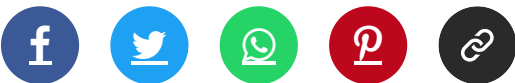


GREAT GOLF COURSES OF AUSTRALIA

From traditional links golf courses of Tasmania to the championship Sandbelt region in Melbourne, Australia has some of the best courses in the world, and some hidden gems that are all worth exploring.




By Sue Gough Henly

Australia’s golf courses are diverse, offering a memorable experience for every golfer. The championship courses of the [Signature Tier](#) are for the true golf enthusiasts. Immersed in history and designed by some of the world’s leading architects – old and new, Signature Courses are exceptional in design, scenery, maintenance and hospitality and include nine that are rated in the top 100 in the world.

From the city to the seaside, the tropics to the temperate, these courses will challenge your golf skills and the landscapes will take your breath away. Play the famous Melbourne Sandbelt or test your game on the links courses that wind through the wild and dramatic dunes of northeast [Tasmania](#). Tee up alongside the sandstone sea-cliffs of southern [Sydney](#) or on a tropical island in the [Great Barrier Reef](#). With great golf, great weather and amazing food and wine, the [Great Golf Courses of Australia](#) should be at the top of any serious golfer's bucket list.

Our [Premier Courses](#) are a great option for those travelling to a region of Australia to experience the spectacular scenery and warm hospitality as well as a round of golf. These courses are located primarily in tourism hot spots and offer golfers a very good golf experience combined with regional charm and friendly hospitality.

GOLF COURSE LOCATIONS



GREAT GOLF COURSES OF AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND

- 1 Hamilton Island Golf Club

NEW SOUTH WALES

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VICTORIA

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Great Golf Courses of Australia map [download](#)

VICTORIA



The Royal Melbourne Golf Course, Melbourne, Victoria © The Royal Melbourne Golf Course

The Royal Melbourne Golf Club



and conditioning of Royal Melbourne. In 1926, from the sandy loam subsoil of the Melbourne Sandbelt, the revered Scottish architect Dr Alister MacKenzie carved The Royal Melbourne West Course. Strategically designed based on the average members' ages and handicaps, MacKenzie created a course that was fun and challenging for golfers of all abilities. Shortly after completing the masterpiece of the West Course, MacKenzie appointed former Australian Open champion Alex Russell to complete the East Course.

Australian ranking: 1 (West Course), 6 (East Course) (*Australian Golf Digest*)

Global ranking: 4 (West Course) (*U.S. Golf Digest*)



Kingston Heath Golf Club, Melbourne, Victoria © Kingston Heath Golf Club

Kingston Heath Golf Club

Strategically situated along Melbourne's Sandbelt, the beautifully manicured fairways of [Kingston Heath Golf Club](#) have earned the course an enviable reputation for superb conditioning year in, year out. The 18-hole course has plenty to challenge every level of golfer, with clever use of dips and hollows, along with bunkering and unforgiving grass, tea tree and sandy scrapes. Kingston Heath's greens have gone on to host many national and international golfing events, including the [Australian Open](#), Australian Masters and the Women's Australian Open.



Global ranking: 11 (*U.S. Golf Digest*)



The National Golf Club, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria © The National Golf Club

The National Golf Club

Located at Cape Schanck on the spectacular [Mornington Peninsula](#), just a short drive from [Melbourne](#), [The National Golf Club](#) and its three Signature 18-hole courses is widely recognised as one of the best pieces of golfing real estate in the country. It consists of [The Old Course](#), the [Moonah Course](#) and the Gunnamatta Course, which has recently undergone some architectural changes by leading American golf architect, Tom Doak. Together these courses deliver 54 holes of golfing heaven, each with their own unique design aspects and challenges. With the club’s close proximity to vineyards and beaches of the local area, you’ll need to set aside more than a day to truly experience these spectacular courses along with the experiences of the Mornington Peninsula.

Australian ranking: 11 (Moonah Course), 15 (Gunnamatta Course), 19 (Old Course), 47 (Long Island Course) (*Australian Golf Digest*)

Global ranking: 80 (Moonah Course) (*U.S. Golf Digest*)

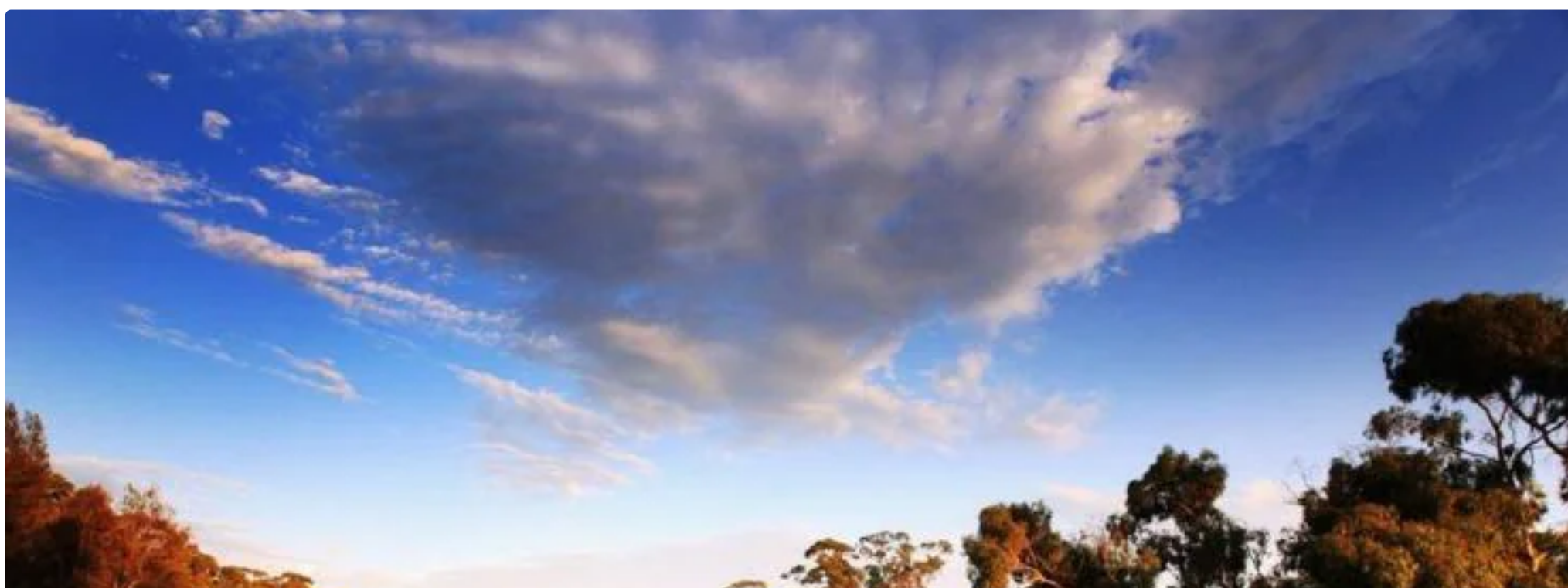


The Victoria Golf Club

[The Victoria Golf Club](#), on Melbourne's Sandbelt, has hosted many prestigious golfing events over the years, including the Australian Open and the Women's Australian Open. Originally designed by Oscar Damman and Bill Meader, under the watchful eye of Dr Alister MacKenzie, the course has recently entrusted Australian design firm Ogilvy, Clayton, Cocking, Mead to make some architectural changes. It is the home club of Australian golfing great Peter Thomson, winner of five British Open Championships. The strategic bunkering, green complexes and effects of the weather make for a challenging and rewarding course. The Clubhouse offers 15 comfortable rooms where you can rest between jaunts on the green.

Australian ranking: 9 (*Australian Golf Digest*)

Global ranking: 57 (*U.S. Golf Digest*)





Metropolitan Golf Club

Widely recognised as being among the finest championship courses in Australia, the [Metropolitan Golf Club](#) is littered with 96 bunkers. In 1908, engineer J. B. MacKenzie transformed the original sandy landscape into lush, green fairways, complete with magnificent plantations of Australian native trees and shrubs, including the oldest existing specimen of red flowering gum. Now renowned as one of the best conditioned courses in the country, the Metropolitan is also considered one of the most difficult of the championship golf courses on the Melbourne Sandbelt, and has hosted a number of Australian Open and [PGA](#) championships, and in 2018 hosted international match-play event, The World Cup of Golf.

Australian ranking: 12 (*Australian Golf Digest*)

Global ranking: 58 (*U.S. Golf Digest*)



Woodlands Golf Club

[Woodlands Golf Club](#) was completed in 1919 and the course has changed very little since. With first-class greens surrounded by native trees including magnificent red gums, Woodlands Golf Club offers relatively small fairways peppered with excellent bunkering. Spread over 150 acres (60 hectares) with more than 6,000 metres (3.7 miles) of fairway, the course greens are small, hard and very fast, creating a round that truly tests any golfer’s shot-making ability. Woodlands’ fourth hole is widely regarded as one of the best short par fours in Australia; tee positioning is vital, as a steep bank on either side protects the green. A challenging but fair course for high handicappers and golf pros alike.

Australian ranking: 22 (*Australian Golf Digest*)



 Commonwealth Golf Club, Melbourne, Victoria © Commonwealth Golf Club

Commonwealth Golf Club

Included in Tom Doak’s list of “31 courses I would take a good friend to see”, [Commonwealth Golf Club](#) on Melbourne’s Sandbelt is renowned for its many challenges, including long driving holes and subtle slopes that call for accurate shots. The trees that line the fairways are some of the finest stands in Australian golf and the 15th to 18th hole is considered one

large, deep bunker.

Australian ranking: 31 *(Australian Golf Digest)*



 Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club, Melbourne, Victoria © Gary Lisbon, Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club

Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club

After four years of development work, a new-look [Peninsula Kingswood](#) has reopened on the Melbourne Sandbelt. After a merger of two facilities in 2013 (Peninsula Golf Club and Kingswood Golf Club), the club sold the Kingswood site and invested significant funds in redeveloping the two courses onsite as well as the development of a new clubhouse, pro-shop, pool, gym and onsite accommodation facilities. Ogilvy, Clayton, Cocking, Mead led the redevelopment and the result is nothing short of spectacular. Both the North and South course layouts showcase all that is great about Sandbelt golf - superbly conditioned and contoured greens, artistically designed ‘flash’ bunkering and short grass surrounds. The courses and new onsite facilities are embellished by natural sandy heathland areas for which the Sandbelt is renowned.

Australian ranking: 16 *(Australian Golf Digest)*



Yarra Yarra Golf Club

Designed by golfing architect Alex Russell, with recent updates by renowned US Architect Tom Doak, the [Yarra Yarra Golf Club](#) is characterised by fast and undulating greens and camouflaged bunkers. Many of the world's greatest golfers, including Babe Didrikson, Greg Norman, and Karrie Webb, have played at this beautiful undulating course alongside Melbourne's Yarra River. Both Robert Allenby and Stuart Appleby launched their professional careers from here. Its four par threes are rated in Tom Doak's *The Confidential Guide to Golf Courses* as among the best on the planet and the par three eleventh hole is described by Peter Thomson as a "national treasure".

Australian ranking: 17 (*Golf Australia*)





Huntingdale Golf Club

The youngest of Melbourne’s Sandbelt courses, [Huntingdale Golf Club](#) is best known as the home of the Australian Masters, hosting the prestigious tournament 31 times. Huntingdale's fairways have been graced by a weather of prestigious players including Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Greg Norman. The only example of English golf architect C. H. Alison’s work in Australia, the course is categorised by its superbly manicured fairways, strategic bunkering and fast and true greens that are kept in top condition year-round. The green’s design encourages plays to the left, while the bunker is designed so that an incorrect shot almost certainly results in a bogey.

Australian ranking: 53 (*Australian Golf Digest*)

TASMANIA



Barnbougles Dunes Golf Links

Located along the wild and remote coast of Northeast Tasmania, [The Dunes Course](#) at Barnbougles Golf Resort has gained a reputation as one of the world’s most impressive links courses since its opening in 2004. Designed by US golf architect Tom Doak and former Australian pro golfer Michael Clayton, the course is a spectacular amalgamation of Mother Nature and human craftsmanship. The quirky par three seventh hole, nicknamed "Tom’s little devil", demands a precise shot from a slightly elevated tee onto a tiny upturned green which can be difficult in windy conditions. The fourth hole boasts the largest bunker in the entire Southern Hemisphere. Stay in classic beach-front cottages and four-bedroom villas and dine at the clubhouse with its superb views.

Australian ranking: 3 (*Golf Australia*)
Global ranking: 16 (*U.S. Golf Digest*)



 Barnbougles Lost Farm Golf Course, Bridport, Tasmania © Links Golf Tasmania

Barnbougles Lost Farm Golf Links

distinct similarities and yet is noticeably different to its sister course. On the steep, dramatic sand dunes of the [Tasmania](#) coast, golf architect Bill Coore created a non-traditional 20-hole course, with greens dispersed among the dunes and along the coastline. Teeing off from coastal heathland and playing inland beside the Forester River, the fifth hole is a particular highlight, with the possibility of a birdie or eagle within sight. Lost Farm Lodge offers stylish accommodation overlooking the golf course or the ocean and the restaurant sources the finest Tasmanian produce and wines for memorable meals.

Australian ranking: 4 *(Golf Australia)*

Global ranking: 37 *(U.S. Golf Digest)*

NEW SOUTH WALES



 New South Wales Golf Club, Sydney, New South Wales © Great Golf Courses of Australia

New South Wales Golf Club

The first thing you notice from the clubhouse after entering the [New South Wales Golf Club](#), situated on the rugged cliffs at La Perouse, is the 360-degree view of surrounding Botany Bay and [Sydney](#)’s spectacular city skyline. A breathtaking course framed by the Pacific Ocean on all sides, the New South Wales Golf Club was designed by Dr Alister MacKenzie and is a wonderful combination of undulating fairways, scenic vistas and spectacular traditional clubhouse that offers five-star comfort. The fifth and sixth holes are known for being one of

addition of a multi-million-dollar practise and training facility further cements NSW Golf Club’s position as one of the leading facilities in Australia.

Australian ranking: 6 *(Australian Golf Digest)*

Global ranking: 14 *(U.S. Golf Digest)*



 The Lakes Golf Club, Sydney, New South Wales © The Lakes Golf Club

The Lakes Golf Club

As one of Australia’s most distinguished private clubs, [The Lakes Golf Club](#) (just 15 minutes from Sydney's city centre) borders the Botany Aquifer and Wetlands area, which has an abundance of wildlife as well as provides daunting hazards on course. The par five fourteenth hole with its famous water carry is the biggest and wildest green on the course, and is a challenge for every golfing level.

Australian ranking: 18 *(Australian Golf Digest)*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA





The Royal Adelaide Golf Club

With a core of outstanding holes and an unmistakably adventurous streak, the Dr Alister MacKenzie-designed [Royal Adelaide Golf Club](#) provides a platform for creative shots and an extremely enjoyable golfing experience. The expansive links course is set along the sandy craters and dunes of beachside Seaton with native flora and fauna protected, while the Grange Railway still transects the course. It has hosted numerous Australian Open competitions over the years. The third hole is said to be one of the best par fours in the world.

Australian ranking: 10 (*Australian Golf Digest*)

Global ranking: 70 (*U.S. Golf Digest*)





Kooyonga Golf Club

Consistently rated among top golf courses in Australia, [Kooyonga Golf Club](#) has long been recognised for its superb conditioning and playability all year round. The course layout is testing but fair. The late Peter Thomson, after winning the 1972 Australian Open Championship at Kooyonga, probably best described the course from the player’s point of view when he said, “It needs to be played with the head as much as the hands.”

Australian ranking: 20 *(Australian Golf Digest)*



The Grange Golf Club, Adelaide, South Australia © Caddie Magazine


The Grange Golf Club

Australian Open. Golfing Great Greg Norman said, "Just the name 'The Grange Golf Club' conjures up the most pleasurable and exciting memories; the birthplace of my professional career where I won the West Lakes Classic, my first professional victory. The camaraderie is second to none. It is a club with all the finest Australian traditions of golf and everything that is associated with this wonderful sport we all love. I'm sure everyone who visits this great club will experience the same pleasure."

Australian ranking: 39 (West Course), 48 (East Course) *(Golf Australia)*

QUEENSLAND



 Hamilton Island Golf Club, Whitsundays, Queensland © Hamilton Island Golf Club

Hamilton Island Golf Club

Situated on Dent Island in the [Whitsundays](#) region of the Great Barrier Reef, the [Hamilton Island Golf Club](#) has a spectacular setting and is Australia’s only championship golf course on its own island. The challenging course, designed by champion pro-golfer Peter Thomson, blends seamlessly into the natural undulating landscape. With holes positioned along ridges and played across steep valleys, the course is a joy to play while the ever-present sea breeze adds to the experience. After your round, relax in the stylish clubhouse and enjoy stunning views of one of the world’s most celebrated natural wonders.


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We acknowledge the Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Owners of the land, sea and waters of the Australian continent, and recognise their custodianship of culture and Country for over 60,000 years.

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