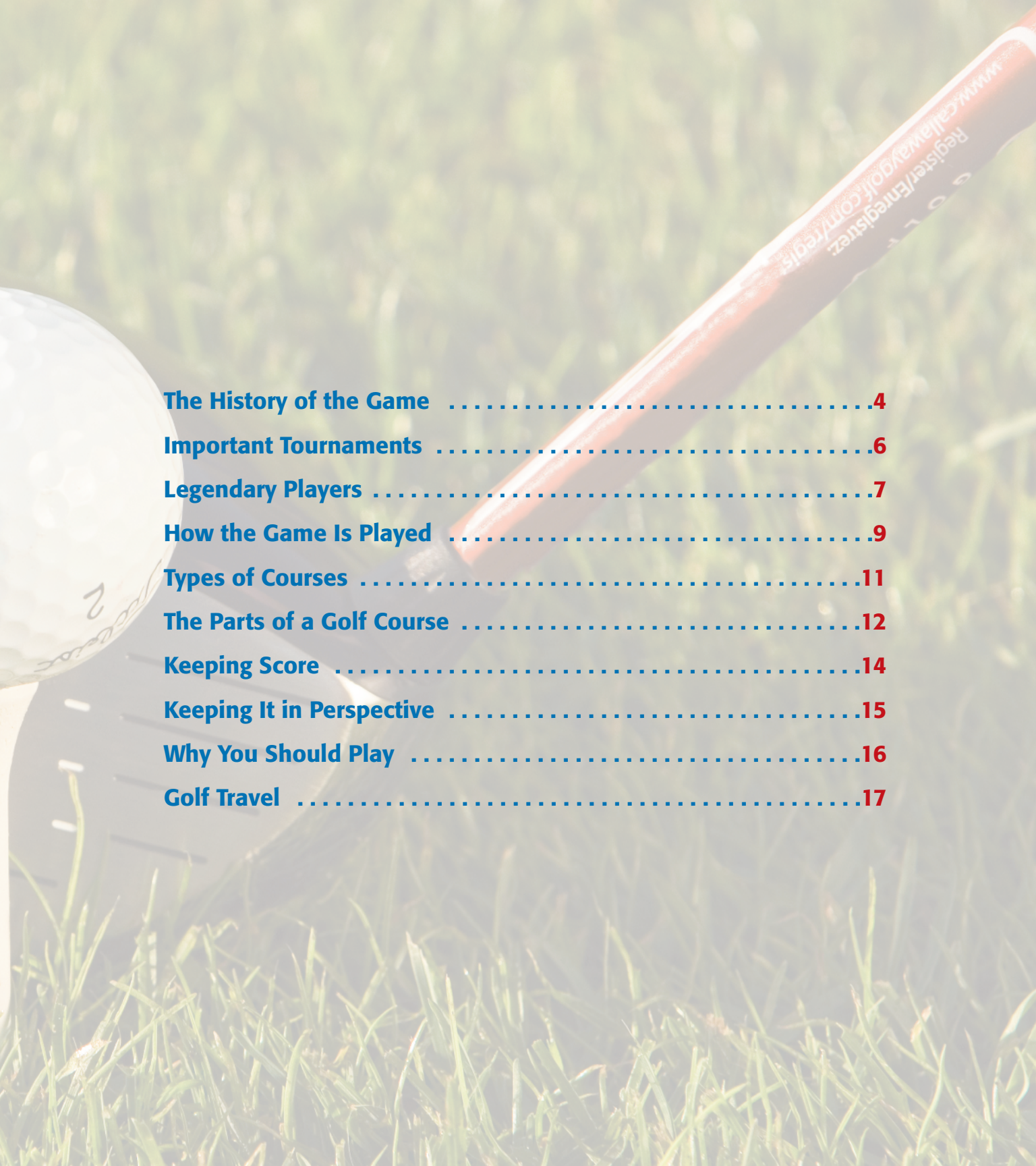


chapter

1

An Introduction to Golf

Welcome to the often fascinating, sometimes frustrating, and almost always fun game of golf. It is a sport that can be played for a lifetime, yet can never be mastered completely. Some call it a good walk spoiled, but they probably have never experienced the thrill of hitting a ball high into the air in exactly the right direction, or the pleasure of making a long putt for a birdie. Doing either of those things takes a fair bit of learning, since golf is a complicated game. But put forth a patient effort, and positive results will eventually follow. This book gives you the basics needed to learn not only how to play the game, but also how to enjoy it.

The background of the page is a soft-focus photograph of a green golf course. In the lower-left foreground, a white golf ball is partially visible, with the number '2' and some illegible text on it. A red pencil, oriented diagonally from the top-right towards the center, lies across the middle of the page. The pencil has the text 'www.Callawaygolf.com/register' and 'Register/Enregistrez' printed on its side.

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The History of the Game

Like almost every other sport, golf has a long and storied history. Here is a quick overview of the game's development.

THE GAME OF GOLF IS BORN

No single person is credited with developing the game of golf. For a game strictly defined by rules, even the exact location of its beginnings is somewhat murky. Countries such as France, China, and Holland have all laid claim to inventing the sport, but it is Scotland, a country of some 5 million people, that is universally looked upon as the birthplace of golf. According to the United States Golf Association, "Some scholars suggest that the Dutch game of *kolf*, played with a stick and ball on frozen canals in the wintertime, was brought by Dutch sailors to the east coast of Scotland (in the 14th or 15th century), where it was transferred to the public linkslands and eventually became the game known today."

Indeed, no country is more proudly associated with the sport than Scotland, where you will find some of the finest courses in the world, including the famed Old Course in the town of St. Andrews, where golf has been played since at least the 16th century. The first official rules of golf were formed in 1744 an hour south in Edinburgh, and the St. Andrews Society of Golfers (now known as the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, whose imposing clubhouse overlooks the Old Course) was founded a decade later.



*The St. Andrews clubhouse and Swilcan Bridge.
Photo credit: John R. Johnson/golfphotos.com.*

GOLF REACHES THE UNITED STATES

Scottish and British golf professionals traveled to the United States in the late 1800s, bringing with them an intimate knowledge of the game along with course-building skills. The first official club—named St. Andrew's Golf Club, naturally—was formed in Yonkers, New York, in 1888. The United States Golf Association, founded in 1894, is based in Far Hills, New Jersey, and runs numerous national championships for amateur and professional golfers of all ages, oversees the game's rules (in conjunction with the Royal & Ancient Golf Club), and coordinates the handicap system (see page 159). One year after its formation, the first 18-hole course in the United States, called the Chicago Golf Club, opened.

As the game's popularity began to grow, the Professional Golfers Association of America was formed in 1916, while the Ladies Professional Golf Association was formed in 1950. As cities and towns sprouted in the west and suburban sprawl started to occur around major metropolitan areas, golf course construction increased as well. Private country clubs were built for the rich and famous, while affordably priced municipal courses provided outlets for less affluent golfers.

INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS GRAB HEADLINES AND DOMINATE BROADCASTS

Legendary players contributed to the growth of the game in America during the 20th century, drawing a share of the public's attention from more established sports such as baseball, basketball, and football. When 20-year-old amateur Francis Ouimet won the 1913 U.S. Open at the Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, he became the first star in American golf circles. The many wins of Bobby Jones dominated the sports headlines in the 1920s and 1930s, followed by Byron Nelson, Sam Snead, and Ben Hogan in the 1940s and 1950s. The introduction of the highly personable Arnold Palmer took the game to a whole new level of popularity in the 1960s, with his devoted fans forming "Arnie's Army." He soon found competition from an Ohio youngster named Jack Nicklaus (and nicknamed the "Golden Bear"), who would go on to compile the greatest winning record in the history of the game. Those records are now firmly in the sights of Tiger Woods, who started playing golf at the age of three and won his first major professional tournament—the Masters—in 1997 at the mere age of 21.

On the women's side, the cast of stars is no less grand. The all-around athlete Babe Didrikson Zaharias drew plenty of attention with her tournament wins in the late 1940s and into the 1950s, followed by superb players like Patty Berg, Louise Suggs, Mickey Wright, and Kathy Whitworth. The success of Nancy Lopez in the late 1970s reignited interest in the women's game, while Annika Sorenstam from Sweden is universally acclaimed as the world's best female golfer from the 1990s and into the 21st century.

The course design business has featured increasingly well-known professionals as well, with architects like Robert Trent Jones, Sr. (whose sons Rees and Robert, Jr., are highly regarded today), a dominant figure for almost five decades. The 1980s and 1990s marked a golf construction boom, with modern course designers like Pete Dye, Tom Fazio, Jack Nicklaus, and Tom Doak all leaving their mark with layouts in every corner of the United States, just like their Scottish and British counterparts did nearly a century before.

Television helped introduce the game to a national audience. In 1953, television helped introduce the game to a national audience when the first broadcast of a tournament to the entire country. Today, a whole cable television channel (appropriately named the Golf Channel) is devoted to the sport.

GOLF EQUIPMENT EVOLVES

Equipment used to play the game has evolved over time into a huge business. In 2002, golfers spent \$4.7 billion on equipment (clubs, balls, bags, gloves, shoes, etc.), according to the National Golf Foundation. The biggest change that came about during the 1980s was the introduction of metal woods. Technological advances continue today, resulting in lighter and more forgiving clubs along with balls that travel farther than ever before—all designed to help people enjoy a game that started on frozen ponds in one small country and is now played in every part of the world.



Bobby Jones. Photo credit: Hulton Archive/Getty Images.

Important Tournaments

The four best-known events on the professional golf calendar are collectively referred to as the majors.

The Majors

THE MASTERS

Played at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, the Masters started in 1934. The tournament is played every April on a private course built by legendary golfer Bobby Jones (see page 7) and prolific course designer Alister MacKenzie. The winner earns a coveted green jacket.

THE U.S. OPEN

The national championship run by the United States Golf Association (USGA) has been played at a different site in the U.S. each summer since 1895. Look for this tournament, which attracts top players from all over the world, in June.

THE BRITISH OPEN

First played in 1860, this event is held at one of a rotation of courses in Scotland and England each July. It, too, is open to players from around the globe.

THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Run by the Professional Golfers Association of America since 1916, this event is held annually in late summer at different courses around the United States.

Over the years, numerous events have been considered “majors” in women’s professional golf, but since 2001 the following tournaments have fallen into that category:

- The Kraft Nabisco Championship
- The McDonald’s LPGA Championship
- The U.S. Open
- The British Open



*Jack Nicklaus makes his final putt on the 18th green at the British Open Championship, July 15, 1978.
Photo credit: PGA Tour Images.*

Team Tournaments

The highest level of competition for non-professionals is the men’s and women’s U.S. Amateur (also run by the USGA), which uses both a stroke play and match play format (see the Glossary) to determine a champion.

There are also professional team events that are played on a biannual basis at different courses in the U.S. and abroad, such as:

- The Ryder Cup (the United States versus Europe)
- The Presidents Cup (the United States versus the rest of the world)
- The Solheim Cup (United States women versus European women)
- The Curtis Cup (United States amateur women versus amateurs from Ireland and Great Britain)

There have been a number of male and female players on the PGA and LPGA Tours whose skills and records transcend the eras in which they played. Their achievements continue to form the standard for modern-day golfers.

Men

BOBBY JONES (1902–1971)

This Georgia native founded the Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters tournament in his home state. He won the U.S. Open four times and the British Open three times, and is the only golfer to have won the four events that at the time formed the Grand Slam (in 1930, when he won the U.S. Amateur, British Amateur, British Open, and U.S. Open). After that triumph, he retired and worked as a lawyer, wrote books, and made golf instruction films, leaving a mark on the game matched by few.

BYRON NELSON (1912–2006)

The highlight of this golfer's 11-year career came in 1945, when he won 18 tournaments, including 11 in a row. He also won five majors, including two Masters titles and two PGA Championships. The Fort Worth, Texas native—who retired at age 34—was revered both during his playing days and afterward as a true gentleman.

BEN HOGAN (1912–1997)

This Texas native won two Masters, four U.S. Opens, one British Open, and two PGA Championships. Known as one of the best ball strikers ever, Hogan's legendary work ethic earned him tremendous respect, as did his comeback from a car accident in 1949, after which he won six majors.

ARNOLD PALMER (1929–)

Palmer, a Pennsylvania native, won four Masters, two British Opens, and one U.S. Open. He is known for his swashbuckling style and his connection with his fans, who came to be known as "Arnie's Army." He was the first golfer to maximize commercial product endorsements, increasing his public recognition. He also built a thriving golf course design business.

JACK NICKLAUS (1940–)

This Ohio native, nicknamed the Golden Bear, is the most successful golfer of all time. He won six Masters, four U.S. Opens, three British Opens, five PGA Championships, and two U.S. Amateurs. Nicklaus took the golf spotlight from Palmer in the 1960s via countless wins thanks to superior distance and clutch putting. In 1986, at age 46, he won his final Masters and perhaps his most memorable victory.

TIGER WOODS (1975–)

A California native, Woods has won four Masters, two U.S. Opens, three British Opens, three PGA Championships, and three consecutive U.S. Amateurs. Groomed for a golf career by his father, Woods has exceeded all expectations to become a dominant figure in the game today, combining playing ability, physical fitness, and mental toughness that will likely lead him to break most, if not all, of the game's most important records.



*Tiger Woods wins the 2000 U.S. Open.
Photo credit: PGA Tour Images.*

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Legendary Players *(continued)*

Women

BABE DIDRIKSON ZAHARIAS (1911–1956)

This pioneering female athlete competed in the 1932 Olympics and won two gold medals in track and field before taking up golf at age 35, going on to win the U.S. and British Amateurs. She was a founding member of the LPGA and won three U.S. Women's Opens.

MICKEY WRIGHT (1935–)

This California native won four U.S. Women's Opens and three LPGA Championships among her 82 wins on the Tour. Owner of one of the most beautiful swings the game has ever seen, Wright is the only LPGA player to have held all four major titles simultaneously and won 13 events in 1963.

KATHY WHITWORTH (1939–)

This Texas native won 88 times on the LPGA Tour and was the first woman to compile \$1 million in career earnings. She captured six major titles, was a seven-time LPGA Player of the Year, and was the LPGA's leading money winner eight times.

NANCY LOPEZ (1957–)

A New Mexico native, Lopez won nine tournaments, including five in a row, during a memorable rookie season on the LPGA Tour in 1978. She went on to win 48 times, including three majors, and captained the victorious U.S. team in the 2005 Solheim Cup.

ANNIKA SORENSTAM (1970–)

This native of Sweden has won three U.S. Women's Open titles, won more LPGA Tournaments (18) than any other player in the 1990s, and has won 69 times on LPGA Tour overall through the 2006 season. Recognized as the most dominant player in the game, in 2003 Sorenstam played in a PGA Tour event in Texas, the first woman to do so since Didrikson Zaharias in 1945.



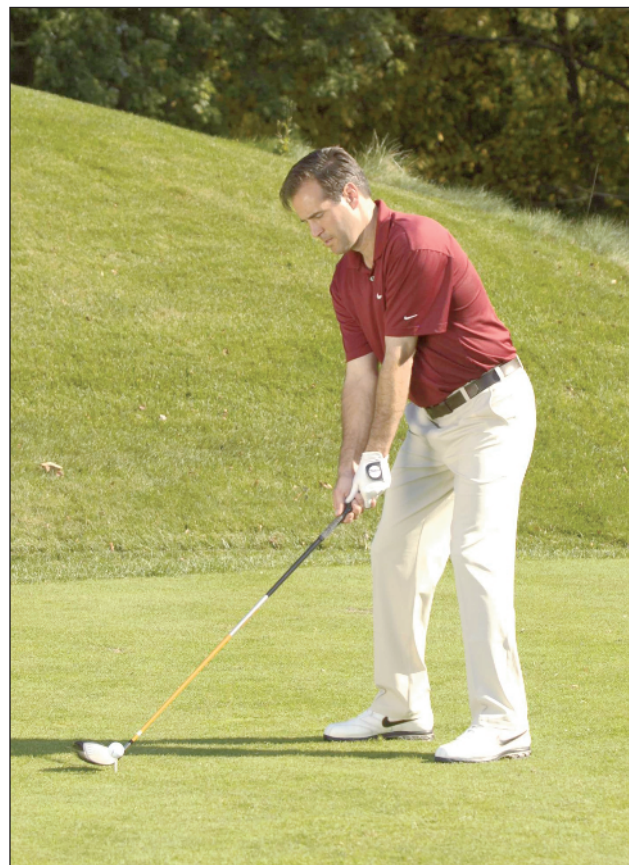
Annika Sorenstam hits from the 13th tee during the final round of the 2005 Merrill Lynch Skins Game at Trilogy Golf Club in La Quinta. Photo credit: PGA Tour Images.

Golf is a simple game in theory. Hit a small, round ball with a club. Go find it. Then hit it again (and again and again) until it goes into a hole in the ground. Complete that process for 18 holes. Except it wasn't always that way.

Until the late 19th century, the number of holes on golf courses varied from fewer than ten to more than 20. The Old Course at St. Andrews consisted of 11 holes that went from the clubhouse to the end of a piece of land. Golfers would turn around and play the holes again, coming back to where they started, meaning that a round of golf consisted of 22 holes. In the late 18th century, several of those holes were combined to form nine holes, resulting in the now standard total of 18 holes being played to complete a round.

Quick Playing Tips for Beginners

- Play from the proper set of tees. Each hole has multiple sets of tees that shorten or lengthen the hole—play the ones most appropriate for your skill level. If you aren't sure, play a more forward set of tees. You'll enjoy the course more.
- Always maintain your pace of play; do not unnecessarily delay the golfers in your own group or the group behind you. For example, if your strokes are double the par for a hole, pick up your ball and move on to the next hole.
- Be quiet. Making excess noise on a golf course is in poor taste, especially while another player is making a swing.
- Play safe. Never swing a club when someone is standing near you, and always make sure that no one is in the intended path of your shot.
- Take lessons. Rare is the player who can build a solid, repeatable swing without taking lessons. While it involves both a financial investment and a time commitment, learning the basics correctly will save you a price-less amount of frustration.
- Have fun. Yes, the object of the game is to get the ball into the hole in as few as strokes as possible, but if doing that is boring and overly serious, why bother? Respect the game, but enjoy it as well.



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How the Game Is Played *(continued)*

Quick Rules Tips for Beginners

Being true to the spirit of the game—playing by the rules—is required of all golfers no matter what their skill level. And there are rules to follow, of course. The latest edition of *The Rules of Golf*, published by the United States Golf Association and the Royal & Ancient Golf Society, is a whopping 268 pages long. Although as a beginner your main goals are to learn the game and have fun, it's also important to understand the rules.

Just as with any new activity, many people are intimidated by not knowing what to do when they play golf for the first time. While different courses have their own specific rules and regulations, some basic guidelines are common to all golf courses. Knowing these guidelines should put you at ease for your first visit. Chapter 9 outlines specific rules situations, but here are five quick tips:

- Many beginners often miss the ball entirely. Taking a swing with the intent to make contact with the ball does count as a stroke, and you must mark your score-card accordingly.
- You may tee the ball up only within the designated area of the tee box for each hole.
- When you lose a ball, you must take a penalty stroke as part of your score for that hole.
- You may touch your ball only when you are teeing it up and on the putting surface when you are either cleaning it (after having marked its location) or picking it after it has entered the hole.
- You must remove the flagstick from the hole prior to attempting putts on the green. If the ball hits the flagstick while it's still in the hole, you incur a two-stroke penalty.



FACT

If any of your fellow players quote a movie while playing, it's likely to be *Caddyshack*. The 1980 comedy starring Bill Murray, Rodney Dangerfield, Chevy Chase, and Ted Knight was an instant classic among golfers for its lowbrow but undeniably funny look behind the scenes at the fictional Bushwood Country Club. At some point during some round on some course, you will hear a fellow golfer utter a line or two from the movie. Watch this flick and you can respond accordingly!

You will come across several different types of golf courses, which vary both in the types of holes they feature and in their policies regarding whom can play there.

- **Regulation:** A regulation course is considered a full-sized course. It can consist of nine or 18 holes with full-length par-threes, par-fours, and par-fives (see page 13).
- **Executive:** An executive course can be made up of nine or 18 holes, but the holes are shorter than on a regulation course.
- **Private:** A private course is open only to members.
- **Semi-private:** A semi-private course offers both memberships and tee times for non-members.
- **Public:** A public course, also called a daily-fee course or a municipal course if owned and/or managed by local officials, is open to anyone.
- **Pitch and putt:** A pitch-and-putt course is a nine- or 18-hole course with very short holes, most under 100 yards. These courses are generally open to the public.
- **Miniature:** You use only your putter on a miniature golf course, which usually has at least nine holes and numerous fun obstacles (windmills, clown's mouths, and so on) blocking your path to the hole.

There are also two main styles of courses:

- **Links:** A course usually built on treeless, sandy soil alongside (or "linked" to) the sea. Some courses use this description if the land is wide open and devoid of trees, but authenticity is lacking if the course is not near the sea. The Old Course at St. Andrews, shown here, is a good example of a traditional links course.
- **Parkland:** A course in which golf holes are defined by trees on both sides.



The Old Course at St. Andrews. Photo credit: John R. Johnson/golfphotos.com.

FACT

According to the National Golf Foundation, at the end of 2005, there were 16,052 facilities containing at least one golf course in the United States, and 11,680 of those were open to the public. The states with the most golf facilities included:

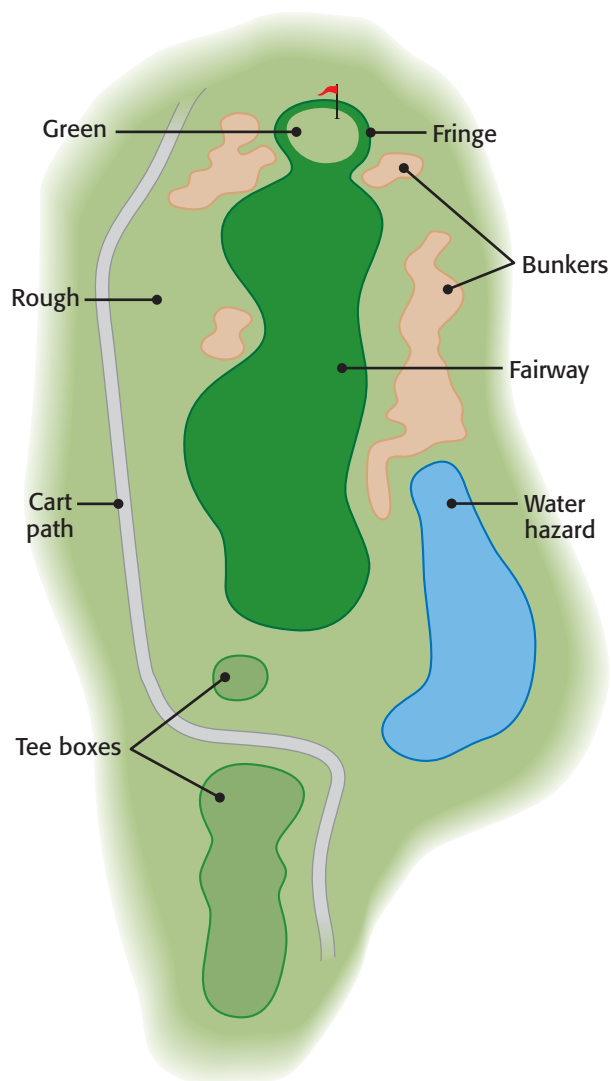
- Florida (1,075)
- California (928)
- Texas (848)
- Michigan (843)
- New York (824)

The Parts of a Golf Course

Although courses do vary in type, the vast majority feature common elements.

Course Elements

- **Tee box:** The area from which you hit your first shot on each hole. Most courses feature multiple sets of tees to accommodate golfers of different skill levels. The back tee boxes are used by only the best golfers; these tees extend the course to its longest possible yardage. The middle tee boxes are used by most average golfers. The forward tee boxes are used by most female and senior golfers. (All golfers play to the same green no matter which tee box they have used.)
- **Fairway:** The closely mown stretch of turf between the tee and the green.
- **Cart path:** The formal path throughout the course for golf carts to drive on. Keep your cart on this path unless otherwise instructed by course officials.
- **Rough:** High, often thick grass that borders the fairway and surrounds the green.
- **Bunker:** A hazard usually filled with sand (but sometimes grass) found mostly around greens but also on fairways.
- **Water hazard:** A pond, lake, river, or stream found in the middle or to the side of a hole.
- **Fringe:** The closely mown turf that encircles the putting surface; fringe grass is slightly higher than the grass of the green itself.
- **Green:** The designated putting surface for each hole, where the flagstick and cup are located.
- **Out-of-bounds area:** An area indicated by white stakes that is considered out of play. If a ball is hit into an out-of-bounds area, a one-stroke penalty is incurred, and your next swing must be taken from where your last shot was played.



Types of Holes

The main factor that defines a type of hole is its par. That number reflects the number of strokes it should take an experienced golfer to complete the hole. There are three types of holes: par-threes, par-fours, and par-fives. The yardage of each hole determines the par.

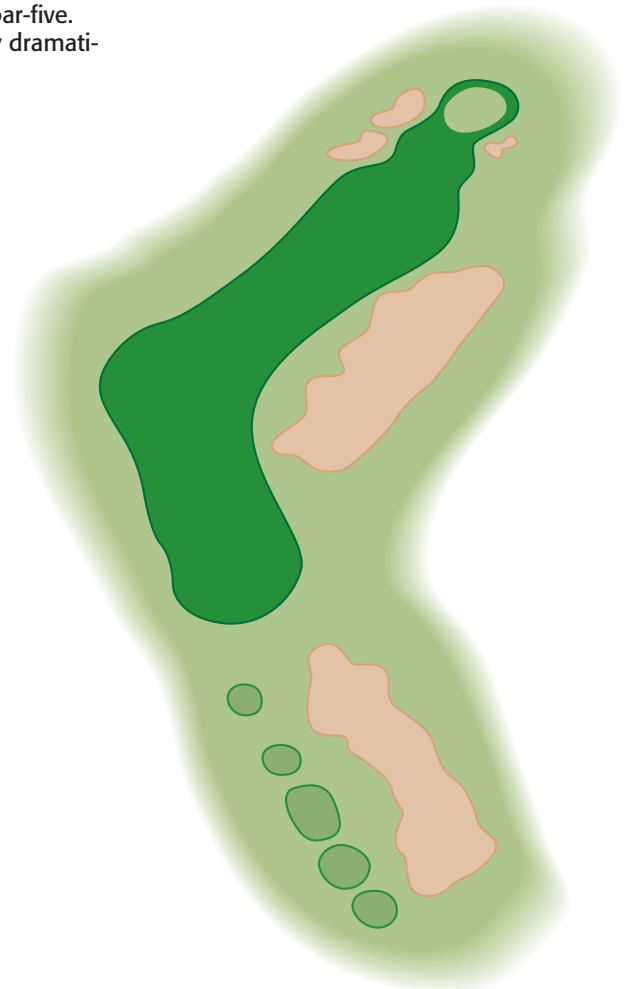
The following distances are general guidelines for the lengths of each type of hole. (The lengths of holes played by professionals vary from these guidelines.)

- **Par-three:** Up to 210 yards for women and up to 250 yards for men
- **Par-four:** 211–400 yards for women and 251–470 yards for men
- **Par-five:** 401–575 yards for women and 471–690 yards for men

You may also hear the term *dogleg* used to describe a par-four or par-five. That term refers to the shape of the hole, which usually bends fairly dramatically to either the right (as shown here) or the left.

FACT

The longest course in the United States is found in Bolton, Massachusetts. The private Pines Course at The International is 8,325 yards long. The fifth hole is a 715-yard par-five; there is also a 277-yard par-three. The 18th hole is a mere 656 yards.



Keeping Score

While there is often great pleasure, and much less pressure, in playing a relaxed round of golf without keeping score, compiling the numbers is what enables you to measure your improvement. It's quite simple: Each attempt to hit the ball counts as one stroke, whether it's a 250-yard drive or a 6-inch putt. Add up the number of strokes you take from your first tee shot to your last putt, and that's your score.

Beyond simple numbers, golf scores have names that you should know.



Scoring Terminology

- **Ace:** The ultimate shot—a hole-in-one.
- **Double eagle:** Three strokes below par for the hole (for example, a 2 on a par-five).
- **Eagle:** Two strokes below par (for example, a 3 on a par-five).
- **Birdie:** One stroke below par (for example, a 3 on a par-four).
- **Par:** The number of strokes an experienced player should require to finish a hole (for example, a 4 on a par-four).
- **Bogey:** One stroke above par (for example, a 5 on a par-four).
- **Double bogey:** Two strokes above par (for example, a 6 on a par-four).
- **Snowman:** A score of eight. Look at the number and you'll figure out why this term is used.

Every course provides a scorecard free of charge so that you can keep track of the strokes you take. Chapter 9 explains how to use the scorecard and what it can help you with in addition to tallying your score.

FACT

According to the National Golf Foundation, the average score on an 18-hole regulation golf course was 97 (95 for men and 106 for women) in 2004. The average handicap among the 21 percent of golfers who maintain one was 15 for men and 23 for women. See Chapter 9 for more on handicaps.

Go to any driving range and you will quickly learn why golf is such a humbling game. You will see all sorts of people using all types of swings with a wide variety of results.

As a beginner, your immediate goals should be to learn as much as you can about setting up to the ball and developing a good grip. After that, you will begin to understand how the club should move during the swing and the differences between the clubs you will be using. All that will help you get comfortable with the golf swing.

Try to be a sponge and soak up as much of this information as possible. Being realistic is important—it takes time before you are ready to go out and play on a course. The amount of time will be different for everyone. Going out unprepared or without more-experienced companions will not help you enjoy the game.

Take the example of one woman who received a lesson from the professional at the club her husband joined. The lesson marked the very first time she had ever touched a golf club. A few hours after the brief lesson, the professional who gave her that lesson was amazed to see her out on the course trying to play golf with her husband. The woman was completely frustrated, as was her husband, who was desperately trying to explain everything she was doing wrong. The woman never played golf again. Unrealistic expectations ruined the game for her.

So while that one perfect shot that sends your ball flying through the air on the driving range may have you hooked, remember that learning to play golf takes time. You can always get better. The best players in the world all have coaches who continually work with them on their swings. And they play every day. If you play only a few times a year, don't expect to shoot in the 70s—expect to have fun, continue learning, and try to improve each time you play.



Why You Should Play

Why play golf? For one thing, you won't be alone on the course. According to the National Golf Foundation, in 2005 an estimated 12.5 million adult golfers in the United States played at least eight times a year, with the average being 37 times. Of that 12.5 million, 10.2 million were male and 2.3 million were female. But then there are as many reasons to play golf as there are types of swings.

Reasons to Love Golf

- You're outdoors enjoying the fresh air, probably in a scenic location.
- Golf can be a part-time or full-time hobby, or even an entire lifestyle for those who move into homes that are part of golf course communities.
- You can play on the same courses as the game's greatest players. You'll pay a lot to do so, but you can, unlike other sports where the fields of play are off-limits.
- Plenty of business is conducted on golf courses, whether it's a one-on-one client meeting or a corporate outing.
- Golf can be a learning experience that you can share with friends or family.
- Golf is a competitive outlet for athletes whose bodies may be worn down from playing other sports like basketball or tennis. Golf is essentially a non-impact sport, where the post-round discussion usually focuses on the shots you made (and missed) rather than the aches and pains you got from playing.
- If you walk while playing, you'll be taking a 4- to 6-mile stroll over 18 holes, even if you keep all your shots in the fairway. It's not running a marathon, but it sure is better for you than sitting in a recliner for four and a half hours.



Because golf is played around the globe, learning how to play, and then traveling to do so, can open up entirely new worlds. Being randomly paired up with strangers on the first tee often leads to vacation-long, if not lifelong, friendships, thanks to golf being the common link that overcomes language and cultural barriers. Golf trips are usually tremendous bonding experiences and can provide great memories, not to mention plenty of laughs.

Here are a few points to consider when planning a golf trip.

Take Your Game on the Road

YEARLY MAINTENANCE

To maintain vibrant green fairways and smooth putting greens, many courses undergo processes called *overseeding* and *aeration*. The former can close a course for up to two weeks (especially in desert climates like Arizona, where overseeding usually takes place in late September or early October), while the latter leaves greens rough and bumpy for five to seven days. Call the courses at your destination to find out when they schedule these procedures.

SEASONS

The month of July might mean great weather for New England, but it can be unbearably hot in Arizona. Research the weather patterns of your destination before picking a time to visit.

TOUR OPERATORS

Traveling with a foursome is one thing, but larger groups require much more coordination than an experienced golf tour operator can handle smoothly, especially if your group is traveling overseas to play the historic and legendary courses of Scotland and Ireland.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Every course has its own set of rules, regulations, and traditions. Read up on your destination and the courses you plan to play to find out how they do things there. Doing so is even more important overseas, where cultural differences can be particularly striking.

FACT

According to the National Golf Foundation, golfers spend about \$26.1 billion a year on golf travel, 75 percent of which goes to the hotel, transportation, and food and beverage industries.

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Golf Travel

(continued)

Favorite U.S. Destinations

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

Enjoy desert golf at its finest here in the Valley of the Sun. Fairways roll out on the desert floor like bright green carpets, while cacti stand guard along the fairways. Courses like We-Ko-Pa, Troon North, Grayhawk, and the TPC of Scottsdale can keep you busy for weeks at a time. Find more information at www.scottsdalecgvb.com.



TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course, hole #16.

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA

This world-famous resort, two hours south of San Francisco on the Pacific coast, always lives up to its dramatic setting. It's worth the splurge for a once in-a-lifetime round on these famous links (although you do have to stay at one of the resort's hotels to get a tee time). Also worth playing are Spanish Bay, Spyglass, and Poppy Hills, all located within the secluded Del Monte Forest, whose natural beauty never fails to awe visitors. Find travel information at www.pebblebeach.com.



Pebble Beach Golf Links, hole #7. Photo credit: Joann Dost. Reproduced by Permission of Pebble Beach Company.

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Golf Travel

(continued)

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

There are more than just Disney characters here in this Sunshine State city. Bring your clubs to play courses like Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill, ChampionsGate, Orange County National, and Grand Cypress. There are even four courses at Walt Disney World, where Mickey Mouse hats serve as tee markers. Find travel information at www.orlandoinfo.com.



Walt Disney World Resort Golf. Photo credit: Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

WORLD GOLF VILLAGE, FLORIDA

The World Golf Hall of Fame is located in historic St. Augustine, just south of Jacksonville. You can find memorabilia and artifacts from the game's history as well as learn about golf's greatest players. There's also an IMAX theater, shops, restaurants, accommodations, and two golf courses: King & Bear (designed by Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus) and Slammer & Squire (designed by Sam Snead and Gene Sarazen). For more information, go to www.wghof.com.



The World Golf Hall of Fame.

HAWAII

The views from the fairways in the Hawaiian islands are distracting, but then you're not visiting the Aloha State to worry about your scores. From Kapalua on Maui to Mauna Kea on the Big Island and Poipu Bay on Kauai, the choices for golfers are endless. Find travel information at www.gohawaii.com.



Kapalua's Plantation Course, hole #8. Photo credit: John R. Johnson/golfphotos.com.

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Golf Travel

(continued)

PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA

The famous No. 2 Course at the Pinehurst Resort gets all the attention both for its designer, Donald Ross, and its devilish, hard-to-putt greens, but numerous other courses (including eight others at this resort alone) are worth playing here, including Pine Needles (the site of multiple U.S. Women's Opens), Mid-Pines, and Tobacco Road. Find travel information at www.homeofgolf.com.



Pinehurst No. 2 Course, hole #5. Photo credit: ®Pinehurst, Inc. All rights reserved.

BANDON DUNES, OREGON

Three magnificent courses on the remote southern Oregon Coast have drawn rave reviews since the moment they opened: the original Bandon Dunes course, followed by Pacific Dunes and then Bandon Trails. Find travel information at www.bandondunesgolf.com.



Pacific Dunes, hole #11. Photo credit: Wood Sabold.

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Golf Travel

(continued)

HILTON HEAD/MYRTLE BEACH/KIAWAH ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

These three coastal locations are mini-Meccas for traveling golfers. You can play a PGA Tour course in Hilton Head (Harbour Town), a world-famous venue on Kiawah Island (the Ocean Course), or a classic Robert Trent Jones, Sr. design in Myrtle Beach (the Dunes Golf and Beach Club). All three locations have many other quality courses to choose from. Find travel information at golf.discoverouthcarolina.com.



Kiawah Island Ocean Course. Photo credit: South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, DiscoverSouthCarolina.com.

WHISTLING STRAITS, WISCONSIN

An hour north of Milwaukee, Kohler Resort boasts four distinct courses highlighted by the namesake layout that hosted the 2004 PGA Championship. Whistling Straits and the Irish Course are adjacent to Lake Michigan, while Blackwolf Run and the Meadows are inland but no less fun. Find travel information at www.destinationkohler.com.

