

# GOLF ODYSSEY

November 2010 – Our 19th Year

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE BEST IN GOLF TRAVEL

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## Splendid Royal St. George's

A review of the 2011 Open Championship Host Site and its Neighbors



ANGUS GRAY

England's Royal St. George's Golf Club will host its 14th Open Championship in July

Americans do not, in anything like large numbers, go to England to play golf. Obviously, they do visit England, but it is for London, Oxford, Cambridge, or the Lake District, or perhaps the West Country, Bath, Stratford-upon-Avon, or the Yorkshire Dales. Heaven knows there is plenty to see, rather more than one could examine in a lifetime. England offers a staggering wealth of historical, cultural, and scenic resources, to say nothing of golf courses, where there are more than 1,900. And when it comes to genuinely outstanding courses, links as well as inland layouts, there are more than 90. They may not always be offered in convenient clusters such as Lancashire's Royal Lytham & St. Annes, Royal Birkdale, Royal Liverpool, Formby, and Hillside.

But they are present and accounted for, particularly if you are willing to roam a bit. And you will find them rewarding.

Perhaps the most rewarding links in all of England is Royal St. George's. Truly one of the world's greatest eighteens, this jewel of Kent, the county southeast of London, is set to host its 14th Open Championship in July. Most travelers who go to Kent take in such landmarks as Canterbury, Leeds Castle, and Sissinghurst Gardens. This year, golfers can test their game on a links that has crowned both great and obscure champions. While in Kent, you may also enjoy playing three additional authentic links—Prince's, Royal Cinque Ports, and Littlestone—and one inland eighteen, Chart Hill.

continued on page 4

Expert advice and candid reviews since 1992

## Leading Golf from The Leading Hotels of the World

In recent months we've noticed that the *Leading Hotels of the World*, a luxury hotel group that currently counts about 430 hotels as members, has raised its golf profile. Approximately 175 of the *LHW* properties have golf nearby. More importantly for traveling golfers, the hotel group recently created Leading Golf, a program designed to connect the golfers to outstanding courses and select hotel properties in the US and abroad. Leading Golf offers packages, special golf itineraries, and customized golf tours through *LHW's* travel partner, PerryGolf. The calling card website for the program is [lhwgolf.com](http://lhwgolf.com). At press time, 39 hotels were participating in Leading Golf's *Stay and Play* and *Stay and Play Longer* packages. To be vetted to participate, each hotel must own and operate a championship golf course either on-site or within 10 miles of the property. This enables the hotel to guarantee that guests booking a package will always be able to access the course. *The Stay and Play* package provides one free round of golf and has a two-night minimum. *The Stay and Play Longer* package offers two complimentary rounds of golf for a three-night stay. Nineteen of the 39 hotels currently participate in a special promotion with American Express. Guests who book the *American Express Leading Golf Getaway* for a minimum of three nights receive two free rounds of golf as well as a \$150 resort credit.

Leading Golf's lineup of hotels and courses is intriguing. Notable participants in all three package programs include Fancourt (site of the 2003 Presidents Cup) in South Africa, Adare Manor in Ireland, and Tortuga Bay in Punta Cana. Among the properties that offer the *Stay and Play* packages (but not the American Express deal) are the Royal Hotel in Evian France, Scotland's Gleneagles and the Old Course hotels (Duke's Course), One&Only Palmilla in Los Cabos, and The Resort at Pelican Hill. In Miami Beach, guests



The Resort at Pelican Hill in Southern California is a Leading Golf partner property

booking a Leading Golf package at the Setai gain access to the otherwise private Lagorce Country Club.

We do have a couple of caveats about Leading Golf. The website is cumbersome. Once you click on the hotel of your choice, you'll find yourself on the *LHW* booking engine for that property. You must then go to "Leading Offers" and scroll through an entire list of packages. A few package details are provided (including notes on additional fees), but these are also confusing. When we tested Tortuga Bay, we found that the free round for the *Stay and Play* package was on La Cana, rather than Corales. (*The Stay and Play Longer* package includes one free round at Corales and the other at La Cana.) We also had trouble actually finding available dates for the packages even when we searched for off-season dates. We finally gave up searching for Tortuga Bay's *American Express Leading Golf Getaway* package. Finally, we should also caution that Leading Golf may not have the best package rates. It's entirely possible that the hotel's own website could offer more attractive deals.

[Lhwgolf.com](http://lhwgolf.com)

## Sniqueaway—A Private Luxury Travel Sale Website Worth Joining

We wanted to call your attention to a new website that offers limited private sales at top-flight hotels and resorts. Sniqueaway, which is an exclusive spin-off of TripAdvisor, offers substantial discounts on accommodations to its members. Membership is free but by invitation only. Each week, rooms at three different hotels or resorts go on sale. Each hotel is a four- or five-star property. The sales last up to a week, but close once allocated rooms are sold. We've been impressed not only by the eye-popping nightly room rates, but also by the number of properties that have golf on-site or right nearby. So far, we've seen The Greenbrier, Nemaocolin Woodlands in Pennsylvania, The Equinox in Vermont, Stowe Mountain Lodge in Vermont, The Tides Inn in Virginia's Northern Neck, and Wild Dunes in Charleston. Keep in mind that the sales are for accommodations only.

If you'd like to join Sniqueaway, we'll be happy to invite you. When you get to the website, click on "A Friend Invited Me" and enter the email [david@golfodyssey.com](mailto:david@golfodyssey.com).

[Sniqueaway.com](http://Sniqueaway.com)

## 3-D Swing Analysis Moves from the Resort Academy to the Medical Lab

For several years now, a few select resorts have offered 3-D swing analysis under such names as the TaylorMade MAT system and the Titleist Performance Institute. Unlike two-dimensional video representations that allow for a subjective analysis of one's swing style, 3-D analysis provides the data to quantify the efficiency of one's swing. The latest advance in the science of three-dimensional swing evaluation comes from a rather unlikely source

The University of Virginia's Center for Endurance Sport has been performing high tech 3D evaluations on runners and cyclists for years. Recently it adapted its technology to golf. The theory behind the lab is that ninety percent of what's wrong with the swing is due to an individual's body rather than a lack of proper fundamentals. As such, UVA supplements conventional swing analysis with musculoskeletal evaluation.

Where the UVA clinic differs from all other 3-D swing analysis labs is in the sophistication of the equipment. The golf lab, located in the basement of the UVA Medical Center's research park, boasts equipment valued at over \$1.5 million and offers a level of scientific and physiological analysis not found



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elsewhere. The UVA cameras take 500 images per second, nearly 10 times the image concentration of other swing analysis systems. While other high tech labs measure motion, UVA claims to have the only lab in the country that measures the forces that impact swing performance.

A session takes about three hours. Following an interview to assess one's physical history, a physical therapist, working with an engineer, fits the golfer with sensors. Several swings are then recorded. A composite reveals the swing plane and body movement; force and

then performs a very thorough musculoskeletal evaluation to determine how and why one moves or doesn't move. Based on the swing report and physical therapy diagnosis, the golfer learns how his or her body's inefficiency impacts the swing. The golfer receives an immediate stretching and exercise program to help overcome any physical limitations in order to achieve a more productive and efficient swing.

A 3-D golf evaluation at the University of Virginia's Center for Endurance Sport costs \$500, a savings of several hundred dollars over the for-profit commercial swing analysis systems. For those looking to add a little golf, the University's course, Birdwood, is open to the public. Some thirteen miles away, Keswick is a sporty layout accessible to guests staying at the opulent Keswick Hall at Monticello. For details on the UVA 3-D Swing analysis system, contact Jay Dicharry, the Director of the Motion Lab, at 434-243-5605.

[uvaendurosport.com](http://uvaendurosport.com)

### THE *GOLF ODYSSEY* RATING SYSTEM

- A+ Perfect, as good as it gets
- A Extraordinary, nearly flawless
- A- Excellent, at times memorable
- B+ Very good
- B Above average
- C Average, uninspired
- D Varying degrees of dissatisfaction
- F Unacceptable, a disaster

balance is analyzed throughout the entire swing. This part of the evaluation quantifies what is unique about one's swing, but doesn't really explain the causal factors behind one's swing. The physical therapist



## THE GOLF

The greatest course in Kent and, for many, the greatest course in England, is **Royal St. George's (Rating: A+)**, or Sandwich, as some still call it today. The roll call of those who have hoisted the Claret Jug at Sandwich includes a number of celebrated champions: J.H. Taylor, Harry Vardon, Walter Travis, Walter Hagen, Henry Cotton, and Bobby Locke. More recent were the victories by Bill Rogers (1981), Greg Norman (1993), and the little-known Ben Curtis (2003). The list of firsts that the club lays claim to is a husky one: the first English course to host the Open, the first English course to host the Walker Cup, the scene of the first American triumph in the British Amateur (Walter Travis, 1904), and the scene of the first victory by a native-born American in the Open

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► Royal St. George's, widely regarded as England's greatest links, was the first English course to host the Open Championship.

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Championship (Hagen, 1922). In 1885, Scottish-born scratch golfer Dr. William Laidlaw Purves, the same man who would lay out Littlestone, looked down from the steeple of St. Clement's upon the most tumultuous linksland a golfer could ever have

spied, and promptly determined to lay out golf holes on it. Over the decades that followed, revisions were made by Harry Colt and Hugh Alison, by Alister Mackenzie, and in the 1970s by Frank Pennink.

From the white tees, the course measures just over 6,600 yards against a par of 70. The round begins with two very good par fours, but the first of the undeniably great holes is the 3rd. This one-shotter measures 200 yards from a slightly elevated tee over a no-man's land of broken ground to a plateau green nestled in the dunes, fronted by a swale, and defended on the left by bunkers.

By the 4th hole we have reached the country of the giant sandhills that give Sandwich its renown. On this 417-yarder, the drive must be kept left of a veritable tower of dune into which have been clawed two ferocious bunkers, one of them almost certainly the single most horrific pit ever to confront players in a major championship. The face of the shallower one is some 14 feet high. But the real shocker beside it is nearly 30 feet tall! The green is a double-tiered plateau.

This hole is also the source of a terrific story. In the 1979 British Amateur, Reg Glading, then 54 and the oldest scratch golfer in the country, finished all square with his quarterfinals opponent after 18 holes. They halved the first three extra holes. Then, alas, Glading drove high into the face of the pit. He could not come at his ball from above for fear of causing a landslide that would dislodge it. So he slowly inched his way up from below, club in hand. He gingerly took his stance, and then set his grip. He swung. At the top of his backswing, the sand suddenly shifted under him and, in a grotesque reverse cartwheel, he and the club and the ball collapsed down the slope to finish in a heap at the bottom of the pit. As to how many penalty strokes he may have incurred—testing the sand, grounding his club, moving the ball—neither he nor his opponent would venture a guess. What we do know is that, in one inglorious moment, Reg Glading gave new meaning to the term “sudden death.”

ANGUS GRAY



Thanks to its giant sandhills, Royal St. George's offers some of the most tumultuous linksland in the world

The 5th, 421 yards, also doglegs left. The sandhills now begin to draw in upon us, and a perfectly placed drive opens up a glimpse of the green through a little gap in the sandhills. The remaining four holes on the nine are fine: the 156-yard 5th, a long tri-level green set with perfect naturalness in the dunes; the 487-yard 7th, a par five that plays directly over a giant sandhill scarred with three terrifying pits; the 410-yard 8th, its second shot an exacting downhill medium-iron to a well-bunkered green; and the 376-yard 9th, the second shot climbing to a narrow, elevated green, with a steep falloff on the right.

The topography of the first nine delights at every turn, with the holes leaping off from atop the great grass-swaddled dunes, more often routed fascinatingly through them, and all of it so exquisitely fitting, this combination of splendor and naturalness and solitude. Are there no distractions? Only the lilt of the lark and the enchanting seascape that awaits when we climb out of a dune valley to stand on a high tee and gaze across Pegwell Bay toward the white cliffs at Ramsgate.

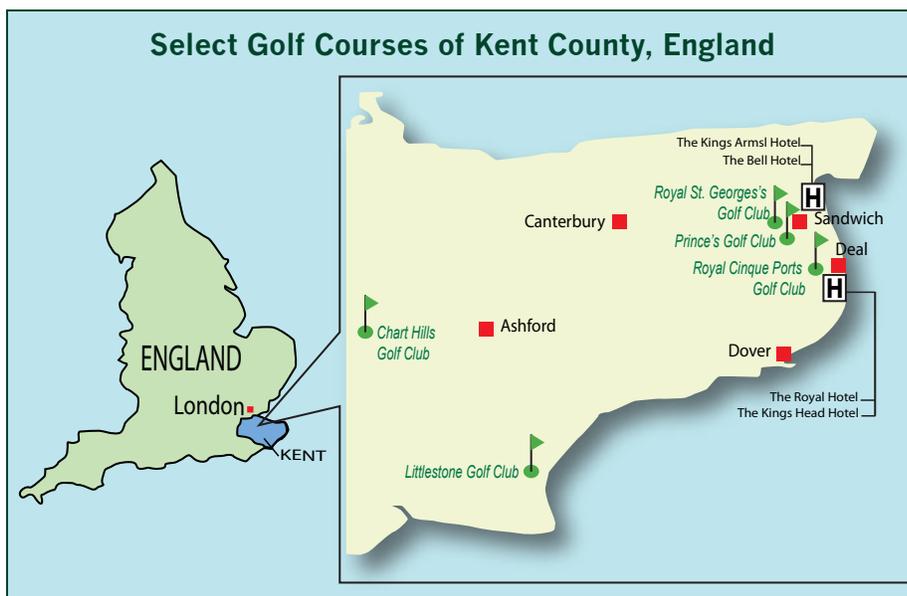
The second nine is played over much more level ground. There continues to be an admirable separateness about each hole, but this nine is neither so private nor so majestic as the first nine. Still, it is extraordinarily challenging and much more heavily bunkered.

Two holes, 14 and 15, are also certifiably great. A boundary fence tight along the right separates the 14th, a 539-yarder, from Prince's. A ditch called the "Suez Canal" crosses the fairway some 300 yards out. In the 1938 Open, amidst a gale so furious as to make a mockery of the players' most resolute efforts, this par five could not be reached in four shots.

As for the par-four 15th, a 442-yarder, the bunkering at both sides of the tee shot landing area is merciless, and the long second shot must carry a trio of pits blockading the front of the green.

After a blind drive on the 413-yard 17th, we play along a beautiful curving valley, with eight bunkers to keep us honest. It was on the 17th at Royal St. George's, thinly disguised by Ian Fleming as "Royal St. Mark's," that the wicked *Goldfinger* made a desperate—and unavailing—effort to cheat 007 of victory in their £10,000 grudge match. Fleming was captain-designate of the club when he died suddenly on a visit to Sandwich in 1964.

Visitors, having made arrangements with the secretary in advance, are welcome on weekdays. Men must have a handicap no higher than 18, and women no higher than 15. There are no women members and no women's tees.



The drive from London to Royal St. George's in Sandwich takes about two hours

Well entrenched as some of the old ways still are at Royal St. George's, these considerations are not of much moment where visitors are concerned. The noble course is what counts. It is emblematic of seaside golf at its best: natural, demanding, surprising, often thrilling, and beautiful. It is not easy to place any links above it.

Cheek by jowl with Royal St. George's is **Prince's Golf Club (Rating: B+)**. In 1905, London businessman Harry Mallaby-Deeley and club secretary P.M. Lucas laid out the golf holes. In 1928, Gene Sarazen won the Open Championship the first and only time it was held at Prince's.

During World War II, a military training area guarded by minefields devastated the course. A new course had to be built. Guy Campbell and J.S.F. Morrison got the job. Critics of Prince's say the holes are featureless. Nonetheless, they have teeth and test. There are no hills, no water hazards, and there is no sign of a bulldozer's depredations. The naturalness is palpable. Long wispy grasses cloak the low dunes that frame the hummocky, tumbling fairways. Heavy winds off the Channel regularly buffet us. Bunkering is light. The greens are often sited on very low plateaus. At other times, they set snugly into a gentle elevation, and sometimes they are mere extensions of the fairway. In any case, they incline to shunt the ball away, down into shaved surrounds that call for nerveless chipping and putting.

Fifteen minutes southwest of Sandwich is Deal, a picturesque old seafaring town that is also the home of **Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club (Rating: A-)**. Founded in 1892 and commonly known by its location (Deal), Royal Cinque Ports has hosted two Open Championships—1909, when J.H. Taylor easily won the fourth of his five crowns, and 1920, when George Duncan took home his only Claret Jug.



Twice an Open venue, mighty windblown Royal Cinque Ports is one of England's great natural links

Tom Dunn laid out the original holes at Deal. Over the next 40 years, the links felt the ministrations of J.S.F. Morrison, Guy Campbell, Harry Vardon, and Henry Cotton. This mighty links, with the wind blowing from its customary direction, the southwest, is a cruel taskmaster. We play out along the sea before coming back home immediately to the inside. The holes on what is one of the great natural links of England are treeless and stark. Lies are tight, bunkers are deep, greens are fast and full of unreadable little curls. The condition of the course suffered woefully between 1997 and 2004, when all the links grasses were lost and Deal became a soft, lush, parkland-type course. Brought in to save the day was Gordon Irvine, a 43-year-old Scot from Ayrshire. He reintroduced

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► Having rebounded from a short period of decline, Royal Cinque Ports again sports firm fairways and traditional fescue grasses.

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the traditional fescue grasses, while reducing the amount of watering to a quarter of its former quantity and the uses of fertilizers to a tenth of previous levels.

You will probably play this par-71 test at about 6,380 yards. The wind is more often behind you on the first nine, helping materially to get your figures there. Both the par threes are short—on the 152-yard 4th, a deep grassy hollow menaces the left side. The 155-yard 8th is a pretty and memorable out-to-sea shot.

No such luck on the incoming nine, especially if it is played into the prevailing wind. Our most recent scorecard shows “IMPOSSIBLE!” beside five of the holes. The wind velocity on an ordinary day will be 15-20 mph. There is no letup on this murderous “beat back.” Beginning on the 12th, the holes measure (in yards) 432, 406, 214, 416, 465, 360 (a breather, which, after all, plays no more than 410 into the wind), and 403.

Two of Deal's outstanding holes are the 10th and the 16th. The dogleg-left 10th, after a wind-aided drive, leaves a 7- or 8-iron on this 365-yarder to a slightly elevated green. There seems to be nothing pulse-quickening about this hole, yet somehow it is superb. Sir Guy Campbell, a first-rate golf course architect, once wrote: “...surely one of the great holes... What in particular puts it in this class I have never been able to define, but the first time I played it, its quality hit me like ‘the blow of an angel's wing,’ and each time I have played it since, the blow has been just as keen and refreshing.”

The 16th, measuring 465 yards and playing a stringent 520 yards, ought to be a manageable par five, but it calls for a tee shot, aimed at an abandoned wartime gun turret that must be slotted precisely into a patch of fairway carved out of a gully, followed by a second and third climbing toward a green capriciously sited on a steep dune.

A little more than an hour south of London, in rural Bidden, lies **Chart Hills Golf Club (Rating: B)**. A big, handsome course dotted with ancient oaks, it boasts dramatically undulating greens, water on 14 holes, and sand in massive doses. Probably England's longest sand hazard is the 210-yard snakelike *Anaconda Bunker*, on the par-five 5th.

At Chart Hills you will play a course that measures about 6,450 yards. Par is 72. A trio of excellent holes in the middle of the round embodies this layout at its best. On the 400-yard 8th, a pond in the trees on the left should not prompt uneasiness. It is the sinuous stream that the second shot must carry, some 25 yards short of the green, and the shallow swale immediately at the front of the green that combine to demand your soundest swing.

The 327-yard 9th is steeply uphill and backdropped by the grand clubhouse. The forced carry from the tee into the customary breeze must clear a cluster of five sandpits as well as some nasty

vegetation. The second shot, though much shorter, is much steeper. And the green slopes dangerously downhill from back to front. You *must* keep your approach short on the hole, an injunction that somehow gets lost in your determination to put the ball somewhere—anywhere—on the stoutly bunkered green.

The 10th, 405 yards, bends left and drifts downhill. The green, modeled loosely on the *Road Hole* green at St. Andrews, has short falloffs left and right and not enough depth to hold a shot that comes in hot. This is a teasing business on a course that is consistently challenging.



Long wispy grasses cloak the greens at Prince's Golf Club

Should you wish to venture farther afield for a game, three quarters of an hour south of Chart Hills brings us to the English Channel and the **Littlestone Golf Club (Rating: C)**. This links measures 6,460 yards against a par of 71. The early holes are flat and featureless. But the holes from the 8th through the 17th offer both variety and test. The two best holes come almost at the end. The 468-yard 16th, a big par four even by Brobdingnagian standards, curves left around a bunker on the drive. The fairway for the long second shot rises smoothly as it reveals folds and slopes and hummocks that have been denied through much of the round.

The 17th, at 180 yards, plays from a mildly elevated tee. When the day is crystalline, the coast of France will hover on the horizon. The ground slopes severely to punish the shot that slips even a wee bit right. Donald Ross's fine 17th at Seminole is a cousin of this hole.



**The Bell Hotel (Rating: A-)** enjoys an idyllic location in the center of Sandwich. The present building, principally 19th century, overlooks the Quay, the Barbican Gate, and the Toll Bridge, all of them on the River Stour. Recently refurbished to a very high standard, the guestrooms are individually appointed and quite comfortable. The river-view rooms and balcony suites are particularly attractive.

In Sandwich, **The Kings Arms Hotel (Rating: B-)** is a traditional English inn that dates back to 1580. The original charm and character have been carefully retained over the years. It's an unspoiled, ideal place to relax and unwind. The bar lounge area, with its welcoming open fireplace, signals at once that you will be made comfortable.

**The Royal Hotel (Rating: B)** is probably Deal's best-known accommodation. The guest rooms, which incline to be on the small side, have a pleasantly old-fashioned quality. Perhaps that is not surprising in view of the hotel's age, 300 years. In 1805, Austrian commanding officer General Mack stayed there before he surrendered to Napoleon. Over the years, The Royal has hosted such celebrated guests as Lord Nelson, Lady Hamilton, William Pitt, and Winston Churchill. Personal supervision and a location in one of England's historic towns puts The Royal on a list of very select hotels.

Another period accommodation in Deal is the 250-year-old **Kings Head Hotel (Rating: C+)**. It affords a quick stroll to the town center, and it is relatively inexpensive. A number of small craft tied up nearby are readily available for outings on the English Channel.



**The Bell Hotel (Rating: B, tel: 1304-613-388)** offers a nice menu. You could start dinner with tartare of local sea trout, lime, and horseradish. For a main course, try the roast rump of lamb, with a mint jus, crushed peas, and baby parsnips. Dessert might be pistachio crème brûlée. The three courses come to £29 (\$45).

Dinner at Deal's **Royal Hotel (Rating: B+, tel: 1304-375-555)** is served in a room that commands the English Channel. Some 30 miles across the water lies France, its lights twinkling romantically along the coast at Calais. Order the Dover sole with a lemon butter sauce, a simple and truly delicious main course. Begin with a deep-fried Brie cheese served with an apricot salsa. And conclude with a summer pudding served with crème fraîche and a raspberry coulis. Total tariff: £26 (\$40).

## NON-GOLF ACTIVITIES

Kent affords a treasure trove for sightseers. Sandwich itself is a medieval town—narrow cobbled lanes, half-timbered houses, the Guildhall, ancient churches, and the River Stour with its lovely quayside. Deal is also a charmer, with its fishing fleet, 18th-century houses, and its castle. But then, Kent is full of castles: Dover (overlooking the fabled white cliffs), Walmer, Hever (Anne Boleyn's birthplace), and, perhaps above all, Leeds. This castle is set on a small lake and surrounded by a picturesque nine-hole golf course. And for travelers with a green thumb, there are 180 gardens in Kent open to visitors, including Chartwell, which Churchill created for himself.

### Royal St. Georges's Golf Club

#### Sandwich, Kent CT13 9PB

Tel: 011-44-1304-613-090

Web: [royalstgeorges.com](http://royalstgeorges.com)

Green fee: £150 (\$232). Caddies cost £40 (\$62) and carts £30 (\$46).

Aerification: late September, early October

### Prince's Golf Club

#### Prince's Drive, Sandwich Bay Sandwich, Kent CT13 9QB

Tel: 011-44-1304-611-118

Web: [princesgolfclub.co.uk](http://princesgolfclub.co.uk)

Green fee: £75 (\$116); caddies, reserved in advance, £40 (\$62) plus tip. Carts cost £25 (\$39).

Aerification: October

### Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club

#### Golf Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6RF

Tel: 011-44-1304-374-007

Web: [royalcinqueports.com](http://royalcinqueports.com)

Green fee: £110 (\$169) weekdays, £130 (\$200) weekends.

Caddies: £35 (\$54) plus tip. Carts (only 3 available) cost £25 (\$39).

Aerification: October

### Chart Hills Golf Club

#### Weeks Lane, Bidden, Kent TN27 8JX

Tel: 011-44-1580-292-222

Web: [charthills.co.uk](http://charthills.co.uk)

Green fee: £60 (\$93) weekdays, £75 (\$116) Fri. and Sat.

Caddies, reserved in advance, £35 (\$54); carts cost £25 (\$39).

Aerification: mid-September to mid-October

### Littlestone Golf Club

#### St. Andrews Road, Littlestone, Kent TN28 8RB

Tel: 011-44-1797-363-355

Web: [littlestonegolfclub.org.uk](http://littlestonegolfclub.org.uk)

Green fee: £65 (\$101) weekdays, £80 (\$124) weekends. Caddies, reserved in advance, £40 (\$62).

Carts cost £25 (\$39).

Aerification: mid-October to mid-November



The Bell Hotel is our top lodging choice in Sandwich

### The Bell Hotel

#### The Quay, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9EF

Tel: 011-44-1304-613-388

Web: [bellhotelsandwich.co.uk](http://bellhotelsandwich.co.uk)

37 rooms and suites from £110 to £215 (\$170 to \$333), breakfast included.

### The Kings Arms Hotel

#### Strand St., Sandwich, Kent CT13 9HN

Tel: 011-44-1304-617-330

Web: [kingsarms-sandwich.co.uk](http://kingsarms-sandwich.co.uk)

Three twin-bedded rooms, two double rooms, £75 (\$116); one single room, £40 (\$55), breakfast included.

### The Royal Hotel

#### Beach St., Deal, Kent CT14 6JD

Tel: 011-44-1304-375-555

Web: [theroyalhotel.com](http://theroyalhotel.com)

18 rooms from £90 to £170 (\$139 to \$262), breakfast included.

### The Kings Head Hotel

#### 9 Beach St., Deal, Kent CT14 7AH

Tel: 011-44-1304-368-194

Web: [kingsheaddeal.co.uk](http://kingsheaddeal.co.uk)

14 rooms from £50 to £75 (\$77) to \$116), breakfast included.

**Editor's note:** Those interested in a photographic paean to the UK's greatest courses, including Royal St. George's and Royal Cinque Ports, should consider Donald Ford's *A Photographic Celebration of the Open Championship Venues 1860 to 2010*, available at [www.donaldfordimages.com](http://www.donaldfordimages.com).

# Flying Under the Florida Radar

PGA Village Offers Good Golf, Low Green Fees, and a World-Class Learning Center

If we asked you to name a handful of Florida's top golf complexes, PGA Village in Port St. Lucie would probably not be on your list. Yet for golfers looking for multiple courses with different playing characteristics, affordable green fees, and a world-class practice facility, the first golf complex owned and operated by the PGA merits consideration. Ever since opening in 1996, the resort's mission has been to grow the game by offering affordable first-rate golf, inviting practice facilities, and expert instruction. PGA Village provides golfers with a choice of three courses on site—two fine Tom Fazio layouts and an intriguing Pete Dye design—as well as access to a private George and Jim Fazio eighteen four miles away. Green fees never top \$135 in peak season, and in summer they're under \$50. An equally prominent feature is the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance, a 35-acre state-of-the-art practice and teaching facility staffed by some of the PGA's leading instructors. (**Note:** The PGA also certifies its new pros at PGA Village.)

We've thought highly of the golf experience at PGA Village ever since our initial visit in 2001. It's not a retreat for everyone, however. Those who choose Florida for more than golf are apt to be disappointed. PGA Village lies inland, a good 20 minutes from the nearest beach. You won't find a full-service activity- or spa-oriented resort in the Village, just budget and mid-priced hotels. Beyond the resort, Port St. Lucie isn't much of a draw either. Until the 1960s it was nothing but marsh and pine scrub. Developers originally envisioned it as a more affordable retirement option to West Palm Beach (55 miles away). A decade ago it actually became one of the fastest growing places in the country, but it lacks a downtown core, memorable attractions, and dining. The sprawling city sports a suburban look with its strip malls, chain restaurants, and gated communities.

None of this should deter anyone looking for a well-priced, golf-centric experience. The two most prominent lodging options—the Hilton Garden Inn and the Perfect Drive Fairway Villas—make for convenient home bases. Ultimately, it's the courses, the practice facilities, and the instructional programs that lend PGA Village its appeal. We should note that a more prominent full-service golf resort, PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, is 45 miles away. It's not inconceivable for guests of the latter, the host the PGA Tour's Honda Classic, to play at PGA Village. In a comparison of the golf at these two multi-course complexes, PGA Village fares quite well. Although PGA National's Champion Course stands alone for drama and history, the three on-site eighteens of PGA Village are much more interesting and aesthetically appealing than the second and third layouts at PGA National.

Given its south Florida locale, PGA Village makes for a comfortable winter destination. In late February and March, Port St. Lucie is the spring training home of the New York Mets. Come summer, the local climate is a few degrees more comfortable than Miami, which can make the green fees even more enticing. Just keep an eye out for hurricanes from June through November.



The two Fazio eighteens and the Dye Course at PGA Golf Club share one clubhouse. All three layouts are fun to play and notably different. Thanks to some significant earth moving, Fazio's designs incorporate surprising elevation changes.

**Ryder Course (Rating: B)** The most heavily played eighteen at PGA Golf Club is billed as a "North Carolina-style" layout for its rolling fairways and abundance of tall pine trees. It's the club's most forgiving and picturesque layout. Large bunkers, native scrub vegetation, a reasonable amount of water, and some gigantic greens provide defense again par. Overall, wide playing corridors embolden players to grip it and rip it off the tee. From the tips, the Ryder Course measures 7,037 yards with a 134 slope rating. The penultimate tees play 6,580 yards (128 slope).

The layout's number one handicap hole and the first memorable test is the 4th. This reachable

par five boomerangs around a lake. From the tee, you must decide how much of the water to bite off. Aim sufficiently left as the sloping terrain funnels balls toward a deep bunker complex alongside the water.

When the PGA Golf Club renovated its courses a few years ago, the most significant revisions occurred on the Ryder Course. The original rollicking multi-tiered greens now exhibit much tamer contours, though their size still induces plenty of three putts.

**Wanamaker Course (Rating: B+)** Fazio ratcheted up the pressure on the swing on the Wanamaker, the course that

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▶ PGA Golf Club's array of well-groomed courses have achieved Audubon International Signature status for their care in preserving wetlands and environmentally conscious greenskeeping.

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Tom Fazio's Wanamaker Course is full of fun and challenging tests

typically hosts tournament play at PGA Village. While the fairways are generous, players encounter some sizable forced carries, deeper bunkers, and more imminent threats from water or thick vegetation that instantly consume errant shots.

The front nine represents the scenic and strategic highlight of the course with its stunning par threes and water-lined holes. The first two par threes are beauties. On the 4th, which stretches from 152 to 222 yards with a pond to the left of the putting

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► Since the carts do not come with GPS and many of the holes follow a serpentine path alongside wetlands or thick vegetation, course guide books are wise investments (\$10 each, all three for \$24).

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surface, the tee boxes sit amidst native grasses and marshland to maximize variety and accommodate varying skill levels. On six, a shorter one-shotter, a bunker looms off the higher right side of the putting surface while the terrain cants toward water immediately to the left. Our favorite par five is the 7th, whose fairway

falls away toward beach-style bunkers and a lagoon all down the left. The hazard then wraps around behind the green.

Plank bridges and wildflower-covered wetlands add to the aesthetic appeal of this well-groomed layout, though villas and condominiums become more prevalent on the back nine. The round finishes strongly with a long par four. The right side is guarded first by a mammoth fairway bunker and then by a lake

that infringes onto the fairway before wrapping its way to the back right edge of the green.

#### **Dye Course (Rating: B+)**

Although it receives much less play than the Ryder and Wanamaker layouts, the Dye Course is the most intriguing design at PGA Village. Working with the flat, exposed landscape, Dye created a links-style layout that doesn't return until the conclusion of the round. While water hazards are less prevalent than at most Florida tracks, the dominant landscape feature is "Big Mamu" Wetlands. Several holes weave through this marsh. But it's Pete and Alice Dye's design talents that give the Dye

Course its interest. At one point, the Dye Course earned a reputation as a top-50 women-friendly layout. Alice Dye exerted considerable influence over the design and ensured that golfers using the forward tees would not face forced carries. Pete Dye still comes by from time to time to tweak the course.

Pete Dye, ever the bunker lover, crafted 313 at PGA Village. Many are no larger than an automobile tire. Still more bunkers are grass-based. In the absence of formal cart paths, hard-packed coquina sand doubles as waste bunkers and cart paths.

Although the one-shot 6th, which wraps around a lake, is Dye's signature hole, the par-four 4th is our favorite test on the opening nine. A lagoon trails all the way down the right side, the turf canting toward the hazard.

Thankfully, a waste bunker at the edge of the water saves many an errant shot from a watery grave.

After a ho-hum stretch in the middle of the round (especially the "noisy" 9th and 10th holes near I-95), the Dye Course roars to a rousing finish. Fourteen, a par four with a tee shot over wetlands, is an anomaly with no bunkers. Fifteen, one of our favorite holes, is a long dogleg left that wraps around the marsh with a minefield of bunkers on the right.

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► Range rats feast at the PGA Learning Center. For \$15, you can practice any shot imaginable all day long.

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With a 73.1 par rating and 141 slope from the 6,639-yard penultimate markers, the Dye Course is the resort's toughest test. Very small greens make precise iron play a must, and to score well you must position your ball for a propitious angle into the greens. Otherwise, the humpity-bumpity mogul- and bunker-strewn terrain can cause havoc.

**Note:** The six-hole **Short Course** is neat for families with young children. You can show up anytime. Play is complimentary. The longest test is 60 yards. Each hole features an artificial teeing area and a tiny green. A couple of the putting surfaces are crowned and defended by pesky sand traps, so pars aren't a cinch.

**PGA Country Club (Rating: C+)** This Jim Fazio design, located four miles from PGA Village, is the resort's private layout. Guests can access it on a space-available basis in the afternoon, although we see no reason to do so. In contrast to the other layouts, PGA Country Club is a traditional Florida track with minimal elevation change and abundant water. Almost every hole brings lagoons, lakes, or ponds into play. Several holes are tight with small greens. The back nine features sporty short par fours situated amidst wetlands.

The 35-acre **PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance**, located a mile and a half from the main clubhouse, is a dreamland for those wishing to practice, enroll in golf school, or benefit from expert instruction. For \$15 (\$25 when the days are longer), you can hit balls all day on a vast grass range, covered in parts by a canopy. You will also find uneven lie areas, putting greens, and practice bunkers comprising nine different types of sand to simulate conditions wherever you might play. The instructors at the learning center aim to help you become a well-rounded golfer. Individualized sessions will address your needs through video swing analysis, stretching and exercise regimens (bring your workout gear), computerized swing and putting data, and custom club fitting.



The Learning Center at PGA Village is a great place to work on your game

## LODGING

PGA Village is home to several chain hotels. **The Hilton Garden Inn (Rating: B)** sits just across the street from the PGA Center for Learning, ideal for those who want to fit in some morning or twilight practice.

The Garden Inn's pleasant ambiance stems from its Palm Beach-style decorative motif, on-site amenities, and friendly staff. Guest rooms come with one king- or two queen-size beds, a microwave, refrigerator, and complimentary (but frustratingly slow) Internet access. A hotel-wide upgrade to flat-screen televisions is underway.

The hotel has a nice outdoor pool and hot tub. There's also a workout room with an array of cardio machines, weight machines, and dumbbells. A small Business Center features complimentary computer use and printing. Sam Snead's Oak Grill & Tavern, located just off the lobby, serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Finally, after 5 p.m., be sure to stop by the front desk for freshly baked cookies.

While the PGA Village reservationists offer stay-and-play options at the Hilton Garden Inn, you can also book tee times and golf packages directly with the hotel. Of special note to Hilton HHonors members, guests making purchases in the PGA Village pro shop can earn points by having their charges billed back to their room.

We divided our time at PGA Village between the Hilton Garden Inn and a villa near the Dye Course. **Perfect Drive Villas (Rating: B-)** partners with PGA Village to offer golf packages

**Need help planning your next golf trip or a travel agent to take care of the details?**

Call or email us for advice!

**travel@golfodyssey.com**

**800-550-2286 x85**

in one- and two-bedroom villas as well as three-bedroom townhouses. (Hotel-style guestrooms are also available.) Since the villas beside the Ryder and Wanamaker courses are older, we advise requesting one of the newer accommodations in the

Castle Pines neighborhood. We stayed on Mulligan Circle and found the villa clean and satisfactory. The one-bedroom villas come with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, screened-in porch, a bedroom with two queen beds and a master bath (some with whirlpool tubs), and wired Internet access. Two-bedroom villas have four beds (two queens and two fulls) and two full baths. Daily maid service is provided in the bedrooms. Each villa neighborhood has a heated pool and hot tub. Since the villas are part of a gated community, a pass card allows entry into the neighborhood. The villas are well suited for groups.



The bunker-strewn Dye Course presents a stark contrast with the Fazio designs at PGA Village

## RESTAURANTS

The PGA Village-Port St. Lucie area is a dining wasteland. **Sam Snead's Tavern (Rating: C+; tel: 772-293-0726)** at the Hilton Garden Inn offers a lackluster breakfast buffet but rebounds a bit with its dinner menu. The crab cakes are your best bet.

We normally tend to stay away from chain restaurants, but that's hard to do in Port St. Lucie. If you're in the mood for barbeque, try **Park Avenue BBQ**, a small South Florida rib chain that runs attractive nightly specials. Among independent restaurants, **Palm City Grill (Rating: B-; tel: 772-343-8180)** serves good clam chowder and fresh fish. At **West End Grill (Rating: B-; tel: 772-343-1146)** we enjoyed the tomato and artichoke soup and the Tuscany Chicken. All three establishments are within a couple miles of PGA Village. Better options exist in Stuart, but that is 30 minutes away.

You won't find much other than golf at PGA Village. Be sure to visit the Historical Center, which is full of memorabilia from the erstwhile PGA Hall of Fame in Pinehurst. Donald Ross's workbench and golf's major trophies are on display. While the Claret Jug and US Open and Master's trophies are replicas, the Wanamaker Trophy and the Ryder Cup are real. Alas, the Ryder Cup won't be displayed again for at least another two years.

## NON-GOLF ACTIVITIES

Port St. Lucie's main attraction is its ballpark. The New York Mets call it home during spring training, and the minor league St. Lucie Mets use it during the regular season. Those looking for a beach should head to Jensen Beach, some 20 minutes east. The offshore waters offer fine deep-sea fishing. Historic Stuart is the most interesting town between Port St. Lucie and West Palm Beach.

### PGA Golf Club

**1916 Perfect Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986**

Tel: 800-800-4653 or 772-467-1300

Web: [pgavillage.com](http://pgavillage.com)

Green fee: early October to mid-November, \$57 to \$67; mid-November to early January, \$69 to \$82; early January to mid-March, \$111; mid-March through April, \$69 to \$85; May \$49 to \$59; June to early October, \$38 to \$48.

Aerification: between mid-June and mid-September, each course closes for about one month.

### Hilton Garden Inn at PGA Village

**8540 Commerce Centre Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986**

Tel: 772-871-6850

Web: [portstlucie.stayhgi.com](http://portstlucie.stayhgi.com)

130 rooms and suites from \$69 to \$189.

### Perfect Drive Golf Villas

**525 NW Lake Whitney Place, Suite 101, Port St Lucie, FL 34986**

Tel: 772-873-0515

Web: [perfectdriveatpgavillage.com](http://perfectdriveatpgavillage.com)

Stay & Play packages from \$115 per person

# Caribbean Golf Roundup

## Changes Aplenty in the Islands

Now that fall is in full swing, our thoughts are turning away from our home clubs to warm weather destinations. Happily, in the Caribbean, this coincides with the end of hurricane season. Here's a brief update on some notable Caribbean properties.

### NEVIS RENEWED—THE ROMANTIC FOUR SEASONS RESORT TO REOPEN IN DECEMBER

The biggest resort news in the entire Caribbean is that the romantic and lavish **Four Seasons Resort Nevis** is due to re-open on December 15. For years, Nevis was our favorite Four Seasons Caribbean getaway and one of the more spectacular resort complexes in the islands. Back in October 2008, however, Hurricane Omar wreaked havoc on Nevis, damaging the hotel and leading to its closure. Now, more than two years later, the Four Seasons promises that the resort is coming back as good as, or better than, ever. The 196 guest rooms and suites are situated between the beach on one side and Mount Nevis, an active volcano, on the other. Rather than a single hotel building, the accommodations are housed in low-slung buildings grouped around the elegant, plantation-style Great House.

One of the delights of Nevis is its idyllic weather (save for the occasional devastating hurricane). The rainy season is short and northerly trade winds help keep the humidity low. Golfers will enjoy the Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed golf course and

its breathtaking vistas. The course, which was built in 1991, remained open throughout the Four Seasons's closure. It's a fine uphill-downhill layout that plays largely in the face of Mount Nevis, whose peak is obscured by a huge white cloud. The routing encompasses radical changes in scenery, terrain, and even microclimate. Some of the views extend all the way to St. Kitts. Look for 2011 green fees to be \$190 for resort guests and \$210 for public play.

*[fourseasons.com/nevis/](http://fourseasons.com/nevis/)  
800-332-3442 or 011-869-469-1111*

### ANGUILLA'S TEMENOS REMAINS OPEN

Last year we reported that the tony Cap Juluca resort in Anguilla had taken over management of Temenos, a Greg Norman design that fell victim to the financial maelstrom and had closed almost as quickly as it had opened. Cap Juluca's arrangement originally was just for 2010, but we've learned that the terms have been extended. Even though Cap Juluca manages Temenos, you don't have to stay there to play the course. Many golfers come over for the day via ferry from St. Maarten. Green fees (including taxes) are \$230 (\$130 after 2 p.m.). The course closes on Monday from June through October. In September, when many of the surrounding hotels are closed, the course is only open Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

*[Capjuluca.com](http://Capjuluca.com)  
264-498-5602 (pro shop)*

PETER VITALE



The Four Seasons Nevis, the luxury chain's most romantic retreat in the Caribbean, reopens on December 15

## ST. KITTS—EAGERLY AWAITING CHRISTOPHE HARBOUR IN 2012

Fans of Caribbean golf are already looking to St. Kitts in 2012, when Tom-Fazio's eighteen at the nascent 2,500-acre Christophe Harbour development opens. Christophe Harbor's pedigree is impressive. It's another effort by Kiawah Partners, the group that started and still controls development of Kiawah Island and that created Doonbeg Golf Club and the Lodge at Doonbeg in Ireland. All 18 holes of Fazio's layout at Christophe Harbour will have sea views. The routing, which promises to be one of the treasures of the Caribbean, will border the harbor and marina in its lower section and then climb to a whopping 450 feet above sea level in its higher sections. Kiawah Partners' plans for Christophe Harbour also include three five-star hotels.

## SANDALS STEPS IN AT THE BAHAMAS' FORMER FOUR SEASONS GREAT EXUMA

In the southern reaches of the Bahamas, Sandals Resorts took over the Four Seasons Resort Great Exuma. The rebranded **Sandals Emerald Bay Beach Resort & Spa**, which boasts a gorgeous one-mile stretch of white powdery beachfront and a Greg Norman-designed golf course, reopened in late January as the most luxurious branch of this all-inclusive Caribbean chain. The Sandals transformation includes new signature pools, new restaurants and an Irish pub, and a re-configuration of the resort spa. Great Exuma is the only Sandals property in which all of the rooms are suites served by butlers.

Greg Norman's **Sandals Emerald Reef Golf Course**, located about five minutes from the resort, features six consecutive holes on the ocean. The holes wrap around a narrow peninsula amidst

COURTESY OF SANDALS RESORT



Seaside holes are plentiful at Sandals Emerald Reef Golf Club

brilliant turquoise waters. Alas, green fees are not part of the all-inclusive. Morning rates for resort guests are approximately \$175, while afternoon rounds cost \$125. This past spring and summer, Sandals Emerald Bay hosted Golf Channel's Big Break.

[sandals.com](http://sandals.com)  
888-726-3257

## CURAÇAO—AN ALTERNATIVE TO ARUBA, NOW WITH GOLF

Over in Curaçao in the Netherland Antilles, resort developer Jack Marshall has realized his dream for Santa Barbara Plantation. This gated 1,500-acre property sits on the Caribbean and encompasses 11 miles of shoreline on a natural harbor known as Spanish Water. Golfers will gravitate to the Pete Dye-designed **Old Quarry Golf Course** and the 350-room **Hyatt Regency Curaçao Golf Resort, Spa and Marina**. Dye's 6,970-yard par-72 track, which opened for play in April, begins along the ocean before turning first toward the bay and a working quarry, and then toward the mountains peaks of Curaçao. Like Aruba, its neighbor to the south, Curaçao is very windy, so golfers continually face tough decisions on club selection. The good news is the island features an arid climate and is situated outside the Caribbean hurricane zone. The ecologically sensitive Hyatt Resort strives to capture Curaçao's local flavor by honoring the indigenous Arawak people and the island's Dutch colonial heritage. Besides golf, it's also a good spot for diving and tennis. American Airlines flies to Curaçao from Miami.

[curaçao.hyatt.com](http://curaçao.hyatt.com)  
Tel: 888-591-1234 or 011-599-9840-1234

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## HOT DEALS AT PRESS TIME

**Curaçao** Home to a Pete Dye championship layout, the brand new **Hyatt Regency Curaçao Golf Resort, Spa and Marina** is running a *Grand Opening special* with rooms as low as \$149. Rates for the Ultimate Golf & Spa package (golf for one, a \$125 spa credit and breakfast for two) start at \$449. Valid through December 22.

**Albuquerque** **Sandia Casino Resort's Eagle Golf Package** includes a round of golf plus free replay, one night's lodging, and use of the fitness center and spa facilities. The cost is \$115 per person, based on double occupancy. Valid Sunday through Thursday.

**Port St. Lucie** Two-night golf packages at **PGA Village** include accommodations, two rounds of golf, carts, and taxes. Monday through Thursday rates from \$245 to \$271 at the **Hilton Garden Inn** and from \$259 to \$285 at the **Perfect Drive Golf Villas**. Rates are per person based on double occupancy. Surcharges apply for weekends. Valid through December 25.

# Travel in Style with Kalos Golf

Another New Benefit for GOLF ODYSSEY Subscribers

Over the years, we have heard near universally positive feedback on Kalos Golf Cruises. Struck by a British Isles itinerary that included rounds at Turnberry, Royal Portrush, Royal County Down, Royal Dornoch, Cruden Bay, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns, we partnered with Kalos on a trip this past summer. Given the high praise of Kalos from our readers who traveled on this excursion, we are extending our relationship with Kalos. GOLF ODYSSEY subscribers and their guests now are eligible to receive \$250 each in shipboard credit on every Kalos Golf Cruise.

If you're not familiar with Kalos, or if you've never thought about taking a golf cruise, you're not alone. However, judging by the experience of our subscribers on this summer's trip to Northern Ireland and Scotland, perhaps you should. First and foremost, Kalos provides a very convenient option for playing an incredible array of world-class links on a single itinerary (courses which typically are located seaside). And the convenience extends beyond the logistics of getting to and from the golf courses.

The most common refrain we hear from Kalos trip participants is the delight of getting from place to place and never having to pack and unpack one's suitcases. Traveling by small, luxury ship spares you the daily hassle of changing hotels, long bus rides, or worrying about getting lost in unfamiliar lands on unfamiliar roads. Transfers are a snap. You can even sleep in a bit longer without fear of being late for a tee time. When you roll out of bed, you'll be transported to a course where your clubs and shoes will be waiting for you. After the round, you can also truly unwind, savor a pint or two, and revel in the knowledge that a fabulously prepared dinner will be served aboard the ship. Kalos takes care of every little detail so that you can simply relax.

For couples with only one golfer, Kalos provides an ideal travel option. While one spouse revels in the links, the other will be busy on a variety of expertly guided day tours. In fact, the original vision of Kalos founder Jim Lamont was not to operate golf cruises, but to lead historical, archaeological, literary, and other types of cultural tours. This heritage shows up not only in the side-tours Kalos offers on each golf expedition, but in the guest speakers, special concerts, performances, and dining experiences that are an integral part of every Kalos voyage.

Beyond the rich itineraries and the unforgettable experiences available to both golfers and non-golfers

alike, the beauty of a Kalos trip is its finely tuned service, ultra convenience, and comfortable sociability. First-time cruisers wax poetic about the quality and comfort of small, luxury ship travel. Kalos uses ships that are more like large yachts than standard, massive, and impersonal cruise liners. With a staff to passenger ratio of nearly 1 to 1, the ship's crew truly gets to know the trip participants. And though the ships are intimate, quarters are never cramped. Everyone with whom we spoke was impressed with the size of the staterooms and noted how comfortable they were when sailing.

Considerable social mixing occurs during a Kalos trip and golf is the tie that binds. The small size of the tour party—limited to no more than 100 golfers—encourages easy interaction. Trip participants tend to be like-minded; all (except, perhaps, the spouses of golfers) share a love of golf. Several veterans of multiple Kalos voyages likened the ambiance to a friendly country club at sea. Most participants are couples, often traveling with other couples. Once the voyage begins you can do your own thing or mingle with others as you see fit. Many trip participants make lasting friendships and wind up exchanging visits to each other's home clubs.

The tenor of golf on a Kalos expedition is social rather than competitive. Although there's a tournament for each day's round, skill is not a prerequisite for participation. On any given voyage, you'll find a wide range of playing abilities—from 2 to

KALOS GOLF



Kalos charters small luxury sailing vessels like the *Sea Cloud II*

## COMING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD...

Our annual year-end recap and awards; Beautiful Bermuda; El Tamarindo and Punta Mita in Mexico; and the Biltmore Coral Gables

30 handicappers. Everyone we talked to found other golfers they were comfortable playing with.

A quick glance at the 2011 Kalos sailing schedule shows cruises to high-profile golf hotbeds as well as to places like the Adriatic, the Danube River (on a barge), the Baltic, and the Riviera. As one would expect, golf dominates the itineraries where great courses abound. If you ask Jim Lamont what makes each adventure so special, he'll say that beyond the joys of playing interesting new golf courses all over the world, participants invariably wind up cherishing the cultural experiences and the people they meet along the way. Such is his hope for the notable new addition to the 2011 schedule, Vietnam and Southeast Asia. He also assures us that the golf will stun discerning course critics. One highlight promises to be the year-old Greg Norman-designed Danang Golf Club, which has the look of a Scottish links. The signature hole, a par three, sits right on China Beach.

One of the strongest endorsements of the quality of the Kalos experience is that 45 percent of the company's business comes from previous trip participants. Another 40 percent comes from friends of previous passengers. We have heard from subscribers who have taken a single trip as well as those who have taken four or five trips with the company. Everyone we talked to has unabashedly recommended Kalos to their friends.

Kalos Golf cruises are not inexpensive, yet, by all accounts, they continually exceed participants' expectations. The level of service and the amenities—from the food, to the tour leaders, to the size and comfort of the ship cabins—are always first-class. Serious golfers will find that a Kalos trip combines the joy of seeing new and interesting golf courses with a nice vacation and excellent food. Non-golfers can count on wonderful day tours and rich diversions. As Sandy and Louise McGinnes told us after they just completed their fourth Kalos voyage, "each cruise has been better than the last."

**Note:** GOLF ODYSSEY subscribers must identify themselves to Kalos prior to booking in order to qualify for the \$250 shipboard credit. Contact us at [travel@golfodyssey.com](mailto:travel@golfodyssey.com) or 800-550-2286 x 85 for more information. Full trip details and itineraries are available at [Kalosgolf.com](http://Kalosgolf.com).

## WHAT OUR SUBSCRIBERS HAD TO SAY

*"Kalos is so much more than golf. It's the entire overall experience."*

*"Kalos eliminates all the stress of traveling."*

*"I was the last one who would ever consider a cruise. Now if it's not a golf cruise, I won't go."*

*"I love it that one check covers everything. There are no add-ons, and there's never any attempt to up-sell anything. Everything's included."*

*"The way Kalos takes care of everything, it's truly a vacation."*

## KALOS GOLF 2011 SCHEDULE

<b>February 12-25, 2011</b> Queenstown to Auckland	New Zealand Golf Cruise aboard <i>Orion</i>
<b>June 15-25, 2011</b> Budapest to Regensburg	Danube River Golf Cruise aboard <i>River Cloud II</i>
<b>July 1-12, 2011</b> Copenhagen to Stockholm	Baltic Golf Cruise aboard <i>Sea Cloud Hussar</i>
<b>August 10-20, 2011</b> Edinburgh to Dublin	British Isles Golf Cruise aboard <i>Sea Cloud Hussar</i>
<b>September 1-12, 2011</b> Lisbon to Barcelona	Iberian Peninsula Golf Cruise aboard <i>Sea Cloud Hussar</i>
<b>September 7-17, 2011</b> Salzburg to Budapest	Danube River Golf Cruise aboard <i>River Cloud II</i>
<b>September 17-27, 2011</b> Nice to Rome	Riviera Golf Cruise aboard <i>Sea Cloud II</i>
<b>October 12-22, 2011</b> Venice to Catania	Adriatic Golf Cruise aboard <i>Sea Cloud II</i>
<b>October 19-November 3, 2011</b> Angkor Wat to Hanoi	Southeast Asia Golf Cruise aboard <i>Orion II</i>
<b>October 28-November 9, 2011</b> Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City	Southeast Asia Golf Cruise aboard <i>Orion II</i>

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