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11th Hole Tryall Golf Course, Jamaica
By
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What Club Would You Hit?

Today's golf hole is the 11th Hole at Tryall Golf Course in Montego Bay, Jamaica. I've played the golf course during my honeymoon in Jamaica. While there, I played all five golf courses in the area while writing my "Golf in Jamaica" article, which I included as a chapter of my book "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon.

As the former home of an LPGA Jamaican Classic and the Johnny Walker World golf tournaments, the Tryall Resort Golf Course is probably the best-known golf course in Jamaica. I played the member's layout. Designed by Texan Ralph Plummer, his routing has you playing the first 6 holes near the ocean. The next 9 holes wind up and down the mountains before finishing up back at sea level.



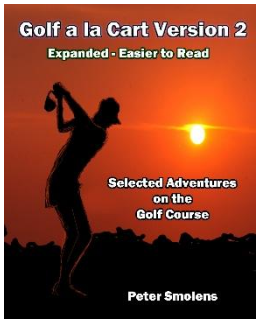
The 11th hole is a dogleg left that goes uphill. Water cut across the fairway, making your drive a risk/reward shot. Long hitters who hit it over the water can go for the green in two. Guarding the left side of the 11th hole is a very large cotton tree.

According to my caddie, Vernon, in the early days of Jamaica, natives used to cut these trees down and maul them out to make wooden boats. More than 400 years ago, the Arawak Indians - Vernon's ancestors- used boats made from these trees to travel to and from South America. These gentle people were not prepared for the arrival of Christopher Columbus on May 4, 1494. With his arrival, the Spanish took control of the island. But once it was discovered that the island lacked riches,

the Spanish abandoned the place. The English came in and took over in 1655. They introduced native crops to the island, including tobacco, cotton, and cocoa.

After a solid drive over the water, I tried to go for the green - this was in my younger days. Unfortunately, I caught the bunker that guards the green. A poor bunker shot led to a three-putt bogey.

Still, I agree with the late superstar sports agent Donald Dell's assessment of Jamaica: "This is a little piece of heaven on earth." Saying that Jamaica is laid back is an understatement. The most popular phrase of the island, "No problem, mon"! It's their way of saying "relax, we'll take care of you". In this relaxed way, Jamaicans provide spectacular service, including the caddies on the golf course. By the end of your round, you'll get accustomed to this lifestyle and then understand they might have the right idea.



This photograph is used as an illustration in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," now available on Amazon or by contacting me. It's also available as a digital print at my Etsy Store. To purchase a print, go to the pbsstudios.com Golf Photography Gallery Section of pbsstudios.com

I hope you like my weekly series of columns about golf holes I have played and photographed. The series includes original photographs or digital paintings based on photographed golf holes.

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