



Northwest Washington and the Olympic Peninsula

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 Whidbey Golf Club (far right) down to Camaloch (near right) the area is loaded with great places to play. There are other places you'll want to play too, like North Bellingham, Lake Padden Semiahmoo Resort, Sudden Valley and Shuksan, just to name a few of the choices. Washington's northwest corner is certainly a golfer's paradise. See inside for more on the Bellingham area.



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 Semiahmoo Resort (right) in Blaine with its terrific resort and pair of golf courses.

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.



Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas offer a variety of places to try



If you decide to take a trip over the Tacoma Narrows Bridge or a ferry ride across the Puget Sound, there are plenty of golf courses on the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas waiting for you to tee it up.

Places like Peninsula Golf Club in Port Angeles (far left) and Alderbrook (near left) are two great choices with challenging golf courses and some great views. And there is no shortage of golf to try.

There is also a myriad of outdoor activities away from the golf course to try. How about hiking through the Olympic Mountains or skiing at Mount Baker?

See inside this section for more on Peninsula golf.

Inside Northwest Washington

Pleasant Harbor project scaled back; NW Indian tribes get into golf business

Espedal in charge at Highland

• Ronnie Espedal is a native of the Grays Harbor area so it is not a surprise that he has taken over the lease and is now running Highland Golf Course in Cosmopolis. Espedal graduated from Aberdeen High School and has worked at all the local tracks like Ocean Shores and the Grays Harbor Country Club. Sterling Financial bought Highland eight years ago and Espedal has taken over the lease from Curt Zander, who runs Ocean Shores. Espedal hopes to see improved play and is making his mark by flopping the nine and re-routing holes 17 and 13. The original nine holes opened in 1930 with a new nine being added in 1994. "We want to give the entire place a facelift since we are just coming into our first full season," said Espedal. "We want to make this a user-friendly place that people want to play." The price is right at Highland with greens fees starting at \$17.

Semiahmoo Resort

• Semiahmoo Resort continues to rebound after some tough times. The newly remodeled hotel is bringing in the business and the two resort golf courses are among the best in the Pacific Northwest. It might be time to take a look at the new Semiahmoo.

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The proposed Pleasant Harbor Marina and Golf Resort in Brinnon, Washington was subjected to another public hearing (there have been many) in Brinnon, Washington. The original plan included an 18-hole resort golf course, however, after 10 years of frustration the developer (The Statesman Group from Alberta, Canada) has downsized their proposal to include only a 9-hole golf course.

What was proposed 10 years ago has become bogged down in a bureaucratic quagmire - the county's nine appointed planning commissioners will digest the public hearings, again, and make a recommendation to the county commissions, who may accept it or have more public hearings (can't seem to have enough of these) before they decide. The latest hearing went the way of the others, about half in favor and half opposed - nothing new.

Soft restoration project at Ludlow

After 40 years, Port Ludlow Golf Club decided it was time to change things up. The course, located on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, celebrated its 40th anniversary last summer and Port Ludlow Golf Club decided that enhanced maintenance was required to retain the jewel that is the course at Port Ludlow.

Port Ludlow Golf Club General Manager, Shelly Washburn, brought the course's original builder Dick Schmidt out of retirement and the pair came up with a two-year plan to restore the course back to its original vision created by renowned golf course architect Robert Muir Graves. Washburn describes the course as a work of art and explains that the two-year plan is designed to "polish the jewel" that has already been created rather than a full remodel.

A wireless control system has been established to assist with irrigation. The maintenance crew can control sprinkler heads remotely rather than manually, giving the course water where it needs it. The high water table on the lower portion of the course created drainage issues and as a result ditches and streams were reestablished on the perimeter of the course and culverts were replaced for better water flow. The course is now playable even with record rainfall.

Some of the fairways and greens at Port Ludlow lost their original shape over the years and the maintenance crew is redefining the course to its original shapes and contours. Bunker work is also part of the new plan at Port Ludlow as the bunkers will be reshaped creating better drainage and adding new sand.

New at Sallish Cliffs Golf Club

Salish Cliffs Golf Club, an amenity of the Little Creek Casino Resort in Shelton, has landed a big



Port Ludlow has a two-year plan to restore the course to the architect's original vision.

recognition from GolfAdvisor.com and brought in a pair of new assistants.

GolfAdvisor.com has named Salish Cliffs as the "Best Course in Washington" according to ratings from golfers who read the web site. Both Golf Digest and Golfweek recognize the course as one of the 10 best in Washington.

Also, new assistants Rick Denholm and Bradley Elzie have been hired at the club by head professional David Kass. Both will lead player development programs and other course operations.

NW tribes getting into golf

In recent years, the population in the Puget Sounds region has been growing exponentially, and as the cities and counties get more crowded, more people seek a break away from the traffic and crowds. What better place to escape than the Olympic Peninsula.

With so many top-quality golf courses on the peninsula it is a vacation in your own back yard. And the Northwest Indian Tribes have gotten into the golf business, too. White Horse in Kingston, Salish Cliffs near Shelton and The Cedars at Dungeness in Sequim, the Olympic Peninsula is a golfer's dream get-away. And don't forget about Swinomish Golf Links, owned by the Swinomish Tribe in Anacortes.

* **White Horse Golf Club** in Kingston is owned by the Suquamish Tribe that also owns the Clearwater Casino with a luxurious 98-room waterfront hotel. The White Horse Golf Club is 7,093

yards of exciting golf, and with a 144 slope rating, it's all the challenge you could hope for, and there are no houses along the fairways.

* **Salish Cliffs Golf Club** in Shelton is a championship course that has been ranked as one of the best golf courses in Washington State by *Golf Digest* and one of the "Best Casino Courses, 2015" by *Golfweek*. World-class gaming, luxury hotel and "Big-Name" entertainment make this Little Creek Resort a popular spot. There is also a 44-birth upscale RV park on property.

* **The Cedars at Dungeness** in Sequim has enjoyed a loyal following for years, known for its sunny climate (in the rain-shadow of the Olympic Mountain Range) and pristine conditioning. The nearby 7-Cedars Casino provides live entertainment and several dining options.

* **The Swinomish Golf Links** is part of the Swinomish Resort in Anacortes and offers championship golf, RV parking and more. The tribe bought the Similk Beach Golf Club and turned it into Swinomish Golf Links.

Discovery Bay Head Professional

Discovery Bay Golf Club has hired Jeff Kent as their new head professional. Kent comes from the Tri-Cities where he has spent the majority of his 25 years as a golf professional. He grew up in Marysville so is well-acquainted with the climate here in Western Washington. Kent graduated from Central Washington University and has experience at resort, public and off-course golf facilities.

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Take a trip to 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 Hoodport.

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

Established in 1971 and located in a retirement community in Sequim, SunLand Golf and Country Club winds through huge fir, cedar and spruce trees and is well protected with numerous bunkers and ponds. The course features tight fairways and above average greens, and is relatively flat with narrow fairways surrounded by houses. There are a couple of elevation changes that add a good mixture to the round.

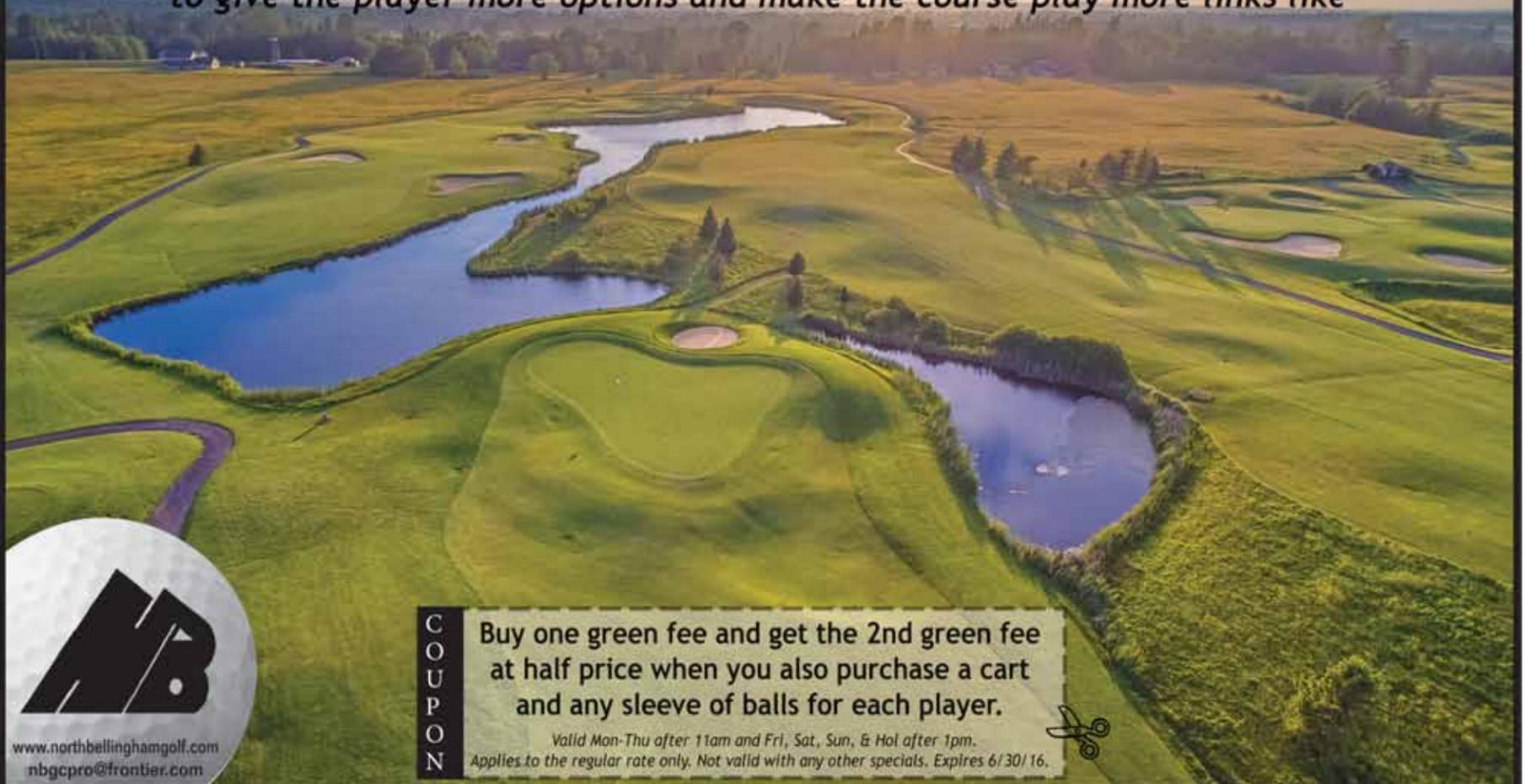
The course, which was formerly private, is now open to the public during limited times and is



SunLand (top) is located in Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula; Tumwater Valley (bottom) has everything you need for practice and playing.

North Bellingham Golf Course

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Plenty of variety on Olympic Peninsula

well worth the trip north on Washington's Olympic Peninsula to challenge your game.

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 Golf Course

Discovery Bay Golf Club sits on a secluded 200-acre point above Discovery Bay (named by Capt. Vancouver), just outside the city of Port Townsend, Washington.

The two nines are vastly different; the original nine, built in 1926, is contained in the lowlands while the newest nine, built in the 90s, plays along the top of, and on the side of a hill overlooking Discovery Bay.

New owners have provided an infusion of money so that drainage has been installed where necessary and the course is continuously being upgraded, including new modern greens and tees. A new second hole was built a few years ago and a new tee is under construction to lengthen it even further. The course stretches to 6,659 yards from the back tees and plays to 5,140 yards from the forward tees.

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 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 misled 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 has also opened, giving golfers a chance for food before and after the 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 around the city of Sequim, 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 Jamestown S'Klallam tribe bought the course in 2007.

The Home Course

A golf course in DuPont, Wash. existed for a few years before the PPGA 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 PPGA will eventually have its headquarters at the course and will also host a few of its championships at its new Home Course as well. It's worth the trip if you are headed near the bottom of the Olympic Peninsula. And some changes as well are brewing at the Home Course.

The course has made some dramatic changes to its back side changing the 11th hole to a par-4 and the 12th hole to a par-3. Both come with new bunkers, including a couple that are deep-faced and look like they came right from Europe.

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 short game area as well.



Highland Golf Course in Cosmopolis opened in 1931 and features 18 hilly golf holes.



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 1931. 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 Ronnie Espedal has taken over and making some terrific changes.

Ocean Shores Golf Course

You have to play Ocean Shores Golf Course when you are near the Pacific Ocean. A new driving range was added since Curt Zander took over and 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.

Port Townsend Golf Course

Port Townsend Golf Club is the driest and most affordable golf course on the Olympic Peninsula. Located in the heart of the Victorian Port, PTGC offers a great opportunity to enjoy a friendly round of golf during your getaway to this quaint and historic town.

The National Golf Foundation described PTGC as "...both beginner-friendly and challenging for the better players. It is a challenging layout that offers some dramatic tee shots, especially the par 3s, one being over a large pond and another with a shot to a green with a significant elevation drop.

The course is walkable and has a lot of character with a mixture of wide fairways, tight fairways, some doglegs and holes that will keep you focused. The affordable prices and the fun-factor make this a must play when visiting Port Townsend.

Airport Golf Center

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Hawk's Prairie has two to try; Alderbrook has double dogleg

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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 type of course. A solid practice facility sits near the Links course with plenty of places to hit and putt.

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 both gives you two distinct 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. The courses were designed by the legendary golf architect Robert Miur Graves.

A short ferry ride from Edmonds and a 20 mile drive from the Kingston ferry dock, or about an hour and a half from Tacoma via the Narrows Bridge. Port Ludlow offers the perfect get-away not only for golfers, but for anyone looking to take a break from the city.

The resort has a charming inn, with a quaint restaurant, a pampering spa and full service marina that even has a dock for float-planes, the resort offers something for everyone.

Eagle's 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.

Eagle's 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.

New at both Eagle's Pride and its sister course Whispering Firs at McChord Air Force Base is the JBLM Pass. It is a 7-day pass that gives golfers specials, good prices and much more.



Alderbrook Golf Club sits along the Hood Canal and features a classic NW golf course.



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

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Kitsap Peninsula



A trip across Tacoma Narrows Bridge opens up a golf trip with some of the top courses in the Pacific Northwest

Washington's Kitsap Peninsula has no shortage when it comes to 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 which 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 to tee it up.

There are some great choices.

- Along the way to the Kitsap Peninsula, you will find Madrona Links, near the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. A challenging layout that is popular for its course conditioning and location. Another good choice to make when in the area. Madrona Links is the kind of place that keeps you coming back with its challenging holes. There is enough sand and water to keep your interest through the 18 holes.

- 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 if they are in the market to play 36 holes in one day. 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 which offers a scenic course cut through the trees and gives you a chance to catch some fish before or after the round.

- White Horse Golf Club in Kingston offers a challenging course which is a short ferry ride from Seattle and has proven to be a popular place for local and traveling golfers. And the course opened a new clubhouse a few years ago.

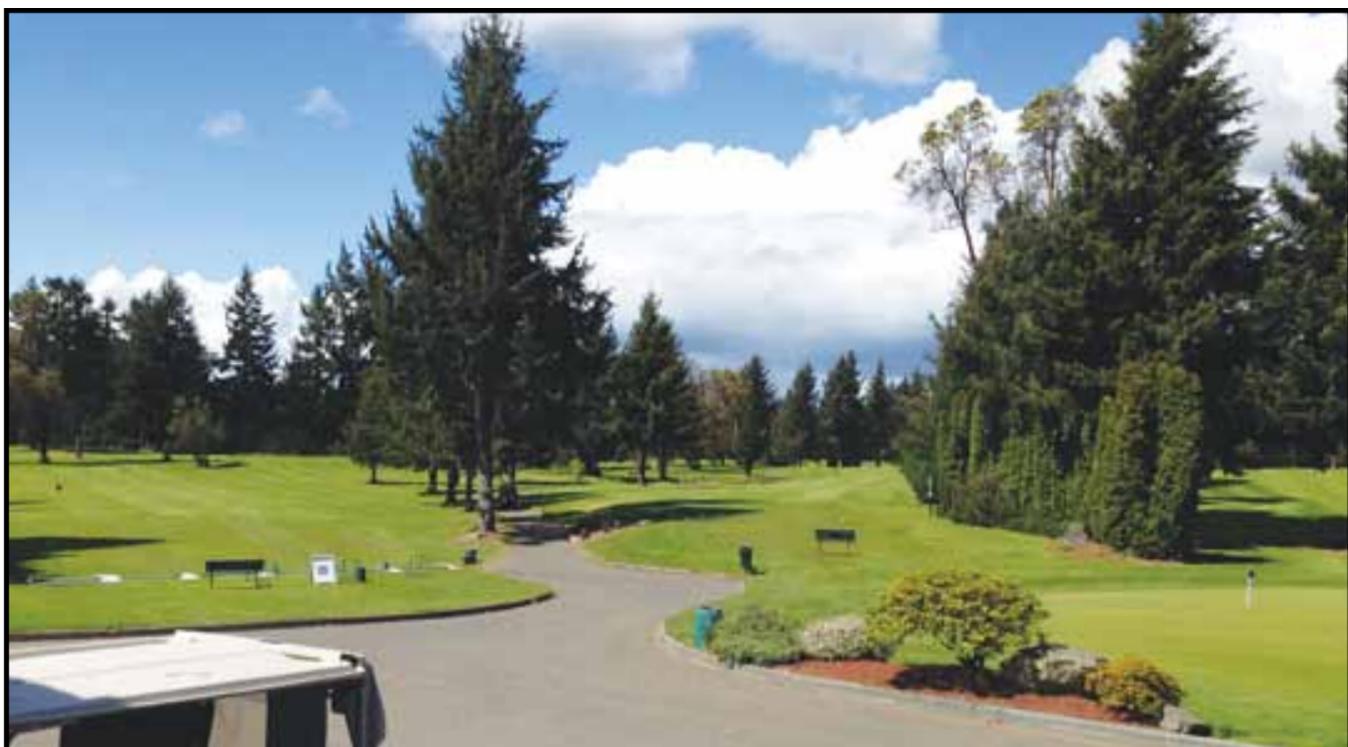
- Horseshoe Lake in Port Orchard has been around since 1992 and offers two completely different looking nines to play. And there are some other courses that are worth taking a look at including places like Rolling Hills in Bremerton and Village Greens in Port Orchard.

- 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 sets of nine hole courses to choose from.

- Gig Harbor Golf Club is another gem on the way north to the Olympic Peninsula in Gig Harbor. The nine-hole private course offers some terrific rates to join and new changes include a re-do of the seventh green including an entirely new green complex and the addition of a pot bunker and waste bunker on each side of the green.



A couple of options along the Kitsap Peninsula include White Horse (top photo) and Gold Mountain (above) 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: Great prices and great golf

For both Americans and Canadians, the area offers variety of award-winning golf courses along with some terrific prices

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 had new sand in all the bunkers around the course by the end of 2014. North Bellingham also has plenty of

holes which 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 Resort courses. Both are top ranked courses and both are extremely challenging with plenty of water hazards to add to the fun.

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 consistently listed in the top 10 of Washington courses by media publications. 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.



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

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

Shuksan Golf Club

With the Shuksan Golf Club in Bellingham, the theme is nature. There are wetlands throughout the golf course and the first bit of water trouble comes into play on the very first hole.

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 while back 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.

A 250-seat outdoor terrace is great for golf


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Bellingham golf: Eaglemont has the elevation changes; Homestead has island green

events, wedding receptions and more. The new Clubhouse Grille is also a hit with golfers at Shuksan.

Homestead Golf Club

Homestead Golf 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.

Homestead Golf Club also includes a hotel, 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 variety of play options including twi-light seven days a week, and a discount to seniors 55 and above. Avalon helps

you celebrate your birthday giving 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. *Golf Digest* ranked the course ninth in the state of Washington along with awarding it four stars in 2009. Eaglemont is a challenging course, but provides 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.

A new clubhouse sitting on top of a hill opened a couple of years with a spectacular setting and better views now with good looks at the second and third holes from the new clubhouse.

Sudden Valley Golf Club

Sudden Valley Golf Club is known for its two distinctly different nines. The front nine, which winds past the southern shores of Lake Whatcom, is relatively flat and open. The back nine,



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



Semiahmoo Resort has a new look and new ownership to its hotel to show off.



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Bellingham golf: Plenty to like

which feels carved from a forest, wanders through the trees and offers some narrow fairways and variation in elevation. With water and tall tree-lined fairways to negotiate, the course requires golfers to stay focused and play for accuracy. The Bellingham course, designed by Ted Robinson and ranked a four-star offering by *Golf Digest*, has improved drainage on all 18 holes.

San Juans 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.

Camaloch Golf Course

Probably the best kept secret in Washington golf is Camaloch Golf Course on Camano Island. Strategically located in the 'Sun Belt' where the rainfall is about half of the rest of Puget Sound and on those hot summer days the course enjoys a marine climate that is about 10 degrees cooler.

The golf course is just 15 minutes from Interstate-5 and has gone largely unnoticed by many golfers, but that is all changing as word is getting out as more golfers are discovering the course. Members take great pride in the quality of their greens which are quick, consistent and fast year around and considered some of the best in the state.

The 6,234 yard with a par of 72 course opened its first 9 in the late 60s and the second nine in the 1991. The second nine was designed by Northwest golf architect Bill Overdorf.

The summer rates vary from \$33 on weekdays to \$39 weekends but after 1 pm fall to \$27 and \$30. Senior rates and other discounts are available so check their website for other options - also check out the flyover video. See: www.camalochgolf.com

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.

Whidbey Golf Club

Set in the midst of a quiet, lake and tree-lined glen of Oak Harbor you'll find the natural beauty and unique character of one of Whidbey Island's best kept secrets. Welcome, to Whidbey Golf Club, established over 52 years ago. Whidbey Golf Club is a semi-private, family oriented club that boast to being one of the Northwest's most exciting golf courses that accommodates all levels of play from champion to super senior.

With its natural beauty, thrilling year-round play, and first-class dining facilities makes WGC a natural choice for any occasion. Whether enjoying a round of golf, celebrating a wedding, or meeting for business, Whidbey Golf Club delivers an affordable quality that simply can't be beat. Oak Harbor sits in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains resulting in an average annual rainfall 50% less than most of the Puget Sound area. The lower rainfall, combined with the soil conditions makes the golf course very playable in the winter.

Plenty of sights to see

Of course, golf is a popular draw in the Bellingham-Lynden area, but for those looking for a little family time, there's so much more to see and do. Bellingham, located just 85 miles north of Seattle along Interstate-5, is the gateway to many things, including the San Juan Islands (through Anacortes) and activities in and around Mount Baker. It is also the last major town that you go through before heading across the border into Canada.

Bellingham is also the home for the Alaska Marine Highway, the place where you can drive your car onto a ship and head up the Inside Passage into Alaska.



Whidbey Golf Club is a semi-private club located in Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island.



Camaloch GC is located in the sun belt of Camano Island with half the rain of Seattle.



Gleneagle is a solid option to tee it up at.

Three to tee: Gleneagle, Cedarcrest and Kayak

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 make in Gleneagle in Arlington and Kayak Point in Stanwood.

- Gleneagle has undergone some terrific changes on and off the course in the past few years. Gleneagle has always called itself "Country Club Feel For a Public Price."

Some changes will get your attention right away: As all the greenside bunkers have been renovated. And course conditions have helped increase the rounds at Gleneagle as well.

Gleneagle is working to establish itself as one of the top places for junior golf with a program for \$120 that includes weekly three-day sessions.

- There is plenty new at Kayak Point Golf Club in Stanwood, just north of Seattle. From on-course changes to a clubhouse renovation to a new management team, Kayak Point will have a new look to show golfers for the 2016 season.

General Manager Steve Stensland is excited to show off what Kayak Point is all about as the

golf season rolls into high gear.

"Our partnership with Snohomish County really made this take off," said Stensland. "We have worked hard to change things up. And it has paid off on and off the course."

The biggest change will be the new-look clubhouse complete with new carpet, new bathrooms, new pro shop and a new pavilion, which can hold groups from 50-70 for tournament outings.

On the course, work has been completed on an irrigation control system which now gets water to parts of the course that need it. Crowned tees have been flattened and steps in between holes have been removed and replaced with bricks.

Kayak Point has a Member Card to lure in new golfers. For \$60 cardholders get 25 percent off green fees in the summer months and 50 percent off in the winter months.

- Looking for some options on your drive to Northwest Washington? You might want to take a look at places like Cedarcrest Golf Course in Marysville, just north of Seattle.

Premier Golf, which runs a variety of courses in

the Pacific Northwest, recently took over management of Cedarcrest. Built in 1927, Cedarcrest Golf Course is Snohomish County's most established public golf facility.

This picturesque 3-star course, redesigned by golf architect John Steidel, offers an unparalleled golfing experience - challenging play, natural beauty, meticulous greens and endless fun. An abundance of mature evergreen trees line the fairways, natural water features are plentiful and the addition of 52 sand bunkers installed in 2010 guard the small undulating greens.

Measuring just under 6,000 yards with a par of 70, the course is not long by today's standards, but golfers must be on their game if they wish to score here. The course has plenty of tradition dating back to 1927, but in 1996 the city of Marysville closed the golf course and began a \$3 million, 16-month makeover. Holes were re-modeled, new greens were put in play and a new drainage system was created. The course got bumped to nearly 6,000 yards and a par-70 with the new look during the re-model almost 20 years ago.

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Locator Maps for NW Washington and Olympic Peninsula

Map of NW Washington/Bellingham



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 23. Whidbey Golf Club
18 holes, 6,464 yards
Oak Harbor, Semi-private 24. Camaloch Golf Course
18 holes, 6,234 yards
Camano Island, Public
<i>(Not visible on map)</i> |
|--|--|

Map of the Olympic Peninsula



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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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 August- 2nd Annual Riverbend 2 Man Hickory Best Ball Championship - Riverbend Golf Course
 August Washington State Hickory Match Play Championship (Details TBA)
 September 9th - 10th Washington State Hickory Open *MAJOR* - The Home Course
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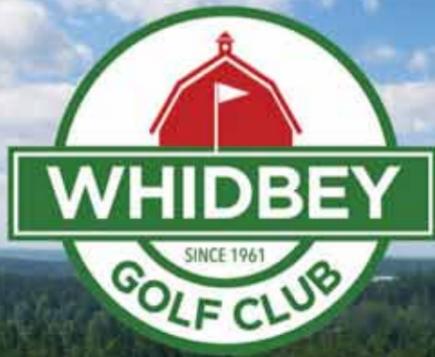
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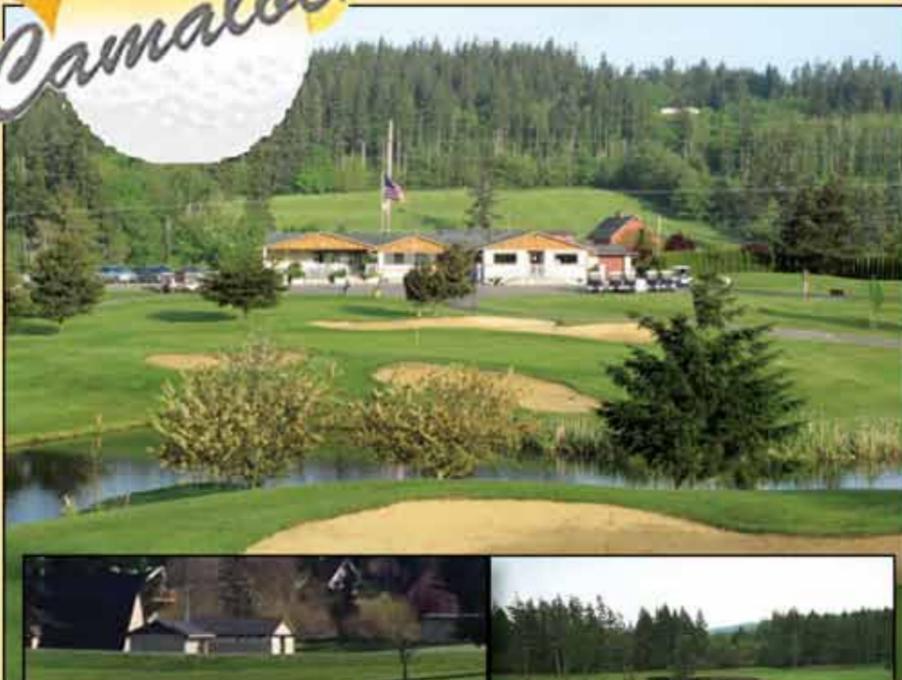
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