

Sight Unseen: Revealing some of the best blind holes in links golf



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Blind shots are one of the greatest joys – or treacheries – in links golf, depending upon your opinion.

It took a couple trips overseas playing links golf in the Great Britain and Ireland before I got comfortable playing them. I've stopped complaining. I've learned to embrace them. They're what make links golf fun and interesting and different.

Almost every links course I've played has at least one blind shot, a drive over a ridge or a green tucked completely behind a dune. Climbing these obstacles and finding out where your ball ended up is such a rush.

There are so many blind shots on links in GB&I that I consulted more than a dozen tour operators, architects, golf pros and golf writers to find some of the best. My research, coupled with a few of their responses, have inspired this story, an eclectic collection of some of the most famous, wildest and weirdest holes and unheralded links courses with blind shots in the GB&I. I'll be doing a follow-up story with more blind holes, so don't feel neglected if your favorite isn't included.



After the blind tee shot is the best reveal in golf - the ninth fairway beyond the dune at the Royal County Down Golf Club. (Jason Scott Deegan/Golf Advisor)

Links with the most blind holes

Introduction: If you loathe blind shots, these are the links to avoid. If you love blind and quirky fun as I do, book a tee time immediately.

Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club, Scotland

Comment: Some of the blind shots on Mach Dunes, a David McLay Kidd effort isolated on the Mull of Kintyre peninsula, have been softened over the years. There are still four or five strong ones, just like at the nearby Macrihanish Golf Club. No. 10 is pictured above. The most fun has to be the blind tee shot on the drivable par-4 fourth hole, which is 307 yards from the tips but only 247 yards from the whites. The green is tucked into dunes, which funnel shots onto the putting surface to give up its fair share of eagles.