

Snowbird Haven: Golfing in Arizona

Mention golf and the Sonoran Desert and players immediately envision a towering saguaro cactus reaching for the sunshine, while the desert floor painted in rich greens takes golfers on a step-stone journey through the green. For Chicago's snow birds, the mild winter season in Arizona is one of the reasons many people have golf club traveling bags. This is *the* destination for golfers. Flights from Chicago's airports are usually direct, and that translates into an "off the tarmac" round as soon as you sign for that rental car.

If you spend a little time on the practice green, you'll quickly discover that one of the fastest growing states is filling with former Chicagoans that voted with their feet against snowplows and window-scraping and have relocated to the desert. The golf courses of Arizona are not unlike the Sonoran Desert; despite a harsh climate, abundant wildlife and native plants thrive in this environment, as do the golf courses and resorts.

If you are between spring training games, hiking around Tucson, or shopping in Phoenix, an exciting round of golf is just minutes away. You will find much more than bunkers and tee boxes while on holiday in Arizona. The desert has hundreds of species of living creatures that are not in the Midwest, including jaguars near Tucson. Whether you are looking to play a round, pamper yourself at a resort, play a PGA Tour course, or chase a white ball in a jaguar's backyard, Arizona golf provides a great escape from frostbite and flurries.

Ahwatukee Golf

For golfers looking for great golf and an even better value, check out the three Ahwatukee golf properties that include The Duke Golf Club in Maricopa, Ahwatukee Country Club in Phoenix, and Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Club. The Duke Golf Club boasts a 7,011-yard, David Druzisky-designed course that is located 12 minutes west of I-10 on

Queen Creek Road. Ranked as the "#1 Player Friendly Course in Phoenix/Scottsdale" by *Golf Tips* Travel Annual in 2006, the Duke features a stunning layout, complete practice facility, and award winning clubhouse that is home to the popular Silver Spur Grill. Known for its laid-back Old West-inspired ambiance, The Duke superbly mixes unassuming hospitality with a high-end golf experience.

The Duke's sister club, Ahwatukee Country Club, was designed by Arizona golf legend, John Bulla, and features a 6,713-yard, par-72 layout that combines the beauty of its desert landscape with mature tree-lined fairways.

Located in Ahwatukee, just minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Ahwatukee Country Club is the perfect course to begin or end your Arizona Golf Vacation. Right down the street from Ahwatukee

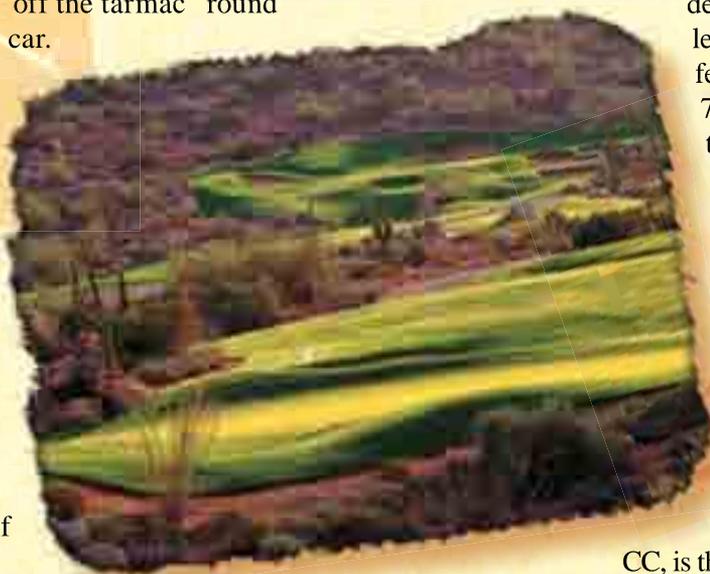
CC, is the fun, Gary Panks designed,

Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Club that serves up an 18 hole, par-60, executive course that has been honored as one of the Top 25 Executive Courses in the nation.

For more information on Ahwatukee Country Club or Ahwatukee Lakes, visit www.ahwatukeegolf.com, call 480-893-116, become a fan of Ahwatukee on Facebook (search Ahwatukee Golf), or follow on twitter at www.twitter.com/ahwatukeegolf. For more information on The Duke Golf Club, visit www.thedukegolf.com or call 480-844-1100.

TPC Scottsdale

You would be hard pressed to find a more inspiring setting for your next golfing vacation than TPC Scottsdale. Meticulously maintained to meet the PGA TOUR's exacting standards, the Stadium and Champions courses are favorites of the dozens of TOUR players who live in the area. Looming off in the distance, the imposing majesty of the McDowell Mountains provide a suitably dramatic





#16, TPC Scottsdale, Home of the FBR Open



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Starting at: **\$695*** TOUR Academy Golf School (2 days of instruction)
2 rounds of golf after instruction
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Starting at: **\$425*** 1 round on Stadium Course
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2 nights' accommodations (3rd NIGHT FREE)

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backdrop as you put your game to the ultimate test on these 36 tournament-caliber holes.

The Stadium Course

The 7,216-yard Stadium Course was specifically designed by Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf to accommodate “The Greatest Show on Grass,” the FBR Open. Each year, the world’s largest spectator golf event routinely attracts the sport’s biggest names — and nearly half a million devoted fans. The chance to play such a celebrated venue is a treat for golfers regardless of skill level. It’s no wonder *Golf Digest* magazine ranked the Stadium Course as one of the Top 10 Public Golf Courses in Arizona.

The Champions Course

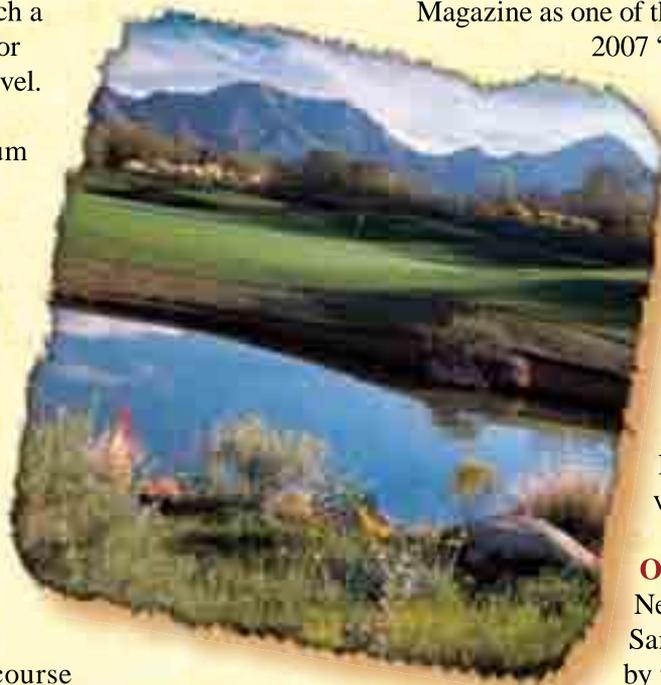
The cunningly conceived creation of master designer Randy Heckenkemper, the Champions Course is a more than worthy companion to the Stadium Course.

Winding along natural ravines and through picturesque foothills, the course features 7,115 yards of rolling Bermuda fairways, pristine greens, and challenging bunkers.

TPC Scottsdale is part of the PGA TOUR’s TPC Network, a collection of daily fee, destination, and private clubs. For the latest packages, or details on how to play these championship courses, visit www.playtpcscottsdale.com.

Mesa

Mesa is home to world-renowned golf courses featuring sweeping desert vistas carved from the rugged and pristine terrain unique to Arizona. The sun shines nearly every day, allowing residents and visitors the chance to golf year-round. More than 40 golf courses are within a half-hour drive of downtown Mesa, offering a variety of options from challenging desert golf to traditional links play.



Golf course gems include Las Sendas Golf Club featuring breathtaking views of the Red Mountain and the Superstition mountain range. Designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., the course has matured into one of the most beautiful courses in Mesa and ranks as the 12th most challenging, and one of the top 50 courses in the nation according to two ZAGAT Surveys. Longbow Golf Club in east Mesa has also earned its share of praise after being recognized by *Golfweek* Magazine as one of the top 20 courses in Arizona in their 2007 “Best You Can Play, State by State”

ranking. The intrigue and shot making choices that players face here are infinite.

Ready for the PGA? Then be sure to play a round at Superstition Springs Golf Club, one of Arizona’s most challenging golf layouts. This premier course measures over 7,000 yards from the back tee and is a PGA Tour qualifying site rated among the Southwest’s finest golf experiences. For more information, discover www.visitmesa.com.

Omni Tucson National Resort

Nestled in the foothills of the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains and inspired by the natural environment and scenic desert setting, Tucson National offers the ideal meeting destination.

The tradition lives on...for decades, Omni Tucson National Resort has enjoyed hosting prestigious PGA TOUR events where legendary champions such as Nicklaus, Trevino, Palmer, and Mickelson have graced the fairways and battled for glory. The addition of the Sonoran Course, impeccably designed by TOUR champion and Ryder Cup captain Tom Lehman, has created a truly dynamic golf experience.

Inspired by the sweeping views of the Santa Catalinas and the rich history of golf, this artful blend of natural beauty and recreation is elevated to a new level of luxury. Followed by a \$30 million renovation, Zebrowski Design Group has created an inviting desert-chic atmosphere for

Golf Nirvana

Bob's

Steak & Chop House

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Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 12/30/09.

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Package Includes:

Full American breakfast for two and unlimited golf for two.

Rates start from \$209

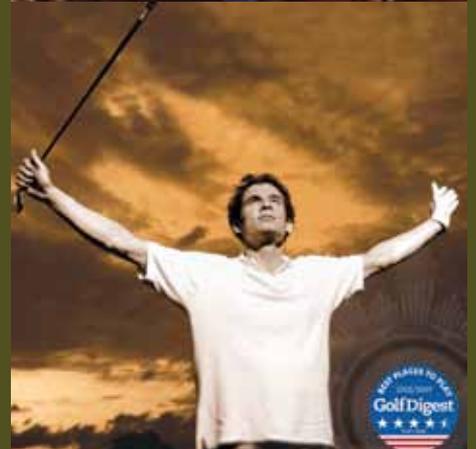
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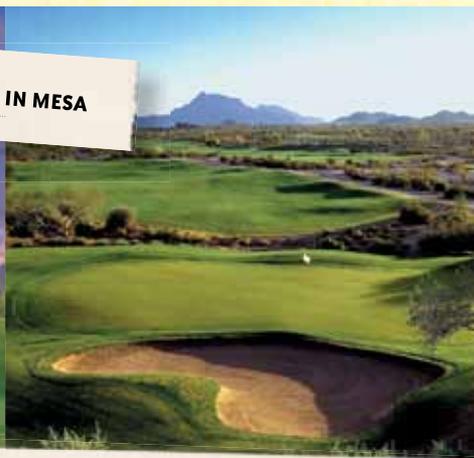
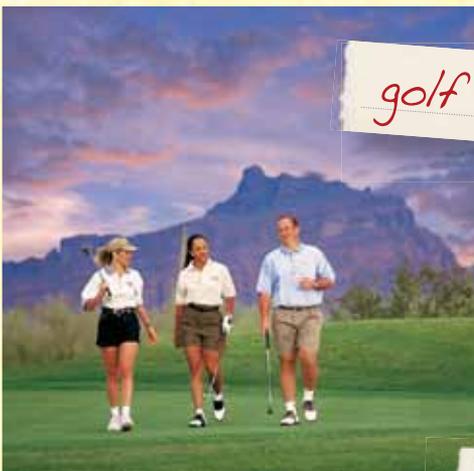
*Unlimited golf is based upon availability at time of booking.
Resort service fees are *not* included in the rates.*



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golf IN MESA



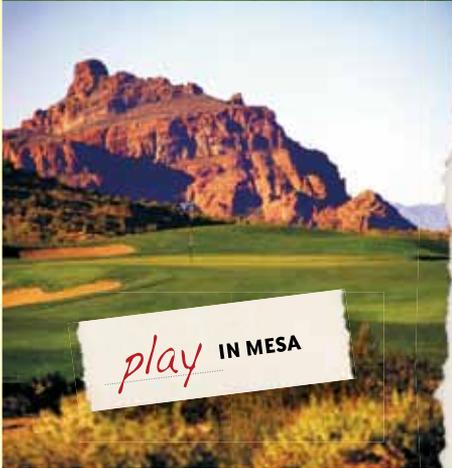
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meeting, dining, entertainment, and guestroom accommodations.

An array of entertainment venues include award-winning Bob's Steak & Chop House, Legend's Bar & Grill, outdoor dining terraces and Cabana Bar, Tucson's only 4-star Mobil-rated spa, tennis, two highly-acclaimed golf courses, Sweetwater Terrace, infinity-edge pool, private function space, and outdoor gardens.

Omni Tucson National Resort has it all- from its picturesque setting in the foothills of Tucson's Santa Catalina to the lush fairways of its 36-hole championship and desert-style golf courses. Recently selected by *Golf Digest* as "Best Places to Play" 2008/09 and one of the "75 Best Golf Resorts in North America," this 650-acre desert resort with 129 guestrooms is one of Tucson's finest spa and golf resorts.

Omni Tucson National Resort is conveniently located approximately 30 minutes from Tucson International Airport and 90 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport.

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so low
you won't
mind
losing a skin
or two.



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super-low green fees.**

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