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AN IRRESISTIBLE GOLF DESTINATION

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Trevose & St Enodoc in north Cornwall



Royal North Devon & Saunton in Devon & Somerset's Burnham & Berrow



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JOURNEY TO ENGLAND'S ATLANTIC LINKS: JUNE 2017

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ENGLAND'S ATLANTIC LINKS: **AN IRRESISTIBLE GOLF DESTINATION**

For decades, golfers from around the world have been traveling to the British Isles. Upon arrival, they have consistently made a beeline for the home of golf and the many world-famous golf courses in Scotland such as St. Andrews (Old Course and New Course), Carnoustie, Turnberry, Kingsbarns, Gleneagles, Royal Dornoch, among others. As great as those Scottish destinations truly are, they aren't the only memorable golf courses in Great Britain. Instead of heading north after arriving in London, golfers should seriously consider going against the tide, so to speak, and head to the southwest of England -- specifically to the counties of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall. Those three counties are blessed with a number of links golf courses that will give you everything -- and then some -- that you are looking for in your British golf getaway.

Deleted:

One specific golf destination in the southwest of England worth putting on your 'priority bucket list' is the group of six championship links golf courses known as the Atlantic Links (atlantic-links.co.uk). This group of links courses overlooks the confluence of the Atlantic Ocean and the Bristol Channel. One of the courses (Burnham & Berrow Golf Club) is in Somerset; three of the courses (Royal North Devon Golf Club, Saunton East, and Saunton West) are in Devon; and two are in the Duchy of Cornwall (St. Enodoc Golf Club and Trevoze Golf & Country Club). In fact, all six championship golf links are listed in *Golf Monthly Magazine's* (U.K.) Top 100 in the U.K. & Ireland.

BURNHAM & BERROW GOLF CLUB **(in England's county of Somerset)**

Since 1891, the sand hills and gorse that form the backbone of what is now the [Burnham & Berrow Golf Club](#) -- located in Burnham-on-Sea in Somerset, England -- have stood the test of time and continue to do so. While admirers of the Erin Hills Golf Club in Wisconsin talk about how that piece of property was a natural location for a golf course, the same can be said about Burnham & Berrow. The presence of so many perfectly situated sand dunes, the wonderful views of the adjacent Parrett Estuary and Bristol Channel, the steady (and, at times, strong) winds, and tight, yet fair, lies are wonderful attributes of this links course. Credit must be given to Charles

Gibson for his design skills as he was able to efficiently utilize what Mother Nature provided as he created a golf course which continues to challenge, frustrate, stymie, and, in some odd way, entertain golfers as much now as it did more than a century ago. Simply put, Burnham & Berrow -- a par-71 layout that measures nearly 6,700 yards from the back



BURNHAM & BERROW
— GOLF CLUB —

tees -- is a golf course that attracts avid golfers who crave a classic links golf experience. Burnham & Berrow never disappoints. Burnham & Berrow is a links course that will truly reward good shots, while also punishing you with a poor result on any indecisive attempts to advance the ball. The Burnham & Berrow Golf Club will reward a golfer who plays the course based on what it's willing to give you on any given day, which is always influenced by the current wind conditions which can change at any given moment in time.



The 17th green at the Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, with the clubhouse in the distance. (photo credit: Geoff Ellis)

The prevailing wind at Burnham & Berrow is often out of the southwest – right off the Atlantic Ocean. The wind usually makes its presence known from the outset as the 1st hole -- a bunkerless and treeless 380-yard uphill par four -- is usually played into a testing breeze. On a windy day at Burnham & Berrow, bogey golf is acceptable and applauded. While Burnham & Berrow is a classic links course, you don't truly realize the proximity of the course to the nearby Perrett Estuary, which feeds into the Bristol Channel, which feeds into the Atlantic Ocean, until you play the 4th hole. It's a breathtaking moment as you step foot on the 4th tee, especially if you are not used to seaside golf. If there's one hole that is the epitome of the overall Burnham & Berrow experience, it's the 4th hole, a 514-yard, left-to-right dogleg par five. To post a par at the 4th, it takes a successful combination of the 'P' words: A 'Powerful' drive that 'Penetrates' the ever-'Present' sea breeze; a second shot that 'Properly' takes into account the wind and is 'Precisely Placed' on the fairway; a third shot that is struck so that it finds a 'Positive Position' on the green which then requires no more than a 'Pair' of 'Putts' for a 'Par.' At the 4th, the wind at Burnham & Berrow is probably at its peak so it's absolutely necessary to play each shot as if it's the only shot you are hitting that day. The very next hole – the 5th -- is a classic, long, uphill par three which, on paper, looks rough, tough, unfair, and quite penal. In reality, though, it has a forgiving nature, too. While the front, left, and right portions of the green are guarded by large sand bunkers, any shot that is left of the pin may well bounce right toward the middle of the green. And, any tee shot that's long and left has a liberal landing area which allows you to pitch and putt to save par.

Like so many links golf courses, the transition from the 9th green to the 10th tee takes place ‘out in the country,’ which is quite a long walk to the clubhouse. There’s no hospitality hut or snack shack at the 10th tee so come prepared with a snack and a bottle of water if you expect to get hungry and thirsty at the turn.



The view of the 2nd hole, from the back of the 2nd green at the Burnham & Berrow Golf Club. (photo credit: Geoff Ellis)

You start the back nine with a rather benign par four which is somewhat complicated by a blind tee shot over a series of sand dunes. Once you and your group hit your approach shots to the 10th green, there’s a bell which must be rung so that the group behind you knows that the coast is clear for their opening tee shots on the back nine. While the church tower along the 12th fairway may be a house of worship for local parishioners, for golfers, the church tower represents a strategic point of reference for their tee shot on this left-to-right par four. The two-tiered green on the 16th hole is virtually an automatic three putt if you finish on the wrong tier. It may well be the most severe two-tiered green along the entire Atlantic Links trail, which stretches as far west as the Trevoze Golf & Country Club in Cornwall. While the sight of the clubhouse is a welcome image for all golfers, it’s not an easy stroll to the clubhouse as you walk down the 18th fairway. Burnham & Berrow closes like a lion, just as she opens like a lion. If you can start and finish any round at Burnham & Berrow with a pair of pars, then the other 16 holes should be manageable. Again, never be disappointed with a bogey on any hole at Burnham & Berrow.

If you can avoid any of the 44 well-placed fairway and greenside bunkers at Burnham & Berrow, that is a major victory. Other obstacles and areas to avoid are the Rushes, the two grass-filled bunkers to the right of the 8th fairway; the long canal that lurks from tee to green along the right-side of the 8th fairway; the dirt track which crosses the 13th fairway and is in play if your ball finishes on the hard-pan surface; and the Kitchen, which is a rough, somewhat hilly, overgrown area about 100 yards from the putting surface of the 15th green.



The 17th green at the Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, with the clubhouse in the distance. (photo credit: Geoff Ellis)

Originally, when this golf club opened its doors back in the early 1890s, it was called the Burnham Golf Club. In 1896, the club's membership wanted to expand the course to 18 holes by extending the property line to the Berrow Church. To get access to this additional property, the powers-that-be within the club had to make one major concession to the local Lords of the Manor: change the club's name from the Burnham Golf Club to the Burnham & Berrow Golf Club. The agreement was made and the rest is history, as they say.

Burnham & Berrow is as popular an attraction now as it was 'back in the day,' when the great J.H. Taylor was the club's first head pro at what is probably Somerset's most famous golf course, which has also served as a qualifier for the Open Championship. Back in the early 1900s, Taylor – who won five Open Championships in his competitive career -- was quoted as saying that Burnham & Berrow is "one of the most sporting courses conceivable." Taylor's comments about Burnham & Berrow would still ring true today.

In 1913, golf course architect Harry Colt gave a facelift to Burnham & Berrow. He utilized the natural conditions and created a golf experience that remains as relevant today as it was more than a century ago.

One of main reasons why Burnham & Berrow is such an attractive destination is because of the ongoing efforts by the head greenkeeper and the maintenance team at the club. The course is only in great shape because of a daily commitment to excellence by head greenkeeper Richard Whyman and his crew of dedicated workers.

"We try to do our jobs without being noticed," admits Whyman.



The church tower from the local Anglican Church overlooks the 12th green at Burnham & Berrow. (photo credit: Geoff Ellis)

The dedication to excellence displayed by Whyman and his team is not easily achieved because weather patterns – the wind, sunshine, and rain -- are constantly changing at Burnham & Berrow.

“Because of the steady winds at Burnham & Berrow, one of our biggest issues is keeping the sand in the bunkers,” says Whyman.

The next big course maintenance project at Burnham & Berrow is to upgrade the quality of the teeboxes.

“We are striving to improve the firmness of the surfaces of the tees,” declares Whyman.

One of the special aspects of playing Burnham & Berrow is securing access to [The Dormy House](#) for overnight accommodations. This structure, which is a one-minute walk from the first tee, can house eight people in four twin-bedded rooms. The rooms are clean, quiet, comfortable, and spacious – each with its own private bathroom. And, there’s access to a TV lounge that serves as a common room for those staying at the Dormy House.



The 3rd green at Burnham & Berrow sits in a low, bowl-like setting. (photo credit: Geoff Ellis)

“It is a simple and convenient place to stay when playing this championship links course,” says Karen Drake, managing secretary at Burnham & Berrow. “By staying at The Dormy House, it gives you the chance to get fully immersed in the Burnham & Berrow experience.”

When you play at Burnham & Berrow, there’s more than just the 18-hole championship course. There’s a nine-hole Channel course, too. The Channel course is interwoven amongst the 18 holes on the Championship course. Among the holes on this par-35 layout, no par fours are any longer than 385 yards and there are two short par fours which are roughly 300 yards from tee to green. It’s a perfect way to prepare for your round on the Championship course.

It’s worth noting that in 2015, *National Club Golfer* ranked Burnham & Berrow at 49 among Great Britain & Ireland’s Top 100 Links Courses. In 2017, *National Club Golfer* listed the 17th hole at Burnham & Berrow as one of the 100 Great British (Golf) Holes. And, *Golf Monthly* has ranked the Championship Course at Burnham & Berrow at #31 among its list of the Top 100 Courses in the U.K. & Ireland for 2017-18.

As you walk off the 18th green at Burnham & Berrow, there’s a sign that thanks you for visiting the course. Then, it politely says that “we look forward to seeing you again soon.” That’s exactly what Gibson and Colt would say to you if they were alive today. **(MM)**

ROYAL NORTH DEVON GOLF CLUB

(in England's county of Devon)

Often referred to as Westward Ho!, the [Royal North Devon Golf Club](#) is England's oldest links course. It's located in Bideford in north Devon. A series of sand dunes is all that separates the course from the nearby Atlantic Ocean. At Royal North Devon, you'll hear the nearby surf, feel the breeze from the sea, and see the gulls fly overhead. This course is everything as advertised and then some.

Royal North Devon, designed by the legendary Old Tom Morris, opened for play on April 4, 1864.

The club's founder was The Rev. L.H. Gossett, M.A. Some refer to Royal North Devon as the cradle of English golf. Not surprisingly, *Golf World* has listed the Royal North Devon Golf Club on its list of *100 Golf Courses in the World* that a golfer 'must play.' When you play Royal North Devon, you are literally walking through the pages of golf history – dating back to Victorian England. In fact, on the golf course, there's a monument that has been built to honor the role that five-time Open champion J.H. Taylor played in the growth of the club in the late 1800s and well into the 1900s.



In the beginning, this course was named the North Devon and West of England Golf Club. In 1867, the Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII and was a Patron of the club, gave this golf club its Royal title, which meant the course became the Royal North Devon and West of England Golf Club. In 1910, the name of the club was changed to The Royal North Devon Golf Club. While this golf course was built on more than 650 acres of Common land, known as the Northam Burrows, the actual course covers just 170 acres.



Historic golf balls are on display inside the clubhouse at Royal North Devon Golf Club.



At Royal North Devon, an on-course landmark stands in honor of five-time Open champion J. H. Taylor. (All Royal North Devon GC photos are courtesy of the Royal North Devon GC, unless otherwise noted)

More than 100 years ago, golfing great Harold Hilton stated that Royal North Devon was the number one competition golf course in England. The course remains high on all golfers' opinion polls to this day. Royal North Devon's pedigree and reputation are the main reasons why this course has hosted the British Amateur Championship on two occasions and the Martini Pro event in 1975.



Just beyond the fence, in the distance, is the Atlantic Ocean, which borders Royal North Devon GC.

The Royal North Devon Golf Club has been described as a wild and natural course where golfing traditions are on constant display. This course is simply a special place where golf is enjoyed

throughout the year – whether it’s early January or late June. This par-72 (36-36) layout, as its website correctly states, is “pure, raw exhilaration.” When you step foot on this course, you will sense that feeling of pure and raw exhilaration.

Like many famous Scottish golf courses, each of the holes at Royal North Devon has a name – starting with Burn at the beginning and finishing with Home at the end. Other interesting names for other holes include Baggy (#2), Lifeboat (#7), and Iron Hut (#14). Probably the most fun hole to play at Royal North Devon is the par four 4th hole (Cape). Here, you have a blind tee shot over a series of railway sleepers (large planks of wood). If struck well on a nice day in the summer, it’s possible to drive the green, though you must negotiate the series of sand bunkers which protect the entrance to this short par four. Low, poorly struck tee shots may hit the railway sleepers and bounce back toward the tee, finish in a nearby sand trap, or carom in any given direction. The toughest hole (handicap rating/stroke index #1) at Royal North Devon is the right-to-left, par four 6th hole (Alp), which measures 412 yards from the tips. This hole has been recognized by *The Golfer* as one of the 100 Great British Holes for 2017. On the back nine, make sure that you avoid Fowler’s Bunker when you play the 400+ yard 12th hole (Trap). This sand bunker sits about 220 yards from the championship tees on the right side of the fairway. This hole, rated as the #2 handicap/stroke index on the course, is tough enough without having to deal with hitting from a fairway bunker.



Sheep (and wild horses) are year-round residents at Royal North Devon, as they live and graze in the rough at the Royal North Devon Golf Club. (photo credit: Mike May)

It is worth noting that at Royal North Devon, sheep and horses are fulltime residents and permitted to roam on the golf course. While the sheep and horses have a noticeable presence on the course, they don’t interfere with play in any way whatsoever, as they tend to gather in the rough, eating

the longer strands of grass. Frankly, the presence of the sheep and horses is an attractive aspect of the Royal North Devon experience. You must take a picture of the sheep to document the experience. Fortunately, there's a local rule which allows relief from a 'situation' that involves those roaming mammals: "A ball which lies in or touches heaped or liquid manure may be lifted without penalty, cleaned, and dropped." Now, that's much appreciated relief!



At Royal North Devon, golfers walk. Most golfers use a pull cart/trolley. Some carry their golf bag.

Royal North Devon is an out-and-back links course which means the transition from the 9th green to the 10th tee is 'out in the country.' Once you leave the clubhouse following your opening tee shot, you will not return to the clubhouse until you walk off the 18th green. So, if you want a snack or a drink during the round, bring it with you. And, as tradition would have it, Royal North Devon is a walking golf course where only a handful of golf carts or buggies, as they are referred to in England, are used for people who have special medical needs.

For golf history buffs, it's worth noting that English golfing legend J. H. Taylor started his golf journey at Royal North Devon where he worked as a caddie as a young boy. His childhood home was nearby. Taylor finished his lifelong affiliation with golf by serving as Royal North Devon's club president in 1957.

While the golf course is in a class by itself, the clubhouse at Royal North Devon is another great reason to visit this course. The only place in the United Kingdom with more historic golf memorabilia is at St. Andrews in Scotland. That's why Royal North Devon is often referred to as the St. Andrews of the South. The clubhouse is decorated like a golf museum as it's filled with a number of golf artifacts, trophies, and memorabilia, such as many of the golf clubs which Taylor used to win his five Open Championships. Some of the specific items on display include the Bulger driver (circa 1890), a driving mashie, the long-nose short spoon, the rut niblick, a smooth faced mashie, a club called the lofter, and a Scared Head hickory shafted left-handed putter, which was built by Tom Morris (circa 1880).



The 4th hole at Royal North Devon features railway ties in the fairway which must be carried in order to reach the green. See the windmills in the far distance.

In order to properly showcase its golf memorabilia and improve the club dining facilities, the clubhouse has been refurbished. In addition to seeing the sheep and horses that graze on the course's common land, golfers can now see historic golfing artifacts such as hickory clubs, portraits of J. H. Taylor and ancient golf balls displayed in new cabinets around the clubhouse. Five-time Open champion Tom Watson has played at Royal North Devon. His scorecard – he shot a 64 -- and a hand-written thank you note to the club membership are also display in the clubhouse.



Greenside sand bunkers, some of which are tough to see from the fairway, are a common occurrence at the Royal North Devon Golf Club.

Before or after your round at Royal North Devon, a visit to the clubhouse is a must. And, it would also be a good idea to stop at the course's restaurant -- PaR Dining -- for a post-round beverage and a sandwich. Breakfast is served beginning at 8:30.

In order to properly showcase its treasure trove of golf memorabilia and improve the club dining facilities, the clubhouse has been refurbished. Today, visitors not only enjoy golf amongst the sheep and horses that graze on the common land where the course is laid out, but can now see historic golfing artifacts such as hickory clubs, portraits of J. H. Taylor and ancient golf balls displayed in bright, new cabinets around the clubhouse. Five-time Open champion Tom Watson has visited and played a round at Royal North Devon. His scorecard, which lists his 64, and a hand-written note of thanks to the club membership are also display in the clubhouse.

In a nutshell, Royal North Devon represents a blend of the present with the past. Your golfing resume is incomplete until you make the trip to visit and play Royal North Devon, where caddies are available upon request. And, don't forget to take a selfie with the sheep. (MM)

SAUNTON GOLF CLUB:
SAUNTON EAST and SAUNTON WEST
(in England's county of Devon)

A peaceful and pastoral place where golfers have been pitchin' and puttin' for par for more than a century. That may be the best way to describe the golf experience at the [Saunton Golf Club](#), which is located in the small seaside village of Braunton in north Devon.



Here, golfers have access to a pair of 18-hole championship links layouts – Saunton East and Saunton West. As you stroll along the fairways of Saunton East and Saunton West, you are constantly watching the nearby and

surrounding hills which are dominated by pastures filled with of bales of hay, grazing cattle, and the next agricultural crop. You'll also see the occasional windmill which is generating power from the ever-present breeze which is a signature staple of this golf club.



The faces of the bunkers at the Saunton Golf Club are steep and sod-filled. (photo credit: Mike May)

At Saunton, there are no sounds of nearby cars, buses, motorcycles, or airplanes. And, there are no homes on the golf course or any resort hotels overlooking the golf course. Instead, at the Saunton Golf Club, you are at one with Mother Nature from the moment you begin play until you hole-out on the 18th hole of either course. It's worth noting that the 10th hole on both courses is 'out in the country,' so you won't see the clubhouse again until you finish the home hole. If you expect to get hungry or thirsty while playing, pack a snack and a thirst-quenching beverage in your bag.

The best way to describe Saunton East is to read the recollections of six-time major champion (three Masters Green Jackets and three 'Champion Golfer of the Year' experiences at the Open Championship) Sir Nick Faldo:

“I’ve no doubt that if the East Course were located on the coast of Lancashire or Kent, it would have hosted an Open Championship by now,” recalls Faldo.

Faldo has similar words of praise for Saunton West.

“The landscape on the West Course is perhaps even more spectacular than the East Course and I cannot think of anywhere in England where the 36 holes could be more enjoyable,” adds Faldo.



This is the view of the clubhouse as you approach the 18th green of Saunton East. (All Saunton GC photos are courtesy of the Saunton GC, unless otherwise noted)

[At Saunton East and Saunton West](#), which are built upon the sand hills of the Braunton Burrows, the peaceful atmosphere is only interrupted by the sound of the nearby sea. As you look at both courses from various vantage points, the local terrain does not look like a golf course. Instead, it looks like a series of natural sand dunes which act as a natural buffer protecting the integrity of the seashore from local erosion. Instead, in between the sand dunes are the many fairways of the Saunton Golf Club.

The character of Saunton East can also be best described by the names given to each hole. Fifteen of the holes have a one-word title. The exceptions are the 4th (The Gap), the 7th (Anstead’s Humps) and the 18th (Isaac’s Slopes). Saunton East opens with Gullpit (the 1st hole), concludes the front nine with Beacons (the 9th hole), and starts the back nine with Plateau (the 10th hole). The 11th hole (Field) is particularly quaint. It’s a short par four which measures just over 300 yards, but it’s a left-to-right dogleg where the fairway winds its way around an adjacent farmer’s field which is separated from the course by a stone hedge. And, to the right of the green, bordering the hedge, is a small burn (i.e. stream) which can play havoc with your score if you are careless with your approach to the green.

At Saunton West, the greens are well guarded and require precision pitching and chipping skills to get up and down for par. According to the England Golf website, Saunton West “offers no weak hole.” The bunkers have been upgraded and have steep faces. They are fun hazards to admire, but not fun ones from which to escape. Just like Saunton East, the holes on Saunton West have special names assigned to each of them – most of which are one-word monikers. Three of the holes have ‘double-barrel’ names: Ragged Robin (the 8th hole), Evening Primrose (the 14th hole), and Leonard Lake (the 17th hole). Saunton’s finishing hole (Rookery) is not the kind of home hole one expects in golf – a downhill, medium-length par three. Finishing with an ace will put an exclamation mark on any round of golf at Saunton West.



The 18th hole at Saunton West is a downhill par three.

It’s worth noting that the Saunton Golf Club has invested a great deal, on and off the course, since mid 2016. In addition to modifications on the East course, changes have been made to nine of the holes on the West course in order to bring it out of the shadow of the East course. That mission has been accomplished.

Under the guidance of Tom Mackenzie, a lead partner at Mackenzie & Ebert, Saunton West has been lengthened to 6,596 yards. Measures have also been taken to make it easier for higher handicapped players whilst the addition of a number of fairway bunkers has created a more strategic layout that places greater emphasis on brain rather than brawn.



The 9th green at Saunton East is filled with significant slopes and undulations, as are many of the putting surfaces at the Saunton Golf Club.

“The work done by Mackenzie & Ebert has been undertaken to really raise the profile, complexity and enjoyment of the West course so that Saunton now offers two equally stunning links on the North Devon coastline,” explains Russell Mayne, general manager, Saunton Golf Club. “The men’s locker room facilities have also been extensively upgraded to satisfy the demands of the modern golfer so that now all areas of the clubhouse are what you would expect from a venue with two courses highly placed in the top 100 golf courses in England.”

By the way, the 2017 English Senior Men’s Amateur Golf Championship was held at Saunton East and Saunton West in early June. Over the years, a number of top-flight events have been held at both courses, beginning as far back as 1932 with the British Ladies Championship, won by Miss Enid Wilson. Also, in 1997, a young 17-year-old Spaniard by the name of Sergio Garcia traveled to the Saunton Golf Club to compete in the R & A British Boys Championship, which he won. Garcia may be the only golfer to have won championships at both the Augusta National Golf Club and the Saunton Golf Club.

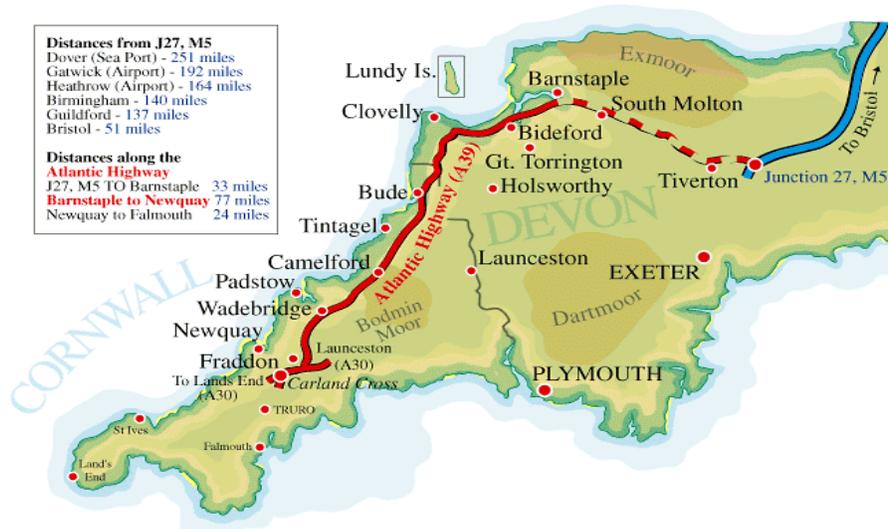
After playing 36 holes at Saunton East and Saunton West, you must do as the locals do, so to speak, and have dinner at [Squire’s Fish Restaurant](#) in nearby Braunton. This restaurant claims to have the finest fish & chips in the southwest of England. The food is as good – if not better – than advertised.

That evening, you would be wise to spend the night at the [Saunton Sands Hotel](#) which is located less than a mile from the course and overlooks a spectacular sandy beach that stretches for miles along the north Devon coastline. The views of the nearby sea and the beach from the pool area, the outdoor sitting areas, and the restaurant make the Saunton Sands Hotel experience so special, distinct, and perfect for any golfer (and his family) planning to play Saunton East and/or Saunton West.

Finally, it's fair to say that if you want to experience true Open Championship-like golf, make a beeline for the Saunton Golf Club in north Devon. On their own, the East and West courses are magnificent settings for a genuine links golf outing. And, Sir Nick Faldo was correct when he stated that the Saunton Golf Club represents the most enjoyable 36-hole golf experience in Great Britain. It will be for you, as well, when you make the journey to the Saunton Golf Club. (MM)

THE JOURNEY ALONG A39: THE ATLANTIC HIGHWAY

As you make the trip from Devon to Cornwall, you should travel along the scenic coastal road which is officially known as the A39. The locals refer to it as the Atlantic Highway, though golfers could just as easily refer to it as the 'link to the links.' The journey along this country road takes you through communities which exude charm and character. You will feel the urge to stop in every community for a selfie or the chance to document your visit to every special place with a picture. If you succumb to a few selfie temptations, allow an extra hour or two of your time on the road. This trip along the A39 will be as memorable, scenic, and captivating as playing the Atlantic Links.



As you travel from Devon into north Cornwall, you will be amazed by the scenery, the local architecture, and the genuine/rustic look of the countryside. If there's one word to describe Cornwall, it's 'authentic.' The countryside scenes will remind you of the TV programs *Poldark* and *Doc Martin*, which are filmed in Cornwall.

After leaving the Saunton Golf Club and the Royal North Devon Golf Club, the Atlantic Highway will take you through a series of communities, towns, and villages whose names are unique and different, to say the least. They include Woolfardisworthy, Clovelly, Box's Shop, Week St. Mary, Kilkhampton, Tregoodwell, Tintagel, and Boscastle.

As you enter Cornwall, there are many signs advertising bed & breakfast accommodations and various campgrounds. B & B's are a common sight in Cornwall. You will also see signs for Cornish pasties plus fish & chips for those who are hungry. The pasties are delicious and the fish & chips are some of Britain's best. When you travel through Camelford in north Cornwall and you are hungry, consider stopping to eat at Fryor Tuck's Fish & Chips or Little Peckish Fish & Chips.

As you get closer to Trevoze, you will notice a jungle-like canopy that provides cover and shade for vehicles traveling along this historic road. It's a special, yet eerie feeling, as you travel through this section of Cornwall. Enjoy the views, but tell your driver to keep his or her eyes on the twists and turns of the road because it's rarely straight.

Again, the Atlantic Highway experience will be as memorable and enjoyable as getting up & down for par along the Atlantic Links. The link to the links is its own experience. **(MM)**

TREVOSE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

(in England's county of Cornwall)

First impressions are powerful in all aspects of life. That's especially true when you step on the first tee at the [Trevoze Golf & Country Club](#), located close to the historic town of Padstow, in north Cornwall. At the first tee, there's a clear view of the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the vast ocean, you'll see the Trevoze Head and the quies, the three rocky formations that jut out above the surface of the nearby Atlantic Ocean, not far from Trevoze Head. Golfers have enjoyed this view since 1925 and it never gets old. In fact, on many occasions during the round, you will get a similar view of the Trevoze Head and the quies, each time from a different angle.

The Championship Course at Trevoze, a brilliant 18-hole layout, was designed by Harry Colt.

Currently, the club also offers two other courses to play – the nine-hole Headland Course, a nine-hole layout and the Par 3 Short Course, both of which are designed to give you a chance to work on your iron play.



As you play the Championship Course take the time to get a glimpse or two of the golden sandy beaches and the dramatic seaside vistas of Constantine Bay. To say that the views are stunning is an understatement. When

playing the Championship Course, the first nine holes hug the coastline and the sand dunes. It's difficult taking your eyes off the nearby Atlantic Ocean and the majestic Trevoze Head. The highlight of the front nine is when you play the par five, fourth hole, which is the signature hole at Trevoze. The two-tiered fourth green is very close to the Atlantic Ocean and the local lifeboat slip, which is controlled by the Royal Naval Lifeboat Institute. As you stand in the middle of the 4th fairway, the Constantine Bay forms the backdrop beyond the green. It's an attention-getting scene, to say the least. Another memorable moment at Trevoze is the tee shot on the 5th hole. The teebox is just yards away from the sea. If the wind is blowing in the right direction, you might feel sea spray on your backswing while hitting your tee shot on the 5th hole.



The north Atlantic sunset over the Trevoze Golf and Country Club in north Cornwall. (All Trevoze Golf and Country Club photos are courtesy of Trevoze, unless otherwise noted)

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The Cornish Breakfast at Trevoise features egg, bacon, sausage, grilled tomato, hog's pudding, sautéed mushrooms, baked beans...and (hot) tea and toast, if so desired (photo credit: Mike May)

The back nine at Trevoise is played away from the seashore and heads back to the clubhouse, but the sea is never out of sight. What's so special about Trevoise is that you can always hear the sound of crashing surf from any location on the course. No other course along the Atlantic Links can make that claim. The ever-present sound of the nearby waves is to be expected and is truly soothing and relaxing. Because Trevoise is a true links course, the ever-changing winds will also give this course a different look every day that you play it. Rarely do you play Trevoise on a calm, wind-free day.

If you need a refreshment of some kind while playing Trevoise, there is a snack shop – the HalfwayHouse – next to the 11th tee.

Recognizing the need to remain fresh and yet allow golfers to continue to enjoy this great layout, Trevoise has hired renowned golf course architects, Mackenzie & Ebert, to review and upgrade the Championship Course. Mackenzie & Ebert is retained by seven of the 10 Open Championship venues, including Turnberry, Carnoustie and Royal Portrush.



The windswept 4th green at Trevoise, with the Atlantic Ocean and Trevoise Head in the background.

At Trevoise, the work has focused on the adoption of a consistent bunkering style and a return to the traditional rough-edged bunkers, a characteristic of many courses designed by Colt. A number of new greens have been constructed and there's been an extensive reshaping of more than half of the green complexes, all inspired by the best of the original greens like those at the 7th and 10th.

Work is continuing in 2017 with the major project of reconstructing the signature 4th hole, which involves re-bunkering the hole and creating a visually-striking new green which is approximately an acre in size that will provide spectacular views over Constantine Bay and Trevoise Head.

“The plan is a reflection of our ambitions for Trevoise -- to reinforce its position in links golf, offer the best possible facilities to our members and visitors, and to attract further regional and national events,” comments Trevoise’s general manager Nick Gammon, whose family has owned the resort for three generations.

Former European Tour/Ryder Cup players Peter Baker and Paul Way have provided powerful testimonials on Trevoise: “One word – great! You must visit Trevoise,” said Baker and “Trevoise is up there with Colt’s best,” agreed Way.



Golf writer Mike May, wearing Antigua shorts and shirt which feature Desert Dry technology, stands near the clubhouse of the Trevose Golf and Country Club.

With access to the Constantine Restaurant, a full service bar, three resurfaced tennis courts, an outdoor heated pool, a covered golf Performance Centre, seven local beaches, many coastal walking path opportunities, and many comfortable, first-class 4 and 5-star self-catering apartments and chalets, Trevose Golf & Country Club is one of Cornwall's ideal stay-and-play destinations, whether or not you play golf.



The view of the 10th green at Trevoze. Check out the fairway's many humps, bumps and undulations.

Because of its geographic location – which includes various Cornish locations made famous by the two TV programs, *Poldark* and *Doc Martin* -- the Trevoze experience is as alluring to non-golfers as it is to golfers. Trevoze truly prides itself on being able to provide a friendly, welcoming escape -- with family values running through the veins of the resort. Always has been and always will be! (MM)

ST. ENODOC GOLF CLUB **(in England's county of Cornwall)**

The [St. Enodoc Golf Club](#), located across the Camel Estuary in Rock, Cornwall, has all the characteristics of a classic links course – firm, consistent greens; undulating fairways; tight, uneven fairway lies; tough bunkers; a few blind shots; and many memorable and priceless seaside views. The course sits alongside the juncture of the River Camel estuary and the Atlantic Ocean. It doesn't take long to get your first glimpse of the Camel Estuary. As you approach the first green, you will see it and it's a view that you'll continue to see during your round at St. Enodoc.

At St. Enodoc, there are two courses: the Church course designed by James Braid which opened in 1890 and the Holywell course, a shorter course which provides a typical links terrain with less daunting shots. The Church course gets its name from the 11th Century St. Enodoc Church – an old Norman Church -- which sits in the middle of the course alongside the 11th fairway. One of the biggest compliments that can be bestowed on St. Enodoc is that a few Open champions have come to play golf here. That list includes Braid, Henry Cotton, Jim Barnes and Tom Watson.



The backdrop of the 1st hole at St. Enodoc GC is the Camel Estuary. (photo credit: David Cannon)

“It (the Church course) is a wonderful golf course,” says Watson. “It has lots of variety and beautiful views everywhere you look. It’s a great place to play golf.”



Watson is not alone in his praise for St. Enodoc, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2015.

“It’s got the wow factor,” notes Simon Greatorex, general manager, St. Enodoc Golf Club. “It’s a golf club that really stirs the soul.”

Kudos to Braid whose design of St. Enodoc remains relevant to this day. One of Braid’s most famous design features is the Himalaya bunker on the 6th hole. It is reputedly the tallest sand bunker in Europe. Avoid that hazard at all costs!

It's worth noting that St. Enodoc has made a big investment in its second course, The Holywell, where tees have been upgraded, bunkers have been manicured and the overall presentation of the course has been improved to a level enjoyed on the main Church Course. The Holywell now gives all golfers a genuine alternative to the demanding 6,547-yard championship links. The Holywell is now a great alternative choice for juniors, seniors and higher handicappers who want an enjoyable round over a shorter, well-maintained layout.



The view of the green from the tee at the downhill, par three 15th hole at St. Enodoc GC, with the Camel Estuary in the background. (photo credit: David Cannon)

The clubhouse at St. Enodoc has also been recently refurbished in a modern, New England style. The clubhouse now boasts a bright, airy lounge area, restaurant and bar with a picture window overlooking the 18th green. The clubhouse also has an elegant terrace which is perfect for al fresco dining in the summer.

“He (Braid) put a great golf course in a limited space,” notes Scott Gibson, head greenkeeper at St. Enodoc.

When you reach the 18th tee of the Church Course, pause and admire the view before striking your tee shot. Without a doubt, Braid saved the best view at St. Enodoc for last. Some golfers simply refer to that view as “unbelievable.”

And, the golf media agree with the appeal of St. Enodoc as *Golf Digest* ranks the course as the 99th best in the world; *Golf Journal* lists St. Enodoc as the 51st best course in Europe; and *National*

Club Golfer states St. Enodoc is the 17th best golf course in Great Britain & Ireland. Those rankings would put a smile on the face of the late, great Braid, who won five Open Championships in the early 1900s.



The par five 16th hole at St. Enodoc is bordered by the Camel Estuary, on the right. (photo credit: David Cannon)

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If St. Enodoc is alluring to past Open champions like Braid, Cotton, Barnes and Watson, it certainly should be for you. (MM)

**SAUNTON SANDS HOTEL:
Devon's Dynamic Destination
(in England's county of Devon)**

Perched upon the cliffs of north Devon is a spectacular hotel which is the epitome of a rural, coastal escape for the lone traveler, a young couple, or a family of four (or more) – all seeking a seaside and sand-filled break from the norm. This one-of-a-kind destination is the Saunton Sands Hotel, based on the outskirts of Braunton in north Devon. Not only is the Saunton Sands Hotel located along the north coast of Devon where it overlooks the confluence of the Atlantic Ocean and the Bristol Channel, it sits in a position of strength, high above the sands of the adjacent beach. The views from every room of this hotel out to sea are something to behold and can't be properly explained or appreciated unless you are actually there in person. To actually reach the beach, there's a downhill walking trail that traverses the cliff, eventually finishing at the foot of the beach. At low tide, it's another 5-10 minute walk to the edge of the sea. Just as the walk to the beach is 100 percent downhill, the walk back to the Saunton Sands Hotel is 100 percent uphill. But, it's a pleasant trip with your bare feet through the sand.....with sandals or flip flops in hand.



The view out to sea from one of the many balconies at the Saunton Sands Hotel.

While a trip to the beach is difficult to resist, the trip back up the hill will generate the need for a snack and a beverage, once you reach the hotel. That libation can be enjoyed as you relax on the lawns of the hotel or along its expansive pool deck.

Inside the hotel, the traditional and, at times, modern-day décor reflects the English holiday spirit and way of life. There are comfortable and spacious indoor locations where you can unwind, read the newspaper, respond to emails on your tablet or cell phone, engage in conversation with family members and newfound friends, enjoy morning coffee, eat lunch, or have a cream tea, most likely served with locally produced Devonshire cream.



Guests at the Saunton Sands Hotel have miles and miles of beach to enjoy (photo credit: Mike May)

The dining room at the Saunton Sands Hotel is an elegant venue for breakfast, lunch or dinner. And, dinner is often served in two different shifts. I suggest the late shift. After all, why feel rushed to get prepared for the final and most elegant meal of the day, which serves as a celebration of a spectacular day by the seashore. Here, you have two destination dining decisions -- you can eat inside or outside, depending on the elements at the time. While breakfast and lunch are more casual, dinner is definitely more formal, yet not pretentious. After a day of walking to and from the beach, taking a dip in the sea, playing a game of badminton or croquet on the lawns of the hotel, and lounging by the heated pool, it's a refreshing break from the norm to put on trousers, a button-down shirt, and a jacket to conclude the day while enjoying a first-class appetizer, salad, soup, entrée, and dessert followed by cheese, biscuits (which Americans call crackers), and coffee.

You won't go hungry or thirsty at the Saunton Sands Hotel. A wide selection of beers, wines, and spirits from throughout Europe give you a diverse and continental selection of adult beverages that range from scotch from Scotland, beers from Belgium and Germany, and wines from France, Spain, and Italy. As for the tea, it, most likely, is imported from India or Sri Lanka.



Guests at the Saunton Sands Hotel get to enjoy a heated pool with great views of the north Atlantic (photo credit: Mike May)

If golf is one of your favorite pursuits, then the Saunton Sands Hotel is a perfect stay-and-play venue, as two of the finest and most well regarded golf clubs in England are nearby – Saunton Golf Club and Royal North Devon Golf Club. The Saunton Golf Club is less than a mile from the hotel and the Royal North Devon Golf Club is located in the nearby town of Westward Ho!, near Bideford.

So, if seaside tranquility, exquisite cuisine, a guest-centric setting, a classy atmosphere, a beautiful beach and access to world-class links golf are your goals, then you will agree that the Saunton Sands Hotel is a dynamic destination. **(MM)**



A CORNISH STAPLE: THE PASTY

THE RECIPE & ITS HISTORY

‘The Players in the Game:’

- 1 pie shell
- chopped/cubed stewing beef or round steak
- 2 peeled potatoes -- thinly chopped

1 onion – skinned/diced

1 small turnip/rutabaga – chopped/sliced/diced

1 carrot – sliced (optional, but suggested!)

salt, pepper and a slice of butter

1 egg – beaten

‘Game Day Coaching Instructions:’

Roll out pie shell on flat surface; trim fat off beef and cut into thin strips; mix meat with vegetables in the middle of the pie shell; season with salt/pepper/butter; dampen pasty edges with water and draw up edges to meet on top of filling; pinch and twist pastry together to form neat fluted and curved pattern; cut small air vent in each side of the pasty; brush pasty with beaten egg.

‘Rules of the Game:’

Bake for 10 minutes at 425 degrees. Then reduce heat to 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

‘Game History:’

The best known food from Cornwall is its pasties. The legend is that the Devil never dared to cross over the River Tamar into Cornwall for fear of being included in a pasty made by local housewives. Pasties developed in tin mining villages. The shell of the pasty was as hard as a rock so that if dropped down a mine shaft, it would not break!

RECIPE CREDIT: Jo Hodding (Carbis Bay, Cornwall, England....and a playing member of the West Cornwall Golf Club in Lelant, Cornwall, England)

PHOTO CREDIT: Genius Kitchen

A FEW WORDS FROM MY SPONSORS...

ANTIGUA – GOLF APPAREL THAT’S BUILT TO PERFORM

While playing along the Atlantic Links, I wore golf apparel from Antigua – specifically the polo-style golf shirts and shorts. I played in glorious sunshine every day so I needed the high tech clothing. The Desert Dry technology used in the polo-style golf shirts and shorts is truly in a class by itself.



This exclusive moisture wicking fabric truly does perform under all perspiration conditions so that you will be as dry and comfortable on the 18th green as you would have been while warming up on the driving range. This apparel takes comfort and performance to a new level, to be totally honest.

The shirts and shorts are comfortable, well-designed, light weight, durable, stain resistant, stylish, and have great freedom of movement. In a nutshell, Antigua’s shirts and shorts are designed to allow the golfer’s body to move in any given direction at any given time. And, when you play golf along the Atlantic Links, your body will be bending, turning, twisting, crouching, swinging, walking, and kneeling.

Antigua shirts and shorts allow you to do all of those golfing movements. The Antigua hangtags indicate that these shirts and shorts are “apparel for your game.” Simply put, that’s an accurate statement.

GOLD TOE GOLF SOCKS -- THEY ARE SECOND-TO-NONE

Any car mechanic will tell you that the key to a smooth ride in any kind of automobile, regardless of the vehicle's sticker price, is a good set of tires, which must be balanced and properly aligned. That same theory applies to golfers, as well. Regardless of the quality of your golf clubs and the



rhythm of your swing, it's important to have a solid foundation when you step foot on any golf course, which starts with the right kind of socks. If you don't take care of your feet, then your chances of registering a good score are negatively impacted. In my opinion, the gold standard for golf socks starts and finishes with the Fairway edition of Gold Toe Golf Socks.

I don't think that I have seen so much attention to detail given to one piece of athletic apparel, which, in this case, is the golf sock. First of all, these golf socks are lightweight and very comfortable. The AquaFX® Moisture Control technology wicks away moisture from the foot keeping your feet as cool, dry, and comfortable on the 18th green as they were on the 1st tee. In this sock, there's a comfort tab where the sock meets the Achilles tendon, Y Heel reinforcement, cooling mesh panels on the forefoot, support for the arch, and a reinforced toe area. Where there's a possible issue, Gold Toe Golf Socks has addressed the situation so that it will not become an issue. The colors range from white to a mixture of light and dark color combinations.

After golf, it's time to transition to the Clubhouse edition of Gold Toe Golf Socks. These socks are comfortable, colorful, and durable. This sock, which is produced in a variety of argyle color combinations, is a longer dress sock. In this sock, there's Spandex throughout it, to provide a perfect fit for you. Just as you can see in the Fairway edition, the Clubhouse edition of the Gold Toe Golf Sock has a reinforced toe to improve comfortability. So, if you want to improve your chances of success on the golf course, invest in Gold Toe Golf Socks (GoldToe.com) They will enhance your chances of success on the golf course.

NEW BALANCE – WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

My experience of walking every hole along the Atlantic Links was made possible because I wore the correct footwear – the NBG2004 golf shoe from New Balance Athletic Shoe. Those golf shoes



were (and remain) comfortable, trendy, functional, waterproof, fashionable, striking, and appealing to the eye. On the course, these shoes gave me the necessary grip, traction and support that I needed to hit any kind of shot and walk any type of golf course terrain that I encountered. The durability issue is a key part of the design process because the game of golf is played in diverse weather conditions that range from dry to wet,

which you will find along the Atlantic Links. Producing a top-notch golf shoe is not an easy proposition, but New Balance Athletic Shoe has figured out the solution.

BIONIC GLOVES – SIMPLY THE BEST

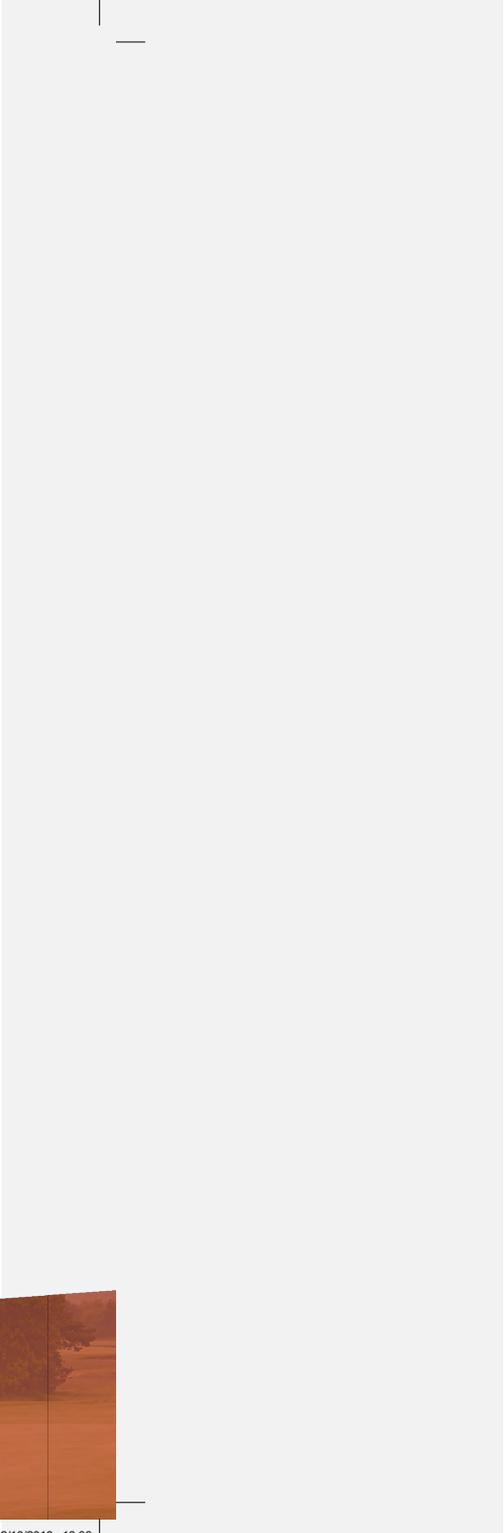
Golfers who are searching for fit, feel, and comfort in their golf glove would well-served by wearing the Performance Grip golf gloves from Bionic Glove.



These golf gloves have been designed for competitive golfers by a hand specialist who understands the importance of a greater natural fit and superior feel on the golf club. These golf gloves are made with premium Cabretta leather that's durable, supple and safe to wash. With fit, feel, grip and moisture management built in, you're guaranteed a top-quality golf glove with maximum performance

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The **more** you play

in association with



England is one of the best golf destinations in the world.

It has some of the finest courses, with outstanding quality, extraordinary variety and lasting tradition. Our members represent only the best golf clubs and resorts in the country, and, along with a network of tour operators and ground handlers we can help you plan the golf trip of a lifetime.



the **greater** it gets

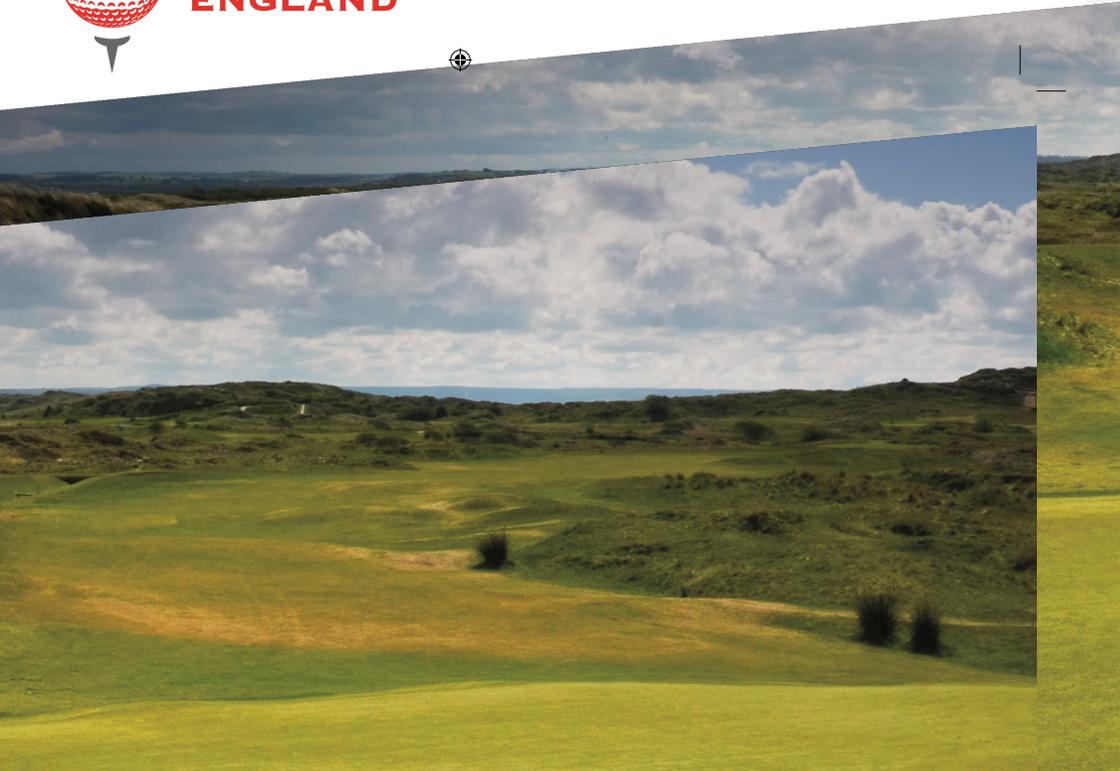


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