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The 7 Toughest Golf Courses in Arizona

Score Up To
110,000 Miles
with Dividend Miles
Grand Slam

See Page 23
for details



[GOOD
SPORT]

Arizona's Toughest Courses Await

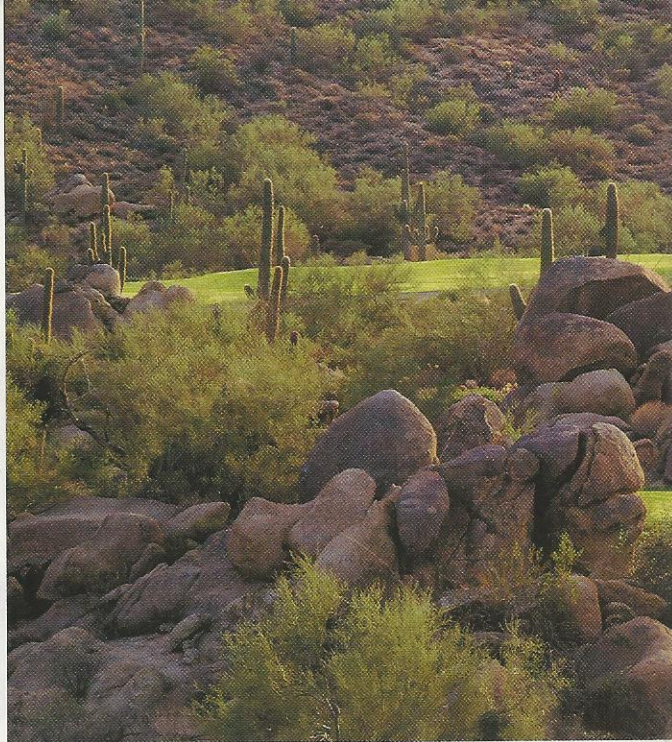
Bring Your A Game

If you're looking for a true challenge,
then look no further. These seven courses
demand your best game.

BY LANCE ELKO

Troon North, Pinnacle Course, Scottsdale

1 It's as wonderfully scenic as it is difficult. Huge boulders populate the course, and the multi-tiered greens, while beautiful to behold, can be treacherous. Making par on most holes is a heroic achievement, and in some cases the wisest play is to take your bogey and run. Many of the greens are elevated and guarded with deep bunkers, so don't be shy about taking an extra club. And make sure you arrive in time to warm up — Troon North boasts one of the best practice facilities in the area. troonnorthgolf.com



We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, Cholla Course, Fort McDowell

2 About 30 miles northeast of Phoenix, award-winning We-Ko-Pa offers stunning views that will have you staring in amazement before you stick your first tee in the ground. The Cholla course's natural terrain makes for a constant challenge with sloping ridges, desert washes, irregularly shaped hills, and arroyos (steep-sided gullies). Without a home in sight, the desert and all of its raw, breathtaking beauty surrounds you. We-Ko-Pa (translation: four peaks) sits on the reservation land of the Yavapai Nation. wekopa.com

Las Sendas Golf Club, Mesa

3 Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., this course boasts long and wide fairways that correspond well to the natural undulating flow of the terrain. As is typical of a Jones design, Las Sendas demands precision and, just as importantly, a wise strategy — every hole is a challenge. Pause at the 18th for one of the most stunning vistas on any Arizona course.

lassendas.com

Arizona National Golf Club, Tucson

4 The home course for the University of Arizona's men's and women's golf teams, this Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course is nestled in the foothills of the scenic Santa Catalina Mountains. The course winds its way through an abundance of natural challenges, such as rock outcrops, mesquite-lined arroyos, and giant saguaro cactuses. Arizona National's layout requires careful shot placement, particularly off the tee. During baseball's spring training, don't be surprised to



SunRidge Canyon Golf Club

see some major league players on the course.
arizonanationalgolfclub.com

SunRidge Canyon Golf Club, Fountain Hills

5 On the edge of Scottsdale, the rolling SunRidge course forces you to play downhill for starters, then back up to finish. The canyon landscape is ruggedly beautiful and gives a secluded feeling to many of the holes. Designed to adapt to the natural terrain, the

course is unpredictable, and the hole variety will keep you on your toes. SunRidge is one of the more visually dramatic Arizona courses, with fairways bounded by rocky canyon walls and thick desert vegetation. This course requires more patient play than others. An errant shot can get you into some very deep bunkers — or the rough of the desert. sunridgegolf.com

The Lodge at Ventana Canyon, Canyon Course, Tucson

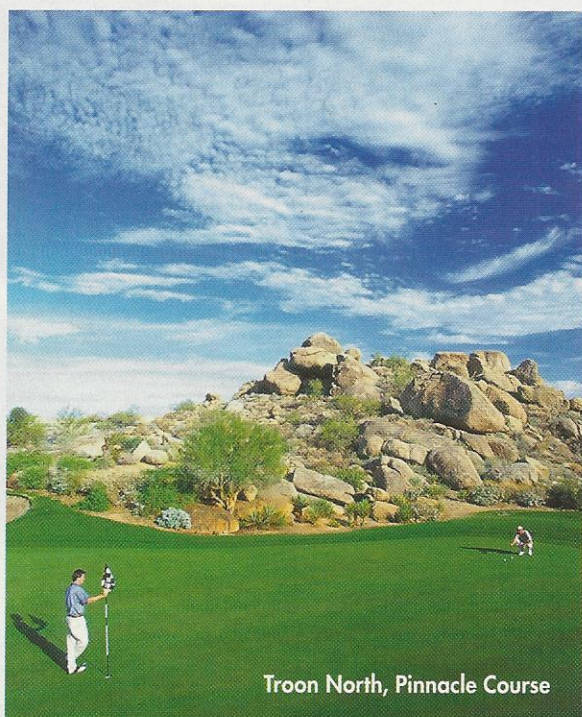
6 Tom Fazio designed both the Canyon course and the Mountain course at the Lodge, but it's the former that offers a stiff challenge to even the most seasoned golfer. The front nine descends into Esperero Canyon, and the back nine leads to an encounter with the legendary Whaleback Rock. With so many dramatic slopes, this course requires that you bring extra balls. You'll also want to bring a camera.

thelodgeatventanacanyon.com

Gold Canyon Golf Resort, Dinosaur Mountain Course, Gold Canyon

7 Expect some of the most astonishing elevation changes in Arizona golf at Dinosaur Mountain, about 30 minutes from Phoenix. As you skirt the base of the mountain, you'll play up and down on narrow fairways and fast greens. Wildlife abounds — don't be surprised to see a coyote or roadrunner hurrying by as you tee off. Many who have played here attest to the course's difficulty while praising its native beauty. If you pause long enough at holes 4 and 5, you might find that the view has made you forget which club to choose.

gcgr.com



Troon North, Pinnacle Course