

BEUERBERG

With the Bavarian Alps as its stunning backdrop, Beuerberg has a beauty that few courses can rival. The layout is impressive too: a challenging par 74 that mixes five par 5s with some tempting, short par 4s.

You will feel instantly at home at Beuerberg, where a warm welcome and a wonderful ambience complement a fine golf course. In the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, the visitor is struck first by the stunning panoramic views across the south-east tip of Germany. But once you have played here, the golf course will be just as memorable.

The legendary Donald Harradine designed the layout and the course opened in 1983. Though it was one of Harradine's late designs before he passed away in 1996, it remains one of his best. Much of his work came in Switzerland and Germany, where he thrived on crafting and sculpting courses to conform to their natural landscapes. It can be argued that many of his designs have something of an understated nature. However, they always retain the essential qualities that make for a great course.

Donald's son, Peter, has continued to carry his father's architectural philosophy to other parts of the world, delivering the same quality in service, but working on a much grander scale

and budget. While prominent in Europe, the company furthered its reputation as the golf boom hit the Middle East. Al Hamra, a sand-swept resort track in the thriving Emirate of Ras al-Khaimah, continues to win international plaudits; the magnificent Abu Dhabi Golf Club, host to the HSBC Abu Dhabi Championship, has become one of the European Tour's most iconic designs; and the Doha Golf Club, another tour course that is home to the Qatar Masters, features a procession of lakes combined with a daunting length of 7,400 yards, making it the perfect challenge for the world's best players.

Unlike these Middle Eastern greats, Beuerberg, despite its quality, carries little professional pedigree. It did host the 1992 European Ladies Open, but Harradine's craft is respected more for its timeless feel than for the tournament coverage it receives. Just ask the critics; Beuerberg has always been rated as one of the best courses in Germany, as well as consistently featuring in top-100 rankings on the continent.

Laid out over 120 hectares, it is both quirky and imposing. Its par of 74 is affirmed with five par 5s, all of them demanding in their nature, but individual in their defences. With so many three-shot holes, something had to give and so Harradine built only three par 3s; the longest 187 yards, the shortest 154. There are also two superb short par 4s at the 5th and 10th, reachable at 273 and 312 yards respectively, but riddled with danger as trees encroach the fairway, bringing your ball-striking into sharp focus.

The routing is also interesting; the first three holes playing straight, before the course cuts back at the par-5 4th, turning through small posses of trees and up and over the rolling terrain. A number of water hazards add to

the test, and though not intimidating in their size, razor-sharp positioning is needed to avoid them, especially with your approach play. Although the course is not overly populated with trees, they do come into play on the apex of Beuerberg's subtle doglegs, while framing the greens of several holes to add to the already tranquil setting.

There are a number of strong holes, but the par-5 12th is one of the cleverest in terms of its design. From the men's yellow pegs it tempts players to throw everything into their drive to set up an easier approach to the green, which is tucked behind a pond. Play it well and a birdie chance looms; play it badly and a seriously high number is the only result. Make sure to pay a visit to Beuerberg if you can.

“One of the most beautiful settings in which to play the game.”

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The outward nine opens with a fine par 5 over the beautiful, rolling terrain. There is no margin for anything loose from the tee, and the par-4 3rd brings the first sight of water, as players need to carry a pond in front of the green.

Course yardage – Yellow tees 6,835 yards
Course GPS – 47°49'8.68" N 11°25'37.83"E

Opposite: The par-4 6th is one of Beuerberg's tighter holes where two solid blows are needed to find the green in regulation.

Hole 1
Par 5
531 yards

The course opens with an inviting drive. Trees congest the left side of the fairway, with more coming into play on the right at 280 yards. There are no bunkers to worry about until you get to the green, with a solitary trap lying at its front-right entrance. For those who choose to lay up, a small tree narrows the approach some 120 yards short of the putting surface.

Hole 2
Par 4
387 yards

Playing from the yellow tees, the drive is tightened on the right side with dense trees, and the ideal line on the fairway is left of centre. From here, the approach to the green is more open, and with a greenside trap to its right, coming in from this angle allows for a low-running long iron. Again, there are no fairway traps to negotiate a way past.

Hole 3
Par 4
368 yards

The tees are set back in a short channel of trees, and although the hole opens up, there is no room left so you need to hit a gentle fade to find the best position on the fairway. However, a fairway bunker sits to the right at 220 yards, so you don't want to go too far. The big test comes next with the second shot over water to the green.

Hole 4
Par 5
562 yards

A dogleg par 5 that is rated as the third toughest on the course; one fairway bunker sits to the right, so it is tempting to fire left and shorten the hole. Be wary if attacking the green in two: there is a narrow creek in front, and the apron of the putting surface drops down towards it, so a full carry is needed. One bunker sits to the right.

Hole 5
Par 4
273 yards

It may be short, and it may be rated as the second easiest hole at Beuerberg, but the drive is fiendishly tight with trees waiting to catch anything slightly off line. The temptation is obvious and many players will go for the green with their driver, but a bunker protects the right side and more trees pinch the left side tightly. A sensible lay-up leaves a pitch and a putt for birdie.

Hole 7
Par 4
379 yards

One of the wider fairways on the course, but it's a tricky drive because anything too straight, or too long, from the tee could run into the rough at around 280 yards. If players can find the fairway to the right side it will leave an easier approach to the green. A path runs short of the green, and a bunker lies to the left-hand side.

Hole 8
Par 3
162 yards

The first of the par 3s offers no option but to fly a mid-iron into the heart of the green because a large trap pinches the entrance from the right, while trees hug the left side. The putting surface is also raised slightly and the green features a number of undulations and run-off areas. This is a tricky one-shot hole that isn't as simple as it may appear.

Hole 9
Par 4
381 yards

The drive looks tight with trees either side, but the fairway does open up at 200 yards despite a bunker lurking at 230. The rolling fairway demands good ball control, and left-centre is ideal. The green is huge – and if you are out of position then two-putting is tough. To get to that green, players must play over one of the course's largest bunkers.



Hole 6 – Par 4 – 450 yards

The 6th is the course's stroke-index-one hole, and for good reason because two well-executed shots are needed to find the green in regulation, as well as plenty of course management skills. From the tee there is no room right for the drive, and a soft draw will leave you in the best position because the fairway snakes through a narrow tunnel of trees 100 yards short of the green. There is also a creek to factor into your game plan, which will be reachable from the tee for the longest of hitters at around 280 yards. If attacking the green, there is plenty of room out to the left-hand side, but getting past the trees is the big test. One greenside bunker sits to the right.



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The par 5s at 12 and 17 stand out for special praise, pure risk-reward holes with the threat of water waiting to catch out those who choose to attack. The 18th sweeps grandly over undulating land, and is a fine finish in anyone's book.

Opposite: Avoiding the hazard that lies at the front of the par-5 17th is crucial if you are looking to make a late charge for a birdie.

Hole 10

Par 4
312 yards

Another short, tight, tree-lined par 4 where an iron is the safe option; there is more danger on the left side, while a bunker sits to the right of the fairway at 220 yards. Like the 5th hole, it is tempting to go for the green, which is raised above the fairway. However, two bunkers – one at the front and one at the back – lie in wait for errant approaches.

Hole 11

Par 3
187 yards

The tee is elevated, so players may choose to take less club, but it is still a solid mid-iron even for the best ball-strikers. Bunkers – two deep, narrow traps – encircle the green, and players will need to carry a water hazard positioned short. If you are going to miss the putting surface, the right-hand side is the best place from which to recover.

Hole 12

Par 5
485 yards

A short par 5 which is a great risk-reward hole; the fairway lifts up and then drops down after a creek that runs across at 220 yards, so the first task is to get over this. Then it's a choice of a lay-up, or a full-blooded 3-wood that needs to carry a large water hazard in front of the green. One bunker is positioned right of the putting surface.

Hole 13

Par 4
398 yards

A very tough par 4 – rated as the second hardest hole on the course – that features a drive over a small water hazard, which also needs to be threaded through trees. Once past the traffic, the fairway opens up – although there is a bunker at 300 yards on the right. The entrance to the green is also open, with another bunker to the right.

Hole 14

Par 3
154 yards

This is the shortest hole on the course, but it's another tricky one-shotter with a number of defences. A stream runs up to the green and there are trees both left and right. Anything short may not hold the putting surface, in which case there is a danger of your ball running back into the water. One deep greenside trap is positioned left.

Hole 15

Par 5
510 yards

A fairway bunker on the left-hand side is the first obstacle on this dogleg par 5, but just right of this hazard is the perfect line. From here, the entrance to the green opens up, though it has sand either side. The lay-up zone is pinched tight with another trap to the right, but if you are in position this is one three-shot hole that is worth attacking.

Hole 16

Par 4
380 yards

A straightforward-looking hole that bends gently to the right as you approach the green; a solitary fairway bunker lies at 220 yards on the right, with a cluster of trees further up tightening the landing zone on the fairway. The green is protected by a long, narrow bunker on either side. The rolling contours of the fairway mean downhill lies can be an issue.

Hole 18

Par 4
396 yards

The home hole runs alongside the 9th, sharing its fairway and greenside bunkers. There is more room out to the right-hand side as the trees become less dense past 180 yards. The approach plays gently uphill, so more club is often needed to find the green. The surface is undulating, so provides one final test of a player's putt-reading skills.

Hole 17 – *Par 5* – 528 yards

This is a great par 5 where players are encouraged to open their shoulders from the tee, especially those chasing a score on the back nine. The fairway drops off on the left-hand side and there is a menacing bunker here at 220 yards that is tough to escape from. There are some subtle undulations en route to the green, and it's a brave decision to try to reach it in two because a full carry is needed to a narrow putting surface with marshland guarding its entrance. If playing the hole with a lay-up, it's a mid-iron and a short pitch over the hazard, but just make sure the bunkers either side of the green are avoided as they can ruin any hopes of a late birdie.

