

ROBERT TRENT JONES  
GOLF TRAIL



# TRAIL GUIDE

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL » 2023 EDITION



# THIS IS *Alabama*

From the gears and wheels of the world's largest motorcycle collection at Barber Motorsports Museum to America's oldest baseball park at Rickwood Field, you can take it all in.

## Sweet Home *Alabama*

Alabama.Travel/Sports

*Experience*  
the art of speed

*Listen*  
to engines sing

*See*  
art made of  
metal and chrome

# OFF THE TRAIL

**LEE SENTELL**, DIRECTOR,  
ALABAMA TOURISM DEPARTMENT



Over thirty years ago, Dr. David Bronner, the CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, vowed to transform the State using golf as a vehicle to enhance the image, attitude, and perception of the State of Alabama. The legendary golf architect Robert Trent Jones came out of retirement, and together with Dr. Bronner and Bobby Vaughan, CEO of SunBelt Golf Corporation, they commenced to build the largest golf course construction project ever attempted in the world. Today, that project hosts over 600,000 golfers annually, traveling from all 50 states and over 20 foreign countries to its 26 golf courses along 11 diverse sites from the foothills of the Appalachians to the gulf coast.

Dr. David Bronner then followed up the initial success of the golf courses by building a collection of world-class resort and convention hotels to support the influx of new visitors to the State. Next came the masterful investment strategy to promote the statewide trail at little cost. Instead of paying for television advertising, he decided to invest in television stations that could air commercials for the golf courses and hotels for little to no cost. The plan succeeded brilliantly and brought along the State's fledgling tourism industry by airing commercials for tourist attractions as well.

Today, fully 36 percent of U.S. households receive not only commercials for the RTJ Golf Trail but also for such attractions as the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Montgomery's National Center for Peace and Justice, James Beard Award-winning restaurants in Birmingham, pristine Gulf Coast beaches, legendary recording studios and museums in Muscle Shoals, and the historic Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached.

With millions of dollars' worth of television commercials provided at no cost by the state pension fund each year, Alabama's tourism industry has grown from \$1.8 billion in 1992 to a projected 24 billion dollars in 2022. As a result, the Alabama Tourism Department awarded Dr. Bronner its rare Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of the television exposure and everything he and The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail have contributed to the State.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Sentell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lee Sentell, Director  
Alabama Tourism Department

## SINGING OUR PRAISES (THANKS TO OUR STAFF)

We know that it takes more than great courses to create memorable experiences. Our team at Silver Lakes made one couples' golf trip so enjoyable that they felt the need to share, and asked that we do the same. Here's some of what they had to say about their time on the Trail.

“From the minute we arrived and the greeting from the young men working at the bag drop, we had an amazing experience with your staff, a relaxing time on and off the course, and already can't wait to come back next year at the same time for what will now become our annual spring golf trip.

As incredible as your three nines and short course might be, it is the people - starters, rangers, beverage cart young ladies, bar staff in the clubhouse, and pro shop staff - who work there who make it a place everyone should go.

Robert Trent Jones is special. Yes, it is because of the courses and the golf facilities, but it is just as much, if not more, because of the people. ”

# Tito's®

— TRANSFUSION —

**Tee up for a hole in one with this refreshing cocktail that's sure to get your blood pumping.**

- 2oz. Tito's Handmade Vodka
- 2oz. Ginger Ale
- 1oz. Grape Juice
- 1/4oz. Fresh Lime Juice

Add all ingredients to a glass with ice. Garnish with a lime slice and/or grape. Enjoy!



Official Vodka

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Valley No. 13 at Oxmoor Valley  
Cover photo by Jonathan Hoomes

Hotel & Resort photography by  
Art Meripol and Lauren Rubenstein

Golf photography by Jonathan Hoomes,  
Michael Clemmer, Bailey Chastang,  
Russell Kirk and Chip Henderson

**ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL IS**

# BETTER



# RTHAN



**HERE ARE FEW** investments that pay greater dividends than a round of golf with good friends. Whether you want a golf vacation geared toward friendly competition or pure relaxation, you'll savor golf along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail—a paradise for affordable, high-quality golf featuring championship courses at 11 sites across Alabama that boast luxury hotels and award-winning spas, too. »

**H**allmarks of the Trail courses have always been value, variety & world-class design for all levels of golfers—from PGA and LPGA Tour Professionals, who have been competing along the Trail for 28 years and counting, to newcomers and seasoned amateurs alike.

The Trail celebrated its 30th year in 2022, and the list of accolades keeps growing, with several of its sites earning top honors on the “best courses” lists of many golf publications—RTJ at Grand National in Opelika was voted the #1 public golf facility in America by the readers of *Golf World* (and the designer himself said it was the single greatest natural site for golf he had ever seen); RTJ at Capitol Hill, in Prattville, was right behind at #2. With three 18-hole championship layouts, each with a distinctive flavor, and host to the LPGA’s Epson Tour Guardian Championship each September, it’s easy to see why Capitol Hill is a draw.

Best of all, the commitment to quality and value doesn’t waver: anywhere you play

along the Trail, RTJ elevates public golf to an art form, providing a tour-quality, private club experience for the public golfer. In 2021, major renovations were made to the Valley Course at Oxmoor Valley and to the Links Course at Grand National, including new greens and additional tees. Renovations to the par-three Short courses at Oxmoor Valley and Grand National have recently been completed as well.

The Trail courses brim with challenges—hello 8,000 yard tees at Ross Bridge—as well as azaleas in the spring and colorful leaves in the fall. With its unique portfolio of courses from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to the breezy shores of the Gulf, you’re never more than two hours from the next great course.



**“Whether you’re on a long weekend with friends or your spouse or family,**



**SPA-INSPIRING: NEW SPAS,  
MORE “AHS” ALONG ALABAMA’S  
ROBERT TRENT JONES TRAIL**

This golf-happy paradise is easy to reach and easy to love. The southern charm and award-winning spas don't hurt either. Whether you're on a long weekend with friends or with your spouse or family, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail makes it easy to stay and play together.

The Trail's best hotels offer a perfect combination of rooms with a view, pampering spas, plush on-site golf and upscale restaurants—all reflecting the quality and value the RTJ experience is known for.

The RTJ Spa Trail boasts six locations, four of which were named as “Top 100 for North America” by *Spas of America* in 2021.

Depending on your idea of apres-golf relaxation, you can sip drinks al fresco, hit the fun par 3 short courses, or spend a blissful hour or two at the spa. Some of the innovative treatments include the infrared sauna, which is the perfect antidote for golfers looking to soothe aching muscles.

RTJ at Ross Bridge is a self-contained enclave that will spoil golfers who want it all—on-site golf and a top spa right outside their resort room door. The parkland course winds through the rolling terrain of the Shannon Valley and around the 259-room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa.

It should come as no surprise that RTJ at Grand National earned national recognition for its spa as well. Voted the #1 public golf facility in America by readers

of *Golf World*, Grand National stands out for its jaw-dropping beauty; it also hosts competitive events for pros and amateurs alike, including the annual Couples Classic each fall.

Further south, spa-loving golfers can get a taste of Alabama's history at the Lakewood Club at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa in Point Clear. Recognized as one of the best golf resorts in America, Lakewood charms with two picturesque and recently renovated courses.

No matter where you stay, play and spa along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, you'll find courses that will test you from the get-go but at the same time offer a very player-friendly experience for all levels of golfers and deluxe amenities to boot. ■



**the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail makes it easy to stay and play together. ”**

# ROCK



# & ROLL

Less is more — *a whole lot less, and a whole lot more* — when it comes to The Back Yard, the reincarnation of the par-3 Short Course at Birmingham's Oxmoor Valley, one of the original sites on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

- BY TOMMY HICKS -





The venture is a complete redesign, both in functionality and approach, geared toward offering a challenge for the better golfer and forgiveness for the newcomer to the game, juniors and the higher-handicap player. At the heart of The Back Yard is its mixture of recreation and fun — lots of fun — wrapped in an inviting social setting. There are even rocking chairs and a fire pit.

And when combining The Back Yard with recent renovations to the championship courses at Oxmoor Valley, as well as the amenities and comfort of the Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa, located a 9-iron away, it provides everything a golfer or businessperson could request.

The changes and renovations make Birmingham *the* golf destination in Alabama.

Welcome home.  
Welcome to The Back Yard.  
Welcome to a new *and different* way to play.



“The golf experience needs to be fun,” said John Cannon, chairman of Sunbelt Golf, which operates the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. “We’ve tried to make the golf courses more fun with what we think is just a fantastic new product in The Back Yard. It’s a multidimensional product — it’s fun, yes it’s golf, but it’s hospitality. It’s another venue that’s almost like a hybrid golf and entertainment experience... It’s meant to be lots of fun for everybody.”

The excitement for The Back Yard is shared throughout the RTJ Golf Trail family, not just because it’s a new project, but because of what those within the company believe will be an entertaining outlet for golfers and those who are new to the game.

The less is more approach isn’t just a motto for The Back Yard, it’s a fact.

The Short Course at Oxmoor Valley was an 18-hole, par-3 course spread out over 147 acres. It was hilly and often difficult, depending on pin placements and yardage, and it took some time to navigate a round of golf.

Today, it’s a nine-hole course covering just 14 acres, designed for an easy, casual walk, and it is more open to the average player or beginner while also offering challenges to the lower-handicap player.

“We saw the opportunity, how could we reduce the scale and create a product that is going to be popular, and we think we can create more revenue with less expense,” said RTJ Golf Trail President and CEO



Mike Beverly. “We captured that, I think, with The Back Yard. We went from 147 acres to 14. It’s really going to change things... We basically took (holes) 1, 2, 15-18, that area there (from previous layout), and turned that into a nine-hole golf course. By reducing the scale, a foursome could walk and have a great time in just about an hour.

“The beginner will be able to run the ball onto the greens and you could literally play it with a putter, but the good players are going to be challenged because the green complexes are very interesting. Depending on where the pin is, even though it might be a 73-yard shot, they are tough shots and they are going to make you a better player. I think it’s going to be the best of

both worlds. It’s going to challenge the best player and it’s going to give an opportunity to really get the beginner and the youth players and the juniors out on the golf course in an introductory level where they can have a great time.”

And there’s the more factor, too.

“The thing that we’re really excited about is the social aspect of it,” Beverly said. “Because of the proximity of the tees and the greens we really envision you’re out there with two or three groups of your buddies on a golf trip and you’re not far from any tee or green. There’s just so much activity and I think it’s going to be a whole other level of social golf. Before, you were on 147 acres and spread out; now, intimate routing enables you to interact with your

other groups from anywhere on the course. I think it’s just going to be a hit and we’re so excited about what it’s going to do for Oxmoor Valley.”

The only uphill walk on the course will be heading back from the 9th green to the social area, where a rock sitting wall, fire pit and rocking chairs are in place and you can see what’s taking place on the first, second and ninth holes.

“We’re creating a social atmosphere there that is going to be completely unique to

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**“By reducing the scale, a foursome could walk and have a great time in just about an hour.”**

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anything on the Trail or states,” Beverly said. “I really think it’s going to end up being such a special place it’s going to do wonders for Oxmoor Valley and the Trail... After your round you can sit around the firepit and talk for a few minutes... It’s unique and fun for the local golfer and the traveler. It really should be about recreation and the social aspects, too.”

For those who wish to play the more traditional, 18-hole courses, Oxmoor Valley offers that as well on The Valley and The Ridge courses. The Valley was renovated in 2021 and offers a different look and a softening of the course that provides challenges for players of all ages and skill levels. As with all Trail courses, there are six or seven tees, providing a variety of distances so golfers can play from a yardage that is most comfortable to them.

Among the changes made at The Valley Course was the resurfacing of all the greens from Dwarf Bermuda grass to TifEagle Ultradwarf, which Beverly explained is a more modern playing surface, allowing for better green speeds, as well as heat and drought tolerance. Each tee was enlarged and leveled and approaches on several holes were opened up, some by removing bunkers that fronted greens that will enable golfers the opportunity to roll the ball up





and bounce it onto the green, while still offering challenging shots for more advanced players. Several bridges on the course were renovated, from wood to steel, and some drainage work was also completed.

And that doesn't cover the three biggest changes on The Valley — the extensive redesign of holes 13, 17 and 18. On No. 13, a par-3, players will find an “eye-popping” view once they reach the tee of a 13,000 foot green that provides a variety of green complexes and the opportunity to chip, pitch and putt from various locations. “There’s nothing like it on the Trail,” Beverly said.

At No. 17, a par-4 layout, the approach was extensively opened with the shrinking of two bunkers and some grading that made the hole less elevated. The green was also enlarged. On the finishing 18th hole, another par 4, which had been a more uphill hole with a green on a pedestal, the putting surface was dropped about six feet. The fairway was also raised, producing an 11-foot drop in elevation for the approach shot.

All in all, Oxmoor Valley has undergone several renovations and changes in the past couple of years and along with Ross Bridge, which is set to reopen in 2023 — the Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort & Spa, which has undergone some renovations as well, remains open for business and offers great accommodations for corporate groups or travelers — provides the perfect golfing destinations for locals as well as travelers.

Nationally, golf has enjoyed increased play the past two years, including an increase in newcomers to the game and a return of some to the game who had stopped playing for a while. On the RTJ

*Dr. David G. Bronner,  
CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama*

Golf Trail as a whole, records have been broken the past two years in terms of rounds played. Cannon and Beverly expect that trend to continue in 2023, especially with the creation of The Back Yard.

“Our challenge in the industry and the Trail is to provide great service and keep these new golfers and the people that came back to golf engaged,” Beverly said. “I think trying to highlight the social experience of golf is crucial to the Trail’s future. They realize that golf is fun and can be fun.”

Cannon said he is excited about the creation of The Back Yard, but he is equally pleased with the continuation of the success and the ever-changing and evolving aspect of the RTJ Golf Trail since Dr. David Bronner’s idea became reality, not only creating great golf courses across the state but also adding to the state’s economy. There’s more to The Trail than golf, as many of the properties also feature outstanding accommodations via its resorts.

“Everything that we’ve been doing the past 20 years has been taking a well-known brand that was very successful and looking ahead five or 10 years,” Cannon said. “Initially when I got here, we could get people to come here to play. That was not a problem. We had great brand

recognition nationally and internationally. We did have some difficulty getting a 25 handicapper to come back because it was difficult... As we’ve done renovations and rebuilds, we’ve made tees more accessible, fairways a little bit wider, fewer punishing bunkers and dropping some greens a little lower and not having as many punishing, four-deck greens that only a Tour player could play and he still wasn’t happy.

“I’m very proud of that because I’m sitting here with Mike, going over our budgets, and we’re growing so fast — our rounds (played) are virtually three or four times the national average and our revenue growth beats that by another 20 percent, so I think we’re doing some things right. Everywhere I go it stuns me, not only how was I lucky enough to be here, but to be a part of this entire team and what they do every day, it’s just incredible, it really is.”

With the two properties, just a mile apart — the three 18-hole courses (when Ross Bridge reopens), The Back Yard and the Renaissance Resort & Spa — everything is provided. Those who may be staying at the Renaissance for a convention or corporate meetings can slip to the The Back Yard for a quick round when the work day is done, or simply take advantage of the luxurious spa amenities available on site.

“Birmingham is a golf destination, and it’s intentional,” Cannon said. “You can come here and have four different experiences, all within a mile of each other. It’s just special.” ■

*Tommy Hicks is a sports journalist and member of the Alabama Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame.*

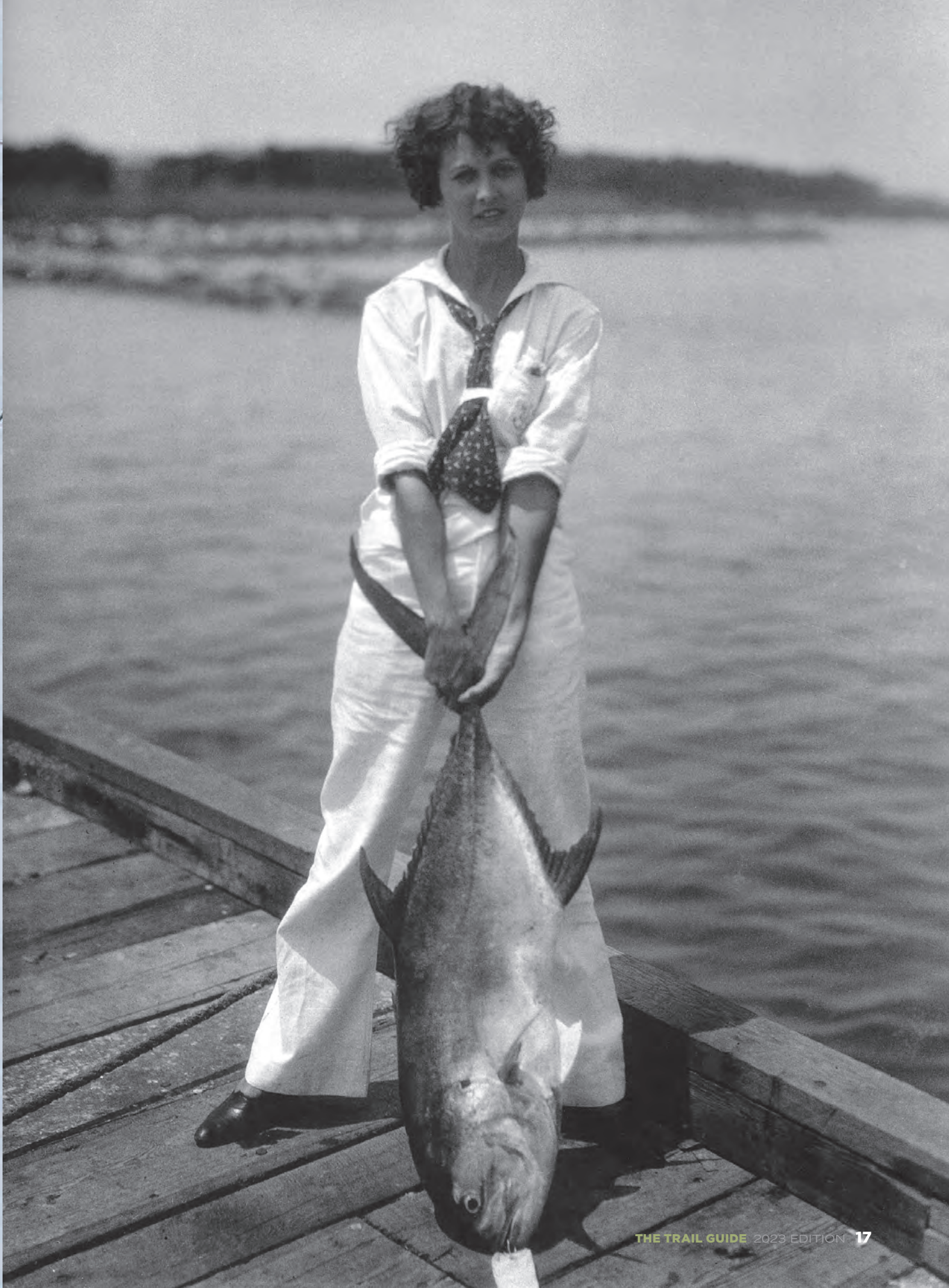
**“Everything that we've been doing for the past 20 years has been taking a well-known brand that was very successful and looking ahead five or 10 years.”**

# Historic Hospitality



*Opened in 1847*, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa's historian is ready to share stories about the "Queen of Southern Resorts" with longtime guests and first-time visitors. Across Mobile Bay, The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa opened in 1852 and has a historian who started there in the early 1970s. Susan Stein and George Moore are exceptional hospitality ambassadors who bring the history of these iconic hotels to life. The Grand Hotel and The Battle House are part of the Resort Collection along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Each of these eight hotels has an interesting history and nearby historic attractions for guests to explore. Stein and Moore are Alabama's only hotel historians and rank among the best in the country. »







Of the thousands of employees who have brought the Grand Hotel to life, no one knows her better than Susan Stein, the hotel's historian. Having worked at the resort for 35 years, Stein earned the nickname "boss lady" from the late Bucky Miller - a legend at the resort. She has worked directly for nine general managers at the Grand Hotel during 25 years in the executive office before being named Grand Historian. Stein oversees the resort archives and is a primary storyteller for the property. She leads history tours and regularly speaks to local civic, community, and military organizations.

"From getting to know Bucky to working with the 40 associates who have worked at the Grand Hotel for more than 25 years to introducing the Grand's history to wide-

eyed children visiting the resort for the first time, the Grand has so many stories to tell." Sharing copies of guests' signatures from Honeymoon Guest Registries, which date back to 1951, is something she especially enjoys doing. This type of service and hospitality from Stein and the other Grand associates has not gone unnoticed. Historic Hotels of America named the Grand Hotel the top large historic hotel in the country in 2019. *USA Today* and *Southern Living* honored the Grand as one of the top resorts in the country for the second year in a row. Stein was a finalist for Historic Hotel's Historian of the Year in 2019.

Before its closing in the 1970s, George Moore worked at The Battle House and knew its traditions and place of prominence.

Through tough economic times, the hotel doors closed for more than 30 years. However, once renovated and preparing to reopen, Moore was one of the first people hired to bring "Mobile's Living Room" back to life. He is known by hotel associates and guests alike as Mr. George.

Named Ambassador of the Year in 2013 by Historic Hotels of America, Mr. George is an enthusiastic, dedicated ambassador that exudes Southern Hospitality. His performance has always displayed levels of professionalism and thoroughness, which are truly "a cut above." As the hotel's historian, he has toured thousands of guests through the historic Battle House. Mr. George goes above and beyond in everything he does. So much so, the hotel's



gift shop was named after him. From helping royalty during Mardi Gras to listening to elderly women reminisce about their proms at the hotel to welcoming international business leaders, Mr. George has done it all and done it well. In a time and age of emails and instant contact, Mr. George reminds us of a time that many may not know of or have long since forgotten. He is a teacher of historic hospitality and the art of conversation.

While the other six hotels/resorts along the RTJ Golf Trail may not have official historians, associates will quickly share historical facts about the hotels and the area. The Marriott Shoals' top luxury suites are named after Helen Keller and W.C. Handy, two locals who made a

difference internationally. All music played throughout the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa was recorded locally and the hotel has live music every night. Muscle Shoals has an active legendary music industry. You never know what legend or newcomer you may pass in the hallways.

While relatively new, the Equal Justice Initiative sites in Montgomery have quickly made a name for themselves. From A-list celebrities to schoolchildren studying the quest for justice and equality, the EJI attracts thousands of guests each year, many of whom stay nearby at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at The Convention Center. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, plus civil rights sites related to the Selma

to Montgomery March, the Rosa Parks Museum, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s church are in historic downtown near the Renaissance. Many of these visitors also will visit Birmingham's civil rights district and stay at the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa.

Whether you are visiting for a meeting, special occasion, or to play the RTJ Golf Trail, each of these hotels blend history with hospitality and local flavor. The Trail's eight hotels and resorts exceed international luxury standards and are dedicated to safely welcoming guests. To enhance your visit, historic highlights from each of the hotels are highlighted. These Alabama hotels and resorts are ready for your arrival. »

## NORTH ALABAMA AND BIRMINGHAM REGION

### MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL & SPA FLORENCE, AL

» [marriottshoals.com](http://marriottshoals.com)

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

Instagram: [@marriottshoalshotelandspa](https://www.instagram.com/marriottshoalshotelandspa)

Overlooking the Tennessee River and historic Wilson Dam in Florence, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa continues to be a Marriott leader for exceptional golf, spas, dining, hotel rooms, and guest satisfaction. The 199 guest rooms, including seven suites, have private balconies and waterfront views. The resort features

Alabama's only revolving restaurant and more than 30,000 square feet of versatile meeting space.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is a short distance from two Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses – Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster. In addition to great golf, the Shoals area is internationally known for its music. Swampers Bar and Grille celebrates the area's rich musical heritage. Artists such as The Rolling Stones, Cher, Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, and hundreds more recorded in the Shoals. The area still has many songwriters and

active 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 help make the Marriott the premier resort in the Tennessee River Valley.

**Historic Highlight:** The jukebox located in the hotel's lobby is filled with **hits recorded in Muscle Shoals**. To kick off happy hour each afternoon, a designated guest selects the song of the day, which plays throughout the property.





**RENAISSANCE BIRMINGHAM  
ROSS BRIDGE GOLF RESORT & SPA**  
BIRMINGHAM, AL

» [rossbridgeresort.com](http://rossbridgeresort.com)  
 📘 [facebook.com/rossbridgeresort](https://facebook.com/rossbridgeresort)  
 📷 [@renrossbridge](https://instagram.com/renrossbridge)

Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. *GOLF Magazine* named Ross Bridge one of the top 100 golf resorts and top 25 buddy trips in North America for 2019. *Golf Digest* editors named Ross Bridge one of their favorite

golf resorts for the past five years. This Four Diamond resort has 259 guest rooms, with balconies overlooking one of the longest golf courses in the world at 8,191 yards from the tips. Nearby Oxmoor Valley offers an additional 36 holes of championship golf and a newly opened 9-hole par-3 course known as The Back Yard, featuring fun but challenging greens .

Ross Bridge offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot European spa and the resort has multiple restaurants, including Brock’s, which hosts the best brunch in Birmingham. The lobby bar, JT’s,

hosts live music, custom cocktails, and an extensive wine list. The Clubhouse offers a variety of burgers, salads, sandwiches, soups, and tacos plus plenty of cold beverages. For meetings or special events, Ross Bridge has 20,000 square feet of function space ranging from a large ballroom to a smaller, distinctive boardroom.

**Historic Highlight:** Listen for the **bagpiper** playing each evening at sunset and enjoy a Scottish tradition with a Southern twist. Scottish by heritage, the Ross family lived on this land in the 1800s.



## CENTRAL ALABAMA AND MONTGOMERY REGION

### AUBURN MARRIOTT OPELIKA RESORT & SPA AT GRAND NATIONAL OPELIKA, AL

» [marriottgrandnational.com](http://marriottgrandnational.com)

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

» [@marriottgrandnational](https://www.instagram.com/marriottgrandnational)

Named an Editors' Choice Golf Resort by *Golf Digest*, The Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National is the ideal stay for golfers playing RTJ Grand National. In 2017, the resort doubled the number of rooms to 221 guest rooms, including 19 luxury suites, and added a three-story spa in 2018. With the resort pool complex, spa, tennis courts, golf courses, dining options, luxury rooms, and other amenities, the hotel has been officially designated a Marriott resort. Named the #1 location for public golf in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, the Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National is situated perfectly for golf. This nationally renowned retreat is just 10 minutes from Auburn University; and offers 54 holes of Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail golf. Many guest rooms in this luxury resort overlook the golf course, pools, tennis complexes, and Lake Saugahatchee. This resort has 15,000 square feet of technology-equipped event space, a business center, and a 96-seat amphitheater.

**Historic Highlight:** Paying tribute to Opelika'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.

### MONTGOMERY MARRIOTT PRATTVILLE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER AT CAPITOL HILL PRATTVILLE, AL

» [marriottcapitolhill.com](http://marriottcapitolhill.com)

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

» [@marriottprattvillehotel](https://www.instagram.com/marriottprattvillehotel)

Minutes from downtown Montgomery, the Marriott hotel and its 96 guest rooms recently completed a massive renovation. Two eight-room luxury villas have living areas for informal gatherings and are ideal for golfing groups. The 10,000-square-foot Presidential Cottage features five executive suites, private balconies, a lush garden, and a private heliport. The hotel was the first to be built directly on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and overlooks the 54 holes of championship golf at Capitol Hill. *GolfWorld* readers named RTJ Capitol Hill the number 2 site for public golf in the country. The Oak Tavern offers dining with an extraordinary view overlooking the 17th Fairway of the newly renovated Senator Course. 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 Epson Tour's Guardian Championship in September 2022.

**Historic Highlight:** To salute the area's history, a gin shop whistle blows each afternoon at 4 p.m. and signals the end of the workday and the start of happy hour. Prattville was once the home to the country's largest cotton gin factory.

### RENAISSANCE MONTGOMERY HOTEL & SPA AT THE CONVENTION CENTER MONTGOMERY, AL

» [renaissancemontgomery.com](http://renaissancemontgomery.com)

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

» [@renmontgomeryhotel](https://www.instagram.com/renmontgomeryhotel)

The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at The Convention Center is a great cultural, culinary, and corporate hub for Alabama's capital city. The hotel features 345 luxurious rooms and suites, several restaurants, bars, and a European-style spa. Located near the Alabama River, Renaissance Montgomery is a part of the city's downtown revitalization. The hotel includes a newly renovated and expanded convention center and an 1,800-seat performing arts center. The hotel complex has more than 140,000 square feet of meeting space. The location downtown is approximately 10 minutes from RTJ Capitol Hill. For cultural experiences, the hotel is steps away from great museums. Experience the Equal Justice Initiative sites. Tour the Rosa Parks Museum. Dexter Avenue, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s church, the Hank Williams Museum, and other historic locations are near the Renaissance.

**Historic Highlight:** A replica of **Freeny's bell rings** daily at 5 p.m. on the hotel's Exchange Bar patio. The Marquis de Lafayette, the last surviving general of the Revolutionary War, arrived in Montgomery on this spot in 1825 on his grand tour of the United States.



## MOBILE BAY REGION

### THE BATTLE HOUSE RENAISSANCE MOBILE HOTEL & SPA

MOBILE, AL

» [renaissancebattlehouse.com](http://renaissancebattlehouse.com)

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

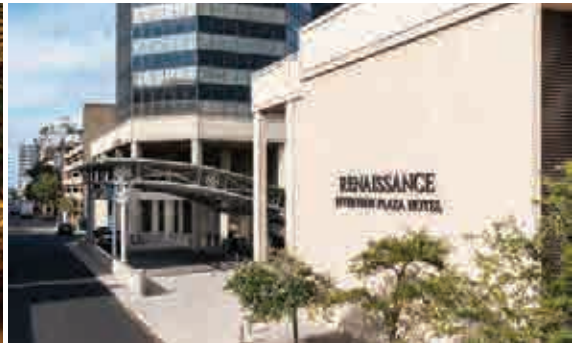
» [@renbattlehouse](https://www.instagram.com/renbattlehouse)

Originally built in 1852 and closed in the mid-1970s, The Battle House in Mobile has been restored to all its original grandeur. The Battle House reopened in 2007 and was named as one of the “Top 500 Hotels in the World” by *Travel + Leisure*. Consistently named Mobile’s best hotel

and best spa, the hotel was refurbished in 2019. Both The Battle House and its Trellis Room restaurant have received Four Diamond ratings from AAA. The Trellis Room updated its menu to feature Italian and local favorites, including family-style offerings. 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.

**Historic Highlight:** Mobile is home to America’s original Mardi Gras. After the history tour each afternoon at 4 p.m., the **cocktail ritual** in the lobby and flag-raising along Royal Street share a bit of Mardi Gras spirit. Located directly on the parade route, 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.



### RENAISSANCE MOBILE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL

MOBILE, AL

» [renaissanceriverview.com](http://renaissanceriverview.com)

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

» [@renriverviewplaza](https://www.instagram.com/renriverviewplaza)

Named Marriott Hotel of the Year for 2019, the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel sits along Mobile Bay in the heart of downtown. A prime location with a covered walkway to the Mobile Convention Center makes the Renaissance Mobile Riverview

Plaza Hotel a favorite for business guests. A Four Diamond hotel, this urban retreat 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 recently renovated hotel, which features 32,000 square feet of versatile meeting, banquet, and exhibit space. The 373 plush guest rooms at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel are as popular as the hotel’s spectacular views of Mobile Bay,

and Mardi Gras parades pass in front of the hotel during Carnival season.

**Historic Highlight:** Adjacent to Mobile Bay, the Alabama State Docks, and international shipbuilders, Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel is surrounded by nautical influences. At 5 p.m. each day a **ship horn** sounds to start happy hour. The nearby GulfQuest National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico offers insights into the area’s key industries. Other historic attractions are nearby.



**GRAND HOTEL GOLF RESORT & SPA**  
POINT CLEAR, AL  
» [grand1847.com](http://grand1847.com)  
» [facebook.com/thegrandhotel](https://www.facebook.com/thegrandhotel)  
» [@grandhotelresort](https://www.instagram.com/grandhotelresort)

Since 1847, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa has maintained a gracious tradition of Southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. In 2018, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa completed a transformation and joined the Autograph Collection Hotels, an upscale Marriott brand. Cited by *USA Today* as one of the top five historic hotels in the country in 2019 and 2020, the Grand's transformation blends the beloved

resort traditions with modern upgrades. The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa is a Four Diamond, family-friendly resort.

A full 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. The Dogwood Course completed a massive renovation in 2018 and the Azalea Course reopened in November 2019. The resort's 37,000 square feet of meeting space were completely renovated. The Grand's 550 acres feature giant live oak trees, multiple beaches, and lush landscaping.

In addition to world-class golf and the 20,000-square-foot spa, the resort has a variety of activities including eight rubico tennis courts, a croquet lawn, horseshoes, cornhole, bikes, kayaks, sailboats, and other watercraft for the guests' enjoyment.

**Historic Highlight:** Our **Grandeur, Grit & Glory** honors our ties to American freedom. The Grand Hotel's unique history is celebrated each day at 3:45 p.m. with a procession that commences by the Main Lobby fireplace and culminates with a Civil War-replica cannon firing on the edge of Mobile Bay. In Grand tradition, the resort proudly honors the military each day. ■





# Alabama's international artist

BY LENORE VICKREY,  
ALABAMA LIVING MAGAZINE

**F**ew Alabamians are known by only one name, but 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.

**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. 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. ■

**“The image is inseparable from the frame around it.”**

**Gallery open to the public at:**

414 Equality Street, Fairhope, AL 36532.  
For more information visit [artistnall.com](http://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.



# Living & playing

AT TWO RTJ COMMUNITIES

**W**hen you're ready to take a swing at living a golf resort lifestyle, you'll find two beautiful master-planned communities on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at National Village in Auburn-Opelika and The Colony at The Grand in Fairhope. Collectively, they offer 90 holes of world-class golf, 18 tennis courts, four pickleball courts, eight pools, endless miles of hiking and biking trails and much more.

Upscale, new construction homes are for sale in these award-winning communities where residents enjoy high-level amenities year-round as they live along the plushness of RTJ golf courses. The Colony at The Grand in Fairhope near Mobile Bay and National Village in Auburn-Opelika at RTJ Grand National feature golf course and lake views for a panoramic setting. With new phases of development underway, both communities offer a variety of single-family homes—all beautifully designed and built for modern living with classic architecture.

Each community reflects a unique style and vibe while offering unprecedented access to championship golf and five-star amenities all year long. At National Village, residents enjoy the small town feel of Opelika with its thriving downtown food scene while being a stone's throw away from SEC sports and college culture at nearby Auburn University. The Colony at The Grand delivers an atmosphere infused with a coastal sensibility while celebrating the natural environment showcased throughout the community. »

## THE COLONY AT THE GRAND

Fairhope, Alabama » [colonyatthegrand.com](http://colonyatthegrand.com)

Perhaps the only things more spectacular than the new homes at The Colony at The Grand are the community's majestic oak trees. From young families with children to retirees looking for a coastal climate, The Colony at The Grand offers homes to fit a variety of lifestyles with some of the most popular homes designed by *Southern Living*. From your first glimpse of the beautiful homes at The Colony, you'll understand why the community was awarded Gold by the National Association of Home Builders this year.

Residents can work on their golf game at the Lakewood Club's practice facility, the Grand Golf Experience, and play two RTJ courses onsite. Families can dive into

the club's many resort pools, play tennis on clay courts, and squeeze in a workout at the state-of-the-art fitness center with expanded hours—all within walking distance! New this year are pickleball courts and a grass croquet court located in the Battles Trace neighborhood of The Colony at The Grand.

Since opening in 1847, The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club and Spa has long been known as the "Queen of Southern Resorts," where the guest experience is rooted in Southern hospitality. History lovers will enjoy the daily military salute and cannon firing followed by a traditional afternoon tea in the Grand's lobby. Culinary lovers can join the monthly culinaryweekend classes and enjoy great steaks and seafood all year.

Exploring The Colony at The Grand doesn't end at the front gate of this private community. The quality of life in Fairhope

is legendary, with a plethora of boutiques, galleries, and restaurants in the quaint downtown. Let's not forget that Fairhope is coastal at heart and beckons you to spend your day along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail or sailing in Mobile Bay to watch a spectacular sunset. The area has gained notice in the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the top 10 places in the United States to retire. The 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's time you take a look.

**Please call Deborah Rogers and Walter Billups for more information at 251.990.9951 or visit online at [colonyatthegrand.com](http://colonyatthegrand.com).**

DISCOVER GRAND TRADITIONS SET AMONG GROVES OF ANCIENT OAK TREES



**AZALEA:** The Azalea neighborhood features six homes overlooking the 10th hole of the Azalea Course at the Lakewood Club and a new lake. With only two homes still available, these craftsman coastal homes feature great porches and the latest designs focused on luxury and relaxation. *Priced from the \$800's.*

**BATTLES TRACE:** Neatly sitting along a 150-year-old grove of oak trees, Battles Trace is now

in its eighth phase of development with new home designs. These upscale homes offer a great sense of community and easy access to the Lakewood Club and its amenities. *Priced from the \$500's to the \$800's.*

**BAYVIEW:** Featuring 56 condominium units, Bayview overlooks Sweetwater Lake and offers a breathtaking panorama on every floor with views of oak-draped parks and walking trails. Low

maintenance makes these units popular for people on the go. *Sold out. Resales are available.*

**CAMELLIA:** An intimate collection of seven golf cottages designed with a coastal flair along the Azalea Golf Course at the Lakewood Club. The well-appointed homes feature screened-in porches perfect for entertaining with wonderful views of the golf course as the backdrop. *Priced from the \$600's.*







## NATIONAL VILLAGE

Auburn-Opelika, Alabama

» [nationalvillage.com](http://nationalvillage.com)

The golf resort community of National Village skirts RTJ Grand National, a 1,500-acre, 54-hole golf facility that includes the Lake course along Lake Saughatchee. Adjacent to the Marriott Resort, RTJ Grand National has quickly become a favorite among professional and amateur golfers alike, and residents at National Village have ready access to its three courses. National Village offers four distinct neighborhoods, with more than 275 homes sold to date in the 700-acre community. Two of the newest neighborhoods are Phase VIII of Eagle Bend and Phase II of Stonelake where you'll find thoughtfully crafted homes close to the hotel's amenities, private fishing lakes, and 10 miles of walking and biking trails. Another perk of living at National Village is 100 percent high speed fiber optic, clocking some of the fastest internet speeds in the country thanks to being in Opelika—Alabama's first Gig City.

The on-site Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort at Grand National has been awarded Marriott Hotel of the Year and has also been named to *Golf Digest's* list of top golf resorts four times. The hotel's three-story spa, outdoor resort pool complex and bar have been very popular with National Village residents. When not on the golf course or in the pool, look for our residents on the tennis and pickle ball courts. With both cardio and weight training equipment, consider the hotel's fitness center as your personal gym. All of these amenities and many more are available to National Village residents. The resort and golf courses also overlook a 600-acre lake. Auburn University also offers a variety of athletic and cultural programs within a short drive from National Village.

**Please call Gail Smith and Amy Sparks at 334.749.8165 or visit online at [nationalvillage.com](http://nationalvillage.com).**

## SMALL TOWN CHARM MEETS AUBURN TRADITIONS IN A LUXURY RESORT SETTING

**EAGLE BEND:** The newest phase of Eagle Bend features new home plans from award winning designers. Lots overlooking hole 4 of the RTJ Grand National Lake course are now available. *Priced from the mid \$400's.*

**QUAIL TRACE:** The perfect blend of arts and crafts and cottage designs, Quail Ridge offers 3-and 4-bedroom homes with limited availability as only five homes remain in this section. The National Village trail surrounds the rear perimeter of Quail Ridge and is located near the National Village post office. *Priced from the mid \$500's.*

**STONE LAKE:** A new section of Stone Lake, our first neighborhood, is now open. This custom-home neighborhood features some new, wonderfully designed home plans with signature Craftsman details ranging from 1,800 to more than 3,000 square feet. *Priced from the high \$600's.*

**THE YARDS:** A pocket neighborhood with a thoughtful, open design by nationally known designer Larry Garnett, The Yards is a clustered group of cottages placed around a shared green space. Residents love the beautifully landscaped common areas and deep front porches providing them ample space for gatherings. A gated neighborhood, The Yards offers 21 two-bedroom cottages minutes away from the resort for easy access to its luxury amenities. *Priced from the mid \$300's.*





Marriott Shoals  
Hotel & Spa  
The Shoals  
Muscle Shoals/Florence

Hampton Cove  
Huntsville

Silver Lakes  
Anniston/Gadsden

Oxmoor Valley  
Birmingham

Renaissance Birmingham  
Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

Ross Bridge  
Hoover

Grand National  
Auburn/Opelika

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

MONTGOMERY  
Renaissance Montgomery  
Hotel & Spa  
at the Convention Center

Auburn Marriott Opelika  
Resort & Spa  
at Grand National

Cambrian Ridge  
Greenville

Highland Oaks  
Dothan

Magnolia Grove  
Mobile

The Battle House  
Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa  
Renaissance Mobile  
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa,  
Autograph Collection

The Lakewood Club  
Point Clear

Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a collection of championship golf courses on 11 sites across Alabama.

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

Use the map and mileage chart on this page as a guide or contact any of our Reservations Specialists by phone for more information or for pricing, tee times, and reservations. Call **800.949.4444** or visit us online at **rtjgolf.com**.

# WELCOME

## A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL

*The Wall Street Journal* said the Trail  
**"MAY BE THE BIGGEST BARGAIN IN THE COUNTRY."**

*The New York Times* called the Trail  
**"SOME OF THE BEST PUBLIC GOLF ON EARTH."**

### MILEAGE BETWEEN TRAIL SITES

	CAPITOL HILL	CAMBRIAN RIDGE	GRAND NATIONAL	HAMPTON COVE	HIGHLAND OAKS	MAGNOLIA GROVE	LAKEWOOD G.C.	OXMOOR VALLEY	ROSS BRIDGE	SILVER LAKES	SHOALS
CAPITOL HILL	—	57	78	193	114	183	185	86	85	155	212
CAMBRIAN RIDGE	57	—	114	245	99	137	139	138	137	207	264
GRAND NATIONAL	78	114	—	189	131	240	242	121	120	112	242
HAMPTON COVE	193	245	189	—	310	372	374	122	123	81	77
HIGHLAND OAKS	114	99	131	310	—	201	217	201	200	233	328
MAGNOLIA GROVE	183	137	240	372	201	—	39	264	263	333	364
LAKEWOOD G.C.	185	139	242	374	217	39	—	284	283	353	384
OXMOOR VALLEY	86	138	121	122	201	264	284	—	2	88	140
ROSS BRIDGE	85	137	120	123	200	263	283	2	—	89	141
SILVER LAKES	155	207	112	81	233	333	353	88	89	—	135
SHOALS	212	264	242	77	328	364	384	140	141	135	—



**DOWNLOAD THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL APP** » Stay connected to Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Download our iOS or Android app and keep up with important news and offers. Get yardages and playing tips on the course and track your score, all in one place.



Scan this code with your smartphone to visit us online at [rtjgolf.com](http://rtjgolf.com).



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT CAPITOL HILL // SENATOR COURSE #17

» PRATTVILLE, AL | 334.285.1114 | [facebook.com/rtjcapitolhill](https://www.facebook.com/rtjcapitolhill)

# CAPITOL HILL

Opened 1999  
’99  
 3 courses  
 54 holes

Named the #2 public golf facility in the country by *Golf World* readers, Capitol Hill continues to get praise 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 LPGA’s Epson Tour Guardian Championship.

Located in Prattville, just 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. Capitol Hill also features an innovative 360 degree driving range 400 yards in diameter.

The **Senator**, a Scottish-Links style course, holds more than 140 pot-hole bunkers and mounds 20 to 40 feet in height, hiding the cart path or any other hole from view. New TifEagle Ultradwarf greens were installed on the Senator Course in 2020.

The **Legislator** is a more traditional course, playing in and out of pine trees and along a bluff overlooking the Alabama River. Enjoy the view riding down the “Sky Bridge” for six holes, laid out in a native cypress swamp, as you are led back up the bluff to finish the course at the clubhouse.

The **Judge** offers stunning vistas along 200-acres amongst the backwaters of the Alabama River. The first tee sits 200 feet above the fairway overlooking the river and the Montgomery skyline. With 14 holes adjoining the water and a bulkheaded island green, the Judge is simply magnificent.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT CAPITOL HILL | 2600 CONSTITUTION AVENUE | PRATTVILLE, AL | 36066

» GREENVILLE, AL | 334.382.9787 | [facebook.com/rtjcambrianridge](https://www.facebook.com/rtjcambrianridge)

# CAMBRIAN RIDGE

Opened 1993  
**'93**  
3 courses  
27 holes

Known by avid golfers as one of the most beautiful and 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 27 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

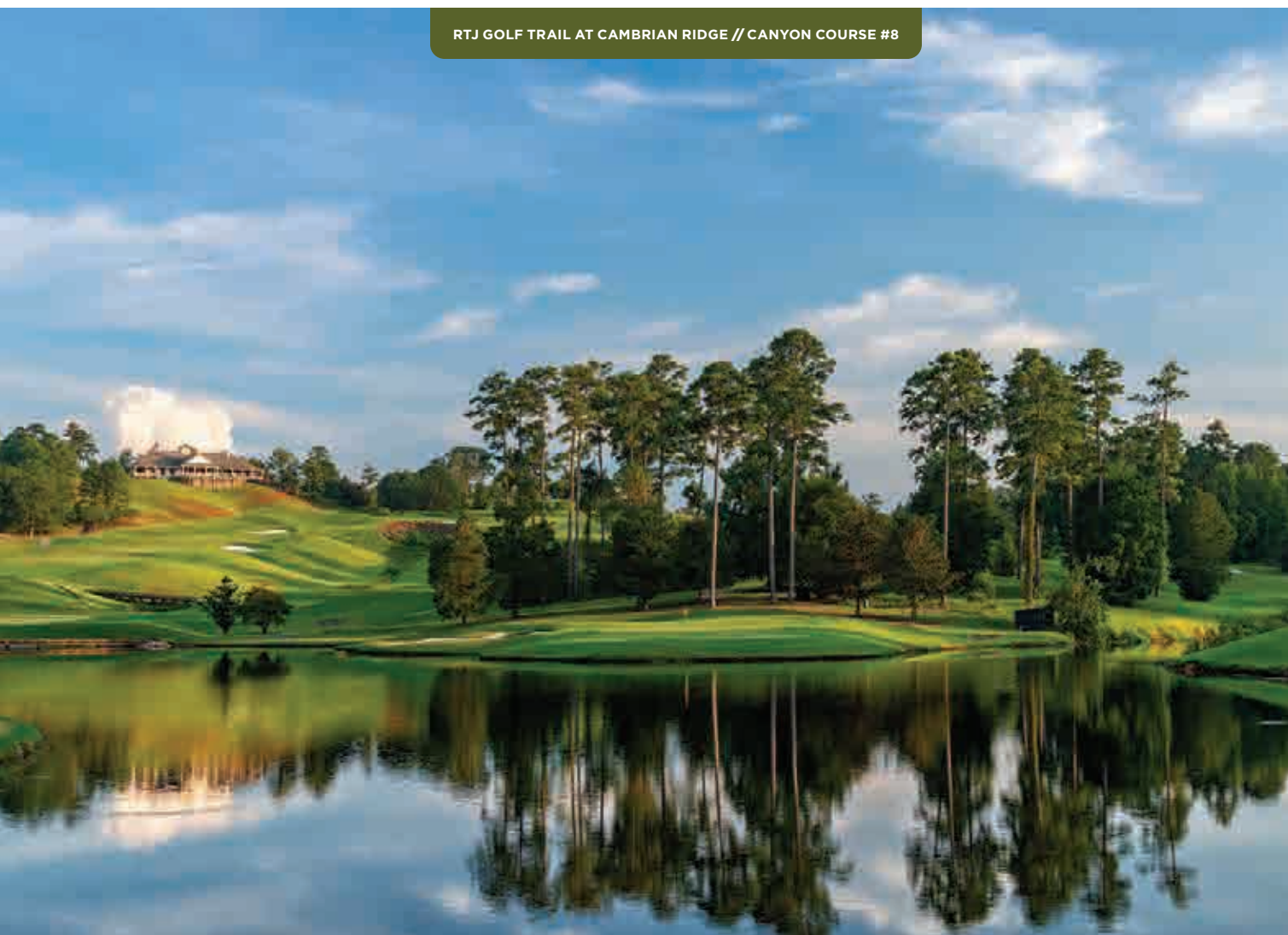
its laurels. 2016 saw the culmination of a three-year total renovation of the original 27 championship holes set upon the most spectacular setting for golf in the entire state of Alabama.

The **Loblolly** and **Sherling** nines were completed in 2013 and 2014. The **Canyon** nine redesign and reconstruction were completed in 2016. The greens have

been redesigned to accommodate the higher greens speeds associated with our installation of the latest generation of Ultradwarf Bermuda grass. Additionally, many of the holes have been redesigned to open up views of Sherling Lake and 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.

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT CAMBRIAN RIDGE** | 101 SUNBELT PARKWAY | GREENVILLE, AL | 36037

RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT CAMBRIAN RIDGE // CANYON COURSE #8



# GRAND NATIONAL '92

Voted the #1 public golf facility in America by the readers of *Golf World*, Robert Trent Jones, Sr. is on record saying that Grand National was the single greatest natural site for golf he had ever seen. Grand National is built on 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee with 32 of the 54 holes draped along its filigreed shores. National Village, a golfing community on the Trail, is adjacent to these courses.

With countless awards and recognition from every major golf publication, Grand National stands out as perhaps the only property in the country to host the following events and tours: NCAA D1 Men's and

Women's National Championships; LPGA Tour; Epson Tour (LPGA); Korn Ferry Tour (PGA TOUR); PGA TOUR.

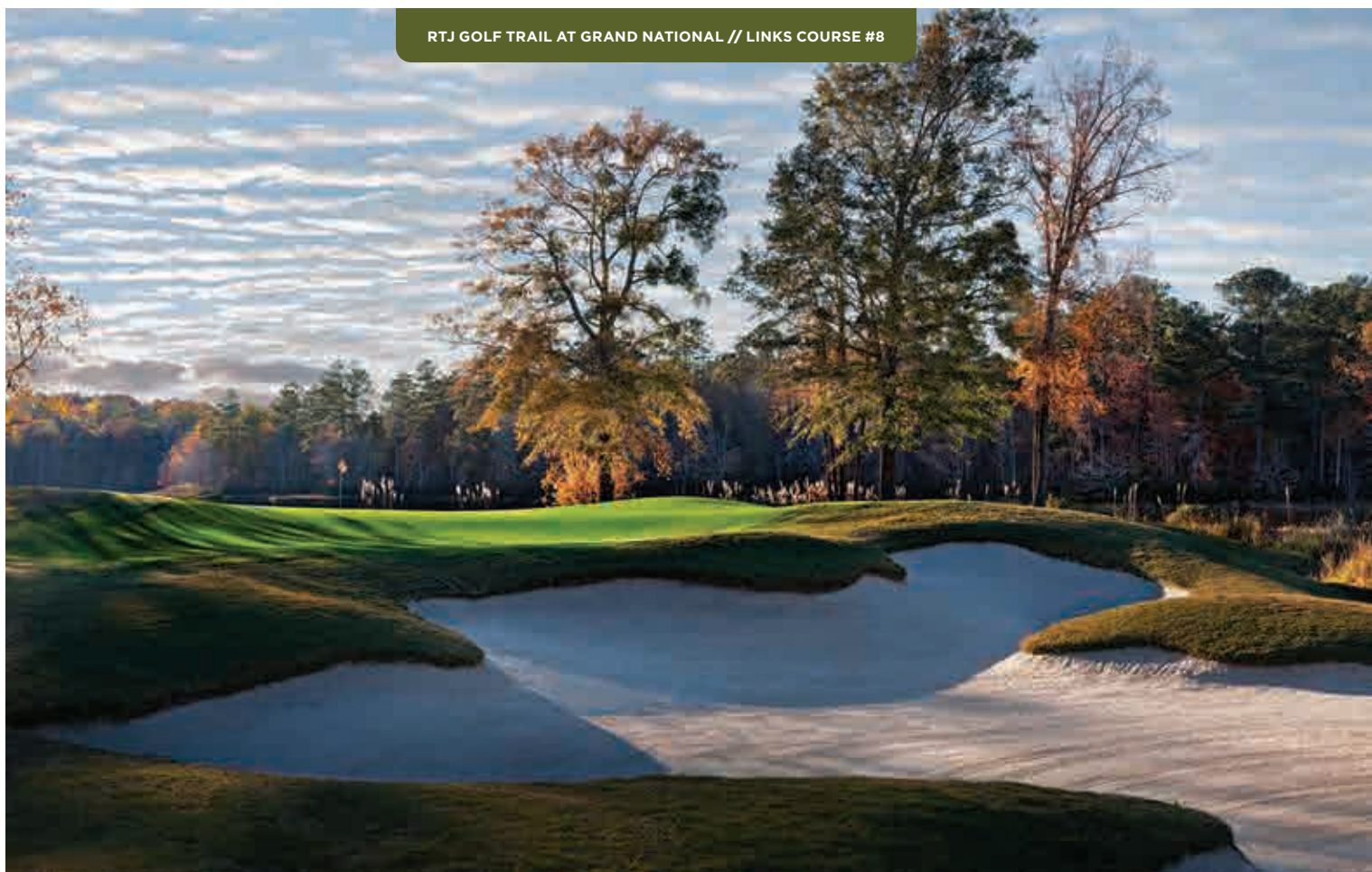
The cornerstone of the complex is the newly renovated **Links Course**, which is without a single weakness. Featuring new tees, bunkers, and the very best TifEagle Ultradwarf greens, the Links Course is a definite must-play along the Trail. The par-4 18th is without a doubt the strongest finishing hole 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 massive 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 **Short Course**, not to be overshadowed by the two championship 18's, is a thing of beauty, with more than half the holes touching the lake. Renovated in 2022 to include TifEagle Ultradwarf greens, this 18-hole course of par 3's might be the finest anywhere in the country.

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT GRAND NATIONAL** | 3000 ROBERT TRENT JONES TRAIL | OPELIKA, AL | 36801

RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT GRAND NATIONAL // LINKS COURSE #8





RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT HAMPTON COVE // HIGHLANDS COURSE #5

» HUNTSVILLE, AL | 256.551.1818 | [facebook.com/rtjhamptoncove](https://www.facebook.com/rtjhamptoncove)

# HAMPTON COVE

Opened 1992  
**'92**  
 3 courses  
 54 holes

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.

The **Highlands Course** is one of the most picturesque and playable courses on the Trail. Long waving grasses frame dramatically rolling terrain and beautiful bent grass greens. One of the most recognizable landmarks on the Trail is

the old mule barn beside the fifth hole, while the finishing holes are among the most scenic and challenging on the Trail.

Completely different from the Highlands is the **River Course**, the only Robert Trent Jones layout in the world designed without a single bunker. The River Course is laid out on former soybean fields in the flood plain of the Flint River and 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 in play 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 TRAIL AT HAMPTON COVE** | 450 OLD HWY 431 SOUTH | OWENS CROSS ROADS, AL | 35763



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT HIGHLAND OAKS // MARSHWOOD COURSE #8

» DOTHAN, AL | 334.712.2820 | [facebook.com/rtjhighlandoaks](https://www.facebook.com/rtjhighlandoaks)

# HIGHLAND OAKS

Opened 1993  
93  
 4 courses  
 36 holes

Located in the southeast corner of Alabama, Highland Oaks offers three 9-hole championship courses as well as the 9-hole Short Course. 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 is arguably the best hole at the site and has a tilted green elevated above a swath of wetlands. The **Magnolia** nine is well-named: specimen magnolia trees dot the higher ground, 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 9-hole par 3 designed to accommodate players of all levels, winds through massive pines and features 3 holes with water.

The regressing of the championship nines with TifEagle Ultradwarf greens was completed in 2020, as was the redesign of the practice area with new short game and putting greens.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT HIGHLAND OAKS | 904 ROYAL PARKWAY | DOTHAN, AL | 36305



THE » POINT CLEAR, AL | 251.990.6312 | [facebook.com/rtlakewood](https://www.facebook.com/rtlakewood)

# LAKEWOOD CLUB

Opened 1947

'47

2  
courses

36  
holes

The Lakewood Club's Dogwood and Azalea Courses at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa reflect the historic nature of the hotel property itself.

They've been through renovations and hurricanes and still remain a showcase for great golf in the South. The original 18 holes were built in 1947 by legendary golf course architect Perry Maxwell. Later expanded to 36 holes, The Lakewood Club at the Grand Hotel enjoys breezes from the adjacent Mobile Bay while

showcasing fairways winding through stands of towering Southern Pine and 200-year-old Live Oaks.

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, you can enjoy the beauty and challenge of Lakewood, regardless of your skill level.

The **Dogwood Course**, which recently hosted the 59th U.S. Women's Senior Amateur Championship, was completely

renovated in 2018, while the **Azalea Course** was renovated and reopened in November 2019. The new designs feature gorgeous TifEagle Ultradwarf greens that lend themselves to superb year-round conditions. The Lakewood Club has been named several times to *GOLF Magazine's* "Best Golf Resorts in America."

**The Experience** is a 15-acre, state-of-the-art practice facility offering a beautiful and innovative social setting to work on all aspects of your game.

THE LAKEWOOD CLUB | ONE GRAND BOULEVARD | POINT CLEAR, AL | 36564

THE LAKEWOOD CLUB // DOGWOOD COURSE #10



# MAGNOLIA GROVE

Opened 1992  
**'92**

3  
courses

54  
holes

The new Magnolia Grove features two renovated golf courses. Each championship course received extensive upgrades in recent 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 **Crossings Course**, which has hosted both the LPGA Tour and the Korn Ferry Tour Championship, 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 feature the acclaimed Mini Verde Ultradwarf greens.

The renovated **Falls Course** reopened in October 2010 as the only par-71 golf course on the Trail. The Falls 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* has named the **Short Course** at Magnolia Grove as the best par-3 course in America. Recently renovated, it features all-new putting surfaces with Champion Ultradwarf Bermuda grass. This course is as good as any collection of one-shotters on a championship course.

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT MAGNOLIA GROVE** | 7001 MAGNOLIA GROVE PARKWAY | MOBILE, AL | 36618

RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT MAGNOLIA GROVE // CROSSINGS COURSE #14





RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT OXMOOR VALLEY // RIDGE COURSE #4

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# OXMOOR VALLEY

Opened 1992  
'92

3  
courses  
45  
holes

Centrally located in the state and just minutes from the newly revitalized downtown Birmingham area, this 45-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.

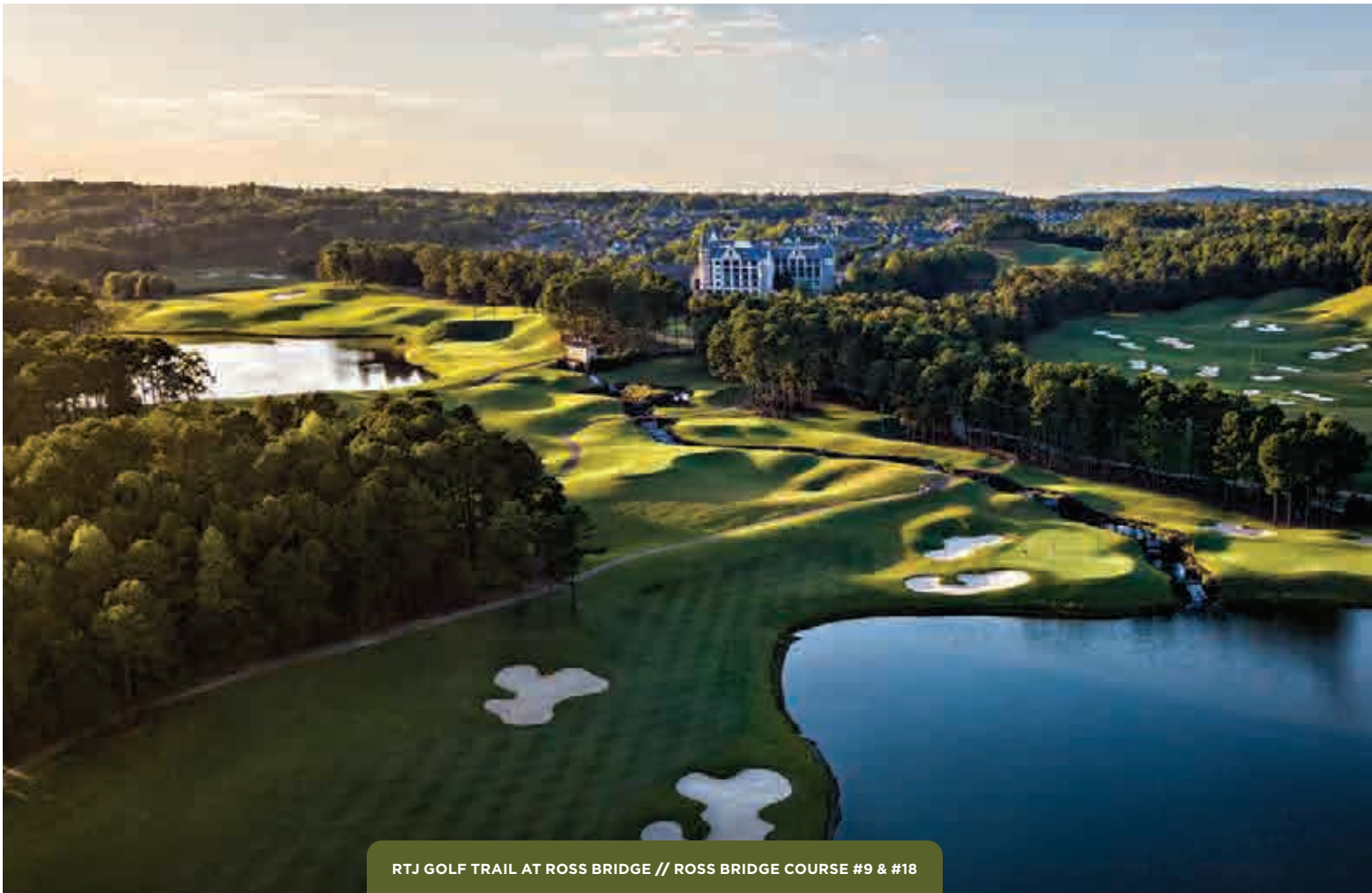
Completely renovated in 2021, the **Valley Course** features new tees, bunkers, and beautiful TiffEagle greens. For those who have played the Valley in the past, there are also a few new surprises out there with complete redesigns on a few holes, including the previously notorious 18th hole.

**The Back Yard**, opened in 2022, is a collection of fun, interesting holes that feature accessible but challenging hole locations. This 9-hole par-3 course is

where you gather for fun, friendship, and cocktails. Enjoy a drink while sitting around the fire pit in rocking chairs overlooking the the 1st tee and the 2nd and 9th greens.

Meant to be played in about an hour by a foursome, The Back Yard is designed with no water hazards and just a handful of bunkers so that even the most novice golfer will enjoy their experience. At the same time, the scratch player will be challenged by interesting and sometimes confounding green designs.

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT OXMOOR VALLEY | 100 SUNBELT PARKWAY | BIRMINGHAM, AL | 35211



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT ROSS BRIDGE // ROSS BRIDGE COURSE #9 & #18

» HOOVER, AL | 205.949.3085 | [facebook.com/rtjrossbridge](https://www.facebook.com/rtjrossbridge)

# ROSS BRIDGE

Opened 2005  
'05  
 1 course  
 18 holes

Beautifully carved into the rolling terrain of Shannon Valley, the scope of this property will amaze even the most-traveled golfer. Ross Bridge was named one of the top golf resorts in North America by *GOLF Magazine* in 2019 and has been a favorite of *Golf Digest* editors for the past five years.

The course meanders through indigenous landscape and around the 259-room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. **Ross Bridge** is the fifth-longest course in the world but offers multiple tees for golfers of all levels. Symbolic of an old parkland-style course, ten holes play along the banks

of two significant lakes connected by a spectacular waterfall dropping 80 feet between the 9th and 18th greens. A gristmill added to the waterfall reflects the history of this old mining site. The beauty and challenge of each hole leads many to believe there is not one signature hole but possibly eighteen.

Like many other Trail courses, the par-three holes are incredible. Considerable elevation changes combine with water or other natural obstructions to get your attention. Large putting surfaces provide many tempting pin locations that will test golfers' approach shots.

From multiple high points on the course, you can see the picturesque view of the 9th and 18th holes with a 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.

**» COURSE WILL BE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION UNTIL FALL 2023**

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT ROSS BRIDGE | 4000 GRAND AVENUE | HOOVER, AL | 35226

» ANNISTON/GADSDEN, AL | 256.892.3268 | [facebook.com/rtjsilverlakes](https://www.facebook.com/rtjsilverlakes)

# SILVER LAKES

Opened 1993  
**'93**  
4 courses  
36 holes

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 beautiful and lightning-quick Champion Ultradwarf putting surfaces.

The **Backbreaker** features wide fairways, demanding greens, and spectacular views of the surrounding foothills, while the **Heartbreaker** provides a unique mix of great golf

holes and unequalled character with the final three holes showcasing elevation changes and dramatic lake vistas. The **Mindbreaker** is an unforgettable blend of shorter, elusive holes set in a beautiful sanctuary of woods, water, and wetlands. The **Short Course** provides stunning vistas along a relaxing, yet sometimes demanding trip around Lee's Lake.

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT SILVER LAKES** | 1 SUNBELT PARKWAY | GLENCOE, AL | 35905

RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT SILVER LAKES // SHORT COURSE #6



# THE SHOALS

Opened 2004  
**'04**  
2 courses  
36 holes

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. Bordered by dunes-like mounds and tall grasses, Fighting Joe, with wide fairways, large and beautifully maintained bent grass greens, can play long, really long if you play the wrong set of tees, but this course is simply good, straightforward 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 **Schoolmaster Course** 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, demanding approaches to well-protected bent grass 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 guarding the 2nd green sure comes close. Make sure you've done your homework well, for the Schoolmaster will certainly test all of your skills.

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT THE SHOALS** | 990 SUNBELT PARKWAY | MUSCLE SHOALS, AL | 35661

RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT THE SHOALS // FIGHTING JOE COURSE #18



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