



Grand Hibernian Golf Options

Republic of Ireland (southern Ireland) Tour

Day 2 of 7-day Grand Tour of Ireland

Cork Golf Club

Opened in 1888, Cork is well established as one of Ireland's most historic golf courses, delightfully situated on Little Island, a tiny peninsula that juts out onto the lovely Lough Mahon, with clear views across Cork Harbour. Course designer Dr Alister MacKenzie had a talent for putting nature to the best possible use and he was certainly on top form at Cork. It is the greens that bear his hallmark most of all with their undulations and speed. The opening three holes here are fairly gentle, but don't be lulled into a false sense of security: from the 4th onwards, this championship course shows its true mettle with many memorable risk and reward holes and precision play required throughout.

Killarney Golf & Fishing Club

On the banks of Lough Leane, on the famous Ring of Kerry, Killarney Golf & Fishing Club offers superb golf matched by some of Ireland's most enchanting scenery. Accuracy is vital on the club's flagship Killeen course, venue for the Irish Open in 2010 and 2011, with its tight, tree-lined fairways, fast undulating greens and water on practically every hole. Keeping the ball in play is the order of the day. More forgiving is Mahoney's Point with its wider fairways and large flat greens, although well-positioned bunkers and water hazards ensure enough danger to spoil a good round.

Day 3

Lahinch Golf Club

Situated on the rugged coast of County Clare in northern Munster, Lahinch Old is consistently rated amongst Ireland's top three golf courses. Old Tom Morris, who was commissioned to make enhancements to the course in 1894, claimed this to be the finest natural links he had ever set eyes on. Golfers flocked here in the 1890s when the West Clare Railway provided direct access. With its traditional out-and-back layout bordering the beautiful, wild beach of Liscannor Bay, Lahinch is an enchanting place to play golf, an absolute gem – unusually varied and immensely entertaining.

Trump International Golf Links Ireland (Doonbeg)

With mountainous dunes bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Doonbeg is a breathtaking links that curves and tumbles around the crescent-shaped Doughmore Bay in County Clare. With five par 5s and five par 3s, the layout is quite unique and naturally the wind invariably plays a big part. 'Great White Shark' Greg Norman has created a course that is totally in tune with nature and that has a very traditional, old-fashioned feel and look in spite of its relative youth. Its opening in 2002 was marked by a memorable exhibition match between Padraig Harrington and the Great White Shark himself with the latter coming out on top.

Galway Bay Golf Resort

Designed by Irish Ryder Cup legend Christy O'Connor Jnr, Galway Bay is an expertly-manicured parkland course by the sea, characterised by its dramatic water hazards and concealed bunkers. Fairways here are gently-undulating and quite forgiving and the greens tricky but fair. With the variable wind speed and directions, this championship golf course plays differently each day. As you decide on club selection, the magnificent panorama of Galway Bay is unveiled before you, with the hills of Clare to the south, while to the west sits the majestic city of Galway - city of the tribes - surrounding the rugged and unpredictable Atlantic Ocean.

Day 4

Westport Golf Club

Part-inland and part-seaside, Westport is a premier championship parkland course with fantastic views from its elevated position above Clew Bay in County Mayo. Designed by renowned British golf architects Fred Hawtree & Sons and host venue for many Irish championship events, Westport provides a thoroughly enjoyable test for all golfers including the longest hitters. A comfortable six opening holes allow the foundation of a solid round to be laid, before the course steps up a gear with the re-shaped 7th. Westport enjoys a well-deserved reputation for its warm local hospitality extended to visitors to the club.



Northern Ireland Tour

Day 6 of 7-day Grand Tour of Ireland

Royal Portrush Golf Club

Home club of 2011 Open Champion Darren Clarke, Royal Portrush on Antrim's rugged North coast has recently been confirmed an Open Championship venue for the second time in its history. A classic seaside links, blessed with magnificent ocean views, Portrush's Dunluce Links is not for the faint-hearted, requiring solid driving to hold together a decent score. Fairways nestle in natural valleys between towering dunes. Small greens blend harmoniously into the landscape, just one of designer Harry S Colt's master strokes. The rough is brutal and natural hazards abound, not to mention the ever-present wind. One of UK's top courses, it has to be played to be believed.

Portstewart Golf Club

In its spectacular setting on Ulster's famous Causeway Coast, Portstewart Golf Club has played host to many amateur and professional events, most recently the Amateur Championship in 2014. Set amidst imposing, gigantic sand dunes with panoramic views across the Atlantic mouth of Lough Foyle, Portstewart's flagship championship Strand course features what is often described as the best opening 9 holes anywhere in golf. A plethora of unforgettable holes awaits the visitor, starting with the intimidating, downhill 425-yd par 4. No serious golfer should miss a round on this most renowned and truly exhilarating of courses where the visitor is assured a warm local welcome.

For more information, call (502) 897-1725 or (800) 478-4881; or email <mailto:tourdesk@irtsociety.com>