

Going to great lengths



Torrey Pines Golf Course (South)

This year's U.S. Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course South in San Diego, will be the longest course in major championship history, listed at 7,643 yards, par 71.

The sixth hole, converted from a par 5, will measure 515 yards and be the longest par 4 in U.S. Open competition. This will be only the eighth time a course will have hosted a regular PGA Tour event (Buick Invitational) and a major championship in the same year.

Television (all times EDT)

First- and second-round coverage
June 12-13, 1-3 p.m., ESPN;
3-5 p.m., NBC Sports; 5-10 p.m., ESPN
Third-round coverage
June 14, 4-10 p.m., NBC Sports
Final-round coverage
June 15, 3-9 p.m., NBC Sports

1 Par 4
Yards 448

Unlike the last two years, this should be a fairly tame way to start the U.S. Open. Two bunkers to the right and a longer bunker on the left should be avoided, with the left side of the fairway preferred for what could be a 7-iron or less depending on the wind. The green is slightly elevated and pitches from back to front, guarded by bunkers on both sides.

2 Par 4
Yards 389

A driver could leave a flip sand wedge to the green, but anything not in the fairway spells trouble. Anything right off the tee could find a tricky bunker, with a long bunker stretching along the left side of the fairway. The green slopes severely from back to front, and is very quick in the back right location. Anything long drops off severely.

3 Par 3
Yards 195

Two tees some 50 yards apart will be used. A long iron from the back tee will have a penetrating flight; a wedge from the forward tee gets up in the air. The two-tiered green slopes from left to right. A big bunker guards the front left of the green, with a hazard that falls off into a gorge on the left and behind the green.

4 Par 4
Yards 488

Already a tough hole, seven Torrey pines have been moved from the left side of the fairway to the right to open up the cliffs down the left side. A bunker on the right could see plenty of golf balls. The approach requires a long iron or more to a narrow green that is exposed to the wind along the cliffs.

5 Par 4
Yards 453

This has a similar look to the second hole, the fairway squeezed by bunkers on the right and left. The key is the approach to a green that is narrow and slopes severely, with a deep bunker to the right causing problems. Approach shots must be kept below the hole for a decent shot at birdie, and to avoid three-putting.

6 Par 4
Yards 515

This has been converted to a par 4 for the U.S. Open, mainly because the green is open to a long approach. The aggressive drive takes on the canyon on the right with a slight draw. Otherwise, the drive must avoid a cluster of five bunkers on the left and plenty of pines. A long iron is required to a green that is protected by bunkers on both sides.

7 Par 4
Yards 461

Precision is demanded off the tee, with a fairway bunker in the landing zone to the left and trees lining a canyon to the right. The approach is to an uphill green that is deceptively narrow and falls off sharply, with a large bunker protecting the front right part of the green.

8 Par 3
Yards 177

The tamest of the par 3s, but still tough to find a birdie. The green is two-tiered and not entirely visible from the tee. A large bunker guards the front of the green, with a smaller bunker over the back, but the key is to find the same level as the hole location. Otherwise, lag putts are difficult.

9 Par 5
Yards 612

Only the longest hitters go for the green with a 3-wood, and everyone else still must hit the fairway to allow for a good layup; otherwise, they will have as much as a mid-iron for the third shot. Bunkers are on both sides of the fairway in the landing area, and the green is two-tiered with bunkers on both sides of the front portion.

10 Par 4
Yards 414

Most players will opt for a fairway metal off the tee and keep it on the left side for a short iron to a sloping green that is guarded by bunkers at the front on both sides. This might be considered the last good birdie opportunity until the final hole.

11 Par 3
Yards 221

A tough par 3 that typically plays longer than its yardage because of the prevailing wind from the ocean. The tee shot is straight-forward, but must avoid a narrow bunker along the right side of the green and two smaller bunkers to the left. The green slopes severely from right to left.

12 Par 4
Yards 504

The fairway is generous, with a couple of bunkers on both sides, but the two on the right side more often come into play. Only a solid tee shot will allow players to reach the green in two, but anything short is still a fairly simple up-and-down, because the green is 35 yards deep and receptive to uphill chips.

13 Par 5
Yards 614

Two tees have been built near the launch area for hang-gliders, and this could be the most controversial. From the back tee, a 240-yard carry is required to clear the canyon and reach the fairway, and it's doubtful anyone can reach the green in two, which is elevated and protected in front by deep rough and a series of bunkers. A forward tee could mean a 3-wood for position and a better chance to reach in two. The shorter tee is likely only if the wind comes off the foothills instead of the ocean.

14 Par 4
Yards 435

Two bunkers are situated down the left side of the fairway, but the greater fear is a canyon to the left. Players tend to aim further to the right, bringing trees into the picture for anything too far off line. The green, protected by deep bunkers left and right, is one of the most exposed on the course. Anything over the green could run down the slope and into a hazard.

15 Par 4
Yards 478

Eucalyptus trees line both sides of the fairway, making this one of the most claustrophobic tee shots on the course. It's the only driving hole without a fairway bunker, but none is needed. Anything left could force a low runner under the branches of trees. The green is slightly uphill and slopes aggressively from right to left, with bunkers on both sides.

16 Par 3
Yards 225

Two tees offer dramatically different views. The longer tee is straight forward to an open green, with deep bunkers on both sides, but the wind can complicate the angle. The shorter tee to the left (193 yards) requires a carry over the canyon and brings the bunkers into play, but players can aim more to the right and ride the breeze off the ocean.

17 Par 4
Yards 441

With a prevailing breeze at the back, most players will go with an iron or fairway metal to play short of a large bunker on the right side. More aggressive players must be aware of the canyon on the left, famous for when Phil Mickelson and Frank Lickliter both hitting tee shots there in a 2001 playoff, which Lefty won with a double bogey. The green is elevated, wide and severely undulating, protected by small bunkers on both sides at the front.

18 Par 5
Yards 573

The tee shot must avoid bunkers right and left (along with the rough) to go for the green in two. A large pond guards the front left portion of the green, with bunkers curling on both sides of the narrow green. Those who lay up must guard against too much spin on their third, especially with a front pin, as the green slopes to the front toward the pond.