

FYI Travel: The Poconos welcome first-timers on the slopes

by Tom_Roebuck

Turning winter into something to look forward to, the Pocono Mountains region of northeastern Pennsylvania has created a Learn to Turn promotion that lets visitors save some money while learning to ski and snowboard. Learn to Turn invites midweek visitors to the 2,400-square-mile Pocono Mountains for three consecutive days of lift passes to any of the seven local ski areas, rental equipment and three group lessons when they book three nights accommodations at participating properties. Packages start as low as \$83 per child, per night and \$88 per adult, per night.

PENNSYLVANIA WINTER - In northeastern Pennsylvania, a blanket of snow covers the Pocono Mountains. Early indications are for above-average snowfall this year. CNS Photo. Midweek Learn to Turn packages, including a voucher booklet for rentals, lessons and lift passes that can be used at any of the seven Pocono Mountains ski areas, are available at 25 participating Pocono properties, ranging from resorts to bed-and-breakfasts to cottages. A full listing of Learn to Turn packages at these lodging facilities is available at www.poconoski.com. The Pocono Mountains is home to other winter sports, including snow tubing, snowshoeing, sledding, ice skating and even dog sledding

FYI: For information about the Pocono Mountains, visit www.800poconos.com or call 800-POCONOS (800-762-6667).

TRIP FOR TWO

Sivory Punta Cana, a 55-room, all-suite resort in the Dominican Republic, has introduced the Caribbean Romance package for couples looking for a little romance and personalized service. Sivory Punta Cana is located on one of the Caribbean's most pristine coastlines amid rich tropical vegetation, providing a lush backdrop for an enticing romantic retreat. This three-night package includes special guest services and amenities for both to enjoy.

The Caribbean Romance Package includes four days and three nights in a suite and complimentary private helicopter arrival transfer from Punta Cana International Airport followed by a private beach check-in with chilled towel service and champagne. Private ground transport for departure to Punta Cana International Airport, daily American breakfast, caviar hors d'oeuvres and a bottle of chilled champagne upon arrival are also included.

The package also features four treatments per stay from the spa menu, one candle-lit dinner on the beach for two with selected premium wine, and daily bed turndown with chocolate-dipped fruits.

The cost of the Caribbean Romance package is \$2,565 per couple for a three-night stay from Jan. 1 through March 31, and \$2,085 per couple for a three-night stay from April 1 through Dec. 21, 2008.

For helicopter arrival and ground transfers, guests need to send international flight details to Sivory Punta Cana's reservations department to secure transfers. Maximum two carry-on bags are allowed per helicopter, extra luggage is sent by land transfer at no additional charge.

FYI: For more information or reservations, call 809-552-0500, or visit www.sivorypuntacana.com.

GETTING WET IN TEXAS

The Lone Star State's largest indoor water park resort - Great Wolf Lodge - is set to open in January with a special grand opening rate. The family indoor water-park resort slides into the new year with nightly rates starting at \$199 (family suites), available from Jan. 15 to May 22. The rate includes unlimited use of the massive indoor water park, which is open exclusively to resort guests.

A 98,000-square-foot indoor entertainment area will feature Bear Track Landing, Texas' largest indoor water park, including six pools, nine water slides and a four-story treehouse water fort, all located under an 80-foot-high, sky-lit roof.

FYI: Great Wolf Lodge is located on Highway 26 at 100 Great Wolf Drive in Grapevine, Texas, in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. For more information or to make a reservation, call 800-693-WOLF (9653), or visit www.greatwolf.com.

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