

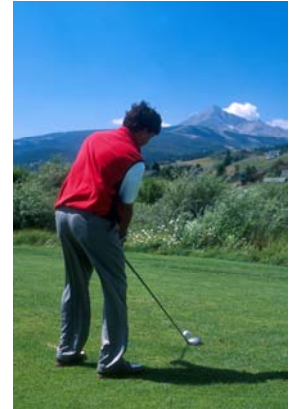
GOLFING IN MONTANA

BIG SKY COUNTRY STYLE

In Montana, the eagles on the golf course are real. And so are the deer, moose and the elk. Montana is home to many premier courses, including courses ranked among the top 50 public courses in the United States, as well as courses designed by golfing legends such as Jack Nicklaus or Arnold Palmer.

In fact, Montana has more than 70 public, semi-private and resort golf courses, where golfers can swing through a few rounds for most of the year; typically, golf courses open in the spring months and stay open through the fall.

An added benefit to golfing in Montana: The sun loves to stick around. During the warm summer months from June through September, Montana enjoys up to 16 hours of sunshine a day thanks to its northern latitude. Daylight persists until 10 o'clock in the evening (and so do many golfers.) Indian Summer days in the fall (September / October) provide ample opportunity for the 'swing season' to continue.



Adjacent to many of Montana's golf courses, you'll find quaint villages brimming with art galleries, fine restaurants, specialty shops and perhaps a theater or symphony to relax with at night. For more active vacations, hiking, rafting, fishing, horseback riding or another scenic drive – this time via your automobile – is just around the corner.

Gold Digest and *Golf Week* consistently name some of Montana's golf courses in the top 100 for destinations or courses you "must" golf while visiting Big Sky Country.

The Flathead Valley in northwest Montana is consistently named one of the top 50 destinations for golfers, with nine championship courses within 45 minutes of each other. Glacier National Park is where you'll want to give your clubs a rest and set about to explore the nation's 10th national park. www.golfontana.net

- ✚ **Eagle Bend Golf Course** (Bigfork, Glacier Country) – A Jack Nicklaus course, located near the vast shores of Flathead Lake, between two inspiring mountain ranges. Need we say more? www.golfmt.com
- ✚ **Whitefish Lake Golf Club** (Whitefish, Glacier Country) – Montana's only 36-hole golf course is located adjacent to Whitefish Lake and at the base of the Whitefish Range, has its own lake – Lost Coon Lake – as part of its water hazards. Find out why it's the most requested golf course in Montana! www.golfwhitefish.com



- ✚ **Buffalo Hill Golf Course** (Kalispell, Glacier Country) – A 27-hole course in the center of the valley in the center of the charming town of Kalispell. Panoramic views, easy access and great golfing for young and old alike. www.golfbuffalohill.com
- ✚ **Glacier Park Lodge & Golf Resort** (East Glacier, Glacier Country) – Sitting on the southeast edge of Glacier National Park, the "Crown of the Continent," this courses is not only a 'gem', but the oldest grass greens in Montana. www.glacierparkinc.com
- ✚ **Glacier View Golf Club** (West Glacier, Glacier Country) – A backdrop of glacier carved peaks makes the 18-hole (par 69) course one for the record books. In the fall, your bogie could be due to the bear (or elk, deer or moose) on the green too! www.glacierviewgolf.com
- ✚ **Mission Mountain Golf Course** (Ronan, Glacier Country) – Breathtaking views of the Mission Mountains, challenging holes and a quaint town for low key comfort at night. www.golfmissionmountain.com

GOLFING IN MONTANA

BIG SKY COUNTRY STYLE

Beyond the Flathead Valley and its abundant golfing and recreational opportunities, there are other courses to tee off from. On your way to Yellowstone or Glacier? Take a side-trip off the interstate and enjoy a scenic “drive” down Highway 1 or take a different drive down one of these unique courses.

- ✚ **Big Sky Ski & Summer Resort** (Big Sky, Yellowstone Country) – At 6,500 feet above sea level – you’ll appreciate the beauty of the majestic mountains up close and personal, mixed with the challenge of this Arnold Palmer course. Great lodging, lift rides, fishing and an assortment of dining on site, makes this a one-stop vacation for everyone. Yellowstone National Park is less than an hour away! www.bigskyresort.com



- ✚ **Fairmont Hot Springs Resort** (Butte, Gold West Country) – At a “mile high” your ball goes further, which is needed as the 5th hole is a “mile long, a mile high.” This 18-hole (par 72) course challenges your drive, but you’re rewarded in the evening by the soothing waters of two mineral pools to refresh your body and mind. www.fairmontmontana.com

- ✚ **Lake Hills Golf Club** (Billings, Custer Country) – First opened in 1957, PGA great Johnny Miller once stated “Lake Hills is one of the finest laid out public courses I have played.” Their GPS system, used to gauge distance, makes golfing seem effortless; while the grazing antelope makes the experience unforgettable. www.lakehillsgolf.com

- ✚ **Marias Valley Golf & Country Club** (Shelby, Russell Country) – Golfing in the area began as early as the 1900’s, with the Marias now serving as “an oasis” in north central Montana. Located just minutes off I-15 and moments from Canada, the Marias Valley Golf Club is surrounded by huge river bluffs, ancient cottonwood trees and a community spirit that is your ‘hole in one’. www.mvgcc.com

- ✚ **Old Works Golf Course** (Anaconda, Gold West Country) – Located off the scenic Hwy 1, this course, once a superfund site, now reclaimed as a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course – black sand, mining relics and Warm Springs Creek give a new meaning to the term “going green.” www.oldworks.org



- ✚ **Signal Point Golf Club** (Fort Benton, Russell Country) – Sometimes it’s not just the course but the community that makes the golfing great and Fort Benton is a “hole in one” in this regard. During the day, golf – the course that overlooks the Wild & Scenic Upper Missouri River; at night, relax at grand hotels and wander the historic levee where traders, cowboys and Indians used to wander. www.fortbenton.com/signalpoint/index.php

Montana’s golfing provides great “tee service” to the novice and expert. Enjoy a round in and under the Big Sky and relax in comfort in the surrounding communities. Need a break from golfing or a change of pace? Take a hike. Cast a fly. Discover a gallery. Enjoy a play. For more ideas on a Montana golfing vacation, tee off from www.visitmt.com.

