

The Bigfoot Golfing Society



Myrtle Beach 2010 Tour Itinerary



It is proposed to hold a second Myrtle Beach event in 2010 along similar lines to the successful 2007 week.

The event will be for 7 nights from Saturday 22nd May returning home Saturday 29th May 2010.

Flight costs

Flights available just now for 2010 include Glasgow via Philadelphia and Charlotte NC, around £430.

Accommodation /Golf Package Costs

Package Costs

\$787.00 per golfer (6) - 3 people sharing 2 bedroom condo (2 units)

Golf Courses included in package

True Blue, Willbrook Plantation, River Club, Myrtle Beach National - West and King's North, and Blackmoor.

Accommodation – Barefoot Yacht Club

Barefoot Resort is one of our most requested upscale resorts and is always well received for its luxury accommodations and premier location. Where else can you stay overlooking four courses with renowned designer names as Love, Fazio, Dye & Norman and yet only minutes away from the wide beaches of North Myrtle Beach.



Setting new standards for Myrtle Beach luxury accommodations featuring well appointed kitchens with granite countertops, designer furnishings and incredible spacious floor plans. Enjoy the breathtaking views of the Intracoastal Waterway and the new Yacht Club Marina from your private balcony. Amenities include out door Jacuzzi and the largest outdoor pool in SC.

Adjacent to the Barefoot Landing shopping, dining and leisure area.
<http://www.bflanding.com/>

Property Features

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedrooms: 1,2,3 and 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathrooms: 1,2 and 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast: Buffet, \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen: Full or Eff. | <input type="checkbox"/> Washer/Dryer: In unit | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron: Available |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Dryer: Available | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet: High Speed | <input type="checkbox"/> Maid Service: None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool: Outdoor | <input type="checkbox"/> Grill Area: None | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacuzzi: Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Center: No | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Center: No | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis: No |

More Pics



More information on the accommodation and courses can be found at

<http://www.myrtlebeachgolfdirectors.com/>

What I need you to do now

- I need a payment of £600 to cover the golf /accommodation deposit of \$100 per person, and flight costs which are be between £430 and £530 at the moment
- The price may change before I receive all the money. Anything left over will be charged against the balance of the Accommodation / golf package due 30 days before departure or returned if requested.
- The flights will be non-refundable / non-transferable so make sure you have travel insurance in place.
- I need the following details for booking the flights:
 - i. Full Name to exactly match the name on your passport
- I need to book the golf package **by 6th September** and would like to book the flights then also.

Best regards

Gordon

The Courses

River Club ★★★ 1/2

1 Pine Circle
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
877-480-4653

Date opened: 1985
Architect: Tom Jackson
Head Pro: Christa Bodensteiner
Greens: A-1 Bent
Par: 72
Course Rating: 72.4
Slope Rating: 137
Yardage: 6677
Coolers: No
Driving Range: Yes, \$4.00



The semi-private **River Club** has proven to be one of the most challenging courses in the Myrtle Beach area and features A-1 bent grass greens. The only course in the south strand to have bent greens, this Tom Jackson signature course is one of the premier "plantation" courses and a favorite among returning golfers.

There is some room off the tee, but true to its name, River Club features water on 15 of 18 holes, and over 100 sand traps and bunkers. Long hitters have some room off the tee, but approach shots need to be true. The dramatic par-5, 18th (above) is unquestionably one of the finest finishing holes on the Grand Strand, offering risk and reward to those who can carry the water twice for a possible chance at eagle.



Myrtle Beach National – Kings North ★★★★★



4900 National Dr
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
877-480-4653

Date opened: 1973
Architect: Arnold Palmer
Head Pro: Michael Burnside
Greens: Crenshaw
Par: 72
Course Rating: 72.6
Slope Rating: 136
Yardage: 7017
Coolers: Yes
Driving Range: Yes, \$4.00



Arnold Palmer's sensational King's North Course has been crowned "South Carolina's Course of the Year for 1996", "Top 10 New Upscale Public Course in America" by Golf Digest for 1997, and "Top 100 in America" by Golf for Women in 2002 for three years running. The famous island green possesses an inspiring new look with an elevated sculptured bulk-head. Forty-two bunkers line the 464-yard, par-4 18th fairway.



But the most memorable hole may be the 6th, "The Gambler," a par-5 reachable in two with a courageous tee shot, 220 yards over water to an island fairway.

For over twenty-five years, King's North was the most requested and best recognized course on the Beach. The par-3, 3rd hole with its island green and SC shaped sandtraps is the signature hole for Myrtle Beach.

In 1996, Arnold Palmer and the Palmer Design Group returned to Myrtle Beach National and transformed the North Course into a brand new course --- one of the most visually exciting and challenging courses in America. By moving over 400,000 cubic yards of dirt, adding bulkheading, 7,000 azaleas and 600 hardwood trees, enlarging lakes, bunkers and greens, and planting new "Crenshaw" bentgrass greens, Palmer created what many believe to be the finest course on the Grand Strand--King's North.

Myrtle Beach National – West Course ★★★ 1/2

4900 National Dr
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
877-480-4653

Date opened: 1973
Architect: Francis Duane
Head Pro: Michael Burnside
Greens: Cato Bent
Par: 72
Course Rating: 73.0
Slope Rating: 119
Yardage: 6866
Coolers: Yes
Driving Range: Yes, \$4.00



One of the most challenging courses in Myrtle Beach is the beautiful **West Course at Myrtle Beach National**. From the regular tees, golfers of all abilities will enjoy this classic Arnold Palmer design. But be prepared for a professional challenge from the back tees, as the numerous doglegs, fairway bunkers and natural hazards come into play. Carved through a majestic Carolina pine forest,

The West offers everyone the feel of a private club. Be sure to have your Myrtle Beach hotel include the West at Myrtle Beach National on your schedule.

This is the longest of the three MBN courses. This tract features wide fairways, numerous doglegs, fairway bunkers, natural hazards and large well-bunkered greens.

Winding through a pine forest, wayward shots can easily find trees blocking your next shot.



Water only comes into play is on No. 18, a 221-yard, par 3. They did a lot of work on the course in 2003, and conditions have been consistent ever since.

Willbrook Plantation ★★★★★

426 Tidewater Cir
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
877-480-4653

Date opened: 1988
Architect: Dan Maples
Head Pro: Kevin McGuire
Greens: Bermuda
Par: 72
Course Rating: 71.8
Slope Rating: 127
Yardage: 6722
Coolers: Yes



Carved from the site of two Carolina plantations, **Willbrook Plantation Golf Club** is a course that noted architect Dan Maples has often called "One of my best!" Located on the south end of the Grand Strand, Willbrook winds its way amid a centuries-old oak forest where nature abounds. It was recently featured on the award-winning television show "Nature Scene" for its peaceful coexistence of golfers and nature.



The par-5 15th hole, demonstrates the many challenges of the wetlands, waterways and stately oaks used in this great design.

Willbrook is known for not only the tactical play ability required, but also for the natural surroundings you'll experience. This makes it a favorite of returning golfers.

True Blue ★★★★★

Address: 900 Blue Stem Drive, Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Phone: 1-866-409-2177

Year Opened: 1998

Turf: Greens - Tif Eagle Bermuda, Fairways - Bermuda with rye overseed.

Yardage: 6842, 6633, 6327, 5465

Head Professional: Danny Gore

Course Rating: 73.8

Slope Rating: 139

Architect: Mike Strantz



Named one of "America's 100 Greatest Public Courses" by *Golf Digest* and ranked in the top 10 of *Golf Digest's* "Top 50 Courses in Myrtle Beach," True Blue has lived up to its preopening hype. This well manicured layout features vast fairways and incredible elevations. The rolling terrain and native vegetation of this once thriving indigo and rice plantation makes for one of the most spectacular settings in golf. True Blue is a "must play" on your next visit to Myrtle Beach.

For years True Blue Golf Plantation was known as one of the hardest golf course in the Myrtle Beach area. Designer Mike Strantz was given few restrictions, and he chose to run with it, building one brute of a round of golf.

True Blue was marketed as "Golf's Heaven and Hell" in its first two years on the map. And though the course has been softened in recent years to make it more duffer friendly, True Blue retains much of its initial bite.

The first four and last four holes are some of the toughest in the areas, though in between there's a small respite from the beating True Blue is capable of handing even the seasoned golfer. Ultimately, True Blue is a solid option for mid to low handicappers on a Myrtle Beach golf trip.

GOLF COURSE REVIEW

True Blue: New Greens, New Look, and Still One of the Grand Strand's Best

By Shane Sharp,
TravelGolf.com Senior Editor

PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. - Pardon True Blue if its developed a bit of an inferiority complex over the past four years. This Mike Strantz designed golf course in Myrtle Beach's southern end is one of the most memorable, challenging, and aesthetically amazing golf courses the Grand Strand has to offer.

Despite boatloads of accolades from golf writers and critics, however, the course has undergone more makeovers than Madonna since opening its doors in 1998.



True Blue came out of the shoot as one of the bad boys of Myrtle Beach golf. Brash, bold and unwilling to adhere to many of the traditional tenants of golf course design, True Blue was immediately dubbed "Golf's Heaven and Hell."

Strantz was coming off his ridiculously successful design job at the Caledonia Golf and Fish Club, and with one money maker under his belt, the former Tom Fazio associate was ready to flash some of his true colors.

True Blue was to be all that Caledonia wasn't. Caledonia was short, outwardly beautiful, inwardly friendly, and did everything

but beg golfers to have the best rounds of their lives. True Blue, on the other hand, was "Caledonia, even with its extreme mounding and bunkering, was realism. The entire course was out there for

players to see, judge, and sometimes conquer. True Blue, with its hidden greens, visually deceptive bunkers, and hidden pitfalls was cubism at its best, surrealism at its worst.

Funny thing happened. Average golfers, most of which shoot somewhere between 95 and 155 depending on whom you believe, began to opt for the realism of Caledonia. Why pay \$150 to get beat up and deceived, they figured?

When repeat play at True Blue declined beyond an acceptable level, Strantz was brought in by the course's owners to "dumb down" some of the tougher holes. Easily the most photographed hole on the course, the par-4 eighth was also one of the most visually intimidating holes before the revamping. The 361-yard hole is a sharp dogleg right that used to feature a beautiful waste area to the right side of the fairway. Now, the waste area is filled in with dirt and players can simply line up their tee shots with the new mounding, and cut the hole in half with a good drive.

"This course was and is Caledonia on steroids," says head pro Danny Gore, a former Caledonia assistant pro. "Players will play over there, and then come over here in the afternoon and say they are never coming back because it is too difficult. We think we have improved the golf course for the mid to high handicapper. Frankly, if this course were private, it would have been fine just the way it is. But in our business, repeat play is too important."

In addition to the changes on the eighth hole, a good bit of mounding was removed from a number of greens, and a series of bunkers were partially filled and overseeded with fairway grass. In the end, the course went from decidedly difficult to flat-out player friendly when taken from the white tees

Before reopening in October of 2000, True Blue made yet another bold change that had players talking from Georgetown to Wilmington. Bentgrass greens are harder to maintain in the south than sobriety at a college football tailgating party, so Gore and his superintendent opted for a new, resilient strand of Bermuda grass known as Tif Eagle.

"We would go through summers and the greens would not come out," says Gore. "All we have had are good comments on the new greens. Players who have played here before actually are saying that they like the new greens better than the old ones. Tif Eagle can roll as true as bent, but it can stand up to anything."

True Blue had some trouble with a few of its new greens during the summer, but as of this writing, there may not be better Bermuda greens in the entire state. From a distance, the putting surfaces look like the outfield grass at Pac Bell Stadium, replete with a variety of mowing patterns and hues of green.

The course is home to an excellent mix of par 3's, 4's and 5's, and Strantz's routing continually keeps players guessing as to what is coming next. For example, there are three par 5's on the front nine, including two out of the first four holes. The front nine ends with a wonderful 507-yard three shotter, and the back nine begins with, you guess it, another three-shotter.

The 586-yard tenth may be the best hole on the golf course. The tee shot from the tips is from high above the fairway, the second shot is over a series of finger-like bunkers, and the approach shot is to a green guarded along the entire right side by sand.

Eighteen is a wonderful finishing hole that requires a huge drive from the tips, or a long iron off the tee from the white tees. The approach shot is to a green that juts out into the creek that runs along the left side of the fairway. But the fun part is the gallery: typically, hordes of people will be sipping drinks out on the patio, waiting to applaud those shots that find the green.

Blackmoor ★★★

6100 Longwood Road
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
877-480-4653

Date opened: 1990
Architect: Gary Player
Head Pro: John Friz
Greens: Tif Eagle
Par: 72
Course Rating: 71.1
Slope Rating: 126
Yardage: 6614
Coolers: No
Driving Range: Yes, \$2.00
Rental Clubs: Yes, \$20.00



Blackmoor, built on old time Longwood Plantation, is the only course in the Myrtle Beach area designed by the famous Gary Player. This spectacular layout uses natural terrain to form each and every hole, making it a great place to enjoy a round of golf. Player, known as the “World’s Most Traveled Golfer”, uses his experience and imagination to provide a challenge for the most capable of players, but yet an enjoyable layout for higher handicappers.



With Gary Player, you know that you will see something other than what you will find with a more conventional architect. Several risk-reward opportunities pepper the course, as well as situations around the course that can require a couple different shot processes. There’s a little bit of Europe, South Africa, and the U.S. all rolled into one course in Myrtle Beach.

GOLF COURSE REVIEW

Blackmoor Golf Club Still One of South Strand's Best

By Shane Sharp, Contributing Writer

MURRELLS INLET, S.C. - If you can get beyond the wild turkeys, the alligators, the deer, the old plantation cemetery on the 13th hole, and all the ancient cypress and live oak trees, you’ll find that Blackmoor is one fine golf course.

Gary player designed the track back in the early 1990’s when the South Strand was still carving out a niche for itself in the Myrtle Beach golf scene. But credit Blackmoor’s owners with knowing how to build and market a golf course.

Undulating design contours with beautiful natural terrain and vistas make Gary Player's creation one of the most enjoyable golf courses on the Grand Strand. Parallel to the tranquil Waccamaw River, Blackmoor Golf Club is built on the historic Longwood Plantation. Hosting both hospitable staff and inviting facilities, this course is a must-play year after year. A challenge even for an adroit golfer, Blackmoor requires both knowledge and ability - but it is a favorite for high handicappers as well

Gary player designed the track back in the early 1990's when the South Strand was still carving out a niche for itself in the Myrtle Beach golf scene. But credit Blackmoor's owners with knowing how to build and market a golf course.

They were smart enough to know that they needed a big name on the scorecard to compete with the established courses up the road. Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer were charging a small fortune for their design services back in the late 1980's, but the elder statesman of the "Big Three" was just beginning to establish himself in the business, and was available for a reasonable price.

"At the time, the ownership thought it was very important to bring in a name like Gary Player," says Blackmoor head professional Mac Hood. "You are ensuring that you will get the curiosity of the players peaked. Ten years ago, Player wasn't nearly as prolific as we is now. Since then he has become more of a prolific designer, and it has helped us even more."

Landscape architects Jack, Arnie and Gary are not. But Hood says that Player did more than just sign his name on the scorecard.

"He had a vision for the golf course," Hood says. "He had a look that he wanted, and he tends to make very playable golf courses. The fronts of the greens are always open so that lesser skilled players can run the ball up on the green, and the course is not very penal."

Blackmoor's owner also realized that when it comes to opening a golf course, nothing beats a good piece of property. While dozens of courses were opening along the flat, uneventful topography of Highway 501, Blackmoor's could claim the historic Longwood Plantation as home.



Like so many of the South Strand plantations, Longwood was once a prolific rice producer, owned by two of the area's most popular figures.

Enamored with its low elevation and ample swampland, P.W. Fraser and John Green purchased the plantation back in 1820 to grow and farm rice. Fraser and Green were both heavily involved in the Horry and Georgetown County social and political scene.

Fraser graduated from South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) in 1822, and went on to run for a seat in the state senate. He was also an original member of the Murrells Inlet Hot and Hot Fish Club, one of the creators of the Planters Club on the Pee Dee River, and even donated some of his land for the clubhouse.

Green was a Revolutionary War soldier who was often referred to as "Big Uncle" because of his six-foot-four inch, 300 pound frame. Green was also one of the original members of the Hot and Hot Fish Club, and he is buried in the old cemetery to the right of the 13th hole. Blackmoor's surroundings have changed dramatically since Fraser and Green roamed the countryside, and even the past ten years have witnessed a bit of a housing boom. But the presence of a few ubiquitous patio homes has not been enough to spoil the overall experience at Blackmoor.

"The fauna here, the alligators, the turkeys and the deer, that is one thing that Blackmoor has always had," Hood says. "People who played here when we first opened are sometimes disappointed with the new development. But not too many golf courses do you have to wait to hit your tee shots because there are turkeys crossing. There are certain parts of the golf course that will never see development."

When Blackmoor first opened, it was the most expensive course on the Grand Strand. Golfers from around the country were ready to pay top dollar to stroll the fairways designed by one of professional golf's great ambassadors.

With all the new courses built in Myrtle Beach over the past five years, Blackmoor's greens fees have fallen back into the middle of the pack, making it even more of golfing value. "When we first opened, Blackmoor was the most expensive golf course in Myrtle Beach," Hood says. "But as time went on, because of what it costs to build a golf course, we are right in the middle now. We say that we are an upscale golf course, but that we are a moderately priced upscale golf course. Our goal has always been to provide an upscale golf course for a fair price. I think Blackmoor opened at the opportune time because the piece of property we got was one of the last of its type."

One of the Blackmoor's primary attractions, other than the affordable price and the Wild Kingdom-like wildlife, is the course's variety. The front nine plays through the higher elevations of the Longwood Plantation, while the back nine takes a dip into the swamplands of the Waccamaw River. "The 12th and 13th holes are as close as you get to the river," Hood says. "You are just 100 yards away but you can't see it because of the trees."

The 411-yard par 4 tenth hole is a wonderful hole that doglegs left around some stately Pecan trees that frame the hole. The par 5 13th hole, home to the old plantation cemetery, is one of the most beautiful holes on the course, but not all golfers are able to get on in two because of the massive cut that is required off the tee.

However the most perplexing hole is quick to greet players on the front nine. The par 4 eighth hole plays 347 yards if you follow its traditional routing down the right side. But a clearing to the right just 270 yards from the middle tees tempts players to go for the green.

"A lot of designers these days like to have that drivable par 4," says Hood. "The tee box and the green are almost in a straight line with each other because of the dogleg. We thought it would be interesting to open the hole up and give players the chance to go for the green."

And are players taking the bait?



"Gauging by the back up on that hole on a busy day, I would say almost everyone takes the gamble," Hood says. "That hole and the 15th hole are the two signature golf holes. Sometimes it presents a place of play issue because people are waiting for the green to clear. Most people find the worst of the hole."

The Myrtle Beach golf community, however, is still finding the best of Blackmoor. The course was recently voted the Strand's Golf Course of the Year by the Golf Course Owners

Association, and by way of the award qualified for the state finals.

"I can't take credit for that," Hood laughs. "I have only been here a couple of years. We have just kept the tradition going with our conditions, our service, and what we give back to the community."

For more information on courses, accommodation
and on Myrtle Beach go to:

<http://www.myrtlebeachgolfdirectors.com/index.html>