

Greens With Envy: Playing the Scottish Links

Mach Dunes

600 years, golfers have been playing the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, home of the modern game of golf. While first-timers in the country might gravitate toward venerable courses at St. Andrews, Carnoustie and Turnberry, the entire country is a golfer's paradise, boasting some 600 courses—more per capita than any other country in the world.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO TEE UP IN SCOTLAND, HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR TRIP.

- The St. Andrews Links Trust accepts advance requests for the Old Course beginning the first Wednesday in September for the following year. You'll get a reply within a month of your application. Learn more at standrews.com. At press time, the cost was \$306 (including a second round on either the New Course or the Jubilee Course).
- No advance booking? Don't give up. Submit a ballot application by 2 p.m. for the 48-hour daily ballot and find out by 4 p.m. that day if you will play two days later; for instance, apply Tuesday for Thursday.
- Spend more time golfing and minimize travel by basing yourself in one particular area of the country, such as Fife, East Lothian, Ayrshire or Aberdeenshire. There will be plenty of links to play.
- Combine golf with another theme that interests you, playing courses along the Whisky Trail, for instance, or those near cities you'd like to visit.
- Be prepared to walk, as many Scottish courses discourage the use of carts (called "buggies" by the Scots).

The Swilcan Bridge at the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland

