

Northwest Washington and the Olympic Peninsula



Swinomish Tribe makes a move into golf, buys Similk Beach



The Swinomish Tribe in Anacortes, Wash. decided to get into the golf business with the purchase of Similk Beach Golf Course - and changes are on the way! First off was a name change to the course, which is now called Swinomish Golf Links. The addition of Swinomish Golf Links gives the Tribe a complete resort which includes a hotel, RV park, casino, restaurants and now a golf course. Changes will be coming to the course in terms of a re-model project as well. See inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper for more.

Destination: Northwest Washington



Northwest Washington is a golfer's playground. From the gorgeous Olympic Peninsula to the Bellingham area down south to where it all starts around Olympia, there is no shortage of terrific golf to be found.

There are the high quality public golf courses, including Shuksan (left) in the Bellingham area and Salish Cliffs (right).

And there's more than just golf. Mount Baker offers a wilderness playground and the San Juan Islands are a tourist's delight. The Olympic Mountains are an adventure for hikers and fishermen alike – meaning there's plenty to find and plenty to like about the area from sports on the land to on the water.

Inside Golf takes you inside the area this month, from the golf courses to the things to do and the places to stay. For more on golfing Northwest Washington, please see inside this special section.



Bellingham area: Lots of choices to tee it up

Looking for a place with loads of golf and plenty of places to stay? The Bellingham area just might have everything you are looking for. From Semiahmoo in Blaine (far right) to North Bellingham (near right) the area is loaded with great places to play. And don't forget about other places to play like Lake Padden, Sudden Valley and Shuksan. Bellingham certainly is a golfer's paradise.

There are stops to make along the way and even more places to play when you get there. See inside for more on the Bellingham area.



Inside Northwest Washington

Shelton Bayshore Golf Course closes

The Pacific Northwest lost a golf course last year when the nine-hole Shelton Bayshore Golf Course closed up.

The course opened in 1948 and had been one of the oldest nine-holers in the Pacific Northwest until shutting its doors last fall.

The course cited diminished rounds as one of the big reasons for closing the doors.

The members had owned the course for years before it was sold a few years ago. The course is unique for its dual-tee play so many of the holes looked like two different holes.

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Swinomish Tribe adds another amenity to its resort by buying a golf course

Last fall, the Swinomish Indian Tribe decided to add another amenity to its resort located in Anacortes, Wash. The addition of Similk Beach Golf Course gave the tribe a new way to bring in guests to its resort.

And the changes have come quickly.

The course has been re-named Swinomish Golf Links and the tribe has wasted no time in doing things like adding maintenance equipment and improving the driving range. Course improvements are sure to follow.

"Changes are coming," said Mike Simpson, the Golf Operations Manager for the course. "While some improvements take time, the tribe is committed to dramatically improving the facility."

The course added a new superintendent in Matt Atterberry, who came to the Swinomish Golf Links after 10 years at Suncadia Resort. He is already making a big difference. Fairways along the course are now defined with new fairway mowers and other little touches are happening all the time.

Head professional Josh Williams will be adding teaching areas at the driving range in addition to giving lessons and doing club fittings at the golf studio in the hotel.

Nothing major in terms of course re-modeling work is on the drawing board - just yet.

"The first thing is we want to improve the course conditioning - and that will take some time," said Simpson. "We want the course to be an asset to the community, and become a valuable amenity to the casino and lodge."

Little changes like new mats and range balls for the driving range and new maintenance equipment are the things that Simpson hopes people will see and notice that the winds of change are here.

The original Similk Beach Golf Course opened with nine holes in 1927 and then added a second nine in 1955.

Swinomish Golf Links

Here are some facts and figures about the Swinomish Golf Links.

- **Location:** Anacortes, Wash.
- **Course history:** Course used to be called Similk Beach Golf Course. Swinomish Tribe bought the course last fall and re-named it to go along with its hotel and casino. The purchase also came with some old tribal land that used to belong to the tribe.
- **Resort:** The Swinomish Casino and Lodge now includes a golf course, hotel, casino, RV park, golf club fitting and lesson studio.
- **Information:** www.swinomishcasino.com or call 888.288.8883.



The Swinomish Tribe entered into the golf business by buying Similk Beach GC.



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The Olympic Peninsula



The Olympic Peninsula has millions of visitors each year from all parts of the globe as the reputation as a scenic wonderland is well known around the world. And don't forget the golf. Here's a look at the area:

Lake Cushman Golf Course

Lake Cushman Golf Course sits on the edge of the Olympic National Park, high above the Hood Canal community of Hoodspport.

The course and surroundings are truly a walk in the park – or a ride if you choose – where wildlife sighting is common. This well-maintained nine-hole course has separate tees to make a par 72. It is popular among locals as well as with campers and vacationers. The natural forested setting produces a calming atmosphere for relaxing rounds of golf. The course is challenging yet playable for all levels of golfers. There is also a driving range and practice putting green at the course. Hot dogs and snacks are available at the pro shop.

Sunland Golf and Country Club

Sunland Golf and Country Club is located two miles north of scenic Sequim, Washington. It is considered one of the premier semi-private golf clubs on the Olympic Peninsula. The course was designed in 1963 by the famous A.V. Macan who passed away after completing the design. Mr. Macan created some of the best courses in the Northwest such as Marine Drive, Royal Colwood, Victoria Golf Club, Shaughnessy, Capilano, Fircrest, Inglewood, Overlake and many more. Our championship course, which has played host to



Lake Cushman (top) is located on the Olympic Peninsula; Tumwater Valley (above) has everything you need for practice or playing.

North Bellingham Golf Course

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Washington's Olympic Peninsula

numerous state regional and local tournaments, is challenging, yet offers a highly enjoyable golfing experience with several tee options to accommodate golfers of all abilities.

Sunland has weekend public tee times available for the public.

Salish Cliffs

When Salish Cliffs opened for public play in 2011, it was obvious that this amenity of the Little Creek Casino and Squaxin Island tribe was something special. The Gene Bates-designed course won several awards in its first year, including being named one of the top new courses for 2011.

At 7,269 yards the course offers everything from ponds to sand traps to wetlands to the elevation changes. Salish Cliffs is a place that is a golfing treat with some stunning Pacific NW views and some challenging holes along the way.

And don't forget about the casino, hotel and convention center which sit right next door to the golf course.

Discovery Bay

Discovery Bay Golf Club sits on a secluded 200-acre point above Discovery Bay, just outside the city of Port Townsend, Washington.

Formally known as Chevy Chase, the second nine was designed by Mike Asmundson. The two nines are vastly different; the original nine is contained in the lowlands while the newest nine has some elevation changes as it works itself from the hill top to the lower level. The course plays sneaky hard.

Recent ownership change has provided some must needed funds that have resulted in course improvements – new maintenance equipment has been added as well as drainage problems have been addressed. New tees are being built and the overall condition of the course has been improved.

LakeLand Village

Lakeland Village, located in Allyn, Washington, offers 27 holes of golf with three different nines.

With numerous ponds, gaping bunkers and majestic views of the Olympics and Mount Rainier, ardent golfers will appreciate the scenic driving ranges, practice chipping, bunker areas and the well-groomed putting greens.

In addition to a gourmet restaurant, cafe and espresso bar, the clubhouse also provides banquet facilities. Public play is also welcome at the course, so anyone can come out and enjoy the golf as well as the all the other amenities.

SkyRidge Golf Course

SkyRidge Golf Course and Golf Learning Center located in Sequim promotes golf carts 365 days a year. Don't be mislead though, the course is flat and easy to walk. Always in pristine condition, SkyRidge has four sets of tees and will test golfers of all levels as well as offer many variations of each hole.

Measuring 3,405 yards from the back tees, the most unique feature of SkyRidge perhaps is

the extra hole. The nine-hole links-style golf course features a separate 18th hole. Playing 445 yards to a small green, this par-4 will test your game.

Owner Jeff Pedersen has created a new set of back tee boxes giving the course an 18-hole feel. A new clubhouse with a large deck has also opened, giving golfers a place to gather and relax after their round.

Oaksridge Golf Course

Oaksridge Golf Course sits just off Highway 12 in Elma and is visible from the freeway. The 18-hole track measures 5,643 yards and is a local favorite after opening in 1926.

The course is relatively level so it makes a perfect walking course. Just be advised, the prevailing winds can lengthen it considerably. Owner Rich Walker has put in endless hours to keep the course in good shape—and his work has paid off.

The Cedars at Dungeness

The Olympic Mountains deflect the rain clouds making the Cedars at Dungeness one of the driest courses in Western Washington - an average of 13-15 inches of rain per year. With an 18-hole layout measuring over 6,400 yards, Dungeness is protected by sprawling bunkers and narrow approaches to elevated greens.

The signature hole is the par-5 3rd with a series of bunkers in the shape of a Dungeness crab. Even the sand in this hazard is red.

The Home Course

A golf course in DuPont, Wash. existed for a few years before the PNGA came in, bought it and called it the Home Course. And what a place it is. The Mike Asmundson-designed course is user-friendly, but at the same time can be a monster if you choose to walk to the back tee boxes called Dynamite Tees and play the 7,400 yards.

The PNGA has its headquarters at the course and hosts several championships there throughout the year.

This year the course is celebrating its fifth year anniversary.

The Home Course will host the final U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links tournament this year as the USGA has announced the retirement of the event after 2014 – the event will take place July 14-19th.

The Home Course is also the home for the Pacific Lutheran University golf team.

Tumwater Valley

Tumwater Valley is known for many things, like its great condition, proximity to Interstate-5, reputation for hosting big tournaments – and a couple of par-3 holes that have two greens.

Tumwater Valley can offer some variety with its par-3 holes. One day, giving them a shorter look, another a longer look with trouble off the tee. The course always is in top shape throughout the year.

And its practice area is like nothing in the area - with a huge grass tee hitting area and a short game practice area.



Tight fairways help make Sunland Golf & Country Club a challenging round of golf.



SkyRidge Golf Course in Sequim has a new clubhouse to show off to golfers.



Oaksridge Golf Course in Elma is an easy stop along Highway 12 to the Coast.

Highland Golf Course

Highland Golf Course originally opened as a nine-hole venue in 1930. Then, you only had to walk up half as many up and down holes. Now an 18-hole facility, double your ups and downs on this challenging, hilly offering.

There are not many flat lies, which makes it even more challenging and the greens are tough, too.

New management has come in to turn the course around as Curt Zander, the long-time operator of Ocean Shores Golf Course.

Ocean Shores Golf Course

Ocean Shores Golf Course has a course worth the trip to the beach, and one of the few courses that sits near the Pacific Ocean. A new driving range has made the experience even better and the course has joined up with the Quinault Beach Resort for some terrific stay and play packages.

Operator Curt Zander has made several quality changes to the course, including the new driving range. A new irrigation system on the front side has helped the course green up. Zander has been

in charge since 1993.

Lake Limerick Golf Club

Lake Limerick just outside of Shelton, features a challenging course surrounded by a development, where the houses are far from the fairways. The course is tight and that is what makes it fun. There are several sets of tees giving the course a new look.

The course has made some new changes, including removing some trees for better shots.

The course has two sets of tees and plays to 5,864 yards and the holes are surrounded by tall fir trees, giving you plenty different shots around the golf course.

Airport Golf Center

Airport Golf is the kind of place that golfers like. There are plenty of places to practice and if you get bored, there's a nifty little nine-hole course waiting for you to tee it up next to the Olympia Airport. Airport Golf also features batting cages, in case you bring your baseball or softball bat to the golf course. Airport Golf has plenty of room for practice, including its covered driving range,



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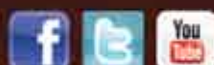


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Olympic Peninsula's south end has plenty of choices

putting greens and more. The big change at Airport Golf Center will be to the greens on the 9-hole course. They were all torn up and re-seeded. They are all expected to open in the middle of May giving the course a new look with some terrific new greens. There is also a fully stocked pro shop available to handle any golfing needs before or after a practice session or round on the course.

Alderbrook Golf Club

Alderbrook Golf Club is set in a classic Northwest wooded setting in Union, Washington. With a well-maintained and challenging golf course, Alderbrook should be on everyone's list must-play courses. The most talked about hole is the 8th, a double dog leg par 5 that stretches to 536 yards. Playing to 6,326 yards from the back tees, Alderbrook's finishing hole is one of the best in the Northwest - the dog-leg right fairway plays down a long hill to a recently renovated green guarded by a newly extended pond, making this difficult hole even more of a challenge.

Marvin Road Range

Marvin Road Range is a place that offers practice, practice and more practice. Even for those who aren't golfers. The range offers plenty of stalls while there is also a putting and short game area. And don't forget about the baseball batting cages. If you are in the need to get away from the course for a while and do some work, then this is the place for you. And you can work on that batting game as well.

Golf Club at Hawk's Prairie

If you are looking for a variety of golf in the same place, the Golf Club at Hawk's Prairie is your place. The Woodlands Course is a test through the trees while the Links Course offers a more open style

of course. Both courses offer separate practice facilities. It's the perfect place to spend the day and play 36 holes on two different types of golf courses. Both courses offer the chance to use every club in your bag and will present two very different rounds of golf.

Port Ludlow Resort

Port Ludlow was named as one of the top five public courses in Washington by *Golf Magazine*. Its 18 holes are divided into two 9-hole courses named Tide and Timber. Each features scenic views, dense forests and natural surroundings. A short ferry ride from Edmonds and a 20 mile drive from the Kingston ferry dock, Port Ludlow offers the perfect get-away not only for golfers, but for anyone looking to take a break from the city. With a quaint inn, restaurant, spa and full service marina, the resort offers something for everyone.

Eagles Pride at Fort Lewis

If you have driven up and down Interstate-5 south of Tacoma and north of Olympia, you have no doubt noticed the golf course to the west. That would be Eagle's Pride at Fort Lewis, a military gem of a course and a course that years ago opened its doors to the public. Eagles Pride features 27 holes of golf to try with its green, blue and red courses. It is a course that offers just about everything you would expect from Pacific Northwest golf with tall trees, sand, water hazards and a major freeway to the east. By the way, a ball hit onto I-5 is out of bounds. While Eagles Pride is open to the public, Whispering Firs is only open to active duty personnel, retired military, reservists, DoD employees working at JBLM, retired DoD civilians, and their respective dependents.



The Golf Club at Hawk's Prairie in Lacey has a Woodlands course and Links Course to try.



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Kitsap Peninsula

Trip across Tacoma Narrows Bridge well worth the time to find some of the best golf courses in the Northwest



Washington's Kitsap Peninsula blessed with some of the top public golf courses in the state. From Gold Mountain's Olympic Course in Bremerton to White Horse in Kingston, there are a wide variety of courses that keeps the regulars and the traveling golfers happy every time they tee it up.

For those who want to make the trip to the Kitsap Peninsula, most will take the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and enjoy the sights of that trip heading to the course. Others might be coming via ferry or from another part of the Peninsula. But whatever route you decide to take, there are plenty of inviting golf courses waiting for you.

Gold Mountain has a pair of courses, including its award-winning Olympic Course. The other course is called the Cascade Course and gives golfers a terrific option. Columbia Hospitality recently took over the management of the courses and it's business as usual for two of the top tracks in the Pacific Northwest.

McCormick Woods has been ranked among the top courses for years and is just a quick drive from another award-winner Trophy Lake Golf and Casting Club which offers a scenic course cut through the trees and offers you the chance to catch some fish should you choose to give it a try.

White Horse Golf Club in Kingston is a challenging course that is a short ferry ride from Seattle and has proven to be a stand-out amongst the best in Western Washington. Changes to the course's original design have softened the layout making it more user-friendly and more popular for golfers. The course is owned by the Suquamish Indian Tribe, which has invested heavily in the facility.

Horseshoe Lake in Port Orchard has been around since 1992 and offers two completely different looking nines. And there are some other courses that are worth taking a look at including places like Rolling Hills in Bremerton and Village Greens in Port Orchard.

LakeLand Village offers a 27-hole treat in Allyn and has been around since 1972. LakeLand Village is a place that people use for year-round living and for summer homes. There are three different nine hole courses to choose from.

Madrona: Along the way

And along the way to the Kitsap Peninsula, you will find Madrona Links, near the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, in Gig Harbor. Don't miss a chance to play this popular course. It presents a well-conditioned course with a challenging layout.

New management took over the facility in late 2013 and has improved the overall golfing experience, from the re-designed pro shop to the well maintained course. There is new management of the restaurant as well.

Madrona Links is the kind of place that will challenge your golfing skills while not beating you up. There is enough sand and water to keep your interest through the 18 holes.



A couple of options along the Kitsap Peninsula include White Horse (upper right) and Gold Mountain (top) with its two courses.



If you are on the way to the Kitsap or Olympic Peninsula, Madrona Golf Links near the Tacoma Narrows Bridge is a great option.

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Bellingham area: Distinct menu of choices

Bellingham is turning out to be popular spot for traveling golfers from the U.S. and Canada with its variety of courses

The far Northwest corner of Washington state offers a delicious menu of golf treats, all in various shapes and sizes of plush greenery.

The area north and south of Bellingham booms with golf personality and championship caliber challenges. Bargain prices, stellar maintenance, beautiful layouts and breathtaking views combined with the upcoming pristine spring and summer weather makes the Northwest corner of the state a can't-miss golf destination.

From Arlington to Blaine, there's always a fine-tuned layout to play, a posh place to stay and a price that's guaranteed to be well worth the investment.

At every dogleg, there's a new gem to find in the area. Every golfer, from novice to pro, can find something that suits their game and satisfies their golf appetite. Go take a bite out of some of the state's best courses and a region filled with enough quality to make it worth a summer tour.

North Bellingham Golf Course

North Bellingham Golf Course opened in 1995 and is a Scottish style links golf course. The openness leaves one exposed to the elements and one's game at the mercy of the wind at times.

The greens are firm and fast, making a balky putter something to leave at home. The well-manicured greens roll true and put a premium on good putting.

The layout offers 12 ponds, making 14 of the holes play with a water hazard and 58 white-sand bunkers. In fact a two-year bunker project will have new sand in all the bunkers around the course by the end of 2014. North Bellingham also has plenty of holes that grab your attention early and keep it

the rest of the round.

There's plenty to like as you stand on the first tee at North Bellingham and look at the links layout, including the course being one of the driest in the area and a course with some of the best greens you will putt on. The club tournaments also feature some terrific payouts.

Semiahmoo Resort

The 36-hole destination resort, located in Blaine, offers two of the toughest and also acclaimed public courses in the state with Loomis Trail and Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club. Both are top ranked courses and both are extremely challenging with plenty of water hazards to boot.

Loomis Trail was ranked as the No. 1 public course in Washington by *Golf Digest* (2005) and was the only Washington state course ranked in the nation's Top 100. Loomis Trail, open to the public on even days of the month, combines the magic of scenic beauty and dry conditions suitable for year-round play.

Tree-lined Semiahmoo, ranked the No. 3 public course by *Golf Digest* (2005), offers five holes with water and a course that can stretch to 7,005 yards from the tips. This course is open to the public on odd days of the month. Some great golf and a restful stay at the resort are sure to be a winning combination.

Both courses are a treat. And many golfers head north just play a golfing doubleheader, playing both in the same day. And some even stay at the resort and do it the next day.

Semiahmoo features a tough one-two punch with hazard-filled hole Nos. 11 and 12. Water lines



Homestead Golf Club features a par-5 with an island green for a finishing hole.

the right side of the fairway at the 371-yard par-4 11th hole and flanks the green, making both the tee shot and approach tough on even the most skilled golfers.

No. 12 is a 173-yard par-3 requires a tee shot over water. There is bailout room left to avoid water, but miss it right and you're wet.

Elevated tees and greens are prominent throughout the layout as the course varies over 100 feet in elevation. Ten Mile Creek meanders throughout the layout and cuts across many of the fairways to keep golfers on guard.

Shuksan Golf Club added length to the course a few years ago and it now stretches beyond 7,000 yards from the back tees. And as a result the ratings from the white tees went from 121 to 131. Newly re-designed bunkers, water features and more have added to the course.

Golf Digest has always rated this outstanding with course four stars since opening in 1991 and the course keeps that rating year after year.

The Clubhouse at Shuksan Golf Club can accommodate banquet groups from 10 to 250.

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Bellingham area: Homestead gives you an island green; New clubhouse at Eaglemont

The Outdoor Bridal Terrace offers a spectacular backdrop to weddings with Mt. Shuksan visible in the background.

Homestead Golf Club

Homestead Golf and Country Club is located on the outskirts on Lynden on what was once dairy land.

Now the land serves as a nice attraction and getaway for Pacific Northwest golfers.

The island green at the par-5 finishing hole brings many golfers back to the Lynden course. The 525-yard hole offers gutsy and talented golfers the opportunity to go for the green in two, but the shot requires a carry over water and precision to hit the island green.

Golf Digest once ranked the hole's green as one of the nation's top island greens. The finishing hole, surrounded by walls of flowers, water and sand, is aesthetically pleasing. If you stay dry a birdie is a possibility, but par is still a good score on this beautiful hole. The club has lodging available, multiple dining options and a fitness center for vacationers.

Avalon Golf Club

The kingdom of Avalon, home of All-Day golf – Avalon Golf Links of Burlington is the only 27-hole facility in the area and well worth the 50-minute drive from the Seattle area. Three separate nines make up the 27 holes and are simply named the South, West and North Courses.

The name Avalon means an island represented as an earthly paradise in the western seas to which King Arthur and other heroes were carried at death, is a golfing paradise just off Interstate 5.

The Robert Muir Graves-designed course is a bargain all the way. Avalon offers a pay-for-18

holes and play all-day promotion seven days a week, 365 days a year (rates vary depending on the day of the week). Avalon also provides golfers a free round on their birthday with proper identification of course.

Lake Padden Golf Course

If you are looking for some of the best in public friendly golf, then look no further than Lake Padden, located just south of Bellingham.

The course has undergone plenty of great changes through the years and improved maintenance has the course featuring some solid fairways and greens that roll true.

The course is also home of the Bellingham Amateur, which is held every Labor Day weekend.

Eaglemont Golf Club

Mount Vernon has a true treasure in Eaglemont Golf Club with its meandering fairways, shots over wetlands and eye-opening views of the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges. The course is easily one of the top 5 courses in the state, as stated by *Golf Washington Magazine*. Eaglemont is a challenging course with multiple sets of tees for all skill levels to enjoy.

The John Steidel-designed course offers the challenge of long carries over wetlands off the tee and on approach shots. Success with those shots is what keeps players coming back to Eaglemont.

Eaglemont was voted #9 on *Golf Digest's* recent list of the top courses in Washington – and a new clubhouse sitting on top of a hill opened last year with a spectacular setting.

Sudden Valley Golf Course

Sudden Valley Golf Club is known for its two distinctly different nines. The front nine, which winds



North Bellingham Golf Course offer a links experience that opened for play in 1995.

Shuksan Golf Club set to celebrate 20th anniversary

Shuksan Golf Club in Bellingham will be pulling out all the stops to celebrate its 20th anniversary this month.

The club opened 20 years ago on May 20 and will use that number 20 for a big three-day celebration. For three days on May 20-22, Shuksan Golf Club will offer \$20 green fees, which would be good all day. And the food and beverage part won't be left out as hot dogs, fries, sliders and draft beer will all have \$2 special prices during the three days.

The anniversary weekend will be wrapped up with a scramble tournament and barbeque on Friday, May 23.

For more information on Shuksan Golf Club call 1.800.801.8897.



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Bellingham area golf tour

past the southern shores of Lake Whatcom, is relatively flat and open. The back nine, which feels carved from a forest, wanders through the trees and offers some narrow fairways and variation in elevation.

The Bellingham course, designed by Ted Robinson and ranked a four-star offering by *Golf Digest*, has improved drainage on all 18 holes with the selection of one hole per year from the Greenshield project.

Point Roberts Golf Club

It takes an interesting road trip to get to Point Roberts Golf and Country Club. You have to head into Canada and then back into the United States. The course that waits for you opened in 2001 and features a 6,868-yard track that winds through trees and offers terrific views.

San Juan Islands

A trio of nine-hole courses including Orcas Island Golf Club, Lopez Island Golf Club and San Juan Golf & Country Club provide quality golf to vacationers in the San Juan Islands.

Orcas Island is the oldest of the three courses, as it was designed and built in 1960. It's a popular destination in summer and was recently purchased by a young local family, the Taylor Family. Lopez Island was built more than 40 years ago and is open to the public.

Gateway Golf Course

Gateway Golf Course is a serene and picturesque course on the scenic route of Highway 20 located in Sedro Woolley.

Gateway has undergone several major improvements over the past two years including a complete renovation of the course, major improvements, including a new banquet

room named the "Vista Blanca Room" named after the gorgeous views of the snow-covered mountains which can be viewed by its many windows.

Private clubs in the area

The area is also home to some terrific private clubs like Bellingham Golf and Country Club and Skagit Golf and Country Club.

In addition, it might not be one of the biggest or flashiest clubs around but Grays Harbor Country Club in Cosmopolis will serve up a pleasant round of golf. It has been around since 1912 with its distinctive nine-hole layout that winds through the trees and offers a dual-tee design.



Elevation changes at Eaglemont in Mount Vernon offer some spectacular vistas.



Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine is under new ownership and plenty of re-model work to the hotel has paid off since re-opening.



Kayak Point (left) and Gleneagle (right) are two choices on the way to Bellingham.

Gleneagle, Kayak Point are good options to try when heading north to play golf

If you are heading north to Bellingham and a long golf weekend, you might want to add some time because there are a couple of good choices to male in Gleneagle in Arlington and Kayak Point in Stanwood.

• Gleneagle has undergone some terrific changes, especially after hiring superintendent Ryan Semritc. Semritc is also the general manager at the facility now. He has improved the greens as well other noticeable changes around the course. In fact, Golfchops.com said that "Gleneagle has some of the healthiest, nicest, best rolling putting greens we've ever played on." Now that is a ringing endorsement.

But that's not all at Gleneagle. A new practice area is under construction complete with a practice bunker and chipping green. That is expected to open this summer.

Along with the improved condition of the course, rounds are up at Gleneagle. The course dropped

to 12,500 rounds in 2011 but had over 20,000 rounds and even more rounds during the 2013 season. All thanks to the improved conditioning of the course. "We are trying to pull out all the stops to give golfers a terrific experience when they play Gleneagle," said Semritc. "I think people will like what they see when they get here."

• Kayak Point has always been considered one of the top places to play in the Pacific Northwest by *Golf Digest Magazine*. And for good reason. The course, which sits 20 minutes west of Interstate-5 in Stanwood, is a tree-lined pleasure that offers plenty of elevation changes and tee shots which make you keep the driver straight.

But if you don't, that's OK now. In the last few years, Kayak Point, under the direction of Access Golf, has cleaned out much of the brush in the trees and in the rough. You can now find your ball and hit it. The course has also put together lodging packages with he nearby Tulalip Casino.

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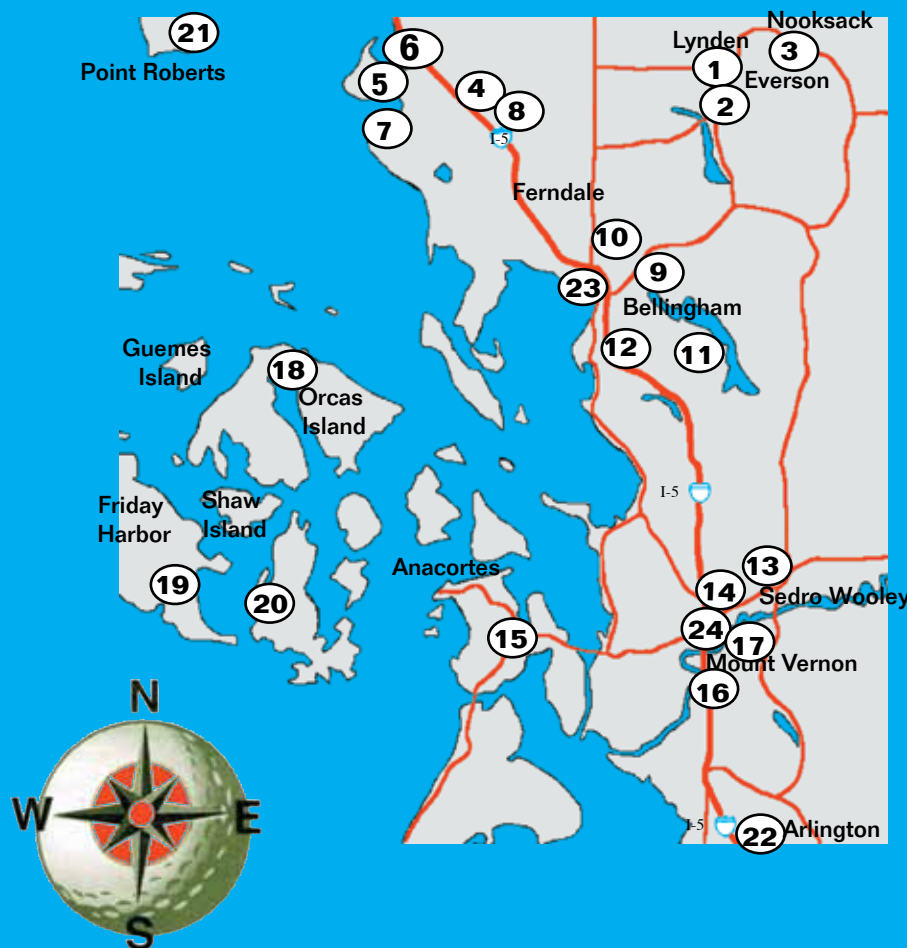
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Locator Maps for NW Washington and Olympic Peninsula

Map of NW Washington/Bellingham

- 1. Homestead G & CC**
18 holes, 6,927 yards
Lynden, Public
- 2. Raspberry Ridge**
9 holes, 2,825 yards
Everson, Public
- 3. Evergreen**
9 holes, 2,145 yards
Everson, Public
- 4. Grandview**
18 holes, 6,404 yards
Custer, Public
- 5. Semiahmoo Resort**
18 holes, 7,005 yards
Blaine, Public
- 6. Loomis Trail Golf Club**
18 holes, 7,100 yards
Blaine, Public
- 7. Birch Bay**
Remodeled 9 holes
Blaine, Public
- 8. Dakota Creek**
18 holes, 5,185 yards
Custer, Public
- 9. Shuksan Golf Club**
18 holes, 6,743 yards
Bellingham, Public
- 10. North Bellingham**
18 holes, 6,816 yards
Bellingham, Public
- 11. Sudden Valley**
18 holes, 6,553 yards
Bellingham, Public
- 12. Lake Padden**
18 holes, 6,575 yards
Bellingham, Public
- 13. Gateway**
9 holes, 3,050 yards
Sedro Woolley, Public
- 14. Avalon Golf Club**
27 holes
Burlington, Public
- 15. Swinomish Golf Links**
18 holes, 6,205 yards
Anacortes, Public
- 16. Eaglemont**
18 holes, 7,006 yards
Mount Vernon, Public
- 17. Overlook**
9 holes, 2,540 yards
Mount Vernon, Public
- 18. Orcas Island**
9 holes, 3,060 yards
Eastsound, Public
- 19. San Juan Golf Club**
9 holes, 3,194 yards
Friday Harbor, Public
- 20. Lopez Island GC**
9 holes, 2,704 yards
Lopez, Public
- 21. Point Roberts**
18 holes, 6,000 yards
Point Roberts, Public
- 22. Gleneagle**
18 holes, 6,010 yards
Arlington, Public



Map of the Olympic Peninsula



- 1. Peninsula Golf Club**
18 holes, 6,308
Port Angeles, Semi-private
- 2. Cedars at Dungeness**
18 holes, 6,378 yards
Sequim, Public
- 3. SkyRidge Golf Course**
10 holes, 3,305 yards
Sequim, Public
- 4. SunLand Golf Club**
18 holes, 6,313 yards
Sequim, Semi-private
- 5. Port Townsend GC**
9 holes, 2,763 yards
Port Townsend, Public
- 6. Discovery Bay**
18 holes, 6,641 yards
Port Townsend, Public
- 7. Port Ludlow Resort**
18 holes, 6,861
Port Ludlow, Public
- 8. Lake Cushman GC**
9 holes, 2,848 yards
Hoodsport, Public
- 9. Whitehorse Golf Club**
18 holes, 7,093 yards
Kingston, Public
- 10. LakeLand Village**
27 holes
Allyn, Public
- 11. Alderbrook Golf Club**
18 holes, 6,326 yards
Union, Public
- 12. Lake Limerick**
9 holes, 2,898 yards
Shelton, Public
- 13. Oaksridge**
18 holes, 5,643 yards
Elma, Public
- 14. Highland**
18 holes, 6,112 yards
Cosmopolis, Public
- 15. Ocean Shores**
18 holes, 6,252 yards
Ocean Shores, Public
- 16. Willapa Harbor**
9 holes, 3,004 yards
Raymond, Public
- 17. Surfside**
9 holes, 2,960 yards
Long Beach, Public
- 18. Meadowmeer G & CC**
9 holes, 2,824 yards
Bainbridge Island, Semi-private
- 19. Rolling Hills**
18 holes, 5,910 yards
Bremerton, Public
- 20. Gold Mountain**
36 holes
Bremerton, Public
- 21. Horseshoe Lake**
18 holes, 6,105 yards
Port Orchard, Public
- 22. Village Greens**
18 holes, Exec. 3,255 yards
Port Orchard, Public
- 23. McCormick Woods**
18 holes, 7,040 yards
Port Orchard, Public
- 24. Trophy Lake**
18 holes, 7,206 yards
Port Orchard, Public
- 25. Gig Harbor G & CC**
9 holes, 2,702 yards
Gig Harbor, Semi-private
- 26. Madrona Links**
18 holes, 5,602 yards
Gig Harbor, Public
- 27. Hawks Prairie**
36 holes
Lacey
- 28. Tumwater Golf Course**
18 holes, 7,154 yards
Tumwater, Public
- 29. The Home Course**
18 holes, 7,400
DuPont, Public
- 30. Salish Cliffs**
18 holes, 7,269 yards
Shelton, Public

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