



DEVILS KNOB GOLF COURSE

Overview

Wintergreen Resort's original golf course is a test of traditional golfing senses, requiring good judgment in club selection, on-target precision and awareness of wind direction. A classic layout by golf course designer Ellis Maples, a second-generation disciple of the great Donald Ross, Devils Knob Golf Course is perched atop the Blue Ridge Mountains. Its elevation of 3,850 feet places it as the highest golf course in Virginia, but more strikingly, provides majestic, 50-mile views of the Shenandoah and Rockfish Valleys.

Demanding accuracy from tee to green, what Devils Knob lacks in length, it makes up for with difficulty. Tight doglegs, sloped fairways and devilishly sloped greens create challenges from start to finish. Still, Devils Knob is a charming experience, attractive to various levels of golfers. Built largely on rock formations, Devils Knob features numerous natural stone outcroppings that give it a unique character.

Perennially ranked as one of Virginia's best courses, the thin air provides some extra carry on most golf shots and the altitude creates an escape from the summer heat, normally keeping mid-day temperatures in the 70s and 80s.

The varied hole sequencing for this par 70 includes three par 3s and a pair of par 5s on the front nine – including the par-5 seventh, which plays to 600 yards from the back tees. The back side has only one par 5, but its mixture of doglegs and dramatic elevation drops create a distinct flair.

While the course has remained a solid test of golf for three decades, in 2004 golf architect John LaFoy refined the bunkering without affecting the disposition of Maples' original design. The greens remain a testament to strategy, rewarding smart play to below the hole and penalizing the greedy approach that in its quest to get closer will drift too long.

###