Off The Fringe

Ain’t No Golf Course High Enough? Oh, Yes There Is

By Andrew Penner

Their fairways flirt with the clouds and their greens lay covered in snow and ice for much of the year. What the world’s highest golf courses lack in oxygen, they make up for in, well, altitude.

So where is the highest golf course in the world? Interestingly, the former record holder, the Tuctu GC in Peru — which was located a nose-bleeding 14,335 feet above sea level — has recently been abandoned and lays overgrown and indistinguishable in dense vegetation. The new champion? The La Paz GC in Bolivia. Still, at nearly 11,000 feet, a sign at the club should read (no joke): “Acclimatized Golfers Only.”

Here are a few of the world’s loftiest layouts:

La Paz GC, La Paz, Bolivia: elevation 10,800 feet.
Jade Dragon Snow Mountain GC, Yunnan Province, China: elevation 10,000 feet.
Copper Creek GC, Copper Mountain, Colo.: elevation 9,700 feet.
Mt. Massive GC, Leadville, Colo.: elevation 9,680 feet.
Telluride GC, Telluride, Colo.: elevation 9,500 feet.

Breckenridge GC, Breckenridge, Colo.: elevation 9,324 feet.
The Lodge GC, Cloudcroft, N.M.: elevation 9,200 feet.
Gulmarg GC, Jammu & Kashmir: elevation 7,000 feet.
Vialatta GC, Sestriere, France: elevation 6,577 feet.
Incline Village GC, Incline Village, Nev.: elevation 6,500 feet.
Tignes GC, Tignes, France: elevation 6,300 feet.
Edgewood Tahoe GC, Lake Tahoe, Calif.: elevation 6,200 feet.
Kananaskis GC, Alberta, Canada: elevation 5,000 feet.

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