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## Northwest & Northern Ireland

7 Nights | 7 Rounds including Castlerock, Royal Portrush, St. Patrick's Links & Royal County Down

This seven night, seven round package tours north Ireland and presents an outstanding collection of modern classics. It's available from April to October. Founded with 9 holes in 1901, extended to 18 by Ben Sayers in 1908, then modified by Harry Colt in 1925, then again by Martin Hawtree in 2017, **Castlerock** has done an admirable job of evolving with the game. The **Strand Course at Portstewart** is among Northern Ireland's leading layouts. The **Dunluce Links at Royal Portrush** hosted The Open in 1951, 2019 and is scheduled to again in 2025. **Ballyliffin Glashedy Links** features fantastic panoramic views of countryside and coastline. Often called the 'Dornoch of Ireland' because of its location on the country's extreme northern tip, this links poses a challenge that makes golfers glad they travelled the extra miles. **St Patrick's Links at Rosapenna** was recently designed by Tom Doak is receiving exceptional reviews. **Sandy Hills at Rosapenna** is considered an ideal modern links with holes cutting directly through the dunes while offering spectacular views. **Royal County Down**, an Old Tom Morris design, is generally considered as one of the top 10 courses in the world, and also as one of the more difficult courses in Ireland and beyond. Deluxe accommodations are provided at Bushmills Inn, Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Links and Slieve Donard Resort & Spa.

### Friday, August 11

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This evening depart the United States.

### Saturday, August 12

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**Sightseeing Suggestion:** Take a city tour of Belfast, where you will visit the many sights and learn of the city's fascinating history. A predominately Victorian city, which owes its expansion to the textile, engineering and shipbuilding industries. It's here that Harland and Wolff built Titanic the ill-fated liner in 1912.

Play today at **Castlerock (tbc)**. Castlerock is the lesser known of three links in the area lead by Royal Portrush and Portstewart but by no measure a pushover. A round on this 6,767 yard par 73 within several strokes of your handicap is well played. Founded with 9 holes in 1901, extended to 18 by Ben Sayers in 1908, then modified by Harry Colt in 1925, then again by Martin Hawtree in 2017, the club has done an admirable job of evolving with the game. There are no cupcakes here. The club's signature hole is 'Leg O'Mutton', a 200-yard par 3 played to an elevated green with the railway right and a burn left. The nine hole course is well worth a turn particularly for the par 5 fifth considered to be one of the most scenic in Irish golf.

### Castlerock Golf Club, Northern Ireland by LINKS Magazine

On arrival at the Belfast Airport you will be met by PerryGolf personnel who will assist you with your luggage and transfer to your transportation.

Your preferred arrival & departure airport options are dependent on your personal preferences. The closest airport to your first hotel/golf course is listed first. Some airports have direct transatlantic flights from US cities while others only offer service with connections through European hub cities. Our air department is available to talk through your air travel options.

OVERNIGHT: **Bushmills Inn** - 4 Classic Millhouse Room

## Sunday, August 13

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Today play **Portstewart - Strand Course (tbc)**. Possibly, indeed probably, The Strand Course at Portstewart has always been inspired by her renowned neighbors Royal County Down and Royal Portrush to join the ranks of Northern Ireland's leading layouts. The original course opened in 1908, was largely reinvented by the great Willie Park in the early 1920s, then updated again in the 1980s. Next after a healthy investment to acquire a range of massive, untouched sand dunes called "Thistly Hollow", seven outstanding new holes were constructed that make for an opening nine considered one of the best in links golf. Please note a very limited supply of golf carts are available for hire. Certain restrictions may apply, please advise your Golf Travel Specialist.

[Click here](#) for the golf course DRONE VIDEO

[Click here](#) for the golf course VIDEO

[Click here](#) for the golf course IMAGE GALLERY

Portstewart Golf Club, Northern Ireland by LINKS Magazine

OVERNIGHT: **Bushmills Inn** - 4 Classic Millhouse Room

## Monday, August 14

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**Sightseeing Suggestion:** Enjoy the delights of the Antrim Coastline. Outside of Portrush lies Dunluce Castle. The jagged silhouette of the ruins of Dunluce Castle rises from the cliff edge above the sea. Continue to the lunar landscape of the Giant's Causeway. Legend has it that the causeway is the work of the giant Finn McCool, the Ulster warrior and commander of the king of Ireland's armies. The causeway proper is the most spectacular series of geological features to be found along the North Antrim Coast consisting of 40,000 columns rising from the sea.

Golf on **Royal Portrush - Dunluce Links (tbc)**. Northern Ireland's Royal Portrush (Est 1888) is routinely ranked among the World Top 15 and never less than fifth among the great clubs of the UK and Ireland. It is the only club outside of Great Britain to host The Open which it has done twice; in 1951 and 2019. Harry Colt is largely responsible for the current layout which opened in 1932. He chose the high ground on magnificent dunes land the club had acquired for two courses that was full of deep valleys, long ridges and large plateaus. His achievement here is how the holes follow the sand formations and the greens which are some of the most cleverly conceived in golf. Changes were made in advance of The 148th Open that included two new holes, the exceptional 7th and 8th, which turned the old 17th and 18th into a staging ground for the championship.

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[Click here](#) for the golf course DRONE VIDEO

[Click here](#) for the golf course VIDEO

[Click here](#) for the golf course IMAGE GALLERY

WEBCAST - A Greenside Chat: "The Story of Where There's a Wilma, There's a Way ~ Wilma Erskine"

Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland by LINKS Magazine

OVERNIGHT: **Bushmills Inn** - 4 Classic Millhouse Room

## Tuesday, August 15

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**Sightseeing Suggestion:** Enjoy a walking tour of the historical city of Londonderry. The Derry walls are one of the finest examples in Europe, built during the period 1613-1618 as defences for early seventeenth century settlers from England and Scotland. They have withstood several sieges, the most celebrated lasting 105 days and encircle the old city, a circuit of one mile.

Today play **Ballyliffin - Glashedy Links (tbc)**. This new course opened in the summer of 1995 and offers a modern championship test that is considered by many to be the best new links course built this century. Ballyliffin is Ireland's most northerly golf club and is often referred to as "the Dornoch of Ireland". Please note a very limited supply of golf carts are available for hire. Certain restrictions may apply, please advise your Golf Travel Specialist.

[Click here](#) for the golf course VIDEO

OVERNIGHT: **Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Links** - 4 Classic Room

## Wednesday, August 16

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Today play **Rosapenna - Sandy Hills Links (tbc)**. In many ways, the ideal of a modern links. Designed by Pat Ruddy and intended for the serious golfer, its narrow fairways appear constricting from the tee, but the landing areas sculpted from the dunes are deceptively wide. Measuring a hefty 7,255 yards from the tips, but a more manageable test of 6,356 yards from the white tees. Above all, the appeal of Sandy Hills lies in its beautifully balanced routing through the high dunes. Please note a very limited supply of golf carts are available for hire. Certain restrictions may apply, please advise your Golf Travel Specialist.

OVERNIGHT: **Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Links** - 4 Classic Room

## Thursday, August 17

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**Sightseeing Suggestion:** Visit Downpatrick an important historical town, which until recently was almost entirely surrounded by water. It is here that you should visit the Saint Patrick Centre, which tells the story of Ireland's patron Saint before visiting the traditional site of St. Patrick's Grave in the nearby grounds of Down Cathedral.

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Today play **Rosapenna - St Patrick's Links (tbc)**. Designed by Tom Doak and opened in 2021. A sprawling links that is destined to become a modern great. It sits on the most magnificent piece of links land, west coast of Ireland scenery, with enough variety in dimension to present a real diversity of golf holes. The routing takes golfers on a journey through huge dunes, to high above Sheephaven Bay, along the coast, then back over some more gentle dunes. With plenty of width and an eclectic mix of naturalised bunkers, the course is destined to become a must play.

OVERNIGHT: **Slieve Donard Resort & Spa** - 4 Classic Room

## Friday, August 18

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**Sightseeing Suggestion:** Enjoy a visit to Mount Stewart, Northern Ireland's most celebrated garden. This great diversity of style and plants from every continent were ingeniously combined by Edith, Lady Londonderry to produce a garden of outstanding quality and character.

Golf today on **Royal County Down (tbc)**. Northern Ireland's Royal County Down is routinely ranked among the World Top 5 and never less than first or second among the great clubs of the UK and Ireland for two reasons: the beauty of the setting and the brilliance of the design. Old Tom Morris authored the first 18 hole course here and gets a healthy share of the credit for this masterpiece but George Coombe and Harry Colt also had a hand in it, as have Donald Steele and Martin & Ebert in recent years. None would dispute however, that the site as it was found with its rugged dunes, natural corridors and hollows, golden gorse and purple heather was destined for greatness. The ninth stands out among many. This 427-yard par 4 begins with a blind tee shot to a fairway found eighty feet down a sidehill plunge where two cross bunkers protect a green saddled between two dunes.

[Click here](#) for the golf course VIDEO

[Click here](#) for the golf course IMAGE GALLERY

[Royal County Down Golf Club, Northern Ireland by LINKS Magazine](#)

OVERNIGHT: **Slieve Donard Resort & Spa** - 4 Classic Room

## Saturday, August 19

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Depart Ireland from Belfast / Dublin Airport.

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## Your Lodging

### Bushmills Inn

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In the village that is home to the worlds oldest distillery, between the Giants Causeway and Royal Portrush Golf Club this award winning hotel and restaurant has been outstandingly successful in re-creating it's origins as an old Coaching and Mill House. Open peat fires, gas lights and striped pine set the tone in this living museum of Ulster Hospitality while the Restaurant has an international reputation in serving the best of new Irish cuisine. In 2009, Bushmills Inn unveiled a new extension consisting of 19 oversized bedrooms and a new reception, bringing the total rooms to 41 which allowed the hotel to advance to a Four Star property whilst still maintaining the same theme throughout.

### Rosapenna Hotel & Golf Links

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Located on the edge of the picturesque Sheephaven Bay, Rosapenna is the proud home to two of the finest links in the world. The Old Tom Morris Links designed by Old Tom Morris of St. Andrews in 1893 and a modern great in the Sandy Hills Links laid out by Pat Ruddy of The European Club fame. With a luxury hotel on site Rosapenna is the perfect venue for a golfing break or just a quiet getaway in this beautiful corner of Donegal. Tranquil lounges and elegant dining areas overlooking the bay combine to set the ambience. A choice of bedrooms ranging from standard to deluxe with sea views provide the comforts and style one would expect from a hotel with such history. This is a haven of tranquillity where you can recharge after a day on the links or simply escape from the pressures of modern-day living.

### Slieve Donard Resort & Spa

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Situated at the foot of the beautiful Mountains of Mourne, the Slieve Donard Resort & Spa stands in six acres of private grounds which extend to an extensive golden strand. Originally a luxurious railway hotel, the Slieve Donard Resort & Spa is now part of the Marine & Lawn Collection, and offers fine accommodation and excellent facilities. Apart from the obvious attraction for golfers, the hotel is also an ideal setting for fishing, horse riding and mountain walks. The hotel is undergoing a complete modernisation and refurbishment for the 2023 Season with the hotel taking on the Marine & Lawn styling.