



Golf

Alabama Style & Alabama's Black Heritage are Mutually Inclusive

With the help of some of the world's greatest golf course architects, Alabama has emerged as the place to go for year-round, top-quality championship golf. And best of all, these public courses are affordable.

The now world-famous Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail offers 324 holes of championship golf at seven locations around the state. From Huntsville's Hampton Cove in the north to Mobile's Magnolia Grove in the south, from the snarly wiregrass of Dothan's Highland Oaks to the picturesque hills of Greenville's Cambrian Ridge, golfers can battle Jones' design skills.

Kiva Dunes, designed by Jerry Pate, is set along the coastal dunes line at Gulf Shores Plantation. It was named the best new course in Alabama and second-best in the U.S. by Golf Digest for 1995. As impressive as the Trail courses and those along the coast are, they only tell a fraction of the golf story in Alabama. Mobile alone has a half dozen quality public courses. Rock Creek, TimberCreek and Spring Hill are just a few local favorites.

Municipal courses throughout the state provide golfers the chance to play on well-kept, scenic courses designed to challenge any level of handicap. Sites such as Lagoon Park in Montgomery, Point Mallard in Decatur, and Goose Pond Colony in Scottsboro are just a few of the premier municipal layouts waiting to be attacked. Lagoon Park has often been ranked in the top 50

municipal courses in the U.S. by Golf Digest.

The world of professional golf has also recognized Alabama's move to golf prominence. The road to both the PGA and LPGA tours now travels through Alabama.

Whether you're on or off the golf course, Alabama has more than 300 historic sites that are testaments to our African-American heritage. History lessons are everywhere. One of the most impressive features of the Alabama State Capitol are the twin circular staircases which were engineered by Horace King, a former slave. Folk arts and traditions are rich sources of information about our culture. Here is history at its liveliest in sacred harp singing, gandy dancing, and the nationally-known events like the W.C. Handy Festival, the Magic City Classic and Turkey Day Classic football games, National Sweet Potato Festival and Down Home Blues Festival.

It's impossible to cover all the points of special interest to African-American travelers. I strongly suggest that you call 1-800-ALABAMA for a free copy of the informative travel guide titled Alabama's Black Heritage.

(Information and photographs courtesy of the Alabama Bureau of Tourism & Travel)