

TRAILGUIDE

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL » 2024 EDITION



THERE'S A
Feeling
THAT COMES WITH
EVERY MEAL HERE.



From the savory contentment of Big Bob Gibson's white sauce to where the South meets the Italian countryside at Bottega, you can take it all in.

Sweet Home
Alabama

Alabama.Travel/Food

Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q, Decatur

OFF THE TRAIL



We're glad to have you in the Yellowhammer State, and while you're enjoying your time in our sweet home, I encourage you to take advantage of everything Alabama has to offer. You won't find a more charming or scenic state, from the mountains in North Alabama to the expansive waters of Lake Martin to the white sandy beaches of Gulf Shores—and everywhere in between.

Nestled in every corner of the great state of Alabama is a premiere golfing experience offering challenging course layouts and picturesque scenery comparable to none. The immaculate Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail provides detours across our state that many otherwise might not embark upon.

Folks from across the country travel to Alabama to challenge their golf game on the Trail. For many, playing the RTJ Trail is a bucket-list experience. Across each of the 11 courses, you will experience the artistry of Robert Trent Jones Sr., showcasing the natural beauty of each location at every turn.

From the striking views of the Tennessee River on the Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster courses in Muscle Shoals to fairways lined with 200-year-old oak trees at The Lakewood Club in Point Clear, every course provides a taste of what Alabama offers. As you travel our state, you will quickly discover that golf in Alabama is synonymous with the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed more than 500 courses in his legendary career, and his Alabama endeavor is the largest golf course construction project ever attempted, which very well may be his finest work. Whether you're a professional or casual player, the 100-plus miles of delicately manicured fairways the RTJ Trail displays will hold a special place in the heart of any golfer.

As a golfer myself, the RTJ Golf Trail is truly a marvel that showcases Alabama in more than a single way. While traveling across our state to the different RTJ course locations, I encourage you to visit our premier historical sites, indulge in some of the finest cuisines you'll have the chance to savor in the South, and take advantage of conveniently located Marriott properties on or around the courses. Be sure to come back and see us, but most importantly, keep 'em straight down the middle.

Nathaniel Ledbetter, Speaker
Alabama House of Representatives

FAN MAIL ON THE TRAIL

We like to think that the quality of golf on the Trail speaks for itself, but we recently received some high praise from one of our resident golfers who really seems to have a way with words. Here's just some of what he had to say about his experiences on the Trail.

“As I sit here tonight looking forward to the tee times I have coming up this weekend, I feel a thank you is in order. Thank you for providing a hack golfer with some world-class courses. As an Alabamian, I consider myself lucky to have access to the Trail. I have found friendship and heartbreak on many of your tees and greens.

Every hole of every course has character. Playing the holes in my head before the rounds still gives me butterflies. For this I'm appreciative.

You may host golfers from all over the world, but you are most appreciated by folks like myself from hometown Alabama. Many thanks and keep it up. See you this weekend.”

Tito's[®] GOLF CLUB YOU'RE IN.



JOIN THE CLUB
SCAN FOR GOLF NEWS & EVENT INFO, RECIPES,
MERCH DROPS, AND MORE SURPRISES FOR THE GREEN.



Official Vodka

CONTENTS



6 BLAZING A NEW TRAIL
Find value, variety, and world-class golf no matter where you stay and play on the Trail.

10 DRIVING FORWARD
The reincarnation of the Short Course at Oxmoor Valley, and a less-is-more approach, brings more fun to the Trail.

18 HISTORY & HOSPITALITY
The Resort Collection on the Trail includes a mix of historic and modern properties, each with a story to tell.

28 LIVE & PLAY ON THE TRAIL
Experience life on the Trail all year, with two distinctive golf communities you can choose to call home.

34 WELCOME: A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL
A detailed guide, map, and mileage chart to all 11 sites on the Trail.

**RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT SILVER LAKES
HEARTBREAKER #1**

ON THE COVER »
Senator No. 17 at Capitol Hill
Cover photo by Jonathan Hoomes

*Hotel & Resort photography by
Art Meripol and Lauren Rubenstein*

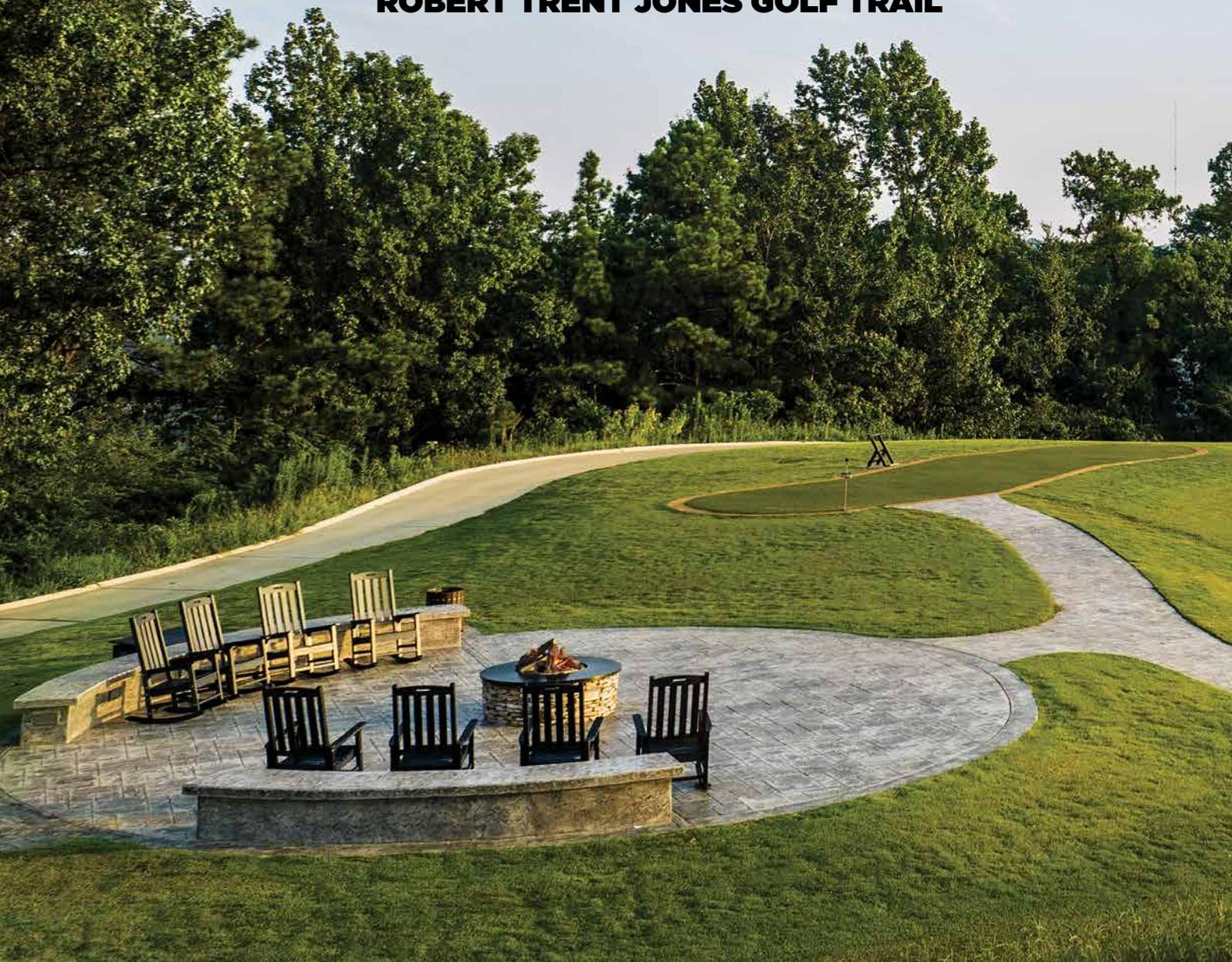
*Golf landscape photography by
Jonathan Hoomes and Michael Clemmer*

BLAZING

A NEW TRAIL

**THE BACK YARD IN BIRMINGHAM ADDS
A DISTINCTIVE AMENITY TO ALABAMA'S
ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL**

BY GLEN TURK
MIDWEST GOLFING
MAGAZINE



In a world where everything either seems to cost more or is ravaged by shrinkflation, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama is thriving thanks to their tried-and-true business model of providing world-class golf at an affordable price. And their stellar replay rates are the opposite of shrinkflation, where golfers can pay less to play more.

“We have only had to increase our rates minimally on the Trail courses since inflation hit us earlier this year,” began Jonathan Romeo, Vice President of Advertising and Marketing for the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. “We still pride ourselves on the multi-day package discounts we offer, plus we have numerous local programs that benefit the daily fee golfer as well. We have really tried hard to combat inflation, including offering a \$100 rate with cart, or a buy one day get a

day for half price special for the out-of-state golfer. Also, we have been holding steadfast that Alabama residents can only book 11 days in advance. Since the traveling golfer is such a large part of our business, we want to make sure all courses have tee times available,” concluded Romeo.

The only way the RTJ Golf Trail could be charged with shrinkflation is based upon their latest amenity, The Back Yard (rtjgolf.com/thebackyard) in Birmingham

that is connected to the Trail site at Oxmoor Valley. Meant to be played in about an hour by a foursome, the nine par-3 holes can play as short as 59 yards with the longest at 132 yards. The Back Yard is a walking-only golf course 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. »



Leave your golf bag in the car and grab your putter, a couple of wedges, and maybe a short iron because that's all you'll need to enjoy The Back Yard. *{Editor's Note: When your wife tells you it's time to do yard work, you can leave the house and say you were just following orders. Plus, green fees start at only \$35 which is far less expensive than any yard work project I've ever completed.}*

While the price you pay to play the RTJ Golf Trail might be of paramount importance, it's not the only numbers of consequence. Eleven stunning Trail sites are only the start. Multiple properties have hosted TOUR events (Ross Bridge, Capitol Hill, and Grand National) while seven have world-class resorts either adjacent to or nearby. There is even a separate RTJ Spa Trail throughout the Yellowhammer State for those who love being pampered after a day on the links.

A few Trail courses are receiving makeovers in 2023, so MGM (*Midwest Golfing Magazine*) always recommends calling before arriving. According to Romeo, the flagship project of 2023 is a full renovation of the bunkers and greens plus some ancillary tree removal at Ross Bridge, one of the Trail's most respected courses

just outside of Birmingham. The only single course venue on the Trail is scheduled to reopen in October. Tree renovations are also taking place at Magnolia Grove in Mobile, but daily play will not be interrupted.

It's funny how some facts seem more poignant when you hear them over the phone. When speaking to Jonathan Romeo, he made a point that the farthest drive from one Trail spot to another in the entire state is only 1:45 minutes. I remember reading that before, but when Jonathan spoke it, I again realized why the founders of the Trail, led by Dr. David Bronner in the late 80s, were so far ahead of their time. And with 10 of the 11 sites being multi-course venues, the opportunities are endless for Midwest golfers looking to start their season early. Plus, I just watched a great video on weather.com showing off an above average weather forecast for most of Alabama from February through March.

Through the years, the staff of MGM has been blessed to play every RTJ Golf Trail site, and with that, we were bound to develop a few favorites. Now, granted this is like picking your hometown team's top championship season memory, but we will give it a try.

Capitol Hill is technically in Prattville, Alabama, but is only 12 miles from the capitol building in Montgomery. The 54-hole property is divided into three championship nines, the Judge, the Senator, and the Legislator, which pays respect to Alabama's nearby seat of government. The trio is spread out over 1,500 acres that is part arboretum, part wildlife sanctuary, and part golf course.

The Judge is hallmarked by spectacular vistas along 200 acres amongst the backwaters of the Alabama River. The first tee lies 200 feet above the fairway overlooking the river and the Montgomery skyline and makes for the ideal group photo op. With 14 holes adjoining the water and a bulkheaded island green, the Judge beckons to be played twice in the same day so your senses can have time to take in all the beauty.

The Legislator is a more traditional course than the Judge as it plays in and out of pine trees and along a bluff overlooking the Alabama River. Holes 10 through 15 are laid out in a native cypress swamp and feature epic views as you ride down the "Sky Bridge." The final three then lead you back up to Capitol Hill's stunning shared clubhouse.

The Senator, a Scottish-Links style course, is home to more than 140 pothole bunkers



and mounds ranging from 20 to 40 feet in height. These moguls make every hole play silently unto itself and create a feeling of isolation for four-plus hours. New TiffEagle Ultradwarf greens were installed on the Senator Course in 2020, which only adds to the superior playing conditions on the Trail. The 54-hole facility is buoyed by the nearby Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center, a 140,000-square-foot palatial estate that provides luxurious stay and play packages for locals and traveling golfers alike.

Less than an hour south of Capitol Hill resides Cambrian Ridge, a 27-hole facility that is highlighted by three distinctive, nine-hole tracks. Descriptive course names abound on the Trail, as the nines are dubbed the Canyon, Loblolly, and Sherling, which gives a nod to nearby Lake Sherling.

“ I again realized why the founders of the Trail, led by Dr. David Bronner in the late 80s, were so far ahead of their time. ”

The Canyon nine is carved from former hunting grounds where deer blinds remain nailed to the hardwood. You'd better pick your targets wisely, as omnipresent hazards are everywhere, making the Canyon nine a lesson in risk vs. reward and course management.

If you're looking for an Augusta-like experience in Alabama, then look no further than the Loblolly nine. The course is known for its gently rolling fairways, massive bunkers, cathedral-like pines, and water-fronted greens. Trust me, it's a thrilling combination that will test every shot in your bag!

Finally, the Sherling nine starts at the highest point in Butler County and tumbles to play along Sherling Lake before ending with a dramatic climb on the finishing hole. The par-4 9th plays



368-yards straight uphill to a 192-foot deep green that it shares with the 9th hole on the Canyon Course.

Northeast of both Capitol Hill and Cambrian Ridge rests Grand National in Auburn/Opelika. The course is only a pitching wedge away from Auburn University, the school that produced three transcendent athletes from the 80s and 90s – Charles Barkley, Bo Jackson, and Frank Thomas. 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 shores. The property is also accentuated by the nearby Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National, one of the top lodging options on the Trail.

The Lake Course features 12 holes hugging the shoreline including all four par-3s. While the 230-yard island green 15th may get all the accolades, Director of Golf Joe McNally has his favorite for good reason. “While I think that all the par 3s on the property are great, No. 3 on the Lake Course is my favorite because it is the site of my only hole-in-one on the property. The hole plays along the lake with all but a sliver of the right side over the water. The green has three defined quadrants that, depending on the placement of tees and pins, can make the shot selections very different,” ended McNally.

The Links Course, hailed “the cornerstone of the complex,” was recently renovated to much fanfare. Featuring new tees, bunkers, and the very best TiffEagle Ultradwarf greens, the Links is a definite must play along the Trail. The par-4 18th is without a doubt the strongest finishing hole on the Trail. Your tee shot must carry a corner of the lake, while the approach is played to a shallow pedestal green shored up by massive boulders.

The property rounds out with the Short Course, which is anything but your typical par-3 layout. The tiny gem, which was reimagined last year, plays a staunch 3,328 yards from the back tees and is an absolute delight to play. “The Short Course is the home course for the residents of the National Village; many of those residents are of retirement age,” began McNally. “When we first began the renovation, we had two goals – modernize the turf on the greens and make the course more enjoyable for the customer. We achieved both goals and so much more: expanded teeing surfaces, original green sizes and shapes, land bridges to most of the greens, and a total reimagination of the eighth hole.”

When it comes to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, golfers now have a new experience to enjoy with the advent of The Back Yard in Birmingham. ■

To learn more about The Back Yard and the entire RTJ Golf Trail, log on to rtjgolf.com.

The OG of golf trails in the United States - Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail - has turned 30 years old and has just experienced three consecutive years of record growth. Other states have tried to duplicate Alabama's success of using golf to promote tourism throughout the state.

DRIVING FORWA

THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL CONTINUES



RD

TO INNOVATE AND IMPROVE

BY RONNIE RAMOS



“Golf has given the state a talking point that we didn’t have before,” said Lee Sentell, Director of the Alabama Tourism Department for the past 21 years. “Alabama is a major golfing state. If they’re golfers, they are going to come. It’s just a matter of when.”

The Alabama golf trail is the brainchild of Dr. David G. Bronner, who is the CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. The Trail has been an unmitigated success as a major driver of the state’s tourism industry. “It’s an opportunity for the rest of the world to see Alabama in a different light than its past history,” Bronner said. “The state’s

tourism industry has grown from \$1.8 billion to \$25 billion. It opened the door to Alabama to the world.”

To keep the golfers coming back and happy, the state has continued to invest in the golf courses. “It’s really exciting to see people with low expectations be blown away by the golf courses,” Bronner said.

Instead of coasting on its considerable accolades, the Trail has forged ahead with significant improvements, innovations, and renovations to several of its courses.

Why does the Trail continue to be a desired golf destination? “We don’t have

deferred maintenance issues,” said Mike Beverly, President and CEO of SunBelt Golf Corporation, which operates the golf courses at 11 sites throughout the state. “They know we are going to be in good shape. And we have done some type of major renovation each year since 2005.”

The RTJ Golf Trail has continued investing in existing courses and has not been hesitant to innovate and create new experiences, especially for younger golfers and those new to the game. In the past three years, the Trail has completed five significant renovations or improvements to its courses.



ROSS BRIDGE

The Trail's most celebrated course was shut down for part of 2023 as every green was replaced and every bunker was renovated. All the greens were redone with Ultradwarf Bermuda grass, a much firmer, faster playing surface. The renovated bunkers feature new sand and irrigation. The more drastic bunkers on the course had the bottoms lifted up to make them more playable.

The changes at Ross Bridge start at the first hole. The dramatic semi-blind tee shot, ideally played down the right side of the fairway over a hill, is still there. But the hole

now has a wider approach into the green; it's less steep. This makes the hole more playable and gives golfers more options on how to attack the green.

Regular players at Ross Bridge will notice a few other changes. On No. 10, the green was moved to reduce the severity of the

dogleg and on the tough finishing hole, there is now a split fairway to give players one final puzzle to solve as they decide how to best play the hole.

But the most dramatic visual changes will be found on No. 14. The green was dropped in elevation, shrunken a little bit, and a

**“ If they're golfers, they are going to come.
It's just a matter of when. ”**

stone wall wrapping around the front of the green was added. The visual transformation was completed by adding a ribbon bunker that wraps around the front of the green. The result is a visually stunning hole that will become one of the signature holes on the course.

The renovations at Ross Bridge provide an excellent insight into how the RTJ Trail continues to adapt and keep its courses among the best public-access destinations in the country. When bad chemicals were poured on the greens by mistake, Beverly and Bronner decided to use the opportunity

to make some significant changes. The result was an added expense, but the result will be a course that continues to impress, both from its beauty and as a good test of golf.

“The goal was to make the course visually appealing, but also more playable,” Beverly said. Ross Bridge reopened in October 2023.

It’s not surprising that how the course plays is at the forefront of the changes to the courses along the Trail. Bronner, the Trail’s mastermind, still plays the courses. “Usually every Saturday and Sunday,” he said. But as a true golf-aholic, he quickly adds: “That’s only 104 games a year.”



OXMOOR VALLEY

Nowhere is that golf-first mentality more evident than Oxmoor Valley, where the Trail's innovation has led to its latest creation, The Back Yard. The short course at Oxmoor Valley was a challenging, but difficult layout, playing from hill to hill, which was not good for beginners. Modeled after the widely successful Cradle in Pinehurst, The Back Yard is more of a transformation than a renovation.

The vibe is chill and fun and welcoming. At the first hole, as you wait for the green to clear, you can enjoy a drink while sitting

in rocking chairs around a fire pit. The Back Yard is a nine-hole, par-3 course. It's designed to be played in about an hour by a foursome, perfect for a post-18 stroll with some wedges and a putter. The holes range in length from 59 yards to 132 yards.

While the course has been designed so that beginners can enjoy it without being intimidated – “there’s now an avenue to run the ball onto every green,” Beverly said – the transformation is a first-class course that is beautiful and challenging. “You walk it in an hour. It’s unique to public golf in Alabama and unique to the Trail,” Beverly said.

In addition to The Back Yard, the complex at Oxmoor Valley features two championship courses, the Ridge and Valley courses. The Valley Course underwent a significant renovation in 2021.

All new greens were built and two new holes were reimagined. The par-3 13th hole features a biarritz green with a four-foot valley in the middle of a monster-sized green. If you hit your tee shot to the wrong level, you’re faced with a challenging putting experience. The rectangular bunkers framing the green add a dramatic visual element to what is now a visually unique hole.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT OXMOOR VALLEY
THE BACK YARD
#5, #7, #8



RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT OXMOOR VALLEY
VALLEY #1

The other major change came on the finishing hole. On No. 18, they dropped the green and raised and widened the fairways. “Now it’s a much better finishing hole,” Beverly said.

The changes continued at other courses, too.

The Links Course at Grand National – the 54-hole complex in Auburn/Opelika

– received new tees, bunkers, and the very best TifEagle Ultradwarf greens.

In Mobile, at Magnolia Grove, they cleared trees that were not affecting the course’s playability so the grass could grow better, giving the course a lush, better conditioned appearance.

“It’s been quite an interesting ride,” Bronner said as he looked back at 30 years

“ We want to make sure that people want to come back. ”



of building the RTJ Golf Trail. “People thought we were completely nuts.”

The success of the Trail as a tourism driver has led to other tourism-focused innovations. The state created the Alabama Civil Rights Trail in 2006, the Alabama Bass Trail in 2013, and the US Civil Rights Trail in 2018.

While Sentell is proud of each of these accomplishments, it all comes back to the

golf trail and Bronner’s vision for Alabama to become a golf destination. “He gave Alabama a new positive and progressive image through the golf trail,” Sentell said.

Bronner is nowhere near done. He still gushes about the beauty of the courses, how the topography and scenery changes from course to course along the 400 miles of the Trail. And while, after 30 years, most

golfers know about the Trail, Bronner is not ready to rest on that success.

He sees the renovations and innovations as necessary for what he has been pushing for since the first Trail courses opened: “We want to make sure that people want to come back.” ■

For tee times and packages visit rtjgolf.com.



The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa opened in 1852 and has a historian who started there in the early 1970s. Across Mobile Bay, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa’s historian is ready to share stories about the “Queen of Southern Resorts,” opened in 1847, with longtime guests and first-time visitors. Susan Stein and George Moore are exceptional hospitality ambassadors who



with heart & soul

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 and resorts 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 the recipient of Historic Hotel's Historian of the Year award in 2022.

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 will also 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 Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, each of these Alabama hotels and resorts are ready for your arrival. The Trail's eight hotels and resorts exceed international luxury standards and graciously welcome guests with a blend of history and hospitality.

Historic highlights from each of the hotels are highlighted to enhance your visit.

NORTH ALABAMA & BIRMINGHAM REGION

MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL & SPA

FLORENCE, AL

» marriottshoals.com

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

[@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 & 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

[facebook.com/rossbridgeresort](https://www.facebook.com/rossbridgeresort)

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

Renaissance Birmingham 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 257 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 15,000 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 *&* MONTGOMERY REGION

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

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

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

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

Named an Editor's 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. The Links Course, Lake Course, and Short Course are great tests for all

golfers. The resort features 221 guest rooms, including 16 luxury suites, an award-winning 20,000 square-foot spa, three pools with a splash pad and water slide, and three restaurants and bars, including indoor and outdoor options. Activities include a nightly smores experience, bicycles, tennis and pickleball, use of the RTJ practice facility, a golf shuttle to the course, enhanced wi-fi, and lawn games. This nationally-recognized resort is just 10 minutes from Auburn or downtown Opelika, approximately 100 miles from

the Atlanta airport, and a short drive from Montgomery or Birmingham. In addition to 15,000 square feet of flexible meeting and conference space on 30 acres, the resort also includes a wedding venue, outdoor pavilion, and a 96-seat Amphitheatre.

Historic Highlight: Paying tribute to the Opelika area's railroad history, a guest conductor is selected each afternoon to blow **the resort's train whistle** to begin happy hour at the Splash Bar or Southern Oak Bar.

**MONTGOMERY MARRIOTT
PRATTVILLE HOTEL & CONFERENCE
CENTER AT CAPITOL HILL**

PRATTVILLE, AL

» marriottcapitolhill.com

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

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

Minutes from downtown Montgomery, the Marriott hotel includes 96 guest rooms, as well as two eight-room luxury villas ideal for golfing groups. The 10,000-square-foot

Presidential Cottage features 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. The Oak Tavern is newly renovated with numerous TVs, firepits and outdoor seating, and offers dining with a view overlooking the 17th Fairway Senator Course. The hotel also features 20,000 square feet of event space, including 13 venues, an 8,000-square-foot

ballroom and pre-function area, and a covered terrace. *GolfWorld* readers have named RTJ Capitol Hill the #2 site for public golf in the country and the site hosted the Epson Tour's Guardian Championship in September 2023.

Historic Highlight: To salute the area's history, a **gin shop whistle** blows each afternoon at 4 p.m. signaling 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

» [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, or visit Dexter Avenue, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s church, the Hank Williams Museum, and other historic locations nearby.

Historic Highlight: A replica of **Freeny's bell** rings daily at 5 p.m. on the patio of The Exchange bar. 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

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

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

Originally built in 1852 and closed in the mid-1970s, The Battle House in Mobile has been restored to all its original grandeur. Reopened in 2007, The Battle House 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 28,000 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, The Battle House is a great Mardi Gras choice.



**RENAISSANCE MOBILE
RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL**
MOBILE, AL

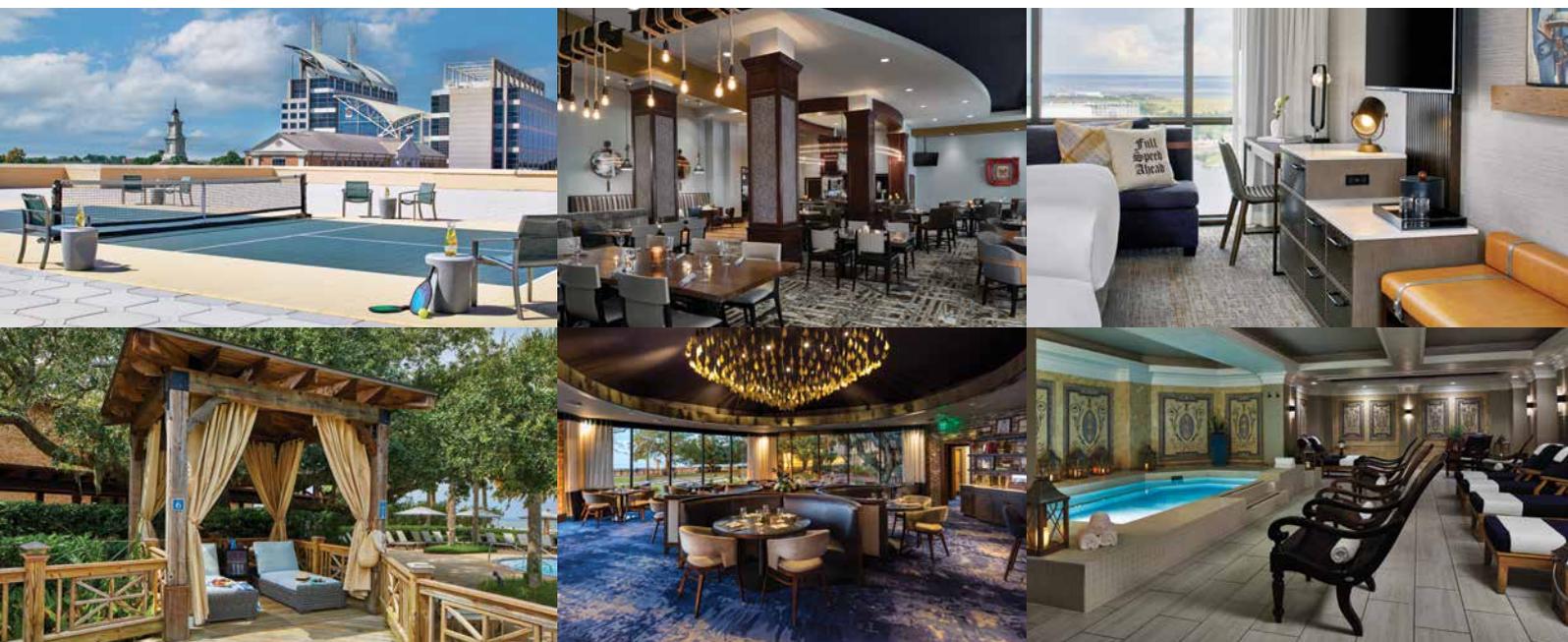
» renaissanceriverview.com
 f [facebook.com/riverviewplaza](https://www.facebook.com/riverviewplaza)
 i [@renriverviewplaza](https://www.instagram.com/re Riverviewplaza)

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 40,000 square feet of versatile meeting, banquet, and exhibit space. The 373 plush guest rooms at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel offer spectacular views of Mobile Bay, and parades pass in front of the hotel during Mardi Gras. Guests can also enjoy both a rooftop pool,

complete with a splash pad, and a rooftop pickleball court.

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,
AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION**
POINT CLEAR, AL

» grand1847.com
 f [facebook.com/thegrandhotel](https://www.facebook.com/thegrandhotel)
 i [@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 historic hotels in the country, 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, while groups appreciate the resort's 37,000 square feet of meeting space. The Grand's 550 acres feature giant live oak trees, multiple beaches, and lush landscaping. With 405 luxurious guest rooms and some of Marriott's best spas, golf courses, and pools, the Grand Hotel is now grander than ever. In addition to world-class golf and a 20,000-square-foot

spa, the resort has a variety of activities including eight rubico tennis courts, 11 pickleball courts, a championship croquet lawn, horseshoes, cornhole, bikes, kayaks, sailboats, and other watercraft.

Historic Highlight: In Grand tradition, our **Grandeur, Grit & Glory** proudly 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. ■



LIVE & PLAY ON THE TRAIL

When 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 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. »





707

DISCOVER GRAND TRADITIONS AMONG GROVES OF ANCIENT OAK TREES

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.

The Colony at The Grand offers a unique opportunity for golf enthusiasts, who

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 culinary weekend 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 an abundance of charming 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

AZALEA: The Azalea neighborhood features six homes overlooking the 10th hole and lake of the Azalea Course at The Lakewood Club. These Craftsman coastal homes feature great porches and the latest designs focused on luxury and relaxation. **SOLD OUT.**

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 situated along the 9th hole and lake on the Azalea Course. Directly adjacent to The Lakewood Club and its luxurious amenities, these upscale homes offer a great sense of community. *Priced from the \$500'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. These well-appointed homes feature screened-in porches perfect for entertaining with wonderful views of the golf course as the backdrop. *Priced from the \$800's.*



can access The Lakewood Club's practice facility, the Grand Golf Experience, and two RTJ courses onsite. But golf is not the only upscale recreational attraction in this community. Residents can also enjoy the resort pools at The Lakewood Club, play tennis on its clay courts, croquet on its grass courts, pickleball on its hard courts, dine at its restaurant, and exercise at its modern fitness center with extended hours—all within walking distance!

Since opening in 1847, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa has long been known as the "Queen of Southern Resorts," where

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.

For more information, please call Deborah Rogers or Walter Billups at 251.990.9951 or visit us online at colonyatthegrand.com.









SMALL TOWN CHARM MEETS AUBURN TRADITIONS IN A RESORT SETTING.

National Village is a golf resort community that borders RTJ Grand National, a 1,500-acre complex with 54 holes of golf, including the Lake Course that runs along Lake Saugahatchee. The community is close to the Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National, which hosts RTJ Grand National and attracts many professional and amateur golfers. National Village has four different neighborhoods, with more than 318 homes sold so far in the 700-acre area. One of the newest neighborhoods is Eagle Place, where you can find well-designed homes near the hotel's facilities, private fishing lakes, and 10 miles of trails for walking and biking. Another benefit of living in National Village is the high-speed fiber optic internet, which is one of the fastest in the country thanks to Opelika being Alabama's first Gig city.

The Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National has won the Marriott Hotel of the Year award and has been listed as one of the top golf resorts by *Golf Digest* four times. The hotel has a three-story spa and an outdoor pool complex and bar that are very popular with National Village residents. You can also enjoy tennis and pickleball courts, as well as a fitness center with cardio and weight training equipment. All these amenities and more are available to National Village residents. The resort and golf courses also have a beautiful view of a 600-acre lake. Auburn University is also nearby, offering various athletic and cultural programs. ■

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Gail Smith or Amy Sparks at 334.749.8165 or visit us online at nationalvillage.com.

EAGLE BEND: Only four homes left in this phase of Eagle Bend. Lots overlooking hole 4 of the RTJ Grand National Lake Course are now available. *Prices start from the mid \$500's.*

QUAIL TRACE: A mix of arts and crafts and cottage styles. Quail Trace offers 3- and 4-bedroom homes with limited availability as only 1 home remaining 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 \$600'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 \$700's.*

ONLY 14 LOTS REMAIN.



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 upper \$300's. ONLY 8 LOTS REMAIN.*

EAGLE PLACE: The newest neighborhood at National Village is Eagle Place. These are new home plans that complement the traditional cottage-style homes. The homes have 3 bedrooms with 2-3 baths, and some include offices or dens. *Prices from the high \$400's for cottages and high \$500's for homes.*

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 of 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."

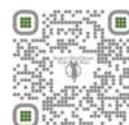
The New York Times called the Trail
"SOME OF THE BEST PUBLIC GOLF ON EARTH."

MILEAGE BETWEEN TRAIL SITES

	CAMBRIAN RIDGE	CAPITOL HILL	GRAND NATIONAL	HAMPTON COVE	HIGHLAND OAKS	LAKEWOOD CLUB	MAGNOLIA GROVE	OXMOOR VALLEY	ROSS BRIDGE	SILVER LAKES	SHOALS
CAMBRIAN RIDGE	—	56	114	245	99	139	131	137	136	206	248
CAPITOL HILL	56	—	77	192	116	186	178	86	84	155	197
GRAND NATIONAL	114	77	—	192	127	243	236	117	119	116	225
HAMPTON COVE	245	192	192	—	302	375	367	120	120	77	76
HIGHLAND OAKS	99	116	127	302	—	198	211	197	195	221	307
LAKEWOOD CLUB	139	186	243	375	198	—	42	266	265	336	337
MAGNOLIA GROVE	131	178	236	367	211	42	—	259	257	328	369
OXMOOR VALLEY	137	86	117	120	197	266	259	—	2	87	124
ROSS BRIDGE	136	84	119	120	195	265	257	2	—	87	124
SILVER LAKES	206	155	116	77	221	336	328	87	87	—	131
SHOALS	248	197	225	76	307	377	369	124	124	131	—



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.



THE SHOALS
Muscle Shoals/Florence
Marriott Shoals
Hotel & Spa

HAMPTON COVE
Huntsville

SILVER LAKES
Anniston/Gadsden

OXMOOR VALLEY
Birmingham

ROSS BRIDGE/Hoover
Renaissance Birmingham
Ross Bridge Golf Resort
& Spa

GRAND NATIONAL
Auburn/Opelika
Auburn Marriott
Opelika Resort & Spa
at Grand National

CAPITOL HILL/Prattville
Montgomery Marriott Prattville
Hotel & Conference Center
at Capitol Hill

Renaissance Montgomery
Hotel & Spa at the
Convention Center

CAMBRIAN RIDGE
Greenville

HIGHLAND OAKS
Dothan

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

THE LAKEWOOD CLUB
Point Clear
Grand Hotel Golf
Resort & Spa,
Autograph Collection

Opened
1993

3
courses

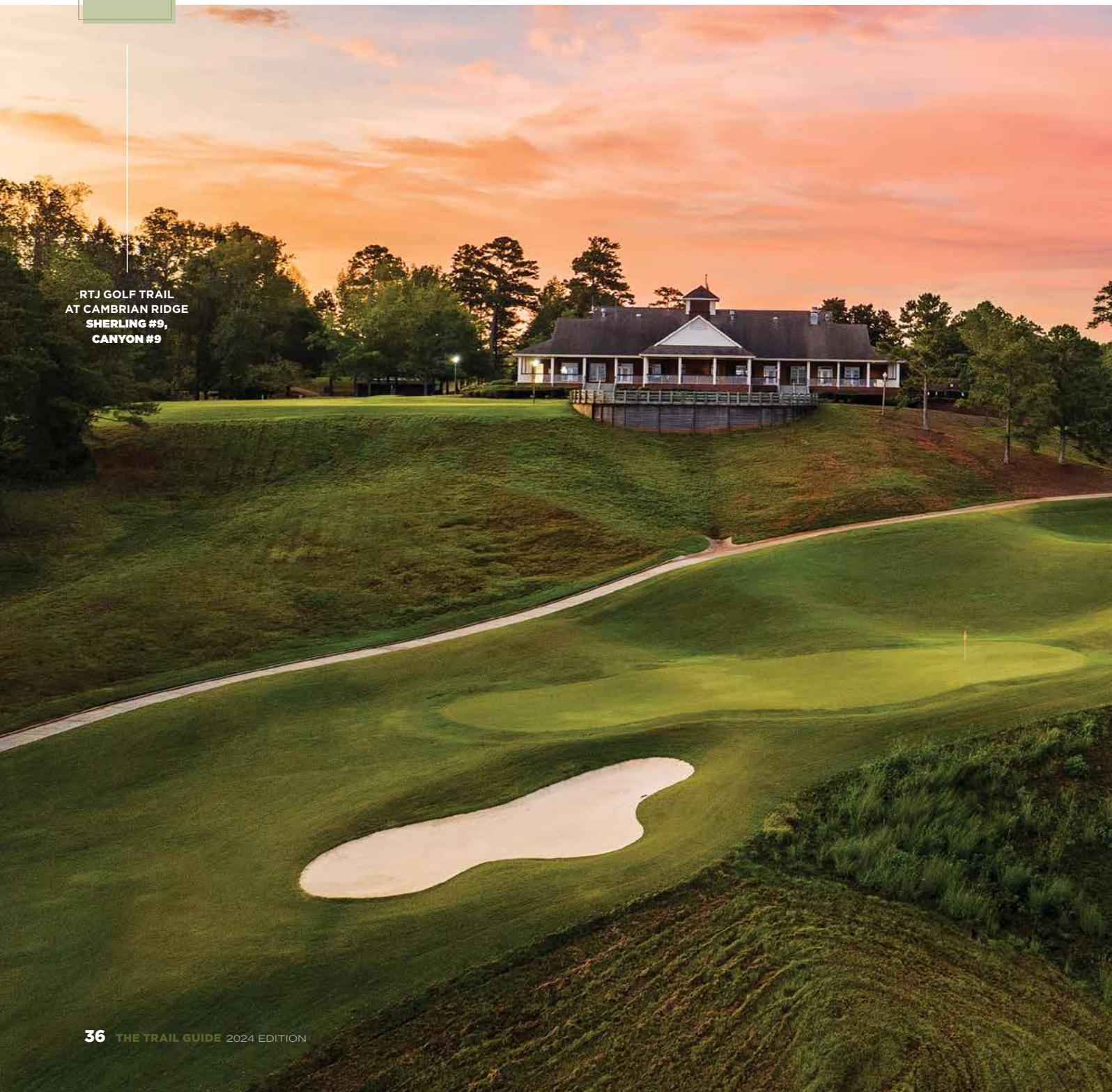
27
holes

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

CAMBRIAN RIDGE

facebook.com/rtjcambridgeridge | **334.382.9787**

RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT CAMBRIAN RIDGE
SHERLING #9,
CANYON #9



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.





RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT CAPITOL HILL
JUDGE #16

Opened
1999

3
course

54
holes

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

CAPITOL HILL

facebook.com/rtjcapitolhill | **334.285.1114**

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 while 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 magnitude of this facility 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.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT GRAND NATIONAL
LINKS #9

Opened
1992

3
courses

54
holes

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

GRAND NATIONAL

facebook.com/rtjgrandnational | **334.749.9042**

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 DI 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.

Opened
1992

3
courses

54
holes

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT HAMPTON COVE | 450 OLD HWY 41 SOUTH | OWENS CROSS ROADS, AL | 35763

HAMPTON COVE

facebook.com/rtjhamptoncove | 256.551.1818

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.

RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT HAMPTON COVE
HIGHLANDS #5



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.





RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT HIGHLAND OAKS
HIGHLANDS #5

Opened
1993

4
courses

36
holes

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

HIGHLAND OAKS

facebook.com/rtjhighlandoaks | **334.712.2820**

Located in the southeast corner of Alabama, Highland Oaks offers three 9-hole championship courses as well as a 9-hole Short Course. 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 regrassing 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.

Opened
1947

2
courses

36
holes

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

THE LAKEWOOD CLUB

facebook.com/rtlakewood | **251.990.6312**

The Lakewood Club's Dogwood and Azalea Courses at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa reflect the historic nature of the hotel property itself. The original 18 holes were built in 1947 by legendary golf course architect Perry Maxwell.

THE
LAKEWOOD CLUB
DOGWOOD #10

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 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.





RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT MAGNOLIA GROVE
SHORT COURSE #1

Opened
1992

3
courses

54
holes

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

MAGNOLIA GROVE

facebook.com/rtmagnoliagroove | 251.645.0075

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.

Opened
1992

3
courses

45
holes

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

OXMOOR VALLEY

facebook.com/rtjoxmoorvalley | **205.942.1177**

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.

RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT OXMOOR VALLEY
RIDGE #18

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 TifEagle 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 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.





RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT ROSS BRIDGE
ROSS BRIDGE #1

Opened
2005

1
course

18
holes

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

ROSS BRIDGE

facebook.com/rtjrossbridge | **205.949.3085**

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.

Recently renovated in 2023, the course features new TifEagle UltraDwarf Bermuda grass greens, newly constructed bunkers, and several architectural changes that improve overall playability and accessibility. The par-3 14th hole features a new ribbon bunker atop the greenside retaining wall and will challenge the scenic 18th hole for signature hole recognition.

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.

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

SILVER LAKES

facebook.com/rtjsilverlakes | 256.892.3268

Opened
1993

4
courses

36
holes

RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT SILVER LAKES

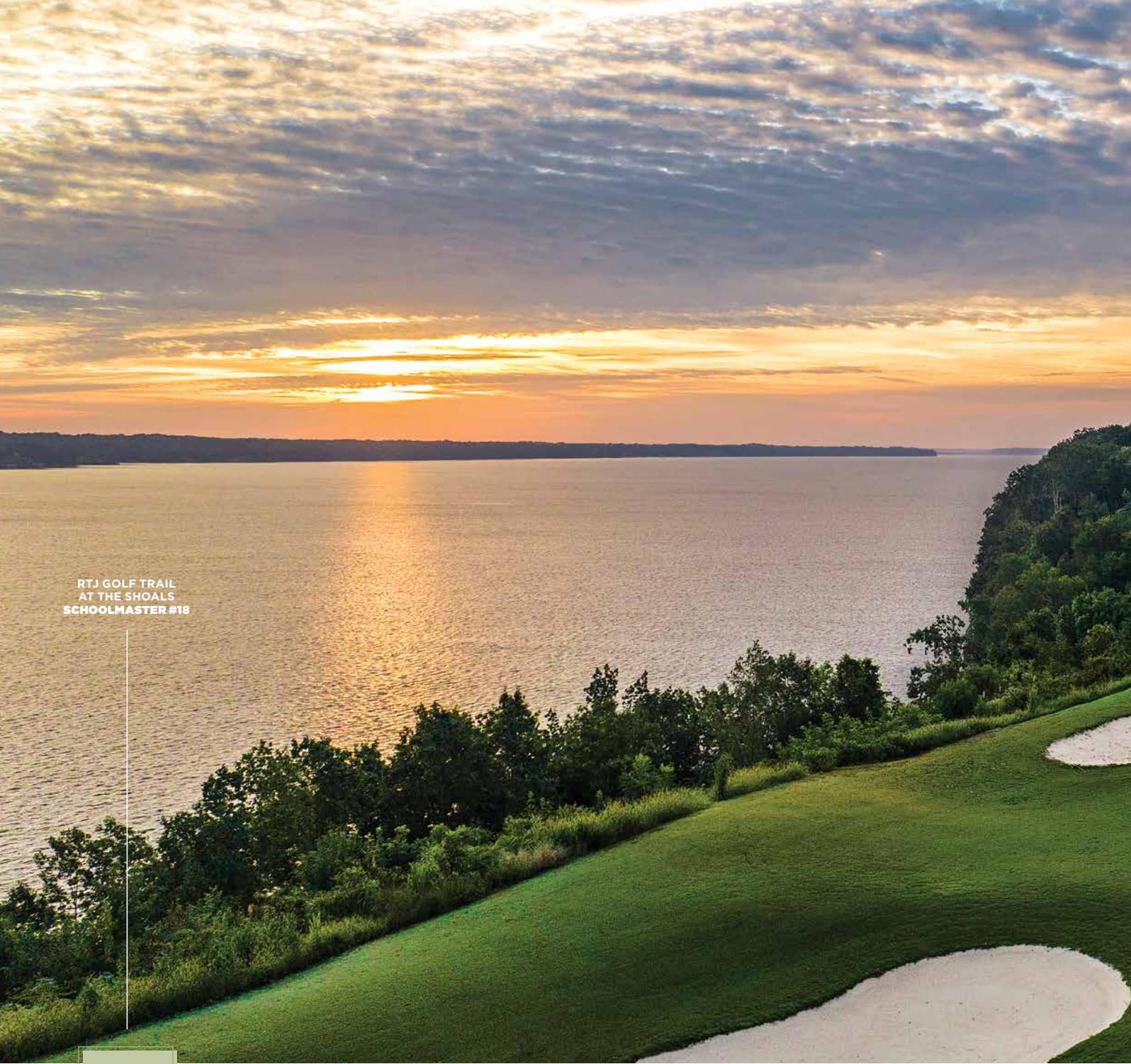
Relax in the beauty of Northeast Alabama's stunning landscape. Surrounded by the Appalachian foothills and Lee's Lake, Silver Lakes features the most unique and aptly named courses on the Trail, and all 36 greens boast beautiful and lightning-quick Champion Ultradwarf putting surfaces. The Heartbreaker, Backbreaker, Mindbreaker,

and Short Course provide a challenging and scenic variety of holes to play.

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 stunning vistas along a relaxing, yet sometimes demanding trip around Lee's Lake.





RTJ GOLF TRAIL
AT THE SHOALS
SCHOOLMASTER #18

Opened
2004

2
courses

36
holes

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

THE SHOALS

facebook.com/rtjtheshoals | **256.446.5111**

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, 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 **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.



ALL YOU NEED ARE
THREE CLUBS
& THREE FRIENDS

Play The Back Yard, where you can enjoy 9 holes and drinks with friends because we've done all the yard work. Yes, it's a golf course, but it's like nothing we've ever built on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. **#PlayTheBackYard**

The
BACK  **YARD**

RTJGOLF.COM/THEBACKYARD

Guardian keeps you *connected*
in your community and to a better financial
future – no matter where life takes you.



GUARDIAN
CREDIT UNION

MyGuardianCU.com | 334.244.9999



Michelob **ULTRA**

ENJOY LIKE A PRO

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF

ROBERT TRENT JONES
GOLF TRAIL



2.6 CARBS SUPERIOR LIGHT BEER 95 CALLS

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

© 2020 Anheuser-Busch, Michelob Ultra® Light Beer, St. Louis, MO KOI
95 calories, 2.6g carbs, 0.6g protein and 0.0g fat, per 12 oz.

