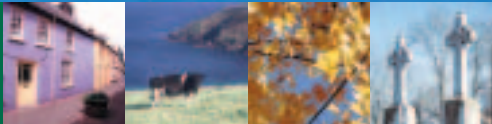


# GOLF PAR EXCELLENCE

In a land where the grass is the greenest, it is no surprise that golf has been played for so long and with such passion. It is worthy of note that of the 150 links courses in the world 44 of them are to be found in Ireland. You do not have to travel too far West in Ireland to discover these superb courses, the enthralling characters and friendly clubhouses that Ireland is so rightly famous for. We are pleased to offer destinations which are just a short drive from the East coast ports and airports and also the world renowned links of the South West.

After a day spent striding the Gaelic sward with clubs in hand, the sun on your face and the wind at your back, what better than a chair beside the flickering grate, the warm smell of a turf fire, a hearty dinner and perhaps a glass of the local black potion?



# ireland

## Getting to Ireland

Full details and timetables are to be found in our prices supplement.

### STENA LINE FERRIES

Holyhead-Dublin • Fishguard-Rosslare • Stranraer-Belfast.

### EUROPCAR

A wide range of hire-cars available from any Irish airport.

### SWANSEA-CORK FERRIES

As the name suggests!

## Key to Irish section

- A. DUBLIN & PORTMARNOCK ....42 & 43
- B. WICKLOW.....44 & 45
- C. CORK .....46 & 47
- D. KERRY .....48 & 49
- E. WATERFORD .....www
- F. ULSTER .....www



# Dublin & Portmarnock



Approximate driving times in minutes.

	A	B	C	D
1	5	15	60	45
2	0	15	60	45
3	15	15	45	40
4	15	15	45	40
5	20	30	50	45
6	10	20	70	55
7	50	60	40	60
8	40	60	45	60
9	60	75	90	90

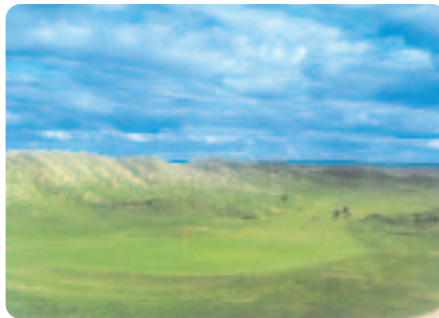
The fair city of Dublin is well served by frequent fast ferries and flights. A city with no shortage of ancient and modern history, today it offers all manner of diversions whether sporting, cultural, edible, quaffable or musical.

On the Northern edge of the city, no more than half an hour from the centre, lies Portmarnock - a stretch of golfing terrain renowned throughout the world. These classic links have been trodden by all the golfing greats and the newer additions stand up well to comparison with their illustrious neighbours. We feature hotels both in and outside of the city, which will enable you to choose your degree of evening activities.



## 2. Portmarnock Links. Architect: B. Langer. 18 holes: 6195m: par 71.

Initially open terrain before heavier stuff and the climactic finale down the funnel of dunes.



## 5. St. Margaret's. Architects: P. Ruddy & T. Craddock. 18 holes: 6226m: par 73.

Hailed as the best new course in Ireland. A subtle design that teasingly reveals its full charm.



## 8. Luttrellstown Castle. Architect: N. Bielenberg. 18 holes: 6384m: par 72.

A tranquil beauty through the established forests of the majestic castle. Please call for details of accommodation in the lodges.

## 6. Malahide. Architect: E. Hackett. 18 + 9 holes: 6066m: par 71.

Cunning parkland course realistically priced. Water hazards, blind shots and some elevated greens.

## 3. Royal Dublin. Architect: H. Colt. 18 holes: 6281m: par 72.

On a spit of land projecting into Dublin bay. Classic test of golf, pot bunkers, ditches, hummocks.

## 1. Portmarnock. Architects: Pikeman/Ross. 18 + 9 holes: 6656m: par 73.

Legendary links golf from the 1st tee to the 18th green. Tee reservations need to be made well in advance due to restricted visiting days.



## 9. Co. Louth. Architect: T. Simpson. 18 holes: 6113m: par 73.

100% links from start to finish. Often overlooked but more than worth the drive from Dublin.



## 7. The K Club. Architect: A. Palmer. 18 holes: 6519m: par 72.

Designed with Tour golf in mind. Beautiful yet exacting test of anyone's golf. Ryder Cup in 2006. Please see Golf Par Gold for details of the hotel.



## 4. St. Anne's. Architect: The Members. 18 holes: 5669m: par 70.

A shorter, true links in every sense as it shares Bull Island with Royal Dublin, a very "local" club.

See also Golf Par Gold

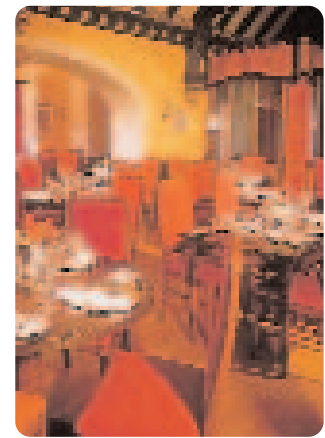
## A. Portmarnock Links\*\*\*\*

What more Irish a destination than the original Jameson family home on the North Dublin coast? The fine old house on the Portmarnock strand has been extended very much in keeping with the original buildings and provides clubhouse and hotel to the renowned Bernhard Langer designed course. Our prices are based on the bedrooms overlooking the course; sea-view rooms carry a small supplement. There is a choice of bars, a sunny lounge for afternoon tea, a brasserie beside the clubhouse, plus restaurant below the airy lobby that looks out across the Irish Sea.



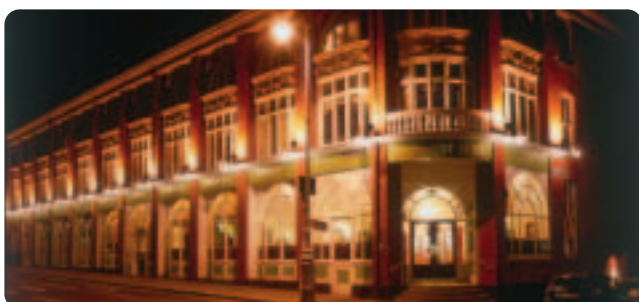
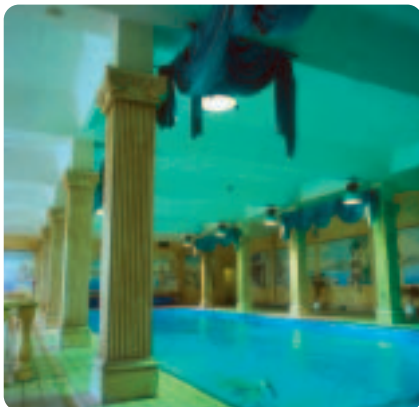
## B. Clontarf Castle\*\*\*\*

A castle in the city. The original 12th Century Clontarf Castle now combines the very best of ancient charm and Irish hospitality. The castle was re-built in the late 1700's and its massive stone walls form the central hub with the reception, restaurants and bars. Bedrooms are in new wings, designed from the ground-up with every modern convenience. From a golfing point of view the setting could not be better - minutes from Royal Dublin, Portmarnock, Malahide and St. Anne's, plus only five minutes into the centre of Dublin.



## C. Fitzpatrick Castle\*\*\*\*

Just nine miles South of Dublin on Killiney Hill, overlooking the bay of the same name, are the green crenellated walls of the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel. The well-appointed hotel is only minutes from Dun Laoghaire and ideal for the courses of Druid's Glen, Woodbrook and Powerscourt and an easy drive to the K Club: plus Dublin town centre is within easy range.



## D. Parliament\*\*\* & North Star\*\*\*

In the centre of Temple Bar, not far from the Liffey, St. Stephen's Green, Trinity College and Grafton Street, the Parliament hotel is a great spot for combining golf around the city with all the sights and sounds of the captivating capital of Ireland. Although the hotel does not have its own car park, there is a secure pay car park only a few minutes walk from the Parliament hotel.

Alternatively we could arrange for you to stay just north of the river in the totally renovated North Star\*\*\* which benefits from its own secure car park.

Other Hotels Should you wish to stay at the K Club or in the lodges at Luttrellstown Castle please enquire.

# Wicklow



Approximate driving times in minutes.

	A	B	C	D
1	30	20	15	10
2	35	20	10	20
3	30	0	15	15
4	10	30	35	30
5	15	35	40	35
6	30	45	50	45
7	45	60	60	45

Between Dublin and Rosslare the landscape rapidly changes to wooded mountains and deep glens, icy loughs, rivers and waterfalls. Tucked amongst these awe inspiring mountains and strung along the coast are a wide variety of courses - from scenic parkland and clifftop to pure links entwined amidst the dunes; all are to be found in the "Garden of Ireland" stretching South from Dun Laoghaire to Arklow.

The ancient hills are dotted with relics of Ireland's past; Ireland's present will envelope you with its characteristic blue smoke from a thousand turf fires as you wander home to a fine dinner after a grand day's golf.



## 1. Powerscourt. Architect: P. McEvoy. 18 holes: 6410m: par 72.

A beautiful parkland course amidst the hills. Tricky greens of amazing shapes and sizes.



## 2. Woodbrook. Architect: P. McEvoy. 18 holes: 6863yds: par 72.

Many holes running along the clifftop. Frequently plays host to the Senior Irish Open.



## 5. Blainroe. Architect: Hawtree & Sons. 18 holes: 6175m: par 72.

11 holes in full view of the sea, the other 7 climb away from the coast to give magnificent views.



## 3. Druids Glen. Architects: P. Ruddy & T. Craddock. 18 holes: 6416m: par 72.

Stands up to its epithet "The Augusta of Europe". Every bit as good to play as it is to admire.

## 3. Druids Heath. Architect: P. Ruddy. 18 holes: 6759m: par 71

Carved from the landscape a stern yet engaging test featuring the odd quarry along with the lakes, gorse and 101 bunkers!



## 6. The European. Architect: P. Ruddy. 18 holes: 6187m: par 71.

Exceptional links course in a spectacular setting. An absolute must for all links enthusiasts.



## 4. Wicklow. Architects: P. Ruddy & T. Craddock. 18 holes: 5427m: par 71.

Testing course with a few inclines to negotiate. Stunning setting and views across the Irish Sea.



## 7. Woodenbridge. Architect: P. Merrigan. 18 holes: 6350m: par 71.

Utter tranquillity. Sheltered course through three valleys at the confluence of two rivers. Beside the picture postcard village of Avoca.

See also Golf Par Gold

## A. Tinakilly House\*\*\*\*

The fine old country house of Tinakilly lies just two miles North of Wicklow, facing the sea and is perfectly placed for all of the local courses. The house was built in the 1870's and the name derives from the Gaelic for "House of the Wood". A modern wing provides extra bedrooms - added harmoniously to the old section. The restaurant offers dishes utilising traditional produce often combined in imaginative ways. Our prices are based on "Standard" rooms: four-poster rooms and "Captain" suites are available at a supplement.



## B. Druids Glen Marriott\*\*\*\*\*



Overlooking the 13th hole of the now famous course, the plush Marriott hotel couldn't be more conveniently placed to get the most from these 400 green-acres of 36-hole golf resort. This luxury hotel has every conceivable modern facility: Spa, gym, Health Club, swimming pool and whirlpool, sauna, steam room, solarium, beauty treatments etc., even air-conditioned bedrooms.

## C. The Royal\*\*\* & Esplanade\*\*\*



The Royal Hotel

A choice of two finely equipped hotels in the holiday town of Bray to the North of the county of Wicklow. The Royal is on the main street whereas the Victorian Esplanade, once a Bishop's residence, fronts the sea. Bray is a very popular summer destination and there is always plenty going on in town in the evening. Both hotels have extensive leisure facilities built in, saunas steam rooms etc; the Royal also has the added luxury of a delightful pool.



The Esplanade Hotel



## D. The Glenview\*\*\*\*

Folded within the Glen o' the Downs, the luxury retreat of the Glenview Hotel hides within its own terraced gardens. The views from the hotel's "Woodlands" restaurant are as impressive as the cuisine - pure Ireland fills every sense. Brasserie style dining is also available in the new Conservatory bar. The hotel's leisure facilities are extensive: large indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna, steam room, gym and solarium. The Glenview hotel is very close to both Druids Glen and Delgany golf club (in fact many professionals choose to stay here when competing at Druid's).



**Chester Beatty Inn** - A family kept Inn with twelve bedrooms in the small village of Ashford just outside Wicklow. The fairly modern building provides great value accommodation and easy access to all the courses of Ireland's Garden County. Although ostensibly a pub, you will find more than just bar snacks in the segregated restaurant area.

**Grand Hotel**\*\*\* - At the top of the High Street in the market town of Wicklow, the Grand Hotel offers sensibly priced, comfortable accommodation along with a good bar and restaurant. After your round, if you would like to make a song and dance of the evening then the wide choice of pubs and restaurants in Wicklow well within strolling distance.

# Cork



Approximate driving times in minutes.

	A	B	C
1	15	30	20
2	20	45	30
3	45	15	45
4	25	45	20
5	25	45	20
6	20	40	25
7	45	30	35

Cork is the second city of Ireland and easily accessible by sea or air, yet still retains much of its original charm and character. Sport is hugely popular with golf colouring much of the broad canvas of International and Gaelic games which the Munster folk hold dear. This sporting heritage has led to a successful bid for the Irish Open by Fota Island. The other course that has caused quite a stir is the Old Head of Kinsale – which is a truly remarkable project.

Cork itself is a busy market town, recently gaining a cosmopolitan feel with an influx of international tourism. Around town you will find many excellent restaurants serving a wide variety of cuisines and later, on most nights, you will find the bars alive with song and dance.

South of Cork the small port of Kinsale has become very popular with the gentility looking for a quieter time on holiday. In this picturesque village you can enjoy some of the world's tastiest seafood.



**1. Cork.**  
**Architect: A. McKenzie.**  
**18 holes: 6115m: par 72.**

Founded in 1888 and re-modelled in 1927 by Alastair McKenzie (whose other great work was a certain course in Augusta, Georgia) this is an absolute must for any golfers staying in Cork. Wonderful variety of holes including some through the old Cork quarry.

**3. Old Head.**  
**Architects: J.Carr & P. Merrigan.**  
**18 holes: 6080m: par 72.**

This incredible spit of land has you playing golf a mile out to sea! Stunning setting for a unique golfing experience. Currently still open to visitors.



**2. Fota Island.**  
**Architects: C. O'Connor Jnr. & P. McEvoy.**  
**18 holes: 6488yds: par 71.**

An Irish Open course. Not overly long but demanding thought on every shot. A modern classic.

**5. Muskerry.**  
**Architect: A. McKenzie.**  
**18 holes: 5785m: par71.**

A gentle five-hole start then the fun really begins as the course climbs away from the Shournagh river to the hill-top holes 8 to 14. Tricky club selection and wonderful scenery – particularly in Spring and Autumn.



**6. Harbour Point.**  
**Architect: P. Merrigan.**  
**18 holes: 6163m: par 72.**

On the next island over from Fota, Harbour Point is a similarly styled course over gently rising terrain. Tree-lined fairways and some tricky, well-defended greens.

**4. Lee Valley.**  
**Architect: C. O'Connor Jnr.**  
**18 holes: 6725yds: par72.**

An impressive modern layout with plenty of water, especially the par 5 8th. The large greens can leave you with some interesting putts...



**7. Bandon.**  
**Architects: H. Cotton & G. Pennick.**  
**18 holes: 5663m: par70.**

A reasonably hilly parkland layout although not as long as many of its modern counterparts.

Other courses to consider: Bantry Bay out to the West of Cork and Douglas just to the South of the city.

## A. The Imperial\*\*\*

In the very centre of Cork City close to all that the city has to offer the Imperial is the elder statesman of Cork hotels. The hotel has been lovingly looked after and recently internally re-modelled, which, although more up to date somehow manages to retain all of its original charm. With one of the best bars in town (where you will find live music most weekends), a very good restaurant and a busy coffee shop, the Imperial is one of the centres of attention in Cork. Although the hotel does not have its own car park, spaces have been reserved with a local multi-storey – just a few minutes walk away.



## B. Actons - Kinsale\*\*\*

All the charm of the pretty harbour at Kinsale is embodied in the waterfront Actons Hotel. The row of period houses that make-up the hotel sit in landscaped gardens overlooking the harbour. Kinsale is known as the "gourmet capital of Ireland" and in Actons' restaurant,



with its modern approach to classic ingredients, you will discover why. Brasserie style dining is also available all day in the light and spacious Waterfront Bar. Actons was one of the first hotels in Ireland to feature an indoor pool and leisure centre. This latter part of the hotel has just been totally refurbished and is now ready again for relaxation.



## C. The Kingsley\*\*\*\*

On the Western outskirts of Cork City, on the banks of the river Lee, the Kingsley is a modern hotel, purpose built with the international traveller in mind. Consequently the hotel has a plethora of facilities, some that you would expect: The Sabrona Lounge for Afternoon tea, the peaceful Library to get away from it all, Poachers Bar for a drop of the



black stuff or a snack meal, Otters restaurant for fine dining; and some that you would not expect: indoor pool, Jacuzzi, solarium, outdoor hot tub, steam room, sauna, fitness suite, massage and beauty treatments. The air-conditioned bedrooms are classic in décor but bristle with every modern facility: CD players, satellite TV, trouser press, hair dryers etc. Suites are also available.

## Ashlee Lodge

In the village of Tower, beside Blarney and its famous Castle, the Ashlee Lodge is a small establishment of just ten double-bedded rooms; somewhere between a small luxury hotel and a very up market guesthouse, (AA five stars). Here, the owners Anne and John O'Leary will ensure that you relax and get the most from your golf during the day and guide you to the best of the local restaurants in the evening. Purpose built, the Ashlee Lodge boasts a few unusual extras – such as a roof-top garden complete with Canadian hot-tub and air-conditioning. The Ashlee Lodge is about five miles from the centre of Cork and within half an hour of the majority of golf courses.





# Kerry

Approximate driving times in minutes.

	A	B	C
1	5	2	5
2	10	5	10
3	30	30	30
4	20	20	20
5	60	60	60
6	45	45	45
7	90	90	90
8	60	60	60
9	90	90	90

For many the Kingdom of Kerry in the South-West of Ireland is the embodiment of the Spirit of Irish golf. The courses are world famous and the landscape everywhere unforgettable. On a sunny afternoon standing on one of the world's greatest links and flanked by the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the imposing MacGillycuddy's Reeks on the other it can feel like the best place on the planet.

The most effective base for visiting all of the wonderful courses is Killarney. With three courses by the lake and Beaufort just outside you can play some impressive courses without even straying to the coast. The road that takes you out to Waterville is a delightful drive and there is a great circuit of old and new courses:- Dooks, Killorglin, Waterville, and the Ring of Kerry. If you would like to stay along the way then please let us know as there are several suitably placed hotels we can recommend.



## 5. Waterville. Architects: A. Mulcahy & E. Hackett. 18 holes: 7225yds: par 72.

The scenery en-route gives you some idea of the treat in store. Undoubtedly one of the world's great courses. A favourite of the late Payne Stewart.



## 8. Tralee. Architect: A. Palmer. 18 holes: 6877yds: par 71.

The huge dunes of the back nine catch your eye as you head down the first, but don't be distracted as you will need all your skill to make it through the front nine.



## 3. Dooks. Architect: E. Hackett. 18 holes: 6071yds: par 70.

It seems that the holes have been selected rather than designed with greens and fairways falling naturally between the dunes.

## 2. Beaufort. Architect: Dr. A. Spring. 18 holes: 6587m: par 71

Encircled by MacGillycuddy's Reeks, the pretty Beaufort course enjoys a setting that is pure Kerry.

## 4. Killorglin. Architect: E. Hackett. 18 holes: 6467yds: par 72.

From a gentle rise the course sweeps down to Dingle Bay.

## 1. Killarney – 3 courses

**Mahony's Point. 18 holes: 6164m: par 72. Architect: G. Campbell.**

**Killeen. 18 holes: 6474m: par 72.**

**Architects: E. Hackett & W. O'Sullivan.**

**Lackabane. 18 holes: 6410m: par 72.**

**Architect: D. Steele.**

Beautiful setting along the shores of Lough Leane. "Only a man devoid of soul could not rapture in the splendour and tranquillity of Killarney Golf Course". Henry Longhurst.



## 9. Ballybunion – Old. Architects: L. Hewson & J. McKenna. 18 holes: 6593yds: par 71.

## 9. Ballybunion – Cashen. Architect: R. Trent Jones Snr. 18 holes: 6306yds: par 72.

Constantly in the World Top Ten and rated by Tom Watson as "the best in the world". What more can we say? Day ticket (Old + Cashen) is very good value.



## 6. Ring of Kerry. Architect: E. Hackett. 18 holes: 6923yds: par 72.

A parkland course in another wonderful setting, made all the more enjoyable by looking down on the landscape. Quite a hilly course so a buggy worth considering.



## 7. Dingle.

**Architects: E. Hackett & C. O'Connor Jr. 18 holes: 6690yds: par 72.**

On the tip of the Dingle peninsula, Dingle is a savage beauty. Here you feel locked in a battle with Nature itself as you tread the pure links turf between the mountains and the sea.

Other courses to consider: Shannon G.C. – very handy if you are flying from the airport. Adare Manor – close to Limerick, where there is also excellent accommodation.



## A. The Great Southern\*\*\*\*

In the centre of Killarney the grandfather of Killarney hotels has just been completely refurbished. This classic hotel was built in 1854 and is set within 20 acres of landscaped gardens. The glowing hearth in the lobby exemplifies the warm welcome you will receive, and the old world features combine with modern facilities to create true luxury. The hotel offers a choice of dining experiences: the main dining room is a splendid Victorian setting offering classic cuisine, the new a-la-carte restaurant offers a more contemporary menu. The hotel also features an indoor leisure centre with heated swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium, steam room & plunge pool, beauty treatments are also available.



## B. Castlerosse Hotel & Suites\*\*\*

On the shores of Lough Leane and right beside Killarney Golf and Fishing Club, Castlerosse offers a location that is both peaceful and ideal for getting to the golf club. Killarney town is only five minutes away where there are numerous other restaurants and bars. Castlerosse is superbly equipped with indoor pool, sauna, gymnasium and floodlit tennis courts. Plus it has the added advantage of its own 9-hole course. There is a choice of accommodation - traditional hotel rooms or "Suites" for two or four. The Suites are individual houses comprising two en-suite twin or double bedrooms, sitting room and full-size kitchen. Breakfast is included and served in the main restaurant.



## A. Killarney Plaza Hotel\*\*\*\*

A superior four-star hotel and one of the finest in town. The tasteful marble, wood and silk furnishings of the bedrooms have a designer look and feel to them that sets the hotel apart from the others in town. You will receive exclusive membership of the Plaza Leisure Club for the duration of your stay allowing you to make the most of the swimming pool, sauna and soon to be opened Spa. Dining is a tricky affair, as you will have to choose between the Petrus and the Grand Pey restaurants - both individually styled and offering excellent cuisine. Having a drink is no less problematic as there is the extravagant, ultra stylish Café du Parc with its five bars on four levels or the quieter Piano Bar to ponder over.



## A. Killarney Towers Hotel\*\*\*

In the centre of Killarney, the Killarney Towers has everything you could wish for to extract the most fun from a stay in town. Stepping out of the front door the whole of Killarney is before you - although with one of Killarney's liveliest bars "Scruffys" on the premises you could even stay in and go out! There is also the more subdued "O'Donoghue's" for a quieter pint. The bedrooms are nicely proportioned with all of today's necessities - tea & coffee, hairdryers, trouser presses etc. and there is a fully equipped health club with swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, steam room etc.

## A. Killarney Avenue Hotel\*\*\*\*

Close to the Killarney Towers hotel, a smaller establishment, similar in style that offers a more intimate atmosphere yet with the same standards of service and facilities. A sister hotel to the Killarney Towers, residents benefit from access to the Killarney Towers' leisure centre.



## Other Hotels

Should you wish to stay elsewhere in Kerry we have a number of other options in Waterville, Tralee and Ballybunion for example. These you will find on our website (www.golfparexcellence.com) or we will be happy to send you some further information. There is also the ultra modern and luxurious Aghadoe Heights\*\*\*\* overlooking Killarney to consider.