

Gold Mountain Golf Course (Olympic and Cascade)

Published on Wednesday, June 8th, 2016 in Course of the Week

Bremerton | (360) 415-5432

Web: www.goldmountaingolf.com

It's an accepted fact around the offices of *Cascade Golfer* that there is no better value in the state than Gold Mountain.

A weekend round at peak times in mid-summer will set you back just \$75 — and as little as \$30 at twilight times. That's significantly lower than any of the other course's in the state's "Super Six" (Olympic, Chambers Bay, Gamble Sands, Wine Valley, Salish Cliffs and Palouse Ridge, all of which more than doubled the scores of any course ranked seventh or lower in our 2015 rankings of Washington's Best Public Courses). And you'd better believe there's no time of day or year — even on a weekday in the dead of winter — when you can play any of those other five for less than a couple of IMAX movie tickets.

Even at \$75, the Olympic provides a satisfactory return, with its creative John Harbottle design in which no two holes play alike. There are riskreward holes, elevated tees, challenging par-4s and some of the best par-3s in the state. It's the kind of course nobody can play just once, making

The 18th at Gold Mountain Olympic. (photo by Rob Perry / robperry.com)

the 36-hole specials — which, with cart included, represent more than 30-percent off the full-price greens fee — the best deal Washington state has to offer.

And while the Olympic gets all the attention, Gold Mountain's Cascade course is no slouch. Ranked eighth on the Peninsula by CG readers, it's routed across the same terrain as the Olympic, with tree-lined fairways and impeccable greens. It's a little shorter (from the longer tees) and easier than its younger sibling, with fewer bunkers and hazards. Those facts, combined with its even lower greens fee, make it a popular choice of midhandicappers and groups of mixed abilities, who want to experience the flavor of Gold Mountain without the test of the Olympic.

And if you can't decide, just play them both — that's what we usually do on those tough days at the office when we just have to make a site visit. After all, with green fees as low as these, and summer days that last until 9 p.m., there's no reason not to double-dip.