

# 18 Days of Golf Heaven

I have a plan for an exotic three-week golf holiday. It will take me to places I've never seen before. I'll play the most beautiful, distinct and challenging courses you could imagine. And I won't cross even one border. story by Jeff Arthur, photography by DHS Communications.

I can do all this because Saskatchewan has, according to [saskgolfer.com](http://saskgolfer.com), more than 250 golf courses. On my highly-ambitious, four-person RV tour of the province, I will play barely 10 per cent of them. It's a quest I'm calling 18 Days of Golf Heaven.

**One:** Pack up the RV, collect my three golfing compatriots and head northwest to our first stop, the scenic and challenging North Battleford club as recommended by accomplished golfer Tom Kroeker. Follow that up with nine holes at Silver Lake near Maidstone, before heading down Highway 16 and setting up camp at the fully serviced sites of Lashburn Town and Country Golf Course.

**Two:** Begin the day at Lashburn's well-irrigated course, especially enjoying the long par three third hole that drives slightly uphill toward the native trees. Finish the day with 18 at Lloydminster, a course Kroeker calls "one of the toughest in Saskatchewan. Very challenging tee to green."

**Three:** Wait until morning to take the scenic drive to Meadow Lake, then switch drivers to head back south to finish a sightseeing kind of day with nine holes at Shellbrook.





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**Four:** One of Saskatchewan's oldest and finest 18 hole courses is Cooke Municipal in Prince Albert. Match that with the 18 at Emma Lake for a memorable contrast.

**Five:** Eagle Point Resort in La Ronge is worth the two-hour drive for its challenging nine holes. We'll be back in time to play Waskesiu, a course champion golfer Colin Coben describes as "irreplaceable."

**Six:** "Elk Ridge just keeps getting better and better," Coben says of the 27 hole course just outside Prince Albert National Park. "It's one of my top five in the province." We'll play all 27 and make full use of their well-designed RV area.

**Seven:** Evergreen Golf Club in Nipawin is a good test, but it also offers different tee boxes for every level of golfer. We'll follow up with nine at Tisdale.

**Eight:** Coben likes the Melfort Golf and Country Club - who am I to argue with a golfer of his calibre? Thanks to Daniel Rauckman and the Saskatchewan Golf Association ([www.saskgolf.ca](http://www.saskgolf.ca)) for providing contact information. Include nine holes at St. Brieux in the day.

**Nine:** Green Hills in Greenwater Park is building itself a very good reputation. Also recommended: Club Foam Lake, a beautiful little nine hole course.

**Ten:** A challenging but completely satisfying day of golf to start the back nine of our trip: Good Spirit Lake near Canora and Madge Lake. Remember, when the ball's above your feet you're likely to hook.

**Eleven:** "We've got a very strong golf club here at Deer Park," says Allan Sauser, Head Pro at Deer Park Golf Club in Yorkton. "It's a mixed challenge in that water comes into play, there are lots of trees and lots of bunkers on a very hilly course." I'd stop at either Esterhazy or Rocanville for another nine.



**Twelve & Thirteen:** For an excellent tour through the southeast corner of the province, start at Golf Kenosee near Carlyle, move on to Estevan Woodlawn, Mainprize near Midale and finish at Weyburn.

**Fourteen:** A full day in Regina. Take your pick of at least five superb courses, but make sure one of them is Deer Valley. Coben says it's a very pretty but very difficult course where "you can get into so much trouble left or right off the tee."

**Fifteen:** The picturesque Elmwood course in Swift Current is infamous for its blind shots. Head north to Saskatchewan Landing for another surprising 18 holes.

**Sixteen:** According to Kroeker, the wind coming off Lake Diefenbaker is the real challenge at the Harbor Golf Club near Elbow. Coben commends Outlook Riverview's nine holes for its abundance of trees and low cost.

**Seventeen:** "If you play the back tees it's all you want and then some," Coben says of Moon Lake near Saskatoon. He's a fan of the original 18 but we have all day to play the full 27.

**Eighteen:** The elevation changes are what make the new nine hole Delisle course special, Coben says. He's also played the new Dakota Dunes south of Saskatoon and says from the back tees (7,300 yards - yikes!) it's as tough as they come.

We've driven past many excellent courses in our 18 day tour, but there's always next year, and the year after that... and I still won't play the same course twice. 🍷



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