Go Golfing

\{verb\} Bringing golfers together for the best time of their life
It is sometimes hard to believe that 21 years ago I started Go Golfing from my parents’ garage. Time flies when you’re having fun. It’s been an incredible journey and I have wonderful clients and an awesome team to thank for this.

The pulse at Go Golfing beats a little faster these days and that’s because we’re excited. Excited to showcase our 2017 golf touring schedule in our very first Go Golfing magazine.

You’ll know you’re in good hands when our team shares everything they know about the places you’re travelling to and throw in tips and hints to make your travels even easier.

Knowing that we’ve pushed the envelope to get you the best deal, you’ll be tempted to splurge the savings on an upgrade or a spot of shopping.

The hairs on the back of your neck will stand to attention on the 1st tee of that ultra-exclusive private club we got you onto. You’ll catch yourself shaking your head in disbelief as you take in the vista at spectacular resort courses.

We put fun and adventure into every itinerary. Your heart is sure to skip a beat or two as you arrive at iconic attractions you’ve dreamt about for years when flicking through travel magazines.

You’ll want to take the local guides home with you. Their contagious laugh, and panache for storytelling brings history to life in a way that Google never could. Our attentive hosts are there so you can take it all in without a care in the world.

You’ll buddy up with strangers like they’ve been lifelong friends. Romance has blossomed more often than you might think. Bringing golfers together for the best time of their lives – that’s what drives us. It’s in our DNA.

Enjoy the magazine. We hope the kaleidoscope of choice on offer ignites your passion for travel. You’ll have a spring in your step and a wider smile knowing that you’re going somewhere special. Dream a little, you’re worth it!

Peter McCarthy
Managing Director, Go Golfing
Call me any time 0411 262 277
“I knew before leaving Australia that it was going to be a great holiday - every time I read the itinerary I got more excited. And because of the courses, the amazing scenery, beautiful hotels, superb hosts and the great bunch of people I toured with, this was way better than I could have ever imagined.”

Alick (Adelaide) – South Africa 2016
COMING UP IN 2017

WREST POINT INTERNATIONAL MASTERS
22 - 27 JANUARY 2017

BARNBOUGLE GOLF CHALLENGE
28 JANUARY - 3 FEBRUARY 2017

SOUTH AFRICA SAFARI
22 FEBRUARY - 10 MARCH 2017

NEW ZEALAND NORTH ISLAND TOUR
03 - 13 MARCH 2017

NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND TOUR
13-27 MARCH 2017

MARGARET RIVER TOUR
15 - 27 MARCH 2017

MARGARET RIVER TOUR
28 MARCH - 9 APRIL 2017

SRI LANKA TOUR
01 - 12 JULY 2017

IRELAND TOUR
01-13 JULY 2017

SCOTLAND TOUR
13-25 JULY 2017

SPAIN & PORTUGAL TOUR
28 AUGUST - 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CRUISE
02-09 SEPTEMBER 2017

VIETNAM (ACCOR) WORLD MASTERS
03 - 09 SEPTEMBER 2017

CHINA TOUR (THE TALE OF 3 CITIES)
09 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

GOLD COAST (LADBROKES) WORLD MASTERS
08 - 13 OCTOBER 2017

MELBOURNE CUP TOUR
05-10 NOVEMBER 2017

MORNINGTON PENINSULA TOUR
10-16 NOVEMBER 2017

SOUTH AFRICA SAFARI
14 - 30 NOVEMBER 2017

NZ CHRISTMAS CRUISE
21 DECEMBER 17 – 03 JANUARY 2018

AUSTRALIA’S MOST AWARDED GOLF TRAVEL COMPANY
At Go Golfing, we go the extra mile to ensure the enjoyment of our guests. Our multiple golf tour awards are a testament to our commitment to customer service. You are in safe hands.

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE TRAVEL AGENCY
We look after absolutely everything for you from flights, insurance, transfers, hotels and golf. You can also take advantage of popular tour extensions so you experience more. Even more great memories.

BOOK EARLY, PAY LESS
At Go Golfing, we believe in rewarding those who book early; so our prices never get better than our remarkable early bird offers. These offers are strictly limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Find out early birds for each tour on our website.

EARLY BIRD: Save up to $500 pp for International Tours. See Website for Details.

“"You put together a once in a lifetime golfing experience."”
Terry Wild (Brisbane) Scotland Tour 2015

“"Hi Peter, you must have thought I was a pain, asking all those questions. But as a single traveller, I had some real doubts about booking on a group tour. However, each time I received a tour update or spoke to you about the tour and what to expect or to Bec about my booking, my fears turned to excitement. Graeme was such a caring host and I couldn’t have picked a better group to travel with. What a great bunch of characters. So glad you convinced me to go."”
John, Vietnam 2014

www.GoGolfing.net.au
With Go Golfing, your holiday starts from the moment you read one of our tours. The itinerary is clear. It spells out exactly what you get and how much it costs. Online you can play with an interactive map to check out the golf courses, hotels, and attractions. Put yourself in the pictures. Imagine being there. It feels good. You like what you see.

You pick up the phone. Your call is met with a comforting voice that will happily share their wealth of travel knowledge. You get a quote for flights so you can gauge the total cost. We check if we can get you onto a flight where your golf clubs fly for free.

SO, YOU’VE DECIDED TO GO

Time to get on with the formalities and book. The countdown is now on. There are nice surprises along the way with tour updates that will have you ready and raring to go. It feels like Christmas when your Tour Pack arrives in the post. It has EVERYTHING you could possibly want to know even a brief profile of your travel companions. It’s nice to know a little about everyone before you meet.

IT’S TIME...

Onboard the flight there is excitement and a few butterflies. Upon clearing immigration there is relief and happiness when you see a signboard with your name and a driver who will grab your bags and whisk you off to your hotel. There’s comfort in knowing that you have an experienced host committed to your safety and enjoyment. Tonight your host gives you a warm reception at the welcome dinner and will introduce you around. Strangers quickly become friends...

PUTTING FUN INTO GOLF

There’s an individual golf comp. You will be drawn into a team event with quirky team names. Teams bond with trinkets, paraphernalia and even team songs – there’s good-humoured banter, hi-jinx and always good fun.

LIVE THE MOMENT

You wake up everyday with a sense of excitement – iconic landmarks, little known treasures and bucket list golf await you. The tour runs smoothly. You know it has been well planned.

The local guides are amazing. Their contagious laugh and panache for story telling brings history to life in a way that Google never could. Our attentive hosts are there so you can take it all in without a care in the world. Time flies when you’re having fun and there’s a hint of sadness as you dress for the final dinner. Promises are made to keep in touch, visit and catch up on future tours.

WELCOME BACK

Soon after you get home, another package arrives. There’s a group photo that you will happily put on the mantelpiece and a photo montage of great memories. Your host pens a missive that captures all the good times and you find yourself laughing out loud. Now, you start dreaming of your next adventure.
A LAND OF DELIGHTS
Australia

EPICUREAN DELIGHTS:
MARGARET RIVER

Margaret River - once comprising of little more than struggling dairy farms, is now a cornucopia of gourmet foods, wonderful wineries and stunning scenery. Not to mention the trail of golf courses that are a must play on the way to wine country!

Golfers will rejoice in playing links style golf at the Cut, Secret Harbour and Meadow Springs. The ultimate in golf and gourmet, this 13 day tour with 6 rounds is laced with quality. The trip to Vasse Felix Winery will delight the wine buffs and wine bluffs.

MARGARET RIVER
Fully Escorted Tour
28 March - 9 April 2017
13 Days - 6 Rounds

THAT WINNING FEELING:
THE MELBOURNE CUP

It’s the race that stops a nation and there’s nothing like being at Flemington on the first Tuesday in November for the Melbourne Cup. Excitement builds to fever pitch when at 3pm the nation draws to a halt for 200 heart-pounding seconds.

Your reserved seats are perched opposite the winning post and a gourmet hamper is delivered to your seat for Cup Day and Oaks Day. When not at the races, you’ll be playing Melbourne’s famed sandbelt courses, Huntingdale and Sandhurst.

MELBOURNE CUP
Fully Escorted Tour
05 - 10 November 2017
6 Days - 2 Rounds

MELBOURNE’S PLAYGROUND:
THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Following on from the Melbourne Cup, the Mornington Peninsula tour is a golfing dream. Affectionately known as ‘the Cups’ for its proliferation of superb public courses and immaculate private courses, Mornington Peninsula offers unbeatable golf.

Moonah Links, twice host of the Australian Open, combines with The National, The Dunes and Portsea to satiate the most discerning golfer. Beautiful seaside villages, galleries, spas, cafes, wineries and idyllic spring weather combine for a wonderful golf touring indulgence.

MORNINGTON PENINSULA
Fully Escorted Tour
10 -16 November 2017
7 Days - 4 Rounds

EARLY BIRD: Save $300 pp. See website for details
NEW ZEALAND is a place of enormous natural beauty. It’s little wonder movie producers, artisans and photographers are inspired by the rich pallet in front of them. The same can be said for golf course designers who have weaved their magic to create spectacular courses in even more spectacular locales.

You’ll play the courses that have adorned the front covers of the golf mags. Kauri Cliffs, Cape Kidnappers, Wairakei, Kinloch and Royal Wellington will impress the most seasoned golf traveller in the North. And in the South, Jack’s Point is so good it commands a second round and along with games at Millbrook, Wanaka and Queenstown, you will soon know why these are the most photographed courses on the Go Golfing schedule.

In March 2017, Go Golfing salutes New Zealand golf’s magical courses, its pristine beauty, Maori culture, epicurean delights washed down with those world famous Sav Blanc’s and Pinot’s, with back to back tours to the North and South Island.

“I can’t think of anything I wasn’t happy with - the people I met, the golf courses and hotels were superb. Everyone was happy. It was simply wonderful”

Robyn Watson, New Zealand 2016

NEW ZEALAND NORTH ISLAND
Fully Escorted Tour
03 - 13 March 2017
11 Days - 6 Rounds

NEW ZEALAND SOUTH ISLAND
Fully Escorted Tour
13 - 21 March 2017
9 Days - 5 Rounds

BOOK BOTH TOURS AND RECEIVE A FREE FLIGHT FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

www.GoGolfing.net.au
GOLF CRUISING AND THE Good Life

Marry your love of golf with the sea life and take your clubs on a fully escorted golf cruise holiday. Unpack once and discover new destinations to indulge your love of the game each morning.

Cruising means you can have days of lounging under the sun by the pool, nights of great food and good wine, live music and broadway-style entertainment. Every single thing is taken care of for you. Best of all, non-golfing companions can enjoy an impressive choice of activities and sightseeing while the golfers are busy swinging the club.

After a day on the course, you will return to your floating resort for 19th Hole refreshments and prize presentations. Follow this with an a-la-carte dinner and your choice of entertainment casino action or simply polishing your clubs for the next day’s adventure.

CELEBRATE 14 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CRUISING AROUND NEW ZEALAND

Forget the last minute shopping, slaving in a kitchen and hosting family. Replace all this with a luxury escorted New Zealand Christmas Golf Cruise where you will be entertained, pampered, enjoy great food (and no washing up!) and play 4 of New Zealand’s premier and most scenic courses.

It’s not hard to get into the Christmas spirit, as ships are trimmed from stem to stern in festive holiday decor, complete with wreaths, holly, mistletoe and, of course, Christmas trees. It’s not uncommon to see Yuletide carolers strolling the decks singing favorite holiday tunes, or waiters wearing Santa hats. Seasonal entertainment abounds, as you will enjoy themed production shows, live music and New Year’s Eve celebrations during the voyage.

ISLAND HOP HAWAII

Golf is the second biggest draw card to the islands behind Hawaii’s beautiful beaches - for a reason. It is home to exquisite and top ranked golf courses. Play like the pros at Poipu Bay Golf Course in Kauai, where Tiger Woods played in the PGA Grand Slam. Enjoy Kapalua, the Plantation Course, ranked as the #1 golf course in Hawaii and home to the PGA TOUR’s Hyundai Tournament of Champions. Mauna Lani’s North Course 17th hole is tucked into a natural lava amphitheatre whereas the King Kamehameha Golf Club is the only private 18-hole golf course in Maui.

NZ 14 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CRUISE
Fully Escorted, 21 Dec 2017 - 03 Jan 2018
14 Days - 4 Rounds

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CRUISE
Fully Escorted, 02 - 09 Sept 2017
8 Days - 4 Rounds
Why? Because you come face to face with soul-stirring mountains, mist-shrouded forests and epic tooth-and-claw wildlife – this is Canada's grand outdoor wonderland and it feels like it's all on display just for you.

Add golf courses rated as the most spectacular in the world with hallmarks of their big name designers and here is a recipe for mouth watering golf that just keeps getting better and better.

Go Golfing’s 8 rounds in the Canadian Rockies is a star-studded line-up including the iconic Banff Springs course designed by Stanley Thompson, Nicklaus North (should we say anymore, the designer gave it his name), Fairmont Whistler (often driving off elevated tees the vistas are breathtaking and here you share the fairways - their rules - with a family of black bears) and Predator Ridge (a favourite among clients as well as Sergio Garcia who has a villa there). Really, the other courses on tour also deserve to have their name up in lights.

Add a dash of spine-tingling sightings of deer, black bears and gigantic moose and you’re hooked. This place is the real deal. This is nature on steroids and it is intoxicating.

Celebrate your golfing triumphs or drown the golfing blues with a visit to the Okanagan Valley, home to dozens of boutique wineries and you won’t want to leave. Should you be a beer nut, you’ll be right at home in the fashionable new microbreweries popping up everywhere in British Columbia. Another highlight is the Mission Hills interactive wine dinner which past tour guests have rated as the best dining experience they ever had.

The 2017 Go Golfing nature-rich golf epic takes you to some of Canada’s best national parks, famous Butchart Gardens and world renowned tourist destinations of Calgary, Banff, Kelowna, Whistler, Victoria and Vancouver. As a sightseeing tour, the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies is unforgettable; as a golfing tour it is simply sensational. Staying in luxury Fairmont hotels throughout, this is the ultimate Canadian tour experience.

Many of our clients take the option to travel on the Rocky Mountaineer – hailed by National Geographic as ‘one of the world’s greatest trips’ – from Vancouver to Calgary, where the tour starts. The tour finishes in Vancouver in time to board an Alaskan Cruise, the perfect end to this bucket list tour.

**COME FACE TO FACE WITH SOUL-STIRRING MOUNTAINS, MIST-SHROUDED FORESTS AND EPIC TOOTH-AND-CLAW WILDLIFE**

**CANADIAN ROCKIES**

Fully Escorted Tour
03 - 21 June 2017
18 Days - 9 Rounds

www.GoGolfing.net.au
Life in Spain is embraced with passion. That passion is woven into the fabric of daily life whether you are savouring pata negra ham tapas and drinking cañas (small beer) on a warm autumn’s night or feel your heart beat a little faster as a vivacious flamenco dancer swirls her skirt and stomps her feet to the cadence of the hypnotic flamenco tempo. Passion is omnipresent in Barcelona with Gaudi’s captivating and truly unique architecture.

Attracting more golf tourists than any other country, our selected courses will see you play around charming coves of the Mediterranean and against the wildly beautiful cliffs of Spain’s Atlantic coast. Everywhere you go, villages of timeless beauty perch on hilltops, gather in valleys and cling to coastal outcrops as tiny but resilient outposts of Old Spain. When you combine this with some of the finest golf in Europe it doesn’t take long before Spain makes its way further up that alluring travel bucket list.

Across the Strait of Gibraltar from Malaga, Tangier (Morroco) is a must-see. The enthralling gateway to Africa
is a tantalizing introduction to a culture vastly different to that of the European continent. After WWII, Tangier became a hub for eccentric foreigners, artists, spies and hippies. In the old medina, there is a labyrinth of alleyways where you’ll find buzzing cafés, eateries and stalls where street vendors seduce passers-by with their exotic wares. A visit to the famous Kasbah, the walled fortress of the sultan, and the souqs or markets will be a colourful experience before feasting on regional fare together with belly dancing.

Then there is Portugal, with its medieval castles, cobblestone villages, captivating cities and golden beaches. Take a bite of a piping-hot pastries de nata (custard tart) standing up at an 1837 patisserie in Belem (Lisbon), and wander through scenic vineyards sipping the velvety ports of the Douro Valley. The Portuguese have perfected the art of cooking simple delicious meals. Whether you consider yourself a budding Masterchef or going to the fridge is the only time you spend in the kitchen, the cooking class on tour - where you wash down your creations with their best wines - is heralded by our most seasoned travellers as the most fun experience ever on tour. Chorizo bread, pastries and Portuguese desserts are amongst the creations. Tears of laughter add to the flavour.

Your highlight golf courses include Real Club De Golf (Barcelona) Finca Cortesin Golf Club (Malaga), Monte Rei Golf & Country Club and Penha Longa (Portugal).

Make 2017 the year you make your way to the Iberian Peninsula to meet its passionate people, captivating culture, exotic architecture, honest food and good life. It is a tour not to be missed. Just go, go, go. Truly... Qué suerte!

**SPAIN & PORTUGAL**
Fully Escorted Tour
28 Aug - 14 Sept 2017
18 Days - 8 Rounds
Why choose?

SCOTLAND VS IRELAND

SCOTLAND AND IRELAND ARE BOTH BUCKET LIST GOLFING DESTINATIONS. THERE IS MUCH DISCOURSE AS TO WHICH IS BEST AND WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING ONE OVER THE OTHER, WELL, THAT’S OPEN TO DEBATE.

WHAT WE KNOW FOR SURE IS THE DEPTH OF GREAT GOLF IN BOTH COUNTRIES IS SUCH THAT YOU COULD MAKE DOUBLE-DIGIT TRIPS TO THE BRITISH ISLES, PLAYING DIFFERENT COURSES EACH TIME, WITHOUT EVER HITTING A DUD.

There was passionate debate among the staff and tour hosts as to where we should go and what courses to play in both Scotland and Ireland. So we resorted to Guinness and Glenfiddich and a few late nights to come up with the ultimate bucket list tours to both destinations.

SCOTLAND

There is no denying Scotland takes the crown when it comes to pedigree. It is the holy land of golf. The Scots developed the game, created the rules, built the courses and nurtured the first architects and champions.

What makes it so unique is the land on which it is played. You don’t go to Scotland to play parkland or heathland courses. You go to Scotland to play on a ‘true’ Scottish links course. You go there to play one of the courses where history was created and where the temperamental wind and rain can embellish the challenge of hitting a small ball along ancient dunes covered with grass until it falls into a four and a quarter inch hole.

It would be difficult to find a more fitting golf destination than St Andrews. The name is synonymous to golfing royalty and you’ll find some of Scotland’s finest links courses on its doorstep. With spectacular surroundings of beaches and medieval architecture, it is a lively little town thriving with tourists and

PICTURE THE MOMENT. STANDING ON THE OLD COURSE WITH 600 YEARS OF HISTORY PLAYING OUT IN FRONT OF YOU... NOW, IT’S YOUR TURN

...
students going to the historic University of St Andrews and more pubs per square-feet than anywhere else in the UK.

Kingsbarns, eight miles away from St Andrews, is relatively young and more man made than your average Scottish links. Yet it delivers a surreal, tiered amphitheater setting overlooking the sea. This modern layout is visually spectacular and tremendously fun to play. On a clear afternoon, you can often see across the North Sea to the small town of Carnoustie with its fearsome championship course that has tested the game's best players for decades.

And next, on our Scottish bucket list there is Turnberry, on the Atlantic, where we've picked the fantastic Ailsa course and the majestic Royal Troon. Our journey will take you to Loch Lomond where you'll play The Carricks golf course.

IRELAND

When it comes to links golf, it does pack a punch. For golfers, it doesn't get any better than this. Ireland's southwest is renowned for its string of links courses which stretch along the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. Fashioned along windswept beaches and between high dunes, it takes you back to the game's origins. There is nothing artificial here; just golf on foot, dictated by the natural landscape, the elements and the luck of the bounce.

Our Irish golf line-up is packed with the who's who of links layouts. There's the Alister MacKenzie classic - Lahinch, to the north, and embraces Ballybunion, Tralee, and the idyllic Waterville, on the Ring of Kerry to the south. And then there is the immaculate and awe inspiring Old Head Golf Club, peering down on the ocean from 300 foot cliffs, on a peninsula which resembles a diamond earring in shape and quality.

THE LOWDOWN

We've hosted several tours to both Scotland and Ireland and while we might debate the merit of course inclusions, for lovers of golf and history, these tours are guaranteed to hit your sweet spot. Start your journey in Ireland with a fully escorted 13-day golf tour that will see you play 6 rounds of magnificent links golf and much more.

Continue onto Scotland to walk in the shoes of Open Champions like Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson. It is a 13-day bucket list trip with 8 rounds of golf that will take you to St Andrews, the home of golf, Loch Lomond and Turnberry, and to Dundonald Links where you will experience the atmosphere of the final day at the 2017 Scottish Open.

Sure, you can choose to just go to Scotland or to Ireland, but something tells me it will be too hard to choose.

IRELAND

Fully Escorted Tour
01 - 13 July 2017
13 Days - 6 Rounds

SCOTLAND

Fully Escorted Tour
13 - 25 July 2017
13 Days - 8 Rounds
There’s 3000 km of breathtaking coastline, legendary scenic wonders, and incredible terrain that course designers have revelled in to create South Africa’s golfing masterpieces. Here, you’ll be mesmerised by the stunning views at cliff-top ocean courses. Be challenged on beautifully manicured fairways and slick greens. You will be surrounded and wowed by free roaming wildlife such as lions, giraffes and zebras in the Kruger National Park. If you enjoy the challenge of a coastal course, the selection is tantalising. If you prefer playing at altitude, where the ball flies that much further, the selection is just as exciting. In fact, at the Legends Course, you take a helicopter to tee off on the 19th hole.
You can still experience true African culture in the rural areas. There are entire communities and regions where locals still live in huts, or in basic housing, in the same the way past generations lived. Here you will find that men still pay dowries for their brides, cattle is a central status of wealth, traditional artwork flourishes, and best of all, dancing, singing, and music are an important part of life.

South Africa’s food culture is unique as well, showing an emerging emphasis on local, handmade and organically grown ingredients. You’ll find some of the tastiest and unique meats in the world. Ostrich is found on many menus as is springbok and if you are lucky you might even get to enjoy Kudu.

“Each day the WOW factor grew as the golf courses seemed more picturesque and challenging.”

Sandy Stott, QLD, South Africa 2016

You’ll be impressed with the quality of the accommodation, golf courses and the many tour inclusions. You will stay in 5-star accommodation, play South Africa’s top golf courses in dreamy locales, and experience the real Africa. No other tour company has taken more golfers to South Africa than Go Golfing. Your safety and comfort is assured. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

Enquire about Victoria Falls pre-tour and Mauritius post-tour

SOUTH AFRICA GOLF TOUR
14 – 30 November
17 Days – 9 Rounds
And, if you know Peter, you won’t be surprised to find out that he tracked down the mayor of the city, got a photo that has gone viral in China, and now has this amazing city wanting to host a VIP tour for Go Golfing clients and shower them with amazing gifts and keys to the city.

And the city is (drum roll please)... Dujiangyan, about an hour from...
“WOW, THIS PLACE IS AMAZING. I CONFESSION I AM NOT ONE FOR SIGHTSEEING, BUT YOU SENSE THIS PLACE HAS AN AMAZING STORY TO TELL.”

Chengdu in south west China. This is where you go to see Panda Bears and savour Sichuan hotpot cooking and spicy cuisine. Yep, Peter had never heard of it and neither had we until he went there last week.

“Wow, this place is amazing. I confess I am not one for sightseeing, but you sense this place has an amazing story to tell. This is panda bear country and the Chinese love it. The livery on the local taxis are themed like panda bears. Lose concentration while driving and you might run up the bum of a panda bear!”

Home to the newly established panda research base and many cultural reserves, Dujiangyan has become one of the most popular destinations in Sichuan. Even more impressive is the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the oldest and only non-dam irrigation system in the world. Built in 256 BC to provide irrigation and flood control to the region, the Dujiangyan is one of the greatest hydraulic engineering projects of the Qin Dynasty.

Having tracked down the mayor, Peter McCarthy decided to pick up the 110kg guy like a baby – as you do, rather than a traditional handshake. The mayor posted the photo on social media and had 17,000+ likes in 2 hours. Peter followed up with an impromptu rendition of Neil Diamond’s ‘Sweet Caroline’ with a local entertainer who wasn’t expecting to lose his microphone for a spot of karaoke.

Peter’s unofficially official appointment as Australian ambassador to Dujiangyan was sealed with numerous shouts of Ganbei – the Chinese equivalent of cheers and then bottoms up.

Dujiangyan has now made its way into the 2017 Go Golfing China tour that also features the terra-cotta army, Stone Forest, a feast of cultural activities and some amazing golf in Kunming.

THE TALE OF 3 CITIES
Fully Escorted China Tour
09 – 22 September 2017
13 Days - 7 Rounds

CHINA WORLD MASTERS
21 - 27 May 2017
But, for our tour to Sri Lanka we've decided to bypass Colombo's sensory overload and head straight to a sanctuary of wellness in the beautiful seaside town of Beruwela and its sun kissed beaches.

A WORLD OF WELLNESS

Sri Lanka has a rich history of using traditional Ayurvedic treatments to promote health and holistic healing effects. Heritance Ayurveda Maha Gedara has been voted best in the world and for good reasons and has become a destination for many wellness enthusiasts worldwide.

Under the watchful eye of highly qualified doctors and professionally trained therapists you are taken through a journey of well-being with a regime of Ayurveda treatments and therapies in gorgeous and calming surroundings. In the restaurant overlooking the turquoise pool, you will be served up cuisine that combines brilliant cooking techniques and mouth-watering tastes that have proven medicinal value.

AYURVEDA – THE SCIENCE OF LIFE

Since time immemorial, man has been engaged in the pursuit of achieving and maintaining an optimum state of health. Ayurveda is a 5,000-year-old system of natural healing. Tibetan medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine both have their roots in Ayurveda.

TIRED, STRESSED?
YOU’LL FEEL BETTER AFTER AYURVEDA!

More than a mere system of treating illness, Ayurveda is a science of life (Ayur = life, Veda = science or knowledge). It offers a body of wisdom designed to help people stay vital. Providing guidelines on diet, behavior and the proper use of our senses, Ayurveda reminds us that health is the balanced and dynamic integration between our environment, body, mind, and spirit.

SRI-LANKA – THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

Lying between the more trodden parts of India and southeast Asia, Sri Lanka is a destination of choice for many travellers in search of authentic horizons.

Sri Lanka is kissed by tropical seas, lined with verdant tea plantations and Unesco World Heritage Sites. The food for mortals is pretty good too with curry delights and roadside stalls selling fresh fruit and arrack, the potent local brew. There's a smattering of wildlife and best yet, some of the friendliest people I have ever met.

While Sri Lanka doesn't boast golf courses of grandeur like its Asian neighbours, it does have courses that have been around since 1845 with honour boards proudly celebrating the clubs’ impressive history. The clubhouses ooze colonial charm. With doting hostesses who'll offer you a signature welcome drink, you won't recall any club that offers a more generous hospitality.

Sri Lanka's tour combines magnificent and contrasting scenery, as well as relaxation, cultural immersion, exotic cuisine, wildlife encounters, golf and a healthy dose of luxury.
TOURNAMENTS FOR CLUB GOLFERS JUST LIKE YOU

Here is a snapshot of what you can expect

**World Masters**

**THE COMPETITION**
72-Hole Single Stableford Event
“A” Grade Golfers also eligible for 72-hole “Gross” event
Play with Golfers your Own Age and Standard

**THE GOLFERS**
Open to all Male and Female Amateur Golfers Aged 35+

- 36% Women
- 64% Men
- 23% Singles
- 31% Couples
- 46% Groups
- Average handicap 24
- Average handicap 19
- 29% A-Grade Players
- 38% B-Grade Players
- 33% C-Grade Players

**THE REWARDS**

- $180,000 Prize Value
- 42 Overall Champions
- 162 Prize Recipients

JAN: Hobart (Wrest Point)
MAY: China World Masters
JUNE: Thailand (Centara) World Masters
SEPT: Vietnam (Accor) World Masters
OCT: Gold Coast (Ladbrokes) World Masters

**4-Ball Challenge**

**THE COMPETITION**
4 rounds - combination of best ball, ambrose and aggregate events

**TEAMS OF TWO**

- 53% Mixed
- 29% men
- 18% Ladies

Put intimate Field Size with Less than 100 Players

**THE GOLFERS**
ALL AGES / ALL HANDICAPS

- 43% Singles
- 57% Couples

**THE TEAM COMPETITION**
COLOUR CODED TEAMS OF 20

- WIN BONUS POINTS FOR YOUR TEAM WITH
  - Fancy dress fun
  - Chip & Putt Comp
  - Be Yourself

BARNBOUGE (Tasmania, Aus)
PATTAYA (Thailand)
SANCTUARY COVE (Gold Coast, Aus)
“In the process of getting time off for the masters on the Gold Coast, had a great time 2 years ago and would like to enjoy the fun again.”  

Alan Boyes

GOLD COAST World Masters

BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY, PERFECT THE NEXT - YOU KNOW THE DRILL. BUT IT’S MORE THAN THE WEATHER THAT APPEALS. IT’S THE MIXTURE OF NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT, THE SOFT SANDY BEACHES, SOME OF AUSTRALIA’S BEST RESORT GOLF COURSES AND THE RESTAURANTS ON OFFER.

After a short airport transfer, you arrive in Broadbeach, the heart of the Ladbrokes World Masters. You take a deep breath; the fresh salt air reaches your lungs. Life is good and you are looking forward to a week of competition golf and fun.

REGISTRATION

There is a shuttle to registration from Broadbeach every hour, on the hour. It’s easy. You jump onboard. It gives you time to size up your competition and meet new friends. You shake hands with a couple from Perth, a group of golfers from Singapore and another who’s made his way from the UK. It does not take long before light banter is exchanged.

You arrive at the registration desk. The Go Golfing team welcomes you. You receive a goodies bag, event information, bonus vouchers, and your ‘lucky’ tournament shirt. Your golf clubs are collected and transferred to your first round course.

IT’S SHOW TIME

Tonight is show time. It’s time to put on your check shirt for a much loved dinner and show at the Outback Spectacular. On arrival you are given a cowboy hat and a drink by one of the staff who blasts out a “YEHAA!” as you walk past. Old friends meet up with old faces and new faces meet new friends, everyone is here to have a great time!

GOLF COURSES

SANCTUARY COVE THE PINES
Members only course

RACV ROYAL PINES
Home to the Ladies Masters & PGA Championships

THE GLADES
Greg Norman Designed Course

PALM MEADOWS
Back by popular demand

YOU TAKE A DEEP BREATH; THE FRESH SALT AIR REACHES YOUR LUNGS. LIFE IS GOOD AND YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A WEEK OF COMPETITION GOLF AND FUN.
YOUR FIRST COMPETITION ROUND

You board the bus to make your way to your designated championship course. Your golf clubs beat you there and are already on your assigned cart. Complimentary water, tees and a gift from the organisers are also on the cart. There’s a player information sheet that runs over anything that you need to know. You meet your playing partners – they are similar age and handicap as you.

THE 19TH HOLE

Late afternoon, you make your way to the 19th hole in central, Broadbeach. It’s a short walk, maybe a par 3 for some or a par 4 for others. On arrival you are faced with a mystical entrance, fire twirlers and stilt walkers greet you to the exclusive function. You get jealous looks and looks of intrigue from passers-by, you enter. It’s happy hour - literally all night. Winners are announced, lucky draws and giveaways are well received and you find yourself chatting to a fun group of people. Think, yes, this is going to be a fun week.

WHAT A WEEK

It’s already Friday night. There is a level of anticipation as tonight is the gala dinner and the winners will be announced. It’s a red carpet arrival. The media are here and everyone is frocked up. It doesn’t feel like a golf presentation dinner; it feels like the Oscars! There’s a live video feed of the stage and over a hundred staff pampering our golfing heroes. There are 50 golf winners and 10 lucky draw prizewinners. You are aiming for the first prize – a trip to South Africa for two including flights. You hear your name called… and you scream “You Beauty!”

“My wife and I would like to thank all the Go Golfing staff for the fabulous week we had on the Gold Coast”

Robert & Judy Scott.

Ladbrokes

THE LADBROKES WORLD MASTERS

23-28 October, 2016
08 - 13 October 2017
GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

FUN FACT#1
Over the course of the tournament, 450,000+ glasses of wine and 300,000+ bottles of beer have been enjoyed.

FUN FACT#2
To win a trophy, you will need to score 33 points each round

FUN FACT#3
On average, you will lose 2 golf balls per round

FUN FACT#4
My wife and I would like to thank all the Go Golfing staff for the fabulous week we had on the Gold Coast”

Robert & Judy Scott.
BRING YOUR HUBBY, YOUR GOLFING BUDDY, OR JUST YOU

Who's your favourite person to golf with? Is it your better half, a great friend or do you want us to team you up? This two-person team event welcomes everyone with mixed, ladies and men's divisions.

HERE, STRANGERS BECOME LIFELONG FRIENDS

Restricted to just 100 golfers, this event has a friendly, relaxed and intimate vibe. With everyone staying at the 5-star InterContinental Sanctuary Cove Resort, you'll bump into golfers just like you everywhere - lazing by the pool, at breakfast, hunting for a bargain in the pro shop or most likely at the bar. And then there are invitations for you to join a group for dinner, well, it just happens.

LIVE LIKE THE RICH AND FAMOUS

From your luxury suite in the lush tropical surrounds of Sanctuary Cove, it's just a short walk to the Village, full of boutique fashions, upscale restaurants and a real estate office with the most affordable window shopping in town. And then there's the Marina, with rows and rows of million dollar yachts and cruisers lined up like a Westfield's car-park.

The locals are the 'gold shoe brigade', with matching Louis Vuitton bags and a poodle groomed by the same stylist as their owner. They get around in golf carts with air-con, wooden dash, alloy wheels and Neil Diamond on shuffle.

PRIVATE GOLF CLUB AND QUALITY RESORT COURSE

Sanctuary Cove boasts 36 holes of golfing pleasure. You'll feel a little chuffed, standing on the tee at the private members-only 'The Pines'. The Ross Watson redesign of 'The Palms' serves up a golfing treat. Better still you play both courses twice.

THE COMPETITION

You'll love the challenge and variety of the best ball, ambrose and aggregate events. The final round is stableford aggregate and there are bigger swings than an Australian election.

Adding to the fun, your team of two will be combined with 5 other teams in an even bigger team competition. Each team is allocated a team colour and arriving at the welcome dinner, you will be amazed with some of the outfits in team theme. The final night revue, where teams perform a ditty, poem or jokes will leave you in tears – yes, some of them are that bad, but all are good fun and you'll laugh out loud.

SANCTUARY COVE 4BALL CHALLENGE

YOU’LL FEEL A LITTLE CHUFFED, STANDING ON THE TEE AT THE PRIVATE MEMBERS-ONLY ‘THE PINES’

IMAGINE PLAYING GOLF IN SHORTS AND SHIRTS IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER. THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENS AT THE SANCTUARY COVE 4 BALL CHALLENGE, A GOLFING PARADISE ON QUEENSLAND’S GOLD COAST. IT’S LUXURY, IT’S SOCIAL, IT’S FUN, AND WITH GO GOLFING’S SIGNATURE EVENT ORGANISATION, THE EVENT RUNS LIKE CLOCKWORK. ALL YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS YOUR SLICE. IT’S BEEN A WINNING COMBINATION FOR YEARS.
YOU’VE HEARD THE STORIES. BARNBOUGLE IS ‘AS GOOD AS IT GETS’. IT IS GOLF THAT IS DELICIOUSLY UNPREDICTABLE AND HIGHLY ADDICTIVE. IT IS SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING, BEAUTIFUL, AND “MAGICAL” GOLF IN AUSTRALIA. IT IS AS CLOSE AS IT GETS TO PLAYING THE LIKES OF LAHINCH AND BALLYBUNION IN IRELAND AND THE OLD COURSE AT ST ANDREWS, SCOTLAND. AND, THANKS TO 6 DIFFERENT SETS OF TEES, YOU DON’T HAVE TO HAVE A GREAT HANDICAP TO ENJOY IT.

WELCOME TO GOD’S COUNTRY

Some of you will make your way to Bridport from Hobart after the Wrest Point Masters. Others will fly into Launceston for the week. The road to Barnbougle is beautiful. As you arrive, all you see is cows grazing and potato patches. Where on earth are the golf courses? As the coach goes over the very last dune, you see it. Rolling fairways and greens as far as the eye can see. People cheer on the coach. You haven’t even checked in yet and you are excited.

IT’S ALL ABOUT ‘US’ AND NO ONE ELSE

Our group takes over Barnbougle. The whole place has been booked out for our exclusive use. This means everyone
at the bar, restaurant and lounge area is here to enjoy a week of golfing nirvana. It's not long before doors are left open and bottles of wine are shared over balconies with views out to Bass Strait.

Some nights you will head on up to the restaurant. Try the scallops, they are to die for. The views from the restaurant over the rolling dunes and coastal scenery makes it a beautiful place to unwind after golf. On other nights, you want something more casual. The sports bar with its wood-fired pizzas or 'cook your own BBQ' is just what you want.

A GOLFING EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER

The untouched wilderness, scenic coastal terrain, rolling dunes and clean air inspires you breathe a little deeper. And you need a few deeper breaths getting to some of the elevated tees and greens. The fairways start wide and welcoming, then they start to wind and undulate. Some of the tee boxes are perched atop dunes. This makes the green look picture postcard.

While the rest of Australia swelters under the heat, you get perfect weather conditions for glorious, "tell-your-friends-about-it" shotmaking with mild sea breezes sweeping over the fairways.

It truly is a golfing experience like no other in Australia. These are courses you will want to play twice - with hindsight assisting your shot selection the second time round. It's little wonder why both are ranked in the top 30 in the world.

The impeccably manicured fairways and greens are beautiful. It's as if Tom Doak and Mike Clayton simply unrolled a grass carpet across the untouched undulating landscape. This is a magnificent walking course.

You will love the challenge of 'snaking' a putt through the enigmatic left-right-left-downhill breaks on the slick 13th green. Or "threading the needle" on the monstrous 8th to carefully place a drive on a narrow strip of elevated fairway — flirting precariously with the ball devouring rough on the left, and the valley of death on the right. Indeed, this is golf at its finest! (Tip: the yardage book is an absolute must-buy.)

THE GAMES YOU PLAY

It's fancy dress on the opening night in team colours. You do it because it earns your team bonus points. We have seen green leprechauns, blue Barnbougle pencils, purple trolls and yellow daffodils.

On Tuesday, our rest day from golf, there are beach games, another chance to earn points for the team and a great way to break up the week.

Dust off the sand and grab a pitcher and a putter for the highly anticipated chipping and putting comp. It comes with wine, cheese, beers and jeers as you barrack for your favourites as they progress through the semis to the final.

Whether you come to Tasmania for 1 week or both weeks, just don’t miss it. You’ll have the best time of your life!
THE APPLE ISLE
Your trip starts as you land on the tarmac at Hobart International Airport. You don’t think much of the airport, there is 1 terminal, 1 baggage carousel and a few too many signs telling you to dispose of fruit and vegetables. You know you’re still in Australia but the air feels crisper and the locals refer to you in a friendly manner as a “mainlander”. In more ways than one it feels like you have travelled to a new country. You collect your bags from the carousel and transfer to the iconic Wrest Point Hotel & Casino – your home for the next week.

YOUR BASE
There is no question that you have arrived at the right hotel, there are golf clubs lining the reception hallway. The reception staff already know why you’re here. It’s been held at their hotel for the last 16 years.

THE WELCOME
As the sunset pours into the hotel foyer, familiar faces and new recruits catch up over some fine local vintages. The doors open and the stage is set – you’re in for awesome comedy entertainment and a great night.

THE COMPETITION
Round 1 is here. Everyone piles onto the coach from Wrest Point. A few people get onto the wrong bus and the organisers make a joke of it. As the bus pulls into the golf courses, staff stand outside to make everyone feel welcome. There is a buzz and excitement in the air. Player announcements are made and the tournament is underway.

THE 19TH HOLE
After golf, it’s time to let your hair down. The happy hour justifies you drinking a little more than usual. The golf presentations aren’t as formal as you thought. The MC tells you more about what happened out there today, 1 golfer had his golf ball stolen by a crow, and there is now a warrant for the crow’s arrest, everyone laughs.

IT’S JUST A GOODBYE
Time flies, you have laughed and laughed. Over 50 people are called on stage for the award ceremony. There is cheering, jeering and it’s a whole lot of fun. It all ends with a dance band that plays all your favourite songs.

GOLF COURSES
TASMANIA GOLF CLUB
A challenging layout with million-dollar water views. The par 5 3rd hole has been compared to the famous 18th hole at Pebble Beach.

ROYAL HOBART
A rich history – since 1896. Has hosted major events including the Qantas Australian Open in 1971 won by the legendary Jack Nicklaus.

“We really enjoyed meeting a great group of people, extending our friendships and learning to play totally different types of courses. We had a blast!”

Robert & Jeanette, QLD
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND IS AFFECTIONATELY AND JUSTIFIABLY KNOWN AS THE ‘LAND OF SMILES’. REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU TRAVEL TO IN THAILAND, THE BIG SMILES ARE BACKED UP WITH WARM WELCOMES AND GENUINE HOSPITALITY THAT IS INSTANTLY CALMING. RELAXED, YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF MESMERISED BY THE COUNTRY’S IMMENSE NATURAL BEAUTY, EMBRACING THE FASCINATING LOCAL CULTURE, TANTALISING YOUR TASTES BUDS WITH AUTHENTIC THAI FOOD PACKED WITH FLAVOUR AND COOKED WITH LOVE.

Name another tournament where you arrive at the host hotel and are greeted with a refreshing local cocktail and a soothing 15-minute massage before a team of those big smiling locals walk you and your luggage to your room. Inside your room you notice a fruit bowl with a handwritten welcome note from management, your towels have been cutely contorted to resemble an elephant and the aroma of the fresh flowers fill the room. Suddenly, it is you who is smiling widest.

GOLF IN A KINGDOM

The Thai golf experience is like no other. Regardless of how you play, one thing is for sure, you’ve never been pampered on a golf course like this. On arrival, caddies line the entrance and with synchronised sweet voices give you a traditional Thai welcome of ‘sawasdee ka’. Escorted to your golf cart, your caddy is proudly wearing a caddy bib bearing your name and country flag. It’s a tournament and you can’t help feel like the star attraction.

For the next 5 hours your caddy will chauffeur you to the practice facilities and around the course. They fill your divots, repair your pitch marks, rake the bunkers and shade you with an umbrella. Realising they do this 6 days a week, you soon realise they know their stuff and after a couple of holes just hit the club they have selected for you and putt confidently on the line shown. It’s nice to have someone really look hard for your ball no matter how hard you tried to lose it. You can feel your caddie wants you to win.
PLAY COURSES THAT ARE WELL WORTH THE TRAVEL

Thailand’s tourism office have firmly set their sights on becoming the world’s most visited golf destination. They are currently second, with only Spain attracting more golf travellers. The golf is already spectacular, just Google Black Mountain to see why it is voted the best course in Asia every year. Themed courses like Royal Gems, featuring replica holes of the best royal courses worldwide and Amata Springs where you tee off to an island green on the par 3, 17th hole and then take a boat to finish the hole, a welcome addition to Thailand’s must-play courses.

Thailand has attracted the world’s most celebrated golf course architects and they have carved masterpieces out of the natural terrain and these courses are groomed to perfection. Watching a team of course maintenance staff stripe the fairways, prepare the greens and bunkers at the start of the day is mesmerising. The best courses in the Kingdom are without a doubt in the seaside resort towns of Hua Hin and Pattaya. In June each year golfers from 23 countries converge on Hua Hin for the Centara World Masters Golf Championship. Playing two rounds on both Black Mountain and Banyan offers us the best golf experience anywhere. Banyan is a more natural layout with stunning views out to the coastline, while Black Mountain is more ‘man-made’ with beautiful water features, colourful flower beds and big, bold bunkering.

Across the gulf of Thailand lies Pattaya, home to over 30 courses. The top four courses - Laem Chabang and Siam Country Clubs’ Plantation, Waterside, and Old Course layouts are the courses served up to golfers playing the Mercure Pattaya Ocean Resort 2 Ball Golf Championship, in June, the week after the Centara World Masters.

THAI CUISINE IS A CELEBRATION

In Thailand, social occasions are celebrated with food and the food often becomes a celebration in itself. Fresh produce and even fresher seafood feature prominently in the 20 plus dishes of Thai fare served up at the dinners for Go Golfing tournaments. The food at the golf courses is restaurant quality and even the canapes served up at the nightly 19th hole festivities are generous.

As a general rule in Thailand, food is shared. In fact, many Thai’s believe that eating alone is bad luck. So even if you come on your own to these tournaments, you will find yourself being invited to join fellow golfers for dinner each night. It just happens.

THE NIGHTLIFE

Thailand is also famous for its nightlife.

You’ll find yourself being tempted by the neon lights and inexpensive beverages. Walking Street in Pattaya is famous for being the biggest and busiest party hotspot in the whole of Thailand and is just a short tuk tuk ride from our host hotel. It’s a heady mix of night clubs, go-go bars, beer houses and restaurants.

Whether you are looking for classy rooftop bars, a basement jazz bar, a parkland setting glowing with fairy lights, no matter what you want to do after dark, Thailand has got you covered.
GOOD MORNING VIETNAM! WHO DOESN'T REMEMBER THE MOVIE, GOOD MORNING, VIETNAM, AND ITS MAIN PROTAGONIST RADIO FUNNY MAN ADRIAN CRONAUER (ROBIN WILLIAMS) SENT TO VIETNAM TO BRING A LITTLE COMEDY BACK INTO THE LIVES OF THE SOLDIERS? HE WOULD BEGIN EACH BROADCAST WITH HIS SIGNATURE SALUTE: GOOD MORNING VIETNAM!

You too can welcome the day with a loud and cheery “Good Morning Vietnam” when you play in the Accor Vietnam World Masters in Da Nang. This friendly tournament will see you play at world class golf courses with all the trappings of a major professional tournament. Da Nang Golf Club, Montgomerie Links Vietnam and Ba Na Hills Golf Club will give you the ultimate golfing experience and you will be treated like royalty by Vietnam’s friendly caddies.

The Hotel Royal Hoi An - MGallery hosts Vietnam’s biggest 19th Hole festivities and golf presentations each night. A decadent farewell dinner caps off the fun filled week. Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, Hoi An will bewitch you with its old world charm and an intoxicating mix of Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese and French culture. The old town looks the same as it did 200 years ago with its Japanese merchant houses, Chinese temples and ancient tea warehouses. Lounge bars, galleries, antique stores, boutique hotels, and a glut of tailor shops are also very much part of the scene here.

The streets are painted mango-yellow, the nights are lit by traditional coloured lanterns and the architecture, river life and historic sites have remained untouched and vibrant. It is laid back and friendly, has an attractive climate, a safe environment, and fresh local cuisine. It’s a popular base for visiting the inland Bà Nà hills. Here the Hải Vân Pass has views of Da Nang Bay and the Marble Mountains, 5 limestone outcrops that are home to caves and Buddhist shrines. Close by are another two UNESCO listed sites - the citadel in the former imperial city of Hue, and the My Son (Hindu) Sanctuary – making it a region of immense cultural and historic importance.

The all-inclusive tournament package boasts 6 nights accommodation, 4 rounds with caddies and carts, nightly social events with food, beverage and entertainment, welcome and presentation dinners, a player pack with tournament shirt, personalised caddie bib bearing your name and country flag, US$10,000 in prizes and all transfers. There is also an attractive program of events and touring options for non-players.

GOOD MORNING VIETNAM

IT IS LAID BACK AND FRIENDLY, HAS AN ATTRACTIVE CLIMATE, A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, AND FRESH LOCAL CUISINE.

VIETNAM WORLD MASTERS
03 -09 September 2017
Vietnam's golfing heritage dates back to 1922, when a golf-mad emperor had his own 9 hole course. It's fair to say that golf hasn't been a priority for Vietnam, but recently, thanks to various conspiring factors, Vietnam is Asia's fastest growing destination and keen golf travellers are arriving in their droves. So much so, the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) declared Vietnam as “Golf Destination of the Year” in 2016.

Vietnam currently has 35 courses, just about all built in the last 6 years. But a government master plan will see course numbers swell beyond 110 by 2020.

With an amazing natural landscape and stunning backdrops, the likes of Nicklaus, Player, Norman and Montgomerie have already etched their trademark designs into this rich canvass.

**HANOI**

The soon to be 54-hole Kings’ Island Golf Resort is set on its own private island and is accessed by speedboat. Van Tri was the first private, members-only course in Vietnam. Hanoi’s new star player is Sky Lake Golf and Lake Resort. Feng shui enthusiasts will delight in this course, nestled on Van Son Lake and backed by stunning mountains. On Hanoi’s outskirts, management company Vinpearl Golf has turned soil on a 54-hole golfing mecca with Gary Player and Sir Nick Faldo among the design team.

**DA NANG**

Affectionately known as Golf Coast Vietnam, Da Nang in central Vietnam, is arguably the jewel in Vietnam’s golfing crown. In the last 6 years, four world-class courses, all within 45 minutes of each other have arrived. Add to this a beach ranked in the world’s top 10 by Conde Naste, the who’s who in 5 star beachfront resort chains, four UNESCO world-heritage sites, including the ancient and romantic Hoi An, cuisine to delight all senses, and you can see why Da Nang’s relaxed, resort-style golf experience is so compelling.

When Da Nang Golf Club opened in 2010, it was south-east Asia’s first links course. Greg Norman took an instant liking to this dunes layout with dramatic coastal landscape. Awards like ‘Best New Course Asia Pacific’ quickly followed its opening.

Literally next door, also weaving alongside China Beach is Montgomerie Links, another more groomed links layout. Located between Da Nang and its northern neighbour Hue lies Laguna Lang Co, carved out of woodlands, paddy fields and rocky outcrops by Sir Nick Faldo, who declares this course, “One of the most special courses of my golf design career”.

New kid on the block is Ba Na Hills which opened in March this year. Designed by former World Number One and current tour player Luke Donald, it is set at the foot of the mountains and stretching 7,858 yards from the championship tees, it is Vietnam’s longest course. Lucky for us golfing mortals, there’s 5 tees to choose from and also the option of night golf.

**HO CHI MINH**

Vietnam’s main commercial hub isn’t undergoing as much golf development as its northern neighbours, but within an hour’s drive there's plenty of courses to tee-off on. Notables include Vietnam Golf & Country Club which opened in 1994 and was the first 36 hole golf complex. Carved out of woodlands by former major champion Lee Trevino, it is well regarded for its friendly welcome to visiting golfers and well-priced green fees.

Twin Doves, a private-members club, now allows visitors who booked through accredited golf tour operators like Go Golfing. Korean owned Taekwang Jeongsan is set on its own island in Dong Nai River, conveniently reached by a 30 minute speedboat.

Two hours drive south-east of the city is the Bluffs Ho Tram Strip which opened its doors in 2014. This Greg Norman classic links design weaves through towering sand dunes and steep elevations, as much as 50 metres from tee to green. It’s already hosted its first professional tournament won by Matt Kuchar and is Vietnam’s only course in Golf Digest’s “World’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses.”
GO GOLFING, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNITY OF GOLFERS WHO TRAVEL TO OUR EVENTS AND ON OUR TOURS, HAVE GIVEN MORE THAN $225,000 TO CHARITY.

Go Golfing is an active fundraiser for Golf Fore A Cause, an initiative of Drummond Golf that raises funds for breast and prostate cancer foundations.

Go Golfing’s tournaments in Thailand and Vietnam also raise funds for Jungle Aid – a charity which provides a brighter future for displaced families and orphaned children in Thailand’s poorest communities.

While Go Golfing’s founder Peter McCarthy is larger than life as an MC and raconteur, his under belly is full of compassion and an innate desire to make a difference. While donating to charities is important, we often don’t get to see how our donations make a real difference. Go Golfing’s expansion into Asia and support of Jungle Aid has changed all that.

THB 109,510 was raised at this year’s Centara World Masters, enabling Jungle Aid to install two water pumps in needy communities.

This year Peter joined the Jungle Aid volunteers for dinner to find out more. He found out that on most weekends, volunteer doctors, nurses and people from all walks jump in a 4-wheel drive and go off-road to these communities. A volunteer continued, “a makeshift triage is set-up and all kinds of ailments are treated. You also have people installing water pumps, mosquito nets and digging vegetable gardens and teaching locals all sorts of skills.”

Peter was inspired. He just had to go on a Jungle Aid expedition and see for himself. And, here is his account of his weekend to the Go Golfing team back here in Australia:

“Hey crew, in spite of those pins in your voodoo dolls, I arrived safely in Thailand. It’s normally 3.5 to Hua Hin, but thanks to my driver, who I have renamed Khun Cut-Off, I was there in less than 2.5 hours. Mark, I don’t think we edit the travel time to Hua Hin based on this experience.

At 5am I meet with the Jungle Aid crew. If you need any more validation for me not allowing you to order green shirts for our events – refer to the pictures.
I really had no idea what today would bring. There were 5 of us, and, as the only first timer and the only guy, I did feel a little like a fish out of water, even though I had a shirt to say I was part of Team Green!

It was a four-hour drive, occasionally on road, mostly on tracks. I was reassured that any bumps or potholes we missed on the way there we would catch on the way back! As I had no skills relevant to the expedition, I remembered I am a CEO (chief entertainment officer).

Even though the crew knew each other, I made everyone talk for a minute about themselves. I went last – they said I went for 7 minutes. I didn’t have a microphone and I don’t do karaoke at 6am– unless of course 6am is the end of a big night out.

We arrived at the … village? I’m really not sure what to call these ramshackle buildings. Kids came running over. They looked thin. Flies were sitting comfortably on their face. I wondered if it was because they don’t have the energy to wave them away. My eyes panned the area and I caught myself thinking: What am I looking for? I think it was hope. I got out of the car, had a young boy pull at my shorts, looked down and saw a smile that reminded me of my girls on a Christmas morning. Right there was the hope I was looking for.

We were based at a hut with a tin roof and it must have been nearly 40 degrees inside. It was home to 15 orphaned kids and 2 old ladies as their carers. I overhear some of the kids don’t have any birth records and that is making it difficult to get them enrolled in a school.

You know me, I have no mechanical aptitude but I did what I could to help set up the medical triage facility. I was amazed at the medical team treating patients in such makeshift conditions. Malnutrition and skin conditions seemed to be most common.

Before coming to Thailand I asked my girls (Olivia is 8; Poppy is 6) to pick clothes that they would like less fortunate kids to have. I had told my girls that Thailand was very hot and to pick out summer clothes. It was 34 degrees and was embarrassed to find they had packed a pair of Dora flannelette pyjamas, a crocheted pink hat, a purple beanie and a pair of wedged shoes with a heel. But I should never doubt my girls – of all the items, these were the most prized. Seeing a girl running around in a purple beanie brought a smile and a tear.

The team has also brought mosquito nets, pens, pencils, books, dried pork, tooth brushes and toothpaste. Dental hygiene is poor and seeing 3-year olds with rotting teeth was heartbreaking. Knowing how many reminders my kids need to brush their teeth, I knew I had to show them how to brush and make it look like fun or these brushes were more likely to be used for drawing in the dirt.

Seeing how well the kids were mimicking my exaggerated brushing style made me want to give them a reward. As fate would have it, I found a box of lollipops – yes, I know what you’re thinking. But knowing how good the lollipops tasted, I promised to return with more for the kids who brushed most.

Reality kicked in pretty quick when I was summoned by our team leader for a run to the local market to buy 500kg of rice. Maybe this was reprisal as I was under strict instructions not to hand out any candy.

Just getting the bags of rice out of the back of the store was a mission and by the time it was loaded into the van, even my shorts were soaked with sweat. Returning to the village, kids as young as three lined up to help with the unloading of these 15kg bags. I ended up carrying the rice and the kids. Forget the gym, this is the most rewarding weights session you could imagine.

Seeing my fellow volunteers handing over their own money to help pay rent for the shelter, pay for petrol and buy things they knew would help this village, has me inspired to do more. It’s also great to see that the funds our clients donate have a direct positive impact to the lives of those far less fortunate.

We love what we do and have the good fortune to travel the world. These experiences have also opened our eyes to just how lucky we are. Should you want to donate, go to Jungleaid.org where $5 can really help make a big difference.