

East Aurora Country Club Course Review



East Aurora Country Club - home of the International Junior Masters. Photo by Alexander Brown | Tee 2 Green

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Course Details

East Aurora, NY

Par 71, 6,422 yards

Located minutes from the popular village of East Aurora, East Aurora Country Club has a reputation as being a premier club in the Buffalo area. Since 1953 the course has been home to the International Junior Masters, a golf tournament that features some of the world's best junior golfers. Many past participants have had successful careers on the PGA Tour. The 2022 International Junior Masters will take place from June 27 – July 1.

Notable participant's that played/play on the PGA Tour:

Terry Diehl (1965-67)
Jim Simons (1966)
Jeff Sluman (1972-75)
Mike Hulbert (1975)
Jim Gallagher Jr. (1978)
Brian Tennyson (1979-80)
Woody Austin (1981)
Robert Friend (1981)
Jeff Gallagher (1981-82)
Tony Mollica (1982)
Billy Mayfair (1983-84)
Dudley Hart (1983-86)
Jim Furyk (1986)
Tom Scherrer (1987-77)
Ryuji Imada (1991)
Rory Sabbatini (1993)
Tim Clark (1993)
Trevor Immelman (1994-95)
Akio Sadakata (1994)
Camilo Villegas (1997)
Matthew Every (1998-01)
Domonic Bozzelli (2004-05)
Mackenzie Hughes (2007)
Abraham Ancer (2008)
Corey Connors (2009)
Sebastian Munoz (2011)



Opening tee shot at East Aurora Country Club. Photo by Alexander Brown | Tee 2 Green

East Aurora Country Club's two nines are polar opposites. The front nine is hilly, offering many awkward lies, blind tee shots, and blind approach shots. The back nine is built on marshland. Accuracy is critical on the closing nine holes as the marsh comes into play on five of them.



Hole one at East Aurora Country Club. Photo by Alexander Brown | Tee 2 Green

The first hole is a difficult start. The 426-yard par-four is the number two handicap on the course. Players are required to hit their tee shot over a valley to a fairway lined with mature trees. Tee balls that are missed to the left or right will result in having to punch out. Hole two is a short par three; hitting the green is a must. Bunkers placed in front of the green catch balls that end up short and a slight drop-off behind the green will present a problematic recovery chip. The third hole is a par five, with the East Aurora hilly terrain starting to enter play. The tee shot plays uphill to a dogleg left fairway. Any drive over the corner can reach the green in two. Anything right will find the same mature trees that line hole one, anything left will find another grouping of trees. The approach on hole three is blind. The telephone pole in the distance is an aiming point to the center of the green. Anything long of the flag will result in a three-putt more times than not, as the green slopes sharply from back to front.



Seventh Green guarded by a pond in front. Photo by Alexander Brown | Tee 2 Green

The fourth is the longest par three at East Aurora Country Club, measuring 235 yards. The hole demands a straight shot to a narrow green with a drastic drop-off into a valley to its left. The fifth and sixth are both par fours, with the fifth being the easier of the two. The fifth is the shortest par four on the course at 329 yards. Birdie is an obtainable score on this hole if out-of-bounds is avoided up the right side. Hole seven is the most picturesque hole on the front side. The 533-yard par-five plays alongside the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. The uphill drive must be placed in the fairway or left of the fairway to avoid the train tracks on the right. The second shot is blind over the hill down to a green protected by a pond short left. The blind-shot theme continues on the par-three eighth, where players will face a 175-yard uphill shot to a difficult tiered green. The ninth is a great hole to close out the front nine offering great views of the clubhouse and newly built patio.



12th hole par five at East Aurora Country Club. Photo by Alexander Brown | Tee 2 Green

Hole 10 gives players a glimpse of what is in store for them on the back, offering views of the marshland to the left of the tee box. The 10th is a true high risk, high reward par four, giving longer hitters the ability to get close to the green by carrying the trees on the right, while shorter hitters lay up with an iron to the fairway. The 11th sits behind the seventh hole and similarly follows the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. The tee shot must be perfectly placed; the dogleg left is protected by a pond on the left and out of bounds on the right. The 12th plays longer than the 453 yards listed on the scorecard due to a pond splitting the fairway 250 yards from the tee. Longer hitters can try and carry the pond from the tee, but most lay up with an iron.



Number 14 green at East Aurora Country Club. Photo by Alexander Brown | Tee 2 Green

The picturesque 13th hole is the first of two par threes on the back nine. The hole is played from an elevated tee box to an elevated green. The par four 14th is a sharp dogleg left with the sinking ponds marsh playing alongside the entire right side of the hole. Like many holes at East Aurora Country Club, a well-placed tee shot is critical on 14. Left is just as costly as going right on this hole; left is guarded by a tree-lined hill, and right will find the middle of the sinking ponds marsh. Number 15 is the second par three on the back nine. The hole is a medium length par three, playing 182 yards. The 16th, playing 476 yards, is a very reachable par five. The short length and wide fairway off the tee make it the second easiest hole at East Aurora Country Club. The 17th and 18th holes at East Aurora Country Club are two of the most challenging closing holes in Western New York. Hole 17 is the number one handicap on the course. The 475-yard par-four plays as long as the two par 5's on the back nine. The tee shot requires a good hit; anything right will find a steep hill bringing golf balls towards the 18th hole. The 18th tee box will test any golfer's nerve; players will be faced with swampland left of the fairway and a pond placed at the end of the fairway. A driver is not recommended on this hole; laying up to the middle of the fairway with an iron or hybrid is the best play. If the fairway is found off the tee, players will need to carry a pond to an elevated putting surface to close out their round.



Hole 18 from the tee box at East Aurora Country Club. Photo by Alexander Brown | Tee 2 Green

Following the round, East Aurora Country Club members can enjoy food and drink on the newly built patio. The patio is features multiple fire pits and overlooks the first and ninth holes.