# A JOURNEY ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE – HOLE BY HOLE

## Victor Harbor Golf Club

www.vhgolf.com.au

## Course Overview

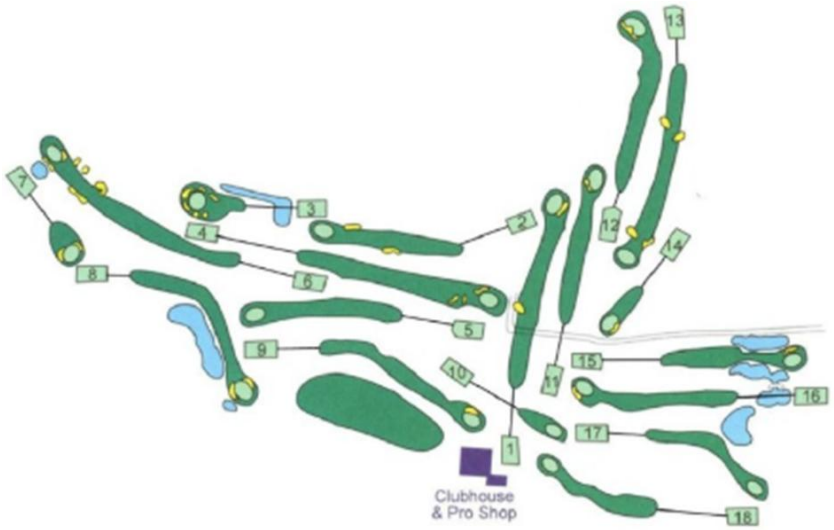
Victor Harbor Golf Club is one of South Australia's most memorable coastal golf experiences. Established in 1911 and recognised as the birthplace of the Ambrose format in Australia, VHGC occupies a spectacular position above Encounter Bay on the Fleurieu Peninsula, with sweeping views to Granite Island, The Bluff and the Southern Ocean. Its 18-hole championship course is shaped by rolling elevation, native vegetation, strategic bunkering and ever-present coastal breezes, creating a layout of genuine individuality and constant visual appeal. The round begins with the club's signature 1st hole, an exhilarating elevated tee shot some 30 metres above the fairway, which immediately announces both the grandeur of the setting and the quality of the golfing experience to come. Beyond its scenery, Victor Harbor's enduring strength lies in the way it rewards thoughtful golf, with multiple teeing options, strong hole-to-hole variety and a design that consistently values placement, angles and decision-making over brute force.

**Men's Courses**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Blue** | **Par 72** | **Slope 129** | **Scratch 72** | **5918 m** |
| **White** | **Par 72** | **Slope 127** | **Scratch 71** | **5902 m** |
| **Red** | **Par 72** | **Slope 121** | **Scratch 70** | **5351 m** |
| **Orange** | **Par 64** | **Slope 93** | **Scratch 60** | **3336 m** |

**Women's Courses**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **White** | **Par 73** | **Slope 137** | **Scratch 77** | **5962 m** |
| **Red** | **Par 73** | **Slope 129** | **Scratch 75** | **5350 m** |
| **Orange** | **Par 68** | **Slope 103** | **Scratch 62** | **3336 m** |



# Hole 1 – Men - Par 4 / Ladies – Par 5

*Distance – 402m / 395m (Index 5 / 17)*

## A breathtaking opening statement.

From an elevated tee nearly 30 metres above the fairway, your first swing is framed by panoramic views across Encounter Bay and the Southern Ocean. It's a moment that stops conversations, slows the heart rate, and reminds you that this round will be something special.

## How to Play the Hole

The opening tee shot eases you into the round, but discipline is key from the first swing. The fairway subtly feeds left toward a bunker, so favouring the right side with driver is the smart play. From there, the approach asks for restraint. The right greenside bunker is trouble, so aim middle to left and accept a safe miss. A tidy chip and two putts set up a calm par or bogey and get the round moving in the right direction.

## Tour Player

Control adrenaline off the tee. A fade down the right side keeps the ball under control and avoids the left bunker. On approach, favour the fat side of the green and take par without forcing anything early.

## Amateur

Driver is fine but aim right-centre. Let the hole come to you. Middle-left of the green is perfect and avoids short-siding yourself.

## Beginner

Focus on a smooth tee shot, even with a fairway wood or hybrid. Aim for the middle of the green and don't worry about flag-hunting — a chip and two putts is a great start.

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## Hole 2 – Par 4

*Distance – 329m / 305m (Index 10 / 12)*

### How to Play the Hole

Temptation arrives early. Long hitters can take on the bold tiger line, but most golfers are better served by playing short of the fairway bunker. The second shot demands commitment — from 120–160 metres, take enough club to carry the left bunker and aim safely at the centre of the green. Patience here is rewarded.

### Tour Player

Only take the 'tiger line' if conditions are perfect. Most days, positioning short of the bunker gives a full wedge and better spin control.

### Amateur

Lay back off the tee and take enough club on the approach to carry the left bunker. Middle of the green is success.

### Beginner

Break the hole into stages. Get the ball in play, then advance it toward the green. Avoid the bunkers and take bogey happily.

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## Hole 3 – Par 3

*Distance – 150m / 139m (Index 15 / 13)*

### How to Play the Hole

This par 3 looks straightforward on paper, but the green complex punishes indecision. Choose a club that flies around 140 metres, commit to it, and avoid the right-hand bunker cluster at all costs. The left side offers forgiveness, but too much safety brings its own hazards. A conservative play still gives you every chance at par.

### Tour Player

Flight the ball into the breeze if needed and eliminate the right bunkers completely. The left side gives an uphill chip if you miss.

### Amateur

Choose a club you know will reach the green. Don't flirt with the right side — centre or slightly left is ideal.

### Beginner

Ignore the bunkers and aim for the middle of the green. Even landing short and chipping on is a good result.

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## Hole 4 – Par 5

*Index 11 / 10*

*Distance – 480m / 400m*

### How to Play the Hole

Now the course opens. A confident driver favouring the left side sets up options. Fairway bunkers lurk on the right, particularly for those laying back. Whether you attack or lay-up, the approach should be aimed middle to right, steering clear of the front-left bunker. With a green sloping right to left, missing right is far safer than long or left.

### Tour Player

A strong drive left opens the hole. The second shot is all about decision-making — only attack if the lie and wind are perfect.

### Amateur

Three smart shots beat two risky ones. Lay up short of the bunkers and aim middle-right into the green.

### Beginner

Think “three easy shots.” Keep the ball in play, aim away from bunkers, and avoid trying to do too much

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## Hole 5 – Par 4

*Index 7 / 6*

*Distance – 378m / 336m*

### How to Play the Hole

Shot shapers will see a tempting corner to cut, but the sensible line is toward the dead gum tree on the left. The green demands distance control — never go long. Short, left, or right all leave manageable recoveries, making this a hole where smart positioning beats raw power.

### Tour Player

A controlled draw can shorten the hole, but distance control into the green is critical — long is dead.

### Amateur

Aim at the dead gum tree off the tee. The centre of the green is always the right play.

### Beginner

Play this hole conservatively. Get the ball on or near the green and focus on solid contact.

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## Hole 6 – Par 5

*Index 13 / 8*

*Distance – 464m / 411m*

### How to Play the Hole

Strategy defines this hole. A solid tee shot centre or slightly left keeps everything in front of you. From there, it's classic risk versus reward — laying up avoids the two guarding greenside bunkers, while attacking requires precision. If you miss, short left is your escape route. The real goal? Walk off without a double bogey.

### Tour Player

Risk versus reward defines this hole. Missing short-left keeps bogey in play if aggression doesn't pay off.

### Amateur

Laying up is smart. Two bunkers guard the green — respect them and avoid big numbers.

### Beginner

Forget attacking the green. Advance the ball safely and avoid trouble — this hole can punish impatience.

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## Hole 7 – Par 3

*Index 18 / 15*

*Distance – 134m / 105m*

### How to Play the Hole

A small target framed by deep bunkers makes this hole visually intimidating. You must carry the front bunkers, so choose a confident line. Interestingly, a slightly long miss leaves a simpler recovery than coming up short. Trust the swing and commit.

### Tour Player

Commit fully — this green demands a confident strike. Slightly long leaves the easiest recovery.

### Amateur

Take one extra club and swing smoothly. Don't come up short.

### Beginner

Aim past the front bunkers. Even landing over the back gives you a chance to chip on.

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## Hole 8 – Par 4

*Index 3 / 4*

*Distance – 381m / 309m*

### How to Play the Hole

Another decision tee. The tiger line suits the bold, but the smarter route is toward the pine tree at the corner. Avoid the fairway bunkers and be mindful of the winter hazard behind the right bunker. On approach, favour the middle of the green and stay short of trouble.

### Tour Player

The tiger line offers reward, but positioning is still king. The middle of the green keeps stress off the card.

### Amateur

Play toward the pine tree and avoid the fairway bunkers. Centre-green is perfect.

### Beginner

Accuracy beats distance. Keep the ball in play and aim short of the bunkers near the green.

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## Hole 9 – Par 4

*Index 1 / 1*

*Distance – 374m / 330m*

### How to Play the Hole

The toughest test on the front nine. With out-of-bounds right and danger straight ahead, control is essential. A tee shot of 180–200 metres toward the big gum tree keeps you alive. The fairway and green slope right, so aim right of centre and accept a conservative miss. Survival here feels like a birdie.

### Tour Player

Accept par as a great score. Placement off the tee is everything — distance is secondary.

### Amateur

A 180–200m tee shot toward the gum tree keeps trouble out of play. Avoid long at all costs.

### Beginner

This is about survival. Play it in three controlled shots and avoid OB and big misses.

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## Hole 10 – Par 3

*Index 4 / 16*

*Distance – 157m / 128m*

### How to Play the Hole

The back nine begins with a demanding par 3. Playing 140–160 metres, these green rejects shots hit left or long-left. Aim centre, and if you miss, do so short, right, or long, where recovery is possible.

### Tour Player

Green reading is crucial. Misses left or long-left are extremely penal.

### Amateur

Aim centre and trust the club. Don't chase back pins.

### Beginner

Short or right is fine. Focus on solid contact, not distance perfection.

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## Hole 11 – Par 4

*Index 9 / 9*

*Distance – 330m / 309m*

### How to Play the Hole

The fairway subtly feeds left, so aim centre off the tee. The green is well protected on the left, making right-side misses far more playable. Distance control again trumps aggression.

### Tour Player

Fairway position sets up spin control into a firm green. Never miss left.

### Amateur

Middle of the fairway, middle of the green. Simple golf works best here.

### Beginner

Avoid the left bunker. Anywhere on the green is a win.

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## Hole 12 – Par 5

*Index 2 / 2*

*Distance – 487m / 463m*

### How to Play the Hole

Precision rules. This narrow fairway asks you to stay centre on every shot. Trees and out-of-bounds punish anything drifting right. Aim middle of the green, avoiding the front-left bunker, and take your par without fuss.

### Tour Player

This hole rewards precision, not power. Staying centre gives scoring chances.

### Amateur

Keep every shot straight. A middle-green approach avoids the biggest trouble.

### Beginner

Break the hole into short, manageable shots. Don't chase distance.

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## Hole 13 – Par 5

*Index 17 / 3*

*Distance – 427m / 403m*

### How to Play the Hole

Danger lines both sides — a fairway bunker right, out-of-bounds left. Choose your position carefully. Lay up short of the greenside bunkers, or attack only if confidence is high. The safest place is always the middle of the green.

### Tour Player

Aggression only if conditions are perfect. The middle of the green removes risk.

### Amateur

Lay up short of the bunkers and trust your wedge.

### Beginner

Play away from OB and bunkers. Focus on keeping the ball in play.

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## Hole 14 – Par 3

*Index 16 / 18*

*Distance – 161m / 141m*

### How to Play the Hole

Wind makes club selection everything here, with distances ranging from 130–170 metres. The left bunker is a no-go zone, so favour the centre and accept a short or right miss.

### Tour Player

Wind control is everything. Take the safe side and trust your short game.

### Amateur

Aim centre and adjust for the wind — the left bunker is jail.

### Beginner

Don’t worry about distance perfection. Aim middle and swing easy.

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## Hole 15 – Par 4

*Index 14 / 5*

*Distance – 332m / 318m*

### How to Play the Hole

A classic risk-reward hole. Big hitters can take on driver, but water hazards on both sides mean one loose swing spells disaster. A controlled 180–200 metre tee shot keeps the hole simple. Never miss left of the green.

### Tour Player

Driver only if fully committed. Water punishes hesitation.

### Amateur

Smart play is a controlled tee shot and solid approach.

### Beginner

Forget driver. A shorter tee shot keeps water out of play.

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## Hole 16 – Par 4

*Index 6 / 7*

*Distance – 328m / 312m*

### How to Play the Hole

Position is everything. Aim centre or slightly left off the tee — the right side is dead. The best angle comes from the left half of the fairway. On approach, avoid going long where a bunker awaits; short or short right is playable.

### Tour Player

The left side opens the green. The right side is almost impossible to recover from.

### Amateur

Aim centre-left and keep the ball below the hole.

### Beginner

Short and straight beats long and wild here.

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## Hole 17 – Par 4

*Index 8 / 11*

*Distance – 298m / 274m*

### How to Play the Hole

A thinking golfer's hole. A tee shot of 180–220 metres find the centre, keeping water left out of play. The green features three tiers, so leaving the ball below the hole is critical. If you miss, miss right — and never finish above the pin.

### Tour Player

Distance control into a three-tier green is critical. Never finish above the hole.

### Amateur

The right side of the green is the correct miss every time.

### Beginner

Avoid water left. Aim safe and accept a two-putt.

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# Hole 18 – Par 4

*Index 12 / 14*

*Distance – 306m / 272m*

## How to Play the Hole

A strategic finish. Only 150–170 metres off the tee is required but aim left as the fairway slopes right. The approach — 110–140 metres — plays into a difficult green. Aim left centre, avoid the right miss, and finish the round with composure.

## Tour Player

Positioning off the tee sets up a demanding approach. Left centre is the scoring line.

## Amateur

Only 150–170m off the tee is needed. Keep it simple and commit to your approach.

## Beginner

Focus on a safe tee shot and aim for the middle of the green. Finish strong with smart golf.