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On course for some **WINTER SUN**



Hopes are high for a mild winter - but why chance it?

Fed up with the rain and the cold each year millions of Brits escape to some of the world's sunnier spots at this time. And despite the understandable concern over recent terrorist activity and its long-term repercussions, many will be taking a trip this year too.

Although there's plenty of competition from around the world, two of the classic winter sun holiday destinations are likely to be the real hotspots for late 2001 and early 2002.

Spain represents particularly good value at the moment. The strength of the UK pound means that travellers will be able to pick up great deals on accommodation and get more for their money while they are there - and of course, that applies to the ever-popular Canaries as well as mainland Spain.

That perennial favourite, Portugal, will also be the choice of many British holidaymakers. Always affordable, Portugal's many resorts boast excellent facilities in spectacular surroundings. Both countries offer plenty for golf enthusiasts too.

With more than 35 courses dotted along the coastline from Malaga to

Gibraltar, Spain's Costa del Sol is one of Europe's finest golfing locations. And with the region's thriving nightlife and top-class restaurants, there's plenty more to enjoy.

Catalonia is another Spanish golfing gem. Home to many high-quality tournaments (such as the pre-qualifying events for the Volvo PGA Tour), Catalonia offers great golf for both experienced and high handicap players in a picturesque setting, with views of the Mediterranean and the snow-capped Pyrenees.

For guaranteed sunshine it's hard to beat the Canaries - and at the top of the list is Tenerife. With courses to suit all abilities, excellent beaches and resort facilities, the island is sure to be a big attraction again this year.

Portugal's leading golfing choice is the popular Algarve, a region of highly developed tourist resorts but also get-away-from-it-all beaches. To the west of Faro airport, the sophisticated resorts of Vilamoura, Quinta do Lago and Vale del Lobo are a magnet for golfers - with the region's Moorish history, fishing villages and distinctive rock formations among the other attractions of the Algarve.



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