



Mt. Washington Golf Club

Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, US

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In New England, old is good. Things aren't plowed over just because they've been around for a century or two, and that applies to golf courses as well. So it is with a nod to the game's past that Mt. Washington Golf Club in New Hampshire celebrates its 100th birthday this year. As autumn approaches, if you're one to combine golf drives with drives that reveal the splendor of the season, Mt. Washington is as good a place as any to start. The course was designed by Donald Ross and reinvigorated to his lofty standards in 2008 by architect Brian Silva. It is one of

New England's finest and playing to the backdrop of New Hampshire's Presidential Mountains there may be no better place to witness golf and nature at its finest.

If we were to list the greatest places in America where those two things intersect, most of them would be in New England. So here's a fall golf trip of hot golf and fiery foliage.

Cape Arundel GC, Kennebunkport, Maine: A classic Walter Travis design, it is a step back into yesteryear. The Bush family summers here, but they won't impede your round on a course that features chocolate drop mounds, shots over and around tidal areas, and tricky greens that are fun to putt. Crumpin'-Fox Golf Club, Bernardston, Massachusetts: This course is all you could want

from any tee — a thinking man's (or woman's) track. There's great variety to the holes here and excellent conditions year-round.

Keebo Valley Golf Club, Bar Harbor, Maine: President William Howard Taft was barely able to finish the brutal 17th hole — one of New England's most memorable. The course twists, turns, rises up and careens down, all in the shadow of Acadia National Park's Cadillac Mountain. Lake of Isles Golf Club, North Stonington, Connecticut: Lake of Isles at Foxwoods Resort Casino is a Rees Jones creation that feels so secluded it's like being alone in the wilderness. The course here is

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both demanding and charming. Montaup Golf Club, Portsmouth, Rhode Island: With views of Mount Hope Bay and the brawny-shouldered suspension bridge that carries traffic over it, Montaup is nothing if not scenic. Here you can smell the salt air while you treat yourself to a sporty course that's full of surprises. Newport National Golf Club, Portsmouth, Rhode Island: Newport National was built

to private but economic issues intervened to the benefit of the public player. The course here has a true links feel in places.

Okemo Valley Golf Club, Ludlow, Vermont: One of the Green State's best, Okemo Valley serves up one superb hole after another. The course makes excellent use of the rolling land and the sectioned greens are particularly noteworthy.

Owl's Nest, Campton, New Hampshire: Owl's Nest is a three-part course, with six holes that play along a river, six more that play down the slope of Sunset Ridge and six others on middle ground.

RedTail Golf Club, Devens, Massachusetts: Redtail has one of the best opening tee shots in New England, and from that point on it keeps you on your toes. You won't play this course and feel like you've seen holes like these before. It's memorable from beginning to end. Shennecossett Golf Club, Groton,



Connecticut: It's unusual for a Donald Ross course to lose three original holes and emerge stronger, but it happened here in 1999 when the town traded three holes to neighboring Pfizer Chemical for property rights on the Thames River and created three new riverside holes. Sugarloaf Golf Club,

Carrabassett, Maine: From the proper tees Sugarloaf is both very playable and exceedingly enjoyable, although it takes on a demon personality for championship competition. And talk about drama — the steeply downhill tee shots on holes 10 and 11 are something you'll never forget.

Sunday River Golf Club, Newry, Maine: Scenic Sunday River plays in the shadow of the Mahoosuc Mountain range and is like a walk in nature, and along the way you encounter some great Robert Trent Jones Jr. holes. Taconic Golf Club,

Williamstown, Massachusetts: In the autumn, Williamstown comes to life as students return to Williams College. It's also the perfect time to take on this classic New England course, where tall trees border the fairways and there's just enough



elevation change to make club selection interesting.

The Balsams Golf Club, Dixville Notch, New Hampshire: The charming Balsams is one of New England's favorite resorts. But golfers rave about this mountainside course, and many return year after year to take in the views and challenge of the fine Ross design.

The Samoset, Rockland, Maine: Where better to spend an autumn day than on the coast of Maine. The Samoset has improved as a resort dramatically over the past several years, and the course was improved

as well. The oceanfront holes here are unforgettable, and the finishing hole is one of Maine's toughest.

The Shattuck Golf Club, Jaffrey, New Hampshire: There are a number of golf-ball gobbling narrow holes here so patience and the ability to play them the way they were designed to be played are key. The layout demands thought, planning and precision.

Waterville Country Club, Waterville, Maine: Waterville may be New England's best-kept secret. Not long, it's still a good test — especially holes 10-13 where many rounds are made or broken.