

America's 100 Greatest Public Courses

Great public golf can be found in every corner of the United States. Our new 2021 ranking of America's 100 Greatest Public Courses will help lead the way

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By Derek Duncan | September 14, 2021



Brian Oar

Public can mean different things when it comes to golf. Does the word refer to primarily municipal courses and straight daily-fee operations? Do resort courses count, where an accompanying room night might be required to play? The answer as it relates to the biennial Golf Digest America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses is all of the above.

This includes several traditionally private clubs that now offer limited stay-and-play packages—if you really want to play them, there's a way.

Several new courses made impressive entrances, notably No. 15 Sheep Ranch at Bandon Dunes, Golf Digest's 2020 Best New Course, and Ozarks National (No. 30), both designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, as well as Pinehurst's No. 4, remodeled by Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner in 2019.

Overall, it was a year of movement with 17 courses debuting or returning after an absence. Check out our full list with photos and descriptions below.



Brian Walker

86 (NEW) EDGEWOOD TAHOE G. CSE.

Stateline, Nev. / 775-588-3566 / edgewoodtahoe.com

George Fazio (1968)

7,529 yards, par 72 / Score: 56.6713

Though not a stop on any of the professional tours, Edgewood Tahoe is one of golf's most televised courses as the annual host of the American Century Championship. Once a member of Golf Digest America's 100 Greatest Courses, Edgewood Tahoe is as telegenic as they come, with fairways framed by stately pines, greens flanked by sparkling ponds and several holes positioned on Lake Tahoe, including the final three. The design rewards shaped drives and precise approaches that come in high. At over 6,000 feet elevation the ball flies roughly 10-percent farther than at sea level, and you can cross two items off your all-50-state bucket list by playing here as the ninth hole crosses the state line into California.

100 Greatest Public History: Ranked from 2003 through 2012. Highest ranking: 35th, 2003-2004. Previous ranking: 93rd, 2017-2018. Member Golf Digest's America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses for 10 years, 1985-1992 & 1999-2000.