

FYI Travel: Pennsylvania's Poconos pack a punch

by Tom_Roebuck

Outdoor aficionados can celebrate the summer sun's arrival with a few days of hiking at Bushkill Falls, the Niagara Falls of Pennsylvania located in the Pocono Mountains, and then relax at Fernwood Hotel and Resort.

Fernwood honors trekkers with a getaway package that includes accommodations and two tickets to Bushkill Falls. Rates start at \$95-\$115 per night through Sept. 6. For those who would rather spend the day splashing around, Fernwood has a package that includes two tickets to Camelbeach water park, which features 22 water slides, wave pool, two interactive children's play areas and an adventure river. The package includes accommodations and two tickets to Camelbeach. Rates start at \$135 per night, double occupancy, through Sept. 3.

FYI: For more information or reservations, call 888-FERNWOOD or visit www.FernWoodHotel.com. For information on Camelbeach, visit www.camelbeach.com.

DECADENCE FOR DESERVING DIVAS

CAMELBEACH BOUND - The chairlift ride over Camelbeach water park offers spectacular views of the Pocono Mountains. CNS Photo courtesy of Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau.

The Watermark Hotel and Spa in San Antonio is celebrating empowered women with the Diva Diversion Excursion. Designed to give women in the prime of life the time of their life, the package debuts in conjunction with the hit show "Menopause the Musical" playing at the Cameo Center. Divas can enjoy the only Mobil Four Star spa in San Antonio at the Watermark, which has stunning views of the Riverwalk and skyline from the rooftop pool and fitness center.

The Diva Diversion Excursion includes:

- Two double rooms for two nights.

- Copy of Nora Ephron's book "I Hate My Neck."

- Fountain of Youth spa treatment for each guest.

- Lunch on the rooftop for four with champagne.
- Dinner for four at Pesca on the River with tequila tasting.
- Four tickets to "Menopause the Musical" with round-trip transportation.

FYI: The Dive Diversion Excursion is \$3,200, or \$800 per person. For more information or reservations call 866-605-1212, or visit www.watermarkhotel.com.

SPARKS FLY

In celebration of Independence Day, Martineau Bay Resort and Spa in Vieques, Puerto Rico, is inviting guests to experience nature's fireworks with a special Summer Glow rate. Throughout the month of July, rates start at \$189 per night - a savings of 37 percent off regular rates.

Vieques is home to a world-famous bio bay that contains millions of dinoflagellates that glow beautifully when stirred at night. Guests can experience the bay by kayak or pontoon boat or even by taking a nighttime swim.

FYI: The Summer Glow rate is available by calling the resort at 866-837-4216. When booking, ask for the "sparks" rate package. For more information on Martineau Bay Resort & Spa, visit www.martineaubayresort.com.

KENNEDY COTTAGE COMEBACK

San Ysidro Ranch, tucked away in the lush foothills of Montecito, Calif., has reopened its most beloved and famous accommodation - the Kennedy Cottage. As part of the resort's \$150 million renovation and named for its most celebrated honeymooners, John and Jackie Kennedy, the Kennedy Cottage has been luxuriously restored to become one of the most exclusive and lavish retreats in California.

Decorated with a mix of casual American country and Asian accents, the two-bedroom, two-bathroom, 1,200-square-foot sanctuary is both elegant and private. Touches include flat-screen TVs, three fireplaces

throughout the cottage and a photograph of the Kennedys, taken during their honeymoon visit. A gated front entrance and private courtyard provide an additional intimate setting for guests. New details of the twin master suite baths also include dual pedestal sinks, polished-nickel fixtures, classic claw-foot tubs and separate glass-door showers.

FYI: For more information and reservations, call 800-368-6788 or visit www.sanysidroranch.com. Rates for the Kennedy Cottage begin at \$2,990 a night.

FREE NIGHTS FOR COUPLES THAT CONCEIVE

Sea turtles are known as a symbol of fertility. To celebrate the shelled creatures' on-island mating season, Florida's Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort is offering a Fertile Turtle Package aimed at couples looking to conceive. Lovebirds have the opportunity to watch the sea turtles' eggs hatch, right on the resort's three-mile stretch of beach. This grow-the-family getaway, which is only available during sea turtle mating season (now through Oct. 31), starts at \$399 per couple, per night and includes:

- Deluxe accommodations in a Gulf-view guest room with king-size bed and a private balcony.
- Red clover and raspberry tea, which have natural pregnancy-enhancing qualities.
- Couples massage with Chaste berry and fertility-promoting aromatherapy.
- Commemorative photo album of the special vacation.

As a special gift for couples who conceive during their stay, the resort will provide a complimentary three-night stay for a return visit. Parents only need to provide a birth certificate and proof of recent hotel stay, within eight to 10 months of baby's arrival.

To ensure the safety of the turtles, the hotel has all exterior bulbs painted black and guests are asked to close their blackout drapes at night, because light on the beach can disorient turtle hatchlings. A portion of the Fertile Turtle package proceeds will go to local sea turtle conservation efforts.

FYI: To book the Fertile Turtle Package, call 800-GET-HERE or visit www.marcoislandmarriott.com.

Copley News Service

FYI Travel: Pennsylvania's Poconos pack a punch by Tom_Roebuck