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7th Hole Cape Cod Highland Golf Course
By
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What Club Would You Hit?



Today's golf hole is the 7th Hole at Cape Cod Highland Golf Course in Truro, Cape Cod, MA.

As the oldest golf course on Cape Cod, this nine-hole golf course is like what you might find in the Highlands of Scotland. Built on a natural bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in the grand tradition of the Scottish links. With its wide-open, windswept fairways and pot-style bunkers, it's appropriate that the golf course is built with the game's history in mind.

With its openness, this nine-hole layout depends on a constant sea breeze to give the golfer problems. Overlooking the ocean means there are continuous sea breezes affecting your every golf shot. There are also many other distractions when playing this golf course. Early morning golfers, while teeing off the 6th hole, can catch the first rays of the sun in America as it rises east over the Atlantic Ocean. If the beautiful ocean views are not enough of a distraction to the golfer, near the 7th green stands one of the most famous landmarks of Cape Cod - the Highland Light.

As the oldest lighthouse on Cape Cod, the Highland Light was built in 1797 by Congress and is located within the confines of the U.S. National Seashore, on a bluff in Truro overlooking Peaked Hill Bars, a very dangerous part of the Atlantic Ocean. In 1996, with natural erosion taking place, the 66-foot-high wooden lighthouse, the 20th in the United States, was relocated; now it stands close to the seventh fairway of the Highland Golf Links. The original "Highland House of Golf Links" was part of an ocean and cottage resort operated for years by the Small family of Truro. The golf course was originally laid out by Isaac Small's son Willard with sand greens. A redesign was implemented in 1913 by New Yorker and frequent hotel guest J. Henry McKinley. Francis Ouimet, the legendary 1913 USGA Open Champion, played an exhibition round here after its original sand greens were converted to grass. By 1955, the links had been refurbished again by owner Hal Conklin. In the 1960s, Cape Cod Highland Links became Federal property under the Cape Cod National Seashore.

The seventh hole is a straight-ahead medium-length par-3 where you're hitting towards the early morning sun rising from the ocean behind the green. What makes this hole challenging is that you often hit your tee shot against the wind to a small green. To the left of the hole is the Highland Light. The eighth hole is a par-4 going away from the ocean on the other side of the lighthouse.

I played from the middle tees at a distance of 160 yards to the green. I thought I hit enough club. Still, it landed short of the green. Thankfully, I hit a good chip, leaving me with a medium-length putt for a par. I left my putt a couple of inches short – a tap-in gave me a bogey four. One of my biggest challenges in golf is getting the speed of the greens. Putting speed is a hard skill to master.

The photograph used as an illustration in my book, "Golf a la Cart Version 2," is 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 in the series based on photographed golf holes.

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