

LISBON'S 'GOLF COAST' REMAINS A HOT SPOT FOR BRITISH GOLFERS IN 2016

New figures show an increase of more than 20 per cent in rounds by UK visitors



11th August 2016 – Lisbon's golf sector is gearing up for a bumper year, after recording a 21.9 per cent increase in rounds played by UK visitors during the first half of 2016, up to 16,016 compared with 13,138 during the same period last year.

A long-established destination for travellers wanting to tee off, Europe's westernmost capital typically welcomes more than 100,000 international golfers each year. According to the latest figures issued by *Turismo de Lisboa*, the Scandinavians are the only international visitors to play more rounds on the Lisbon Golf Coast than the British.

Having been awarded the title of 'European Golf Destination of the Year' by the IAGTO (International Association of Golf Tour Operators) for the third time at the end of last year, the Lisbon region continues to attract British golfers, who flock to the 'Golf Coast' for its choice of courses, affordable green fees, year-round mild climate and easy access to the attractions of the city centre.

There are currently 21 golf courses in the region that are members of *Turismo de Lisboa*, all located less than an hour's drive from the centre of the Portuguese capital. Although they vary in size, location and difficulty, many have been designed by well-known architects and custodians of the game, including Spanish golfing legend Severiano Ballesteros, British former golfer Donald Steel and renowned American golf course architect Arthur Hills.

And for golfers looking for an extra reason to plan a golfing break on the Lisbon Golf Coast in the next few months, event highlights include:

- **European Amateur Golf Tour** (21 - 25 October 2016): Held at the award winning 18-hole Oitavos Dunes, considered as one of the world's best natural links golf courses.
www.eagt.co.uk
- **Cascais International Golf Week** (29 October - 5 November 2016): A truly international amateur tournament that sees players from all over the world competing every year.
www.visitcascais.com



- **87th Portuguese International Amateur Championship** (February 2017, exact dates tbc): Held at one of Portugal's oldest courses, Estoril Golf, surrounded by pine forest.
www.fpg.pt
- **6th Oitavos Classic 2017** (23 - 26 February 2017): Open to amateur golfers, the maximum tournament handicap will be 28 for men and women.
www.theoitavos.com

For more information, ideas and inspiration on playing golf in Lisbon please go to www.visitlisboa.com.

From the UK, direct flights to Lisbon operate from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Bristol with TAP Portugal, British Airways, easyJet, Ryanair and Monarch. From Ireland, direct flights to Lisbon operate from Dublin with Aer Lingus and Ryanair.

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About Lisbon

Portugal's national capital, Lisbon, boasts one of the longest histories, warmest climates and bustling nightlife of any major European city alongside its dramatic location sprawled along seven hills overlooking the river Tagus and the country's west coast. Famed for its year-round sunshine and beauty, Lisbon's grand architecture dazzles and its old-world charm mingles with chic streets, galleries, lively nightlife and a centre which gives way to sandy beaches just minutes away. It is also one of the most affordable capitals in Europe, perfect for a captivating city break or short haul escape.

www.visitlisboa.com

About Turismo de Lisboa

Turismo de Lisboa is a non-profit organisation established through an alliance of public and private bodies operating in the tourist sector. It has over 800 associated members. Since its inception in 1998, the main objective of this association is to improve and increase the promotion of Lisbon as a tourist destination and therefore enhance the quality and competitiveness of the city.