

Global pursuits

Golfweek's Best ranks the top 100 courses around the world, not counting the U.S. | By Jason Lusk

New for 2024, Golfweek's Best is introducing its ranking of top international golf courses, not including the United States. This list includes modern and classic courses side by side, which is new for Golfweek's course-rating program.

To be included, each course needed to have had a minimum of five submissions by our pool of more than 800 international raters, although the vast majority of these courses had dozens of ratings. This does mean some far-flung layouts, particularly exclusively private clubs or those that opened in recent years, might not have

obtained the minimum votes for inclusion – South Cape in South Korea, Ellerston in Australia and Cabot Saint Lucia's Point Hardy are prime examples. Each course is listed with its average rating on a scale of 1 to 10 and includes location, designer(s) and the year the course opened. We hope you enjoy this list.



Royal County Down's Championship Course in Northern Ireland

DAVID CANNON/GETTY IMAGES



Royal Dornoch's Championship Course in Scotland

COURTESY OF ROYAL DORNOCH MATTHEW HARRIS

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| 1. Royal County Down (Championship) 8.93
Newcastle, Northern Ireland; George L. Baillie, Old Tom Morris, George Combe, Harry S. Colt, Donald Steel (1889) | 16. Cape Kidnappers 8.23
Hawke's Bay, New Zealand; Tom Doak (2004) | 31. Fairmont Banff Springs 7.80
Banff, Alberta, Canada; Stanley Thompson (1927) | 42. Royal Lytham & St. Annes 7.71
Lytham St. Annes, England; George Lowe, Harry S. Colt, Herbert Fowler, Tom Simpson, C.K. Cotton (1897) |
| 2. St. Andrews Old Course 8.75
St. Andrews, Scotland; Unknown first designer, Old Tom Morris (Unknown) | 17. Royal St. George's 8.21
Sandwich, England; Laidlaw Purves (1887) | 32. St. George's G&CC 7.80
Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada; Stanley Thompson (1930) | 43. Cabot Links 7.70
Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada; Rod Whitman (2012) |
| 3. Royal Dornoch (Championship) 8.71
Dornoch, Scotland; Old Tom Morris, John Sutherland, George Duncan (1877) | T18. Kingston Heath 8.08
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; Dan Souter, Alister MacKenzie (1925) | 33. Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge 7.78
Jasper, Alberta, Canada; Stanley Thompson (1925) | T43. Koninklijke Haagsche 7.70
Wassenaar, Netherlands; Charles H. Alison, Harry S. Colt (1938) |
| 4. Royal Melbourne (West) 8.70
Black Rock, Victoria, Australia; Alister MacKenzie (1926) | T18. Vidauban Golf Club (Formerly Prince de Provence) 8.08
Vidauban, France; Robert Trent Jones Sr., Robert Trent Jones Jr. (1999) | 34. Royal Porthcawl 7.77
Porthcawl, Wales; Ramsey Hunter, J. Simpson (1895) | T45. Ganton 7.69
Scarborough, England; Tom Chisholm, Harry Vardon, Ted Ray, James Braid, J.H. Taylor, Harry S. Colt (1891) |
| 5. Muirfield 8.65
Gullane, Scotland; Old Tom Morris (1892) | 21. Playa Grande Golf & Ocean Club 8.01
Rio San Juan, Dominican Republic; Robert Trent Jones Sr., Rees Jones (1997) | 35. Kauri Cliffs 7.76
Matauri Bay, New Zealand; David Harman, Rees Jones (2000) | T45. Cruden Bay 7.69
Cruden Bay, Scotland; Tom Morris, Archie Simpson, Tom Simpson, Herbert Fowler (1899) |
| 6. Shanquin Bay 8.56
Hainan, China; Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw (2012) | 22. Royal Birkdale 8.00
Southport, England; George Lowe, F.G. Hawtree, J.H. Taylor (1897) | 36. New South Wales Golf Club 7.74
La Perouse, New South Wales, Australia; Alister MacKenzie (1928) | 47. Loch Lomond 7.67
Dunbartonshire, Scotland; Jay Morrish, Tom Weiskopf (1993) |
| 7. Hirono 8.54
Hyogo, Japan; Charles H. Alison (1932) | T23. Cape Wickham 7.98
King Island, Tasmania, Australia; Mike Devries (2015) | 37. Sunningdale (New) 7.73
Sunningdale, England; Harry S. Colt, John Morrison (1923) | 48. Cabot Highlands (Castle Stuart) 7.66
Inverness, Scotland; Gil Hanse, Mark Parsinen (2009) |
| 8. Royal Portrush (Dunluce) 8.52
Portrush, Northern Ireland; Harry S. Colt, Martin Ebert (1929) | T23. Te Arai (South) 7.98
Tomarata, New Zealand; Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw (2022) | T38. Woodhall Spa (Hotchkin) 7.72
Woodhall Spa, England; Harry Vardon, J.H. Taylor, Harry S. Colt, Stafford Vere Hotchkin, Tom Doak (1905) | 49. Naruo 7.65
Hyogo, Japan; H.C. Crane, Charles H. Alison (1920) |
| T9. Tara Iti 8.41
Mangawhai, New Zealand; Tom Doak (2015) | 25. Swinley Forest 7.95
Ascot, England; Harry S. Colt (1909) | T38. Cap Cana (Punta Espada) 7.72
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Jack Nicklaus (2006) | T50. Rosapenna (St. Patrick Links) 7.62
Letterkenny, Ireland; Tom Doak (2021) |
| T9. Sunningdale (Old) 8.41
Sunningdale, England; Willie Park Jr., Harry S. Colt (1901) | 26. Lahinch (Old) 7.94
Lahinch, Ireland; Old Tom Morris, Charles Gibson, Alister MacKenzie, Martin Hawtree (1894) | T38. St. George's Hill 7.72
Weybridge, England; Harry S. Colt (1913) | T50. Les Bordes (New) 7.62
Saint-Laurent-Nouan, France; Gil Hanse, Jim Wagner (2021) |
| 11. Cabot Cliffs 8.39
Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada; Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw (2015) | 27. Carnoustie (Championship) 7.91
Carnoustie, Scotland; Robert Chambers, Allan Robertson, Old Tom Morris, James Braid (1830s) | T38. Ardfin 7.72
Isle of Jura, Scotland; Bob Harrison (2017) | 52. Capilano 7.61
West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Stanley Thompson (1937) » |
| 12. Trump Turnberry Resort (Ailsa) 8.35
Turnberry, Scotland; Willie Fernie, Mackenzie Ross, Martin Ebert, Tom MacKenzie (1901) | 28. Kingsbarns 7.90
Kingsbarns, Scotland; Kyle Phillips (2000) | | |
| 13. Ballybunion (Old) 8.32
Ballybunion, Ireland; Lionel Hewson, Tom Simpson (1893) | 29. Trump International Scotland 7.87
Balmedie, Scotland; Martin Hawtree (2012) | | |
| T14. Barnbougle (Dunes) 8.25
Bridport, Tasmania, Australia; Tom Doak, Michael Clayton (2004) | 30. Barnbougle (Lost Farm) 7.83
Bridport, Tasmania, Australia; Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw (2010) | | |
| T14. Golf de Morfontaine (Le Grand Parcours) 8.25
Mortefontaine, France; Tom Simpson, Kyle Phillips (1927) | | | |



Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog in the Dominican Republic

T53. Rye Golf Club 7.60 Rye, England; Harry S. Colt, Tom Simpson, Sir Guy Campbell (1894)	T61. Old Head Golf Links 7.49 Kinsale, Ireland; Eddie Hackett, Joe Carr, Ron Kirby, Paddy Merrigan, Liam Higgins (1997)	T68. Royal Cinque Ports 7.43 Deal, England; Henry Hunter, James Braid, Guy Campbell (1892)	86. Memphremagog 7.28 Magog, Quebec, Canada; Thomas McBroom (2008)
T53. Kawana Hotel (Fuji) 7.60 Shizuoka, Japan; Charles H. Alison (1936)	63. Royal Aberdeen (Balgownie) 7.47 Bridge of Don, Scotland; Archie Simpson, Robert Simpson, James Braid (1888)	T72. Utrecht GC De Pan 7.42 Bosch en Duin, Netherlands; Harry S. Colt (1929)	87. Mid Ocean Club 7.27 St. George's, Bermuda; Charles Blair Macdonald, Seth Raynor (1921)
55. Royal Troon (Old) 7.59 Troon, Scotland; George Strath, Willie Fernie, James Braid (1878)	T64. Hamilton (West & South nines) 7.46 Ancaster, Ontario, Canada; Harry S. Colt (1915)	T72. Lofoten Links 7.42 Gimoysand, Norway; Jeremy Turner (2015)	T88. Mad River 7.26 Creemore, Ontario, Canada; Bob Cupp (1991)
T56. Casa de Campo (Teeth of the Dog) 7.56 La Romana, Dominican Republic; Pete Dye (1971)	T64. Alwoodley 7.46 Leeds, England; Alister MacKenzie (1907)	T72. Apes Hill 7.42 St. James, Barbados; Ron Kirby (2022)	T88. The European Club 7.26 Brittas Bay, Ireland; Pat Ruddy (1992)
T56. Diamante Cabo San Lucas (Dunes) 7.56 Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; Davis Love III (2009)	T64. Walton Heath (Old) 7.46 Tadworth, England; Herbert Fowler (1903)	75. Machrihanish 7.40 Machrihanish, Scotland; Old Tom Morris, J.H. Taylor, Guy Campbell (1876)	T90. Renaissance Club at Archerfield 7.25 Dirleton, Scotland; Tom Doak (2008)
58. National Golf Club (Gunnamatta) 7.55 Cape Schanck, Victoria, Australia; Peter Thomson, Ross Perrett, Michael Woolveridge, Tom Doak (2000)	67. Portmarnock (Old) 7.44 Portmarnock, Ireland; George Ross, W.C. Pickeman, Mungo Park (1894)	76. Pulpit Club (Paintbrush, formally Devil's Paintbrush) 7.39 Caledon East, Ontario, Canada; Dana Fry, Michael Hurdzan (1992)	T90. Prestwick 7.25 Prestwick, Scotland; Old Tom Morris (1851)
59. Sagebrush 7.54 Quilchena, British Columbia, Canada; Rod Whitman, Richard Zokol, Armen Suny (2009)	T68. Victoria Golf Club 7.43 Cheltenham, Victoria, Australia; William Meader, Oscar Damman, Alister MacKenzie (1927)	77. Fancourt (Links) 7.37 George, South Africa; Gary Player (2000)	92. Moonah Links (Open) 7.24 Fingal, Victoria, Australia; Peter Thomson (2002)
60. St. Enodoc (Church) 7.50 Wadebridge, England; James Braid (1907)	T68. Royal Melbourne (East) 7.43 Black Rock, Victoria, Australia; Alex Russell, Mick Morcam (1931)	78. Queenwood 7.35 Ottershaw, England; David McLay Kidd (2001)	93. Westmount 7.22 Kitchener, Ontario, Canada; Stanley Thompson (1931)
T61. Waterville 7.49 Waterville, Ireland; Eddie Hackett (1973)	T68. Tokyo Golf Club 7.43 Sayama City, Japan; Komei Otani, Gil Hanse (1940)	79. Goodwood Golf Club 7.34 Goodwood, Ontario, Canada; Martin Ebert, Tom Mackenzie (2007)	T94. Hogs Head 7.19 Waterville, Ireland; Robert Trent Jones Jr. (2018)
		T80. Golf de Morfontaine (Valliere) 7.32 Morfontaine, France; Tom Simpson (1913)	T94. Bigwin Island 7.19 Baysville, Ontario, Canada; Doug Carrick (2002)
		T80. Greywolf 7.32 Panorama, British Columbia, Canada; Doug Carrick (1999)	T94. Sandy Lane (Green Monkey) 7.19 St. James, Barbados; Tom Fazio (2004)
		T80. Coppinwood 7.32 Goodwood, Ontario, Canada; Tom Fazio (2006)	T97. Golf de Fontainebleau 7.18 Fontainebleau, France; Julien Chantepie, Tom Simpson, Fred Hawtree (1909)
		T83. Toronto GC (Colt) 7.31 Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; Harry S. Colt, Martin Hawtree (1912)	T97. Notts (Hollinwell) 7.18 Kirby in Ashfield, England; Willie Park Jr., J.H. Taylor, Tom Williamson (1901)
		T83. Blackhawk 7.31 Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada; Rod Whitman (2003)	T99. Royal Liverpool (Hoylelake) 7.17 Hoylelake, England; Robert Chambers, George Morris, Harry S. Colt, Donald Steel (1869)
		85. Royal Adelaide 7.29 Seaton, South Australia, Australia; H.L. Rymill, Alister MacKenzie (1906)	T99. Valderrama 7.17 Sotogrande, Spain; Robert Trent Jones Sr. (1974)
			T99. Royal West Norfolk 7.17 Brancaaster, England; Holcombe Ingleby (1892)



Apes Hill in Barbados