

Golf in Edinburgh and in the East Lothians

Speaking with golfers about Scotland means you mostly finish in St. Andrews and on surrounding well-known golf courses. But there are in Scotland many other golf gems, for example more than 20 excellent courses concentrated on the “Scotland’s Golf Coast” near historical Edinburgh, offering not only excellent golf, but also historical monuments, natural reservations and not least good food, this means everything for adequate price. Housing strategically in the center of Golf Coast in Aberlady, we avoided the heavy traffic in Edinburgh and enjoyed the atmosphere of the coast, combined with “full Scottish breakfast “, young ox steaks and other specialities of the local kitchen.

Out of above mentioned more than 20 golf courses located on the “Scotland’s Golf Coast” and in Edinburgh we have selected seven golf courses.

Kilspindie Golf Club was established in 1867 as the 35th oldest golf club. Kilspindie is a traditional Scottish seaside links designed by Ross and Sayer and later modified by Willie Park. For sure, it is one



of the finest hidden gems any golfer can find. Several holes border the shoreline and offer magnificent coastal views. During our play we have also seen seals sunning on the sand. The course is not very long, less than 5 000 m and we were happy with playing more pars than usually. To play Kilspindie as the first golf course during our trip was perfect decision. Green fee prices: round weekday £49, day weekday £70, round weekend £60

and day weekend £80. www.kilspindiegolfclub.co.uk kilspindie@btconnect.com



In our program we have included very unusual plan – to play **Musselburgh Links, the Old Course** with a set of hickory clubs (nine hole), surrounded by Musselburgh Racecourse. This historic golf course hosted six times the Open Championship (1874 – 1889). Musselburgh Links is reputed to be the oldest playing golf course in the world (1672). It was a great experience

to play with hickory clubs, especially to get out of bunkers. Naturally, we have asked the starter what if we damage a historic club. “Please bring back all parts of the damaged club, no problem”, was his answer. We received also the advice that to play a ball from the grass of the race course would be very difficult and that was really the case. Our wish to have a lunch in the famous Mrs Formans was postponed – unfortunately for now it is closed. We are looking forward to the new movie about golf - about Morris based on the book Tommy’s Honour. We were informed that the crew visited this



Willie Park and later modified by Dr. Alister MacKenzie and James Braid.



£50, 2015/16 winter rate October to March £45. www.bruntsfieldlinks.co.uk

course the day before our visit. To play with hickory clubs is for sure a must for each and every golfer! Green fee prices: round weekday £13.50, round weekend £14.50, hickory clubs for round £ 36. www.musselburgholdlinks.co.uk

We have visited the fourth oldest club in the world (1761) – **The Bruntsfield Links** in Edinburgh. The parkland course was originally designed by Willie Park and later modified by Dr. Alister MacKenzie and James Braid. Since 2011 Bruntsfield was selected as a qualifying venue for the Open Championship. The Golfing Society Limited is the fourth oldest golfing body in the world and celebrated its 250th Anniversary in 2011. It was a surprise that there are no ladies tees but ladies are allowed to play. Bruntsfield is a traditional members' club with a strict dress code. Green fee prices: round weekday £75, day £95, round weekend £80, day weekend £100, twilight (16:30-17:30)

On the next day we have travelled the longest distance from our hotel in Aberlady in order to play



golf in **Dunbar** on a classic Scottish links course. This course from 1856 was designed by three giants of the game, Old Tom Morris, James Braid and Ben Sayers. Quite unusual is the course opening with two par 5's. After these holes the golf course continues along coastline and offers very beautiful views, especially on the signature hole number 12. Dunbar was selected as a qualifying venue for the Open Championships and belongs to

the best golf courses in the country. Green fee prices: round weekday: April - October £70, March £50, winter £40, day weekday: April - October £90, March £61, round weekend: April - October £90,



March £65, day weekend: April - October £115 and March £76. www.dunbargolfclub.com secretary@dunbargolfclub.com

We have again returned to Edinburgh to play **The Royal Burgess Golf Course**. The Royal Burgess



Golfing Society, founded in 1735, is the oldest golfing society in the world and one of only 10 "Royal" golf clubs in Scotland. The mature parkland course was originally designed by Willie Park and later improved by Harry Colt and Philip Mackenzie Ross. The course is very well maintained and recognised as one of the best parkland courses in the country. After our play we were invited for a guided tour of the club which we liked very much. It can be

only recommended to participate in this guided tour and to admire the very well preserved golf



collection. For instance you can admire two silver golf clubs decorated with silver golf balls and one golden ball. Green fee prices for 2015: £100 per person per round or £150 per person for a day. www.royalburgess.co.uk



Early morning we have visited the best new course in Great Britain and Ireland by Golf Monthly, **The Renaissance Club** - one of the world's most exclusive golf clubs or one of the most exquisite golfing venues in the world. Tom Doak has created a breathtaking, windswept links amidst stunning landscape. We could fully concentrate on play and admire the perfect environment, there was

nobody playing ahead and behind us.

The Renaissance Club is an exclusive private members club but the "One Time Experience" offers a rare opportunity, for non-members to embrace the challenge of this stunning golf course and enjoy this world-class golfing experience. The "Winter Renaissance Experience" affords non-members the chance to relax and enjoy the luxury accommodation and world class



facilities at the club over long weekends during the Autumn/Winter months (Thurs – Sun, 15 Oct 2015 – 31 March 2016). www.trcaa.com membership@trcaa.com

In the afternoon we have concluded our visit of golf courses in Edinburgh and "Scotland's Golf Coast" on the **Glen Golf Course**. The East Links at North Berwick, home of the Glen Golf Club is a beautiful



links course which enjoys panoramic views and offers a round of spectacular golf. It is one of the most under-rated and best value courses in Scottish Golf" (Golf Monthly). Originally laid out as a 9-hole course in 1894, it was extended to 18 holes in 1906 by James Braid and Ben Sayers. This is a golfing experience that is not to be missed: the course enjoys a breath-taking cliff top location with many spectacular holes offering views

out across the sea. We were warned by several golfers that the first opening hole is the so-called heart-attack hole with steep climb. Another surprise represents the last hole 18 playing down from the hill. Green fee prices: round weekday £40 - £53, day weekday £68, round weekend £54 - £65, day weekend £80. www.glengolfclub.co.uk secretary@glengolfclub.co.uk



Good news for golf enthusiasts - **Scotland's Golf Coast Festival**, inaugural golfing "Festival" will be held on 18th – 24th October 2015, where you can play some of the world's finest links courses: Gifford Golf Club, Gullane No. 1, Longniddry Golf Club, Dunbar Golf Club, The Renaissance Club as well as The Heritage Hickory Challenge at Musselburgh Links. You will embrace the challenge of picturesque parkland courses and

experience the heritage of a golf destination Scotland has been perfecting since 1672. For more info please contact: ginny@ginnylawsonpr.com



During the entire golf trip we have enjoyed comfortable lodging and excellent food at **Ducks at Kilspindie**, strategically located in the middle of the all visited golf courses.

We have visited two castles in the

region – Dirleton and Tantallon. **Dirleton** is a medieval fortress in the village of Dirleton. The oldest parts of the castle date to the 13th century, and it was abandoned by the end of the 17th century. We liked very much the walk in the castle garden. **Tantallon** Castle is a semi-ruined mid-14th-century fortress. It sits atop a promontory opposite the Bass Rock, looking out onto the Firth of Forth. The **Bass Rock** is home to over 150,000 gannets (the biggest gannet colony in the world) at the peak of the breeding season as well as a whole host of other seabirds and marine wildlife.





Visit of golf courses in Edinburgh and

East Lothian could be highly recommended. Courses could be played during the entire year because of the climate. More than twenty courses are located on the Scotland's Golf Coast within a very short travelling distance. It could be recommended not to drive to golf courses in the last minute because some of them are not included in navigation systems. It is a good advice to bring water and refreshment with you, only on some golf courses water was available. Special advice for ladies, please do not forget anything at home, shops at golf courses have a very limited choice of ladies items or do not sell them at all.

During boarding our direct flight home we have discussed and evaluated our first golfing experience from golf courses in Edinburgh and East Lothian and concluded that such nice trip we would like to organize again in the near future.

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