

FYI Travel: Beaches aren't the only draw in South Carolina

by Tom_Roebuck

In the small town of Canadys, S.C., an hour west of Charleston, families can discover an outdoor adventure unique to the Palmetto State. Carolina Heritage Outfitters offers a full-day canoeing trip on the Edisto River, where the only noisy neighbors will include alligators, otters, herons, egrets, wood storks, turkey and deer. Spend the day paddling through cypress trees on the free-flowing blackwater river, and spend the night in a fully equipped, adult-sized treehouse.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE - After a day canoeing down the Edisto River in South Carolina, campers can spend the night in full-size tree houses. CNS Photo. FYI: Cost is \$125 per person, per day and includes canoe rental, paddles and tree house accommodations. For more information, visit www.canoesc.com or call 843-563-5051.

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

From Dec. 1-27, the Red Mountain Spa in St. George, Utah, will celebrate the holiday season with the "Red Rock Holiday" package for three nights and four days of relaxation and rejuvenation. Starting at \$259 per person, per night based on double occupancy, the "Red Rock Holiday" package includes three healthy gourmet meals daily, guided morning hikes, bike rental, in-room, high-speed Internet service, unlimited cooking classes, healthy living classes and use of fitness facilities. Holiday guests can also experience the celebrated Sagestone Spa with the option of one complimentary 50-minute Sagestone Swedish massage or one 50-minute facial.

Those ready to start 2008 in the right frame of mind can complete the holiday season with the "Mystical New Year's" package. From Dec. 28-Jan. 1, guests can enjoy three days and four nights of insight, spa and soiree. The highlight of the week will be the Mystical New Year's Eve Party, where guests will rock in 2008 with an evening of music, complimentary minispa treatments, a late-night chocolate buffet, party favors and a midnight champagne toast. The Mystical Party provides guests the opportunity of mingling with master clairvoyant Todd Hershey for an intriguing look into the future. The "Mystical New Year's" package starts at \$299 per person, per night based on double occupancy and includes three meals daily and activities.

For more information, visit www.redmountainspa.com or call 877-246-HIKE.

RING IN A BRITISH NEW YEAR

This New Year's, bid adieu to cacophonous big-city events and head instead to the quiet of Chipping Campden, England, where the Cotswold House Hotel is throwing the classiest New Year's Eve party that side of the Atlantic. The three-night New Year's package goes like this: Dec. 30, pre-dinner drinks and a three-course dinner at Juliana's Restaurant; New Year's Eve, breakfast in your room, afternoon tea, a cocktail party with canapes and champagne, and a five-course gala dinner followed by dancing to a live '60s band in the Montrose Suite; New Year's Day, breakfast served until 11:30 a.m., followed by a jazz lunch with restorative bloody Marys or champagne and more live music.

FYI: Rates begin at \$3,103, double occupancy, for three nights, with a fourth night available for \$206. Visit www.cotswoldhouse.com.

EAST COAST ESCAPE

Located in Northern New Jersey's Kittatinny Mountains, The Resorts of Crystal Springs will ring in the new year with family-friendly packages at Minerals Resort and Spa. Guests will be able to enjoy on-site amenities including seven pools and waterfalls, indoor tennis, racquetball and basketball, the 6,000-square-foot fitness center and the luxurious Elements Spa. The "New Year's Eve Celebration" package includes either two or four nights in a Minerals guest room or condo, and either a family style buffet dinner in the Diamond Ballroom or a five-course, sit-down dinner at Kites Restaurant with musical entertainment, party favors and a champagne toast.

FYI: Rates start from \$268 per person. For more information, visit www.resortsofcrystalsprings.com or call 973-827-5996.

I'M DREAMING OF A BRONZED CHRISTMAS

Let the Easterners have their snow-filled holidays. For those who prefer Southern California's sunshine and desert sands, there's the Viceroy Palm Springs. The resort's "Sun-Kissed Holidays with Your Honey" package comes wrapped with all sorts of enticements for two, including five nights in a one-bedroom villa; chilled champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries; a 60-minute Couples Massage at Estrella Spa; one round of golf for two or two additional 60-minute spa treatments; daily breakfast; four-course candle-lit dinner with wine; and a festive holiday dinner on Dec. 25 or 31.

FYI: Five nights: \$3,999 double occupancy, including resort fee, available Dec. 21-26 or Dec. 28-Jan. 2. Visit www.viceroypalmsprings.com or call 760-320-4117.

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