



Maryland National ~ Center Cut

Nick Ciattei

Few states can match the diverse geographical landscape as that found in “the Land of Pleasant Living.” With more shoreline (3,100+ miles) than most states on the East Coast, the state of Maryland holds a not-too-shabby ninth rank in longest shoreline in the country even though the Free State comes in as the ninth smallest state, closest in size to Hawaii. Its nickname, “America in Miniature,” really fits this state that stretches 250 miles from the sandy shores in the east to the pine-grove mountains in the west. The Piedmont makes up a majority of the middle portion of the state, and almost directly in the center of this region you find Maryland National Golf Club located just outside of Frederick.



Hole 2 Par 5

Designed by world-renowned architect Arthur Hills, Maryland National spreads across 194 acres of some of the state’s most beautiful land. The picturesque par 71 layout on the foothills of the Catoctin Mountains utilizes dramatic elevation changes and an appealing mix of woodlands and wetlands. Since its opening in 2002, this must-play course has been lauded for its outstanding and

consistent course conditions, annually finding a spot in or near the top ten courses in Maryland. Not long ago it was chosen as one of “The Rolex’s World’s Top 1,000 Golf Courses,” which is a very prestigious honor considering only two other courses in the state were recognized.

Bentgrass from tee to green, Maryland National sustains a playing surface that is always a cut above the rest. The ample practice facility here includes a driving range, putting green, bunker, and chipping area. So even if you don’t have time to take in a full round, you can get in some practice. Many, including this writer, will tell you that Maryland National offers one of the more challenging courses you



Hole 9 Par 4

will ever play. In addition, I’ve always found it a fair test that your past playing experiences as well as a GPS system on every cart come in handy each time around. An impressive fairway bunker splits the fairways of the par 4 opening hole as well as the fifth, also a par 4. The longest hole at Maryland National, the par 5 second, plays shorter provided your drive catches the downslope where you find 100 feet of elevation change from tee to green. For those who have not played here

recently, the majestic elm that once dominated the left side of the fairway fell victim to last year’s derecho. The hole still maintains beauty that is only surpassed by the exciting opportunity of going for the green in two. You’ll find one of the best collections of par 3s in the five at Maryland National. The first of these, the uphill third, requires an extra club to avoid the false front and deep bunker that protect the green. Teeing off from one of the many perched tee boxes at Maryland National, the par 3 sixth travels downhill to a uniquely shaped green where two tall Sycamore trees and a creek form interesting obstacles. One of the outward nine’s toughest holes and a par 4 monster, number eight, plays 470 yards from the back tees. The green is open and receptive to long second shots. The only lake on the course runs down the entire left side of the short par 4 ninth and squeezes in the fairway the closer you get to the green.

The inward side’s first hole, another testy, short par 4 in Maryland National’s repertoire, requires two very accurate shots for success. The next three holes, a par 4, 3, and 5, play along a ridge that provides wonderful views of the entire property with a mountainous backdrop. The simplicity of Arthur



Hole 11 Par 4



Hole 17 Par 3

Hills’ design philosophy is never more evident than on the par 3 fourteenth. Leaving the land almost unscathed, several tee boxes and accompanying green do not disturb the wetlands, trees, and wild vegetation. Stand up and take notice the first time you attempt Maryland National’s par 4 sixteenth hole because there are plenty of options

from the tee. The seventeenth, the last of the par 3s, presents a striking visual from the raised tee box. Aggressive action up the left side of the fairway will ease demand on the tough closing hole. Your approach plays to a devilishly designed redan green complex with a deep bunker left and wetlands to the right. Par here will likely make your day.

While truly an upscale daily fee public course, Maryland National also offers great value. Consider the quality of the course condition, the pro shop staff’s first-class service, and the folks on the maintenance team. Schroyer’s Tavern provides a casual dining experience that is fast becoming popular in the Frederick area. From their grill menu to elegant entrees, Schroyer’s just opened daily to golfers and the public, and they don’t charge extra for the sunsets on the wraparound deck. Maryland National continues to be one of the region’s best golfing experiences and one that captures the incredible beauty of that part of the state. 

For more information visit marylandnational.com