

Golfing glory

Upward Curve selects some of the ultimate golfing treats to stay and play at around the world

HAWAII

Few courses on the PGA Tour schedule garner as much attention at Kapalua's Plantation Course – host of the annual Tournament of Champions. Set on the site of a historic pineapple plantation, with spectacular views of the Pacific and stunning Hawaiian scenery, the 7,411-yard par-73 layout provides a stern challenge for the pros each January, but its wide fairways and generous greens also make it very playable for regular golfers. The course's dramatic elevation changes are nowhere more evident than on the jaw-dropping closing hole – a 663-yard par-five monster

with a steeply sloped fairway that should allow you to hit one of your longest-ever drives. After following in the footsteps of Maui's past champions, such as Tiger Woods, Ernie Els and Sergio Garcia, you can relax with a cocktail or delicious fresh fruit smoothie beside the palm-fringed pool of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, which also boasts breathtaking ocean views, 463 lavishly-appointed rooms and several award-winning restaurants.

WHERE TO PLAY

Kapalua Golf

Tel: +1 877 527 2582
www.golfatkapalua.com



WHERE TO STAY

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua

Tel: +1 808 669 6200
www.ritzcarlton.com

Pictured: Play against breathtaking Hawaiian scenery at Kapalua's Plantation Course

MANILA

Golfers visiting the Philippines have an array of first-class courses to choose from, including two Jack Nicklaus-designed layouts at Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club, approximately 35 minutes south of Manila's city centre. The

older Legends course, which opened for play in 1994, is slightly friendlier for high handicappers, while the tougher Masters layout brings water into play on 15 of the holes and requires both length and accuracy. Each course features trademark Nicklaus bunkering, with mango trees, saman trees ➤

and towering palms all lining the fairways. Back in the city, the Pan Pacific Manila – located at the heart of the historical and cultural district of Malate in the Manila Bay area – provides a welcome retreat after a day on the course, with 236 modern rooms and suites, all with round-the-clock 'butler' service. The hotel also boasts a pool and several dining options, including the 21st-floor Pacific Lounge, which provides 360-degree views of the city and Manila Bay.

WHERE TO PLAY

Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club

Tel: +63 (46) 430 0266
www.manilasouthwoods.com

WHERE TO STAY

Pan Pacific Manila

Tel: +63 2 318 0788
www.panpacific.com

BRISBANE

Having hosted the G20 summit in November 2014 – and with the Commonwealth Games taking place in the nearby Gold Coast in 2018 – Brisbane is fast emerging from the shadows of celebrated Australian siblings Sydney and Melbourne to become a genuine new world city. The award-winning Emporium Hotel provides contemporary chic in the heart of Brisbane's vibrant Fortitude Valley district – home to an eclectic mix



of elegant bars, grungy pubs, high-end fashion boutiques and offbeat shops. The independently-owned boutique hotel features 102 luxurious studio suites, a rooftop pool, sauna, gym, cocktail bar and conference centre catering for up to 300 people. Approximately 45 minutes south of the city, golfers can find a true test of their ability at Brookwater Golf & Country Club, which features a challenging 6,505-metre layout designed by Greg Norman. Hailed as the Great White Shark's ode to Augusta National, Brookwater's narrow, tree-lined fairways, rolling terrain and challenging bunker locations certainly conjure images of the venerable home of the Masters tournament. The steep climb to the undulating 10th green and the signature dogleg par-five 13th, in particular, look like they

Above: The signature 13th hole at Brisbane's Brookwater Golf & Country Club

Below: Enjoy deluxe comfort at the Yas Viceroy in Abu Dhabi

wouldn't be out of place on the famed Georgian course. You'll definitely need your 'A' game, but Brookwater is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular golf facilities in Queensland and a must for any players visiting Brisbane.

WHERE TO PLAY

Brookwater Golf & Country Club

Tel: +61 (0) 7 3814 5500
www.brookwater.com.au

WHERE TO STAY

Emporium Hotel

+61 (0) 7 3253 6999
www.emporiumhotels.com.au

ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi has rapidly emerged as one of the premier golfing destinations in the world, with a host of top-class courses to choose from, not to mention the European Tour's annual Abu Dhabi Golf Championship – now in its 10th year – which attracts leading players such as world number one Rory McIlroy and three-time winner Martin Kaymer. The tournament's host course – at the Abu Dhabi

Golf Club – is undoubtedly one of the Emirate's top layouts, but no trip to the UAE would be complete without a round at Yas Links. Designed by Kyle Phillips, whose other projects include the spectacular Kingbarns course in Scotland, the 7,450-yard Yas Links boasts a truly spectacular finishing stretch, with views of the Yas Marina Formula 1 racetrack, the iconic Ferrari World Abu Dhabi theme park and the action-packed Yas Waterworld. It may be far removed from the traditional Scottish links courses, but Yas Links provides a remarkably authentic experience, with wispy fescue grass, rugged sand dunes and eight holes located right on the coastline, including the stunning par-three 17th. On the other side of the Yas Marina racetrack, the eye-catching Yas Viceroy offers the high-end hotel group's signature service, with 499 luxury rooms and suites, two rooftop pools, a spa and an array of dining options. ■

WHERE TO PLAY

Yas Links

Tel: +971 2 810 7710
www.yaslinks.com

WHERE TO STAY

Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi

Tel: +971 2 656 0000
www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com

