

# TIPS FOR A GREAT GOLFING HOLIDAY

Practical tips for Travelling with Golf Clubs

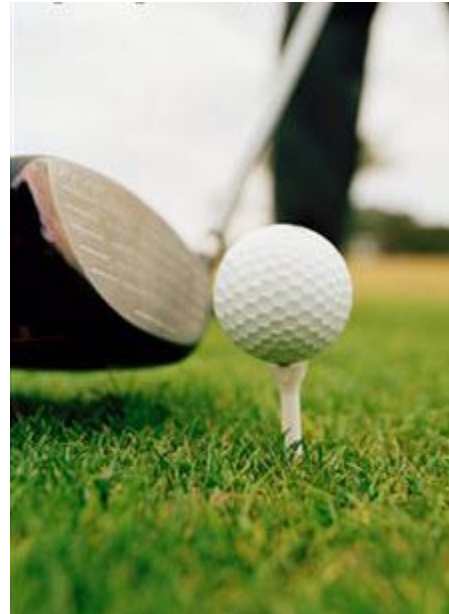


# **P**actical tips for Travelling with Golf Clubs

Unless you plan on only playing with the clubs you buy on your trip, travelling with your precious golf equipment can be a troubling (mental) feat. Here are a few tips to keep your nerves down about keeping your equipment safe and in perfect nick.

## **Protection**

The best way to protect your clubs is by packing them in a quality golf travel bag. There are three varieties of travel cases: the hard, the soft, and the hybrid which combines elements of the hard and soft. So which one will you choose?



## **Hard vs. Soft**

The rule of thumb in the world of travel cases is: the harder the better. Hard cases are the ultimate form of protection as it is constructed with a rigid exterior and a padded interior to soften any potential blows to your treasured equipment. Your golf case is strapped into the padded interior and then latched in so it won't move should the bag encounter a nasty bump. These are naturally the more expensive of the varieties starting from approximately \$120 and reaching to over \$400, however, this is the ideal choice, especially for those travelling by air who has to entrust their gear to baggage handlers who are unlikely to take as much care as you would like.

On the other hand, the soft travel bag is cheaper. However, because its sides are made of a flexible, reinforced fabric, there is less guaranteed protection. In saying this, though, there is also less chance of your travel case getting damaged in transit. This type of bag is more ideal for road travel.

## Size

Before deciding to purchase a travel case for your clubs, you will need to take a few measurements to ensure you choose the right size case.

Firstly, you will need to know the diameter of your current golf bag. Your travel case will need to have a diameter larger than your golf bag so that you can comfortably strap your bag into the case.

Secondly, you will need to measure the height of your driver/putter. If you have a longer driver, you may need to invest in an extra large case to ensure you can close your case snugly.

## Packing

In addition to having your travel case there are a few extra simple things you can do to ensure your clubs are kept in mint condition.

Inside your golf bag, in your travel case:

- Make sure that your woods have head covers
- Try stuffing some clothing in between the clubs so that they don't move around inside the bag and bump into each other.

On the outside:

- Clearly label your bag on all sides with, your name and address, to ensure it can be identified in case they get lost.

Be sure to check all specific airline requirements for travelling with golf gear, as each airline often has a different way of handling precious luggage. Some airlines ask that you purchase a particular golf travel case exclusive to the airline or have a case that meets the specific requirements of the airline, while others have certain restrictions to weight and the number of clubs and balls you can take in your bag. It is crucial for you to know this information before you arrive at the airport.



## Declaring

Another important aspect of travelling all golfers need to consider is the declaration of any residue of grass or dirt left on your gear and shoes. It is a good idea to ensure you thoroughly clean all equipment before leaving for the airport to come home, so as to avoid the trouble of declaring. Australian Customs agents will thoroughly check all your gear for any traces of foreign material that is entering the country, even if it is sand or dirt. Below are some practical tips for keeping your clubs clean when travelling using simple household appliances.

- Soak irons and the heads of your clubs (making sure the club's ferrules are not submerged) in warm soapy water made with a mild dishwashing detergent, for a couple of minutes. Make sure the water is not too hot as very hot water can loosen the ferrule of your clubs. This technique will help loosen the dirt in the grooves of the club face and the suds will strip the clubs of unwanted oils and golf course chemicals.
- After soaking, use a toothbrush to thoroughly clean out the grooves of each clubface. Note: never use a wire-bristled brush to clean grooves.
- Quickly dip metal woods into soapy water and rub with a moist cloth and dry
- Collect soap suds with a cloth and rub onto golf grips. Place under running water to rinse grips, ensuring you don't get water all over the shafts.
- Clean dirt and mud from the spikes on the sole of your golf shoes, dampen a cloth and wipe away grass stains, a small amount of detergent will help remove smudges and scuffs.
- Wrap a damp cloth around a tee to clean out holes on your clubs of trapped mud and grass.
- Rub a damp cloth over the shaft
- Check your golf bag for any residue from courses. Soapy water will remove any smudges and stains. Also, check the cleaning instructions on the bag.
- Soak tees and golf balls in soapy water.

# Ten Tips for Successful Travelling

## 1. Compatibility

If you are planning a golf trip with a group, it's important you choose your group wisely. There's nothing like a dud group of people that just don't get along to put a damper on your lovely golf holiday! As nice as it is meeting new people, it's a good idea to team up with a few close friends as a buffer, just in case!

## 2. Planning Ahead

This could be the most important tip you could implement - think about, organise, buy, book, reserve, request and pay for as many details as you can as far in advance as possible. It's never too early to start planning – often a year ahead is necessary to organise a golf holiday to your specific wants. Doing this will minimize disappointment as you will be able to obtain the exact tee times, hotel rooms, etc., that you want. This will also be a huge de-stress tactic when getting closer to the departure date. Something to get you started in your thinking – it's often a good idea to spend at least three nights in each hotel you stay in, unless you enjoy frequent packing and unpacking!

## 3. Role Play

"The golf world is a democracy" – hence everyone should share the work. Some ideas for holiday jobs could include: treasurer, tournament director, shopper/cook, driver, and housekeeper. Allocate these roles, and rotate them each year!

## 4. Preparation

Not to be confused with planning, this refers to preparing yourself physically and otherwise for the trip, regardless of how long you are going for. It is likely that you will be travelling, playing and walking more than normal, and on the flip side, sleeping less than you are normally accustomed to. So, to soften the blow, and avoid wasting precious time feeling tired and drained, you could engage in some activities beforehand (not just a week before) such as walking, stretching and exercising as well as practice. Not a bad excuse for some extra golf time! Don't forget too any medical attention you might need before you go, such as renewing prescription medicine etc.

## **5. Packing**

Some things that are often left at home that shouldn't be are: (at least) 2 pairs of golf shoes, a rain coat, several golf gloves and jackets/jumpers/windcheaters to protect you from weather likely 10 degrees cooler than you expect!

## **6. Dollars and Cents**

This is an important issue. Make sure everyone knows the approximate cost of all the inclusions, and that everyone understands and agrees with what's in and what's out. Experience dictates that including alcohol in more than one or two group dinners can become a little dangerous. We strongly advise that you ensure every group member knows what the costs are and what their contribution will be before adding any extras.

## **7. Drink**

...in moderation! We strongly encourage you to sample the local beers, wines and other drinks to enhance your overall holiday experience. However, just keep in mind that you have other activities on this trip too, especially golf and driving.

## **8. Sharing is Caring**

While some groups may work well under the dictatorship of one 'leader' – there aren't many. Remember, the golf world is a democracy – always include all group members in any decision making about the trip before, during and after. We want this to be an enjoyable experience for everyone involved, so all should have the chance for input on venues, format, finances and any activities.

## **9. Competition**

Team competitions are great for group holidays, as well as individual competitions to keep things interesting. This may be a Ryder Cup style event with teams based on gender, handicap, ages and so on. The great part about a team competition is it takes the pressure off individual golf swings. Keep the stakes light, the trophies humorous and ensure that it stays complimentary to the actual holiday experience.

## **10. Expect the Worst**

The course may not be as picturesque as in your coffee table book, the hotel room may be smaller than you expected, the weather is often not as good as

you were hoping. Group conflicts may occur, or you may experience some travel issues. But remember, you're there for the golf and the memories. Some of the most memorable trips are the ones that didn't go exactly to plan, and they will have you talking about it with your group for years to come!



## About Teed Up

At Teed Up, we are professionals in organised stress free golf holidays. We, just like you, are golf fanatics and salivate over any chance we get to experience the best.

Our set golf packages provide you with exclusive access to leading hotels, resorts and championship golf courses around Australia and the world. Take the opportunity to invest in the Masters experience that has thrilled our customers many times over. Enjoy a trip to seven of the greatest host courses of the British Open, even catch a live viewing. Or, choose another of our customised packages to quench your golfing thirst.



Our accredited staff will help you every step of the way from planning and booking to your arrival and time on the course. Whether you want a quick golfing holiday getaway or dream of seeing Tiger thump a drive off the first at Augusta, we have a tailor-made package for you.

*"I just wanted to say thanks for a trip of a lifetime... you made me feel very welcome and the group got on really well. It makes a huge difference that you have been going for so many years and spend so much time with us."*

**Brent Persico – Executive Recruiter**

*"To play on Pinehurst No.2 was a highlight of my golfing career to date"*

**John Ashley, CEO Australia Leisure Group**