

I still remember the first serious golf trip I went on.

The golf nuts among you will probably salivate on hearing this and I do apologise for that.

That golf trip/assignment 20 years ago was to go to Scotland to cover the Alfred Dunhill Cup.

And yes, I got the chance to play on the Old Course at St Andrews.

This amazing trip came courtesy of Alfred Dunhill, who offered it to my boss at The Straits Times, Godfrey Robert, who then offered it to lucky young me.

So I was whisked off to Scotland, business class, limousines etc, and after the tournament proper was over on Sunday, we got to play the world's most famous course on Monday.

The images of that journey are still seared in my mind, and maybe that was the trip that got me well and truly hooked on the wondrous game of golf.

It literally opened a new world for me and a chance to travel, play a sport and make new friends around the globe.

From Scotland to Hawaii to Tasmania to California, I have since hit balls into the gorse, sand and sea wherever I have travelled.

And many of these trips have shown me parts of the world I may have never seen otherwise.

This is why when we at SPH Golf started to set up a new club for golfers in Singapore, providing a way to travel and play golf was always on our plans.

And now, as we head into our second year of operations (we launched the card last December), we are happy to partner UOB Travel to open up a buffet of opportunities for our golf card members and their friends.

With my good friend Steven Ler of UOB, who also heads Natas in Singapore, we mapped out all our favourite places to play golf around the globe, including Australia, Japan and



The St Andrews Old Course is every golfer's dream destination.

## PACK THOSE CLUBS AND HEAD INTO A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Scotland plus the closer favourites like Thailand, Vietnam and China.

So there will be a year of golf travel to look ahead to, and you can cherry pick your preferred options and plan your leave schedules accordingly.

I'm sure that even the seasoned travellers among you

might not yet have sampled golf in Fiji and also the world-class courses in Tasmania.

First up is a short hop over to Bangkok and Hua Hin to play the famed Black Mountain and Alpine golf courses.

It isn't the Old Course yet, but you won't be disappointed by any means. Trust me.

The ardent golfer would play Mount Everest if somebody put a flagstick on top.

— FAMOUS GOLF DESIGNER PETE DYE

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