

# Driving perfection

We travel to South Korea (Seoul), Morocco (Marrakech), Portugal (Lisbon) and Mexico (Los Cabos) in search of sumptuous hotels and sublime golf close to the city

## SEOUL

South Korea is on the international golf map and its women are leading the charge. Korean-born New Zealander Lydia Ko was World Number One for 85 weeks, Inbee Park won Olympic gold at Rio 2016 and Sung Hyun Park has recently taken the prestigious US Women's Open.

Seoul hosted the 1988 Olympic Games before golf was back on the roster, but there is no shortage of phenomenal options around the Special Metropolitan City.

Gapyeong Benest Golf Club, host of the 39th Korean Ladies PGA Championship in September, is a trademark

Jack Nicklaus-designed course, with wide fairways and well protected, undulating greens.

Its 27 holes are configured as three returning nines with Maple and Pine combining to form the premier 18. The signature hole, however, is the downhill par-4 third on the Birch course.

Gapyeong Benest Golf Club is one of five Korean golf centres owned by Samsung.

The Sheraton Seoul Palace Gangnam Hotel is well located in on the southside of Seoul, within striking distance of Seoul's 24-hour shopping district, its ritzy Cheongdam region and a wealth of Michelin-starred Korean cuisine.

## Gapyeong Benest Golf Club

+82 31 460 3417

[golfsamsung.com](http://golfsamsung.com)

## Sheraton Seoul Palace

### Gangnam Hotel

+82 2 532 5000

[sheratonseoulpalace.com/en](http://sheratonseoulpalace.com/en)

## MARRAKECH

Last November, The illustrious World Golf Awards bestowed the honour of 'Africa's Best Golf Course 2016' upon Assoufid Golf Course, a luxury 18-hole course designed that winds its way through undulating desert landscape against a dramatic backdrop of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains.

Scottish designer and former

European Tour player, Niall Cameron, has designed the majority of holes in a north-south orientation to maximise impact of the spellbinding views and elevated tees where possible.

The par-3 17th is the club's signature hole with a panoramic drive from the highest point on the golf course.

The club recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing its natural environment, in which only 45% of the golf course was planted to minimise water consumption.

Located 10 kilometres from Marrakech's Medina – a UNESCO World Heritage site – the Assoufid Course is easily reached from the Port du Golf Royal Mandarin Oriental. Lying in 20 hectares of ➤

**Below: With a backdrop of Morocco's Atlas Mountains, inspiration is abundant at the naturally sculpted Assoufid Golf Course, just 10 kilometres from the centre of bustling Marrakech's Medina**







fragrant gardens and olive groves, the five-star luxury resort is only minutes from the city centre.

#### **Assoufid Golf Course**

+212 525 060 770

[assoufid.com/en](http://assoufid.com/en)

#### **Mandarin Oriental Marrakech**

+212 5 24 29 88 88

[mandarinoriental.com](http://mandarinoriental.com)

#### **LISBON**

The most westerly tip of Europe offers one of the world's most stunning golf courses. Oitavos Dunes plays on the stark contrast between the Sintra Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. It is only one of two courses designed by the famous Michigan-born Arthur Hills on the continent, but is by no means a stereotypical American target golf track. Measuring slightly over 6,300m, the course is a wonderful blend of woodland and links golf with firm, fast and undulating greens. The 14th is a spectacular dune-lined par-3 over a storm ravine that can play far longer than its 153m suggests.

The resort of Quinta da Marinha is located 35 kilometres west of Lisbon in the stunning Sintra-Cascais National Park, close to the classic seaside towns of Estoril and Cascais. The Four Seasons Ritz Hotel is located right in the heart of Lisbon, but has excellent access to the Atlantic coast. Its private terraces provide a splendid birds-eye view of the historic city, overlooking Eduardo VII Park, St. George's

#### **Above: Gapyeong Benest**

**outside of Seoul Left: The Four Seasons Ritz Hotel Lisbon**

**Below: The clubhouse and hotel at Diamante Cabo San Lucas – with The Dunes just 15kms west of Los Cabos**

Castle, the Old Town, the Tagus River and the April 25th Bridge.

#### **Oitavos Dunes**

+351 21 486 0600

[oitavosdunes.com](http://oitavosdunes.com)

#### **Ritz Hotel Lisbon**

+351 21 381 1400

[fourseasons.com/lisbon](http://fourseasons.com/lisbon)

#### **LOS CABOS**

Snuggled amidst two kilometres of pristine Pacific Ocean beachfront are three of the finest courses on the globe. The Dunes Course,

by Davis Love III, El Cardonal by Tiger Woods Design and The Oasis Short Course, also by none other than Tiger himself. The two Championship courses require a strategic approach to every hole, while the 12-hole par-3 course is the perfect place for honing skills or getting beginners off the tee. Golf Digest ranked The Dunes number one in Mexico in 2016 and the prestigious Golf Magazine ranked it number 36 in the world in 2017. With flawless routing and conditioning, the weather is perfect for links golf set in one of the dramatic pieces of property on the globe.

While the accommodations at Diamante are world-class, it is 15 kilometres west of Los Cabos. For those who want to stay closer to the action, Hacienda Beach Club and Residences are set along a private stretch of Medano Beach. With views of the breathtaking Land's End formation, the resort grants direct access to the beach, plus a world of shopping, dining, sightseeing, and nightlife on the Baja coast.

#### **Diamante Cabo San Lucas**

+52 624 172 5812

[diamantecabosanlucas.com](http://diamantecabosanlucas.com)

#### **Hacienda Beach Club & Residences**

+52 866 300 0084

[haciendacaboresort.com](http://haciendacaboresort.com) ■

