



adirondacks, usa

Play Through New York's Adirondack Mountains - 10 Affordable Public Golf Courses

The Adirondack region of upstate New York boasts 32 golf courses, many with incredible scenery and historical significance while providing incredible value. Legendary course architects such as Donald Ross, Seymour Dunn, Alexander Findley, Alister MacKenzie, Thomas Winton, and Augustus G. Paine each made contributions to many of these Adirondack courses, offering players a link to golf history. In this collection, you'll find ten of the most affordable courses in the Adirondacks, all of which offer greens fees of less than \$100.

Golf in the Adirondacks - history

The Adirondack Mountains boast a treasure trove of historic golf courses, many of which have a legacy dating back over a century. Golf was introduced to the U.S. in the late 1800s coinciding with the rise of grand hotels and great camps in the Adirondacks as the region became a vacation spot for the elite. These opulent establishments offered a plethora of outdoor activities with golf taking center stage. By the turn of the century, many of the golf courses in the United States were located in the Adirondacks. Donald Ross, Seymour Dunn, Alexander Findley, Alister MacKenzie, Thomas Winton and Augustus G. Paine made their mark in the region as notable architects of these courses.

During the 1920s, many courses were redesigned and enlarged to 18 holes, with elaborate clubhouses constructed. As the Great Depression and World War II cast a shadow over the region, it led to the closure of numerous hotels and the stagnation of golfing endeavors. By the 1950's many of the historic courses became a distant memory, as had the magnificent resorts. However, a few of these historic golf courses are still in existence, offering an affordable opportunity for visitors. The posted rate does not include twilight or resident rates; golfers can take advantage of these rates for an even better value.

1. Schroon Lake Golf Course

- Year Opened: 1917
- Holes: 9
- Par: 72
- Architect: Seymour Dunn, Donald Ross
- Greens Fees: \$16-22

Schroon Lake has witnessed the evolution of its golf courses, with three notable iterations tracing back to the early 1900s. The original 9-hole layout, crafted by renowned Adirondack golf course architect Seymour Dunn, graced the shores of Schroon Lake. Today, the current 9-hole Schroon Lake Municipal Golf Course is rumored to be a Donald Ross creation dating back to 1917.

2. **Tupper Lake Golf Club**

Year Opened: 1932

Holes: 18

Par: 71

Architect: Donald Ross

Greens Fees: \$18-45

One of the Adirondacks' most challenging courses, the Tupper Lake Country Club, was built in 1932 by course architect Donald Ross. The front nine runs across a mountainside, offering challenging sidehill lies. The back nine plays downhill and then back up the mountain, demanding precision as players aim for its well-protected greens. The Tupper Lake Open, played for over 70 years, was once won by well-known professional Lee Elder, the first Black player to play in The Masters Golf Tournament.

3. **Lake Pleasant Golf Course**

Year Opened: 1922

Holes: 9

Par: 35

Architect: Donald Ross

Greens Fees: \$20

Golf architect Donald Ross designed the Lake Pleasant Golf Club in 1922. It's part of the Hotel Morley Complex, now known as the Hamilton County Adirondack Club at Lake Pleasant. The first tee shot of this 9-hole, par 35 layout is most appealing, hitting downhill into the course towards the West Canada Lake Wilderness area and Sacandaga Lake.

4. **Westport Country Club**

Year Opened: 1898

Holes: 18

Par: 72

Architect: Thomas Winton

Greens Fees: \$20-45

The Westport Country Club was originally built in 1898 as a 6-hole course; later re-designed and expanded in 1928 to 18 holes by Thomas Winton. Its restaurant, aptly named Winton's 1898 Tavern, pays homage to the architect. The country club's history is also showcased through its logo depicting a sheep, to commemorate Greenskeeper Thomas Lee's flock of sheep, used to keep the grass closely cropped. Golfers who play Westport will likely get a kick out of this "old school" way of keeping up the course, as it continues to employ sheep to maintain the grounds and the tradition.

5. **Cobble Hill Golf Course**

Year Opened: 1896

Holes: 9

Par: 35

Architect: Seymour Dunn

Greens Fees: \$15-20

Cobble Hill is one of the oldest courses in the Adirondacks. Located in Elizabethtown, the 9-hole layout weaves through enormous white pines and the beautiful surrounding mountains of "Pleasant Valley." In the late 1890s, Elizabethtown was a bustling summer resort community and Cobble Hill Golf Course became a centerpiece of the town. Today, the course welcomes golfers who would enjoy a quick game on an historic course, in a charming village, adjacent to the Giant Mountain Wilderness Area.

6. Willsboro Golf Course

Year Opened: 1914

Holes: 9

Par: 35

Architect: Augustus G. Paine

Greens Fees: \$24-38

Willsboro Golf Course was built in 1914 by Augustus G. Paine. It is a classic Adirondack 9-hole course that winds its way through the hardwood forest offering challenging tee shots and demanding precise approaches to smaller greens. The nearby Bouquet River empties into Lake Champlain, a central piece of the town's history, moving various mining materials including highly valued blue limestone used in the foundation of the New York state capitol building and the Brooklyn Bridge.

7. Ticonderoga Golf Club

Year Opened: 1926, founded in 1925

Holes: 18

Par: 71

Architect: Seymour Dunn

Greens Fees: \$35-90

Ticonderoga Golf Club was constructed in 1926 as a 9-hole course, expanding to 18 holes in 1932 by Adirondack golf course architect Seymour Dunn. The course presents a unique challenge, as Trout Brook meanders throughout the course, coming into play on seven of the eighteen holes; players also enjoy the scenic mountains that envelop the course. The land on which the course is built played a role during the French and Indian War in a battle known as the "Snowshoe Battle," which is commemorated by a plaque on the 3rd hole. The community of Ticonderoga is also connected to the history of golf through scorekeeping - the Ticonderoga pencil was developed in 1815 when a local entrepreneur filed a patent for the lead pencil after ore was discovered on nearby Lead Mountain.

8. Lake Placid Club - \$35-95

The Lake Placid Club is unique in that it comprises three separate courses. Golfers can play all three, for a 45-hole experience or they may choose to play them individually.

- Mountains Course - The Mountain Course was built in 1910 by Alexander Finley, a native of Scotland and one of the early golf pioneers. The course was re-designed in 1931 by world-famous golf course architect Alister MacKenzie, who went on to build Augusta National Golf Club, home of The Masters.
- Links Course - The Links Course was designed in 1909 by the master Scottish golf instructor and club maker, Seymour Dunn. Additionally, the 18-hole course was designed in Scottish Links style, the oldest style of golf course.

- Pristine 9 - Built in 1910 by Alexander Finley, the Pristine 9 is located on the same plot of land as the Mountain Course and offers many of the same views of the Lake Placid area.

9. **Saranac Inn Golf and Country Club**

Year Opened: 1901

Holes: 18

Par: 72

Architect: Seymour Dunn

Greens Fees: \$40-80

Saranac Inn, located on Upper Saranac Lake, is one of the oldest resorts in the Adirondack Park hosting luminaries including United States Presidents Grover Cleveland and Chester Arthur. Built by Golf Architect Seymour Dunn, the current course was finished in 1910, known as Dunn's "masterpiece" in course design.

10. **Craigwood Golf Course**

Year Opened: 1925

Holes: 18

Par: 72

Architect: Seymour Dunn

Greens Fees: \$45-55

Formerly known as the Lake Placid Golf and Country Club, Craig Wood Golf Course is named in honor of Lake Placid's native son, who won both The Masters Tournament & US Open in 1941 and 21 other PGA Tour events over his hall-of-fame career. Built in 1925 by Seymour Dunn, this 6,554-yard 18-hole layout will test players, while marveling at the beautiful surroundings including a spectacular view of Whiteface Mountain.