

**MOM & POP'S: SIX 9 HOLE COURSES NOT TO MISS THIS SEASON**

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IDAHO

# GOLF

**Go Long**  
*Our pick on*  
**'11 Drivers**

## 9 Gem State **JEWELS** IDAHO'S SIGNATURE HOLES

**PLUS**

### **4 Swing Tips**

HELP FROM THE PROS

### **The Z-Factor**

HONE IN THE PERFECT PUTT

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IN THE TREASURE VALLEY

**THE ARTISTRY**  
OF **Don Knott**  
[Golf Course Architect]



# GEM STATE JEWELS

[IDAHO'S SIGNATURE HOLES]

by **Mike McKenna**

Legendary golf course designer Robert Trent Jones, Sr. is said to have coined the term "signature holes." The theory being that every course should have at least one hole that is its signature—a hole that's unique, beautiful and memorable.

And while it's often tough to choose a single hole that truly highlights a course, most courses have at least one such hole that is so visually stunning, challenging or distinct that the memory of it long stays with golfers and even gets played their in dreams.

Here we highlight an executive course's worth of Idaho's signature holes.

“Celebrating just its eighth season, it hasn't taken the Headwaters Golf Club at Teton Springs Resort in Victor very long to establish itself as one of the premier golf destinations in the Northwest.”

## **HEADWATERS GOLF CLUB**

**SIGNATURE HOLE: #10**

**YARDAGE: 170**

**PAR: 3**

Celebrating just its eighth season, it hasn't taken the Headwaters Golf Club at Teton Springs Resort in Victor very long to establish itself as one of the premier golf destinations in the Northwest.

Considered a must-stop for golf enthusiasts visiting the greater Yellowstone National Park area, Headwaters was designed by Byron Nelson and is known for being both beautiful and challenging.

The signature hole at Headwaters is the 10th. With the foothills of the Palisade Mountains providing the backdrop, this relatively short hole provides plenty of challenge. Surrounded by water and sand and with the wind normally blowing across the



Hole #10 at Headwaters Golf Club in Victor.



Hole #16 at Huntsman Springs in Driggs.

hole, club selection can be difficult. The green is one of the toughest to read on the course, as a large ridge divides it in half, causing putts to be brutally fast if not played to the correct level. The subtle breaks on the back half of the green are hard to pick up on if you have not played the hole.

**ADVICE:** Headwaters' Head Golf Pro Matt Stireman recommends: "This hole is deceiving and you don't want to be short. The best play is to take an extra club and get the ball to the back of the green."

For more information check out [www.tetonsprings.com](http://www.tetonsprings.com) or call 208.787.3636.

## **GOLF CLUB AT HUNTSMAN SPRINGS**

**SIGNATURE HOLE: #16**  
**YARDAGE: 424**  
**PAR: 4**

Huntsman Springs was designed by the highly-acclaimed David McLay Kidd, who was named the "Architect of the Year" for 2008 by *Golf Magazine* and is known for embracing the natural terrain in his designs.

The signature hole at Huntsman Springs is the 16th. It embodies the risk/reward theme that's prevalent throughout the course. When you step to the tee you have a decision to make before your first shot.

With the impressive Grand Teton peak staring you in the face, a stream of water meandering from tee to green bisecting the fairway, will you choose the fairway on the right which offers an easier tee shot, or the fairway on the left which is a tougher shot off the tee but offers a better view of the green?

**ADVICE:** Eric Lyman is the Head Golf Pro at Huntsman Springs, "It's one of several holes that gives the player two fairway options. If the hole is located on the far right side of the green, I recommend playing the left fairway off the tee due to a deep bunker fronting it. The green also slopes away from

Named by *Golf Magazine* as the "Best New Private Course" for 2010, Huntsman Springs in Driggs is considered be one of the most unique courses in the West."

you if attacking from the right fairway. If the hole is located middle or left, play the right fairway."

For more information, check out [www.huntsmansprings.com](http://www.huntsmansprings.com) or call 208.354.4653.





Hole #11 at Whitetail Golf Club in McCall.

## WHITETAIL GOLF CLUB

**SIGNATURE HOLE: #11**  
**YARDAGE: 360**  
**PAR: 4**

Smack dab in the middle of Idaho's "Heartland," Whitetail Golf Club in McCall has been called one of the "Top 100" championship courses in the country by both *Golf Digest* and *Golfweek Magazine*.

Designed by Andy North and Roger Packard, Whitetail offers diverse terrain, from towering pine tree alleys to wide-open, water-laced meadows.

The signature hole at Whitetail is the 11th. Tall

Ponderosa pines frame the fairway with the Jughandle Mountains in the skyline. The fairway is slightly downhill and only 25 yards wide, guarded by thick native grasses just waiting to catch wayward tee shots.

The ideal drive will land your ball about 250 yards off the tee to a perfectly level lie. A short iron is one of the easiest shots in golf, but starting at a slightly elevated green surrounded by four deep bunkers adds a bit of anxiety. The target green is sloped from back to front with the tough hole locations being in the front and the back left corner.

**ADVICE:** PGA Professional Todd Binder is the course pro: "Play conservative off the tee, hit to the middle of the green, and your chances of par are better than average."

For more information, check out [www.whitetailclub.com](http://www.whitetailclub.com) or call 208.634.7824.

## ELK VALLEY GOLF COURSE

**SIGNATURE HOLE: #4**  
**YARDAGE: 408**  
**PAR: 5**

Nestled in the heart of the Smoky Mountains and along the breathtaking South Fork of the Boise River,

Featherville's Elk Valley Golf Course is a 9 hole, par 3 course utilizing separate tee boxes for the back 9.

Designed by Dave Mickelsen and opened in 2008, Elk Valley's back 9 tee boxes are located to change yardages, angle of approach and elevation.

The signature hole at Elk Valley is the 4th. The par 5 features challenging natural hazards like a fairway dotted with willow shrubs and lined with wetlands full of tall meadow grass and unforgiving native plants. As you approach the oversized, undulating green nestled in the trees, beware! There are two Ponderosa pine trees in front, requiring a precise shot. If you slice the ball, you'll find yourself kicking around in a grove of aspen, pine and tall meadow grass. If you hook or overshoot you'll find yourself again in the tall grass or retrieving the ball from a water hazard.

**ADVICE:** John Lewis, Elk Valley's Club Manager recommends: "Keeping your drive in the fairway is the key to this hole. You don't want to hook it or slice it or you'll be in trouble. You've got to keep it straight."

For more information, check out [www.elkvalleygolf.com](http://www.elkvalleygolf.com) or call 208.653.2376.

## GALENA RIDGE GOLF COURSE

**SIGNATURE HOLE: #4**  
**YARDAGE: 497**  
**PAR: 4**

Located at Silver Mountain Resort in the Idaho panhandle, just 30 minutes east of Coeur d'Alene, Galena Ridge is the newest jewel of Gem State golf.





Hole #14 at Elk Valley Golf Course in Ematherville.



Hole #12 at Ridgecrest Golf Course in Nampa.

Galena Ridge opened in June 2010 and has quickly impressed golfers with its dramatic elevation changes from tee to green, gorgeous fairways and greens tucked into wooded draws, and its sweeping mountain views.

The signature hole at Galena Ridge is the 4th. It runs along the upper most ridgeline of the course and offers sensational views in every direction. Buried beneath the fairway are remnants from a smoke stack used by the Bunker Hill Mining Company. The green is guarded by two sand traps and a native area that wraps around and behind it. Once on the sizeable green, players will be faced with overcoming natural undulations in pursuit of a birdie.

**ADVICE:** Galena Ridge's John Williams recommends: "The tee shot requires a long and straight drive, but players can shorten the distance by aiming toward a lone bunker on the right side and by taking into consideration the prevailing left to right winds."

For more information check out [www.silvermt.com](http://www.silvermt.com) or call 208.783.1522. Mention learning about the course in Idaho Golf magazine when you check in and you'll receive a Galena Ridge souvenir.

## RIDGECREST GOLF COURSE

**SIGNATURE HOLE: #12**

**YARDAGE: 227**

**PAR: 3**

Set in the old rolling cornfields of Nampa, Ridgecrest Golf Club is one of Idaho's premier golf facilities. Designed by John Harbottle III and featuring a modern day links-style course, Ridgecrest offers something for everyone including large

greens, varying tee lengths, challenging hazards and championship practice facilities.

For the past 11 years, *Golf Digest* has given the 18 hole course a four-star ranking, and Ridgecrest also offers an executive 9 course perfect for beginners and families.

The signature hole at Ridgecrest is the 12th. A fantastic par 3 known as the "Cliff," this challenging hole with elevation drops of almost 100 feet has seven

different teeing areas cut into the side of the cliff, making club selection very important.

The green is surrounded by bunkers with water on the right-hand side and behind it, forcing golfers to attack the green. To add to the challenge, the 12th is also known for a steady wind that circles around both the tee box cliff and the green.

**ADVICE:** Jim Brown, Ridgecrest's Director of Golf, recommends, "Take a deep



Hole #4 at Galena Ridge Golf Course at Silver Mountain Resort.