

One of the things that I love about summer time is taking the family on long weekends away from home. Being the golf nut that I am, wherever we go must have golf. My family, being the way they are, demands that wherever we go there must be a plethora of amenities.

Just a week ago, I had to drive to Georgia's Golden Isles to pick up my son. Having never been to the area for more than a moment to get fuel, I had no idea what to expect or what I would find. What I found was that when you cross an old dance club with a luxury hotel on the beach and a fantastic golf course, you get The King and Prince Beach and Golf resort on St. Simon's island, Georgia. I had hit the jackpot!

Built in 1935 by a pair of men who decided that they had grown tired of the old dance club on Georgia's Golden Isle, they built and opened their own dance club. King George II and Prince Charles Edward Stewart were known as the King and the Prince in the dance community. Unfortunately for them, they made a few enemies when they struck out on their own.

The problem with breaking ties in those days was that people held grudges. The new dance club was burned down three times before the pair either brought in some "insurance" or the people responsible grew bored of arson or simply ran out of matches.

Today The King and Prince is a beautiful, historic seaside retreat, where guests easily find luxury, relaxation, inspiration and recreation. After a multi-million dollar renovation, the resort features 186 guest rooms, including two and three bedroom villas and six specialty suites.

While our family enjoyed a 3-bedroom villa with an ocean view, the Hampton House is possibly the most perfect accommodation for a golf group, whether big or small. With five bedrooms, just as many bathrooms, a pair of kitchens, a large lawn and a location set off from the rest of the resort's guests, it's just the place for a sometimes rowdy golf group to crash and play.

Speaking of playing, while half of my family enjoyed the pool and the miles of beach, my son and I headed off to the Hampton Club Golf Course to test our game in a setting which I hardly ever see. Hampton Club, located about 20 minutes or so from the resort, is a delightful change from my usual course fare in south Florida.

The word of the day at the Hampton Club was "trees", and plenty of them. I have never in my life seen so many beautiful oaks lining the fairways.

The course features a wonderful variety of holes. In fact, the middle of the back nine winds out through the marsh flats providing a welcome contrast to the tree-lined fairways on most of the other holes.

With four sets of tees the course can play as long as 6,465 yards to as short as 5,233 yards. There is bound to be a set of tees to fit every golfer no matter the ability or challenge desired. There are long and short par-3s, a devilish, yet reachable-in-two par 5, and smooth rolling greens.

I usually can name my favorite hole after playing a course for the first time. This was not the case at The Hampton Club. I found them all to have their own charm and each to be so different from the rest that I will not play favorites.

On our journey around the course, we saw plenty of wildlife. We saw several species of bird, watched an alligator enjoy a fish lunch, and rabbits tasting the clover. We didn't get to put any birds down on the scorecard, but that hardly took away from a very enjoyable and relaxing round of golf.

After golf my family went on a short bicycle ride to the historic downtown area to take in the centuries-old, working lighthouse and more. Here we found loads of shops and restaurants to fill our day and our bellies.

Just up the road from the resort is Fort Frederica National Monument where in 1736 General James Oglethorpe established Georgia's first military outpost. Nearby is Christ Church, built in 1886 and the spot where John Wesley, the father of Methodism, first preached in America.

The King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort may be reached at (800) 342-0212 or [www.kingandprince.com](http://www.kingandprince.com).

James Stammer

Golf and Travel Columnist for The Hometown News; Host of the "Tuesday Night Golf Show" on WPSL Radio; Equipment Columnist for iGolf.com; Columnist for Asian American Golf Magazine