

America's Most Inspiring Practice Ranges

October 7, 2016

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The Marines are looking for a few good men; diehard golfers are looking for a few good practice ranges. With thousands to choose from in the U.S., identifying the best of the bunch is no small task (any panel of ball-beating zealots will have their personal faves), but we've nominated 20 standouts. This may not be a definitive ranking of America's best ranges, but it is a sure-fire list of 20 public-access facilities where practice never feels like a chore.

1. Top of the Rock (Ridgedale, Mo.)

The awe-inspiring range at the peak of Top of the Rock offers 16 target greens (lighted for night practice) and three decks of tees (one grass, two mats). Despite a sinkhole problem last summer, it's still impressive. There's also a replica of the Himalayas putting course at St. Andrews and a one-acre green with 20-foot elevation changes that lets golfers hit putts up to 200 feet long. Did we mention it's on a bluff next to a waterfall? Wow.



Photo: Chris Condon