

Kapalua Plantation Course (2007 Edition)

The Course and Thanks - December, 2006

Kapalua Plantation Course – The masterpiece on Maui is truly a most wonderful golf course and experience. Don't base your opinion of the course on what you see on television during the tournament as it is robbed of all its drama, its scope, its sheer scale and of course its elevation changes.

It is bigger, wider, steeper than any other course you have played and its views of the pacific ocean and Molokai are breathtaking. For this reason I would like to make a special mention to :

Rick Weathers who masterfully restored the panorama to its former glory

The architects essentially graded everything in place leaving the impression that the golf course was simply mowed out of the natural landscape. The result is fairway horizons that look like the curvature of the earth and some greens that wont even fit the parameters of a panoramic camera

And then of course there are the canyons...Massive several hundred feet deep canyons that run through the course...Sometimes you play down and out the other side (1,9,15) and other times you skirt the edges and massive risk reward shots come into play such as the 5th, the 17th. There are two holes where from the back tees you have to drive across the canyons, the 6th and the 8th.

The views down 17 and 18 looking at the pacific ocean and the island of Molokai remain with you for ever as truly spectacular golf holes. Even the clubhouse has a very understated but sophisticated feel to it with pictures of all the past winners. The bar is a great place to hang out after a round but the restaurant is an even better place to come and eat in the evening. It is cause for my second special thank you to:

Pat Prospect who painstakingly recreated the Plantation House from pictures

Planting the course is especially tough because there simply is not that much variety, it is not an Augusta with its splash of colour nor is it a parkland with large amounts of trees, nor is it a links course, it is literally a plantation course.

However, I do know from playing there that there is a lot of tall grass...So much so in fact that if you go in it you will lose your ball. It is for this reason that if you hit your ball outside the bounds of the rough and fairway here you will have to replay your shot. No you are not going to climb down a 100 yard canyon with shoulder high grass, bushes and what not and magically scream....hey I found it....and even if you did, good luck playing it.

Balls right on the edge of the thick stuff might get away with a shot from deep grass but everywhere else its ...Rehit...

So we come around to my final major thank you.

Chuck Clark who faithfully recreated the planting around the course and

But that was not all. Chuck also did a once over on all the greens to double check the slopes. I did another run over them following my return from playing there twice in November. While I am sure they are not 100% they are pretty damn close.

Finally thanks to **Mike Jones** for the bunker textures and advice on bunkering...

Design Features

For those interested there are a couple of interesting design tidbits. This was the first course we chose to upgrade as part of the MS upgrade project as we new the terrain to be easily distinguishable. The entire base terrain was extracted from the original course, converted to an ASCII text file of x,y,z coordinates, imported into Global Mapper, and then exported into a square mesh that could be used by APCD.

There are two holes on the course where there are false fronts, both par 5s the 15th and the 9th. I watched from the 15th greenside as my friend hit his approach to the front edge of the green and then roll back 40 yards down the hill. A similar fate awaits balls hit shot on 9 although to no where near the same extent. I have used texture modifications to faithfully recreate what I saw while playing the course.

This is my second trip to Kapalua, and I was surprised to see a change to the 6th hole. They had graded out an area behind the green to allow for balls hit long down the hill and balls hit strong to roll over the back and down the hill. I have created this area that I saw while I was there. I cannot begin to tell you how terrifying this tee shot was for me off the very back tees where you have 200 yards of canyon to carry with canyon all the way down the right and cack left and a bunker sitting in the middle of the fairway.

I have also tried to recreate my second shot in real life which was a ¾ 6 iron played well left and short of the green. The ball kicks off the downslope, rides the slope left of the green curls around and then catches the green, then the slope on the green and finally comes to rest not very far from the hole. It might actually work on the faster settings with the mod.

Other Thanks

Thanks to all the folks who helped test out the course and who are members of the Online World Golf Tour who got a sample of it last year and provide feedback

Thanks to the Plantation course for letting us hackers chop round on a daily basis...

A picture of my scorecard from the Plantation Course (2 rounds) in November 2006

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT
TOURNAMENT Rating : 75.6, Slope 140	520	218	380	382	532	398	516	203	521	3670
CHAMPIONSHIP Rating : 74.9, Slope 138	473	218	380	382	532	398	484	203	521	3591
REGULAR Rating : 71.7, Slope 130	434	196	352	317	485	378	465	172	490	3289
MEN'S PAR	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	36
HANDICAP	11	17	3	9	7	13	5	15	1	
<i>Andrew (11/6/06)</i>	4	3	4	5	5	4	5	3	5	38
<i>(No Wind Back Tees)</i>										
<i>Andrew (11/10/06)</i>	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	3	4	39
<i>(Windy - 30-40 Back Tees)</i>										
LADIES' Rating : 73.2, Slope 129	381	132	260	218	445	315	450	$\frac{146}{67}$	401	2748
LADIES' PAR	4	3	4	4	5	4	5	3	5	37
HANDICAP	5	17	11	13	3	9	7	15	1	
DATE	SCORER									

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT	HANDICAP	NET SCORE
PLAYER	354	164	420	407	305	555	365	508	663	3741	7411		
	354	164	373	407	305	555	365	486	663	3672	7263		
	283	145	328	352	275	510	313	467	585	3258	6547		
	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	37	73		
	10	18	14	4	16	6	12	2	8				
AJ	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	5	39	77	+4	
AJ	5	4	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	41	80	+7	
PLAYER	251	120	303	300	232	474	282	428	489	2879	5627		
	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	38	75		
	10	18	16	6	14	4	12	2	8				
ATTEST													

The Plantation Course

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