



Tee Time in the Wildwoods: Add Golf to Your Vacation Agenda

The Wildwoods, NJ – A day on the green is one of the most relaxing ways to spend a day at the Jersey Shore for both novice and skilled golfers. Golf courses can be found all across Cape May County – from Cape May National to B.L. England – and offer a variety of playing levels from beginner to scratch golfer. Area courses offer challenging, yet playable, holes and exquisite venues with tee times from early morning to dusk so golfers can easily fit their favorite pastime into a vacation or business schedule. While there are no golf courses on the island itself, several courses are just minutes away and situated close to the ocean or bay; so there's always a mild breeze, plenty of scenic beauty, and lush, well-kept greens and fairways.

With six public courses in Cape May County and even more in nearby counties, tee times are rarely a problem. Most area golf courses have special afternoon, weekday and "twilight" rates for those who want to hit the links after a day at the beach. Many clubs offer restaurants or grill rooms and pro shops.

Golf course developers and designers have realized the demand for the sport in the area and have discovered that the natural attributes found throughout the Jersey Cape are a perfect fit for unique and picturesque golf facilities.

Sand Barrens Golf Club, one of Cape May County's premier golf courses, is a par 72 course with multiple tee boxes on each hole make for an enjoyable round for every golfer. The course – 6,304 yards for men and 4,817 women – has a renowned 4th hole, with an elevated tee and two greens below, one 450 yards away, the other 429.

At 5,896 yards for men and 4,694 yards for women, the Avalon Golf Club, also a par 72, is one of the area's most popular and accessible courses, featuring eight lakes throughout the course and a driving range.

Shore Gate Golf Club, in the Ocean View section of Dennis Township, is an 18-hole course designed to be challenging, yet rewarding, for golfers of all skill levels. With laurels, oaks and towering pines framing each hole, Shore Gate's scenic beauty and exquisite design has placed it among the best golf courses in South Jersey.

At the southern end of the county, Cape May National on Route 9, is an 18-hole, par 71 course tucked into a wooded area with lakes, sand traps, grass bunkers, tree-lined fairways and undulating greens. Cape May National's 18th has been called "the finest closing hole in the mid-Atlantic region." The course is built around a 50-acre private bird sanctuary and teems with natural beauty set amid the area's expansive wetlands.

Another of Cape May County's newer courses, Cape May Par 3 Golf Course and Driving Range in Rio Grande, just off Route 47 (Delsea Drive), is just a few minutes from anywhere in the Wildwoods. This 18-hole links-style course is reasonably priced and offers experienced golfers a chance to hone their short games while giving novices an opportunity to learn the game without being frustrated by impossible holes.

Several private courses, many of which have reciprocity with private clubs that are members of the Philadelphia Golf Association, can also be found nearby. Wildwood Golf and Country Club is just minutes away from the northern entrance to the Wildwoods, and Stone Harbor Golf Club is a short drive north on Route 9.

Northern Cape May County boasts three public courses. The Pines at Clermont is a fun, nine-hole executive par 31 course that is 2,105 yards for men and 1,985 from the red tees. There are some par 4s, bunkers, water and traps. B.L. England Golf Course – just off Route 9 in Beesley's Point and a stone's throw away from the bridges over the Great Egg Harbor Bay – is a nine-hole, par 34 course set amid the trees with just enough water and sand to make the course interesting. For 18 holes, the course is 4,956 yards from the men's tees and 4,290 yards from the women's tees.

Whatever level of play, there is enough diversity in the layouts and designs of the golf courses in Cape May County to satisfy anyone who wants to make golf a part of their fun-filled vacation in the Wildwoods.

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