

# Stay and play

**Michael Stoneman** picks out which golf courses to play in Brunei, Lisbon, Montreal and Seoul – and where to stay while you're there

## BRUNEI

The sultanate of Brunei, located on the island of Borneo, may only be small, but this oil-rich state boasts an impressive line-up of six golf courses, with each one enjoying either lush rainforest backdrops or stunning views of the azure South China Sea.

The undoubted pick of the courses is the 7,029-yard layout at the Empire Hotel and Country Club. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the course is regularly rated as one of Asia's finest and played host to the Royal Trophy in 2012, when an Asian side including YE Yang, KT Kim and Ryo Ishikawa overcame José María Olazábal's European team in a dramatic sudden-death playoff. The front nine at the Empire Country Club boasts ocean views from high ground, while the inward nine reaches down to the sea, with the signature 15th hole running alongside the beach. For those looking to escape the tropical heat, the course even offers night golf with floodlights illuminating the fairways. Those staying at the luxurious

five-star beach resort can also enjoy a superb spa as well as a lagoon beach, swimming pools, a kids' club, tennis courts, and a fully-equipped fitness centre.

## WHERE TO STAY AND PLAY

### The Empire Hotel and Country Club

Tel: +673 241 8888  
[www.theempirehotel.com](http://www.theempirehotel.com)

## SEOUL

Korean golf is booming thanks to the exploits of five-time major champion Inbee Park and countless others on the LPGA Tour, as well as the likes of Sang-Moon Bae, Seung-Yul Noh and KJ Choi on the PGA Tour. In addition to world-class golfers, the country also boasts an impressive array of top-level courses, with several excellent layouts to be found in and around Seoul. One of the finest is the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea, situated in the newly-built Songdo International Business District, 40 miles southwest of the capital. The 7,413-yard championship course, which will host the Presidents

Cup between the USA and the International team in October this year, features a large number of water hazards and provides players with a stern strategic test, while also offering world-class amenities, including an award-winning, 60,000-square-foot clubhouse.

After enjoying the opulent surroundings of the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club, visitors will feel at home in the luxurious Shilla Hotel in Seoul, which borders the city's 23-acre Janchungdan Park. As

well as European-style guestrooms designed by world-renowned designer Peter Remedios, the hotel features a shopping arcade, five dining options, a full-service spa, an outdoor pool and a stylish bar where you can enjoy refreshing cocktails with live jazz music.

## WHERE TO PLAY

### Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea

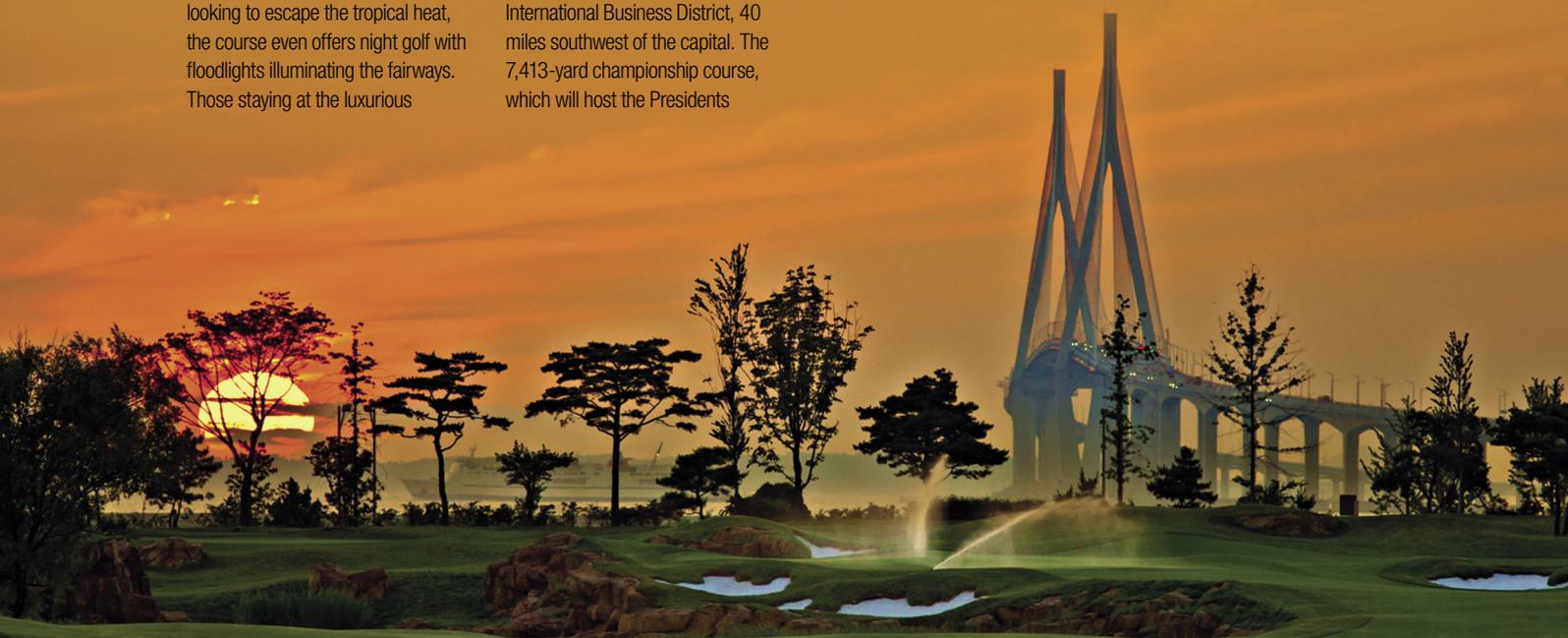
Tel: +82 32 850 8000  
[www.jacknicklausgolfclubkorea.com](http://www.jacknicklausgolfclubkorea.com)

## WHERE TO STAY

### The Shilla Seoul

Tel: +82 2-2233-3131  
[www.shilla.net](http://www.shilla.net)

**Pictured: Asia offers top-level golf courses such as The Empire Country Club (inset) and Seoul's Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea**





#### LISBON

Oitavos Dunes is regularly ranked among the top 100 golf courses in the world – and with good reason. The par-71, 6,968 yard layout offers a style of golf more commonly associated with Scotland and rarely seen on Continental Europe, with players able to enjoy championship links golf just 30 minutes west of Lisbon. As well as the sand dunes and coastal breezes you would expect from a links-style course, Oitavos also boasts stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean, Sintra mountains and Cabo da Roca – the westernmost point of mainland Europe – making every round a memorable experience.

While the course also features its own luxury hotel, visitors looking to enjoy Lisbon's many delights should head to the Bairro Alto – a five-star boutique hotel located in the heart of the city's historic downtown, between the bohemian Bairro Alto district and the chic, cultural and trendy Chiado neighbourhood. The hotel occupies a restored 18th-century building, with stylish rooms spread across five floors, offering views of Luis de Carnões Square, Rua das Flores or Rua do Alecrim. The Florés restaurant, on the ground floor, also serves a blend of Portuguese

and Mediterranean cuisines, while the sixth-floor terrace provides views of the River Tagus.

#### WHERE TO PLAY

##### Oitavos Dunes

Tel: +351 21 486 06 00  
[www.oitavosdunes.com](http://www.oitavosdunes.com)

#### WHERE TO STAY

##### Bairro Alto Hotel

Tel: +351 21 340 8288  
[www.bairroaltohotel.com](http://www.bairroaltohotel.com)

#### MONTREAL

Royal Montreal – founded in 1873 – is the oldest golf club in North America, although it didn't move to its present location on Ile Bizard until 1959. If you can get a tee time on the Blue Course (knowing a member will certainly help) then you will be treated to one of the finest tests in golf, requiring a combination of power and control off the tees, as well as precision into the huge, tiered greens. The course, which was designed by Dick Wilson and updated by Rees Jones, has hosted the Canadian Open ten times, and also welcomed the US and International teams for the Presidents Cup in 2007.

After playing on such a venerable course, the only suitable place to lay your head is the equally grand Hôtel Le St-James, located amidst

**Above: Stay in five-star comfort (left) and play at world-class golf courses in Lisbon (right)**  
**Below: The Hôtel Le St-James provides an excellent base for exploring the city of Montreal**

the cobblestoned streets of Old Montreal. The historic building, which dates from 1870, used to be a Merchant's Bank, while remnants of Montreal's original fortification wall can be seen inside the hotel's spa. As well as boasting avant-garde interiors

and character-filled rooms, the hotel provides an excellent base from which to explore the nearby galleries, restaurants and shops of the Old City.

#### WHERE TO PLAY

##### Royal Montreal Golf Club

Tel: +1 514-626-3977  
[www.mgc.org](http://www.mgc.org)

#### WHERE TO STAY

##### Hotel Le St-James

Tel: +1 514-841-3111  
[www.hotellestjames.com](http://www.hotellestjames.com)

