

# The hills are alive

When business calls, it's time to pull out the clubs and head to the fairways. This quarter, we're on the Chinese island of Hainan, as well as Abu Dhabi, Mallorca and Charleston

## ABU DHABI

Spoiled for choice, with the floodlit City Golf Club and Yas Links, Abu Dhabi features remarkable courses. The indisputable king, however, is the Abu Dhabi Golf Club which has hosted the prestigious Abu Dhabi Golf Championship every year since 2006. As a Rolex series event, the prize fund currently stands at US\$7 million.

An oasis of tranquillity carved out of the desert, the course itself provides a tough-but-fair challenge with 18 holes of lush fairways, strategically placed bunkers and generous greens. Managed by Troon Golf, the par-72 National Course has

been regularly ranked among the World's Top 100 courses by Golf World Magazine.

After a tough day on the course, the only way to truly relax in style is to head to Zaya on Nurai Island. A 15-minute boat ride off the shores of Abu Dhabi, it's a piece of paradise like nowhere else. The boutique private island resort features a world-class oceanside spa, five fine and casual food and beverage outlets and a beach club.

**Abu Dhabi Golf Club**  
[adgolfclub.com](http://adgolfclub.com)

+971 2 885 3555

**Zaya**

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

+971 2 506 6222

## HAINAN

Welcome to the Hawaii of Golf. Located in the South China Sea, Hainan is similar in size to Hong Kong, with 365 days of playable golfing climate and 50 golf courses. The most famous is Mission Hills Haikou, a premium golf resort that incorporates a whopping 10 golf courses.

While all of the courses are wonderful challenges in their own right, the jewel in the crown is the Blackstone Course. Voted best championship course in Asia the spectacular 350-acre golf course weaves through a striking landscape of mature trees, thick jungle vegetation, and expansive lakes and wetlands. Great care

was taken to find as many natural holes as possible to avoid cutting the bed of lava rock – upon which the course was built – and to preserve the magnificent Lychee trees.

The course begins in the heavily wooded portion of the sprawling property, with a wide variety of lengths and natural amphitheatre green settings. The final holes play in and out of a hub of raised terrain that allows spectacular views with plenty of risk/reward opportunities to finish up with.

The complex is just a 15-minute drive from Haikou International Airport and an hour-and-a-half from Sanya – the Miami of Hainan. The Atlantis dominates the golden sands of Sanya, complete with an indulgent spa and luxury boutiques.

**Mission Hills**

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

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**Atlantis Sanya**

[atlantissanya.cn/en](http://atlantissanya.cn/en)

+86 898 8898 6666 ➤

**Below: The Abu Dhabi Golf Club by night**





**MALLORCA**

Situated in the north east of Mallorca, Club de Golf Alcanada is a 6,499-metre coastal track that blends beautifully into the typical Mediterranean landscape. The club takes its name from a nearby island just off the shore which, complete with its own lighthouse, can be seen from most of the holes. Surrounded by pine and olive groves, with sea and mountain views, Alcanada was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. and features valleys and ravines, with plenty of elevated tees. Lush fairways, reachable par-5s, varied par-4s and long par-3s, it's effortlessly enjoyable golf. After the golf club's Lighthouse Bar has



**Above: Kiawah Island Ocean Course Clubhouse and 18th**  
**Right: Kiawah's Ocean Course**  
**15th Below: The 13th at Mallorca's Alcanada Golf Club**

offered a chance to look back on a great day of golf, reward yourself with a detox experience in the spacious and luxurious suites at the Zafiro Palace Alcudia Hotel, a couple of kilometres down the road.

**Alcanada Golf Club**  
[golf-alcanada.com/en](http://golf-alcanada.com/en)  
 +34 971 549 560

**Zafiro Palace Alcudia**  
[zafirohotels.com/en/hotels/zafiro-palace-alcudia](http://zafirohotels.com/en/hotels/zafiro-palace-alcudia)  
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**CHARLESTON**

Host of the 1991 Ryder Cup (The War on the Shore), the 2012 PGA Championship (Rory McIlroy's second Major) and the forthcoming 2021 PGA Championship, Kiawah Island is an American icon.

Located on the eastern-most end of Kiawah, The Ocean Course boasts more coastal holes than any other course in the Northern Hemisphere, with ten hugging the Atlantic and the other eight running parallel.

Although the course was originally planned to sit behind the dunes, designer Pete Dye's wife, Alice, suggested raising the entire course to give players unobstructed views of Kiawah's stunning coastline from every hole. This improved view made the course substantially more demanding as it also exposed play to the Atlantic's brisk and unpredictable breezes.

In fact, it's unlikely any other golf course in the world – outside the United Kingdom and Ireland – is affected as much by wind. From one round to the next, a player can experience up to an eight-club difference on holes depending upon the wind's direction and strength.

The first hole kindly opens with one of the narrowest fairways on the course, before the first



nine play through the coastal marshlands. The back nine is characterised by dunes, very few trees and spectacular ocean views.

The course prides itself on being one of the toughest in the country, and the signature 17th presents a narrow target fiercely guarded by water short and to the right, with two deep sand areas to the left.

The whole Kiawah Resort Hotel is as luxurious as it is spectacular; there is no need to travel far for the perfect stay. And with five courses to play, it's worth booking a few days here, just watch out for the crows!

**Kiawah Island Golf Resort**  
[kiawahresort.com](http://kiawahresort.com)  
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