

Warmth is a plus at resort

Average high and low temperatures

BEND WEATHER

January	40.0 F	23.0 F
February	44.0 F	25.0 F
March	51.0 F	27.0 F
April	57.0 F	30.0 F
May	65.0 F	36.0 F
June	73.0 F	41.0 F
July	81.0 F	46.0 F
August	81.0 F	46.0 F
September	72.0 F	39.0 F
October	62.0 F	32.0 F
November	46.0 F	28.0 F
December	40.0 F	23.0 F

WARM SPRINGS WEATHER

January	46.0 F	26.0 F
February	53.0 F	29.0 F
March	62.0 F	31.0 F
April	70.0 F	35.0 F
May	78.0 F	41.0 F
June	87.0 F	46.0 F
July	95.0 F	51.0 F
August	95.0 F	50.0 F
September	86.0 F	44.0 F
October	72.0 F	36.0 F
November	54.0 F	32.0 F
December	46.0 F	26.0 F

REDMOND WEATHER

January	41.2 F	22.3 F
February	47.4 F	25.6 F
March	52.7 F	27.1 F
April	58.5 F	29.8 F
May	66.0 F	35.6 F
June	74.9 F	42.6 F
July	82.6 F	46.1 F
August	82.0 F	45.9 F
September	73.6 F	39.0 F
October	63.6 F	33.0 F
November	48.9 F	28.4 F
December	41.8 F	23.0 F

Source: Weather.com

DIRECTIONS

North on Highway 97 to Madras;
Take Highway 26 West in Madras;
Turn right at Agency Hot Springs Road;
Road will take you to Kah-Nee-Ta

HIGH DESERT RESORT.

(in Fahrenheit)

BEND

January	40.0	23.0
February	44.0	25.0
March	51.0	27.0
April	57.0	30.0
May	65.0	36.0
June	73.0	41.0
July	81.0	46.0
August	81.0	46.0
September	72.0	39.0
October	62.0	32.0
November	46.0	28.0
December	40.0	23.0

WARM SPRINGS

January	46.0	26.0
February	53.0	29.0
March	62.0	31.0
April	70.0	35.0
May	78.0	41.0
June	87.0	46.0
July	95.0	51.0
August	95.0	50.0
September	86.0	44.0
October	72.0	36.0
November	54.0	32.0
December	46.0	26.0

REDMOND

January	41.2	22.3
February	47.4	25.6
March	52.7	27.1
April	58.5	29.8
May	66.0	35.6
June	74.9	42.6
July	82.6	46.1
August	82.0	45.9
September	73.6	39.0
October	63.6	33.0
November	48.9	28.4
December	41.8	23.0

Source: Weather.com

WARM SPRINGS — A cold and overcast fall day in Bend is hardly welcoming to the area's golfers looking to sneak in a few rounds before winter.

Last Wednesday was such a day — with highs in Bend about 50 degrees and wind gusts strong enough to make kite-flying an Olympic sport.

Thankfully, because of differences in elevation, golfers in the area have options to play in warmer weather without ever leaving Central Oregon.

Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, on the Warm Springs Indian reservation, is such an option. Though, judging by the amount of play on Wednesday when I visited last week, few in these parts are aware of that fact.

For somebody new to the area, like me, it is difficult to imagine a place almost 10 degrees warmer on average than Bend while being just a little more than an hour's drive away.

So, to play the par-72, 6,354-yard Kah-Nee-Ta course, I picked a day cold enough to want to stay indoors.

I wasn't disappointed.

The weather was relatively warm even for a 9 a.m. tee time, though the climate in Warm Springs, Ore., shouldn't be mistaken for that of Warm Springs, Calif. The sky was a little overcast early, but much of the cloud cover had burned off by the time my partner and I had played a couple of holes.

Kah-Nee-Ta's golf course rests on the bottom of a steeply-walled canyon, which blocks much of the wind that swirls above.

And even on a particularly chilly day, if wind isn't present, the temperature can at least be tolerable just about anywhere in the West.

But what struck me most while driving in was the barren parking lot. Indeed, we were one of the first groups to tee off Wednesday morning, and barely a soul was seen on the golf course during our 18-hole round.

I peeked at the reservation book, which showed my tee time followed by the next group with reservations — set to tee off at 11 a.m.

Light play alone at this time of year makes the course worth the drive.

For avid golfers, the most frustrating part of playing on public courses — and many of us are relegated to that yeoman's life — is slow play.

Here at Kah-Nee-Ta, you feel you have all the time in the world to line up that 6-foot slider or, more frequently for me, look for that errant tee shot.

And that makes for a peaceful round, even if your game doesn't follow suit.

Kah-Nee-Ta may not be a world-class golf course — so any hopes of finding a local version of

Augusta National for \$38 a round should be forgotten — but it is in a beautiful setting.

The course does have a handful of very good holes, including my favorite, the par-5, 491-yard No. 6, which is played from an elevated tee box.

And, though short for a par 72 even from the back tees, there are enough challenging holes to keep your game sharp in the colder months.

Kah-Nee-Ta is in fair shape right now and the greens are playable, though many of them have ground under repair. The grass is green, which is about all anybody should ask for this time of year.

And though the front nine's design lacks a little imagination and the back nine could use a little more rough and a few more trees, it's definitely worth the money — especially on and after Nov. 1, when the rates are reduced to \$30 with a cart.

Indeed, Kah-Nee-Ta makes for a carefree round.

The most troubling part of the day — other than actually hitting the golf ball — was carrying around a jacket after shedding it on the day's fifth hole.

Thanks to light play, though, there was more than enough time to toss it in the trunk at the turn.

DIRECTIONS

North on Highway 97 to Madras; Take Highway 26 West in Madras; Turn right at Agency Hot Springs Road; Road will take you to Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort.

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