

GUIDEBOOK

# SCOTLAND: OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP VENUES

*This is only a sample itinerary to give you insight into one of the many golf trips available in Scotland. We encourage you to explore the possibilities and talk with us at with Heather & Gorse to tailor your own trip to your specific vision of the best possible golf trip for your group.*



*Heather and Gorse*

SHARING GREAT LINKS GOLF AND TRAVEL ADVENTURES  
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# Itinerary

## *Day 1*

*Fly to Edinburgh, Scotland. Arrive Edinburgh in the morning. Meet your driver at the airport and proceed to St. Andrews via chauffeured coach. Check into Rusacks Hotel, a landmark hotel in*



**Rusacks Hotel-Old Course St. Andrews**

*the heart of St Andrews overlooking The Old Course and Swilcan Bridge. Sign-up for the Old Course ballot for Day 2 (Heather & Gorse will do this for you) and play New Course in the afternoon. Dinner at the iconic Rusacks Hotel with its award-winning dining and its stunning rooftop restaurant and bar. After dinner—sleep!*



**Rusacks Hotel, St Andrews**

## *Day 2*

*After breakfast at the Rusacks Hotel, based on the outcome of the Old Course lottery, golfers will play either the Old Course at St. Andrews or Kingsbarns Golf Links. Kingsbarns Golf Links is situated 7 miles from St Andrews along 1.8 miles of picturesque North Sea coastline, where each hole embraces the sea. Golf was resurrected on Kingsbarns Links at the dawn of the 21st Century. A Top 100 worldwide course, Kingsbarns is the only Scottish course to be built on links land in over 70 years and with its seaside setting. After a day on the links, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at XXXXXX.*



**Swilken Bridge**



**Kingsbarns Golf Links**

### *Day 3*

*After breakfast at the Rusacks Hotel, depart for Carnoustie Golf Links. Carnoustie Golf Links is an iconic, world-leading golf destination in Scotland. Golf has*



**Carnoustie Golf Links**

*been played at the Links since the 16th century. The Championship Course has hosted eight Open Championships, two Women's Open and two Seniors Open making it one of the very few to have done so in the United Kingdom. It is one of three courses used for the annual Dunhill Links and in 2018 The Open Championship returned to the course. In 2018, the Championship Course was voted Best Golf Course in Scotland over £100 by the general public, the second time it has won the award in the past three years. Dinner at the Rusacks Hotel or one of the many pubs and restaurants in St. Andrews.*



**Dinner Options at the Rusacks Hotel**

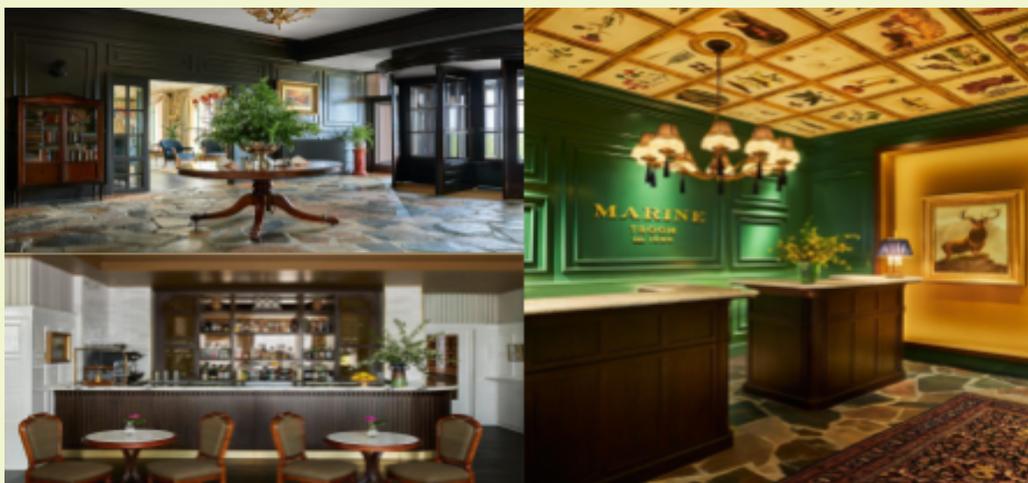
## Day 4

*Depending on the outcome of the Old Course lottery on Day 2, Day 4 is a back-up day to play the Old Course at St Andrews. After breakfast at the Rusacks Hotel either play the Old Course or depart directly for Troon. Check into the Marine Troon Hotel, a 5-star*



Marine Troon Hotel

*accommodation with unobstructed views of the breath-taking Ayrshire (West) coastline, the Isle of Arran and the legendary Royal Troon Golf Club, a ten-time host of The Open. For dinner at the Marine Troon Hotel, enjoy views of Royal Troon golf course and the coast while experiencing the best of Scottish and British cuisine, with menus that champion in-season ingredients, local produce, and game and seafood.*



Marine Troon Hotel

## Day 5

*After breakfast at the Marine Troon Hotel, depart for Royal Troon Golf Club, host of the 2024 Open Championship. Just prior to Royal Troon hosting its first Open Championship in 1923, the course was redesigned by legendary course architect and five-time Open*



**Royal Troon Golf Club**

*Champion, James Braid. Other than having new back tees on several holes, narrower fairways, and different bunkering, the current Old Course is essentially very similar to Braid's finished work in 1923. Past Open champions at Royal Troon include Zander Schauffele, Justin Leonard, Mark Calcavecchia, Tom Watson, Tom Weiskopf, Arnold Palmer, Bobby Locke, and Arthur Havers. Six consecutive Opens at Troon were won by Americans, from 1962 through 2004, ended by Henrik Stenson of Sweden in 2016. Royal Troon is home of the "Postage Stamp"---often the first hole that knowing golfers around the world think of when they discuss one of the worlds best short Par 3s. In theory, it's as easy as 123, which so happens to be the exact yardage of the hole. The challenge, from an elevated tee set atop an Ayrshire sand dune, is to fly over the rugged duneland below to find the pear shaped green. Good luck!*

## Day 6

*After breakfast at the Marine Troon Hotel, depart for Prestwick. Prestwick Golf Club was formed in 1851 and is the birthplace of Open Championship golf.*



Prestwick Golf Club

*Prestwick Golf Club was founded when the 13th Earl of Eglinton was elected as its first Captain. Old Tom Morris was recruited to be Keeper of the Green, Ball and Clubmaker at Prestwick and served Prestwick until 1864 when he returned to his native St Andrews. In his 13 years at the club, Old Tom Morris helped establish one of golf's most famous events, The Open Championship in 1860, which he himself won four times. After a morning round at Prestwick, the group will enjoy a three-course "late lunch" in the members' dining room. Coat and tie are required for this memorable experience at Prestwick Golf Club!*



Prestwick Golf Club

## *Day 7*

*After breakfast at the Marine Troon Hotel, depart for the Trump Turnberry Ailsa Course.*

*Four exceptional Open Championships have graced the prestigious Ailsa course, including the unforgettable 1977 'Duel in the Sun' - an epic battle of wits and skill between Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson that remains etched in the minds of golfers worldwide. Surrounded by stunning coastal scenery, navigate the same dramatic landscapes that have challenged the greatest as you experience the true spirit and traditions that make Scotland the unrivaled 'Home of Golf'.*



Trump Turnberry, Ailsa Course

## *Day 8*

*Your driver will help you pack up your gear for the ride back to Edinburgh airport in time to catch your flight home after a spectacular trip to the home of golf!*

# *Essentials*

## Passport

Be sure your passport is current! Heather & Gorse recommends you make a copy of the first two pages of your passport just in case you lose the original. Keep this copy in a different place from your original, such as in your carry-on bag. You do not need to have your passport with you at all times when you're traveling, except for flights and occasionally when checking into hotels

## USGA Handicap Card

In addition to your passport, make sure you bring a copy of your current USGA handicap card. Unlike many of the golf courses in the U.S., some of the "high-end" courses in Ireland and Scotland (e.g. St ANDrews Old Course) requires golfers to show the starter their USGA handicap card in order to play.

## Walking and Riding golf courses in Ireland/Scotland

Renting a buggy (riding cart) is an exception in Ireland and Scotland; therefore, advanced reservations are required to book a buggy for your tee time. In addition, some courses may require the person requesting the buggy to provide a "note" from their physician stating that the individual must ride in a Buggy due to a health condition. If you plan to ride (rent a buggy) on your trip, please let Heather & Gorse know at the time of booking so we can ensure we have adequate time to secure the buggy rental.

Additionally, it's a good idea to get a note from your Doctor that

states you must ride due to a health/medical condition. We will notify clients in advance if a selected golf course does not offer buggies (riding carts).

Trolleys (Push Carts) are readily available at all of the courses to rent for a very nominal fee. Caddies are also available at almost all of the courses in Ireland and Scotland. Hiring a caddy can be a fun and rewarding way to learn about the golf course and local culture.

## Medical Insurance

If your health insurance company does not cover overseas medical issues, you might consider one of the policies covered under “Trip Insurance” below. Another alternative is with a company called GeoBlue, a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield. We highly recommend them based on the experiences of personal friends. Here is a link to their website: <https://www.goebtravelinsurance.com>

## Trip Insurance

We strongly urge that every traveler take out Trip Insurance for this trip. While there are a myriad of companies that offer trip insurance, the company we recommend is called Squaremouth Travel Insurance. Squaremouth compares every major travel insurance provider on the market to find the best travel insurance policy that fits your needs. Here is a link to their website: <https://www.squaremouth.com/23572>

## Airline Tickets

Heather & Gorse recognizes that travelers may have a preferred airline or may elect to use frequent flyer miles for the trip; therefore,

Heather & Gorse does not make individual/group airline reservations. It is incumbent on the traveler to arrange airline arrival times to coincide with the group and the in-country ground transportation arrangements. Notify Heather & Gorse at [heatherandgorsegolf@gmail.com](mailto:heatherandgorsegolf@gmail.com) if your airline reservations do not closely align with your groups in-country ground transportation.

## Baggage

In most cases, you will be limited to one checked bag, one carry-on bag, plus a laptop or handbag. Generally, the checked bag cannot exceed 50 pounds. There is a penalty for bags weighing between 50 and 70 pounds and any bag weighing over 100 pounds will be refused.

## Golf Club Considerations

You'll want to ensure that you are prepared to pay an additional baggage fee for your golf clubs. We recommend packing a waterproof or water-resistant pair of golf shoes and a good rain suit in your golf travel bag as a way to save space in your regular checked baggage. You'll definitely want to remove the head of your driver and pack it safely away in your golf bag (wrapped in a golf towel). If you are using a "soft" golf club travel bag, we suggest placing a sturdy pole or stick (such as a broomstick) in your golf club bag that is slightly shorter than the length of your golf club travel bag. The pole/stick will absorb some of the "baggage handling shock" and help protect your clubs. We also suggest wrapping your clubs with a couple of towels as another means to absorb some of the handling shock.

You also have an option to "ship" your golf clubs to a golf course in Ireland or Scotland; however, not all golf courses accept shipped golf clubs. It is also our experience that shipped golf clubs do not always

reach their destination on-time. If you do decide to ship our clubs, make sure you ship them well in advance of the need date.

## The Weather

Locals in west Ireland like to tell American tourists that they will experience all four seasons in one day. We can validate that observation from personal experience, having played golf in 45 mph gales and watched the green fill with ice pellets before we got there and then all of them disappear on the next hole. In the southwest of Ireland and Scotland, it can reach the mid-eighties in summer and the next day be in the low fifties. There can be dense fog in the morning if it's not windy. Rain can come hard and fast but leave just as quickly with a wind that dries you almost immediately. Come prepared with a good rain suit (including gloves), a waterproof hat and a ski cap for warmth and wind and you will be ready for anything. Courses do not close for weather (except on very rare occasions) so be prepared to play. On a first trip to Turnberry, it was raining so hard on the covered practice bay that the group was seriously considering not playing, despite the non-refundable and hefty green fee. As we walked to the first tee, the rain suddenly stopped and within 5 minutes we were continuing our round in a beautiful and clear Scottish evening with just a light breeze. We have played a lot of rounds of links golf and have never walked off the course because of weather. It's part of the game, but it very seldom ruins a round. On the contrary, it becomes part of the fun!

## Clothing

As mentioned in the weather section above, regardless of the time of year that you travel to Ireland or Scotland (even in July), come prepared with long johns, a rain cap, a winter cap, winter golf gloves, layered clothing, quarter-zip type of overgarments, and a good rain

suit. We always pack a couple pairs of short pants to wear under rain pants for more moderate (60s) temperatures.

## Prescription Drugs

You may bring all needed prescription drugs with you on your flights. This includes liquids, gels, and aerosol medicines.

Declaration: The Transportation Safety Administration does not limit the number of prescription drugs that you can bring on board with you in your carry-on luggage; however, those who bring larger quantities of liquid medicines (not in bottles of three ounces or less or are not in a one-quart plastic bag) must declare to one of the TSA security officers that they have prescription medication in their luggage. The prescribed medication is subject to being inspected before it may clear security.

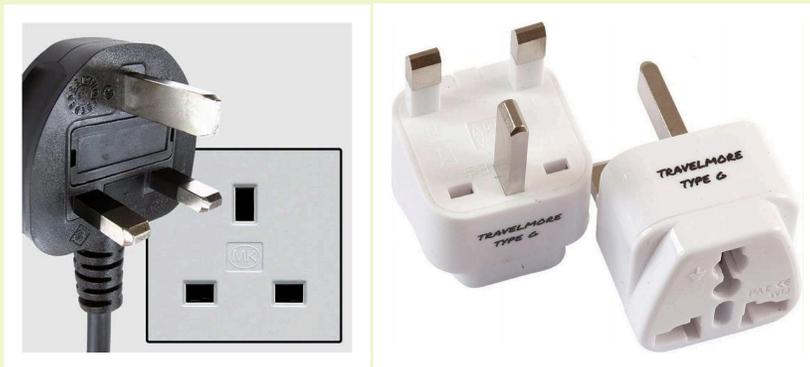
When possible, the traveler who brings prescribed medication on a flight should have documentation he/she can show the TSA employees to help explain why the medication is necessary. It is wise to take a photo on the actual bottle to show that it is your medication and that it is a valid prescription.

## Tipping Guides and Drivers

During the trip, we can expect to have guides and drivers to safely deliver us to golf courses, hotels, and restaurants. If you want to tip, the best thing to do is to give the tip to them personally and thank them. On some trips, the group leader may elect to collect a tip from all the group members at the end of the trip to provide to the driver. By no means are tips required!

## Electrical Appliances

Electricity in the United Kingdom is between 220 and 240 volts. What this means is that when many of your small 110-volt appliances are hooked up directly to this current, they will end up in a molten mass unless your appliance is rated for 220 volts. The good news is that most modern cameras, smartphones, and computers in the US can be recharged with either 110 or 220 volts. Check your appliance manual closely to see if it has a switch to use either 100 or 220 volts. If your device can handle 220 volts, you'll only need an adaptor for different plugs. Most often in Scotland, you will find a square like 3-prong plug or rarely a two prong plug with round prongs. Below are the typical plugs and sockets. You will need a "type G" adaptor (pictured below) in order to recharge your cameras, smartphones, and computers.



## Phone Home

To keep in touch with the folks back home, there are several options, each with its own degree of technology and complexity. Check with your cell provider before you leave home to determine if your cell plan includes international calls and texting. Another alternative is Skype, a computer program that allows you to communicate via a computer, tablet, or smartphone. WhatsApp is another great way to make calls from overseas, but you need to be connected to the hotel's WIFI network to make it work, unless you have adequate cell service

while in Scotland or Ireland.

## Money

What should you do about money while in Scotland or Ireland? While we try to mostly use credit cards whenever possible, it is necessary to carry some cash. We don't carry travelers' checks. Some folks will use ATMs. They are everywhere. Some folks will deposit enough money in their checking accounts before they leave home and then use their debit card to get money from an ATM when they need it. You should always contact your bank and credit card companies before you leave on your trip to make them aware that you'll be making charges while overseas.

Another alternative is to exchange dollars for foreign currency through your bank before you leave home. Since your bank has to "order and receive" foreign currency, you may be charged a service charge by your bank for the exchange of the dollars to a foreign currency. You can also exchange dollars for foreign currency when you arrive at your destination airport...although the exchange rates at the airport are usually not as favorable.

If you use a credit card overseas, many American credit card companies will often have a nifty little charge that they add. They call it an "overseas charge" and it can range from 1% to 3% of the charge. There are several credit card companies that do not have this charge, CapitalOne Visa and the Chase Sapphire Card do not assess an "overseas charge." You will find that many stores in Ireland and Scotland are not enthusiastic about American Express Cards. Many seasoned travelers use CapitalOne Visa exclusively overseas in order to avoid the "overseas charge." Check with your credit card company before you depart on a trip to inquire about extra charges while on a trip to Ireland or Scotland.

# Trip Map

