

Golf getaways in Abu Dhabi



Water, water everywhere: the snaking fairways and saltwater lakes of Abu Dhabi Golf Club CREDIT: GETTY

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With world-class courses and dramatic landscapes, Abu Dhabi is a golfer's paradise

From undulating greens sculpted out of the desert to a majestic links famous for its closing stretch, **Abu Dhabi's** championship courses promise a rollicking good round for golfers.

Pay-and-play courses designed by sought-after specialists such as Gary Player and Kyle Phillips provide challenging and diverse play, while the world's elite golfers converge annually for European Tour fixtures.

But a great golfing holiday is about more than just courses and clubhouses. Abu Dhabi also offers luxury hotels and spas, culinary and cultural attractions, and guaranteed good weather. Here's the low-down on the emirate's best offerings.

The Abu Dhabi Golf Club

Designed by **Peter Harradine**, the impressive 18-hole National course (main image) is home to the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, held every January. The par-72, 7,440yd course weaves through undulating terrain, pockets of palms and saltwater lakes.

The signature par-three 12th hole – with a lengthy carry over water to a large sloping green – is not for the faint-hearted. The clubhouse, built in the shape of a falcon with its wings outstretched, has top views over the 18th green.

For those who are new to the game, the nine-hole Garden course is more forgiving, although it features water hazards, so be sure to pack plenty of balls.

You can also enjoy floodlit night golf – ideal during the steamy summer months – with tee times up to 9pm. The quality of the lights is brilliant and you'll find a good variety of holes, with long and short par fours.

Green fees from AED795 (£165) for 18 holes and from AED395 (£82) for nine; adgolfclub.com