

Golf Digest

THE GRIT FACTOR

GETTING TO THE HEART
OF WHAT MAKES
WINNERS
VS **LOSERS**



MICHELLE WIE
5 WAYS TO
LIGHT IT UP

LOAD & EXPLODE
2 MOVES TO
RIP YOUR DRIVER

RYDER CUP 14
TOM WATSON'S
LAST HURRAH

H U N T E R

PUBLIC RELATIONS • SPECIAL EVENTS



► **Clockwise from top left:** Hanging on our Ford Expedition; views from Point Lobos; Torrey Pines (South); hiking trail at Torrey Pines; Tom, me, my twin sister, Kira, and Andrew; bunkers at Pasatiempo.

Take a Hike

It's amazing what you see when you're not swinging a club

It was a gorgeous afternoon in May. My sister, Kira, and my friend Tom Freeman and I had already played at Maderas Golf Club, a stunning course north of San Diego that winds around the mountains. Normally, we would have teed it up again on a day like this, especially because we were staying at the Lodge at Torrey Pines, and all of us are avid, low-handicap golfers. Instead, we went hiking—seriously.

We swapped our golf shoes for sneakers, met up with another buddy, Andrew Kipper,

and then walked to the South Fork Trail at the Torrey Pines State Reserve. This trail is one of several sandy paths that lead hikers to panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean on the cliffs above a wide, dark-sand beach. The views from Torrey Pines' North and South courses are similar, but try gazing out at the surf for more than a few seconds while you're playing a round and you might get conked by a Pro V1 from the four-secs behind you.

That's why hiking is a great addition to any golf excursion. It gives you an opportunity to appreciate the land you might dismiss if your exposure to it is only from a tee box or the back of a green. We spent two hours walking around and taking in the beautiful cliffside land of La Jolla, Calif., and we never had to worry about losing a golf ball or missing a three-footer or hold-

ing anyone up. And we did play the South Course at Torrey Pines the next day—call it the best of both worlds.

Two days later, we had a similar experience on the Monterey Peninsula. California's central coast is well known to golfers because of Pebble Beach and Cypress Point. But if you ever stop and look around for more than a moment at the land and sea abutting these historic courses, you'll stop dwelling on that double bogey you made on 18.

We played the recently renovated Poppy Hills in Pebble Beach and then hiked at Point Lobos in the afternoon. The 13 trails at Point Lobos wind around the coast, offering views of massive rock formations that rise from the sea and a nongolfers' perspective of Pebble Beach. While on the trails, you can get within a wedge shot of the area's marine life, which includes otters, sea lions

and elephant seals. And that experience was just as memorable as any shot we hit at Poppy.

Obviously, the trail quality should rival the golf, and you'll need a vehicle with enough size for golf bags, hiking gear, etc. We had a 2015 Ford Expedition.

After playing the stunning Alister MacKenzie design at Pasatiempo, we finished our hack-and-hike trip in San Francisco. We played TPC Harding Park and then visited Lands End, the trails that explore the northwest corner of the city. For my group, one of the best parts of combining hiking and golf was that the trip was interesting from start to finish. Anyone who has been on a 36-a-day golf vacation is probably familiar with that feeling of lethargy you experience around day three. That didn't happen on this trip. We went home wanting more—of both. —ASHLEY MAYO