CONNOISSEUR GOLF IN SCOTLAND
Five of the current Open Championship courses are to be found in Scotland – Turnberry, Carnoustie, Muirfield, Royal Troon and The Old Course at St Andrews. Golf has been played here for six hundred years, and it really is the mecca for those wanting to experience the most beautiful, natural rugged links golf courses in the world.

Imagine yourself playing out ‘The Duel in the Sun’ with Nicklaus and Watson at Turnberry. Play golf’s toughest par four – The Road Hole at St Andrews, or take on Carnoustie, the most challenging test in links golf. Combine these classic layouts with Scotland’s other majestic courses such as Kingsbarns and Royal Dornoch and you are about to embark on the best golf tour imaginable.

From Loch Ness to the bonny banks of Loch Lomond, Scotland is one of those most beautiful places you will ever visit. Be sure to take a little time out from playing the legendary links courses, and immerse yourself in our nation’s very proud heritage. We look forward to watching you tee off on the first hole of the Old Course very soon.
ST ANDREWS & CENTRAL SCOTLAND

THE OLD COURSE

The ‘Home of Golf’. An intriguing layout of wide double fairways and seven enormous double greens provide the backbone to what many golfers refer to as the greatest golf course in the world. Golf has been played here for six hundred years, and by teeing off here you enter into part of the Old’s wonderful history. To the left you see Seve punching the air on the eighteenth green, and Jack is waving goodbye on the Swilcan Bridge. But The Old Course is much more than just a sentimental home for the game.

The ‘Old Lady’ houses the most fearsome hole in championship golf, the infamous Road Hole. It’s a treacherous par four of almost five hundred yards which requires a drive over an old railway shed and a long approach to a think well protected green. The final hole is surrounded by an amphitheatre of Victorian architecture and the iconic R&A clubhouse- the ultimate golfing pilgrimage.

“If I had ever been sat down and told I was to play there and nowhere else for the rest of my life, I should have chosen the Old Course at St Andrews.” Bobby Jones

“I fell in love with it the first day I played it. There’s just no other golf course that is even remotely close.” Jack Nicklaus.

THE NEW COURSE

This course is not quite as ‘new’ as its name may suggest, being laid out by Old Tom Morris in 1895. Favoured by the locals, it is unfortunate to live under the shadow of its illustrious sister. It’s renowned as a much ‘fairer’ test of skill than the Old Course with no hidden bunkers and less undulating greens.

The putting surfaces here are famous for their trueness and speed, especially in the early summer months. Greens on links courses can never be exceptionally quick due to the possibility of strong winds but those on the New Course are about as good as you will play in Scotland.

Again we see the traditional links routing of nine holes out and nine holes back with some particularly fierce challenges – especially on the back nine. The tenth requires a long drive from an elevated tee to a hidden fairway. From here an approach of some two hundred yards is in order with thick gorse to the left and deep rough to the right. There is some respite on the par fives, but your score must be made before you enter the final stretch - which is capable of punishing golfers of any level.

The New is regularly used for The Links Trophy – the world’s premier amateur strokeplay tournament, and the range of scores posted gives a strong indication that this is a championship layout within its own right.
THE JUBILEE COURSE

The course was named in honour of Queen Victoria, whose Diamond Jubilee fell in 1897. It was originally intended for ladies and beginners, but through several changes (most notably by Donald Steel in 1988) the ‘Jube’ is now regarded as the most challenging course in St Andrews.

From the white tees, it plays at over 6,700 yards but that doesn’t tell the full tale. A number of tee shots are too narrow to consider hitting driver, which adds length in itself. Narrow fairways and demanding approach shots mean you must be alert at all times. The greens are unusually small for St Andrews courses, and certain shots must be played below the hole. Short siding yourself almost always results in a bogey.

Beware of the infamous 15th hole. A mere 356 yards, but probably the toughest ‘short’ par four you will play while in Scotland. A long iron or rescue to a tight fairway leaves a short iron approach to a very small green that slopes dangerously from back to front. Anything short or left will roll to the bottom of a valley leaving a very nervy pitch shot. More sixes are made at this hole than fours.

During its time, the Jubilee has held several national championships, and in 2004 provided the venue for the qualifying rounds of the Amateur Championship.

THE CASTLE COURSE

The most recent addition to the St Andrews Links portfolio is the visually stunning Castle Course, designed by David McLay Kidd (creator of Bandon Dunes). Each hole has a choice of five tees and the course is playable anywhere from 5300 to 7200 yards.

Upon its opening, many locals and visitors complained about the difficulty of the course. But it’s definitely a layout that the regular players have learned to love and appreciate, and is now one of the most popular courses in town. It’s a thinking man’s course. Yes, there are small pockets of rough in the fairway, but the skill is to negotiate around these. There are also severe slopes on the greens, but with a wedge or short iron in your hand, the skill is to hit the correct portion of the green. Course management at The Castle is vital.

The seventeenth is probably one the best short holes in Scotland. A shot of around 190 yards must be carried all the way to the green as anything short will drop hundreds of feet to the ocean.

The panoramic lounge in the wonderful architectural clubhouse is not to be missed upon completion of your round. The Castle is located on the opposite side of town with regard to the original six courses, and offers a spectacular new vista over the ‘Auld Grey Toon’.
KINGSBARNS GOLF LINKS

Without doubt, the finest new course to grace the British Isles in the last fifty years. Kingsbarns has made a meteoric rise in the worldwide course rankings since its inception in 1999 (now placing inside the top 20) - utterly remarkable for such a recent entry. Some returning golfers are even describing this course as their No.1 priority ahead of The Old Course.

Golf has been enjoyed over the links land here since 1793. Attired in their blue coats, the Kingsbarns men met for their Spring and Autumn Meetings to challenge for the Societies medals and to enjoy the conviviality of friends over dinner in the Golfers Hall. The Society continued to wager, wine and dine for decades until the Cambo Estate tenant farmer ploughed up the Links in 1850 in order to add to his farmable area. Farm land in that period was more valuable than land set aside for golf.

The old Kingsbarns Golfing Society was re-established and founded as Kingsbarns Golf Club in 1922 and Willie Auchterlonie laid out a nine-hole course. This course served the golfing needs of the locals and holidaymakers until the onset of the Second World War when the Links was mined in the national security defence effort and it quickly reverted to rough pasture. Golf was resurrected on Kingsbarns Links at the dawning of the 21st Century. It was the first Scottish course to be built on links land in over 70 years and immediately joined St Andrews and Carnoustie as one of the top courses in the area.

“Kingsbarns might well be one of the last true seaside links sites capable of development in Scotland. Mere words cannot convey just how extraordinary the place is. It must be seen to be believed. And once seen, it will never be forgotten.” Sir Michael Bonallack.
THE TORRANCE

Designed by winning Ryder Cup captain, Sam Torrance. A beautiful expanse of cliff-top wilderness provides the setting for this championship links. Reasonably generous fairways lull the golfer into a false sense of security because the difficulty here is finding the well protected greens.

The Torrance sits adjacent to The Castle Course, the latest offering from St Andrews Links, and the dramatic coastline setting provides sensational views of St Andrews. It plays annual host to a televised tournament - The Scottish Senior Open on The European Tour. Many of the competitors noted that the greens were the best they had played on tour all season.

It’s a very exciting course in that many of the holes pose a risk/reward dilemma for the golfer. Short par fours where the green may be just in range for longer hitters, or par fives that appear to offer more than they actually do for the second shot. Patience is the key on this course. It’s a layout that will yield birdies, but don’t try to bite off too much.

ELIE

Located only twenty minutes from St Andrews, golf has been officially played here since 1589 when a Royal Charter was passed granting the villagers official permission to play over the ancient links. With no par fives, and only two par threes, you would expect Elie to be a monotonous trail of routine par fours. Nothing could be further from the truth… Elie is one of the most exciting layouts in Scotland with several holes running along the Firth of Forth, against the stunning backdrop of cliffs under Kincraig Point. Elie is not a course that gives up good scores easily and the patient player that crafts their way around these cultured links will always fare better than the thoughtless golfer who tries simply to overpower them.

At 6,273 yards the course is not long, but its network of bunkers are beautifully placed to catch those that stray offline or misjudge their distances. This can be all too easy to do, especially as the prevailing south westerly breeze slackens or stiffens during the course of a round. Elie’s quick and contoured greens add a further layer of protection and the manicured putting surfaces rank comfortably alongside the best in the country.

“It’s quirky and it’s the most enjoyable course I know. If I had my way I’d build Elies all over the world.” Peter Thomson – Winner of five Open Championships.
CRAIL GOLFING SOCIETY

In 1786, a group of eleven gentlemen met at the Golf Inn in Crail and together formed the Crail Golfing Society. There are, in fact, only six older golf clubs in the world: The Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh (1735), The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers (1744), The Royal and Ancient Golf Club (1754), The Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society (1764), The Royal Musselburgh Golf Club (1774) and The Royal Aberdeen Golf Club (1780).

This traditional, classic links course was laid out by the old master himself, Tom Morris, and opened in 1895. Created in the days when course design was governed by the natural lie of the land and not the mechanical earth mover, the Balcomie links has the unusual combination of three par fives, six par threes and nine par fours, producing a tough par of 69.

Not content with a devilishly testing layout, Old Tom designed the course in such a way as to take maximum advantage of its exhilarating seaside location. Shots over rocky bays, long par threes with greens perched on top of vertical cliffs, shots to greens seemingly engulfed by gorse, curving par fours round sandy strands - daring the golfer to cut off too much, shots from cliff tops to greens and fairways invitingly laid out below: all these and more make up the Balcomie experience.

CARNoustie GOLF LINKS

Golf has been played over the links at Carnoustie since the 1500's but the present course came into being in 1850 when it was designed by Alan Robertson of St Andrews. Some 20 years later the legendary Old Tom Morris improved and extended the course to 18 holes and in 1926 the famous architect James Braid redesigned the Championship course extensively.

Braid's work was universally acclaimed, but it was still felt that Carnoustie Championship course had a weak finish. Prior to the 1937 Open Championship the final 3 holes at Carnoustie were redesigned by James Wright, a local man, and he produced what has come to be regarded as the toughest finishing stretch in golf.

The 250yd, par three sixteenth can sometimes require a driver depending on the wind direction. The Barry Burn then snakes across two enormously challenging par 4's- famously reducing Jean Van de Velde to his bare feet in 1999, as he incredibly blew a three shot lead on the final hole.

The quality of the putting surfaces here are second to none, and are considered amongst the best in Scotland each and every year. This fact has been confirmed by the R&A's agronomy team. Its historical merit combined with excellent conditioning of the course has resulted in Carnoustie hosting no less than seven Open Championships.
THE KING’S COURSE, GLENEAGLES

The King’s Course, opened in 1919, is a masterpiece of golf course design, which has tested the aristocracy of golf, both professional and amateur. James Braid’s plan for the King’s Course was to test even the best players’ shot-making skills over the eighteen holes.

Selecting the right club for each approach shot is the secret on the King’s. It is certainly one of the most beautiful and exhilarating places to play golf in the world, with the springy moorland turf underfoot, the sweeping views from the tees all around, the rock-faced mountains to the north, the green hills to the south, and the peaks of the Trossachs and Ben Vorlich on the western horizon. All the holes have evocative and pithy Scots names. For example, the fifth, “Het Girdle” (Hot Pan), is a challenging par 3 with trouble everywhere except on the green, while 17th’s name, “Warsin’ Lea” (Wrestling Ground), reflects the difficulty so many golfers have had with this long, sweeping par 4.

The King’s always seemed to produce exciting finishes when hosting The Scottish Open, especially with its reachable par five finishing hole.
The PGA® Centenary Course, created by Jack Nicklaus, is a modern classic. Even for a champion and acclaimed golf architect like Nicklaus, The PGA Centenary Course was a challenge. It had to be a great golf course and, set as it is in the heart of Scotland, the country that gave the world golf, Nicklaus described the course as “The finest parcel of land in the world I have ever been given to work with”. It had to be unique in its challenge, a golf course in the modern design ethos that at its fullest stretch tests the greatest players, while, in the immortal phrase of Bobby Jones, “offering problems a man may attempt according to his ability... never hopeless for the lesser player nor failing to concern and interest the expert.” The tees are graded at each hole in five stages, including a challenging 6,815 yards from the white markers down to 5,322 from the red.

A feature of the PGA Centenary Course is the feast of views of the spectacular countryside in which Gleneagles is set. Putting on the two-tier second green, you are distracted by the lush panorama of the rich Perthshire straths. As you move westwards over the next few holes, the rugged Grampians come into view on the right, then distantly purple ahead, Ben Vrackie and the mountains above the Trossachs.
NORTH EAST & HIGHLANDS
TRUMP INTERNATIONAL GOLF LINKS

This remarkable Scottish links was designed by Dr. Martin Hawtree - the acknowledged master of links golf course architecture. The course has a par of 72 and a maximum length of just over 7400 yards. It follows a classical pattern of two out-and-back loops of nine holes. All 18 holes thread their way engagingly through the dunes, rising to find views of the coastline and offering a sequence of superlative topography and landscape. Panoramic views, a rich texture of vegetation and wildlife habitats surround the holes with each having its own distinct feel and space.

Each hole has six separate tees catering for all classes of golfer. The bunkers are placed to challenge the stronger player and not unduly punish the weaker golfer. All of the bunkers are turf-revetted in traditional style to combat wind, erosion and sand-blow. Greens have been sited in natural promontories and valleys and are featured in relation to their setting. The views from the back tee at both 14 and 18 are most definitely the best golfing panoramas in Scotland. An absolutely incredible course and not to be missed if you visit Scotland.

ROYAL ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1780, Royal Aberdeen is the sixth oldest golf club in the world. For the first thirty five years of its existence the club was known as The Society of Golfers at Aberdeen, with membership of the Society being determined by ballot. All applications for admission had to be three months on the table, one dissent being sufficient to reject any candidate. In the clubhouse there is still preserved the original ballot box in which members voted on admission of new members. Inlaid in brass is the date 1780 and the words ‘Yea’ and ‘Nay’ over the holes into which the coloured balls for or against membership were dropped.

They were clearly a meticulous group of gentlemen for in 1783 they became the first to introduce the five minute limit on searching for golf balls. A sensible idea, you may think, but one that has caused the modern day Aberdeen golfer much distress.

Balgownie’s front nine holes rank amongst the very best in the world. No two are the same within a natural ecosystem, interspersed with rich turf and tight rolling fairways, that is a sheer delight to behold. The back nine is different in appearance and nature from the seaward holes but every bit the stalwart test and much improved over recent years. Less undulating than the front nine, the remaining holes use blind tee shots, hidden troughs and more difficult putting surfaces to oppose you.
CRUDEN BAY GOLF CLUB

This unique links course was commissioned in 1894 by the Great North of Scotland Railway Company and fully opened in 1899 as part of the recreational facilities offered by the Cruden Bay Hotel, newly erected and opened in March of that same year. The inner nine hole “ladies course” was also laid out at the same time. From the onset, golfers came from all over the world to play the championship golf course - designed by Old Tom Morris of St Andrews, with help from Archie Simpson.

The Cruden Bay Golf Club was formed around 1900. In 1926 the course was redesigned to the current layout by Tom Simpson and Herbert Fowler. They also redesigned the inner “St Olaf” course which was opened at the same time.

The course itself is quirky and exciting to play. A mixture of elevated tee shots, blind shots, drivable par fours and back to back par threes make for a very interesting round. Always in excellent condition, Cruden Bay is a regular in the Top 100 Courses in the World.

CASTLE STUART GOLF LINKS

The Highlands of Scotland have finally been bolstered with a stunning new championship links course that makes Inverness a must-visit on your golfing pilgrimage to Scotland. 130 feet of elevation change over three distinct tiers form the backbone to the country’s latest must play course. It debuted at No.56 in the Top 100 Courses in the World.

It was designed by the same team that brought us Kingsbarns. The fairways are wide, and bunkering is not the primary defence of the course. For a links layout, it plays very fair and always rewards a good shot. Mark Parsinen, the developer, also speaks of Portrush as being a major influence on the design of the greens – a course he ranks very highly.

Since its inception in 2009, the course has been a huge success. Even hosting multiple Scottish Opens and attracting a field including the biggest names in golf.

“As golf course architects, those guys recognise that golf is not about hitting the ball longer and harder; it’s about fun, creativity, memorable shots and holes that don’t have to beat you up all the time. It should almost be a prerequisite to play Castle Stuart before you’re allowed to design golf courses nowadays.” – Phil Mickelson
ROYAL DORNOCH GOLF CLUB

Royal Dornoch is the gem of Northern Scotland and would surely have hosted the Open Championship on several occasions were it not for its remote location.

The first eight holes follow the ridge and the remaining ten holes played in the opposite direction are bounded, except the 17th and 18th on the left by the sandy beaches of the firth. The par of 70 is evenly distributed over the two halves each having two par threes, a par five and six par fours. If the wind blows the course will demand more from the player especially the par four finishing hole where a par can be considered a birdie.

Old Tom Morris was the architect responsible for extending the original 9 holes layout to 18 holes in 1866. He introduced the plateau greens which are the soul of the course - their uniqueness lies in their size and their inverted saucer shapes. This design has been copied on many of the world's notable courses, most famously at Pinehurst.

Tom Watson has been a popular ambassador for the club since he first fell in love with the course in 1981 - after winning the third of his five Open Championships at Muirfield. He described that trip as "the most fun I've ever had on a golf course".

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EAST LOTHIAN
MUIRFIELD

Home to The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, Muirfield is a mainstay of the top ten ranked golf courses in the world. Where tradition and class meet one of the best designed golf courses you are ever likely to play. Unlike many of the classic links with the nine out / nine in pattern, Muirfield takes on a more circular routing with the tenth tee close to the clubhouse. This makes almost every hole play to a different wind direction, testing the golfer in every way possible.

Of all the Open Championship courses, Muirfield has the most impressive list of past champions – Player, Nicklaus, Trevino, Watson, Faldo and Els all lifting the Claret Jug here in modern times.

A small number of tee times are made available for visiting golfers on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the season. However, it’s best to plan your visit here at least a year in advance as demand outstrips availability many times over.

NORTH BERWICK GOLF CLUB

Even in the glittering array of Scotland’s seaside golf courses, North Berwick’s West Links stands out as a rare gem. It has taken a long time to evolve to its present state of excellence, but it has been time well spent. Rudimentary golf (often discouraged by the authorities) had been played on North Berwick links land since the early years of the seventeenth century, and possibly earlier than that. But it was the formation in 1832 of North Berwick Golf Club that marked the beginning of organised golf over terrain which in time would be expanded to become the West Links which we know today. There are three holes for which the West Links is best known:

The 13th (“Pit”). A short par 4 calling for an imaginative approach to a sunken green behind a wall. Take time to look west and enjoy the view to Fidra, thought to be the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Treasure Island”.

The 14th (“Perfection”). Legend has it that this hole is so christened because it requires two perfect shots to hit the green. It might also be because of the sublime view, this time to the Bass Rock, home to one of the world’s largest gannet populations.

The 15th (“Redan”). The original, copied many times. A testing par 3 played to a large, steeply sloping green. Beware the vast hidden gully to the right front of the green. The hole plays every inch of its length.
Imagine rolling hills, sandy dunes, a stiff breeze blowing off the Ayrshire coast. Before designer courses, before manicured greens and major championships, these lands inspired local Scots to play the game of golf.

Beloved since its first formal course was built in 1901, Turnberry’s fairways have been shared by the game’s elite and casual enthusiasts from around the globe. Even the conversion of its links to runways during two world wars could not diminish the desire to play here. With the sea by your side and that famous lighthouse in the distance, there are few courses in the world that can match Turnberry for beauty or excitement.

Long regarded as one of the finest courses in the world, the Ailsa came to international prominence with the famous duel between Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson over the four days of the 1977 Open. In 2009, Watson came within inches of becoming the oldest major champion at fifty nine years of age, proving himself as the greatest links golfer of modern times. This highlighted Turnberry’s claim to be among the best of the links courses. Length is not everything. A true seaside course requires imagination, a golfer who can work the ball both ways and a deadly short game. Age is only a number on a wonderful course such as the Ailsa.
THE KINTYRE COURSE, TURNBERRY

The par 72 Kintyre is a Donald Steel adaption of the old Arran Course. Now of championship quality and length, it has hosted Final Qualifying for the Open Championship.

The 8th is Kintyre’s signature hole, and it involves a drive from an elevated tee towards the sea and an unforgetable blind second shot. Utterly hidden by a narrow ridge, the green is set in a cove that seems to merge with the rugged beach beyond. On the 9th, an invigorating drive offers the choice between adventure and caution, and glimpses of two of Turnberry’s charms: Ailsa Craig and the lighthouse.

The Kintyre is a wonderful introduction to Turnberry and well worth playing before you take on the Ailsa which is one of the undisputed jewels in Scotland’s crown. Get a feel for the turf, the greens and the stiff Ayrshire breeze. It will open your imagination on those little shots around the green and stand you in good stead for the tougher challenges that lie ahead.
THE OLD COURSE, ROYAL TROON

Troon Golf Club was formed on the 16th March 1878, at a meeting of enthusiasts, in the Portland Arms Hotel in Troon. George Strath was the first Professional to the Club and to date only five other Professionals have held the position. The first Clubhouse of a substantial nature was completed in 1886 and additions and alterations over the years have provided the members with a building of character and considerable charm. In the Centenary Year, 1978, the Club was proud to receive the Royal Accolade.

The Old Course is a layout of two distinct halves. On the outward nine with the wind at your back, you really have to make your score. This is easier said than done however, especially with thick rough and front pins. The hole which so many golfers remember playing here is 'The Postage Stamp' eighth. A mere 120 yards, but a tiny green combined with trouble all around can sometimes prove to be the end of a promising scorecard. The back nine boasts considerably more yardage and is a severe test of long straight hitting. But not necessarily suiting the golfer who builds his game around powerful driving, as Todd Hamilton proved by lifting the Claret Jug in 2004.

THE PORTLAND COURSE, ROYAL TROON

The Portland Course was opened in June 1895 although it was only in 1924 that the name was changed from the Relief Course. In more recent times it has hosted qualifying rounds for a European Tour event, and is definitely the second best course of the many that are to be found in the golfing haven of Troon.

A shorter links course than its sister across the road, but provides excitement through a selection of excellent par threes and four par fives (all of which are found on the back nine).

It is undoubtedly less punishing than the Championship Course at Royal Troon but an ideal warm up. Definitely worth including in your schedule as tee-times are allocated on a combined basis - meaning golfers get to experience both courses when they visit here. There is also time left in between for you to experience lunch in one the finest clubhouses in Scotland.
Prestwick Golf Club was founded in 1851 by a group of 57 members who met at the Red Lion Inn. The first ever Open Championship was held at Prestwick in 1860, and was won by Willie Park of Musselburgh with a score of 174 over 36 holes. A stone cairn to the west of the Clubhouse, marks the first tee of the original 12 hole course, on which the first Open was played. The 1st hole measured 578 yards to what is now the 16th green, where in 1870 Tom Morris Jr holed out in three strokes using hickory shafts and a gutty golf ball. Six of the original greens are still played on today.

What it lacks in length it makes up for in tradition and holes of outstanding natural character. One of the stand out holes is the seventeenth which was the original second hole from 1851. It has a blind second shot to the green that lies on the far side of the ‘Alps’. The narrow fairway requires an accurate tee shot to allow the best chance of reaching the green in two, and from here you will face a blind shot that plays every inch of the yardage you are given, if you fall short you will face a shot from the famous Sahara bunker. It’s important to check the tee box as this indicates the pin position that you can then correspond to the markers on top of the Alps.

“The fact that Prestwick was the original site for the Open Championship simply confirms the history of the club and it’s place as one of best golf experiences in the world” Ernie Els.

WESTERN GAILES GOLF CLUB

Members of golf clubs in Glasgow decided in 1897 to create a golf course on the Ayrshire coast away from the industrial fog of the city, and substantially free from the winter frost that would allow golf all year round. Hence was born Western Gailes.

The railway has been a very significant part of the club’s history. The train allowed the members from Glasgow easy access to the Ayrshire coast. A station was built at the club with it being the way most members travelled here until the 1950s. The last train left Gailes station on Hogmanay 1966.

The railway remains a major feature of the course as you head back from the 14th homewards.

Of all the traditional Scottish links courses that run no more than two holes wide, Western Gailes is peculiar, in that its clubhouse is more or less in a central position. Finely contoured greens are cleverly positioned and set in the folds of the surrounding sand dunes, forcing the golfer to find the correct side of fairway in order to attack the pin with his approach. The chances are that you will be required to use every club in the bag.

“...one of my favourite golf courses. A true seaside course that tests every aspect of your game.” Bernard Gallacher.
DUNDONALD LINKS

In February 2003, Loch Lomond Golf Club acquired a new links course near the legendary town of Troon in Ayrshire. It was intended to not only enhance the Club's prominence within international circles but also to provide its esteemed international membership with a challenging alternative links venue.

Designed by the highly acclaimed golf course architect Kyle Phillips, also renowned in the UK for Kingsbarns, the 7,100-yard, par 72 course was inspired by the timeless architecture of the great Ayrshire links courses of Royal Troon, Prestwick and Western Gailes, all connected by the historic rail line.

Kyle Phillips intimated from the outset that it was his intention “to create a championship Ayrshire links that felt and played as though it was an old, rediscovered course.” Some earth was moved while constructing Dundonald Links but only where it was necessary to enhance the existing contours. The fairways are generous and, regardless of handicap, the course is a welcome challenge for players of all ability.

MACHRIHANISH GOLF CLUB

A meeting was held, on the 11th March 1876 in the Argyll Arms Hotel whose purpose was to organise a golf club in the town of Campbeltown. The membership fee was set at 10 shillings with a further 5 shillings annual subscription (green fees). The rules were adopted at that time from Prestwick.

The original Machrihanish Golf Course consisted of 10 holes, extended to 12 then extended to the full 18 holes a couple of years after its conception. It was further altered in 1914 when the services of the famous Open Championship, J.H. Taylor were obtained. The final adjustments to the course were made by Sir Guy Campbell, and this is Machrihanish as it now stands today.

The opening hole presents one of the greatest views in golf followed by a further 17 well manicured and challenging holes of true links golf featuring numerous hazards including penal bunkers, and undulating greens. A remote venue, Machrihanish is most easily accessed by a 15 minute helicopter ride from your base at Turnberry or Troon.