It’s not your average golf course. There are no greens; the grass is kept short by hungry island cattle and you have to be careful not to strike a passing cow or chicken. But what it might lack in polish, the course makes up for with unrivalled bragging rights. This is one of the most remote places for golf – on the island of Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic.

But these minor challenges – manoeuvring past rocks and overgrown grass; avoiding livestock and the cliff that marks the northern border of the course – are the easy parts. The main challenge to playing on this volcanic speck of land is actually getting there. Situated roughly halfway between Argentina and South Africa, lacking an airport and with a harbour suited only to the smallest of boats, Tristan is not a place for landlubbers. It’s a rough six-day voyage from Cape Town and, unless you score a berth on one of the occasional cruise ships that pass by en route to Antarctica, your options are limited to the smattering of fishing vessels with passenger cabins that sail there to service the island. And they have no amenities.

Yet once you’re on the world’s most remote inhabited island, the rewards are as numerous as the obstacles in getting there: among them a rare, untouched beauty, an old-fashioned hospitality all-but-lost in Western nations, and a chance to play perhaps the most unusual round of golf of your life.

The course was established in 1977 by an expat temporarily living on the island. Offering the benefit of an extra attraction to intrepid visitors, as well as a diversion for the island’s 263 inhabitants, it adjoins Tristan’s only town, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, or better known as ‘The Settlement.’

Golf clubs, modern ones too, can be loaned from the tourist office and a local golf lover will happily show you around the par-35 course. It’s not an easy place to play; aside from avoiding cows and swiping away the mess they leave behind, you’re faced with deep gulches, strong winds and an occupied chicken coop as you approach the seventh hole.

That’s if you can find the seventh hole – flags often double as scratching posts and rarely stay standing when faced with the bulk of a grass-fed cow. But the scorecard does come with a much-needed map. As with any aspect of travel on Tristan, there is always a local willing to point you in the right direction. Once you locate the flag in question one final challenge awaits – putting. However hard they try, the cows don’t make great greenkeepers. And even when you master the rough turf, a possessive chicken might just chase down your ball, presumably mistaking it for an egg!

It’s certainly an entertaining place to play and, as well as offering a true challenge, nine holes on Tristan presents a chance to get to know the island. The third hole provides ocean vistas featuring passing fishermen, the sixth an unrivalled view towards Inaccessible Island and, presuming you have a guide, most of Tristan’s sights can be pointed out between swings.

Disappointingly, the duo of giant golf ball-shaped buildings near the course contain not a clubhouse, but a weather station, though if you time your game well, you could celebrate your membership to the world’s loneliest golf club with a drink in the island’s only pub. Named for the seabirds found frequently on Tristan, this is the only Albatross you’re likely to get on this course, unless one flies too low when you’re teeing off. – Lucy Corne