



KIAWAH ISLAND

A GOLF RENAISSANCE

The Ocean Course has more seaside holes than any other course in North America—10 along the Atlantic Ocean with the other eight running parallel to the water.

“THE OCEAN COURSE is a supreme test for the greatest players in golf. We anticipate that tradition of excellence continuing at the 2021 PGA Championship.”

— DEREK SPRAGUE, PRESIDENT, THE PGA OF AMERICA

KIAWAH ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: The opening year of Kiawah Island Golf Resort is noteworthy. Guests first checked in the same year America celebrated its bicentennial, marking 200 years of freedom.

“Our forefathers laid the foundation wherein hard work is rewarded,” said Josh Wagaman, Cougar Point’s head golf professional at Kiawah Island Golf Resort. “As one of the few AAA Five-Diamond and Forbes Five-Star hotel award winners, we understand the high bar of expectations. As a PGA professional, I take great pride in an owner who continues to invest heavily in resort facilities on and off the course.”

Each of Kiawah Island Golf Resort’s five courses (designed by Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio, Gary Player, Clyde Johnston, and Pete Dye) have been improved during a multi-year renovation project. “Probably the most noticeable change is paspalum throughout,” continued Wagaman. “The superior grass is player friendly with your ball sitting up in the fairway and putts roll true. My ‘office’ is also getting a significant upgrade when our new golf clubhouse at Cougar Point opens in early summer!”

The resort is no stranger to hosting marquee tournaments (it hosted the famous 1991 Ryder Cup). As the resort prepares to host the 2021 PGA Championship, other capital projects in the pipeline include a new 150-room boutique hotel; new conference facilities; and The Ocean Course cottages, ideal for reunions, weddings, and buddy golf trips.

“While The Ocean Course commands the majority of attention, plan your trip to allow time to play our other courses,” advised Wagaman. “You would be selling yourself short, playing only once. I oversee Cougar Point, designed by Gary Player. Each tee shot requires thought—with a driver not necessarily being the best plan of attack. A strategic point in your round to press your bet is on No. 15, a reachable par-5 that requires a second shot over water. Take an extra club, let it loose, keep your ball dry, and you are likely to pick up a shot on your competitors.

“Our golf and beach experience will not disappoint,” said Wagaman. “On the rarest of rainouts, plan a visit to nearby Charleston, ranked the No. 1 U.S. city by *Travel+Leisure* readers for a 6th consecutive year.” ■

For information on golf packages, please visit kiawahresort.com/packages/golf.

OTHER GUEST AMENITIES include 22 tennis courts and 10 miles of sandy beach. In addition to 255 spacious rooms at The Sanctuary, Kiawah also has 500 rental villas and homes, ranging from one to eight bedrooms.

