

Surrey Heathland Classics

Pine, heather, and pristine sand — London's premier dry-ground architectural sanctuaries. Six of England's most exclusive and storied heathland clubs in a compact, expertly sequenced 6-day loop from Heathrow.

DURATION

6 Days

GREEN FEE BAND

£1,200 – £2,200

START AIRPORT

London Heathrow
(LHR)

BEST MONTHS

Year-round (Best May–
Oct)

Route Overview

Sunningdale Old → Sunningdale New → Swinley Forest → The Berkshire → Wentworth West → West Hill

#	COURSE	ACCESS	DRIVE FROM BASE	GREEN FEE (EST.)	KEY NOTE
1	Sunningdale Old Willie Park Jr., 1901	PRIVATE	5m from base	£195 – £250	Semi-private; HCP 18; weekdays only
2	Sunningdale New Harry Colt, 1923	PRIVATE	Same base	£165 – £210	Pair with Old on same day or following morning
3	Swinley Forest Harry Colt, 1909	PRIVATE	10m drive	£200 – £260	Highly secretive; member intro or secretary letter required
4	The Berkshire (Red/Blue) Herbert Fowler, 1928	SEMI-PRIVATE	15m drive	£120 – £160	Online booking portal; book 6 months out
5	Wentworth West Harry Colt / Ernie Els	PRIVATE	20m drive	£280 – £380	Member guest or premium corporate/charity package only
6	West Hill Colt, Abercromby & Morrison	PRIVATE	25m drive	£120 – £150	Small, secretive gem; requires member introduction letter



Total Drive Time

Approximately 2 hours of total driving across the full 6-day trail. All courses sit within a tight Surrey/Berkshire heathland belt — this is the most geographically concentrated luxury golf trail in England.

Booking Windows & Access Matrix

COURSE	DIARY OPENS	VISITOR DAYS	HCP CAP	STRATEGY
Sunningdale Old	April (12 mo. out)	Tue / Wed / Thu / Fri	HCP 18 men	Email club secretary. Provide club affiliation letter. Sells quickly.
Sunningdale New	April (12 mo. out)	Tue / Wed / Thu / Fri	HCP 18 men	Can be booked alongside Old course on same day. 36-hole day pass is excellent value.
Swinley Forest	No public booking	By introduction only	HCP 18	Requires personal introduction from an existing member — no exceptions. No secretarial workaround.
The Berkshire	September (8 mo. out)	Mon – Fri	HCP 24	Online portal. Both Red and Blue courses available. Book Red and Blue for a spectacular 36-hole day.
Wentworth West	N/A – Member/corporate	Limited visitor days	HCP 18	Corporate golf days and charity events are the primary visitor route. Contact a specialist travel agent.
West Hill	6 months out	Tue / Thu	HCP 18	Small club with a friendly secretary. Write a personal letter explaining your itinerary — it goes a long way.

 Critical Warning

Sunningdale Old and Swinley Forest are the two hardest bookings on this trail. For Sunningdale, set a calendar reminder exactly 12 months before your target play date — the diary fills within days of opening. For Swinley, begin cultivating a member introduction at least 6 months before your trip.

Recommended Hotel Bases

BASE 1 — SUNNINGDALE / BERKSHIRE

The Berystede Hotel & Spa (Ascot)

Grand Edwardian country house hotel. 10 minutes to Sunningdale and The Berkshire. Excellent spa facilities for post-round recovery. The ideal hub for Days 1–4.

BASE 1 ALTERNATIVE — SUNNINGDALE

Pennyhill Park, Bagshot

One of England's finest golf and spa resorts. A step up in luxury from Berystede. Their on-site 9-hole short course is ideal for an evening warm-up round.

BASE 2 — WOKING / SURREY

Brooklands Hotel, Weybridge

Design hotel with excellent facilities. Central to Wentworth and West Hill. The rooftop views over the historic Brooklands circuit make for a memorable stay. Ideal hub for Days 5–6.

BASE 2 ALTERNATIVE — WOKING

Hilton at Cobham

Solid, well-priced alternative near the M25 corridor. Particularly convenient for early morning tee times at Wentworth and West Hill without fighting Surrey traffic.

Caddie Protocol

COURSE	CADDIE STATUS	RATE (EST.)	HOW TO BOOK
Sunningdale Old / New	Recommended	£55 – £70 + tip	Arrange via club on booking. Local caddies know every borrow on the Old Course — worth every penny.
Swinley Forest	Not typically available	Walking / trolley	No formal caddie service. Local knowledge comes from your introducing member, who will often walk with you informally.
The Berkshire	Optional	£45 – £60 + tip	Electric trolleys widely available. Request a caddie via the online portal at the time of booking if preferred.
Wentworth West	Available	£70 – £90 + tip	Book via the club or your corporate event organiser. Caddies know the famous Burma Road holes intimately.
West Hill	Rarely available	Walking	Trolleys permitted. The small club atmosphere means a local member will often walk with you informally — embrace it.

 Tipping Guide

Standard caddie tip on this trail: £20–£35 per round for a solid bag. For an exceptional caddie at Sunningdale Old who saves you strokes on the famous cross-bunker holes, £40–£50 is appropriate and well received.

Dining Picks — Per Stop

Sunningdale

The Barn at Coworth Park (Ascot) — Michelin-starred, 5 minutes from Sunningdale. One of Berkshire's finest restaurants. Equally excellent: the Sunningdale Golf Club dining room itself for a post-round lunch in atmospheric, oak-panelled surroundings.

Wentworth / Virginia Water

The Brasserie at Wentworth — On-site, solid post-round option with a relaxed clubhouse atmosphere. For a riverside dinner: **The Runnymede on Thames** hotel terrace restaurant — elegant setting on the historic banks of the Thames.

Woking / Surrey

The Anchor, Ripley — Classic Surrey country pub, 15 minutes from West Hill. Excellent Sunday roasts and a fine selection of local ales. Perfect for an end-of-trip celebratory lunch.

Swinley / Bracknell

Sindhu at the Compleat Angler, Marlow — 20 minutes drive. Fine dining Indian-fusion on the Thames waterfront. Worth the detour on a rest evening. Pre-book at least a week ahead.

Master Pre-Trip Checklist

Bookings & Documents

- ☐ All tee times confirmed in writing with reference numbers saved
- ☐ Official HCP certificate obtained (max 18 for most clubs on this trail)
- ☐ Reciprocal club letter from your home club secretary (required for Sunningdale and West Hill)
- ☐ Dress code compliant attire confirmed — collared shirt, tailored trousers; no jeans anywhere on this trail
- ☐ Car hire confirmed at Heathrow Airport — estate or SUV class to fit two golf bags
- ☐ Travel insurance purchased (green fee protection recommended — see Allianz Travel)
- ☐ All hotels confirmed with deposit receipts saved to cloud storage
- ☐ Swinley Forest member introduction secured and written confirmation received

Equipment & Packing

- ☐ Waterproof suit (top + trousers) — Surrey heathland gets heavy morning dew and autumn mist
- ☐ Soft spikes on all shoes — metal spikes are strictly banned at every venue on this trail
- ☐ Smart casual attire packed for clubhouse dining (jacket advisable for Wentworth)
- ☐ 8+ golf gloves (heathland play in dry conditions accelerates grip wear)
- ☐ 1+ dozen golf balls (Swinley Forest heather can be unforgiving on errant shots)
- ☐ Electric trolley or lightweight caddie bag — buggies require a medical certificate
- ☐ GPS/rangefinder — permitted at most venues; verify individual club policy in advance

Local Knowledge — Heathland Rules

- ☐ Heathland courses play FIRM and FAST — bump-and-run is king; aerial approaches often overshoot
- ☐ Morning dew can be heavy — early tee times need an extra base layer
- ☐ Sandy subsoil means excellent winter drainage — this trail plays year-round unlike parkland alternatives
- ☐ Check each club's individual GPS/rangefinder policy before the round — some older clubs restrict devices
- ☐ thebrief.golf saved to home screen for live course intel on the go