

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL » 2025 EDITION

# TRAILGUIDE



ROBERT TRENT JONES  
GOLF TRAIL



THERE ARE  
*Feelings*

THAT ARE ONLY  
EXPERIENCED BY LOOKING  
BACK AT THE PAST.



Here, you can take a step back in time to feel more present with the past. Experience a deeper connection to history as you walk the same paths walked long ago.

Sweet Home  
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U.S.S. Alabama  
Battleship Memorial Park

# OFF THE TRAIL

with **LEE SENTELL** | DIRECTOR | ALABAMA TOURISM DEPARTMENT



As Director of the Alabama Tourism Department for the past 22 years, I am always proud to discuss one of Alabama's biggest tourism success stories.

The legendary Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is world famous. Golfers travel from all over the world to play these exceptional courses. The Trail offers 450 holes on 11 sites, ranging from the tip of the Appalachians to the shores of Mobile Bay. Laced throughout the Trail are eight luxurious Marriott and Renaissance hotels, all designed to give golfers and other luxury seekers a four-star experience.

A perhaps equally interesting story is how this world-class but affordable golf experience came into being.

Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, had a vision in the late 1980s that could strengthen the public employees' and teachers' pension funds through tourism, while strengthening the state's economy at the same time.

He intended to build a series of challenging public golf complexes to draw golfers from northern and southern states, along with their money, to Alabama throughout the year.

Dr. Bronner brought in the legendary golf course architect, Robert Trent Jones Sr., who came out of semi-retirement for the massive project. When he toured Alabama by helicopter, boat, and various other means, Jones Sr. and Bronner picked out some of the most exquisite sites ever imagined for a golf course. And this from a legendary designer who had already designed more than 500 of the world's greatest golf venues.

The rest, as they say, is history.

In 1996, Bronner knew he needed a way to promote the Trail to the rest of the U.S. So the RSA formed and funded Raycom Media, a collection of 65 television stations reaching about 11 percent of U.S. households, airing millions of dollars in TV commercials promoting the Trail and other Alabama attractions, including the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Alabama Gulf Coast, civil rights destinations, Black Belt Adventures, and more.

The marketing relationship continued when Raycom was sold to Gray Television, which includes 113 TV stations, reaching 36 percent of U.S. households.

Dr. Bronner's vision worked in a big way. Alabama's image changed from a pass through state to a must visit destination. Financially, no one can argue the success of the numbers. In 1993, Alabama tourism brought in \$1.8 billion. This year in 2024 Tourism will reach \$24.2 billion.

So grab your clubs, your family, or your buddies and head for Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Come see why we call it "Sweet Home Alabama."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Sentell".

Lee Sentell, Director  
Alabama Tourism Department

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RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT HAMPTON COVE  
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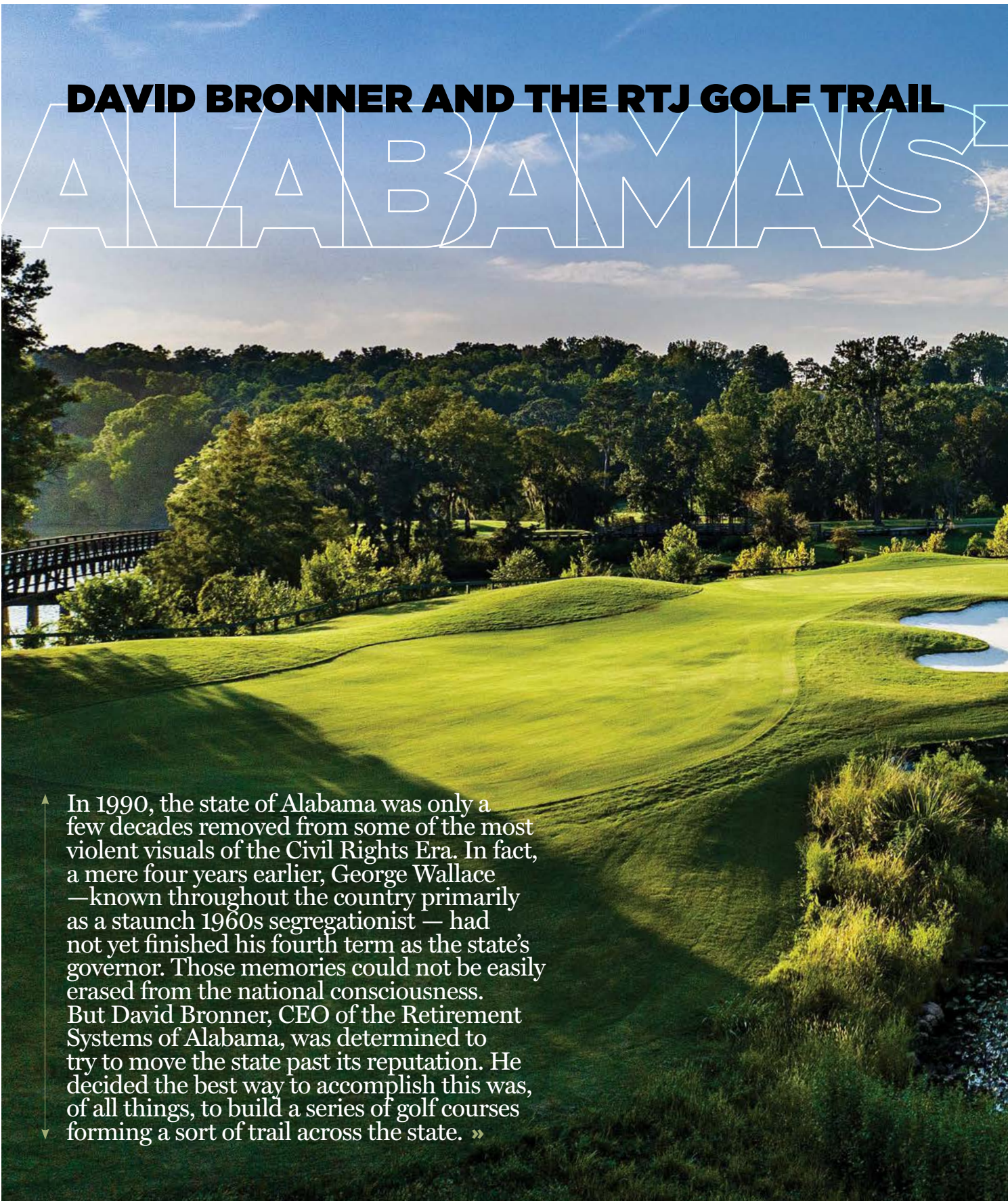
Ross Bridge No. 14  
Cover photo by Jonathan Hoomes

Hotel & Resort photography by  
Art Meripol and Lauren Rubenstein

Golf landscape photography by  
Jonathan Hoomes

# DAVID BRONNER AND THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL

# ALABAMA'S



↑ In 1990, the state of Alabama was only a few decades removed from some of the most violent visuals of the Civil Rights Era. In fact, a mere four years earlier, George Wallace —known throughout the country primarily as a staunch 1960s segregationist — had not yet finished his fourth term as the state’s governor. Those memories could not be easily erased from the national consciousness. But David Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, was determined to try to move the state past its reputation. He decided the best way to accomplish this was, of all things, to build a series of golf courses forming a sort of trail across the state. » ↓

# TRAILBLAZER

by CARY ESTES



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT CAPITOL HILL  
JUDGE #16



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT GRAND NATIONAL  
SHORT COURSE #16

Nearly 35 years later, Bronner's vision has become one of the leading tourist attractions in Alabama. A total of approximately 750,000 rounds of golf are played at the 11 RTJ sites each year, and the Alabama Tourism Department has estimated that about half those rounds are by golfers who live outside the state.

"When we started the project, George Wallace was all some people knew about Alabama," Bronner says. "RTJ gave us the

opportunity to talk about something else. I wanted to see if we could change the world's impression of Alabama through the use of a sport. I wanted something that would give us a constant flow of a positive image."

At first, Bronner simply was trying to come up with a way to effectively diversify the assets of the RSA pension fund. In the process, he decided he also wanted to help change the conversation away from Alabama's controversial past and instead

focus on the state's attributes, namely as an outdoor recreation location for tourists and a business-friendly environment for industry.

"Back then, when recruiters in Alabama were looking to bring in industry, businesses still had visions of fire hoses and police dogs," says former Jacksonville State University Professor Mark Fagan, whose book *"The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Its History and Economic Impact"* was published in 2016 and updated and re-released this year. "He wanted a quality-of-life attraction for





industries and their employees, and a tourism attraction to get people to stop here and spend money instead of just passing through on the way to Florida or New Orleans.”

Once the idea was formed, Bronner needed places to build the courses, as well as somebody within the industry to create them. He says he chose the approximate locations simply by sticking pins in a wall map near the cities he thought should be represented on the Trail. “I didn’t know



“When we started the project, George Wallace was all some people knew about Alabama”  
*Bronner says.*

the exact site,” Bronner says. “I just knew the areas I wanted to be in.”

Finding a golf course architect willing to take on such an enormous project was a bit more challenging, and Bronner admits that a few people turned him down. But he found a willing partner in Robert Trent Jones, a British-born designer who had worked on more than 500 courses in 35 countries throughout his career.

“If I was going to establish an animal like this in Alabama,” Bronner says of the Trail concept, “then I needed somebody with credibility in the world of golf. Bobby had just finished a project in Florida. I went and looked at it and said, ‘Let’s try to get him.’ What did we have to lose?”

Jones accepted, though he was 84 years old at the time and unable to handle some



of the on-site work involved in creating even a single golf course, let alone seven at one time. So, he enlisted a younger course architect, Roger Rulewich, for assistance. Then, as Fagan puts it, Bronner gave the duo “a canvas so they could do their artistry.”

In 2012, during an event at the RTJ Oxmoor Valley site in Birmingham marking the 20th anniversary of the Trail’s opening, Rulewich recounted how the project formulated quickly, and progressed into a rare opportunity for elaborate creativity from the course designers.

“I was over in Ireland at the time,” Rulewich said, “and I get a call from Bobby and he says, ‘There’s something going on in Alabama, I think you’d better get there.’ So, I came directly here, met Bobby, and he took me out to this very site.



“The way we worked with this project was probably what every golf course architect would like to do but never gets a chance to. We scratched out a road for these golf courses, then we walked them, staked them, adjusted them, changed them. Bobby and I probably did 99 percent of all the markings to decide where these holes were going to go, and then it was free-form from there.

“We weren’t working off the detail and the planning that we would normally see on a golf course. We did what we wanted to do, and we adjusted everything to what we thought was the way it should be done. We sort of did this by the seat of our pants. We built holes that we wanted to build. We built ponds, dams. Whatever hazards we wanted were available to us.”

And all this happened at a rapid pace. The first four courses opened in 1992, a mere two years after Bronner initially contacted Jones, and three more followed in 1993. The Trail was so expansive and different that it gained national and even global attention. It also became the hot property to have in Alabama. “As word started getting out how popular they were,” Fagan says, “communities around the state wanted one of these golf courses.”

So, courses were added in four more locations: Prattville, Point Clear (at the Grand Hotel), Muscle Shoals and Hoover. But expansion lost steam after Jones passed away in 2000. Still, by that time, the RTJ Golf Trail was firmly established as one of Alabama’s premier attractions.

“It can be very difficult to do things that take longer than a week or two to

develop,” Bronner says. “When you elect politicians, you want them to get rid of 20 years of errors in an hour and a half, but it can’t be done. You have to go step-by-step.

“We’re just part of the big puzzle. You need politicians, mayors, economic development people. But you also have to have something to sell to industry and tourism to get them to come here. When Mercedes and the other automotive companies started coming here (in the 1990s), I saw the impact the Trail could have. I think it has made a positive difference in Alabama.”

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*Cary Estes is a Birmingham-based freelance contributor to Business Alabama. This article appears in the August 2024 issue of Business Alabama.*



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT OXMOOR VALLEY  
VALLEY #1



# ALABAMA'S GAME-CHANGING GOLF

By JOSEPH OBERLE

MORE THAN THREE DECADES AFTER THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL OPENED TO BURNISH THE STATE'S REPUTATION, GOLF TOURISM FLOURISHES IN "SWEET HOME ALABAMA."





**Change in golf, like life, does not always come easy.** For example, changing a golf swing takes time, effort and the right plan. But changing a public perception requires even more-creativity, commitment, and some guts. In an attempt to augment its tourism dollars in the early 1990s, Alabama state tourism bureau officials looked to golf to draw more out-of-state visitors, and now golf travelers from all over the world reap the benefits.

The effort was born out of racial controversy. Public backlash arose surrounding the 1990 PGA Championship at Shoal Creek Golf and Country Club in Birmingham due to the club's exclusionary membership policies, and the tournament was nearly moved. In the aftermath, the state made a bold commitment to constructing the Robert Trent Jones (RTJ) Golf Trail—an unprecedented effort to build numerous public courses simultaneously throughout the state—and now Alabama is a coveted golf destination for its courses on and off the Trail.

### **DIGGING IT OUT OF THE DIRT**

Although the RTJ Golf Trail traverses the length and breadth of Alabama, its origin has roots in Minnesota. Dr. David G. Bronner (who grew up in Austin, Minnesota, and graduated from then-Mankato State University) has been CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama for 50 years, and in 1990 was looking for a way to diversify the investment of state retirement funds and help rehabilitate the state's image through golf. He became motivated by the famous "Field of Dreams" quote, "if you build it [they] will come," and sought out a big-name course architect to build his "links of dreams."

Bronner's idea of building numerous public courses at the same time was laughed at by some architects—and turned down by both Arnold Palmer's and Jack Nicklaus' design firms—as he crisscrossed the state searching for suitable sites and acquiring land. But Robert Trent Jones, Sr., nearing the end of his career, signed on to the project, which opened with seven golf facilities in 1992. With Jones in failing health, his longtime associate Roger Rulewich did a lot of the design on the fly, formulating the holes to what the landforms offered and creating a vast array of unique golf.

"Most of it was site design. We would drive from site to site, designing holes as we went," Rulewich said in *The Trail Guide 25*, a quarter century anniversary publication. "It might sound crazy, but it was the greatest way in the world to work. It was very free-form."

Between 1992 and 1993, all 11 Trail sites opened their doors. Since that time, numerous other non-Trail, high-end public

courses have sprung up across Alabama to take advantage of all the visitors. Now in its 31st year, the Trail courses host 750,000 rounds per year, with 50% of them played by golfers from outside the state.

"All of these people, many of them golfers, were driving like hell through Alabama, mostly going to Florida," Bronner told the anniversary publication. "Our mission was to divert them. So far, I think, we've done pretty well."

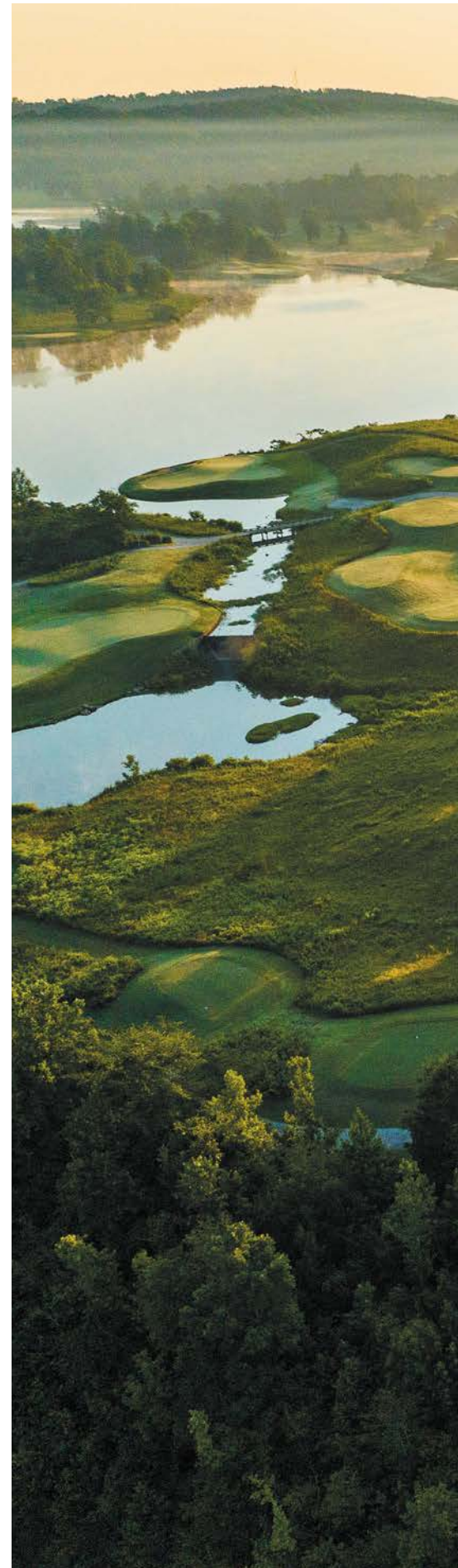
### **TRAIL MIX**

The RTJ concept was unique for its time (inspiring other such "trails" in its wake), yet executed brilliantly. The Trail attracts significant tourism beyond golf and has helped change the state's image to one of welcoming hospitality. The Trail courses spread from the northern border of the state to the southern Gulf Coast, averaging a 1.5-to 2-hour drive time between locations, and typical green fees (including cart) are \$69 (\$54 during the summer and winter months). So, the Trail won't empty your wallet and will make 36 holes per day split between two different locations an achievable goal.

Alabama may surprise the uninitiated with its topography as verdant valleys, rolling hills and deep woods bracket the byways from the north to the beautiful and shimmering Gulf Coast. An RTJ Golf Trail tour can begin in any region in the state, and ours started at the northernmost course and headed clockwise southeastward. Here's a sampling of what we found on the Trail.

### **THE SHOALS (OPENED 2004)**

Located by the wide and beautiful Tennessee River, The Shoals (located







RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT HAMPTON COVE  
HIGHLANDS #5



in Florence), with its two impressive championship tracks—Fighting Joe and the Schoolmaster—is the perfect opener to RTJ golf. Fighting Joe tops out at 8,092 yards and offers expansive, manicured fairways and large, true-rolling bentgrass greens to soften the challenge. It's a long-hitters course (all of 78.6/146 slope rating from the tips) with everything set out in front of the golfer on six sets of tees; the challenge is choosing the right length for reaching your target to score.

Meanwhile, the Schoolmaster may be a bit shorter in length (7,921 yards), but it's narrower with more demanding approaches and certainly ratchets up the challenge (77.6/148 slope rating). The views along the way can be breathtaking with a beautiful waterfall guarding the second green and a captivating view of the Tennessee River from the bluffs on No. 18.

Likewise, the expansive vista near the 18th green on Fighting Joe—called by one local with a vested interest “the best view on the RTJ Trail”—should not be missed. It is hard to argue with him as the wide Tennessee River viewed from the clubhouse balcony rolls effortlessly by and belies the frenetic challenge found just yards away.

### **HAMPTON COVE (1992)**

One of the original seven RTJ sites, Hampton Cove now features 54 holes across three courses meandering through the low and highlands of the area. Each of the three courses has its own distinct personality. The Highlands (7,428 yards; 76.2/143), boasting vistas on par with the Shoals', traverses the rolling terrain through long, waving grasses and bentgrass greens. The picturesque old mule barn that perfectly frames the fifth hole will likely end up in a frame on your mantle for a quick mental trip back to the Trail.

The River course snakes through the lowlands of former soybean fields of the Flint River flood plains. Water is a theme, as it comes into play on 16 holes of this fun and playable track. It is known as the only RTJ course in the world designed without a bunker, but with all the water (threatening occasionally on both sides of the fairway), a little sand might be a welcome relief. Hit it straight, and the River course (7,668 yards; 77.5/140) can be managed.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT GRAND NATIONAL  
LAKE #15

The Short Course (3,635 yards; par 54) is “links-like and open” and has water in play on 11 of 18 holes. It features four sets of tees, and with the forward Teal tees set at 1,861 yards, players of all skill levels can enjoy golfing at Hampton Cove.

### **SILVER LAKES (1993)**

Silver Lakes is something to behold. It has three different regulation nine-hole courses, plus the Short Course (1,994 yards; par 27) around Lee's Lake. With huge elevation changes and spectacular views, every hole offers a new and exciting challenge. For this golfer who was experiencing back spasms, Backbreaker (3,849 yards) was no place to get healthy. And you better come to the other two nines—Mindbreaker (3,814 yards) and Heartbreaker (3,642 yards)—with your head and heart intact.

Set in the Appalachian foothills, Silver Lakes will stick with you long after your final putt. The nines are diverse in topography—the wide fairways and tough greens of Backbreaker, significant elevation changes and dramatic lake views of Heartbreaker and the sanctuary-like wooded nine of Mindbreaker with its shorter holes punctuated by trees and wetlands. According to the starter at Backbreaker, “Silver Lakes is the best course on the Trail!” So, pick your “trail” (Backbreaker/Mindbreaker back tees: 76.2/147; Mindbreaker/Heartbreaker: 75.9/146; Heartbreaker/Backbreaker: 76.7/142), and enjoy the hike.

### **GRAND NATIONAL (1992)**

There are plenty of challenges to that Silver Lakes “best course” claim, and Grand National, voted the No. 1 public golf facility in the country by *GolfWorld* readers, has to be in the running. In fact, RTJ, upon first setting eyes on the area, said it was the single greatest natural site for building a golf course he had ever seen. Jones did not fail in bringing the golf out of it. Grand National is home to three courses totaling 54 holes. The Links course (7,404 yards; 75.2/142) is a course with big shoulders. Elevated tees leading to large, raised undulating greens guarded by expansive, facing bunker complexes make the views from the tees and fairways both exciting and intimidating.

The entire Grand National facility is built along the 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee, and the Lake course (7,314 yards; 73.9/132), perhaps, benefits the most. With 12 holes hugging the lake shore it well-earns its moniker. Known for its four par 3 holes, the jewel among them is the 230-yard 15th with a memorable island green. And don't overlook the Short Course (3,126 yards; par 54), with more than half its beguiling par 3s touching the lake.

Grand National is grand indeed, and its location near the Georgia border makes for a nice trip-ender before the 90-minute drive to the Atlanta airport hub. Get used to the drive—with all these great courses, you will be back to tour another leg of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail for more Alabama golf. It's a game-changer.



**NEW(s)**

# ON THE TRAIL

**Welcome to The Back Yard**, where you can enjoy fun, games, camaraderie, and refreshments with friends and family because we've done all the Yard work. Enjoy a drink while sitting around the fire pit in the rocking chairs overlooking the first tee. Yes, it's a golf course, but nothing like anything we've ever built in over 30 years on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

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. Designed as a walking only golf course with no water hazards and just a handful of bunkers, 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**.

THE BACK YARD IS THE PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT CORPORATE EVENT. RENT THE COURSE FOR YOUR TEAM AND BUILD CAMARADERIE IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING.



Finish your round and grab a bite at our new food truck, **The Shed**. Enjoy your meal around the fire pit, sipping your favorite drink while discussing the one that got away.



# POSITIVE+ FEEDBACK

*The Trail hosts golfers from all over the world, and it is always our goal to make memorable experiences for our guests. Of course, when we get it right, we like to hear about it. So when we received the kind of positive feedback we got from these Trail guests, we felt the need to share.*

## HURRICANE HAVEN

As I am sure that you are aware, hurricanes Helene and Milton recently wreaked devastation on the west coast of Florida. My residence is north of the city of Tampa, and our property came through the storms unscathed. Ahead of Milton, my wife and I decided to evacuate to Dothan. One of the factors in the evacuation location was that Dothan has an RTJ facility. For the past three years, I have accompanied a group of friends who have been visiting RTJ facilities for over 15 years, and I thought that having golf as a distraction would be beneficial in our situation.

Due to the short notice of the evacuation, we were unable to book a package through your packages office. However, upon arrival at Highland Oaks, Director of Golf Operations, Chris Redmon and his staff (namely Cole and Maya) were very accommodating with rates and hospitality. And it wasn't just us. We met several other evacuees from the west coast of Florida who said that they had been receiving the same red-carpet treatment from the staff at Highland Oaks during their evacuation.

Not only was the staff fantastic with their accommodation and hospitality, but they also had a genuine concern for all of us. When we entered the pro shop on the day after the storm, the first two questions were, "How are you?" and "How is your house?" This show of genuine concern was amazing. It wasn't just Chris. It even went down to the cart runners (Alex & Monte).

Given this show of outstanding service and kindness to the people who evacuated for the storm, I would like to ask that you recognize your outstanding staff at Highland Oaks. We are also planning to make a return trip to Highland Oaks in April, and hopefully bring at least two foursomes for a weekend golf trip as a show of appreciation to RTJ Golf and Highland Oaks. **Greg Strum**

## SALUTE TO SILVER LAKES

My wife and I have been regularly playing the Trail for 19 years. I am a 100% disabled Marine Corps veteran. My wife has endured two hip replacements in the past, and both knees replaced this year. As a result, she hasn't been able to play for the past two years. She finally got to try and play a round this past Tuesday, October 1st.

Jack at the front desk at Silver Lakes and Tommy the course marshal went absolutely out of their way to be accommodating to her. Tommy checked on her during his rounds and was most encouraging her first time back. Silver Lakes has always been known for the friendliest staff on the Trail. It's nice to see that's still the standard. **Reese & Leslie Hardin**



## FROM OUR (FACEBOOK) FRIENDS

The Trail is fantastic and coming to play it from Miami led to my falling in love with Alabama and now owning a home there. I still LOVE the Trail and get out as often as I can. This was a bold idea, and it certainly had paid off.

I recall one time I was playing up in Florence, and the parking lot was sort of empty. All of a sudden, two HUGE buses pulled up and out stepped about 70 golfers all the way from Sweden who were traveling the Trail. They all loved it and thought it was an amazing value. That day I realized that RTJ was on to something.

**Mario Artecona**

The Trail is a must play... every facility, every hole! It's tough to do in one trip so go ahead and schedule multiple trips to Alabama. You won't regret it, and you'll enjoy traveling through the diverse topography throughout the state.

**David Taylor,**

## VOICE FROM THE PAST

This is **Joe Taylor** from Overton Texas, who played the Trail at least once per year from 2001-2022. Many of my "people" continue to play. I brought a total of 90 golfers with me over the years, and am at least partially responsible for 50 or so more who didn't travel with me.

I made an ad that played all over the country about 2013 and was featured in a full-page ad in the Trail Guide the following year. What wonderful experiences I had!!

I still play a lot but can't jump in the car and go 500-600 miles one way. Just a final word of thanks and encouragement for the best courses in the world for the price!





# Hospitality with heart & soul

*The* Resort Collection on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail brings a rare combination of unparalleled ambiance and unmatched locations to Alabama. Our hotels and resorts are perfect for travelers attuned to refined comfort and sophistication, graciously welcoming guests with a blend of history and hospitality. From balconies overlooking the Tennessee River to a cannon firing daily into Mobile Bay, each of our properties transform experiences into traditions and inspire guests and associates to return. Whether you are visiting for a meeting, special occasion, or to play the Trail, each of these hotels and resorts are ready for your arrival. »



**MARRIOTT SHOALS HOTEL & SPA**  
FLORENCE, AL

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\* *The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is undergoing an extensive refurbishment as the hotel transitions to Marriott's Renaissance Resort brand in 2025. Our entire team is excited to introduce the evolution of this hotel into the Renaissance Shoals Resort & Spa.*

Overlooking the Tennessee River and historic Wilson Dam in Florence, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa continues to be a leader for 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](http://rossbridgeresort.com)

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

Instagram: [@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.

Discover newly renovated amenities and indulge in an unforgettable experience. Ross Bridge offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot European spa and the resort has multiple restaurants, including Brock's, promising a tantalizing dining experience in a refreshed and inviting ambience. The lobby bar, JT's, hosts live music, custom cocktails, and an extensive wine list. The Clubhouse offers a variety of burgers, salads, sandwiches, 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. Dive into relaxation at the new serenity pool, complete with luxurious cabanas, plush seating, and personalized service. Whether you're soaking up the sun or savoring refreshing cocktails, Ross Bridge offers the perfect retreat for those seeking peace and sophistication.

**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.

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

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

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

Instagram: [@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.





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

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 f [facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel](https://www.facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel)  
 i [@remontgomeryhotel](https://www.instagram.com/remontgomeryhotel)

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.



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

» [marriottcapitolhill.com](https://www.marriottcapitolhill.com)  
 f [facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill](https://www.facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill)  
 i [@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 it was the host site for the Epson Tour’s Guardian Championship in September 2024.

**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.

## GRAND HOTEL GOLF RESORT & SPA, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION

POINT CLEAR, AL

» [grand1847.com](http://grand1847.com)

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

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

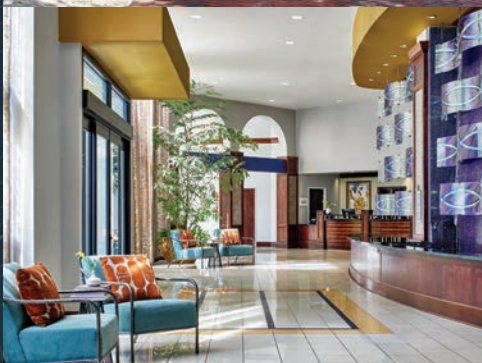
Since 1847, the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa has maintained a gracious tradition of Southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. In 2018, the Grand Hotel completed a transformation and joined the Autograph Collection Hotels, an upscale Marriott brand. Cited by *USA Today* as one of the top historic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

Grand's transformation blends the beloved resort's traditions with modern upgrades in 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 more than 41,000 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 offers a variety

of sports and outdoor activities for guests of all ages, including nine tennis courts, 11 pickleball courts, two championship croquet lawns, 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.



## 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 40,000 square feet of versatile meeting, banquet, and exhibit space. The 373 plush guest rooms offer spectacular views of Mobile Bay, and parades pass in front of the hotel during Mardi Gras. Dining options include Royal Street Market and Fathoms, featuring fresh, local favorites. Guests can

also enjoy 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, the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel reflects the nautical influences that surround it. At 5 p.m. each day a **ship horn** sounds to start happy hour. The National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico offers insights into the area's key industries and other historic attractions are nearby.



**THE BATTLE HOUSE RENAISSANCE  
MOBILE HOTEL & SPA**  
MOBILE, AL

» [renaissancebattlehouse.com](http://renaissancebattlehouse.com)  
f [facebook.com/battlehouse](https://www.facebook.com/battlehouse)  
i [@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. 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.





For those ready to embrace a golf resort lifestyle, two exceptional master-planned communities along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail stand out: National Village in Auburn-Opelika and The Colony at The Grand in Fairhope. Together, they offer an unparalleled 90 holes of world-class golf, complemented by 18 tennis courts, 15 pickleball courts, eight pools, and miles of scenic hiking and biking trails.

# Live where you play

## EXCLUSIVE HOMES & WORLD-CLASS GOLF - *at* RTJ'S PREMIERE COMMUNITIES -

Newly built, upscale homes are available in these award-winning communities, where residents enjoy high-end amenities year-round in lush, resort-like settings. Overlooking golf courses and serene lakes, both National Village and The Colony at The Grand are undergoing new phases of

development, offering a variety of modern homes with timeless architectural design.

Each of these communities embodies its own distinct style and atmosphere while also providing year-round access to world-class golf and luxurious amenities. At National Village, residents enjoy the beauty and

charm of Opelika's thriving downtown, just minutes away from the energy of Auburn University's SEC sports and vibrant campus culture. Meanwhile, The Colony at The Grand in Fairhope exudes a relaxed coastal vibe, with its natural surroundings enhancing the community's tranquil atmosphere. »





**EAGLE BEND:** The newest phase of Eagle Bend offers beautifully designed and award-winning homes. *Prices start from the mid-\$400s.*

**STONE LAKE:** This custom-home neighborhood features distinctive Craftsman-style designs, ranging from 2,486 to over 3,000 square feet, with *base prices starting in the \$700s.*

**THE YARDS:** Designed by Larry Garnett, The Yards is a gated pocket neighborhood of 21 two-bedroom cottages surrounding a shared green space. Residents enjoy easy access to resort amenities, with *homes starting in the mid-\$400s.*

**QUAIL HOLLOW:** Just opening, these spacious homesites offer serene, wooded backdrops and direct access to the scenic National Village trail, providing the perfect blend of nature and luxury.

**THE LINKS:** The Links is a boutique collection of seven home sites overlooking Hole 15 of the Links Course. Beautiful craftsman-style homes nestled within a gated enclave with porches overlooking the golf course, and some overlooking the lake, make everyday life a luxury resort vacation. **ONLY THREE LOTS REMAIN.**

## SMALL-TOWN CHARM MEETS AUBURN TRADITION IN A LUXURY RESORT SETTING

Nestled alongside RTJ Grand National, **National Village** is a 1,500-acre golf resort community featuring 54 holes of exceptional golf, including the scenic Lake Course bordering Lake Saugahatchee. Adjacent to the award-winning Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National, National Village is beloved by professional and amateur golfers alike.

With six distinct neighborhoods, more than 330 homes have already been sold in this 700-acre community. New developments include Eagle Bend, Stone Lake, The Yards, Quail Hollow, The Links, and National Village Row, all offering beautifully crafted homes with proximity to the resort's amenities, private fishing lakes, and over 10 miles of walking and biking trails.

The Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort & Spa at Grand National has been recognized multiple times by *Golf Digest* as one of the top golf resorts in the country, and its luxurious amenities—including a three-story spa, outdoor pool complex, and fitness center—are a hit with National Village residents. And with Auburn University, the Gogue Performing Arts Center, and Opelika's charming historic district just a short drive away, residents can also enjoy a rich calendar of athletic and cultural events.

*For more information, contact Gail Smith and Amy Sparks at 334.749.8165 or visit [nationalvillage.com](http://nationalvillage.com).*



**NATIONAL VILLAGE ROW:** This charming collection of cozy cottages at the gateway to the National Village community is planned for comfort and convenience. These intimate homes will offer a welcoming retreat just steps from everything this vibrant community has to offer. **COMING SOON!**

## DISCOVER GRAND TRADITIONS AMONG ANCIENT OAKS

**The Colony at The Grand**, near Mobile Bay, is home to some of the most stunning new homes in the area, set against the backdrop of small lakes and golf. From young families to retirees seeking a coastal retreat, the community offers homes designed for a range of lifestyles, many of which are *Southern Living* favorites. It's no wonder The Colony has been awarded Gold by the National Association of Home Builders over the years.

hospitality, with daily military salutes, cannon firings, and traditional afternoon tea in its elegant lobby. Culinary enthusiasts can indulge in a variety of superb dining experiences year-round.

Outside the gates, Fairhope's quality of life is legendary. The town's charming downtown offers a delightful array of boutiques, galleries, and restaurants, while the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail and sailing on Mobile Bay beckon for outdoor

**AZALEA:** Overlooking the 10th hole of The Lakewood Club's Azalea Course and a serene new lake, the Azalea neighborhood offers craftsman-style coastal homes focused on luxury and relaxation. **SOLD OUT.**

**BATTLES TRACE:** Now in its eighth phase, Battles Trace offers upscale new home designs with convenient access to The Lakewood Club's amenities. Home sites and move in ready homes are available. *Prices start in the \$700s.*

**BAYVIEW:** With 56 condominium units overlooking Sweetwater Lake, Bayview offers breathtaking views and low-maintenance living. **WHILE SOLD OUT, REALES ARE AVAILABLE.**

**CAMELLIA:** This intimate collection of seven golf cottages along the Azalea Golf Course features screened porches perfect for entertaining with views of the course. **SOLD OUT.**



Residents can refine their golf skills at The Experience at The Lakewood Club, with access to two RTJ courses. Beyond golf, families enjoy resort-style pools, clay tennis courts, and a state-of-the-art fitness center with extended hours—all conveniently accessible from your home. New amenities this year include pickleball courts and a grass croquet court in the Battles Trace neighborhood.

The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection, established in 1847 and affectionately known as the “Queen of Southern Resorts,” is a cornerstone of the community. It's steeped in Southern

exploration. Fairhope has earned a spot in *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the top 10 places to retire in the U.S., and it's easy to see why. Located just a short drive from cities like New Orleans, Birmingham, and Atlanta, The Colony at The Grand is perfectly positioned for both relaxation and adventure.

*To learn more, call Deborah Rogers and Walter Billups at 251.990.9951 or visit [colonyatthegrand.com](http://colonyatthegrand.com).*







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."**

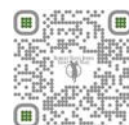
*The New York Times* called the Trail  
**"SOME OF THE BEST PUBLIC GOLF ON EARTH."**

### 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](http://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



3 COURSES | 27 HOLES

# CAMBRIAN RIDGE

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT CAMBRIAN RIDGE**

📍 101 SUNBELT PARKWAY  
GREENVILLE, AL | 36037

📞 334.382.9787

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



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

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.

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 [facebook.com/rtjcambrianridge](https://facebook.com/rtjcambrianridge)



# CAPITOL HILL

3 COURSES | 54 HOLES

## ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT CAPITOL HILL

2600 CONSTITUTION AVENUE  
PRATTVILLE, AL | 36066

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 continues

to host the LPGA's Epson Tour Guardian Championship each year.

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



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT CAPITOL HILL  
JUDGE #6

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.

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 [facebook.com/rtjcapitolhill](https://facebook.com/rtjcapitolhill)



3 COURSES | 54 HOLES

# GRAND NATIONAL

## ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AT GRAND NATIONAL

3000 ROBERT TRENT JONES TRAIL  
OPELIKA, AL | 36801

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 Saughatchee 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.





RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT GRAND NATIONAL  
LINKS #3

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** 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.

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 [facebook.com/rtjgrandnational](https://facebook.com/rtjgrandnational)



# HAMPTON COVE

3 COURSES | 54 HOLES

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT HAMPTON COVE**

450 OLD HWY 41 SOUTH  
OWENS CROSS ROADS, AL | 35763

256.551.1818

Hampton Cove, the Northern gateway to the Trail, is a 54-hole facility in Huntsville 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. The old mule barn beside the fifth hole is one of the most recognizable landmarks on the Trail, while the finishing holes are among the most scenic.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT HAMPTON COVE  
RIVER #17

Completely different from the Highlands is the **River Course**, the only Robert Trent Jones layout in the world designed without a single bunker. The 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** is open and links-like, with water in play on 11 holes. It is a great venue for golfers of all skill levels.

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 [facebook.com/rtjhamptoncove](https://facebook.com/rtjhamptoncove)



4 COURSES 36 HOLES

# HIGHLAND OAKS

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT HIGHLAND OAKS

904 ROYAL PARKWAY  
DOTHAN, AL | 36305

334.712.2820

Highland Oaks, located in the southeast corner of Alabama, 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.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT HIGHLAND OAKS  
HIGHLANDS #7

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 recently renovated **Short Course**, a 9-hole par-3 designed to accommodate players of all levels, received TifEagle Ultradwarf greens in 2024.

The championship nines were given TifEagle Ultradwarf greens in 2020, along with a redesign of the practice area with new short game and putting greens.

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[facebook.com/rtjhighlandoaks](https://facebook.com/rtjhighlandoaks)

An aerial photograph of a lush green golf course. In the foreground, a dark blue pond features a large, multi-jet fountain that creates a rainbow. The golf course is well-maintained with vibrant green grass, sand traps, and a winding path. In the background, a dense line of tall, mature trees stands against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# THE LAKEWOOD CLUB

2 COURSES | 36 HOLES

## THE LAKEWOOD CLUB

📍 ONE GRAND BOULEVARD  
POINT CLEAR, AL | 36564

📞 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. 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.



THE LAKEWOOD CLUB  
DOGWOOD #4

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.

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 [facebook.com/rtlakewood](https://facebook.com/rtlakewood)



# MAGNOLIA GROVE

3 COURSES | 54 HOLES

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT MAGNOLIA GROVE**

7001 MAGNOLIA GROVE PARKWAY  
MOBILE, AL 36618

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





RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT MAGNOLIA GROVE  
CROSSINGS #14

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.

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 [facebook.com/rtjmagnoliagroove](https://facebook.com/rtjmagnoliagroove)



3 COURSES | 45 HOLES

# OXMOOR VALLEY

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT OXMOOR VALLEY**

📍 100 SUNBELT PARKWAY  
BIRMINGHAM, AL | 35211

📞 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.

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



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT OXMOOR VALLEY  
THE BACK YARD

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.

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# ROSS BRIDGE

1 COURSE | 18 HOLES

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT ROSS BRIDGE**

4000 GRAND AVENUE  
HOOVER, AL | 35226

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



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT ROSS BRIDGE  
ROSS BRIDGE #14

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.

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4 COURSES | 36 HOLES

# SILVER LAKES

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT SILVER LAKES**

1 SUNBELT PARKWAY  
GLENCOE, AL | 35905

256.892.3268

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.



RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT SILVER LAKES  
SHORT #8

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 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 views along a relaxing trip around Lee's Lake.

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# THE SHOALS

2 COURSES | 36 HOLES

**ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL  
AT THE SHOALS**

990 SUNBELT PARKWAY  
MUSCLE SHOALS, AL | 35661

256.446.5111

The **Fighting Joe Course** 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 and beautifully maintained bent grass greens,

can play 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





RTJ GOLF TRAIL AT THE SHOALS  
FIGHTING JOE #9

the Tennessee River will distract you with its beauty, if not its treachery. Long-hitters here will experience a test of champions, but from the correct tee box, all players will enjoy world-class golf.

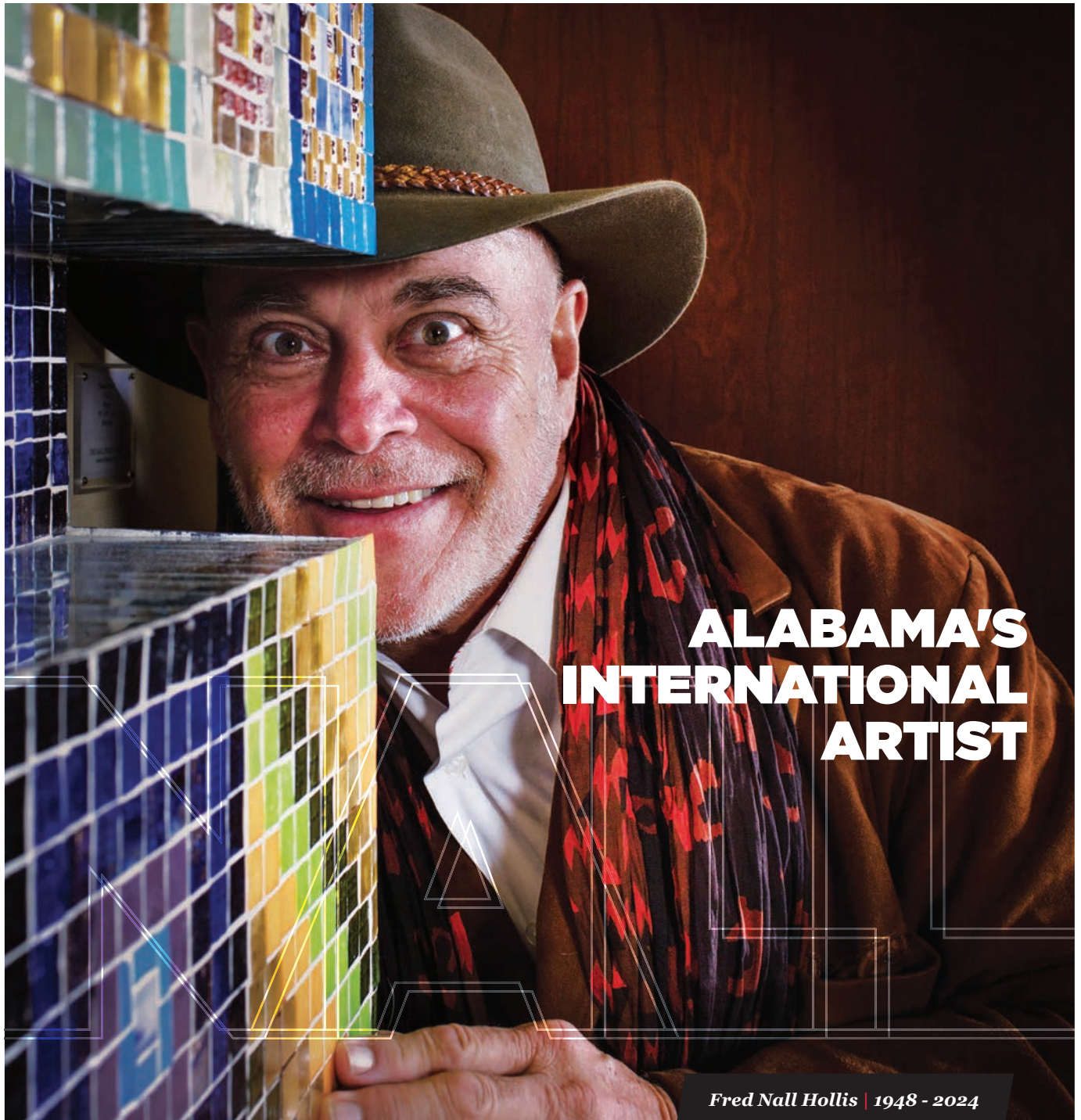
The **Schoolmaster Course** may be a tougher course than Fighting Joe, but

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.

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## ALABAMA'S INTERNATIONAL ARTIST

*Fred Nall Hollis | 1948 - 2024*

Few 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 created 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 was 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, opening a studio in Fairhope. As part of a massive transformation in 2018, the Grand Hotel added a Nall Suite and a connecting gallery overlooking the historic main lobby. Other new pieces are in guest rooms and throughout the resort. He has a permanent art gallery in the NALL Museum at the International Arts Center on the Troy campus. **To learn more visit [artistnall.com](http://artistnall.com).**

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