



GOLF VACATION: *Dublin & Northern Ireland*



Golf Courses at a glance

Royal Dublin Golf Club

Portmarnock Golf Club—Old Course

County Sligo Golf Club

Ballyliffin Golf Club—Glashedy Links

Royal Portrush Golf Club—Dunluce Course

Royal County Down Golf Club—
Championship Links

Druids Glen

12-day tour includes

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline and airport transfers
- The services of a Go Ahead Tour Director
- 10 nights accommodations in well-located hotels including baggage handling
- Buffet breakfast daily; 1 lunch; 5 three-course dinners, including wine or beer
- Private deluxe motorcoach
- Greens fees at 7 Included Courses

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The 13th green at Ballyliffin's Glashedy Links, with Glashedy Island in the distance.

Day 1: Flight to Dublin

Your golf vacation begins with a regularly scheduled over night flight to Dublin aboard an internationally recognized airline.

Day 2: Arrival in Ireland

Welcome to Ireland! A Go Ahead representative greets you at the airport and escorts you to your hotel in Dublin. This evening, meet your fellow travelers at an included Welcome Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast (in flight) dinner

Day 3: Royal Dublin Golf Club

Play Royal Dublin today, a relatively benign test of links golf in Dublin Bay. On this Harry Colt-designed track, subpar ball striking can be overcome by deft course management. At nearly 7,300 yards from the blues, you're free to grip it and rip it if you please. Tonight, join our optional Traditional Irish Evening.

Alternate guided sightseeing: Embark on a guided sightseeing tour of Dublin today, featuring visits to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Phoenix Park and the *Book of Kells*.

Included meals: breakfast

Day 4: Portmarnock Golf Club—Old Course

Just north of Dublin, on the wild Irish Sea, you'll find Portmarnock's Old Course. Etiquette is important among the old guard at Portmarnock, so be sure to check the course's dress code requirements before lacing up your spikes. The par 4 18th plays into the prevailing wind and requires an accurate drive away from the three hidden pot bunkers. If you're a big hitter, you might be able to fly your final approach all the way to the stick, but the wind may force you to let the ball run. Later today, transfer to Sligo, arriving in time to enjoy an included dinner.

Alternate guided sightseeing: Spend the morning exploring Malahide Castle, home to one of the finest 18th-century landscape parks in Ireland.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 5: Free Day in Sligo

Enjoy a day at leisure in Sligo. Golfers may choose to play Enniscrone, a links course where the fairways snake between sea dunes.

Optional sightseeing excursion: Choose to join an excursion into County Sligo, including a visit to the Glencar Waterfalls.

Included meals: breakfast

Day 6: County Sligo Golf Club

Looming over County Sligo's 18 holes, Ben Bulbin might be the best-known peak in Ireland. At County Sligo, you might notice that a level putt is hard to find. You can thank Harry Colt for that—the famed course designer believed in working with the natural contours of the land, and at County Sligo, that means dramatic swales and the potential for roller-coaster putts. Later today, transfer to Buncrana.

Alternate guided sightseeing: Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Sligo.

Included meals: breakfast

Day 7: Ballyliffin Golf Club—Glashedy Links

Ballyliffin's Glashedy Links aren't yet twenty years old, but the course is just as tough as its older neighbors. The par three 7th is the signature hole, mostly because its water hazard and steep plunge from tee to green are rarely seen on links courses. Later, transfer to Portrush, where you'll enjoy an included dinner.

Alternate guided sightseeing: Visit Fort Dunree and the village of Doagh, where a guided tour introduces you to life during the Great Famine.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 8: Free Day in Portrush

Enjoy a free day in Portrush, a tiny town of 6,000 people. Golfers may elect to play Castlerock, a course located on the Bann Estuary. This afternoon, golfers and non-golfers visit the Giant's Causeway.

Optional sightseeing excursion: Follow your Tour Director on a sightseeing tour of Portrush and Coleraine, the home of the University of Ulster.

Included meals: breakfast

Day 9: Royal Portrush Golf Club—Dunluce Course

Royal Portrush looks wide-open because the dunes don't crowd the fairways, but the rough is notoriously thick, and the subtle mounds and contours of Portrush's fairways can send drives careening into the thick stuff. Later, transfer to Belfast, where you'll enjoy an included dinner.

Alternate guided sightseeing: Enjoy a Tour Director-led visit to Derry.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 10: Royal County Down Golf Club—Championship Links

Royal County Down's Championship Links will test every club in your bag. Elevated tees and greens offer both spectacular views and a number of blind shots. The famous ninth hole challenges you with a drive to a blind fairway 60 feet below the tee. Later, transfer to Dublin.

Alternate guided sightseeing: Embark on a guided tour of Belfast, including visits to City Hall and the Grand Opera House.

Included meals: breakfast

Day 11: Druids Glen

It's been called "the Augusta of Ireland." Druids Glen is a gorgeous parkland course where the greenskeepers somehow find time to keep both the greens firm and the flower beds blooming. Like Augusta, Druids Glen features a three-hole stretch on the back that can derail even the most promising round. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for an included Farewell Dinner.

Alternate guided sightseeing: Spend the day exploring Powerscourt and Glendalough.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Day 12: Departure

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Included meals: breakfast

(In the case of early morning departures, breakfast may not be included.)

MAP KEY

- Overnight Stays
- Sightseeing
- Optional Excursion
- () # of Nights
- ✕ Golf Course
- ▽ Golf Optional



Climate

Ireland's weather is unpredictable. We recommend golfers and non-golfers alike dress in layers.

Travel Pace: 3

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 - leisurely | 3 - active |
| 2 - comfortable | 4 - challenging |

Included Golf Courses

Royal Dublin (Dublin, County Dublin)

Royal Dublin sits on ecologically sensitive land, and even from its earliest days, the club has worked to maintain a world-class golf experience along with environmental sustainability. This course's fairway bunkers force players to make decisions off nearly every tee.

Portmarnock—Old Course (Portmarnock, County Dublin)

Portmarnock sits on a peninsula north of Dublin, and players here are at the mercy of the wind. Portmarnock was ranked the fifth-best course in Ireland by Golf Digest in 2011.

County Sligo—Championship Course (Rosses Point, County Sligo)

With gorgeous views of nearby mountains, County Sligo questions the notion that golf is a good walk spoiled. This George O'Connor layout makes brilliant use of the prevailing winds, particularly on the short, downwind 13th, where all the trouble lies behind the green.

Royal County Down—Championship Links (Newcastle, County Down)

Royal County Down ("RCD" to locals) carries a well-deserved reputation as a driver's course. A caddie is essential for navigating RCD, as there are no yardage markers. Royal County Down was ranked the best course in the UK by Golf Digest in 2011.

Royal Portrush—Dunluce Course (Portrush, County Antrim)

Your eyes will play tricks on you at Royal Portrush. On the long par 3 14th, take an extra club and aim for the back left of the green; par feels like birdie here. Royal Portrush was ranked the second-best course in Ireland by Golf Digest in 2011.

Ballyliffin—Glashedy Links (Ballyliffin, County Donegal)

The deep greenside bunkers on the 13th, 14th and 15th at Ballyliffin—the so-called "Magic Circle"—take a number of options away from the player. Thanks to these bunkers, this is a rare trio of Irish links holes where bump-and-run approaches are ill-advised.

Druids Glen (Newtonmountkennedy, County Wicklow)

After half a dozen links courses, the flower-filled parkland layout at Druids Glen will be a welcome change of scenery. The course is considered "the Augusta National of Ireland," and the challenging 11th, 12th and 13th play as a sort of Irish Amen Corner.

Optional Golf Courses

Enniscrone—Dunes Course (Inishcroe, County Sligo)

Castlerock (Castlerock, County Londonderry)

Pre-departure information about your **GOLF VACATION**

Please read the following information thoroughly to ensure you know what to expect in terms of carts, attire and other important details about your Golf Vacation.

About golf in Ireland

The Irish play the game a bit more quickly than Americans, so be prepared to keep pace with the locals.

Baggage allowance & club transport

Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage, and some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. The cost of checking your golf bag is additional, and is not included in your final invoice. You should expect to pay an additional fee at the airport. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage and golf bag transport policies. Airlines do permit one carry-on bag, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height), as well as one personal item such as a purse. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on baggage. The portage provided on your tour includes one suitcase and one golf bag per person. Please note, however, that there may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you'll find that lightweight baggage provides a distinct advantage.

Handicap cards

Your USGA-certified handicap card is your passport to the courses on this itinerary. It is essential that you bring either your card or a letter from your local pro attesting to your on-course proficiency.

Caddies & carts

Motorized golf carts are referred to as "buggies" in Ireland; "carts" refer to pull-carts. Both caddies and pull-carts are available at all courses for an additional fee. Motorized golf carts are available at some courses for an additional fee.

Packing for golfers

Soft spikes are mandatory at all courses. You may also wish to pack extra balls, as these can be much more expensive abroad than at

home. "Smart casual" is a good guide for both on-course and post-round dress code: collared golf shirts tucked into pants or tailored Bermuda shorts are always safe. Royal Dublin requires men to wear a jacket in certain clubhouse rooms. At Portmarnock, the use of mobile phones is prohibited outside the parking lot. Shorts and hats are not permitted in the clubhouse at Royal Portrush; ladies playing Royal Portrush should be aware that the dress code requires modest necklines and either sleeves or collars on shirts. A raincoat is essential as the climate can be unpredictable.

Packing for sightseeing

Light, loose-fitting clothing that provides comfort when exploring the sights is essential. A lightweight sports jacket and emergency rainwear are advised. If you plan to visit an elegant restaurant or attend the opera or theater, you will probably feel more comfortable with something more formal to wear.

Passport

In order to enter Ireland, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home. No visa is required for U.S. or Canadian citizens. If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact the consulate for your specific entry requirements.

Airport & departure taxes

All airport and departure taxes are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

Health

There are no major health risks when traveling to Ireland. It is always advisable to check with your doctor or health-care provider for the latest updates and overseas travel requirements.

Electricity

Ireland operates on 240 volts.

Transportation

Round-trip flights arrive in and depart from Dublin. Included transportation is by private motorcoach. All of the cities and towns on this itinerary are accessible on foot, but you may want to break up periods of walking by using public transportation.

Time zones

Ireland falls on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), which is five hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST). When it's noon in New York, it's 5 p.m. in Dublin.

Currency

The euro is the currency you will be using on your tour. Better rates of exchange are usually available in Ireland, although it is worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive. We advise that you take a combination of bank/debit cards and credit cards. They may be used at ATMs, which are widely available in major cities (mostly on the Cirrus and Plus international networks). We suggest informing your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so they don't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges. *Please note:* It has been increasingly difficult to exchange traveler's checks outside of Europe's major cities—both at banks and shops—and they often attract higher fees.

Tipping

At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Go Ahead Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalency of \$3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalency of \$2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping. Additionally, if you take a caddie, plan to tip at least the equivalent of \$25 per round (more if the caddie's done an outstanding job or saved you strokes!).

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices.