



King's Challenge is an Arnold Palmer designed course.

## Area offers diverse courses

There's something to accommodate every golfing taste

BY MIKE TERRELL  
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You won't find a more diverse location for a golf vacation in terms of both golf courses and non-golf amenities than Traverse City.

"I look forward to vacationing in Traverse City every summer," said avid Indianapolis golfer Mark Johnson. "I love all the golf choices I have, and my wife and two daughters really like the variety of things they can do. There's so much to see and do and a whole lot of golf to play."

Golf Magazine rated Traverse City "among the six top golf spots in the nation" as recently as 1999. From the monster Bear, the Jack Nicklaus-designed course at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, to the very playable, family oriented Bay Meadows with its stunning views of the bay, there's something to accommodate every golfing taste.

Here's what's new around the Grand Traverse regional golf scene at selected golf properties open to the public.

The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, previously a KSL property, was recently sold to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, but few changes, if any are expected in the golf program for the upcoming season. They will again be hosting the Michigan Open on

the Bear in June.

The Jim McLean Golf School, which has been exclusively at KSL properties in the past, will return.

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa was possibly looking at hosting a 2004 LPGA tournament on the recently opened Wolverine, but no tentative dates have been announced at this time. For more information on golf programs at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa call (800) 748-0303 or click on [www.grandtraverseresort.com](http://www.grandtraverseresort.com).

Overlooking the city from southern hills ringing the bottom of the bay, Elmbrook, the oldest public 18-hole course in the area, offers a gentle, walking-style links with wonderful views. Riding, of course, is an option, but the course, which was laid out in the early 1960s, reflects the walking style of that era.

"To reflect the history of the course and reaching back to the roots of golf, Elmbrook will be hosting a Heritage Classic in late June, which will feature play with wooden clubs," said owner Carolyn Olson. "We want to make it a fun event with a serious side. The public is welcome, and we hope to have wooden clubs to rent for the tournament."

The event will benefit the local Heritage Museum and be called "The Haig." The intent is to assemble a Walter Hagen exhibit within the

museum celebrating the years that he resided in the area on Long Lake. The date had not been determined at press time, but for more information, call (231) 9469180 or click on [www.elmbrook.com](http://www.elmbrook.com).

Another relatively new area course—opened in 2001—that was designed as a walking course is Lochenheath. Perched on bluffs overlooking East Grand Traverse Bay, it was rated as one of the Top 10 new golf courses in America last year by Golf Magazine, and recently as one of the Top 10 in Michigan by Golf Week.

Native, knee-high grasses outlining the flowing holes shape the link-style design of the course. You can ride or walk, but the flow of the design makes it a classic walking course. Not an easy course, its 144-slope rating is right up there with The Bear, which is just a cherry orchard down the road.

At a little over 7,000 yards it poses a formidable challenge from the tips. Four sets of tees allow you to bite off as much challenge as you want. It's the type of course that you need to play a few times to get the lay of the land, according to owner Mark Krakow.

For more information or to set up a tee time, call (231) 938-9800 or

### N. Michigan Junior Tour Schedule

<b>May 25:</b> Spruce Run, GT Resort & Spa	<b>July 11:</b> Traverse City Country Club
<b>May 26:</b> Wolverine, GT Resort & Spa	<b>July 16:</b> Crooked Tree Golf Club
<b>June 17:</b> Wolverine, GT Resort & Spa	<b>July 20:</b> Michawye/Pines
<b>June 26:</b> King's Challenge Golf Club	<b>July 21:</b> Treetops/Tradition
<b>June 27:</b> Sleeping Bear Golf Club	<b>July 30:</b> Lochenheath Golf Club
<b>July 2:</b> Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms	<b>Aug. 3-4:</b> Tour Championship, Wolverine and The Bear, GT Resort & Spa

### TCJGA

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& Spa. The Northern Michigan Junior Tour and Collegiate Division open May 25-26 on the resort's Spruce Run and Wolverine courses.

Players in the TCJGA tournament program must pay a \$25 yearly membership fee. In addition, the cost for each Instructional, Division I, II and III tournament is \$15. Tour events are \$25-\$35 per tournament. The Northern Michigan Junior Tour fees are based on the event. They'll range from \$30-\$50 per day.

The TCJGA does offer scholarships to members who qualify. In the last 10 years, the association has awarded \$43,000.

The Northern Michigan Junior Tour is in its third year. It's for golfers 18-under who are still in high school and wish to play against the best competition in the area.

The TCJGA has also started a Little Juniors Lesson Program for 5- and 6-year-olds. The program is designed to introduce kids to golf etiquette, rules, the basics of the golf swing and the golf course. Orientation meetings are planned for May 17 and May 24. There will be two sessions offered. Each session will be an hour in length for three consecutive Saturdays. For more information call TCJGA at 935-GOLF or visit the website at [www.tcjga.com](http://www.tcjga.com).

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