

Active holidays



Score a hole in one with a top-class golf break

From stunning coastal Scottish links to Portugal's golfing capital, you can play at some of the world's best courses on these sure-shot holidays, says Tim Southwell

Dundonald Links, Scotland

Located in the heart of this coastal golfing capital, Dundonald Links is a spectacular venue, host to both the Women's Scottish Open and Final Qualifying for the Open Championship. The layout is known for its imaginative greens and challenging bunkers, earning a place among the star names of western Scotland. Under the owner, Darwin Escapes, heavy investment has seen Dundonald Links evolve into a fully-fledged resort. Guests can stay in either the premium rooms or a collection of luxurious, self-catering lodges with putting greens out front. **Stay** Dundonald Links (dundonaldlinks.com) offers packages from £175pp per night, including two rounds of golf and breakfast. Fly to Glasgow with easyJet (easyjet.com) from £60 one way.



Costa Navarino, Greece

Offering an outstanding combination of world-class golf, five-star accommodation and numerous leisure and lifestyle facilities, Costa Navarino is regarded as one of the world's premier golfing venues. Situated in southern Peloponnese, the destination features four signature 18-hole courses and was named as the World's Best Golf Venue at last year's World Golf Awards. Away from the fairways, guests have a choice of four five-star hotels – including Greece's first Mandarin Oriental – as well as more than 40 dining and entertainment venues, state-of-the-art sports facilities, world-class spas and engagement with the region's culture, history and nature. **Stay** Costa Navarino (costanavarino.com) offers five nights at the Westin Resort from £955pp, including breakfast and three rounds on any course. Fly to Kalamata with British Airways (ba.com) from £221 return.

The Dunas Course, Terras da Comporta, Portugal

Set on the edge of the Sado Estuary Nature Reserve, the par-71 layout has been created over 84 hectares of natural, sandy terrain and has the look and feel of a course much, much older. The venue will open its second 18-hole championship course, the Torre Course, this summer. Designed by Sergio Garcia and inspired by the 2017 Masters champion's favourite track, Valderrama, the course will be the first major layout for which the Spaniard has been responsible for the overall design. **Stay** Terras da Comporta (comporta.com) offers green fees on The Dunas Course from £200pp. Quinta Da Comporta (quintadacomporta.com) has junior suites from £334pp, for two people. Fly to Lisbon with TAP (flytap.com) from £200 return.



Old Head of Kinsale, Ireland

If it's good enough for Tiger Woods, it's good enough for us. When the 15-time major winner first walked on to the 12th tee at Old Head his reaction was priceless: "Holy crap!" He was faced with a monstrous vision – 564-yards on a tight-rope hugging the Atlantic Ocean. You play this hole by aiming, not at the fairway, but out to sea at a 90-degree angle. If you hit a good one, the ball will dutifully sail back from the middle of the ocean and on to the fairway. No wonder Old Head has been called "Pebble Beach on steroids" – a breathtaking, must-visit golf destination. **Stay** YourGolfTravel.com offers a night's stay at Kinsale Hotel and Spa from £383pp, including breakfast, one round at Old Head Golf Links and one round at Castlemartyr Resort. Fly to Cork with Aer Lingus (aerlingus.com) from £83 one way.

◀ The second course: relive your best shots over lunch at The Club Cafe, Camiral Golf & Wellness

Les Bordes, France

Featuring 46 holes of world-class golf, as well as a collection of luxury private and contemporary accommodation and extensive lifestyle facilities, Les Bordes is regarded among the game's most prestigious golf venues. The site provided the ideal setting for world number one Scottie Scheffler to put the finishing touches to his game on his way to gold medal glory at last summer's Olympics. Serious golf aficionados can follow in Scheffler's footsteps this summer with the recent launch of Les Bordes' Once in a Lifetime experiences, which provide a limited one-time chance to immerse themselves in daily life on the 1,400-acre private estate to successful applicants. **Stay** Les Bordes (esbordesestate.com) offers a Once In A Lifetime experience, including full board and daily golf on the Old Course or spa activities for two people, prices on application. Fly to Paris Orly with British Airways from £140 return.

Monte Rei Golf & Country Club, Portugal

If you talk to a golfer who has played at Monte Rei, you will notice they all have a quiet, confident assertion that the Jack Nicklaus-designed Signature Course – the North Course – is the best golf course they have ever played. Situated among the picturesque foothills of the Eastern Algarve, Monte Rei has become one of Portugal's most famous names – many people regard it as the number-one golf venue in the Algarve, such is the quality of its facilities. Monte Rei has also begun construction on a second 18-hole layout, with the South Course also being designed by 18-time Major winner, Nicklaus. **Stay** Monte Rei (monte-rei.com) offers three nights from £58pp, in a three-bedroom Miradouro Linked Villa based on six guests sharing, including breakfast, two rounds of golf and access to leisure facilities. Fly to Faro with easyJet from £110 return.

Camiral Golf & Wellness, Spain

There is a beguiling, welcome calm about Camiral. Set among the rolling contours and pine forests of Catalonia, Camiral Golf & Wellness is synonymous with tournament-quality golf courses and luxury accommodation, including a range of beautifully designed villas, townhouses and apartments. With two acclaimed golf courses, including the Stadium Course, ranked among the best in Europe, first-class sports facilities and wellness offerings, Camiral provides everything you'd need for an active (or relaxing) break. Located 10 minutes from the historic city of Girona and only an hour from bustling Barcelona, Camiral offers something to suit all tastes in a truly exceptional setting. **Stay** Camiral Golf & Wellness (camiral.com) offers three nights from £1,000, including breakfast, one round at the Stadium Golf Course and two rounds at Tour Golf Course for two people. Fly to Barcelona or Girona with Ryanair (ryanair.com) from £85 return.

◀ Lap it up: Costa Navarino, in Greece, combines first-rate leisure facilities with world-class golf

