

## Golfe :: Exploring Portugal's Finest Golf



Portugal's variety of landscape is surprising and completely captivating; our country is blessed with gentle sunshine for the whole year round, and is bordered from south to north by the clean blue waters of the ocean.

Portugal is a golf paradise where the golfer can play almost every day of the year. Every course offers new and surprising landscapes, backed up by excellent services and facilities.

### [Program]

#### Day 1 – The arrival!

Arrive at Faro's Airport. Pick-up of your rental car at the airport. Drive to Vale do Lobo or Vilamoura and Check-in at the Hotel which will be your base for the next four nights.

#### Day 2 – Play Quinta do Lago

Quinta do Lago was the first course designed by an American golf architect in Portugal. The area at his disposal could not have been better. Umbrella-pine woods, on a slightly undulating ground, and the Ria Formosa National Park in the background, full of migratory birds, offered to William Mitchell like a picture canvas. But almost as important as nature, a new concept of resort was introduced into Portugal. Quinta do Lago is one of the most attractive places all over Europe.

### Day 3 – Play Ria Formosa

The terrain of Ria Formosa is identical to Quinta do Lago's. It offers however, very different challenges. William Mitchell was responsible for holes 1 to 5 and 15 to 18, while Joseph Lee and Rocky Roquemore designed the course from hole 6 to 14. The fairways and tees are mainly covered with 'Bermuda 419' mixed to cold season grass, keeping in good condition throughout the year. The greens however are covered with Penn Gross Bent Grass, creating quick conditions and a regular surface. The course offers the same facilities as Quinta do Lago.



### Day 4 – Play Vilamoura Old Course

The Old Course, designed by Frank Pennink and opened in 1969, is one of Portugal's best known golf courses internationally, especially for the outstanding way the layout was moulded to the natural contouring of the terrain and integrated into the surroundings. Recent upgrading and modernisation managed by Hawtree & Sons brought The Old Course up to a new level of excellence, enhancing the image that made it famous.

All the holes have their own individual character, making each one truly memorable.

### Day 5 – Free day

Drive north to Sintra or Lisbon. Check-in at the Hotel that will be your base for the next days.

### Day 6 – Play Quinta da Penha Longa

The famous golf architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. was chosen to design the course. The course is somewhat hilly and a certain degree of fitness is required to walk it. But this detail is of little importance when one considers the beauty of the landscape to be enjoyed.

The three last holes are excellent. The 16th, a long par 4 invites players to drive over a valley, this being followed by a rather hard shot, to an elevated green



protected by a bunker at the front. The 17th is a par 3 that requires great accuracy. Finally, the 18th is a par 5 with a birdie chance depending on the wind strength and direction. This finish makes every player cudgel his brains.

### Day 7 – Play Praia d’el Rey

Portugal’s newest golf course is located in the Praia D’El Rey and Country Club resort, one hour north of Lisbon. Praya d’el Rey is just a few kilometres away from the historical medieval village and Lagoon of Óbidos, in an extremely beautiful environment, facing the Atlantic Ocean and the natural park of the Berlengas islands.

American golf architect Cabell Robinson, using a combination of magnificent sea views, astonishing cliffs and dunes, along with luxuriant pine woods, created an exciting and majestic golf course with 18 holes, a par 72, with 6,625 metres. It represents a challenge for players with a lower handicap.

Definitely it is worth driving from Lisbon.

### Day 8 – Belas

Designed by Rocky Roquemore and opened in 1998, Belas has already received wide acclaim. It is a pleasure to play, whatever your handicap level and it is acknowledged both locally and internationally as one of the Portugal’s best constructed layouts.

Belas Country Club, an 18 hole course, was planned with great international and national tournaments in mind. Holes 2, 3 and 5 are a good example of Roquemore style. He designed the course totally in accordance with the plans of Charles Franzman, where the houses are built on top of the hills, overlooking a golf course winding in and out of the valleys below, thus benefiting from a certain protection from the wind.



## Day 9 – **Departure**

Check-out from the hotel and drop-off the car at the airport.

End of our services.