

"ELEPHANT HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY"

By

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The traveler who enjoys an occasional round of golf in the course of his journey will find Africa a happy hunting ground.

Wherever the English have colonized they have introduced golf. This also can be said of the Belgians and the French, particularly where they have developed mining properties in remote areas. The golf clubs maintained by the mines provide recreational centers for members of the supervisory staff and their families.

I have played golf in some rather out-of-the-way places but I never thought I would have the privilege of playing on the island of St. Helena.

This small island, deep in the South Atlantic, was our first port of call after leaving New York. Following a brief visit to Napoleon's grave, we had time for a fast round of golf before the steamship signaled it was time to depart.

The Longwood Golf Club, at St. Helena, is unique in a number of ways. They have no formal budget for maintenance of their nine-hole course. The cattle take care of the fairways and the sheep take care of the greens.

As there is no airport on St. Helena and ships call at very infrequent intervals, it is difficult to replenish golf equipment. A lost ball is a real tragedy, for it may be months before a replacement can be obtained.

This is quite different from the numerous clubs in and around the larger cities of Africa, where you will find well-groomed courses with clubhouses equipped with modern facilities.

There are many golf clubs along the East Coast. Humewood, for example, near Port Elizabeth in Cape Province, South Africa, is one of the finest seaside layouts I have ever played.

The course at East London, South Africa, is also well designed and in a very picturesque setting. The course at George, South Africa, is also interesting and well groomed.



Probably no place in the world offers so many varied conditions for golf.

Some of the recollections that come to mind are:

THE SIGNS

"Elephant have the right of way"

"Beware of Snakes and Crocodiles"

"Caution! You are in Wild Animal Country!"

UNUSUAL FEATURES

"Black sand" (greens) at Ndola in North Rhodesia.

A caddie house made of corn stalks at Kilembe Mines.

The park-like atmosphere at the Havelock Mine Course in Swaziland.

The breath-taking scenery of the Bukavu Golf Course in the Belgian Congo.

A "green" located in the middle of the race track in Goma, with active volcanoes in the background.

10c caddie fees in Uganda and the Belgian Congo.

Concrete tees at the Mombasa Golf Club in Kenya.

The hexagonal club house at Mnazi Mmoja Sports Club Course in Zanzibar.

The shadows of the great pyramids on the 18th green of Mena House Golf Course in Cairo.

Yes, for the golfer who is seeking new courses to conquer, Africa has everything.