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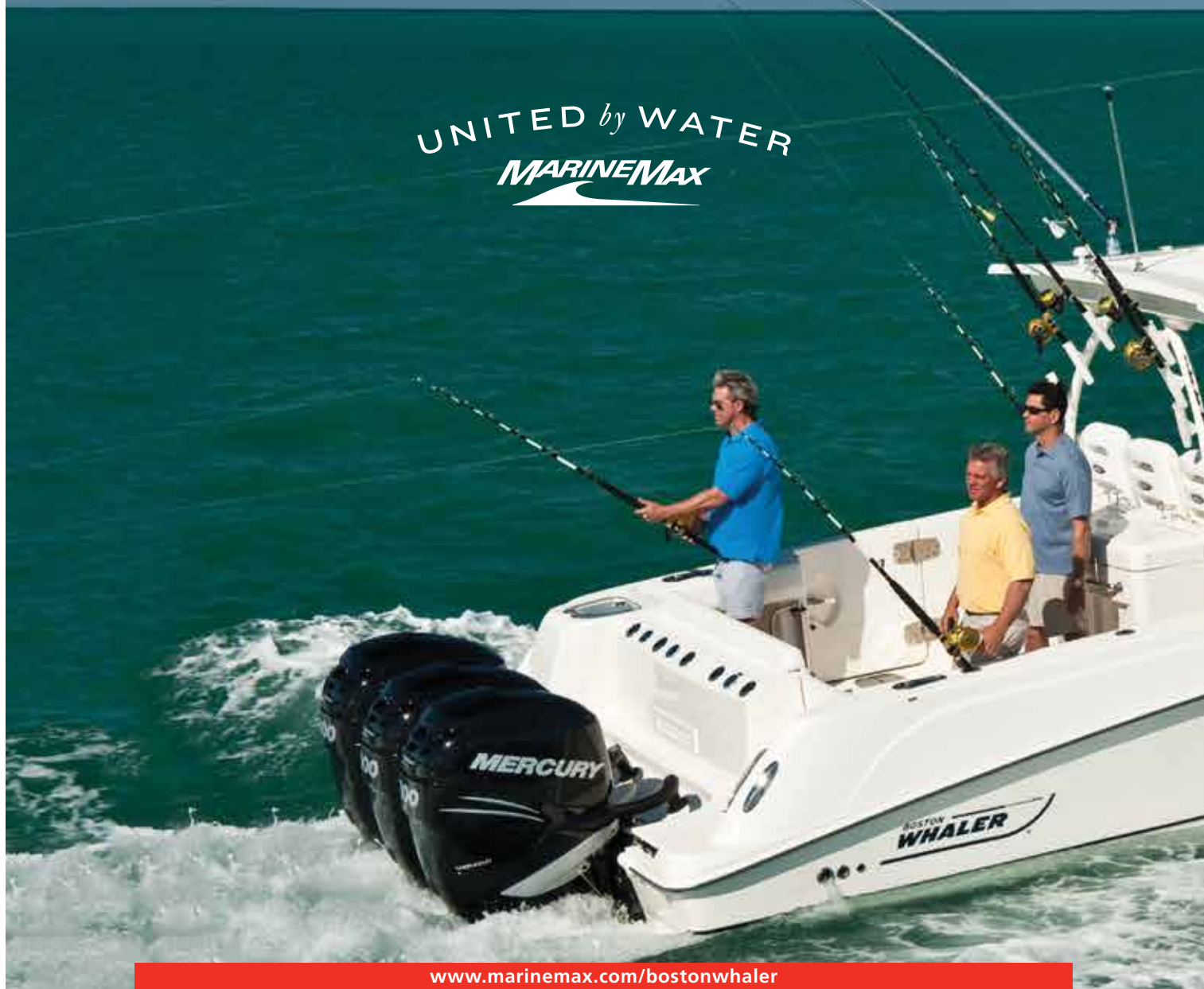
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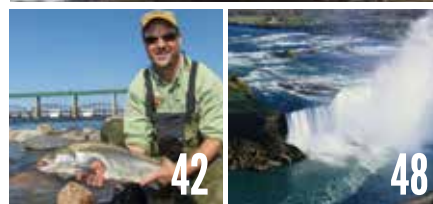
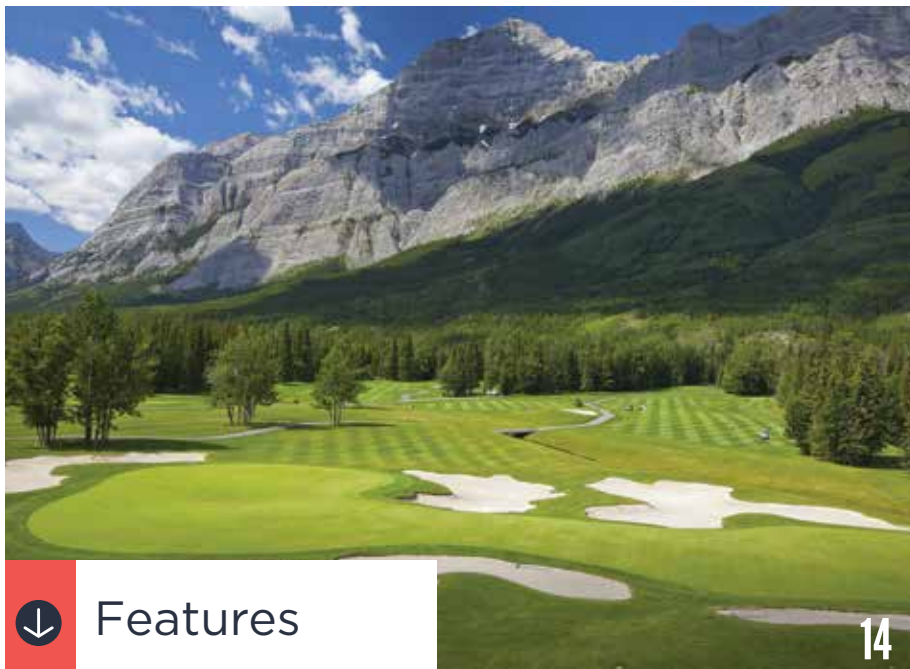
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MORE GREAT FISHING & GOLF DESTINATIONS

 By Henry Waszczuk

Wow, what a year of travel! This year we spent a lot of time on Canada's east coast visiting all the Atlantic Provinces - New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and of course we also visited Newfoundland. Besides all the great Canadian destinations we had numerous stops throughout the State of Florida from the Panhandle to the Florida Keys and several places in between. We also traveled to Myrtle Beach, North Carolina and Massachusetts. Internationally we took a trip to Bimini in the Bahamas.

So I estimated that I was away from the office over 60 days; more than 2 months; wow! But, it was all worth it as we played some incredible golf courses and caught some amazing fish, including a 748-pound Bluefin tuna off the north shores of PEI.

As always, I am excited about each and every location. Our calendar is already filling up with calls from lodges and golf resorts in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Mexico. Thank goodness for our field staff that can help us experience these incredible destinations. We want the best of the best and whether you review a feature story here in our magazine or through one of our TV properties, we bring you some of the greatest travel experiences that you could ever dream of.

We are now entering our 4th decade in this business and we recognize that a vacation is not only a financial commitment but also an investment of valuable time and we are glad we are able to help soften the workload by identifying these great fishing and golf adventures.

So right out of the gate, we feature the top 10 golf destinations to book with your buddies. I think you will be quite excited about our picks. There's more. From Canada we take you to the beautiful Province of New Brunswick and a famous river, none other than the Miramichi. We also highlight some great golf and fishing destinations in British Columbia and then make a stop at one of the seven natural wonders of the world and play the Golf Trail near Niagara Falls. And for you fly fishers, we give you a taste of the St Mary's River in the Sault.



▲ Henry with his monster Bluefin tuna from PEI

For the U.S., we feature Destin in the Florida's panhandle as well as the great redfish of the Carolinas. Last but not least we illustrate the incredible fishing of the offshore waters of Panama.

With Fins + Skins, we have a very simple philosophy. We want you to experience the best possible fishing and golf vacation that you can in that time period. If you ever need help on picking the right destination, the right species, the right week for the best trip, drop us a line at info@fnsmediagroup.com and we will help you materialize the best fishing, golf vacation of your life. You can also check our FISHIN GUY APP on iTunes. (www.fishinguy.com). All the Hot Spots and top fishing destinations are at your fingertips.



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FISH N' CHIPS

FREE MEAL

Alligators aren't picky about what they eat. They are carnivores, so any type of prey is a meal but just sometimes, they get a nice surprise by just opening up their toothy mouth.



TOP SHOPS IN THE UK

Fish and chips were first served together as a dish around 1860 - although their origin is contested. By 1910 there were roughly 25,000 fish and chip shops around the UK. By 1927 there were 35,000.



ONE HOT LURE

This unique lure became the world's most valuable after a buyer paid \$101,200 at Lang's back in 2003.



KING DIES AFTER FEELING EEL

England's King Henry died on December 1, 1135, after a lavish banquet where he reportedly gorged himself on lamprey eels.



MONSTROUS FISH

Japanese fish enthusiast struggling under the weight of an example estimated to be 2m long. The head of a wolfish makes up a fifth of their body and this beast could fit a human child in its mouth without stretching. They produce a natural antifreeze to keep their blood moving fluidly in their very cold habitat.



HUNGRY FISH

It's no secret that trout and other fish will eat small mammals. Here's a rainbow trout that had 20 shrews in its stomach, documented during a fish survey in Alaska.





WHOLLY SWING SPEED

The driver swing speed of an average lady golfer is 62mph; 96mph for an average LPGA professional; 84mph for an average male golfer; 108mph for an average PGA Tour player; 130mph for Tiger Woods; 148-194 mph for a national long drive champion.



GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

Back in August 2022, Maurice Allen set the new World record for driver ball speed in Orlando Florida. He used a fairway wood and produced a whopping ball speed of 211 mph.

VAMPIRE FISH

This vampire-looking fish is a close relative of the famous piranha fish of the Amazon River. Better known as the payara, this fish has fangs that can reach 6 inches. The two large fangs fit into conical nasal slots in the upper jaws.



22.8%



OF GOLFERS
ARE WOMEN

MAKING MONEY

Country Clubs and Golf Courses with water hazards employ scuba divers to recover thousands of golf balls every year for refurbishment and recycling. This job can be a bit hazardous in warmer climates where alligators are known to enjoy making these small bodies of water their homes. Golf Ball Divers average between \$50,000.00-\$100,000.00 per year.



AMAZING FEAT

Kathy Whitworth has won 88 professional tournaments during her amazing career; more than any other male or female golfer in history.

THE LONGEST PUTT EVER WAS A WHOPPING

125 YARDS

FERGUS MUIR SANK THAT ONE IN 2001 ON THE EDEN COURSE IN SCOTLAND.





THE TOP TEN BUDDY GOLF GETAWAYS IN NORTH AMERICA

We are often asked about not only where the world's best golf destinations are, but also where can someone find exceptional value and have a chance to fish for a day or so. This year we have determined that these 10 destinations do golf on a budget better than anywhere else in North America. And with fall a few months away, this is a particularly good time to plan a value-based golf trip and adding a day to fish as well. Many destinations drop their rates, so pre plan and take advantage of these incredible golf packages.





1. PURE MICHIGAN

A \$13 million dollar budget launched a national campaign to lure more visitors to the Great Lakes State. The top two marketing campaigns revolved around the incredible golf and great fishing opportunities. Michigan's top golf courses include Eagle Eye, Forest Dunes, Stonehedge, Macatawa Legends and the Majestic at Lake Walden. The best budget buddies trip on earth combines quantity, quality and value. My ultimate itinerary in northern Michigan flies into Traverse City and starts with a round at Black Forest, followed by a stay-and-play at Treetops Resort for the Signature, Masterpiece, Premier and Threetops. Wrap up your trip by heading an hour south on I-75 to Forest Dunes Golf Club (which is on pace to open Tom Doak's reversible course). And when it comes to fishing Lake Michigan, you have quite the smorgasborg of fish species, from salmon to trout, walleye to smallmouth bass, and lots of charter boat guides to have a great day on the water.

2. ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL, ALABAMA

This revolutionary golf trail concept changed the landscape of value golf forever. There are 22 courses that attract golfers from all over the country. \$65 courses leave you feeling as though they're worth so much more. It's easy to book four nights and eight rounds for less than \$800. For fishing, there's nothing like booking a charter boat as a foursome and hook some hard fighting saltwater fish.



3. MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

Legendary variety and value await along the Grand Strand, home to 100-plus golf courses of all shapes and green fees. Less than \$100 per person per day can get you a number of resorts like 54-hole Legends Golf Resort. GolfHoliday.com offers a limitless amount of golf packages and travel tools. While April is the busiest and priciest time of year for golf, the last two weeks of November is the best time to find value here. Then add the great fall fishing, is spectacular, with redfish, black drum, even king mackerel offshore.



4. NIAGARA FALLS GOLF TRAIL, CANADA

Home to ten courses within a 20-minute drive, Whirlpool is the oldest and most classic design next to the 7th Wonder of the World, Niagara Falls themselves. In addition, you have Beechwood Golf & Country Club, Eagle Valley Golf Club, Grand Niagara Golf Club, John Daly's Thundering Waters Golf Club, Legends on the Niagara Golf Complex, Royal Niagara Golf Club, Rockway Glen Golf Club and Peninsula Lakes. There are various priced accommodations whether you want to be in a hotel looking over the falls, a standard hotel or a Bed & breakfast along the Niagara Parkway. For nightlife, you cannot beat the Casinos and for daytime adventures there are over 60 wineries within a 15 minute drive of Niagara Falls. As far as fishing goes, the upper Niagara and mouth of Lake Erie produces some of the finest smallmouth bass fishing in the world.

6. WESTERN ALBERTA ROCKIES, CANADA

There are more than 24 golf courses that you can enjoy in the Rocky Mountain Range in Western Alberta. The top-rated, include the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course, Kananaskis Country Golf Course, Silvertip Golf Course, and Stewart Creek Golf Course. Buddies can also enjoy some incredible rainbow trout and dolly varden fly fishing adventures along the way.



5. ST. GEORGE, UTAH

It's about a two-hour drive northeast from Las Vegas to St. George, Utah, where the ambiance and scenery is a total change from the bright lights of the Strip. There are exceptional resorts like Entrada at Snow Canyon, but public courses with a little more value include Coral Canyon, The Ledges, Sun River and Sky Mountain Golf Course. And for fishing, there's nothing like the Flaming Gorge Reservoir.





7. ORLANDO, FLORIDA

An abundance of golf awaits throughout Orlando, and the best facility for golf-til-you-drop buddies trips is Orange County National. This mecca of golf, which has affordable on-site accommodations, is perfect for a three- or four-night stay, thanks to these championship courses, Shingle Creek, Falcon's fire, Grand Cypress, Champions Gate, Ritz Carlton, Southern Dunes, Celebration and the Waldorf Astoria Golf Club. Now if you are looking for big bass, there are numerous lakes around the Orlando area and guides that will get you into a big boy or two.



9. SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

With 90-plus courses in temperate San Diego County, you can name your price for golf 12 months out of the year. The ultimate splurge is a stay-and-play at the Lodge at Torrey Pines. You can offset the high green fees of the famed Torrey Pines South Course with budget rounds at Coronado and Balboa Park. Book a charter and have the time of your life with trophy Bluefin tuna.



8. SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

Golf Digest rates Arizona's Top 10 courses to select from on your buddies trip: Troon North, The Boulders, TPC-Stadium, Kierland, Orange Tree, McDowell Mountain, Legend Trail, The Phoenician, We-Ko-Pa and Eagle Mountain Golf Club. Stay, fish, and play golf at family-friendly Madden's on Gull Lake. The resort's Classic Course, a top-100 pick, is still underrated. Maddens promotes walking and has a caddie program. Jason Scott Deegan recently wrote about how to make \$200 stretch over three days of golf in the Brainerd area. There are a lot of fishing guides to get you into some trophy largemouth bass.



10. ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

Two hours from Manhattan, less than an hour from Philly, is an incredible golf course. Golf here dates back to 1903 and Atlantic City Country Club, which has hosted six USGA major championships and is now open to the public. Round out your golf and gaming vacation with rounds at Sea View, Twisted Dune, Shore Gate Golf Club and player-friendly Vineyard Golf at Renault Winery. From striped bass to flounder, you can have a blast fishing here.

There are a lot of other honorable mentions but one thing for sure, any one of our top 10 buddy trips will fill an adventure that will last a lifetime.

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WHO LOVE TO FISH



▶ MICHAEL KEATON

The Bird Man's principal residence is a ranch in Montana, so it should surprise nobody that Michael Keaton loves to fly-fish. He's been an avid angler for a very long time and, as he is wont to do, he can wax poetically on the complex parallels between this great sport and his primary profession, among other things. He has also worked with another great Montana transplant, Tom McGuane, as an advocate for the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust.



▲ ROGER DALTREY

Roger Daltrey, front-man of the seminal rock band, The Who, is not only an avid trout fisherman, but has owned a 26 acre fishing reserve of his own design for over 30 years. Daltrey, applying rock star styling's to the sport once said, "When I go fishing, I come away feeling like I've smoked half a dozen joints."



◀ DWIGHT HOWARD

Back in 2013, while at the tail end of his contract with the L.A. Lakers, Dwight Howard touted himself as a fisherman. After the Lakers were booted from the Playoffs by the Spurs in 2013, Howard wasted no time heading out on a fishing trip to Lake Tahoe - he even made a little time to go fly-fishing for the first time. No word on whether Howard has taken a shine to the legendary bass of Texas, but smart money is on "yes."



▶ CLINT 'DEUCE' DEMPSEY

Clint "Deuce" Dempsey, the striker and all around bad-ass for the men's US National Soccer Team and MLS side Seattle Sounders is a Texan through and through, up to and including a love of fishing for big bass. Professional soccer players - especially those with the talent to wear their national team's shirt - have an incredibly short off-season, but Clint's social media presence makes it clear that he is able to sneak away every now and again to torture some big-mouths.



▲ STEVE LUDZIK

Steve Ludzik is a retired NHL player and coach who also worked as a sports analyst. Since he was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2012, Ludzy has led the charge to fight the disease and support retired hockey players that need assistance. When he has the opportunity to relax and fish, he does.

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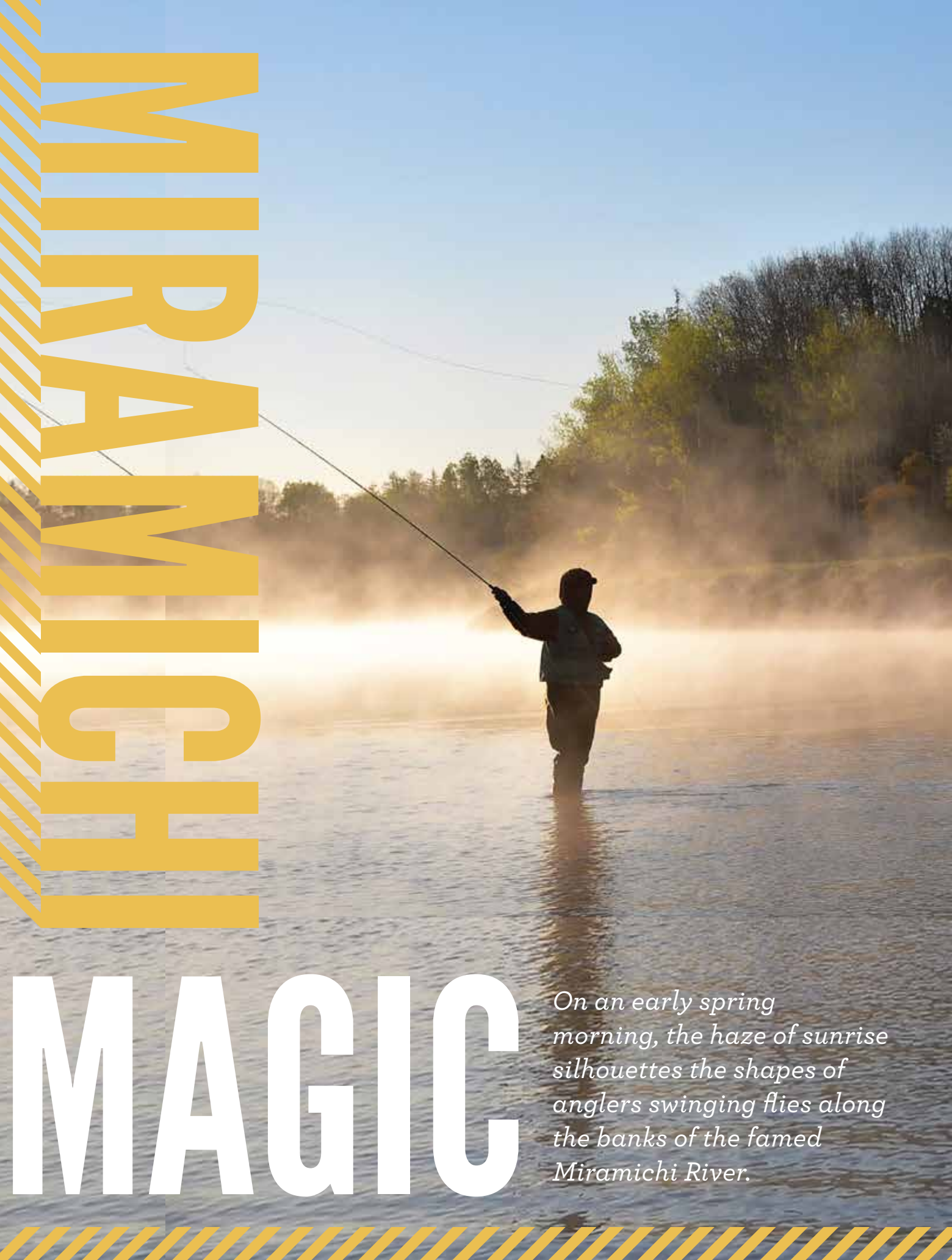


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MIRAMICHI

MAGIC

On an early spring morning, the haze of sunrise silhouettes the shapes of anglers swinging flies along the banks of the famed Miramichi River.



Long renown as some of the top Atlantic salmon waters for fly fishing enthusiasts, the Miramichi and its namesake home town is rapidly gaining a reputation for a different species that is sure to bend a rod more willingly than the mighty Atlantic.

The watershed near Miramichi, New Brunswick has been the spawning grounds for anadromous striped bass for centuries, but targeting this species can no longer be considered a local secret.

Stripers had seemingly disappeared not that long ago. In 1996 the spawning grounds from the Gaspé to Cape Breton saw only a few thousand fish returning to their native estuaries each spring. The collapse was so devastating that the species was declared extirpated by the Quebec government and Maritime Provinces started to close their fisheries and begin a reintroduction program. With hopes that the healthy populations could be reinstated with strategic interventions, the tides have turned and recent numbers have been impressive. Now the restrictions

have been removed and the fishery is booming again.

Something that makes striped bass fishing so exciting is the determined punishment they are willing to inflict on terminal tackle. And their willingness to take a lure or fly is only exceeded by their pulling power and endurance. In the lower reaches of the Miramichi system it isn't uncommon to find schools where the average size is 10 to 20 pounds and trophies up to 40 pounds. These monsters will test your drag in addition to your endurance.

Finding a perfect spot to call home while chasing stripers isn't all that difficult. Upper Oxbow Adventures, located about a half hour from the city of Miramichi has a variety of accommodations suitable for individuals as well as groups. A well-appointed main lodge is accented by several two- and three-bedroom cabins overlooking the river with the options of self-catering or enjoying some of the fabulous local fare prepared by the lodge's chef.

And while the lodging is superb, it is the guided fishing that stands out as a major reason to enjoy their hospitality.

Guides can take the guesswork out of choosing the most prolific spots for sheer numbers of fish or, if you are so inclined, finding the honey hole that holds the brutes that will strain muscle and tackle alike. While boats are frequently the most efficient way to get to the prime lies, there are plenty of wading opportunities for those so inclined to wet a line from a sandbar or shoreline.

Success on the water complimented by a round of golf nearby is always a part of a Fins and Skins adventure and not far from the Upper Oxbow Adventures a golfing respite awaits those who still have strength left in their arms and shoulders.

Along the southern shoreline of the main river bisecting Miramichi lies a gem of a golf course that is steeped in history and a pleasure to play. The building and property that is now home to the Miramichi Golf and Country Club originally belonged to Thomas H. Peters, a United Empire Loyalist who was then believed



**SERENITY ON THE WATERS AND
ON THE LINKS ARE HALLMARKS
OF MIRAMICHI MAGIC AND AS AN
EAST-COAST DESTINATION FOR
HOSPITALITY, FISHING AND GOLF,
THIS LITTLE TASTE OF TRANQUILITY
IS HARD TO BEAT.**

to be the wealthiest man on the Miramichi River. The stone clubhouse is recognized as one of Canada's historical places, as it was built originally in 1825 by Mr. Peters and 100 years later survived under the stewardship of the golf club. Until 1984 this monumental building remained unchanged but a growing membership prompted a clubhouse expansion along with the addition of the back nine.

Following additions to the original nine-hole course, the track is now a well-designed 6,155-yard beauty from the back tee boxes. Despite its relatively short length, this layout is considered a challenging test of golf, owing to the placement of hazards and narrow fairways. Most courses in that yardage range will carry a slope rating below 115 but this esthetic gem can bare its teeth with a slope of 123.

The par fives provide scoring opportunities as well as a need to play with caution. Two of them are under 500 yards and beg aggression but the other two need three well-placed strokes to find the putting surface. Knowing when to let the big dog eat and when to pull an iron out on the tee is critical to putting a decent score on the card

since out of bounds plays a big role on a third of the holes.

Serenity on the waters and on the links are hallmarks of Miramichi magic and as an east-coast destination for hospitality, fishing and golf, this little taste of tranquility is hard to beat.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Guide Jeff Wilson
506-636-1798



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top 10 LURES for 2016

3

VMC GLIDING JIG



Made for deep-water finesse fishing, the VMC Gliding Jig Oklahoma imitates the actions of a dying baitfish as it slowly descends towards the lake floor. Available in a number of fish-catching colors, the VMC Gliding Jig Oklahoma delivers deep-water attraction, without the super-sized profile and heavy resistance of a deep diving crankbait and a magnum spoon.

www.vmchooks.com

7

SAVAGE GEAR TPE 3D CRAB



An inshore delight, the Savage Gear 3D Crab is engineered from 3D scans of an actual crab to deliver the most anatomically accurate recreation possible. This imitation crab features air-filled claws that generate a defensive posturing, which drives tarpon, permit, and cobia wild and is offered in a number of dead-on crustacean colors.

www.savagegear-usa.com

4

RIVER 2SEA WHOPPER POPPER



This topwater lure cast easily, works at a variety of speed, has consistent action out of the package and has a unique sound and action that set it apart from other baits. Think of this bait as a buzzbait with a more realistic profile and different action. It excels in shallow water for a variety of different gamefish.

www.river2seausa.com

8

WESTIN'S FLAT MATT



When the Flat Matt shimmies along like a panicky little flounder, bottom fish can't help themselves from striking. Jig it short and tease it slowly to trigger an explosive response. Designed for huge cod and halibut, it looks incredibly realistic with active eyes. Each package includes a sharp hook and a spare body.

www.westin-fishing.com

1

STRIKE KING SWINGING SWIM JIG



The Strike King Swinging Swim Jig features a free-swinging hook design that increases the action of your trailer and also helps keep fish from throwing the hook. Its streamline, balanced head design helps it cut through the water. Available in a range of winning colors, rig the Strike King Swinging Swim Jig with your favorite trailer and get to work.

www.strikeking.com

5

STORM ARASHI TOP WALKER



Internally, the Storm Arashi Top Walker features multiple rattles, which allow for longer casts and emit a variable pitch to mimic the sound of schooling baitfish. Offered in a number of high-quality finishes, the Storm Arashi Top Walker delivers a devastating topwater disruption that has been fine-tuned to perfection.

www.rapala.com/storm-fishing-baits

9

COOLBAITS UNDERSPIN



The Coolbaits "Downunder" Underspin delivers flash and life-like attraction in an all-in-one fish catching package. Designed with textured gill plates, and 3D eyes, this lure features a ball-bearing swivel molded underneath the chin, which connects to a shimmering willow blade and of course a premium Mustad Ultra Point hook.

www.coolbaits.com

2

MANNS MONSTER REEL'N SHAD



Monster Reel 'N Shad™ from Mann's is over 9" of pulsating, swimming action. The patent pending slot design is what makes this lure so unique. The slot allows water to move through the bait creating a super lifelike baitfish imitation.

The jighead included with this pack is specially designed to allow for this lure to be fished either weedless, or with an open hook. This big lure is perfect for catching both freshwater and saltwater gamefish.

www.mannsbaits.com

6

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From inland, parkland-style golf courses in tree-dotted Tallahassee to bayside and seaside gems near beach towns, the Panhandle offers a wide range of venues. There is certainly a diverse golf menu. Play suggestions in the Tallahassee area include St. James Bay Golf Club and Southwood Golf Club at Summerbrooke. In Destin, you can tee up at Emerald Bay,

Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club, Shalimar Pointe Golf & Country Club or any of the four courses at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. In Panama City, you have the Hombre Golf Club. In Lynn Haven, just 15 minutes or so north of Panama City, you'll find public Nature Walk Golf Club and Panama Country Club, which is private but does offer limited public play. Pensacola-area possibilities include Cypress Lakes Golf Club,

Stonebrook Golf Club and Tiger Point Golf & Country Club. So there's no shortage of golf courses.

While the Florida Panhandle often gets overlooked as golfers race to the peninsula, rest assured, big-name architects have fully

discovered the northwest corner of the state. Course designers such as Tom Fazio, Greg Norman, Rees Jones, Robert Trent Jones Jr., Fred Couples, Davis Love III and Jerry Pate have fashioned layouts in the Panhandle. On top of that there are fantastic resorts here too. Golf is the focus at resorts such as the Bay Point Wyndham Resort in Panama City Beach, with two 18-hole championship layouts, the Nicklaus Course and Meadows Course; Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Destin, with the Baytowne Course, Burnt Pine Course, Raven Course and Links Course; Bluewater Bay near Fort Walton Beach, where 27 holes of Tom Fazio/Jerry Pate golf is the draw; and Seascape Resort in Destin, home to the Joe Lee-designed Seascape Golf Club is a venerable favorite.

A very important factor here is that your golf dollar goes a long way in the Panhandle where green fees are economically priced, especially for the Canadian snowbird entourage. There are a slew of courses to play in the less than \$40 category. For instance, Defuniak Springs Country Club and Eglin Golf Course near Fort Walton Beach Golf Club are great picks for budget conscious golfers.

Whether you went fishing for the day or played that great round of golf, you'll be in hush puppy heaven in the Panhandle, which has a great line-up of waterfront seafood restaurants, oyster bars and crab shacks. Whether you want Apalachicola oysters on the half shell, a grilled grouper sandwich or jumbo shrimp

**MILES AND MILES OF
BEAUTIFUL SANDY BEACHES
FRAMED BY TURQUOISE
WATERS, OFFER LOTS OF
OPPORTUNITIES TO REFRESH
AND RECHARGE AFTER A DAY
ON THE COURSE**

steamed in lemon/garlic seasoning, you'll find it in this area of the Sunshine State.

Miles and miles of beautiful sandy beaches framed by turquoise waters, offer lots of opportunities to refresh and recharge after a day on the course. Some outstanding beaches include Perdido Key State Park near Pensacola, Grayton Beach State Park near Destin, and Panama City Beach.

Dubbed "Florida's Luckiest Fishing Village," Destin, on the Gulf of Mexico in the panhandle, affords easy access to deep water. In fact, the offshore shelf descends to 100 feet within 10 miles, and big game fish such as white and blue marlin and sailfish are possible. Red snapper, grouper, king mackerel, even tuna are also popular catches.

So after a round of golf, if you're tired of catching your fish on a restaurant menu, head to the open seas and haul in a big catch yourself.

You can easily see now why this area of Florida is not only a golfer's paradise, but it's also nirvana for anglers. Incorporating a deep-



sea fishing excursion with a golf experience is easy in the marina-rich state that has nearly 1,200 miles of coastline. Better still, most of the top marinas are situated a few minutes drive from golf courses.

Prices vary with charter boats, but you typically can expect to pay between \$140 to \$160 per hour for a private charter, for up to six people. If you're a single, you can sign up at a dockside grouping office and split the cost of the boat equally with others.

For those on a tight budget, party boat fishing on larger vessels accommodating dozens of anglers costs from \$30 to \$50 per person with bait, fishing license and tackle included. And you also get to bring some nice fish home for the table.

All in all, if you want to visit a sleeper fishing and golf destination, then Florida's panhandle is your ticket for fun and adventure at affordable prices. Check out Destin for your next fishing and golf vacation.

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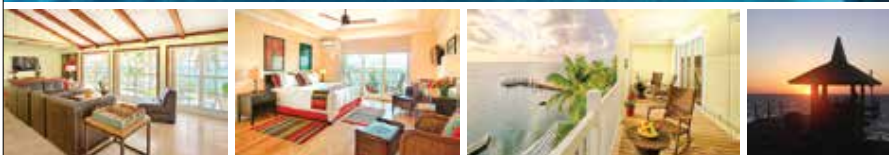
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Golfers love a challenge. That must be the case, as it is evidenced in every swing of a club made in effort to place a 1.68" diameter golf ball in a 4.25" diameter cup, several hundred yards away in the least amount of strokes. The challenge of improving ones' score or hitting the perfect strike, is what keeps golfers coming back time and time again.



Sport fishing in British Columbia could be considered another of the great personal challenges. Playing a wild and beautiful 30lb chinook salmon as your boat sways back and forth in the Pacific ocean, or trying to elegantly place a fly in the crystal clear mountain streams flowing from the Rocky Mountains, each challenge the mental and physical aspects of the fisher. Combine these two ageless activities and you have one incredible British Columbia two-sport challenge that will create memories to last for years to come.

The color pallet of British Columbia golf courses are brilliant greens and blues, and that's why water activities like fishing go

perfectly with golf. Golfers and anglers come from around the world to experience the amazing fishing opportunities available in the Pacific Ocean.

BC's tidal water fishing areas stretch from the Southern tip of Vancouver Island around Victoria, to North of Prince Rupert offering over 20,000 km (12,000 mi) of coastline to explore and catch the Big One!

Halibut, salmon, dungeness crab and spotted prawns all call these waters home. Chinook salmon, considered by many to be one of the top trophy fish, due to their great fight, and the incredibly tasty sockeye salmon, are expected to make huge returns to the waters around Vancouver Island year after year making this

Let's start with the fishing. Many consider British Columbia to be the best salmon-fishing region in the world. It's also pretty darn good for steelhead, trout and halibut fishing. There are world-class deep-sea options as well as pristine river fishing spots that make nature-lovers gush. Canada's westernmost province is, simply, one of the best places for angling, period.

From Vancouver

While many of the great fishing adventures are scattered throughout British Columbia, there are plenty of options that leave from Vancouver. Outfits such as Bites-On Salmon Charters leave right from the city and can take guests out on the water for a half- or full-day adventure for king salmon (and all the other salmon, too). Locals love to fish the hatchery just below the dam on the Capilano River, which is about a 30-minute drive from downtown. In West Vancouver, the piers, especially those at Ambleside and Dundarave, jutting into the Burrard Inlet can be ripe for hooking fish. Of course, it's always a good bet to stop into any Vancouver fishing shop for more secrets and updates on what spots are hot on any specific day.

Fraser River

Just 50 miles east of Vancouver lie the fertile salmon, trout, sturgeon and steelhead grounds of the Fraser River. This is a fly-fishing paradise, although those who love other types of fishing will still enjoy the gorgeous river and mountainous settings. Fish for the day, camp out or make the adventure an all-inclusive vacation at one of two great lodges, Fraser River Lodge or the Pitt River Lodge.

Campbell River

If a place known as the "salmon capital of the world" sounds appealing, then the fishing hamlet of Campbell River on Vancouver Island is a pretty great place to start an adventure. The town is a three-hour drive north of Victoria, but well worth the effort for a true fishing lover. There are calm pools, flush with salmon,

and the fast-flowing Seymour Narrows with water gushing at 24 km/hour (15 mph). All types of salmon run through this area in the summer.

Haida Gwaii

Arranging floatplane transportation is the first order of business when it comes to getting to this remote archipelago off the north coast of British Columbia—there are no roads from Vancouver to these islands. Another option is choosing a resort that will fly you in. These luxurious accommodations often offer transportation, not to mention plenty of ways to relax in this angler's paradise. Langara Island, just south of the southern border of Alaska, is a particularly prime place for salmon migrating toward streams. This includes millions of Fraser River sockeye. Other common fish include halibut, red snapper and rockfish.

Victoria

Victoria is more than a quaint British colonial city on Vancouver Island. It offers incredible winter fishing for Chinook just a few minutes from town. Popular spots include the Victoria waterfront, and Becher and Pedder Bays, both of which are just minutes from downtown. In the summer, the tides bring in large halibut, sockeye and more in various spots around the island. Steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout, salmon, and shellfish such as crabs, prawns and clams are common in these waters.



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British Columbia is a land of mountains and water. The crystal clear glacier feed streams that start in those mountains are the perfect home for rainbow, bull trout and the beautiful Kokanee freshwater salmon. With over 25,000 lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, British Columbia's freshwater fishing opportunities are limitless.

The largest and some of the oldest fish found anywhere, the white sturgeon, can be found in the murky waters of the Fraser River outside of Vancouver. These prehistoric giants can grow up to 3m/12ft and weigh in excess of 1,200lb (544 kg) creating memorable battles.

Want to try your hand at fly fishing? In the centre of the province, Kamloops should be considered a golfer and freshwater fishers' paradise. With over 100 fishing lakes, 5 incredible golf courses within 1 hour of downtown, and the fact that the Kamloops Visitor Centre will loan you a rod and tackle box through the Go Fish BC – Rod Loan Program, you can create a fishing week for you and your family. Fly-in remote lodges off of Vancouver Island to emerald mountain lakes in the Kootenay Rockies offer everything an angler could desire.

Just think, there are over 400 golf courses in British Columbia, so no matter where you decide to fish, you will have numerous courses close by. BC Golf Guide has been a pioneer when it comes to online golf resources for British Columbia. It started as a simple online tool to find golf courses and related topics. Through the Golf Guide you can also source places to stay if you haven't already hooked up with one of the fine fishing resorts.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Regardless of your experience as a fisher or a golfer, British Columbia offers endless opportunities to combine two great activities in one vacation.

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PANAMA



CENTRAL AMERICA'S HIDDEN GEM

In many ways, Panama still represents something of an undiscovered gem on Central America's tourist trail. Bordered by Costa Rica and Columbia, this country is of course famous for the Panama Canal, which connects maritime trade routes between the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Even with the long list of wondrous things to see and do across Panama, it's clearly the extraordinary fishing both inshore and offshore that continues to lure enthusiastic anglers from all over the globe. And while the secret is out regarding fishing on Panama's Pacific coast (certainly where the spectacular billfishing is concerned), there are also some incredible fishing opportunities for the intrepid fisherman on the Caribbean side.



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A short cross-country hop in a southerly direction and Panama's incredible Pacific fishery opens up before you. Deep-sea aficionados flock here for the abundant black, blue and striped marlin & sailfish sport, while the inshore action from roosterfish, jacks, snapper (and plenty more) is staggering.

Imagine a fishing destination where you can catch seemingly an unlimited number of species of world-class saltwater game fish. This perfectly describes the Coiba Island Archipelagos, which includes the world famous "Hannibal Bank," all located on the Pacific Ocean side of Panama. No matter what lodge you select, you will be treated to a unique saltwater fishing adventure in a truly exotic landscape of pristine ocean waters and lush tropical islands that could well exceed anything you have ever imagined.

World-class offshore action is often to be enjoyed when fishing legendary Hannibal Bank and Montuosa Island. Monster black and blue marlin, schools of wahoo and giant yellowfin tuna, plus huge Pacific sailfish and dorado congregate to feast in these bait-rich waters. Panama is the Northern hemisphere's number one fishing location to pursue large black marlin. Most of these fish weigh 300 to 500 pounds but larger fish weighing up to and over 1,000 pounds have been

caught. These same waters are also one of the Eastern Pacific's top angling destinations for giant yellowfin tuna — 40 to 300 lbs. and more. Many lodges specialize in catching these tuna on poppers. Larger Pacific sailfish exceeding 100 pounds and big dorado may be taken on light tackle. This is an amazing offshore fishery. The month of December is by far the best time of the year to experience spectacular dorado fishing. For fast action, trolling for wahoo is a blast. From May through November, multiple hook-ups are common as these toothy speedsters aggressively attack artificial lures like crazy. After satisfying your appetite offshore, head toward the submerged peaks and drop-offs from remarkable vertical jigging. The sheer variety and size of aggressive fish is astounding — most of which have never seen metal.

Panama's Coiba Island National Marine Park is home to some of the world's most explosive inshore fishing action. Aggressive predatory species such as cubera snapper, roosterfish, cobalt trevally, jack crevalle, and snook readily attack top water and shallow running plugs cast along the many sandy beaches and rocky coastlines. Fishing live baits

Relax ON the Beach
after YOUR exciting day
ON the Water.



in combination with this top water technique is also deadly in attracting arm-wrenching strikes. If you are an avid light tackle enthusiast, then plan on bringing a selection of favorite poppers from 4"-10", diving plugs that run 2'-20', some small casting spoons for Bonito, and some light 20-40lb leader. All lodges will have heavier spinning, casting, and trolling rods, but we suggest that you also bring your favorite 12-20lb rods matched to 4000 or 5000 series reels loaded with 30lb and 40lb braided line.



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The knowledge of captains, combined with the latest in GPS chart plotter technology, will guide you to some incredible bottom fishing spots. Here is where many anglers prefer deep jigging with "iron" or employ the Butterfly, or the Kabura style systems. Others choose to drop down with either live or dead baits. No matter which method you enjoy the most, the waters of Panama will produce rod-bending, knee-buckling strikes from the likes of big snappers, grouper and amberjack.

Regarding entry and exit requirements, Canadian and U.S. citizens traveling by air or sea just need to present a valid passport when entering Panama and re-entering your country. Fishing in Panama is a serious business, and the quality of its lodges and charters reflects that. The offshore crews here are among the finest in the world. This fishing "Hot Spot" is definitely one for the "bucket list".

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FISH THE RAPIDS, PUTT THE GREENS

*A Visceral
Experience in the Soo*

By
Conor
Mihell

The rushing water of the St. Mary's River is the dynamic centerpiece of downtown Sault Ste. Marie and a powerful expression of the city's "Naturally Gifted" motto. The river's beauty and abundant fish stocks have always captivated residents and visitors alike—from the native Ojibwa people who gathered on its shores each summer for millennia to stock up on whitefish, to distinguished author and angler Ernest Hemingway, who wrote, "The best rainbow trout fishing in the world is in the rapids of the Canadian Soo." The St. Mary's still boasts one of the most diverse and productive fisheries in Canada.

The river forms a connecting channel between Great Lakes Superior and Huron, and tumbles six vertical metres over a one-kilometre stretch beneath the towering arches of the International Bridge. Champagne-clear water cascades over sandstone shoals, whirls around boulders and gushes through chutes. Today, locks on the Canadian and U.S. sides of the river enable pleasure craft and freighters to bypass the wild water. The whitewater straddling the international border, meanwhile, is a dreamscape for anglers, with each season of the year presenting different challenges and a variety of fish species to catch.







Hemingway's rainbow trout, along with brown trout, steelhead and whitefish, can be caught in the rapids year round. Local guide Brad Hodkinson, the owner of Soo North Fly Shop, gets most excited, come summer and fall, when feisty Atlantic, Chinook, Pink and Coho salmon arrive.

Hodkinson ties flies, sells tackle and guides anglers throughout Northern Ontario. He says his first time fishing on the St. Mary's River influenced his decision to relocate to Sault Ste. Marie from Southern Ontario.

"The feeling you get out there is indescribable," he says. "I've fished all over Canada and when I say this is the best place in the country, I mean it. But it's so much more than just catching fish. You take part in history when you're out there." Hemingway's rainbow trout, along with brown trout, steelhead and whitefish, can be caught in the rapids year round.

Fishing the rapids is a visceral experience. The moment you step in the river you realize the water has a life of its own. It pulls tirelessly at your legs; right away you'll recognize the need to read the river—to distinguish places where fish may congregate, and more importantly to identify eddies and pools where it's safe to cast. This is big water, and it will likely take a few tentative casts to figure out the flow. Then, when a spirited fish finally rises and strikes your line, the sensory encounter becomes complete: The fish peels the line off your reel, diving for eddies, dashing into the main flow and launching into the air, its sleek skin gleaming in the sun like diamonds. Breathless, you coach yourself to stay calm—keep the rod tip up, play the drag, whoa! let 'er run!—and pray to Poseidon for strength and balance. Landing this muscled beauty is equal parts ecstasy and satisfaction. With childlike

exuberance, all you can think is, I wanna do it again! At this moment, it's easy to understand why fishing the rapids is so addictive.

But you don't need to wade into the whitewater to enjoy world-class fishing. The Sault's scenic boardwalk, which traces the river's edge downtown, offers the opportunity to cast from the comfort of terra firma. Once you've purchased an Ontario fishing license (available online at Ontario.ca), join the locals and tourists who line the boardwalk to the catch migratory salmon that arrive in the St. Mary's in late summer. In particular, Pink salmon are easy to catch by casting spoons and buzz bomb lures from shore—a great way to introduce children to the joys of fishing.

Most of the time, Hodkinson says he favours the mobility of fishing from a motorboat. He brings his guests to the base of the rapids to catch a "mixed bag" of sportfish ranging from salmon to trout and walleye. He'll also troll along the waterfront Hub Trail just east of the Canadian Heritage Bushplane Centre, where monster pike, walleye and trophy bass lurk in calm, shallow water. Even without a boat, Hodkinson says anglers can target these fish from shore. Upstream from the rapids, where piers guide pleasure boaters into the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, Hodkinson suggests fishing for whitefish year-round. "I've fished all my life," he says, echoing Hemingway, "and I've found no place like this."



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A photograph of Niagara Falls with a vibrant rainbow arching over the water. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light in the sky. The title 'FOLLOWING THE RAINBOW' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. A thick, curved orange band separates the title from the subtitle and author information.

FOLLOWING THE RAINBOW

Niagara's Pot of Gold

by David Skinner

A decorative flourish or drop cap letter 'F' in a stylized, cursive font, set against a small orange square background.

he roar of Horseshoe Falls reverberates through the Niagara River gorge lifting a heavy mist as a beacon that can be seen from miles away. This siren's call to the Falls entices millions of visitors each year to the epicenter of the Niagara peninsula to stand in awe of this natural wonder. But there is much more to the region than just the Falls and its attractions. There are vineyards of international fame, fine dining and sporting opportunities that have few rivals anywhere. Fishing and golf enthusiasts will discover that this region is home to the highest concentration of golf courses anywhere in Canada and a multitude of species waiting to bend even the most stalwart rods.



Elthough there are 48 golf courses in the area, there are seven that make up a suite of publicly accessible venues known as the Niagara Golf Trail. Each have their own unique character but all build upon the natural features of their surroundings. The seven courses include Beechwood, Grand Niagara, Thundering Waters, Legends on the Niagara, Royal Niagara, Seneca Hickory Stick and Whirlpool. Unless you have time to play all seven, it is hard to choose which ones to pick. Sound advice would be that when in doubt, always stick to the classic designs by renowned architects. The short list would always include Whirlpool, Legends and Royal Niagara.

Twenty-seven holes lying between the Welland Canal and the Niagara escarpment provide plenty of variety for those choosing to play Royal Niagara. The tips play over 7,000 yards and the track is challenging with forced carries to the fairway and plenty of rough to deal with. For those not enticed by the need to hit it long and straight, there are four other tee blocks that offer a more leisurely round where the fairways are more easily reached. Greens are undulating but very receptive to approach shots and putt well. As testament to the appeal of this track, it has hosted the Telus Skins Game as well as several important tournaments including the International Junior Team Championship.

Not far away, Legends on the Niagara is the consummate golf complex run by the Niagara Parks Commission. It is home to two 18-hole layouts, a short 9-hole course and a 45-acre practice facility. The two main courses each have their own identities and design character from two well-known Canadian architects.

Ussher's Creek takes advantage of the

diversity of the land south of the clubhouse. With dense woods, broad wetlands and rolling rough, Thomas McBroom's design provides variety and an uncertain feeling about whether you are playing on a links style course or a parkland style. This beautifully bipolar feeling comes from trees on one side, thick fescue rough on the other all the while accented by a creek that meanders through play on nine of the holes. Nevertheless, there is plenty to offer on a hole-by-hole basis for alpha golfers and the casual player alike. The gold tees stretch out to 7,180 yards and the three other launching pads measure 6,754, 6,185 and 5,421 yards respectively. Having hosted the Canadian Women's Open, the Battlecreek course is one of Doug Carrick's best efforts. The combination of water and thick rough is reminiscent of its sister design but the fairways are very generous and provide a good opportunity for a variety of shots needed to avoid the rather massive water features diabolically positioned for their eye-pleasing quality and challenge. The massive lake sitting between the ninth and closing holes has eaten its fair share of golf balls so course management is critical to scoring. Adding to the considerations off the tee are deep bunkers where a sideways exit may be the only option. Battelfield is an apt name for this lengthy layout (7,309 yard from the back tees). Winning the battle, however, is a matter of biting off only as much as you can chew. This means selecting from the 6,862, 6,271 or 5,500 yard teeing grounds.

Canada's venerable golf designer, Stanley Thompson, built the Whirlpool Golf Course on the cliffs of the Niagara River Gorge and its namesake water feature.



I

t still shines as a classic example of his fine work and enjoys some of the top ratings from visitors every year. The Parks Commission showcases this beauty and tends to every detail from the club house to the floral accents throughout the property. The course itself is aesthetically pleasing and can be a joy to play at all skill levels. At 7,100 yards from where the pros play, Mr. Thompson has strategically placed his hazards to ensure that any lapse of judgment will result in regret. From the other four teeing grounds the fairways are more forgiving and those who are there more for the experience can let their attention drift to the persistent pastoral beauty on each hole. And it doesn't take long before the designer's meticulous attention to detail makes its mark.

An opening straight away par 4 that is very approachable gives way to the second and third holes where a fountained lake surrounded by floral gardens often slows play as golfers take it all in. Remarkably, even when the course is fully booked, the layout is such that there are few opportunities to see other players. This is not to say that play can't be slow at times but with so much to offer, any reduced pace is barely noticeable.

Arriving at the 18th players will face a long five-shotter that has out-of-bounds to the left and a very elevated green just steps from the clubhouse. The waters of the whirlpool can be heard from tee to green and standing atop the last putting surface looking back, one can't help but want to tee it up again.

With so much golf at hand, it may take some determination to get on the water but if you do, the rewards are substantial. Fishing the Niagara River is something every angler must



With so much golf at hand, it may take some determination to get on the water but if you do, the rewards are substantial.

do. There are a multitude of species in the lower reaches of the river below the falls. Migratory fish abound as do resident warm water species. Depending on the season, targeting steelhead, brown trout and salmon can make reels scream and rods moan under the strain of these behemoths. Lighter fare is also on the menu if panfish and perch are more appealing.

While the gorge leading into Lake Ontario holds muskie, bass, pike and catfish, the better bet for these fine fighters is to head above the falls and fish the upper river as well as the mouth of Lake Erie. Not only is this area known

for football-sized smallies, there are great areas for sight fishing. Casting a fly to cruising carp is like bone fishing on the flats and the runs can be just as exhilarating.

It is well worth taking some time to explore the Niagara region and play at least three of the courses on "The Trail" as well as spending a day on the water with one of the region's great guides. And if that isn't enough, there are some of the best wineries in North America dotted throughout the peninsula and well worth a visit between rounds.

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North Carolina

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Located an hour's drive south from the Raleigh-Durham area and two hours east of Charlotte, no resort destination in America is as rich in golf history and lore as Pinehurst. Despite the understandable increase in crowds and traffic, in many ways the mood and setting in Pinehurst proper is unchanged for the last 100 years. Thus, it's easy to imagine golf's heroes, from Ben Hogan and Jack Nicklaus to Payne Stewart, striding about the town's dogwood-and-azalea-lined paths, breathing in the scent of longleaf pines on a breezy spring evening.

Pinehurst and its surrounding communities, collectively known as "the Sandhills," can rightly tout their pedigree as the "Home of Golf" in the U.S. However, the Tar Heel State offers dozens of other terrific tracks to sample, including a fistful in the Triangle region of Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill and several coastal gems near Wilmington and Sunset Beach. And for those of you who enjoy wetting a line, this is redfish country too.

One of the few public-access courses in North American golf that has hosted multiple major championships, this Donald Ross-designed masterpiece is considered the fiercest test of chipping anywhere, which places a premium on thoughtful ball placement. Ranked 15th in Golf Magazine's Top 100 Courses in the World, the famed layout underwent a magnificent restoration in 2011 led by Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore. The pair widened fairways, replaced rough with sandy waste

areas, and returned native wiregrass and natural bunker edges.

As with the Old Course at St. Andrews, the virtues of No. 2 aren't always apparent at first glance. Most holes are framed by tall longleaf pines, which yield pine cones as big as footballs, and conclude in crowned greens that shed imperfectly struck approaches into tightly mown swales. There are no island greens or 15-foot-deep bunkers, just a succession of strong, playable holes. You must stay at the Pinehurst Resort to play No. 2, but if you're desperate to climb aboard, call the day you'd like to play, as the resort allows limited, last minute walk-ons, based on availability.

Located in Southern Pines, just three miles down the road from the Village of Pinehurst, this celebrated Donald Ross course is owned and operated by Peggy Kirk Bell, one of the game's most popular personalities and a Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher. Although it hosted the 1996, 2001 and 2007 U.S. Women's Opens, it's not as relentless a test as No. 2, but its pine-lined fairways and crowned greens have beguiled the game's best. Pine Needles, ranked second on Golf Magazine's Best Public Courses in North Carolina, dishes out some tough par 4s, but its most memorable hole is perhaps the region's sweetest, the tiny, par-3 3rd, which asks for a precise short-iron over a pond to a back-to-front sloping green - one that's backdropped by massive pines and colorful shrubs.



Love it or hate it, you will never forget Tobacco Road in Sanford, 20 or so miles northeast of Pinehurst. This 1998 creation from the late Mike Strantz is one-of-a-kind. The short yardage (6,554 yards from the tips) and skyscraper Slope from those same tees (150) should tell you all you need to know. Critics carp on the many blind shots and some freakish greens, but the majority warms to the towering sandhills, remarkable variety in landscape shaping and bunker design and plenty of alternative routes to get from tee to green. At the very least, good players appreciate the distinctiveness and artistry of the architect's efforts.

Tom Fazio's 2000 redo of this original Donald Ross design is his modern take homage to No. 2, so expect a workout - and a modicum of frustration - with the chipping clubs.

A Fazio original work, No. 8 is more dramatic than his effort at No. 4, with some exciting risk/reward drives over wetlands and a man-made dune ridge.



Part of the four-course Ocean Ridge Plantation in Sunset Beach, just north of Myrtle Beach, this Tim Cate design opened in 2007. You won't see many holes like the par-4 fifth, with its island green surrounded by sand rather than water. Package deals are also available here, including one free round if you play all four courses.

This classic Donald Ross design was always a well-preserved treat and a joy to play. Now, thanks to a renovation project started late last year, it will also look much more like its debut in 1921. Changes include new grass on all greens, widening of fairways, returning bunkers to original shapes, removing rough and bringing back wire grass and



sandy waste areas, a la the work done in 2011 at Pinehurst No 2. Slightly easier — shorter, though tighter — than its nearby sister course, Pine Needles, Mid Pines sports a couple of reachable par-5s, lively springtime blossoms, and a handsome par-4 finishing hole with the backdrop of the historic Mid Pines Inn.

Ten U.S. Presidents, including current First Golfer Barack Obama, have stayed overnight at Asheville's Grove Park Inn, but you'll need to channel the ingenuity of former guests Thomas Edison and Harry Houdini to solve the puzzles presented by the maddeningly contoured Donald Ross greens at the resort's course. Precision is paramount on this 6,720-yard, par-70 track, as well as an ability to cope with uphill, downhill and sidehill lies.

Pinehurst Resort rolls out eight courses in all and the toughest of the lot is this 1986 Rees Jones product that hammers golfers who play from the 7,216-yard tips with a 149 Slope. No. 7 is quite hilly, with a ravine, wetlands and a natural berm as components of the design. You name it, and No. 7 has got it: huge sand bunkers, multiple grass bunkers, tall pines, forced carries over water, abrupt elevation change,

contoured greens, plus walls of containment mounds lining many fairways, which dispenses an aura of playing along the bottom of a cereal bowl.

Worth the Money

In high season, an a la carte round on Pinehurst No. 2 will set you back \$420. Can

any course be worth that amount of money? If you're serious about the game, the answer is "yes." Maybe we should qualify our response to "Yes" - at least once in your life. Payne Stewart and Michael Campbell captured U.S. Opens here, both times edging out Tiger Woods, among others. Jack Nicklaus won the North and South Amateur here in 1959, while his son, Jack II, duplicated the feat in 1985. Ben Hogan led the U.S. squad to Ryder Cup victory in 1951. We're talking incomparable golf history here and the aura is palpable. Teeing it up on the very walkable No. 2 with a caddie and trying to solve the greenside puzzles presented by master architect Donald Ross is one of golf's singular thrills. Now that it's been expertly restored by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, No. 2 is definitely worth its hefty price tag.

Since you came to North Carolina to golf the best, why not take a day and fish with the best. Captain Rennie Clark is our choice for the most knowledgeable fishing guide in the area. He always knows where the fish are and whether you fish the beaches off of Wrightsville Beach or the beautiful backwaters around Wilmington, this will be a trip to remember.

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CILANTRO LIME CREMA

½ cup sour cream and mayo (I used ¼ cup each)
2 teaspoons minced garlic
3 tablespoons cilantro
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
1 jalapeño, seeds and ribs removed
pinch of salt

BLACKENED SALMON

1 ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
1 teaspoon each: cumin, chipotle powder,
granulated garlic, and sugar
¼ teaspoon each: thyme and onion powder,
salt and pepper
1 pound salmon (Pacific or Atlantic will work)
3 tablespoons oil

OPTIONAL TOPPINGS

corn or flour tortillas, red cabbage, diced avocados,
grilled corn, cotija cheese, lime wedges, chopped
cilantro, pickled jalapeños, pickled onions, Mexican
pickled carrots, black beans, etc.

Serves enough for 12 tacos with other toppings

BLACKENED SALMON TACOS WITH JALAPENO LIME CREMA

Blackened Salmon Tacos topped with diced avocados, fresh grilled corn, cotija cheese, and homemade jalapeño lime crema! Yes, this is one of my favorite all-time recipes. These are the best salmon tacos you'll ever have and they are so simple to make!

Blackened Salmon tacos. It's the meal we've all been missing out on. AND it's my favorite for "Taco Tuesdays". Tender, flakey, flavorful salmon perfectly seared with crispy skin and a blackened crust of home mixed spices. This is love at first bite I tell you. I wouldn't be surprised if like me, you start bellowing out your favorite tune and prancing around the kitchen with a blackened salmon taco in hand. There's a lot of flavors going on here. I mean, other than that blackened spices, we've got grilled corn, diced avocados, a sprinkling of cotija cheese and wait for it – the most seductive jalapeño lime crema of your life. But here's the catch, it takes just a short 30 minutes to whip up. Homemade food truck style tacos on a weeknight? Don't mind if I do! Happy bellies make happy families, right?

How to:

- 1. CILANTRO LIME CREMA:** Combine all the ingredients for the crema in a blender and blend until smooth. Pour the crema in a dressing bottle or a bowl, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.
- 2. BLACKENED SALMON:** Combine the smoked paprika, cumin, chipotle powder, garlic, sugar, thyme, onion powder, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper in a small bowl. Place the salmon on a cutting board and pat dry with a paper towel. Cut the salmon into smaller pieces. I made filets that were about 1 ½ inches wide. Sprinkle the flesh of the salmon with the blackened seasoning liberally, you may not need all the seasoning. Heat a large cast iron skillet over medium high heat. Drizzle ½ the oil into the pan and place half the salmon filets flesh side down into the skillet. Cook about 2-5 minutes total, turning half way through. The salmon is done with the thickest part feels firm. Fry the second batch of salmon filets. Allow the salmon to rest for 5 minutes. Remove the skin and flake with fork or just dice it.
- 3. ASSEMBLY:** Add the red cabbage, blackened salmon, and your favorite toppings to the taco and top with a spoonful of crema. Serve with additional crema on the side.





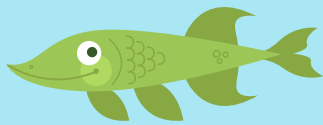
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Bubba Watson

Born Gerry Lester Watson Jr. in 1978, Bubba started playing golf as a child. The self-taught sports star played for Faulkner State Community College and University of Georgia before joining the Nationwide Tour in 2001. In 2006, Watson joined the PGA Tour. He scored his first victory in 2010 at the Travelers Championship. In 2012, Watson took home the top prize at the Masters Tournament, and he took home his second Masters title in 2014.

One of golf's rising stars, Bubba Watson grew up in Bagdad, Florida. His interest in the sport developed at an early age and it became an all-consuming passion. His father Gerry took him to a golf course for the first time when he was six. The young golf savant spent years hitting wiffle balls in his yard, practicing daily. "Instead of playing with trucks out in the yard, I'd play with a ball and a club," explained Watson.

Watson started his professional career on the Nationwide Tour in 2001. For the first few years, he failed to make much of a showing. But in 2004, Watson seemed to be gaining momentum with two second-place finishes that season. He did even better in 2005, playing in 24 events and making five Top 10 and nine Top 25 appearances.

In 2006, the left-handed Watson moved up the PGA Tour. He had a third-place finish at the Chrysler Classic of Tucson that February and took home more than \$1 million in PGA winnings for the season. Still a tournament title eluded him until 2010. In June of that year, Watson won the Travelers Championship. He dedicated this victory to his father who was battling cancer. He also was selected to play in the prestigious Ryder Cup that October. But along with all of this good news came a terrible loss. Watson's father passed away in October as well. "My dad got to see me win & play for USA in the Ryder Cup," Watson stated. The devoutly Christian golfer added, "God gave my family my best year and my worst Year!" In 2011, Watson won two more championships on the tour. He won the Farmers Insurance Open in January and the Zurich Classic of New Orleans that May. And his winning ways continued in the 2012 season: He had a remarkable victory at the Masters Tournament in April, beating out South African player Louis Oosthuizen in a sudden-death playoff. Watson made a remarkable shot from the woods to win the title and the honor of wearing the event's distinctive green jacket. He

received congratulations from the likes of fellow golfer Tiger Woods and football player Tim Tebow, among others.

Watson was overcome by emotion at this important win, which marked his arrival to the top tier of the golf world. "I've never had a dream go this far, so I can't say it's a dream come true," he said about his victory. Watson's ambitions for the future remain simple and straightforward. "Hopefully I keep having the passion to play golf and keep doing what I'm doing," he said.

In April 2014, Watson won his second Masters title at Augusta National Golf Club, beating Jordan Spieth with a final round 69. Watson won his second masters in only three years, an achievement accomplished by only three other golfers, including Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Jack Nicklaus.

How did you get your nickname?

When I was born, my parents said I looked like a football player because I had really chubby cheeks, so my father dubbed me Bubba after NFL star Bubba Smith.

Why do you refer yourself as a "New-Age Redneck."

I've never been hunting. I fish off the dock in my lake house or golf course ponds, but I don't like touching the

BIRTHDATE: November 5, 1978
BIRTHPLACE: Bagdad, Florida
RESIDENCE: Windemere, Florida
HEIGHT: 6'3"
WEIGHT: 180 lbs.
TURNED PRO: 2003

fish. I don't listen to country. I don't dip, or wear boots. I don't do a lot of the things people stereotype with country living, but I sound country and my name is Bubba."

Why do you like fishing?

It's different! It's relaxing, but most importantly, I love taking my son Caleb fishing.

What's with the pink driver and shaft?

I put a pink shaft on my driver because I think it's funny when I outdrive my fellow tour pros. It began as a joke, I kept hitting them long, so now it's staying in my bag.

What is your most prized possession?

General Lee, the car from The Dukes of Hazzard. It's the first one that jumped on the show, and I got it in mint condition. But I just got my new Ford Shelby 700 hp pickup truck, hmmm, give me a few weeks to decide.

What is your favorite course to play on?

Augusta is very special because not a lot of people get to play on it. And so is St. Andrews in Scotland. But I have a soft spot for Stonebrook Golf Club in Pace, Florida, where I learned how to play.

What's the best off the course perk of being a PGA celebrity?

I get free golf clubs

Who was your favorite player growing up?

Payne Stewart

What is one thing people don't know about you?

I think everyone knows everything about me. Wait... I love to blow-dry my hair! Love that hair dryer!

A black silhouette of a mosquito is positioned in front of a large, bright yellow sun. The mosquito's legs and wings are spread out, and its head is pointed towards the left.

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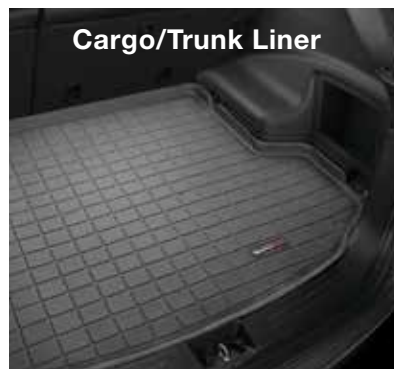
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