

Find Out Why Okanagan Region Is Your Golf Destination After The Pandemic

Nestled in the central region of British Columbia, the Okanagan Region surrounding the picturesque Lake Okanagan features a golfer's paradise that welcomes players with stunning landscapes and courses taking full advantage of lush, green surroundings. After spending all this time sheltered-in-place thanks to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the natural beauty, and scenic vistas will be the perfect answer to those "quarantine blues."

Whether the plan is to just get out of the house for an afternoon round, or a full-scale weekend getaway there are a host of top-end golf courses to choose from in the area.

Bringing together the ideal desert climate and a picturesque setting, **The Osoyoos Golf Club** was officially established in 1973. The course initially began as a nine-hole design by Jack Reimer, and thanks to its success, by 1979 a second nine was needed to accommodate the surge of members and visitors. By 1981, the club was a full 18-hole course and an additional, third nine holes were added in 1994. In 2005 the members of the Osoyoos Golf Club voted to expand to 36 holes and in August of 2006, the **Desert Gold Course** was opened to rave reviews. The courses are open under strict Covid-19 guidelines.

Today, the **Park Meadows Course** features a "resort-style" feel, that is walker friendly amidst a park-like setting, while the Desert Gold course brings a new and unique links-style golf experience. The two courses are perched high above the town of Osoyoos and sculpted in the environs of a desert mountainside. The captivating views of Osoyoos and its surrounding orchards, vineyards, and Lake Osoyoos below create a unique golfing experience for golfers of all skill levels. Like the Osoyoos Golf Club, the Park Meadows Course is open under strict Covid-19 guidelines.

Opened in 2010, and named "The Best New Course in Canada" the **Predator Course** at **Predator Ridge Golf Resort** in Vernon, is well known throughout Canada, having held two Canadian Skins Games. The Predator is rated as one of the best courses in the country and features a "faux links" layout that plays firm with tricky, undulating greens, along with moundings similar to that of an Irish links course. In contrast, the newer **Ridge Course** features dramatic elevation changes and rock croppings, providing picturesque views throughout. At this time, the courses at Predator Ridge are not yet open due to the Covid-19 restrictions, as well as weather issues.

Gallagher's Canyon, located just minutes from downtown Kelowna and Lake Okanagan is also rated as one of the top courses in Canada. Designed by Bill Robinson at the end of the 1970s,

the Gallagher's Canyon 18-hole layout winds through a variety of terrains throughout the towering ponderosa pines and features incredible views of the Canyon several hundred feet below. Debuting in 1996, a Les Ferber designed 9-hole executive course extended the complex to 27 holes. Gallagher's Canyon will be open after April 24 with some restrictions. Check the course website for details.

Also in Kelowna, the **Okanagan Golf Club** features a pair of heavily forested tracts with **The Quail**, designed by Les Furber, and **The Bear** by Jack Nicklaus. Both courses should be included on a "must-play" list of courses in the Okanagan Region, but be prepared as both courses qualify as shotmaker's courses and demand accuracy off the tee as well as the pinpoint approach to heavily guarded greens. Success will come from those with solid command of their [short iron and wedge](#) play. The courses at Okanagan Golf Club will be open after April 24 to members, with some limited tee times available to the general public.

Located near downtown Kelowna, the **Kelowna Golf & Country Club** has a "club" feel and has many members belonging to the club. Outside play is readily available and the course is one of the more popular in the region. The course has two defining features, with an adjoining steep rock mountain that borders the par-five sixth hole, and a three-hole run along a lake that has been deemed Kelowna's own version of "Amen Corner", providing a picturesque backdrop for the clubhouse. Kelowna is open for members only during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Finally, the **Harvest Golf Club** is a highly-rated 18-hole course that plays among the open meadows that are filled with working apple and wine grape orchards in Kelowna. Established in 1994, the Harvest has since become renowned in the area for its natural beauty, exceptional golf, and impressive amenities. Nestled within the natural beauty of the Okanagan, the Harvest stretches a championship 7,109 yards, so [the driver](#) will get plenty of use.

The course itself features wide fairways and is an easily walkable tract, with breathtaking panoramic views and over 800 fruit trees decorating the fairway make this parkland course unique. The Harvest Golf Club is open to members only while under the Covid-19 restriction period.

Once this pandemic has settled down, and the restrictions on travel are eased, this region that has long been a mecca for wine tasting, lakeside relaxation and lush orchard and vineyard views should again be a target for those looking to get back to normal. And the recent surge in Okanagan golf courses that have created a premier destination for those seeking relaxation in all forms, should provide those longing to return to the course a perfect outlet to do so.