

# Scotland Golf Adventure Guide

The essential planning resource for great Scottish golf trips.



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## Introduction

Planning my first golf trip to Scotland was time consuming and difficult. The tourist board information, travel guides, books about golf in Scotland, and countless possibilities for making smart choices among 600 golf courses needed to make a decision.

I started by finding accommodation choices. You won't find them here, just the tools — course cards — to craft your own.

Compact, colorful, and easy to use. It's a flowery prospect.

The result is a guide specifically for golfers that delivers the essential information and tools for planning great golf trips to Scotland. The way I've done it is non-traditional, but I think it's incredibly effective.

**No Ads.** No placement fees or advertisements. Golf courses, hotels, airlines, car rental firms, and tour operators can't buy their way into my guide. I provide an unbiased, independent view of the travel-planning experience and my only objective is to make it easier and more enjoyable for you.

**This guide is not free.** See the [Paying for This Guide](#) section on page 36 for details.

## Using This Guide (PDF Version)

This guide is designed to be printed on letter- or A4-size paper, but you can also view it directly in Adobe Acrobat. It's your choice.

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appear in the cursor, indicating it's a web link. If you have the full Adobe Acrobat software (not Adobe Reader), you may see a "+" in the cursor. If so, change your Web Capture Preference to open web links in your browser, not Acrobat.

## Course Cards & Calendar

The Course Cards and Calendars are separate PDF files. When printing these documents I recommend you disable (uncheck) the "Shrink oversized pages to paper size" option.

## Clear Plastic Envelope

Buy an expanding, clear plastic envelope to hold the printouts of this guide and calendar pages. During your trip it makes a great place to file away score cards, brochures, receipts, etc. gathered during your trip.

## Scotland Tourism Board

Scotland's National Tourism Board is the official tourism marketing body for Scotland. They maintain an excellent web site at:

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

Contact them and they will gladly send you a free **Vacation Planner**. Be sure to also ask for a copy of the **Official Guide to Golf in Scotland**. Use the web site to request these publications or call:

US/Canada	800 462 2748
UK	0845 22 55 121
International	+44 1506 832 121

## Other Official Scotland Tourism Web Sites

[golf.visitscotland.com](http://golf.visitscotland.com) (Golf in Scotland)

## Regional Tourism Web Sites

[www.standrews.co.uk](http://www.standrews.co.uk)  
[www.angusanddundee.co.uk](http://www.angusanddundee.co.uk)  
[www.scottishgolfsouthwest.com](http://www.scottishgolfsouthwest.com)  
[www.golfeastlothian.com](http://www.golfeastlothian.com)  
[www.visit-dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk/golf/](http://www.visit-dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk/golf/)  
[www.perthshire.co.uk](http://www.perthshire.co.uk)  
[www.aberdeen-grampian.com](http://www.aberdeen-grampian.com)

## A Word of Caution

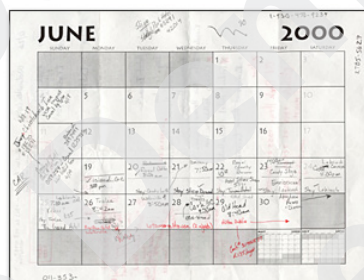
The volume of information from the tourist boards can be overwhelming. They promote every golf course, hotel, tour operator, and travel-related establishment in all of Scotland. Their material and listings are supported by advertisements. Use them wisely to supplement and reinforce the carefully edited unbiased information in this guide.

# The Big Picture

Make your plans and reservations as early as possible. I recommend going through the planning and reservation process in these steps.

## 1. Rough itinerary

Your first step in the planning process is to create a rough itinerary with proposed arrival and departure dates. It may seem rather obvious, but before you make any other plans you've got to have a good idea when you plan to arrive (and into which city), the length of your trip, which courses you want to try to get on, and the date and city of departure.



Use the **When to Go** and **Temperature & Rainfall Statistics** sections to select an approximate time of year for your trip. Go through the **Building a Rough Itinerary** process to get more specific about which courses you'll play. Read through the **Sample Itineraries**, **Driving Times & Distances**, **Golf Courses**, and **Accommodations** sections as you craft your itinerary.

At the end of this step, you should have your calendar page(s) filled in with all of the courses you intend to play (on specific days) and have decided upon your arrival and departure dates and cities.

## 2. Travel reservations

Why make travel reservations so early in the process? Well, if you're not actually in Scotland you can't play golf in Scotland. If you're travelling by air your first priority is to get your flight booked.

Use this guide to help you plan and connect both you and your luggage. You'll find "Baggage Service" information in the "Getting to Scotland" section.



Take the arrival and departure information from step one and make your travel reservations using a travel agent, online service, or the airlines directly. Use the **Getting to Scotland** section for airline service, schedules and contact information.

Booking early will help you get a better fare and the exact flights you want. Don't make tee times or hotel reservations until you've got your travel plans set.

## 3. Tee times

Now that you know exactly when you'll be in Scotland, it's time to finalize the golf itinerary and make the tee times. This is the ultimate objective of the trip.

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courses  
reservation  
courses,  
d, are

inherently low tech. Online tee-time reservation requests are likely to go into a black hole. By calling the course directly, scheduling conflicts can be resolved and tee-time decisions can be made immediately.

Start with the most important (to you) courses on your itinerary. Work your way through the list until you've secured all of your tee times, adjusting the itinerary along the way as needed.

Ask if a fax confirmation is needed and be sure to understand their deposit requirements. I recommend taking care of all deposits with your credit card which you can easily provide along with your fax confirmation.

## 4. Accommodations

Book accommodations after you've made the tee times. Until you have your tee times set, you really don't know where you'll be and need to stay.

Thankfully, there are many options to choose from and in all price ranges. Depending on your travel style and how many "base camps" you use, you may have relatively few reservations to make. Use the **Driving Times & Distances**, **Choosing Where to Stay**, and **Accommodations** sections to help you decide.

## 5. Rental car

You could certainly book a rental car along with the other travel reservations, but I've placed it at the end to emphasize that it's the least critical step in the process. Just don't forget it. Also, if you're coming into Scotland on a ferry you may not even need a rental.



Use the **Renting a Car** and **Rental Car Price Worksheet** sections to understand and simplify this process.

# Tools for Planning Your Trip

Get a copy of the recommended map and books as soon as possible. They're helpful to have during the planning process and the map is essential to have on-hand during your trip.

## This Guide

You obviously have a copy of this already. Good job! The **Scotland Golf Adventure Guide** will be your primary resource as you plan your trip.



As you build your itinerary you've got important decisions to make like selecting golf courses, how far to drive each day, where you'll stay, etc. This guide will help you get 95% of the way, but information is power and I want you to have three more tools on hand.

I strongly recommend you get

- a really good map,
- a book on golf courses in Scotland, and
- a travel guide

in that order of importance. If you only purchase one more item, make sure it's the map.

## A Good Map

The best road map is the **Scotland 501 Regional Map (ISBN 2061007317)** from Michelin. It has a good level of road detail, folds and unfolds easily, and clearly shows the map grid code. You will find it as you plan your trip through Scotland.

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You may not find this map in your local book or travel store. Save yourself the trouble of driving all around town and purchase it online from:

- Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- Barnes & Noble ([www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com))
- Powell's Books ([www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com))

**Tip!** – Enter the map's ISBN number in the web site's Search box; it's more accurate and quicker than entering the title. This works with the books too, by the way.

## Another Good Book

The golf course entries in this guide are purposely brief. While they certainly contain enough information to build an itinerary and make tee times, I find courses I'm interested in. Whyte.

## A Travel Guide

I think the **Scotland Eyewitness Travel Guide (ISBN 075668420X)** is one of the best travel guides and will enhance your trip and planning process. It has great information for what to do when you're not playing golf as well as good, solid tips for travelling around Scotland.



You'll likely find the Scotland golf and travel guide books in your local bookstore. You can also purchase them online from:

- Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))
- Barnes & Noble ([www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com))
- Powell's Books ([www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com))

Other travel guides worth considering:

*Fodor's Scotland*  
Fodors (ISBN 0307928411)

*Footprint Scotland*  
Alan Murphy (ISBN 1907263322)

*AAA Spiral Guide Scotland*  
AAA (ISBN 1595084355)

Whyte's book provides in-depth and enjoyable descriptions of the top courses in Scotland. If you're going to buy just one more book about golf in Scotland (other than this guide), this is a good one to get. Other books worth considering:

*Golf in Scotland*  
Allan McAllister Ferguson (ISBN 0971032629)

*Blasted Heaths and Blessed Greens: A Golfer's Pilgrimage to the Courses of Scotland*  
James W. Finegan (ISBN 0743264843)

*Scotland Home of Golf*  
Donald Ford (ISBN 1873163711)



# When to Go

Anytime is a good time to go golfing in Scotland. Right? Well, not exactly. Given the choice, most tourists prefer playing in warmer and drier conditions. Here's how to maximize your chances of doing so.

## Overview

While most Scottish locals golf year round, November through March is not recommended for the visiting golfer. During this time, the days are shorter (no daylight savings time), colder, and wetter. Not exactly what we're looking for in a holiday golf experience. Unless you're in Scotland anyway, on a business trip or visiting relatives, avoid these months.

May through September is most popular for golf in Scotland, when the weather is generally warmer and drier. According to Scotland's Tourism Board, 80% of all holiday golfers arrive during these months. Consider visiting in April and October for more travel flexibility and fewer crowds, and we end up with a practical golf season of April through October.

You may have other travel constraints, but if your schedule is flexible, use the weather and crowd rankings below to help fine tune a time that works for you.

## Temperature

Scotland has a fairly mild climate compared to other countries at a similar latitude, thanks to the temperate effects of the Atlantic. While the winters never get that cold, it doesn't get very warm in the summer, either. Perfect golfing weather I say! Here's how the golfing months rank, from warmest to coolest:

- July (warmer)
- August
- June
- September
- May
- October
- April (cooler)

## Rainfall

Yes, it rains in Scotland, but perhaps not as much as you might think. And unless a course is under water, which is highly unlikely given the well-draining links courses in Scotland, rain probably won't stop you. It makes for wet and windy conditions, but there and there it is. It makes for a different experience.

Still, no one wants to get wet. What you need to maximize your chances of enjoying the golfing experience is to choose the right time.

- April (drier)
- June
- May
- July
- August
- October
- September (wetter)

The southwest coast of Scotland is generally wetter than the east coast, as you'll note on the rainfall chart on the next page.

## Wind

The wind in Scotland is relatively constant across the golfing months of April to October. There's just no escaping it. And for many courses, it is their primary means of defense.

Rather than trying to avoid it, which you can't anyway, you're better off learning how to play a solid knockdown shot and brushing up on your bump-and-run game. You'll need it.

## Overall Golf-Weather Ranking

Using the temperature and rainfall rankings, here's an *overall* golf-weather ranking for Scotland. From the best golfing weather to the least best (I don't want to say "worst"):

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courses:

- October (fewer golfers)
- April <sup>1</sup>
- May
- September <sup>2</sup>
- June <sup>3</sup>
- August <sup>4</sup>
- July <sup>3</sup> (more golfers)

<sup>1</sup> Month with fewest American golfers

<sup>2</sup> Month with most American golfers

<sup>3</sup> Months with most Mainland European golfers

<sup>4</sup> Month with most British golfers

## Daylight Hours

Should you desire, two rounds in a day is no problem from April to October when daylight savings time is in effect. See the calendar that accompanies this guide for sunset times for the entire year.

## Club Closures

Most golf clubs are open to visitors year round. During the winter months some clubs require you to hit off plastic mats to spare the fairway and give the turf a chance to rejuvenate itself.

Also, St Andrews Old is closed Sundays and for a week in early October for the Dunhill Links Championship. See the calendar PDF and the [St Andrews Links Trust web site](#) for other closures due to tournaments (i.e. fixtures).

## Prices

If you're looking to economize, prices for airfare, hotels, and rental cars are typically at their peak June/July/August and are often cheaper in the shoulder months of April/May and September/October.

As an example, round-trip airfare on Continental from Newark to Glasgow (with early booking, flying on Tuesday, at least one Saturday stayover, 2014) is \$US 893 in April/May, \$US 1,380 in June/July/August, and \$US 1,214 in September/October.

From April to October, green fee rates are, for the most part, unchanged throughout Scotland. You need to get out there and give it a lashin' in January if you want to get a price break.

# Temperature & Rainfall Statistics

These charts show Scotland's historical temperature and rainfall data as measured over a 30-year period by the Met Office.

## Scotland's Climate

For the more visually inclined, these charts back up the weather information and conclusions made on the previous page.

### Fahrenheit & Celsius Comparison

Forget those wacky formulas! For our North American friends, here's a more practical chart which relates the temperatures in °F and °C to what you might actually need to wear on the golf course.

### Mean Daily Maximum/Minimum Temperatures

The data shown represents the temperature ranges as measured at five locations across Scotland: Edinburgh (East), St Andrews (East), Aberdeen (Northeast), Inverness (North), and Prestwick (Southwest). The mean daily minimum temperatures are those you'll likely encounter if you have an early tee time.

### Mean Monthly Rainfall

The data shown represents the mean monthly rainfall as measured at Prestwick/Troon (Ayrshire) and St Andrews (Fife). For each month, the bottom line is from the east coast (St Andrews) and the top line is from the slightly wetter southwest coast (Prestwick/Troon) of Scotland.

## Additional Resources

The Met Office has excellent historical climate information, current weather reports, and weather forecasts available on their web site ([www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)).

### Fahrenheit/Celsius Comparison

Not Very Likely!

75° F

24° C

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45° F

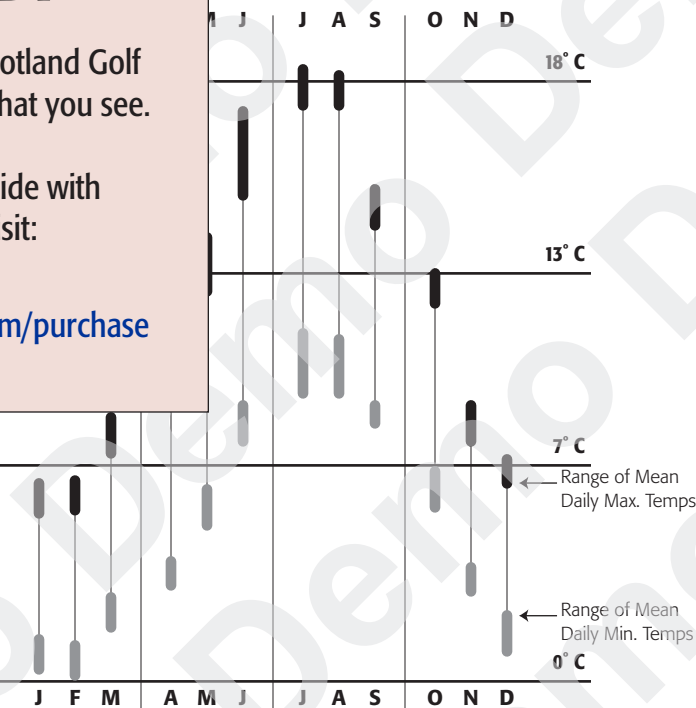
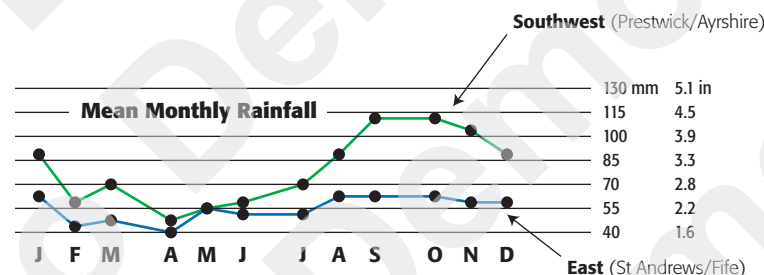
7° C

Winter Hats & Gloves

32° F

0° C

You're Crazy!



Mean Daily Maximum/Minimum Temperatures

# Building a Rough Itinerary

Make your picks and assemble them in an order that makes sense. How to use the Course Cards to work out visitor tee time conflicts.

An itinerary is not just a list of courses to be played. You must assemble them in chronological order and in a sequence that works geographically. Course visitor policies and holidays influence which days of the week you can play a particular course. The sequence is influenced by the driving times and distances between the courses and towns in which you'll be staying.

## Get Started By Building A List

Start out by writing down any "must play" courses. The source can be friends, magazine articles, books, the web, wherever. If you've read anything about golf in Scotland you probably have a few courses in mind that you want to play. Write them down. At this point, don't worry about geography or visitor policies — we're creating a wish list.

Now, do more general research and add to your list. Go over the sample itineraries and read the course descriptions in this guide. David Whyte's book, *Golfer's Guide Scotland*, has good accounts of most courses in this guide. Two good web resources are *Scotland Golf Course Reviews* ([scotlandgolf.com/departments/coursereviews/](http://scotlandgolf.com/departments/coursereviews/)) and *The 18 Best Courses in Scotland* ([golf.com/special-features/18-best-courses-scotland/](http://golf.com/special-features/18-best-courses-scotland/)).

Your wish list should be bulging by now. If you have a week or less, you shouldn't try to play courses at opposite ends of Scotland — like trying to squeeze in Southernness and Royal Dornoch. It can be done, but why kill yourself? Concentrate on one or two regions and save the courses elsewhere for subsequent trips. You'll be back.

Armed with your wish list of courses, it's time to put them in order and build an itinerary that makes sense.

## Arrange The Courses In Sequence

Use the course cards as an easy way to visually organize the itinerary. For each course on your wish list, get its card and put them all in a separate stack. If you've kept the cards in geographic order,

as you gather a reasonable pile, lay them out on a large table or floor. Start with "Monday", etc. Put the course cards in the sequence you want to play them. The course's location becomes clear. You can move forward or backward to allow for visitor policies or to fit your trip length.

For example, you might start in Glasgow, then Glasgow Golf Club, then Quickie same day, then Monday. If you're back at Prestwick for members only.

I think you get the picture. And that's the point. Using the course cards greatly simplifies the process. If you're not familiar with driving times and distances, you should also have the golf course and driving time maps handy to make sure you can get from course to course or hotel to course each day.

Use a calendar to pull it all together. Print the calendar page(s) that cover the span of your trip. With your course cards still in place, write the course name on its appropriate calendar day. I recommend putting the course name at the top of the day's box, leaving room for the tee time and notes in the middle, and hotel name and city at the bottom.

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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<b>Elie (The Golf House Club)</b> Phone: +44 1332 330 309 Fax: +44 1332 330 895 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Pin Confirmation Required? Yes/No _____ Card Fee Note: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No _____ Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____	<b>Crail (Balmorie Links)</b> Phone: +44 1332 450 686 Fax: +44 1332 450 406 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Pin Confirmation Required? Yes/No _____ Card Fee Note: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No _____ Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____
---	---

<b>Cruden Bay</b> Phone: +44 1799 802 285 Fax: +44 1799 802 945 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Pin Confirmation Required? Yes/No _____ Card Fee Note: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No _____ Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____	<b>Duff House Royal</b> Phone: +44 1261 802 062 Fax: +44 1261 802 224 Date: _____ Tee Time: _____ # Players: _____ Pin Confirmation Required? Yes/No _____ Card Fee Note: _____ Deposit/Payment Required? Yes/No _____ Payment Info: _____ Notes: _____
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andar, it's  
ving and  
n to make

st 3 nights  
rival airport.

It will give you a chance to recover from jet lag and ease into your holiday. If your baggage is lost, the airlines will be able to deliver it to you more easily than if you've already driven halfway across Scotland and are still on the move.

Try to stay at least two nights in each town. Keeping the number of hotel check-in and check-outs to a minimum helps keep everyone's stress level down.

If you have two courses far from each other, play a course in between to break up the long drive. But don't spend the night at the intermediate course. For example, let's say you've been staying in St Andrews and you want to move on to Cruden Bay. Try playing Carnoustie, Montrose, or Royal Aberdeen along the way then on to the Cruden

Bay area to stay the night. After playing Cruden Bay, stay there another night. Get an early start the next morning and drive to Nairn for a late-morning or early-afternoon tee time. After golf and a pint in the clubhouse (diet coke or coffee for the driver, of course), drive on to Dornoch for the evening. You've done a bit more driving on those transition days, but you've eliminated one-night hotel stops.

When changing cities, consider driving to the new city *after* the day's golf. If possible, do a reconnaissance mission to the next day's course so you'll be able to find it easily the next morning. Note: A complete reconnaissance mission involves sampling pints of ale or shots of whisky in the clubhouse bar to determine their freshness.

Finally, don't ever be late for a tee time. Try to avoid long, early-morning drives where you're rushing to make an early tee time. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early and allow time to get caught in slow traffic.

Use the course cards — they really do work!

## Sample Itineraries

The point of this guide is to give you the tools to come up with your own itineraries. However, it's often helpful to see a few examples.

### Fife Then Up North and Back

Play	Stay
Arrive Edinburgh	
Elie <sup>1</sup>	St Andrews
Crail	"
Kingsbarns	"
St Andrews Old/New	"
Monifieth	Aberdeen
Royal Aberdeen	"
Murcar	Cruden Bay/Peterhead
Cruden Bay	"
Duff House Royal	Nairn
Nairn	"
Tain	Dornoch
Royal Dornoch	"
Boat of Garten	Boat of Garten
Gleneagles	Edinburgh
Depart Edinburgh	

Best start day: Arrive Edinburgh and play Elie on Friday so that in one week's time you're playing Cruden Bay on a Friday which is one of the days where they have the fewest visitor restrictions.

<sup>1</sup> If you have the time and energy. A great way to get over your jet lag.

### Southwest/East Lothian Quickie

Play	Stay
Arrive Glasgow	
Gailes Links <sup>2</sup>	
Kilmarnock	
Western Gailes	
Portpatrick	
Prestwick C	
North Berwick	
The Glen	
Depart Glasgow	

Best start day: Arrive Glasgow on Friday, hit Western Gailes on Saturday, and Old on Friday.

<sup>2</sup> Fairly close to Glasgow.

### A Bit Off the Beaten Track

Play	Stay
Arrive Edinburgh	
Gleneagles <sup>3</sup>	Auchterarder
St Andrews New	"
Gleneagles	Carnoustie
Monifieth	"
Carnoustie	"
Murcar	Peterhead
Cruden Bay	Inverness
Nairn	"
Nairn Dunbar	"
Royal Dornoch	"
Tain	"
Depart Inverness	

Best start day: That's a bit off the beaten track. That's more "popular" courses — fewer visitor restrictions.

In order to make the 9:45am ferry from Kennacraig to Port Ellen (you need to be at the ferry no later than 9:15) you need to spend the previous night close by. Glasgow is one option. If you want to catch the early morning (7:00am) ferry you could stay overnight in nearby Tarbert (5 miles from Kennacraig). See Kennacraig/Tarbert on page 27 in the Accommodations section.

### An Itinerary With No Clever Name

Play	Stay
Arrive Glasgow	
Gleneagles <sup>3</sup>	Auchterarder
St Andrews New	"
Gleneagles	Carnoustie
Monifieth	"
Carnoustie	"
Murcar	Peterhead
Cruden Bay	Inverness
Nairn	"
Nairn Dunbar	"
Royal Dornoch	"
Tain	"
Depart Inverness	

Best start day: Play Gleneagles on Sunday, which puts you at Murcar on Thursday and Cruden Bay on Friday. You'll be driving from Peterhead to play Nairn on Saturday morning, so the fact that visitors can't plan Nairn on Saturdays until after 10:37am is not a problem.

<sup>3</sup> Remember, you don't have to stay at the Gleneagles Resort to play their courses.

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## Getting on St Andrews Old & Muirfield

You really want to play these courses, do you? Here are some helpful tips for securing a tee time, or if that fails what to do instead.

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# Driving Times & Distances

For itinerary planning and getting to the course on time, knowing the driving time is key. Times are hours:minutes. Distances are in miles.

## Driving in Scotland

The roads can be narrow in some parts of Scotland so you may not be able to cover as much ground as you're used to on the high-speed freeways and autobahns of the U.S. and mainland Europe. Please plan accordingly.

### Driving Times

The driving times shown are based on normal driving conditions. You'll average 40-45 miles-per-hour on most Scottish roads, considering the topography, towns, roundabouts, narrow roads, and getting stuck behind an occasional farmer in the countryside. Give yourself plenty of time.

### Miles or Minutes?

You'll find road signs in miles and the Michelin map I recommend uses miles. Use the distance conversion chart on the right to convert to/from kilometers as needed. However, the exact distance is not nearly as important as the time it will take to make the drive.

### Driving Tips

If you're not used to driving on the left-side of the road, repeat after me: "Stay to the left, look to the right." Repeat that each time you get behind the wheel. Designate a navigator who does all of the route planning, map reading, and sign watching. It will help the driver immensely. The Highway Code web site ([direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Highwaycode](http://direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Highwaycode)) has useful information about driving in the U.K..

### Route Planning

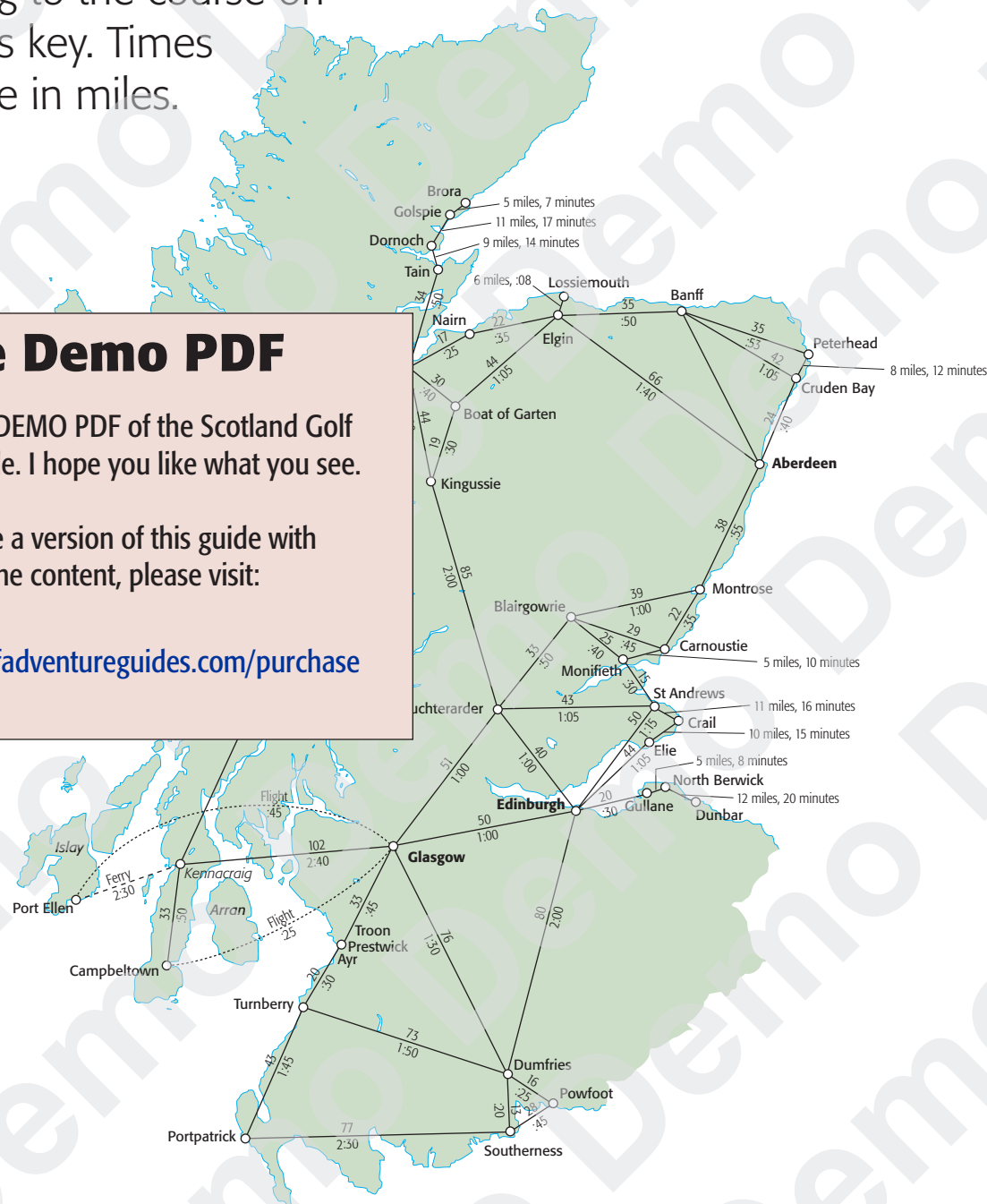
You should be able to determine your driving routes using the Michelin map. If you want a second opinion, a good online resource is The Automobile Association ([www.theaa.com](http://www.theaa.com)). Click on the Route Planner link in the Travel and Leisure section of their web site.

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# Golf Course & Town Map

## About This Map & The Courses

This map shows the golf courses covered in this guide and the towns in which I recommend you stay. Details for each course are in the Golf Courses section. Details for the accommodations are in the Accommodations section.

### Golf Course Listings

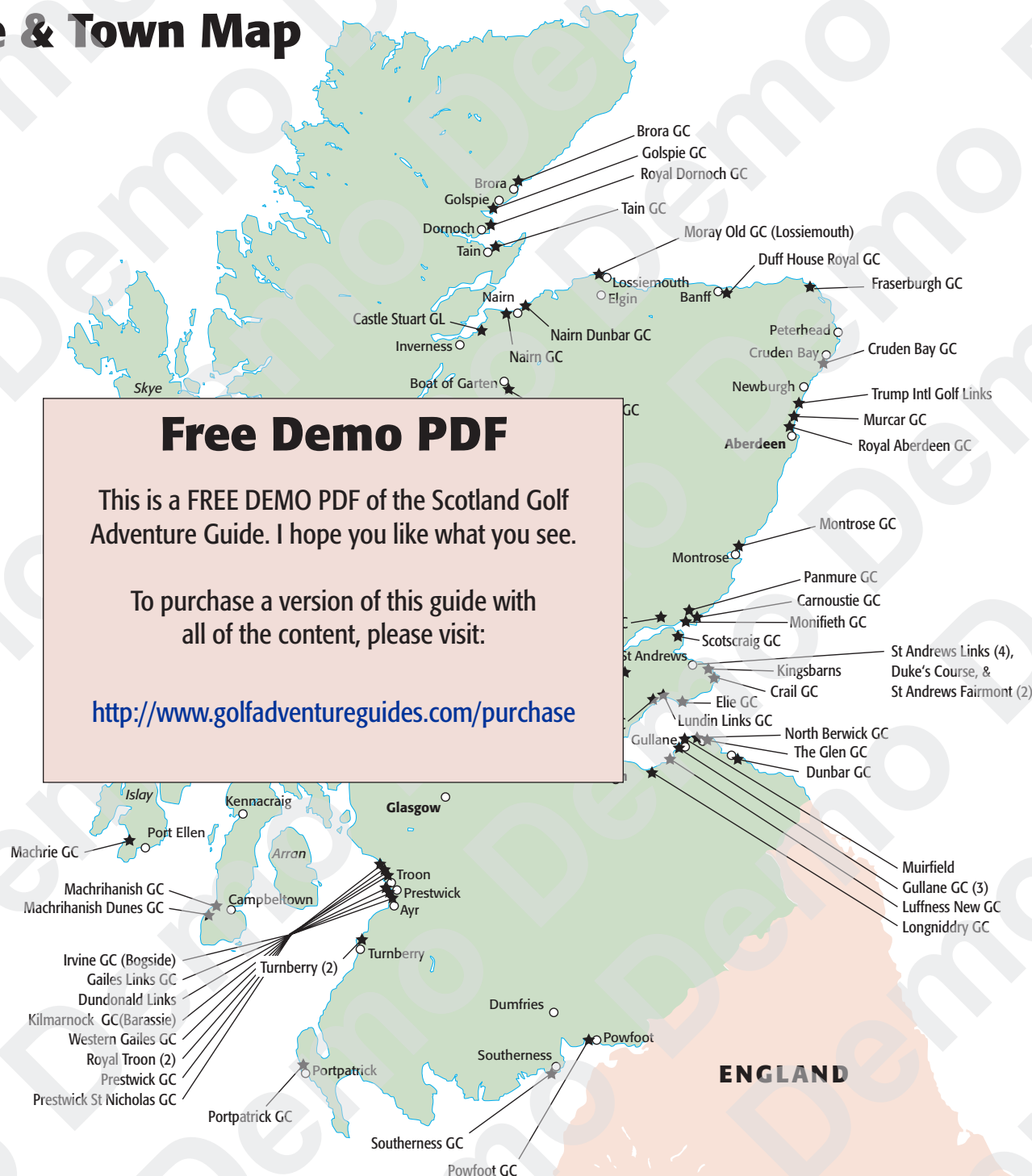
Alphabetical golf course listings follow in the Golf Courses section on the next seven pages. For each course, its Michelin (Scotland 501 Regional) map grid reference coordinates are shown to the right of the course name.

Where known, the course designers are listed; an alphabetical index of course designers follows the golf course listings. This is a great tool when planning your itinerary and figuring out which courses to play.

Green fee rates are simplified to show prices for the May through September high season and are per round per person, unless otherwise indicated. Most courses charge weekend rates on holidays. As you know, green fees are subject to change and if they change you can be assured the direction will be up.

### The Missing Isles

This map doesn't show the Western Isles, Orkney Islands, or Shetland Islands. While there are golf courses on these islands, they're not practical options for most holiday golfers.



# Golf Courses

From nearly 600 golf courses in Scotland, I've narrowed it down to the following courses you should consider when planning your trip.

## Blairgowrie

Blairgowrie, Perthshire

J14 

**HEATHLAND.** Situated in the heart of the magnificent Perthshire countryside, the club was founded in 1889 and is home to the renowned Rosemount and Lansdowne championship courses. Both courses are set in heather-lined avenues of pine and silver birch trees.

**Phone** +44 1250 872 622

**Fax** +44 1250 875 451

**Web** [www.theblairgowriegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.theblairgowriegolfclub.co.uk)

**Email** [office@theblairgowriegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:office@theblairgowriegolfclub.co.uk)

**Designer** James Braid, Rosemount (1930s)  
Peter Aliss & Dave Thomas, Lansdowne (1970s)

**Visitors** Rosemount: Mo-Fri Members only 8-10:00 and 12-13:30. Sa/Su 14-15:30 visitors welcome.  
Lansdowne: Mo-Fri anytime. Sa/Su 14-16:00

**Rates** £65/round Rosemount, £65/round Lansdowne  
£95/day for one round on each course

**Directions** Off the A93 Braemar Rd, signposted one mile southwest of Blairgowrie, and 15 mi. north of Perth.

## Boat of Garten

Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire

I12 

**HEATHLAND.** The view from the clubhouse, over the 1st and 2nd fairways and beyond to the Cairngorm mountains is spectacular. If you're traveling to or from Royal Dornoch, consider playing this gem.

**Phone** +44 1479 831 282

**Fax** +44 1479 831 523

**Web** [www.boatgolf.com](http://www.boatgolf.com)

**Email** [office@boatgolf.com](mailto:office@boatgolf.com)

**Designer** James Braid

**Visitors** Welcome daily

**Rates** £47/round Mo-Su

**Directions** From the A9, take the Grantown-on-Spey turnoff. The village is 6 miles northeast of Aviemore. Through the village, past the Boat Hotel, under the Strathspey railway bridge, the club is on your right-hand side.

## Brora

Brora, Highland

I9 

**LINKS.** Established in 1891, the golf club in Brora prides itself in their warm and friendly welcome of visitors. The James Braid design is a classic layout that remains a fair and challenging.

**Phone** +44 1850 872 622

**Fax** +44 1850 875 451

**Web** [www.brora.co.uk](http://www.brora.co.uk)

**Email** [office@brora.co.uk](mailto:office@brora.co.uk)

**Designer** James Braid

**Visitors** Welcome daily

**Rates** £47/round

**Directions** Off the A9, signposted 11 miles north of Dundee.

**Note** The Carnoustie Golf Course Hotel is located adjacent to the first tee. Host of the 2007 Open Championship (British Open).

**Carnoustie**

Carnoustie, Angus

**LINKS.** The Carnoustie Golf Course is one of the toughest links courses in the world.

**Phone** +44 1241 802 270

**Fax** +44 1241 802 271

**Web** [www.carnoustiegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.carnoustiegolfclub.co.uk)

**Email** [golf@carnoustiegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:golf@carnoustiegolfclub.co.uk)

**Designers** Allan Robertson (1842), Tom Morris (1867), James Braid (1930s)

**Visitors** Early booking essential. Handicap certificates required. Visitors welcome daily as follows: Mon-Fri: 9:00-12:20, 13:30-15:50 Sat: After 14:00, Sun: After 11:30

**Rates** £175

**Directions** Off the A92, signposted. 11 miles north of Dundee.

**Note** The Carnoustie Golf Course Hotel is located adjacent to the first tee. Host of the 2007 Open Championship (British Open).

## Castle Stuart Golf Links

Balnaglack Farmhouse, Inverness IV2 7JL

I11

**LINKS.** A championship links course overlooking the Moray Firth. Debuted at #56 on Golf Magazine's Top 100 Courses in the World list. Lodge and rooms

## Cruden Bay

Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire

O11

**LINKS.** Uniquely challenging terrain and magnificent views — one of the best links courses in Scotland. Ranked as one of the top 100 courses in the world (*Golf Magazine*) and one of the top 40 courses in Great Britain (*Golf World*).

**Phone** +44 1779 812 285

**Fax** +44 1779 812 945

**Web** [www.crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk](http://www.crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk)

**Email** [bookings@crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk](mailto:bookings@crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk)

**Designers** Tom Morris (1899 original)  
Tom Simpson & Herbert Fowler (1926 redesign)

**Visitors** **Weekday Restrictions**  
No visitors before 10.30 Mondays & 10.30 Tuesdays; after 15.30 Wednesdays

**Weekend Restrictions**  
No visitors before 14:00 on weekends

**Rates** £105/round or £140/day Mo-Fr  
£120/round Sa-Su

**Directions** Off the A975 (Newburgh/Cruden Bay road) 23 miles north of Aberdeen. From Aberdeen, follow the A90 north (Aberdeen to Fraserburgh road) and turn right on to the A975.

**Note** Many of Tom Morris' original greensites and basic routing are still in evidence.

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the elements into play. Magnificent views

**Phone** +44 1333 450 686

**Fax** +44 1333 450 416

**Web** [www.craigheadgolfingclub.co.uk](http://www.craigheadgolfingclub.co.uk)

**Email** [info@craigheadgolfingclub.co.uk](mailto:info@craigheadgolfingclub.co.uk)

**Designer** Tom Morris (1895)

**Visitors** Mon/Wed/Thu 10:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00

Tue/Fri 9:30-12:00, 14:00-15:30

Sat/Sun 10:00-11:30, 14:00-15:30

**Rates** £67/round or £92/day Mo-Fr  
£82/round or £112/day Sa-Su

**Directions** Off the A917, signposted 2 miles north of Crail and 11 miles southeast of St. Andrews.

**Note** A second course, the Craighead Links, opened in 1999 and makes an enjoyable second round. Part of the *Links with History* program, along with Ladybank, Lundin Links, and Scotsraig.



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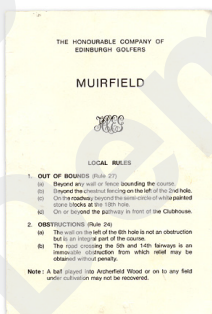
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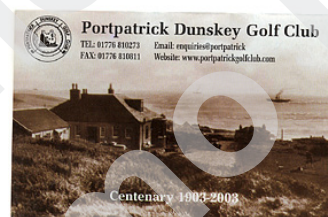


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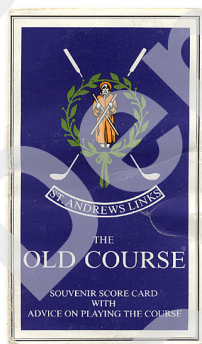


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Open Fairways ([www.openfairways.com](http://www.openfairways.com)) offer discount passes good at many courses and hotels in Scotland and England. Typical offers are "4 for 2", "2 for 1", and 25% off green fees; hotel discounts are typically 50%. The price is £89. Check out their web site for details and restrictions.

Not all the courses and accommodations in this guide are on their list, but many are. Here are the golf courses and hotels in this guide which are part of the Open Fairways program as of early 2009:

### Golf Courses

Boat of Garten (25%), Duke's Course (4:2 & 25%), The Glen (4:2 & 50%), Gleneagles (25%), Golspie (25%), Gullane #2 (4:2 & 2:1), Machrie (4:2 & 2:1), Montrose (2:1 & 25%), Murcar (4:2 & 2:1), Portpatrick (4:2 & 2:1), Prestwick St Nicholas (25%), Scotsraig (25%), St Andrews Bay (4:2 & 2:1), Tain (4:2 & 2:1), Turnberry Kintyre (35% & 4:2 & 2:1)

### Hotels

Dornoch Castle (Dornoch), Boat Hotel (Boat of Garten), Altamount House Hotel (Blairgowrie), Rufflets Country House (St Andrews), Golf View Hotel (Nairn), Newton Hotel (Nairn), Udny Arms (Newburgh), Royal Golf Hotel (Dornoch), The Bonham (Edinburgh), The Howard (Edinburgh)

# Golf Course Rankings

So many great courses, so little time. Deciding which to play, or rather not play, will be the hardest part of planning your trip. Use these rankings as another frame of reference as you develop your list.

Scotland has nearly 600 golf courses and approximately one-third of all of the links courses in the world. The typical golf trip to Scotland is 7–14 days which means you need some way to decide which courses to play.

One obvious method is to concentrate on one or two geographic regions. This minimizes driving and limits accommodation changes while still giving you lots of great courses to choose from.

Another method is to play all the “top-rated” courses in Scotland. The 5-star courses are the only courses in Scotland to make [Golf Magazine’s Top 100 Courses in the World](#) list from 2013.

I took that idea one step further and ranked the other courses in this guide, placing them into three additional groups. The parkland/heathland courses were placed in their own category.

Additionally, I’ve included two other rankings from Bunkered Magazine and Golf Digest.

## About These Rankings

The rankings are based on course reviews, articles, golfer feedback, and my own personal experience and opinions. Within each group, the courses are listed in alphabetical order; an absolute ranking was far too difficult. Yes, these ratings are subjective, but I think they’re useful.

When you get to the point in the trip-planning process when you’re trying to decide between two or more courses, use these rankings as another datapoint. For example, if the choice is between Nairn and Nairn Dunbar, I would recommend playing Nairn. Between North Berwick (West Links) and The Glen (North Berwick East Links), choose North Berwick.

★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

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## Another Comment On These Rankings

Every course in this guide is a gem. You could throw ten darts at this page and end up playing ten great golf courses (but you might do a lot of driving if you created your itinerary this way). This guide contains the top 10% of all golf courses in Scotland. No matter which ones you play, you can’t go wrong. Still, everyone has opinions; these are mine.

## Golf Course Designers

Really love a course? Use this page to find others designed by the same architect. Then create a custom itinerary, e.g. the “Donald Steel” tour.

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# Getting to Scotland

Scotland is on an island(!); your only two options are by air or sea. So, unless you're arriving by ferry from Ireland or France, you'll be flying.

## From North America

If you can avoid it, don't fly through London Heathrow. It makes the trip longer, plus you're more likely to lose your checked baggage, especially if you don't have a minimum of two hours between connecting flights. You may make the connection between terminals, but your golf clubs may not. Do yourself a favor and fly directly to Scotland.

### Fly Direct

United, American, and Virgin Atlantic operate direct flights to Glasgow and Edinburgh from Chicago, Newark, Philadelphia, and Orlando. The **Flights Between North America & Scotland** table on the next page shows available direct flights.

Can't fly direct? Scotland has excellent air links with a number of European hubs including London, Amsterdam, Paris, and Frankfurt. These hubs link to most cities in the US and Canada. If you want to fly into Prestwick, Aberdeen, or Inverness you'll need to fly through one of these hubs first.

### Booking Flights

My advice for booking flights? Overall it's a lot less hassle if you use a local travel agent. If you have a preference, tell them which flights you want to take into and out of Scotland (use the table as a starting point reference), and let them book it all for you. Online travel sites are great, but it's not always easy to configure specific flights consisting of multiple segments and airlines.

Scotland's tourism web site has a listing of direct flights into Scotland from North America:

<http://www.visitscotland.com/travel/getting-to-scotland/overseas/>

## From Ireland

There are lots of flights between Ireland and Scotland. The **Flights Between Ireland & Scotland** chart on page 22 shows which airlines offer direct flights between Scotland. You can also fly from Ireland and Scotland's to flights into Scotland.

<http://www.visitscotland.com/ireland/>

Another alternative is to bring your car company car on one of the ferries leaving Ireland) and in Scotland.

## From Mainland Europe

There are a surprising number of direct flights between major European cities and Scotland. Most are into Glasgow and Edinburgh, but Prestwick and Aberdeen airports are also served. Of course, you can book connecting flights into Scotland through many of the airports in England.

Scotland's tourism web site has a nice listing of the available direct flights into Scotland:

<http://www.visitscotland.com/travel/getting-to-scotland/overseas/>

## Travel Tips

Minimize jet lag by downloading a copy of the *Alert Traveler: Your Passport to Managing Jet Lag* which is a distillation of recommendations that the industry, between provid-

sure you w time for imary objec Scotland!

two-hour lihood of Scotland. nances (I

more travel

tips relevant to golfing in Scotland.

Book early!

## Airports in Scotland

Here are the airports in Scotland you need to know about:

**Glasgow Airport (GLA)**  
[www.baa.com/glasgow/](http://www.baa.com/glasgow/)

**Edinburgh Airport (EDI)**  
[www.baa.com/edinburgh/](http://www.baa.com/edinburgh/)

**Glasgow-Prestwick Airport (PIK)**  
[www.gpia.co.uk](http://www.gpia.co.uk)

**Campbeltown Airport (CAL)**  
[www.hial.co.uk/campbeltown-airport.html](http://www.hial.co.uk/campbeltown-airport.html)

**Islay Airport (ILY)**  
[www.hial.co.uk/islay-airport.html](http://www.hial.co.uk/islay-airport.html)

**Aberdeen Airport (ABZ)**  
[www.baa.com/aberdeen/](http://www.baa.com/aberdeen/)

**Inverness Airport (INV)**  
[www.hial.co.uk/inverness-airport.html](http://www.hial.co.uk/inverness-airport.html)

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## Flights Between U.S. & Scotland

When possible take one of these direct flights from the United States to Scotland. Flight info for internal flights to Islay and Campbeltown too.

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## Flights Between London & Scotland

Here are the known direct flights between various London airports and the major airports in Scotland.

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## Flights Between Ireland & Scotland

Here are the known direct flights between various airports in Ireland and Scotland. Consider a golf trip that includes both countries!

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# Choosing Where to Stay

Scotland has a wonderful selection of hotels, guesthouses, manors, and B&Bs to fit every budget and lifestyle. Here's what I recommend.

We all play basically the same golf courses and drive the same rental cars. But your choice of accommodations — and that includes which cities you stay in — enables you to customize your golf trip to best suit your travelling style.

I couldn't possibly list all options here, and what would be the point anyway? My job is to help you choose your accommodations by narrowing down the choices. So that's what I've done.

Still, if you find other places to stay that look more suitable than my recommendations, by all means stay there. You won't hurt my feelings.

## My Recommendations

The accommodations listed on the next six pages are my recommendations for where to stay if you don't want to put too much extra time and effort into this part of your trip. As far as possible, I've tried to make my recommendations range as wide as possible.

### Ratings and Reviews

The star ratings are from the Scottish Tourism Board (www.visitscotland.com).

The room rates are the average rates found during the trip. The designation "B&B" means there is usually a "supplement" for breakfast, which includes V.A.T.

The rates shown are for single occupancy and seasonal rates. They are for comparative shopping purposes only.

### Do Your Research

I encourage you to do additional research before booking — at least see what the place looks like. Most hotels and guest houses have their own web sites and this guide provides convenient web links to access them with a single click.

### B&Bs

I don't include many B&Bs in the accommodation listings — there are simply too many of them. However, the [visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com) web site enables you to search any town or region for "B&B and Guest Houses."

## Picking Cities

I try to use the following "rules" when planning my own itineraries:

Stay at least three nights in the first city.

Don't stay in a city that is a bit dull or boring. (Gullane, Elie, St Andrews, Newburgh, Carnoustie, Aberdeen, etc.)

Don't stay in a city that is too far from the golf courses in the area. (North Berwick, Elie, St Andrews, Newburgh, Carnoustie, Aberdeen, etc.)

Don't stay in a city that is too far from the "wrong" side of the Firth of Forth.

North Berwick	North Berwick
Gullane	Gullane
Elie	Elie
St Andrews, New	St Andrews
Carnoustie	Carnoustie

### The "Right" Way

Play	Stay
North Berwick	Gullane
Gullane	Gullane
Elie	St Andrews
St Andrews, New	St Andrews
Carnoustie	Aberdeen

You might choose to stay in North Berwick instead of Gullane, or Elie instead of St Andrews, but the point is to avoid packing up and staying in a new place every night.

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## Online Resources

If you want more accommodation options, you can find them on the web. Here are the best resources:

### Scotland's National Tourism Board

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com) They have a nice search capability. Also a great way to find out more about the accommodations listed in this guide and to get driving directions for the hard to find places.

### Scotland's Personal Hotels

[www.scotland-hotels.com](http://www.scotland-hotels.com) "The family-run hotels on this site offer a variety of different accommodation in Scotland ranging from city-center hotels in Edinburgh to country house hotels, small hotels, and inns and guest houses."

### Scotland's Hotels of Distinction

[www.hotels-of-distinction.com](http://www.hotels-of-distinction.com) "A collection of four star hotels sought after by discerning guests from around the world for their authenticity and traditional Scottish experience."

### Stay In St Andrews

[www.stayinstandrews.com](http://www.stayinstandrews.com) "A group of hotels and guest houses offering accommodations in the St Andrews area."



# Accommodations

Listed alphabetically by town and golf club. When the club name is not the same as the town, cross-references to nearby towns are given.

## Aberdeen

N12

If you don't plan to play more than one day in the Aberdeen area, consider staying in one of the golf towns north or south and playing Royal Aberdeen or Murcar on the way through.

**Skene House Rosemount** – ★★★ Hotel  
96 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen, AB25 1NX

Phone +44 1224 659 392  
Fax +44 1224 626 866  
Web [www.skene-house.co.uk](http://www.skene-house.co.uk)  
Email [stay@skene-house.co.uk](mailto:stay@skene-house.co.uk)  
Rates From £79 per room  
Note Affordable 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom suites within walking distance of the city center.

**Mercure Ardoe House Aberdeen** – ★★★★★ Hotel  
South Deeside Road, Aberdeen, AB12 5YP

Phone +44 1224 860 600  
Fax +44 1224 860 644  
Web [www.mercure.com](http://www.mercure.com)  
Email [H6626@accor.com](mailto:H6626@accor.com)  
Rates From £70 per room  
Note A 19th-century mansion house set in 30 acres. Off the B9077 a few miles south of the Aberdeen city center.

**Copthorne Hotel Aberdeen** – ★★★★★ Hotel  
122 Huntly Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1SU

Phone +44 1224 630 404  
Fax +44 1224 640 573  
Web [www.millenniumhotels.com](http://www.millenniumhotels.com)  
Email [reservations.aberdeen@millenniumhotels.co.uk](mailto:reservations.aberdeen@millenniumhotels.co.uk)  
Rates From £80 per room  
Note Located in the city center within easy walking distance of the shopping district.

**The Marcliffe Hotel & Spa** – ★★★★★ Hotel  
North Deeside Road, Pitfodells, Aberdeen

Phone +44 1224 861 000  
Fax +44 1224 868 860  
Web [www.marcliffe.com](http://www.marcliffe.com)  
Email [info@marcliffe.com](mailto:info@marcliffe.com)  
Rates From £120 per room  
Note Off the A93 North Deeside Road a few miles west of the city center.

## Auchterarder

I15

The Gleneagles resort is near Auchterarder. Also consider St Andrews, Crail, Elie, Lundin Links.

**The Gleneagles Hotel** – ★★★★★ Resort Hotel  
Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1NF

Phone  
Fax  
Web  
Email  
Rates  
Note

**The Cairn Lodge**  
Orchil Road, Auchterarder

Phone  
Fax  
Web  
Email  
Rates  
Note

## Ayr

Also consider

**Horizon Hotel** – ★★★★★ Hotel  
Esplanade, Ayr

Phone +44 1292 264 384  
Fax +44 1292 264 011  
Web [www.horizonhotel.com](http://www.horizonhotel.com)  
Email [reception@horizonhotel.com](mailto:reception@horizonhotel.com)  
Rates From £70 per room  
Note Panoramic views over the Clyde to the Isle of Arran; a five minute walk to Ayr town center.

**Enterkine Country House** – ★★★★★ Country House Hotel  
Annbank, By Ayr, Ayrshire, KA6 5AL

Phone +44 1292 520 580  
Fax +44 1292 521 582  
Web [www.enterkine.com](http://www.enterkine.com)  
Email [mail@enterkine.com](mailto:mail@enterkine.com)  
Rates From £80 per room  
Note Set within its own secluded estate of 310 acres of woodlands, meadows, and rivers.

## Banff

M11

You could also consider staying in Peterhead and/or Nairn and playing Duff House Royal (an Alister MacKenzie designed course in Banff) on the way between the two.

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Email [bridgeorally@inspiredhotels.co.uk](mailto:bridgeorally@inspiredhotels.co.uk)  
Rates From £93 per room  
Note 15 minutes north of the Blairgowrie GC off the A93.



**Dalmunzie Castle** – ★★★ Small Hotel  
Blairgowrie, Perthshire

Phone +44 1250 885 224  
Fax +44 1250 885 225  
Web [www.dalmunzie.com](http://www.dalmunzie.com)  
Email [reservations@dalmunzie.com](mailto:reservations@dalmunzie.com)  
Rates From £180 per room  
Note Castle-like hotel on a 6,500 acre estate.

**Kinloch House Hotel** – ★★★★★ Hotel  
Blairgowrie, Perthshire

Phone +44 1250 884 732  
Fax +44 1250 884 333  
Web [www.kinlochhouse.com](http://www.kinlochhouse.com)  
Email [reception@kinlochhouse.com](mailto:reception@kinlochhouse.com)  
Rates From £185 per room  
Note A peaceful country hotel on 25 acres.

## Boat of Garten

I12

Also consider Kingussie and Inverness.

**The Boat Hotel** – ★★★★★ Hotel  
Deshar Road, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire, PH24 3BH

Phone +44 1479 831 258  
Fax +44 1479 831 414  
Web [www.boathotel.co.uk](http://www.boathotel.co.uk)  
Email [info@boathotel.co.uk](mailto:info@boathotel.co.uk)  
Rates From £89 per room  
Note Friendly, relaxing highland atmosphere.

## Brora

19

Also consider Dornoch and Golspie.

**Royal Marine Hotel** – ★★★★★ Hotel  
Golf Road, Brora, Sutherland, KW9 6QS

Phone +44 1408 621 252  
Fax +44 1408 621 181  
Web [www.royalmarinebrora.com](http://www.royalmarinebrora.com)  
Email [info@royalmarinebrora.com](mailto:info@royalmarinebrora.com)  
Rates From £100 per room  
Note The Royal Marine was first designed as a private country house. The hotel overlooks the 18th and 1st fairways to the sea. They also offer the [Links Apartments](#) with each featuring two large en-suite bedrooms.

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*Boat Hotel, Boat of Garten*



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# Renting a Car

Considering all of the options and types of insurance coverage, renting a car in Scotland may be the trickiest part of the planning process.

## The Basics

Recommended firms and contact details are listed on the next page. The first four are local firms who may provide a better value and more personalized service as compared to the global chains.

Here are the important things to consider when renting a car in Scotland for your golf trip.

### Vehicle Size

Make sure you get a vehicle that is big enough to hold all of your luggage and golf clubs. See my recommendations to the right.

### What's Included?

When you get quotes, ask for an "inclusive" price and carefully note what's included. Also, get any optional charges so you can make an accurate comparison between companies. The worksheet on the next page gives contact information for six of the top firms and will help you keep track of the price information you gather.

### CDW (Collision Damage Waiver)

If your credit card claims to provide free auto rental insurance, you'd better double check. Call the customer service number on the back of your credit card and ask them specifically about their rental insurance coverage in Scotland. Just to be sure.

### Where You Can't Go

You cannot take your rental car from Scotland to Northern Ireland or to the Republic of Ireland.

## Two Golfers

A mid-size/intermediate car is just right for two golfers and their luggage. Put your clubs in the trunk, where they'll be out of sight. When travelling between airports, your luggage can fit in the back.



Vehicles in this rental group include the Ford Mondeo, Vauxhall Astra, and Vauxhall Satra.

### Approximate Rates

Here are the rates I found based on a 10-day rental in June, inclusive of compulsory insurances, taxes, and unlimited mileage (manual transmission).

- Arnold Clark, £39/day (Mazda 6)
- Hertz, £30/day (Skoda Octavia)
- Avis, £27/day (Vauxhall Astra)
- Clarkson, £35/day (Vauxhall Astra)
- Thrifty, £29/day (Vauxhall Astra)

**Note.** Car rental rates vary widely and change rapidly. These are ballpark figures. Go online or ask your travel agent about special rates and offers from each company.

## Three Golfers

You'll need at least a small/intermediate estate wagon when you have three golfers in your group. Put your clubs and a few of the suitcases in the back.

back can fit enough luggage on either side.



include estate wagons from Ford, Vauxhall, and Volvo.

10-day rental rates, inclusive of compulsory insurances, taxes, and unlimited mileage (manual transmission).

- Arnold Clark, £44/day (Hyundai i40 Estate)
- Hertz, £36/day (Ford Mondeo 1.8 LX Estate)
- Avis, £93/day (Volkswagen Passat Estate)
- Clarkson, £41/day (Toyota Avensis Estate)
- Thrifty, £48/day (Hyundai i40 Estate)

## Four Golfers or More

For four golfers or more, you'll need a vehicle from the minivan/minibus group to hold you and all of your gear.



Vehicles in this rental group include the Ford Transit Tourneo, Hyundai Trajet, Mercedes V Class (auto), Vauxhall Vivaro, Toyota HiAce, and VW Caravelle/Transporter (pictured). The Ford Galaxy is in the "van/people carrier" group and *does not* have room for four golfers, especially with the third-row seat in place.

### Approximate Rates

Here are the rates I found based on a 10-day rental in June, inclusive of compulsory insurances, taxes, and unlimited mileage (manual transmission).

- Arnold Clark, £92/day (VW Transporter)
- Avis, £135/day (Vauxhall Vivaro Combi)
- Clarkson, £95/day (Vauxhall Vivaro)
- Thrifty, £102/day (Transit Custom Tourneo)

# Rental Car Price Quote Worksheet

Use this worksheet to track and compare rental car quotes. Place a checkmark next to standard items included in the quote. Note prices of any items not included or optional items you may desire.

Desired Rental Car Model/Group	
Pick-up Date	Drop-off Date
Flight Number	Arrival Time

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## Tour Operators

From full-service escorted motor-coach tours to self-drive tours, here are a few options for handling the details of your trip. Their web sites and printed brochures are also good sources of information.

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# Practical Matters

Most travel guides have pages and pages of fairly obvious travel tips. Here's what I've found to be most relevant for golfers in Scotland.

## Money

Scotland is part of the United Kingdom and uses the British Pound (£). Visa, MasterCard, and Eurocard are accepted virtually everywhere.

### ATM Machines

Avoid the hassle of traveler's cheques and exchange bureaus. Get cash in the local currency at ATMs which accept Visa, MasterCard, and Eurocard as well as Plus and Cirrus debit cards. Make sure you know your card's PIN before you leave.

### Exchange Rate

Get the latest exchange rates online at these web site: [OANDA.com](http://OANDA.com) or [XE.com](http://XE.com). In late 2016, the exchange rates were roughly:

£ 1 = 1.30 US Dollars  
 € 1 = 0.86 British Pounds  
 € 1 = 1.12 US Dollars

### Exchange Rate Cheat Sheets

OANDA.com lets you create and print a wallet-sized currency converter table.

URL: [www.oanda.com/convert/cheatsheet](http://www.oanda.com/convert/cheatsheet)

## Enjoying Golf in Scotland

Really make a point to enjoy your Scottish golf experience. Embrace any inclement weather, bad bounces, or less-than-perfect greens. And don't expect to score well. Just relax and savor it all.

### Playing in the Wind

My succinct advice is "When it's breezy, swing it easy." Take a few extra clubs and swing *easier* than normal. With less loft, your initial ball flight will be lower keeping it out of the wind. And by swinging easier, you'll impart less spin on the ball which will keep it from ballooning in the wind.

### Distances

Before each round, note if the course's distance markers are in yards or meters, and to the front or the middle of the green. Write it on your score card, if it isn't there already. If you're used to thinking in yards, add about 10% (be precise) to the example, if you're on the green, the

### Trolleys & Buggies

Real Scottish "cart" in the UK. Unlike a caddy. Unless you don't carry your gear on a trip playing golf, and give you

Don't expect (Scotland). We say no unless condition. The

### Clothing & Rain Gear

Dress in layers. Avoid cotton. Bring your GoreTex rain gear. Leave the umbrella at home; it's useless in the wind. Instead, wear a bucket-style rain hat. When it's wet, use rain gloves and forget about trying to keep your grips dry. Your hands may get a little colder, but your grip will be rock solid.

### Golf Balls

Be prepared to lose a lot of golf balls. Don't spend too much time (fruitlessly) searching for your wayward balls in the thick, thick rough. Drop a ball at the edge of the fairway, add a penalty stroke, and get on with the hole. All of the golfers behind you will be thankful and may even buy you a dram of whisky at the 19th hole.

## Electricity

The electrical system is 220 volts (50 Hz) in Scotland as it is in the rest of the UK. Plugs are generally of the flat three-pin variety as pictured and two-pin

of the gear (shaver, take either ed plug

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Available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [REI.com](http://REI.com) (search for "plug adapter"). At [magellans.com](http://magellans.com), click on the link to the Electrical section.

## Dates

Europeans write dates as day/month/year. That means 5/7/2014 is July 5th, not May 7th. Avoid ambiguity in all written correspondence like fax confirmations by writing out the month name.

e.g. 5 July 2014 (preferred) or July 5, 2014

## Getting to Islay & Campbeltown

Machrie GC is on the island of Islay and you'll need to take a ferry or fly to get there. And it's a long drive or short flight to Machrihanish GC. Here's how to get to both.

### Ferry to Islay

Caledonian MacBrayne ([www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk)) operate a ferry service between Kennacraig (on the Kintyre Peninsula) and Port Ellen on the island of Islay. During the summer, there are typically departures from Kennacraig at 7:00 and 10:00 in the morning (except Wednesday and Sunday) and the ferry trip takes 2:20.

You can download a PDF of the summer schedule from their website or contact them directly:

Tel + 44 8000 66 5000  
 Fax + 44 1475 635 235  
[enquiries@calmac.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@calmac.co.uk)

### Flights to Islay & Campbeltown

Flybe ([www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)) offers two flights (operated by Loganair) daily from Glasgow (GLA) to Islay (ILY) and Campbeltown (CAL). The flights take about 45 minutes. See [page 21](#) for details.

## Two-Finger Salute

This one's for us unknowing Americans.

Also known as "flicking the vick." Holding up two fingers with your palm facing you (a backwards peace sign) is a serious insult. Be careful when ordering a couple of pints in a crowded, noisy pub. Either avoid hand gestures entirely, or be sure your palm is facing away from you.



## Phone Calls

The phone numbers in this guide are given in the following format:



When calling from outside Scotland and the UK, replace the '+' with your international access code; 011 when dialing from the USA and Canada, 00 when dialing from Europe. Next, dial the country code. The country code for the UK (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) is 44.

Throughout this guide, phone and fax numbers in Scotland are shown without the leading 0 in front of the area code. When calling from within Scotland, add a leading zero to the area code if you are *calling from outside* that area code. When calling from within the same area code, the area code is omitted.

Calling To	
<i>Scotland (UK)</i>	
	e.g. Royal Dornoch GC +44 1862 810 219
Calling From	
USA or Canada	011 44 1862 810 219
UK	01862 810 219
Continental Europe	00 44 1862 810 219
Republic of Ireland	00 44 1862 810 219
Republic of Ireland (Same Area Code)	n/a

When calling to the USA or Canada from anywhere in Scotland, dial

### Credit Card Calls

You can make long-distance phone calls with your credit card or calling card using the following access numbers:

From the UK		From the Republic of Ireland	
AT&T	0500 890 011 or 0800 890 011	AT&T	1800 550 000
Sprint	0500 890 877	Sprint	1800 552 001
MCI	0800 279 5088	MCI	1800 551 001

### Reporting Lost or Stolen Credit Cards

MasterCard — Scotland (UK): 0800-96-4767, Republic of Ireland: 1-800-55-7378

Visa — Scotland (UK): 0800-89-1725, Republic of Ireland: 1-800-55-8002

## British–American Dictionary

British and American English have colorful differences. Here are some common words and expressions Americans need to know and use properly. A good online reference is [www.effingpot.com](http://www.effingpot.com), who also sell the book *The Very Best of British* (ISBN 0953696812).

**AA** – The Automobile Association

**aubergine** – eggplant

**bacon** – Canadian-style bacon

**bap** – soft, round roll

**biscuit** – cookie

**banger** – sausage

**boot** – trunk of car  
*luggage, motorized self-car*

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**football** – soccer

**gherkin** – pickle

**haggis** – offal and grain and is held together in a sheep's stomach. Traditional Scottish fare. Yum.

**hire** – rent

**holiday** – vacation

**iced tea** – doesn't exist; tea is to be served hot!

**jam** – jelly

**jelly** – Jell-o™ (gelatin)

**kipper** – a smoked herring

**lift** – elevator

**lorry** – truck

**napkin** – feminine hygiene product

**nappy** – diaper

**pants** – underwear (underpants)

**petrol** – gasoline

**plaster** – Band-Aid

**porridge** – cooked oatmeal

**postcode** – zip code

**pudding** – dessert of any kind

**ring** – call (telephone)

**rubber** – eraser

**serviette** – napkin

**spanner** – wrench

**spotted dick** – suet pudding with dried fruit

**suet** – fairly dry white beef fat

**take away** – take out or to go (food)

**trolley** – pull cart

**trousers** – pants

**water closet / WC / toilet** – bathroom, restroom

**windscreen** – windshield

**zed** – last letter of the alphabet

## Time Difference

Scotland is 5 hours ahead of eastern time in the United States. Make all of your calls to the golf clubs before 17:00 (5pm) local Scotland time.

San Francisco	9:00	
Denver	10:00	
Chicago	11:00	
New York	12:00	
Dublin	17:00	
Edinburgh	17:00	
London	17:00	
Berlin	18:00	
Sydney	6:00	(next day)
Auckland	8:00	"

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- A few rounds of golf
- A bottle of champagne
- Countless hours of my time I've done for you

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### Scotland Course Cards

Use these cards to visually organize your itinerary and keep track of information during the tee-time reservation process.

**Printing the Course Cards**  
 Print at 100% size. That means you want to make sure Adobe Acrobat's "Shrink Oversized Pages to Paper Size" option is selected. To save paper, don't print this cover page; print pages 2 through 7 only.  
 After printing, cut out the course cards. They are in geographical order (top to bottom, left column to right column) of Scotland and then going counterclockwise. If you keep them in geographic order, it facilitates the initial itinerary building process.

**Avery Business Card Stock**  
 Eliminate the card-cutting step by printing on Avery business-card paper, available at office supply stores. The card is 3.5 inches wide. Visit [www.avery.com](http://www.avery.com) for more information and local retailers.

**Using the Course Cards**  
 See "Building a Rough Itinerary" in the *Scotland Golf Adventure Guide* for a description of how you can use the process of building your itinerary. We find them extremely helpful in identifying visitor-policy conflicts when you're planning which courses you'll be playing on which days.

**Course**  
 The golf course name and location.

**Map Location**  
 Indicates the grid of the course's location on the Michelin 501 Regional Map.

**Contact Info**  
 The card gives the course's phone and fax numbers. See the guide for dialing instructions. The course's web site URL and email address are in the golf guide.

**Tee Time**  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Tee Time: \_\_\_\_\_ # Players: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax Confirmation Required? Yes | No Conf. Fax Sent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deposit/Payment Required? Yes | No Payment Info: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visitor Policy Summary**  
 This is a visual summary of the course's visitor policy. The legend at the bottom of each page explains what the symbols mean. See the course's entry in the guide for detailed visitor policy information.

**Tee Time Details & Notes**  
 Use this area to note the date of play, tee time, and number of players. If a fax confirmation and/or deposit is required you can keep track of it here. Jot down any other relevant notes.

**Legend:**  
 ● = Visitors welcome; ○ = No visitors, members only; ● = See guide; ● = Some restrictions, afternoon tee times best; ● = Some restrictions, morning tee times best

**Kilmarnock (Barassie Links)**  
 Barassie, Ayrshire G17  
 Phone: +44 1292 313 920 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  
 Fax: +44 1292 318 300

## June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			8	9	10	11
			15	16	17	18
			22	23	24	25
			29	30		

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