

Washington's Golf Resorts

Editor's note: Here's a look at the golf resorts that the state of Washington offers for golfers to tee it up:

Apple Tree Golf Resort



Over the past decade, the Apple Tree Golf Course has become one of the Pacific Northwest's premier golf experiences. Carved from the rolling terrain of 100 year-old orchards, the facility has garnered a 4-star rating by *Golf Digest*.

But there is one thing you will remember after your round is finished - the apple-shaped 17th green.

The par-3 hole features an elevated tee box with the tee shot being hit to an island green that is shaped like, what else, an apple. The stem is a sand trap and the green itself measures more than 10,000 square feet. But there's also much more than just the island green. The course stretches to more than

6,900 yards and has strategically placed ponds and structures like a fountain and waterfall.

Suncadia Resort

One of the newest resorts come on the radar in the state of Washington – Suncadia Resort in Roslyn, in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains.

The first course built is called Prospector and it opened in 2005. The second, the private Tumblecreek opened 2005 and the third, Rope Rider, opened in 2011.

The resort is part of a large housing community with all of the amenities you'd expect to find a top-notch resort. Also open are a hotel, shopping area and more.

With the resort located so close to the Cascade mountains, there are plenty of outdoor options. Snoqualmie Pass skiing area is right up the road.

Skamania Resort

Since opening in 1993, Skamania Lodge has been the perfect type of weekend getaway for golfers around the Pacific Northwest.

Tucked on a bluff overlooking the Columbia River, the Skamania Lodge features a hotel with nearly 200 rooms, a place for businesses to bring in outside conferences and outdoor activities for the non golfers in the group.

The course itself may not be long, measuring 5,800 yards, but it presents plenty of challenges with some tight fairways and stunning views of the Columbia River. There are also plenty of other things to do nearby, including visiting Multnomah Falls and a walk to the top.

Semiahmoo Resort

Semiahmoo Resort, which is located in Washington's northwest corner in Blaine, offers guests the chance to play, not only the Resort course, but also the Loomis Trail course. Both courses are open to resort guests.

After the resort closed the hotel in 2012, Wright Hotels, a Seattle-based management company, came in to buy the property and pumped millions into renovations.

Semiahmoo Resort with it's 198-room destination hotel is back in operation. The Resort course features an Arnold Palmer designed layout is always a treat to play. It's a great layout and playable for all levels of golfers.

Loomis Trail Golf Club has a different setting, offering some links-style holes and some typical Northwest-style tree-lined holes and water hazards.

Resort at Port Ludlow

Port Ludlow for years has been a golfers favorite. And for good reason, the tranquil setting amongst the trees makes playing the 18-hole course literally a walk in the park.

The resort sits on the northern tip of the Olympic Peninsula with views of two mountain ranges: the Cascade Range and the Olympic Mountains.

Most people who travel to Port Ludlow Resort usually make a day out of it, playing 18 holes and then settling in for the night at one of the resort's condos or the resort hotel on Ludow Bay. There's also plenty to do, including kayaking, bike-riding, hiking and checking out the nearby town of Port Townsend.

Alderbrook Resort and Spa

Alderbrook Resort and Spa in Union, along Hood Canal, presents plenty of dramatic holes in a forest-like setting.

The opening hole starts right out by requiring a straight tee shot and then an even straighter second shot. There's the 18th hole, a downhill par-5, with a panoramic backdrop of the Olympic Mountains. And then there is the infamous S-hole. The 8th hole, an S-shaped par-5 can be one of the toughest holes on the course. The hole goes about 200 yards before bending to the right. Then another 200 yards before it bends back to the left.

Sage Hills Golf & RV Resort



Sage Hills Golf and RV Resort is one of those laid-back places you love to come back to. The course is fun and challenging and the facilities are well maintained.

For RVers there are 42 level sites with full hook-ups. There is also a swimming pool, laundry, a full-service restaurant and lounge that can accommodate up to 100 people. The course is 18 holes with a par of 71 and is located 17 miles south of Moses Lake along highway 17.

Desert Canyon Golf Resort

Desert Canyon features one great hole after another. The Central Washington golf resort also features terrific places to stay along the course, a first-class restaurant and a world-class putting course. Desert Canyon is also home to one of the longest holes in the Northwest. The sixth hole is a 691-yard par-5 which features great views of the Columbia River and runs along a canyon. There are also other of memorable views with equally stunning views of the Columbia River.

Don Barth, who owns Alta Lake and Rock Island, purchased Desert Canyon a few years ago with Lyn and Rick Anderson.

Kahler Glen Golf Resort

Kahler Glen Golf and Ski Resort, in Leavenworth, features a challenging golf course and plenty of chances to see Central Washington's forested beauty.

There are stay-and-play packages available and plenty of things to do, including hiking, fishing and taking in the sights and sounds of the nearby Bavarian Village of Leavenworth.

And the golf is good, too. What makes the course enjoyable is the hilly-elevated terrain that you must negotiate throughout the 18 holes. The long 12th hole will make you hit everything in your bag. It is a prodigious 630-yard par-5.

Dear Park RV Resort



Just north of Spokane, sits the town of Deer Park. And the town is home to the terrific Spokane RV Resort. The golf course is first rate and there are plenty of places to park the RV's - and some good amenities come along with it as well. Free wireless, showers, pool, the works. And Woodall's has given the resort five-star rating as well. It is a place that is definitely worth the time to make the stop.

Little Creek Resort



The Squaxin Island Indian tribe got involved in the resort business with its Little Creek Casino, Then came a hotel. then a concert hall. And then came the award-winning Salish Cliffs Golf Course, designed by Gene Bates in 2012.

The course gives the Little Creek Resort something for everyone.

For those who like a first-class hotel, you are covered. Good food? Covered again. Need to see a show? The resort has your answer.

And now, with the opening of the Salish Cliffs Golf Course, the resort boasts one of the top courses in the Pacific Northwest. In fact, the course was ranked among the top new courses in the country in 2012. The course winds through trees and features plenty of water and sand to keep your attention throughout the round. The driving range is a place that will keep you busy all day as well.

Clearwater Resort

The Suquamish Indian Tribe first got into the resort business with the opening of its Clearwater Resort near Kingston. And more recently, the tribe bought the White Horse Golf Club to give it yet another amenity for the resort.

The hotel features 85 waterfront rooms, a spa and plenty of meeting spaces to lure businesses in from out of town. The course is a treat, measuring 7,093 yards from the back tees and featuring views of the Puget Sound and Olympic Mountains. And a new clubhouse offers even more to the experience that opened to the public last year.

Carson Hot Springs

Carson Hot Springs has been around for years - but not the Elk Ridge Golf Course. Carson Hot Springs Golf and Spa Resort was established in 1892 and many people have come to enjoy the healing waters in this location, next to the Columbia River on the Oregon-Washington border.

The 1901 St. Martin Hotel still stands and is used as the front office and the original men's and women's bath houses are still being used today. Updates have followed such as new saunas in the bathhouses, new rooms a restaurant on our recently re-opened Elk Ridge course.