

# From Mauna Kea to Bandon Dunes: Which golf courses would you like to see on TV?

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Boy, do I miss the Shell's Wonderful World of Golf.

The series of exhibition matches, which originally ran from 1961-70 and was resurrected from 1994-2003, showcased golf's greatest champions dueling at exotic courses across the world. I didn't watch for the matches. I watched for the courses, their architecture and the scenery.



The inspiring views make Kauri Cliffs in New Zealand a great made-for-TV golf course. (Jason Scott Deegan/Golf Advisor)

Some golf courses were made for television. Whenever the California sun shines at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, inquiries about staying at the Pebble Beach Resorts spike.

Golf Channel's reality shows – "The Big Break" and "Altered Course" – and the PGA Grand Slam of Golf have found a way to get deserving courses that don't regularly host tournaments on television. Golf Channel shows have televised from Jamaica's [White Witch](#) and [Cinnamon Hill](#), the [Turtle Bay Resort](#) on Oahu, the [Omni Amelia Island Resort](#) in Florida and other scenic spots. The same formula has applied to the PGA of America's Grand Slam of Golf, the fall showcase pitting the four men's major winners (or their substitutes) playing a two-day match. It had long runs at eye-candy locales such as the [Poipu Bay Golf Course](#) on Kauai (1994-2006) and [Port Royal Golf Club](#) on Bermuda (2009-2014).

The 2015 Grand Slam of Golf was scheduled at another visual stunner – [Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles](#) – but Donald Trump's controversial comments about Mexican immigrants prompted the PGA of America to look elsewhere. I'm not pretending to be an expert on where the next Grand Slam of Golf should be held, but here are 10 venues I'd love to see on the tube:

## 10. The Dunes Course at Barnbougle, Tasmania

The strength of television is its ability to transport viewers to faraway lands by bringing those places into their living rooms. Let's face it: Who's ever going to play golf in Tasmania at the [Dunes Course at Barnbougle](#)? Only globe-trotting architects such as Tom Doak, whose creation among the dunes ranks among the top 40 in the world.

## 9. Mauna Kea Golf Course, Waimea, Hawaii Island

[Mauna Kea Golf Course](#) has actually been on TV before – in December 1964 when Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Arnold

Palmer played an exhibition match to celebrate its grand opening, and again in 1969 for a "Shell's Wonderful World of Golf" match between Dan Sikes, Al Geiberger and Peter Alliss. I'd love to see this Robert Trent Jones Sr. classic in HD this time. I wonder what club modern pros would hit on the iconic third hole, a 272-yard par 3 over a coastal chasm? Over a four-day tournament, with varying winds, how many balls would end up in the Pacific?

## 8. Bandon Dunes at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, Bandon, Oregon

Forget Nike and the high-powered Oregon Ducks offense. The Bandon Dunes Golf Resort is the hottest name in Oregon sports. Since [Pacific Dunes](#) got its first TV exposure with this year's inaugural USGA Women's Amateur Four-Ball on Fox Sports 1 – how many actually saw it? – let's hand the spotlight off to [Bandon Dunes](#), the resort's original course. Think of how many East Coast viewers who can't easily get to this remote golf outpost would love to see the David McLay Kidd design, perched on a bluff high above the Pacific Ocean.

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Practicing what I preach: Play Bandon Dunes in the late-afternoon. Fifth annual #UTI. #ginellasjourneys #whyilovethisgame #golfisgreat

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## 7. Old Head Golf Links, Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland

There are lots of great links [golf courses in Ireland](#) that deserve the TV coverage afforded a modern Irish Open. [Lahinch Golf Club](#) – with its castle ruins and views of the rugged County Clare coastline – and the [Trump International Golf Links & Hotel Ireland](#) come to mind. Image the possibilities at [Old Head Golf Links](#), a windswept, cliff-top site featuring the most unbelievable views. A lighthouse, 300-foot cliffs, stone ruins of an old brothel – all the ingredients are there for great television.

## 6. Teeth of the Dog, Casa de Campo, La Romana, Dominican Republic

The coverage of the Cap Cana Championship – a Champions Tour event held at the gorgeous [Punta Espada Golf Course](#) from 2008-10 – made me curious how Pete Dye's [Teeth of the Dog](#) could possibly be rated higher by some publications than the stunning Jack Nicklaus course I was seeing on TV. With seven holes directly on the water, that's how. It's too bad no network will pick up January's 2016 Latin America Amateur Championship, which gives away a berth to the Masters. Casa de Campo was last on TV in a 1994 Shell's Wonderful World of Golf match between Fred Couples and Raymond Floyd.

## 5. Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course, Alberta, Canada

I've yet to find a prettier mountain course than [Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course](#), the classic Stanley Thompson track in the Canadian Rockies. Banff Springs, the most expensive [Canadian golf](#) course, is worth every loonie. It hosted the Telus Skins Game in 2011 and 2006, but Americans probably only got to see a random ESPN SportsCenter highlight or two from these four-man shootouts.

## 4. Quivira Golf Club, Los Cabos, Mexico

[Quivira Golf Club](#), designed by Nicklaus, is Mexico's version of Old Head, a one-of-a-kind knockout that dances along the cliffs on the Pacific, over towering sand dunes and through desert scrub. Drone or blimp shots over the seaside par 3s at no. 6 and no. 13 would be wow worthy. The drivable, par-4 fifth hole (check out [my Instagram](#)) would be interesting to watch, especially in the windy conditions that can terrorize the exposed site.

## 3. Kauri Cliffs, Matauri Bay, New Zealand

[Kauri Cliffs](#) has held three cool televised exhibition matches – in 2003 for the final episode of "Shell's Wonderful World of Golf" between Kiwi icon Michael Campbell and Couples, and for the 2008 and 2009 Kiwi Challenge, featuring top PGA Tour players under the age of 30 such as Anthony Kim, Hunter Mahan and Sean O'Hair. When I dined with owner Julian Robertson inside his five-star lodge in 2013, he expressed a desire to put on another made-for-TV event to showcase the North Island's indescribable north shore views. Alas, nothing has happened yet. I'd love to see the recent course changes made by Rees Jones.

## 2. Championship Course at Royal Dornoch Golf Club, Dornoch, Scotland

No Open Championship – or Scottish Open, for that matter – will venture north in the Scottish Highlands to find the [Championship Course at Royal Dornoch Golf Club](#). Only diehard traveling golfers seek out this magical links along the Dornoch Firth. That's too bad because the green surrounds would be a perfect test for the world's best players. Tom Watson and Ben Crenshaw are among the few pros who have made the journey and come away raving about Royal Dornoch's beauty and challenge (check out [my Instagram](#)).

## 1. Cypress Point Club, Monterey Peninsula, Calif.

Of all the private clubs I'm itching to play, this is the one I'd love to see on TV the most. [Cypress Point Club](#) dropped out of the rotation for the AT&T National Pro-Am in 1991, a full decade before I got serious about watching golf (check out [this Instagram](#) by Golfgetaways). I'm not the only person curious to get inside the gates to see this legendary Alister

MacKenzie course. Sand Hills Golf Club in Nebraska and the National Golf Links of America on Long Island in New York are two other private clubs high on my TV wish list.



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The difference between a sand trap and water hazard is the difference between a car crash and an airplane crash. You have a chance of recovering from a car crash. - Bobby Jones

..... Cypress Point Club Hole 16 Pebble Beach, CA

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What courses would you love to see on TV for the first time? Let us know in the comments below.

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