

Golf Digest

Texas is booming with some of golf's most exciting course projects

Construction in the Lone Star state is sizzling

The bulldozers have been blazing in Florida and South Carolina. Georgia and Tennessee are warming up, and in 2023 Alabama debuted its first new course in nearly 20 years. It was only a matter of time before Texas jumped into the fire.

For a state of its geographic and demographic heft, Texas lags its peers when it comes to great architecture. Currently only three courses reside in America's 100 Greatest and Second 100 Greatest Courses—[Whispering Pines](#) (#51), [Dallas National](#) (83) and [Bluejack National](#) (139)—and the average score of the top 10 courses in the state is just 59.02 compared to New York (64.73), California (63.76) and Florida (60.74).

A starburst of new courses and developments is likely to close the gap as some of the profession's top designers have been getting to work here. Several projects that have recently opened could be a harbinger of the quality on tap, including the Fields Ranch courses at Omni PGA Frisco ([the Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner-designed East Course](#) will host the 2027 and 2034 PGA Championships), and [The Covey at Big Easy Ranch](#) between Houston and San Antonio, named our [2024 Best New Private Course winner](#).

LORALOMA: GOLF ON THE RIVER BLUFFS



Loraloma is part of a large master-planned community northwest of Austin from the Areté Collective, founded by former Discovery Land Company executives. At the heart of the luxury development is an 18-hole course from David McLay Kidd, architect of the original course at **Bandon Dunes**, as well as **Gamble Sands** in Washington State and **Mammoth Dunes at Sand Valley**, each ranked on **Golf Digest's lists of America's 100 Greatest** or **Second 100 Greatest Courses**. As at Gamble Sands, Kidd is back working atop bluffs, in this case on the palisades 30 to 40 feet above a bend in the Pedernales River. The site makes for dramatic golf with several holes running the length of the river similar to how four, five, six and 16 at Bandon Dunes border the oceanside cliffs (though in this case members will hit shots over coves), and nearly half the remaining holes edge along interior ravines like Bandon's 17th. Loraloma will open this fall.