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Experience World-class Golf Courses at Reasonable Prices

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.— For many vacationers, a trip wouldn't be the same without at least one round of golf. Visitors to Johnson City can practice their game, whether they are experts or beginners at one of the area's courses. The public courses are Pine Oaks Golf Course and Buffalo Valley Golf Course. The private courses are the Johnson City Country Club and the Ridges Golf and Country Club. They provide a graceful landscape that allows Johnson City visitors to experience challenging golf.

“The City of Johnson City maintains two public golf courses that offer affordable rates, while still providing golfers with a high quality golf experience,” said Brenda Whitson, executive director of the Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Additionally, the city has two private courses that offer challenging games.”

Buffalo Valley and Pine Oaks Golf Courses were both developed by the city as an outlet for affordable recreational golf outlets that could promote the golfing industry and local experience in a positive and economically friendly environment.

Pine Oaks

Pine Oaks is a 6,200-yard course with a par of 71, designed to accommodate all levels of golfers. Although the course is considered short, with the championship tee coming in at 6,271 yards, the challenge arises through the elevated greens, blind shots, drives through pine trees and

difficult shot placement. Pine Oaks course consists of Bent grass and poana greens and over-seeded fairways.

“With affordable prices and a beautiful green, Pine Oaks has become a local favorite for the residents of Johnson City,” said Whitson.

Pine Oaks Golf Course, built in 1963, was developed through the Federal Urban Renewal Program to answer a community need for a recreational outlet. The course has low rates, special opportunities, including instructional options, and is conveniently located in South Johnson City, just off I-26.

“Pine Oaks has always been one of the leaders in public golf, hosting many junior and senior programs and free or inexpensive educational forums to grow the game,” said Jim Hughes, director of Golf at Pine Oaks and Buffalo Valley. “Pine Oaks has gorgeous views, old Scottish style greens and a parkland style setting.”

“The course is continuously being improved, and new tees have been incorporated, not only lengthening the facility, but also allowing for a more pleasant experience for the beginning golfer”, said Hughes.

Pine Oaks is open year-round and operates a full pro shop. PGA professionals are available for lessons, as well as a practice green. For 18 holes, Pine Oaks weekday rates are \$11 and \$16 on weekends, with \$14 cart rental fees.

For more information, please call (423) 434-6250 or visit www.johnsoncitygolf.com.

Buffalo Valley

Purchased by the city in 1993 as a second public course, Buffalo Valley Golf Course has attracted golfers from across the Eastern part of the country, as well as hosting a variety of tournaments and exhibitions. The course also hosts local school golf teams. Buffalo Valley has served as the home golf course for East Tennessee State University, a nationally ranked and recognized golf team.

“Buffalo Valley is a beautiful, mountainous, rural setting, located minutes away from the urban amenities of Johnson City,” said Hughes. “Buffalo Valley offers panoramic views and elevation changes of 1,000 feet between the highest and lowest points on the course.”

Located in Unicoi, just 10 miles south of Johnson City, Buffalo Valley Golf Course, an 18-hole course, is 6,700 yards of scenic mountain views and elevated tee shots for a course par of 71. Buffalo Valley offers a challenging golf experience with a combination of Bent and Poana green grass, along with perennial ryegrass fairways. Buffalo Valley also challenges golfers with a constant variety of holes, ranging from flat to mountainous or straight to dogleg.

“The 15-minute drive to the Buffalo Valley Golf Course is well worth it. This is an attractive and challenging course that has a dedicated staff and PGA professionals,” said Whitson.

Buffalo Valley also accommodates a range of golfing skills, ranging from beginner to experienced. For experienced golfers wanting a difficult course, the course from the championship gold tees measures in at 6,740 yards, while the yards decrease for the blue, white, senior and women’s tees.

For 18 holes, Buffalo Valley golfers can play for the affordable fee of \$11 on weekdays and \$16 on weekends, with \$14 cart rentals. Open year round, Buffalo Valley has a full pro shop, as well as a practice green and PGA professionals. Tee times are required.

For more information, please call (423) 928-1022 or visit www.johnsoncitygolf.com.

Johnson City Country Club

Johnson City Country Club will challenge any golfer’s skill without disappointment. Designed by one of the top golf course architects, A.W. Tillinghast, the course follows the traditional 18-holes and is filled with rolling hills of Bermuda and Bent greens. Tillinghast, known as the “Father of Golf Course Architecture,” has designed other well-known courses, including Inverness and Winged Foot.

The course, open year round, will challenge golfers to attempt the 6,402 yards of green with a par of 72, while being challenged by the course’s oak trees and sand traps.

“The entire course gives a breathtaking view of the mountains while providing a challenge to even the most experienced golfers. Most of the links are surrounded by natural wilderness and flowers in full bloom,” said Whitson.

Johnson City Country Club is a private course that operates year round, as well as operating a pro shop.

For more information call (423) 928-5161 or visit www.jccountryclub.com.

Ridges Golf and Country Club

The Ridges Golf and Country Club is located in Jonesborough, only 15 minutes from Johnson City. Designed by Arthur Hills, named *Architect of the Year* by *Golf Digest*, the Ridges Golf Course uses the area's natural beauty to enhance the golfing experience, as well as providing golfers with a wide variety of experiences at each individual hole.

“What really sets the Ridges apart from other golf courses is the entire club experience, with our gourmet food and excellent tennis and golf courses, as well as our strong youth program,” said Michael Bradfield, general manager of the Ridges Golf and Country Club. “The course provides exceptional scenic views of the mountains that makes the experience of playing at The Ridges unforgettable.”

“Number eight is our signature hole and is a par 5. Number eight's challenges are abundant and golfers have to carry water twice to put in on the green, over the water and creek. Number eight plays long and there are difficulties everywhere.”

Sitting on 6,702 yards, The Ridges, an 18-hole 72-par course, consists of Bermuda and Bent green grass, and is home to a world-class pro shop. Although the course is private, Johnson City visitors can play the course with an additional fee.

For more information call (423)-913-3164 or visit www.theridges.cc.

Johnson City is located in Northeast Tennessee and is the fourth largest metropolitan city in the state. Set in a region known as America's First Frontier, Johnson City is “Where the Pioneer Spirit Began”—a historically significant and culturally rich community surrounded by an abundance of unspoiled natural beauty. Johnson City has a history, which dates back more than 200 years, and its culture embraces individual creativity and encourages innovation through expression. The area is world-renowned for its modern and traditional Appalachian and bluegrass music, art and cuisine, and outdoor recreation for the whole family throughout all four seasons.

For more information on Johnson City, please visit www.visitjohnsoncitytn.com or call (423) 461-8000 or (800) 852-3392.

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