

# The AVIATOR

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## Virgin Islands Golf Courses

Mahogany Run  
and Carambola

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# Virgin Islands Golf Courses: Mahogany Run and Carambola



**Challenging courses and panoramic views define golfing in the US Virgin Islands.**

Mahogany Run Photos by Jake France

Golfing is a great way to spend leisure time whether you are on your own familiar club course or at a more exotic locale. Virgin Island golfers are every bit as adamant about their sport and game as golfers anywhere else in the world. Both St. Thomas and St. Croix have courses designed to challenge locals and vacationers alike.

## MAHOGANY RUN GOLF COURSE

You do not have to be long off the tee to play at Mahogany Run. All you need is accuracy. With tight winding fairways, bunker-guarded small greens, and tricky swirling winds, however, you will soon realize this golf course is not for the lily-livered.

Mahogany Run had to be blasted and sculpted into a land area less than 110 acres. Golf Digest proclaimed it more of an engineering phenomenon than an architectural accomplishment. A George and Tom Fazio design, it was built in 1980 and was originally owned by Jim Armour.

In June 2004, Ginn Clubs and Resorts purchased the golf course and almost 100 acres of surrounding undeveloped property. The company invested several million dollars to purchase new equipment, retrofit the existing osmosis plant, and update information systems. A new restaurant, The Grillroom, was opened to serve golfers and guests.

Mahogany Run Golf Course boasts lush, undulating fairways and scenic views that will distract you from your most intense rounds. Your game culminates in the course's signature holes famously known as the Devil's



Triangle, starting with Hole 13. Your approach to the green, which sits on a craggy cove, is a prelude to breathtaking vistas of water crashing against rocks and pelicans swooping overhead. On Hole 14, your tee shot has to cross an arm of the Atlantic Ocean through swirling winds and a prayer. Meanwhile, allow yourself to be distracted by the bluest ocean you will ever see against a backdrop of islands - Hans Lollick to the left and Jost Van Dyke and Tortola of The British Virgin Islands to the right. In February and March, the sight of migrating humpback whales completes the surreal feeling.

The Triangle ends with Hole 15, a par five, taking you back to the reality of the game. The usual cross-wind as you approach the green can play tricks with your shot as it crosses over the pond. If you survive the Devil's Triangle without a penalty stroke, you may claim a certificate of accomplishment at the Pro Shop after your round.

Over the years, Mahogany Run has been challenged by celebrities such as Bill Clinton, John Travolta, as well as by golf notables Dave Pelz, Tom Watson, and, yes, Tiger Woods. Local radio talk show host and celebrity Sam Topp, who has played this course for two decades, says of Mahogany Run, "This golf course rewards a good game, whether you are a serious or recreational player."



Mahogany Run is the only complete golf course on St. Thomas. It is open to the public and accommodates tournaments, hotel guests, and cruise ship excursions. It hosts a variety of events that benefit local charities and the community.

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***The Thirteenth Hole at Mahogany Run is the first hole of the infamous Devil's Triangle.***

