



Travel

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Four Corners Courses are Celebrating in Style

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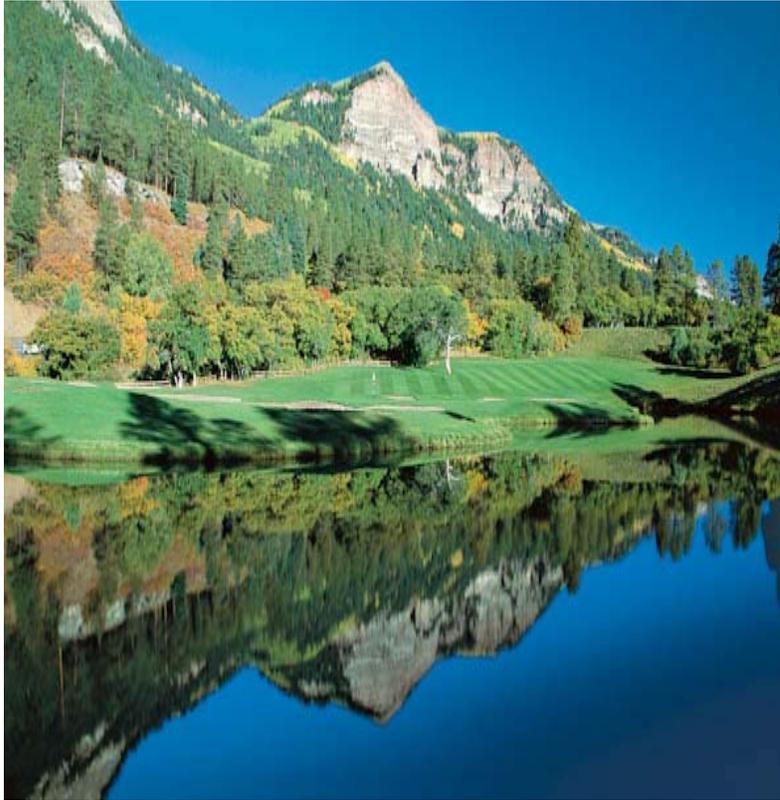
6 Reasons to Kick-Start Your Golf Game Now
CHRIS DUTHIE



An unseasonably warm late winter throughout the Four Corners region is offering no-snow recreationalists an early jump on their favored outdoor pursuits. That's tempting news for golfers, who are taking advantage of short-sleeve weather that has greened up fairways and cranked up player counts.

In Durango, [Hillcrest Golf Course](http://www.golfhillcrest.com/) (<http://www.golfhillcrest.com/>) (pictured above) is debuting newly constructed tee complexes, fully restored bunkering and minor fairway modifications to its popular 18-hole facility. Featuring tee-to-green bentgrass, mountain peak views and some of the swiftest putting

surfaces in the state, the 7,076-yard track will reopen its second nine in early April and continue to offer an early season rate of \$30 until Labor Day.



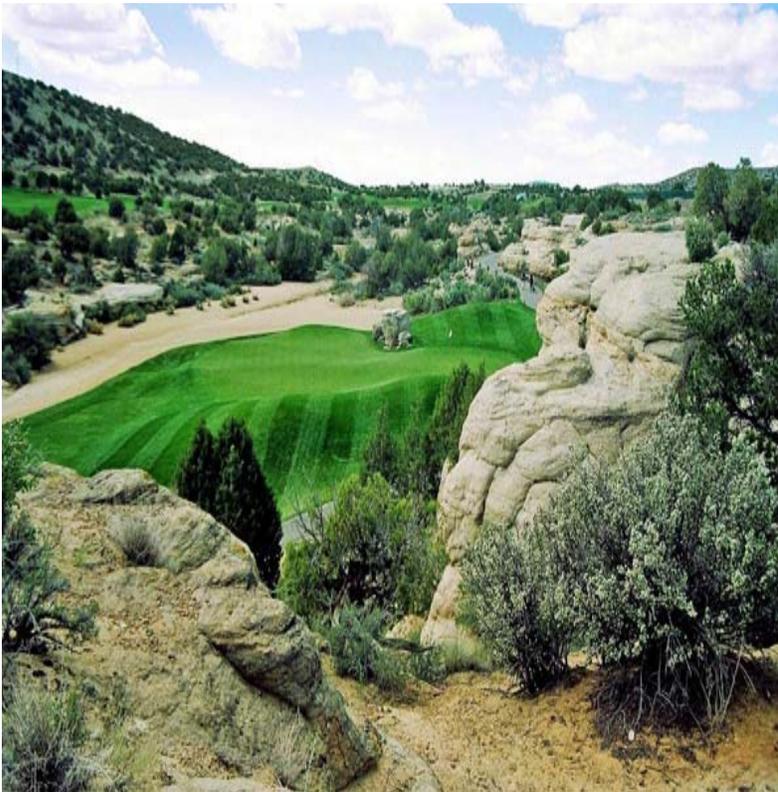
Also in Durango, the [Glacier Club](http://www.theglacierclub.com/) (<http://www.theglacierclub.com/>) (above) is finalizing a new nine-hole mountain course crafted by Hale Irwin and Todd Schoeder, giving the ultra-private San Juan Mountains enclave 36 holes of spectacular golf. Situated in a dense forest of Ponderosa pines at an elevation of 8,000 feet, well-heeled homeowners are further spoiled by a stunning clubhouse, tennis, hiking, mountain biking and unfettered proximity to [Purgatory Resort](https://www.purgatoryresort.com/) (<https://www.purgatoryresort.com/>).



The historic Press Maxwell/Bill Stroud-designed Conquistador Golf Course (<http://fourcornersgolf.com/>) (above) in Cortez, Colo., already is several weeks into the 2016 season. Measuring 7,152 yards, the tradition-steeped routing is underscored by bentgrass greens, tree-lined fairways and sweeping views of the La Plata Mountains. It's located near Mesa Verde National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/meve/index.htm>) and Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park (<http://www.navajonationparks.org/htm/monumentvalley.htm>), and is offering 25-percent player discounts through April 15.



Newly rebranded Aztec Municipal Golf Course (<http://www.aztechiddenvalleygolf.com/>) (above) has benefitted from a wet winter and is earning kudos for its newly renovated clubhouse and grille, new fleet of power carts, enhanced maintenance and value-added pricing. Located minutes from Aztec Ruins National Monument (<http://www.nps.gov/azru/index.htm>), the 5,828-yard layout is a favorite for families, beginners and time-sensitive players who play the northwest New Mexico venue for \$30 all season long, including cart.



New Mexico's highly regarded [Piñon Hills Golf Course](https://www.pinonhillsgolf.com/) (<https://www.pinonhillsgolf.com/>) (above) in nearby Farmington is turning heads with sublime conditioning made even more glorious by mid-winter snows. The 7,200-yard facility, crafted by Ken Dye and ranked among the best municipal courses in America, is offering golfers a delightfully attractive twilight rate of \$30 including cart through Labor Day.



Southwest Utah is perhaps best known for its world-class mountain biking, but the panoramic region is also celebrated for [Moab Golf Club](http://www.moabcountryclub.com/index.htm) (<http://www.moabcountryclub.com/index.htm>) (above). Situated among eroding red sandstone cliffs and boulders just minutes from the Colorado River, the 6,819-yard desert oasis offers players a mesmerizing and memorable \$48 round with cart throughout the season.

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Chris Duthie is a Durango-based contributor to Colorado AvidGolfer, the state’s leading resource for golf and the lifestyle that surrounds it. It publishes eight issues (<http://www.coloradoavidgolfer.com/magazine>) annually and proudly delivers daily content via [coloradoavidgolfer.com](http://www.coloradoavidgolfer.com) (<http://www.coloradoavidgolfer.com/>).

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