



dynamic golf COURSES

COURTESY OF AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION

Any avid golf enthusiast will tell you that every golf course is
AS INDIVIDUAL AS ONE'S FINGERPRINTS.

In addition to providing players with an abundance of greens to play out their games, Florida is also the home to some Golf Course Bests!

Sweeping vistas that overlook the ocean and undulating green fairways enhanced by towering palms are only a few of the many enhancements these Florida golf resorts offer their guests!

During your next Florida vacation pack your golf clubs and see the beauty of Florida – via the fairway!

Old Memorial Golf Club - Tampa

Why? It's Corporate Owned

In the fall of 1994, Outback Steakhouse founders Chris Sullivan, Bob Basham and Bob Merritt decided to move ahead with their dream of building a private, national golf club in their hometown of Tampa, Florida. As friends and business partners, the Outback trio had traveled extensively, playing many of the great courses of Australia, the British

Isles and the U.S. They enjoyed the way the game was played on the seaside links of Scotland and the sand belt courses of Australia and the U.S.

First, the trio secured a 312-acre, sandy site, just 15 minutes from the Tampa airport, and critically acclaimed architect Steve Smyers was contracted to design and build the golf course.

Named after a nearby highway that was once the only route to the bay area of Tampa, Old Memorial Golf Club opened for play in November 1997, and it's well-conceived clubhouse was completed the following February. The vision for the development of a world-class golf course, with facilities to match, was taking shape.

Along with a mixture of subtle and bold contours, Old Memorial's primary design feature is its bunkering. Large

and beautifully sculpted, the bunkers have sand faces with long grass fingers that give them the appearance of a series of smaller bunkers. Unlike water hazards, bunkers are often just a quarter or half-shot penalty and recovery is always possible. Smyers' bunkers are dramatic, sweeping hollows of sand that intimidate, deceive, direct play and frame the course's landing areas and greens. Often, they make holes look more difficult than they really are. As one architecture editor wrote, "Not since MacKenzie or Tillinghast has a golf course architect used bunkering to make such bold statements, express such flair, instill such fear."

www.oldmemorialgolfclub.com

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club - Ponte Vedra Beach

Why? First Par 3 Island Green - recognized
 The resort life at Ponte Vedra Beach dates back to 1928 and the celebrated opening of the newest playground for the well-heeled, the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. From the boardrooms of Wall Street to the social registers of America, word spread quickly of the charming seaside retreat on Florida's northeast shore. The first guests came from such far away places as Grosse Pointe, Michigan; Newport, Rhode Island; and Greenwich, Connecticut. Indeed, this quaint, seaside retreat attracted the upper classes from all over the eastern and midwestern states. They came for the sun, sand, and surf. They came for the sports. They came to socialize. The finest families came to meet the finest families. And this splendid heritage continues today.
 Golf has been a way of life in Ponte Vedra Beach since the Inn & Club introduced the first course to the area in 1928. Today, Ponte Vedra is recognized as one of the golf capitals in the East.

Just steps from the ocean, the resort offers two picturesque 18-hole courses, each with its own distinct seaside links flavor. Meandering lagoons, undulating fairways, elevated Bermuda greens protected by steep-faced bunkers, and a prevailing sea breeze provides for every kind of shot making challenge imaginable.

800-234-7842 | www.pvresorts.com

Spring Lake Golf Resort - Sebring

Why? Largest Golf Green in the World (47,000 square feet)
 Spring Lake Golf Resort is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for the "world's largest green!" - Measuring 42,000 square feet, and is the home of the original \$1,000,000 putt!

The resort has two 18-hole courses to satisfy every level of golfing ability. The Panther Creek Championship Links Course has six different tees to choose from and features Florida's longest hole - a par 6 at 800 yards. With water throughout the course, accuracy is a premium. The course also features a popular par 3 island green.

The Cougar Trail course is member friendly and has four sets of tees to choose from. With its trees, woods, and water, this is an equally challenging course. Cougar #9 is also home to the World's Largest Green, see if you can one-putt!

www.springlakegolf.com

Amelia Island Plantation - Amelia Island

Why? Players have the choice of finishing their game or heading to the beach

Meticulously preserved since 1971, Amelia Island Plantation set the standard for development "In Harmony With Nature." Years before their time, the master developers of

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this coastal paradise included Charles Fraser and the Sea Pines Company of Hilton Head, South Carolina and Ian McHarg of the firm Wallace, McHarg, Roberts and Todd. Together they set upon a mission to find the optimum fit between man's habitat and the existing natural environment, including animal life and plant ecology on this fragile barrier island in Northeast Florida. The result was a master plan to protect tidal marshes, conserve oceanfront dunes, grassland and savannahs. An unprecedented 40-foot wide strip of natural vegetation was added as a buffer to all waterways allowing them to remain a wildlife refuge, travel corridors and food sources.

The resort's Ocean Links Course winds along a coastal Atlantic dune ridge, Ocean Link #4, #5, #6, #15 and #16 provide golfers with five oceanfront golf holes. The fairways and greens are parallel to the beach of Amelia Island and meander through a unique coastal maritime hammock.

Bobby Jones Golf Complex - Sarasota

Why? It's a historical journey through time In September 1927 a new golf complex opened in Sarasota, Florida. In honor of its namesake, Robert Tyre Jones Jr. (Bobby Jones) was invited to play the complex's "Inaugural Round". Since that historical moment, the club has added an additional 27 holes to the course, along with a 9-hole executive course. Today, the Bobby Jones Golf Complex is considered the golfing cornerstone of Sarasota. The courses consist of an 18 hole British course, which is par 72 and 6,537 yards from the tips. The American course is par 71 and 6,039 yards from the tips. Situated across the street, the Bobby Jones Golf Complex features a 9 hole, par 30, 1,760 yard, executive course.

Originally built in 1977, the executive course was named for Col. J. Hamilton Gillespie, thought to be "the Father of Florida Golf."

From the moment guests enter the main lobby of the Bobby Jones Golf Complex, they pass an impressive showcase which displays a portrait of namesake Bobby Jones. In addition, a sample of historic golf clubs from Jones' era are highlighted. Visitors immediately get the sense they've been taken back in golf history to a "very special time and place". After checking in, players should take a moment to read the "Historic Overview" located on the score card. It's at this point, players can realize that they're standing in the footprints of previous players such as Babe Ruth, Walter Hagen, Gene Sarason and Babe Didrickson Zaharias.

941-955-8097


we recommend >>>

DYNAMIC GOLF COURSES


Newly-renovated in 2003, the **Riviera golf Club**, Naples, is undoubtedly the area's best kept secret! The course features par threes which range from 130 yards to 205 yards from the back tees, and is highlighted with beautiful mature tree-lined fairways.

The course offers three different sets of tees that will allow players to choose the right length for their game. The Blue Tees measure 4,521 yards, while the White Tees are a more friendly 4,089 yards. The Red Tees are only 3,217 yards, making it especially fun for lady golfers. Be sure and pick the tees that give you the best chance to make a birdie or two! For reservations or information call the Pro Shop at **239-774-2011** or visit www.rivieragolf.com. *

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Bobby Jones Golf Club is a 45 hole municipal facility named for the legendary Robert Tyre Jones, Jr. who personally dedicated the facility on Sunday, February 13, 1927.

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