

*Introducing a New Adventure ...*

New Zealand





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## New Zealand

**For over 30 years**, Adventures In Golf has arranged customized golfing vacations to Britain, Ireland and Western Europe, offering unmatched access to revered courses, including **our own allocation of St. Andrews Old Course tee times**. Throughout these thirty years, we have become the **preferred tour company** for travelers who appreciate **superb service** as much as **exceptional golf**. But, as many of our clients know – magnificent and historic golf courses are not limited to **Britain – the original birthplace of golf**. These defining attributes of great courses extend to other members of this British Commonwealth and not surprisingly - **New Zealand**.

**Based on this knowledge and our clients’ repeated requests**, we have decided to expand our programs to **New Zealand**, which has emerged as one of the world’s top year-round golf destinations, boasting world-ranked courses such as **Cape Kidnappers** and **Kauri Cliffs**. In addition to these exceptional tracks, there are certainly many other worthy layouts such as: **Wairakei**, ranked by Golf Digest as a top 100 course outside of the US; **Carrington GC**, an ocean-side course with natural gently sloping land; the new private **Hills Course** which just hosted the **NZ Open**; and, an Alister MacKenzie re-design in the heart of the **North Island**. To ensure our success, we have teamed with **New Zealand-based SeasoNZ**, a luxury tour organization who shares our passion ... to provide the ultimate Kiwi golfing experience.

**As with all of our customized itineraries**, we will secure tee times for you on famous courses and hidden gems, creating a carefully designed itinerary while providing attentive service for every phase of your dream trip. And with the **exclusive partnership with SeasoNZ**, you will **receive unsurpassed local knowledge** and access to some exclusive properties, complementing your golf experience with the best of what **New Zealand** has to offer.

**Are you looking for more than just golf for you and your spouse, or your golfing buddies?** Head to New Zealand, where the dollar is still very strong and the non-golfing activities rival any country in the world. New Zealand offers some of the **world’s best fly & deep sea fishing**, wild game hunting, **hiking & rock climbing**, skiing & snowboarding, **stomach-tightening jet boat tours**, scuba diving, surfing, whitewater rafting, hang-gliding, skydiving, **glacier walking**, base & bungee jumping, boutique-style shopping, **outstanding wineries - known for their “signature” sauvignon blanc**, world-renowned national parks, geothermal wonders, **and many other natural phenomenon which will take your breath away**.

**Contact us today for a customized proposal to New Zealand, or to any other AIG destination - 1.877.424.7320**



## News Update

Global warming may have adverse implications for us all, **but the milder winters attributed to it bring advantages in Britain and Ireland.** Spring comes early and that has the happy effect of extending our playing season. In late-February, as we write, the snow-drops are out, the early daffodils are pushing through and the grass has started to grow! Fairways will soon need cutting and before long greens will also require attention.

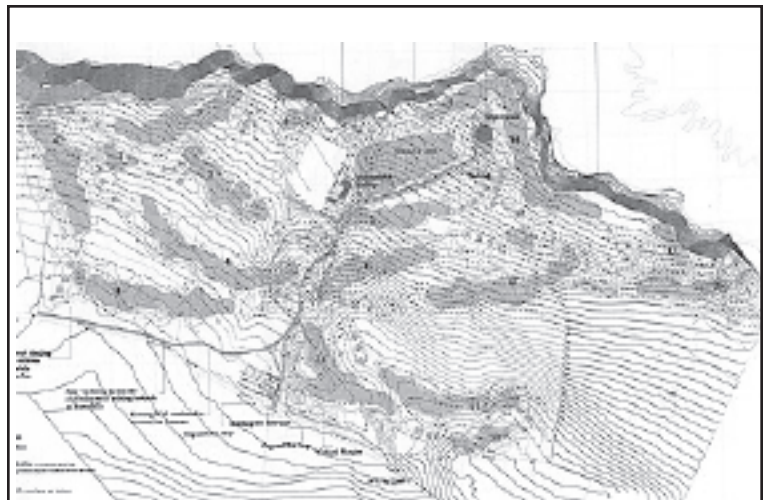
**Last Spring,** we mentioned that **Donald Trump** had big plans for a new resort in the Cruden Bay area. Due to reluctance on the part of some locals to embrace the entrepreneur's vision, **the project is still on the drawing board however.** Local opinion has been split with some believing the area badly needs the additional jobs the project would generate. Others are adamant that the scale of the development would destroy the character of the area, which attracted Trump in the first place.

Similarly, **Peter de Savary** has yet to convince the planners in Dornoch that his ambitious scheme for the re-development of the **Royal Golf Hotel** is the right way to go. The scheduled unveiling of the refurbished hotel had been planned for Spring 2008, **but 2009 is now looking more realistic.** Regular visitors

to the ancient burgh will notice this year, however, that the small apartment complex designed for the north end of Castle Street has been completed. This has been built on the site of a former gas station and has met with broad approval from locals. However, a note of disappointment was sounded when the **Burghfield Hotel** was acquired by the **Highland University for academic use.** No more memorable nights in the hotel bar – unless you happen to be a student of course.

The **Castle Course**, the 7th course operated by St Andrews Links Trust, **will open later this year** and aspires to be on a par with **Kingsbarns.** Designed by **Scottish architect David MacLay Kidd** and enjoying a location similar to its acclaimed neighbor, the new layout offers **fabulous views over St Andrews town** and bay towards the Highland hills. With sweeping fairways, roller-coaster greens, immaculate playing conditions and fine facilities it should mature into a substantial attraction. **Plan on an extra night in St Andrews!**

**Kidd,** architect of **Bandon Dunes** on the West Coast of America, has created a typical Scottish golf experience. Each hole has a choice of five tees and the course will play between about 5300-7200 yards. **With 110 acres of wild rough,** local wildlife has been positively encouraged. Deer, birds of prey, partridge and songbirds all inhabit the site, which is adorned by wild flowers and was once part of a boar-hunting ground for Pictish kings. More recently, the **Moneypennys,** a prominent local family, acquired the land from the Prior of St Andrews in 1211 and held it for centuries. In keeping with the expectations of the modern game, **the clubhouse is first class** with comfort, convenience and service the order of the day – from **baggage handling, to practice facilities** to the excellent hot and cold snacks on offer at the **halfway house.**



Plan of the Castle Course drawn by David McLay Kidd Golf Design. The clubhouse is situated at the point marked by the circle.

We look forward this summer to some excellent championship golf over several of our finest courses.

**Highlights** include the **British Amateur at Turnberry** in June followed in July by the **Open Championship at Royal Birkdale** and the **British Seniors Open at Royal Troon**. The **Seniors Amateur** then visits **Royal Cinque Ports** and **Princes** in August. The **ladies** hold their professional championship at **Sunningdale**, while the **amateurs** visit **North Berwick**. Lastly, **St Andrews** plays host to the **Curtis Cup** at the end of May.



As we previously reported, **Turnberry** has **strengthened** the **Ailsa Course** with additional **tees** and **bunkers** and a **re-routing** of the **16th hole** in preparation for the 2009 Open Championship. **Royal Birkdale**, as our clients well know, is one of **Britain's finest golf clubs** and indeed has on occasion been voted the No. 1 course in Britain. It is among the best in the world, having previously hosted **two Ryder Cups**, the **Walker and Curtis Cups**, the **Women's British Open** and on **eight occasions** the **Open Championship**. It will test the best this summer. **Sandwich** is an area steeped in

golf with **Royal St George's** a regular host of the Open Championship. **The R&A have**

**announced that the Open will return here for the 14th time in 2011.** Course changes already implemented in anticipation of this event include five new championship tees and some reconfiguration of the bunkering on the 18th hole. **The changes stretch the course to over 7200 yards.**

People sometimes forget, though, that both **Royal Cinque Ports** and **Princes** are also **former Open venues**, so the seniors are treading in famous footsteps too.

The end of an era came to pass at **Greywalls** as owners **Giles and Ros Weaver** decided to take the

grand old house in a new direction by announcing a change to rental on an exclusive-use basis.

In other ways, it will be business as usual so this represents an excellent opportunity for small to medium sized groups to take over a wonderful property for a number of days while sampling some of the best golf in Scotland right on the doorstep. **The admirable Sue Prime has moved on, but only as far as Archerfield House!**

The **deVere** group has agreed the purchase of the **St Andrews Golf Hotel**. Doubtless their

marketing clout and flair for interior design will take this fine property to the next level. **CEO Robert Cook** has been looking for a St Andrews base for some time and, as Robert is an ardent fan of **Kingsbarns** and the St Andrews courses, we expect the new hotel will receive frequent visits from the boss.

It is seven years since the **American Society of Golf Course Architects** last crossed the pond as a group. **But they will be back in March** to tour Scotland and introduce another generation of talented designers to the lessons on offer from the creators of the noble links.



**Turnberry, Prestwick, Muirfield, North Berwick, Kingsbarns, St Andrews, Cruden Bay, and Royal Dornoch** will come under scrutiny before a few hardy souls continue to **Loch Lomond** and the new **Carrick Course**. It is 28 years since the group made their first study visit to Britain and they followed a similar itinerary back then. How time flies!

**The Links Cuppers**, by contrast, will be congregating in September at **The Broadmoor** for this year's Amateur Invitational. That will be fun – and it will reduce travel for those West-coasters who in previous years have made the longest journeys to Scotland. Now in its fifteenth year, the event has visited **Turnberry, Gleneagles, Sea Island, and The Homestead** so we look forward to a new challenge in Colorado.

Husband and wife team, **Christy and Moira Tighe**, have been welcoming guests to **Cromleach House** near Sligo in Ireland for nearly 30 years. From its hillside setting looking down over **Lough Arrow**, Cromleach has always proved itself a great base from which to play **Enniscrone** and **County Sligo GC** (Rosses Point). A past winner of many awards – including **Irish Chef of the Year**, **Irish Restaurant of the Year** and **Irish Hotel of the Year** – the past couple of years have seen further improvements. The updated restaurant, new bar and kitchen now provide a variety of food options all day, with an extremely reasonably-priced Table d'Hote menu complementing the traditional a la carte offering.

**In July 2007**, fifteen new bedrooms were opened and by June this year expansion will be completed giving a **total of 68**

**rooms** – comprising Standard, Superior and Deluxe categories. **Standard rooms** have king or twin beds and have covered terraces. **Superiors** are south-facing and most have private balconies and views over Lough Arrow. **Deluxe** rooms are the most spacious, with private balconies and stunning south-facing views over the lough to the Bricklieve Mountains. All bedrooms have LCD televisions, free broadband access and under-floor heating.

As part of the final development, the Tighes are also adding a **spa with treatment rooms, steam rooms and sauna**. Together with understated but exceptional service, Cromleach is without doubt one of the best places to stay in North West Ireland.

**A 10 million Euro** investment program has added 39 extra suites and bedrooms to the 4 star



**Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links** near Dublin. Once the home to members of the **Jameson whiskey** dynasty, the hotel is ideally located for the airport, Dublin City, **Portmarnock GC** and **The Island Club**. It also boasts its own championship course, designed by Bernhard Langer and incorporating some of the original holes built for the Jameson family's private course. **This dated back to 1858, making it one of the oldest layouts in Ireland.**

**Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Links** in Donegal has joined the Hotel Partners network. The Casey family, who own and have run Rosapenna very successfully for the past 26 years, selected the management group as safe hands to take their beloved hotel into the future. With the addition in recent years of a second 18-hole golf course (**Sandy Hills Links**) to complement the **Old Tom Morris** original, the resort provides an ideal base for those golfers that want to explore the island's ruggedly beautiful north-west.

**European Ryder Cup** captain **Nick Faldo** has been busy designing the championship course for the new **Lough Erne Golf Club** in Northern Ireland. The resort is situated near **Enniskillen** and the border with the Irish Republic, in the heart of Ulster's Lakeland. Already

dubbed as Ireland's answer to Loch Lomond (no doubt by some enthusiastic ad-man) the course is scheduled to open this year. The hotel has 69 bedrooms (including 26 luxury suites) and is already open for business. **Twenty-five lodges** offer a choice of 2 or 3 bedrooms and a five-star luxury spa is also available to residents.

Interesting times continue for the **Fairmont St Andrews** resort (formerly St Andrews Bay), with £12 million of additional investment into the property. In September 2007, a new **Sports Bar** opened, providing an excellent restaurant for informal dining. By the time of publication, the majority of the resort should have undergone full refurbishment. Authentic traditional décor with a modern twist will see the main atrium, including the **Squire Restaurant**, changing to a

warmer and more intimate ambience. All sea view rooms and suites will reflect the new style, with the remaining bedrooms (over 200 in total) to be completed during the winter of 2008/9.

**The Spa** has not lost out: **twelve new treatment rooms** and a **relaxation lounge** are being added, while the fitness centre will boast 28 state-of-the-art exercise machines and a new studio. Furthermore, **The Torrance Course**, opened in 2001, will be **closed throughout the 2008 season for a major upgrade** – tee re-building and realignment, drainage improvements, bunker re-design and a new irrigation system. Its sister course – The Devlin – will be open for business as usual.

AIG clients can take advantage of



a **special offer** for new bookings at the **Fairmont** this year – **stay 4 nights but pay for only 3!!** **Contact us for more details.**

'**Golf Monthly**' recently voted the **Lundin Golf Club** near St Andrews its Clubhouse of the Year. To quote the magazine: "Straight off the 18th into the welcoming warmth of a luxury power shower. Ten minutes later and you're snuggled into a high-backed leather chair, with a pint in hand, a plate of freshly-caught local lobster on the way and views across the Firth of Forth in front of you..."

A delighted Club Secretary **Alistair Macdonald** commented "The club has been in existence since 1868 and the clubhouse has stood nearly as long, so it was decided in 2004 that it deserved an upgrade!" **Brand new members' and visitors' changing rooms** have been built, while the lounge and dining areas – which look out over the course and **Firth of Forth** towards

Edinburgh – have also been upgraded. Although below the radar for most visiting Americans, the course is **certainly deserving of more attention.** A long-time final qualifying venue for the Open Championship "**Lundie**" **Links** is a fun but still testing layout. Not overly-long, but OB and meandering streams necessitate good strategy and well-aimed shots. Views across the water towards **Muirfield** and **North Berwick** can be sublime – with the 14th tee even affording an elevated vantage point from which every hole on the course can be seen!



### **Guaranteed Old Course Tee Times**

**Are you still entertaining a trip to Scotland in 2008?** Then, **contact us today** to check our Old Course availability. **We are one of only eight companies in the world** to receive an allocation of Old Course tee times. As you peruse this newsletter, we still have limited availability in **June, July, August,** & even a fourball spot in **September!**

**Please do not confuse a guaranteed tee time with the Ballot.** We have clients regularly mention the Ballot in lieu of an actual tee time, but they are certainly not interchangeable. **The Ballot is basically a lottery system,** in which the Links Trust draws names from a list on a daily basis ... there are some winners ... and some losers. Although we have had very good experience when Balloting our clients over the years – **there is certainly no way to guarantee success.** And, when trying to access the Old Course in the summer months your Ballot application is competing with dozens of others on the same day. **So, be sure to inquire as to our current guaranteed tee time availability** – as unless the course closes (rarely happens) – you will be **guaranteed** to tee it up on the **Old Course** with an **AIG tee time.**



Take a look inside for information about our exciting new destination!!



Since 1977, Adventures In Golf has customized golfing itineraries for thousands of parties, large and small, with each program carefully designed to maximize the enjoyment of your dream trip – to Britain, Ireland, or other destinations.

Our key staff, with over 130 years of combined travel experience and offices in the United States, England, & Scotland, offer peerless service and in-depth knowledge of these historic countries and their golf courses. Additionally, we work closely with our hotel, transport, and golf partners to make certain you receive an exceptional vacationing experience. You state your objectives - we ensure they are met.

**Adventures In Golf with offices in: Scotland, England, & USA**

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