

THE MAJLIS COURSE

NAMED BY GOLF DIGEST AS ONE OF THE TOP 100 COURSES OUTSIDE THE USA, THE MAJLIS COURSE AT THE EMIRATES GOLF CLUB WAS THE FIRST ALL-GRASS CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE IN THE REGION AND WILL THIS YEAR HOST THE FOURTH OMEGA DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC TOURNAMENT



01 Despite the dog-leg left, from the elevated tee there may seem to be too much fairway to miss, but bunkers within range on the left and right are waiting to swallow up wayward drives. The raised green is well bunkered at the front and to the left and the target looks small, even after the perfect drive. A good opening hole by any standard and a particularly tricky one when the wind blows in from the sea. You may well need two clubs more than you think for your second shot.

PAR 4
458 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 9



02 With trees to the left and a water hazard to the right, the tee shot provides a test of character and straight hitting. Big hitters may try to get close to a green, which is well guarded by sand, but visions of birdies, and even eagles, can easily be replaced by the reality of bogeys or worse. If you don't have a putt for a three, you'll be disappointed, but this is a shorthole that shouldn't be taken lightly.

PAR 4
351 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 13



03 With a prevailing wind, a good drive sets up the chance to reach the green in two, but with the trees and desert scrub to the left, picking the right line for the tee shot is all important. Hopes of breaking par can be buried in the deep fairway bunker to the left or lost among the thick clumps of desert grass to the right, which continue to the fringe of the green, spelling trouble just a few feet from the putting surface. Approach shots must carry over sand bunkers curving along the front and left sides of the green, and boldness and steady nerve are required to go for the flag.

PAR 5
568 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 5

04 A splendid shorthole and one that can make or break a good round, even as early as this, for a number of reasons. The tee shot is downhill, so it's easy to over-club and find the deep bunker behind the green. It is not difficult either to cause a splash in the lake to the right, particularly when the flag is placed tantalisingly close to the water. Testing and enjoyable.

PAR 3
188 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 17



05 Few can resist the temptation to go for a big drive here, but beware of a landing area that tapers up to the rise in the fairway before sloping down to the water. The stroke index emphasises how difficult this hole can be, and it always commands a great deal of respect. The approach shot is very testing, with the green resting behind another of the lakes. Dead ground between the far edge of the lake and the fringe of the green is deceptive, and a gusting breeze can make second shots particularly tricky. Making par is the prime objective, but shots can also easily slip away.

PAR 4
436 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 1



06 The drive across water should be aimed away from the expanse of sand cradled by the mounds that rise beside a fairway turning right into a dog-leg. It can be tempting to try and cut too much off the corner and fall into the trap. Set at an angle to the fairway, the long, narrow green is the biggest on the course and has a large bunker sunk into its right side, running the full length of the target area, making it difficult to attack the pin. Most will be happy to leave the green with a par and birdies are few and far between.

PAR 4
485 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 7





07 A beautiful hole that all players should look forward to and a great vantage point for spectators. With a gleaming lake stretching from the front edge of the tee to the green's apron, the tee shot is a real character builder. Tee shots just reaching the front of the green can slip back into the water, and over-clubbing with safety in mind will bury your ball in sand or on a steep grassed bank. When the wind whips up and blows back across the water from the green, the flag seems a remote and distant target, and you can add at least two club lengths to the shot. You may hate your score, but you'll love the hole at the same time.

PAR 3
186 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 15



08 One of the most attractive par fours on the course, retaining much of the character of the desert. Watched over by the Majlis, the fairway curves right and rises sharply with an expanse of desert catching drives aiming to take too much off the dog-leg. From the fairway, only the front edge of the well-bunkered green is visible and the slope and wind further complicate club selection.

PAR 4
459 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 3



09 From a tee perched near the highest part of the course, the biggest of the four lakes is a serious threat on this superb par four. Drives aimed right for safety are in danger of finding trees and a large bunker beside the fairway. With a huge double green (shared by the 18th) skirted by water, the approach shot is one of the most testing on the course, while the clubhouse provides a magnificent backdrop. Bravery can be rewarded with an excellent birdie chance, but the sloping front edge of the green can send shots spinning back into the water.

PAR 4
463 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 11



10 A helping breeze will often 'shorten' the second longest hole on the course, but it is still a good distance from tee to green and the tee shot can be intimidating, with only a thin strip of fairway showing at the landing area. Drives straying right will finish among the desert shrubbery and trees hugging the fairways, so tee shots must be placed with care. The green presents a good target, but is almost entirely ringed by sand and all approach shots need height. There are enough problems on this hole to ruin a good card.

PAR 5
549 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 10

11 An attractive and deceiving par three, which looks from the tee and stroke index an easy par. However, under-hit tee shots are common, especially when the flag is positioned well back on the three-tier green. If you pick the correct club, but find the yardage hard to believe, a shot that finds the green can mean a very long two-putt for par. The line of trees to the right will seem much closer when the wind is blowing from the left.

PAR 3
169 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 18



12 For no small reason, this is rated as one of the toughest holes on the course, reaching on, as it does, close to par five status. The tee shot is probably the most demanding of all, with the slim fairway angling left and fading from view close to the landing area. Getting the perfect drive away will still leave a long and challenging approach shot to the elevated green, with the fairway falling away on both sides. A par here may well seem like a birdie.

PAR 4
467 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 2



13 This is a challenging par five, requiring a long and accurate drive to create an opportunity to go for the low-lying green in two, at the risk of finding water on the right of the green. With the fairway turning into a left-hand dog-leg, tee shots can easily drift out to the right, or fall into the stretch of desert to the left. A protective bunker virtually dismisses the possibility of chasing a shot on to the green from a fairway that dips sharply towards the target area.

PAR 5
550 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 8



14 Picking the right line for the tee-shot is all-important and big hitters can take on most of the corner, but beware the desert area to the left of the fairway that will leave you without a view of the green. Turning sharply left into a dog-leg, the fairway contains bunkers on both sides that swallow up loose drives. Following the left side of the green and sunk into its front right edge, more bunkers beckon drifting approach shots. Another hole where shots can quickly slip away.

PAR 4
434 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 4





15 Rated the toughest of the par three holes, there is much more to this charming hole than meets the eye, and the expected birdie chance can easily become a vain scramble for par. With the tee set at an angle to the green and pointing away to the right, shots drift in that direction with surprising regularity. It should be no more than a straightforward medium iron, the shot often assisted by a breeze from the right, but this is another short hole that demands much respect.

PAR 3
190 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 14



16 With a wide landing area for drives, you should be careful not to let one drift away here. A good tee shot will set up a left will bring trouble among the sand, trees and desert grass. From a fairway curving gently to the left, the green presents a generous target area. But missing the putting surface could mean an awkward recovery shot, with the ground falling away on both sides.

PAR 4
425 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 6



17 The shortest par four on the course, but certainly long on character. Being brave and attempting to go straight for the target can lead to either a great birdie opportunity, or all sorts of trouble. Keeping left opens up the green, unless your tee shot drifts too far and leaves you without a view of the flag. A generously proportioned green can be a tricky read and a positive putting stroke is required if you are destined to finish your round in style.

PAR 4
359 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 16



18 All great golf courses feature a great finishing hole and the Majlis is no different with an 18th to rival the best. A birdie here will bring a marvellous climax to any round, but a par is always satisfying. With the fairway turning left 90 degrees, cutting the corner from the tee is a temptation difficult to resist, even if your best drive still leaves the green well out of reach. Following the second part of the fairway and curving in front of the green, a gleaming lake stands in the way of approach shots aimed towards a safe landing in full view of the clubhouse. Anything short will see your hopes sink beside several thousand fish.

PAR 5
564 YARDS
STROKE INDEX 12
