



2016 EDITION » THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

THE TRAIL GUIDE



WORLD-CLASS GOLF ON A WORLD-CLASS COURSE



Sam Saunders



Chad Campbell



Scott Piercy

2015 Barbasol Championship Winner

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OFF THE TRAIL

LEE SENTELL, DIRECTOR
ALABAMA TOURISM DEPARTMENT



Lake No. 2 at Grand National

It's a great year to play the Trail! Whether you are playing Alabama's legendary Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail for the first or the tenth time, welcome!

To maximize your enjoyment and convenience, book accommodations at the Renaissance or Marriott hotels affiliated with the Trail. The hotels have garnered the highest ratings in the industry. Therefore, you can expect – and receive – the same superb service off the course that golfers have come to enjoy on the greens. Meet your buddies afterwards in the bar or for dinner in the hotel's world-class restaurant.

Chances are you've been encouraged by business or personal friends who are familiar with the Alabama Trail. You will discover to your satisfaction that they are right: it is a destination like no other. Sure, a couple of other states tried to copy the idea of linking courses, but rebranding old courses isn't nearly the same as doing it right the first time.

This is an interesting year to come to Alabama to play the Trail. Compelling stories of remarkable Alabamians are pervasive in American popular culture. We have award-winning native sons and daughters to thank.

More visitors than ever are flocking to the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in the Shoals since the documentary *Muscle Shoals* told how hits such as "Mustang Sally," "RESPECT," "I'll Take You There," and "Ole Time Rock 'n Roll" happened. Our Marriott, the highest rated hotel in North America, is convenient to all the music attractions in the Florence area.

Since *Selma* hit the big screen last year and educated audiences as to why Martin Luther King led civil rights marches in the 1960s, hundreds of people arrive daily to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. It's a short drive from the Renaissance in downtown Montgomery.

Fans of *To Kill a Mockingbird* are rediscovering Monroeville since Harper Lee surprised her millions of readers last year in publishing the sequel *Go Set a Watchman*. We learned how Jean Louise and Atticus Finch changed over the next two decades. Monroeville is midway between the two RTJ hotels in Mobile and the Renaissance in Montgomery.

Jesse Owens had to endure racial as well as athletic challenges in America and Germany in 1936 to shake Hitler's world at the Berlin Olympics. The motion picture *Race* opens in February. A great museum at his Oakville birthplace is in the spotlight.

The story of legendary singer Hank Williams opens in movie theaters Easter weekend. The title *I Saw the Light* refers to the searchlight at the Montgomery airport. It meant he was nearing home after performing. Georgiana, Greenville and Montgomery claim Hank. The Hank Williams Museum is a block from our Montgomery hotel.

Whether you are on a pilgrimage to one of the towns above, headed to the Trail for world-class golf, or returning for a family reunion, we're glad to have you in Sweet Home Alabama. Come back again soon. The challenges of our Trail await you.

Lee Sentell
Alabama Tourism Department



I AM PARTNERSHIP

Yokohama Tire Corporation is proud to sponsor the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic in Prattville, Alabama, May 5-8, 2016. All proceeds of the tournament benefit KaBOOM!, a charity that builds clean, safe playgrounds around the nation for kids who need them most. Because we believe helping children is just par for the course.

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Golf landscape photography throughout by Michael Clemmer.

ALABAMA REAPS THE REWARD OF THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL ENVISIONED BY DR. DAVID BRONNER

BY FRED ALTVATER

» Reprinted with permission from *NWO Golf Links*

Most golfers in the northern portion of the United States are familiar with Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, but they don't know how it came about.

The Retirement Systems of Alabama has been managed by Dr. David G. Bronner since 1973. His stated mission for the investment fund has always been to effectively diversify the assets of the state's pension fund to help the state. The philosophy being, a stronger Alabama will make a more lucrative Retirement Systems of Alabama.

Bronner grew up in the upper Midwest and worked in his father's pool hall. He learned early the tenets of hard work and the basics of business. He continued his education at Mankato State University earning a Bachelor's, as well as, a Master's Degree in Finance. He later added a PhD and Law degrees from the University of Alabama before taking his combined education and skill set to the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

He has led the retirement fund into several high-profile investments, such as downtown city real estate, newspapers and a string of golf courses. All have made the Retirement Systems of Alabama one of the strongest investment funds in America and helped create jobs, increase tax revenue and gain the admiration of other states around the country.

In the early 1990s, the idea was initiated that a good way to bring growth to the state was to build a golf course. Bronner always looked for the biggest bang for his buck and quickly realized Alabama is a big state and could use more than just one golf facility. He began to shop for someone that wanted to design 18 championship golf courses at eight locations around the state.

As you can imagine this was a monumental task and most leading golf designers of the time felt it impossible. Robert Trent Jones was semi-retired, saw the potential and accepted the challenge.

The original seven locations opened in 1992 and 1993 with 324 holes of world-class golf. Three additional locations have been added plus the two courses at Lakewood Golf Club in Point Clear were renovated. These brought the total to 11 locations, with 26 golf courses totaling 468 holes.

In addition to great golf, each location features a comfortable clubhouse with dining and beverage service. Overnight accommodations are available either on site or within minutes of each location. Affordable "stay & play" packages make the RTJ Golf Trail the perfect golf destination.





Dr. David G. Bronner

Bronner's original vision to bring more value to the State of Alabama, as well as, make it more attractive to outside investment and manufacturing is working quite well.

A study of the economic impact completed by Dr. Mark Fagan of Jacksonville State University of the RTJ Golf Trail at Capitol Hill just north of Montgomery, at Prattville, Alabama revealed the following. "There was a significant economic impact from the construction spending for the Capitol Hill golf complex with the related commercial and residential growth. There was an increase of approximately 3 million square feet of non-residential space between 1997 and 2014 in Prattville/Millbrook. There was an increase of almost 6,000 houses and 6,300 jobs from 2000 to 2010 which adds annual residential spending. Tourism spending alone in Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery Counties has increased by approximately \$500 million annually since 1997. This spending creates a large economic impact as it is re-spent in the area."

Since its inception the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has had more than 11 million rounds played with nearly half of those players coming from outside the state of Alabama. That is what the Trail was designed to do and it is working very well.

With the construction of the original eight golf properties, economic investment in Alabama has increased significantly. Honda, Mercedes and Hyundai added manufacturing plants, which have brought new jobs and drastically increased state revenues. Airbus recently began construction of its A320 planes in its \$600 million plant near Mobile.

In an interview Bronner explained why he felt investing in golf was a sound idea, "The genesis was two things: To combat some of the negative publicity about the state and golf in the state. It wasn't just in the sports pages but the business pages too. And second, a study showing that 90 percent of corporate leaders played golf."

The golf courses are all championship caliber and, in fact, host several professional events. The LPGA Tour annually visits Capitol Hill in Prattville, near Montgomery, for the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic. The Grand National location at Opelika was the site of the 2015 Barbasol Championship on the PGA TOUR. Professional golf tournaments have also been played at Magnolia Grove in Mobile and Ross Bridge in Birmingham.

Before the RTJ Golf Trail, Alabama was known as a drive-thru state by snowbirds from the north fleeing south to escape cold weather every November to March. Now those retired Americans with disposable money in their pockets stop by an RTJ Golf course, pay for green fees, have a meal, down a few cold beers and even buy a shirt or two before they head on down the road.

Some of those same snowbirds have even been induced to head to southern Alabama and spend the winter enjoying the mild climate around Mobile, Gulf Shores and the Alabama Gulf Coast rather than head over to more hectic Florida locales.

Bronner challenged the designers of the RTJ Golf Trail courses to make them difficult, but be memorable for the golfers stopping to play them. He wanted to command affordable green fees, but leave the golfer with a feeling of wanting to come back for more.

One of the overlooked features of the RTJ Golf Trail is the variety of par-3 golf courses at many of the locations. If you need an emergency nine, a course enjoyable for women and juniors, or just something a little different, the par-3 golf courses are a treat.

You don't have to play the courses to have fun on the RTJ Golf Trail. They also feature the best in instruction and practice facilities at each location.

For Golfaholics in the northern part of the country heading south for warmer climates, the RTJ Golf Trail is a perfect stop for a quick round or take a couple of weeks and play all 468 holes. Buddy Trips, couple's getaways or snow birds heading south will all find the RTJ Golf Trail accommodations, food and golf to be among the best in the world.

David Bronner had a vision to grow the state of Alabama through golf. The funding from the Retirement Systems of Alabama made the dream a reality and golfers are the beneficiary of the fantastic courses and facilities on the RTJ Golf Trail. ■

POSTCARDS FROM THE WARMTH OF SPRING: SWEET HOME ALABAMA

BY MATT TEVSH

» Reprinted with permission from
Midwest Golfing Magazine

The weathermen call it an Alberta Clipper. Really it just means more snow could be coming. A “clipper” system is the last thing anyone in the Midwest wants to hear about during the first week of spring. But in this case, the timing was perfect.

As heavy, wet flakes fell across Wisconsin and northern Illinois, *Midwest Golfing Magazine's* Glen Turk and I traveled to Alabama for a much-needed golf trip to wake up from hibernation. By the last two days it was 75 degrees and sunny and the courses were starting to dry out from a stretch of wet weather. Tee shots were running out and the dormant grasses were starting to green ever so slightly. How many days until the Masters Tournament?

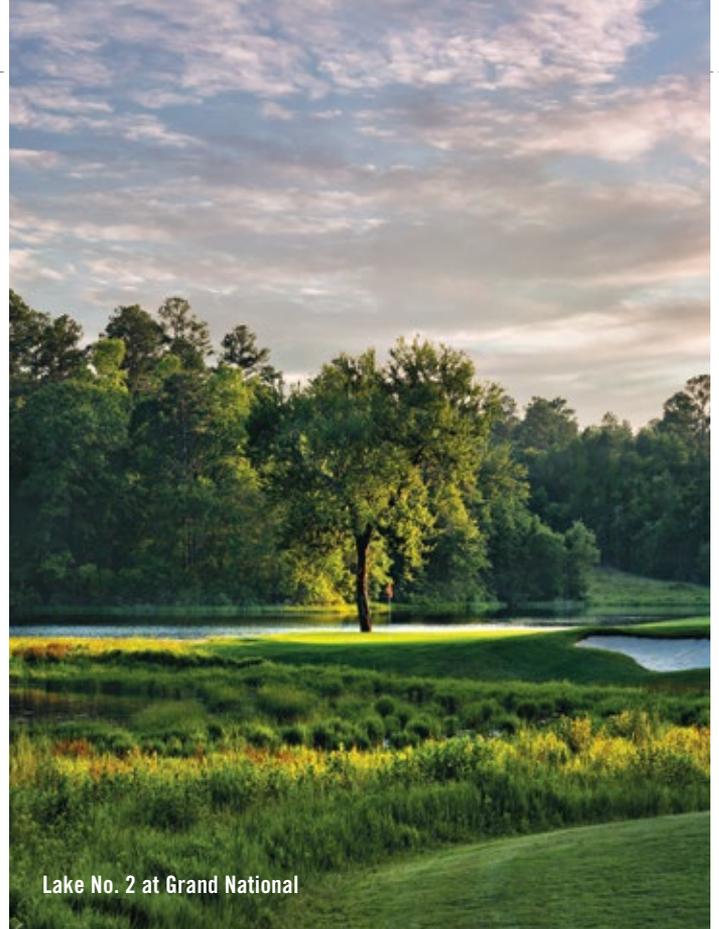
ROBERT TRENT JONES TRAIL BLAZING

Golf can be as much about luck as skill. So to me this was a sign. On the second day of our trip, after having a quick breakfast sandwich in the clubhouse at Grand National in Auburn/Opelika, I find a penny walking down the clubhouse steps. It sticks out like a sore thumb against the white concrete. I pick it up and see that the year on it is 1986. “Huh,” I say to Glen. “That’s the year Nicklaus won his sixth Masters. I think I’ll keep it.”

We then head to the 18-hole Short Course (par-3s only) at Grand National for a time-saving morning round before traveling to Prattville to play at Capitol Hill. Glen told me on the flight out that he had a premonition I was going to get a hole-in-one on the trip. Unfortunately that does not happen but on this day we both come as close as possible. Tap-in range. Birdies are plentiful just like they were for Nicklaus during his back-nine charge on Sunday at Augusta nearly 30 years ago. The under par scoring - if only temporary - gives us a good feeling headed into our afternoon round. Jack always says tee it forward.

The short courses on the Trail are no pitch-and-putt jokes (Grand National has six holes that can play over 200 yards; we pick a different tee box each hole). They mimic much of the style of the big courses and are a great alternative for a first or second 18 when the legs or back may need a little break. Seven of the 11 Trail sites have short courses.

The only short course we play on our trip offers maybe the most enjoyable round despite the overcast conditions. Playing Grand National’s Lake Course, however, is close. In 2015, it hosts a new PGA TOUR event and should provide a stern challenge. Its greens seem to be divided into four or five little sections on each hole. The coolest part of the course might be the multiple views of perched greens across



Lake No. 2 at Grand National

the amoebic Saugahatchee Lake. Though the routing is expected to be different for the Tour boys, the par-3 peninsula green at No. 15, which plays 230 from the tips, makes for one of the most intimidating holes on the Trail. And believe it or not the Links course at Grand National, which hardly looks “linksy” at all, has a par-3 that can play 260 yards with little to no bailout room.

The staff is accommodating at Grand National. On a drizzly day with temps in the upper 50s the ranger, unprompted, brings us extra towels. We need them especially for the mud balls. Combined with the soggy turf, it’s “like hitting a wet diaper,” Glen says. As we leave we tell one of the cart attendants we’re headed to Capitol Hill. He tells us that we need to play “The Judge” there. As a first timer to the Trail, there’s no way of knowing what I’m getting into.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Looking out our hotel room window at the Marriott, I’d swear we were at Turnberry in Scotland. The Senator Course at Capitol Hill is a classic links design with holes designed through chutes of mounds. We can view No. 17 which also resembles some of the features of No. 18 at Whistling Straits back home.

Upon several recommendations, we play the Judge Course. It’s probably the trickiest and toughest course on the trip (even from the middle tees it plays to a rating of 71.7 with a slope of 131). Hole No. 1 is perhaps the most photographed hole on the Trail, a par-4 with an elevated tee shot rivaling any view in American golf. Except on this tee shot the fairway narrows. When we get to No. 10, we play through a foursome of vacationers who watch us hit our semi-decent tee shots and ask, “Why aren’t you playing the back tees?” This is why. As if the front nine didn’t humble us enough, holes 10-12 on the scorecard play 711, 478, and 231 yards. This is the anti-short course. We stick to the 6,517-yard orange tee markers and find the holes challenging enough.



Judge No. 1 at Capitol Hill



Piper at Ross Bridge No. 9

Remember the lucky penny? I still have it with me. This time we gather good fortune at the local Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q just down the road. On this particular date they are celebrating their 30th anniversary and as such are offering pork sandwiches at 1985 prices. Hungry from a full day of golf we kill some cheese biscuits as an appetizer and then of course grab sandwiches for just \$2.99 each. Talk about competing with Augusta's pimento cheese sandwiches? How many days until the Masters again?

Those same cheese biscuits, doggy-bag style, serve as our breakfast the next morning. We check out just after 7 a.m. to make our early morning tee time at Oxmoor Valley in Birmingham over an hour's drive away. Oxmoor is the first of the Trail sites built over 20 years ago. We play with a regular, Charlie Thompson, a transplanted Californian who plays almost every day. His local knowledge is invaluable as are his ball-finding skills. But the images that resonate most on the Ridge Course are the giant shale rock formations, the train railway that runs alongside the course and

“He tells us we need to play “The Judge” there. As a first timer to the Trail, there's no way of knowing what I'm getting into.”

homes atop the ridge that are visible from almost anywhere on the course. Oxmoor has its own character not to mention its place in history along the Trail.

In the afternoon we make the short ride (five minutes) to Hoover to play Ross Bridge, a former Champions Tour stop. On our trip this is the most upscale property, affiliated with Renaissance Hotels. We find a kindred spirit in playing with pro Nate Lilley, an Indiana native who, like us, has not played an 18-hole round in months because the last thing most club pros do is play actual rounds of golf. With the

energy of a good player in our group, shots start to go a little straighter and longer. We need that, too. Though we are again not playing from the back tees, Ross Bridge boasts itself as one of the longest courses in the world at nearly 8,200 yards from the tips. They have a par-3 (No. 4) that conjures up images of Medinah and the approach shot at No. 8 looks like the approach shot at No. 11 at Augusta National. The greens are the best we play on the trip, in tip-top summer condition. So, I have no excuse for multiple three putts.

We play No. 18 just as the sun is setting. A bagpiper plays at the top of the waterfall by the ninth and 18th greens. We have dinner and a drink in the clubhouse. A perfect ending to a great, yet exhausting day.

HOMEBOUND

All told, we play 153 holes in five days, but who's counting? It feels like more than that since the wet conditions force cart path only restrictions throughout the trip. Still, we play every round in four hours or less encountering other groups from Wisconsin as we go. We play so many great holes and travel to so many different cities that I have to review my daily notes to take it all in. And still, there is so much more to play in Alabama.

The entire trip goes off without a hiccup until the very end. Our 10:05 p.m. flight out of Atlanta gets delayed a half hour. Wary from our travels and the effects of marathon golf, this could be a source of frustration. But the delay gives us just enough time to watch the end of a victory for our beloved Wisconsin Badgers in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament. How convenient.

On the descent into Milwaukee from my window seat in the fourth row precipitation is whizzing by, illuminated by the aircraft's wing lights. Snow is falling and the courses here will be closed tomorrow. How fast can we get back to Alabama? ■



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TAMULIS SURPRISES HERSELF (BUT NOT HER CADDIE) WITH FIRST LPGA TITLE

BY BETH ANN NICHOLS

» Reprinted with permission from *Golfweek*

Kris Tamulis won the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic in her 186th start on the LPGA. In this era of youth in women's golf, it's rare for a player to grab her first LPGA victory in her 11th year on tour at age 34. The surprisingly relaxed Tamulis wasn't sure what to do after she signed her scorecard and waited to see whether former World No. 1 Yani Tseng or hungry Austin Ernst would force a playoff.

"Talk to you guys. I don't know. Check my texts," she told the media after Sunday's 65 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's Senator Course in Prattville, Ala. "What else do people do?"

Tamulis was on the range with her caddie and husband when word came down that she'd won. The Florida State alumna hugged her husband, Jeremy Maddox, and then wiped away tears after embracing caddie Thomas Frank, aka "Motion."

"Mo believes in me more than I believe in me," she said.

The victory was especially meaningful for Frank, who lost his home in a fire earlier this year while looping for Tamulis in Hawaii. Frank's incredible attitude through that tragedy inspired Tamulis, who feeds off his positivity weekly inside the ropes.

Weather delays meant Tamulis played 29 holes Sunday. She called the day a marathon, and had no idea what she'd even shot when she sat down in the tent to add them up. Her goals for the week were modest:

“Motion has really made me think that I could be a great player, and he doesn't let me forget.”

earn enough money to secure a spot in the Asia events that begin in October and nab some points for the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship. In fact, Tamulis would've been pleased if officials had called the event after 36 holes because that would've assured her a top-10 finish.

The rest, she said, was cake. As it turns out, the best-tasting cake of her life. The victory moved Tamulis up to 31st on the money list and pushed her over the \$1 million mark in career earnings (\$1,231,925). "This is the ultimate," said Frank, who also enjoyed his first LPGA victory.

But really, winning never has been everything to Tamulis. This is a player who lists watching "Golden Girls" in syndication and whistling as two of her hobbies. For days this self-described homebody has been counting down the hours until she could sit in front of her television on Monday and dive into her DVR.

Golf is a fickle game, and it's a grind. Last week in Canada, Tamulis was gutted when a putt hit the cup liner and bounced out. She missed the cut by one. "Every day golf can be a struggle," she said.

Tamulis tied the knot on April 30 and now lives with her husband in St. Petersburg, Florida. She's no longer the breadwinner, and playing golf is no longer a necessity. "If I'm going to be gone 200 days a year," she said, "I'd better be out there enjoying myself."

The truth is, Tamulis didn't expect to win this week or any other week. It simply wasn't that big of a deal to her. She wanted to have a good career, keep her card and make the most out of the gifts she'd been given.

Her father, Walter, taught her the game, and she's now been with the same instructor, Herb Moreland, for a dozen years. In her time on the LPGA, she has developed an extensive support system, and credits them all for giving her such a long career. Frank began his time with Tamulis last summer.

"Motion has really made me think that I could be a great player," she said, "and he doesn't let me forget."



Tamulis would've been satisfied with her career after 10 years. She has a nice home, a nice car and money in the bank. That's what many folks would consider to be a success, she reasons. It's just that Tamulis' career plays out on TV, and people easily can track how much money she makes. The expectations that come with that are anything but normal.

"I never wanted to put those expectations on myself," she said. "I wanted an opportunity to make a nice life for myself, and that's what I've done. Now I keep playing because I don't think my best golf is behind me. I'm always learning; I'm always getting better. I'm far beyond the player that I was two years ago."

Winning won't change Tamulis the person, but she just might do it again. ■



Scott Piercy

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: PGA TOUR PLAYERS RAVE ABOUT BARBASOL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY DOUG MILNE, JR.

It's said that first impressions make the biggest impact. If that is indeed the case, then the Barbasol Championship at Grand National is, by all accounts, out of the gate running.

Last July, the inaugural event on Grand National's Lake Course in Opelika produced an incredible ending with its worthy champion in Scott Piercy. But, it also marked a beginning. It laid the foundation for the history of what is certain to be a premiere event on the PGA TOUR each year.

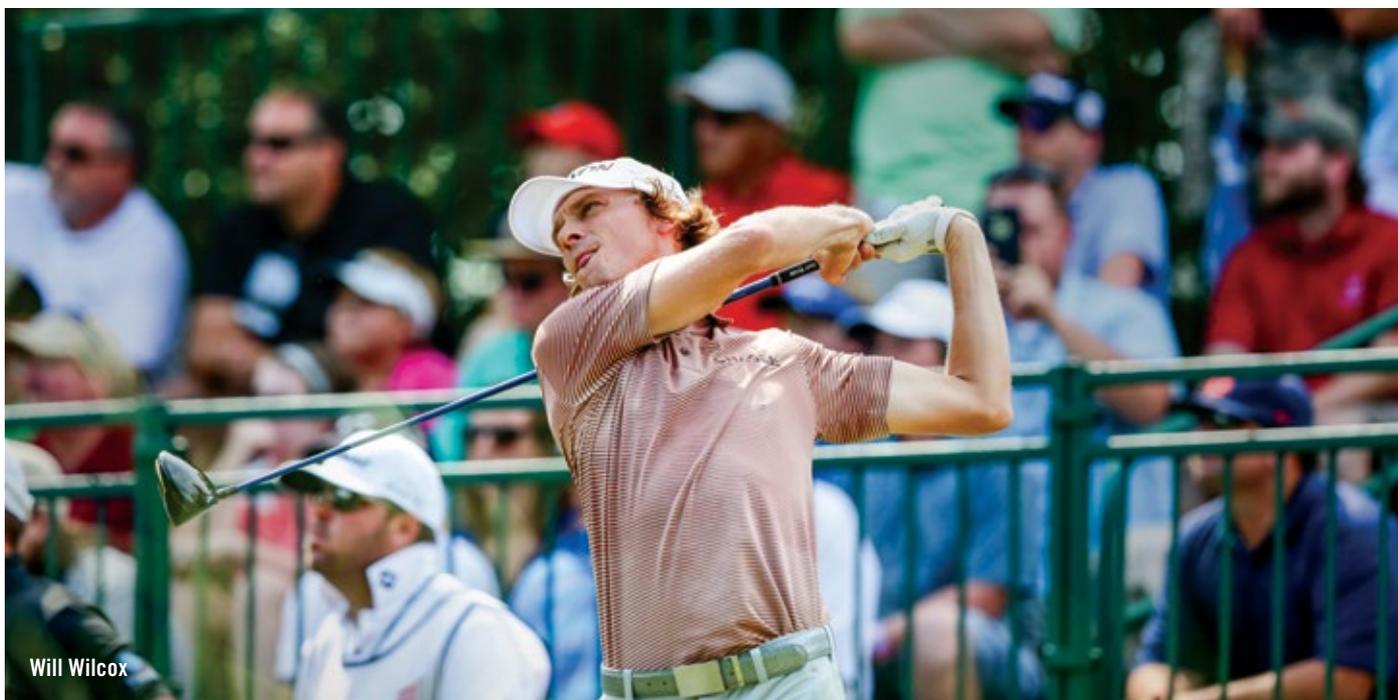
A player's decision on whether or not to compete in a PGA TOUR event typically boils down to one of two factors; schedule and word of mouth from peers. There's

little that can be done about a scheduling conflict. But, word of mouth? Well, that's another story. When a player leaves an event with a lasting impression, he spreads the word to others who had not competed. Players will be the first to admit that there is tremendous swaying power in a fellow competitor's positive assessment of a course and overall tournament experience.

And that is exactly what the Barbasol Championship has going for it after year one.

"Having grown up in Alabama, I was really excited to get to Grand National and compete at the PGA TOUR level," said Will Wilcox. "Honestly, the course

“Honestly, the course was more than I could’ve imagined. It was in tremendous shape all week. It was challenging, but fair. That’s exactly what the TOUR players are after in a golf course.”



Will Wilcox

was more than I could’ve imagined. It was in tremendous shape all week. It was challenging, but fair. That’s exactly what the TOUR players are after in a golf course.”

It certainly worked well for Wilcox, who sank a clutch, 59-foot putt for birdie on the final hole in the final round to claim solo possession of second place at 16-under 268.

“There is no question that players listen to other players when it comes to course set-up and condition,” Wilcox added. “We’re competing on the same level as professionals, so there really isn’t much that goes further than hearing from another player that a certain course at a certain tournament is a great test. It truly can make the difference in whether or not a player decides to play an event he may be on the fence with.”

Scott Piercy, who posted back-to-back, 6-under 65s on the weekend to claim a three-stroke win, certainly left Grand National with great memories and great reports.

“I thought the grounds crew did a spectacular job at keeping the course in great shape,” Piercy said. “For being a first-year PGA TOUR event, they really stepped it up and produced a championship layout.”

Jason Gore, who opened with a 6-under 65 in round one, bettered that in round three with an 8-under 63. He finished tied for 16th with two others at 11-under 273.

“With it being a first-year event, the first thing we had going for us was that it was a level playing field,” Gore laughed. “Typically, certain players dominate certain courses, but that wasn’t the case here. That being said, I found the greens to be some of the greatest we putt on all year. They were in incredible

shape all week, so on Thursday and Saturday, I was really able to take advantage of that.”

“The course was in unbelievable shape, with some of the purest Bermuda grass I have ever seen,” said Andrew Loupe, who closed with a 6-under 65 in the final round to finish tied for sixth. “The superintendent and his staff did an outstanding job. I will absolutely be passing along my experience at the Barbasol Championship this year.”

In addition to the course, players were also beside themselves with the Southern charm of the Alabama staff and volunteers.

“The tournament overall was run in tremendous fashion,” added Loupe. “The volunteers did a spectacular job of helping us out and getting us right where we needed to be. I cannot thank the staff and volunteers of the Barbasol Championship enough for making such a wonderful event possible.”

“It did my heart good to have all my fellow competitors in my home state to witness first-hand how welcoming everyone in Alabama is,” said Wilcox. “The staff and volunteers were a really good representation of the character of Alabama folks and it made me proud. There’s no question that everyone left that week with nothing but good things to say about the entire experience, from start to finish at the first Barbasol Championship.”

If a pristine layout and incredible staff isn’t quite enough to seal the deal, well, Loupe has one more enticing incentive certain to break even the toughest hold-outs.

“The ponds there,” Loupe exclaimed. “There were several really nice ponds on property that had some really incredible bass in them.”

Now, that’s what you call laying the groundwork for a fantastic future by getting them hook, line and sinker. ■



ON AUGUST 14, 2015, on our 48th hole of the day, my 20-year-old son Daniel and I will play our 1,000th hole on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama. With some good fortune, cooperative weather, and marshals that keep us from heat exhaustion with iced towels, it will occur on the first hole on the Judge at Capitol Hill in Prattville. Sometime down the road, I will play my 1,000th hole with my other sons, Benjamin, 22, and Timothy, 18. Further down the road, these boys will play their 1,000th holes with their sons. Even further down the road, my sons will figure out some way to bury me on the fifth hole on the Sherling nine at Cambrian Ridge in Greenville, under an azalea. It will be done at night, in the woods, where I have spent most of my time on the Trail. It has been a sacred journey for all of us, and began when Daniel was five.

BURY ME ON THE 5TH

SACRED JOURNEYS ON THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

BY JON SNELL

- Dedicated to my three sons -



Daniel, Benjamin, Timothy and me on the 7th hole on the Loblolly nine at Cambrian Ridge. (2009)

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is in my opinion Alabama's greatest creation. Designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., its stated goal was to boost tourism and attract retirees to the state. As a full-fledged tourist from Texas, the idea worked. I have vacationed in Alabama since 2000 and have thoughts of retiring there, near an RTJ facility, of course. Daniel and I were first invited by a dear friend, Scott Listiak, to drive 2-1/2 hours from Gulf Shores to a small town called Greenville to a course called Cambrian Ridge. The course is set in rolling hills with elevated tees, sweeping fairways, towering pine trees, peaceful lakes and diabolically tiered greens. The trip changed my life. It was the beginning of some of the greatest memories with my sons I will ever have. Trips there now are much more than rounds of golf. They are sacred journeys. I am in my 50s now and each time I play a Trail course it is a sacred experience, like playing in a masterfully crafted cathedral. I forget my score, forget my worries and bask in the experience.

My sons grew up playing the Golf Trail. We played different courses every summer. Eventually, our quest became to play them all. Every single hole. The challenge became difficult as we fell in love with certain courses and always had to go back. As tourists from the desert of West Texas, playing every hole at a certain venue in a day (at least once!) required us to play from dawn until dark. Summer "All You Can Play" packages were affordable and became the norm. As each summer passed, my boys became a year older, drove the ball a little longer and began playing the back tees. I reached my 50s, drove it shorter and took Jack and Arnold's advice to "tee it forward." The quest ended with the playing of Ross Bridge in Hoover, the Trail's flagship course. How fitting. It was a very emotional day for me.

Many memories flood my mind as I remember each summer as my boys grew up. Pictures remind me of how young they once were and how special our times on

the Trail have been. We have memories together too numerous to tell – from little boys disappearing in deep bunkers, to torrential rainstorms, to beautiful sunrises and sunsets, to side-splitting laughter, and to epic rounds of low scores and lots of rounds of high ones. But most importantly, we have memories of family and precious times together.

We have never met a person who was rude to us on the Trail, nor really, if we think about it, in the whole state of Alabama. From the reservationists, to the pro shop staff, to the course marshals, to the restaurant staff and down to the bag boys and cart girls, we have felt welcomed and at home. Even when we got told we were kicked off Cambrian Ridge because our GPS revealed to the pro shop that our cart had deviated back across the course to play some holes over, the pro was understanding and compassionate. People from West Texas never see these types of holes. We were allowed to go back out, play the final holes, witness a majestic sunset and push our out-of-juice golf cart up the 18th hole. Bag staff who had waited for us in the dark were patient and polite, even though we had kept them overtime.

The pro said we could come back the next day. Good thing.

Recently, Daniel and I played 62 holes at Grand National in Auburn. He was attempting to get into school there, another unpredicted benefit to Alabama by the designers – out-of-state students. In one day, on a semi-crowded Saturday, the marshals and pro shop staff did everything they could to get us as many holes as daylight would allow. I can't compliment the Trail enough. Even the ghost of Robert Trent Jones, Sr., who lurks behind every tree to reward good and bad, has been kind, first to let us enjoy his marvelous works of art, and second to occasionally let us have a run of good holes.



Above: Benjamin and Daniel on the 9th hole at Ross Bridge in Hoover. (2014) **Below:** Daniel, me and Timothy looking back up No. 1 on the Judge at Capital Hill.





Sherling No. 5 at Cambrian Ridge



Daniel tees off on the 5th on Sherling at Cambrian Ridge. In bare feet. The hill on the right of the green beckons for azaleas. (2009)

THE 5TH HOLE ON SHERLING AT CAMBRIAN RIDGE

Every course on the Trail has a different character. I could name our favorites, but that would only diminish the others, and that would be disrespectful.

The fifth hole on Shirling at Cambrian Ridge is my favorite hole only for what has occurred there. I have pictures of my kids as they have grown up on that hole. They have hunted for golf balls and played the hole barefoot after dew from the first four holes had soaked their sneakers. Last summer with Daniel, I was playing the hole and started weeping uncontrollably. It confused my son completely because it was so contradictory. It was a happy moment. I was playing a special hole with my son that had so many good memories. The sun was low in the sky and the hole was beautiful. I knew at the moment why I wept, but I could only blubber short answers to my son between sobs. My boys had grown up into young men and those years had gone by too fast. I realized I could never bring those days back. I would always have pictures, but never those moments. I wept for my loss of their childhood. My son comforted me. In case that might have been by some circumstance the last time we ever played it, we went back out and played those first five holes again. A bond and a memory was formed that will be with us both forever.

It has taken a long time for me to process that moment and come to grips with it. I am now at a better place. My kids have grown and are in a new season of life. It is their summer. In this stage of life they will get married, have families and I will have grandkids. I will get to walk two daughters down the aisle. I am in the fall of my life, even in the late fall. Childhood, or the spring of my life and theirs, is over and went by like a blink. In my case winter is already approaching. What has helped me immensely is a thought expressed in a book by Ken Gire entitled,

“Life as We Would Want It, Life as We are Given It.” It is very simple. The thought is that fall is a great time to enjoy. Leaves are changing, days are pleasant and pumpkins are seen on rural fence-posts. If we always long for the days of the past we will miss the joys of the season we are in. This has comforted me, caused me to hope, and helped me get past my mourning to a new journey.

OUR 1,000TH HOLE

Daniel and I know exactly what hole will be our 1,000th on the Golf Trail by pouring through memories and pictures. It will be a very significant time for me and I am sure I will weep uncontrollably. Again. I don't know what Daniel's response will be. My oldest son and youngest son will be there to experience my tears (of joy this time) and share that special moment. It will be theirs as much as Daniel's, and I am sure they will remember it forever also. Their 1,000th hole with me is right around the corner. My dear friend Scott Listiak and his dad and son will be there too. It only seemed appropriate to share the moment with the person that introduced us to the Trail.

We wanted desperately for our 1,000th hole to be the fifth hole on Sherling. We plotted how we could schedule our trip and skip holes to make that happen. We had planned a ceremony and thought of something we could place on the hole to remember the achievement. We had planned to wear our swimsuits under our golf shorts and jump together off the pier that sits behind the hole into Shirling Lake. We had hoped we wouldn't disturb a water moccasin or land in a snapping turtle's mouth or disturb too much the fisherman on the quiet waters. After this we had thoughts of sneaking an azalea in our bags and planting it up in the trees, on the hill to the right of the green. We don't know a thing about azaleas but we do



Daniel and Benjamin when they were 6 and 8, on the 1st tee on the Judge at Capitol Hill. (2001)

know from watching the Masters that they seem to do well in the south. If it went awhile unnoticed by the groundskeepers, we figured it might become a permanent fixture, and possibly grow into bushes like the ones at Augusta National. Our hope would have been that as it grew we could revisit it year after year with kids and grandkids and celebrate the seasons of life rather than mourning the loss of them. (In actuality we never would have tried the azalea idea. It was fun to think about but the hole is great enough without our help.)

When I informed Daniel that Shirling was closed for remodeling this summer we were both disappointed. We suspect, though unconfirmed, that they are remodeling the greens to flatten them some and take out the maddening tiers and slopes that have led to so many 3-putts and 4-putts over the years. But those greens hold some of our best memories of tragedy and triumph. We now think remodeling the greens is totally appropriate. Those nine holes will never be the same as we remember them. They will always be a symbol to us of the passing of time, the seasons of life and the need to make new memories and begin new adventures.

The first hole on the Judge is perfect for our 1,000th. It is featured in many pictures and is quintessential Alabama. The Alabama River is to the right and the hole calls for you to hit a driver into trouble and make bogey. Or you can lay up to the wide part of the fairway to play safe, hit the green and likely 3-putt for bogey anyway. Either of those would be appropriate considering all of our adventures on Trail holes over the years. A book written about Robert Trent Jones, Sr. is called "A Difficult Par." We wouldn't want him thinking that it was easy. The celebration by the green will be smaller because the course is usually more crowded than Cambrian Ridge. We also have no idea what lurks in the Alabama River. Azaleas

will not be planted. We are in full view of the clubhouse and we don't want to get thrown off a second course at our finest hour.

I will never be able to adequately express my thanks to all the people in the great state of Alabama and at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail who have made this moment or these many memories possible. It would not have happened if any experience over 15 years had been disappointing. I highly recommend the Alabama Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. It surpasses any billing it has ever had. May all who read this go there, and I wish you all what I have found – the memories of a lifetime.

EPILOGUE

We did play our 1,000th hole the afternoon of August 14, 2015 on our 48th hole of the day. On our first hole of that day the *Montgomery Advertiser* and the local NBS station showed up to cover our story. John Cannon, the president and CEO of the Golf Trail, met us during our day and shared stories of his son. Thunderstorms rose up, moved off and we had the course to ourselves in beautiful light. I kept the ghost of Mr. Jones occupied while Daniel left a 10-foot birdie an inch short. I did not cry, although tears of pride and joy for my sons were close. We took a lot of pictures and kept playing. We completed another 15 holes in an hour and 40 minutes, played our last hole in the dark, and pushed our cart down the 18th fairway until it died completely. We played 61 holes that day, only one short of our record. I am still overwhelmed that our story would resound so much with others. I really never thought this story would be anything but something I wrote for my boys to read as they grew older. The next hole Daniel and I play will be our 1,101st. Thank you again, Alabama and RTJ, for making it so special to pass on my passion for "the game of a lifetime" to my sons. ■



Judge No. 1 at Capitol Hill



LUX

URY

LODGING

ALONG THE TRAIL



After a challenging round on America's Original Golf Trail, head to one of the eight hotels in the Resort Collection and experience luxury with a local focus. Ranked some of the top Marriott and Renaissance Hotels in North America for guest satisfaction, dining, spas, pools, meetings and various hotel aspects, the RTJ Resort Collection offers close proximity to the golf course locations. Here is a preview of the upscale lodging options waiting for you on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Pleasant dreams and we look forward to seeing you on the course in the morning. ...»

MOBILE BAY REGION

Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa

Point Clear, Alabama www.grandhotelmarriott.com

www.facebook.com/thegrandhotel

www.twitter.com/marriottgrand

Since 1847, The Grand has maintained a gracious tradition of Southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. The Grand Hotel is a family-friendly historical hotel that is 169 years young. The resort has received national honors from *Travel + Leisure*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Tennis Magazine*, *Successful Meetings*, *Meetings South* and other national publications. A schedule of activities and special weekends is particularly attractive to families. Groups appreciate the superlative meeting facilities. With 405 luxurious guest rooms and having some of Marriott's best spas, golf courses and pools, the Grand Hotel is now grander than ever. Once restricted, these golf courses are now open to Grand Hotel guests and the general public.

The resort has 37,000 square feet of meeting space that was completely renovated in 2006. All guest rooms were updated in 2010. The Grand's 550 acres feature giant live oak trees, multiple beaches and lush landscaping. A military salute and cannon firing takes place each day at 4 p.m. and is followed by afternoon tea in the hotel lobby. In addition to world-class golf and the 20,000-square-foot spa, the resort has a variety of activities including eight rubico tennis courts, a croquet lawn, horseshoes, bikes, kayaks, sailboats and other watercraft for the guests' enjoyment.

For those wanting to own a piece of the Grand Hotel, Colony at the Grand offers upscale condominium options overlooking Mobile Bay and the Azalea golf course. For more on the Colony, visit www.colonyatthegrand.com.



Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

Mobile, Alabama www.renaissancebattlehouse.com

www.facebook.com/battlehouse

www.twitter.com/battlehouse

Originally built in 1852 and closed in the mid-1970s, the Battle House in Mobile has been restored to all its original grandeur. The Battle House reopened in 2007 and was named as one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure* in 2015. Both the Battle House and its Trellis Room restaurant have received Four Diamond ratings from AAA. The hotel has also been named one of *National Geographic Traveler's* "Top Places to Stay" in North America and was named a favorite by *Coastal Living*.

The 238 gracious guest rooms, new spa and historic lobby, restaurant and ballrooms make Battle House the perfect urban retreat for business and leisure guests with an affinity for the finer things in life. The hotel has 35,000 square feet of meeting space and is connected to RSA Battle House Tower. Located directly on the parade route, Battle House is a great Mardi Gras choice. On New Year's Eve, come witness MoonPie Over Mobile in a one-of-a-kind celebration.

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile, Alabama www.renaissanceriverview.com

www.facebook.com/riverviewplaza

www.twitter.com/riverviewplaza

A prime downtown location with a covered walkway to the Mobile Convention Center makes the Renaissance Riverview Plaza a favorite for business guests. Renaissance Riverview Plaza, a Four Diamond Hotel, also is a short walk from the city's Carnival Museum, the Museum of Mobile, GulfQuest and the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, which also features blockbuster exhibitions.



The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa



Mardi Gras parade outside The Battle House

NOT TO BE MISSED: HOTEL EXPERIENCES OFFER GUESTS FUN OPTIONS WITH A LOCAL FOCUS

The Resort Collection on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail adds great experiences to go along with a day of great golf. From south to north, here are some unexpected experiences offered daily to hotel guests. Have fun experiencing these local traditions and we hope you enjoy your visit to the Trail.

POINT CLEAR: CANNON FIRING SALUTES MILITARY AND HISTORY

The Grand Hotel serves as a cornerstone of American history having been at the forefront of one of the country's defining events. During the Civil War, the Grand saw the infamous Battle of Mobile Bay that, after seeing the Union ship and "Iron Clad" Tecumseh sink due to Confederate torpedoes, Admiral Farragut proclaimed "Damn the Torpedoes, full speed ahead." Evidence showed that Farragut actually fired on The Grand, causing a hole in the wall that was discovered during some of the hotel's restoration. More than 300 soldiers are buried at Confederate Rest, a cemetery adjacent to the grounds of the hotel. Every day at 4 p.m., a military procession starts in the lobby and concludes at the waterfront. A cannon, similar to those used when the Grand opened in 1847, is fired to honor past and current military. The Mobile Civil War Trail features the Grand Hotel, Fort Morgan, Fort Gaines and other local sites.

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL MARDI GRAS: MOBILE

Home of America's first Mardi Gras (sorry New Orleans), the Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa has been the center of Mobile festivities since opening in 1852. Established on the site of Andrew Jackson's military headquarters during the War of 1812, tents and barracks were replaced with luxury and grace. Named one of the Top 500 Hotels in the World by *Travel + Leisure* in 2015, the historic hotel's halls have been graced by American presidents, Mobile debutantes and captains of industry for decades. Today, the hotel offers a world-class spa, fine and casual dining options, great golf and a stunning architecture. Mardi Gras is celebrated all year long in the hotel's Joe Cain Cafe, named for the beloved reveler and central figure around the celebration. Catch a glimpse of the giant MoonPie across the street and visit the Mobile Carnival Museum for more Mardi Gras fun. Laissez les bons temps rouler (Let the good times roll). ...»



Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel



Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

MOBILE: ALABAMA'S PORT OF CALL

Bon voyage. The 2,056-passenger Carnival Fantasy cruise ship is returning to Mobile in November 2016. Stay at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza for Four-Diamond luxury before or after your trip and be sure to play Mobile's Magnolia Grove, an RTJ site. Adjacent to the Mobile Convention Center, the new GulfQuest National Maritime Museum and other attractions, Renaissance Riverview Plaza has a nautical feel and spectacular views of Mobile Bay. For fresh seafood plus other local favorites, the Harbor Room offers classic Gulf Coast cuisine and spectacular views of the port. Fathoms lobby bar offers indoor and outdoor seating, plenty of televisions to watch the game plus great drink specials. For more views of the port, visit the hotel's fourth floor terrace and its beautiful outdoor pool and whirlpool. Need to hit the gym? The fully equipped fitness center will feature state-of-the-art treadmills, cycles and stair climbers all overlooking the pool and Mobile Bay.

MONTGOMERY: DAILY BELL RINGING CELEBRATES HISTORY AND HAPPY HOUR

In 1821 Clement Freney, an early settler, built the Montgomery Hotel with a bell to toll the time of day, to mark special occasions, to sound an alarm and to invite people to come in for a drink or dinner. The bell was such an immediate success that townsfolk began calling the hotel the Bell Tavern or Freney's Bell Tavern. The Bell Tavern quickly began to attract enthusiastic audiences eager for outside news and entertainment. On this site, a grand ball took place to welcome the Marquis de LaFayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, to Montgomery in 1825. Today, this historic location is home to the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. The original 1821 bell is on loan from the Alabama Department of Archives and History and is inside the hotel's Exchange Bar. Outside, a replica bell rings each day at 5 p.m. to mark the end of the workday and also will ring on significant occasions impacting Montgomery.

PRATTVILLE: CELEBRATING GOLF EVERY DAY

Originally opened as The Legends, the Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill was the first hotel built directly on a Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail site. With extraordinary views of the 17th fairway of the Senator Course, the Marriott's Oak Tavern is a great place to meet for drinks and dinner. Many of the guest rooms overlook the golf course, as well. Located just eight miles north of Alabama's state house, Capitol Hill features three 18-hole championship courses on more than 1500 acres of immense natural beauty. Named the No. 2 site for the best public golf in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, Capitol Hill hosts the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic. The Marriott Prattville has 74 rooms in the main lodge plus 14,000 square feet of meeting space. The complex also includes two 8-room luxury golf villas and a 10,000-square-foot presidential cottage with a private heliport. ...»



Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National

Having undergone a \$50 million renovation, the 374 plush guest rooms are as popular as the hotel's spectacular views of Mobile Bay. The Harbor Room restaurant features exceptional cuisine with an emphasis fresh seafood. Riverview Plaza features 32,000 square feet of versatile meeting, banquet and exhibit space. Mobile is the home of the country's original Mardi Gras, and parades pass in front of the Renaissance Riverview Plaza during Carnival season.

Guests at all three Mobile Bay resorts have easy access to great golf at RTJ's Magnolia Grove. Creeks, marshlands and lakes add to the challenge of Mobile's Magnolia Grove. The Falls, Crossings and Short courses have all received national recognition from various golf publications.

CENTRAL ALABAMA & MONTGOMERY REGION

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama www.renaissancemontgomery.com

www.facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel

www.twitter.com/renaissancemgm

The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center opened in 2008 and brings Alabama's capital city a great cultural, culinary and corporate hub. The hotel features 345 luxurious rooms and suites, several restaurants and bars and a European-style spa. Located near the Alabama River, Renaissance Montgomery is a part of the city's downtown revitalization. For concerts, plays and general entertainment, the hotel's 1,800-seat Montgomery Performing Arts Centre is quickly becoming the city's social hot spot.

The Renaissance Montgomery includes a newly renovated and expanded convention center. The hotel complex has more than 140,000 square feet of meeting space and features some of the latest technology available for meetings. The Spa at Renaissance Montgomery remained one of the top ranked Renaissance spas in North America last year. The Renaissance Montgomery is approximately 10 minutes from the Capitol Hill site on the RTJ Golf Trail and the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic.

Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Prattville, Alabama www.marriottcapitolhill.com

www.facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill

www.twitter.com/marriottcaphill

Minutes from downtown Montgomery and near the Bass Pro Shops and other shopping, the Marriott hotel's 96 guest rooms were completely renovated in 2009. Seventy-four spacious guest rooms are located in the main lodge. Two eight-room luxury villas have living areas for informal gatherings and are ideal for golfing groups.

The 10,000-square-foot Presidential Cottage features five executive suites, private balconies, a lush garden and a private heliport. The hotel was the first to be built directly on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses and overlooks the 54 holes of championship golf at Capitol Hill. Named the No. 2 site for public golf in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, this RTJ site hosts the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic each year.

The Marriott's Oak Tavern offers dining with an extraordinary view overlooking the 17th Fairway of the Senator Course. Indoor and outdoor dining options are available

for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hotel features 20,000 square feet of event space, including 13 venues, a new ballroom and pre-function area and a covered terrace.

Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National

Opelika, Alabama www.marriottgrandnational.com

www.facebook.com/marriottgrandnational

www.twitter.com/GrandNatl_Hotel

The Marriott made a big splash in 2012 with the opening of a resort pool complex and a new tennis complex opened in 2013. In July 2016, the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship will be held at Grand National, and the Marriott will be in the middle of the action. Named the No. 1 location for public golf in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, the Auburn Marriott Opelika is situated perfectly for golf. Offering both a great hotel and an upscale residential option, it is easy to see why *U.S. News & World Report* named the Auburn-Opelika area one of the top places to retire for golf lovers.

Situated just 10 minutes from Auburn University, in the quaint historic town of Opelika, the Auburn-Opelika Marriott offers the finest accommodations in the area. This nationally renowned retreat is the region's premier golf destination and lakeside resort with 54 holes of Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail golf. The majority of guest rooms in this luxury hotel and resort overlook Grand National's golf course, the pools, tennis complexes, and Lake Saugahatchee. The hotel has 114 guest rooms and 15 luxury suites.

This hotel has 15,000 square feet of technology-equipped event space, a business center and a 96-seat amphitheater. For golfers wanting to move to the area, National Village offers upscale homes and cottages adjacent to Grand National. From a primary residence to second homes, National Village has great options and golf waiting for you. For more on this upscale Trail residential option, visit www.nationalvillage.com.

NORTH ALABAMA & BIRMINGHAM REGION

Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

Birmingham, Alabama www.rossbridgegolfresort.com

www.facebook.com/rossbridgegolfresort

www.twitter.com/rossbridgehotel

Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. Ross Bridge was named one of the "Top 75 Golf Resorts in North America" by *Golf Digest. Travel + Leisure* has named Ross Bridge "One of the Top 500 Hotels in the World." This Four Diamond resort has 259 guest rooms, with balconies overlooking the fourth longest golf course in the world at 8,191 yards from the tips. The resort also has 11 spacious suites for an extra level of comfort and indulgence. Between Ross Bridge and nearby Oxmoor Valley, golfers have access to 54 holes of golf at this luxury resort.

Ross Bridge offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot European spa. Caviar facials, a couple's treatment room and hot stone massages are signature treatments in the spa. Renaissance Hotels has named Ross Bridge as one of their top spas.

The resort has multiple restaurants including fine dining with a Mediterranean influence in Brock's. The Clubhouse was named one of *Golf Digest's* "Favorite 19th Holes." For meetings or special events, Ross Bridge has 20,000 square feet of function space ranging from a large ballroom to a smaller, distinctive boardroom. The resort consistently remains among the top Renaissance hotels in the world for guest satisfaction and overall style.



W.C. Handy Suite at Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

Florence, Alabama www.marriottshoals.com

www.facebook.com/marriottshoals

www.twitter.com/marriottshoals

Overlooking the Tennessee River and historic Wilson Dam in Florence, Alabama, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa continues to be the Marriott leader for exceptional golf, spas, dining, hotel rooms and guest satisfaction. The 196 guest rooms, including seven suites, have private balconies and waterfront views. The resort features Alabama's only revolving restaurant and more than 30,000 square feet of versatile meeting space. For guest satisfaction, the hotel's spa is consistently one of Marriott's top 10 internationally for guest satisfaction.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is a short distance from two Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses – Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster. The Fighting Joe was named among the top 10 new courses by *Golf Magazine* and *Travel + Leisure Golf*. The Schoolmaster course opened in 2005 and approaches 8,000 yards. In addition to great golf, the Shoals area is internationally known for its rich musical heritage.

Swampers Bar and Grille located inside the hotel celebrates the area's rich musical heritage. Artists such as the Rolling Stones, Cher, Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett and hundreds more recorded in the Shoals and are featured in the documentary *Muscle Shoals*. The area still has many songwriters and recording studios. For upscale dining, the revolving 360 Grille restaurant offers remarkable cuisine and amazing views of the Tennessee River. The 6,000-square-foot European-style spa and salon helps make the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa the premier resort in the Tennessee River Valley. ■



Eagle visits Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel



Piper at Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

AUBURN/OPELIKA: THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

Eagles land in the hole for great scores at RTJ Grand National. War eagles land on the football field to start Auburn home football games. Each summer, eagles and their raptor friends land at the Marriott to delight hotel guests as part of Camp Soaring Summer. While poolside games, family dining, and golf are typical during a stay at the Auburn/Opelika Marriott, summer guests are in for a real adventure. Where else can families enjoy a day by the pool, play great golf, see magnificent eagles from the Southeastern Raptor Center, and end the evening with gourmet s'mores fireside? The Marriott and Camp Soaring Summer celebrate strong Auburn and Opelika traditions. The free program starts mid-May and runs through the end of August. From weekly shows with the Southeastern Raptor Program, to pool games, tennis, dive-in movies, campfires, lawn games, and live music, Camp Soaring Summer at the Marriott Grand National offers free adventures that will make every family say "We can't wait to come back!"

HOOVER: NIGHTLY BAGPIPER HONORS RESORT'S SCOTTISH ROOTS

In the mid 1800's, James Taylor Ross moved his family to the Oxmoor Valley from South Carolina and began planting orchards on their new land in Alabama. Ross, a Scotsman, brought along a taste for the finer things and a spirit of entrepreneurship. Needing a method to transport the materials produced by Birmingham's industrial age, a bridge was built on the Ross estate during the Civil War connecting the city with the region. Seeded in a colorful history of family and perseverance, the Ross estate has bloomed into a picturesque resort featuring world-class golf, luxury accommodations and a menu of luxury amenities. The original Ross Bridge still remains today and is complemented by the rebirth of Birmingham's destination resort. To celebrate its Scottish roots, bagpipers play each evening at sunset while winding their way around the resort. JT's, the bar at the resort, offers flights of fine Scotch and a Scottish inspired menu.

FLORENCE: MUSCLE SHOALS MUSIC

From Etta James and Aretha Franklin to the Rolling Stones and Wilson Pickett, Muscle Shoals has played a major role in creating America's soundtrack over the years. This musical oasis continues to have a vibrant music scene and was featured in the documentary *Muscle Shoals*. The Marriott Shoals often hosts musical legends when they are in town and live music each night in Swampers Bar & Grille features the area's brightest talents. All the music you hear at the hotel has a history with the area. The Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa overlooks the majestic Tennessee River which has inspired songwriters for many years. Music lovers, visit the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and tour Fame Studios or the other local music venues. W.C. Handy, father of the blues, grew up in the area and his home is open for tours. For the ultimate music experience, stay in the luxurious Sam Phillips suite at the Marriott, named after Florence native Sam Phillips, father of rock and roll and founder of Sun Studios. ■



» SHARING ALABAMA ART WITH THE WORLD

From massive mosaics and sculptures to inspiring photography and quilting, the walls of the RTJ Resort Collection properties feature local art worthy of fine museums and galleries. The center of this Alabama art focus is a gentleman who simply goes by one name, Nall.

An Alabama artist with an international following, Nall has a unique style that has captivated the attention of the world. The gifted artist grew up in Troy, Alabama, and began drawing arts and crafts at his family's city park at just four years old.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Nall was awarded top score entrance at the *École des Beaux-Arts* in Paris. Surrounded by painters, musicians, and writers, he excelled among his contemporaries. At that point, he was mentored by Spanish Surrealist, Salvador Dali, who advised him to "Draw from life, draw, again and again." Nall was also inspired by American psychedelic art, fauvism, impressionism and Japanese wash drawings but then returned to basic black and white drawing and on concentrating on building a solid artistic foundation on drawing skills.

Having exhibited his works all over the United States and Europe since 1971, Nall returned to his roots as artist in residence at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where students had the opportunity to apprentice in his on-campus studio and saw his retrospective at the Sarah Moody Gallery.

In 2000 Nall was the curator for "Alabama Art," an exhibit of 13 Alabama Artists, with the aid of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Art and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Nall compiled the works and did the layout for the book titled "Alabama Art" published by Black Belt Press. This book won the Mary Ellen Lopresti ARLIS/Southeast Publishing Award for "Best Art Book" published that year in the Southeastern U.S.A. After serving two semesters as artist-in-residence at Troy University, Nall was awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa from Troy University, Alabama. In July 2000 Nall created an illustration for the 51st Monaco Red Cross Ball per the request of H.S.H. Prince Albert of Monaco.

Nall has worked extensively with the Retirement Systems of Alabama and its resorts to showcase the "Alabama Art" collection. All eight RSA hotels along the Trail feature works exclusively by Alabama artists, including Nall. The artworks range from primitive, outsider art pieces to intricate mosaics and oils to photography.

Living in his home state of Alabama, in 2005 he completed building his studio in Fairhope, Alabama, where he invites apprentices to work with him, and spends his summers in France at the N.A.L.L. Art Association. Nall divides his time working between the Alabama and French Rivieras. ■

For more information on Nall and Alabama Art, email artistnall@gmail.com or call 251.455.0132. Many of the pieces on display are available for purchase. Gallery open to the public at 414 Equality Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532.

ARTISTS WITH WORKS HANGING IN RSA'S ALABAMA HOTELS & RESORTS INCLUDE:

Judith Amanda, Jennifer Antoline, Margaret Barber, Ann Mottershead Betak, Sloane Bibb, Sue Blackshear, Xander Booker, Julia Bradshaw, Neal Brantley, Kyle Braund, Edward Brummal, Chip Cooper, Nan Cunningham, J J Gaudel, Sybil Gibson, Sarita Gish, Russell Goodloe, Nancy Goodman, Erin Fitzhugh Gregory, Jim Gunter, Anton Haardt, Amber Hall, Mike Handley, Baba Hendricks, Marty Hoer, Stacey Howell, Carrie Johnson, Robert Harold Johnston III, Robert Johnston, Ryan Clifford Keller, Mary Riser Kennedy, Christy Rhodes Kirk, Bruce Larsen, Charlie Lucas, Michael Mastro, Betty Sue Matthews, Jim Morris, Maya Morland, Christopher Moses, Haardt Moses, Herbert "Mannie" Pair, Heather Pettersen, Donna Pickens, Tigio Price, Barbara Reed, Bradley Robertson, Natalyn Havenick Rose, Conrad & Janice Ross, Jayne Rushin, Stephen Savage, Kate Seawell, Michael Simpson, David M. Spears, Joan White-Spunner, Susan Starr, Steve Strickland, George Taylor, Les Thompson, Langley Tolbert, Annie Tolliver, Lynda Smith Touart, Melissa Tubbs, Mary Catherine Watson, Susan Downing White, Dave Willmart, Devlin Wilson and Robert Zimmerman.

Artists Paul Looney, Ann Morland, Kate Seawell, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, and Yvonne Wells also have works on consignment in the Renaissance Montgomery. Deceased artists in permanent collection include: Steve Skidmore, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, Mose T and Flemming Tyler Wilson.

Nall and Biscuit visit Renaissance Ross Bridge and his giant "Sunset Pansee" artwork. The mosaic was done for a Christian Dior event in Paris. A much larger installation of similar design was created for the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco and used as postage stamp images. Nall's art is featured in all eight RTJ Resort Collection properties.



welcome HOME

» RTJ GOLF TRAIL'S RESORT COMMUNITIES EXPAND WITH NEW OPTIONS

Golf cottage or estate home? Condo with bay views or a bungalow under giant oak trees? The residential options in the two RTJ Golf Trail communities continue to grow faster than the 419 Bermuda grass planted along the fairways.

Between Colony at the Grand in Fairhope along Mobile Bay and National Village in Auburn/Opelika next to RTJ Grand National, your choices of residential options continue to increase. Collectively, they offer 90 holes of world-class golf, 18 tennis courts, four pickle ball courts, eight pools, endless miles of hiking and biking trails, great restaurants, shopping and much more. Whether you prefer a low-key coastal vibe with an eclectic/historic mix or the benefits of private luxury where the PGA TOUR stops in July, both offer great lifestyle options.

The residential communities associated with the RTJ Golf Trail offer unprecedented access to great golf and resort amenities all year long. National Village in Opelika and Colony at the Grand in Fairhope have very strong sales and are entering new phases of development. Both communities are adding new neighborhoods featuring a variety of single family home options. ...»



National Village





Colony at the Grand

NATIONAL VILLAGE

Auburn/Opelika, Alabama » www.nationalvillage.com

SPECTACULAR HOMES. AUBURN TRADITIONS. PGA TOUR GOLF.

Home of the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship in July, RTJ Grand National has quickly become a favorite among both professional and amateur golfers. The three courses at Grand National are easily accessible to nearby National Village. This RTJ golf community skirts the 1500-acre, 54-hole golf facility, including the Lakes course played on the PGA TOUR. A planned 700-acre resort community, National Village offers three distinct neighborhoods options, private fishing lakes and 10 miles of walking and biking trails.

NATIONAL VILLAGE offers three distinct neighborhood options:

STONELAKE Every home in Stonelake is unique, with floor plans ranging from 2,600 to almost 3,700 square feet. High ceilings and custom trim work adds drama while screened porches, decks and outdoor kitchens invite gatherings. Prices start from \$528,900 and only two homes remain.

EAGLE BEND Wonderfully designed and finished, 3 bedroom craftsman style golf cottages with hardwood floors, Hardi-Plank siding, gas fireplaces, granite counters in kitchens and bathrooms, 9-foot ceilings and so much more. The Cottages at Eagle Bend offer seven different home styles with floor plans ranging from 1,216 to almost 1,800 square feet. Prices start in the low \$200s.

QUAIL RIDGE The perfect blend of arts and crafts and cottage designs, these 3 and 4-bedroom homes are in the newest neighborhood at National Village. Priced from \$349,700. A section of this neighborhood will open in 2016 and is named. Quail Trace. With 38 lots, Quail Trace offers a variety of plans starting in the high \$300s. The National Village trail surrounds the rear perimeter of Quail Ridge and is located near a National Village post office.

The on-site Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National offers award-winning dining and 129 guest rooms. The hotel's new



COLONY AT THE GRAND

Fairhope/Point Clear, Alabama » www.colonyatthegrand.com

MAJESTIC OAKS. RESORT LIVING. GRAND TRADITIONS.

Perhaps the only thing more spectacular than the new single family homes at Battles Trace are the neighborhood's majestic oak trees. Welcome to the newest addition to Colony at the Grand. More than 40 homes in this new section were sold in 2015 with 15 others reserved. The Colony at the Grand lifestyle is appealing to young families, retirees and everyone in between.

Come splash into family fun, sunset soirees and wonderful traditions at Colony at the Grand. Since opening in 1847, The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa has been the Queen of Southern Resorts and now sun lovers can call it home all year long.

COLONY AT THE GRAND offers both single family home and condominium options to spoil you:

BATTLES TRACE Neatly sitting along a 150-year-old grove of oak trees, Battles Trace is the third phase of development at Colony at The Grand. These upscale homes offer a great sense of community and easy access to the Lakewood Club and its amenities. Starting in the low \$300s. New sections of Battles Trace on the lake will be opening in 2016 to meet the strong demand.

WATERSHED SOUTH Overlooking the Azalea golf course and similar in design to Watershed, Watershed South features three bedroom, two bath homes on the main level that define sophisticated, modern living and low country southern living in every way. Priced from the \$400s.

BAYVIEW Featuring 56 units, Bayview overlooks Sweetwater Lake on the hotel's historic grounds. The Bayview condominiums offer a breathtaking panorama at every floor, oak-draped parks, a freshwater lake and the magnificent 36 holes of the Azalea and Dogwood courses. Great views and low maintenance make these units popular for people on the go. Priced from low \$400s.

Amenity-rich living includes the Lakewood Club at the Grand is centered on an aquatics center, fitness and wellness studio, tennis academy, dining and social areas and a business center. These amenities, together with the Lakewood Golf Club and the Grand Hotel's Spa, offer the residents of the Colony at the Grand a true resort-living experience. The Grand Hotel and its spa were both ranked among the country's best by *Condé Nast Traveler* and are easily accessible for Colony residents. History lovers will enjoy the daily military salute and cannon firing followed by a traditional afternoon tea in the Grand's Lobby. Culinary lovers can join the monthly culinary weekend classes and enjoy great steaks and seafood all year long.

Exploring the Colony at the Grand doesn't end at the front gate of this private community. The quality of life at Point Clear/Fairhope is legendary. Explore the boutiques, galleries and restaurants of Fairhope or spend your day along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. The Fairhope/Point Clear area has gained notice in the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the Top 10 place in the U.S. to retire. Colony at the Grand is an easy drive from these Southern cities: New Orleans (166 miles), Baton Rouge (224 miles), Jackson (209 miles), Birmingham (266 miles), Mobile (23 miles) and Atlanta (336 miles). Perhaps it is time you take a look. ■

outdoor resort pool complex and bar have been very popular with National Village residents. When not on the golf course or in the pool, look for our residents on the tennis and pickle ball courts. With both cardio and weight training equipment, consider the hotel's fitness center as your personal gym. All of these amenities and many more are available to National Village residents. The hotel and golf courses also overlook a 600-acre lake. Auburn University offers a variety of athletic and cultural programs within a short drive from National Village.

The Auburn/Opelika area was named one of the "Top 10 Places to Retire for Golf" by *US News & World Report*. Readers of *GolfWorld* named Opelika the No.1 site for public golf in the country. *Golf Digest* named the RTJ Trail the top value for golf in the country and number eight for quality. National Village is an easy drive from these Southern cities: Atlanta (95 miles), Birmingham (112 miles), Chattanooga (215 miles), Mobile (214 miles) and Montgomery (57 miles). National Village remains very popular with more than 30 homes sold in 2015.

» FOR MORE INFORMATION contact National Village at 334.749.8165 or visit www.nationalvillage.com.

» TO LEARN MORE contact Colony at the Grand at 251.990.9951 or visit www.colonyatthegrand.com.

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL »

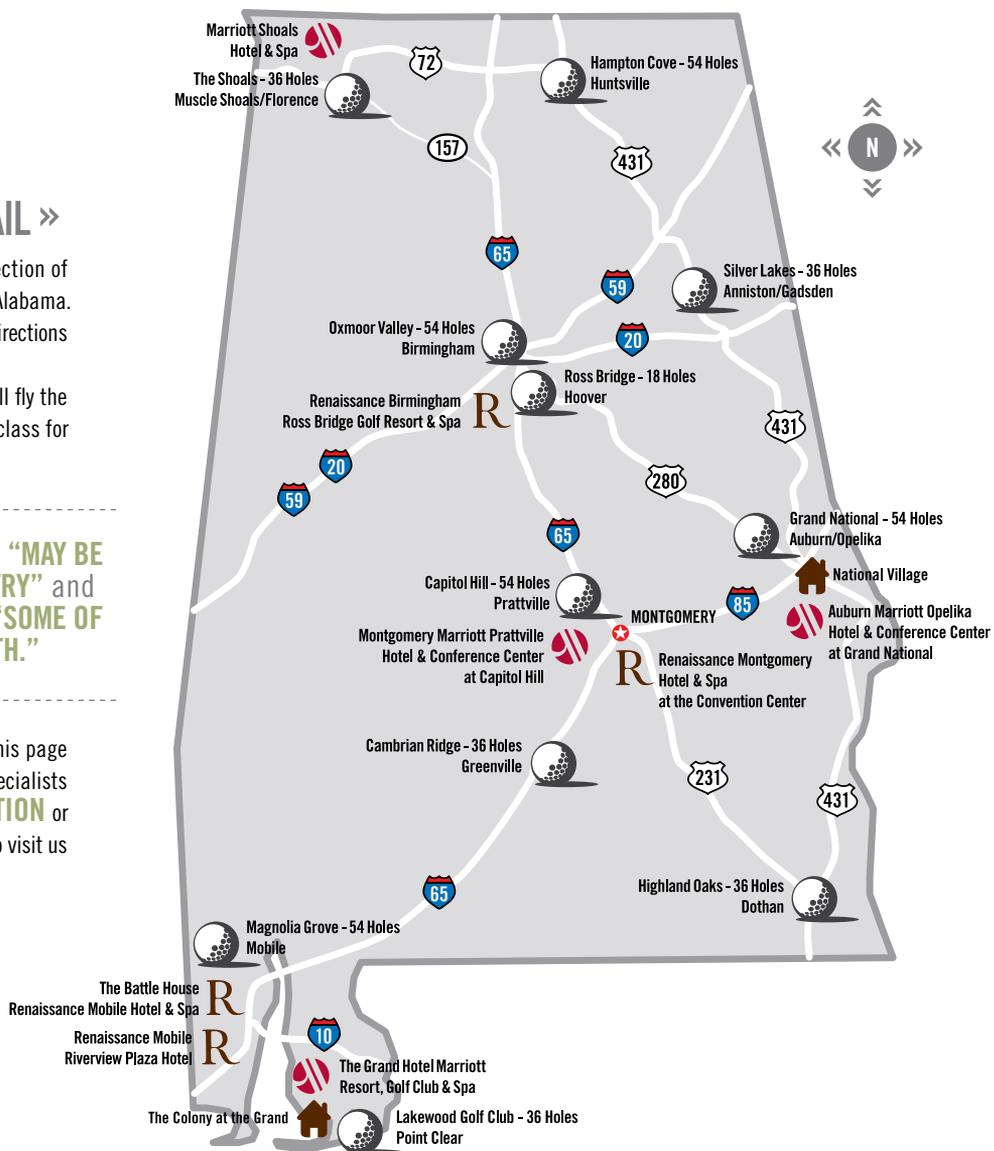
Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a collection of 468 holes of championship golf on 11 sites across Alabama. Most are near an interstate or federal highway and directions are easily marked by green highway signs.

The eight Resort Collection hotels on the Trail all fly the Marriott or Renaissance flags and are top in their class for luxury, golf and spa experiences.

The Wall Street Journal said the Trail **"MAY BE THE BIGGEST BARGAIN IN THE COUNTRY"** and The New York Times called the Trail **"SOME OF THE BEST PUBLIC GOLF ON EARTH."**

Please use the map and the mileage chart on this page for guidance or contact any of our Reservations Specialists at **800.949.4444 FOR MORE INFORMATION** or for tee times, pricing and reservations. You may also visit us online at www.rtgolf.com.

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MILEAGE BETWEEN TRAIL SITES

	CAPITOL HILL	CAMBRIAN RIDGE	GRAND NATIONAL	HAMPTON COVE	HIGHLAND OAKS	MAGNOLIA GROVE	LAKEWOOD G.C.	OXMOOR VALLEY	ROSS BRIDGE	SILVER LAKES	SHOALS
CAPITOL HILL	—	57	78	193	114	183	185	86	85	155	212
CAMBRIAN RIDGE	57	—	114	245	99	137	139	138	137	207	264
GRAND NATIONAL	78	114	—	189	131	240	242	121	120	112	242
HAMPTON COVE	193	245	189	—	310	372	374	122	123	81	77
HIGHLAND OAKS	114	99	131	310	—	201	217	201	200	233	328
MAGNOLIA GROVE	183	137	240	372	201	—	39	264	263	333	364
LAKEWOOD G.C.	185	139	242	374	217	39	—	284	283	353	384
OXMOOR VALLEY	86	138	121	122	201	264	284	—	2	88	140
ROSS BRIDGE	85	137	120	123	200	263	283	2	—	89	141
SILVER LAKES	155	207	112	81	233	333	353	88	89	—	135
SHOALS	212	264	242	77	328	364	384	140	141	135	—

FIGHTING JOE COURSE

Black 8,092/78.7/138; Purple 7,126/74.0/135; Orange 6,628/71.5/130; White 6,154/69.3/123; Teal 4,978/69.0/122; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	611	466	478	426	236	497	607	477	236
PURPLE	567	413	416	360	193	468	537	406	190
ORANGE	540	388	396	326	175	432	524	375	157
WHITE	512	370	373	313	160	408	467	332	145
TEAL	394	302	320	279	137	325	408	283	101
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	489	413	716	223	476	466	483	592	200
PURPLE	460	371	622	184	417	397	437	537	151
ORANGE	428	345	581	163	403	352	423	483	137
WHITE	412	332	498	153	369	326	385	473	126
TEAL	256	310	441	136	244	260	304	377	101
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	3

SCHOOLMASTER COURSE

Black 7,971/78.0/143; Purple 7,294/74.7/134; Orange 6,778/72.2/128; White 6,160/69.1/124; Teal 5,249/70.3/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	453	238	477	632	472	265	459	509	681
PURPLE	421	196	450	568	452	231	400	445	645
ORANGE	382	178	421	549	409	208	366	406	604
WHITE	337	135	393	504	373	178	339	369	562
TEAL	311	131	337	478	315	158	268	325	488
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	5
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	226	589	618	455	417	447	197	443	393
PURPLE	202	559	568	424	390	414	157	409	363
ORANGE	168	521	527	402	368	395	146	390	338
WHITE	147	489	501	353	333	347	135	347	318
TEAL	122	381	479	307	265	267	101	283	233
PAR	3	5	5	4	4	4	3	4	4



THE SHOALS

FLORENCE/MUSCLE SHOALS » 36 HOLES

The Fighting Joe Course at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals opened August 2004 and was the first Trail course to break 8,000 yards, measuring some 8,092 yards from the black tees.

It's long, really long, and this links style course is simply good, straight-forward golf. You can see where you're going. The question is... can you get there?

Some say the spectacular 17th hole is the signature hole on the course, but the 18th green overlooking Wilson Lake on the Tennessee River will distract you with its beauty, if not its treachery.

Travel + Leisure Golf named Fighting Joe one of the top new courses in 2004 for good reason. Long-hitters here will experience a test of champions; but from the correct tee box, all players will enjoy world-class golf.

The second course, The Schoolmaster (named for President Woodrow Wilson who was responsible for getting Wilson Dam built on the river and who was known as The Schoolmaster of Politics) opened in the Summer of 2005.

This tree-lined course is more traditional golf with every hole in keeping with the natural topography along the Tennessee River. It is wooded, rolling and spectacular.

First reports indicate The Schoolmaster may be a tougher course than Fighting Joe, but only time will tell. One thing's for sure, it's a shot maker's golf course with narrower fairways, tree-lined greens, and still a length of nearly 8,000 yards!

It's hard to beat the beauty that the 18th hole holds on the high bluffs over the river, but the waterfall on the 2nd hole sure comes close. Make sure you've done your homework well, for The Schoolmaster will certainly test all of your skills. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT THE SHOALS

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HAMPTON COVE

HUNTSVILLE » 54 HOLES

The Northern gateway to the Trail is Hampton Cove in Huntsville, a 54-hole facility with terrain that drastically changes from one side of the property to the other.

Renovated in 2008, the Highlands Course has been restored to its original Scottish Links design. Long waving grasses frame beautiful rolling terrain and create beautiful golf holes. The finishing holes on the Highlands Course are among the most scenic and challenging on the Trail. One of the most recognizable landmarks on the Trail is the old mule barn beside the fifth hole.

Completely opposite in design is the River Course, the only Robert Trent Jones layout without a single bunker. The River Course is laid out on former soybean fields in the flood plain of the Flint River. The River Course is a throwback to the way courses were built long ago, where dirt was merely pushed up to create the greens and tees, leaving all else, including massive oak trees, as is. With water on 16 of the 18 holes, the River Course will challenge your shot making ability.

The Short Course at Hampton Cove is open and links-like, with water in play on 11 holes. It is a great venue for golfers of all skill levels and alternating tees allow golfers to hit every club in their bag. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT HAMPTON COVE

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HIGHLANDS COURSE

Purple 7,428/76.0/132; Orange 6,806/69.9/123; White 6,070/69.9/123;

Ladies' Teal 4,951; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	409	403	550	215	412	435	453	238	526
ORANGE	394	372	518	183	378	406	424	190	511
WHITE	372	330	452	165	334	381	387	158	444
TEAL	309	303	377	94	273	336	318	94	361
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	461	206	435	415	414	539	259	621	437
ORANGE	434	177	347	391	382	520	211	570	398
WHITE	371	154	308	336	342	470	161	541	364
TEAL	257	108	265	319	298	390	101	475	304
PAR	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	5	4

RIVER COURSE

Purple 7,668/77.8/136; Orange 6,764/72.8/134; White 6,111/69.7/128;

Ladies' Teal 5,278/70.4/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	556	207	467	447	476	214	433	627	438
ORANGE	505	186	404	375	388	196	393	566	394
WHITE	463	165	347	342	350	158	360	540	348
TEAL	431	135	267	299	285	135	305	499	318
PAR	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	572	437	454	421	208	600	187	451	473
ORANGE	535	398	418	382	186	519	176	378	365
WHITE	486	353	379	314	165	494	163	350	334
TEAL	428	293	340	276	112	426	132	314	283
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,635; Orange 3,007; White 2,480; Teal 1,861; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	192	184	222	149	201	257	190	215	199
ORANGE	161	167	189	110	182	184	175	173	153
WHITE	124	152	154	95	149	145	144	145	128
TEAL	83	109	72	78	83	109	114	126	111
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	177	193	184	222	205	247	159	232	207
ORANGE	161	152	174	185	170	184	143	168	176
WHITE	115	131	144	156	143	137	115	151	152
TEAL	98	83	124	105	115	95	85	128	143
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

MINDBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,642; Purple 3,432/36.8/146; Orange 3,199/35.9/146; White 3,010/35.0/136;
Teal 2,376/32.1/105; Ladies' White 38.3/149; Ladies' Teal 33.9/117; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	546	226	408	207	556	434	420	454	391
PURPLE	546	177	361	189	531	408	406	423	391
ORANGE	505	165	345	180	515	389	362	387	351
WHITE	475	157	345	169	492	370	320	358	324
TEAL	403	96	296	123	376	279	280	317	206
PAR	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4

HEARTBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,814; Purple 3,480/36.7/133; Orange 3,290/35.9/128; White 3,011/34.6/125;
Teal 2,474/32.5/109; Ladies' White 37.5/142; Ladies' Teal 34.5/120; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	568	466	455	431	215	452	550	229	448
PURPLE	532	414	427	404	174	412	521	198	398
ORANGE	481	375	402	404	165	394	506	165	398
WHITE	481	335	381	357	136	343	479	146	353
TEAL	431	290	329	312	109	301	375	67	260
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4

BACKBREAKER COURSE

Black 3,808; Purple 3,537/37.7/140; Orange 3,198/35.9/128; White 2,992/34.5/127;
Teal 2,369/32.0/113; Ladies' White 38.0/148; Ladies' Teal 34.9/126; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	455	206	455	458	231	401	623	445	534
PURPLE	426	159	425	451	194	371	578	399	534
ORANGE	406	143	399	400	167	346	496	342	499
WHITE	360	132	350	355	129	346	496	342	482
TEAL	293	92	294	292	99	212	369	287	431
PAR	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,946; Orange 1,450; White 1,276; Teal 798; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	232	192	225	236	199	254	186	211	211
ORANGE	137	155	166	171	160	167	170	169	155
WHITE	123	133	146	156	130	138	147	150	153
TEAL	90	81	100	94	99	94	94	85	61
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



SILVER LAKES

ANNISTON/GADSDEN » 36 HOLES

Relax in the beauty of Northeast Alabama's stunning landscape as you explore 36 holes of forests, wetlands, grasslands and dramatic elevation changes. The Heartbreaker, Backbreaker, Mindbreaker and Short Course provide a challenging and scenic variety of holes to play.

Surrounded by the Appalachian foothills and Lee's Lake, Silver Lakes features the most unique and aptly named courses on the Trail, and all 36 greens boast Champion ultra dwarf putting surfaces.

The Backbreaker features wide fairways, demanding greens and spectacular views of the surrounding foothills, while the Heartbreaker provides a unique mix of great golf holes and unequalled character with the final three holes showcasing elevation changes and dramatic lake vistas. The Mindbreaker is an unforgettable blend of shorter, elusive holes set in a beautiful sanctuary of woods, water and wetlands. The Short Course provides a relaxing trip around Lee's Lake and offers magnificent views of surrounding landscape. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT SILVER LAKES

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OXMOOR VALLEY

BIRMINGHAM » 54 HOLES

Centrally located in the state and just minutes from the newly revitalized downtown Birmingham area, this 54-hole facility was built on former mining land owned by U.S. Steel. Sculpted from the peaks and valleys of the Appalachians, the courses offer scenic forests, numerous creeks and challenging elevation changes.

The Ridge Course offers numerous elevation changes, heavy tree cover, and is incredibly photogenic. As a tribute to the area's mining past, the green at the par-5 3rd hole is buttressed by a shelf of exposed shale rock.

The Valley is considered a more traditional layout, dotted with numerous sand bunkers and picturesque lakes and streams. It stretches two miles downrange along a slender valley. The par-5 12th hole offers the most intimidating of tee shots, with a large lake looming in front of the player, letting the best of golfers bite off as much as they can chew.

The Short Course at Oxmoor Valley is a delightful collection of 18 pure one-shotters. It is listed by *Golf Digest's Places to Play* as one of the nation's Great Value courses in the public category. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT OXMOOR VALLEY

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RIDGE COURSE

Purple 7,055/74.3/141; Orange 6,527/72.1/136; White 6,148/70.3/133; Teal 4,974/64.9/120; Ladies' Orange 78.6/141; Ladies' White 76.4/137; Ladies' Teal 69.4/122; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	449	528	539	389	179	447	379	176	421
ORANGE	404	513	520	382	146	405	346	159	384
WHITE	364	500	506	356	123	389	317	129	393
TEAL	297	458	451	286	85	291	232	77	227
PAR	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	414	446	483	189	389	390	205	440	592
ORANGE	379	393	465	162	348	366	172	411	572
WHITE	361	373	440	137	333	353	165	396	543
TEAL	279	305	410	92	251	321	145	304	463
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	5

VALLEY COURSE

Purple 7,162/74.9/146; Orange 6,592/72.1/139; White 6,052/69.4/129; Teal 4,927/64.0/113; Ladies' Orange 78.8/145; Ladies' White 75.4/144; Ladies' Teal 68.6/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	440	204	435	188	415	400	564	433	561
ORANGE	415	174	391	171	375	369	509	396	541
WHITE	393	153	363	145	327	334	475	358	513
TEAL	367	100	285	109	265	290	401	268	428
PAR	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	5
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	475	363	506	207	552	407	178	400	441
ORANGE	420	322	504	177	527	381	165	359	393
WHITE	393	279	490	147	502	335	120	337	363
TEAL	284	229	461	107	441	295	81	302	210
PAR	4	4	5	3	5	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,360; Orange 3,037; White 2,556; Teal 1,871; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	170	224	203	208	135	155	163	204	161
ORANGE	152	206	183	185	126	147	150	188	130
WHITE	122	195	138	142	113	139	131	170	119
TEAL	79	141	103	108	98	93	103	144	103
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	195	215	182	137	253	211	192	174	178
ORANGE	179	191	154	135	225	192	160	164	170
WHITE	166	158	144	127	141	153	137	129	132
TEAL	69	114	95	124	123	91	124	83	76
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

ROSS BRIDGE COURSE

Black 8,191/78.5/135; Purple 7,446/74.9/127; Orange 6,783/71.3/118; White 6,200/68.7/117;
Teal 5,312/70.2/123; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	620	467	470	226	469	207	619	502	518
PURPLE	573	430	445	202	417	194	561	447	410
ORANGE	543	395	422	155	380	185	519	408	377
WHITE	511	322	392	146	337	174	484	376	341
TEAL	463	278	366	140	303	110	458	311	285
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	477	208	454	698	239	458	571	501	487
PURPLE	454	184	429	614	219	415	538	467	447
ORANGE	417	167	408	540	176	366	511	411	403
WHITE	387	133	357	519	163	341	477	382	358
TEAL	273	120	326	403	130	293	410	334	309
PAR	4	3	4	5	3	4	5	4	4



ROSS BRIDGE

HOOVER » 18 HOLES

Alabama welcomes the newest addition to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Ross Bridge. Beautifully carved into the rolling terrain of Shannon Valley, these 18 holes will challenge even the best golfers. Named one of *Zagat's* top new courses, Ross Bridge has hosted the Regions Charity Classic, a PGA Champions Tour event.

The course meanders through indigenous landscape and around the 259-room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. Ross Bridge is the fifth longest course in the world but offers multiple tees for golfers of all levels. Symbolic of an old parkland style course, ten holes play along the banks of two significant lakes connected by a spectacular waterfall dropping 80 feet between the ninth and eighteenth greens. A gristmill added to the waterfall reflects the history of this old mining site. The beauty and challenge of each hole leads many to believe there is not one signature hole but possibly eighteen.

Like many other Trail courses, the par-three holes are incredible. Considerable elevation changes combine with water or other natural obstructions to get your attention. Large putting surfaces provide many tempting pin locations that will test golfers' approach shots.

Number 17, a long par four, plays to a small, well-guarded green. Water frames the right side of this down-sloping hole. In the background is a picturesque view of the ninth and eighteenth holes with the waterfall tumbling between. The seventh hole offers a par five that traverses a ridge high above the rest of the course. The ninth will leave you speechless as it is time to decide how daring you are off the tee. A split fairway allows for either a short challenging route along the water's edge or opt for safer play leaving a longer, more difficult approach to the green. Regardless if it is a par three, four or five, Ross Bridge stands ready for your game! ■

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GRAND NATIONAL

AUBURN/OPELIKA » 54 HOLES

Both the Links Course and the Lake Course were in the top 10 of *Golf Digest's* list of "America's Top 50 Affordable Courses" and all three courses at Grand National are listed among the nation's 40 Super Value courses by *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play". Grand National, by all reports, was the single greatest site for a golf complex Robert Trent Jones, Sr. had ever seen. Host site for the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship, Grand National is built on 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee with 32 of the 54 holes draped along its filigreed shores.

The cornerstone of the complex is the Links Course, which is without a single weakness. The par four 18th is without a doubt the strongest finishing hole on the Trail. The drive must carry a corner of the lake, while the approach is played to a shallow pedestal green shored up by boulders. With 12 holes hugging the shore, Grand National's Lake Course is every bit as scenic as the Links. Not only is the quartet of par threes on the Lake Course as good as any in the nation, the 230-yard, island green 15th may be the single prettiest hole on the Trail. The Short Course, while overshadowed by the two main tracts, is a thing of beauty, with more than half the holes touching the lake. This 18-hole course of one-shotters might be the finest anywhere in the country.

National Village, a golfing community on the Trail, is adjacent to these courses and the Marriott Hotel. ■

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LAKE COURSE

Purple 7,289/74.3/136; Orange 6,488/71.3/126; White 5,948/68.7/117; Teal 4,910/68.7/117;

Ladies' White 74.4/133; Ladies' Teal 68.0/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	390	428	197	527	431	455	557	213	430
ORANGE	364	381	178	480	396	381	521	182	379
WHITE	319	361	168	447	385	352	477	148	339
TEAL	285	308	92	399	308	295	418	103	276
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	434	445	522	470	545	230	334	205	476
ORANGE	397	387	493	388	510	182	297	174	398
WHITE	353	356	459	361	488	160	285	143	357
TEAL	276	239	391	343	384	93	247	126	327
PAR	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	3	4

LINKS COURSE

Purple 7,311/75.1/135; Orange 6,574/72.3/129; White 6,015/69.6/119; Teal 4,843/69.6/113;

Ladies' White 75.5/139; Ladies' Teal 70.4/120; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	423	556	206	425	456	544	472	345	204
ORANGE	396	509	182	409	375	499	446	319	170
WHITE	366	470	165	384	342	460	409	299	133
TEAL	313	385	110	262	275	412	318	234	119
PAR	4	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	363	260	575	418	467	516	181	429	471
ORANGE	326	195	500	378	422	467	152	402	427
WHITE	289	151	493	343	372	451	118	368	402
TEAL	242	69	426	272	338	362	93	312	301
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,328/56.7; Orange 2,798/55.2; White 2,476/53.7; Teal 1,715/51.9;

Ladies' White 55.4; Ladies' Teal 53.2; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	188	201	171	173	187	173	152	216	250
ORANGE	170	166	151	152	147	137	119	193	234
WHITE	148	148	128	131	124	137	119	174	211
TEAL	93	106	83	92	102	97	89	119	71
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	161	187	231	185	138	204	202	155	154
ORANGE	131	172	179	151	108	184	173	110	121
WHITE	108	139	179	98	104	156	156	110	106
TEAL	85	95	119	58	72	143	108	77	106
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

LEGISLATOR COURSE

Black 7,477/76.9/149; Purple 6,836/74.0/143; Orange 6,366/71.4/139; White 5,901/69.4/131;
Teal 5,253/66.1/117; Ladies' White 74.3/133; Ladies' Teal 70.4/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	631	434	177	481	603	198	425	488	420
PURPLE	554	404	163	421	577	174	401	429	405
ORANGE	541	366	147	391	509	151	375	405	366
WHITE	490	330	136	355	490	137	361	374	338
TEAL	435	310	115	325	426	115	297	347	311
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	412	207	387	538	478	407	182	585	424
PURPLE	369	170	367	504	434	364	160	552	388
ORANGE	350	148	348	494	407	343	148	512	365
WHITE	337	126	331	467	382	313	124	480	330
TEAL	245	105	302	451	343	270	110	451	295
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	5	4

SENATOR COURSE

Black 7,654/77.4/132; Purple 6,941/74.1/125; Orange 6,410/70.9/126; White 5,831/68.1/121;
Teal 5,137/64.7/110; Ladies' White 73.6/123; Ladies' Teal 69.6/116; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	427	230	419	426	611	420	231	558	437
PURPLE	395	204	385	390	563	385	195	530	402
ORANGE	365	165	364	363	539	349	167	496	376
WHITE	329	139	322	339	500	326	129	453	343
TEAL	281	121	290	282	442	301	110	393	290
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	616	435	496	203	459	448	222	559	457
PURPLE	543	400	434	169	426	416	181	515	408
ORANGE	528	370	400	154	394	389	147	475	369
WHITE	484	358	374	138	358	334	115	456	334
TEAL	460	317	326	116	333	307	84	376	308
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4

JUDGE COURSE

Black 7,813/78.5/147; Purple 7,082/75.1/142; Orange 6,517/71.7/131; White 5,910/68.7/128;
Teal 4,951/64.7/115; Ladies' White 74.4/137; Ladies' Teal 68.4/123; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	415	459	187	617	423	229	675	466	430
PURPLE	400	416	166	579	386	190	625	452	387
ORANGE	379	379	155	548	342	148	589	425	362
WHITE	347	350	129	486	326	133	575	396	330
TEAL	296	305	112	402	273	120	351	344	271
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	711	478	231	427	469	552	256	430	358
PURPLE	563	400	215	405	424	529	223	384	338
ORANGE	543	370	179	358	385	500	170	364	321
WHITE	503	340	110	313	371	457	153	327	264
TEAL	421	268	94	261	352	413	126	288	254
PAR	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4



CAPITOL HILL

PRATTVILLE » 54 HOLES

Named the number 2 public golf site in the country by *Golf World* readers, Capitol Hill in Prattville continues to get praises from golfers and golf writers alike. *Golf* magazine called The Judge Course one of the 10 public courses in America worthy of hosting the U.S. Open and the *Zagat* Survey of America's Top Golf Courses ranked it among the top 50 courses in America. The Senator was named among the Top 10 New Courses in the nation by *Golf* magazine and is showcased annually in the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic. Located in Prattville, approximately 8 miles north of Alabama's state capitol, Capitol Hill features three 18-hole championship courses. With more than 1500 acres of golf and nature, the pure magnitude of this facility is amazing and allows each course to be drastically different from the others.

The Senator, a Scottish-Links style course with Champion Bermuda greens, holds more than 160 pot-hole bunkers and mounds 20 to 40 feet in height, hiding the cart path or any other hole from the fairway. The secluded settings of each hole will make it feel as if you are the only foursome on the course.

The Legislator, a more traditional course, plays in and out of pine trees and along the bluff. The view riding down the "Sky Bridge" for six holes laid out in a native cypress swamp will impress as you are led back up the bluff to finish the course at the spectacular clubhouse.

The Judge offers stunning vistas along the 200-acre backwaters of the Alabama River. The first tee lies 200 feet above the fairway overlooking the river and the Montgomery skyline. With 14 holes adjoining the water and a bulkhead island green, the Judge is described as simply magnificent.

Capitol Hill also features an innovative circular driving range 400 yards in diameter. ■

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CAMBRIAN RIDGE

GREENVILLE » 36 HOLES

Known by avid golfers as one of the most beautiful and most challenging stops on the Trail, Cambrian Ridge in Greenville lies just 40 miles from Montgomery. It is well worth the ride for any golfer looking for 36 holes of jaw-dropping golf.

Since being named by *Golf Digest* as the third best new public course in America in 1994, Cambrian Ridge has not rested on its laurels. 2016 will see the culmination of a 3-year total renovation of the original 27 championship holes set upon the most spectacular setting for golf in the State of Alabama. The Loblolly and Sherling nines were completed in 2013 and 2014 and the Canyon nine has been redesigned and reconstruction will be completed in 2016. The greens themselves have been redesigned to accommodate the higher greens speeds associated with our installation of the latest-generation of ultra-dwarf Bermuda grass. However, this major renovation does not stop with the new greens. Many of the holes have been totally redesigned to open up views of Sherling Lake, deliver a challenging test of golf while providing players of all skill levels a variety of ways to play each hole and enjoy the experience.

This year on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, Cambrian Ridge will host the annual Father/Son Championship, one of the most popular events on the Trail. ■

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SHERLING COURSE

Purple 3,522/37.4/67; Orange 3,264/36.3/65; White 2,905/34.9/62; Teal 2,339/33.7/60;

Ladies' Teal 34.3/57; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	546	209	420	169	360	390	437	636	355
ORANGE	531	167	388	128	345	367	412	601	325
WHITE	490	146	355	120	330	294	354	514	302
TEAL	417	91	270	65	224	253	322	460	237
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4

CANYON COURSE

Purple 3,746/38.0/74; Orange 3,490/36.9/72; White 3,058/35.8/70; Teal 2,422/34.4/68;

Ladies' Teal 33.9/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	501	275	585	444	383	418	522	258	360
ORANGE	477	244	553	421	353	374	499	237	332
WHITE	432	163	478	366	330	366	464	152	307
TEAL	371	130	409	297	272	259	336	108	240
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	3	4

LOBLOLLY COURSE

Purple 3,528/36.6/66; Orange 3,316/35.6/63; White 2,928/34.7/61; Teal 2,384/33.4/58;

Ladies' Teal 33.5/54; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	497	421	418	159	418	222	503	447	443
ORANGE	469	397	390	136	413	196	474	423	418
WHITE	457	346	334	121	367	138	434	366	365
TEAL	342	322	249	84	301	112	369	321	284
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,640; Orange 1,415; White 1,116; Teal 745; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	156	187	211	147	173	159	231	185	191
ORANGE	136	155	187	123	142	141	210	162	159
WHITE	118	121	151	79	109	123	123	151	141
TEAL	81	71	94	66	76	75	76	93	113
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

HIGHLANDS COURSE

Black 3,892/38.7/71; Purple 3,580/37.5/69; Orange 3,285/36.0/72; White 2,966/34.5/69;
Teal 2,554/34.8/60; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	493	458	457	256	430	206	561	435	596
PURPLE	442	415	437	225	390	178	523	409	561
ORANGE	410	371	388	181	362	169	507	372	525
WHITE	392	341	354	127	336	145	422	352	497
TEAL	367	253	294	115	327	120	339	305	434
PAR	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5

MARSHWOOD COURSE

Black 3,812/38.7/72; Purple 3,502/37.4/72; Orange 3,204/35.3/71; White 2,849/34.0/68;
Teal 2,531/34.7/60; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	411	564	406	205	456	701	448	199	422
PURPLE	370	521	364	178	441	660	421	167	380
ORANGE	334	483	327	147	418	616	382	149	348
WHITE	304	453	311	126	380	544	302	113	316
TEAL	276	406	266	114	351	435	287	94	302
PAR	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4

MAGNOLIA COURSE

Black 3,701/38.1/66; Purple 3,415/36.7/67; Orange 3,141/34.8/63; White 2,862/33.8/61;
Teal 2,471/34.2/57; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	392	205	577	546	416	481	195	437	452
PURPLE	371	166	545	516	377	441	176	409	414
ORANGE	330	147	520	480	352	396	150	373	393
WHITE	296	110	476	457	317	363	136	341	366
TEAL	252	81	392	413	291	307	111	297	327
PAR	4	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,809; Orange 1,539; White 1,229; Teal 874; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	199	241	216	172	174	188	232	178	209
ORANGE	164	215	181	149	137	141	197	175	180
WHITE	121	184	133	127	101	113	159	136	155
TEAL	85	108	94	83	73	76	106	113	136
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



HIGHLAND OAKS

DOTHAN » 36 HOLES

Located in the southeast corner of Alabama, Highland Oaks offers three nine-hole championship courses. The Highlands/Magnolia combination was named by *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" as one of the nation's Great Value courses. This 36-hole complex features some of the longest and most classically designed holes on the Trail. Each nine has a different personality. Highlands, the core nine, is relatively open with several lakes in play. The peninsula green at the par-3 sixth has an elusive, beckoning quality.

Marshwood has been made famous (or notorious) by its behemoth par-5 sixth, which stretches to 701 yards from the tips. The 422-yard par-4 ninth, a left to right dogleg, is arguably the best hole at the site and has a tilted green elevated above a swathe of wetlands. The Magnolia nine is well-named: specimen magnolia trees dot the higher ground, which is reached via a 1,000-foot long wooden bridge spanning a marsh filled with lichen-dappled trees. The feature hole is the 416-yard fifth, where a split-level fairway offers an option off the tee. The Short Course, a nine-hole par 3, has demanding bunker placements, three water holes and possibly the best putting Bermuda greens in the South. ■

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MAGNOLIA GROVE

MOBILE » 54 HOLES

The new Magnolia Grove features two renovated golf courses. Each championship course received extensive renovations in the past three years. Golfers will find more “player friendly” qualities without compromising the integrity of Robert Trent Jones’ original design.

Magnolia Grove, the most southern location on Alabama’s Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail was recently named one of the “Top 50 Public Courses” by *Golf World Magazine* readers. The Crossings and Falls courses are also listed in *Golf Digest’s* “Places to Play” as two of the nation’s great value courses and as “America’s Top 50 Affordable Courses.”

The topography at Magnolia Grove features creeks, marshland, and lakes with each of the 54 holes carved through indigenous hardwood and pine. The new Crossings Course, which has hosted the LPGA Tour, provides an open parkland type ambiance. Several water features and crushed oyster shell waste areas were added to provide an exciting new look. All 18 greens have been redesigned and planted with the newly acclaimed Mini Verde ultra dwarf Bermuda grass.

The renovated Falls Course reopened in October 2010 as the only par-71 golf course on the Trail. The main tract at Magnolia Grove is characterized by large, liberally contoured Mini Verde greens and massive cloverleaf bunkers. Several holes were entirely redesigned giving the course a brand new look.

Golf Digest named the Short Course at Magnolia Grove as the best par-3 course in America. The Short Course, also recently renovated, features several newly designed greens and all new putting surfaces with the acclaimed Champion ultra dwarf Bermuda grass. Renovations were complete in August 2011. This course is as good as any collection of one-shotters on a championship course. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT MAGNOLIA GROVE

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CROSSINGS COURSE

Purple 7,212/73.6/125; Orange 6,652/70.8/123; White 6,157/68.6/114;

Ladies’ Teal 5,261/67.8/113; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	422	185	385	540	430	528	412	219	406
ORANGE	387	168	347	511	392	500	385	192	381
WHITE	342	135	317	496	378	484	369	163	349
TEAL	275	101	279	478	331	425	314	122	316
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	417	398	421	559	195	423	596	226	450
ORANGE	386	364	392	524	172	400	535	201	415
WHITE	374	334	371	508	157	354	476	168	382
TEAL	348	273	285	430	99	282	425	134	344
PAR	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	3	4

FALLS COURSE

Purple 7,158/74.6/142; Orange 6,674/71.4/135; White 6,119/69.5/126; Teal 5,049/68.1/124;

Ladies’ Teal 70.4/124; Par 71

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	448	195	430	407	582	190	446	417	420
ORANGE	406	179	413	367	522	173	410	393	386
WHITE	370	152	380	345	506	143	390	372	349
TEAL	345	111	308	335	415	91	340	296	279
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	570	206	423	169	444	445	426	388	552
ORANGE	552	188	405	157	398	407	414	373	531
WHITE	523	161	370	137	369	364	351	325	512
TEAL	393	106	324	117	264	328	295	282	420
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,140; Orange 2,734; White 2,279; Teal 1,829; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	174	180	189	215	137	135	190	178	160
ORANGE	160	170	165	189	107	126	152	153	140
WHITE	119	137	124	155	91	100	127	140	126
TEAL	93	102	90	136	71	80	90	110	118
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	173	192	195	205	190	110	192	155	170
ORANGE	151	174	170	175	164	99	161	135	143
WHITE	132	132	142	143	144	85	138	111	133
TEAL	117	108	128	121	103	70	122	80	90
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

AZALEA COURSE

Purple 7,504/75.3/132; Orange 6,759/71.5/126; White 6,112/68.5/117; Teal 5,431/70.3/116;
Red 4,725/67.8/111; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	636	411	420	203	355	572	225	463	470
ORANGE	558	375	400	178	315	520	180	422	385
WHITE	490	345	353	164	288	491	159	379	372
TEAL	455	312	339	145	243	400	148	349	305
RED	410	255	303	77	216	354	120	296	293
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	429	514	448	196	545	195	471	475	476
ORANGE	389	500	398	180	531	147	428	423	430
WHITE	347	460	371	158	472	133	342	386	402
TEAL	344	420	354	117	421	107	289	349	334
RED	302	321	338	107	383	66	273	307	304
PAR	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	4

DOGWOOD COURSE

Purple 7,063/72.9/128; Orange 6,521/70.4/126; White 5,885/67.5/115; Teal 5,301/70.3/122;
Red 4,578/66.5/112; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	528	425	214	399	499	426	305	191	398
ORANGE	483	410	174	380	469	415	286	177	361
WHITE	425	375	167	362	442	379	262	155	328
TEAL	385	330	143	344	397	347	236	128	294
RED	335	266	105	239	346	324	221	106	256
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	380	445	548	233	463	454	572	209	374
ORANGE	347	415	521	191	428	424	531	176	333
WHITE	316	367	454	170	355	381	479	157	311
TEAL	296	322	390	154	335	361	408	139	292
RED	267	295	334	130	315	312	382	119	226
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	3	4



LAKWOOD GOLF CLUB

POINT CLEAR » 36 HOLES

The venerable Dogwood and Azalea courses at The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, have seen a lot in their days. They've hosted President Gerald Ford, Dr. Billy Graham and Bob Hope, to name a few of the more famous players.

They've been through renovations and hurricanes and still remain a showcase for great golf in the South. First built in 1947, the Lakewood Golf Club at The Grand Hotel showcases fairways lined with 200-year-old oaks and a dramatic signature hole, the 14th on Azalea. An island green is surrounded by a four-acre lake, which makes your approach shot to this par-5 very demanding. Recently renovated, the new designs lend themselves to superb conditioning year round. With the addition or expansion of 10 water features over the span of the 36 holes as well as other interesting architectural features, golfers are faced with decisions at every corner.

Lakewood's two 18-hole courses alternate openings between Grand Hotel guests and Trail Card Holders, and Lakewood Golf Club members. The varying degree of difficulty promises a memorable golf experience for both the novice and the experienced golfer alike. Where the Dogwood course might seem a tad bit easier, and the Azalea, more of a challenge, both courses can play to your liking depending on your selection of tees. With five sets of tees per hole, your decision should be rather easy.

Funded by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the renovation of both courses brings them on par with many of the great resort golf courses in the country. Lakewood Golf Club has several times been named to *Golf Magazine's* "Best Golf Resorts in America."

Colony at the Grand, a residential development, overlooks the Azalea course at Lakewood. ■

LAKWOOD GOLF CLUB

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