

Public Golf Courses: Reviews and Recommendations

Think you can't enjoy a challenging and rewarding game of golf on a public course? Think again. Some of the world's best golf courses are all-access, allowing locals and travelers alike the chance to enjoy a great round of golf at an affordable price.

The United States alone boasts an absolutely immense spectrum of public golf courses. Whether you are an amateur or a professional, a tourist, vacationer or hometown player, there is a golf course close by that will accommodate your needs and challenge your skills.

If you're planning a vacation, here are some of the hottest public golf courses to consider:

Las Vegas: There are more than sixty golf courses in the city of Las Vegas. Of the thirty-two semi-private and public golf courses available, most offer 18 holes of play and supreme services. All of these courses are within driving distance, no more than an hour or two from the Las Vegas strip. You'll be hard-pressed to find another city this small that boasts so many golf courses.

California: Golfing in Southern California is every athlete's dream. There is excellent weather all year long, and fabulous golf courses throughout the state. California offers some of the world's finest public golf courses, with green fees ranging from \$20 to \$255, including golf carts. Many of these golf courses are situated in Orange County, and in the San Diego and Los Angeles areas. No matter where you are in the sunny state, there's really nothing quite like golfing in California.

Texas: The city of Houston boasts 143 public golf courses. According to an industry-leading sports magazine Golf Digest, some of the courses found in Houston are classified among the world's best.

Myrtle Beach: The city of Myrtle Beach has proclaimed itself "Golfing Capital of the World". The golf course-to-land ratio here is so dense, that there really is no other place in the world that can claim this title. The Grand Stand is one of the best courses that Myrtle Beach has to offer. In total there are at least 115 holes, with two of them making it to Golf Week's list of the Top 200. The best thing about the public golf courses in Myrtle Beach is that they really are easy on the budget. There are courses to meet every preference, from low to high end, and every level in between.

Hawaii: Some of the world's best public golf courses can be found on this fairytale island. Known as "Golfer's Paradise" for it's perfectly dreamy setting, Hawaii offers the perfect combination of pristine scenery, ideal weather and even the slopes of the land. Many of the world's most highly respected golf architects have spent time in Hawaii, and have also developed and improved public golf courses on Maui, Kauai and Oahu.

Ireland: While Hawaii may be paradise, the country of Ireland has steadfast claim as "Golfer's Heaven". In Ireland, you can enjoy breathtaking views as you golf on links that run along the seacoast. There are parkland courses with pristine greens nestled among centuries-old oak trees. These natural wonders make Ireland a one of the world's preferred destinations for golfers, and won the country the honor of hosting the 2006 Ryder cup.

Of course, no study of international golf destinations would be complete without mention of Scotland, the birthplace of the game itself. This country is home to the world-renowned St. Andrew's Golf Course, a place of incredible history and more stories than any other public golf course. In Scotland, public golf courses boast all the elements that are required for a truly unparalleled experience. Golf here is worlds away (literally, and figuratively) from the modern game played in America. There are courses in Scotland where golfers enjoy a landscape dotted with majestic and ancient castles. While the courses may not be as finely manicured as in other parts of the world, they can be infinitely more challenging. Golfing in Scotland may result in coming upon a "tricky" hole that tests the true skill, and mettle, of even the most advanced athlete.

Virtually every country offers a selection of public golf courses. There are magnificent world-class courses waiting for you in Canada, Asia, Europe and Mexico as well. If you are planning a vacation, go ahead and pack your clubs. Chances are, there will be a public course nearby.