

Golfing heaven - Ireland

Ireland, located on an island in the Atlantic Ocean, thanks to Gulf Stream, offers play on wonderful golf links almost every day during the entire year. The island is easy accessible by direct flights from many destinations. Golfers also appreciate warm welcome not only on golf courses.

This time, we have decided to travel up to the North of Ireland and to play golf on traditional links courses close to wide and open ocean.

North West Golf Club Lisfannon, Buncrana, in the Inishowen peninsula, dates back to 1891 as one of



the founding members of the Golfing Union of Ireland (G.U.I.). The links is nestled beneath the so called "Mouldy Mountains" on the shores of Lough Swilly. This year, the club celebrates an important anniversary – 125 years. Several holes are redesigned, so it was a little bit more difficult to find the right way. Par 70, distance 5.760 m from the white tees. Green fees: €50 and weekend €60.

www.northwestgolfclub.com

Ballyliffin Golf Club, Ireland's most northerly golf club offers play on two 18 holes golf courses – Old Links and Glashedy Links. Old Links designed by Mother Nature has recently upgraded Nick Faldo. For



sure, it is one of the best links courses worldwide. Glashedy Links designed Pat Ruddy and Tom Craddock and offer stunning views thanks to dramatic location on higher ground above and beyond The Old Links. The experience of nature and perfect links golf means to many golfers the wish to return and play again. Old Links, Par 71, distance 6.312 m, Glashedy Links par 72, distance 6.570 m, green fees, both golf courses €110.

www.ballyliffingolfclub.com

Please do not forget to save the date:

The Great North Links Challenge 2016: 12 -14. October 2016. Play three of Ireland's top links courses: Ballyliffin, Portstewart and Royal Portrush. Entry fee: €210.00 per person.



Portstewart Golf Club, founded in 1894 offers play on two golf courses – Strand and Riverside. A special General meeting in March 1907 approved the building of a new links course at Strand Head, designed by A. G. Gow of Portrush. Since then The Strand Course has had several makeovers one by bWillie Park in the 1920's. In 1986 the land known as the Thistly Hollow was purchased and club member, school teacher Des Giffin,

designed the present 18 hole layout and a 9 hole course, the Riverside, opened for play in 1990. A further purchase of land in 1999 allowed the expansion of the latter to 18 holes and opened in 2003. Greens and fairways of the Strand course were in superb condition during our visit. Simply said, links golf as it should be, for sure a must play. Strand course par 72, distance 6.169 m, green fee £130, Riverside course par 68. Distance 5.209 m. www.portstewartgc.co.uk

Bushfoot Golf Club, opened in 1890, celebrated it's 125th anniversary in 2015. Slightly off the beaten track but well worth to play 9 holes two times. Par 70, distance 5460 m. Green fee: Monday – Friday £16, weekend £20 for 18 holes. www.bushfootgolfclub.co.uk



Castlerock Golf Club opened in 1901, a classic links course set amid towering dunes on the Causeway coast offers play on two golf courses – Mussenden, par 73, distance 6.193 m and Bann Course (9 holes), par 34, distance 2.226 m. Great experience and for sure another must play golf course in Ireland! Green fees: weekdays £80, weekend £95. www.castlerockgc.co.uk



On the way back to Dublin we have experienced another great links golf in the **County Louth Golf Club**, established in 1892. County Louth is rated in Golf Digest's top 100 courses in the world as a hidden gem and hosted in 2004 and 2009 the Irish Open. Par 72, distance 6.398 m. Green fee € 140.

www.countylouthgolfclub.com



Points of interest in the north of Ireland:

Giant's Causeway

UNESCO World Heritage Site – a geological wonder consisting of more than 40.000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of intense volcanic a geological activity.

Malin Head

The most northerly point of the island of Ireland

Dunluce Castle

In the 13th century Richard Óg de Burgh, 2nd Earl of Ulster, built the first castle at Dunluce

Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

A unique cliff top experience, the bridge 30 m above the sea level was traditionally erected by salmon fishermen

Bushmills distillery

In the small village of Bushmills, settled on the banks of the river you'll find the oldest working distillery in Ireland.



Giant's Causeway



Giant's Causeway



Dunluce Castle



Malin Head



Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

Conclusion

It is always good to return to Ireland for another wonderful round or rounds of golf. There are about 150 links courses worldwide and 53 of them are in Ireland. This time we have selected six of them. A great selection of accommodation of all price levels and packages are suitable for all categories of golfers. In summary – perfect links golf on courses you would like to return, excellent, fresh food and a really great selection of places to visit after golf.

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