



# The Thrifty 50

Our new ranking of the 50 best U.S. courses for \$50 or less

**FIFTY BUCKS DOESN'T BUY MUCH** these days. It's an upper-level ticket to a Wednesday night NBA game between teams with losing records. Fifty bucks is a motel room outside Cleveland. • It's also a loop at some of the best golf courses you can play. Not all great daily-fee tracks charge \$100 or more, then offer mango-scented towels at the turn to make you think you're getting your money's worth. Some simply offer your money's worth—and then some. • These are the courses we set out to find: the best golf experiences, conditions and aesthetics for \$50 or less—and that's peak-season, peak-time (weekends, before 3 p.m.). We polled our editors, our nationwide stable of contributors, industry insiders and regional golf experts. Then we started digging. • As expected, it was slim pickings in glitzy resort towns. But do you need a better reason to get out and see America? At these rates, money's no longer an excuse. Fifty dollars was our cutoff, and these courses would be worth playing if they doubled their prices. Here they are, ranked from best to 50th. *continued*

● BY CRAIG BETTER

## **#50 - SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE**

GROTON, CT

860-445-0262

[http://www.town.groton.ct.us/department\\_parks\\_rec](http://www.town.groton.ct.us/department_parks_rec)

6,562 yards, par 71 - Greens fee: \$40

Shennecossett's first four holes were built in 1898, but Donald Ross later got his hands on the place and it remains the only public course in the state that he "designed." In 1997, the Town of Groton, which owns the course, built three new holes overlooking the Thames River and Long Island Sound, turning a perennially solid muni into one of the deals of the century.

*For the complete article with all 50 courses, visit Golf Magazine at*

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