

THE OLD COURSE ACCESS CHEAT SHEET

The three ways onto the most famous course in the world — from The St Andrews Caddie, your insider's guide to golf in Scotland

ROUTE 1 — The Daily Ballot (free, how most visitors get on)

Who	Groups of 2–4 players. Names, home clubs and handicaps required. Singles cannot enter — see Route 3.
When	Closes 2pm two days before you want to play (apply Tuesday for Thursday). No Friday ballot — the Old Course is closed on Sundays.
How	Online at standrews.com , by phone (+44 1334 466666), or in person at The Old Pavilion or a Links clubhouse.
Results	After 4.30pm the same day, on the ballot results page.
If you win	Check in 20 minutes before your time. On paper the Trust asks for proof of a club handicap (max 36) — know it exists, then think no more about it.

The insider truth: your odds swing with the season. Midweek, shoulder months and tee-time flexibility all help enormously. Stay two or three days, enter every day, and most groups get on at least once.

ROUTE 2 — Guaranteed advance times (book early, pay the premium)

Sold only through operators appointed by the St Andrews Links Trust, nearly always inside packages, typically a year or more ahead. Green fee is around £340 in high season (check standrews.com); expect roughly £300–£450 per person on top through an agency. The publicly confirmed authorised providers:

PerryGolf (with the Trust since 1984)	Scotland for Golf	Links Golf St Andrews
St Andrews Golf Travel	The Experience Golf	St Andrews for Golf
DP&L Golf	Celtic Golf	Connoisseur Golf

If a company promises a guaranteed time and is not on this list, ask hard questions. Definitive current list: standrews.com.

ROUTE 3 — Travelling alone? The Singles Daily Draw

The famous overnight queue is gone. Enter in person at The Old Pavilion or the Links Clubhouse between **9am and 4pm the day before** you hope to play; you are notified the same evening. Singles fill gaps in the tee sheet and the odds are honestly quite good.

THE MISTAKES I SEE EVERY YEAR

- Giving St Andrews a single night — one night means one ballot chance. Two or three days transforms your odds.
- Treating the other courses as consolation prizes — the New Course is one of the finest links in Scotland in its own right.
- Booking non-refundable travel around a ballot you have not yet won.

Planning a Scotland golf trip? Tell me about it and get an honest steer — it costs you nothing.
standrewscaddie.com

Facts checked against St Andrews Links Trust published information, July 2026. Fees and procedures can change — always confirm at standrews.com. © The St Andrews Caddie · sister site of The Carnoustie Caddie