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Southern Golf Courses

Adare Manor Golf Club

The 19th century house of Adare Manor is located on the picturesque banks of the River Maigue



in the village of Adare, County Limerick. The former seat of the Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl, it's now a luxury resort hotel and home to an absolute gem of a parkland course. Set amid 340 hectares of formal gardens and rolling parkland, the golf resort at Adare offers world class facilities and an 18 hole masterpiece that opened in 1995. It was the last major golf course designed by the legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. This majestic design has

gained international acclaim as one of his finest creations – the exquisite parkland atmosphere of the demesne has been preserved and the course set amid magnificent mature trees.

Ballybunion Golf Club – Old

Ballybunion is one of the most highly regarded courses on the southwest coast of Ireland, and for good reason. This particular stretch of coast is home to some of the largest, most formidable dunes seen on links land anywhere and provide a thrilling challenge. Golfers will want for nothing at this simple, yet magnificent links course. The Old Course at Ballybunion is an unyielding test of skill and endurance. It wastes no space on weak holes and, instead, uses large dunes and ruthless bunkering to challenge ambitious golfers. "If sheer pleasure is the yardstick, then Ballybunion's Old Course gets my vote as the No. 1 in the world," said famous English golf writer Peter Dobereiner.



Ceann Sibéal Golf Club

Dingle Links, also known affectionately by its Gaelic name Ceann Sibéal Golf Club, is set between winding roads, shimmering beaches and the Basket Islands, which hover peacefully in the vast Atlantic. The course is equal in pure, unadulterated beauty to the surrounding Dingle landscape, which is reputed to be one of the most beautiful areas in Ireland. This, Europe's most

westerly golf course, is links paradise manifested. The 6,120-metre par 72 was founded in 1924 and is yet another brilliant design by architect Eddie Hackett. The course itself offers various views from each hole that banish any possibility for a dull moment. It is composed of strategically placed bunkers, and the coastal winds are strong enough to challenge even the most experienced golfers.

Dooks Golf Club

Dooks Golf Club was founded in 1889 and is one of the oldest, most charming Links in Ireland. The charm, the atmosphere and the superb seaside setting of a truly traditional golf links makes Dooks a must-play for any fan of coastal golf. Originally a nine-hole course, the members themselves designed and built nine extra holes back in the late 1960s. More recently, Martin Hawtree has improved on that work, and the result is stunning. The links is set out on one of the three stretches of sand dunes at the head of Dingle bay. In the immediate foreground are the sand dune peninsulas of Rossbeigh and Inch and just a few miles away the whitewashed houses of Cromane fishing village provide an eye catching distraction. Also in view are the famed McGillicuddy's Reeks. To the southwest are the lovely valleys and hills of Glenbeigh, and across the bay to the north are the Slieve Mish and Dingle Mountains.



Doonbeg Golf Club

Chosen for his “least disturbance philosophy,” the Doonbeg Golf Course site on the grounds of this five star resort was designed by two-time British Open Champion Greg Norman. In fact, the course opened on July 9, 2002, when Norman defeated Padraig Harrington 2 to 1 in an exhibition match. Spanning 1.5 miles of crescent shaped beach and century-old sand dunes, the course offers views across the Atlantic from the green, the fairway, or tee of 16 of the 18 holes. The Par-72 layout features a single loop of nine holes out and nine back,

playing 6,885 yards from the back tees. The most natural routing within the existing dunes resulted in an uncommon combination of five par 3s and five par 5s.

Dromoland Golf Club

With an extraordinary history stretching back to the 5th Century, Dromoland Castle was originally the ancestral home of one of the few families of Gaelic Royalty; direct descendants of Brian Boru, the High King of Ireland. It's now home to one of the country's most revered parkland courses. Standing majestically over 160 hectares of its own private demesne, the course was designed by



Irish golfing legend J.B. Carr and one of golf's great golf course architects, Ron Kirby, who teamed up to turn Dromoland Castle into an 18-hole golf course, set in one of Europe's finest country estates. The course plays 6,824 yards for men and 5,242 yards for ladies and has been described as an excellent challenge for both professional and amateur golfers alike.

Fota Island Golf Club

The spectacular Fota Island Golf Club is just a few minutes' drive from downtown Cork City, but



as it sits on its own island, it feels a world away. Located in the heart of a 780 acre estate, the splendid woodlands are woven into three challenging championship courses which are very much in the traditional mode, featuring strategically placed bunkers and undulating putting surfaces. The most difficult stretch is between the 10th and 14th holes, as that area of the course is surrounded by a multitude of small lakes

and ponds. Golf was first played at Fota Island as far back as the 1800s, but it wasn't until the 1990s that a new course was developed at Fota Island, designed by Irish Ryder Cup star Christy O'Connor Jr and twice English Amateur Champion Peter McEvoy.

Killarney Golf Club – Killeen Course

Hugging the shores of Lough Leane, Killarney is blessed not just with world renowned scenery

but also with three superb parkland courses all within the one complex. Of the three, perhaps the most famous is the the Killeen, which has benefited hugely from recent renovations. Killeen is known across the world for having played host to the European Tour's Irish Open in recent years, as well as many other prestigious events in the past. The Killarney lakes and high mountain range provide an imposing backdrop to this championship course, and at 6,593 metres, it will demand total accuracy from long hitters, as there is water on virtually every hole.



Lahinch Golf Club – Old Course



The beautiful links at Lahinch Golf Club in County Clare, Ireland have been testing and enthralling visiting golfers for over a century. Way back in 1894, Old Tom Morris was commissioned to make full use of the natural terrain, especially the giant sand dunes at Lahinch. Old Tom believed that Lahinch was the finest natural course that he had seen. Two of Morris's creations were the famous Klondyke (4th) & Dell (5th) holes, these still remain today. They continue to be the most

memorable talking points for first time visitors to Lahinch and are seen locally as fitting tributes to the great Scotsman.

Mount Juliet Golf Club

A classic in every sense of the word, Jack Nicklaus' course at Mount Juliet is a joy to behold and to play. The quintessential resort parkland course, it is always immaculate and testing, round after round. And when Tiger Woods says that a course has “perfect fairways” and “the best greens I've putted on all year”, you need to sit up and pay attention. Kilkenny's Mount Juliet has long been garnering such praise from not only top professionals, but visiting golfers too. The Jack Nicklaus design is a classic and consistently voted among the best parkland courses in Ireland



Old Head Golf Club Kinsale

A perennial favourite with Irish and international golfers alike, Old Head is surely laid out on one



of the most dramatic landscapes in Ireland. Located on a narrow peninsula in Co Cork, Old Head is almost completely surrounded by water and thus has some of the most stunning vistas found on a golf course anywhere in the world. The course, which is set up on a daily basis, was designed by an impeccable team of golf professionals, including Australian course architect Paddy Merrigan, building contractor Haulie

O'Shea, and former Irish golf professionals, the late Dr. Joe Carr and Eddie Hackett. The Old Head is designed as a walking course that encourages all visitors to walk the links with their Caddie.

Ring of Kerry Golf Club

Named for the world-famous tourist trail that takes ramblers through the idyllic southwestern landscape, the Ring of Kerry Golf & Country Club is just as enchanting. The architectural brief was to design a “world class” golf course that would challenge competent and experienced players from the back tees, yet be playable and enjoyable for the average handicap player from middle and forward teeing areas. The brief also included that the golf course be to a standard capable of hosting professional golf events, both Irish and European. "If God restricted



me to playing only one course for the rest of my life, it would unquestionably be the Ring of Kerry Golf & Country Club," said Brendan McGovern, former Captain of the Irish PGA.

Tralee Golf Club

In terms of scenery, Tralee Golf Club has it all: a rocky harbour, a castle ruin, beaches, and last



but not least, a stunning golf course. The course is historically significant on many levels, as a vessel from the Spanish Armada sailed by the 17th hole in 1588, and the scenery of the first and second holes were featured in the beach scenes of the 1970 Academy Award Winning Film *Ryan's Daughter*. All the caddies at Tralee Golf Club are also members of the club, making for a relaxed and sociable atmosphere during

your golf break. Although the course was built and designed by Arnold Palmer, the world-renown golfer and businessman claimed that he had some outside help, commenting: "I may have designed the first nine, but surely God designed the back nine."

Waterville Golf Club

Adjacent to the Ring of Kerry, Waterville Links is located in one of the most beautiful areas of Ireland. Waterville is consistently rated one of the top five courses in Ireland and one of the top twenty links courses in the world.

Many professionals, such as Tiger Woods, have visited Waterville to polish their skills prior to the British Open. The combination of sand dunes, native grasses, firm fairways, sod faced bunkers and subtle putting surfaces at Waterville results in a perfect links course. Every hole at Waterville Links is a masterpiece.

Elevated tee boxes, which continue to rise as play progresses, allow players to see the flag in the distance, often tucked behind cascading dunes. The beginning holes are open over wide fairways, unlike the back nine, where dunes are larger and more prevalent.

