



TRAVEL / HOTELS

# Where the Grass Is Greener: The Top 12 Golf Resorts in the United States

Perfect for golf fanatics and families alike.

BY SHAUN TOLSON ON JULY 18, 2019



Courtesy of Big Cedar Lodge

There was once a time when American golfing enthusiasts could count on one hand the number of exceptional resorts that catered to their whims. Today, there is no shortage of top-end destinations across the United States,

each offering a vast array of courses and playing experiences.

Looking for something classic, something steeped in history? [Pinehurst](#), [Pebble Beach](#), and [The Broadmoor](#) (among others) will exceed your expectations. Ready for a [golf](#) trip injected with a sense of pioneering spirit? There's a property in the eastern frontier lands of Oregon with your name on it. Perhaps you want to test your mettle on some of Pete Dye's most challenging layouts? Getaways to Kiawah Island, [The American Club](#), and [Sea Pines Resort](#) have you covered.

Simply put, world-class golf resorts in the United States are now as plentiful as the dimples on a golf ball; and the dozen examples that follow are certain to deliver memorable—in some cases, one-of-a-kind—experiences.

## Pebble Beach



Pebble Beach  
Courtesy of Pebble Beach

Although famous for its namesake course, [Pebble Beach](#) is home to four exceptional layouts. In fact, plenty of golf enthusiasts have declared Spyglass Hill to be better than Pebble Beach Golf Links. Nevertheless, a trip to Pebble Beach wouldn't be complete without a round on the seaside course that has hosted six U.S. Opens; just lower your expectations for a low-scoring round. Notoriously small greens and numerous holes that play right up and alongside ocean cliffs are two attributes that elevate the difficulty of a round of golf at Pebble Beach. "Look around and keep your head up and just soak in the beauty of the area," advises David Stivers, the president of the Pebble Beach Company. "Whether you play a good round or a bad round, you're walking on an iconic [golf course](#) in one of the most beautiful places in the country."

## Pinehurst Resort





Pinehurst Resort  
Courtesy of Pinehurst

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Gil Hanse's dramatic redesign of the No. 4 course last year finally pulled some of the spotlight away from Pinehurst's flagship layout, the No. 2 course, which was originally designed by Donald Ross and more recently restored by Coore & Crenshaw. With nine, 18-hole courses and a 9-hole short course, Pinehurst entices golf travelers to stay a while. It also encourages them to heed the urgings of the North Carolina resorts' friendly staff, who will implore that "ya'll come back now." The golf-focused village of Pinehurst, and the resort's varied courses along the region's sand hills render return visits to be mandatory acts.

## Sea Pines Resort



Sea Pines Resort  
Courtesy of Sea Pines

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A visit to family-friendly Sea Pines will quickly explain why so many players on the PGA Tour choose to build out some R&R there after the resort's Harbour Town Golf Links hosts the annual RBC Heritage tournament each April. Golfers who love the challenge of shaping shots will be in heaven on the Pete Dye-designed course; but they should also tee it up on the resort's two other layouts. Heron Point—another Pete Dye design—delivers similar signature features as Harbour Town, albeit in a slightly more forgiving package; while Atlantic Dunes—a comprehensive redesign by Mark and Davis Love III—mixes difficulty with helpful assistance for golfers who are able to think their way around a course.

## Sea Island Resort