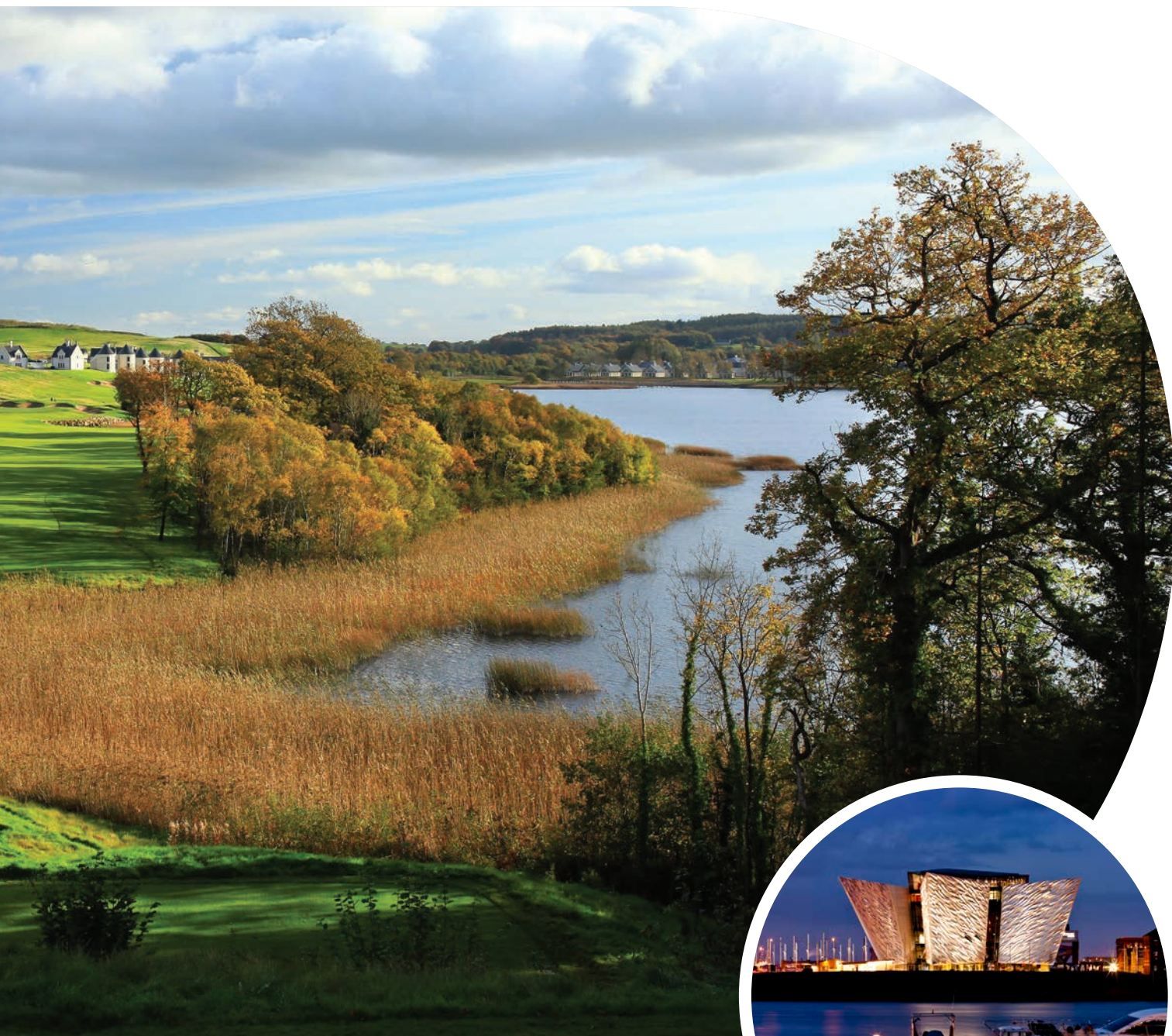
It wasn't always this way, mind you. When Colt planned the course, he felt it was possible to make one that would "afford an excellent test" and at the same time "give the maximum pleasure to all players".

At 6,685 yards from the blues and 6,474 yards from the whites, Belvoir Park is a true championship challenge where you are required to strike the ball very well to stay on pristine fairways, while its billiard table greens are renowned throughout Ireland.

Every hole is a thrill, such as the par-three fourth, which measures close to 190 yards from the medal tees or the index one 12th, a muscular par four that sweeps right to left over a billowing fairway to an elevated green.

The clubhouse is visible on a hill in the distance as you sweat to keep score intact over the closing three holes.

The area is of such great natural beauty that one can't help wondering why course designers deserve any praise at all. Surely, one



TITANIC BELFAST

is tempted to say, Mother Nature did all the hard work and the greenkeepers simply had to turn up and mow the fairways and greens.

The land has been hewn from the island's ancient rock by ice ages and the power of the sea, leaving a dramatic mix of rugged, rolling countryside and stunning shoreline.

The region's elemental character brings a new dimension to golf too. It also means that, on Ulster's many links, no two games are ever the same. The test will change, often in the middle of round, and so too will the dramatic views.

Inland, more modern creations such as Lough Erne and Galgorm Castle continue to grow in stature. Galgorm, on the picturesque estate surrounding a 17th century Jacobean Castle in Ballymena, is a tight Championship layout with a good mix of doglegs intertwined with natural water hazards.

The Northern Ireland Open on the European Challenge Tour takes place at Galgorm every year, which gets crowds of upto 40,000 people, in what is proving to be a festival of NI culture, from golf to food to live music.

Indeed, off the course, Ulster is brimming with great restaurants and bars, from the bustling city centre of Belfast to the smallest country village. There are simply too many to mention in one sitting but every 19th hole is a welcoming place and the golf club bar is often the best place to stop for refreshment and a bite to eat before hitting the road again.

Must visit destinations include the Giant's Causeway, a World Heritage Site just a few minutes from Portrush.

Walkers will find Northern Ireland to be the perfect place to visit and the clubs can be left before for a jaunt around the Mourne Mountains, hailed as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' that is easily accessible, just minutes from Royal County Down.

When in the area visitors can test their skills at a great parkland course like Kilkeel, nestled in the foothills of the Mournes and overlooking the Irish Sea.

You could also tee it up at Warrenpoint, a club that has produced numerous Irish internationals and wonderful club teams over the years.

They say it's a sign of a great course that you can recall all the holes without much effort and that's certainly true of Kilkeel, where Lord Justice Babington designed the original nine hole course back in the 1920s.

It was not until 1993 that it was extended to 18 holes by Eddie Hackett but this spectacular, 120-acre wooded site at the foot of Knockchree Mountain, just three miles from Kilkeel town centre on the main Newry road is a memorable round.

Given the competition from the great links courses, Kilkeel is unlikely to get a mention ahead of the wonderful parkland resorts that cost so much to build.

And that's a shame because Kilkeel has teeth and was chosen by the R&A to host

qualifying for the Senior British Open Championship from 2000 to 2002.

But it's also a good thing because you are quite likely to have a most pleasant and peaceful round with nothing but the cooing of pigeons and the rustling of leaves in the sea breeze to put you off your game.

A little local knowledge always goes a long way anywhere and it's especially useful at Kilkeel. Holes like the par-five first or the tricky, tree-lined 12th, 13th and 14th are true card wreckers but even if your golf is not rewarded, the surroundings are stunning.

They are amongst the best in Northern Ireland but there are many other favourites.

The elevated eighth at Castlerock and the first and second holes at Portstewart Golf Club's Strand Course, Northern Ireland's most westerly links courses, are three of the best.

The first on the Strand Course is often described as Ireland's finest opening hole, requiring a big drive down the left and a mid-iron approach to a challenging green, while the second requires a good drive between the dunes to another elevated green.

The 13th and 14th on the Dunluce Links at Royal Portrush, which will host the

2019 Open Championship, are on many people's bucket list. The former is an uphill par-four that requires a perfect approach to an upturned saucer green, while the 210-yard 14th, world famous 'Calamity', requires a long iron or a wood over a deep ravine to avoid disaster.

Head to the east coast to Co Down and the par-five 11th at Ardglass or the fourth and fifth holes at Royal County

Down are three of the world's best. Royal County Down, which hosted the 2015 Irish Open, has been named the No 1 course in the world by Golf Digest magazine.

The list of great holes could go on.

The 351-yard, par-four 10th on the Faldo Course at

Lough Erne requires lots of nerve to avoid disaster at the lake protected green.

Darren Clarke grew up and learned his golf at Dungannon in County Tyrone where he designed the tough, par-three ninth. A two-tiered challenge from an elevated tee, it requires a perfect strike to avoid the water hazard at the front and find the correct level.

The clifftop second at Cairndhu, a

The elevated eighth at Castlerock and the first and second holes at Portstewart Golf Club's Strand Course, Northern Ireland's most westerly links courses, are three of the best



160-yard par-three perched high above the Causeway Coast, is not for the faint-hearted. But there's also the tricky, par-three eighth at Belvoir Park, where six greenside bunkers lie in wait.

If power rather than precision is your strength then visit Holywood, McIlroy's home course where visitors can try and drive the 357-yard 17th. Rory did it when he was just 15 years old.

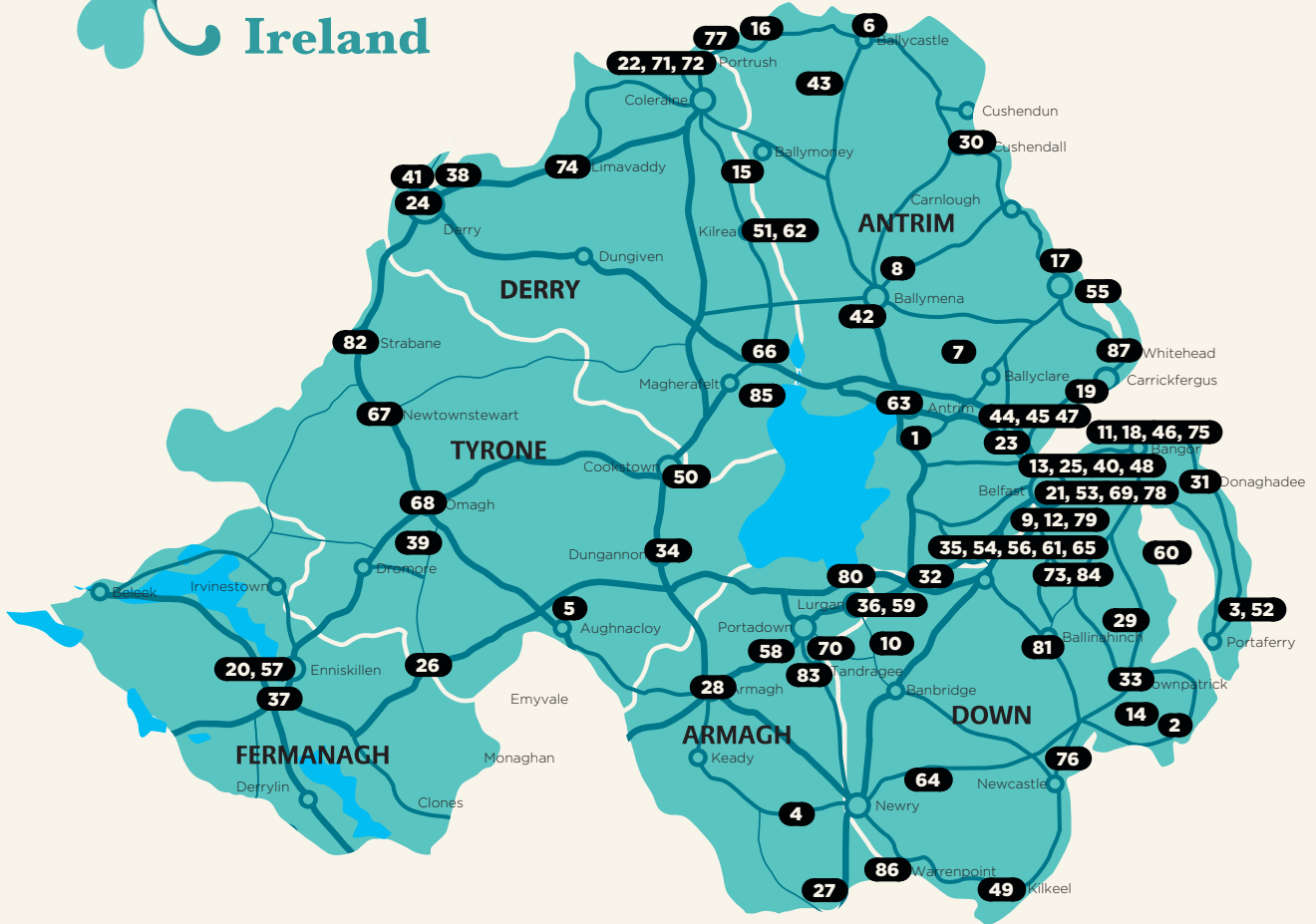
In short, there is something for everyone in Northern Ireland and the great beauty of the region is that it is so small, you can drive from one end to the other in less than two hours.

Given those long, mid-summer days, that means you can play 18 holes at Warrenpoint in the morning, have a leisurely lunch, drive two hours north to Portstewart, play another round and still have time for dinner before the sun goes down.



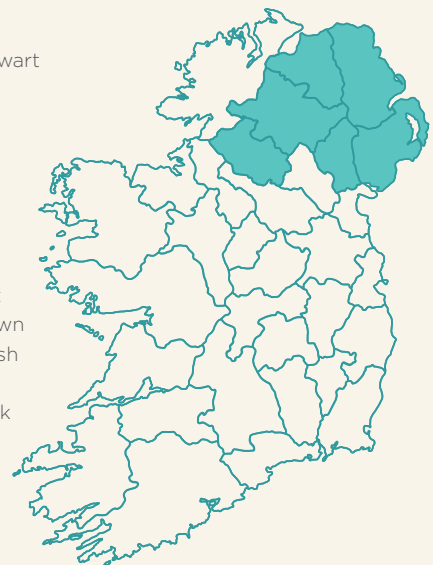


Northern Ireland



A-Z GOLF COURSES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Antrim | 23. City of Belfast | 45. Greenisland | 66. Moyola Park |
| 2. Ardglass | 24. City of Derry | 46. Helen's Bay | 67. Newtownstewart |
| 3. Ardminnan | 25. Clandeboye | 47. Hilton | 68. Omagh |
| 4. Ashfield | 26. Clogher Valley | 48. Holywood | 69. Ormeau |
| 5. Aughnacloy | 27. Cloverhill | 49. Kilkeel | 70. Portadown |
| 6. Ballycastle | 28. Co Armagh | 50. Killymoon | 71. Portstewart |
| 7. Ballyclare | 29. Crossgar | 51. Kilrea | 72. Rathmore |
| 8. Ballymena | 30. Cushendall | 52. Kirkistown Castle | 73. Rockmount |
| 9. Balmoral | 31. Donaghadee | 53. Knock | 74. Roe Park |
| 10. Banbridge | 32. Down Royal | 54. Lambeg | 75. Royal Belfast |
| 11. Bangor | 33. Downpatrick | 55. Larne | 76. Royal Co Down |
| 12. Belvoir Park | 34. Dungannon | 56. Lisburn | 77. Royal Portrush |
| 13. Blackwood | 35. Dunmurry | 57. Lough Erne | 78. Scrabo |
| 14. Bright Castle | 36. Edenmore | 58. Loughgall | 79. Shandon Park |
| 15. Brown Trout | 37. Enniskillen | 59. Lurgan | 80. Silverwood |
| 16. Bushfoot | 38. Faughan Valley | 60. Mahee Island | 81. Spa |
| 17. Cairndhu | 39. Fintona | 61. Malone | 82. Strabane |
| 18. Carnalea | 40. Fortwilliam | 62. Manorbennet | 83. Tandragee |
| 19. Carrickfergus | 41. Foyle | 63. Massereene | 84. Temple |
| 20. Castle Hume | 42. Galgorm Castle | 64. Mayobridge | 85. Traad Ponds |
| 21. Castlereagh Hills | 43. Gracehill | 65. Mount Ober | 86. Warrenpoint |
| 22. Castlerock | 44. Greenacres | | 87. Whitehead |



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Belvoir Park Golf Club

Church Road, Newtownbreda, Belfast

Tel 44 (0)28 90491693
Email info@belvoirparkgolfclub.com
Web www.belvoirparkgolfclub.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,685 yards
Par 71

Founded in 1927, this secluded and undulating championship course, which meanders through 136 acres of mature woodland, was designed by the famous course architect HS Colt. With stunning views from a spectacular clubhouse, this is one of Ireland's best golfing secrets. Many famous golfers have rated Belvoir Park as one of the best inland courses in Ireland, if not the British Isles. Green fees: from £75-£85.



Castlerock Golf Club

65 Circular Rd, Coleraine, Co Derry

Tel 02870848314
Email info@castlerockgc.co.uk
Web www.castlerockgc.co.uk
Course Links
Length 6,805 yards Mussenden / 4,892 yards Bann
Par 73 Mussenden / 68 Bann

Classic links course set on the North Coast of Ireland. The Mussenden Course is an 18 hole championship course designed by legendary club maker Ben Sayers and Harry Colt which is a real test of golf! The Bann Course, situated on the banks of the river Bann and is a great 9 hole course designed by American Professional Harvey Penick.



Galgorm Castle Golf Club

Galgorm Road, Ballymena, Co Antrim

Tel 44 (0)28 25646161
Email golf@galgormcastle.com
Web www.galgormcastle.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,930 Yards
Par 72

Galgorm Castle Golf Club is an exciting mixture of the new and the old. This 18 hole Championship course is set on 220 acres of beautiful, mature parkland located in the heart of County Antrim. It is overlooked by Galgorm Castle which was built in 1618 and is the Home of the Northern Ireland Open. Green fees: from £50-£60.



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142 Main Road, Cloughey
Newtownards, Co Down, BT22 1JA

Tel 44 (0)28 42771233
Email office@kirkistowncastlegolfclub.com
Web www.kirkistowncastlegolfclub.com
Course Links
Length 6,167 yards
Par 69

Kirkistown Castle is the only "links" golf course in Ireland designed by the legendary James Braid. It has a tremendous variety of holes with some elevated greens and tees making perfect use of two hillocks at either end of the course. Visitors are assured of a very warm welcome, a challenging but very enjoyable golfing experience and unsurpassable value for money for a true links golf experience. Green fees: From £35.



Malone Golf Club

Upper Malone Road, Dunmurry,
Belfast, Co Antrim

Tel 44 (0)28 9061 2758
Email manager@malonegolfclub.co.uk
Web www.malonegolfclub.co.uk
Course Parkland
Length 6,689 yards
Par 71

Malone is a fine championship course situated on 330 acres of wooded parkland. Its 27 holes of secluded parkland countryside is just five miles from Belfast City centre. The centre piece of the course is the beautiful natural trout lake which extends across some 27 acres. The course is a real challenge for all levels of golfer. Green fees: from £20-£85.



The Royal Belfast Golf Club

Station Road, Graigavad, Co Down

Tel 44 (0) 28 90428165
Email admin@royalbelfast.com
Web www.royalbelfast.com
Course Parkland
Length 6,185 yards
Par 70

The Royal Belfast Golf Club is the oldest private members golf club in Ireland. Founded on 9th November 1881, it marked the birth of the game of golf in Ireland and in 1891 the club became one of only nine founder member clubs of the Golfing Union of Ireland. Green fees: £97.



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