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Jason Scott Deegan

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There's something magical about golf in Machrihanish in Scotland



MACHRIHANISH, Scotland - Maybe it was the long (but relaxing) journey by ferry to get into town.

Maybe it was the mystical sunset last night over the beach.

Maybe it was the luxurious Ugadale Hotel cottage I stayed in last night.

Maybe it was today's sunny, windfree round of golf at the beautiful Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club.

Whatever the reason, I've fallen hard for this charming little place. It's not easy to get to a destination one Scot I met this week called the "back of beyond." The ferry ride yesterday was nearly three hours. It will be even harder to leave, literally. I'll be driving a rental car the four-hour journey back to the mainland.

American golfers must work hard to get to Machrihanish, but I'm glad I did. You will, too. The cottages and pub at the Ugadale, next to the original Machrihanish Golf Club that I'm playing tomorrow, reminded me of the excellence of Doonbeg in Ireland. Everything - from the modern stonework to the food - is top class. Combining Machrihanish - home to arguably the best starting hole in golf - and Mac Dunes for a stay-and-play is a real

I'm currently staying at the Royal Hotel in downtown Campbeltown. It's been updated and sits in an ideal location right downtown near the ferry dock and a marina. I can't wait for drinks at the Black Sheep Pub, followed by dinner.

Then it's off to bed to daydream of déjà w: Another perfect day tomorrow playing golf in Machrihanish.

Scotland's West Coast links golf courses are in full bloom this week »

No feedback yet







Jason Scott Deegan

Jason Scott Deegan has reviewed more than 400 courses and golf destinations for some of the industry's biggest publications. His work has been honored by the Golf Writer's Association of America and the Michigan Press Association. His favorite golf destination is Ireland, but a close second is his home state of Michigan, where he lives with his wife and two children.

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