

FYI Travel: Resort in New England has fun in the sun in store this summer

by Tom Roebuck

This summer, The Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, N.H., will have packages suited to couples, families and kids - with activities such as rock climbing, adventure hikes and nature tours - that offer a 20 percent savings.

The Hotel to Hut package offers guests the opportunity to spend part of their vacation relaxing at the Mount Washington Resort, followed by a mountain getaway in an Appalachian Mountain Club full-service hut. After beginning their stay at the resort, guests will be escorted to one of three AMC huts that are along the Appalachian Trail. There, they'll begin their guided hikes through the backcountry.

READY TO RIDE - A horse-drawn carriage is an ideal way to see the grounds of The Mount Washington Resort in Bretton, N.H. CNS Photo courtesy of NHDTTD.

NEW ENGLAND GEM - New Hampshire's Mount Washington Resort shines as it reflects the rays of the setting sun. CNS Photo courtesy of The Mount Washington Resort.

Participants will also be educated in the AMC's mission: protecting alpine and forest ecosystems, maintaining trails and promoting the use of renewable energy. The package starts at \$185 per adult, per night, and \$109 per child ages 4-12. Reservations are required two weeks in advance to guarantee a spot. There is a two-person minimum.

The Our Family Rocks package gives families the chance to rock climb and explore with experienced, certified climbing guides from the International Mountain Climbing School. Families will have a full day of climbing at scenic crags where they will learn safety systems, communication, knots, belaying and rappelling. The package starts at \$279 per adult, per night, and \$149 per child ages 4-12, including nightly accommodations.

A romantic hike to the summit of Mount Washington, the Northeast's highest peak, is the highlight of the Romancing the Stone package. For \$319 per person, per day, it includes a full day of climbing with experienced instructors from the IMCS who will provide lessons involving face, slab and crack climbing techniques. Included are nightly accommodations, daily breakfast, dinner and picnic lunch during the climbs.

FYI: All packages, with the exception of Hotel to Hut, are available during the 2007 summer season from June 1 through Oct. 14. The Hotel to Hut package is available from June 3 through Aug. 30. For more information, call 800-314-1752 or visit www.mtwashington.com.

GIRLS GIVE IT A SHOT

A chance to tote shotguns, get away on horseback and ride off into the sunset is all the ammunition Teton Ridge Ranch needs to convince women that this is no ordinary girlfriend getaway.

The rustically elegant property in eastern Idaho has a new Girls with Guns Getaway experience that gives women a shot at bonding with friends while exploring the many activities on the ranch's 4,000-plus acres of pristine natural landscape. Each day's rough and ready adventure is contrasted by the stylish accommodations and gourmet dining each night.

Under the supervision of Jan Betts, ranch co-manager, women learn the sport of clay pigeon shooting. The session includes an introduction to shotguns, followed by target practice from the shooting tower. The next day, the group takes aim on the ranch's 14-station sporting course. Shotguns and shells are provided by the ranch.

After target practice, it's time to explore the natural beauty on horseback. Beginners and experienced riders alike will enjoy the adventure through rugged trails, fields of wildflowers and mountain streams. As the sun sets, the girls will hang up their spurs for an old-fashioned hay ride, complete with appetizers and wine before heading back to the lodge for a gourmet three-course dinner.

Home base is the lodge, with seven guest suites, each with private bath. Other amenities include a library, game room, fitness room, computer room and massage room.

The ranch experience includes three meals per day, plus snacks and a bottomless refrigerator stocked with beer, wine, soda and juices.

FYI: The single-occupancy rate is \$495 June and October and \$550 July-September; double occupancy is \$630 June and October and \$690 July-September. Rates are per room, per night. A three-night minimum is required. Reservations can be made by calling 800-926-3579 or by visiting www.tetonridge.com.

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