

Golfing Destinations in India MAJOR 18-HOLE GOLF COURSES



Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Eicher Goodearth Private Limited India



ABOUT THE BOOK

Golfing in India goes back to the colonial period when the Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) was founded in 1829 – the first golf club established outside the British Isles. *Golfing Destinations in India*, intended for the golf tourist, both international and domestic, catalogues the major 18-hole golf courses in the country, highlighting their key features and giving necessary information, as well as listing the tourist attractions around the courses to project them as 'total' holiday destinations.

The 42 courses covered here have been listed according to their location – courses in north, south, east and west India.

The handy booklet includes a chapter on the History of Golf and the list of Indian Golf Tourism Association (IGTA) tour operators.

AN EICHER GOODEARTH PUBLICATION

Copyright © 2014 Eicher Goodearth Private Limited, India ISBN 978-93-80262-72-7

Editor and Publisher: Swati Mitra

Design: Ayesha Sarkar Design Studio Editorial Team: Nidhi Dhingra, Parvati Sharma, Geetika Sachdev, Trinaa Prasad

Photographs: Krishna Roy pp 54-55; Manoj Chhabra p 33A, Sumita Roy pp 5, 52, 53A

Special thanks to: IGTA and individual golf clubs for information and images

Great care has been taken in the compilation, updation and validation of information, and every effort has been made to ensure that all information is as up-to-date as possible at the time of going to press. However, details like green fees and timings may change. **We recommend you check with the Club for latest information before you visit.** Most clubs also have their own website.

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The Publishers would be happy to receive suggestions and corrections for inclusion in the next edition. Please write to goodearthbooks@eicher.in.



Printed by Samrat Offset Pvt Ltd, New Delhi on behalf of Eicher Goodearth Pvt Ltd, India

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History of Golf

A tolerable day, a tolerable green, a tolerable opponent – they supply, or ought to supply, all that any reasonably constituted human should require in the way of entertainment. Arthur James, First Earl of Balfour (1848–1930) I the winter of 1297, a small Dutch town called Loenen aan de Vecht may have witnessed a golf-like game. Players hit a leather ball with a stick into a target several hundred yards away, and the one to manage it in the least number of strokes was declared the winner. A similar game is also said to have been played in continental Europe in the 17th century. It is generally accepted, however, that the modern game of golf is a Scottish invention. Scotland's **Royal and Ancient Golf Club** of St Andrews, established in 1754, is among the oldest and most prestigious golf clubs in the world, and something of a pilgrimage for golfing enthusiasts.



HISTORY OF GOLF



Stick and ball games have been around for many centuries, but golf as we know it today, played over 18 holes, clearly originated in Scotland. - A spokesperson for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

The word *golf*, or *gouf* in Scots, is said to be a corruption of the Dutch '*kolf*' or '*colve*' meaning stick, club or bat.

Interestingly, the earliest records of the game in Scotland do not suggest that the game had a welcoming reception. Through an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1457, King James II prohibited the playing of the games of gowf and football, citing them as distractions from archery the practice of which was necessary for military purposes. In the 1560s, Mary, Queen of Scots, was accused by her political enemies of playing golf, a 'sport clearly unsuitable to women'. But slowly, acceptance for the sport grew. In 1603, the Prince of Wales and his courtiers played golf at Blackheath, London. By the 19th century, the game's popularity was growing exponentially. In 1880, England had 12 courses; by 1887, it had 50; and over 1,000 by 1914.

Golf was taken by British colonisers to their colonies, from India to the United States of America. The Royal Calcutta Golf Club (1829) and a club at Pau (1856) in south-west France are the oldest golf clubs outside the British Isles.

Despite its popularity, golf has retained an aura of exclusivity. It is a gentleman's game, perhaps unlike any other, for its inherent sportsmanship. Players are known to frequently call penalties on themselves. All-time greats like Bobby Jones and Greg Norman have sacrificed huge tournament victories by penalising themselves when no cameras or officials were watching. Bobby Jones famously said, 'When you cheat in golf, the only person you are cheating is yourself'.







Golf in India

Golf was brought to India by British colonisers, making it the second golf-playing nation in the world. The Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC), founded in 1829, is the oldest golf club outside Britain, and was followed by Bangalore Golf Club in 1876 and Shillong Golf Club in 1886.

In 1892, the RCGC organised the country's first national-level tournament, the **All-India Amateur Golf Championship**. The second-oldest tournament in the world, after the British Open (1860), it was initially dominated by British players, until Mohinder Bal, an Indian, won the title in 1949.



The **Indian Golf Union** (IGU) was founded in 1955, as an apex body to promote and manage the game in India. It took over from the RCGC, which had been following the rules of St Andrews in Scotland. The **Professional Golfers Association of India** (PGAI) was founded in 1988. It has brought a flurry of golfing events to the country, and made professional golfing a soughtafter career option.



In 1958, it was decided that the Championship would be played by rotation at Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Soon after, in 1964, the **Indian Open** was inaugurated, and Major Billoo Sethi was the first Indian to win it in 1965. Now called the **Hero Indian Open**, it is a leading tournament on the Asian circuit. It was a matter of great pride when, in 1982, Delhi was chosen to host the first ever golf competition for the Asian Games.

Golfing in India has indeed come a long way. From about a dozen clubs at the end of the 19th century, it now has about 160 courses across the country. Several Indian golfers have made a name for themselves on the international circuit, including Ali Sher, Jeev Milkha Singh, Arjun Atwal, Jyoti Randhawa, Shiv Chowrasia, Gaurav Ghei and Shiv Kapur. In 2014, the legendary Tiger Woods played his first ever game in India, an 18-hole exhibition match at the Delhi Golf Club.

As one may well imagine, golf balls are easy to lose in the water hazards and roughs that comprise a golf course. Indeed, these small spheres figure prominently in the annals of the RCGC. In the 1920s, the Club records that a man was arrested as he left its premises carrying 150 golf balls in a bag! It seems a thriving demand existed for these in Kolkata's New Market. Some years later, with the onset of World War II, the RCGC, Tollygunge and Jodhpur clubs began rationing balls – members couldn't buy more than four a month. More recently, good swimmers were posted next to all the RCGC's water hazards. If a ball went in, they dove after it! The Royal Calcutta Golf Club:

175th Anniversary 1829-2004





With its diversity of courses, each unique in its history and topography, offering fresh pleasures and challenges, India is an ideal destination for golf tourists. Besides grand old golfing institutions like the RCGC, Delhi Golf Club, or Bombay Presidency, India has the world's highest golf course, at Gulmarg (2,700 m) in Kashmir, and a host of others set against the dramatic backdrop of mountains, lakes, beaches and forests, surrounded by tea estates, or located in old British cantonments. Assam's Digboi Golf Links even has an abandoned airstrip from World War II! Many of the newer courses are designed by renowned golf players, including Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus.

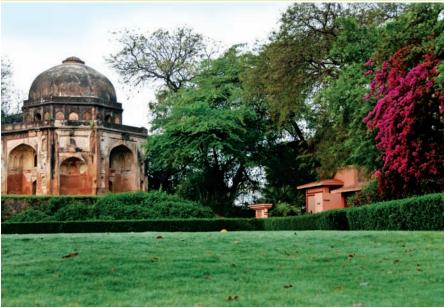
In the pages that follow, we have explored India's best 18-hole courses, and given practical details such as fees, facilities, nearest airports, etc. Besides, we have also included highlights of tourist sites near the courses, so you can experience the country even as you play the game.



MAJOR 18-HOLE GOLF COURSES



North India



🅎 Delhi Golf Club | new delhi

¹he Delhi Golf Club, DGC as it is better known, is barely a kilometer from India Gate. Built in 1931, it was a part of the new capital city the British had built for themselves in New Delhi. The course was laid out around numerous small, and some not so small, Tughlag and Lodhi period monuments, a location chosen by the then Chief of the Horticulture Department. who was also a keen excavator. The rich flora and fauna in the course give it a charming character, with an occasional peacock sauntering across the greens or a nilgai seen disappearing behind the trees.

Originally known as the Lodhi Golf Course, it was patronised by viceroys, princes and generals, and has a certain degree of nostalgia about it. Old members would recall golfers arriving on bicycles with their golf kits strapped on the back.

The course was redesigned by Peter Thompson in 1976-77, and a 9-hole

Peacock course added to the existing 18-hole course. Undulating, narrow fairways and deep bunkers make it challenging, requiring accurate play. It is also one of the busiest courses in India, with over 1,00,000 rounds of golf teed off in a year, and perhaps one of the busiest in Asia. DGC has seen the likes of Ernie Els and Darren Clarke on its fairways. Interestingly, in 1923 the Nizammuddin Railway Station was located on the present 13th fairway, known as the 'Monkey hole' because of the occasional presence of monkeys here.

The charming course made headlines in February 2014 when the legendary golfer, Tiger Woods, played an exhibition match here on his maiden visit to India. He claimed that the narrow fairways of the course made it challenging and exciting.

While the course is open to visitors, one requires a handicap certificate (certifying less than 18 handicaps) to play on the 18-hole course here.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, Near Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi-110001 Ph: (011) 24307100 Fax: (011) 24365104 Email: delhigolfclub@vsnl.net, general@delhigolfclub.org Website: www.delhigolfclub.org

How to reach

Nearest airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi (16 kms)

Designer: Peter Thompson Established: 1931 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,036

Green fees

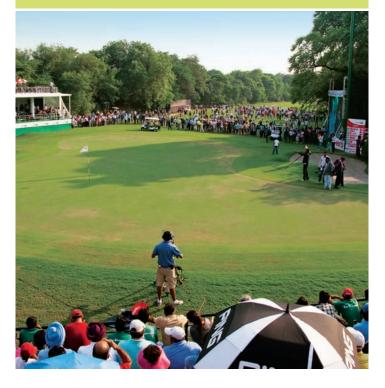
Weekday Members guest: ₹ 700 Walk-in: ₹ 2,200 IGU Member: ₹ 1,800 Foreigners: \$50



Weekend Members guest: ₹ 1,100 Walk-in: ₹ 2,750 IGU Member: ₹ 2,700 Foreigners: \$75

Caddie Fee: ₹ 210 (Category A); ₹ 160 (Category B) Golf Set: ₹ 500

Tournaments: Panasonic Open India, Hero Indian Open, TATA Tour, Indian Masters, Sail, SRF



GOLFING DESTINATIONS IN INDIA



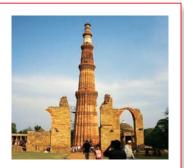
The charming Lal Bangla amidst the greens in DGC



WHILE IN DELHI

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

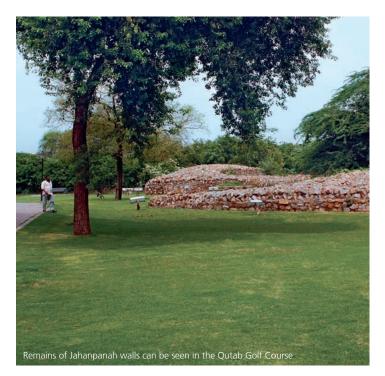
Visit the many historical sites of Delhi – Qutb Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Purana Qila, to name a few. Shop in the charming markets of the old city – Chandni Chowk, Dariba Kalan - and New Delhi -Dilli Haat, Janpath, Sarojini Nagar Market and the modern glitzy malls. Explore the British-feel of central Delhi with its gardens, museums and galleries. Go for cultural shows, shopping fests, exhibitions and suchlike. Explore the numerous eating places, and



the many nightclubs in town.

Excursions beyond

- Vrindavan (159 kms)
- Agra (217 kms)
- Chandigarh (244 kms)
- Jaipur (264 kms)



🅎 Qutab Golf Course | NEW DELHI

esigned and developed in 2000 as a 9-hole course by the Delhi Development Authority, Qutab Golf Course was the first public golf course in India with a 'pay and play' facility. In 2002 it was extended into an 18-hole course, with a state-of-theart driving range and training facility. Remains of the Jahanpanah walls, the fourth city of Delhi, established by Muhammad bin Tughlaq in the 14th century, border the course lending it an age-old charm.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Press Enclave, Lado Sarai, New Delhi-110030 Ph: (011) 26969127, 26965597 Email: qgcdda@yahoo.co.in

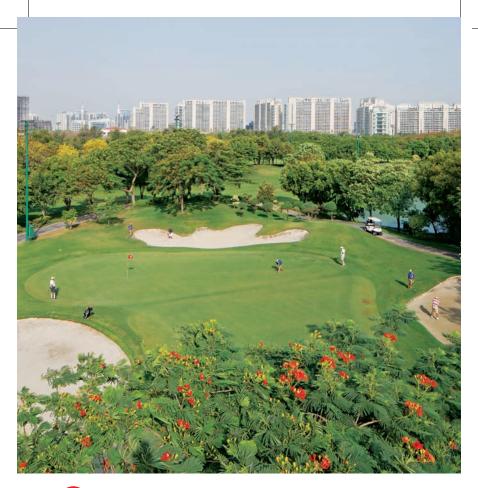
How to reach

Nearest airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi (8 kms)

Established: 2000 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,189 Green fees Weekday Walk-in: ₹ 300 IGU Member: ₹ 200 Foreigners: ₹ 1,500

Weekend Walk-in: ₹ 600 IGU Member: ₹ 500 Foreigners: ₹ 2,200

Caddie Fee: ₹ 200 Golf Cart: ₹ 450 Golf Set: ₹ 500



DLF Golf and Country Club

A 142-acre expanse in the heart of Gurgaon, DLF Golf and Country Club was originally designed by Arnold Palmer and landscaped by Bell Collins.

In 2013, it became an 18-hole course when a new layout came up adjoining the existing course, designed by Gary Player. Work on a new 9-hole, also designed by Gary Player, has already commenced. Once it is completed this will be world class 27-hole facility.

The manicured greens are complemented by five sparkling man made lakes (interconnected by underground pipes), meandering streams, variety of flowering plants and trees and over 60 recorded species of birds that can be spotted here. This makes the experience of the game here exhilarating.

It is the only golf course in the country that offers 18-holes of night golf, thus making golfing pleasurable even in summers. Illuminated by 195-pole lighting across the course, night golf is played here from April to December on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

It is no wonder then that DLF Golf Course was accorded the honour of being the most effective course in the Indian subcontinent by the Asian Golf Monthly in 2007 and 2008.

The club house has a charming colonial character with a sun deck overlooking the lake. The complex boasts of the DLF Golf Academy, India's first professional golf school.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Phase-V, DLF City, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002 Ph: (0124) 4525274, 4525253 Fax: (0124) 4525282 Email: contact-golf@dlf.in Website: www.dlfgolfresort.com

How to reach

Gurgaon borders Delhi to its south-west and is well connected to the capital city by road and metro. It is an hour's drive from the heart of Delhi.

Nearest airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi (19 kms)

Designers: Arnold Palmer, Gary Player Established: 1990 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,204

Green fees

Only members and members' guests allowed. No pay and play policy for visitors.

Members guest: (incl. of caddie fee) Weekday: ₹ 3,300 (18-hole); ₹ 3,000 (9-hole) Weekend: ₹15,800 (18-hole); ₹ 5,500 (9-hole)

Caddie Fee: ₹800 (18-hole); ₹500 (9-hole) Caddies are mandatory.

Golf Cart: ₹ 1,200 (18-hole); ₹ 900 (9-hole)

Tournaments: DLF Member Golf Tournament, Mercedes Trophy 14th Edition (Feb 2014)

.....



WHILE IN GURGAON

32 KMS FROM INDIA GATE BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCTOBER-MARCH

Visit the many sites of Delhi (see pp 12). Visit Kingdom of Dreams for its culture gully and dance drama. Explore the many restaurants and micro-breweries in Gurgaon.

Excursions beyond

- Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary (21 kms)
- Neemrana Fort Palace (93 kms)
- Jaipur (234 kms)



Golden Greens Golf Club

esigned by Dr Martin Hawtree, the links-style championship golf course at Golden Greens is set against the rugged Aravallis, a mere 30-min drive from the Delhi International Airport.

'Golden Greens does not carve its way through the landscape as much as it melts into the desert' (Peter Foster). The course has windswept dunes and the native scrub found in the Aravallis, deep pot bunkers and cleverly contoured greens that demand precise play and test the skills of all levels of golfers. It has been rated the second best golf course in the country.

Though relatively new, the club has hosted a number of prestigious tournaments successfully. It has a chalet-style club house that offers fine dining and a bar, and an academy manned by certified teaching professionals.

1 Fact File

Address: Sector 79, Gurgaon Ph: (0124) 4969708, 4069866, 9818852200 Fax: (0124) 4969710 Email: info@gggrl.com Website: www.gggrl.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi (17 kms)

Designer: Dr Martin Hawtree Established: 2001 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,100

Green fees Weekdav

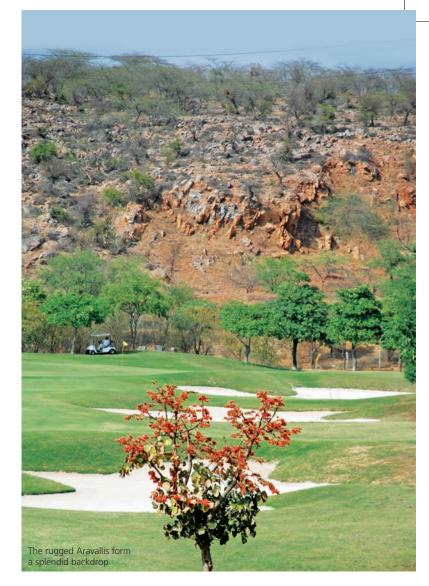
Members guest: ₹ 1,000 Walk-in and Foreigners: ₹ 1,600

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 2,000 Walk-in and Foreigners: ₹ 3,200

Caddie Fee: Member ₹ 400; Guest ₹ 450

Golf Cart: ₹ 1,000 (2-seater); ₹ 1,200 (4-seater)

Tournaments: TATA Steel North Zone Qualifier (April 2014)



ITC Classic Golf Resort and Country Club | MANESAR

he first ever Jack Nicklaus course in South Asia, Classic Golf Resort is built on a 300-acre expanse at the foothills of the picturesque Aravallis, about 1.5 hrs from Delhi. A subsidiary of ITC, a global chain of premier luxury hotels, the course, like Nicklaus' other signature courses, is designed to be a thinking man's golfing dream!

The tactfully-designed course comprises of 27 holes, with a 9-hole Ridge Course (3,541 yards), Valley Course (3,573 yards) and Canyon Course (3,135 yards), each with scattered bunkers and water hazards to make the game challenging. The Ridge and Valley course together form the 7,114 yard championship course which is the regular 18-hole course. This was the first private club to host the Indian Open in 2000 and 2001.

A luxury hotel, ITC Grand Bharat is soon to open within the Golf Sanctuary.

GOLFING DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

🚹 Fact File

Address: PO Hasanpur, Tehsil Tauru, Dist Mewat, Haryana Ph: 9999996099

For tournaments: 9899975557, 9971155774 Email: priya.puri@itchotels.in, keshav.kumar@itchotels.in

Website: www.cgronline.com

How to reach

Manesar, 27 kms from Gurgaon Toll, is about 1.5 hours drive from the centre of Delhi.

Nearest airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi (35 kms)

Designer: Jack Nicklaus Established: 1997 Par: 72

Total yardage: 10,249

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 1,750 Walk-in: ₹ 3,000

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 3,000 Walk-in: ₹ 4,500

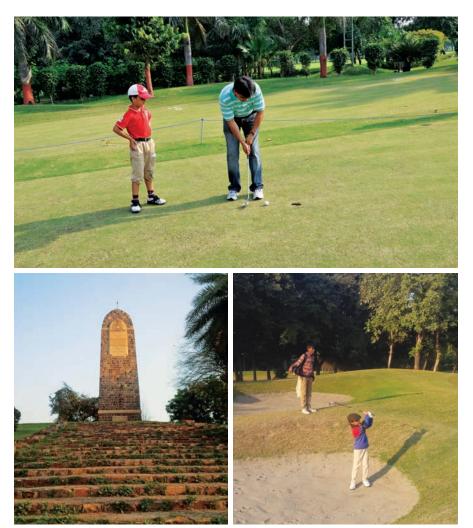
Caddie Fee: ₹ 550 (18-hole)

Golf Cart: ₹ 1,100 (18-hole); ₹ 650 (9-hole)

Golf Set: ₹ 1,000

Tournaments: Indian Open, Hindustan Times Championship, PGTI





🅎 NOIDA Golf Course | noida

97-acre oasis of green in the modern township of Noida, the championship golf course is spectacularly laid out to suit both amateur and professional golfers. Set up by the Noida Authority in 1989, NGC is only a short drive from Delhi or can even be accessed by the metro.

Assessed by Indian Golf Union Technical Committee, the course has lush green fairways bound by bunkers, trees and water hazards. The 7th hole – a 365 yards par 4 – is amongst the most testing on the course.

A historical monument can be seen in the precincts, commemorating the soldiers who died in the 1803 Battle of Delhi that was fought here between the British and the Marathas during the Second Anglo-Maratha War. The mound on which this monument stands serves as an elevated tee off for the 16th hole (Championship Tee).

GOLFING DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

🚹 Fact File

Address: Capt. Shashikant Sharma Marg, Sector 38, Noida-201301 Ph: (0120) 4222111, 4222942 Fax: (0120) 4274083 Email: info@noidagolfcourse.com Website: www.noidagolfcourse. com

How to reach

NOIDA borders Delhi to its southeast and is well connected to the capital city by the DND Flyway and metro. It is an hour's drive from the heart of Delhi

Nearest airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport,

Delhi (28 kms)

Established: 1989 Par: 72 Total yardage: 6,989

Closed Mondays

Green fees

Weekday Members guest/ Walk-in: ₹ 600 Foreigners: ₹ 1,800

Weekend

Members guest/ Walk-in: ₹1.200 Foreigners: ₹ 2,400

Caddie Fee: Varies with Category A & B

Golf Cart: ₹ 400-600

Tournaments: PGTI, Toyota

Tour Cup

WHILE IN NOIDA / **GREATER NOIDA**

14 KMS FROM INDIA GATE. NEW DELHI VIA DND FLYWAY. BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

Visit the many sites of Delhi (see pp 12). Check out the Buddh International Circuit, India's first F1 track in Greater Noida, Okhla

Bird Sanctuary, and Surajpur Wetland, Greater Noida.

Excursions beyond (via Yamuna Exp)

- Vrindavan (139 kms)
- Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (193 kms)
- Agra (205 kms)
- Fatehpur Sikri (211 kms)



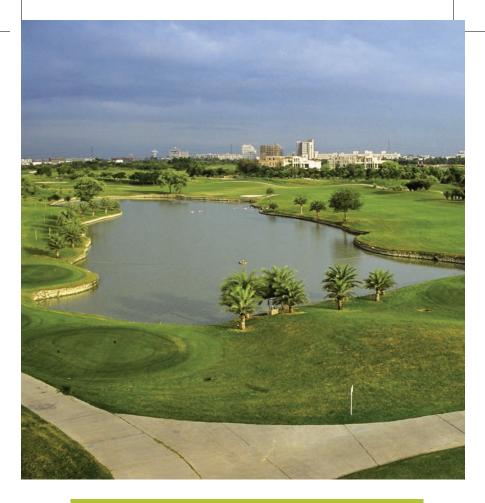
🅎 Jaypee Greens Golf Resort | GREATER NOIDA

ף pread over 452 acres of land, Jaypee Greens Golf Resort, Jopened in 2001, has India's first championship golf course designed by the legendary Greg Norman. At 7,343 yards from the championship tee, it is the longest course in the country and one of the longest in Asia.

As with other Norman's designs, the layout challenges the very best of the professionals, and yet is enjoyable

for amateurs. It has some of the best Bermuda greens in the country. Nine huge lakes, five small ponds, and 88 uniquely shaped bunkers are strewn over the course.

The Jaypee Greens Golf Academy offers state-of-the-art facilities and innovative teaching methods. The club was awarded the 'Best Tourism Friendly Golf Course' by Govt of India, Ministry of Tourism in 2009-10.



🚹 Fact File

Address: G-Block, Surajpur Kasna Road, Greater Noida-201308 Ph: (0120) 2326725, 2326533 Fax: (0120) 2324720 Email: golf@jaypeehotels.com Website: www.jaypeegreensgolf.

com

How to reach

20 kms from Noida, Greater Noida is easily accessed from Delhi via the Expressway.

Nearest airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi (49 kms)

Designer: Greg Norman Established: 2001 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,347

Closed on Mondays

Green fees Weekdays Members guest: ₹ 1,750 + tax Walk-in: ₹ 4,000 + tax

Weekends & Holidays Members guest: ₹ 4,500 + tax Walk-in: ₹ 6,000 + tax

Caddie Fee: ₹ 500 per round

Golf Cart: ₹ 1100 + tax (18-hole); ₹ 750 + tax (9-hole)

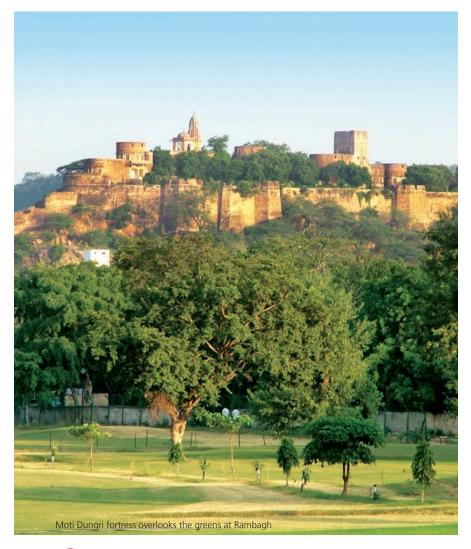
Golf Set Rental: ₹ 800

Driving Range Fee: ₹ 300 + tax

Tournaments:

Avantha Masters, Louis Philippe Cup

GOLFING DESTINATIONS IN INDIA



砛 Rambagh Golf Club | JAIPUR

he picturesque Rambagh Golf Club, next to the Ambedkar Circle, overlooks the Moti Dungri Palace and Nahargarh Fort, transporting one to an era long gone. In fact the course itself has its origins in royalty.

Maharani Gayatri Devi, of the erstwhile princely state of Jaipur, was so taken up by the sport on her vacation to Gulmarg in 1943, that she requested Maharaja Man Singh II to get a golf course laid out in Jaipur and this course was thus established with the help of seasoned golfers.

A championship course, Rambagh Golf Club is today affiliated with the Indian Golf Union. With nine greens and nine browns, its fairways pass through the Rambagh Polo Grounds, while its lower course with nine browns is spread over a rough undulating terrain.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Ambedkar Circle, Bhawani Singh Road, Jaipur-302005 Ph: (0141) 2385239, 2385482 Email: info@rambaghgolfclub. com

Website: www.rambaghgolfclub. com

How to reach Nearest airport: Jaipur Airport (10 kms)

Established: 1944 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,303

Green fees Members guest: ₹1275 Walk-in: ₹ 550 Foreigners: ₹ 1,100

Caddie Fee: Varies with Category A & B

Golf Cart Members: ₹375 Indian visitors: ₹600 Foreigners: ₹1,000

Golf Set Indians: ₹ 115 Foreigners: ₹ 225

Tournaments: IGU Tour, PGTI, Mercedes Trophy 14th edition (Feb 2014)



WHILE IN JAIPUR

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

Visit the many monuments and museums in and around the Pink City – Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Jantar Mantar, Albert Hall Museum, Amer Fort and Nahargarh Fort. Visit Chokhi Dhani for a taste of traditional Rajasthan. Try the local cuisine - Dal Baati Churma, Missi Roti, Ghewar. Shop for silver jewellery, *meenakari* work, blue pottery, miniature paintings, *juttees*, in Johri Bazaar.



Excursions beyond

- Ajmer (131 kms)
- Pushkar (145 kms)
- Bikaner (333 kms)
- Jodhpur (338 kms)



Chandigarh Golf Club

Lucked in a posh locality in Chandigarh, close to the picturesque Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh Golf Club is popularly called the 'Cradle of Indian Golf'. Founded in 1962, the club spread over 132 acres was a 9-hole course until the early 1980s, after which it was made into an 18-hole facility conforming to international standards.

The fairway here is lined with mango, eucalyptus and jamun trees, making it challenging for golfers. The club also has one of the longest par-5s in the country –the seventh hole measures 613 yards. This golf course is one of the few that has a flood-lit driving range, which makes it easier for a good game after dusk. It comes as no surprise that the club has produced Indian champions like Jeev Milkha Singh, Amandeep Johl, Harneet Kahlon and Irina Brar, among others. It offers training to aspiring golfers.

Chandigarh Golf Club boasts of a renovated club house with a swanky multi-cuisine restaurant and bar. Besides, there's a solar-powered all-weather pool, and a health club.

It is believed that the club has a long waitlist for membership.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Sector 6, Near Punjab Bhawan, Chandigarh-160019 Ph: (0172) 2740327, 2740350 Telefax: (0172) 2741047 Email: golfchd_2004@yahoo.com Website: www.

chandigarhgolfclub.in

How to reach Nearest airport: Chandigarh International Airport (12 kms)

Established: 1962 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,202

Green fees Weekday

Members guest: ₹400 Foreigners: \$35

Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 1,000 Foreigners: \$50

Practice Fee Weekdays (for all categories): ₹ 50

Weekends (for all categories): ₹170

Caddie fees Category A: 80 (9-hole);

100 (14-hole); 140 (18-hole)

Category B: 70 (9-hole); 90 (14-hole); 120 (18-hole)

Category C: 60 (9-hole); 80 (14-hole); 100 (18-hole)







WHILE IN CHANDIGARH

BEST TIME TO VISIT: SEP-MARCH

Visit the Rock Garden, Rose Garden, Le Corbusier Centre, Government Museum and Art Gallery and the beautiful Sukhna Lake.

Excursions beyond

- Pinjore Gardens (25 kms)
- Kasauli (63 kms)
- Shimla (128 kms)



Panchkula Golf Club (PGC)

et against a backdrop of the rolling Shivalik hills, and with the gurgling Ghaggar river for company, Panchkula Golf Club, is a very picturesque golf course. With vast swathes of greenery, PGC regularly hosts premier golfing events and is also one of the venues during the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

Golfers can tee off at this exquisitely laid out 135-acre course with narrow fairways, varying elevation and difficult Par 3's, which are the ingredients of a challenging game. The club also offers a children's putting green with training facility.

The PGC is a public sports facility and part of a large sports complex run by the Haryana government.

It also boasts of a modern club house with a restaurant, bar and a health club. The terrace offers panoramic views of the Shivalik hills a pretty sight.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Sector 3, Panchkula- 134113 Ph: (0172) 2587594 Fax: (0172) 2585947 Email: panchkulagolfclub@ yahoo.com Website: www. panchkulagolfclub.in

How to reach Nearest airport: Chandigarh International Airport (14 kms).

Established: 2002 Par: 72 Total yardage: 6,904

Green fees Weekday

Walk-in: ₹ 500 Foreigners: ₹ 500

Weekend Walk-in: ₹ 500 Foreigners: ₹ 700

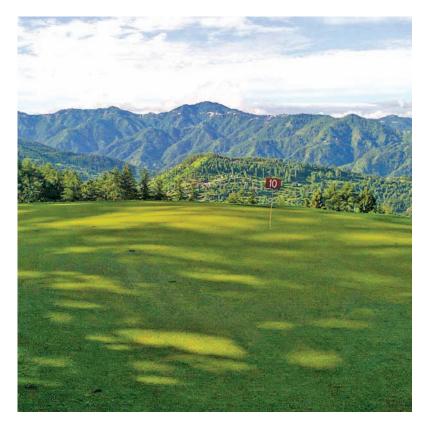
Caddie fees Weekday: ₹ 50 (Cat

Weekday: ₹ 50 (Category A), ₹ 40 (Category B)

Weekend: ₹ 40 (Category A), ₹ 75 (Category B)

Club Set: ₹ 50

GOLF COURSES IN NORTH INDIA



Naldehra Golf Club |

nly 22 kms away from the hill resort of Shimla is Naldehra Golf Club, one of the oldest golf courses in India, perched at an altitude of 2,200 m and draped in deodar trees. Its design is reminiscent of Scottish link courses. It was established in 1905 by the then Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, who was so mesmerised by the beauty of Naldehra that he would often camp here for days together. In fact, he named his third daughter Alexandra Naldehra, after this small town!

It was originally a 9-hole course, but the management felt the need to add more greens and offer a more challenging experience to visiting golfers. The course offers spectacular views of the Himalayas and is bordered with flowering shrubs and thick woods.

The course is divided into two parts by a road that serves as a link to Shimla and other neighbouring towns, so it is a common sight to see golfers hit across the road. The undulating landscape demands lofty and sure shots, as a stray ball would tend to roll off the hillside into the 'out-of-bounds' areas.

It is worth spending your time here in the lap of nature; make it a point to stay in the log huts nestled in the deodar forests of Naldehra. Birdwatchers can have the time of their lives spotting exotic species. Naldehra is much more than just a game of golf!

GOLFING DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

🚹 Fact File

Address: PO Durgapur, Naldehra, Shimla-171012 Ph: (0177) 2747656 Email: vermapartapsingh@ rediffmail.com Website: www.naldehragolf.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Shimla Airport (60 kms) Established: 1905 Par: 68 Total yardage: 4,285

Green fees Walk-in: ₹1250 Foreigners: ₹1500

••••••

Caddie fees: ₹80 Club Set: ₹250



WHILE IN SHIMLA

BEST TIME TO VISIT: APRIL-OCTOBER

Shimla is ensconced in a dense cedar forest and offers spectacular vistas of the majestic snow-clad peaks. While you are here, walk around the Mall where commercial enterprises stand tall next to colonial edifices, churches and other landmarks.

Christ Church, built in 1857, is North India's second oldest church. The impressive building is right on the Ridge and its stainedglass windows are worth seeing.



Excursions beyond

- Mashobra (12 kms)
- Kufri (16 kms)
- Chail (45 kms)
- Tattapani (51 kms)



Royal Springs Golf Course | SRINAGAR

pread over an area of 300 acres, this picturesque course overlooking the serene Dal Lake and the fir-covered slopes of the Zabarwan Hills, was designed by the world-renowned golf course architect, Robert Trent Jones Jr II. The expanse of vibrant green offers views of the 17th century Mughal garden, Chashme Shahi, and was listed as India's number one golf course by *Golf Digest* in 2011.

The view of the Dal Lake from the tee box of the fifth hole will put any golfer's attention to test. Those looking for a mid-game break will appreciate the tea shelters conveniently located along the course's sidelines.

The golf course encloses a rare grove of cork oaks planted by Dogra ruler, Hari Singh, in 1947. Cork was in great demand at the time for making wine bottle stoppers.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Chashme Shahi, Boulevard Road, Srinagar-190001 Ph: (0194) 2501178, 2501179 Email: director@ royalspringsgolfcourse.com Website: www. royalspringsgolfcourse.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Srinagar Airport (18 kms)

Designer: Robert Trent Jones Jr II Established: 2001 Par: 72 Total yardage: 6,985

Closed on Tuesdays

Green fees Indian visitors: ₹ 1,500 Foreigners: \$40

Caddie fees: ₹ 250 (18-hole) ₹ 150 (9-hole)

Major tournaments

The Greater Kashmir Autumn Golf Festival, a three-day golfing tournament, is held at the Royal Springs Golf Course, Lidder Valley Golf Course in Pahalgam and Gulmarg Golf Club, every October.



WHILE IN SRINAGAR

BEST TIME TO VISIT: APRIL-OCTOBER

Your hotel concierge can organise a boat ride on Dal Lake. Srinagar's fragrant Mughal gardens, the beautiful Pari Mahal, Shankaracharya Temple and Hazratbal Mosque are worth a visit.

Excursions beyond

- Doodhpatri (42 kms)
- Yousmarg (47 kms)
- Gulmarg (48 kms)
- Achabal (58 kms)
- Kokernag (70 kms)
- Pahalgam (86 kms)

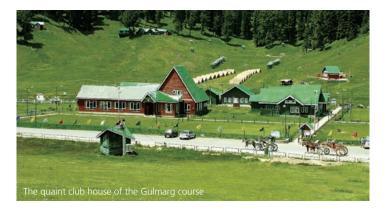
🅎 Gulmarg Golf Course | GULMARG

ulmarg has the world's highest golf course, situated at an altitude of 2,650 m. The historic Gulmarg Golf Club was built in 1911 by the British, who used the place as a holiday resort. Redesigned in 2011, the 18-hole golf course welcomes golfing enthusiasts on a daily basis.

The origin of Gulmarg as the 'Golfing Mecca' of India can be traced to the late 19th century,

when a 6-hole course was established here by Colonel Neville Chamberlain. The first golf championship was played in Gulmarg in 1922, and it hosted the Northern India Championship until 1989.

The course remains closed from December to April, when it is covered with snow. A limited amount of golfing equipment is available for hire, so it is advised that you bring your own kit.



🚹 Fact File

Address: Gulmarg town, Gulmarg **Ph:** (01954) 254507

How to reach Nearest airport: Srinagar Airport (56 kms)

Established: 1911 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,505

Green fees

Members guest: ₹ 1,200 (18-hole); ₹ 800 (9-hole)

Foreigners: ₹ 1,800 (18-hole) ₹ 1,200 (9-hole)

Caddie fees: ₹ 300 (18-hole) ₹ 200 (9-hole)

WHILE IN GULMARG

BEST TIME TO VISIT: MARCH-OCT

Go skiing and enjoy the panoramic views of the valley. Ride the Gondola cable car, Asia's longest ropeway, to the mighty Mt Apharwat.



Lidder Valley Golf Course | PAHALGAM

et in the picturesque town of Pahalgam with a stunning backdrop of fir-covered mountains is the Lidder Valley Golf Course. Designed by Ranjit Nanda, this scenic 18-hole course, situated at an altitude of 2,209 m, is a challenging course especially with its narrow fairways and several water hazards. This course needs you to be physically fit – several tee points will require an uphill walk. Championships are organised here by the state government and private hoteliers in the summers. If you require a golf cart, please book in advance, as there are only a limited number of carts.

The course remains closed in winters due to heavy snowfall.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Golf Club road, (Close to Mansion Hotel) Pahalgam Ph: (01936) 243049

How to reach Nearest airport: Srinagar Airport (95 kms) Designer: Ranjit Nanda Established: 2011 Par: 71 Total yardage: 7,000

Green fees (all days, all

categories): ₹ 1,200

Caddie Fee: ₹180 Golf Cart: ₹1500



WHILE IN PAHALGAM

BEST SEASON TO VISIT: MID-APRIL TO MID-NOVEMBER

Pahalgam is flanked by steep, fir-clad hills and snow-capped mountains, and watered by the torrential Lidder. While you are here, visit the Betaab Valley, an idyllic spot of picnics and a popular location for several movie shoots. Also, don't forget to visit Sheshnag Lake, Tulian Lake and Mamaleshwar Temple. Shop for soft rugs, shawls, wall hangings and walnut-wood furniture from the main market.



Contemporary Colf Club | LUCKNOW

Lucknow Golf Club, established in 1950, is located near the heart of Lucknow city, between Martinpurva (now an urban village named after the 18th century Frenchman, Claude Martin, founder of La Martiniere College) on one side, and Kalidas Marg on the other side. The course spreads over 70 acres and has lush green fairways with big trees and lakes.

There is no documentary proof regarding when the Lucknow Golf Course was laid out. Before 1947, it was a part of the United Services Club and had its headquarters at the Chhattar Manzil. It is believed that the course originally had 9 to 12 greens and ropes were thrown around to ward off cattle that would stray into the course. After independence, the Club shut down.

In 1948, some golfers came together and under the patronage of the then state governor Homi Mody, the Golf Club came to be known as Raj Bhawan Golf Course (named after Raj Bhawan, the official residence of the Governor).

Today, the club has grown by leaps and bounds and offers golfing facilities at par with international norms. It also boasts of a club house with two multi-cuisine restaurants, a bar and banquet facilities.

LGC has also hosted PGA tournaments, besides local competitions.

GOLF COURSES IN NORTH INDIA

🚹 Fact File

Address: 1, Kalidas Marg, near Martinpurva, Lucknow-226001 Ph: (0522) 2239275, 08127479184 Email: lucknowgolf@gmail.com Website: www.lgc.in

How to reach Nearest airport: Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport (13 kms from Lucknow) Established: 1950 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,355

Green fees Weekday Walk-in: ₹1225 Foreigners: ₹1565

Weekend Walk-in: ₹1340 Foreigners: ₹1845



WHILE IN LUCKNOW BEST SEASON TO VISIT: OCTOBER-MARCH

A wealth of culture defines Lucknow. From the exquisite architecture of Bada Imambara to the chaos at the Chowk, Lucknow has it all. Visit the Qaiserbagh, The Residency and Rumi Darwaza and delve deep into the rich history of Lucknow. In the evening, you can go 'gunging' at Hazratganj, pick up intricately embroidered *chikankarl* outfits and gorge on succulent kababs and delicious sweetmeats!

Excursions beyond

- Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (43 kms)
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (224 kms)



South India







Bangalore Golf Club |

ne of the oldest golf courses in India, Bangalore Golf Club was on the itinerary of former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, who was transferred to India in 1896 as a war correspondent. Established in 1876, this golf course was originally a 12-hole course and was redesigned and upgraded to an 18-hole course in 2002 by Phil Ryan of Pacific Coast Design. The inter-club matches between Madras Gymkhana Club and Bangalore Golf Club, which began in 1878, are the world's oldest such continuing competition between two golf clubs. With 52 bunkers, two water bodies, flowering trees lining the tight fairways, and a large raft of ducks wandering about, this 60-acre golf course located at the very centre of the busy city of Bangalore, stands out for its beautiful design and layout and is a difficult course to conquer!

The large club house boasts of the popular The Pudy's Bar and Lounge, the Eagle's Nest which offers comfortable standard, deluxe and family suites, a gym and spa, a wellstocked library and billiards room.

🚺 Fact File

Address: No.2, Sankey Road, High Grounds, Bangalore-560001 Ph: (080) 43494949 Fax: (080) 22257997 Email: bgc1876@gmail.com Website: www.bgc1876.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Bengaluru International Airport (32 kms)

Established: 1876 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6118

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹1,000 Walk-in: ₹11,000 Foreigners: \$25

Weekend Members guest: ₹2,000 Walk-in: ₹2,000 Foreigners: \$50

Club Set: ₹ 500 (members), ₹ 750 (guests)

Tournaments: Soli K Dastur Memorial Trophy, Independence Shield, Shantanu Gurjer Memorial Trophy, Ravi Kirloskar Memorial Trophy, Straight Drive Charity Golf Tournament, Captain's Putter, BGC Ladies Tournament, Governor's Cup



WHILE IN BANGALORE BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-FEB

Alongside its modern chrome and glass corporate offices, Bangalore has some lovely green parks, botanical gardens and historical monuments. The ancient Begur Nageshwara Temple, Tipu Sultan's Palace, Mayo Hall and St Francis Xavier Cathedral are all worth a visit. Those who want to indulge in a bit of retail therapy can try the city's neon-lit commercial centres on the busy Brigade Road and MG Road.



Excursions from Bangalore

• Bannerghatta National Park (21 kms)

Nandi Hills (65 kms)

35



Karnataka Golf Association | BANGALORE

he magnificent 117-acre Karnataka Golf Association was established in 1973 and it is hard to believe that it was once a part of the Challaghatta swamp. Renovated and redesigned by professional golfer, Peter Thompson, in 2008, the greens here are laid out around 14 water bodies, 78 bunkers and six hazards. The huge colonialstyle club house has a swimming pool, a gym, a health club, a pro shop and a restaurant. The club also provides a panel of professional trainers for individual coaching.

The most well-known face associated with this club is Chinnaswamy Muniyappa, once a caddie lugging around heavy club sets, before he became a professional golfer and went on to win the Indian Open in 2009.

🚹 Fact File

Address: No.1 Golf Avenue, Kodihalli, Off Airport Road, PB No. 817, Bangalore-560008 Ph: (080) 40090000/01 Email: golf@kga.in Website: www.kga.in

How to reach Nearest airport: Bengaluru International Airport (42 kms)

Designer: Peter Thompson Opened in: 1973 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,227

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 500 Walk-in: ₹ 1,500 Foreigners: ₹ 1,500

Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 800 Walk-in: ₹ 3,000 Foreigners: ₹ 3,000

Tournaments: South Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour -Karnataka Juniors, IGU Southern India Juniors 2014, USHA Southern India Ladies Amateur, TATA Steel Southern India Amateur, TATA Steel Amateur Golf Championship of India, USHA All India Ladies Amateur





Clover Greens Golf Course | BANGALORE

lover Greens Golf Course, which began operations in 2009, is designed to be eco-friendly, where the fairway grass is all native and drought resistant, requiring water that is a fraction of conventional golf courses. This course is situated inside Clover Greens with its luxury villas and houses on Sarjapur Road and is barely an hour's drive from the heart of Bangalore. Conceived by Phil Ryan of Pacific Coast Design, Australia,

the course is spread over 100 acres of luxurious greens and has four water bodies, 64 bunkers and seven hazards.

The in-house golf academy at Clover Greens Golf Course includes a double-storeyed practice range with ten bays for as many golfers. Today, it has become a very popular weekend golfing destination for those in and around Bangalore.

🚺 Fact File

Address: Sarjapur-Attibele Road 6th Main Indiranagar, Hal 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560038 Ph: (080) 41254472 Email: arathi@clovergreens.com Website: www.clovergreens. assetzhomes.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Bengaluru Airport via Outer Ring Road (67 kms)

Designer: Phil Ryan Opened in: 2009 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,000 Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 600 Walk-in: ₹ 1,100 Foreigners: ₹ 1,100

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 1,100 Walk-in: ₹ 2,100 Foreigners: ₹ 2,100

Caddie fees: ₹ 300 Trolley: ₹ 200 Club Set: ₹ 300





Eagleton Golf Village

pread over 168 acres of lush green landscape, Eagleton Golf Village was established in 1999 and is set in the midst of a realty project. Located 33 kms outside Bangalore, Eagleton makes for an ideal weekend destination. Open throughout the year, Eagleton was designed by Phil Ryan of Pacific Coast Design and has seven water bodies, 63 bunkers and two hazards. Eagleton also runs a golf academy which has provisions for long game driving range, practice putting and bunker areas, and a digital game analysis laboratory with a trained expert. Eagleton Golf Village also has provisions for poolside volleyball, squash, indoor badminton, table tennis, billiards, cricket, lawn tennis, horse riding and even archery.

🚺 Fact File

Address: Bangalore-Mysore Highway, Shyanamangala Cross, Bidadi (Bangalore Rural) -562109 Ph: (080) 22632222, 9845811114 Fax: (080) 22632233 Email: teeoff@eagletonindia.com Website: www.eagletonindia.com How to reach

Nearest airport: Bengaluru Airport via Ring Road (72 kms)

Designer: Phil Ryan, Pacific Coast Design Opened in: 1999 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,100

Green fees

Weekday Members guest: ₹ 1,250 Walk-in: ₹ 1,250 Foreigners: ₹ 1,250

Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 2,500 Walk-in: ₹ 2,500 Foreigners: ₹ 2,500

Caddie fees: ₹ 200-250 Golf Cart: ₹ 600-850 Club Set: ₹ 1,300

Tournaments: PGTI - Eagleburg Open, IGU Karnataka Juniors, TATA Steel Karnataka Amateur, IGU All India Juniors, ICICI Masters Tournament, Mercedes Benz Tournament, Kotak Mahindra Tournament, ACMA Tournament, Take Solution Tournament, XEROX Tournament, Business Today Tournament, Stan Chart Tournament, ESPN Tournament, Spice Telecom Tournament, CISCO Systems Tournament, Ladies European Tour



Prestige Golfshire Club BANGALORE

uilt and developed by the Prestige Group, Prestige Golfshire Club is situated 45 kms from central Bangalore, and is a stone's throw away from Bengaluru International Airport.

With the misty Nandi Hills rising in the backdrop and Lake Karehalli bordering it partially, this semiprivate resort cum golf club is spread over 275 acres of luxurious greens. Designed by Bob Hunt, this course started operations in 2011 and provides one of the finest golfing and residential facilities in India. The vast landscape is dotted with fourteen water bodies, 85 bunkers and a decent foliage cover.

The club also has a wellness zone, a squash court, billiards room, cards room, gym, a multi-cuisine restaurant and bar, Falcon Greens. Stylish, sleek, contemporary and convenient, this club house has everything one needs to rejuvenate on a holiday.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Nandi Hills Road, Karahalli Post, Kundana Hobli Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore-562110 Ph: (080) 28015800, 8861003650 Email: golfreservations@ golfshire.com Website: www.golfshire.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Bengaluru International Airport (12 kms)

Designer: Bob Hunt Opened in: 2011 Par: 72

Total yardage: 7,004

Mondays closed

Green fees Weekday

Walk-in: ₹ 2,000

Weekend Walk-in: ₹ 4,000

Club Set: ₹ 1,650

Tournaments: Vodafone Tee Walk, Mercedes Trophy, Toyota IGU NHS National Club Challenge



Jayachamaraja Wodeyar Golf Club | MYSORE

little outside the charming city of Mysore, with the exquisite Chamundi hills in the backdrop, is the 110-acre Jayachamaraja Wodeyar Golf Club. Named after a former Maharaja of the Wodeyar dynasty of Mysore, this course is situated inside Mysore Race Club premises and remains closed during racing season. Once the haunt of the British, this club was established in 1906, and was recently redesigned by Phil Ryan of Pacific Coast Design; it currently has three water bodies, 37 bunkers and two hazards. On Mondays, the holes inside the race track remain off limits to golfers till 8.30 am, while the horses are trained for racing.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Maharana Pratap Singh Road, Nazarbad, Mysore-570010, Karnataka Ph: (0821) 2433185, 6450620 Fax: (0821) 2538457 Email: jwgolfclub@yahoo.com, jwgc@rediffmail.com Website: www.jwgcmysore.com How to reach Nearest airport: Bengaluru

International Airport via Bangalore-Mysore Road (178 kms)

Designer: Phil Ryan Opened in: 1905 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,217

Green fees

Weekday Members guest: ₹ 300 Walk-in: ₹ 300 Foreigners: ₹ 300

Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 300 Walk-in: ₹ 300 Foreigners: ₹ 300

Caddie fees: ₹ 100-120 Golf trolley: ₹ 10 Club Set: ₹ 250

Tournaments: South Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour, IGU JWGC Karnataka Ladies Amateur, Mahendra Patel Memorial Cup, Doctor's Cup, Dolphins Cup, Air Force Cup, Eagles Hebron Cup, Skytop Open Golf Cup

WHILE IN MYSORE

BEST TIME TO VISIT: SEP-MARCH

The former capital of Mysore state, Mysore city is a charming mix of the old and the new! Do visit Amba Vilas Palace, the official residence of the royal family of the Wodeyar dynasty. Brindavan Gardens, Jagmohan Palace and Lalitha Mahal are the other major attractions here.



Excursions beyond

- Bandipur National Park (77 kms)
- Nagarhole National Park (88 kms)

砛 Coorg Golf Links | coorg

ituated at an elevation of 1,067 m above sea level, Coorg Golf Links is located in the lap of the minty green Western Ghats and makes for a peaceful golfing destination.

The dream project of two friends, KK Aiyappa and CS Nanjappa, Coorg Golf Links has a club house with six bedrooms, a restaurant, a bar, and a card room for bridge and rummy. The golf course is located next to the luxurious Ambatty Greens Resort, thereby making it a popular corporate retreat. This course, which lies amidst Coorg coffee plantations, is acknowledged to be one of the toughest to manoeuvre in the country, because of its varying altitudes and temperamental mountain breeze. With over 40 bunkers and 14 water bodies dotting the grounds here, this is but expected.

The club does not provide equipment or golf carts and this can prove to be a hindrance for senior citizens. But those up for a long walk with the hills for company and golf for sport will find Coorg Golf Links an unmatchable experience!



🚺 Fact File

Address: Ambatti village, Mysore main road, Bittangala

Post, Virajpet-571218 Ph: (08274) 256252, 9740260346 Email: coorggolf@rediffmail.com, coorggolf@gmail.com Website: www.coorggolflinks.in

How to reach

Nearest airports: Mangalore, via the SH 88 (171 kms) Bengaluru International Airport via NH 75 (304 kms)

Established: 1992 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,000 Green fees: ₹250 Weekday Walk-in/Foreigners: ₹500

Weekend

Walk-in/Foreigners: ₹ 500 Please make prior tee reservations in advance. Those affiliated with other club houses may get a concession.

Caddie fees: ₹ 150 (18 holes), ₹ 100 (9 holes) on all days

Tournaments: Services Challenge Trophy



WHILE IN COORG

BEST TIME TO VISIT: ANYTIME!

Nestled in the bosom of the gloriously green hills, Coorg is a nature lovers' haven. Coorg offers opportunities to indulge in the true beauty of the coffee plantations, with a holiday in one of the many heritage bungalows that offer old world charm combined with the latest mod cons.

Mercara Downs Golf Course COORG

ocated outside Madikeri town, Mercara Downs Golf Course is blessed with a serene landscape and a colonial history. Said to have been built sometime during the 1800s, it is difficult to ascertain the exact year as the club's original documents have been lost. This 80-acre golf course is situated at an altitude of 1,097 m and this combined with three water bodies, 53 bunkers and five hazards, makes

it a challenging course for first timers. Because of its rolling greens, the sweet smelling coffee plantations in the background, the hillocks, and the fresh nippy breeze, this golf course reminded British officers of their native countryside in Britain and was a much frequented haunt. Nestled in the hills, the club house here is fairly new, and has been strategically built to protect against the chilly mountain breeze.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Galibeedu Village, PO Box 79, Madikeri-571201 Karnataka Ph: (08272) 223516/200020 Website: www. mercaradownsgolf.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Mangalore International Airport via SH 88 (143 kms) Bangalore International Airport via Bangalore - Mangalore Highway (274 kms) Par: 70 Total yardage: 5,584

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 400 Walk-in: ₹ 500 Foreigners: ₹ 500

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 400 Walk-in: ₹ 500 Foreigners: ₹ 500

Caddie fees: ₹ 150 (18 holes), ₹ 80 (10 holes)

Madras Gymkhana Golf Course | CHENNAI

he Madras Gymkhana Golf Course is a 6,690 yard, par-72 course set within a horse race track. Known for its windy corridor and tricky roughs, it is part of the Madras Gymkhana Club at Island Grounds, Anna Salai.

The Madras Golf Club was established in 1877, after Royal Calcutta Golf Club and the Bangalore Golf Club, were set up. The Golf Course was originally laid out at the Island Grounds in Annasalai, before it was shifted to Guindy in the 1880's. The golf course, now referred to as Golf Course Annexe, was originally 9-hole and became a 18-hole much later. Originally played off the browns, the greens came about only in the 1880's.

Col Ross Thompson was the first Captain of this Golf Club and in the year 1878, the first inter-club competition between Madras Gymkhana Club and Bangalore Golf Club teed off. This remains to date the world's oldest such continuing competition between two golf clubs. In the year 2002, the golf club celebrated 125 years of golf, a feat very few golf clubs outside Great Britain can boast of.



🚹 Fact File

Address: The Island, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 Ph: (044) 22300093 Telefax: (044) 25368364 Email: info@ madrasgymkhanaclub.com Website: www. madrasgymkhanaclub.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Chennai International Airport (20 kms)

Established: 1877 Par: 70

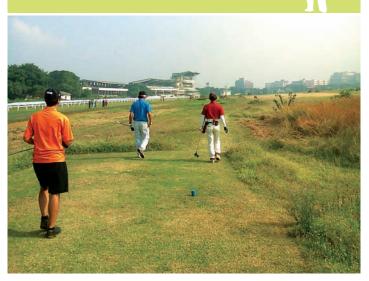
Total yardage: 6,600

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹675 Foreigners: ₹900

Weekend

Members guest: ₹12,050 Foreigners: ₹12,300

Caddie fees: ₹ 200



WHILE IN CHENNAI

BEST TIME TO VISIT: NOV-FEB

Visit Valluvar Kottam, the chariotshaped Dravidian temple that has 1,300 verses from the epic *Thirukural* inscribed on its granite pillars. Also, go to Fort St George, the first fortress that was built in India by the East India Company. Take a guided tour through the Fort to see the best of this heritage monument. Another popular jaunt is San Thome Church, dedicated to St Thomas. You can also gorge on the local cuisine and attend cultural music programmes.

Excursions beyond

- Mamallapuram (56 kms)
- Kanchipuram (75 kms)



GOLF COURSES IN SOUTH INDIA



砛 Cosmopolitan Club | CHENNAI

ocated in the heart of the busy Mount road, overlooking the Adyar river, is Chennai's most popular golf course, Cosmopolitan Club. Built in the late 1930s, with the greens spread over an area of 80 acres, it was inaugurated by the then Governor General of India, Hon'ble Victor Alexander Hope, 2nd Marquess of Linlithgow.

This is a relatively short course, but makes up for it with its clever design, bunkering and overhead cover. Some of the fairways are extremely narrow with heavy tree cover and strategic play often decides a good or a great game here.

The club house here has an excellent 19th hole. A must-visit is the refreshment hut at the 8th-9th hole junction, which serves sumptuous south Indian fare.

It also has a well-stocked pro shop with golf clubs on hire.

🚺 Fact File

Address: PB No 371, 63 Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 Ph: (044) 28525836, 28525141, 28525004 Telefax: (044) 28414356 Email: contact@ cosmoclubchennai.com Website: www. cosmoclubchennai.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Chennai International Airport (20 kms)

Established: 1938 Par: 72

Total yardage: 6,599

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 650 Walk-in: ₹ 750 Foreigners: ₹ 1,500

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 1,500 Walk-in: ₹ 1,500 Foreigners: ₹ 1,500

Caddie fees: ₹ 175 (Category A), ₹ 150 (Category B), ₹ 100 (Category B)





🅎 Kodaikanal Golf Club | KODAIKANAL



pread over 150 acres, Kodaikanal Golf Club, located \mathcal{I}_6 kms southwest of the main city, is nestled amidst dense forests, gurgling streams and wooded hills at an elevation of 2,200 m. This golf course abounds in wildlife, so do not be surprised if you are greeted by a wild boar at the 4th hole or a barking deer bounding across the 8th fairway!

This club was founded in 1895, when 12 golf enthusiasts posing as hikers came across this verdant grassland and thought it best suited golf. The club still follows its ageold tradition of the new Captain, driving into office off the first tee. Earlier, the captains would rotate between an Indian, American or a Commonwealth citizen, but now only Indians are eligible for this post.

Each hole at this picturesque golf course tests your skill; especially the steep slopes and the strong breeze make it a challenge for the most seasoned golfer too!

KGC has a conference hall, a bar and a dining hall, apart from accommodation for members.

🔒 Fact File

Address: Pillar Rocks Road, Kodaikanal- 624101 Ph: (04542) 240323 Telefax: (04542) 241255 Email: kodaigolf@gmail.com Website: www.kodaigolf.com

How to reach

Nearest airport: Madurai International Airport (135 kms) Established: 1895 Par: 71 Total yardage: 6,109

Green fees

Weekday Members guest: ₹ 250+ tax Weekend Members guest: ₹ 300+ tax

Caddie fees: ₹ 200



WHILE IN KODAIKANAL BEST TIME TO VISIT: SEPT-MAY

You can enjoy spectacular views of the mountains when you take the Coaker's walk. A must-visit is the star shaped Kodai lake set amidst lush green hills, which is sure to take your breath away. Also visit the Shenbaganur Museum and Chettiar Park.

Excursions beyond

- Perumal Peak (21 kms)
- Madurai (115 kms)



ounded in 1977, the Coimbatore Golf Club (CGC) nestled in the Nilgiri hills is a beautiful golf township, located 16 kms from the city centre. The emerald green turf is lined with hundreds of tropical trees, making it delightful as well as challenging for golfers. The wide stretches of green host peacocks and other exotic birds – a treat for avid bird watchers and nature lovers.

CGC was established when a bunch of golf enthusiasts began playing golf in the grounds of the Coimbatore Jail. Initially, a 9-hole course was laid out, but later in 1985, Coimbatore's leading industrialist Late K Rajagopal of Lakshmi Mills developed the course into an 18-hole facility. Known for its immaculate greens which are super quick (8 to 9.5 on the stimpmeter) especially during tournaments and located in a windy corridor that can turn an innocuous-looking 100 yard wedge shot into a challenging adventure, this is a course to be respected and enjoyed.

The club house boasts a restaurant and a bar, swimming pools, a practice range, bowling alleys, and tennis courts, which adds to the experience.



🚺 Fact File

Address: Chettipalayam, Coimbatore - 641201 Ph: (0422) 3293949, 2655258 Telefax: (0422) 2655258 Email: coimbatoregolfclub@ yahoo.com Website: www. coimbatoregolfclub.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Coimbatore International Airport (11 kms)

Established: 1977

Par: 72 Total yardage: 6,973

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 500 Walk-in: ₹ 750

Weekend Members guest: ₹1750 Walk-in: ₹11,000

Caddie fees: ₹ 125 (18-hole) ₹ 100 (9- hole) Club set: ₹ 200



WHILE IN COIMBATORE

BEST TIME TO VISIT: SEPT-MARCH

The second largest, and one of the busiest commercial cities of Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore has several tourist attractions. The city has four large museums, including Ancient Industrial Artifacts Museum. Marudamalai Temple, Immanuel Church and Botanical Garden are also worth visiting.

Excursions beyond

- Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary (90 kms)
- Indira Gandhi National Park (111 kms)

Kovai Hills Golf and Country Club | COIMBATORE

ituated about 15 kms from Coimbatore, in the undulating confines of the Western Ghat off Perur town, is the vast 1,000-acre township of Kovai Hills. The 200-acre 18-hole championship golf course, Kovai Hills Golf Club and Academy, is located inside the township and makes for an ideal weekend destination. Designed by David Hemstock in 2009, this course has six water bodies and 66 hazards,

and is quite a challenging course to par on, especially when it's windy. It is not unusual for golfers to hit the ball and find it landing in an elephant footprint! The course also has a golf academy with trained instructors from the Golf Academy of India and the Indian Golf Union.

The club house has cottages fashioned after Swiss chalets, and has provisions for several sports, a multi-cuisine restaurant and bar.



🚹 Fact File

Address: Kovai Hills Golf & Country Club, Perur, Pallakad Road, Coimbatore-641010 Ph: (0422) 2904012, 2265800 Email: info@kovaigolf.com Website: www.kovaigolf.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Coimbatore International Airport via Avinashi Road (24 kms)

Designer: David Hemstock **Established:** 2014

Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,020

Green fees

Weekday Members guest: ₹ 1,000 Walk-in: ₹ 1,000

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 1,000 Walk-in: ₹ 1,000

Caddie fees: ₹ 300 Club Set: ₹ 50 (50 balls)

Ootacamund Gymkhana Golf Club | ооту

ituated at an altitude of 2,134 m, Ootacamund Gymkhana Golf Club is amongst the most exciting, because of its altitude, as well as one of the most picturesque golf courses in the country.

Interspersed by woods of oak, fir, eucalyptus and the like, this 193-acre course is no child's play and firsttimers as well as older players are advised to play just 9 holes rather than the full 18 as that involves climbing up and down quite a few times. Designed by Ross Thompson in 1896, the course has three water bodies, 42 sand and seven grass bunkers. In spite of fencing all around the course, it is easy to spot a number of animal species along these hillocks, especially near the 13th hole, where fox hunts by club-trained foxhounds are a common sight.

The Gymkhana Club provides accommodation with 10 rooms and additional facilities like billiards, table tennis and a cards room. The golf club also has its own multi-cuisine restaurant and bar.



🚹 Fact File

Address: Old Pykara Road, Anna Nagar, Ooty-643006 Ph: (0423) 2442254, 2448497 Fax: (0423) 2445967 Email: golfcaptain@ootygolfclub. org

Website: www.ootygolfclub.org

Nearest airport: Coimbatore Airport via Gundlupet Highway (98 kms)

Designer: Ross Thompson Opened in: 1896 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,235 Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹1500 Walk-in: ₹11,000 Foreigners: ₹11,000

Weekend Members guest: ₹1500 Walk-in: ₹11,000 Foreigners: ₹11,000

Caddie fees: ₹ 100-150 Club Set: ₹ 100

Tournaments: South Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour



WHILE IN OOTY

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-JUNE

Located in the lap of the stunning Nilgiris, Ooty is blessed with astounding natural beauty. Doodabetta Reserve Forest, Avalanche and Emerald Lakes, Government Botanical Garden are absolute must visits here!

Excursions beyond

- Coonoor (19 kms)
- Mukurthi National Park (32 kms)



Boulder Hills Golf and Country Club | HYDERABAD

Situated within a realty project, Boulder Hills Golf and Country Club is perhaps one of the most uniquely laid out golf courses in the country. Built by Emaar MGF and spread over 530 acres of lush green fairways, this golf course has several huge boulders lying at strategic positions, thereby giving the course its name. Located in Gachibowli, near the IT hub in Hyderabad, this 18-hole championship course was designed by Peter Harradine and has eight water bodies, 14 bunkers and seven hazards.

The golf club here has The Bougainvillea Room for fine dining and The Plus 4 Pub for those who wish to relax after an outing. The golf club also runs an academy, which is only open to the residents of Boulder Hills society.

🚺 Fact File

Address: Manikonda Village, Gachibowli, Hyderabad- 500032 Ph: (040) 66123456 Email: golf.boulderhiils@ emaarmgf.com, sanjay.pan@ emaarmgf.com Website: www.emaarmgf.com/

boulderhill

How to reach

Nearest airport: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, via Outer Ring Road (33 kms)

Designer: Peter Harradine Established: 2009 Par: 72

Total yardage: 7,229

Green fees

Weekday Members guest: ₹ 1,500 Walk-in: ₹ 3,500

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 2,200

Walk-in: ₹16,000

Golf Cart: ₹1400 (weekend), ₹1500 (weekday) Club Set: ₹11,200

Tournaments: Vodafone Tee Walk, Mercedes Trophy

WHILE IN HYDERABAD

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

Founded in the late 16th century, Hyderabad retains much of its glorious past with the magnificent Golconda Fort, iconic Char Minar, the palaces and bazaars of the Old City, all of which coexist with the colonial structures of its twin city, Secunderabad and the futuristic IT hub that is 'Cyberabad'.





¹ounded in 1829, Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) is the oldest golf club in India, and the first golf course outside British Isles after The Roval and Ancient, St Andrews in Scotland, which is hailed as the home of the sport. RCGC was originally located near Dum Dum Airport (now Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport), moved to the Maidan in 1885 and finally to its present location at Tollygunge in 1910 (the registered office of the Club continues to be at the Maidan). King George V and Queen Mary conferred the title 'Royal' to the Club to commemorate their visit to the city in 1911, which is how the club is affectionately referred to today.

The greens at Royal are quite large by modern standards. Laid over what were originally paddy fields, the course is undulating, making it both inviting and challenging

Being the first golf club in India, the Royal is the founder of the sport in the country, producing some of the best golfers. A popular name now associated with RCGC is that of Shiv Shankar Prasad Chowrasia. The son of a greenskeeper at the RCGC, Chowrasia worked as a caddie at for experienced golfers. Ponds dot the course, and trees and shrubs bordering it add to the pristine landscape.

The first amateur Golf Championship of India was held at the Royal in December 1892 with players from Ceylon, Penang, Burma and Singapore taking part. It is the second oldest running golf tournament in the world after the British Open.

A record dated 8 February 1876 mentions that playing for the Royal Blackhealth Medal, a Cup valued ₹ 25 and the prize was a golf set priced at ₹ 9! The membership of the Club stood at ₹ 420 in 1892 and ₹ 1,770 in 1931.

Much of the memorabilia – cups, medals, trophies – connected with the history of the club, 1874 onwards, is preserved in the club house.

the club for a few years before he entered professional golfing in 1997 and thereafter went on to win eight titles on the Indian Tour, the inaugural Indian Masters in 2008 and Avantha Masters in 2011. The self-taught golfer is nicknamed 'Chip-puttsia' because of his short game.

🚹 Fact File

Address: 18, Golf Club Road, Tollygunge, Kolkata-700033 Ph: (033) 24731352/ 1288 Fax No: (033) 24733315 Email: ceo@rcgc.in Website: www.rcgc.in

How to reach Nearest airport: Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata (26 kms)

Established: 1829 Par: 72 Total yardage: 6,978 Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 1,685

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 2,809

Walk-in: ₹ 7,303 (all days) IGU Member: ₹17,247 (all days) Foreigners: \$ 50 + tax (all days)

Golf Cart: ₹1400 (18-hole)

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Tournaments: McLeod Russel Tour Championship, Tata Steel East India Championship



WHILE IN KOLKATA

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

Wander around the BBD Bagh (erstwhile Dalhousie Square), Strand and Esplanade for a colonial feel. Visit the city's magnificent architectural flourishes, Victoria Memorial, Howrah Bridge, temples and churches, and its many museums, particularly Indian Museum. In Sep-Oct, witness the exuberance of the fiveday Durga Puja celebrations. Try the street-food and also the delectable local fare and sweetmeats. Shop for silk,



kantha weaves, terracotta and brassware.

Excursions beyond

Shantiniketan (212 kms)
Sunderbans National Park (Ferries can be taken from Sonakhali, 100 kms from Kolkata)



🏷 Tollygunge Golf Club | когката

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The golf course is equipped with a flood-lit driving range and welllit golf stroke to allow for a good sport even after dusk. It offers an impressive practice range, putting green and private lessons making it ideal for both beginners and experts.

Tollygunge Club was founded in 1895 by a Scottish banker, William Dixon Cruickshank, to provide Britishers facilities for games, sports and pastimes in Kolkata. Today, it boasts of a range of facilities, rarely found under a single roof: from sporting facilities – golf, tennis, squash, billiards, swimming, riding and amateur equestrian sports – to luxurious accommodation, restaurants, in-house entertainment, as well as a well-equipped gym, library, cyber cafe, unisex salon and a herbal ayurvedic centre.

Great care has been taken to lay out the club grounds with both exotic and indigenous plants, some rare enough to be found in a botanical garden, to the effect that Tollygunge Club has the distinction of being the only country club of its kind in India and is ranked amongst the top 20 clubs of the world. In this and other respects, 'Tolly' as it is affectionately referred, has few equals in India and indeed, in the world.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Tollygunge Club, 120 Deshapran Sasmal Road, Kolkata-700033 Ph: (033) 24176022, 24728754/8755, 24732316 Telefax: (033) 24720480, 24731903 Email: tollygolf@gmail.com Website: www.tollygungeclub. org, www.tollygolf.in

How to reach Nearest airport: Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata (26 kms) **Par:** 70 **Total yardage:** 4,840

Green fees Weekday Member fee: ₹ 150 Walk-in: ₹ 292

Weekend Member fee: ₹ 300 Walk-in: ₹ 573

Caddie fees: ₹ 200 (18-hole); ₹ 125 (9-hole)





砛 Kaziranga Golf Resort | jorhat

aziranga Golf Resort, nestled amidst the Sangsua and Gatoonga tea estates, is one of its kind. A well-maintained property, this course with lush green fairways, smooth greens and roughs with a two-sided driving range can accommodate 72 golfers at a time.

Designed by Ranjit Nanda, this course with undulating elevation and water bodies near several holes makes it a challenging game for even the most seasoned golfer. The shortest hole here measures 185 yards.

The climate here is ideal for playing golf all year round. Note that the monsoons are from May to August and there is heavy rain for about 15 days in a month.

The resort also has an academy, which provides training to aspiring golfers.

🚺 Fact File

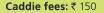
Address: Sangsua Tea Estate, Gatonga, PO Jorhat-785616 Ph: +91 8811091577, 9748497027 Email: sourav.srkr@rediffmail.com Website: www. kazirangagolfresort.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Jorhat Airport (20 kms) Designer: Ranjit Nanda Established: 2011 Par: 71 Total yardage: 6,830

Green fees

Weekday Walk-in: ₹ 300

Weekend Walk-in: ₹ 500





WHILE IN JORHAT

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCTOBER-MARCH

Take a leisurely rickshaw ride to soak in the colonial character of the town, visit the ponds built by Ahom rulers and Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary.

Excursions beyond

- Shyamgaon (25 kms)
- Sibsagar (55 kms)
- Majuli (the ferry point is an hour long bus ride from Jorhat)
- Kaziranga National Park (112 kms)



🅎 Digboi Golf Club Links | digboi

igboi Golf Club Links is set amidst lush tea estates and thick forest. It is the first 18-hole golf course to be established in Assam, while the first oil well in Asia was drilled here in 1901. The club is surrounded by the Deihing Forest Reserve on three sides, so you need not be surprised if you see a wild boar, or a leopard cross the greens as you play!

Established in 1930 by the British, the course was shifted to its present location in 1943 as a par 70 course. The present course is par 72 and its

longest hole measures 530 yards. Its shortest hole, measuring only 127 yards, is called 'Stairway to Heaven'.

The fifth hole has an airstrip, which was constructed during the World War II. The 11th hole has an oil well called 'Captain's Well 992', as the well was inaugurated by the then Golf Captain, while the 17th hole is named 'Hornbill Haunt', as hornbills are seen frequenting this hole. Also, do not miss a game at the 18th holeit has one of the tallest trees on a golf course in India!

🚹 Fact File

Address: National Highway 38, Golai Gaon No 3, Digboi-786171 Ph: 09435137381, 09706140259

How to reach

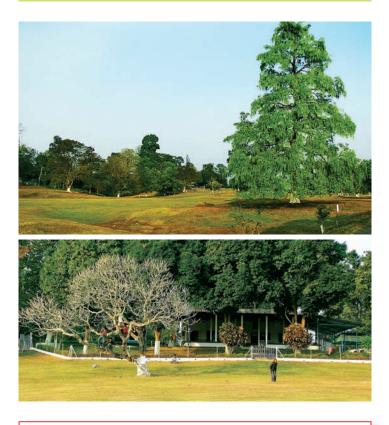
Nearest airport: Mohanbari Airport, Dibrugarh (75 kms from Digboi)

Established: 1930

Par: 72 Total yardage: 6,309

Green fees Weekday Member guest: ₹1250 Walk-in: ₹1250

Weekend Member guest: ₹250 Walk-in: ₹573



WHILE IN DIGBOI

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

Visit the War Cemetery, Digboi Oil Refinery (Asia's first oil refinery) and Ridge Point Hill for its magnificent views.

Excursions beyond

• Namphake village (35 kms)

 Saikhowa National Park (60 kms)





Shillong Golf Club | SHILLONG |

estled in the lap of nature, the rolling meadows of Shillong Golf Club are bordered with pine and rhododendron trees. The history of golf in Shillong goes a long way; in 1898, a bunch of British civil servants established a 9-hole course in Laban. After World War I, Shillong's popularity as a European golf resort increased and in 1924, the present course with its club house was inaugurated.

Designed by Capt Jackson and C K Rhodes, the course has tight fairways which are covered with a local species of grass, ensuring a tough game for most golfers. The longest hole on the course is the sixth one, which is 594 yards. There are fast greens here surrounded by heavy sand bunkers. The game often tests your physical strength as most tee points are an uphill walk!

The climate is generally pleasant all year long, though rain could sometimes play spoilsport, with Shillong being just 56 kms from Cherrapunji – the wettest place on earth!

🚹 Fact File

Address: Golf Links, Shillong-793001 Ph: (0364) 2590479

How to reach Nearest airport: Shillong Airport (32 kms)

Established: 1924 Par: 70

Total yardage: 5,873

Green fees

Weekday

Member guest/ Foreigners: ₹ 200 Walk-in: ₹ 200

Weekend Member guest/ Foreigners: ₹ 200 Walk-in: ₹ 200

WHILE IN SHILLONG

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-APRIL

Visit Umiam Lake, Don Bosco Museum of Indigenous North East Culture, Sweet Falls, Elephant Falls and Butterfly Museum.

Excursions beyond

- Cherrapunji (56 kms)
- Noh Kalikai Falls (58 kms)
- Jowai (61 kms)

West India



Bombay Presidency Golf Club | MUMBAI

ombay Presidency Golf Club (BPGC), established in 1927, is one of the oldest and most prestigious golf courses in the country. Initially, rather unimaginatively, called The New Club Ltd, BPGC is spread across 100 acres of land bought from the Bombay Port Trust. It was renovated in 2009 by Nelson & Haworth Redesign and its lush green expanse currently spreads over 90 acres, with seven water bodies, 43 bunkers and 11 hazards. While the course itself might not present any major difficulties, as it is neither too long nor too narrow, but the temperamental sea breeze often proves to be a hindrance for even the most experienced golfers.

The club has a restaurant, although entry is restricted to members and their guests. The club also has a billiards room, a well-stocked pro shop, a practice putting range and a bar.

🚺 Fact File

Address: Dr Choitram Gidwani Road, Near TM Hinduja National Sarvodaya, High School & Junior College, Mumbai-400071 Ph: (022) 61174500/600 Email: bpgc1@vsnl.in Website: www.bpgcgolf.com

How to reach

Nearest airport: Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport via Western Express Highway (18 kms)

Designer: Nelson and Haworth Established: 1927 Par: 70 Total yardage: 6,148

Green fees Weekday

Members guest: ₹ 1,970 Walk-in/Foreigners: ₹ 2,810

Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 2,350 Walk-in/Foreigners: ₹ 3,365

Caddy fees: ₹ 280-300 Golf Cart: ₹ 500 Club Set: ₹ 500

Tournaments: Evolution Golf

West Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour, IGU Western India Juniors & Faldo Series, IGU BPGC Ladies Amateur & Faldo Series

WHILE IN MUMBAI

BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

Visit the majestic Gateway of India; UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site, Victoria Terminus (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus), the ever-crowded headquarters of Central Railways; Elephanta Caves, across the bay from the Gateway; and the Haji Ali Dargah, picturesquely located on an islet. Take an early morning or sunset stroll along the Marine Drive and walk around the Fort area to get your fill of colonial structures. Snack on the delicious street food, sample the city's numerous restaurants and enjoy the night life in its vibrant pubs and clubs.

Excursions beyond

- Khandala (83 kms)
- Matheran (87 kms)
- Lonavala (111 kms)



砛 Willingdon Sports Club | мимват

uilt in 1933 by Lord Willingdon, the then Governor of Bombay Presidency, this was the first club in India to grant entry to both Indians and Europeans. The story goes that the Governor was once denied access to Bombay Gymkhana Club as he was accompanied by an Indian Maharaja. Annoyed and offended by this, the feisty Lord Willingdon initiated the building of the Willingdon Sports Club.

Originally a 15-hole course, it was renovated and upgraded to an 18-hole course in 2011. Although it has a relatively small fairway, the golf course here has 52 bunkers and four water bodies, and this coupled with the sea breeze, makes for a fairly difficult course to par on.

The club house, which is built like a British summer bungalow with a sloping red-tiled roof and long, white colonnades, also has six tennis courts, a swimming pool, badminton and squash courts, and a wellequipped gym. Located in the heart of the city, at a walking distance from the Haji Ali *dargah* and about 2 kms from Mahalaxmi Racecourse, with skyscrapers glinting in the background, this club is an ideal oasis for sports enthusiasts.



🚺 Fact File

Address: Keshav Rao Khadye Marg, Tardeo, Mumbai-400007 Ph: (022) 23545755/57 Email: secretary@willingdonclub. com (Club's own website is open for

members only)

How to reach

Nearest airport: Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport via Western Express Highway (22 kms)

Established: 1933 Par: 65 Total yardage: 4,635 Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 1,000 Foreigners: ₹ 1,000

Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 2,000 Foreigners: ₹ 2,000 Walk-ins not allowed

Caddy fees: ₹ 125 Club Set: ₹ 700

Tournaments: Evolution Golf

West Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour, Bombay Ladies Open Week, Mercedes Trophy

Aamby Valley Golf Course |

he luxurious 250-acre fully flood-lit Aamby Valley Golf Course, has since its inception in 1994 become one of the most sought-after golf courses in the country. Situated in the rolling hills of the Western Ghats, the course was designed by the legendary David Hemstock and later upgraded to host championships by PGA DC, UK.

The vast landscape which is cocooned in the Sahyadri mountain range is breathtaking. It is a thinking man's course with 84 bunkers, 16 hazards, three water bodies, and accommodates all levels of play. The 18-hole course has two distinct characters, with nine holes dotting valleys and the rest between lakes.

Aamby Valley Golf Club also runs a golf academy with British PGA accredited professional trainers who provide individual as well as group sessions. The Legends Bar in the club house, with its wooden interiors and cheerful ambience, is popular 19th hole among golfers. There is a wellness centre, an international school, two man-made lakes and accommodation styled after Swiss chalets and British bungalows, inside Aamby Valley City complex. Aamby Valley has its own airport, though most take the 20-minute flight from Mumbai.



GOLF COURSES IN WEST INDIA





🚹 Fact File

Address: Aamby Valley City, Ambavne, Taluka Mulshi, Lonavala, Dist- Pune-410401 Ph: (020) 22900000 Fax: (020) 22965111 Email: experience@aambyvalley. com, golfproshop@aambyvalley. com

Website: www.aambyvalleycity. com

How to reach Nearest airport: Pune International Airport (94 kms) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport via Mumbai-Pune Expressway (113 kms)

Designer: David Hemstock and Associates **Established:** 1994 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,087

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 4,250 Walk-in: ₹ 5,000 Foreigners: ₹ 5,000

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 4,250 Walk-in: ₹ 5,000 Foreigners: ₹ 5,000

Golf Cart: Included in the green fee (on twin sharing basis) Club Set: ₹ 1,500

Tournaments: Golf Premier League, PGTI Players Championship Corporate Events



砛 Poona Club Golf Course | pune

pread over 94 acres of verdant landscape, Poona Club Golf Course was established by the British in 1918 and held its first major tournament in 1920. Located in the city's posh Yerawada Road, Poona Golf Club has over 1,000 members and conducts about 40 tournaments in a year.

Redesigned and renovated in 1992-93 by Phil Ryan of Pacific Coast Design, the golf club lies inside the vast premises of the prestigious Poona Club. Heavy vegetation, with more than 20,000 varieties of trees dot the landscape here. And as if that is not tricky enough, the course also has eight water bodies, 38 sand bunkers, two grass bunkers and 13 hazards to make things even more interesting! The golf course has practice facility that is flood-lit and stays open from 5 pm to 9.30 pm every day.

🚹 Fact File

Address: 6, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune-411006 Ph: +91 9881409935, 9766641757 Email: reception@poonaclubltd. com Website: www.

poonaclubgolfcourse.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Pune International Airport via New Airport Rd and Samrat Ashok Rd (6 kms)

Designer: Phil Ryan Established: 1920 Par: 71 Total yardage: 6,415

Closed on 2nd and 4th Monday

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 790

Walk-in: ₹ 790 Weekend Members guest: ₹ 1,125 Walk-in: ₹ 1,125

Club Set: ₹ 500-1,000

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Tournaments: Evolution Golf West Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour, IGU Western India Juniors, TATA Steel Western India Amateur, IGU Maharashtra Juniors, USHA Western India Ladies Amateur



WHILE IN PUNE

BEST TIME TO VISIT: SEP-MARCH

Make a stop over at Aga Khan's Palace, or if you are spiritually inclined, at the Osho International Meditation Resort. For the historically inclined, a visit to Shaniwarwada, the 18th century palace fort that was the seat of the Peshwa rulers is a must-visit. Visit the Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum for its incredible collection of art and artifacts from all over the country.

Excursions beyond

- Karla Caves (60 kms)
- Panchgani (95 kms)



Oxford Golf and Country Club | PUNE

he fairly new Oxford Golf and Country Club was established in 2009 and spreads across 136 acres. Ranked as the numero uno golf course in the country in 2013 by Asian Golf Magazine, this golf course is one of the most luxurious golfing destinations in the country today. Shaped like a horseshoe, the course has six water bodies, 54 bunkers and 26 hazards and is by no means an easy course to par on. As the course sits pretty in the bosom of the stunning Sahyadri hills, the tempestuous and moody Western Ghat winds and the change in elevation levels may cause concern to amateur golfers.

The club has a golf academy, provisions for playing tennis, squash and a swimming pool. The club also has an in-house restaurant. Those who love camping may hire tents from the club house. Golfers can also stay at the luxurious O Hotel, part of the Oxford group.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Near Deccan Honda Showroom, Lavale Taluka, Mulshi, Pune-411045 Ph: (020) 67904817 Email: vaishali.vaidya@ oxfordgroup.in, dipti.gokhale@ oxfordgroup.in Website: www. oxfordgolfandcountryclub.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Pune International Airport via Flame Ring Road (26 kms)

Designer: Phil Ryan Established: 2009 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,020 Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 1,200 Walk-in/Foreigners: ₹ 2,500

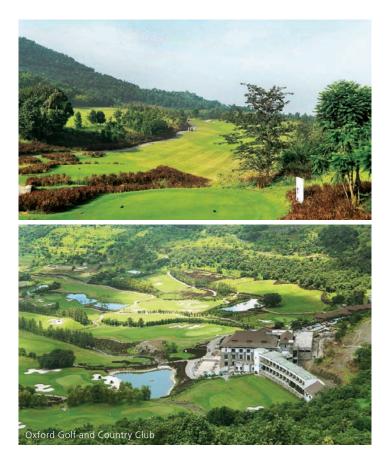
Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 3,000 Walk-in/Foreigners: ₹ 5,000

Caddy fees: ₹ 300-600 Golf Cart: ₹ 500 Club Set: ₹ 1,000

Tournaments: Evolution Golf

West Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour, PGTI Players Championship, Mercedes Trophy





Kensville Golf and Country Club | AHMEDABAD

ituated 66 kms away from the hustle bustle of Ahmedabad, the plush, European PGAsanctioned Kensville Golf and Country Club was established in 2006. Co-designed by Colonel KD Bagga and the Indian golfer, Jeev Milkha Singh, the Country Club is spread over a whooping 700 acres!

This championship course has narrow fairways with 11 water

bodies, 42 bunkers and two hazards set on a nearly flat terrain. Complementing the lush greenery are visitors from the nearby Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, and first-timers often find these avian companions a bit distracting. The golf club is a popular destination not only among professional golfers, but also among amateurs who come here to practice in the flood-lit range in Kensville Golf Academy.

🚹 Fact File

Address: Dev Dholera Village, Near Baldana Village, Opp Sahyog Restaurant, Bavla-Rajkot Highway, Ahmedabad-380051 Ph: +91 8980760000 Fax: (079) 40002929 Email: marketing@kensville.co.in Website: www.kensville.co.in

How to reach

Nearest airport: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad via NH 8A (64 kms)

Designer: Jeev Milkha Singh and Colonel KD Bagga Established: 2006 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,300

Green fees Weekday Members guest: ₹ 500 Walk-in/Foreigners: ₹ 600

Weekend Members guest: ₹ 700 Walk-in: ₹ 800

Club Set: ₹ 500

Tournaments: Gujarat Kensville Open (European Challenge Tour), Evolution Golf West Zone Feeder and Sub Junior Tour, Round Table Classic Golf Tournament, Kensville Independence Day, Rotary International District

WHILE IN AHMEDABAD BEST TIME TO VISIT: OCT-MARCH

The most famous tourist attraction in the crowded city of Ahmedabad is of course Gandhiji's Sabarmati Ashram. Also visit Hathee Singh Jain Temple, Jama Masjid and Sidi Bashir Masjid while in the city. Shop for silver jewellery and blockprint textiles at Manek Chowk and Law Garden Night Market.



Excursions beyond

- Adalaj ki baoli (17 kms)
- Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary (60 kms)



Kalhaar Blues and Greens Golf Club | Анмеравар

he first golf course in the country designed by the American golfer, Jack Nicklaus, Kalhaar Blues and Greens is acknowledged to be one of the toughest and indeed the longest golf course in India. The 175-acre course has 14 water bodies with as many 'beach' bunkers spread over a lush green landscape. Situated on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, the golf course is located in the middle of a realty project developed by the Navratna Group and has an in-house golf academy. The academy conducts training programmes for guests lasting one month (₹14,500 for adults and ₹12,700 for children) and three-month (₹19,000 for adults and ₹15, 400 for children).

🚹 Fact File

Address: Sanand-Bopal Bypass Road, Behind Muni Bapu Ashram, Ahmedabad Ph: + 91 8347773454, 9377110656 Email: info@ kalhaarbluesandgreens.com Website: www. kalhaarbluesandgreens.com

How to reach Nearest airport: Ahmedabad

Designer: Jack Nicklaus Established: 2012 Par: 72 Total yardage: 7,425

Green fees

(includes fees for Caddy and Golf Cart)

Weekday

Members guest: ₹ 800 Walk-in: ₹ 800 Foreigners: ₹ 800

Weekend

Members guest: ₹ 1,000 Walk-in: ₹ 1,000 Foreigners: ₹ 1,000 Tee time booking required. Contact Anil Patel- 09377110592, 08347773454

Club Set: ₹ 300

Tournaments: IGU Amateur Open, Round Table Charity, Rotary Golf Event, Franklin Templeton, Louise Philippe Club event, Toyota Club Event, Touche Golf League, YPO







砛 Golf Tour Operators (IGTA)

Aashman Air Travel Pvt Ltd

Ms Chitra Bhatia chitra@aashmantravel.com Ø 9350868502 & www.aashmantravel.com

Alpha Plus DMC Pvt Ltd

Mr Desmond Theophilus airplustravels@gmail.com 2 9811054006

Arrivals Air Services Pvt Ltd

Mr Rajan Sehgal rajan_arrivals@yahoo.com Ø 9811060786

Cosmopol Travel Pvt Ltd

Mr Cherian Jacob cherianjacob58@gmail.com Ø 9845023301, 9787619684 & www.cosmopoltravel.com

Diplomatic Travel Point Pvt Ltd

Mr MP Khanna mpkhanna@indiatourismworld.com Ø 9810011332 & www.indiatourismworld.com

Freedom Holidays

Mr Martin Thypodath martin@freedom-holidays.com 9822101267 www.freedom-holidays.com

Garha Tours & Travel

Mr NS Rathore garhatwo@vsnl.net, info@garhatours.com 2 9867028230

GolfTripz / GreenAge

Mr Ajit Mohandas ajitmohandas@golftripz.com Ø 9440405870 & www.golftripz.com

Grand Travel Planner

Mr Umesh Kapur umeshk@grandtravelplanners.com Ø 98155 10162 Shttp://grandtravelplanners.com

Indian Golf Connexions

Mr Vipan Sharma vipansharma@aircruise.co.in Ø 9811049246 & www.indiangolfconnexions.com

Indo Asia Leisure Services Ltd

Mr GS Panwar sgspanwar@hotmail.com Ø 9810065575

www.indoasia-tours.com, www.indoasia.co.in

GOLF TOUR OPERATORS

Inpac Tours Pvt Ltd

Mr Naresh Sharma nks@inpacindia.com Ø 9810027417

Kaleidoscope Travel Consultants Pvt Ltd

Brig (Retd) Surinder Lidder sindi24229@hotmail.com Ø 9423582779 & www.exploreourindia.com

LPTI

Mr Randhir Brar randhir@pashindia.com Ø 9810060180 & www.pashindia.com

Namaste Tours

Mr P Balasubramanyan bala@namastetoursindia.com Ø 9811116317 & www.namastetoursindia.com

Plan Your Holiday

Mr Gaurav Dogra gd@planyourholiday.com Ø 9818793736 & www.planyourholiday.com

Prakhar Travels

Mr Atul Dhir prakhartravels@gmail.com Ø 9958170015 & www.prakhartravels.in

SKH Global Travels

(A Unit of KV Travel Pvt Ltd) Mr Manish Ahluwalia manish@skhglobal.com http://www.skhglobal.com

Special Holidays

Mr Sandeep Jain sandeep@specialholidays.net 9 9810372424, 9810356126

www.specialholidays.net, www.traveltoursindia.com

Top Travel & Tours Pvt Ltd

Mr Rajan K Mathur topindia@gmail.com Ø 9810035012

www.top-travels.com

Trans India Holidays Pvt Ltd

Mr Kapil Goswamy kgoswamy@transindiaholidays.com Ø 9811028077

swww.transindiaholidays.com

Travel Port

Mr MV Shastry mvshastry@etravelvalue.com Ø 9810619506

Uday Tours & Travel Pvt Ltd

Mr Uday Marwah uday@udaytour.com Ø 9811277079

www.indiagolfcourses.com, www.indiagolftours.com

Indian Golf Tourism Association

(IGTA) is a non-profit organisation founded in September 2012, to promote India as a global golfing destination. IGTA's agenda to work with the Ministry of Tourism (Government of India), golf courses, hotels, airlines and the International Tourism Board is aimed at drawing international tourists to the country to experience golf in its myriad forms.

Contact: http://igta.in/



Sentials While Playing Golf in India

• Carry your handicap certificate, since most courses ask for it unless you are accompanied by a member.

• Pre-book your tee time during weekends and public holidays, particularly in tourist places

• Summers in India can be harsh so book your tee time early in the morning before you fall prey to the strong sun. Some golf courses also offer night golf to make the experience more pleasurable in summer. What's more, it serves as a stress-buster after a hectic day!

• Insist on registered caddies and keep track of the number of balls and clubs in your bag

• We recommend you check with the Club for latest information on green fees and timings before you visit; and for any promotional offers.

Several golf courses have their own resorts, which are worth booking as it does away with an everyday commute from a hotel elsewhere. Else, some hotels have tie-ups with courses and they can assist you in booking a tee-time as per your convenience, and also get you a discount!

🅎 Golfing Etiquettes

It always pays to learn the rules of a game and follow generally accepted etiquettes. This is especially true at a golf course, where people *putt* special emphasis on it.

• Arrive early and finish warming up by hitting a few soft wedge shots before heading out for the practice green and hitting a few putts.

- Before your first tee, check the scorecard to learn any local rules.
- Many golfers in local clubs have their regular playing partners. Check with them before joining their group.
- Avoid slow play and plan your next shot by studying the strength and direction of the wind.

• Always replace your divots and repair any damage caused by your golf shoes. Carry a penknife, or

some such tool, to fix ball marks. The same applies for bunkers where you should smoothen holes and footprints made by you.

- If your ball is on another player's line, volunteer to mark the ball.
- Play only if other players are out of range. Traditionally, one calls out 'Fore' in case there is a danger of hitting another player/caddy.
- Never stand where you might distract a fellow player and do not move or make a noise when someone is putting.
- Public displays of anger, yelling loudly in frustration, or any kind of disturbance on the golf course might not be tolerated by the club.
- After play, submit your card to the club, even if you did not fare well.

Sourced from: www.pga.com