

# TRAIL GUIDE

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL » 2019





### OFF THE TRAIL

KAY IVEY. GOVERNOR. STATE OF ALABAMA

As Alabama's newly inaugurated Governor, I'm delighted to welcome you to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and its highly praised partner hotels. While State Treasurer, Lieutenant Governor, and the past two years as Governor, I have welcomed many officials and executives who accepted the challenge of the state's legendary golf trail. Many of those golfers would agree with Mr. Jones's famous quote that "nobody remembers easy courses."

Whether you're here for business or pleasure, Alabama welcomes you with sincere and warm hospitality. I invite you to carve some down time to explore the charm of our restaurants, from the mountains of North Alabama, where "white sauce" on barbecue is standard, to the hills of Central Alabama, where coveted James Beard restaurant awards are almost routine. Down along the Alabama Gulf Coast our seafood is fresh off the boat and served to order for dinner.

Many first-time visitors are surprised to see automobile assembly plants along interstate highways. Ever since Mercedes Benz opened its first American plant in Alabama a quarter century ago, others have followed. We are also home to assembly plants building Honda vehicles east of Birmingham and Hyundai cars south of Montgomery. When the joint \$1.6 billion Toyota-Mazda plant opens near Huntsville in 2021, our state will likely become the fourth leading maker of automobiles in the U.S.

Take time to be entertained and educated. When in the northwestern corner of the state, tour two legendary recording studios in Muscle Shoals and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. Just east of Birmingham the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, the world's largest motorcycle museum, will "get your motor running." The privately owned Wellborn Musclecar Museum in Alexander City has a spectacular display of Chargers, Challengers, GTOs, and Road Runners. Churches and museums in Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery are along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail where local activists in the 1960's changed the history of America.

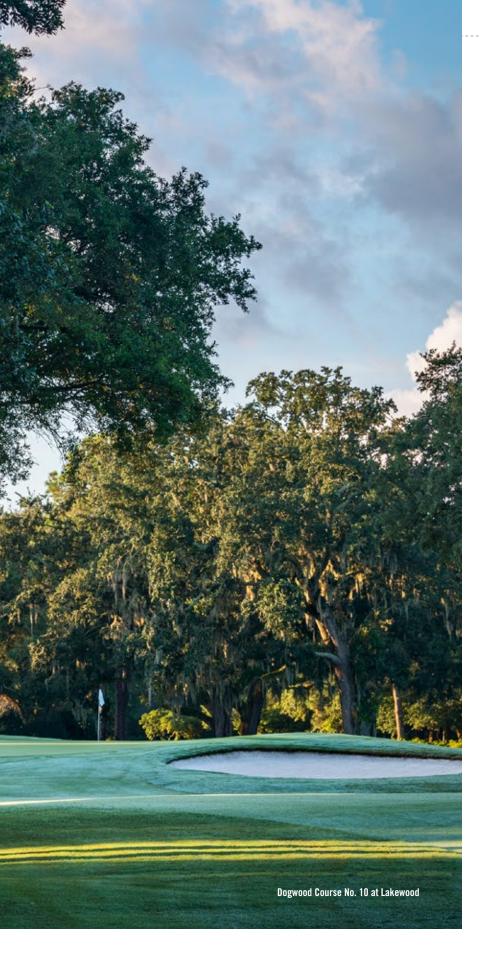
Enjoy your stay. I hope you will schedule more time to experience the rest of our state the next time your travels bring you to Sweet Home Alabama.

Kay Ivey Governor

Kay / vey







## TRAIL GUIDE 19

6 BEHIND THE VISION

Dr. David G. Bronner, RTJ Golf Trail founder, provides insights behind America's original golf trail.

- **8** FOUR REASONS TO PLAY THE TRAIL Golf WRX details why RTJ should be your next golf trip.
- 12 WHERE TO PLAY ON RTJ

Writers from GOLF Magazine, Golf Channel and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution share tips on playing the Trail.

**ONE TRAIL, 26 COURSES,** AND 468 HOLES OF GOLF

> Marriott Traveler explains why Alabama is a golfer's dream destination.

18 **UPSCALE TRAIL** 

> The RTJ Resort Collection features new rooms and luxury options across Alabama.

- 26 CHEF'S CHOICE Executive chefs from the RTJ Resort Collection give their top picks for dinner.
- 28 ALABAMA'S INTERNATIONAL ARTIST Nall exhibits his artwork around the world and captures the beauty of Alabama.
- 30 TRAIL LIFE RTJ resort communities offer great homes and golf year-round.
- **CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF CONTINUES ON RTJ**

Guardian Championship extended three years.

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

Hole No. 9 at Ross Bridge

Golf landscape photography throughout by Michael Clemmer.

# BEHIND THE VISION: DR. DAVID G. BRONNER IN HIS OWN WORDS

In July of 2018, Dr. David G. Bronner sat down with *Morning Drive* host Damon Hack for an interview about the Golf Trail on the Golf Channel. From the concept behind the Trail to favorite courses to feedback, here are insights from Dr. Bronner in his own words.

You can't talk golf in Alabama without talking about the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Joining us now is its founder, Dr. David G. Bronner.

Thank you for having me. It is a beautiful day in Alabama.

I have been lucky enough to play the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail but for those who have not, how would you explain it?

It is like Disney World combined with the Eiffel Tower in a state where we have 11 different locations with 26 golf courses that are spectacular.

How did you come up with the concept of taking all these golf fans and golfers that want to play golf and they kind of wind throughout the state? How did you come up with this idea?

We were interested in trying to do something that would really affect the entire state. It is easy to find a factory or something and put it in a town and it affects that town, but how do you affect an entire state? I happened to be reading about President Eisenhower and how he put in the interstate system and that affected the entire country. So we came up with a concept that would affect the entire state of Alabama, which was the golf trail. We started with eight sites and we have 11 sites today and over 12 million visitors to date.

I want you to put your salesman hat on, for someone who wants to take a golf trip or a buddy trip, there are a lot of choices around the country and around the world, why is the RTJ Golf Trail primary or the best in your mind?

There are two or three things. Each spring to give you an idea, Orange County, California, golfers come because you have a simple value where they can play real championship golf courses for literally a week that would give you the same cost differential as maybe two or three rounds so you can play as many as 14 rounds if you want to in about a week for about the same cost.

I think the big thing about the Trail is that unlike other golf sites in Florida or the Carolinas or even California, because of the dynamics of the state of

Alabama being over 400 miles from north to south, we have every type of course you could think of - from a links course to the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of the Appalachians. So, you have a huge variety. You literally can go roughly an hour or an hour and fifteen minutes and hit a totally different looking site.

Our site outside of Montgomery in Prattville has three totally different golf courses on it. One is truly a links golf course, one a true water course with about 15 of the 18 holes on the water, and one a Southern pine tree forest. You have the variations that I have not seen before in my travels around the world.

What is your favorite location on the Trail? If you only have one course to play or one day to spend some time, where would you go?

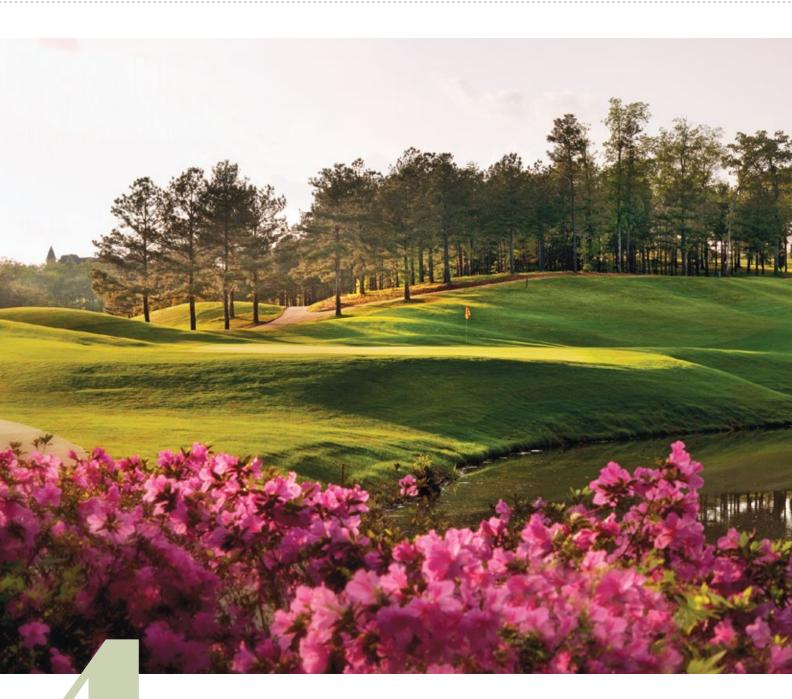
That is like asking a father who has a dozen kids which one to you like the best. I'll tell you Trent Jones' favorite and that was Opelika because there he had a 16,000 acre finger lake that was the water reserve for Auburn and Opelika. Of the 54 holes, there are about 54 or 55 where water comes into play so that was his favorite.

My personal favorite is Greenville. I think it is one of the prettiest sites in the world. It is clearly the mountains of North Carolina in Alabama. I also enjoy Ross Bridge and the Birmingham project at Oxmoor Valley with my favorite being the Ridge.

Well Dr. Bronner, I am curious after nearly three decades, give us some feedback from the Trail. What are the folks telling you when they see you? What types of things do you hear when golfers walk off that trail and see you for the first time?

A few years ago, I was in Prattville and I had never seen a whole golf course full of African American golfers. So I went up to them and asked where they were from. They were from the San Francisco area and had left Alabama in the 60s. They wanted to come back and see if Alabama had changed. I think in my heart of hearts that made me feel like this project was totally worthwhile.





BY RONALD MONTESANO, GOLF WRX

# REASONS

THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL SHOULD BE YOUR NEXT GOLF TRIP



There is no other golf destination like it. The RTJ Trail in Alabama spans hundreds of miles. Only Myrtle Beach comes close in terms of top-to-bottom distance. The RTJ Trail courses were built concurrently. St. Andrews took hundreds of years, while Bandon took 2 decades. While Pinehurst unites three communities, the RTJ Trail unifies an entire state in golf. And yet, the RTJ Trail bears elements that make each of those other destinations a success. It has the diversity of courses found along the Grand Strand, if not the variety of architects. RTJ offers a variety of terrain and shot value, if not the native sands of North Carolina, the Oregon coast, and Scotland. Most importantly, the RTJ Trail offers many reasons to return, all thanks to the range of venues where courses are located. Let's have a look at 4 reasons to make Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail your next destination venture. ...»

### SITES AND SCORECARDS

The first thing your eyes catch, even if you read from left to right, are the numbers on the official Trail website: 468 holes, 26 courses, 11 sites. If you've ever gone on a trip where you change hotels and locales with the sun, you understand how frustrating and exhausting such poor planning is. I know from personal experience: I planned a trip to Michigan that way, and it ended with a near-fistfight! Only one of the 11 sites (Ross Bridge) has just 18 holes, but it's a mere 5-minute car ride from the 54 holes at Oxmoor Valley. With the exception of the 36-hole Highland Oaks property, in the southeastern corner of the state, each site is within an hour drive of another. In the case of Highland Oaks, no southern Iditarod is necessary. Both Grand National (Auburn/Opelika) and Cambrian Ridge (Greenville) are 2 hours away.

A fact not emblazoned across the crest of the Trail, each of the sites for golf courses was donated to the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the entity responsible for the massive undertaking. One might suspect that the lands acquired would be less than ideal for golf, but that's not the case. The rumpled geography (including climate and weather, in addition to topography) of the state ensured an assortment of characteristics. Some layouts sit high above rivers and small lakes, while others traverse hillsides. Others still, abut the Gulf of Mexico. In each case, the land offered was either viable in its current condition, or manipulable with minimal earth-moving.

### **DIVERSE LAYOUTS**

I'm the first to step forth and say that there was a lot about Roger Rulewich's approach to golf course architecture that I dislike. I found his Ballyowen in New Jersey to be nearly unplayable. Perhaps it was the pretense of an Irish golf course, that in no way, shape or form, looked like, felt like, played like, an Irish golf course. I wasn't a fan of Saratoga National, either, as it seemed to base itself on ways to disrupt golf with water. It's known that Rulewich was the driving force behind the RTJ Trail. Mr. Jones, Sr., was up in years when the Trail was built: he passed away in 2000, 6 days short of his 94th birthday. As his lieutenant, Rulewich oversaw much of the design and construction. AND he did a great job. Our trip took us from Prattville to Birmingham, to Auburn/Opelika. None of the courses felt remotely like a copy or twin of any other. I will warn you that the Links course at Grand National (Auburn/Opelika) is actually more lakes than the adjacent Lakes course, but that's nothing. Both courses and the 18-hole, par-three layout on site are a barrel of fun.

Let me tell you what it's like to play an 8,200-yard course. The Ross Bridge course near Birmingham is a delight for the senses. Up and down wondrous land, bagpiper playing as you come to 9 or 18, vistas across adjoining fairways, extending for acres. Back to the challenge. For transparency, I'm a 52-year old, 5'9" guy with above-average fitness and golf ability (I'm fairly strong, very good hand-eye coordination and a traveling 5 handicap), so base your personalization of this experience off that. Now, here is the paradigm: everything in your mind shifts. Your shortest par-3 hole is 250 yards, and most of them require a 235-yard carry over doom. Your par-4 holes live in the rarefied air above 480 yards, unless they are uphill and only 450. As for the par-5 holes, I almost parred one of them. I hit more solid shots on this golf course than I can describe, and I did not make a single par. I had plenty of chances at par, but couldn't get the putts to fall. Zero greens in regulation meant zero birdie putts. No chip-ins, either. Are you begging the question "Why did you do it?" Imagine the ultra-marathoner and the challenge that she faces in running way more than 26 miles. I wanted the experience. I wasn't interested in a score. No one but you cares what you shot on your trip; they only ask about the experience. For me, the experience was brought to fruition at 8,200 yards.

We had the opportunity to play two short courses. Long before par-3 courses became the rage at Bandon Dunes and other locales, the RTJ Trail incorporated them into their sites. Their reasoning, based on logic, was that golfers might not be up for 36 challenging holes in a day, but they might like a warm-up 18, or a day-ender. Hence, the openarms approach to the short course. The day we played the 8,200 yard course at Ross Bridge, we warmed up at Oxmoor Valley's wee links. I use the term warm up with intent; the morning was a chilly, windy one on the ridge, but when we descended into the valley, the wind abated. The vertical topography demands that holes play either up or down a slope. The other reason for the term is, you will use nearly every club in your bag. No need to go to the range before a round at Oxmoor or Ross Bridge. Play the short course early and you'll be ready for 18 holes in no time.

Our other venture onto a less-than-regulation layout was at Grand National. Home to the aforementioned pair of regulation courses (Lakes and Links), Rulewich and Jones found a way to weave the short course onto the same land as the big fellows. No perimeter wasteland here, no use of unneeded land for a throwaway course. The shortie at Grand National is just the thing to end a day, which is what we did when we pulled into town. Knowing that we had 36 big holes the following morning, we opted for brief and exciting, and Grand National Short offered both. Oh, if you're wondering, the Lakes and Links courses provide the same memories, challenges and thrills. Former home to the PGA TOUR's Barbasol Championship, if I had to pick one resort to which to return, it would be hard to say no to Grand National.

### NEARBY TOWNS

It's a 360-mile drive from Huntsville (in the north) to Point Clear (in the south), the longest distance between sites. Not far behind is the 340-mile trek from Muscle Shoals (also in the north) to Point Clear. That's a lot of state, and to imagine 9 other sites and almost 400 other holes in between, is nearly preposterous. Fortunately, the Trail lives in harmony with its state. Unlike some resorts that strive to keep you on site, gypping the local businesses of needed cash and awareness, courses along the Trail encourage you to visit places like Opelika, Prattville, and Point Clear. The esprit de corps of an entire state is on display at every stop along the Trail.

Case in point: Opelika. No need to ride-share from the resort. One of the drivers will take you into town, and pick you up at the pre-arranged hour. No charge for the ride, but don't forget to tip the chauffeur. We took a 10-minute ride into town, expecting only dinner. What we found





was a delightful, reclaimed downtown. Once home to factories and a busy train trestle, this pleasant area is now home to restaurants, breweries, distilleries, and benches. What better place to be, after a round or two of golf, than an urban space with a place to dine, quaff, and relax? If you're in the area in the fall, there's another town nearby, called Auburn. Rumor is, they play a bit of football over there.

You'll find an Opelika nearly everywhere you go along the Trail. Each has its own flavor to savor, and offers the perfect complement to hard-fought battles on the links. As much as I want to return to see the other courses along the Trail, I also want to visit the Yellowhammer state again for its small towns.

### LODGING

It might seem odd to return to the importance of lodging, immediately after I've suggested you take a tour of the towns that house the Trail venues. There are times aplenty when you don't want to go out after 36 holes. You want to lay down in a comfortable bed for a few hours, have a nice dinner on site, and watch a game or two on television in the tavern. The majority of the properties have on-site lodging, allowing you to roll out of the golf cart and into your room. It's time for a dip in the pool or hot tub, followed by a beverage at the outdoor bar. Or, a quick shower and nap, then down to the grill room for some vittles.

Oh, the room. Let's not forget the beds that make you feel like you're sleeping on air cushions, the sitting rooms that allow friends to gather for television or conversation, nor the windows that look out, more often than not, onto the golf courses themselves. If it weren't for the golf, you'd be forgiven for spending as much time as possible in the suite! Ironically, the one resort where we had to stay off-site was the one we most wanted to see. Renaissance Ross Bridge was completely booked by a company for a retreat. No rooms were available, and you couldn't go inside at the turn or the 19th hole, except to visit the pro shop. It's understandable why that company, and others like it, would want to seclude its employees for training purposes. With gentle waterfalls, distant vistas, and multiple dining options, Ross Bridge might be the premier property along the entire Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The best place to fly into is Atlanta. The drive is not too distant, and is entirely interstate. You even gain an hour when entering Alabama. What's more, with Atlanta being a hub for so many airlines, chances are excellent that travel costs will be reduced.

Our visit included the middle row of courses, from top to bottom. We saw some of Oxmoor Valley, and all of Ross Bridge, Capitol Hill, and Grand National. A second visit would be the northern trio of The Shoals, Hampton Cove, and Silver Lakes, where 6 regulation and 1 short course await. Visit #3 would take on the southern tier, the most ambitious of the trips. Four sites, offering 8 full-size and 1 short course, sit in anticipation of our arrival. After that, a 4th trip would select the favorite properties. Interstates and beltways move travelers from each corner and every perimeter, in appropriate amounts of time.

As with any golf getaway, do your homework and know what to expect from the weather. My threesome assumed (typical northerners) that anything south of us would be balmy, steamy, and sunny. It certainly was more enjoyable than upstate New York in March, but had we packed properly, we would have muttered less. Alabama is a beautiful state, and the positioning of the RTJ Trail golf courses throughout, ensures that visitors will experience and enjoy something new, no matter which corners of the state they visit.

## **ASK THE EXPERTS:** WHERE TO PLAY ON RTJ

Looking for insights on where to play next on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail? Here are some insights from three major news organizations in 2018 on where you should make your next tee times. While all 26 golf courses on the Trail are world-class, this information could help you start planning your next trip to the Trail.



### **GOLF MAGAZINE** JOE PASSOV

"JONESING FOR ALABAMA:

THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL"

For world-class golf at muni-course prices, there's no better value than Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. True, there's a similarity to it all, and the 26 tracks at 11 different sites can overwhelm higher-handicappers with length, sand, and water, but the private-club ambience and challenge for regular Joes is seductive. The RTJ Trail also earns high marks for accessibility. Each destination is within a half hour of an interstate and within a two-hour drive of another Trail complex. Here's the skinny on the top Trail in golf:

### **Five Must-Play Courses**

- 1. Grand National (Lake), Opelika
- 2. Capitol Hill (Judge), Prattville
- 3. Cambrian Ridge (Sherling/Canyon), Greenville
- 4. Ross Bridge, Birmingham
- 5. The Shoals (Fighting Joe), Muscle Shoals

### **Best Golf/Lodging Combos**

- Ross Bridge/Renaissance Ross Bridge, Birmingham
- 2. Lakewood/Grand Hotel, Point Clear
- 3. Magnolia Grove/The Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa, Mobile

### **Tournament-Tested Tracks**

- 1. Magnolia Grove (The Crossings), Mobile (LPGA Tour)
- 2. Capitol Hill (Senator), Prattville (LPGA Tour)
- 3. Ross Bridge, Birmingham (PGA Tour Champions)
- 4. Grand National (Lake), Opelika (PGA Tour)

### **Bonus Par 3s**

Seven RTJ Golf Trail complexes feature a par-3 course, which might be the perfect buddy-trip tiebreaker. Four venues—Grand National, Hampton Cove, Magnolia Grove, and Oxmoor Valley-roll out 18-hole spreads, while Cambrian Ridge, Highland Oaks, and Silver Lakes offer nine holes. Rates are \$18 for 18 holes, plus cart. Best of the bunch? Magnolia Grove.

### Side-Trip Beverage

Nine miles from Grand National in Opelika is the campus of Auburn University, and the hub of Auburn is Toomer's Corner. Quaff a fresh-squeezed lemonade at Toomer's Drugs, a tradition more than 100 years old. Exhale.

### GOLF CHANNEL'S "MORNING DRIVE" MATT GINELLA

"SUMMER SWING - ALABAMA"

During an interview on the Golf Channel's "Morning Drive," golf travel expert and regular contributor Matt Ginella shared some of his insights on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Ginella has reported on multiple RTJ sites for Golf Channel and previously with *Golf Digest*.

### What brings golfers to the great state of Alabama?

First and foremost, it is value. Within the value, they have lots of options. If you look at some of the numbers they have on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, they have 11 hubs of golf, 26 courses, and over 400 holes. I think what they created and the results they have gotten from the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail have put Alabama on the map as a destination for value golf.

### What are some of your favorite courses on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail?

For me, as a one off, the marquee venue is Ross Bridge. It is where a lot of people go. They get a higher level of accommodations and service, and they get a very unique experience at Ross Bridge. Ross Bridge is unlike anything I had seen anywhere else until I saw places like Mammoth Dunes. At 8,191 yards you never would play from back there, but when you walk around that golf course it is pretty spectacular and unique - unlike anything you really see in America.

Grand National at Auburn/Opelika is another great location, especially during college football season. They have multiple good golf courses plus a short course and great nightlife. Great vibe and lodging options there. Capitol Hill is another favorite spot along the Trail, and one that a lot of buddy trips gravitate toward.

### ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION **BLAKE GUTHRIE**

"GREAT GOLF COURSES JUST A DRIVE AWAY"

The good thing about being a golfer in the South is that you're close to some of the best golfing in the country. Here are some Southeastern courses worth checking, not only for the links but what else these clubs and resorts have to offer.

### Alabama: Almost Heaven for Golfers

Some of the nation's best golf is in Alabama. Ross Bridge outside Birmingham and Grand National in Opelika are each part of the popular Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, and Golf Digest editors selected both last year as the top golf resorts in the Southeast. They also have named the Ross Bridge course one of the toughest in the nation, being "impossibly long with enormous greens and bunkers" and the kind that "Trent would be building if he were still alive." Renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones (he went by Trent), who died at 93 in 2000, designed and redesigned courses on every continent except Antarctica, and was fond of bragging, "the sun never sets on a Robert Trent Jones golf course."



The Trail in Alabama was among his last projects, and he considered it his final masterpiece. Accolades began pouring in shortly after the first 18 courses opened, with The New York Times calling it "some of the best public golf on earth" and The Wall Street Journal proclaiming it "may be the best bargain in the country." Now up to 26 courses, the Trail boasts 468 holes at 11 locations. ■



WHY ALABAMA IS A GOLFER'S DREAM DESTINATION

BY CHRIS MORRIS, MARRIOTT TRAVELER



Alabama is full of unexpected joys, from the musical history of Muscle Shoals to a renowned botanical garden and thriving craft beer scene in Birmingham. But one of the state's biggest draws is the quality of its golf courses along the state's famed Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Meandering from the Appalachians in the north down to the Gulf of Mexico in the south, the trail is punctuated by 26 world-class courses across 11 sites— and 12 million rounds of golf have been played on the trail in just over a quarter century.

The opportunity to develop the trail inspired golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Sr. to come out of retirement nearly 30 years ago and take on the enormous construction project. The result? A series of public courses that are regularly ranked among the nation's best and cater to everyone from beginning golfers to PGA Tour and LPGA professionals.

Thinking of chipping your way through Alabama? Here are a few must-hit links (and a few ideas on things to do and what to eat after you've sunk your last putt).

### **BIRMINGHAM**

Start things off in the rolling hills of the Shannon Valley at the fifth-longest course in the world. Ross Bridge pays homage to golf's Scottish roots, with nightly bagpipe players, and would make the game's forbearers proud.

The course spans some 8,191 yards, and 10 of the holes follow the banks of two lakes separated by a breathtaking waterfall. The course caters to golfers of all skill levels, and even non-golfers will enjoy a visit to the lush, picturesque grounds. Prices start at \$120 per round.

If you have time to explore after 18 holes, the aforementioned craft beer scene is red hot; sip a cold pale ale from Birmingham's own Good People Brewing Company or the Pillar to Post Rye Brown

from TrimTab Brewing. If you're seeking a quiet respite, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens are renowned around the Southeast.

For dinner, head to the much-lauded Highlands Bar and Grill, which the prestigious James Beard Foundation recently named the most outstanding restaurant in America. Highlands had been a finalist for the award for the previous nine years.

Plenty of other Beard honorees call the Birmingham area home. In 2012, Chris Hastings, chef and co-owner of Birmingham's Hot and Hot Fish Club, won a James Beard Award for best chef in the South. And The Bright Star in Bessemer was named an "America's Classic" in 2010.

### **OPELIKA**

Next, head to the center of the state at the spot Robert Trent Jones Sr. described as the single greatest site for a golf complex he'd ever seen. The legendary golfer so loved the area along Lake Saugahatchee that he built three courses there and called the 600-acre complex Grand National.



Any of the three courses will have scenic shots and ample challenges, but the Lake and Links courses are the two favorites among pros.

Lake takes you around Saugahatchee, meaning the view is always breathtaking. Links has one of the most widely adored 18th holes in the country. The public course is open year-round, and prices start at \$65.

Don't leave the area without exploring Auburn University. If you time the visit right, you'll get to see one of Auburn's War Eagles in person at the Southeastern Raptor Center and grab a glass of fresh-squeezed lemonade at Toomer's Corner.

And should the Tigers win a game when you're in town, you'll get to see one of college sports' greatest traditions: Thousands of fans head to Toomer's Corner to roll toilet tissue around every tree and lamppost in sight. (Auburn is the only city in the country with a line item in its budget for removing toilet tissue.)

Pop over to nearby Auburn on the way out of town and grab a bite at Acre restaurant, which breathes

new life into Deep South classics, resulting in a fresh, modern look at cuisine. Fruits, veggies and herbs are grown in Acre's own gardens and orchards, and the seafood is sourced from the Gulf Coast. Try to get a table on the shaded front porch in the summer or near the hearth-style fireplace in the winter.

### MONTGOMERY

From Opelika, head 76 miles west, just past the state capitol of Montgomery, to the town of Prattville. There you'll find Capitol Hill, another Jones-designed compound that spans 1,500 acres and offers three 18-hole courses.

Each course has very different layouts and styles. Try to play the Judge course, which (like Grand National) has stunning views. Hole one, the signature hole, will be one of the most breathtaking tees you've ever stood on, looking down on the course and lake, with lush, green land as far as the eye can see. Other highlights include the Senator, a links-style course, and the Legislator, a traditional Southern golf course. Prices start at \$65.

### SNAP A SELFIE WITH THE HANK WILLIAMS STATUE

When you've called it a day, head back to Montgomery (about 13 miles away) to explore that city's rich history. The Hank Williams Museum is a must-stop for music lovers, and the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Rosa Parks Museum and Dr. King's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church tell the story of the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.

Don't leave town hungry, either. Consider Central, widely acknowledged as one of Montgomery's most innovative eateries. Tucked into the downtown Entertainment District, Central brings a Southern twist to international flavors and features locally sourced ingredients on its seasonal menu. Though dishes rotate, favorites include the sweet tea-brined pork chop and the rabbit and ramp spaetzle.

Celebrate Alabama's 200th birthday in 2019 during the ALABAMA 200 bicentennial festivities.





# RTJ RESORT COLLECTION FEATURES NEW ROOMS & LUXURY OPTIONS

Beverly Hills, Las Vegas, Hawaii, and Alabama. USA Today identified the four "latest and coolest hotel renovations in 2018" and the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa in Point Clear made the list. All of the guest rooms, meeting spaces, spa, restaurant, bars, and public spaces at the Grand Hotel were updated, while maintaining its historic charm. New cabanas, restaurants, and activity options have received rave reviews. In addition to the transformation being completed at the "Queen of Southern Resorts" in Pt. Clear, construction crews were busy at RTJ Resort Collection properties in Opelika and Prattville.

Residents and guests visiting the Auburn/Opelika area have significantly more options for relaxing spa treatments, great fitness regiments, and farmto-table menu options. Recently named a Marriott Resort, the property added a three-story spa and fitness center in 2018. The Spa at Grand National features eight treatment rooms in a nature inspired setting. It features private relaxation areas for men and women that include whirlpools, infrared saunas, showers, and hideaway lounges on the first floor. The second floor features manicure and pedicure stations, a full-service salon, and a lounge for special occasions. Fitness is the focus on the third floor with extensive cardio and resistance training equipment. The Spa at Grand National is the sixth addition to the RTJ Spa Trail. Other spas are located in Point Clear, Mobile, Montgomery, Hoover, and Florence.

The Auburn/Opelika Marriott's restaurant and menus were updated, along with the inside and outside bars. Having doubled the number of rooms in 2017, the Auburn/Opelika Marriott is ready for golfers, football fans, and meeting guests. One visit and you will see why *Golf Digest* editors named the Auburn/ Opelika Marriott one of its top golf resort locations in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Located just over an hour west from Opelika, the Montgomery/Prattville Marriott at Capitol Hill completed a two-year renovation in 2018. Overlooking the 17th fairway of the Senator course at RTJ Capitol Hill, the Montgomery/ Prattyille Marriott was the first hotel built directly on the RTJ Golf Trail. "All of our guest rooms, meeting space, restaurant, villas, and the Presidential Cottage have been completely updated," said Walter Kennedy, general manager. "From new furniture and flooring to wall covers and window treatments, we have significantly upgraded the quality of our property," said Kennedy.

Since the RTJ 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. The Renaissance Montgomery started a minor renovation in December 2018, replacing carpets, drapes, and other soft goods. In August, a similar refresh will begin at the Battle House in Mobile. Renovations of the Lakewood Club's Azalea Golf Course in Point Clear are scheduled to be complete in fall 2019. Lakewood's Dogwood Course was transformed in 2018.

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 south to north.





### MOBILE BAY REGION

### **Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa**

Point Clear, Alabama grand1847.com

🚮 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 coolest renovations 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, and historic resort. It has received national accolades from Travel + Leisure, Conde Nast Traveler, Garden & Gun, Successful Meetings, Meetings Today, Southern Living, and other national publications.

A schedule of activities and special weekends is particularly attractive to families. Groups appreciate the superlative meeting facilities. With 405 luxurious guest rooms and having some of Marriott's best spas, golf courses and pools, the Grand Hotel is now grander than ever. Once 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 will reopen 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 takes place each day at 4 p.m., and high tea is offered in the Grand Hall most afternoons. In addition to worldclass 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.

### The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

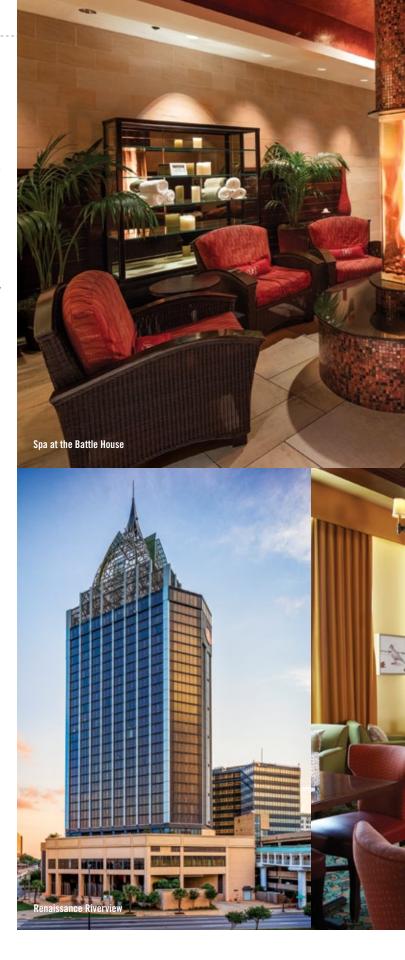
Mobile. Alabama renaissancebattlehouse.com

🜃 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. The Battle House has consistently been named Mobile's best hotel and best spa. Both the Battle House and its Trellis Room restaurant have received Four Diamond ratings from AAA. 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, the Battle House is a great Mardi Gras choice.

On New Year's Eve, come witness MoonPie Over Mobile in a one-of-a-kind celebration. Lagniappe readers named the Battle House as the top hotel, spa, martini, bar bathroom, and event venue in Mobile. Join the afternoon cocktail ritual in the lobby and flag raising along Royal Street as a bit of Mardi Gras spirit is shared each day.





### Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile. Alabama renaissanceriverview.com

🚮 facebook.com/riverviewplaza 閭 twitter.com/riverviewplaza



Listen for the ship horn each afternoon at 5 p.m. and you know you will have arrived at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza. A prime downtown location with a covered walkway to the Mobile Convention Center makes the Renaissance Riverview Plaza a favorite for business guests. Renaissance Riverview Plaza, a Four Diamond Hotel, also is a short walk from the city's Carnival Museum, the Museum of Mobile, 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. Each afternoon a ship horn blows from the hotel to salute the city's maritime history and lets downtown Mobile know the bar at the Renaissance Riverview is open for business.

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

### CENTRAL ALABAMA AND MONTGOMERY REGION

### Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama renaissancemontgomery.com



The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center is 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 quickly becoming the city's social hot spot.

The Renaissance Montgomery includes a newly renovated and expanded convention center. The hotel complex has more than 140,000 square feet of meeting space and features some of the latest technology available for meetings. The Spa at Renaissance Montgomery remained one of the top ranked Renaissance spas in North America last year.

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.

The Renaissance Montgomery offers shuttle service from the hotel to RTJ Capitol Hill. Reserve the shuttle through our front desk. 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 in The House, the hotel's restaurant.

### Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Prattville, Alabama www.marriottcapitolhill.com

🚺 www.facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill 🔋 www.twitter.com/marriottcaphill Minutes from downtown Montgomery, the Marriott hotel and its 96 guest rooms completed a massive renovation in 2018. The 74 spacious guest rooms located in the main lodge have been upgraded in 2017. Two eight-room luxury villas have living areas for informal gatherings and are ideal for golfing groups.

The 10,000-square-foot Presidential Cottage features five executive suites, private balconies, a lush garden, and a private heliport. The hotel was the first to be built directly on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses and overlooks the 54 holes of championship golf at Capitol Hill. Golfweek 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 2019, and the Marriott is the ideal place for the event.

Historic Prattville has seen tremendous growth since RTJ Capitol Hill opened in 1999. To salute the area's history, a gin shop whistle blows each afternoon at 4 p.m. and signals the end of the work day and the start of happy hour. Prattville was once the home to the country's largest cotton gin factory. 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.

### **Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National**

Opelika, Alabama marriottgrandnational.com

🚮 facebook.com/marriottgrandnational 🟮 twitter.com/GrandNatl\_Hotel Named an Editors' Choice Golf Resort in 2016, 2017, and 2018 by Golf Digest, the Marriott is the ideal place to stay for golfers playing RTJ Grand National. Last year, the Auburn/Opelika Marriott added a three-story spa and renovated its restaurant and bars. In 2017, the Marriott doubled the number of rooms so it now has 221 guest room, including 19 luxury suites. With the resort pool complex, spa, tennis courts, RTJ golf courses, dining options, luxury rooms, and other amenities, the hotel was officially designated a Marriott resort in 2018.

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 Marriott offers the finest accommodations in the area.

This nationally renowned retreat is the region's premier golf destination and lakeside resort with 54 holes on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. The majority of 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.



### NORTH ALABAMA AND BIRMINGHAM REGION

### Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

Birmingham, Alabama rossbridgeresort.com

🚮 facebook.com/rossbridgeresort 📵 twitter.com/rossbridgehotel

Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. Golf Digest editors named Ross Bridge one of their favorite golf resorts in North America in 2016, 2017, and 2018. Travel + Leisure has named Ross Bridge "One of the Top 500 Hotels in the World." This Four Diamond resort has 259 guest rooms, with balconies overlooking the fourth longest golf course in the world at 8,191 yards from the tips. The resort also has 11 spacious suites for an extra level of comfort and indulgence. Between Ross Bridge and nearby Oxmoor Valley, golfers have access to 54 holes of golf at this luxury resort. Listen for the bagpiper playing each evening at sunset and a 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 a variety of body treatment for pampering and recovery.

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

### **Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa**

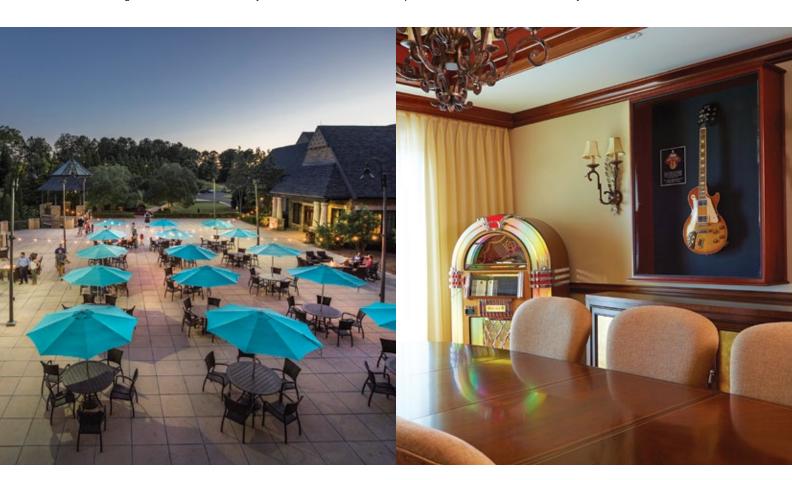
Florence, Alabama marriottshoals.com

🚮 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 the 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 Hotel & Spa is pet friendly and 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 with historic photos, gold records, and other Muscle Shoals memorabilia. 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.



# CHEF'S CHOICE



Where to play? Where to stay? What to eat? These three questions are often asked by golfers and others coming to visit the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and its Resort Collection. Insights on the first two questions are contained throughout this Trail Guide. Now let's focus on what to eat. The executive chefs at each of the Trail's eight resorts and hotels were asked for one recommendation on what guests should order. From seafood options to steaks and chops, their answers and insights are below. Bon appetite.

### **BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL & SPA** THE TRELLIS ROOM » MOBILE

SEARED DIVER SCALLOPS, WILD MUSHROOM RISOTTO, SAUTÉED SPINACH, AND WHITE TRUFFLE OIL

"This is the restaurant's signature dish and has been featured as one of the top 100 dishes to eat in Alabama by Alabama Tourism. This is the one dish that has been on the menu since reopening the Battle House in 2007. It is a guest favorite and my personal favorite for its subtle earthy flavors from the wild mushrooms, the creaminess of the risotto and the natural sweetness of the scallops."

Marty Pollock, Executive Chef

### RENAISSANCE MONTGOMERY THE HOUSE RESTAURANT » MONTGOMERY

JUMBO LUMP CRAB CAKE

"The jumbo lump crab cake in The House restaurant is a major staple in this hotel and restaurant. It has over 34's of a full pound of local jumbo lump crab meat, seared, and then finished in the oven, served with house made tartar sauce. We also serve it as a sandwich." Dean Donnell, Executive Chef

### RENAISSANCE ROSS BRIDGE GOLF RESORT & SPA BROCK'S RESTAURANT » HOOVER/BIRMINGHAM

BROCK'S SEAFOOD

LINGUINE

"The seafood linguine has been on the menu since we opened and is one of Brock's most popular dishes. For the base of our seafood linguine, we use a bouillabaisse recipe that was given to me by a neighbor of my in-laws when they were living in a town called Barjols near Aix en Provence. The neighbor was older and needed help installing a fence. She found out that I was a cook and so paid me for the work with a hand-written copy of her family recipe." Robert Kamm, Executive Chef

### **GRAND HOTEL GOLF RESORT & SPA** BAYSIDE GRILL » PT. CLEAR

GRAND GUMBO

"This third coast seafood gumbo has been passed down from Chef-to-Chef for years. We still make it with gulf crab, shrimp, and oysters plus local vegetables and sassafras."

Cory Garrison, Executive Chef

This third coast seafood Gumbo has been passed down from Chef-to-Chef for years. We still make it with gulf crab, shrimp and oysters plus local vegetables and sassafras.

### AUBURN/OPELIKA MARRIOTT RESORT SOUTHERN OAK » OPELIKA

ZINFUL GRILLED FILET MIGNON

"Served atop a loaded goat cheese smashed potato cake, sautéed wild mushrooms, charred asparagus relish and red zin reduction, the filet mignon is a dish to touch all your senses! Eniov a beautiful medium rare filet, rich, sweet, and tangy goat cheese smashed potatoes, smoky asparagus relish, and a peppery sauce." Anthony Shiffer, Executive Chef

### MARRIOTT SHOALS **360 GRILLE » FLORENCE**

PORK CHOP

"The pork chop at the 360 Grille is quickly becoming a signature dish. Locally-sourced from Southeast Family Farms, our double-cut pork chop is cooked sous vide, then finished on our wood-burning grill, and glazed with a bourbon gastrique and apple chutney. We like to serve it with sweet potato soufflé and our bourbon-glazed brussels sprouts."

### Jeff Eubanks, Executive Chef

### MARRIOTT PRATTVILLE OAK TAVERN » PRATTVILLE

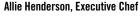
WICKED BREADED WICKLES PICKLES

"I decided to go with one of our appetizers that is simplistic and Alabama: Back Forty Beer Battered Fried Spicy Wickles Pickles with Tavern made Ranch Dipping Sauce. Made with award-winning, Crafted Back Forty Beer born in Gadsden, Alabama. Wickles Pickles are a 90-year-old family recipe from Dadeville, Alabama, that was kept secret until 1998." Al Mills, Executive Chef

### RENAISSANCE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HARBOR ROOM » MOBILE

DELTA BOUILLABAISSE

"Harbor Room's award-winning delta bouillabaisse has quickly become a popular dish with guests and locals alike. It highlights gulf seafood and Conecuh sausage with a house made, rich tomato-seafood stock. The flavor profiles are reminiscent of a low country boil and a traditional bouillabaisse."





# ALABAMA'S BY LENORE VICKREY, ALABAMA LIVING MAC INTERNATIONAL ARTIST

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.



### 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 Pettersen, 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.







# TRAILLIFE

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

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, four pickle ball courts, eight pools, endless miles of hiking and biking trails, great restaurants, shopping, and much more.

The residential communities associated with the Robert Trent Jones 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? Set sail into Mobile Bay, watch spectacular sunsets, 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 and seafood all year long.

Exploring the Colony at the Grand doesn't end at the front gate of this private community. The quality of life at Point Clear/Fairhope is legendary. Explore the boutiques, galleries, and restaurants of Fairhope or spend your day along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. The Fairhope/Point Clear area has gained notice in The Wall Street Journal as one of the Top 10 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 fifth phase of development with five new home designs from the \$300s to the \$800s. 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.

WATERSHED SOUTH Overlooking the Azalea golf course, Watershed South features three-bedroom, two-bath homes on the main level that define sophisticated, modern living, and coastal southern living in every way. Only one home remains available. Priced from the \$600's.

**AZALEA** The Azalea neighborhood features six lots overlooking the 10th hole on the Azalea Course at the Lakewood Club. These craftsman coastal homes feature great porches and the latest designs focused on luxury and relaxation. Priced from the \$600's.

**BAYVIEW** Featuring 56 units, Bayview overlooks Sweetwater Lake on the hotel's historic grounds. The Bayview condominiums offer a breathtaking panorama at every floor, oak-draped parks, a freshwater lake, and the magnificent 36 holes of the Azalea and Dogwood courses. Great views and low maintenance make these units popular for people on the go. Priced from the high \$300'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 70s and 80s. The homes have been modernized to today's trends and finishes. Priced from the mid \$800's.

### NATIONAL VILLAGE

Auburn/Opelika, Alabama » nationalvillage.com

### SPECTACULAR HOMES. AUBURN TRADITIONS.

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 Lakes course along Lake Saugahatchee. A planned 700-acre resort community, National Village offers three distinct neighborhood options with a fourth opening in Spring 2019. 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 three years. The hotel's outdoor resort pool complex, tennis courts, pickle ball, and fitness center have been very popular with National Village residents. All of these amenities and many more are available to National Village residents. The resort and golf courses also overlook a 600-acre lake. Auburn University offers a variety of athletic and cultural programs within a short drive from National Village.

The Auburn/Opelika area was named one of the "Top 10 Places to Retire for Golf" by US News & World Report. Readers of Golf World named Opelika the #1 site for public golf in the country. Golf Digest named the RTJ Trail the top value for golf in the country and number eight for quality. National Village is an easy drive from these Southern cities: Atlanta (95 miles), Birmingham (112 miles), Chattanooga (215 miles), Mobile (214 miles), and Montgomery (57 miles).



**EAGLE BEND** Wonderfully designed and finished, three-bedroom Craftsman style golf cottages with hardwood floors, Hardi-Plank siding, gas fireplaces, stone counters, 9-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 1,216 to almost 1,800 square feet. Prices start in the high \$200's.

**QUAIL RIDGE** The perfect blend of arts and crafts and cottage designs, Quail Ridge offers threeand four-bedroom homes in National Village. This neighborhood opened in 2016 and offers a variety of plans. The National Village trail surrounds the rear perimeter of Quail Ridge and is located near a National Village post office. Pricing starting in the mid \$300's.

**EAGLE TRAIL** Offering Craftsman style cottages on and off the golf course. Starting in the mid \$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-bedrooms homes start in the low \$200s.





### CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF CONTINUES ON THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL:

## GUARDIAN CHAMPIONSHIP EXTENDED THREE YEARS

Professional golf has been played on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail for the last 22 years consecutively and this tradition will continue in 2019 and beyond.

Guardian Credit Union, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Symetra Tour and River Region elected officials announced a three-year extension for the Guardian Championship. Originally contracted through 2019, the agreement now extends into 2022.

Many professional golfers have seen their professional careers blossom while playing on the RTJ Golf Trail. Lexi Thompson and Ariya Jutanugarn of the LPGA and Grayson Murray of the PGA TOUR each had their first professional wins on RTJ in Alabama. Members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Lorena Ochoa Reves won three times on the Trail and Se Ri Pak won twice. Other notable winners include Paula Creamer, Stacy Lewis, Karrie Webb, Aaron Baddeley, Scott Piercey, and many others. Lindsey Weaver and Kendall Dye won the first two Guardian Championships, helping them earn their LPGA cards.

"Guardian is excited to extend our relationship for an additional three years," said Guardian Credit

Union CEO Heath Harrell. "We are pleased with the outcome from the 2017 and 2018 Guardian Championships and are looking forward to growing the event. Guardian has been invested in the community for 60 years now, and we are proud to continue the tradition of women's golf in Alabama."

### DYE WINS 2018 GUARDIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2018 Guardian Championship featured 120 professional women's golfers from 28 countries who competed to help earn their 2019 LPGA cards. With the top 20 on the Symetra Tour's money list in the field, competition heated up over the three-day tournament. Entering the final round, Oklahoma's Kendall Dye trailed by two shots, but a 6-under-par 66 performance erased that deficit and helped her claim her fourth career Symetra Tour title and second in 2018. The Guardian Championship win and a T-6 finish in the Symetra

Championship helped elevate her professional status to the LPGA.

"I never really thought that I would get four professional victories out here, but I am so grateful," said Dye, who recorded seven birdies and only one bogey in the final round at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill in Prattville. "There was a lot of great competition, and I thought if I gave myself a lot of good opportunities, make a few more putts than the last few days, then I could shoot something low. I'm thankful we got it done."

As one of the last tournaments on the Symetra Tour schedule and with the increased purse to \$160,000, the future stars of the LPGA will be playing the Guardian Championship in 2019 and beyond. The Guardian Championship will be the week of September 15 in 2019, with pro-ams, the Alabama Power Junior Clinic, and other community events planned. Tournament play will be from Friday, September 20 - Sunday, September 22, 2019. ■

Inever really thought that I would get four professional victories out here, but I am so grateful. There was a lot of great competition, and I thought if I gave myself a lot of good opportunities, make a few more putts than the last few days, then I could shoot something low. I'm thankful we got it done.



### A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL >>

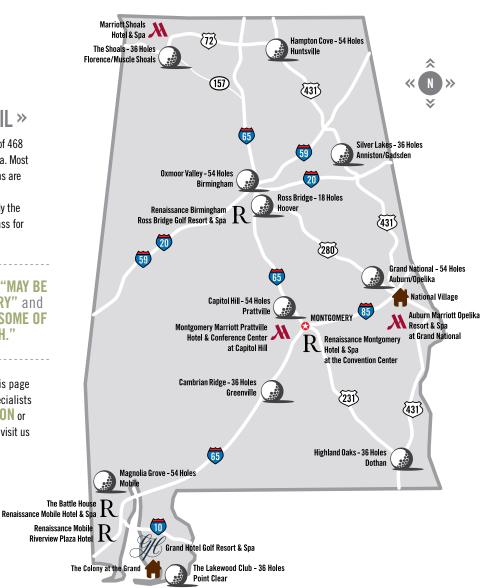
Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a collection of 468 holes of championship golf on 11 sites across Alabama. Most are near an interstate or federal highway and directions are easily marked by green highway signs.

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

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

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





### 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	<u> </u>	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
BLACK PURPLE	489 460	413 371	716 622	223 184	476 417	466 397	483 437	592 537	200
PURPLE	460	371	622	184	417	397	437	537	151
PURPLE ORANGE	460	371 345	622 581	184 163	417	397 352	437 423	537 483	151 137

#### 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	<b>10</b> 226	<b>11</b> 589	<b>12</b> 618	<b>13</b> 455	<b>14</b> 417	<b>15</b> 447	<b>16</b> 197	<b>17</b> 443	<b>18</b> 393
BLACK PURPLE									
	226	589	618	455	417	447	197	443	393
PURPLE	226	589 559	618	455 424	417 390	447	197 157	443	393
PURPLE ORANGE	226 202 168	589 559 521	618 568 527	455 424 402	417 390 368	447 414 395	197 157 146	443 409 390	393 363 338



# 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 2019 Couples Championship is August 30- September 1 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 **rtigolf.com** for more information

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

🚮 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	<b>10</b> 461	<b>11</b> 206	<b>12</b> 435	<b>13</b> 415	<b>14</b> 414	<b>15</b> 539	<b>16</b> 259	<b>17</b> 621	<b>18</b> 437
PURPLE ORANGE									
	461	206	435	415	414	539	259	621	437
ORANGE	461	206	435	415 391	414 382	539 520	259 211	621 570	437

# **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
ORANGE WHITE	535 486	398 353	418 379	382 314			176 163	378 350	365 334
					186	519			

#### **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	<b>10</b> 177	<b>11</b> 193	<b>12</b> 184	1 <b>3</b> 222	<b>14</b> 205	<b>15</b> 247	<b>16</b> 159	<b>17</b> 232	<b>18</b> 207
PURPLE ORANGE									
	177	193	184	222	205	247	159	232	207
ORANGE	177 161	193 152	184	222	205 170	247	159 143	232 168	207

# 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 unequaled 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

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 oneshotters. 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

🚮 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	<b>10</b> 414	11 446	<b>12</b> 483	<b>13</b> 189	<b>14</b> 389	<b>15</b> 390	<b>16</b> 205	<b>17</b> 440	<b>18</b> 592
PURPLE ORANGE									
	414	446	483	189	389	390	205	440	592
ORANGE	414 379	446 393	483	189 162	389 348	390 366	205 172	440	592 572

# **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	<b>10</b> 475	<b>11</b> 363	<b>12</b> 506	<b>13</b> 207	<b>14</b> 552	<b>15</b> 407	<b>16</b> 178	<b>17</b> 400	<b>18</b> 441
PURPLE ORANGE									
	475	363	506	207	552	407	178	400	441
ORANGE	475 420	363	506 504	207	552 527	407 381	178 165	400 359	441 393
ORANGE WHITE	475 420 393	363 322 279	506 504 490	207 177 147	552 527 502	407 381 335	178 165 120	400 359 337	441 393 363

# **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	<b>10</b> 195	<b>11</b> 215	<b>12</b> 182	1 <b>3</b> 137	<b>14</b> 253	<b>15</b> 211	<b>16</b> 192	<b>17</b> 174	<b>18</b> 178
PURPLE ORANGE									
	195	215	182	137	253	211	192	174	178
ORANGE	195 179	215 191	182	137	253 225	211	192 160	174 164	178

**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	<b>10</b> 477	<b>11</b> 208	<b>12</b> 454	<b>13</b> 698	<b>14</b> 239	<b>15</b> 458	<b>16</b> 571	<b>17</b> 501	<b>18</b> 487
BLACK									
	477	208	454	698	239	458	571	501	487
PURPLE	477 454	208	454 429	698 614	239 219	458 415	571 538	501 467	487  447
PURPLE ORANGE	477 454 417	208 184 167	454 429 408	698 614 540	239 219 176	458 415 366	571 538 511	501 467 411	487 447 403



# **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. Named one of Zagat's top new courses, Ross Bridge has hosted the Regions Charity Classic, a PGA Champions Tour event.

The course meanders through indigenous landscape and around the 259-room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. Ross Bridge is the fifth longest course in the world but offers multiple tees for golfers of all levels. Symbolic of an old parkland style course, ten holes play along the banks of two significant lakes connected by a spectacular waterfall dropping 80 feet between the 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 **rtigolf.com** for more information

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.

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.

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 2019 Couples Classic will be November 8-10 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 Hotel.

# 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

🚮 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	<b>10</b> 434	<b>11</b> 445	<b>12</b> 522	<b>13</b> 470	<b>14</b> 545	<b>15</b> 230	<b>16</b> 334	<b>17</b> 205	<b>18</b> 476
PURPLE ORANGE									
	434	445	522	470	545	230	334	205	476
ORANGE	434	445 387	522	470	545 510	230 182	334 297	205 174	476 398

# **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

# **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		5	4	4	3	5	

#### 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	<b>10</b> 616	<b>11</b> 435	<b>12</b> 496	1 <b>3</b> 203	<b>14</b> 459	<b>15</b> 448	1 <b>6</b> 222	<b>17</b> 559	<b>18</b> 457
BLACK PURPLE									
	616	435	496	203	459	448	222	559	457
PURPLE	616 543	435	496	203 169	459 426	448	222 181	559 515	457 408
PURPLE ORANGE	616 543 528	435 400 370	496 434 400	203 169 154	459 426 394	448 416 389	222 181 147	559 515 475	457 408 369

# **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	<b>10</b> 711	<b>11</b> 478	<b>12</b> 231	<b>13</b> 427	<b>14</b> 469	<b>15</b> 552	<b>16</b> 256	<b>17</b> 430	<b>18</b> 358
BLACK PURPLE									
	711	478	231	427	469	552	256	430	358
PURPLE	711	478	231	427	469 424	552 529	256 223	430	358
PURPLE ORANGE	711 563 543	478 400 370	231 215 179	427 405 358	469 424 385	552 529 500	256 223 170	430 384 364	358 338 321



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

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

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

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

# ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT CAPITOL HILL

2600 CONSTITUTION AVENUE · PRATTVILLE, AL 36066 · 334.285.1114 Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

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 25-26, 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

🚮 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	
TEAL		406	266	114	351	435				

# **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

**f** 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 ultra dwarf Bermuda grass.

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

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

# ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT MAGNOLIA GROVE

7001 MAGNOLIA GROVE PARKWAY · MOBILE, AL 36618 · 251.645.0075 Visit rtjgolf.com for more information

🚮 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	<b>10</b> 417	<b>11</b> 398	<b>12</b> 421	<b>13</b> 559	<b>14</b> 195	<b>15</b> 423	<b>16</b> 596	<b>17</b> 226	<b>18</b> 450
PURPLE ORANGE									
	417	398	421	559	195	423	596	226	450
ORANGE	417	398 364	421 392	559 524	195 172	423 400	596 535	226 201	450 415

# **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

#### **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	<b>10</b> 173	<b>11</b> 192	<b>12</b> 195	<b>13</b> 205	<b>14</b> 190	<b>15</b> 110	<b>16</b> 192	<b>17</b> 155	<b>18</b>
PURPLE ORANGE									
	173	192	195	205	190	110	192	155	170
ORANGE	173 151	192	195 170	205 175	190 164	110	192 161	155 135	170

#### **AZALEA COURSE - REOPENING NOVEMBER 2019**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE				-					
ORANGE				-					
WHITE				-		-	-		-
TEAL				-		-		-	-
RED				-		-		-	-
PAR				-		-		-	-
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	10			13	14	15 -	16	17 -	18
							16 	17 	18
PURPLE ORANGE WHITE		 	 		 			 	18
ORANGE		  			  	 	  		18
ORANGE White		  	 		  	 	  		18

#### 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

	01.0,100	,								
	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	



# LAKEWOOD GOLF 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 Golf Club at the Grand Hotel showcases fairways lined with 200-year-old oaks and a dramatic signature hole, the 14th on Azalea. An island green is surrounded by a four-acre lake, which makes your approach shot to this par-5 very demanding. Recently renovated, the new designs lend themselves to superb conditioning year round. With the addition or expansion of 10 water features over the span of the 36 holes as well as other interesting architectural features, golfers are faced with decisions at every corner.

Lakewood's two 18-hole courses alternate openings between Grand Hotel guests and Trail Card Holders, and Lakewood Golf Club members. The varying degree of difficulty promises a memorable golf experience for both the novice and the experienced golfer alike. 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 is currently under renovation and will reopen in November 2019. Lakewood Golf 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 **rtigolf.com** for more information

**1** www.facebook.com/rtjlakewood



# LIVE ULTRA



