



Tobiano



GREAT CANADIAN GOLF ADVENTURES

Great ideas for golf holidays in the most spectacular regions of Canada



Big Sky

WHAT'S OUR STORY...

Athlone Golf and Sports Travel is a boutique operation catering to the golfing community. We believe it's not just the golf that makes your trips truly great. Our goal is to provide the guidance to make sure your trip is exceptional. We create each experience to include the best of golf and the "accoutrement" that make these trips really special. For some people it could mean exploring local historical sites while others may prefer an entertaining night at the popular local pub. We thrive on personalizing your trip so you will have lasting memories.

Athlone Golf and Sports Travel, a division of well-established Athlone Travel based in Victoria, British Columbia and an IAGTO member for seven years, is led by Wayne Morden.

Wayne has golfed since the age of five. Published author of *Golf Shorts and Plus Fours: Musings from a Golfing Traditionalist*, he has played some of the best courses and hidden gems and still seeks out more so he can provide the insight needed to personalize your experience. He'll ask all the right questions to ensure you get the ultimate experience.

Wayne can be contacted at +1 250-864.4051 or emailed at wayne@athlonegolftours.com. Reach out and let him know what he can do for you in organizing your next greatest, golfing adventure.

Athlone Golf and Sports Travel invites you to start the conversation.



WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sea to Sky fun

Located in the spectacular Coast Mountains of British Columbia, Whistler is Canada's favourite year-round destination. There are two majestic mountains with a vibrant base Village, four championship golf courses, unbeatable shopping, restaurants and bars, hiking trails, spas and arguably the best mountain bike park in the world.

Choose to stay at either the beautiful Fairmont Chateau Whistler or the Four Seasons Resort Whistler. Although the world knows Whistler for its 2010 Winter Olympics and fantastic skiing, golfing is a popular summer activity. Both 5-star accommodations are only minutes from three great golf courses in Whistler and twenty minutes from Big Sky Golf Course.

The [Fairmont Chateau Whistler Golf Course](#) produces a golf experience unlike any other, and offers a great opportunity to see some of Whistler's wildlife from black bears to deer. Carved out of the BC Coastal Mountain Range with elevation changes of more than 400 feet, this magnificent course provides incredible natural features such as exposed rock faces, mountain ledges, ravines, waterfalls and wildlife sightings.

A brilliant emerald-coloured lake. Majestic fir trees. Fresh, invigorating mountain air. This is the setting that inspired the great Jack Nicklaus to create [Nicklaus North](#). This 18-hole course winds along a gentle valley floor offering you a spectacular setting as your golfing skills are tested to the fullest.

What really sets [Big Sky Golf Course](#) apart from any other golf course is its setting. Surrounded by mountains, Big Sky is "Pure Golf" and an experience you will not forget.

Stand on the first tee of the [Whistler Golf Club](#) and instantly you'll understand why Arnold Palmer chose it as the location for his first Canadian design. Snow-capped peaks surround the course in all directions, ancient cedars and majestic fir trees line the fairways, winding streams, nine lakes and white sand bunkers punctuate perfectly manicured greens and an occasional black bear sauntering across a fairway is not an uncommon site.

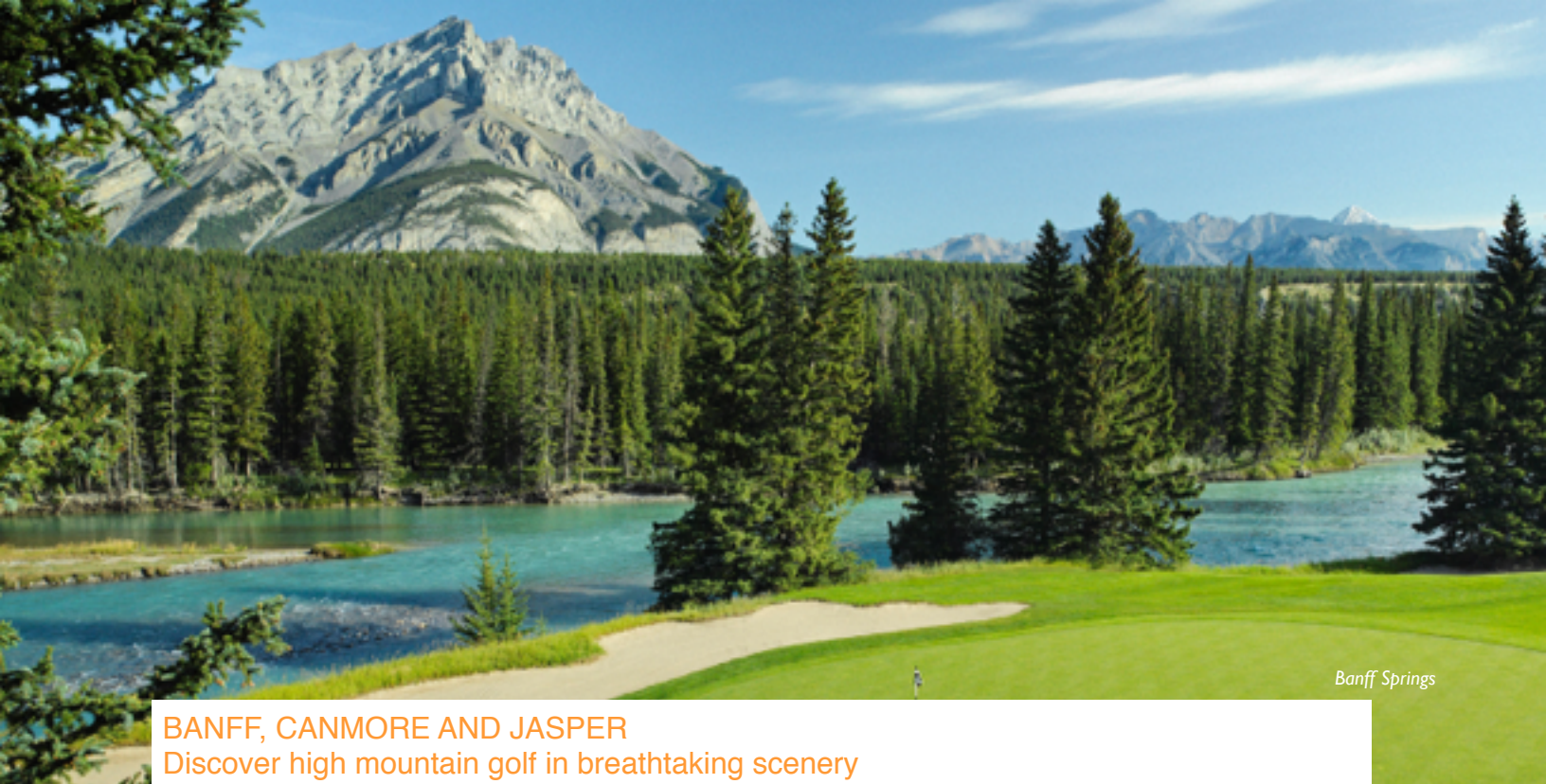
Try the Peak 2 Peak Gondola Alpine Experience. It takes you on a journey between the tops of Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains, complete with incomparable views of towering volcanic peaks, ancient glaciers, and coastal BC rain forests. You could try zip-lining or whitewater rafting. There's also the Scandinave Spa, Whistler's unique outdoor experience. Whistler provides so much.

Drive back a day before you depart to enjoy Vancouver, the city ranked as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. You could bike around the 1,000 acre Stanley Park found in downtown Vancouver and surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. Visit the nearby Aquarium or set out on a boat to do some whale watching.

Let's discuss your version of "spectacular" for your next trip.

Did you know that the Bearfoot Bistro in Whistler is home of the coldest vodka tasting room in the world?

Did you know that Whistler is home to the world's longest and highest gondola lift?



Banff Springs

BANFF, CANMORE AND JASPER

Discover high mountain golf in breathtaking scenery

Play the world famous [Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course](#). Renowned for its panoramic beauty, The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course in Alberta is a captivating and challenging layout set in the heart of Canada's Rocky Mountains. The Stanley Thompson designed course winds along the Bow River under the snow-capped peaks of Sulphur Mountain and Mount Rundle. In 1989, the course was complemented with the construction of the adjoining Tunnel nine resulting in 27 holes of championship Alberta golf. Ask us about playing with hickory clubs or having a lunch on a raft. This course is a lockdown to play in your itinerary.

You can enjoy a stay at the world famous Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Canada's "Castle in the Rockies". Located in the heart of Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Banff Springs hotel stands as a landmark in the picturesque alpine town of Banff, Alberta. Or, venture to the Rimrock Resort Hotel. The Rimrock is a AAA/CAA Four Diamond Hotel located in the heart of the Canadian Rockies and Banff National Park. The Rimrock Resort Hotel offers exceptional views of the Canadian Rockies, fine dining at the Eden, only one of 5, five diamond restaurants in Canada, and a luxury spa.

In nearby Canmore there are two more exceptional courses you will want to play. [Silvertip's](#) 600 acres of peaks, grasslands and valleys are perched on the benchlands of Mount Lady MacDonald and are drenched in warmth and sunshine: it is the only resort in the entire region on the south-facing side of the mountains. Few golf courses in North America can boast [Stewart Creek Golf Club's](#) spectacular combination of breathtaking mountain views, extraordinary vistas and naturally sculpted fairways.

Ensure you make the worthwhile journey to magnificent Lake Louise before venturing three hours through the sensational Columbia Ice Fields to Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge for a two day stay. Situated in Alberta's magnificent Jasper National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, The Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge resort is a 700 acre year-round luxury mountain resort which wraps around the shores of pristine Lac Beauvert. The resort's charming village of cedar chalets and luxurious Signature Cabins all connected by picturesque paths, offer guests unique access to explore the natural environment surrounding the resort.

Play at [Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course](#). This other Stanley Thompson designed 18-hole layout offers elevated tee boxes, dramatic bunkering and holes aligned with distant mountain vistas. It took 50 teams of horses and 200 men working together for a year in order to clear the land of boulders and debris to prepare it for what would become one of Canada's premier golf courses.

Did you know that you can find bull elk smashing heads on the Banff Springs Golf course?



Sagebrush Golf and Sporting Club

THOMPSON-NICOLA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Experience links, parkland, mountain and open range golf in the sun capital of B.C.

Kamloops is located in the heart of the Interior of British Columbia and has long been touted as Canada's Most Diverse Golf Destination. The region enjoys consistently sunny weather throughout an eight month golf season and its remarkable golf reputation is built on the diversity of courses that Kamloops offers. Play an alpine mountain course with dramatic elevation changes in the morning and a desert course surrounded by native grasses and cactus in the afternoon.

You could stay at the lovely Kentucky style South Thompson Inn in Kamloops where all 48 rooms offer a different experience of luxury and comfort with river or mountain view balconies. Enjoy a steak and salmon barbecue overlooking the Thompson River.

Arguably the moment in which Kamloops really came of age as a top Canadian golf destination was with the opening of [Tobiano](#) in 2007. This layout is carved among the hoodoos and desert terrain along the bench lands overlooking Kamloops Lake. Views of this water dominate, so it is no surprise that Tobiano has been compared to some of the world's best—Ballybunion in Ireland and Pebble Beach in California. It is simply that good.

When considering course pedigrees, [Rivershore Golf Links](#) is where legendary designer Robert Trent Jones, Sr., created, by his own words, "A masterpiece". This is a walkable course that provides for the classic mix of holes to reward solid shot making.

100 year old+ [Kamloops Golf and Country Club](#) is Kamloops "oldest, yet newest and finest course" after undergoing a recent extensive renovation. By using a combination of strategic mounding, ponds, and bunkers, golfers are provided with a variety of approaches to each of its newly designed USGA bent grass greens.

Another golf oasis is [Sun Rivers Golf Course](#). Developed at the base of Mount Paul with sweeping views of the Thompson Valley, the course is set in a scenic desert environment among natural sage and gently contoured greens with big horn sheep often found grazing the bent grass fairways. The newest emerging sport of FootGolf is even offered in off peak times.

And then there is the magnificent [Sagebrush Golf and Sporting Club](#) found an hour away from Kamloops in Quilchena. Their motto has always been 'Play for Your Soul'. The minimalist links style course honours the traditions of the game. They couple their world class course with world class luxurious accommodations in guest cottages. Sagebrush's western hospitality and feel are perfectly accentuated with the Hideout. This is a special place where you can break during your round to fly fish for lake trout or indulge in a barbecued burger. The Badlands Putting Course & Patio area ends a spectacular outing for the day. This is a must play.

There are lots of ideas we would love to share with you to plan your next trip.

Did you know that parts of Interior British Columbia offers more sun than Scottsdale, Arizona, USA?

Did you know that the mountains seen from the Kamloops Lake Lookout are the ones pictured on the back of the original Canadian \$100 bill?



Predator Ridge

GOURMET GOLF AND WINE COUNTRY Okanagan Style

The Thompson Okanagan region has more than 50, 18-hole golf courses offering panoramic mountain views, sage-covered desert terrain, and backdrops of orchards, vineyards and lakes. Many Thompson Okanagan golf courses, including several award-winners, have been designed by renowned course architects such as Les Furber, Michael Hurdzan, Robert Trent Jones, Sr., and Fred Couples.

Only 20 minutes from Kelowna Airport is the spectacular [Predator Ridge](#) in Vernon. Predator Ridge is set amongst one of the most scenic backdrops in North America. The Peregrine Cottages offer picturesque views of the Ridge Course and will be a perfect home away from home. The rolling hills, long grasses and undulating greens on the [Predator Course](#) make for a truly unforgettable golf experience. The second course opened in 2010 is the [Ridge Course](#) and is defined by incredible vistas, long, scenic fairways and beautiful granite rock outcroppings.

[Tower Ranch Golf Club](#) in Kelowna is positioned high atop the eastern bench which looks down upon the Okanagan Valley and lake. The course has been described as one of the most beautiful and exciting courses offered anywhere in North America.

At [Gallagher's Canyon Golf and Country Club](#), golfers will marvel at the scenery as they play through tall groves of ponderosa pine and along the very edge of the picturesque canyon. Framed by forested mountains and rocky bluffs beneath clear blue northern skies, Gallagher's Canyon offers the quintessential Okanagan golf experience: rugged yet refined.

A short drive from Gallagher's Canyon is [The Harvest Golf Club](#). Wide, impeccably manicured bent-grass fairways contribute to the unique character of this special course. Fifty-four acres are devoted to a working orchard featuring 5 varieties of apples and an additional 5 acres of land produce Ehrenfeller, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir wine grapes. Enjoy the great service and have a drink on their outdoor patio.

[Golf Club At The Rise](#) in Vernon straddles a peninsula nearly 1,000 feet above two arms of Okanagan Lake. The Rise offers rare, spectacular views as well as fast greens, five tees and their very own 'Amen Corner.'

A few minutes from Predator Ridge is Sparkling Hill Resort. Built in 2010, it is the premier wellness resort spa destination in North America. The Swarovski 'KurSpa' is considered by many to be the most unique in the world. PeakFine, the restaurant at Sparkling Hill, has become a fast favourite among Okanagan Valley restaurants not only for their exquisite cuisine, but also for the sparkling dining room with spectacular lake and mountain views.

There is so much to experience in the Okanagan including a vast array of restaurants like The Terrace Restaurant at Mission Hill Winery or Old Vines Restaurant at Quails' Gate Winery, winery tours, a boat cruise on Lake Okanagan or simply taking in some beach time. We can provide you with more details which will best suit your idea of the perfect holiday.

Did you know the Okanagan Valley was just ranked second best wine region to visit amongst 20 nominees by USA Today?

Did you know that the Okanagan Valley has Canada's only desert?



Photo by Brian Kimble, Bear Mountain

VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Garden City

Victoria is a golfer's dream. With a climate that encourages golfing year-round, Victoria and Vancouver Island are home to many of Canada's most beautiful and challenging courses. Even if your swing isn't quite up to par, golfing on the Island will provide an experience that will leave your vacation bragging rights intact.

Stay your first night at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. It is acclaimed on the Condé Nast Gold List and Travel + Leisure 500 Best Hotels of the World, The Fairmont Empress hotel in Victoria resides majestically at Victoria's sparkling Inner Harbour and vibrant city centre.

While downtown, you can enjoy an unforgettable whale watching trip. The Orca Spirit whale watching vessel offers you a first-class marine adventure.

After an amazing afternoon, you can travel to the luxury [Westin Bear Mountain Resort](#), just 25 minutes from downtown Victoria. All Bear Mountain guest rooms and suites feature signature Heavenly Beds® and luxurious bathrooms with deep soaker tubs. Westin Bear Mountain Resort offers Canada's Only 36 holes of Nicklaus Design Golf. The [Mountain Course](#) is set in the foothills of Mount Finlayson and offers panoramic mountain, city and ocean views set within rolling fairways and lush forest. The [Valley Course](#) meanders through forest, borders lakes, and traverses creeks throughout its 18 holes, while offering spectacular views of Vancouver Island's beautiful landscape.

Close by is [Cordova Bay Golf Course](#) in Victoria which provides stunning course conditions and spectacular views. Mount Baker rises imperiously from the horizon, daring you to match its perfection with every shot you hit.

Just a few minutes drive from the resort, you will find the wonderful [Olympic View Golf Club](#), which has many holes with dramatic elevation changes. This course is nestled deep inside a pristine forest, natural beauty is punctuated by two waterfalls, twelve lakes, roaming deer, soaring eagles, and the beautiful snow peaked Olympic Mountains in the horizon. The 18th is one of the most challenging finishing holes you will encounter, playing to a severely elevated green with a West Coast style clubhouse appearing to be suspended above you.

We can discuss what's right for you. There are boundless options which will make Vancouver Island unforgettable for your next excursion.

Did you know that you could play golf in Victoria all year long?

Did you know that Vancouver Island is ranked among the top islands in the world from Conde Nast Traveler magazine's reader poll?



Cabot Links, Cape Breton

CAPE BRETON ISLAND

Golf was invented for places like this

When it comes to a memorable golf experience in Atlantic Canada, Cape Breton's championship courses truly deliver. Not only does each course provide a challenging yet enjoyable round of golf for players of all skill level, each course also offers a chance to discover Cape Breton Island.

Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia has flown under the radar for decades, despite the fact that Stanley Thompson's national treasure, [Highlands Links](#), has thrilled golfers for 90 years. Many have referred to Highlands Links as Thompson's homage to golf's Scottish roots and St. Andrews in particular. Holes have names like "Heich O'Fash" (which means "Heap of Trouble") and many of the fairways are remarkably similar to Scottish topography. Other typical Scottish trademarks include heroic tees with their long forced carries, blind tee and green strokes, rolling fairways, dune-like mounds, pot bunkers, small undulating greens, seascape panoramas and ever-present heather. A recent re-design of the course to more of its original roots make this "mountains and ocean" course one you do not want to miss.

Then in 2012 the much-heralded [Cabot Links](#) opened and the world took notice. To see the ocean from everywhere on the links, and to play golf on the ground as well as in the air, to imagine shots and to understand that the contours of the fairways and greens invite creativity: this is golf as it was meant to be and as it has been for centuries on the classic links that represent the best the game has to offer. This is Canada's only authentic links course and will be followed by another one next door called [Cabot Cliffs](#) that may be even more sensational. It opens for limited play in July 2015. Fans of Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Oregon, U.S. will note that Mike Keiser partnered on this project. Take a caddy to enhance your experience and apparently, the Cabot Public House has the best lobster pizza!

There are other premier courses found on the Island. Near Sydney, [The Lake Golf Club's](#) diversity is a product of both the design and the setting: rock outcrops, long mystical views, crashing streams, grassy meadows and charming golf holes all combine to make golf at the course both exciting and rewarding.

[Le Portage Golf Club](#) offers challenging tee shots resulting from tree lined fairways along with great views of the Highlands. [Bell Bay Golf Club](#) rounds out a fantastic combination of courses. This masterpiece has incredible views from virtually every hole and possesses one of the best sequences of finishing holes anywhere.

All courses are located along (or nearby) The Cabot Trail, one of North America's most scenic drives. Enjoy fresh seafood, warm hospitality, single malt whisky and listen to foot-stomping Celtic music. It's all so reminiscent of Scotland.

There are different kinds of accommodations depending on your tastes: 5 Star Country Inn, bed and breakfasts or a historical lodge. We'll work with you to ensure its all about you.

Did you know that Alexander Graham Bell's summer home was in the little town of Baddeck?

Did you know that one-fifth of Cape Breton is preserved as a national park, laced by 25 hiking paths and looped by the Cabot Trail, a 186-mile driving route frequently ranked among the world's most spectacular.



Salmon Arm Golf Club

SHUSWAP COUNTRY and SALMON ARM House Boating In British Columbia

Imagine a week living on the water and being able to take a dip at any time. The Shuswap is the House Boat Capital of Canada. You could take yourselves to [Hyde Mountain](#) and dock at their slip to enjoy a round. The course winds its way through thick evergreen forest and across ravines to give golfers equal amounts of beauty and challenge.

[Salmon Arm Golf Club](#) is twenty-five minutes away. This club offers its guests a truly unforgettable & unique setting that boasts the 18 hole Champions Course, the 9 hole Heritage course and the exceptional Ironwood Restaurant. This highly regarded British Columbia "must play" course unfolds over meticulously manicured terrain. Bunkers and waterholes lurk amidst tall fir, cedar and pine to offer an impressive test of golf for players of all abilities.

[Canoe Creek Golf Course](#) is a newer course in Salmon Arm that offers fairways framed by natural grasses that present the golfer with a very strong 'British Isles' feeling. Pot bunkers are scattered strategically throughout the golf course; the greens are large and receptive with soft undulations.

[Talking Rock Golf Course](#) in nearby Chase meanders through a mature, sandy forest setting and will end with a breathtaking 18th hole along the shore line of Little Shuswap Lake. The unique design will take the golfer on an adventure through this diverse landscape of the Little Shuswap Indian Band Reserve. Little alteration of the lands was required thereby creating a course of natural and rugged character that will require strategy and thought for players of all skills and abilities.

There are large and larger house boats. Maybe it is for a group of 4 or the big boy's trip of 20 plus. We could arrange a personal chef for that special evening event. Or you could BBQ at the end of your round and just take in the sun set. It's a spectacular environment to spend some time. Oh, and we've found the best place for you to have a great piece of pie!

You could spend the last couple of nights at the spectacular [Predator Ridge](#) in Vernon making it easy to fly out from Kelowna. Predator Ridge is set amongst one the most scenic backdrops in North America. The rolling hills, long grasses and undulating greens on the [Predator Course](#) make for a truly unforgettable golf experience. The second course opened in 2010, the [Ridge Course](#) is defined by incredible vistas, long, scenic fairways and beautiful granite rock outcroppings.

Did you know there are six wineries to visit in the Shuswap and they are located in one of the most northern grape growing regions in North America?



Copper Point

COLUMBIA VALLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA The Columbia Valley Golf Trail

Play the hidden gem, [Golden Golf Club](#). With straightforward views from each tee box, frame your next perfect shot with the spectacular background of the Rocky Mountains and the vibrant waters of the Columbia River Valley.

[Eagle Ranch Golf Course Resort's](#) centrepiece is eighteen magical holes of golf perched along ancient bluffs overlooking the Columbia River – a stirring setting made even more dramatic by its Rocky and Purcell Mountain views.

Only a short drive away and carved from the natural beauty of the land, [The Point Course at Copper Point](#) follows the rise and fall of the Kootenay Rockies. Each hole has its own distinct personality that offer golfers wide fairways, elevation changes, deep woods and high rough, all in perfect harmony with nature. As a bonus, The [Ridge Course at Copper Point](#) is a Masters-style course featuring full length Par 3 and Par 4 holes that maintain the perfect blend of playability and challenge

Close by is [Greywolf](#) in Panorama Mountain Village. This course features several holes that will be seared into your memory bank for a long time. The dynamite collection of par-3s, capped by the diabolical Cliffhanger hole, is, unquestionably, one of the best in the world. With a clubhouse elevation of 3800 feet and an elevation change of over 300 feet, from its highest to lowest point, golfers will feel as though they have been on a roller coaster through the mountains.

Then there's the [Springs course at Radium Hot Springs](#). Nestled beside the Rocky Mountains, The Springs is set high along the banks of the mighty Columbia River. The wide open spaces of the Columbia Valley, the snow-capped Purcell Mountains to the West and the imposing Rockies to the East create a stunning backdrop.

And there is no shortage of equally spectacular accommodations. You could select a private chalet overlooking the Columbia Valley featuring a large gourmet kitchen, great room with wood burning fireplace, media and games room and so much more. If that weren't enough, Copper Point Resort in Columbia Valley's newest five star destination hotel offers fabulous accommodation, banquet facilities, indoor and outdoor pools and hot tubs. The choice is yours.

At Eagle Ranch, visit The Rustica Steakhouse as it offers 100% Canadian Prime representing the top 0.3% of beef in Canada and is renowned for its outstanding flavour and tenderness. In Panorama you could white water raft. Catch the thrill along the Toby Creek or Kicking Horse River. There is also fly fishing and hiking in the area. You could visit the mineral pools at Radium Springs. All this could be managed with a private coach so you could enjoy the view. There are so many options.

Call us to discuss what we can arrange for you in the fabulous Rockies of British Columbia.



Harvest Club

Please contact Wayne Morden at +1 250.864.4051 or email him at wayne@athlonegolftours.com. He can guide you through the Canadian landscape to create your trip to be just what you desire. Start your conversation with Athlone Golf and Sports Travel today.