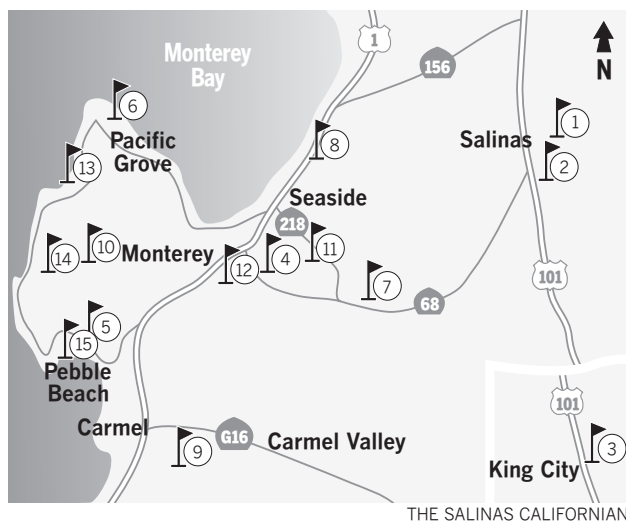


Salinas-area public courses



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

- 1. Twin Creeks**
1551 Beacon Hill Dr., Salinas • 758-7333
- 2. Salinas Fairways**
45 Skyway Blvd., Salinas • 758-7300
- 3. King City Golf Course**
613 S. Vanderhurst St., King City • 385-4546
- 4. Monterey Pines Golf Course**
1250 Garden Rd., Monterey • 656-2167
- 5. Peter Hay Par Three Course**
17-Mile Drive, Pebble Beach • 625-8518
- 6. Pacific Grove Golf Links**
77 Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove • 648-5777
- 7. Laguna Seca Golf Course**
10520 York Rd., Monterey • 373-3701
- 8. Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Courses**
Courses 1 McClure Way, Seaside • 899-7271
- 9. Rancho Cañada East & West**
4860 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel • 624-0111
- 10. Poppy Hills Golf Course**
3200 Lopez Rd., Pebble Beach • 625-2035
- 11. Del Rey Oaks Golf Center**
899 Rosita Rd., Del Rey Oaks • 394-8660
- 12. Del Monte Golf Course**
1300 Sylvan Rd., Monterey • 373-2700
- 13. Links at Spanish Bay**
2700 17-Mile Dr., Pebble Beach • 647-7495
- 14. Spyglass Hill Golf Course**
Stevenson Dr. & Spyglass Hill Rd., Pebble Beach • 625-8563
- 15. Pebble Beach Golf Links**
17-Mile Drive, Pebble Beach • 625-8518



RICHARD GREEN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

Al Dominguez coaches his twin daughters, Keegan, right, and Taylor, about golf stances, at Twin Creeks Golf Course in Salinas.

Cuts to green fees increase access to golf

Twilight rounds appeal to many enthusiasts, even at courses that have raised their prices

By RYAN WALLACE
The Salinas Californian

Monterey County continues to keep its golfers happy with consistently affordable rates.

A year after many noticeable cuts in 18-hole green fees, six of the county's 14 courses and one golf center increased rates — but just slightly.

Of those six, five altered their prices by less than \$10 for weekday and weekend 18-hole green fees. Monterey Pines increased its rates by \$3, Del

Monte by \$5 and Poppy Hills by \$10.

And at six courses — King City, Peter Hay Par Three, Salinas Fairways, Monterey Pines, Twin Creeks and Pacific Grove — golfers can still play a weekend round for between \$18 to \$40.

"The golf courses in the county continue to have the lowest green fees," said Bruce Lewis, golf operations manager for the city of Salinas.

One reason for the decrease in fees at a majority of the public courses throughout the county last year was to keep golfers playing locally. Competition from courses in the surrounding counties threatened to oversaturate the market.

But Lewis said competition from other markets wasn't that big a hindrance.

"Golfers like to play rounds at different courses, and that's fine," he said. "It's a golfer's market."

GREEN FEES

COURSE	18 HOLES WEEKDAY PHONE	18 HOLES WEEKEND		
		GREEN	CART	GREEN
King City	385-4546	\$15	\$18	\$10
Peter Hay Par Three	625-8518	\$20	\$20	n/a
Salinas Fairways	758-7300	\$20	\$30	\$10
Monterey Pines	656-2167	\$27	\$27	\$12
Twin Creeks	758-7333	\$24	\$27	\$5
Pacific Grove	648-5777	\$35	\$40	\$30
Rancho Cañada West/East	624-0111	\$70/\$60	\$70/\$60	\$18
Laguna Seca	373-3701	\$60	\$60	\$18
Bayonet & Black Horse	899-7271	\$64	\$84	\$18
Del Monte	373-2700	\$100	\$100	\$20
Poppy Hills	625-2035	\$140	\$160	\$32
Spanish Bay	647-7495	\$230	\$230	\$25
Spyglass Hill	625-8563	\$290	\$290	\$25
Pebble Beach	625-8518	\$425	\$425	\$25

(a) Twilight start times vary. In mid-March, Salinas Fairways charged \$15 to start at noon. Some courses offer a range of discounts for seniors, juniors, NCGA members or veterans. Twin Creeks and King City are nine-hole courses offering 18-hole rates. Peter Hay Par Three is an abbreviated nine-hole course adjoining Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Lewis said municipal courses, such as Salinas Fairways, target people living in the community, instead of trying to cater to outside players.

"The muni courses are blue-collar," he said, "and they're affordable for the local people that live here."

Twilight rounds are another way courses are trying to draw in local golfers. They're usually offered in the early afternoon, and golfers can play as many holes as they like before dark. Rates and times vary at each participating golf course.

Salinas Fairways charges \$15 for rounds started after noon during the week and the weekends. At Twin Creeks, the weekday twilight rate is \$17 and \$20 on the weekend.

While many courses are staying close to last year's rates, some have bumped them up.

The largest increase was at Rancho

Cañada West, which raised its rates from \$55 last year to \$70 this year. Last year, the course saw one of the biggest decreases, going from \$80 to \$55.

The elite courses on the Monterey Peninsula also continue to buck the discount trend.

The Links at Spanish Bay, Spyglass Hill and Pebble Beach have all increased. Fees at Spanish Bay (\$230) and Spyglass Hill (\$290) increased \$10 each on April 1, while rates at Pebble Beach (\$425) jumped up \$25.

But for those who don't want to spend that kind of money, Lewis suggests trying the other courses in the county, which this time of year have plenty to offer.

"With all the rain we've got, the greens are getting flushed," he said. "And rain water is better than irrigated water. The next two months should be nice."