

ROBERT TRENT JONES
GOLF TRAIL



TRAIL GUIDE

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL » 2020



THIS IS *Alabama*

From the McWane Science Center in
Birmingham to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center
in Huntsville, you can take it all in.

Sweet Home
Alabama
Alabama.Travel/Discovery



Feel

the draw of exploration
and discovery



Hear

rocket science from
real rocket scientists



See

history that propelled
us into the future



OFF THE TRAIL

WILL AINSWORTH,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
STATE OF ALABAMA

Allow me to wish you the best of luck and loads of fun and excitement during your journey on Alabama's fabled Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

As an avid and lifelong golfer, I have played many of the courses on the Trail and can offer firsthand testimony that every aspect of your game will be tested. The RTJ Trail's Fighting Joe course in Muscle Shoals and the Ross Bridge course in Birmingham, for example, both rank in the Top 10 longest courses in the world, and demand booming but precise drives. The Senator course in Prattville, on the other hand, will require you to adjust your game to the rolling, links style play of Scotland and Britain.

In addition to challenging play, our courses also offer you great beauty. Standing atop the towering tee box on the first hole of the Senator course with our majestic State Capitol Building, Montgomery skyline, and meandering Alabama River spread out before you will certainly reinforce your love for the great game of golf.

I am confident that once you have played just a course or two, you will firmly understand why the PGA, LPGA, WEB.com Tour, and Symetra Tour have each held tournaments to test their professionals' skills on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

While in Alabama, I encourage you to also enjoy the history and hospitality that we offer. From the USS Alabama Battleship in Mobile to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, our state provides you hundreds of unique historic sites to visit, and our dining opportunities range from delicious country-cooking and barbecue joints to the finest Michelin-starred restaurants.

Once you have visited Alabama and played the RTJ Golf Trail, it is my hope that you will come back again and again and encourage your friends and family to travel here, as well.

May your drives be long and your three-putts be few,



Will Ainsworth
Lieutenant Governor



TITO'S

TEE TIME

Try a Tito's Lemonade Tea!



* TitosVodka.com * Crafted to be savored responsibly. DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION, INC. 40% ALC/VOL. © 2019 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA.

TRAIL GUIDE 2020



Ridge No. 4 at Oxmoor Valley

6 LOVE LETTERS TO ALABAMA: THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL FROM A TO Z

Opened 28 years ago, learn interesting tips on playing and exploring the Trail from a national golf travel writer.

14 GRAND GOLF & TRADITIONS ALONG MOBILE BAY

Opened in 1847, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa completed a massive renovation to its courses and the entire resort.

20 LUXURY LODGING ALONG THE TRAIL

Some of the country's top luxury hotels are on the Trail. Get some R&R in these eight hotels and resorts.

26 CHEERS

Bartenders from the RTJ Resort Collection properties share insights on what to order and where to go.

28 ALABAMA'S INTERNATIONAL ARTIST

Praised internationally for his unique style, this acclaimed artist from Alabama simply goes by one name, Nall.

30 WELCOME HOME

With two residential communities, you can experience the Trail all year long.

34 PROFESSIONAL PLAY

The Trail has hosted professional golf for the past 22 years. Here is a recap of the three tournaments in 2019 and dates for 2020 events.

36 A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL

A detailed guide and map to all 11 sites on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

On the cover Ross Bridge | Golf landscape photography throughout by Michael Clemmer.



LOVE LETTERS *to* ALABAMA

the ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL EXPERIENCE FROM A *to* Z

BY ERIC HART



Lake No. 2 at Grand National

If a picture is worth a thousand words, I've got a few pictures for you—pictures of love in the form of LOVE LETTERS to Alabama. I've been a travel and leisure writer for over a decade, and first met Alabama seven years ago. Man, she was something, a true “southern belle,” courteous, kind, generous, and oh so beautiful. . .unforgettable in every good and perfect way—it was love at first, second, and every successive sight. I've written a lot about her the past seven years—some eighty stories and over 140,000 words—on everything I love, and everything I think you'd love about her too. She loves the outdoors—mountains, lakes, the soft sandy shores of The Gulf—and golf. Boy, does she love golf! She took me on a tour of the world famous Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail—we visited all eleven sites, saw all 26 courses, and played 378 of the 468 holes. It was. . .wow. . .pure wow! It's hard to find the words. In fact, it's hard to adequately summarize Alabama's impression on me in general. . . might even be impossible. But, if you'll oblige me, I'd love to share some highlights on Alabama and the Trail—listed alphabetically from A to Z. Get to know her a little, and I believe you'll love her a lot. . .»

The famous 2,200-mile **Appalachian Trail** trickles out of Georgia's Chattahoochee National Forest into northeast Alabama where it spills over colorful foothills and into the rivers, lakes, and waterfalls of Talladega National Forest. Where that trail officially stops and starts is open to loose geographical interpretation but, essentially, where the Appalachian Trail ends the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail begins, and the “father of modern golf course architecture” left Alabama residents and guests with an impressive portfolio of golf work that significantly stands out among the rest of the state's standout beauty.

On the southern side of the state, the **Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National** is one of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's eleven signature sites. Mr. Jones, who designed over 300 courses in 45 states and 29 countries, considered the Grand National property the single greatest golf site he'd ever seen, and built three courses along the shores of the 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee. The Links Course emphasizes challenging fun, with a dozen holes on the water and wetlands. The Lake Course emphasizes beautiful risks, with another eleven holes on the lake and one hole in the lake, the signature 3-par 15th. And the Short Course is a stellar collection of 3-pars just begging for an ace. I was happy to oblige. A popular host hotel for hundreds of annual golf groups, the Marriott features great food and multiple pools not far from Auburn University.

It's spelled all four ways in Alabama and it doesn't really matter which is correct. . . **Barbecue/ Barbeque/Bar-B-Q/BBQ**. Carnivores sure don't care, we just want to eat the meat, and Alabama's world-class smokers are happy to oblige the masses with massive quantities of perfectly prepared chicken, beef, and pork. My “little black BBQ book” is packed with “finger-licking favorites” like Bob Sykes in Bessemer, and 2014 World BBQ Champion Big Bob Gibson's in Decatur.

Not far from the stellar Bay Barbecue in Mobile, **The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa** is a unique and historic Marriott with a massive rooftop pool and verandah offering spectacular city and Mobile River views. Treat yourself to a treatment at their full-service spa, please your palette at any of their three dining establishments, tell secrets to the Whispering Arches, or walk down the street for a bit and a bite at The Blind Mule.

Birmingham is 250 miles north of Mobile and the largest city in Alabama, with a population of roughly 220,000 and the easy-access Shuttleworth International Airport. Many a golf trip on the Trail begins and ends there, and many a mind is blown by some of Birmingham's Best BBQ—the “Meat Three-Peat” at Saw's, Saw's Juke Joint, and Saw's Soul Kitchen.

Almost exactly halfway between Birmingham and Mobile, **Cambrian Ridge** is another stop

on the Trail, with four nine-hole courses, and one of America's most dramatic driving ranges. The three full-length nines — Canyon, Sherling, and Loblolly — are some of the Trail's prettiest and toughest courses, with water everywhere, dramatic elevation changes, and wild green complexes. Super fun as those three nines are, they're scarcely as fun as the Short nine, pinched between a chiseled rock ridge and the shimmering Sherling Lake. I call the property exhaustingly exhilarating. *Golf Digest* calls it “One of America's 40 Best Value” golf facilities.

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail would not exist without the original vision from **Dr. David G. Bronner**, unquestionably one of golf's greatest pioneers. The former Minnesota native moved to Alabama to move literal mountains, transforming the state into a golf mecca that not only defied all precedents but established one that has never again been matched. The collection of Trail golf—short courses, incredible practice facilities, and championship designs from 4,700 to 8,200 yards—directly benefits the Retirement Systems of Alabama and every golfer of every age and skill level who comes to play. Best of all, the Trail is relatively unaffected by winter, with courses pretty much playable (and snow-free) 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds a year, and longer on leap years.

America's greatest Short Course may very well be the 13-hole Preserve in Bandon, Oregon, but “America's Greatest Collection of **Executive Courses**” is undoubtedly in Alabama on the Trail. What Robert Trent Jones, Sr. accomplished on his “long” courses is quite commendable. What he accomplished with his incredibly fun short courses is nearly incomprehensible. Mr. Jones built four 18-hole short courses (at Grand National, Hampton Cove, Magnolia Grove, and Oxmoor Valley) and three 9-hole short courses (at Cambrian Ridge, Highland Oaks, and Silver Lakes). In all, that means there is an awesome abbreviated play option at seven of the **Eleven Trail Sites**. Robert Trent Jones, Sr. made quite a splash with these hits. The rest of us make a splash with our misses on them.

It's all about the numbers. . . these two numbers: **Five Hundred Thousand and Four-Hundred-Sixty-Eight**. Five Hundred Thousand golfers visit the Trail each year. Half a million. Each and every year. That number isn't decreasing. If anything, as more people discover the remarkable stay and play and play and play



Dr. David G. Bronner

values, that number is only increasing. The other number—468—that’s how many golf holes are on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. If you’re a master itinerant with a bit of a crazy streak, you can play them, all of them, on one trip. If you’re a tad more reasonable, you can cover them in multiple trips. However you go about it, the goal should be the same—“Play them all.”

Few spots are more alluring and leisurely rewarding than the Marriott Autograph Collection’s *Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa* in Point Clear. Featuring 550 acres of boardwalk-lined property directly on Mobile Bay, the resort also offers indoor and outdoor pools, a water park, spa, fitness center, stunning boardwalk, and 36 holes of Robert Trent Jones Golf across the street at The Lakewood Club. The semi-private Lakewood has two 18-hole championship courses designed by Perry Maxwell

that joined the Trail in 2005. The courses alternate between member and public play daily, and while the Azalea Course is a powerful draw, considering it is basically brand new coming off a 2019 renovation, many contend the front nine on the Dogwood Course is one of the Trail’s five best nines. **NOTE:** The Lakewood Club hosts the 59th U.S. Senior Women’s Amateur Championship September 12-17, 2020.

In Point Clear, you’re only 30 miles southeast of the great Trail golf at Magnolia Grove in Mobile, but you’re also only 180 miles southwest of another 36-hole Trail site at *Highland Oaks* in Dothan. Highland Oaks has four nine-hole courses. The Highlands, Magnolia, and Marshwood nines are quite scenic, and the Short nine is quite fun, with daunting water carries and wild greens.

From the southeast to the northeast we go, from Highland Oaks to *Huntsville*. Locally known

as the “Barbecue Capital of Alabama” Huntsville deserves way more credit than that. With fifty BBQ joints in town (on last count)—roughly one stop per 3,900 residents—it seriously merits consideration as the “Barbecue Capital of America.” The quantity of offerings is significant, but not more significant than the incredible consistency of the quality. Short of listing all fifty restaurants, I’ll say Melvin’s Place, Pig N Out, The Chuckwagon, and Boarhog’s, all are great places to start. Just do yourself a favor and don’t count calories. If you want to count something, count on playing the 54 golf holes at the Trail’s *Hampton Cove*, just 10 miles from Huntsville. The River Course, along the Flint River, is the flattest course on the Trail, without a single bunker. The Highlands Course has tons of dramatic views and elevation changes, with a cool rustic mule barn on No. 5. And the 18-hole Short Course can get pretty wet and wild, with water in play on 11 holes.



No. 9 at Ross Bridge

The **Ironton Ironworks** were a pair of blast furnaces that operated near the Trail's current Oxmoor Valley site back in the 1860's. While the golf facility wasn't built then, it was built there later, on former mining land, a resourceful conversion by Mr. Jones. Equally resourceful, Alabama is the only state in the U.S. that doesn't have to import any resources to make iron. And golfers can buy irons here. Win, win.

I can't imagine a jury would deliberate much on the greatness of golf in Alabama—the verdict seems unanimously in the state's favor—but I know for certain that all deliberation comes to rest when you meet **The Judge**. Judge and jury meet the executioner on the first tee, where the killer tee shot is easily the most dramatic opening moment in Alabama golf, and the rest of the property doesn't dip in drama much from there. The 1,500-acre Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail site at Capitol Hill sits just outside the state capital, and God pounds his gavel of stunning natural beauty into your head on literally every hole. With three 18-hole courses—Judge, Senator, and Legislator—the 54-hole property peaks and plummets along the Alabama River and adjacent the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel—a most convenient stay and play partner. The Judge is “U.S. Open host worthy,” already challenging without the USGA's help, and featuring 14 holes on the water. The Legislator is tough as well, a bit tighter, and swamper, but not any less entertaining. And the Scottish-Links style Senator is many a player's favorite, more wide-open, but with 160 pot bunkers, and therefore far from a pushover. The Senator hosts the Symetra Tour's Guardian Championship each year, and a Korn Ferry Tour event. The capital city of Alabama may not have as much great BBQ as Huntsville, but it still has spectacular options like Fat Boy's and Urban Cookhouse.

If you were jumping up and down just now, worried that I'd left a great Montgomery BBQ stop off my list, don't worry... I've got it covered. **K&J's Rib Shack** on South Court Street is easily one of Alabama's best meat markets, complete with a chalkboard menu and some of the world's friendliest owners, specializing in amazing ribs, chicken, and Southern sides. Save room for the pound cake, assuming there's some left.

Whatever it is that you **LOVE** most about Alabama, there's no denying that everyone is drawn, in one way or another, to the **Lakes**. The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has tons of lakes of its own—from Lees Lake adjacent Silver Lakes Golf Course to the

Lakewood Club, and lovely lakes on the courses like Lake Saughatchee at Grand National, Sherling Lake at Cambrian Ridge, and Wheelless Lake at Highland Oaks. Off the Trail, but never far from it, other lakes impress like Guntersville Lake, Lewis Smith Lake, Wheeler Lake, and Lake Martin, with its cool replica of the Plymouth Lighthouse.

It's a little known fact that **Mardi Gras** actually began in Mobile, Alabama. Everyone thinks it began in Louisiana. Not so. In Alabama they refer to it as “Carnival” and it is celebrated here from November to February every year. If you're down here for the real Mardi Gras, you might as well golf and Mobile has a spectacular Trail site at **Magnolia Grove**. With two full-length courses—Falls and Crossings—and a thrilling 18-hole Short course that *Golf Digest* once labeled “The Best Par-3 Course in America” you'll find plenty to celebrate in Mobile. The Falls is the only Par 71 course on the Trail. The Crossings is a popular LPGA Tour host with unique crushed-oyster shell waste areas and some pretty cool wooden bridges.

Alabama is a state rich in football history, with a legacy built on championship teams and coaches like Paul William “Bear” Bryant (25 years, 6 national championships) and, more recently, **Nick Saban**—the University of Alabama football coach, in Tuscaloosa since 2007 (5 national championships so far at Alabama).

Rising from the ashes of a former steel-mine, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's **Oxmoor Valley** sits just a few miles outside Birmingham, and just two miles from another Trail site at Renaissance Ross Bridge. Oxmoor Valley features two full-length courses and an 18-hole short course. It's hard to describe The Ridge Course as anything other than “a rollercoaster” given the dramatic 150 feet of elevation changes and turbulent green complexes carved into remarkable limestone structures. The Valley Course is equally moving with more landscape highlights and more water, and the Short Course cleverly lets you use almost every club in the bag, and a camera if you have one along.

Practice more, play better... that's the general rule of thought, and the magnificent spreads of land given to the Trail's **Practice Facilities** show that they were anything but an afterthought in Dr. Bronner's master plan. He didn't just want to grow golf courses, he wanted to grow the game, and the incredible practice areas at Oxmoor Valley

(and throughout the Trail) let you work on every aspect of your game on your own, or with help from a highly qualified instructor.

From **Qualified** Instructors to highly Qualified Professionals and Managers at every stop, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is one finely tuned, extremely in-sync operation. Few things on the Trail impress more than the consistency in service and attention to detail, both inside the clubhouses and out on the courses. That **Quality** is remarkable to say the least, and commendable on any scale, but especially on one with the **Quantity** of golf facilities, courses, and holes like this one.

The single biggest golf endeavor in the history of the world was the **Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail**—no kidding—a science project of greater proportion and imagination than anything Newton, Bell, or Einstein ever produced individually, or collectively for that matter. Is that an exaggeration? Maybe a little. What isn't an exaggeration is that this project comprised of building 8 facilities and 378 golf holes simultaneously—more than 100 miles of golf course at one time. What did those other geniuses ever achieve on that scale? That's what I thought. Mr. Jones, often referred to as “Trent” so as not to confuse him with the equally famous golfer, Bobby Jones, may have his name all over the courses and the state, but given that he was in his 80's when the work began, he wasn't able to do all the architectural designing alone. His senior project manager, Roger Rulewich, deserves a considerable amount of credit as the man driving all of Trent's architectural plans. The Trail fully expanded to 11 sites, 26 courses and 468 golf holes, and partnered up with eight Marriott Resort hotels to form the world's largest golf resort. All but three of the Trail sites have Marriott (or Renaissance) Hotels on-site or nearby, and every Trail site is conveniently linked via interstate highway. By every conceivable standard, the science project of all science projects was a success—a solid A+—and over 13 million golfers have visited the global attraction so far.

Many, including myself and *Golf Channel's* Matt Ginella, consider the flagship hotel and golf course of the Trail to be the **Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa**. Part of that has to do with the “castle on the hill” appearance. Part of that is the perfectly balanced indoor/outdoor vibes of the place, ideal for couples, families, and individual golfers alike. There isn't a Six Flags theme park in Alabama and they don't really need one. They have



Short Course No. 4 at Silver Lakes

Renaissance Ross Bridge. The Renaissance has multiple pools, a world-class spa, a piano bar at JT's Lounge, fine dining at Brocks, and casual fares and flair at The Clubhouse restaurant. It has a golf course with a mammoth buried under the first fairway (supposedly) and eighteen rollercoasters on the course, each with varying heights of elevation and exhilaration. The beauty of the lakes and waterfalls dwarfs even the 8,191-yard course, and the bow on the gift of the experience is the bagpiper bidding adieu to the day at an impressively near-perfect place.

The Renaissance brand is strongly represented elsewhere on the Trail, in both Montgomery and Mobile. The *Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza* offers spectacular views of Mobile Bay and the fabulous Harbor Room restaurant not far from the Mobile Convention Center and the Magnolia Grove Trail site. The *Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center* has a fabulous European-style spa, and a 1,800-seat Performing Arts Centre near the Alabama River with shuttle service to the Trail's Capitol Hill site.

One of the rare Trail sites without its own Marriott or Renaissance is *Silver Lakes* in Gadsden. Because it appears as if the facility is sort of out there on its own, many people overlook it. Big mistake. Huge. Silver Lakes is a simple drive from Birmingham, Huntsville, and Auburn/Opelika with 36 golf holes from three nines called Heartbreaker, Mindbreaker, and Backbreaker, and my favorite 9-hole short course on the Trail. It's now a well-known story that Silver Lakes was destroyed by an EF4 tornado in 2011 and Trail management had to decide whether or not to invest in bringing it back. Bring it back they did, bigger and better than ever, and many a Trail guest claims it among their favorite stops. In fact, the only thing more stunning than their comeback story may be the incredible beauty of the property. The place resonates "wow factor."

Another place that resonates wow factor is the Trail site at *The Shoals*. Located in the far northwest corner of the state in Florence and Muscle Shoals, RTJ Shoals has two 18-hole courses only 11.5 miles from the incredible Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa and those two golf courses are almost surreal. Fighting Joe was the first course built in

the United States over 8,000 yards at 8,092, and The Schoolmaster (named after President Woodrow Wilson), with a spectacular setting on the river, might actually be the tougher course.

The gorgeous river I just referenced, that defines many of the golf holes at The Shoals, is the *Tennessee River*, and if you follow that river west a few miles, you'll find the Wilson Dam and beyond that one of the coolest hotels in the South. The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa doesn't just sit on and overlook the Tennessee River, it towers over it, with epic panoramic views from Alabama's only rotating restaurant—the 360 Grille—a most luxurious of spa settings, and fun, relaxing hangouts at the indoor pool, outdoor waterpark, and one of my favorite bars anywhere—Swampers. Turns out I'm not alone with those social sentiments. Swampers Bar & Grille features photos and memorabilia from musical celebrities who recorded in Muscle Shoals including Bob Dylan, Otis Redding, and Aretha Franklin. The bar features live music nightly, and you never know who you will see having drinks.



UI miss Alabama and the Trail every day. So many great people. So many great values. And speaking of values, few golf packages can touch the value of the Trail's "*Unlimited Golf Specials.*" The seasonal memberships are an absolute steal, considering you can play all you want at 9 of the 11 sites for a remarkably low monthly rate (only Ross Bridge and The Lakewood Club are excluded).

VDr. David Bronner's partner for the massive Trail project was *Vaughan...Bobby Vaughan*. (Think "Bond... James Bond") Vaughn formed SunBelt Golf Corporation to develop, build, and operate the original eight sites and eighteen original courses. Then they added more. And more. And more. Using a baseball analogy, they essentially hit back to back grand slams, which is pretty hard to do.

WSpeaking of baseball, Alabama is the home state of some of the game's greatest—mega stars like *Willie Mays* and Hank Aaron, as well as other celebrities like Jesse Owens, Carl Lewis, Bo Jackson, and Channing Tatum (a fact provided a bit too quickly by my wife).

W*Water Street* in Mobile offers easy access to the Port of Mobile, the city's convention center and the Carnival Cruise terminal. Both the Battle House and Renaissance Riverview Plaza are located on this historic street. If you get a craving in Mobile for raw oysters, the original *Wintzell's Oyster House* is just a few blocks away from both RTJ Resort Collection hotels.

XThe letter "*X*" is often used to represent an unknown number. I'd rather deal with the known. The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is 172,398 walking or riding yards long. The shortest distance between any two sites is 2 miles, from Oxmoor Valley to Ross Bridge, and the longest distance between any two sites is 384 miles, from The Lakewood Club to The Shoals. Full circle you can hit every single Trail site in 1,078 miles. The longest 18-hole course is Ross Bridge, at 8,191 yards from the Tips. The shortest 18-hole course is the Short Course at Grand National, at 1,715 yards from the Teals. Oh, and if you like to watch golf...the Trail has hosted at least one professional golf tournament each of the past 23 years.

YWhile Alabama does not have one specific designated nickname, it does have several it answers to including the *Yellowhammer State*—a Yellowhammer being a bird in the bunting family. Others know Alabama as the Cotton State and the Heart of Dixie. I know Alabama as awesome. The state tree is the longleaf pine. The state flower is the camellia. The state capital is Montgomery. The state of being for those visiting is typically one of bliss. And now you know.

ZAll good things must come to an end, unfortunately. I hated leaving Alabama...hated watching her disappear in my rearview mirror. I was tempted to turn around, to run back to her, even move down there so I could forever stay with her. Who knows, maybe I will someday. For now though, I reminisce, and I write love letters like these. I've got a picture of her above my desk, of my son and I standing there with her on the first tee box of The Judge. It really pulls at my heartstrings. I miss you Alabama. In fact, I'm leaving this last letter open...unfinished. I'm convinced there's more to our story. This isn't "goodbye." This is merely "see you later." ■



Dogwood No. 10 at Lakewood

GRAND GOLF & TRADITIONS *along* MOBILE BAY

| BY TOMMY HICKS |

It happens the moment you turn off Scenic Highway 98 in Point Clear, aimed either for The Lakewood Club or, on the other side of the street, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa — you just feel better. There's something almost magical that takes place and your senses register the change in an instant. You're not just heading toward a golf course, you've turned your vehicle toward a golf destination and a golf experience that enhances every aspect of the game, every amenity it can provide, every challenge, every possibility. You're not just heading toward check-in at a hotel, you're driving toward history, toward beauty, toward comfort, and relaxation the likes of which you haven't previously known. ...»

“Golf’s biggest enemy right now is time. People don’t have five or six hours (to play). By the time you leave the house and go hit balls, play, have a drink after, it’s six hours. That was the idea behind the Experience. It’s your first turf experience. Previously, people who went to the practice area would probably wonder, ‘Is this what the whole place is going to be like?’”

The marriage of The Lakewood Club and the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa is perfect, just perfect. Golfers are caught up in the challenge of the two recently renovated courses, Dogwood and Azalea, and the beauty that engulfs both; guests at The Grand, also recently renovated, are wowed by the historic aspects of the property, both obvious and hidden, which are wrapped in a layer of contemporary offerings, and there are the views, all those gorgeous views, from the greenery and flowers, to the sunrises and sunsets, to the lushness of the property itself.

To turn onto either road is to turn off the beaten path and enter the Land of Ahhs. You’re able to push the rest of the world aside during your time there and just relax and enjoy all that is in front of you, all that surrounds you.

THE LAKEWOOD CLUB

The drive off Scenic Highway 98 to The Lakewood Club clubhouse is worth the trip. A small road that winds between homes and portions of the Dogwood Course offers an entryway that is serene and creates a sense of anticipation for what lies ahead.

Arriving at the clubhouse, golfers are greeted warmly by attendants who provide warm smiles along with answers to any questions that may arise. Immediately, it is evident the two courses will provide not only a beautiful landscape on which to play, but the challenges one would expect from such a club.

Renovations did not erase the historic nature of the facility, but instead enhanced those qualities. Inside the clubhouse, the historic nature of the club becomes even more evident, though it also features a pro shop, restaurant, and bar that provides state-of-the-art amenities.

The club, part of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, lives up to its hype and reputation as one of the Southeast’s finest golf facilities.

Before you even step on the first tee of either course, it is obvious you are at special place, a club that offers all that you will require. For most golfers, the day’s play begins at The Grand Golf Experience, the practice facility that lives up to its name.

The Experience features three acres of tee surface, 22,000 square feet of greens surfaces, and a two-acre short game area. It is a practice facility that allows you to hit every club in your bag, in every conceivable situation. It also offers world class instruction, club fitting, and modern technology aimed at improving your game.

And that’s not all. There’s also a 1,500 square foot range house where you can watch golf on a 65-inch TV, have a drink at the full-service bar, have a snack, or simply sit and relax.

Several years ago the practice facility featured only a short hitting area, and you were not allowed to hit drivers because of the short distance available. When the practice area was first moved to its current location, there were challenges there as well.

“They moved the practice facility, but it was never irrigated and didn’t drain very well. We tend to get a lot of rain here and when it did, we had to close the range for days because a lot of balls would plug, and we’d end up losing

thousands of balls every year. It was just the ground out there,” said Niall Fraser, Director of Golf at The Lakewood Club and the former right-hand man for Robert Trent Jones Sr., who designed and built the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama for the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

“We put a major investment in there and built what we call The Experience. It’s that place where you can hit every shot in the bag, putt on TifEagle greens, work at the short game area, an uneven lie area, and you can get Top 100 instruction and club fitting. And at the end, you can have a drink and watch golf on the 65-inch TV, Wifi is available, music is going, there’s a full bar, and you get home in time for soccer practice.

“Golf’s biggest enemy right now is time. People don’t have five or six hours (to play). By the time you leave the house and go hit balls, play, have a drink after, it’s six hours. That was the idea behind The Experience. It’s your first turf experience. Previously, people who went to the practice area would probably wonder, ‘Is this what the whole place is going to be like?’”

“The Experience was to really make this a destination. There are people who don’t have time to play but they can practice. We do a lot of groups and night golf. Let’s not make it too formal. You have to make the game fun.”

The Dogwood Course, renovated in 2005, recently underwent more renovations and improvements that have created a new look and feel to the 7,104-yard, par-72 layout. Reopened in July of 2018, the course will be the site of the 2020 U.S. Senior Women’s Amateur championship, one of 14 championship tournaments run by the United States Golf Association.

Those changes included the installation of TifEagle greens, as well as the movement of a few greens and other changes that not only added to the overall improvement of the course, but were aimed at making the course more friendly for the average golfer.

“On Dogwood we didn’t do very much. We moved around some bunkers and placed some in front of greens, making it easier for the average golfer. We widened the areas in front of the greens, and we only moved three greens – 14, 16, and 17. We did very little movement in that regard. Changed the fairway grass to a new grass called Celebration. It was really aesthetic things that we changed, trying to pay attention to detail.”

Once the renovations to Dogwood were complete, the Azalea Course was closed so it could get a facelift, as well. It reopened on Friday, November 1, 2019, to great anticipation and good reviews from members and guests alike. The changes to Azalea were far more intensive than those to Dogwood.

“First of all, it’s a little shorter now from all the tees,” Fraser said, “Right out of the shoot was a 650-yard par 5. All the other tees were relative to it. We shortened (the first hole) about 100 yards, but it’s still 567 off the back tees. The effort was made to really open up the front of the greens for the average golfer. To really do that there was a strong effort to make it look different.

“Azalea is a big piece of property and with Bermuda grass you don’t get a lot of contrast with the grasses. So, we wanted to try and create a different look and did it with grasses. There’s a gravel product on 10 and 11, so instead of having pine straw in there and roots under that, we used this gravel product



Dogwood No. 10 at Lakewood

USGA TOURNAMENT COMING TO LAKEWOOD IN 2020

Of the 16,000 courses across the country, only 14 will host a USGA national championship in 2020. One of those national tournaments will be played on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail for the first time.

The Lakewood Club's Dogwood Course will play host to the 59th annual U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship September 12-17, 2020. It will be just the eighth USGA event ever played in the state of Alabama, the most recent being the 2018 U.S. Women's Open at Shoal Creek in Birmingham.

"There has never been a USGA event on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail," said Niall Fraser, Lakewood's Director of Golf. "We have hosted the PGA TOUR,

LPGA, and others, but never USGA events." Fraser explained such tournaments are usually hosted at private clubs such as Pebble Beach or Pinehurst.

"The marriage of the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur and The Lakewood Club is a perfect fit based on the competitive challenge presented by the Dogwood Course, as well as the beauty, ambiance, and amenities available at the Grand Hotel," said Fraser. He noted that the spa, nearby shops, the proximity to Fairhope and its quaintness, the restaurants available at the Grand Hotel, the beauty of the area and the history, makes it a great location for the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur.

The tournament will feature a field of 132 players, 50 years old or older, with a handicap index of 14.4 or better. Golfers will earn their place in the field via

qualifying tournaments held across the country or via an exemption category.

The first two rounds of the tournament will feature stroke play. After the stroke play aspect of the tournament has been completed, the low 64 players will advance to match play. There will be six rounds of match play that will end with the crowning of the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur champion for 2020.

"We are very excited to bring the 59th U.S. Senior Women's Amateur to The Lakewood Club," said John Bodenhamer, USGA Senior Managing Director of Championships, in announcing the club's selection. "We are confident that its Dogwood Course will provide the ultimate test for competitors as well as a championship experience outside the ropes."



Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa

which gives a very neat and tight lie, and you can always get out. It's very clean and consistent and has a good look to it. We used a fairway grass and, on the tee, called Latitude, a new Bermuda grass that's come out. It's a different shade of green, more of a lime green. What that does is it gives us a little contrast like what the northern courses have. You can tell where the fairway is and where the different areas are, the color of the rough and the greens are different. We used five different grasses to create that look. It appeals to the eye and makes it look different."

Other changes include a revamping of the course's former signature hole, No. 14, which originally featured an island green. The hole still plays to a strong degree of difficulty, but the island green has been eliminated, a move made to aid the average golfer. Between hole No. 9 and hole No. 10, which sits in a low area that featured a lot of empty space, now sits a three-acre pond.

"It takes away from all that green – I think it was 230 yards wide and it was just all green," Fraser said. "Now it's 90-100 yards worth of water and 100 yards worth of green."

Other changes included the moving of 12 of the course's 18 greens, again to make the course more appealing and playable for the average golfer.

"We kept the same green surfaces but took a little of the pitch out of them," Fraser said. "They are TifEagle greens, so you can't have a lot of pitch because they are so fast the ball would just go right off the green. We centered them more to get more sun and we took out some trees. They are smaller, but they have very little movement in them. We did some different things with that.

discovering the wonder and enchantment it offers. Even those who have been with the hotel for years enjoy its qualities day after day, year after year.

"I started working here in the spring of 1986, and that particular year the azaleas were still blooming, and we had wonderfully cool mornings and warm days later," Susan Stein, the hotel's historian, said. "I thought I had died and gone to heaven when I came to work at the hotel. I thought, this is ideal, it's just such a beautiful place to work. There's such a wonderful ambiance here at the hotel between the building, the grounds and the people I work with. I've been here for 33 years, and we have over 40 staff members who have been here at least 25 years.

"It's almost like coming home every day. It just feels good to walk on the property. And we have repeat guests who come back all the time. We have members of Lakewood and the hotel is part of their lifestyle. It's welcoming and warm, and it's gratifying because people appreciate what's here."

Certainly, the changes are worth noting. The hotel is more than 170 years old, and while its history is as much a fabric of the hotel as the actual structure, there are contemporary aspects to the hotel, as well. The two combine to provide guests a relaxing stay, marked by an ever-present feeling of comfort, almost like being at home.

It recently joined the Autograph Collection of hotels, denoting the uniqueness and special qualities that make it the Queen of Southern Resorts.

"The Grand is 170 years in the making," said Kevin Hellmich, Director of Sales and Marketing. "You can't build a hotel like the Grand today. Our guests,

"It's almost like coming home every day. It just feels good to walk on the property. And we have repeat guests who come back all the time. We have members of Lakewood and the hotel is part of their lifestyle. It's welcoming and warm, and it's gratifying because people appreciate what's here."

We had two par 3s with two greens, and that was just a novelty. We chose to go back to one green and made them a little bigger. Again, it is a totally different look. And we had big bunkers, so we made bunkers smaller. We opened up the front so the average golfer can run it up to the green."

All the work on both courses, Fraser said, are based not only on creating excellent golf courses, but making those courses a challenge — and more fun — regardless of one's skill set.

"We encourage players to move up (on the tee box)," he said. "We have five sets of tees on either course. It really affects the women and the seniors, so let them go out and have fun. They are great golf courses, and they are both fantastic."

The Lakewood Club has long had a presence as one of the finest golf facilities along the Gulf Coast and the Southeast in general. The recent renovations have only enhanced that standing, and Fraser said the leadership of Dr. Bronner and the RSA has allowed the improvements to be made.

THE GRAND HOTEL

Historic Hotel of the year in 2019, the Grand Hotel was built in 1847 and has long been one of the country's most iconic hotels. Its reputation for Southern hospitality, its history, its ambiance, its beauty, and its accommodations are legend. And following a 16-month renovation, all those factors and more have only been enhanced.

The Grand Hotel is a family-friendly facility that has been an important gathering place for generations in some families, as well as for new guests just

generational guests, and new guests that are here for the first time, truly appreciate the history, the old photographs, the firing of the cannon. They love seeing the chef's garden, just everything else that the Grand offers, from the spa to the golf to the pool cabanas to new restaurants to the amazing sunsets along Mobile Bay. We tried to tie in as many things as possible throughout the renovation, but we also wanted to pull through the history in many different areas. That way, a generational guest can continue to experience the history and new guests can learn about the history of the Grand and how special a place it truly is. The most popular aspect of the Grand Hotel is the memories that the hotel has created over the years for the families."

A total of 405 rooms are available at The Grand, an AAA Four Diamond-rated hotel, featuring three different designs, not counting suites, in five buildings — South Bay, North Bay, Marina House, Spa Building, and the Main Historic Building. The staff, at every area of the hotel, is prompt, courteous, and friendly, offering great service.

The hotel sits on 550 acres where giant, live oaks are numerous, not to mention an amazing assortment of greenery and flowers that show off nature at its best. The nearby marina welcomes boats from Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico and ducks travel freely on the property, adding to its atmosphere and beauty.

The magic of The Grand is its simplicity. There is so much to do, so much to see, so much to experience. When you arrive, you fall under its spell right away, and soon you are acutely aware you have spent much of your time smiling. ■



Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa

LUXURY LODGING



From having one of *USA Today's* top five historic hotels in the country to the best golf resorts in North America, according to *GOLF* magazine and *Golf Digest*, expect exceptional accommodations when traveling along Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. » The eight properties in the RTJ Golf Trail's resort collection consistently rank among Marriott's best hotels and resorts. Several have been recently renovated for your arrival. Point Clear's Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa completed a massive transformation, including the Dogwood and Azalea Courses. The Auburn Marriott Opelika doubled the number of rooms, added a spa, and has upgraded to the resort designation. The Battle House and Renaissance Montgomery received extensive construction updates in 2019. Since the Golf Trail and its resorts are owned by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, local architects, contractors, and other Alabama vendors were used during these transformations. » From golfing groups to a couple's getaway to business meetings, the Trail's eight hotels and resorts exceed international luxury standards while offering local flavor. As you make your tee times, here are eight hotel and resort recommendations for your trip from north to south. ...»

along the **TRAIL**

NORTH ALABAMA AND BIRMINGHAM REGION

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

Florence, Alabama marriottshoals.com

[facebook.com/marriottshoals](https://www.facebook.com/marriottshoals) twitter.com/marriottshoals

Overlooking the Tennessee River and historic Wilson Dam in Florence, Alabama, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa continues to be a Marriott leader for exceptional golf, spas, dining, hotel rooms, and guest satisfaction. The 199 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.

The Marriott Shoals 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 & Grille, located inside the hotel, celebrates the area's rich musical heritage. Artists such as 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.

Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

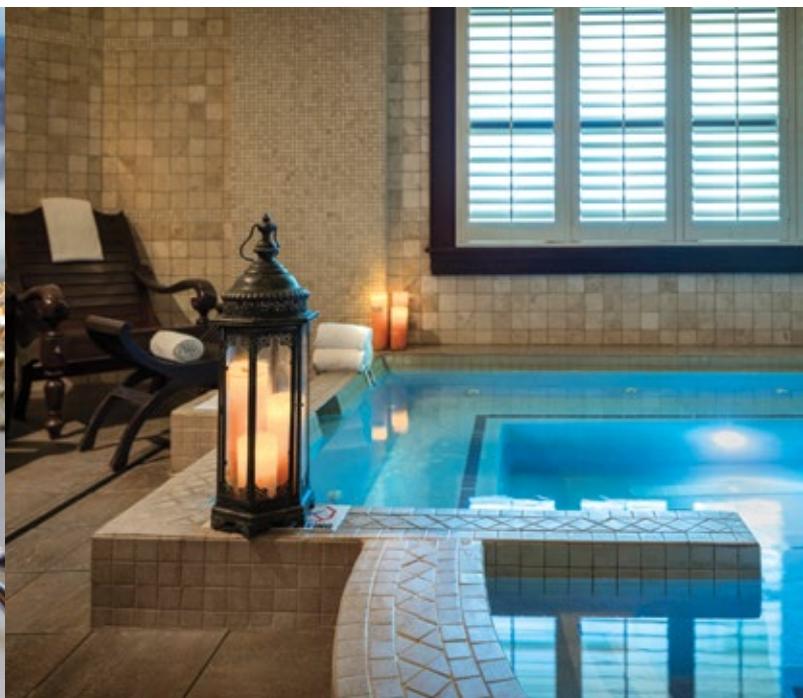
Birmingham, Alabama rossbridgeresort.com

[facebook.com/rossbridgeresort](https://www.facebook.com/rossbridgeresort) twitter.com/renrossbridge

Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. *GOLF* magazine named Ross Bridge one of the top 100 golf resorts and top 25 buddy trips in North America for 2019. *Golf Digest* editors named Ross Bridge one of their favorite golf resorts for the past four years. *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 one of the longest golf courses 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 72 holes of golf at this luxury resort. Listen for the bagpiper playing each evening at sunset and enjoy a Scottish tradition with a Southern twist.

Ross Bridge offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot European spa. While warm stone massages are most popular, the Spa at Ross Bridge offers HydraFacials and a variety of body treatments for pampering. 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 offers a variety of burgers, salads, soups, sandwiches, and tacos, plus plenty of cold beverages. 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.



HOTEL & GOLF ACCOLADES

HISTORIC HOTELS OF AMERICA 2019 Historic Hotel of the Year Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa | **SOUTHERN LIVING** Best Resorts Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa | **USA TODAY** Top 5 Best Historic Hotels Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa
GOLF DIGEST Editors' Choice for Best Golf Resorts in North America Auburn Marriot Opelika Resort & Spa;
Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa | **GOLF MAGAZINE** Top 100 Resorts in North America; Top 25 Buddy Trips

CENTRAL ALABAMA AND MONTGOMERY REGION

Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Prattville, Alabama marriottcapitolhill.com

[facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill](https://www.facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill) twitter.com/marriottcaphill

Minutes from downtown Montgomery, the Marriott hotel and its 96 guest rooms recently completed a massive renovation. 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 and overlooks the 54 holes of championship golf at Capitol Hill. *GolfWorld* readers named RTJ Capitol Hill the number two site for public golf in the country.

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. RTJ Capitol Hill will host the Symetra Tour's Guardian Championship in September 2020 and the Marriott is the ideal place for the event.

Prattville was once the home to the country's largest cotton gin factory. To salute the area's history, a gin shop whistle blows each afternoon at 4 and signals the end of the work day and the start of happy hour. After the whistle blows, get ready for your next round of golf by studying the Senator's 17th hole from your room or consult with others over drinks and dinner in the Marriott's Oak Tavern.

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama renaissancemontgomery.com

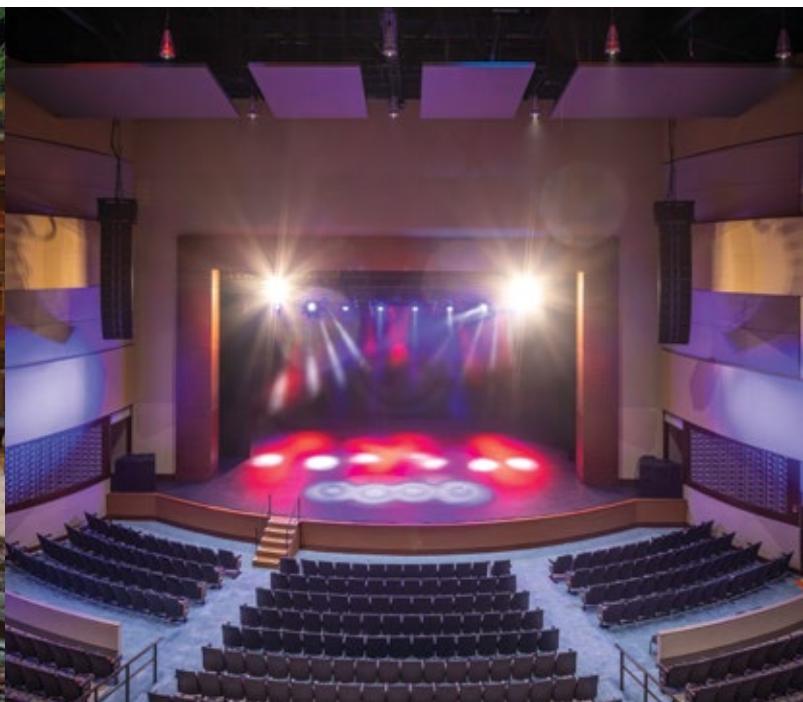
[facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel](https://www.facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel) twitter.com/renaissancemgm

The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center is a great cultural, culinary, and corporate hub for Alabama's capital city. 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 one of the city's social hot spots.

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 Renaissance Montgomery is approximately 10 minutes from RTJ Capitol Hill.

For cultural experiences, the Renaissance Montgomery is steps away from great museums. Experience the Equal Justice Initiative sites. Tour the Rosa Parks Museum, Dexter Avenue, Dr. Martin Luther King's church, the Hank Williams Museum, and other historic locations are near the Renaissance.

After the daily bell ringing at 5 p.m. on the Exchange Bar patio, enjoy live music and local craft beer or walk two blocks to a Biscuits baseball game. Great dining options are offered in The House, the hotel's restaurant.



Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa | **SPAS OF AMERICA** Best Spas in North America Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa; Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa; Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa | **GOLF WEEK** Best Courses You Can Play RTJ Grand National (Lake); RTJ Ross Bridge; RTJ Cambrian Ridge (Sherling/Canyon); RTJ Oxmoor Valley (Ridge); RTJ Grand National (Links); RTJ Capitol Hill (Judge); RTJ Magnolia Grove (The Crossings); RTJ Shoals (Fighting Joe) **MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL** Hotel of the Year for 2019 Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel

Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National

Opelika, Alabama marriottgrandnational.com

[facebook.com/marriottgrandnational](https://www.facebook.com/marriottgrandnational) twitter.com/GrandNatl_Hotel

Named an Editors' Choice Golf Resort by *Golf Digest* for the past four years, the Marriott is the ideal place to stay for golfers playing RTJ Grand National. Marriott International named the property Hotel of the Year in 2017. The Auburn Marriott Opelika added a three-story spa and renovated its restaurant and bars in 2018. In 2017, the Marriott doubled the number of rooms to 221 guest rooms, including 19 luxury suites. With the resort pool complex, spa, tennis courts, RTJ golf courses, dining options, luxury rooms, and other amenities, the hotel has been officially designated a Marriott resort.

Named the #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 Marriott Opelika 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. Many guest rooms in this luxury resort overlook Grand National's golf course, the pools, tennis complexes, and Lake Saugahatchee. Paying tribute to the area's railroad history, a guest conductor is selected each afternoon to blow the resort's train whistle and begin happy hour at the Splash Bar or Southern Oak Bar.

This resort 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 nationalvillage.com.

MOBILE BAY REGION

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

Mobile, Alabama renaissancebattlehouse.com

[facebook.com/battlehouse](https://www.facebook.com/battlehouse) twitter.com/renbattlehouse

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*. Consistently named Mobile's best hotel and best spa, the hotel was refurbished in 2019. Both the Battle House and its Trellis Room restaurant have received Four Diamond ratings from AAA. The Trellis Room updated its menu in 2019 to feature Italian and local favorites in a welcoming environment. This pet-friendly 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 the 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 the RSA Battle House Tower. Located directly on the parade route, Battle House is a great Mardi Gras choice. After the history tour each afternoon at 4, the cocktail ritual in the lobby and flag raising along Royal Street share a bit of Mardi Gras spirit in the hotel each day. On New Year's Eve, come witness MoonPie Over Mobile in a one-of-a-kind celebration.





Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa



Renaissance Riverview Plaza

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile, Alabama renaissanceriverview.com

[facebook.com/riverviewplaza](https://www.facebook.com/riverviewplaza) twitter.com/riverviewplaza

Named Marriott Hotel of the Year for 2019, the Renaissance Riverview Plaza sits along Mobile Bay in the heart of downtown. Listen for the ship horn each afternoon at 5 and you will know you have arrived. A prime 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, and the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center. Passengers on the Carnival cruise ship enjoy the park and cruise packages offered by the Renaissance Riverview.

Having undergone a major renovation, the 373 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 on 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.

Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa

Point Clear, Alabama grand1847.com

[facebook.com/thegrandhotel](https://www.facebook.com/thegrandhotel) twitter.com/grandhotel1847

Since 1847, The Grand has maintained a gracious tradition of Southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. In 2018, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa completed a three-year transformation and joined the Autograph Collection Hotels, an upscale Marriott brand. Cited by *USA Today* as one of the top five historic hotels in the country, the Grand's transformation blends the beloved resort traditions with modern upgrades resort guests desire. The Grand Hotel is a Four Diamond, family-friendly resort. It has received national praise from *Travel + Leisure*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Garden & Gun*, *Successful Meetings*, *Meetings Today*, *Southern Living*, and other 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 private, these golf courses, are now open to Grand Hotel guests and the general public. The Dogwood Course completed a massive renovation in 2018 and the Azalea Course reopened in November 2019.

The resort's 37,000 square feet of meeting space were completely renovated. The Grand's 550 acres feature giant live oak trees, multiple beaches, and lush landscaping. A military salute and cannon firing take place each day at 4 p.m. and high tea is offered in the Grand Hall most afternoons. 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, cornhole, bikes, kayaks, sailboats, and other watercrafts 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 colonyatthegrand.com. ■

cheers!



known for creating craft cocktails and pouring local beers, the bartenders in the hotels/resorts along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail offer great insights nightly. To enhance your stay, they have shared drink and dining recommendations in their bars plus interesting things to do in the area. We hope you enjoy your stay.

**RENAISSANCE MOBILE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL
FATHOMS LOUNGE**

Signature Cocktails » These signature cocktails feature John Emerald, an Alabama distilling company. John Emerald Old Fashioned, Sazerac, and Trent's Cane – a twist on the New Orleans Hurricane.
Craft Beers » Alabama has some great local crafts. Black Warrior's Broad Street Brown Ale and Haint Blue Brewing Company's Marianne Saison.
Bar Food Item Not to Miss » Gulf Wontons – homemade phyllo, creamy gulf shrimp filling, and jalapeno sweet chili sauce.
Things to Do & Places to See » 5 Rivers Delta Center and the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park
Trent, Bartender

**AUBURN MARRIOTT OPELIKA RESORT & SPA
SOUTHERN OAK BAR**

Signature Cocktails » Southern Oak Fashioned, AU Margarita, and Cucumber Lemonade
Craft Beer of Choice » Red Clay's 53 Kolsch
Bar Food Item Not to Miss » BAMA Flatbread
Things to Do & Places to See » Grab a lemonade from Toomer's Drug store. Attend an Auburn game. Tour our local breweries or distillery.
Adam, Bartender

**RENAISSANCE BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL & SPA
ROYAL STREET TAVERN**

Signature Cocktail » Tavern Old Fashioned
Craft Beers of Choice » Moody Tongue Pilsner, Haint Blue IPA, and Serda Pilsner
Things to Do & Places to See » Art Walk on the first Friday of every month. Enjoy the History Museum of Mobile and the nightlife on Dauphin Street.
Mallory, Bartender

**MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL & SPA
360 GRILLE**

Craft Beers of Choice » Chimay Grande Reserve and Southern Prohibition Devil's Harvest APA
Bar Food Item Not to Miss » Grilled Scallops
Things to Do & Places to See » Tour the local recording studios that have produced countless hits or run by the childhood homes of Helen Keller and W.C. Handy.
Brian, Bartender



**RENAISSANCE MONTGOMERY HOTEL & SPA
THE EXCHANGE**

Signature Cocktails » Apples are not just for fall. We have a great partnership with Clyde Mays and feature their Straight Rye Whiskey that is aged for a minimum of 3 years and has hints of floral notes, honeysuckle, and apricot. During fall and winter, we mix it with local apple cider over ice. During spring & summer, we mix with hard cider beer to create a unique experience. We love to use the best of Alabama and offer these to our guests.
Things to Do & Places to See » Within a few blocks of the hotel, visit the Rosa Parks and Hank Williams museums and the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. The Equal Justice Initiative sites are very powerful and are bringing guests from around the world.
James, Bartender

**MARRIOTT PRATTVILLE HOTEL
THE OAK TAVERN**

Signature Cocktails » The Gin Factor, Tavern Tea, and our seasonal Autumn in the South (Alabama Apple Pie Moonshine and Cinnamon flavors).
Craft Beers of Choice » Cahaba Brewery's Oka Uba IPA and Back Forty's Truck Stop Honey are excellent craft beers from Alabama.
Bar Food Item Not to Miss » Fried Wickles pickles or the Conecuh Sausage Quesadilla.
Things to Do & Places to See » Visit Wilderness Park and its Bamboo Forest. Stop by Jackson Lake Island (the movie *Big Fish* filmed there in 2003). Prattville's historic downtown is home of the original Gin Mill Factory.
Jasmine, Bartender

**RENAISSANCE ROSS BRIDGE GOLF RESORT & SPA
J.T.'S LOUNGE**

Signature Cocktails » Smoked Knob Creek Old Fashioned and Martini 1863
Craft Beer of Choice » Avondale Brewery's Battlefield
Bar Food Item Not to Miss » Irish nachos
Things to Do & Places to See » Vulcan statue and a film at Sidewalk Cinema
Kelsey, Bartender

**GRAND HOTEL GOLF RESORT & SPA
1847 BAR**

Signature Cocktails » The Manhattan Noir is a twist on the classic Manhattan using a Luxardo-Clove reduction and an activated charcoal bourbon ball. The Pecan Old Fashioned brings back memories of eating pecans as a child. The Smokin' Oldy is an original and is infused with Applewood smoke.
Craft Beers of Choice » Fairhope Brewing Company's Cheap Sunglasses, Einstok-Icelandic White Ale, and Cigar City Brewing's Jai Alai IPA.
Bar Food Item Not to Miss » The 1847 DoubleDouble has two house ground patties, American cheese, smoked tomato ketchup, Grandma's pickles, sweet onion, bacon jam, and root fries.
Things to Do & Places to See » Get on the water. From kayaking to sailing to fishing, enjoy any water activity that suits you.
Emily, Bartender



ALABAMA'S INTERNATIONAL ARTIST

BY LENORE VICKREY,
ALABAMA LIVING MAGAZINE

Few Alabamians are known by only one name, but then very few can command the international reputation of the artist Nall. Born Fred Nall Hollis in Troy in 1948, he has been creating art in a variety of genres for more than 50 years, from paintings, mosaics, and line engravings to sculpture, glassware, and jewelry. He grew up in Troy and earned a degree in art, political science, and abnormal psychology from the University of Alabama. He studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and was mentored by Salvador Dali. His work has been exhibited in France, Italy, Switzerland, New York, Miami, and many other museums, and he has been an artist in residence at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Miami-Dade College, and Troy University. After living several years in France and setting up his N.A.L.L. Art Foundation for students, he returned to Alabama, where he now operates out of his studio in Fairhope. He has a permanent art gallery in the International Arts Center on the Troy campus.

Your work is well known to many Alabamians who've seen it in the hotels and properties of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. Do you still supply new artwork to the RSA hotels and buildings?

Working with the RSA has been a great part of my career. It gives you a lot of exposure. People go to luxury hotels much more than they go to museums. I met Dr. David G. Bronner (CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama) through (Troy University Chancellor) Jack and Janice Hawkins. It's all like a family. They're wonderful, super people. I did all the pieces at the Grand Hotel, and loaned them in 2002 when they did a major renovation. Having completed a massive transformation in 2018, they gave back 1,500 pieces of my art, so now when I go to someone's home I take a little piece of art instead of a bottle of wine. Everybody won! For the Grand's transformation, the resort added a Nall Suite and a connecting gallery overlooking the historic main lobby. I also created large camellia prints for the reception desk wall. Other new pieces are in guest rooms and other locations throughout the resort.

At your studio in Fairhope, do you still work with apprentices?

I'm still working with them, using a lot of students from the high school mostly. Every now and then I'll get one who wants to apprentice for three or four months. That's what I'm looking for. They're helping me, and that is learning (for them) because they're in a professional environment. We paint and frame, learn about inventories, giving interviews with the press, how to make yourself available. I'm teaching them everything I know about everything. How to be a teacher is taught in school. How to be an artist is not. There's a world of difference. First of all, you can't count on any income when you're 65. That's essential to know when you want to become an artist. You follow your own rules, and express from your heart, not your intellect.

You've worked in so many different media. Do you have a favorite?

All are my favorite at the time I'm working on them. When I'm working, I'm so concentrated on that, it's absorbing. I have a wonderful ability to have a one-track mind on whatever I'm doing. I can be working and talking on the phone and doing something else at the same time, and still be right there with the work. It's a gift.

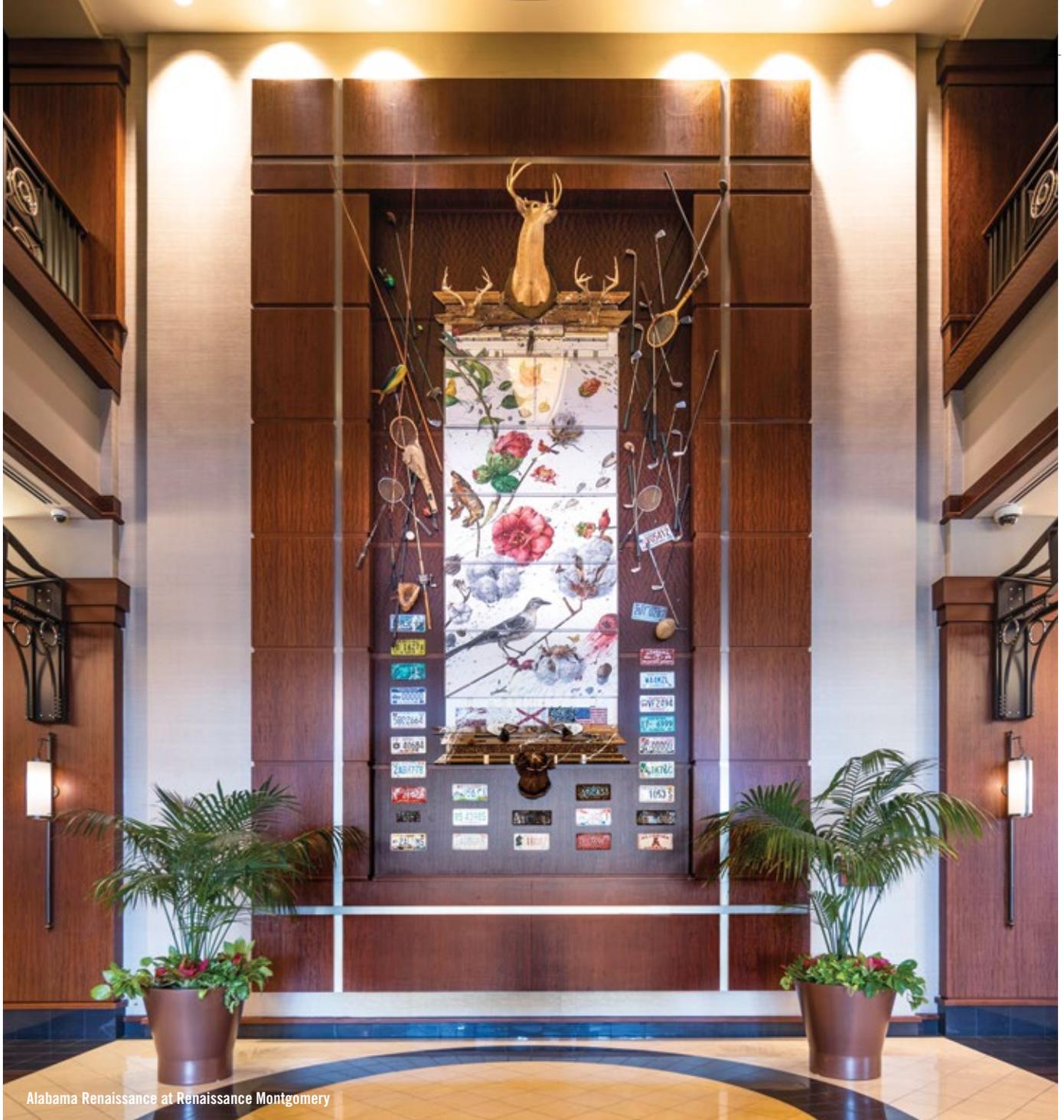
Frames have been an important part of your signature look.

Absolutely. It's the framework on the pieces that really makes some of them. Whatever you see, you see the framework with it. So, if you put an 18th century gilded frame around a drawing, the drawings are going to look a heck of a lot better. And if you put a drawing or little painting with tacky little frames, you wouldn't want it. It's an important thing I try to teach my kids. What you're giving the public is an image. The image is inseparable from the frame around it. If you want to have a filthy house with the bed unmade and the curtains ragged and falling down, the house might be great but people who are going into the house will say, "This is awful." It's the same thing with a painting or somebody's clothes.

What are your current projects?

I've got three books going on. It's wonderful to be able to change and concentrate on something else. The N.A.L.L. Foundation is going to publish my memoirs. Plus, I'm building a museum down here in Fairhope. I've been told by a spiritual advisor that if you write your memoirs, it's the best way to increase your memory. If I'd known that, I'd have started them 10 years ago. ■

Gallery open to the public at 414 Equality Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532. For more information visit artistnall.com.



Alabama Renaissance at Renaissance Montgomery

ARTISTS FEATURED IN THE RTJ RESORT COLLECTION

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 Hoerr, 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, Melanie H O'Keefe, Herbert "Mannie" Pair, Heather Petterson, Donna Pickens, Tigjo Price, Barbara Reed, Bradley Robertson, Natalyn Havenick Rose, Conrad and 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.

Some golfers want to live on the course or overlooking a lake and now they can. The residential developments associated with the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail offer upscale housing options in Opelika and Fairhope. Both award winning communities offer expansive amenity options at affordable prices, but golf remains front and center. And now the courses or lakes can be right outside your back door.

RTJ RESORT COMMUNITIES OFFER

WELCOME HOME

GREAT HOMES & GOLF YEAR-ROUND

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 grow faster than the 419 Bermuda grass planted along the fairways. In addition to the golf course lots overlooking the Azalea (Fairhope) and Lake (Opelika) courses, other residential options include golf cottages, homes, and condominiums.

Whether you want the spirit of a SEC university town or a more coastal feel with a flair for the arts, both options are covered. Collectively, they offer 90 holes of world-class golf, 18 tennis courts, 4 pickle ball courts, eight pools, endless miles of hiking and biking trails, great restaurants, shopping, and much more.

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 are entering into new phases of development with a variety of single-family home options. ...»





COLONY AT THE GRAND

Fairhope/Point Clear, Alabama » colonyatthegrand.com

MAJESTIC OAKS. RESORT LIVING. GRAND TRADITIONS.

Perhaps the only thing more spectacular than the new single-family homes at Colony at the Grand are the community's majestic oak trees. From families with children to retirees looking for a coastal climate, Colony at the Grand has both options. The new *Southern Living* design home options add to the variety of architectural styles available.

Golfers can work on their game at The Lakewood Club's new practice facility, the Grand Golf Experience, and play two RTJ courses onsite. Families can dive into the club's resort pools, play tennis on grass and clay courts, then squeeze in a workout at the fitness center, all within walking distance of your home. Looking for less strenuous options? Enjoy spectacular sunsets on Mobile Bay, celebrate happy hour at the historic Grand Hotel, or browse in Fairhope's boutiques.

Since opening in 1847, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa has been the Queen of Southern Resorts and the property has recently completed a transformation to elevate guest experiences while remaining true to Southern Hospitality roots. History lovers will enjoy the daily military salute and cannon firing followed by a traditional afternoon tea in the Grand Hall. Culinary lovers can join the monthly culinary weekend classes and enjoy great steaks, seafood, and classic cocktails 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 places 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.



BATTLES TRACE Neatly sitting along a 150-year-old grove of oak trees, Battles Trace is now in its sixth phase of development with four new home designs from the \$300's to the \$900's. These upscale homes offer a great sense of community and easy access to the Lakewood Club and its amenities. Starting in the mid \$300's.

AZALEA The Azalea neighborhood features six lots overlooking the 10th hole on the Azalea Course at The Lakewood Club and a new lake. These craftsman coastal homes feature great porches and the

latest designs focused on luxury and relaxation. The first home in Azalea was the featured home during the Baldwin County Parade of Homes and won first place in the NAHB Sales & Marketing Awards for Excellence in Architecture. Priced from the high \$600's.

BAYVIEW Featuring 56 units, Bayview overlooks Sweetwater Lake. 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. Only a handful of these homes are still available. Priced from the high \$450's.

GRAND MANOR An addition to the Lakewood neighborhood, Grand Manor is a small colony of three duplexes. These duplexes emulate the style of the homes built there in the 70's and 80's. The homes have been modernized to today's trends and finishes. Only one of the six homes remains available. Priced from the mid \$800's.

NATIONAL VILLAGE

Auburn/Opelika, Alabama » nationalvillage.com

SPECTACULAR HOMES. AUBURN TRADITIONS. RESORT ACCESS.

Adjacent to the Marriott Resort, 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 Lake Course along Lake Saugahatchee. A planned 700-acre resort community, National Village offers four distinct neighborhood options with a fifth opening in Fall 2020. The Yards will be a boutique collection of 19 uniquely crafted cottage homes with close proximity to the amenities of the hotel, private fishing lakes, and 10 miles of walking and biking trails, and starting in the low \$200s. From young professional buyers to retirees, National Village residents typically love golf and have a strong admiration for Auburn University.

The on-site Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National recently doubled the number of resort guest rooms and added a new three-story spa. The hotel won Marriott Hotel of the Year in 2017 and was named one of the top golf resorts by the editors of *Golf Digest* for the past four years. The hotel's 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 Auburn/Opelika area was named one of the "Top 10 Places to Retire for Golf" by *US News & World Report*. Readers of *Golf World* named Opelika the #1 site for public golf in the country. *Golf Digest* named the 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). ■



MORE THAN 190 HOMES have been sold in National Village with the original custom-home neighborhood of Stonelake and the golf cottages in Double Eagle selling out.

EAGLE BEND Wonderfully designed and finished, these 3-bedroom craftsman style golf cottages include hardwood floors, Hardi-Plank siding, gas fireplaces, stone counters in kitchens and bathrooms, 10-foot ceilings, and so much more. Lots overlooking hole 4 of the RTJ Grand National Lake Course are now available. The Cottages at

Eagle Bend offer seven different home styles with floor plans ranging from 1,585 to more than 1,800 square feet. Some hardwood floors are available. Prices start in the \$300's.

QUAIL RIDGE The perfect blend of arts and crafts and cottage designs, Quail Ridge offers three- and four-bedroom homes with up to three and a half baths in National Village. The National Village trail surrounds the rear perimeter of Quail Ridge and is located near a National Village post office. Pricing starting in the high \$300's.

THE YARDS AT NATIONAL VILLAGE Treasures are often times hidden in special places. Such is the case for The Yards at National Village. A boutique collection of 19 uniquely crafted cottage homes set apart and nestled along the RTJ Grand National golf courses. The natural beauty and vibrant living of National Village makes The Yards a treasure indeed. The pool, lake, hiking trails, dining, friendships, and of course Auburn football makes The Yards at National Village something to be treasured for a lifetime. These two- and three-bedroom homes start in the high \$200s.



Nuria Iturrios

PROFESSIONAL PLAY

Lexi Thompson had her first professional win here. So did Aria Jutanugarn. Lorena Ochoa won here twice. Scott Piercey, Aaron Baddeley, and Grayson Murray all won PGA TOUR events along the Trail. For the past 23 years, professional golf has been played along Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and this tradition continues in 2020.

Prattville's Capitol Hill has been a favorite along the RTJ Golf Trail to many professional golfers. In 2019, RTJ Capitol Hill was the only location in North America to host men's and women's professional golf events on the same course. The Web.com Tour (now Korn Ferry Tour) played the Senator Course in April, and

the Symetra Tour returned to the Senator in September. The Symetra Tour also visited RTJ Grand National in May last year for a tournament hosted by World Golf Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez. A recap of the three professional tournaments played on the Trail in 2019 follows, along with dates for the 2020 tournaments.

SYMETRA TOUR EVENTS ON THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL IN 2020
ZIMMER BIOMET CHAMPIONSHIP \ RTJ GRAND NATIONAL \ MAY 21 - 24, 2020
GUARDIAN CHAMPIONSHIP \ RTJ CAPITOL HILL \ SEPTEMBER 18 - 20, 2020

ROBERT TRENT JONES
GOLF TRAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
WEB.COM TOUR (KORN FERRY TOUR)
RTJ CAPITOL HILL'S SENATOR COURSE
2019 CHAMPION LANTO GRIFFIN

Trailing by a stroke on the 72nd hole of the tournament, Lanto Griffin (Mount Shasta, California) stuck it to five feet before converting a tying birdie and reach a playoff with Robby Shelton (Wilmer, Alabama) at 15-under 273. After both players made pars on the first three holes of the playoff (18-18-9), Griffin stuck it to two feet for a tap-in birdie and his second career Web.com Tour title.

"You put so much work in and there's so many days and weeks that things don't click," said Griffin. "You wonder if you're going to get back into that situation to have a chance. Just being in contention, I texted my coach last night that I hit it terrible yesterday and my swing felt awful, but my putting came back...I made all of the putts I needed to."

Griffin posted four front-nine birdies at the Senator Course and led by two at one point early, but seven pars and a bogey on the back nine led up to Griffin's dramatic closing birdie to tie. His final-round 68 was his fourth round in the 60s all week, the only player to accomplish the feat at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship.

“You wonder if you’re going to get back into that situation to have a chance. Just being in contention, I texted my coach last night that I hit it terrible yesterday and my swing felt awful, but my putting came back...I made all of the putts I needed to.”

The 30-year-old credited legend Vijay Singh with a putting tip on the practice green at TPC Sawgrass to his improved play around the greens. "I was putting on the back green and Vijay yells out to me from 20 yards away and said 'get your right elbow in tighter and bend over more,'" said Griffin. "Of course I said 'yes sir,' and he came over and helped me for a couple of minutes...He told me after that to go win this week, so big shout out to him. That was cool. Especially from a legend. He won nine times in 2004. When a legend like that tells you something, you have to pay attention." The impromptu putting lesson came on Saturday morning during the Masters, a day after Singh missed the cut in Augusta.

Both Lanto Griffin and Robby Shelton earned their PGA TOUR cards for 2020. Griffin went on to win the Houston Open in October 2019.

ZIMMER BIOMET CHAMPIONSHIP
HOSTED BY NANCY LOPEZ
SYMETRA TOUR
RTJ GRAND NATIONAL'S LAKE COURSE
2019 CHAMPION NURIA ITURRIOS

A final round 1-under par 71 was enough for Nuria Iturrios (Mallorca, Spain) to clinch a wire-to-wire victory at the inaugural Zimmer Biomet Championship hosted by Nancy Lopez, stepping into the winner's circle for the first time in her Symetra Tour career.

The victory was the latest in a string of success for Iturrios over the last month. Within a week between the end of April and early May 2019, the 23-year-old captured back-to-back titles on the Ladies European Tour (LET) in the Lalla Meryem Cup and Omega Dubai Moonlight Classic.

"I guess I like the big purses," Iturrios said laughingly. "It's so good to win again, and I'm so happy with my work from the offseason. I feel great and want to keep going like this. I'm putting really good, and I want to keep enjoying these moments, doing the work to get here."

With the support of LPGA Tour and World Golf Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez, this event featured the largest purse in Symetra Tour history of \$300,000. In turn, it provided the biggest winner's payout ever on the "Road to the LPGA" at \$45,000. "I think it's a really good thing that she helped make this event possible," said Iturrios. "Really good for us to have her as an idol and I hope she can help create more events like this. We really enjoyed the tournament and it would be great to win more like this. I have to play like this again with a lot of weeks to go, but my goal is the LPGA Tour as soon as possible."

GUARDIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
SYMETRA TOUR
RTJ CAPITOL HILL'S SENATOR COURSE
2019 CHAMPION LAURA RESTREPO

Entering the final round of the Guardian Championship in Prattville, Ala., Laura Restrepo (Panama City, Panama) was four shots back. When the dust settled, the University of Louisville alumna had clinched the first professional golf title for her native country Panama and raised the first trophy in her Symetra Tour career.

After shooting bogey-free in the second round for a career-best 6-under par 66, Restrepo followed that with another bogey-free performance of 8-under 64 in the final round from the Senator Course at Capitol Hill on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. The overall score of 14-under was good for a one-shot victory.

"It is so amazing, I can't even put it into words," Restrepo said. "This year has been rough, but to have it all come together the last two rounds feels so amazing. All the hard work finally paid off. It has just been tough, missed a lot of cuts out here and haven't been that consistent. I was putting in the work, staying patient. It is tough to do that and stay positive, but I tried my best and this is well worth it." ■

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, Renaissance, or Autograph Collection 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 rtjgolf.com.

FIND US » FOLLOW US

 [facebook.com/rtjgolf](https://www.facebook.com/rtjgolf)
 twitter.com/rtjgolf



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 » OPENED 2004

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 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.

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.

The 2020 Couples Championship is August 28-30 and is limited to the first 56 teams.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT THE SHOALS

990 SUNBELT PARKWAY · MUSCLE SHOALS, AL 35661 · 256.446.5111

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjtheshoals](https://www.facebook.com/rtjtheshoals)



HAMPTON COVE

HUNTSVILLE » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

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

450 OLD HWY 431 SOUTH · OWENS CROSS ROADS, AL 35763 · 256.551.1818

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjhamptoncove](https://www.facebook.com/rtjhamptoncove)

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 » OPENED 1993

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

1 SUNBELT PARKWAY · GLENCOE, AL 35905 · 256.892.3268

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjsilverlakes](https://www.facebook.com/rtjsilverlakes)



OXMOOR VALLEY

BIRMINGHAM » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

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

100 SUNBELT PARKWAY · BIRMINGHAM, AL 35211 · 205.942.1177

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjoxmoorvalley](https://www.facebook.com/rtjoxmoorvalley)

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 » OPENED 2005

Beautifully carved into the rolling terrain of Shannon Valley, these 18 holes will challenge even the best golfers. Ross Bridge was named one of the top golf resorts in North America by *GOLF* magazine in 2019 and has been a favorite of *Golf Digest* editors for the past four years.

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 9th and 18th 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 4, 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 9th and 18th holes with the waterfall tumbling between. The 7th hole offers a par five that traverses a ridge high above the rest of the course. The 9th 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!

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT ROSS BRIDGE

4000 GRAND AVENUE · BIRMINGHAM, AL 35226 · 205.949.3085

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjrossbridge](https://www.facebook.com/rtjrossbridge)



GRAND NATIONAL

AUBURN/OPELIKA » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

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. Grand National is built on 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee with 32 of the 54 holes draped along its filigreed shores.

Named a favorite golf resort by the *Golf Digest* editors for the past four years, the cornerstone of the complex is the Links Course, which is without a single weakness. The par-4 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 Lake course hosted PGA TOUR events in previous years and welcomes back the Symetra Tour in May.

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.

The 2020 Couples Classic will be October 30-November 1 and will be limited to the first 96 teams.

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

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT GRAND NATIONAL

3000 ROBERT TRENT JONES TRAIL · OPELIKA, AL 36801 · 334.749.9042

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjgrandnational](https://www.facebook.com/rtjgrandnational)

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 » OPENED 1999

Named the #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 hosts the Symetra Tour's Guardian Championship in September.

Located in Prattville, approximately 8 miles north of Alabama's state capitol, Capitol Hill features three 18-hole championship courses. With more than 1,500 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 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 Senator Course will be closed from mid-April through September while TifEagle Ultradwarf greens are installed.

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.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT CAPITOL HILL

2600 CONSTITUTION AVENUE · PRATTVILLE, AL 36066 · 334.285.1114

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjcapitolhill](https://www.facebook.com/rtjcapitolhill)



CAMBRIAN RIDGE

GREENVILLE » 36 HOLES » OPENED 1993

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 saw the culmination of a three-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. The Canyon nine redesign and reconstruction were 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 did 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 23-24, Cambrian Ridge will host the annual Father/Son Championship, one of the most popular events on the Trail.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT CAMBRIAN RIDGE

101 SUNBELT PARKWAY · GREENVILLE, AL 36037 · 334.382.9787

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjcambrianridge](https://www.facebook.com/rtjcambrianridge)

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 3,578/38.0/74; Orange 3,339/36.7/72; White 3,030/34.5/70; Teal 2,397/34.4/68;

Ladies' Teal 34.4/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	501	175	585	444	383	418	522	190	360
ORANGE	477	155	553	421	353	374	499	175	332
WHITE	432	135	478	366	330	366	464	152	307
TEAL	371	105	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 » OPENED 1993

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 6th has an elusive, beckoning quality.

Marshwood has been made famous (or notorious) by its behemoth par-5 6th, which stretches to 701 yards from the tips. The 422-yard par-4 9th, 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 5th, 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.

TifEagle Ultradwarf greens are being added nine holes at a time. This project will be complete in 2020.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT HIGHLAND OAKS

904 ROYAL PARKWAY · DOTHAN, AL 36305 · 334.712.2820

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjhighlandoaks](https://www.facebook.com/rtjhighlandoaks)



MAGNOLIA GROVE

MOBILE » 54 HOLES » OPENED 1992

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 Ultradwarf 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 Ultradwarf Bermuda grass. This course is as good as any collection of one-shotters on a championship course.

The Couples Challenge will be held April 24-26, 2020.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT MAGNOLIA GROVE

7001 MAGNOLIA GROVE PARKWAY · MOBILE, AL 36618 · 251.645.0075

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjmagnoliagrove](https://www.facebook.com/rtjmagnoliagrove)

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 7,202/74.4/131; Orange 6,573/71.8/127; White 6,066/69.4/123; Teal 5,272/65.7/110;
Red 4,539/65.5/109; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	578	396	425	176	355	578	220	466	334
ORANGE	524	362	396	147	312	527	198	425	319
WHITE	500	330	351	134	284	486	184	401	283
TEAL	418	296	319	121	241	397	153	354	256
RED	359	242	303	62	205	355	117	298	221
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	423	503	431	195	538	193	479	474	438
ORANGE	389	484	408	177	484	151	429	425	416
WHITE	374	461	383	152	474	134	353	385	397
TEAL	346	394	351	129	412	106	295	347	337
RED	299	323	317	108	374	63	277	319	297
PAR	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	4

DOGWOOD COURSE

Purple 7,104/73.7/136; Orange 6,511/71.2/130; White 5,949/68.5/126; Teal 5,179/64.5/112;
Red 4,436/61.6/105; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	532	441	217	404	510	426	310	201	405
ORANGE	483	396	183	380	477	415	286	177	361
WHITE	425	375	146	362	455	386	258	162	328
TEAL	385	318	132	338	397	347	228	117	294
RED	335	266	105	239	346	324	216	99	237
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	380	464	543	238	451	437	564	209	372
ORANGE	347	433	517	191	428	407	521	176	333
WHITE	316	380	482	170	392	372	472	157	311
TEAL	296	336	390	154	312	311	398	139	287
RED	267	295	334	135	273	246	374	119	226
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	3	4



THE LAKEWOOD CLUB

POINT CLEAR » 36 HOLES » OPENED 2004

The Dogwood and Azalea courses at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & 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 Club at the Grand Hotel showcases fairways lined with 200-year-old oaks. Recently renovated, the new designs lend themselves to superb conditioning year round. With the addition or expansion of ten 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 Club members. The varying degree of difficulty promises a memorable golf experience for both the novice and the experienced golfer alike. With five sets of tees per hole, your decision should be rather easy.

Funded by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the Dogwood Course renovation was completed in 2018. The Azalea Course was renovated and reopened in November 2019. The Lakewood Club has been named several times to *Golf Magazine's* "Best Golf Resorts in America."

The Experience practice facility at Lakewood offers an innovative design to help improve your game in a fun, time-efficient way.

LAKEWOOD GOLF CLUB

ONE GRAND BOULEVARD · POINT CLEAR, AL 36564 · 251.990.6312

Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

[facebook.com/rtjlakewood](https://www.facebook.com/rtjlakewood)

LIVE ULTRA

2.6
CARBS

95
CALS



OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF

ROBERT TRENT JONES
GOLF TRAIL



ENJOY RESPONSIBLY
© 2019 Anheuser-Busch, Michelob Ultra® Light Beer, St. Louis, MO
95 calories, 2.6g carbs, 0.6g protein and 0.0g fat per 12 oz.