

Atlantic Golf Club - The new gem in the Hamptons Crown

Long Island is considered by some to be the spiritual home of U.S. golf.

The argument is supported by venerable layouts like Shinnecock Hills, Bethpage Black, Maidstone and Friar's Head to name but a few.

One of the newer additions to this list is the Atlantic Golf Club and it's certain to be a modern classic.

The private members' course was designed by Rees Jones in 1992 and whilst can't be called a true links golf course, the layout has a links-style quality.

When the course opened, it quickly won many a fan of the layout and was awarded "Best New Private Course" by Golf Digest

The club's history may be shorter than some of its neighbours but Atlantic has already built up a strong resume of hosting high-level local amateur tournaments on a regular basis.

In 2010, Atlantic Golf Club was selected to host the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship and in 2019 the course also played host to the Long Island Senior Open Championship.

Additionally, Atlantic has hosted the Hamptons Invitational Celebrity Pro-Am on three separate occasions - 2014, 2016, and 2018.

As mentioned, Atlantic can't be termed as a true links course but it can play like a links course since it is exposed to winds blown in from the Atlantic Ocean nearby.

With a breeze blowing more often than not controlling the trajectory of the golf ball will be very important.

Even though the fairways are reasonably wide accuracy is a key element of carving out a good score regardless of which tee you play off around this course.

There are a number of tees available to play from so you have the flexibility to set the challenge as you see fit.

At its furthest, Atlantic stretches out to 7084 yards for the men and 6137 yards for the ladies.

An errant shot will be swallowed up in the long fescue that lines the fairways and will leave many golfers with no option but to use a lofted club to get the ball back in play and avoid disaster.

Bunkers are strategically positioned to make you think carefully about club selection off the tee and the greens are well protected.

The greens themselves are a good size with the subtlest of contours with a pace that won't feel too fast but still require a good level of concentration to avoid any major mishaps.

There is a very natural feel to the course. You sense that not too much earth was moved or added to create the course.

Indeed architect Rees Jones paid many visits to the development of the course utilising maps of the natural topography and overlaying his own designs for the holes to move the project to completion.

Once your round is complete, you can enjoy the sumptuous clubhouse which carries the trick of feeling and looking older than it is but has a very welcoming, Long Island chic appeal to it.

A good test of golf is guaranteed for any golfer lucky enough to get to play at Atlantic.

Atlantic Golf Club is worthy of its place in the Long Island roster of truly special courses that make up a very rich golfing corner of the U.S.