

## Courses

### 1. BURFORD Oxfordshire

The course at Burford was designed by JH Taylor, the professional at nearby Frilford Heath, in the mid-1930s. Originally it was without trees, but it's now very different with the holes clearly separated by mature and very attractive woodland. If the walking is easy, the golf is less so. Both length and accuracy are required and there are plenty of bunkers and highly regarded greens. The three par 5s each offer a birdie chance, while the closing three provide a tough finish.  
**W:** [burfordgolfclub.co.uk](http://burfordgolfclub.co.uk)  
**GF:** Round: £48/£40 after 2pm



The opening hole at Burford



The 2nd at Willie Park Jnr's Huntercombe

### 2. HUNTERCOMBE Oxfordshire

One of golf course architecture's founding fathers was Willie Park Jnr, whose first design was the magnificent Old course at Sunningdale. He actually owned the course here, which allowed him to extend his creativity to the full. It remains a real one-off and a beautiful place to play. Unusually there are just 13 sand bunkers, but there are many grassy hollows that can be just as challenging. Careful strategic thinking is required to navigate round to the testing greens.  
**W:** [huntercombegolfclub.co.uk](http://huntercombegolfclub.co.uk)  
**GF:** Round: £65wd/£90we; Day: £90wd/£110we

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# BEST OF UK &

Our nationwide search to find near-neighbours offering something slightly different continues

### 3. RING OF KERRY County Kerry

If scenery and setting are high on your list of golfing priorities, then a visit to Ring of Kerry will not disappoint. The course enjoys a glorious setting overlooking Kenmare Bay, and it was designed by one of the country's most exciting architects, the late Eddie Hackett, with further input from American Ron Kirby. The result is an exciting hybrid course which has enormous variety and is difficult to categorise. Changes in elevation offer up terrific views and the water hazards add challenge and photographic opportunity.  
**W:** [ringofkerrygolf.com](http://ringofkerrygolf.com)  
**GF:** Round: €75; Day €110



The picturesque 11th at Ring of Kerry



The magnificent links at Waterville

### 4. WATERVILLE County Kerry

Waterville is quite simply one of Ireland's greatest courses. Although it has history, it was falling into decline until Eddie Hackett and associates came to the rescue in the 1970s. Since then, Tom Fazio has added further refinement and style, and this is a magnificent, remote and quite dreamy links. It is also the most westerly course in the *Golf Monthly* Top 100. Stretching to a massive 7,378 yards from the tips, it provides a serious test of golf, especially when the wind is up... which is pretty much every day!  
**W:** [watervilllegolflinks.ie](http://watervilllegolflinks.ie)  
**GF:** Round: €200wd/€220we

## 5. FORFAR

Angus

Angus is a county packed with exceptional golf, and this means that its supporting cast can sometimes be overlooked. There is real strength in depth, with Forfar a fine example of an enjoyable and challenging heathland/tree-lined course. With its rolling, rumples fairways, it has some links-like characteristics, and it has a rich pedigree with Old Tom Morris and James Braid responsible for the design. While no great length, the course is not a pushover. **W:** [forfargolfclub.co.uk](http://forfargolfclub.co.uk)  
**GF:** Round: £36wd/£39we; Day: £44wd/£49we



The 7th at Forfar



Monifieth's 11th

## 6. MONIFIETH - MEDAL

Angus

The Medal course at Monifieth is a historic and classic links that has rightly hosted many important events. It is also where Tom Watson played his first-ever round on a British links in 1975, en route to winning The Open at neighbouring Carnoustie. The course is in the *Golf Monthly* Next 100, is strong in every department and should be on the radar of every links enthusiast. Look out, too, for the Ashludie course, which although short is a good test of golf and a hidden gem. **W:** [monifiethgolf.co.uk](http://monifiethgolf.co.uk)  
**GF:** Round: £80wd/£100we

# IRELAND

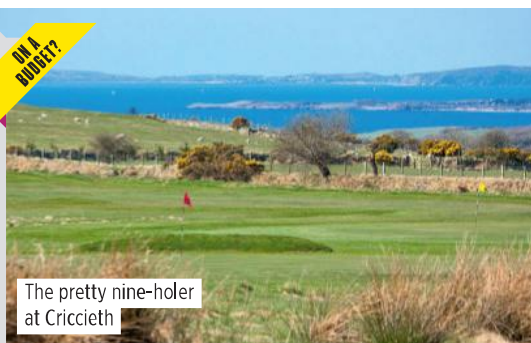
in Oxfordshire, County Kerry, Angus and North Wales



## 7. CRICCIETH

Gwynedd

Not all golf courses need to be 18 holes and 7,000 yards, and with today's concerns about pace of play, there is much to be said for nine-hole golf in an attractive setting. Criccieth is just such a course and is on the beautiful Llyn Peninsula in north-west Wales, a little way from Porthmadog. With a variety of tees the second time round, the course stretches to just over 5,000 yards when standing on tiptoe. Most importantly, it is great fun all the way. **W:** [cricciethgolfclub-northwales.co.uk](http://cricciethgolfclub-northwales.co.uk)  
**GF:** Nine holes: £15; Day: £20 all week



The pretty nine-holer at Criccieth



The must-play holes at Nefyn &amp; District

## 8. NEFYN & DISTRICT - OLD

Gwynedd

The superbly-sited club at Nefyn and District has three loops of nine, and it is the holes that run along the promontory, the Point, that are the absolute must-plays. Recent changes have altered the routing while taking the safety of the public into account, but there are still some wonderfully dramatic clifftop holes. At Nefyn you encounter blind shots, distracting views, the chance to stop off at the Ty Coch Inn and even an amazing and unique par 3 that is played over a blow hole. **W:** [nefyn-golf-club.co.uk](http://nefyn-golf-club.co.uk)  
**GF:** Round: £48 (£57 Sat)