



Pinehurst No.2 Hole No. 9

## #1 North Carolina's Pinehurst Area

The Pinehurst area in North Carolina's Sandhills region bills itself as the "Home of American Golf," and that's no exaggeration. In 1900, Scottish golf architect Donald Ross stepped off a train at the Southern Pines depot (Amtrak still stops there every day) and started building courses. His most famous—Pinehurst No. 2—has hosted more national championships than any other venue, but all are considered templates of American golf course design. The area's flagship Pinehurst Resort is home to historic No. 2 and eight other extraordinary layouts, plus elegant accommodations and dining choices. Equally luxurious and a bit more intimate are Pine Needles and Mid Pines, companion resorts that share two Ross-designed courses and other upscale amenities. For the more budget-conscious, there are dozens of local inns and hotels offering packages with tee times at the best of the area's 40+ courses.

Then get out to explore the Sandhills countryside and be sure to visit **McLendon Hills**, located just 10 miles from downtown Southern Pines. This emerging single-family residential community with 230 choice

home sites doesn't have its own golf course, but it's surrounded by great layouts in every direction. What it does have is an 80-acre centerpiece lake stocked for fishing and perfect for kayaks, canoes, and sailboats, plus the McLendon Hills Equestrian Center with full-service stables and eight miles of bridle paths. New amenities are coming soon and all of the Pinehurst area's cultural activities and professional services are only minutes away.

And, if the country-club lifestyle is your preference, take a short drive north to check out the **12 Oaks community near Holly Springs**. The Club at 12 Oaks features play on the Nicklaus Design Group's championship course that was named one of the nation's "Top Ten Best New Private Courses" by *Golf Digest* in 2009. Additional amenities include a tennis center, complete fitness facilities with pools, clubhouse dining, and a year-round schedule of social activities. Perhaps best of all, 12 Oaks' quiet rural location is still convenient via the recently-opened expressway to North Carolina's renowned Research Triangle area and its unrivaled cultural venues, sporting events, and medical facilities.