

# Full swing

The World Polo Tour is heating up; time to jump on board as the excitement builds towards a grand finale

**T**he 2024 World Polo Tour is midway through the season, and if you haven't tuned in yet, now is the perfect time to do so. Whether you're a seasoned polo connoisseur or a newcomer to the sport, there really is something for everyone to enjoy. From high spectacle tournaments in the sun-soaked arenas of the UAE to prestigious events in the United States

and Argentina, the tour has showcased the very best of the sport on a global stage.

The season commenced with the Sultan Bin Zayed Polo Cup in Ghantoot, UAE, setting the stage for an unforgettable season. Bin Draï took the winning spot as well as landing again at number one at the EMAAR Polo Cup. With two wins, the Bin Draï's family team took the first 12-goal

tournament of the season in the United Arab Emirates.

Over in the United States, the Joe Barry Cup at IPC Palm Beach, Florida, saw Forbes Plunkett emerge on top, showcasing just how international this sport truly is. The World Polo Tour is a fantastic platform for cultural exchange, with players and spectators from diverse backgrounds coming together to celebrate the sport's traditions and history.

So far in the tour, there have been numerous stand-out teams to keep an eye on; the Habtoor Polo Team made waves in the early stages of the tour, claiming victory in both the Dubai Silver Cup and the Dubai Gold Cup at Al Habtoor Polo Club. Habtoor

Polo's Benjamin Panelo and Santiago Laborde worked brilliantly together to illustrate how brilliantly the team performs as a unit. The team has shown that they hold a winning combination of talent and experience, truly solidifying their status as one of the top teams in the region.

Back in the United States, the Clearwater Polo Team is standing out after they were victorious at the Ylvisaker Cup held at Patagones Polo Club and the National Polo Center, in Wellington, Florida. The team collectively showed an ▶

**Below: Coca Cola Polo team compete in the USPA Gold Cup at the International Polo Club in West Palm Beach, Florida**





**Left: Polo is played all year round – including on snow – for which these players are training horses** **Below: Fans of the sport enjoy some of the most scenic Polo pitches**

impressive performance on the polo field and Lucas Diaz Alberdi, who scored four goals from the field was awarded MVP of the match. The Ylvisaker Cup was established in 2003 as a tribute to William T. “Bill” Ylvisaker, one of the most remarkable American players and a true pioneer of polo. He significantly contributed to the development and growth of the sport in the Florida area during the 1970s and 1980s.

As the tour progresses, anticipation continues to mount for upcoming events such as The Countess of Dudley Polo Cup, held at Millamolong Polo Club in Australia and the San Jorge Open for the WPT Challenge Cup at Club de Polo San Jorge in Argentina. As each team competes for the top spot, the field becomes a stage where skill and determination are put under the spotlight. The rest of the season promises to deliver as exciting a denouement as the start.

The final matches of the World Polo Tour will be held in Argentina during the Argentine Open. This tournament is considered the most important polo event in the world and marks the closing of the season.



From every corner of the globe, the best polo teams will come together and compete for the prestigious title. Make sure to tune in this December for the final spectacle, witness the fierce competition, and high-energy atmosphere, and see who takes out the crown.

As the 2024 World Polo Tour season nears its end, it's clear that polo will keep drawing in huge audiences with its rich history, impressive athleticism, and remarkable teamwork. The sport began as a game for kings and over the centuries has transformed to make a name for itself as a global phenomenon, polo continues to captivate hearts and minds around the world. Stay up to date and make sure to catch a match near you as the World Polo Tour continues to unfold and witness history being made. [worldpolotour.com](http://worldpolotour.com) ■

