

Lake Chelan Trips We Love

by Clint Campbell (with the help of Chris Stockholm)
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Golfing Lake Chelan's Sunny Side This Spring

You've got your clubs in the trunk. Just past Cle Elum, the sunshine, sage brush and pine appear. You know you've arrived in golf vacation country and you feel good...and smart. Because on the eastern side of the Cascades, the courses are generally in better shape than the mud bogs of the west side while green fees and lodging are cheap this time of year in north central Washington.

Chelan as a Regional Golf Destination

It was the opening of the Bear Mountain Ranch Golf Course in 2005 that established the Chelan area as a golf destination. Together with the Lake Chelan Municipal Golf Course and the nearby courses of Desert Canyon and Alta Lake, Chelan has the variety, conditions and accommodations for great spring golf.

Ideas, tips and more:

- Hit a course on the way over – Suncadia, outside of Cle Elum, for low handicappers or the Leavenworth course if you're coming over Highway 2, for the rest of us.
- Alta Lake Golf Course is fun and laid back. The back nine is as good as any around. Twenty minutes east of Chelan.
- Desert Canyon is a phenomenal, link style course near Orondo. Huge greens, but you've gotta hit 'em straight.
- If you had only one course to play, make it Bear Mountain. The views are jaw dropping. See a bear in the tree on #2, sow and cubs in the draw on #8, trout in the ponds in #12 and #15...well, you get the picture.
- Leave your room at Campbell's, play nine at the highly regarded Chelan Municipal Golf Course and be back to the wife, kids and beach in two hours.
- Say 'hi' to the local pros at Chelan, Desert Canyon and Bear Mountain, respectively Jim Oscarson, Coron Polley and Von Smith. Good guys all, they do an excellent job and know their stuff.

Links to the Links

Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan for golf packages (www.CampbellsResort.com)

Bear Mountain Ranch Golf Course (www.bearmt.com)

Lake Chelan Municipal Golf Course (www.lakechelangolf.com)

Desert Canyon (www.desertcanyon.com)

Alta Lake Golf Course (www.altalakegolf.com)

Suncadia (www.suncadiaresort.com/vacation-golf-resorts.php)

Leavenworth Golf Course (www.leavenworthgolf.com)

On the Way Over (I-90 route)

Half way to Chelan from Seattle is the perfect spot to take a break, the Pioneer Coffee Roasting Co. in Cle Elum. Great coffee drinks, good bathrooms and cute baristas. (Take Exit 84 off of I-90 toward Cle Elum/S. Cle Elum. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto 1ST ST W, travel about a mile to N. Pennsylvania Ave., turn right and your there.)

Other Grownup Things to Do

- Visit the wineries. (www.LakeChelanWineValley.com) Chelan's new AVA has put the local wine industry on the map. Tasting, touring, dining.
- Dining and Entertainment. Campbell's Bistro and Pub, Adante, Sorrento's and Café Manson are all quality establishments. Live music, great community, wine bar and coffee can be found at the Vogue. Campbell's Bistro has live music Friday nights.