

# ***McDonie Scottish Highlands Golf Adventure***

## ***June 11-21, 2020***



Dave McDonie asked our company to organize a trip to Ireland last year and it was such a success that he's asked us to organize another trip, this time we'll go to where the game began, Scotland! The country has over 500 courses to choose from but some of the best are located in the Scottish Highlands and that is where this trip will take you. The Highlands experiences a maritime climate with cool summers and mild winters. It is one of the driest locations in Scotland and offers ideal terrain for golf courses. Almost all the courses you'll play are traditional Links Courses and will include rounds on Royal Dornoch, Nairn, Castle Stuart and more. The trip includes three nights in Dornoch, four nights in Inverness and the final two nights in Carnoustie. That's right, the trip will be capped off at one of the game's most historic and challenging venues, Carnoustie!



This trip combines rounds on several of the World's Top 100 Courses(Royal Dornoch, Castle Stuart & Carnoustie) with rounds at lesser known but outstanding links courses(Brora, Golspie, Nairn, Fortrose & Rosemarkie, Carnoustie Buddon & Carmoustie Burnside). And you'll be expected to walk, some courses have caddies, others don't, but you can always rent a trolley.

Accommodations have been selected at mid-range hotels. These are closer to what Americans would categorize as three star, not fancy and some rooms may be small, but they are clean & comfortable. Each hotel is within walking distance of restaurants & pubs. So you'll be able to explore the local villages and towns where these hotels are located without the hassle of having to take a taxi.

This trip also provides transfers to most of the golf courses. You won't need it for Dornoch and Carnoustie as the hotels are an easy walk to the club houses. However, a small bus will transfer the group to all the

other courses and to/from the hotels and airport. This will allow you to sit back and enjoy beautiful scenery found throughout the Scottish Highlands.

## **Additional Information:**

Please fly in & out of Edinburgh International Airport(EDI). (Flights are not included in package price). Your driver will pick you up at 10am, so try to book a flight that arrives close to 9am to have time to collect your bags and pass through customs.

Flights into Edinburgh(EDI) depart from the US in the evening and fly overnight, you arrive in Scotland the next day. In order to arrive on Friday June 12, 2020, you will need to depart on Thursday June 11, 2020.

In Scotland, golfers walk and most courses only offer limited availability of carts. Although most golfers walk, few actually carry their clubs, most rent golf trolleys, which are available in all golf shops at about £5 - £10 per round.

Caddies are available at most courses however, they should be booked in advance. A Caddie will greatly add to your golf experience and really help especially since this will be the first time most have played these courses. You can expect to pay approximately £40 -£50 per bag plus gratuity, typically between 10% – 20% but at your discretion. We will send all participants a caddie request email about six months prior to the trip, this way we'll be sure to get your requests in early.

You'll spend 9 nights in three different hotels located only about a 5-10 minute walk from several restaurants & pubs in Dornoch, Inverness and Carnoustie. Unlike the Ireland trip some of you took with us last year, this trip offers a choice of double occupancy or single occupancy package options. The double occupancy rooms will have two twin size beds.

This trip is limited to only 20 golfers, we suggest you reserve your place as soon as possible!

A deposit is required to register for this trip and it is due now. After that we will bill you in four installments for the remaining balance. We accept MasterCard, Visa or you may pay with a check.

## **Package Inclusions**

- 3 Nights at the Dornoch Hotel overlooking the first fairway of Royal Dornoch Golf Club.
- 4 Nights at the newly refurbished four star Mercure Inverness Hotel in downtown Inverness.
- 2 Nights at the four star Carnoustie Golf Hotel with a golf view room overlooking the Championship Links at Carnoustie.
- 9 Mornings with Full Scottish Breakfasts at the Hotels.
- Group Dinners on the first and last nights.
- Golf at: Brora Golf Club – Established in 1891, this is one of the most pure and natural links experiences in golf!
- Royal Dornoch Struie – A fun links with panoramic coastal views and the gorse ablaze with yellow in early summer.
- Royal Dornoch Championship - Golf Digest ranked it number two in the World 100 Greatest Golf Courses 2018.
- Golspie Links Course – The course has stunning views of the Dornoch Firth on one side and mountains on the other.
- Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Links – Voted "Golf Club of the Year for Scotland 2018" by the Luxury Travel Guide.
- Nairn Golf Club – The Old Course – This is the favorite of many a golfer including Tom Watson.
- Castle Stuart Golf Club – Designed by Gil Hanse, it's widely acclaimed as one of the finest links courses in the world.
- Carnoustie Buddon – Carnoustie's newest course and has recently been lengthened, presenting a

stiff test in the wind.

- Carnoustie Burnside – In 1953 Ben Hogan shot 70 here to qualify for the Open which he subsequently won.
- Carnoustie Championship – 8 Open Championships have been played here, with Francesco Molinari winning in 2018.
- Private Motor Coach transportation to/from the hotels and all golf courses except Royal Dornoch and Carnoustie.
- Taxes & Gratuities on planned group meals

## **Package Prices:**

\$3,850 - Per Golfer Double Occupancy

\$4,410 - Per Golfer Single Occupancy

\*Price is based on 20 paid participants, price may increase by 5% if less than 20 golfers participate.

## **Tentative Itinerary**

- **6/11/20** Depart USA for overnight flight to Edinburgh Scotland (Flight is not included in Package Price)
- **6/12/20** Arrive Edinburgh Airport & Transfer to Highlands(4 hour drive) Enjoy Welcome Dinner Dornoch Hotel – Dornoch
- **6/13/20** Transfer(30 minutes) to play Brora GC Dornoch Hotel – Dornoch
- **6/14/20** Walk from hotel to Royal Dornoch, play Championship in AM & optional round on Struie in PM Dornoch Hotel – Dornoch
- **6/15/20** Transfer(20 minutes) to Golspie GC then after golf continue to Inverness(1 hour) Mercure Inverness Hotel – Inverness
- **6/16/20** Transfer(30 minutes) to play Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Course Mercure Inverness Hotel – Inverness
- **6/17/20** Transfer(30 minutes) to play Nairn Golf Links Mercure Inverness Hotel – Inverness
- **6/18/20** Transfer(15 minutes) to play Castle Stuart Golf Links Mercure Inverness Hotel – Inverness
- **6/19/20** Depart Inverness and transfer to Carnoustie(3 hours) Play Burnside in PM Carnoustie Golf Hotel – Carnoustie
- **6/20/20** Final round on Carnoustie Championship Links AM & optional round on Buddon in PM Carnoustie Golf Hotel – Carnoustie
- **6/21/20** Transfer(90 minutes) to Edinburgh International Airpor

## Accommodations

**The Dornoch Hotel** – While staying at the Dornoch Hotel guests are treated to unspoiled views across the esteemed Royal Dornoch Golf Course and the pristine beaches of the Scottish Highland coastline. The Dornoch Hotel is set in a truly historic corner of the Scottish Highlands. Located within an easy walk of Royal Dornoch Golf Club and the quaint yet historic town of Dornoch. The hotel is Dornoch's largest with 105 rooms. All rooms feature en suite facilities as well as a television, hairdryer, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities. Our participants will stay in Superior Rooms which are more spacious and have been tastefully refurbished. These rooms offer a luxurious Double bed or two Twin beds and views overlooking Royal Dornoch Golf Course and the sandy beaches of the Dornoch Firth. These rooms also come with the facilities to make yourself a hot drink as well as extras such as bottled water and chocolates. Free Wi-Fi. The hotel boasts two restaurants, alongside a wood-paneled bar and relaxing sun lounge ideal for relaxing after a day on the links or exploring the historic nearby town.

**The Mercure Inverness Hotel** – This stylish Inverness hotel is newly refurbished throughout, blending traditional Highland hospitality with supreme comfort in the finest waterside hotel Inverness has to offer. The newly refurbished rooms, restaurant, bar and public areas have transformed Mercure Inverness Hotel into one of the most desirable city center Inverness hotels. The Mercure is the perfect hotel for golf groups. Located in the heart of the Old Town a selection of restaurants, shops and nightlife are within an easy walk of the hotel. All 121 guest bedrooms have HDTV and complimentary high speed WiFi so you can relax at the end of a day's shopping in the vibrant city center, after visiting some of the local links or after a workout in the hotel's fully-equipped gym.

**The Carnoustie Golf Hotel** – Located on the edge of the Carnoustie Golf Links Championship Course, the Carnoustie Golf Hotel is less than 650 feet from the sandy beach. A heated indoor pool, sauna, steam room and gym are all available in the leisure center. The Burnside Course and the Budden Links are also within the Carnoustie Golf Club. Local produce is served in the Calders Bistro, which has views across the golf course. Guests can relax with a drink in the Carnoustie Golf Hotel's casual Calders Lounge or enjoy the views on the terraced seating area. Golf view rooms boast the best panoramic view offered by the hotel, overlooking the Championship Golf Courses stunning landscape. Your Golf View room will come with two single twin beds or a queen size bed and offer extensive features in a spacious environment that you will no doubt be able to relax in comfort at the end of the day. These rooms come with en-suite bathroom with a walk in shower, tea and coffee making facilities, Ironing board, Flat screen TV with free view channels and free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. All rooms allow free use of the health facilities. Extensive spa and health facilities include a large heated swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool, steam room and for the more energetic a fully equipped gymnasium.

## Golf

**Brora Golf Club** – There is no better course to start your Scottish Golf Adventure than Brora. Located in the northern Scottish highlands, the unpretentious links of Brora occupy an ancient tract of farming land alongside the North Sea and enjoy spectacular views across the water to the distant purple hills. The club opened in 1891 (originally nine holes) and was lengthened to 18 holes around 1900. Five time Open champion James Braid redesigned the course in 1924, and the course remains mostly unchanged from that era. Brora contains all the characteristics of the Scottish seaside links – and the layout is classic. An easy opening hole, a short hole facing each cardinal point of the compass, a hole you can't reach in two shots, and the last green under the clubhouse window.

It also contains some characteristics you might not expect, like tiny electric fences that surround the green complexes to keep the sheep off of them. But this is only one small element of the charm that is Brora Golf Club. The course ensures you use every club in the bag and that you'll have to adapt and manufacture according to whether the course is running fast or slow, with the greens throughout renowned for their texture. The rough is negligible in order to facilitate play, so you ought to return home with all the golf balls you brought. Overall, the golf course is a holiday treat, the clubhouse is modern and comfortable and the catering is excellent. But the most overriding, all-important feature, is the warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere..

**Royal Dornoch Golf Club - Struie Course** There are many admirers of Royal Dornoch Struie Course, which is ranked in the UK top 50 links courses. The course originally opened as a 12 hole Ladies course in 1899 and opened to the present 18 holes in 1999. The work of Donald Steel and his design team back in the 1990s encapsulates natural Scottish Links golf, working with the natural landscape, local plant and wildlife, the layout incorporates many of the unique Dornoch features. It is a fitting neighbor to the Championship course and at just under 6200 yards in length it is a traditional links course with narrow fairways, bunkers, thick gorse bushes and fast greens. Most vacationing golfers consider the Struie to be a warm up track conveniently located next to the Championship Links. But the locals who have the pleasure of playing it on a regular basis know that it is a challenge in itself and well worth the green fee.

**Royal Dornoch Golf Club - Championship Course** - Royal Dornoch has been named the second best in the World by Golf Digest, pipped only by Northern Ireland's Royal County Down and placed three spots ahead of St Andrews' famous Old Course. Dornoch's members include legends of the game Greg Norman, Ernie Els and Tom Watson and more. Royal Dornoch is as much-loved for its technical difficulty as it is for its scenery. The views are stunning. Whether you look up the striking coastline to the north, inland to the mountains or out along the silvery beaches that bound the course, the vistas are captivating. Many believe that the golf course is one of Scotland's very finest links golf courses and that if it hadn't been for its location in The Highlands that it would have hosted many Open Championships. Anyone who has played it could not fail to agree.

Many a local will deliberately play short here, rather than risk missing the green either side with the resulting shenanigans that often entails. The layout forges out from the town, skirting gorse-covered sand hills. That gorse provides a persistent threat while sloping fairways and undulating greens with devilish run-offs add to the challenge. The track climbs to the top of the old dunes and back down to the coast before turning for home and into the prevailing winds. Tom Watson says, "It's the most fun I've ever had on a golf course."

**Golspie Golf Club** - Situated on the Dornoch Firth with a beguiling mix of classic links, heath and parkland holes. The course has stunning views from all holes of the Dornoch Firth on one side and the backdrop of Ben Bhraggie on the other. The Par 70 course offers an excellent golfing experience whether you are a plus 1 handicapper or an enthusiastic beginner. Golspie Golf Course are delighted to be rated as 54th in Golf World's Top 100 courses in Scotland. National Golfer's Dan Murphy noted:

'Beautifully presented and with as much variety as you could ever wish for. The consecutive short holes at the 16th and 17th are a highlight. Why it's special: You will get as warm and as genuine a welcome here as anywhere in the land". Our golf insiders consider it the most underrated course in Scotland!

**Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Course** - Located on the Chanonry Peninsula in the 'Black Isle' our Scottish links golf course enjoys breathtaking views over the Moray Firth, very close to the City of Inverness. Course architect James Braid's remarkable achievement in designing 18 challenging holes within the narrow Chanonry peninsula is instantly obvious and admired by first-time visitors. Modern-day golf writers enthuse over the course layout and condition, with accolades such as 'a gem of a

course by the sea' - 'the smallest but perhaps the brightest jewel in the Highlands' golfing crown' - 'one of the most pleasant rounds of golf in the north' - 'a unique course with a special character to be found nowhere else'.

**Nairn Golf Club** - Ranked number 11 in the list of Top 100 Courses in Scotland(Golf World Magazine), this Traditional Scottish Golf Links Course was created from a Highland wilderness of gorse and heather, and tests the talents of professional and amateur alike. Founded in 1887, it is now one of the best courses in Scotland, and has hosted a large number of important championships. Nairn Golf Club is a private members golf club founded in 1887 and made up of 1300 members. Visitors receive a warm welcome and are encouraged to come and enjoy "The Nairn Experience". Once you've tackled the challenging links it will leave you wanting to come back again and again.

**Castle Stuart Golf Links** - Gil Hanse has designed a Moern Classic in the Highlands and it is Castle Stuart. With a strategic design philosophy modeled on the ultimate links that is the Old Course at St. Andrews -- wide fairways, big greens, minimal rough -- it represented a welcome respite from the penal, one-dimensional and long grass-covered tracks so often found in professional golf on both sides of the Atlantic. The course is set over a fabulous stretch of coastline with a number of the most striking holes played right along the water's edge. Luke Donald(2011), Jeev Milkha Singh(2012), Phil Mickelson(2013) and Alex Noren(2016) all have fond memories of Castle Stuart as this is where they all became Champions of the Scottish Open!

**Carnoustie Golf Club - Buddon** - The newest of the three courses at Carnoustie, originally designed by Peter Alliss and the late Dave Thomas on land that was formerly part of the ladies' course and Ministry of Defence land, hence the reason why the holes are named after battles. The course was opened in 1979. Since then many changes have taken place including the most recent investment in two new holes in 2014 bringing the course up to a very testing par 68.

**Carnoustie Golf Club - Burnside** - The Burnside oozes character and from the back tees is a splendid test of golf. Many of the short holes could grace the top links courses around with the 5th and 14th in particular providing dramatic challenges for the player who strives to gain his par 3. The finish is also strong with the 17th proving to be one of the hardest par 4's that can be found anywhere in golf and many a score has been ruined by the out of bounds fence at the 18th.

**Carnoustie Golf Club - Championship** - The Championship Course has hosted eight Open Championships, one Women's British Open and two Seniors Open making it one of the very few to have done so in the UK. It is one of the three courses used for the annual Dunhill Links, the others being Kingsbarns and the Old Course in St Andrews and in 2018 The Open Championship returned to the course. In 2018, the Championship Course was voted Best Golf Course in Scotland over £100 by the general public, the second time it has won the award in the past three years.



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