

# The myths of Machrihanish

... and the truth about this magical Scottish realm.



**EXPERT OPINION**  
 "If other courses have taken 100 years to get where they are today, Machrihanish Dunes is there already. It's not just the sea spray and the scenery; it's the fact that every hole has something to offer."  
 Former European No.1 and Ryder Cup player **Ronan Rafferty**



For years, people have called upon a range of mythical reasons not to undertake the trip to play golf in magical Machrihanish. But thanks to the recent investments made in the area, especially at The Village at Machrihanish Dunes, most of the old arguments are no longer valid. It is surely time to dispel the three most commonly heard myths!

**1 "I've always wanted to go to Machrihanish, but there's nowhere to stay or eat"**

This is simply no longer true! Visiting golfers have a choice of sumptuous accommodation in the area now, particularly at the two historic and beautifully restored hotels associated with The Village at Machrihanish Dunes-- the lively Royal Hotel overlooking

Campbeltown harbour, and the relaxing Ugdale Hotel and its exquisite neighbouring self-catering cottages in Machrihanish.

Between them, there's an outstanding option to accommodate every preference – in style. And as for the food... with The Royal Hotel's Harbourview Grille and Black Sheep Pub preparing wonderful menus in the centre of town and the Kintyre Club and the renowned Old Clubhouse Pub catering superbly for guests at The Ugdale, you can eat (and drink) very well indeed! And yes, they do still serve those world-famous haggis nachos!

**2 "Machrihanish is great, but there is nowhere else in the area worth playing"**

Machrihanish Golf Club really is great.

Famous for its opening tee shot over the beach but worthy of recognition for so much more, it is truly one of Scotland's most iconic courses.

But it has a most worthy neighbour now in the form of Machrihanish Dunes, a golf course that has quickly matured into a must-play venue for the links enthusiast.

The undulating fairways there, which were mown down from the existing machair in preference to being bulldozed into shape, have retained their original sward of preferential seaside grasses and are now an absolute joy to play from... and even more so when you can find a flat lie!

The greens that were criticised initially for their vexing contours have been cunningly softened in places, resulting in a perfect balance between fun and fairness.

The rough that once rendered the course

virtually unplayable on all but the calmest day has now been cut back so that the links appears wide-open in places, inspiring confidence and turning up the fun factor still further.

If you haven't been to Machrihanish Dunes for some time, you really owe it to yourself to go back and see how much more fun and playable the course is now.

The two courses at Machrihanish would be reason enough to make the trip to Kintyre, but there is so much else in this part of the world for the golfer to enjoy.

Dunaverty GC is a treat, and only 10 miles from Campbeltown. On paper, it seems stupidly short, but in reality it is an absolute gem. Everything there is in perfect scale and it's a wonderful place to while away three fun-filled hours on a sunny evening.

A short drive up the west road will lead you to Kennacraig and from there to the mythical courses on Islay and Jura. Islay's Machrie GC has been a favourite of many for years, and has recently undergone a massive re-design. Has its soul been irrevocably removed, or could it be better than ever? And could Ardfin on Jura possibly be as spectacular as the rumours and photos suggest? There is only one way to find out.

**3 "Machrihanish is just so far!"**

It is off the beaten path, for sure. But people travel from all over the world to play here and enjoy the area's natural beauty.

From Glasgow it's one of the most beautiful and inspiring road trips you'll ever undertake, as you skirt the westerly edge of Loch Lomond, climb up and over

the "Rest and Be Thankful", and travel along the seashore down Paul McCartney's "Long and Winding Road".

And when you reach Machrihanish, you enter another world – a world that operates at a more leisurely pace, a world of gorgeous sunsets and stunning shorelines, a world where surprises lurk around every bend, but most of all, a world in which you will be genuinely welcome.

So cast aside those excuses and plan your visit. You won't be disappointed. ■

**Want to find out more?**

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