

Right: Fourth hole at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club  
 Middle: Rory McIlroy on the 18th hole during the the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship in January  
 Below: View of the Saadiyat Beach Golf Club



hole with gentle contours running down the left that help the ball back towards a generous landing area. If you do manage to avoid the sand you are in for a treat, as the approach shot is inviting to say the least. The green is slightly downhill and the views of the ocean behind the green are simply stunning.

The last and shortest par 3 on the course is the 17th. At 135 metres, this hole truly showcases the pristine beach environment that the course is built on. The green is very narrow thus accuracy is essential to birdie this wonderful golf hole.

With 3 different tee positions to choose from the course has been designed to cater for every level of golfer, starting at 4,837 metres to the most challenging length design to cater for the world's leading tour players at 7,117 metres. I played the blue tees measuring 5,448 and found to be a very fair and extremely enjoyable golfing

tough second shot.

The 6th hole is an absolute gem, a 217-metre-long par 3 that is literally on the beach. When you stand on the tee all you can see between you and the almost mirage like green is golden white sands and gorse. The locals say that during certain times of the year you could be joined by dolphins or hawksbill turtles around this part of the course. It takes a lot of concentration to swipe a 4 iron into the middle of the green, especially with the foamy waves of the Arabian ocean crashing against the beach as you swing. Believe me: you would take a three here every time.

On the way back in, the 16th and 17th both have enough ammunition to wreck anyone's scorecard. 16 is a real beast, a par 4 measuring 450 metres (into the wind when I played it). The hole is also protected by probably the biggest bunker I have ever seen, it flanks the whole right side of the

experience. Despite the 60 bunkers Player has allowed for generous landing zones off the tee enabling you to open your shoulders and have a crack with your driver off most of the par 4s and par 5s.

When Saadiyat Beach Club opens for green fees on the 1st of March it will instantly become one of worlds must play courses for any avid golf traveller.

Not far from Saadiyat Island is the already world renowned Abu Dhabi Golf Club, which you will all know from the iconic Falcon shaped club house with its wings outstretched and peering over the 18th green. The Abu Dhabi Golf Club which has played host to the Abu Dhabi golf championship for the past five years and features 27 Championship holes of golf over 162 hectares of land. The course was opened in 2000 and the **Peter Harradine** design has become one of the best courses in the Middle East both with the locals, tourists and European Tour players. Although the course is only ten years old it looks and plays like it has been around for decades with its lush fairways, strategically placed bunkers and generous beautifully manicured greens.

Inside the heart of the falcon you will find three floors of luxury clubhouse facilities, with a wide selection of restaurant options. Enjoy light cuisine with a relaxed atmosphere from the outdoor terrace overlooking the 9th and 18th greens. To



cool off after your round, take a dip in the outdoor swimming pool complete with poolside cafe.

Both resorts are managed by Troon Golf, the world's largest golf management company, which oversees operations at properties located in 26 countries worldwide. If any of you have been lucky enough to have attended a corporate day or social golf day at a Troon managed golf resort you will know all about the quality of service they provide from the highest quality food and refreshments both on and off the course to your freshly polished shoes that sit waiting for you in the locker room

upon your return from a great days golf. When you are playing a Troon managed golf resort you know you are playing somewhere special.

With two more courses already commissioned – one a Kyle Phillips design called Yas Links and another by Robert Trent Jones JNR – Abu Dhabi is rapidly

positioning itself at the forefront of luxury golf in the UAE. With a number of five-star hotels and family attractions rapidly rising out of the desert daily, it is only a matter of time before Abu Dhabi is established as one of the best destinations for luxury travel and leisure in the world.

Abu Dhabi, the largest city and the capital of the UAE, now boasts two world class championship golf courses that would satisfy the needs and wants of any avid golf traveller