

Pinehurst #7
Pinehurst, NC.

Architect: Rees Jones (1986)

	Yardage	Rating	Slope
Blue	6819	73.7	140
White	6216	71.6	132

Overview:

Rees Jones added another classic Carolina through the pines course to the Pinehurst family on one of the most rugged pieces of land on the property. The course has an almost mountainous feel to it with many holes playing down off the tee to a landing area and up to the green on the approach. The hilly terrain makes the yardage on the scorecard deceiving since many holes play a club and a half more up to the greens. At a slope of 140 from 6800 yards it is in my estimation the hardest of the numbered courses here at the Mecca of American golf-just seems like avoiding the high score on individual holes is very difficult.

Many huge pines that seem to attract any wayward shot-anything off the fairway seems to find the trees and there are few par saves available from the needles. Therefore, it is a very exacting driving course-first four holes in particular are very tight. Knowing the Carolina pine needle shot is very important-use the fairway bunker swing-little leg motion-contact ball before needles. Driving in play and good putting are integral to a decent score.

The place is not over-bunkered, the trees present plenty of hazard on their own, but the bunkers there are have exotic shapes and sizes designed to visually intimidate. The greens are large, influenced by grain, rolling, and segmented with lots of slant in them. There is a big premium for keeping your approach shots below the hole. Most of the greens are set up on hills or plateaus so you have many high soft shots to stay on the putting surfaces.

Nature note-they have a special breed of fox squirrels here-looks like Zorro and eats anything. Plenty of playground room for them.

Hole-By Hole:

#1 Par 5 493/476

Driver to left center and a long iron layup with a short club in. Green pitches back left to front right very sharply. Mounds and folds in front of the green on the right. An easy par if you stay out of the trees and below the flag.

#2 Par 4 440/404

#1 handicap hole comes early. Brutal uphill par four. Tight drive to right center. Big tree sorts out the left side. Uphill long iron to a green that slopes back right to front left.

#3 Par 4 387/367

Looks much easier than the last hole but it is quite a challenge. Again uphill-drive to left center. Long iron/hybrid to a shelved green that pitches back right to front left around a couple of bunkers.

#4 Par 4 405/386

Comes back down the same hill you just ascended. Drive to right center. Shot into the green will be one club less-should be a 7-9 iron in. Deep green slopes slightly back to front. This hole is a scoring opportunity that you must take advantage of.

#5 Par 3 185/145

Mid short iron to a big ass green that pitches back right to front left. If you are not in the area of the flag you have a monster putt coming up. Do not miss right-very punitive bunkers lurking.

#6 Par 4 438/414

Downhill slip off the table top driving area. It looks like a three wood but I like the big stick. Do not wander-OB left and pot bunkers right. Mid iron to a crowned green that slopes back to front. Tight shelf on the back left and all the trouble to green is on that side.

#7 Par 4 365/329

Truncated two par three hole. No more than three iron from the white tee, probably three wood from the blue. Mid to short iron over the marsh to a steep back to front green. Beautiful looking hole you will certainly remember.

#8 Par 5 517/471

Neat sweeping dogear right. Drive to left center into the bowl. Four to five iron layup to 100. Then you need a precise wedge to an elevated segmented green just across a creek.

#9 Par 3 174/153

Uphill shot to a plateau green that slopes back right to front left. Plays one club more for the elevation. This one is hard to get close to the hole.

#10 Par 4 382/361

Short up hill dogear left to start the inward nine. Hit the 210 shot tight to the dogleg for the best angle at the green. Seven to eight iron from there. Deep green slopes toward you-hit enough club to reach the flag.

#11 Par 4 395/380

Tight short par four that is really two par threes. 190 to 195 off the tee at the last mound. Leaves a short iron to a dicey green that slopes back to front left.

#12 Par 5 503/464

What a visual hole this one is. Sharp dog ear left. Drive to right center and hit three to five iron to 100. Cannot reach the elevated putting surface with a patriot missile. Fuzzy cliff on the right of the green protects the terrarium that flanks the green.

#13 Par 3 191/165

Kind of a blind uphill par three. The angle from tee to green reminds me of the old five at Pebble Beach. Sharp front wall rolls back into a half acre ash tray left and front. Green slopes eleven to five.

#14 Par 4 388/364

Another short par four. Tight alcove driving area. Either 200 yards to center or driver at the tree on the left which can carry you inside 100. From there you get a birdie chance. This is a good risk/reward hole.

#15 Par 4 413/387

Sweeping downhill plays much shorter than the yardage. Hit the power fade three wood but do not miss right. Second is an eight iron into an uphill green that folds with deep folds protecting the front.

#16 Par 3 177/149

Four to six iron across the terrarium to a wide green sloped one to seven. This should give you a birdie opportunity if you are not mesmerized by the oasis look of the hole.

#17 Par 4 392/373

A truly visual par four-you can see it all from the tee. Drive straight and have a short iron to an uphill green across the creek. Deep bunkers in front to traverse. Green is steep back to front.

#18 Par 5 574/528

Sweeping downhill par five to finish. Drive to right center and punch something down the hill. The third will be a downhill pitch to a receptive green bisected by a ridge.

5/2/04