

Golf Digest

THINK YOUNG | PLAY HARD

GET BETTER
IN 8
SECONDS

RICKIE
STICK ANY
BUNKER SHOT

SMYLIE
OWN YOUR
SWING

BRYSON
WHAT'S
IN MY BAG

WIN WINTER!
GEAR UP
WITH THE
100 BEST
CLUB-
FITTERS

21
MUST-
HAVE
HOLIDAY
GIFTS

GOLFERS
WHO GIVE BACK
ISSUE

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A SCOTTSDALE ADVENTURE

PART 1: THE ULTIMATE BUDDIES TRIP

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK HARTMAN AND SHN PHAM/STYLING BY FRIENDY GOLF.COM

We-Ko-Pa's double-header of undisturbed desert golf was the perfect setting for a day of great matches.

Making Memories

DESTINATION: FUN

Matt Lemman and Chris Carnahan live and breathe golf. As founders of the golf bag company Jones Golf Bags, golf is literally their job, and the onetime college pals' personal passion for the game they've both played since childhood permeates everything they do. So when the Oregon residents and their best friends, Jordan Sweet and Gregg Hubert, searched for an epic buddies trip destination, they wanted a place that would offer them a chance to play **championship golf at some of the best courses in the country**, while satisfying their list of off-course buddies-trip must-haves such as great food, unique culture and



diverse activities. "We were looking for a spot that was easy to get to and that would allow us to pack our schedule with a plethora of exciting stuff," says Matt. It didn't take long for the group to settle on Scottsdale and the Sonoran Desert, which checked off more of their bucket-list items than any other destination in America.

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Single-digit-handicap golfers, there was no question Matt, Chris and friends would kick off their trip at one of Arizona's most heralded resorts, **We-Ko-Pa Golf Club**. This unique 36-hole complex sits on tribal land owned by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, which makes it the only golf facility in the area free of develop-

ment and full of dramatic desert and mountain views as far as the eye can see. We-Ko-Pa's two award-winning layouts, Cholla and Saguardo, set up the perfect one-two punch of golf for diehards like our Oregon group, who could trek the walkable Saguardo in the morning and ride the more undulated Saguardo in the afternoon.

