

Our front nine concludes on one of the great earth sculptures in golf, on one of the most idyllic islands on earth. The Prince is California golf architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr.'s masterpiece, where fairway, green and bunker contours flow gracefully through tropical jungle and atop ocean bluffs overlooking the Pacific, along the north shore of the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

This is one of the few double-dogleg par-4s you'll ever play. It is downhill off the tee and downhill again to the green, but with a serpentine stream (lined with tropical undergrowth) dictating either an all-carry approach to the putting surface (normally with a wood), or a bail-out pitch to the fairway on the right, followed by another pitch onto the green. For most golfers, discretion is the smart move. But since most of us don't fly 1500 miles to lay up, we go for the green in two despite the odds against success.

This hole is a measure of just how testing The Prince Course is. It's the opening hole of the round at that place. On our 18, it's a more manageable ninth.