FYI Travel: Stowe is getting ready for the snow

by Tom_Roebuck

Stoweflake, located five minutes from New England's Stowe Mountain Resort, recently underwent a $400 million revitalization with the addition of an intermountain transfer gondola, new trails, a new beginner area, two new high-speed detachable quads, fully automated snowmaking and an enhanced freestyle area.

TIME TO RELAX - Stoweflake's aqua solarium therapy room is the place to go to soothe muscles after a long day of skiing. CNS Photo. Skiers can take advantage of the Stoweflake "Ski and Ride Winter Getaway" package and save up to 25 percent. It includes accommodations in a deluxe guest room with daily breakfast and daily lift ticket at Stowe Mountain Resort. Package rates begin at $529 per adult, $129 per child for three nights or $859 per adult, $199 per child for five nights, and are available Dec. 15 through March 30.

For non-skiers, Stoweflake's three-night "Winter Wonderland" package includes accommodations and daily breakfast, a 50-minute spa treatment daily per person, one Vermont Maple Sugar Body Polish, one spa treatment per child (ages 7-16, parent must be in room), spa access (for ages 16 and over), daily fitness classes, a children's welcome activity kit and a guided snowshoe trek with snowshoes. Rates begin at $939 per adult, $155 per child. Two- and three-bedroom town houses are available, rates begin at $1,289 per adult and $155 per child.

FYI: For more information or reservations, visit www.stoweflake.com or call 800-253-2232.

BIKING THE BIG ISLAND

Join Bikevolcano.com for a guided summit-to-sea bicycle adventure of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, followed by a visit to Volcano Winery. The tour includes all equipment, lunch, beverages, a professional interpretive guide and van support. Bike as much or as little of this mostly downhill route of level paved roads and trails as you wish. Afterward, relax at Volcano Winery and sip local fruit-infused wines born of the rich, volcanic soil.

FYI: Rates are $130 per cyclist; $100 per van rider. Visit www.bikevolcano.com or call 888-934-9199 or 808-934-9199.

'TIS THE SEASON

This holiday season, FireSky Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Ariz., is offering their "Home for the Holidays" package, which features deluxe accommodations and special decorations. By request, the guest rooms are decorated with holiday-themed welcome amenities such as garlands and miniature pine trees, complimentary in-room cookies, candy canes and hot mint-cocoa, and complimentary gift wrapping at the concierge desk with a percentage of the profits from each package being donated to charity. Packages start at $199 for a standard room and $329 for a suite. This special is available Nov. 22-Dec. 30 and must be booked 72 hours in advance.

The mild winter temperatures in Arizona make it easy to venture outside and behold the holiday lights. Experience Las Noches de las Luminarias at Desert Botanical Garden Nov. 23-Dec. 23 or head over to the Phoenix Zoo and check out Zoolights Nov. 22- Jan. 6. For those looking for a holiday adventure, try the Verde Canyon Railroad's Santa Claus Express where train riders enjoy yummy holiday treats of cookies, candy canes and hot chocolate plus get to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the four-hour scenic train trip along the Verde River near Flagstaff.

Rawhide Western Town and Steakhouse celebrates Christmas cowboy style on Main Street with entertainment, live music, a 100-foot Christmas tree with nightly lightings and more. Other holiday offerings include Holidays at the Heard Museum, which offers Native American performances and artist demonstrations Dec. 26-30 and downtown Scottsdale's Ultimate Block Party on Dec. 31, where visitors can ring in the New Year with live entertainment, a cooking display and access to three local bars.

FYI: For more information about FireSky, visit www.fireskyresort.com or call 800-528-7867. For information about Scottsdale, visit www.experiencescottsdale.com or call 800-782-1117.

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