

Top 100 Golf Tours & Celtic Castles



Irish VIP Golf Vacations

Ireland is a country littered with some of the world's most fantastic golf courses, offering some of the purest golfing experiences, but the landscape is also adorned with many top 5 star and family owned castles. A golf break in Ireland is guaranteed to be an absolutely unforgettable experience, however, add this to playing some of the world's top 100 golf courses and staying in historic castles, puts a whole new dimension on the experience.

We believe certain people value quality, be it in the quality of the golf courses they play or the accommodations where they choose to stay on their trips and the experiences these create. Therefore that Top 100 Golf Tours and Celtic Castles offer this package jointly is only a normal extension of their vision of what their client's present and future want.

Add to this the superb nightlife and numerous points of cultural and historical interest making an Irish golf break of this caliber truly magnificent.



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The golf courses chosen are only the World top 100 golf courses as rated by Golf.com and Top100 golfcourses.uk.co. You will be playing only Top 100 World golf courses #18 Ballybunion , #44 Lahinch, #91 Waterville on the West Coast, #45 Portmarnock and #57 The European Club on the East Coast .

The Golf Courses

Portmarnock Golf Club- *Portmarnock is arguably the top Championship Course in Ireland. It has hosted all of Ireland's top championships from the Irish Ladies Close to the Irish Open. It has also hosted some of the world's biggest golfing events including the Canada Cup now known as the World Cup in 1960 and the Walker Cup in 1991. Take a moment and appreciate this course*



"In 2008 Portmarnock was voted as the number one course in Ireland"-Editor Golf Digest



European Club- European Club- *This relative newcomer to the scene, it only opened in 1993 and is already being ranked alongside the likes of Portmarnock, Ballybunion and Royal County Down. It's a traditional links course and from start to finish the holes are truly spectacular, the ones that are not by the sea by equally as good as those that are. The European Club, as the name suggests, is designed as and destined to be a major links and a major club. The links features 20-holes (two extra holes are in play most days) of exciting links golf through tumbling dunes with dramatic views of the Irish Sea from no fewer than sixteen of the holes! Some of the holes play along the beach! Take a moment and appreciate this course-*



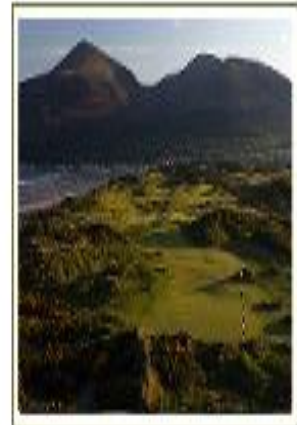
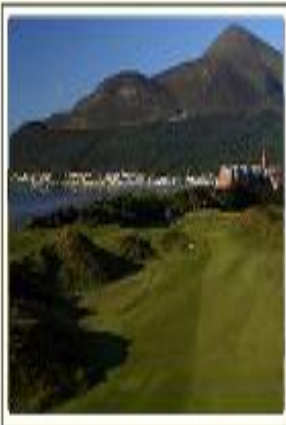
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Lahinch-The Old Course at Lahinch Golf Club, redesigned first by Alister Mackenzie in 1927, is a visual stunner to rival the British Isle's most spectacular and storied golf courses. There isn't a mundane shot on the entire golf course, and your jaw will often drop at the views. Undulating fairways, heavily guarded greens and blind shots are among Lahinch's challenges. Mackenzie wasn't the first to be awestruck with Lahinch. In 1894, Old Tom Morris remarked that Lahinch's land made for the best natural course he'd ever seen. The following video will show you the special nature of this course-



Royal County Dawn-The outcome of this munificence resulted in Old Tom spending two days "on the ground" and suggesting 18 holes which were in play some months later, proof indeed that golf club design in those days was a very different kettle of fish, but proof also that so many of the great links courses of today were created on natural dune land that had always been there. The Championship Course is consistently rated among the world's top ten courses. Laid out beneath the imperious gaze of the Mountains of Mourne, the course enjoys a magnificent stage-like setting as it stretches out along the shores of Dundrum Bay. As well as it being one of the world's most beautiful courses, it is also one of the most challenging, with great swathes of heather and gorse lining fairways that tumble beneath vast sand hills, and wild 'tussocky' faced bunkers defending mall subtly contoured green. It is spectacular to look at even more thrilling to play. Royal County Down is regarded by many as THE most beautiful golf course in the world.

The following video will show you why it is such a unique club-



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Ballybunion-The very name Ballybunion Golf Club, strikes a chord with golfing enthusiasts around the globe. Rated one of the ten best golf courses in the world, Ballybunion overlooks the Atlantic Ocean, is a 6029 meter, par 71 course. The Old Course at Ballybunion is a true seaside links, virtually treeless with a distinct lack of manmade influences. The contours on the fairways and greens are what make Ballybunion a great golf course. It is a course that will test your patience. It is not a course that favors one particular style of play over another, but one that simply rewards good play and good shots. The following 2 videos will show you the beauty of these 2 courses-



Waterville Links land is a geological rarity. Less than one percent of all the courses in Ireland and the British Isles are championship links. Waterville is one of these. It is no wonder that the world's best players test their mettle here. Golf at Waterville is a mystical experience – the beauty of classic links land, surrounded by the sea, yet forever challenged and shaped by the elements. Over 100 years old, Waterville is rated among the top 5 courses in Ireland and the top 20 links courses in the world. The following video says it all-

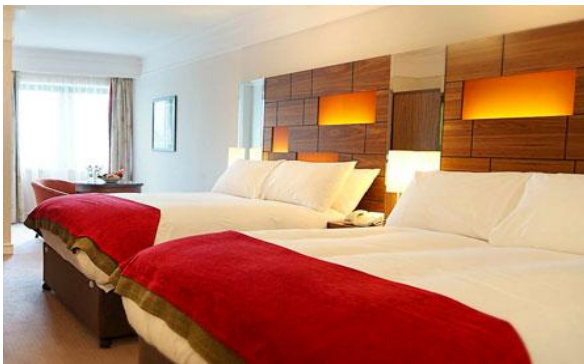


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For visitors and locals alike, the Clontarf Castle Hotel can be the highlight of any trip to Ireland. The Clontarf Castle Hotel is nothing short of magnificent. This is a place where the Irish show off their sophistication and good taste.

As an anchor to Dublin's "inner ring" – a series of castles and fortresses that guarded the capital – the Clontarf Castle Hotel is located just minutes away from Dublin's city centre, Dublin Ferryport and the Dublin International Airport in the picturesque suburb of Clontarf. For millennia, Clontarf was the point at which marauding armies docked their ships and prepared to invade the Emerald Isle.



The Clontarf Castle Hotel was opened after a £13M renovation in 1998 as a four-star hotel offering 111 rooms that satisfy the most discriminating of tastes. As you drive up the narrow lane and park in the fair-sized parking lot, Clontarf Castle looms impressively before you. Green ivy climbs along its gray stone façade and floodlights elicit its grandeur at night.



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Ballyseede Castle — Kerry's only castle hotel — is an impressive building and has a history dating back to the 1590's. Wonderfully transformed into a hotel in 1965, it offers 23 en-suite bedrooms. The ultimate when it comes to relaxation, the property situated in Tralee has everything one can expect from such a grand building. A delicate mixture of old world decadence is complimented by the modern luxury expected by discerning travelers. Take a step back in time as you approach through the imposing entrance gateway with pillars of block granite and wrought iron gates. Full of old world charm, highlights include its beautiful reception rooms and an enchanting formal garden.



Ballyseede Castle's luxurious bedrooms are spacious and elegant with a variety of individually designed rooms. The hotels hosts two magnificent drawing rooms with cornices of ornamental foliage plasterwork adorned by marble fireplaces that invite guests to spend relaxing evenings in front of the fire. The castle's dining room overlooks the lawn with its ancient oaks.



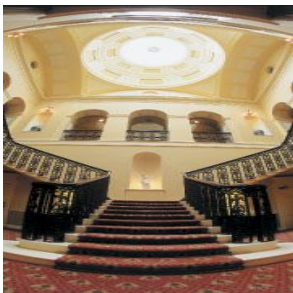
When it comes to dining, the chefs prepare the most delicate foods sourced locally and presented with all the flair and extravagance expected from a castle experience. If you wish to relax in the intimate and personal surroundings of the beautiful Library Bar and enjoy anything from a light snack to great tasting steaks.

Set on 30 acres of pasture and gardens, Ballyseede Castle Hotel is located off the main Tralee-Killarney (N21) Road, within easy reach of several championship golf courses namely Ballybunion & Waterville



Famous attractions including the ring of Kerry and Dingle Peninsula are only a short drive away.

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*One of the top luxury hotels of the world, **Dromoland Castle** in Co. Clare will be your last stay on this golf trip, it is a true 5 star resort. It is one of Ireland's finest castle hotels, offering guests the experience of living like landed gentry, surrounded by luxury, beauty and service. The castle, a magnificent Renaissance structure built in the 16th century, was once the royal seat of the O'Brien clan. Refurbished and transformed into a luxury hotel in 1962, it retains priceless reminders of the Castle's historic past. Splendid woodcarvings and stone statuary, hand-carved paneling and fine antique furnishings surround guests. On the Castle's 375-acre estate, guests can hunt, fish, ride horseback, golf, play tennis and more. **Dromoland Castle** has played hosts to Princes and Presidents, including George W Bush on his recent visit to Ireland*

*The €5 million investment program, completed in 2004 has established **Dromoland Castle** as one of the greatest courses in Ireland. **Dromoland** has been elevated into the exclusive group of 'must play' courses in the country. **Fodor's Review:** Real old-fashioned luxury; friendly, helpful staff; genuine castle experience. Situated 8 miles from Shannon Airport.*



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- Saturday* Upon arrival at the Dublin Airport you will be met and assisted to transfer luggage to your VIP Mercedes Bus, and taken to your Castle. Rest of morning and afternoon will be free to pursue other activities. In afternoon if group so desires a free “prepare for the Links“ clinic by a PGA professional. At 17:00 you are invited to an orientation meeting & cocktail which will be followed by a Q&A period.
- Sunday* Complimentary full Irish Breakfast followed by a round of golf at the European golf club. Maybe late afternoon and evening can be used to visit Dublin’s famous Landmark’s or a Guinness tour or a bus city tour.
- Monday* Complimentary full Irish breakfast and then we leave to go and play a round of golf at Royal County Down. Following our round of golf we will rerun to our hotel.
- Tuesday* Complimentary full Irish breakfast and then go for a round of golf at the Portmarnock Golf Club. Following our round of golf you shall be driven to your second castle residence. This trip will also give you the opportunity to appreciate the Irish country side.
- Wednesday* Full Irish breakfast and we are off to play Ballybunion Old Course and for those interested there is a special to play Cashen course in afternoon at greatly reduced rate.
- Thursday* Full Irish breakfast and we are off to the Waterville golf course. After your round of golf we go back to our residence near Ballybunion.
- Friday* Check out and after Full Irish breakfast, we drive to Lahinch for our round of golf. After our round of golf we drive to our hotel near Shannon airport and have our closing supper where you will be my guests and we will have the opportunity to reminisce and exchange memorable moments.
- Saturday* Go to Shannon airport for plane home, full of good souvenirs and hopefully you have made new friends.

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Included

- *Welcoming Cocktail (8 or more)*
- *6 rounds of golf on World Top 100 courses with guaranteed tee times.*
- *Castle accommodation for 7 nights (2 per room). Individual rooms available for a supplement.*
- *All land transportation including chauffeured VIP Mercedes Bus, mini vans and/or train and/or rentals if required.*



- *Full Irish Breakfast everyday and closing dinner Friday night at the Castle.*
- *Meet & Greet in Dublin and transportation to Shannon airport.*

Groups of 4 will have a chauffeured van if they prefer to a rental. Additional cost is €275. If group prefers self-drive rental of a Mercedes Vito van or similar. Self-drive – Reduction in cost is €200 per person



Personalized service 24/7 since there is always a group coordinator available to you. We take groups of no more than 12 preferably 8 and never less than 4, in order to be able to offer the highest level of personalized service.

Cost

3690USD/ €2495/ £1995

Non Golfers reduction is:

1225USD/ €850 /£750

50% paid at time of reservation, the remaining 50% payable 60 days prior to departure.

Are you up to the challenge?

For information on this golf tour please contact:

info@top100golftours.com

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This Mercedes VIP Coach is a 16 seater that has been converted to a 12 passenger VIP Coach. As you can see it includes beautiful & comfortable seats .TV & DVD for additional entertainment and a fridge for cold drinks or to provide you with a pint if you feel the urge.



We also offer Scottish & USA tours of the same quality and do custom tours to your specifications. Page 10

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Reservation Procedure:

When confirming a reservation the following information is needed:

- Full name of everyone in the party & a rooming list.
- A copy of each golfer's handicap card.
- If available flight information (arrival & departure).

Simply call, write, or fax us with your inquiry.

Payment Options

We offer 2 methods of payment, which you can choose from.

1. **2% discount** if you pay the full tour cost when you book your tour and eliminate currency exchange risk.
2. **50% deposit** at time of booking and the 50% balance 8 weeks prior to arrival

Cancellations

- If cancellation occurs **MORE THAN 69 DAYS** prior to departure – a cancellation charge of €275 will be assessed and any non refundable deposits paid by the Operator to suppliers to confirm your booking.
Ex: St. Andrews green fees
- If cancellation occurs **68-41 DAYS** prior to departure – a cancellation charge equal to 50% of the total package price will be assessed.
- If cancellation occurs **40-21 DAYS** prior to departure – a cancellation charge equal to 75% of the total package price will be assessed.
- If cancellation occurs **20-0 DAYS** prior to departure – a cancellation charge equal to 100% of the total package price will be assessed

General Information:

- *Tour services included in the tour package which are not used are non-refundable. No refunds will be made for unused hotel accommodations, unused tee times, meals not taken, nor any other services not used due to flight delays, schedule changes or for any other reason.*
- **Responsibility** -Agents act only as agents for making arrangements for hotels, sightseeing tours, and transportation or any other service in connection with the itineraries of individual tour members who by acceptance thereof, acknowledge that the sponsoring organization and/or its agents and suppliers shall not be liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, liability or expense to person or property due to act or default of any hotel, carrier or other company or person providing or rendering of services included in the tours. Further, the sponsoring organization and/or its agents accept no responsibility for any sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery breakdown, government restraints, weather condition, defect in any vehicle of transportation or for any misadventure or casualty or any other causes beyond their control. We reserve the right to change or substitute any service, and to decline to accept or retain any tour member at any time for any reason including insufficient number of participants.
- **Golf Handicap Certificates:** Be sure to bring a handicap certificate from. Increasing numbers of golf courses require visiting players to be members of a recognized golf club

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and hold official handicaps. In some cases, certain maximum handicap restrictions apply. We accept no responsibility for clients who are refused golf due to non-compliance with any course's regulations.

- **Golf Carts and Caddies:** Motorized carts are generally not available; when available, they should be reserved in advance. Caddies are usually available but can not be guaranteed. Payment is made directly at the course. We will be happy to help you with reservations.
- **Passport and Visa Requirements:** Passports are required; visas are not from Canada or USA.
- **Tipping:** Larger hotels often add a service charge of 10-15 per cent to bills. Some smaller hotels do not; a 15 per cent tip is then appropriate. Add about 3-5 per cent tip for good service to the service charge already included in restaurant bills. Tipping in pubs is uncommon.
- **Taxes:** A value added sales tax (VAT), in addition to the service charge, is added to most merchandise and services. It can be reclaimed at the airport or through the mail.
- **Voltage:** 240 or 220 volts. Some hotels are wired for U.S appliances but it is recommended to take a transformer and adapter.
- **Baggage:** Baggage restrictions: The airline baggage allowance is two bags per person, including a golf bag. We recommend that you use a special padded golf club carry case to protect your clubs. Baggage is at "owner's risk" throughout the surface portion of the trip; insurance is recommended. Contact your airlines for specific restrictions and requirements.

- **Climate:** Scotland has a very temperate climate with little snow in the winter and some warm sunny days in the summer.

In terminating, some words of wisdom for do-it yourself trip planner

For the same reasons most of us go to a mechanic when our car breaks down and a doctor when we aren't feeling well, the path to a successful golf trip is best handled by a qualified specialist

Any golf trip involves the coordination of a myriad of details. On an international golf trip these details multiply and the entire process becomes increasingly difficult to coordinate due to differences in time.

You will need to determine the availability of the various golf clubs you wish to play (each with its own rules and regulations concerning visitors). You must find and reserve the most suitable hotels and book a car rental which will be large enough for golfers, luggage and clubs. You need to determine driving distances and be certain of driving directions to be sure you make that starting time. The list of details is endless.

If you choose to make your own arrangements, be prepared for a frustrating and time-consuming experience. It is less than likely that you will be successful in obtaining the courses you want to play and for all your trouble, you could end up with a nightmare of a trip which is not at what you wanted. And to whom will you turn when you discover you have no hotel reservations or a golf club can't find any trace of your booking?