



Northwest Indian Tribes offer terrific golf choices

Pacific Northwest Tribes own some of the top courses in the Northwest like North Shore in Tacoma (left) and Circling Raven in Worley, Idaho (right). See inside for more.



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla owns pair of courses and resort

There is plenty new at Wildhorse Resort in Pendleton, Ore. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have owned and operated the resort since 1994 and now along comes a new clubhouse at Wildhorse (left) to go with its terrific golf course. The Tribe also bought Pendleton Country Club and changed the name to the Golf Course at Birch Creek giving it two courses for golfers to choose from when visiting Pendleton. For more on NW Indian Tribes and golf, see inside this section of Inside Golf.

Golf is good for business for tribes

Pacific Northwest Indian Tribes are finding out the golf is good for business. Indian Tribes have bought courses like Loomis Trail in Blaine, Wash (right), Ocean Dunes in Florence, Ore. (lower left) and Swinomish Golf Links in Anacortes (lower right). Northwest Indian Tribes have even designed and developed their own golf courses like Salish Cliffs in Shelton, Wash. There is plenty to like about what the Northwest Indian Tribes are doing with golf in the area. For more, please see inside this special section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



INSIDE
THIS
EDITION



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Northwest Indian Tribes are finding out that golf is good for their businesses

From Oregon to Washington to Idaho, Pacific Northwest Indian Tribes are finding out what other tribes around the country have already discovered, that golf can be a good addition to their casino business.

All three Pacific Northwest states now have Indian Tribes that have invested in golf courses, many of these courses are ranked among the best in the Northwest, some even the nation.

Several tribes have bought golf courses that were already in existence and went about making them better with large infusions of cash. Other Tribes have started from scratch and employed the services of a top-notch golf architects and developed their own golf courses like the Squaxin Island Tribe with Salish Cliffs in Shelton, Wash. and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Idaho with its Circling Raven Golf Club. Both of those golf courses are ranked among the best in the Pacific Northwest.

The state of Washington has the most Indian Tribe-owned courses with eight, Oregon has four and Idaho has one.

Most recently, the Chehalis Indian Tribe bought the Oaksridge Golf Course in Elma, Wash.



The Swinomish Tribe in Anacortes bought Siimilk GC and renamed it Swinomish Golf Links.

NW Indian Tribes and golf

Washington

- **Kalispel Golf Club:** Course in Spokane is owned and operated by the Kalispel Indian Tribe.
- **Loomis Trail:** Course is now owned by the Lummi Nation Indian Tribe.
- **North Shore:** Course in Tacoma is owned by the Puyallup Indian Tribe.
- **Oaksridge:** Course in Elma is owned by the Chehalis Indian Tribe, which owns the Lucky Eagle Casino.
- **Salish Cliffs:** Golf course is owned by the Squaxin Island Tribe and is located in Shelton and owns the Little Creek Casino.
- **Swinomish Golf Links:** Course in Anacortes is owned by Swinomish Indian Tribe which also runs the Swinomish Casino Resort.
- **The Cedars at Dungeness:** Course in Sequim is owned by the Jamestown Skallam Tribe. Also owns the 7 Cedars Casino.
- **White Horse:** Course in Kingston, Wash. was bought by the Suquamish Indian Tribe, which also owns and operates the Clearwater Casino Resort.

Oregon

- **Chinook Winds:** Course in Lincoln City used to be called Lakeside. Siletz Tribe bought the course and changed the name to go with its nearby casino.
- **Ocean Dunes:** Course in Florence is owned and operated by the Coos, Umpqua and Siuslaw Indian Tribes. Tribes also own and operate the Three Rivers Casino.
- **Golf Course at Birch Creek:** Recently bought by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, owners of Wildhorse Resort. Formerly called Pendleton Country Club.
- **Wildhorse:** The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla created the Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton.

Idaho

- **Circling Raven:** The Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe owns Circling Raven and casino in Worley, Idaho. The course will host an LPGA Symetra Tour event in the 2021 season after getting its inaugural tournament postponed because of the Pandemic.



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Washington tribal golf

The last few years have been busy ones for Washington tribes: Most recently the Chelahlis Indian Tribe bought the Oaksridge Golf Course in Elma, Wash. Prior to that the Kalispel Indian Tribe bought The Spokane Club and changed the name to the Kalispel Golf Club and opened it up to the public. Another recent purchase was Loomis Trails in Ferndale that was bought by the Lummi Nation Indian Tribe in 2018.

• **The Jamestown Skallam Tribe** bought Dungeness Golf Club and changed the name to The Cedars at Dungeness and started making significant improvements to the entrance and the grounds around the clubhouse. They then began a major remodel of the clubhouse, adding a new restaurant and updating the entire building. The course has been manicured to resort standards with new tees, bunker upgrades, and cart paths redesigns as part of their master plan. A new 6,000 square foot two-story building has been built to house carts on the bottom and four offices and conference room above. A new 100-room casino hotel opened in August at the 7Cedars Casino for great stay and play option. They also took over the management of Peninsula Golf Club in Port Angeles.

• **The Swinomish Indian Tribe** bought Smilk Golf Course in Anacortes and changed the name to Swinomish Golf Links they managed to hire a top-notch superintendent in Matt Atterberry who was previously at Suncadia. The resort comes complete with a hotel, casino and terrific RV park overlooking the water.

• **White Horse Golf Club is owned by the Suquamish Indian Tribe** who operates the Clearwater Casino Resort located between Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island. The course was recognized by *Golf Digest* as one of the top 10 new public golf courses in 2010. Once considered one of the most difficult courses in the Northwest, it was softened in some of the more difficult areas making it playable by all skill levels. Don't be mislead, it still has teeth and is a bear depending on which tee you choose to play from. The Clearwater Casino also has RV parking with 60 back-in and pull-through spots.

• **Loomis Trail in Ferndale was bought by the Lummi Nation Tribe** in 2018. While the course has always been in great condition, no changes are expected. The clubhouse grill has been remodeled to create a sports bar feel. Being affiliated with the Silver Reef Casino provides several stay and play options to guests. There are also 15 rooms at the golf course that are available. There is a shuttle between the course and the casino. The Silver Reef has 10 dining option from The Steak House to The Cantina Bar. With over 1,000 slot machines and all of the favorite table games, plus nightly entertainment, it makes a perfect outing.

• **Salish Cliffs Golf Club is owned by the Squaxin Island Tribe** and located in Shelton. The best description for the golf course is stunning. It is world-class golf that plays to 7,269 yards from the tips or as short as 5,313 yards from the forward tees – 5 sets of tees to choose from. Bentgrass fairways and greens and total privacy on 16 of the 18 holes that are encircled in lush forestry. Carts are required as the course covers over 300 acres with several long distances between holes and frequent elevation changes. Walking and push carts are not permitted. The cedar log clubhouse has a full service restaurant. The adjacent Little Creek Casino Resort is a perfect get away with spacious rooms, the Seven Inlets Spa, an RV Park and several dining options and all the games you could desire are all part of the resort.

• **The Puyallup Tribe of Indians also got into the golf business by buying North Shore Golf Course** in Tacoma. It is the perfect amenity to go with its brand new casino that just opened along Interstate-5 and its other casino and hotel. There is a second hotel being built next to the new casino as part of the Emerald Queen property. A new pro shop and practice area have given North Shore a new look.

• **Oaksridge Golf Course was bought by the Chehalis Indian Tribe** in 2019 - a course which was long owned by Rich and Denise Walker. The golf course gives the tribe a new amneity to go along with its Lucky Eagle Casino.



The Puyallup Indian Tribe got into the golf business a few years ago by buying North Shore Golf Course in Tacoma (top); the Squaxin Island Tribe developed its own golf course when Salish Cliffs opened up.

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What is it about golf that Pacific Northwest tribes like?

It's no secret that the casinos are cash cows that provide a huge revenue stream to Native American Tribes. But it's not all profit as there is debt to pay back and the large overhead to run the casino just for starters. The ongoing challenge for the casinos is to generate more traffic. This problem is especially important to remote locations.

The interest in golf is also a way to turn casinos into resorts where customers are more likely to stay in the casino hotels.

Many tribes understand that golfers are, by nature, gamblers at heart. This is a perfect audience for their casino business.

Across the country several tribes have sought out the best golf architects to design immaculate layouts for their courses, most of which show up on the must-play lists of national and local publications. Example of this can be seen in the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Circling Raven in Worley, Idaho or the Squaxin Island Tribe's Salish Cliffs Golf Club. Both tribes enlisted Gene Bates to design stunning courses that routinely makes it to the top of state course lists.

Circling Raven has been one of the nation's most decorated modern resort courses. Salish Cliffs has been listed in the Top 10 Casino Courses by *GolfWeek* magazine for 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

Many tribes offer discount packages to lure golfers and encourage them to check out the casino. Golf is often considered a lost leader and most courses don't make any money from golf. To quote Brad Klein, *Golfweek* magazine's architecture editor, "Golf is designed to sell something. Usually it's real estate, in this case it's casino rooms. The golf itself is a loss leader."

That being said, just try to get on some of the up-scale tribal courses between 8 and 10 am on a weekends and you will swear that the lost-leader statement is just not true here.

Weddings and group/corporate outings have proven to be another good revenue source for the casino and their golf courses.

The Kalispel Indian Tribe got into the golf business by buying and changing the name of Spokane Country Club (right); The Suquamish Tribe owns the Clearwater Casino in Poulsbo and later bought White Horse Golf Club in Kingston to add another amenity to its resort (below).



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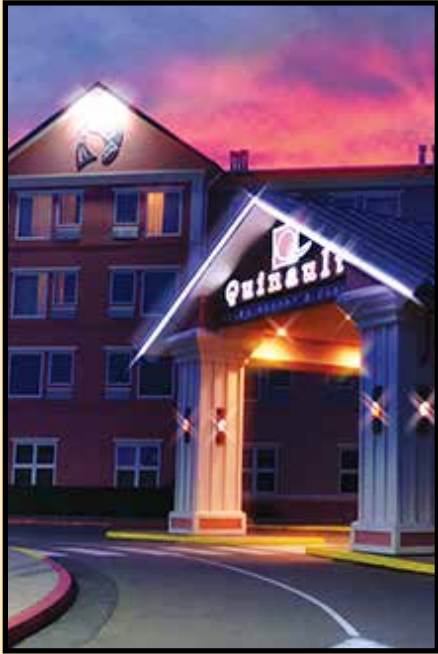
Quinault Beach Resort: An ocean getaway

There might not be a golf course on the property, but the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino in Ocean Shores is still a terrific place for a weekend or weekday visit to the Washington Coast.

The resort sits on the shores of the Washington Coast and features some rooms with views of the Pacific Ocean and the chance to go to sleep with the sounds of ocean waves coming through the windows.

The resort has a little of something for everyone. There are the variety of slot machines and two restaurants give you a chance to sample different foods, a spa offers different types of services.

The resort sits just down the road from downtown Ocean Shores and Ocean Shores Golf Course and its multitude of tourist activities, including the chance to drive your car on the beach. See www.quinaultbeachresort.com.



Loomis Trail, Silver Reef make a resort pair

When the Lummi Nation decided to get into the golf business, it did in a big way by buying the Loomis Trail Golf Club in Blaine, Wash. It now gives the tribe a complete resort with its golf course and Silver Reef Casino Resort in Ferndale.

Designed by Graham Cooke, Loomis Trail Golf Club is the #5 public golf course in Washington, as rated by *GolfWeek*. It's also the only course in Washington State to make the nation's Top 100. Constructed with the Northwest in mind, Loomis Trail is at the top of the list for year-round play. An extensive canal and lake system brings water into play on all 18 holes.

The resort has a variety of packages to offer golfers from its Stay and Play Packages, from the Birdie Package to the Eagle Stay and Golf, which includes two nights lodging, \$100 resort or pro shop credit, breakfast for two, shuttle to the golf course, range balls and more.

For more, see www.silverreefcasino.com.



Circling Raven had hoped to host Symetra Tour, will wait until 2021

Circling Raven Golf Club – the No. 1-rated public course in Idaho and amenity of Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel – had hoped to play host to the LPGA's Symetra Tour in 2020, but the event was postponed due to the Pandemic.

The inaugural event was scheduled for Aug. 24-30, 2020, the first in a three-year partnership with the Tour. It was to have featured a full field of competitors battling for \$200,000 in prize money.

"This is the right thing to do, and we look forward to working with the LPGA in hosting the Symetra Tour's Circling Raven Championship in 2021," said Laura Stensgar, CEO, Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel.

"We anxiously await the inaugural Circling

Raven Championship in 2021," said Mike Nichols, Chief Business Officer, Symetra Tour. "As we reworked this year's schedule, the goal has been to provide as many safe playing opportunities for our Symetra Tour professionals as possible, with an eye towards the future as well. While Circling Raven Golf Club and Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort have decided to postpone their event until 2021, we know their team is anxious to build a long and fruitful partnership."

More details about next year's tournament will be announced when they have been determined. For more information about Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel and Circling Raven, call 1.800.523.2464 or visit www.cdacasino.com.



Circling Raven Golf Club, owned by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, will host the Symetra Tour in 2021.



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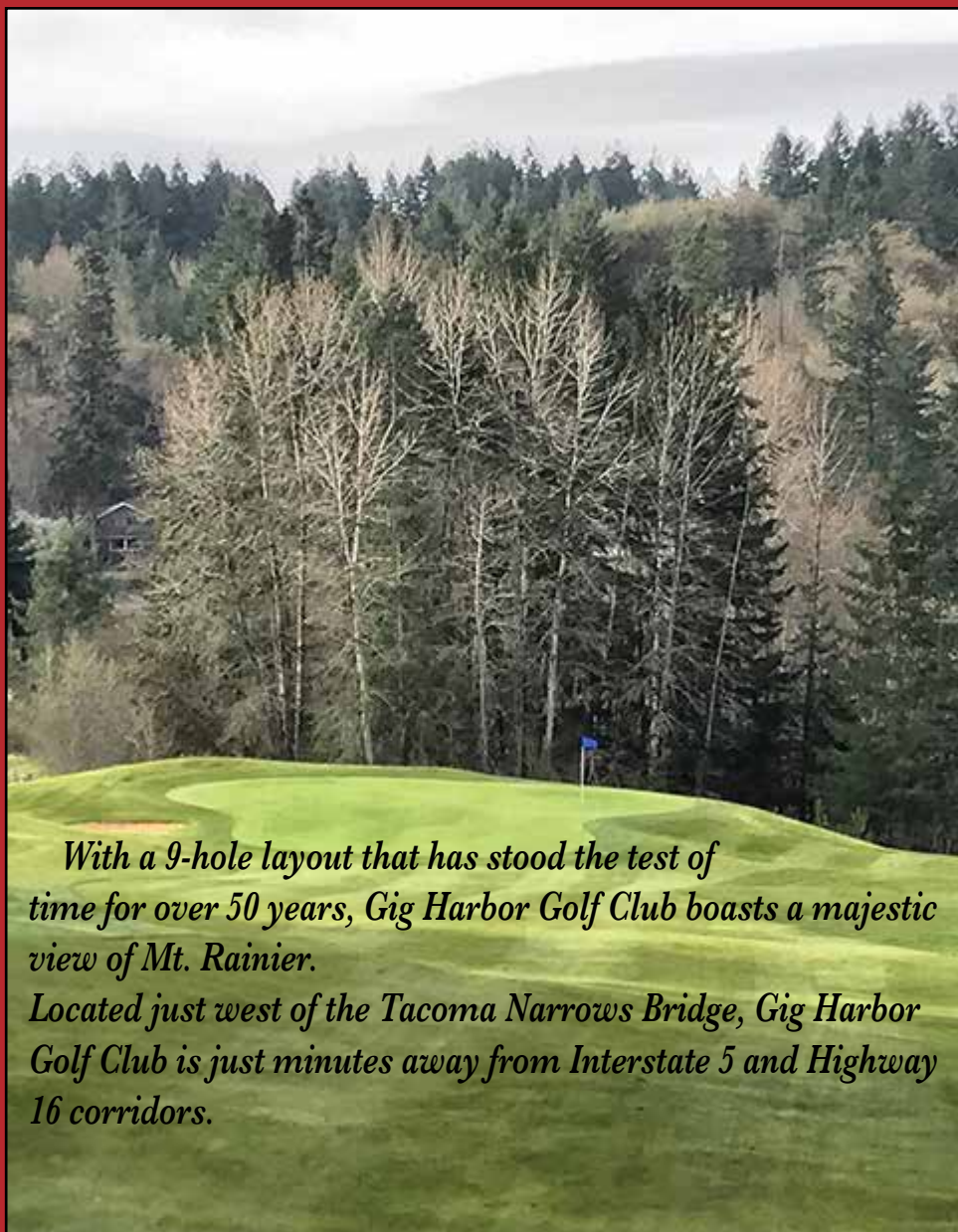
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Tribal courses in the Pacific Northwest



Northwest golf courses owned by Indian Tribes

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- 12 Wildhorse:** The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla created the Wildhorse Golf Course and casino in Pendleton.

Idaho

- 13 Circling Raven:** The Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe owns Circling Raven and the casino in Worley, Idaho.

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