

Sand Trap Pub

McMenamins operates 24 relatively small breweries that together produce almost 6 million pints a year

■ STORY & PHOTOS | DWIGHT CASWELL

Looking for a formula for success? Try this one: take two brothers who went to Catholic school, a Grateful Dead fixation, a passion for restoring historic properties, and a taste for beer. Mix together, and you get over fifty pubs, hotels, theaterpubs, distilleries, wineries, and concert venues.

It sounds unlikely, but that's what happened with the McMenamins chain of establishments, and their local historic property is just four miles north of Seaside: McMenamins Gearhart Hotel and Sand Trap Tap, adjacent to the Gearhart Golf Links.

Gearhart Hotel is located in the Kelly House, constructed in 2000 to replace the previous hotel, which was destroyed by fire. The Cape Cod style of the current building resembles the historic Gearhart Hotel from the turn of the century, and the rooms are decorated with art inspired by a 19th Century book, "The Mystery of Golf." The links course itself is one of the oldest west of the Mississippi.

The result of all this work was the creation of a great place to have a few beers. And what beer! McMenamins operates 24 relatively small breweries that together produce almost six million pints a year, using over 250 house-specific recipes. McMenamins also believes in brewing "green." Waste products are given to local farmers, where they can be used for feed and soil amendment; materials are recycled or reused whenever feasible; and wherever possible equipment is acquired second-hand.

Their best selling brew is Hammerhead, a classic Northwest pale ale with a distinctive cascade hop aroma. Ruby Ale is another favorite, still made as it first was in 1986: fruity, light, and refreshing. If you're looking for something bolder, go no further than Terminator Stout: robust, with coffee, chocolate, and nutty flavors.

The beer menu is constantly changing at the Sand Trap, as at every McMenamins, but you're likely to see Cascade Head there (the beer, that is), one of their lightest brews, or the pilsner style Bagdad Ale (named for the Bagdad Theater in Portland, in case you were wondering about a Czech style beer with a Middle East name). Nebraska Bitter is a subtler version of Hammerhead, and Black Rabbit Porter is a sweetish, chocolaty ale. During the winter there's Sleepy Hollow Nut Brown to console you when the weather drives you in off the golf course. Or try Jam Session ISA in the spring, refreshing Copper Moon organic pale ale during the summer, and celebrate the fall hop harvest with Thundercone Fresh hop Ale.

You get the idea. The Sand Trap is a place to come back to in any season of the year. It's also family friendly and a venue for bands touring the McMenamins pubs and concert halls.

Since the pub is part of a hotel, they serve breakfast, with a full menu that includes benedicts, scrambles, pancakes, chicken fried steak, and biscuit and gravy. Lunch is a Northwest take on classic American food: chowder, clams, fish and chips, pizza, sandwiches and burgers. Dinner ups the ante with steak and more fresh fish.

When you walk into the Sand Trap the first thing you notice is the décor: the large fireplace, and the attention to detail. The food and beer fulfill the promise.

Sit down in comfortable surroundings, watch the golfers on the green links below, and have a beer. Golf is strictly optional.

**McMenamin's
beers are
available only in
McMenamin's
pubs. All are
small batch craft
beers brewed in
one of their
breweries**

ON TAP AT MCMENAMIN'S SAND TRAP PUB

Sleepy Hollow Nut Brown ABV: 5.03%
Kris Kringle ABV: 6.84%
Parallax CDA ABV: 6.58%
Watertower Wheat ABV: 4.77%
Shell Shock IPA ABV: 6.95%

Major Threat VII Double IPA ABV: 7.87%
Party Hat Porter ABV: 6.71%
Ruby ABV: 4.39%
Hammerhead ABV: 5.39%
Terminator Stout ABV: 6.32%





**Mcmenamins
GEARHART
HOTEL**

*Beer lovers, rejoice:
We've got you in mind for
this pint-minded package.*

BEER101
OVERNIGHT PACKAGE

- Lodging for two
- Two brewery taster trays in our Sand Trap Pub
- A growler filled with a McMenamins ales of your choice

Four miles north of Seaside
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