



GOLF, OREGON STYLE

Mild weather and challenging courses make Washington County, Oregon an ideal golf destination

It has been said among golfers that playing golf in Oregon is an unparalleled and transformational experience. In the words of John Updike, golf can be a “mystical experience and an infernal torture.” He also says that golf is neither work nor play but that “Golf is a trip.”

Certainly these observations apply to golf in Oregon. Maybe it’s the undulating emerald green fairways. Perhaps it’s the natural beauty of evergreen corridors lined with spruce trees and grape vines, or the moody weather driven by a sometimes ominous, sometimes azure sky. Or, maybe it’s the mystery of the game coupled with a golfer’s vision of rapture in Nirvana. Whatever the case, Washington County provides ample opportunity to test your golf skills.

Washington County, Oregon, boasts 13 semi-private and public golf courses, including two of America’s most challenging and respected golf courses, Pumpkin Ridge and The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club.

The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club

Located in Aloha, Ore., The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club is one of the most prestigious courses in Washington County, and in recent years has become a “resort” stop for regional golfers from the Pacific Coast. Home to 300 golf tournaments per year, the Reserve was cited by the PGA as a spectator friendly course, which boasts a 40,000 square-foot clubhouse where players can relax on the deck, watch the sunset and enjoy a gourmet dinner.

Known for its vineyard setting and stirring natural beauty, The Reserve offers two premier golf courses, The South Course and the North Course. The South Course, designed by award-winning architect John Fought, opened in 1997. This course, lined with mature trees, is not for the faint of heart. Known for strategic playing in excellent conditions, the course also boasts 114 sand traps.

The North Course, designed by Bob Cupp (Golf World’s Designer of the Year in 1992), is a user-friendly, links style course. Overall, the course is extremely playable for the average golfer; however, it may be challenging, as well, in the form of shin-high grass on the course’s rolling mounds.

Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club

Located in North Plains, Ore., Pumpkin Ridge is a semi-private golf club, known for its stellar scenery, world-class dining and resort amenities. Pumpkin Ridge is home to two highly-acclaimed courses, Witch Hollow and Ghost Creek, both of which were designed by Bob Cupp, and have tested amateurs and pros alike since their debut in 1992.

Witch Hollow is a members-only course named by Golf Magazine in 2001 as one of the Top 100 courses in the U.S. Named for its marshy course, Witch Hollow has received awards from the Audubon Society for its protected wetlands. Recognized as one of America’s most tranquil and difficult courses, Witch Hollow can be a difficult challenge for even the most seasoned player. This distinction came to fruition as the world’s best golfers descended on Witch Hollow in 1997 and 2003 during the US Women’s Open Championship tournament.

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Ghost Creek, a semi-private course, has been recognized by some of golf's most prestigious publications as one of the top courses in the U.S. Named for the natural springs that appear and disappear only to reappear in a misty apparition further down the course, provides a challenging experience between Mother Nature and a golfer's dream. In 2006, Ghost Creek was chosen to host the 2006 US Senior Open. Hole 12 has been compared in difficulty to the famous 12th hole at Augusta.

Forest Hills Golf Course

Located in Cornelius, Ore., Forest Hills Golf Course is one of the oldest golf courses in the Pacific Northwest, dating back to its opening in 1927. Designed by the legendary father and son team of William F. Bell and William P. Bell, this semi-private course is situated among picturesque foothills and farmlands.

Tree-lined fairways and manicured greens protected by well-placed bunkers mark the 18-hole championship course. And with many holes offering views of the Northwest's most renowned mountains, including Mount Hood, Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams, the scenery is unparalleled.

Red Tail Golf Course

Situated in Beaverton, Ore., Red Tail Golf Course is a newly renovated 18-hole golf course, which recently has been upgraded to championship status. Previously known as Progress Downs, Red Tail Golf Course was redesigned to appeal to players of all skills, without compromising the levels of play.

Rolling hills and flat greens, coupled with bunkers and water features make this course a player-friendly, yet challenging, course. Its central location in Beaverton makes it easy to switch from board meeting to hitting the links in a matter of minutes.

Additional Public Golf Courses

As golf increases in popularity, especially as a tourism attractor, Washington County, Oregon, has several golf clubs and courses, with varying levels of play, to satisfy everyone from the casual golfer to the competitive golfer. The remaining courses include:

- **Quail Valley Golf Course** is a public, 18-hole championship facility surrounded by picturesque foothills. This beautifully conditioned, links-style course is player friendly while offering a challenge to any golfer. Located just 20 miles west of downtown Portland, in Banks, Ore., Quail Valley is an enjoyable experience year round.
- **Sunset Grove Golf**, located in Forest Grove, Ore., is a family-owned, nine-hole public course, which offers challenging play for golfers of all skill levels. The course is surrounded by panoramic views of Mount St. Helen's and the surrounding countryside.
- Situated in Hillsboro, Ore., **Killarney West Golf Course** is a player-friendly, nine-hole course with predominantly flat terrain. Its verdant, tree-lined fairways feature some of Oregon's most majestic trees, including pines, firs and oaks.
- Also in Hillsboro, **McKay Creek** is a highly affordable, nine-hole, links-style golf course, which is marked by tree-lined fairways and challenging water hazards. The course is a regulation par 36 course that is challenging and fun for golfers of all levels. In addition, the course has a 22-station driving range to help golfers practice their swings.
- **Meriwether National Golf Club** offers three nine-hole courses and one executive nine-hole course. Situated in Hillsboro, in the Tualatin Valley countryside, the club is surrounded by rich farmland and flanked by the meandering Tualatin River. With 27 regulation holes with a mix of open spaces, trees, ponds and indigenous birds and wildlife, the club is rich in natural beauty, yet can be challenging to even the most seasoned golfers.

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- **King City Golf Course** is a semi-private, nine-hole course located in King City, Ore., just outside of the city of Tigard. The course, which is predominately flat, boasts water features and hazards, as well as sand bunkers.
- **Claremont Golf Course** is a year-round, nine-hole golf course in Portland, located within Washington County limits. The hilly and forest terrain make some holes challenging, and its affordable green fees provides a good game without being tough on the wallet.
- Tigard, Oregon's **Summerfield Golf Club** is a semi-private, nine-hole executive golf course. Narrow, tree-lined fairways and challenging play previously earned this course an honorable mention by "Golf Digest" magazine for being one of the best executive courses in the State of Oregon.
- **Charbonneau Golf Club**, located in Wilsonville, Ore., was originally designed and built in 1975. Today, its three nine-hole executive courses have matured into a premier, middle-distance playing and teaching facility. Located in the "plains weather belt," the courses allow pleasant year-round play.

About Washington County, Oregon

Washington County, Oregon, is scenically situated between Portland and the Oregon Coast, and is only minutes away from downtown Portland. The county spans 727 square miles, and includes the growing communities of Banks, Beaverton, Cornelius, Durham, Forest Grove, Gaston, Hillsboro, King City, North Plains, Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville. Washington County is home to world-class golf courses, award-winning wineries, an array of outdoor recreation opportunities, lush, natural and scenic wetlands and wildlife preserves, superb dining and myriad shopping, from boutiques to antiques. Its thriving corporate business parks house some of the largest high-tech and industrial companies in the world, such as Nike, Columbia Sportswear and Intel. For more information on the region, visit the Washington County Visitors Association's website, www.visitwashingtoncountyoregon.com, or call 503-644-5555, toll-free, 800-537-3149.

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