

One of the great concepts for a golf hole is the "Cape" hole, a dogleg around water over which you bite off as much as you dare. Few Cape holes are as versatile as the one designed by Michigan architect Jerry Matthews at Elk Ridge.

From the back tees, it's a distinct dogleg left around marshland. Trees at the corner of the dogleg dictate the tee shot. Play to the right of the trees, into the fat humpback portion of the fairway, and you've got a medium iron approach shot onto the green (which sits atop another humpback). Play to the left of the trees at the corner of the dogleg, and if you can carry the ball 220 yards in the air on the fly, you've got a flip wedge to the green.

There's a third possibility, too: A hooked drive to the right of the trees that catches the downslope of the fairway and runs to the base of the first humpback, leaving a wedge to the green. The hole is equally as interesting from the forward tees, from which the hole appears more straightaway. A short pop sets the ball atop the fairway humpback, leaving a long iron approach. A longer teeshot can catch the downslope, but also brings that marsh on the left and bunkers on the right both into play.

This is a great old-fashioned hole, both in its look (the contour of the land was there for the asking) and in its strategy.