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There's a common theme to the early calendar year part of the PGA Tour schedule: the ocean. After Hawaii, the PGA Tour makes what is referred to as the West Coast swing. Most notably, of course, are Torrey Pines, the 36-hole municipal venue just north of San Diego and site of the Farmers Insurance Open, and venerable Pebble Beach, host of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Fortunately, Torrey Pines and Pebble Beach represent just a small fraction of the ocean courses available to the masses on the West Coast.

And while many are a bit pricey, you might be surprised to learn that there is value seaside golf. Here's a look at the affordable and the bucket-list variety on the Pacific Coast.



The Links at Terranea has an impressive short-game area with putting greens and a chipping green with bunkers. (Jason Scott Deegan/GolfAdvisor)

Southern California Pacific Ocean golf courses

For those who live in San Diego, the two courses at Torrey Pines, which were designed by William P. Bell and his son, are very affordable. You can play the [North Course](#) for as little as \$40 and the [South Course](#) for \$61 (even cheaper for seniors) during non-peak season.

For non-residents it's a little steeper, as much as \$229 on the weekends on the South Course and \$125 on the North, but considering the history (the Rees Jones-renovated South was the site of Tiger Woods' dramatic 18-hole playoff win over Rocco Mediate) it's still a decent deal. Tee times aren't easy to come by either, but if you stay in the Torrey Pines Lodge, you can guarantee them in advance.

If you want an ocean view that's a little more affordable in the area, though, you don't have to venture far from the airport in San Diego. City-owned [Coronado Golf Course](#) is situated under the Coronado Bridge right on the water. With its great sailboat and city views, Coronado is hard to beat and is pretty cheap to play – as little as \$35 without a cart – but you'll have to get in a lottery to get tee times or pay an additional fee for advanced guarantees.

Head a little ways north toward Los Angeles, and there are several more public golf options on the Pacific Ocean, albeit some of these definitely run on the premium side. Head over to Newport Beach and [The Resort at Pelican Hill](#), which has 36 spectacular Tom Fazio-designed holes, most of them with ocean views.

[Monarch Beach Golf Links](#) is another seaside venue open to the public in the area. Located in Dana Point in Orange County, the Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course not only presents players with panoramic views of the sea but outstanding playing conditions and a challenging test of golf to boot.

If you drive west as far as you can in Santa Barbara, then you're likely to run into [Sandpiper Golf Club](#), a William P. Bell design that has both PGA and LPGA pedigree. With both mountain and ocean views, this 7,000-yard championship test was built on an old crude-oil production site that was shelled by a Japanese submarine during World War II.

More affordable and certainly quicker is the [Links at Terranea course](#), a 1,239-yard gem right on the water in Rancho Palos Verdes. Designed by Todd Eckenrode, the holes range from 104 yards to 173 yards, plus there's a nice short-game practice area.

And while the Links at Terranea is the economy version of ocean golf, right next door is the most expensive golf course ever constructed – [Trump National Los Angeles](#), also in Rancho Palos Verdes. Originally designed by Pete Dye as Ocean Trails Golf Course, much of the 18th hole fell into the ocean during a landslide, requiring a repair job that cost some \$20 million. Donald Trump later bought the course out of bankruptcy and had it redesigned by Tom Fazio. Total estimated cost: \$264 million for the lavish course that reopened in 2005.

While not as close to the water as Trump, nearby [Los Verdes Golf Club](#) is a lot easier on the wallet. The William F. Bell design is a municipal, so expect affordable green fees but stacked tee sheets, too.