

The 10 Best Luxury Golf Resorts in California

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I'm a relative "latecomer" to golf, having picked up the sport in my early 40s. Many of my golfing buddies started decades ago, so I often find myself playing catch up, not just with our handicaps (they're single digits; I hover around 28), but with golf culture itself.

Before I started playing, I was like any other non-golfer — whether in my hometown of Los Angeles or traveling, I would blithely walk past nearby fairways and immaculate greens. Now, the greens are all I see. And I'm grateful. Learning the sport has made me feel like a kid again.

And, lucky for me, California is home to numerous top golf courses. Below are nine "stay-and-play" destinations for golf-loving travelers headed to the Golden State — four I've played already, and the remaining five are on my golf bucket list. These properties combine world-class accommodations and dining with scenic golf courses that take advantage of the state's natural beauty. Clients will be reaching not just for their driver, but for their camera, too.



Golfers wind through Aliso Canyon while playing at The Ranch at Laguna Beach.
Credit: 2025 The Ranch at Laguna Beach

The Ranch at Laguna Beach

Golfers shouldn't discount [The Ranch at Laguna Beach](#)'s course because it's "only" a nine-hole par 32. One look and they'll realize it's as unique as they come, designed to fit within the craggy walls of Aliso Canyon.

Golfers tee off at the edge of the resort (often with onlookers enjoying a drink at patio restaurant The Porch) and wind their way deeper into the canyon, allowing them a chance to connect with nature and play alongside the local deer. This is a [GEO-certified course](#); the resort recycles its glass bottles by crushing them and adding them to the bunkers. After the round, players can unwind with a short walk from the resort to Aliso Beach or, for the adventurous, arrange for a kayak and wildlife tour or surf lessons at legendary Laguna Beach.