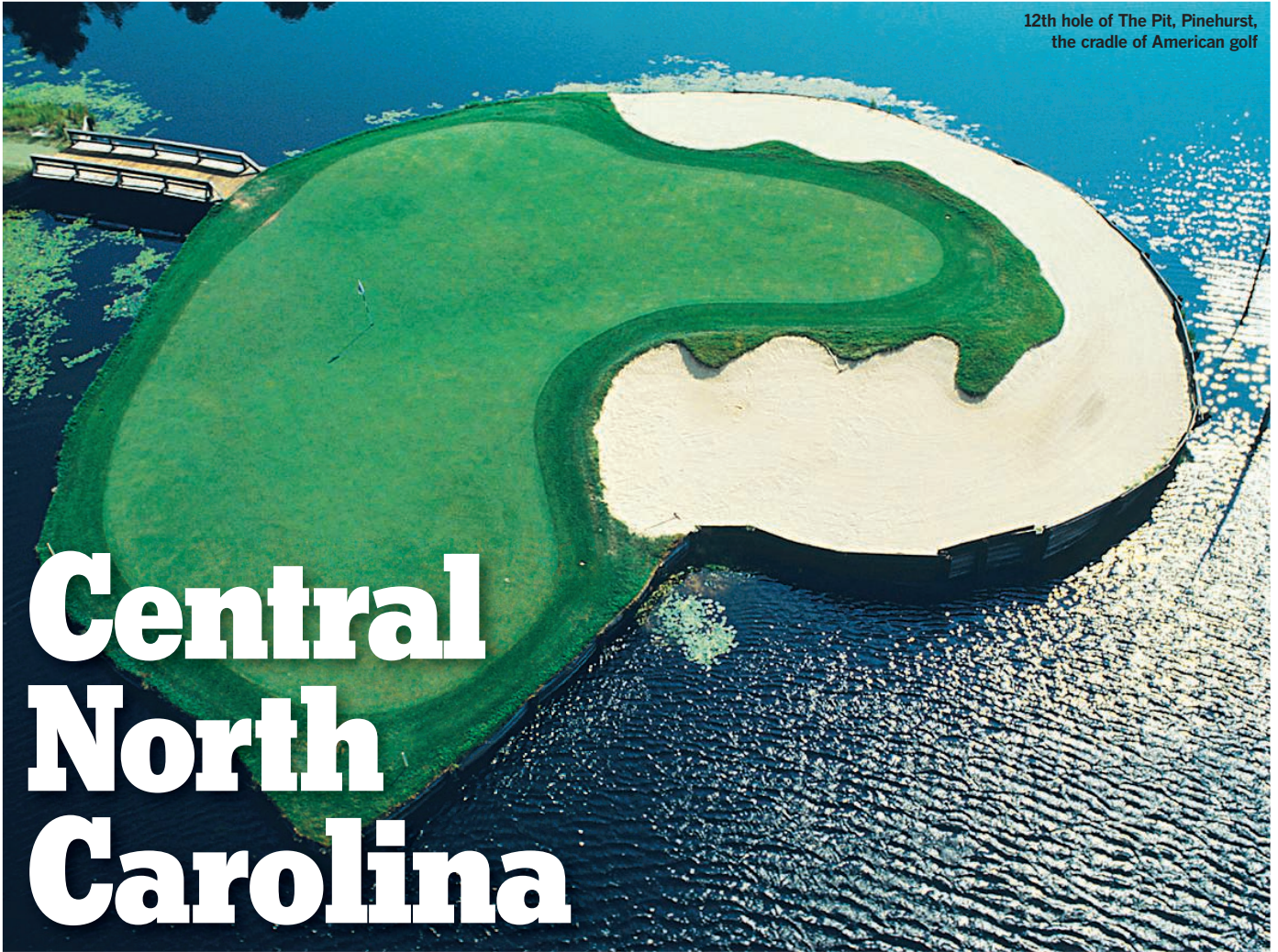


12th hole of The Pit, Pinehurst, the cradle of American golf



Central North Carolina

NC DIVISION OF TOURISM, FILM, AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

North Carolina is arguably the spiritual home of American golf. Golf World follows in the footsteps of legends in the state's central region then heads out to discover its mountain and coastal golf

It was fitting that the 2005 US Open should have been played on Pinehurst's No. 2 course, just weeks before the Open Championship was played at the home of golf, St Andrews.

Pinehurst is the cradle of American golf. Here in the sandhills of central North Carolina, Scotland's own Donald Ross, a protégé of St Andrews greenkeeper Old Tom Morris, was hired in 1900 to run the golf operation at the fledgling Pinehurst Village just a year after crossing the Atlantic to become club pro and head greenkeeper at Boston's Oakland Country Club.

Ross remodelled Pinehurst's original 18 holes, built by a New Yorker, then set about creating No. 2. By 1907 he had completed one of golf's greatest courses, in the process launching a career which would see him design over 400 more courses, including Pinehurst's No.s 3 and 4 as well as a further nine holes which no longer exist.

He would spend his lifetime tinkering with

No. 2, only grassing over the previous sand greens in 1935. He called No. 2 "the fairest test of championship golf I have ever designed" and his work of genius has stood the test of time. Witness the fact that no-one in the 2005 US Open finished under par, winner Michael Campbell taking the trophy with a level-par total. The USGA's uncompromising set-up was a big factor, but I watched close-up as greats like Tiger Woods struggled to come to terms with Ross's upturned-saucer greens, =>



Payne Stewart remembered at Pinehurst

BILL RUSS



Lakeside holes enhance Bryan Park, at Greensboro



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grassy hollows and devilish bunkers amidst the statuesque pines.

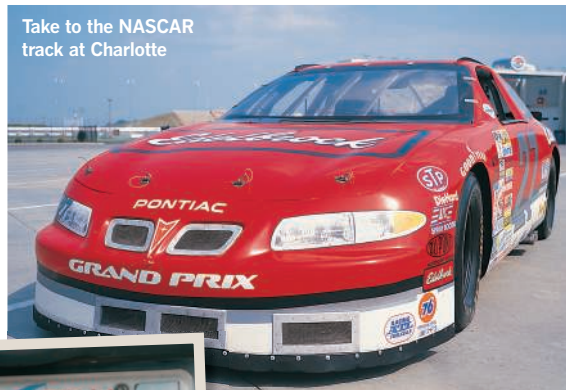
For Tiger & co No. 2's 7,217 yards play off 70. For mere mortals it becomes a 72 – the 8th, where John Daly took an 11 in the 1999 US Open final round, and the brutish 16th reverting to par 5s.

Today, Pinehurst Resort encompasses eight courses, the pick of the others being No. 4 (a Tom Fazio remake of a Ross original and Trent Jones Sr and Rees Jones redesigns) and No. 8 (Fazio). It is a veritable cathedral of golf in an area which has one of the highest densities of golf per capita in the entire US, at less than 100 residents for every golf hole. Legend, history and emotion hang heavy in the air.

A statue of Payne Stewart, capturing the fist-pumping, one-legged celebration in winning the 1999 Open months before his tragic death, stands by those of Ross and founder Richard Tufts behind No. 2's 18th green. Walk the short distance to quaint Pinehurst Village and you come across the imposing presence of century-old hotel The Carolina, where memorabilia-lined walls stir the soul. Nearby is the Pinecrest Inn, owned and run by Ross until his death in 1948. A plaque by the entrance honours the great man, while inside more memorabilia in glass-topped tables and over the bar evokes the past.

Midland Road, which ends close to No. 2's 2nd green, is known as the "Fifth Avenue of Golf" because it passes by so many of the area's 40-plus courses. They include two more Ross masterpieces – Pine Needles, built in 1927

Take to the NASCAR track at Charlotte



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and the 1996 US Women's Open venue, and Mid Pines which opened six years earlier and remains much as it

was with small greens and narrow fairways. Another is Talamore Golf Resort, which offers golfers the bizarre option of a llama caddy, for \$125 on top of the green fee. The pack animals can carry two golf bags and are available from late autumn to early spring on the Rees Jones-designed course, a strategic and much-praised 7,020-yard layout.

Other notables in the area include the visually-stunning and quirky Tobacco Road by architect Mike Strantz, its challenges highlighted by the sharp dogleg par-4 16th with a blind approach over mounds; Dan Maples' The Pit, an exercise of precision target golf in a former sand quarry, Longleaf, on the site of an old equestrian training facility; plus the National and Plantation golf clubs, with courses in gated communities by Jack Nicklaus and

WHERE TO PLAY

Pinehurst Resort

8 courses including No. 2: 7,217 yards, par 72
From \$75 depending on course.
No.2: \$290-\$345

Contact: 00-1-910-235-8507
pinehurst.com

No. 2 is the stuff of legend, and one of the few US Open venues the public can play

Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club

7,015, par 71
\$135-\$190

Contact: 00-1-910-692-7111
pineneedles-midpines.com

Another Donald Ross classic where ordinary golfers can pay homage to the master

Talamore Golf Club

7,020 yards, par 71
\$55-\$95, llama caddy extra \$125 available from autumn until spring

Contact: 00-1-910-692-5884
talamore.com

Not quite the Andes but llama caddies help tackle the hills

Duke University Golf Club

7,145 yards, par 72
\$70-\$85

Contact: 00-1-919-681-2288
washingtondukeinn.com

Careful study will get good results on one of America's top uni courses

Tanglewood Park

Two courses including Championship Course: 7,101 yards, par 70
\$35-\$45

Contact: 00-1-336-778-6321
tanglewoodpark.org

More than 100 bunkers ensure this is no walk in the park

Bryan Park

Two courses including Champions Course: 7,155 yard, par 72
\$45-\$52

Contact: 00-1-336-375-2200
bryanpark.com

Plenty of trees, traps and water on this lakeside beauty

WHERE TO STAY

The Carolina, Pinehurst Resort

Contact: 00-1-910-295-6811
pinehurst.com

Washington Duke Inn

Contact: 00-1-919-490-0999
washingtondukeinn.co.

Winston-Salem Marriott

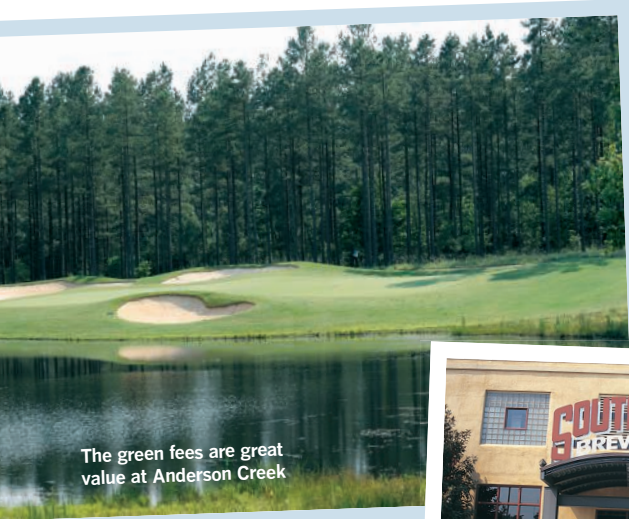
Contact: 00-1-336-725-3500
marriott.com

Arnold Palmer respectively.

Central North Carolina has plenty more golf, besides. Duke University Golf Club, a Trent Jones Sr track renovated by son Rees Jones, is one of America's top university courses and is open to guests staying at the adjacent Washington Duke Inn. It is one of 10 courses in the wooded surrounds of Durham.

Courses near Raleigh include tricky little Crooked Creek at Fuquay Varina. Short at just 6,271 yards from the back and no par 4s over 400 yards, a I37 slope rating shows it springs many surprises. Long hitters may prefer the more expansive fairways and 7,180-yard length of Davis Love III's Anderson Creek, near Fayetteville. Summer weekend green fees of \$55 including cart are a steal.

“Talamore offers golfers the bizarre option of a llama caddy, for \$125 on top of the green fee. The pack animals carry two bags each”



The green fees are great value at Anderson Creek

State capital Charlotte numbers the Jack Nicklaus-designed Longview among its facilities.

Greensboro and Winston-Salem each have about a dozen publicly-accessible courses. Among Greensboro's best is the Rees Jones-designed Champions Course at Bryan Park, which features several lovely lakeside holes, the star being the par-3 4th. Walking is permitted on the club's Players Course, but carts are mandatory on the 7,155-yard Champions.

Tanglewood Park, near Winston-Salem, also has two 18-hole courses. The 7,101-yard Championship Course, by Trent Jones Sr, is a mighty test which once hosted the PGA Championship. The sea of red-sand bunkers protecting the 580-yard par-5 17th will sort the men from the boys, before a majestic 18th.



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Central North Carolina Facts

WHERE IS IT

Central North Carolina encompasses the Piedmont Region and runs from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the plains just inland from the coast. Charlotte is in the south-west quadrant while Pinehurst is in the central southern portion, east-northeast of Fayetteville. The area also includes the cities of Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Durham and state capital Raleigh.

downtown to see historic tobacco warehouses, and learn all about tobacco and cigarettes at a tobacco museum at the Duke Homestead.

■ Solve your china crisis with a visit to Greensboro-based **Replacements**, a warehouse stocking millions of pieces of chinaware from nearly 200,000 patterns up to 100 years old.

■ Watch tri-oval **NASCAR** racing events like the Coca-Cola 600 with 167,000 of your closest friends at Charlotte's Lowes Motor Speedway, where movie **Days of Thunder** was filmed. You can even take to the track in a race car yourself with the Richard Petty Experience.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

■ History is brought to life in a restored Moravian village at Old Salem's Historic Bethabara Park near Winston-Salem. You can try traditional Moravian cookies from the 200-year-old Winkler Bakery.

■ **Tanglewood Park** turns into a magical fairy grotto in winter when

hundreds of thousands of bulbs depict tableaux in its annual Festival of Lights.

■ **Charlotte** attractions include Discovery Place, one of the top hands-on science museums in the US, and Paramount's Carowinds 100-acre water and theme park.

■ **North Carolina Zoo**, near Asheboro, is America's largest walk-through natural-habitat zoo with more than 1,000 animals and 1,500 plant species on show.

CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA FACTS

■ **The Bennet Place farmhouse**, near Durham, is the site of the largest troop surrender of the Civil War, when surrender papers were signed by Union and Confederate generals Sherman and Johnston for nearly 90,000 Confederate soldiers in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida in 1865.

■ The first documented gold find in the US happened in 1779 near Midland, when a 12-year-old boy stumbled on a 17-pound nugget. His father launched **Reed Gold Mine**, which operated until the 1930s.

■ Pinehurst's ties with St Andrews are so strong the Pinehurst Resort Clubhouse dining room has been renamed the **St Andrews Room**, and one of the bunkers by the 18th green of Pinehurst No. 2 shares sand from the Road Hole Bunker in front of the Old Course's 17th green.

■ **The Carolina** hotel in Pinehurst was the site of the world's first miniature golf course, built in 1916 and said to have been played by Donald Ross, amongst many others.

Direct transatlantic flights serve both Charlotte and Raleigh/Durham airports.

KEY ATTRACTIONS

■ **Pinehurst Village** is an attraction in itself. Soak up the atmosphere and golf memorabilia at The Carolina, gaze at original Donald Ross drawings and notes at the Tufts Archives and have a dram or two in his beloved Pinecrest Inn.

■ Now **America's City of Medicine**, Durham's history and that of this area is built on tobacco. Visit the city's preserved



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