

mountainskies

THE OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE TO ARIZONA'S WHITE MOUNTAINS

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Winter Games

ESCAPE TO THE LAP OF LUXURY AT HIDDEN MEADOW RANCH

GREER — A winter escape to the mountains doesn't have to mean an escape from luxury. So reads the motto of Hidden Meadow Ranch in eastern Arizona's White Mountains. "An escape from everything but luxury" is their charter, and they mean it.

Just a four-hour drive from Phoenix or Tucson, your stay at the exclusive ranch resort will surely be unforgettable. Whether you're looking for a quiet indoor getaway or a variety of outdoor sports, you'll find it at Hidden Meadow Ranch.

"It's amazing we're here in the middle of Arizona and we can enjoy all four seasons," Lodge Manager Jane Lenci said.

Winter is an especially fun time at the ranch. At 8,500-foot elevation, Mother Nature provides dustings of snow from late-October through early spring, providing the perfect conditions for a variety of winter activities. Your stay begins in a richly furnished log cabin with all the amenities of a fine hotel.

Start your morning sipping a cup of coffee in front of a wood-burning fireplace as you peruse the

morning newsletter delivered to the cabin front door. Satisfy your appetite with a gourmet breakfast at the Ranch House dining room, one of three included daily meals.

Plan your day to explore the 151 acres of the ranch, and the surrounding 5,700 acres of natural wildlife habitat where there's no shortage of outdoor activities to choose from.

Guests can take a leisurely horseback ride along the freshly prepared trails exploring the hills and forests. More adventurous guests can strap on a pair of

snowshoes or cross-country skis to more closely examine the scenery. Guides are always available to help you return safely.

Kids of all ages can select a sled or tube and head for the nearby sledding hill, just a short walk from the cabins.

"Sledding is the most requested activity here at the ranch," Lenci said. "Well, that's in addition to a good snowball fight and making snow animals in the courtyard."

For downhill skiers, Hidden Meadow will provide lift tickets and free round-trip shuttle service

to and from nearby Sunrise Ski Resort.

"We supply guests with hot chocolate for their ride to the ski resort, and pick them up with a cup of hot chocolate," Lenci said.

Couples and families alike will enjoy a scenic tour of the snow-covered ranch riding in an open sleigh pulled by two Percheron draft horses. Chances are always good that you'll spot some wildlife on your tour. Elk, wild turkey, antelope, deer and the occasional

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A couple enjoys a sleigh ride among beautiful winter scenery at the Hidden Meadow Ranch near Greer.

LUXURY, from Page 10



bald eagle all call the ranch and surrounding land home.

A less traditional means of transportation offered at the ranch is aboard "Miss Piggy", a 24-passenger fully-enclosed SnowCat used for backwoods excursions.

"We load guests up with blankets and hot beverages and head for the mountains," Lenci said. "Miss Piggy can go where no one else can go."

An archery range is located in a perfect little meadow surrounded by huge pine trees. An original 1916 homestead house sits nearby and is often the center of barbecues and cowboy entertainment. A spring-fed trout pond is available year round to

fishermen of all ages.

All activities and three gourmet meals daily are included in the nightly lodging price. The only equipment guests need to bring is a pair of heeled shoes. Of course, if you forget, the ranch has a selection of cowboy boots to loan during your stay.

After a fun-filled day enjoying all the delights of the mountain resort, head back to the ranch house for a wonderful dinner in the dining hall, where holiday decorations cover the walls from floor to ceiling. The 40-foot Christmas tree is aglow with holiday lights and festive trimmings and

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Above, two young guests have fun in the snow. At left, a totem pole sign directs visitors.

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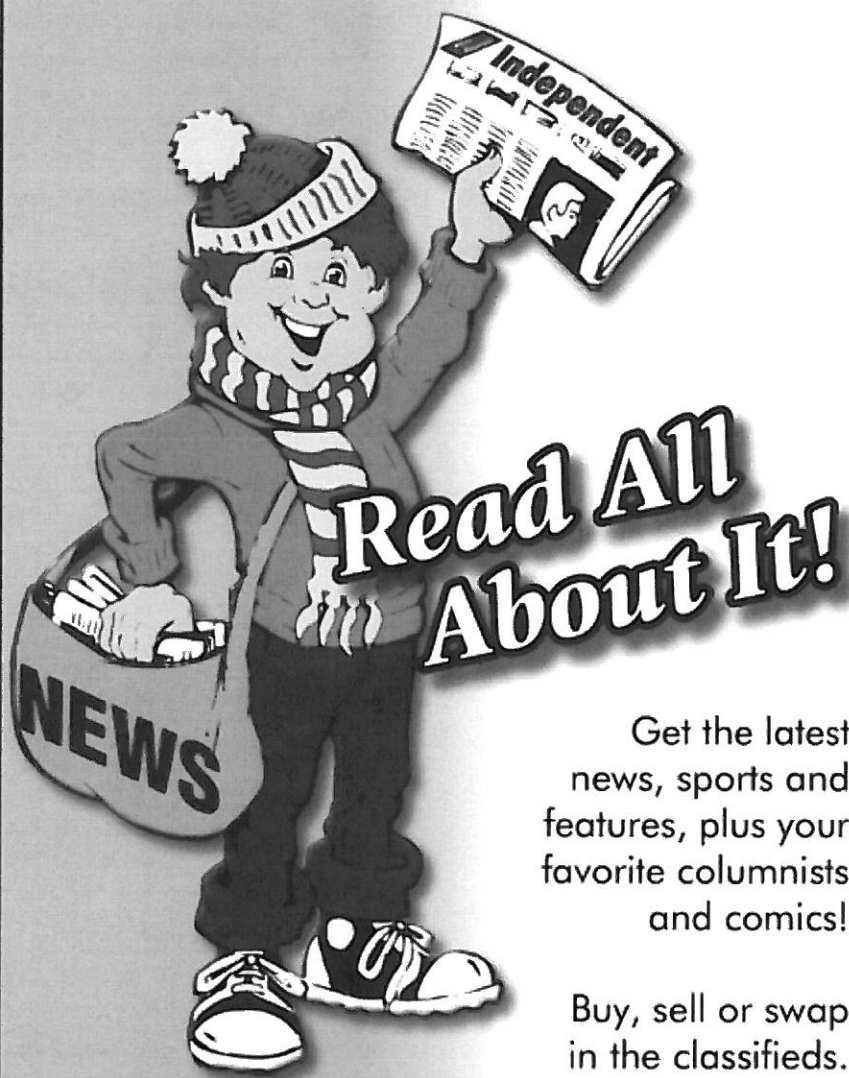


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LUXURY, from Page 11

there's always a roaring fire in the fireplace. Lodge employees are known to entertain diners with a holiday skit or song.

Younger guests wait patiently for Santa to arrive on Christmas Eve with arms full of gifts for all. Each guest cabin has its own fresh Christmas tree. A poem on each tree tells the guests that the tree will be planted on the grounds soon after the holidays are over. Employees take pride in their handmade ornaments, made in the ranch's own leather shop, used to decorate the trees.

A favorite activity reserved for Saturday nights is around a huge bonfire event called "S'mores and Snifters." Kids are supplied with hot chocolate and

all the fixings to make s'mores, while adults can add their favorite liqueur to a hot cup of coffee. Cowboy songs and entertainment complete the evening perfectly.

Whether it's a romantic stay or a family mountain adventure, Hidden Meadow Ranch is an unforgettable place to stay.

"Our guests rarely leave the ranch without sharing several hugs with the staff," Lenci said.

Referred to as the "Hidden Meadow Hug," Lenci says it has become the standard ranch goodbye.

For further information on Hidden Meadow Ranch, call (928) 333-1000 or see them on the Internet at www.hiddenmeadow.com.

Let Hidden Meadow Ranch do the cooking

This Thanksgiving, let someone else do the cooking and dishes. Hidden Meadow Ranch, known for its rustically-elegant log cabins, unparalleled amenities, exceptional service and cuisine and year-round family activities such as hiking, fly-fishing, archery, horseback riding and more, is cooking up a feast this year, including:

- Cider-glazed turkey with apple-wood-smoked bacon*
- Maple bourbon-glazed ham*
- Cornbread and sage dressing*
- Roasted butternut squash soup*
- Homemade pumpkin pie*
- And much, much more*

Come for dinner, or stay the night, and enjoy "Leftovers in the Loft" later on. It's a great evening social gathering with football and those creative leftovers you usually only get at home.

Two money-saving deals are also available for the holiday — book the "Fall Wildlife Watching Package" and get four nights for the price of three, and a complimentary nightly wildlife exploration.

Or, if you are bringing the kids, ask about the November "Kids Stay Free" deal — with this offer if they are under 11, they don't cost a thing.

To make a reservation, visit www.hiddenmeadow.com or call toll free (866) 333-4080.

'Ski and Sleigh' at Hidden Meadow

Ready to hit the slopes, but looking for a little variety in your winter getaway? Stay two nights at Hidden Meadow Ranch, and get the third night half off, plus two free lift tickets and transport to nearby Sunrise Park Resort.

Double occupancy all-inclusive nightly winter rates start at \$525, and include all meals, ranch-sponsored activities and accommodations in a luxurious log cabin.

Nestled on 150 acres of private land and far from the dry heat and cacti for which Arizona is commonly known, the Ranch is luxurious winter hideaway replete with rustically-elegant log cabins, unparalleled amenities, exceptional service and cuisine, and

loads of activities including horse-drawn sleigh rides, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing on the ranch's groomed trails, sledding, ice fishing, arts and crafts, leather making, wood-working or going on excursions on "Miss Piggy," the ranch's exclusive 24-passenger Tucker SnoCat, the largest in the world.

Sunrise Ski Resort, Arizona's largest with 65 runs for skiers of all levels, is only 30 minutes away.

To book, visit www.hiddenmeadow.com or call toll free (866) 333-4080. Based on availability. Special Package valid for double occupancy and Rancher's Package only.

For details on additional packages, contact Hidden Meadow Ranch. Not retroactive. Valid for travel Jan. 2-March 31; blackout dates apply.