



## Ingleside Golf Club ~ You Just Can't Beat the View

Nick Ciattei

Few courses in the Commonwealth of Virginia have acquired as much history as the Ingleside Golf Club located in Staunton. Designed by noted Architect Fred Findlay, Ingleside opened in 1927 and has hosted five Virginia State Opens. At one time the now abandoned resort located on the property proudly and stoically served as a hotel and resort for movers and shakers from all over the region. While that part of Ingleside has sadly faded away, one of the best little golf secrets remains that puts a smile on anyone's face. If you were to travel up and down Interstate 81, it would be hard to find a public course that is so challenging and fun to play. The unmatched views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains display a sight to behold and can make an off day on the course pleasurable.



Hole 1 Par 4

Ingleside stretches 6405 yards from the tips along native bluegrass and will play longer because a majority of the holes on this single looped layout extend from elevated tees to elevated greens. This great characteristic of Findlay's design ensures a fun day with the driver. You will find that you can let the big dog eat on most holes. Three other sets of tees, including a junior/beginner set at 3800 yards, makes this course playable for all.



Hole 7 Par 4

The front nine starts off with a memorable, short par 4 that features a 70 foot drop from tee to green. Notice all the trouble to the right. This hole can be driven by long hitters, but safe play finds the bottom of the fairway for the flattest lie. After the par 5 second hole, which plays uphill, you come to the par 4 third. This hole had to be redesigned in 1998 when Route 11 was widened. Now a sharp dogleg left, it

plays to a diminutive green surrounded by willows. The locals at Ingleside tell us that a majority of your putts will break toward the highway. They definitely do on the fourth hole, a great short par 3 that plays slightly uphill to a devilish, diminutive green surrounded by bunkers. At just 147 yards, it's rated the fifth hardest hole at Ingleside! Holes five through seven play toward the highest point on the golf course and feature some unparalleled views. Six offers a good birdie chance as long as you can avoid the fairway cross bunkers. You have now reached the pinnacle of Ingleside, so take in the sights from the tee of the par 4 seventh. After the par 3 eighth, you face a stretch of holes that I believe are the meat of the Ingleside course. While not brutally difficult, they represent a key portion of the course that can make or break your round. From about 150 yards in, the ninth, a tough dogleg left

par 4, plays along a rollercoaster fairway. Ten and eleven, bookend par 5s, play similarly but only in opposite directions. My favorite, the par 4 twelfth, a tight driving hole that requires a solid tee ball to the top of the hill, starts a string of four holes played through a forested section. Ingleside provides several different varieties of golf, demonstrated here by hardwoods bordering the fairways. Sixteen and seventeen are two beautiful par 4s, the former exhibiting the hardest hole on the back side playing over 460 yards from the tips. Seventeen provides your last legitimate chance at birdie because the closing par 3 poses a wonderful finishing challenge that has cost many golfers a match amongst friends at Ingleside.



Hole 18 Par 3

The Findlay Grill, located beside the new Ingleside Pro Shop, furnishes quick snacks and drinks as well as menu items that can be prepared on the spot before or after your round. Ingleside offers chipping and putting areas and a driving range that is the perfect place to improve all aspects of your game. You can come for the great views, but we know without question that your round at Ingleside will be one you will enjoy over and over again.

For more information visit [inglesidegolf.net](http://inglesidegolf.net)

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