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Europeans melt in Ahmedabad warmth

Coming From An Unusually Cold And Snowy Winter, These Golfers Are Enjoying The City's Fine Weather

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Ahmedabad: Jurrian van der Vaart of The Netherlands and his cousin brother Leander van der Vaart, who is also his caddy arrived in Ahmedabad for the Gujarat Kensville Challenge 2011 two days in advance once they heard about the city's weather. Gujarat is experiencing a lengthened winter in many years but for this Dutch and many other Spaniards, Englishmen and other Europeans, "this is paradise" and they landed a little early not just to get a feel of the greens but also to soak in the Ahmedabad sun. Europe has been lashed with an unusually cold and snowy winter disrupting normal life and transportation and giving Christmas and New Year travelers a torrid time. Snow covered roads, runways and even houses were common pictures coming out of European news agencies for days at a stretch. Temperature as low as -33 degree centigrade was recorded in Poland and many people lost their lives due to exposure to the cold or in weather-related accidents in entire Europe.

"This has been heaven in comparison to what we are experiencing back home," said Jurrian as he sipped coffee sitting in the sun-drenched Kensville Golf and Country Club course Monday afternoon. There are others like Lasse Jense and Map Vibe-Hartup of Denmark who are also enjoying the afternoon sun and the warmth of Ahmedabad.

"We learnt that Gujarat is experiencing a very cold and lengthy winter this season, which of course is a little hot than our summers back home, but it is just perfect here," said Jurrian and added that they came via Dubai and stayed there for three days before heading for Ahmedabad as they learnt that the weather here was much cooler than the capital of United Arab Emirates.

"We halted in Dubai to play golf and also enjoy the weather as Europe was very cold. But when we learnt about Ahmedabad's weather, didn't waste time and just flew in here. We are just loving it," added the Dutch.

The weather in Europe has also hit the tournament here to some extent as some of the top names in the European Challenge Tour won't be available.



1 Jurrian van der Vaart and his brother Leander during a practice session 2 Jose Maria Zamora of Spain, the tournament director 3 Some European golfers at the driving range 4 Map Vibe-Hartup of Denmark chips one to the green



weather was not at all conducive for playing golf due to the cold and snow wave that lashed Europe this

winter," said Jose Maria Zamora the tournament director from Spain who was looking to sit on the

shade rather than soak in the sun as he was out in the sun since morning.