



## 7 DAYS OF HISTORIC GOLF IN THE HEATHLANDS OF SURREY, ENGLAND

Golf on a collection of fine old Surrey courses, where heather and bunkers are hazards to be admired

Few visitors to the U.K. realise the county of Surrey contains some of the finest golf courses in the world. Whilst many have heard of Wentworth, where the west course was once known as the Burma road, in truth, the best Heathland golf courses are elsewhere in London's commuter belt. Your holiday will take you to our private selection of the very best heathland courses in the United Kingdom and to experience scenic landscapes of purple heather equal to any in Scotland. Arriving into Gatwick or Heathrow airport, you have a choice of three superb hotels, including two fine old coaching inns and hotels and no course is more than 45 minutes drive.

Surrey is also home to some of the best 500 year old pubs in England, and your arrival day should be spent acclimatising in one of the "locals", enjoying a little real ale refreshment.

A great joy of heathland golf is the ability to play in almost any weather, at any time of the year, since these sand based courses are unaffected by rain. A perfect example of this is the past home of the 1981 Ryder Cup, **Walton Heath**, where the Old and New course are arguably the best heathland courses in the world. The Old course has hosted over 60 major amateur and professional championships in its illustrious history, including the Ryder Cup, 5 European Opens and 23 News of the World Matchplay Championships.

After the relative flat of Walton Heath, your next round is at the venerable **St. George's Hill**, designed by Harry Colt in 1912 and carved out of heather and pine woodland. St George's Hill comprises three very individual 9 hole loops, all starting and finishing by the clubhouse. It is recorded that Colt himself considered the course to be his 'Jewel in the Crown'. Few golf courses can evoke such anticipation as that experienced on the drive through the course, up to the magnificent 1920's clubhouse, perched on top of the hill like a mountain retreat.

Another classic course on your itinerary is the wonderful **Woking Golf Club**, founded in 1893 and little changed since then. Fairways lined with heather and pine trees, Woking may seem straightforward, and whilst an accurate player may find a good score on his or her card at the end of the day, it is dreadfully easy to find heather or cavernous bunkers which can add two or three strokes on a single hole.

The relatively unknown **Hankley Common** is one of our favourites. This is a friendly private club in a most peaceful setting, laid out over rolling heathland with a few stands of silver birch and pine. This is as close to an inland links course as you will find, not overly long, but the greens here are usually very fast and make a warm putter a huge asset.

The **Hindhead Golf Club** was established in 1904 and is one of the most challenging and picturesque heathland golf courses in Surrey. A Peter Alliss favourite, it features some of the most dramatic heathland vistas and severe elevation changes anywhere in the county, lying in the cleavage of the famous Devil's Punchbowl. This unique terrain, home of tall pines, heather and ferns, includes a charming clubhouse overlooking much of West Surrey.





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### NOTES

- ♦ For fast quotes, call Wayne at +1 250 864 4051 or e-mail [wayne@athlonegolftours.com](mailto:wayne@athlonegolftours.com)
- ♦ All the featured Golf courses are Private, member owned Golf Clubs. Visitors are restricted to certain days and times of the week, and members events and competitions have priority on many days.
- ♦ Tee-times at all golf clubs are booked a maximum of 90 days in advance,
- ♦ Sometimes we have to substitute courses due to availability, but we will always make you aware of any substitutions and use equivalent courses only.
- ♦ Pricing is in GBP. You will be offered a CDN equivalent at the time of purchase.
- ♦ These clubs have a strict dress code, both on the course and in the Clubhouses. Notably, Gentlemen must usually wear a Jacket and tie when in the main dining areas of the clubhouses. On the course, shorts must be worn with knee high socks, and Tiger Woods style collarless shirts are often not permitted.
- ♦ Golf Handicap certificates are often required by these clubs and it is not unusual for starters to request sight of them. Generally, 26 is the maximum for men and 36 for ladies
- ♦ All local taxes and fuel surcharges are included and are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change.
- ♦ Caddies are available at some courses, but should usually be booked in advance as they do not reside at the course
- ♦ Carts = Buggies. Buggies are rarely available in the U.K. at private courses, and in many cases, a doctor's certificate is required before golfers may use them. If a golfer thinks he or she may be unable to play without the use of a buggy, please advise us well in advance and we will attempt to make suitable arrangements. For a small fee, payable on the day, pull carts are always available, as well as battery powered self propelling carts
- ♦ Car Rentals, are generally standard transmission, not automatic. Please specify if you wish to have automatic
- ♦ This is a holiday good at any time of the year. Seasonal weather is much like Victoria, although slightly warmer and wetter in winter.

Photograph: Hankley Common. Although heather appears to flower twice per year, it is best in early autumn.

