

New Hampshire's Lakes Region



One of the most beautiful bodies of water in northern New England is Lake Winnepesaukee. The name comes from a Native American expression loosely translated as 'beautiful water in a high place,' and at more than five hundred feet above sea level, ringed by rolling green hills and white mountains, the sparkling blues of the lake are ideal for swimming, boating, rafting, canoeing and fishing.

With 240 miles of shoreline and a surface area of more than seventy miles, the golf options surrounding New Hampshire's largest lake aren't centrally located. There are eight separate towns ringing the lake: Alton, Center Harbor, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, Tuftonboro and finally Wolfeboro, considered the oldest summer resort town in the nation. But there are several courses worth a visit for those who want to get off the water and plant a tee on

dry land. After all, the lake might have 365 islands to explore, but sometimes all you need is eighteen holes.

The first thing to note: Fuel for your boat to negotiate a lake of this breadth and circumference can be a major expense. Luckily the public golf options are ultra affordable, inexpensive, downright cheap. We're talking green fees that rarely crest \$50, and sometimes are a sawbuck or two less than that. The second thing to note: 'Championship' golf isn't really part of the equation. Most courses are a bit undersized, have their share of peculiarities, and serve as pleasant diversions from the true appeal of the area: The shimmering waters of this gorgeous lake.



Waukegan Golf Club

Waukegan Golf Club in Center Harbor is New England rusticity in full display. This is a quirky little confection, chock full of undersized par-4s, hemmed in by woods, the type of club where the driver should be used judiciously, if at all. Waukegan's rocky terrain will remind players with virtually every swing that they are playing in the Granite State. There are a few holes, mostly found on the inward nine, which allow a full throttle tee shot. However most holes require placement, not abject power, to find the best avenue for approach.



White Mountain Country Club

West of Lake Winnepesaukee and not far off of Interstate 93 is the in Ashland. This is a pleasant parkland course, designed by renowned golf course architect Geoffrey Cornish. This user friendly layout abuts the Pemigewasset River early in the inward nine, and is a mostly straightforward test of the game. One notable exception is the tenth, a leftward bending dogleg with a tee shot played over a densely forested ravine.

Ridgewood Country Club in Moultonborough is distinguished by the fact that their driving range is a large pond, and the range balls are 'floaters.' With the regular presence of water hazards and streams either encroaching or bifurcating the course proper, more than a few golfers will be wishing they pocketed a few of these floating golf balls before making their way to the first tee. Ridgewood offers some stunning long range views, and dense foliage that lurks close at hand to numerous greens. The former will be appreciated, the latter tolerated as players make their way around this agreeable parcel of former farmland.



Kingswood Golf Club

Finally, Kingswood Golf Club has the antiquity, proximity and the pedigree that other area facilities cannot match. Celebrating its centennial in 2015, this 1915 Donald Ross creation is just a few miles from the lively center of Wolfeboro, with its myriad shops, eateries, and other diversions. This semi-private facility has some gentle elevation changes and consistently good conditioning. Straddling highway 28, the main artery in and out of town, there are a half dozen holes on the clubhouse side of the street, with a dozen heading up and down the wooded valley across the way.

Dining options abound throughout the area, and in Wolfeboro include the rustic Wolfe's Tavern with its popular pub food menu. Seafood lovers will enjoy the Wolfetrap, featuring patio dining and lovely lake views. One other recommendation would be the Common Man, which has a handful of locations close to or in some proximity to the lake. The original facility is in Ashland, and dates from 1971. This is a warm, convivial classic New England dining spot, featuring prime rib, homemade macaroni and cheese, and their signature crab cakes.