
THE INSIDE LOOP · FREE GUIDE

TOP 25

BUCKET-LIST GOLF COURSES

The definitive guide to golf's greatest experiences —
curated for the golfer who travels with intent.



Inside Loop has combed the world's finest fairways to bring you this exclusive selection — from the hallowed links of Scotland and Ireland, to the desert masterpieces of the Gulf, the bush courses of Africa, and the great private clubs of the United States. Each course represents the absolute pinnacle of what the game can offer.

01

Pine Valley Golf Club**Pine Valley, New Jersey, USA**

Routinely ranked the world's greatest test of golf. A haunting, isolated layout that rewards only the purest ball-strikers.

02

Augusta National Golf Club**Augusta, Georgia, USA**

Home of The Masters. Immaculate bentgrass, flowering azaleas, and an atmosphere unlike anywhere else on earth.

03

Cypress Point Club**Pebble Beach, California, USA**

Three oceanic holes on the Monterey Peninsula define the term 'bucket list.' Private, exclusive, and breathtaking.

04

St Andrews Links — Old Course**St Andrews, Scotland**

The birthplace of the game. The 17th Road Hole alone is worth the pilgrimage to the Home of Golf.

05

Royal County Down**Newcastle, Northern Ireland**

The Mourne Mountains as a backdrop. Blind drives, gorse-lined fairways, and some of the finest natural golf land in existence.

06

Royal Dornoch Golf Club**Dornoch, Highland Scotland**

Tom Watson's favourite course. Remote, windswept, and profoundly beautiful — the ultimate pilgrimage for the serious golfer.

07

Pebble Beach Golf Links**Pebble Beach, California, USA**

The most famous public course in America. Cliffside holes over Stillwater Cove belong on every golfer's lifetime list.

08

Ballybunion Golf Club — Old Course**Ballybunion, County Kerry, Ireland**

Herbert Warren Wind called it 'the finest seaside course I have ever seen.' Wild, lyrical, and essentially Irish.

09

Seminole Golf Club**Juno Beach, Florida, USA**

Ben Hogan's favourite course. Rare semi-private access makes a round here one of golf's great privileges.

10

Cabot Cliffs**Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada**

The most dramatic new course on earth. Clifftop holes above the Atlantic — modern golf at its most spectacular.

11

Hirono Golf Club**Miki, Hyogo, Japan**

Japan's most celebrated course. Charles Alison's 1930s design through pine forests near Kobe is simply masterful.

12

Turnberry Ailsa**Turnberry, South Ayrshire, Scotland**

The lighthouse. The Ailsa Craig. Watson vs. Nicklaus in '77. Turnberry's setting is the stuff of legend.

13

Kingsbarns Golf Links**St Andrews, Fife, Scotland**

Walk in the footsteps of the game's founders. A modern links carved from ancient farmland with the North Sea at every turn.

14

North Berwick Golf Club — West Links**North Berwick, East Lothian, Scotland**

Template holes that architects still copy. Play the original Redan on this venerable East Lothian links.

15

Oakmont Country Club

Oakmont, Pennsylvania, USA

The hardest major-championship test in America. Church Pew bunkers and relentlessly fast greens are the stuff of nightmares.

16

Oitavos Dunes

Cascais, Lisbon Coast, Portugal

Europe's finest dunes course. Arthur Hills wove 18 holes through protected Sintra-Cascais Natural Park like a dream.

17

Monte Rei — North Course

Vila Nova de Cacela, Algarve, Portugal

Jack Nicklaus's Portuguese masterwork. Rolling terrain, breathtaking Algarve views, and a resort experience to match.

18

Leopard Creek Country Club

Mpumalanga, South Africa

Crocodiles in the water hazards. The Crocodile River borders three holes at this extraordinary bush setting near Kruger Park.

19

Emirates Golf Club — Majlis Course

Dubai, UAE

The original desert golf course. Home of the Dubai Desert Classic — watching the skyline from the 18th fairway is unforgettable.

20

Yas Links Abu Dhabi

Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Kyle Phillips sculpted a genuine links from desert sand. The site of a European Tour event with Arabian Gulf views.

21

Morfontaine Golf Club

Hauts-de-France, France

France's finest course. Tom Simpson's 1927 layout through Chantilly forest remains Europe's best-kept secret.

22

Merion Golf Club — East Course

Ardmore, Pennsylvania, USA

Wicker baskets instead of flags. Five US Opens including Jones's Grand Slam in 1930. Sacred ground.

23

Fancourt — The Links

George, Western Cape, South Africa

Gary Player's pet project — the finest resort course in Africa, with world-class lodge accommodation to match.

24

Winged Foot Golf Club — West Course

Mamaroneck, New York, USA

A.W. Tillinghast's masterpiece. Narrow fairways, deep bunkers, and a finishing stretch that has broken countless champions.

25

Sand Hills Golf Club

Mullen, Nebraska, USA

The minimalist ideal. Coore & Crenshaw's 1995 design proved that sand country golf didn't belong only in Scotland.

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