

Northwest Washington and the Olympic Peninsula



NW Washington: A golf hot spot

The Northwest Washington area has long been a hot spot for golfers looking for a road trip with plenty of choices. There is no shortage of golf to be found, from the Olympic Peninsula to the Bellingham area, you will not be disappointed in what you find.

There is plenty of award-winning golf and other activities to be found in this area, at places like Loomis Trail in Blaine (right) to North Bellingham (lower left) to Holmes Harbor on Whidbey Island (lower right).

The entire area is a scenic treat with the Olympic Mountains being an adventure for hikers and fishermen alike and the Mount Baker area near Bellingham a place with an unlimited variety of outdoor pursuits.

Inside Golf takes you inside this area, with a close up look at the golf courses you will find on your travels into this region. See inside for more.



Northwest Washington tribes are liking golf

Northwest Washington Indian tribes have gotten into the golf business either by building their own courses or buying existing tracks. With tribes like Squaxin Island Tribe creating its Salish Cliffs course (left) to the Suquamish Tribe buying White Horse in Kingston (right), golf has become a hot property. Other tribes are also getting involved with golf in Northwest Washington. For more on the tribes and golf, see Page 2 of the section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



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Tribes around Northwest Washington are expanding as they add golf as an amenity

Pacific Northwest Indian Tribes have found that golf is good business by acquiring golf courses and developing their own in Northwest Washington.

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

Salish Cliffs in Shelton, Wash., Swinomish Golf Links in Anacortes, The Cedars at Dungeness in Sequim, Loomis Trail in Blaine and White Horse Golf Club in Kingston are all owned by Northwest Indian Tribes.

One big advantage of the Tribes investing in golf is they are better positioned financially and able to provide a high quality product. The existing courses they have purchased are greatly improved to the benefit of all golfers.

Some NW tribe owned courses

• **Salish Cliffs Golf Club:** Course in Shelton is owned by the Squaxin Island Indian tribe. Resort adjacent to the golf courses is called the Little Creek Resort.

• **Swinomish Golf Links:** Course in Anacortes is owned by the Swinomish Indian Tribe. Resort is called Swinomish Casino Resort.

• **The Cedars at Dungeness:** Course in Sequim is owned by the Jamestown S'Kallam Indian Tribe. Nearby casino in Sequim is called Seven Cedars.

• **White Horse Golf Club:** Course in Kingston is owned by the Suquamish Indian Tribe, which bought the course after it had the Clearwater Resort.

• **Loomis Trail Golf Club:** Course in Blaine, Wash. was bought by the Lummi Nation Indian Tribe, which also owns the Silver Reef Hotel Casino Spa, located in Ferndale.



Swinomish Golf Links



The Cedars at Dungeness in Sequim (above) is owned by the Jamestown S'Kallam Tribe; Swinomish Golf Links (top) is owned by the Swinomish Tribe.



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Olympic Peninsula: Great golf and sights



The Olympic Peninsula is always a great idea for a golf trip as there are so many terrific courses to choose from. Here are a few to take a look at when teeing it up in the area:

Port Ludlow Golf Course

Golf Magazine named Port Ludlow as one of the top five public courses in Washington. The two 9-hole courses are named Tide and Timber. Both nines have elevation changes with tall trees on the fairway edges. The course is well bunkered especially around the greens. A tree trimming project on the back nine has opened up some shots as overhanging trees were trimmed, especially the tee shot on the par-4 13th hole.

A short ferry ride from Edmonds and a 16-mile drive from the Kingston ferry dock, Port Ludlow offers the perfect get-away 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.

Military golf at JBLM

Eagle's Pride at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (joint based Fort Lewis and McChord Base) is a treasure of the Pacific Northwest, nestled in the shadow of magnificent Mount Rainier. It's one of the best courses in Western Washington and is open to the general public. The championship course features 27 holes of golf with exceptional greens: the green, blue and red courses. It has just about everything you would expect from a Northwest course – tall trees, sand, water and tight fairways.

In addition, golfers can enjoy year-round prac-



LakeLand Village in Allyn has three distinctly different 9-hole courses (top); Port Ludlow (above) offers a tree-lined scenic 18-hole challenge.



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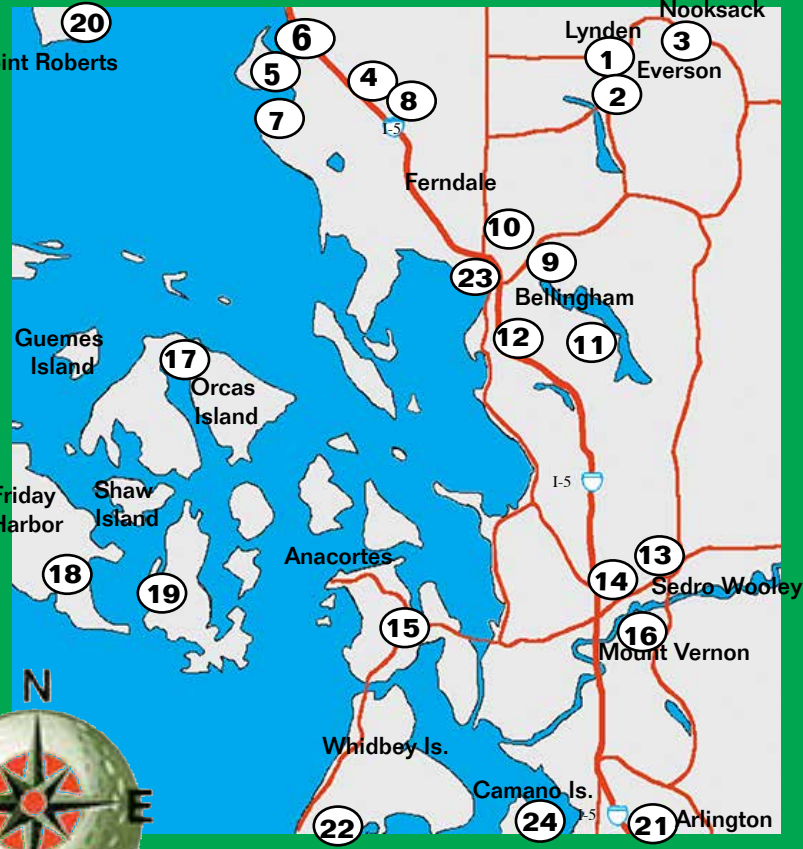
SCAN ME



Locator Maps for NW Washington and Olympic Peninsula

Map of NW Washington/Bellingham

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Homestead G & CC
18 holes, 6,927 yards
Lynden, Public</p> <p>2. Raspberry Ridge
9 holes, 2,825 yards
Everson, Public</p> <p>3. Evergreen
9 holes, 2,145 yards
Everson, Public</p> <p>4. Grandview
18 holes, 6,404 yards
Custer, Public</p> <p>5. Semiahmoo Golf & CC
18 holes, 7,005 yards
Blaine, Public</p> <p>6. Loomis Trail Golf Club
18 holes, 7,100 yards
Blaine, Public</p> <p>7. Birch Bay Village
9 holes, 2,175 yards
Blaine, Private</p> <p>8. Dakota Creek
18 holes, 5,185 yards
Custer, Public</p> <p>9. Shuksan Golf Club
18 holes, 6,743 yards
Bellingham, Public</p> <p>10. North Bellingham
18 holes, 6,816 yards
Bellingham, Public</p> <p>11. Sudden Valley
18 holes, 6,553 yards
Bellingham, Public</p> <p>12. Lake Padden
18 holes, 6,575 yards
Bellingham, Public</p> | <p>13. Gateway
9 holes, 3,050 yards
Sedro Woolley, Public</p> <p>14. Avalon Golf Club
27 holes
Burlington, Public</p> <p>15. Swinomish Golf Links
18 holes, 6,205 yards
Anacortes, Public</p> <p>16. Overlook
9 holes, 2,540 yards
Mount Vernon, Public</p> <p>17. Orcas Island
9 holes, 3,060 yards
Eastsound, Public</p> <p>18. San Juan Golf Club
9 holes, 3,194 yards
Friday Harbor, Public</p> <p>19. Lopez Island GC
9 holes, 2,704 yards
Lopez, Public</p> <p>20. Bald Eagle
18 holes, 6,000 yards
Point Roberts, Public</p> <p>21. Gleneagle
18 holes, 6,010 yards
Arlington, Public</p> <p>22. Whidbey Golf Club
18 holes, 6,464 yards
Oak Harbor, Semi-private</p> <p>23. Camaloch Golf Course
18 holes, 6,234 yards
Camano Island, Public</p> <p>24. Holmes Harbor
18 holes, 4,279 yards
(south) Whidbey Island
Not shown on map</p> |
|--|---|



Map of the Olympic Peninsula



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1. Peninsula Golf Club
18 holes, 6,308
Port Angeles, Semi-private</p> <p>2. Cedars at Dungeness
18 holes, 6,378 yards
Sequim, Public</p> <p>3. SkyRidge Golf Course
10 holes, 3,305 yards
Sequim, Public</p> <p>4. Sunland Golf Club
18 holes, 6,313 yards
Sequim, Semi-private</p> <p>5. Port Townsend GC
9 holes, 2,763 yards
Port Townsend, Public</p> <p>6. Discovery Bay
18 holes, 6,659 yards
Port Townsend, Public</p> <p>7. Port Ludlow Resort
18 holes, 6,861
Port Ludlow, Public</p> <p>8. Lake Cushman GC
9 holes, 2,848 yards
Hoodsport, Public</p> <p>9. White Horse Golf Club
18 holes, 7,093 yards
Kingston, Public</p> <p>10. LakeLand Village
27 holes
Allyn, Public</p> | <p>11. Alderbrook Golf Club
18 holes, 6,305 yards
Union, Public</p> <p>12. Lake Limerick
9 holes, 2,898 yards
Shelton, Public</p> <p>13. Oaksridge
18 holes, 5,643 yards
Elma, Public</p> <p>14. Highland
18 holes, 6,112 yards
Cosmopolis, Public</p> <p>15. Ocean Shores
18 holes, 6,252 yards
Ocean Shores, Public</p> <p>16. Surfside
9 holes, 2,960 yards
Long Beach, Public</p> <p>17. Meadowmeer G & CC
9 holes, 2,824 yards
Bainbridge Island,
Semi-private</p> <p>18. Rolling Hills
18 holes, 5,910 yards
Bremerton, Public</p> <p>19. Gold Mountain
36 holes
Bremerton, Public</p> <p>20. Horseshoe Lake
18 holes, 2,915 yards
Port Orchard, Public</p> | <p>21. Village Greens
18 holes, Exec. 3,255 yds
Port Orchard, Public</p> <p>22. McCormick Woods
18 holes, 7,040 yards
Port Orchard, Public</p> <p>23. Trophy Lake
18 holes, 7,206 yards
Port Orchard, Public</p> <p>24. Gig Harbor G & CC
9 holes, 2,702 yards
Gig Harbor, Semi-private</p> <p>25. Madrona Links
18 holes, 5,602 yards
Gig Harbor, Public</p> <p>26. Hawks Prairie
36 holes
Lacey</p> <p>27. Tumwater Golf Course
18 holes, 7,154 yards
Tumwater, Public</p> <p>28. The Home Course
18 holes, 7,400
DuPont, Public</p> <p>29. Salish Cliffs
18 holes, 7,269 yards
Shelton, Public</p> <p>30. Grays Harbor C C
9 holes, 2,219
Aberdeen, Semi-Private</p> |
|--|---|---|

Olympic Peninsula: Golf variety abounds

tice at their lighted and heated range that offers 10 covered hitting stations. The range has natural grass hitting areas.

New at both Eagle's Pride and it's sister course Whispering Firs at McChord Field offer a JBLM Pass – a 7-day pass that gives golfers specials, good prices and much more.

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 Home Course hosts several PNGA championships. And hosted the 2023 USGA Women's Four-Ball. It is definitely a must play on all golfer's bucket list and worth the trip when heading toward the bottom of the Olympic Peninsula. The PNGA made some changes to the 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.

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 16-17 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 and has invested heavily in the clubhouse and landscaping. It is a great escape for Seattle/Tacoma area golfers who want some quality dry golf.

Discovery Bay Golf Course

Discovery Bay Golf Club sits above Discovery Bay, just outside the historic Victorian Seaport of Port Townsend, Washington.

The front nine opened in 1925 and the second nine was added in 1997. The two nines are vastly different; the original nine is located in the lowlands while the back nine is built on the top and along the side of a hillside that provides some challenging holes. The course purchased a greens roller a few years back, which has vastly improved the greens, making them fast and rolling true.

The old-style clubhouse has a large deck that overlooks the front nine and is a great place to relax with food and drink after a round. There is also a practice driving range at the course.

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 some-

thing 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.

Port Townsend Golf Course

The 9-hole course is located in the historical seaport city of Port Townsend and has been under the microscope by the city council - none of which play golf. Various options were discussed for using the land, from turning it into a park, to making it a housing development, to name just a few ideas. Fortunately, the public made it clear that they wanted to keep the course as it provides a valuable source of charity income for many institutions including the schools.

The council, however, came up with a hybrid plan to chop up some of the holes, making room for a couple of businesses and moving one fairway over adding a string of houses.

For now, though, a non profit group is running the course and has made improvements that have increased play at the course.

Today, visitors will find the course is still intact, though much improved, and worth playing.

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 Club

Sunland is a members-owned club located in a mostly retirement community in Sequim, Wash. It winds through huge fir, cedar and spruce trees and is well protected with bunkers and ponds. The course, which was formerly for members only, is now open to public play, with some restrictions. Because the course sits in the shadow of the Olympic Mountains it receives about 17 inches of rain a year (half that of Seattle), making it one of the driest courses in western Washington. There are a couple of elevation changes that add a good mixture to the round, but most of the course is level and easily walkable. Sunland plays to just over 6,000 yards with a par of 72. The course is always in great condition. While not long, it plays tight, especially demanding accuracy from the tees.



Eagle's Pride at Fort Lewis is open to the public and is located right off Interstate-5.



Lake Cushman Golf Course offers a challenging nine-hole treat for all levels of golfers.

LakeLand Village

LakeLand Village, located between Hood Canal and Puget Sound's Case Inlet, in the town of Allyn, Washington, is the only residential community that offers 27 holes of golf – three distinctly different nines – Generation I, Generation II and Generation III. With numerous ponds, gaping bunkers and majestic views of the Olympics and Mount Rainier, golfers will appreciate the scenic and challenging courses and the well-groomed putting greens.

There is a spring-fed lake, stocked annually with rainbow trout, where residents can enjoy fishing year round. In addition to a restaurant and sports bar, the clubhouse also provides banquet facilities. The most recent addition to the community are 25 lots along the Generation III course.

SkyRidge Golf Course

SkyRidge Golf Course is a family owned and operated golf course off the Old Olympic Highway in Sequim, WA. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned athlete, you are able to enjoy all the amenities this public course has to offer, every day of the year. SkyRidge Golf Course has a driving range, putting & chipping greens, pro shop, power or push carts to rent, access to a PGA-certified

pro for lessons, and a restaurant and bar called Soren's Café.


This link-style course has walkable, wide open fairways where you can walk or drive to your ball year-round. There's a total of ten greens here, with the 18th hole that has a separate green. The front nine totals a yardage maximum of 3,296, but if you want to play all eighteen, you'll play from a separate set of tee boxes on the back nine totaling 6,529 yards. Their namesake comes from having a stunning view of the Olympic Mountain Range from every hole. Like the city, the course enjoys the protection from the Olympic Mountains and has half the rain as Seattle.

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. The Chehalis Tribe purchased the course and continues to make upgrades.

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Olympic Peninsula proves to be terrific golf road trip

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, offering some variety to its par-3 holes, giving them a shorter look, another a longer look. The course always is in top shape throughout the year.

And its 10-acre practice area is like nothing in the area - with a grass tee hitting area and a terrific short game facility. The restaurant has a large patio area that is a great place to relax.

Grays Harbor Country Club

Located in Aberdeen is a nine-hole layout and is one of the oldest clubs in the Northwest having opened for play in 1912. With tall trees and other challenges, this is as a solid test of golf that you will find in Aberdeen. With only nine holes, some holes have two different tee boxes to give the holes a different look the second time around.

Highland Golf Course

Highland Golf Course is located in Cosmopolis and originally opened as a nine-hole venue in 1930. It became an 18-hole course in 1990 and plays to 6,112 yards with a par of 70. The course has a lot of character and is a joy to play. There are not many flat lies, which makes it even more challenging and the greens are small adding to the difficulty.

Alderbrook Golf Club

Alderbrook Golf Club is a member-owned course in a golf centric community and is open to public play. It is a classic Northwest forested setting high above Hood Canal in Union, Washington. The most talked about hole is the 8th (often called the 'S' hole), a double dog leg par 5 that stretches to 536 yards and was once picked by *Golf Digest* as one of the Northwest's toughest holes.

A new modern clubhouse with a restaurant, banquet room and pro shop opened in 2009.

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. Located a few miles north of Lacey, the Woodlands Course is a challenging test through the trees while the Links Course offers a more open layout. The courses have become favorites for Puget Sound since they opened for play. 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 on your bag and both gives you two distinct rounds of golf.

Ocean Shores Golf Course

Ocean Shores Golf Course got a national exposure in the 1960s with the Pat Boon Celebrity Classic and later, in the '70s when the LPGA Tour made an annual stop for four years. It was also the first win for JoAnne Carner (the Hall-of-Famer eventually won 43 events). It is a challenging, yet fun-to-play course. Par for the course is 71. Don't be fooled by the modest 6,252 yardage of Ocean Shores Golf Course since the heavy ocean air, and moderate trade winds make it play much longer. The course is a links-style course with the shot-making challenges of a narrow, wooded course.

Lake Limerick Golf Club

Lake Limerick Golf Course was selected as the People's Choice Best Golf Course in Mason County. The nine-hole course is open to the public and meanders through tree lined setback homes. Limerick is a beautiful, challenging course with two legitimate par 5's, with one of those being the lake view #8 signature hole, two tough par 3's and challenging par 4's. The golf course offers multiple tee boxes providing different perspectives on the front and back nine. Their award-winning cafe is open Wednesdays through Sundays for breakfast and lunch. For more visit www.lakelimerickgolf.com. Lake Limerick offers a Great Hall to rent for



Lake Limerick is located in Shelton, Wash. (top); Grays Harbor in Aberdeen is a challenge.



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Peninsula Golf Club

Located in Port Angeles, Peninsula Golf Club opened up for public play in 2022. The 18-hole course is not long by today's standard, playing to 6,332 yards with a par of 72, but don't be fooled

by the short yardage. Golfers have to be able to navigate some tall trees, some that encroach on fairways, be able to play on sloping fairways that sometimes leaning toward OB, and hit precise approach shots to smallish greens.

The first nine opened in 1926 and there is a scorecard on the wall in the clubhouse where the legendary Byron Nelson shot a 66 in 1945.

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Sunland GOLF CLUB

Bellingham area: Golf choices galore

There is no shortage of terrific golf courses to try in the Bellingham area from links-style to Northwest themes

The Bellingham has long been known for its great variety of golf courses. The area in and around Bellingham offers a little of something for everyone with golf personality and championship caliber challenges. And don't forget the 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.

Loomis Trail Golf Club

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 combines the magic of scenic beauty and dry conditions suitable for year-round play.

The course recently was purchased by the Lummi Nation Indian Tribe and they have made sure the course has stayed true to its opening with great conditions and a layout which is one of the most challenging in the Northwest from the first tee to the 18th green.

Loomis Trail also is partnered with the Silver Reef Casino Resort and has packages catered to the golfing crowd. A Stay and Play Package, Birdie Package and Eagle Package all offers golf, hotel stay and more.

The Eagle Package comes with plenty of perks on and off the golf course.

North Bellingham Golf Course

North Bellingham Golf Course opened in 1995 and is a Scottish style links golf course. The open-

ness 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 with new sand in all the bunkers throughout the course was completed in 2014. North Bellingham also has plenty of holes which grab your attention early and keep it the rest of the round.

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 recently 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 new 250-seat outdoor terrace has opened for golf events, wedding receptions and more. The new Clubhouse Grille is also a hit with golfers.



Lake Padden Golf Course is one of the most popular courses in the Bellingham area.

Semiahmoo Resort

The 18-hole destination resort, located in Blaine, offers an award-winning golf course that is one of the top ranked courses and extremely challenging with plenty of water hazards to add to the fun.

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.

Some great golf and a restful stay at the resort are sure to be a winning combination. The private course is open to resort guests.

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 and your shot are in big trouble. Semiahmoo Resort is also home to the Jeff Coston Golf Academy.

Homestead Golf Club

Homestead Golf Club is located on the outskirts on Lynden on what was once dairy land. The course plays to 6,927 yards with a slope of 140 from the back tees. The fairways are generous but water comes into play on many holes, but because the course is very flat, it is often not visible from the tees or fairways, so to prevent any surprises, refer to the yardage book for safety. The course is well bunkered so golfers must be careful and again, use the yardage book. *The course closed in August of 2023 and is in litigation with homeowners.*



Holmes Harbor Golf Club

Rated one of the top executive golf courses in Washington State, The 18-hole course is playable in just over three hours.



Spectacular views of Holmes Harbor

The Par 64 course measures 4,279 yards, providing panoramic vistas throughout the course. The 18th hole in particular offers a magnificent view of Holmes Harbor by a classic view of the Cascade Mountains.

Holmes Harbor is fun and challenging for all skill levels, with beautiful sloping fairways and water views from 11 to 18 holes. Golfers will use every club in their bag as they play and think their way around this 18-hole, links-style golf course.



Holmes Harbor is a perfect location for a weekend getaway or group outing.

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Plenty of golf choices in Bellingham

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, 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

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 an all-day promotion seven days a week, 365 days a year (rates vary depending on the day of the week).

Camaloch Golf Course

Located on Camano Island, Camaloch Golf Course has not only an 18-hole championship course but also a par-3 course to offer during the winter months.

Camaloch Golf Course is located in the Puget Sound's Sun Belt and receives about one-half of the annual rainfall of nearby courses, keeping it dry year-round. The course is located just 15 minutes off of Interstate-5, giving it easy access for those looking for a round right off the freeway. The course plays to 6,234 yards from the back tees but offers reasonable distances for all levels of players. The par-3 13th hole has been lengthened and the pro shop has been renovated as well.

Holmes Harbor

Holmes Harbor is rated one of the top executive golf courses in Washington State, the 18-

hole course is playable in just over three hours. The Par 64 course measures 4,279 yards, providing panoramic vistas throughout the course. The course is located on Whidbey Island.

With a defined cut of rough bordering the fairways and undulating greens, the signature hole is #8, a 160-yard, Par 3, with a 100-foot drop in elevation from tee to green.

Owner/operator Paul Lavin has revamped the course over the last few years after being closed and abandoned multiple times. Multiple water hazards, sand and pot bunkers along with the narrow and wide fairways make Holmes Harbor a solid test. New sand in all 24 bunkers is an addition.

Gallery Golf Course

This is a Navy-owned golf course in Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. It is located at the Whidbey Naval Air Station. It opened to public play in 1992. The thing that gets your attention right away are the views. From just about every point on the course, there are views of the Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca and the mountains. On the course, there is also plenty to like. The back nine has some holes surrounded by trees but most of the holes around the course are open and offer those 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 50 years ago. Whidbey Golf Club is a semi private, family oriented club.

With its natural beauty, thrilling year-round play, and first-class dining facilities make 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 rainfall than most of the Puget Sound area.

Lake Padden Golf Course

If you are looking for some of the best in public



Avalon Golf Course in Burlington, Wash. is a place where you can play three different 9-hole layouts.

friendly golf, then look no further than Lake Padden, located just south of Bellingham. An award-winning 18-hole championship course woven through an old growth forest. This setting offers a golfing experience unlike any other with serenity, peace, and unrefined beauty. Lake Padden also offers a driving range, PGA instruction, full service pro shop and restaurant.

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.

Swinomish Golf Links

The Swinomish Tribe got into the golf business by purchasing Similk Beach Golf Course and turning it into their own Swinomish Golf Links. The course is part of the Swinomish Casino and Lodge, a place

with water views, RV parking, restaurants, gambling and more. The golf course is also a good test and the tribe has put money back into the course to give a new look and some solid conditioning.

Gleneagle Golf Course

Located in Arlington, Gleneagle Golf Course was developed and opened in 1993. Playing just 5,949 yards from our championship tees, Gleneagle will test your shot-making skills while providing a relaxing, picturesque backdrop. With four sets of tees to choose from, our course is a pleasure for golfers of any skill level to play. Test your accuracy with the water hazards and sand traps. The greens at Gleneagle have long been considered top rate.

Deception Pass Golf Center

The facility is called Deception Pass Golf Center. It is located one mile south of Deception Pass Bridge on Whidbey Island and formerly known as Lam's Golf Links. The 9-hole course has 2 sets of tees to allow golfers to manufacture an 18-hole round. It has all par 3 holes with one short par 4 which plays to 232 and 255 yards. There is also a variety of other golf related activities here.

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More golf on the Kitsap

On the way north for some golf, don't forget about the Kitsap Peninsula with some of the top courses in the Northwest

If you are heading to the upper peninsula for your golf trip, don't forget to take a look at golf on the Kitsap Peninsula. There are plenty of choices to make and you will not be disappointed with what you find. Take a look at what awaits you on the Kitsap Peninsula.

• **McCormick Woods** has been ranked among the top courses for years since opening in 1986. The course is a treat with 18 holes wrapped among the tall firs and cedars. A spacious 24,000 square foot clubhouse offers views of the golf course and can handle events up to 300 people.

• **Gold Mountain** has a pair of courses, including its award-winning Olympic Course. The older of the two courses is the Cascade Course that is always popular with its unique layout that incorporates elevation changes and tree-lined fairways. The Olympic Course has hosted some of the top amateur events in the NW. It offers a modern design that will challenge the best golfer.

• **White Horse Golf Club** in Kingston was a hit the day it opened. In 2018, White Horse was ranked as the #1 Best Golf Course in Washington State along with the #35 Best Golf Course in the United States by *Golf Advisor*. Tight fairways over rolling terrain with enough elevation changes over native vegetation to test your game to the fullest. The modern clubhouse with a popular restaurant is a great place to hang out after your round

• **Trophy Lake Golf and Casting** offers true Northwest-style course with tree-lined fairways, elevation changes and enough water and sand to test all golfers abilities.

• **LakeLand Village** in Allyn offers 27-holes of golf with three distinctly different nines in Generation I, Generation II and Generation III. The popular residential community dates back to 1972 with each nine added as new housing sections opened up. Each course has elevation changes, tall tree-lined fairways and well manicured greens.

• **Gig Harbor Golf Club** is nine-hole private course offers some terrific rates to join and new changes include a re-do of both the sixth and seventh greens. Drainage improvements throughout the course have aired things out and membership is up as a result of all the positive changes. Recent driving renovations include adding 40 yards to the range and more grass tees.

• **Madrona Links**, after crossing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, you will find Madrona Links, a challenging layout that is popular with locals for its variety of holes and its popular restaurant. The course is a good choice if you haven't played there before. There is enough sand and water to keep your interest throughout the 18 holes.

• **Horseshoe Lake** in Port Orchard has two completely different looking nines. You will want to take a cart for the back nine. Other courses that are worth taking a look at including places like Rolling Hills in Bremerton and Village Greens in Port Orchard.



Gold Mountain Golf Course in Bremerton features a pair of championship golf courses; McCormick Woods (top) is located in Port Orchard.



Madrona Links located just over the Narrows Bridge in Gig Harbor, is popular for locals with a Mens' and Ladies' club of over 750 members.



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Need a golf cart for a tournament or for yourself? Give Alexander's Carts a call

The name might say Alexander's Golf Carts but Joe Perdue bought the company and knew that the name had meaning so he kept it. And why not. Scott Alexander was the long time director of golf at Gold Mountain Golf Club in Bremerton and ran one of the biggest golf cart rental outfits around.

Perdue, who also runs Village Greens Golf Carts, took the business over from Alexander and knew the name needed to stay.

"Everyone knows the Alexander name, we didn't want to start over," said Perdue.

The golf cart lot is located at Gold Mountain Golf Course but the Alexander Golf Carts can

travel just about anywhere for a tournament or special event.

Looking to rent carts for your golf tournament? No problem. They can deliver gas or electric carts for your event. Need some carts for a special event like a part of wedding. No problem again. In fact, they have four and six seat carts to carry multiple passengers in and around the event.

Looking for a golf cart to buy? Once again, no problem. There are plenty of options at a variety of prices if you are looking to buy a cart from Alexander's Golf Carts.

For more, see alexandersgolfcarts.com.

Ocean Shores Golf Course: Truly a one-of-a-kind golf experience

What better location for a golf course than scenic seaside town of Ocean Shores. It's not enough to just have location when it comes to golf courses, the course has to provide a good product and a rewarding golfing experience. Ocean Shores GC has been able to do that for 58 years and its longevity is proof of the quality of golf it provides.

Ocean Shores is a unique one-off-kind layout, with only two doglegs and a relatively flat terrain it would seem to be a push-over. It is not long by today's standards, playing to a modest 6,252 yards from the back tees with a par of 71. However, yardage is not the full measurement of the difficulties awaiting at Ocean Shores. The prevailing heavy ocean wind not only affect the ball flight, especially when playing into a headwind, it also pulls the moisture out of the greens making them firm and difficult to navigate if not played properly – the bump-and-run is a good strategy here. The course prides itself for having some of the best greens in the state.

It can also play as short as 5,203 from the forward tees and with three sets of tees there is a comfortable yardage for everyone's game. However, yardage is not

the full measurement of the difficulties awaiting at Ocean Shores. The prevailing heavy ocean wind not only affect the ball flight, especially when playing into a headwind, it also pulls the moisture out of the greens making them firm and difficult to navigate if not played properly – the bump-and-run is a good strategy here. The course prides itself for having some of the best greens in the state.

The facility has a covered hitting stations on the range with mats and grass tees. In the clubhouse there is a snack bar serving sandwiches and cold beverages. Tournaments are a specialty at Ocean Shores. They will assist in making necessary arrangements and pairing, scorecards, cart assignments, scoring, and prize fund as well as food service.

Troon®, the leader in providing golf and club-related leisure and hospitality services, took over the management of Ocean Shores Golf Course in June 2023. It is managed under the their Premier Golf Centers umbrella. It becomes the newest addition to Premier Golf Centers' popular Frequent Players Program, which rewards golfers with preferred rates and benefits on green fees and golf carts as well as special pricing on select merchandise.

The program is free to join. For more information about the program visit www.premiergolfcenters.com.

Ocean Shores Golf Course has a history like no other. What began as a 6-hole course in 1961 became 9 holes in '63 and during the development boom of 1966 the 18-hole course was ready for the spotlight.

In 1966 singer/actor Pat Boone started hosting his Celebrity Golf Classic at Ocean Shores bringing in celebrities like Clint Eastwood, Joe Namath, Chuck Connors, and U of W football coach, Jim Owens, to name a few. The tournament continued until 1970.

In 1970 the course became a regular LPGA Tour stop. Hall of Famers like Kathy Whitworth, JoAnne Carner and Patty Berg along with many other notable golfers added star-power to the event. Washington native and future Hall-of-Famer JoAnne Carner won her first professional tournament here.

The publicity generated by these prestige events put Ocean Shores on the national map.

Former manager Ronnie Espedal is back in charge and is eager to keep the course as a top spot for traveling golfers.



Ocean Shores Golf Course.

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