

Cacapon Resort State Park

Wobble Clay Q&A

- A new outdoor activity at a WV state park -

[What is wobble clay or a wobble clay range or trap?](#)

Trap shooting is one of the three major forms of competitive clay pigeon shooting (shotgun shooting at clay targets). The others are Skeet shooting and sporting clays.

The sport is in some ways a replacement for a game where the targets were live pigeons. Indeed, one of the names for the clay targets used in shooting games is *clay pigeons*. The layout of modern trap shooting is different from skeet shooting in that there is only one house that releases targets, and the shooters only move through 5 different positions.

Trap shooting has been a sport since at least 1793 when it used real birds, usually the then-extremely abundant Passenger Pigeon. Fake birds were introduced around the time of the American Civil War as the Passenger Pigeon was nearing extinction and sufficient numbers were not reliably available. Clay targets were introduced in the 1880's.

A variant of standard trap is **Wobble** or **Wobble Trap**. The main differences are a much more extreme target flight path than in standard Trap shooting (the trap oscillates up and down as well as side to side). Although this version of trap is not sanctioned by the ATA, many shooters consider it to be more challenging and engaging as well as a more realistic preparation for bird hunting.
[Source: Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia]

Cacapon offers a five station wobble clays shooting experience. Participants will fire five rounds from each shooting position making for 25 shots in an individual round. The trap can be set for an easy repetitive bird flight path for beginning shooters; or on automatic/wobble for more advanced shooters. The wobble setting fires birds in a variety of angles and heights. The trap resets itself automatically after each shot so the shooter is never sure which flight path the bird will take.

[When did the wobble clay range open at Cacapon Resort?](#)

Opening Day – September 29, 2007.

[Do you have to have a hunting license to enjoy this park amenity?](#)

No. Wobble clay shooting is a shooting sport and is not considered hunting.

[Do you need a hunter's safety card to enjoy this park amenity?](#)

No.

[Where is the range located?](#)

The range is on Cacapon Mountain at Cacapon Resort State Park. Park signs direct guests to the facility.

[Is someone at the wobble range to help guests shoot?](#)

Yes. There is a range supervisor present at all times the range is open.

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Are reservations necessary to participate in this sport shooting activity?

Yes. Reservations may be made 30 days in advance with a deadline of 4:00 PM the day before you shoot. For example, if you want to shoot on Saturday, October 20, you must make your reservation no later than 4:00 PM on October 19. Reservations may be made by calling the front desk at Cacapon Lodge – (304) 258-1022. Payment in full is required to hold a reservation.

What are the hours the wobble clay range is open?

The range will be open for reservations seven days a week year round – weather permitting. Reservations will be accepted in the following time slots:
September – May: 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Memorial Day – Labor Day: 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM

What is the cost and what is included for the fee?

Packages	Cost	Includes
Wobble Trap Range Full (complete) Package	\$17 round/per person (sales tax inclusive)	Range provides: All equipment necessary. Shotgun use, shells, clay targets, shooting vest, eye/ear protection. Range supervision.
Wobble Trap Range Clays Only Package	\$7 round/per person (sales tax inclusive)	Customer provides: personal firearm and shells. Range provides: use of shooting vest, eye/ear protection, clay targets. Range supervision.

How many people can participate in one reservation – round?

5 individuals

How many rounds does each person get to shoot with payment of the range fee?

25 rounds.

What types of guns are provided at the facility?

Firearms for adult use are Beretta 12 gauge over and under shotguns. Youth guns are SKB Youth Model 20 gauge shotguns.

How old do you have to be to shoot at the trap range?

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or over and demonstrate competence in weapons handling and safety. Proof of age is required! For very young children, the accompanying adult may be required to remain in the shooting station with the child throughout the round.

Are guns available to rent to try this shooting sport at the wobble clay range?

Guns are provided as a part of the Full Package. Park owned guns are not for rent and may not be taken off the range site.

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[Can individuals bring their own guns?](#)

Yes. However, guns brought by the owner must be unloaded and cased on the state park at all times according to WV state law. If shells are in the vehicle, they should be kept separate from the firearm. **DO NOT REMOVE WEAPONS FROM THEIR CASES UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE RANGE SUPERVISOR!**

[If a guest brings their own shotgun and is staying overnight in a lodge room or cabin, can the gun be taken into the rental unit?](#)

Yes, firearms may be taken into a rental unit, but only with the permission of the park superintendent.

[Is the wobble range available for other shooting practice when not open as a wobble range?](#)

No. This range is strictly for the shooting sport intended, wobble clay trap shooting.

[Does noise from the range bother other park guests?](#)

Sound testing was done throughout Cacapon Resort State Park including the lodge and cabin areas as well as nearby residential areas. The noise level did not exceed OSHA requirements. Range noise was not heard from the cabins, lodge, or residential areas.

[Is hearing and eye protection required?](#)

Yes. There are no exceptions. Both hearing and eye protection are provided as part of the cost of the shooting activity fee whether it is the full package or clay only package.

[Are pets permitted at the wobble clay range?](#)

No.

[What happens to wobble clays after they are hit?](#)

Wobble clays used at Cacapon's range are bio degradable and decompose over a period of two years. Clays, when hit, fragment into small pieces.

[Are people allowed to go look for and retrieve unbroken clays?](#)

No one is allowed down range at anytime. The range is not open for removal of any objects.

[Will you open the range for groups requesting specific hours?](#)

Yes. Groups requesting and reserving the range in advance are welcome. This is an outstanding break for corporate groups seeking new leisure time activities at Cacapon Resort.

[Is Cacapon Resort State Park open to hunting?](#)

West Virginia state parks *are not* opening to hunting. The wobble clay range at Cacapon is simply a new amenity or activity available to outdoor minded individuals that enjoy sport shooting, much like skeet shooting offered on cruise ships for a fee. Wobble clay shooting is a pastime and not a hunting method.

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[Has there been hunting on state parks in the past?](#)

Yes, but only as controlled hunts organized by the WV Wildlife Resources section and the State Parks section. Those particular hunts are for White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) population control. There are very strict guidelines for this allowance and proper public notification. These hunts permit the Division of Natural Resources to manage the White-tailed deer population so the land can support an appropriate herd size.

[Why is this range at Cacapon Resort?](#)

Cacapon Resort's location is near a large population base and welcomes visitors to experience the outdoors through hiking, golf, swimming, horseback riding and other scheduled activities. Sport shooting is a growing leisure time activity and is popular at major resorts throughout the United States, as well as a cruise line activity.

Trap shooting is a shooting sport. Many individuals enjoy shooting, which this sport allows. The range is an extension of the park's amenities. It is an opportunity to experience something new outdoors.

Firearms used appropriately are part of this nation's history and a part of West Virginia's mountaineer tradition. The wobble clay range at Cacapon is designed to provide a quality outdoor experience under the watchful eye and instruction of a range supervisor.

[For additional information about the Wobble Clay Trap Range at Cacapon Resort, please contact:](#)

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