



150 GOLF COURSES

**YOU NEED
TO VISIT BEFORE
YOU DIE**

By Stefanie Waldek

Lannoo

Golf, more than any other sport, has an intimate relationship with place because it is inextricably tied to the landscape. Mother Nature herself could be considered a golfer's opponent; her rolling hills, sea breezes, and atmospheric pressure challenge all who face her. This is why golf courses are found in some of the world's most scenic locations.

Great masters such as Donald Ross, Pete and Alice Dye, and Tom Fazio have embraced the relationship between the natural site and the game, creating hazards that are not insurmountable, yet challenging enough to unnerve even veterans of the sport.

When it comes to ranking golf courses, it's entirely a subjective matter. For some it's all about the landscape or the conditions of the greens, while others may give greater importance to historical value. In *150 Golf Courses You Need to Visit Before You Die*, I have gathered an array of golf courses, from those in beautiful settings, often with an offbeat panache, to those traditionally considered "the best courses in the world."

I hope expert golfers, novice golfers, and even non-golfers will enjoy this collection of exceptional courses across the globe.

OVERVIEW

THE AMERICAS

ARGENTINA

001 CHAPELCO GOLF & RESORT P.10

**002 LLAO LLAO RESORT,
GOLF, & SPA** P.14

003 USHUAIA GOLF CLUB P.15

BRAZIL

**004 GÁVEA GOLF
AND COUNTRY CLUB** P.16

005 TERRAVISTA GOLF COURSE P.17

CANADA

**006 THE FAIRMONT BANFF
SPRINGS GOLF COURSE:
STANLEY THOMPSON** P.18

**007 FURRY CREEK GOLF
& COUNTRY CLUB** P.19

**008 KANANASKIS COUNTRY
GOLF COURSE: MOUNT KIDD** P.20

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

009 PUNTA ESPADA GOLF CLUB P.21

MEXICO

**010 DIAMANTE CABO
SAN LUCAS: DUNES** P.23

011 QUIVIRA GOLF CLUB P.24

PERU

012 LIMA GOLF CLUB P.28

USA

013 ARROWHEAD GOLF COURSE P.29

**014 BANDON DUNES GOLF
RESORT: OLD MACDONALD** P.32

015 BLACK JACK'S CROSSING P.33

**016 THE BROADMOOR
GOLF CLUB: EAST** P.34

017 COEUR D'ALENE RESORT P.35

**018 FAIRMONT GRAND
DEL MAR: GRAND GOLF CLUB** P.36

**019 FOUR SEASONS
RESORT LANAI: MANELE** P.40

**020 FOUR SEASONS RESORT
HUALALAI** P.44

**021 FURNACE CREEK GOLF
COURSE AT DEATH VALLEY** P.45

022 GOLD MOUNTAIN: OLYMPIC P.46

**023 INDIAN WELLS
GOLF RESORT: PLAYERS** P.50

**024 KAPALUA PLANTATION
COURSE** P.51

**025 KIAWAH ISLAND:
OCEAN COURSE** P.52

**026 LOS ALAMOS COUNTY
GOLF COURSE** P.53

**027 MAUNA KEA
GOLF COURSE** P.54

028 PGA WEST: STADIUM P.56

**029 PAYNE'S VALLEY
GOLF COURSE** P.57

030 OJAI VALLEY INN P.60

**031 PEBBLE BEACH
GOLF LINKS** P.62

032 PINEHURST NO. 2 P.64

**033 PRIMLAND RESORT:
HIGHLAND COURSE** P.68

034 SEDONA GOLF RESORT P.69

**035 SILVIES VALLEY RANCH:
HANKINS AND CRADDOCK** P.71

036 TORREY PINES: SOUTH P.72

OVERVIEW

AFRICA

EGYPT

037 MARRIOTT MENA HOUSE GOLF COURSE P.73

KENYA

038 WINDSOR GOLF HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB P.74

MAURITIUS

039 ÎLE AUX CERFS GOLF CLUB P.75

040 TAMARINA GOLF CLUB P.76

NAMIBIA

041 OMEYA GOLF CLUB P.80

SEYCHELLES

042 CONSTANCE LEMURIA GOLF COURSE P.81

SOUTH AFRICA

043 ARABELLA GOLF CLUB P.82

044 GARY PLAYER COUNTRY CLUB P.83

045 LEOPARD CREEK COUNTRY CLUB P.85

046 PEZULA CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE P.86

047 PEARL VALLEY: JACK NICKLAUS SIGNATURE GOLF COURSE P.87

048 PINNACLE POINT GOLF CLUB: FYNBOS P.90

049 SKUKUZA GOLF CLUB P.94

TANZANIA

050 SEA CLIFF RESORT & SPA P.96

UGANDA

051 LAKE VICTORIA SERENA GOLF RESORT & SPA P.97

ZIMBABWE

052 ROYAL HARARE GOLF CLUB P.98

ASIA

BHUTAN

053 ROYAL THIMPHU GOLF CLUB P.102

CAMBODIA

054 PHOKEETHRA COUNTRY CLUB P.103

CHINA

055 SHANQIN BAY GOLF CLUB P.104

056 YALONG BAY GOLF CLUB P.105

HONG KONG

057 THE CLEARWATER BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB P.106

058 JOCKEY CLUB KAU SAI CHAU: NORTH P.107

INDIA

059 GULMARG GOLF CLUB P.109

060 LALIT GOLF & SPA RESORT P.110

INDONESIA

061 BALI NATIONAL GOLF CLUB P.111

062 HANDARA GOLF & RESORT BALI P.114

063 MERAPI GOLF YOGYAKARTA P.115

MALAYSIA

064 THE ELS CLUB TELUK DATAI: RAINFOREST P.118

065 MOUNT KINABALU GOLF CLUB P.119

066 ROYAL SELANGOR GOLF CLUB P.120

067 TEMPLER PARK COUNTRY CLUB P.121

068 TPC KUALA LUMPUR: WEST P.122

QATAR

069 EDUCATION CITY GOLF CLUB P.123

SINGAPORE

070 MARINA BAY GOLF COURSE P.124

071 SENTOSA GOLF CLUB: SERAPONG P.125

SOUTH KOREA

072 JUNG MUN GOLF CLUB P.126

OVERVIEW

SRI LANKA		
073 VICTORIA GOLF AND COUNTRY RESORT	P.127	
THAILAND		
074 AYODHYA LINKS	P.128	
075 BLACK MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB	P.132	
076 SIAM COUNTRY CLUB: OLD HOUSE	P.133	
UAE		
077 DUBAI CREEK GOLF & YACHT CLUB: CHAMPIONSHIP	P.134	
078 EMIRATES GOLF CLUB: MAJLIS	P.136	
VIETNAM		
079 BA NA HILLS GOLF CLUB	P.137	
080 DAI LAI STAR GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	P.138	
081 KN GOLF LINKS CAM RANH: THE LINKS	P.139	
082 LAGUNA GOLF LĂNG CỎ	P.142	
083 VINPEARL GOLF NHA TRANG	P.143	
EUROPE		
AUSTRIA		
084 GOLF CLUB WILDER KAISER	P.144	
BELGIUM		
085 ROYAL LIMBURG GOLF CLUB	p.145	
BULGARIA		
086 THRACIAN CLIFFS GOLF & BEACH RESORT	P.146	
FRANCE		
087 CHAMONIX GOLF CLUB	P.149	
088 GOLF BLUEGREEN PLÉNEUF-VAL-ANDRÉ	P.150	
089 GOLF D'ÉTRETAT	P.154	
090 LE GOLF NATIONAL: ALBATROS	P.155	
091 GOLF DE SPÉRONE	P.156	
GREECE		
092 COSTA NAVARINO: THE DUNES	P.160	
ICELAND		
093 BORGARNES GOLF COURSE	P.161	
094 KEILIR GOLF COURSE	P.162	
095 WESTMAN ISLAND GOLF CLUB	P.166	
IRELAND		
096 BALLYBUNION GOLF CLUB: OLD	P.167	
097 LAHINCH GOLF CLUB: OLD	P.170	
098 OLD HEAD GOLF LINKS	P.172	
099 PORTMARNOCK GOLF CLUB: CHAMPIONSHIP	P.173	
ITALY		
100 CERVINO GOLF CLUB	P.174	
101 GOLF CLUB ALTA BADIA	P.175	
102 GOLF CLUB CASTELFALFI: MOUNTAIN	P.176	
103 GOLF CLUB COURMAYEUR ET GRANDES JORASSES	P.177	
104 UNA POGGIO DEI MEDICI GOLF CLUB	P.178	
THE NETHERLANDS		
105 KONINKLIJKE HAAGSCHE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB: ROYAL HAGUE	P.179	
NORWAY		
106 LOFOTEN LINKS	P.180	
107 TROMSØ GOLF CLUB	P.181	
PORTUGAL		
108 MONTEI REI GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB: NORTH	P.182	
109 TROIA GOLF	P.187	
RUSSIA		
110 MOSCOW COUNTRY CLUB	P.190	
SPAIN		
111 ABAMA GOLF	P.191	
112 ALCANADA GOLF CLUB	P.192	

OVERVIEW

113 FINCA CORTESIN	P.193
114 REAL CLUB VALDERRAMA	P.196
115 REAL GUADALHORCE CLUB DE GOLF	P.197
SWEDEN	
116 BRO HOF SLOTT GOLF CLUB: STADIUM	P.198
SWITZERLAND	
117 ANDERMATT SWISS ALPS GOLF COURSE	P.199
118 GOLF CLUB BAD RAGAZ: CHAMPIONSHIP	P.200
119 GOLFCLUB ENGELBERG-TITLIS	P.204
TURKEY	
120 LYKIA LINKS	P.205
UNITED KINGDOM	
121 ARDGLASS GOLF CLUB	P.206
122 GLENEAGLES: KING'S	P.207
123 ROYAL DORNOCH: CHAMPIONSHIP	P.208
124 MUIRFIELD	P.209
125 ROYAL LYTHAM & ST. ANNES GOLF CLUB	P.212
126 ST. ANDREWS LINKS: OLD COURSE	P.213
127 SUNNINGDALE: OLD	P.214
128 TRUMP INTERNATIONAL GOLF LINKS SCOTLAND	P.218
129 TRUMP TURNBERRY RESORT: AILSA	P.219
130 WHALSAY GOLF CLUB	P.220

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

131 BARNBOUGLE: DUNES	P.222
132 CAPE WICKHAM GOLF LINKS	P.223
133 CHRISTMAS ISLAND GOLF COURSE	P.224
134 COOPER PEDY OPAL FIELDS GOLF CLUB	p225
135 GRANGE GOLF CLUB: WEST	P.226
136 KINGSTON HEATH	P.227
137 LORD HOWE ISLAND GOLF CLUB	P.230
138 NEW SOUTH WALES GOLF CLUB	P.232
139 NULLARBOR LINKS	P.233
140 ROTTNEST ISLAND GOLF CLUB	p234
141 THE ROYAL ADELAIDE GOLF CLUB	P.235
142 13TH BEACH: BEACH	P.236
143 JOONDALUP RESORT COUNTRY CLUB	P.237

NEW ZEALAND

144 CAPE KIDNAPPERS	P.238
145 THE HILLS	P.242
146 JACK'S POINT	P.243
147 KAURI CLIFFS	P.244
148 MILLBROOK RESORT	P.248
149 PARAPARAUMU BEACH GOLF CLUB	P.249

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

150 LAO LAO BAY GOLF RESORT: EAST COURSE	P.252
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11

QUIVIRA GOLF CLUB

Prédio Paraíso Escondido S/N,
23450 Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

You work your way up and down the scenic desert cliffs at this beachside course.

For his sixth course in Los Cabos, Mexico, Jack Nicklaus went big on the views. According to some golfers, Quivira Golf Club, named for the mythical city of gold sought by Spanish conquistador Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, rivals California's acclaimed Pebble Beach in its scenic beauty. The course starts at a beachfront clubhouse before ascending the desert cliffs, running along their tops in what seems to be a gravity-defying manner (at least from the air), then descending back down to the beach. The resulting views are awe-inspiring, no matter how you think this course compares to Pebble Beach. Keep an eye out for whales as you play.









12 LIMA GOLF CLUB

770 Avenida Camino Real, San Isidro 15073, Peru

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

It is a haven of tranquility and beauty in the heart of bustling Lima.

Lima is one of the most exclusive golf destinations, with many of its courses restricted to members only. However, there are a few loopholes for visitors. For instance, the historic Lima Golf Club, founded in 1924, is open to guests staying at the Country Club Lima Hotel, a heritage-protected establishment. The course is located bang in the middle of the residential San Isidro neighborhood—it grew around the course—and it's one of the largest green spaces in the city today. Because of its exclusivity, it's rarely crowded, which is a delight for those who play it.



13**ARROWHEAD
GOLF COURSE**

10850 Sundown Trail, Littleton, Colorado 80125, USA

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

The towering
red sandstone
rock formations
provide a stunning
atmosphere.

Geology is the name of the game at Arrowhead Golf Course in Colorado. The course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., runs parallel to some of the most sublime rock formations in the United States. Sheets of red rocks called flatirons jut out of the Earth at a severe angle, contrasting the rolling fairways and greens—it's hard to fathom the strength of Mother Nature's cataclysmic forces that led to this landscape. If you wanted to put down your club and just marvel in the beauty here, no one would blame you.







14

**BANDON DUNES
GOLF RESORT: OLD
MACDONALD**

57744 Round Lake Road, Bandon, Oregon 97411, USA

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

Designers Tom Doak and Jim Urbina channel the spirit of Charles Blair Macdonald at this course.



Mike Keiser, owner of Bandon Dunes Resort in Oregon, posed a simple question (perhaps figuratively, if not literally): “What if Charles Blair Macdonald built a course here?” Given that the great golf architect died in 1939, we will never actually know. But Tom Doak and Jim Urbina gave it their best guess, designing the Old Macdonald Course, the fourth at the resort, in Macdonald’s iconic style. They ended up pulling together a true links course, with many holes here drawing inspiration from some of the most famous holes in the history of golf—the template hole method created by Macdonald himself.

15**BLACK JACK'S
CROSSING**

21701 FM 170 Lajitas, Texas 79852, USA

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

At this extremely remote course you're transported back to the days of the Wild West.

Unless you have a private jet, it's going to take some time to get to the farthest-flung golf course in Texas. Black Jack's Crossing at the Lajitas Golf Resort is located at the Mexican border in southwest Texas, a five-hour drive from El Paso and a seven-hour drive from San Antonio. But the payoff is worth the journey. Not only are you golfing amid the dramatic, Mars-like landscape of the Chihuahuan Desert, you're right next to Big Bend National Park. The resort itself is built around the former Lajitas Trading Post, a 19th-century structure that now houses the Pro Shop and the Yates Longhorn Museum. You can see bullet holes in its walls from the Wild West days—yeehaw indeed.



20

FOUR SEASONS RESORT HUALALAI

72-100 Ka'upulehu Drive, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740, USA

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

This is a quintessential Hawaiian course with lush greenery, rocky lava fields, and sea views.

In terms of the scenery, the pacing is just right at the Four Seasons Hualalai Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus (it's a Signature Course). You begin in the green hills with looming mountains above you, then emerge into the black lava fields emblematic of the Big Island. Finally, you approach the sea—the 17th hole is the signature, played out toward the ocean with white-sand bunkers and craggy lava rocks throughout. In the winter, it's not uncommon to see whales swimming by as you play. The fact that the Champions Tour is hosted by the course each year is a testament to the great golf you'll play here.



21

FURNACE CREEK GOLF COURSE AT DEATH VALLEY

Death Valley National Park,
Highway 190, Death Valley, California 92328, USA

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

Where else can you
play 214 feet below
sea level?



When golfers need to take elevation into consideration, it's usually because they're much higher than sea level. That's not the case at Furnace Creek, the world's lowest-elevation golf course at 214 feet below sea level. So, while the short, flat course might not be too difficult in itself, players need to deal with the extra barometric pressure, which translates to some wonky golf physics. On top of that, Death Valley has recorded the highest temperature in the world: 130°F. Needless to say, conditions are tough here, so golfers can certainly brag about making it through a full round.





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