

When Tiger Woods won the 2000 Open at St. Andrews I immediately said to my best friend Dan – you know buddy, its back there in 2005 – and Tiger will be just 29! Prime! At that moment we set our sights on a trip to Scotland five years down the road.

As '01 turned to '02 and so on to 2004, it was finally time to quit talking about it and take action. A simple “Google” of British Open trips turned up several providers. However, being local and having very flexible, accommodating, and affordable trips steered me towards Mike Woodard and Golf Scotland/yourgolftrip.com.

Initially planned as a standard package trip for two people (two rounds of golf Th/Fr and Saturday/Sunday at the Open, accommodations, transportation), Mike and his team were incredibly patient and effective as our plans evolved. Dan and I were clear that going all that way warranted MORE GOLF, and Mike was able to arrange an additional local round on Wednesday as well as another 18 on Thursday. And when our group expanded to include Dan's father and brother, Mike was able to make all of the moving parts work.

Everything about the trip was incredible. No hiccups whatsoever! Great team of locals in Scotland as our guides, great local warmup course near our hotel for our arrival round, great way to play 36 at a three course resort, and absolutely fabulous course in Montrose. Being able to watch Jack Nicklaus' farewell from the comfort of our hotel's pub was an added bonus. And then having access to St. Andrews for two days was wonderful.

In hindsight not many things I would have changed. The ability to play golf well into the summer evenings is terrific as it is still light at 10pm. I would have taken a camera to the Sunday Open round as they allow spectators onto the course after presentation of the Claret Jug. A picture of our group on the Swilken Bridge and the 17 Road Hole green would have been a great momento.

Truly a trip that none of us will ever forget.