



Links At Gettysburg ~ Golf's Gettysburg Address

Nick Ciattei

In what most historians feel was the real turning point of the Civil War, the battle at Gettysburg proved to be the bloodiest battle in U.S. history with nearly 50,000 lives lost in just three short days. The Confederate armies were devastated, Lincoln addressed the nation in a way no one else previously had, and we would forever know where the Mason-Dixon Line is. That imaginary, geographical line now directs us to The Links At Gettysburg, not far from that famous border and about six miles to the south of the hallowed grounds where heroes fought. You'll need those same gallant efforts when you play this Lindsay Ervin-Stephen Klein layout, which opened in 1999. Five generous sets of tees ranging from 4800 to just over 7000 yards give players of many levels the chance to experience this southern Pennsylvania gem.



Hole 1 Par 4

The Links at Gettysburg's front nine is less difficult than its rather daunting back nine, so try to go low on the outward half. Tiny Civil War cannons adorn each tee box, depicting the region's history; but, you may want to put a muzzle on your first tee shot because the opener is generally thought of as a par 4 lay-up hole. This beauty's fairway drops off significantly at about 225 yards out. Your approach plays downhill over a creek and a handsome

stone wall. Really, the first three holes would be considered non-links in their design. This stretch of holes ends with the 187-yard par 3 third, cosmetically one of the most unique you'll ever play. Built into the side of a hill, you witness one of the course's main characteristics . . . a 20 to 30 foot red rock wall, which surrounds the back of the green. It's these signature structures along with red clay cart paths that'll leave a lasting impression. Holes four through six are the easiest section of the course and introduce you gently to the "links" style play, which you'll encounter from here out. You face the toughest tee shot of the day on the 600-yard, par 5 seventh. From an elevated tee, you'll play to a landing strip with water left and right.



Hole 8 Par 4

The fairway is angled, which makes the shot even tougher. You may scratch your head or just marvel at the short par 4 eighth. The ultimate in risk-reward, it's just 323 yards from the tips and can be driven, but you'll have a forced carry over wetlands, and the green is protected by two large sand traps and another 20 foot red rock wall to the right. The front nine closes with a solid par 4, where the second shot plays uphill, so take at least one extra club.



Hole 12 Par 3

Black Angus Burgers are one of the trademarks at The Red Rock Grill with its outdoor barbecue. As previously noted, the inward nine at The Links At Gettysburg is renowned for its difficulty and challenge. Water of some sort is evident on each hole, but not as much on the two opening par 4s. At the tenth, a good drive will lead to a short iron played to an elevated green. The dogleg right eleventh features a lovely green complex framed by bunkers and natural forest. Perhaps the most photographed hole for its raw beauty and location is the par 3 twelfth, a huge island green hole where the only path to the putting surface is over an arched stone bridge. Thirteen and fourteen are bookends. Similar in feel and look, each has water down the left and woodlands to the right. This par 4 and 5, respectively, cause serious trouble for wayward shots. The 233-yard, par 3 fifteenth plays over water to a 40-yard deep green, so check the flag before choosing your weapon. Sixteen is a whopper for a par 4 at nearly 500 yards from the gold cannons. Seventeen is also a tough par 4. Anything short on your approach will be swallowed by two large bunkers that protect the green. On your scorecard, you'll see that eighteen is rated the easiest hole on the course. It has OB down the right, water water everywhere, five bunkers and a green surrounded by a moat and a 30 foot red rock wall. Other than that, yes, the hole is easy. Actually, keep it straight on this dandy of a closer and you can end your round with a birdie.



Hole 18 Par 5

Aesthetically, it is hard to rival The Links At Gettysburg. There are so many visual treats at this golf course recognized as one of the top daily fee tracks in the four state region. Two clubhouses and a triple-tiered stone patio sit gracefully on the property. The picturesque facility and award-winning dining are ideal for couples to create, "The Wedding of Your Dreams." It is matrimonial utopia! A stunning, French Country development of single-family homes and luxury condominiums is also situated on the property and only adds to the area's landscape. The Links At Gettysburg is well worth the venture! The peaceful Pennsylvania countryside and outstanding golf make it an easy address to remember. 🏌️

For more information visit thelinksatgettysburg.com