

Rio Secco Golf Club Henderson Hole-by-Hole Guide

Complete Course Navigation and Strategic Analysis

Executive Summary

This comprehensive hole-by-hole guide provides detailed analysis of all 18 holes at Rio Secco Golf Club Henderson, featuring insider knowledge, strategic insights, and local playing tips from years of experience on this championship Rees Jones design. Each hole breakdown includes yardages, hazards, optimal strategies, and local secrets for scoring success.

Front Nine - Canyon Section (Holes 1-6)

Hole #1 - Par 4, 445 Yards

"Canyon Opener"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 445 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 420 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 350 yards
- **Difficulty:** Moderate starter requiring accuracy

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Center-left fairway position optimal for approach angle
- **Hazards:** Desert areas right, fairway bunkers left at 280 yards
- **Approach:** Elevated green with false front, take one extra club
- **Green:** Large putting surface slopes back to front
- **Par Strategy:** Solid drive and mid-iron approach for comfortable two-putt

Local Insights:

- **Morning Play:** Best time before wind picks up
- **Club Selection:** Driver safe for most players, 3-wood for accuracy
- **Green Reading:** Putts break subtly toward fairway bunkers
- **Recovery:** If short of green, use putting surface slope for roll-up shots
- **Weather Factor:** Plays into prevailing afternoon wind

Hole #2 - Par 5, 610 Yards

"Canyon Reach"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 610 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 580 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 490 yards
- **Difficulty:** Reachable par-5 with risk-reward elements

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Favor right side of fairway avoiding desert left
- **Second Shot:** Decision point - go for green or lay up to wedge distance
- **Hazards:** Desert carry to green, bunkers short and right
- **Green:** Two-tiered putting surface with collection areas
- **Eagle Opportunity:** Aggressive second shot can reach putting surface

Local Insights:

- **Go-For-It Yardage:** 240+ carry to clear desert and reach green
- **Layup Strategy:** 100-yard wedge distance provides best birdie opportunity
- **Wind Impact:** Crosswind affects long second shots significantly
- **Green Complex:** Right side pin positions more accessible
- **Tiger's Line:** Woods typically hit driver-6 iron when going for green

Hole #3 - Par 3, 195 Yards

"Canyon Vista"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 195 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 165 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 135 yards
- **Difficulty:** Demanding long iron over canyon terrain

Strategic Analysis:

- **Club Selection:** Account for elevation drop and desert conditions
- **Target:** Favor center of green avoiding bunkers and desert
- **Hazards:** Deep canyon short and left, bunkers right
- **Green:** Slopes from back to front with subtle breaks
- **Miss Strategy:** Long is better than short into canyon

Local Insights:

- **Elevation Effect:** Plays 10-15 yards shorter than yardage
- **Wind Consideration:** Canyon creates swirling wind patterns
- **Safe Play:** Aim for fat part of green regardless of pin position
- **Recovery:** No recovery from short misses into canyon
- **Photo Op:** Spectacular canyon views from tee

Hole #4 - Par 4, 425 Yards

"Canyon Corridor"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 425 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 400 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 320 yards
- **Difficulty:** Strategic par-4 requiring course management

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Thread fairway between desert areas and bunkers
- **Landing Area:** 260-280 yards optimal for approach angle
- **Approach:** Mid-iron to elevated green with severe slopes
- **Green:** Narrow putting surface requiring precise distance control
- **Scoring:** Par excellent score, bogey acceptable for most players

Local Insights:

- **Fairway Width:** Narrowest landing area on front nine
- **Club Down:** Take less club off tee for accuracy over distance
- **Approach Strategy:** Flight ball high to stop on firm greens
- **Putting:** Green breaks away from desert areas
- **Course Management:** Accept par and move to next hole

Hole #5 - Par 3, 175 Yards

"Desert Window"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 175 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 150 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 120 yards

- **Difficulty:** Mid-iron precision test over desert terrain

Strategic Analysis:

- **Club Selection:** One extra club for desert conditions and elevation
- **Target Line:** Straight at flag with minimal break
- **Hazards:** Desert short and long, bunkers left and right
- **Green:** Relatively flat with gentle slopes
- **Scoring:** Birdie opportunity with solid strike

Local Insights:

- **Desert Carry:** 140-yard minimum carry to reach putting surface
- **Club Up:** Take one more club than yardage indicates
- **Wind Reading:** Check flag and trees for wind direction
- **Conservative Play:** Center of green safe regardless of pin
- **Short Game:** Good up-and-down opportunity from greenside bunkers

Hole #6 - Par 4, 385 Yards

"Canyon Exit"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 385 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 365 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 295 yards
- **Difficulty:** Strategic shorter par-4 with multiple options

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Driver reaches green area, 3-wood/hybrid safer play
- **Strategy Options:** Aggressive (driver) or conservative (layup)
- **Hazards:** Desert areas surround green complex
- **Green:** Small target requiring precise approach
- **Risk-Reward:** Eagle potential versus bogey risk

Local Insights:

- **Aggressive Line:** 250+ carry over desert to reach green
- **Safe Play:** 3-wood to 100-yard approach distance
- **Green Reading:** Slopes significantly from back to front
- **Wind Factor:** Often plays downwind making driver more tempting
- **Scoring Strategy:** Birdie opportunity with smart play

Middle Six - Plateau Section (Holes 7-12)

Hole #7 - Par 4, 365 Yards

"Signature Vista" - Most Photographed Hole

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 365 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 344 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 280 yards
- **Difficulty:** Scenic but demanding accuracy test

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Straight drive essential, right side optimal
- **Approach:** Wedge or short iron to back-to-front sloped green
- **Hazards:** Bunkers both sides of fairway and green
- **Green:** Severe back-to-front slope requiring precise distance control
- **Scoring:** Birdie opportunity with quality approach shot

Local Insights:

- **Photo Opportunity:** Most photographed hole in Nevada
- **Morning Light:** Best lighting for photography before 10 AM
- **Approach Strategy:** Better to be short than long on approach
- **Green Speed:** Putts roll out significantly on downhill slopes
- **Wind Impact:** Crosswinds affect short iron approaches

Hole #8 - Par 5, 565 Yards

"Plateau Power"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 565 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 535 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 455 yards
- **Difficulty:** Reachable par-5 with strategic second shot

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Big drive sets up eagle opportunity
- **Second Shot:** Go for green or position for wedge third shot
- **Hazards:** Bunkers protecting green complex, desert areas

- **Green:** Large putting surface with multiple pin positions
- **Scoring:** Excellent birdie and eagle opportunity

Local Insights:

- **Distance Factor:** Elevated tees add 15-20 yards to drives
- **Second Shot Decision:** 220+ carry needed to reach green
- **Layup Distance:** 80-100 yards ideal for birdie approach
- **Green Complex:** Left side easier approach angle
- **Eagle Putts:** Green slopes create fast downhill eagle attempts

Hole #9 - Par 4, 440 Yards

"Plateau Challenge"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 440 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 415 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 340 yards
- **Difficulty:** Strong finishing hole for front nine

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Long, accurate drive needed for shorter approach
- **Landing Area:** 270-290 yards optimal position
- **Approach:** Mid to long iron to elevated green
- **Green:** Multi-tiered with difficult pin positions
- **Scoring:** Par good score, birdie excellent achievement

Local Insights:

- **Driver Strategy:** Must hit driver to have reasonable approach
- **Approach Club:** Take one extra club for elevated green
- **Green Reading:** Multiple tiers create complex putting
- **Wind Exposure:** Most exposed hole to afternoon winds
- **Turn Momentum:** Good score builds confidence for back nine

Hole #10 - Par 4, 395 Yards

"Back Nine Opener"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 395 yards

- **Regular Tees:** 370 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 310 yards
- **Difficulty:** Moderate start to back nine challenges

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Position drive for optimal approach angle
- **Fairway Strategy:** Left side provides better approach to green
- **Approach:** Short to mid iron depending on drive distance
- **Green:** Well-bunkered with moderate slopes
- **Scoring:** Birdie opportunity to start back nine momentum

Local Insights:

- **Tee Selection:** Often plays longer than yardage due to uphill
- **Approach Angle:** Left side of fairway opens up green
- **Bunker Avoidance:** Greenside bunkers penalize poor approaches
- **Putting:** Green breaks subtly toward fairway
- **Confidence Builder:** Good hole to build back nine momentum

Hole #11 - Par 3, 180 Yards

"Desert Target"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 180 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 155 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 125 yards
- **Difficulty:** Precise iron shot over desert terrain

Strategic Analysis:

- **Club Selection:** Account for elevation and wind conditions
- **Target:** Center of green safest play regardless of pin
- **Hazards:** Desert short and long, bunkers flanking green
- **Green:** Moderate slopes with accessible pin positions
- **Scoring:** Par good, birdie achievable with solid strike

Local Insights:

- **Distance Deception:** Often plays different than yardage
- **Wind Reading:** Check multiple wind indicators before shot
- **Safe Miss:** Slightly long better than short into desert

- **Recovery Options:** Good short game opportunities from bunkers
- **Club Up:** Generally take one more club than initial thought

Hole #12 - Par 5, 589 Yards

"Strip View Spectacular"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 589 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 562 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 480 yards
- **Difficulty:** Risk-reward par-5 with premium views

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Big drive essential for reaching green in two
- **Second Shot:** Eagle opportunity or safe layup decision
- **Views:** Commanding Las Vegas Strip views throughout hole
- **Green:** Large putting surface allowing various approach angles
- **Scoring:** Eagle and birdie opportunities with aggressive play

Local Insights:

- **Tiger's Hole:** Part of Woods' course record 64 round
- **Go-For-It Distance:** 240+ carry needed to reach green
- **Layup Strategy:** 120-yard wedge distance optimal
- **Afternoon Play:** Sun can create glare on approach shots
- **Photo Opportunity:** Best Strip views on the course

Final Six - Desert Wash Section (Holes 13-18)

Hole #13 - Par 4, 420 Yards

"Wash Warrior"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 420 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 395 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 325 yards
- **Difficulty:** Strategic par-4 through desert wash terrain

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Thread drive between desert washes and bunkers
- **Fairway Position:** Center-right provides best approach angle
- **Approach:** Mid-iron to well-defended green complex
- **Green:** Slopes and tiers create challenging putting
- **Scoring:** Par good score, birdie requires quality execution

Local Insights:

- **Wash Areas:** Natural desert areas act as hazards
- **Drive Distance:** 260-280 yards optimal landing area
- **Approach Strategy:** Favor right side of green
- **Green Reading:** Breaks away from mountain backdrop
- **Recovery:** Difficult recovery from desert wash areas

Hole #14 - Par 3, 165 Yards

"Desert Jewel"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 165 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 145 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 115 yards
- **Difficulty:** Precision test over rugged terrain

Strategic Analysis:

- **Club Selection:** Account for desert conditions and wind
- **Target Selection:** Play to center regardless of pin position
- **Hazards:** Desert areas short and long, strategic bunkering
- **Green:** Multiple levels requiring precise distance control
- **Scoring:** Birdie opportunity with accurate strike

Local Insights:

- **Elevation Factor:** Slight downhill helps distance
- **Wind Swirl:** Desert terrain creates variable wind patterns
- **Safe Play:** Middle of green safe from all pin positions
- **Short Game:** Good recovery options from most misses
- **Club Selection:** Generally one less club than yardage

Hole #15 - Par 5, 550 Yards

"Desert Reach"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 550 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 520 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 440 yards
- **Difficulty:** Shorter par-5 offering eagle opportunities

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Big drive opens up green-in-two opportunity
- **Second Shot:** Reach green or position for birdie wedge
- **Hazards:** Desert washes and strategic bunker placement
- **Green:** Receptive putting surface for long approaches
- **Scoring:** Best eagle opportunity on back nine

Local Insights:

- **Reachable Distance:** 220-yard carry reaches green for big hitters
- **Smart Layup:** 100-yard approach ideal for birdie attempt
- **Green Access:** Front of green most accessible for long shots
- **Wind Help:** Often plays downwind adding distance
- **Aggressive Play:** Risk-reward favors aggressive strategy

Hole #16 - Par 4, 398 Yards

"Harmon's Hole"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 398 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 370 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 300 yards
- **Difficulty:** Demanding uphill par-4 beneath Butch Harmon's home

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Position drive carefully for uphill approach
- **Approach Challenge:** Demanding uphill shot to elevated green
- **Celebrity Factor:** Plays beneath Butch Harmon's residence
- **Green Complex:** Severely sloped putting surface
- **Scoring:** Par excellent score on this challenging hole

Local Insights:

- **Harmon Sightings:** Butch occasionally watches from his backyard
- **Uphill Approach:** Take 1-2 extra clubs for elevated green
- **Green Speed:** Severe slopes create fast downhill putts
- **Approach Angle:** Right side of fairway provides better angle
- **Difficulty Factor:** Consistently toughest hole on course

Hole #17 - Par 3, 190 Yards

"Desert Diamond"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 190 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 165 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 135 yards
- **Difficulty:** Penultimate test requiring precision

Strategic Analysis:

- **Club Selection:** Long iron or hybrid depending on conditions
- **Target Strategy:** Play to center of green for safety
- **Hazards:** Desert areas and strategic bunker placement
- **Green:** Moderate slopes allowing various pin positions
- **Scoring:** Birdie opportunity with solid execution

Local Insights:

- **Distance Consistency:** Plays close to actual yardage
- **Wind Factor:** Check wind carefully before club selection
- **Green Access:** Front entrance most accessible approach
- **Recovery:** Reasonable short game opportunities
- **Pressure Hole:** Mental toughness required late in round

Hole #18 - Par 5, 634 Yards

"Grand Finale"

Hole Overview:

- **Championship Tees:** 634 yards
- **Regular Tees:** 580 yards
- **Ladies Tees:** 500 yards

- **Difficulty:** Epic finishing hole with panoramic views

Strategic Analysis:

- **Tee Shot:** Big drive essential for reaching green in two
- **Second Shot:** Eagle attempt or smart three-shot strategy
- **Views:** Spectacular Las Vegas Strip and mountain panorama
- **Green:** Large putting surface welcoming approach shots
- **Finish:** Memorable conclusion to championship round

Local Insights:

- **Length Challenge:** Longest hole on course at 634 yards
- **View Distraction:** Stunning views can affect concentration
- **Twilight Magic:** Spectacular at sunset with city lights
- **Photo Finish:** Perfect location for post-round celebration
- **Eagle Opportunity:** Reachable for long hitters in ideal conditions

Course Management Strategy Summary

Overall Playing Strategy

Key Success Factors:

- **Course Management:** Conservative approach often yields better scores
- **Distance Control:** Elevation changes affect club selection significantly
- **Desert Awareness:** Penalty areas are true hazards requiring careful navigation
- **Green Reading:** Most greens break subtly toward valley/wash areas
- **Wind Management:** Afternoon winds significantly impact shot selection
- **Patience:** Allow course beauty to enhance rather than distract from focus

Scoring Opportunities

Best Birdie Holes: 2, 6, 7, 8, 12, 15

Par Savers: 3, 5, 11, 14, 17

Challenging Pars: 4, 9, 13, 16

Eagle Opportunities: 2, 8, 12, 15, 18

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