

The Retreat at Silvies Valley Ranch—*Seneca, Ore.*

To play multiple rounds of golf (on multiple courses), while staying in a luxuriously appointed lodge on a 144,000-acre working cattle ranch is a remarkable and memorable experience in and of itself. Those are the perks golfers can enjoy when they make the trek out to The Retreat at Silvies Valley Ranch, located on the frontier lands of eastern Oregon.

Ironically, the amenities and experiences rooted in the ranching lifestyle feel like ancillary benefits to a stay at Silvies Valley Ranch, but that's only because the quality of the golf is so high. When golfers need a reprieve from the links, they can partake in any number of [outdoors activities](#), including homestead and eco-tours of the ranch via Polaris Razor ATVs, horseback riding, sporting clay and target shooting, goat herding, and cattle roundups.



Cattle roundups at Silvies Valley Ranch (photo courtesy The Retreat at Silvies Valley Ranch)

The latter activity can be experienced in May or June, during which guests accompany the ranch's true cowboys on a cattle roundup that can sometimes cover 15 miles and include a herd of 300 animals. While the cowboys are on horseback, guests will witness (and participate) in the herding process in Razor ATVs. It's an early-morning activity—guests typically leave the retreat by 5:30 a.m.—but they'll come back to the lodge having seen up close what a true cattle roundup, complete with in-the-field branding, is all about.

“Most of the guests that come here they don't get to experience the western lifestyle that much,” says Shai Allen, the ranch's ranger captain. “It is a bit different than what's seen on the holiday screen, but afterwards they say that they really love it.”