



CONCIERGE GOLF

UNFORGETTABLE IRISH GOLF EXPERIENCES

5 Things to think about before Booking a Golf Trip



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CONTENT

1. The Golf Courses

The first thing to do before booking a Golf trip is to pick out the courses that you would like to play. Please do think about taking a day off in-between consecutive rounds. In addition, ensure to research the distance between each course. Because, it is critical to avoid any long unnecessary long journeys (over three to five hours driving) between courses and hotels.

Also, to avoid any disappointment please book the Golf courses you want to play as soon as possible. Mainly, Golf courses like Royal County Down Golf Club and Royal Portrush Golf Club, Royal Troon or the Old Course in St. Andrews are in higher demand year on year. Plus, may I suggest to start planing a Golf trip to Ireland in March or April for the following year. Finally, I would recommend thinking about Golf vacations to St Andrews or a Scotland in January or February for the following year.

2. Hotel Standards

The hotel standards are easily identified from their star ranking. Yes, please be aware that there is a significant difference between a 3* to a 5* Hotels. Also, not all hotels regardless of their star will have air-conditioning rooms and please check for Hotels with AC. Interestingly, it is worth noting that during the warmer months Hotel rooms located on the ground floor are cooler than rooms on the top floor.

A summary of a typical hotel pricing strategy. Typically, a hotel room is priced by their star rating, location, season and room demand. Notably, most Hotels operate a dynamic pricing system, where prices go up as the room bookings increases. However, that is not always the case. Because, if Golfers book during a cultural event (sports, music, etc) it is likely that room price will be higher than the normal seasonal dynamic rate. Therefore, my recommendation is to book early!

I would strongly encourage you to work with a Golf Tour Operator and discuss the Hotel location for, accessing Golf courses, things to do, sightseeing and the quality of the Hotel beds. Because, hotels are in the business of sleeping and I believe it is important to talk about the quality of sleep at each hotel. Because, I am told that a good night's sleep will help Golfers shoot lower scores.

Welcome to Ireland



3. Transport

It is also so important for the traveling group to charter comfortable transport. In addition, ensure that there are more seats in the luxury coach or car than golfers. Simply, more room in the vehicle means more comfort for everyone. Ideally, request for the coach driver come tour guide! Because there is a massive added value to the trip if he/she is talking in-depth about areas where the group is located. Finally, the driver is great for quick problem solving as he/she knows just about everyone at the various golf courses, hotels and restaurants.

An importation notice.

Each transport provider in Ireland under EU law and the UK, can operate a large vehicle/bus/coach for a total period of 9 hours with a break period for 30 minutes for every 4.5 hours of driving per day. Also each driver is required to take 11 hours continuous rest period before starting up the coach the following day. It is important that you are aware about the driver hours legislation when managing the Golf vacation's logistics.

4. Restaurants and Things to Do

Depending on where the group is staying at any one time. Again may I say, use a Tour Operator's knowledge to identify what are the easy add-ons for sightseeing and things to do. Such as the example that the Cliffs of Moher are located close to Lahinch Golf Club and it is a quick trip North to see the Cliffs either before or after playing golf. Also, Waterville Golf Links is located on the Ring of Kerry sightseeing route and why not take the time to see the other half of the Ring of Kerry after playing golf at Waterville. One of Concierge Golf's favorite things to do is to go to an inter-county Irish GAA Hurling or Football match. Definitely, watching one of these Irish games is so much fun live!

Since the mid naughties, the Irish food scene has exploded with great quality chefs and restaurants. There are a lot of great Irish restaurants to visit in, Dublin, Cork, Kerry, Clare, Galway, Adare, Belfast and the list goes on. Also, for Golfing groups of 4 or more, we would strongly suggest making dinner reservations at each location. Since, we are restaurant experts at Concierge Golf we use our knowledge to book and manage dinner reservations for our Golfers during their Concierge Golf Vacations

5. Making a Booking!

The following information is critical to know should you decide to book a Golf trip. Each Golf trip starts with customers paying a deposit on booking a package for the Golf course tee times, hotels, and transport. Essentially, deposits are required to pay Golf courses, Hotels, Transport to satisfy their terms and conditions.

Each service provider (Golf Courses, Hotels, Transport, and Sightseeing) operates with different terms and conditions. Also, the deposits and full payments are required at different times during the booking process for each service provider. Typically final payments for each of the service providers are required between 20 to 90 days before the start a Golf vacation. Therefore, Golf Tour Operators will ask for the final payment from 30 to 45 days in advance of the trip. It might be easier to pay in full at the time of booking or pay in two installments.

An important notice:

Ensure that everyone in the group has their Travel Insurance policies and Passports up to date. Also, please ask your doctor for a copy of prescriptions for medications in case of misplacing any medications during a Golf Vacation.

A final note from John Dooley Concierge Golf Ireland

The job of the Golf Tour Operator/ Concierge Golf Ireland is to take care of all of the headache and stress to putting the best Golf trip together. Concierge Golf ensures that all the small things that are need are done. Since all the services are managed for the group, all the Golfers need to do is to show up on time each morning for departure to the golf courses. At Concierge Golf we ensure every Golf trip is as good as it can be and Golfers are left with memories for a lifetime.

Should you require any information on Golf trips to Ireland, Scotland or England, please contact John Dooley at: **Email: info@conciiergegolfireland.com** or Telephone international Ireland: **+353 21 2427913** Also please use the following number for Whats-app or Face-time: **+353879277997**



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Map of Ireland, selected courses



Portmarnock Golf Club:



Portmarnock Golf Club

Over the last 117 years Portmarnock Golf Club has hosted some of the greatest tournaments in golf. Portmarnock has welcomed the greatest Amateur and Professional golfers to have played the game, from Arnold Palmer to Padraig Harrington. In an open competition in 1899 the great Harry Vardon established a record of 69 over a course measuring 5,810 yards. This is a sample of the tournaments which have been played over the years.

The Canada Cup

The Canada cup (now the World Cup) was played in Portmarnock in 1960 and won by the United States team of Arnold Palmer and Sam Snead.

The Irish Open

Portmarnock suggestions to the GUI was that Ireland should have their own Open Championship. The initial Irish Open Championship was first played at Portmarnock in 1927 when it was won by George Duncan. Over the years Portmarnock has hosted the Irish Open Championship on 19 occasions and the victors at Portmarnock represent many of the greatest names in golf over the decades.

The Walker Cup

The Walker Cup, played biennially between the United States and Great Britain and Ireland, is the pinnacle of am-ateur team golf. In 1991 the match was staged at Portmarnock and was the scene of victory for a star studded American team led by Phil Mickelson, while the home team featured three magnificent Irish players, Padraig Harrington, Paul McGinley and Garth McGimpsey.

The Amateur Championship

Portmarnock is the only golf course outside of the UK that has hosted the Amateur Championship. I suppose it was fitting that a Cork-man named James Sugure won in 2019.

The St Andrews Trophy

The St Andrews Trophy and the Jacques Léglise Trophy are two, long established, distinct and separate Amateur International Team Golf Matches played between the top Amateur golfers representing Great Britain and Ireland versus The Continent of Europe.

The Jacques Léglise Trophy

The Jacques Léglise Trophy is an annual match for Boys aged less than 18 years. In both events, Teams consist of nine players with matches played over two days, consisting of foursomes and singles match play contests



Lahinch Golf Club

Lahinch has had outstanding designers from its inception through to modern times; Old Tom Morris, Alister MacKenzie and Martin Hawtree.

In 1894 Old Tom Morris was commissioned to make full use of the natural terrain, especially the giant sand dunes at Lahinch. Old Tom believed that Lahinch was the finest natural course that he had seen. Two of Morris's creations were the famous Klondyke (4th) & Dell (5th) holes, these still remain today. They continue to be the most memorable talking points for first time visitors to Lahinch and are seen locally as fitting tributes to the great Scotsman.

In 1927 the great golf architect Dr. Alister MacKenzie was invited to submit a design for a new layout. The re-design work took one year to complete and featured undulating triple tiered greens. MacKenzie was pleased with his work and said: "Lahinch will make the finest and most popular course that I, or I believe anyone else, has ever constructed". After Lahinch, MacKenzie went on to design among others; Augusta National, Cypress Point and Royal Melbourne.

Dr. Alister MacKenzieIn 1999 the famous British golf architect Martin Hawtree, who has re-designed several British Open links for the R&A, brilliantly modernised Lahinch creating an outstanding challenge – even in the modern era. He re-routed 4 holes and added 2 new par 3's, the 166-yard 8th and the 170-yard 11th, both set deep in the impressive sand dunes. In all 16 tees were re-built and 14 greens completely re-shaped, restoring them to their original character conceived by MacKenzie. Hawtree wisely left the magical "Klondyke" and "Dell" holes alone. The improvements include the re-routing of holes towards the Atlantic Ocean and the amplification of trouble around the greens where bunkers, swales and mounding now make approach shots from any distance a challenge. The par 4 holes at Lahinch in particular are now generally regarded as the best in Ireland offering a wonderful challenge even to the strongest player.

The finished Martin Hawtree "restored MacKenzie course" at Lahinch has received world-wide acclaim and is now con-sistently ranked among the world's greatest links courses. Golf Magazine ranked Lahinch #42 in the world in 2011.

Trump International Golf Links:



Trump Doonbeg

Imagine a coastal haven, hidden on a sheltered corner of the wild Atlantic Ocean – luxurious yet unpretentious –where world-class golf meets an intimate spa – where every taste is catered to and every request considered.

Imagine a rugged landscape that stretches as far as the eye can see, across rolling waves and sand dunes and thousands of years of stories, buried within them. Imagine a grand, Irish country house, where the staff welcomes you home.

Appealing to city escapees, families, and surfers as much as to the discerning golfer, this luxury 5 Star West Clare Hotel encapsulates an extraordinary experience where no two visits are ever the same. With a reputation built on its unparalleled warm hospitality, guests will understand just what a special experience it is to stay at one of the best luxury Hotels in Ireland.

Trump International Golf Links & Hotel is the leading 5 star wedding venue in Ireland where everything is considered to make that special day one to remember. Trump International Golf Links & Hotel. Welcome to another World.

Golf course

As early as 1892, officers of the Scottish Black Watch Regiment considered Doonbeg an ideal setting for links golf. In the early 1990s, the Doonbeg Community Development Company began promoting the concept of a golf course at Doonbeg. With urging from that group, Shannon Development obtained purchase options for 377 acres of links-land from four local farming families. Doonbeg Golf Club Ltd., an Irish entity created by the partners of Kiawah Development Partners, acquired the options from Shannon Development and closed the sale in December 1999. Construction of the golf course commenced in December 1999.

The course opened on July 9, 2002, when Greg Norman defeated Irish Ryder Cup star Pádraig Harrington by 2 to 1 in an exhibition match, but much interest and activity predated the event.

In February 2014 the course was purchased by Donald Trump. It has been renamed Trump International Golf Links Ireland.

Atlantic View Restaurant



The Ocean View Restaurant, which was voted “Best Hotel Restaurant in Ireland 2012” by the Restaurant Association of Ireland, matches exquisite dining with impeccable service.

In a beautiful setting overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, visitors to the Ocean View Restaurant can enjoy cuisine of a quality that is matched only by the high levels of attentiveness given to preparing it. Our dishes promise pleasure-inducing flavours that have been extracted from the best of local produce.

The culinary experience at the Ocean View is accompanied by an extensive wine-list with sources from around the world. Our staff and sommelier will be delighted to talk you through wine options to compliment the meal you have chosen. All told, should you be looking for a romantic break, let The Ocean View Restaurant at Trump International Golf Links & Hotel provide the setting.



Trump's Bar & Restaurant

Situated looking out onto the Atlantic and across the 18th green, Trump's Bar rests at the core of Trump International Golf Links. Its atmospheric mixture of warm Irish ambiance and New England panache makes for a place that welcomes guests and golfers alike to fireside tables, hearty meals and pints of stout pulled to perfection.



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Road Map of Ireland



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