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TRAVEL



ONLINE NOW
 Go play in the snow. Find places to ski, sled and snowshoe in Flagstaff and the White Mountains at travel.azcentral.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC TRAVEL.AZCENTRAL.COM

SECTION T

GOOD DEALS

BY DAWN GILBERTSON

Discounted for love

If you've got a big red heart circled around Feb. 14, here's the perfect decadent gift from the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa. On Feb. 13-14, the luxury resort is offering discounted rates of \$299 a night. Before you blanch at the price, consider that the rate can top \$400 a night this time of year. And the deal includes a \$50 credit for food or drinks.

Details: scottsdale.hyatt.com, click on "Special Offers."

Fun on the Farm

Knotts Berry Farm, a theme park near Disneyland, is offering adult tickets at \$25 each when you buy two tickets. That's half off the admission price. Ages 3-11 and seniors older than 62 get in for the regular price of \$19.99. Offer good through March 2.

Details: www.knotts.com, click on "What's Hot."

Suite savings

Stay five consecutive nights at a Starbridge Suites or Candlewood Suites by March 31 and get a \$50 American Express gift card. Check the Web sites below for eligibility restrictions.

Details: staybridge.com/amx or candlewoodsuites.com/amx.

Make way to Montreal

This will help take the sting out of the poor exchange rate with the Canadian dollar: a couple dozen Montreal hotels are offering a second night at 50 percent off. The "Sweet Deals" promotion is available through May 31.

Details: findyourmontreal.com, click on "Sweet Deals."

Send information and high-resolution JPEG about good deals to traveldeals@arizonarepublic.com.

TELL US

Who's your travel buddy?

Do you have a travel mascot that gets photographed wherever you go? We want to hear about it. Send a note no longer than 150 words plus a couple of high-resolution JPEG photos (8 inches or wider) to traveldeals@arizonarepublic.com. Put "Travel Buddy" in the subject line and include your name, city and phone number. *Winning entries will be published.*



EMERSON LEONARD/
 THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC
 Femberton Trail in McDowell Mountain Park.

COMING FRIDAY IN EXPLORE ARIZONA

Mountain biking

Throughout the Valley, trails beckon to mountain bikers of all stripes, from novice to expert.

COMING SUNDAY IN TRAVEL

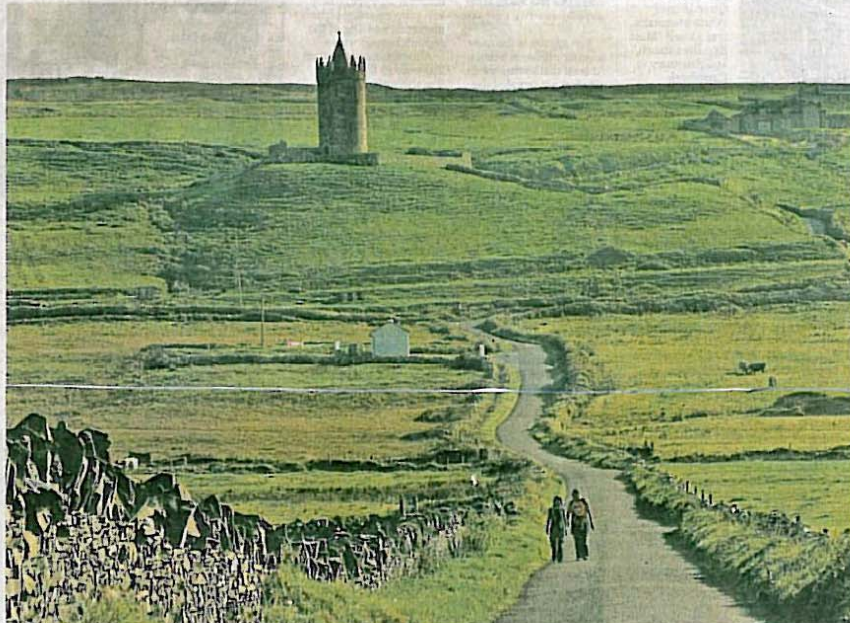
North to Alaska

Looking for a cool summer vacation? Consider an Alaskan cruise.

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REACH US: Travel editor, Jill Cassidy; 602-444-NEWS or jill.cassidy@arizonarepublic.com



AMIE CHISACK/ADS ANGELES TIMES

On the Ireland tipping tour, where tasting rooms are quite popular, always have a designated driver. The twisting two-lane roads, such as this one leading from the Cliffs of Moher, are scary enough when you're sober.

A tipping tour of Ireland

Lore and spirits entwine on Emerald Isle's Whiskey Trail

BY ROSEMARY MCCLURE | LOS ANGELES TIMES

DUBLIN, Ireland — Those plump little cherubs smiling rapturously from the depths of dark Baroque paintings have reason to be happy, I thought as I listened to tour guide Niall Stewart expound on "the angels' share," a term used to describe the amount of Irish whiskey that evaporates daily while aging in casks. "No one knows what the angels actually do with their share," Stewart said as we began our tour of the Old Jameson Distillery in Dublin. "But we do know 6,000 bottles of Jameson are lost a day floating in the air." I was on the seventh day of an eight-day exploration of the Irish Whiskey Trail, learning how to sip and savor one of Ireland's most intriguing exports: its ultrasmooth whiskeys. The tour took me to four whiskey-tasting centers. It also provided a look at some of Ireland's most popular sights and was a first-rate bargain: Two friends and I took advantage of off-season prices, scoring round-trip airfare from Los Angeles International Airport to Dublin in October for only \$508 each | See IRELAND Page 13



TOURING ARIZONA'S STATE PARKS

Tombstone's story preserved at courthouse

By Scott Craven
 THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

TOMBSTONE — The legendary tales of outlaws and gunfights is convincing evidence that Tombstone was the city most responsible for putting the "Wild" into the "West."

The city continues to capitalize on its violent history, though its lawlessness is limited to tourist-friendly gunfights held daily for those happy to cough up a few dollars to watch the (fake) bullets fly.

But if you were to peer over the frontier facades of dirt-covered Allen Street, you might see the looming tower of the Tombstone Courthouse, where many an accused felon faced a day of reckoning.

Of course, no one comes to Tombstone to watch a costumed judge and jury re-create judicial decisions, so although the courthouse is just a few blocks from the legendary saloons and bordellos, it often is overlooked by the visiting masses.

Too bad, because the court-



SCOTT CRAVEN/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC
 The courthouse had trials, spas, cells below, and gallows out back.

house offers an insightful, if sobering, look at the city's turbulent times.

The imposing two-story, red-brick structure, topped with a Victorian cupola, was built in 1882 at a cost of \$50,000. The courthouse dominated the mining city's squat skyline, reminding its residents that shootouts — such as the one a year earlier at the O.K. Corral — would not be tolerated in the newly established Cochise County seat.

See TOMBSTONE Page T3

Whether you want to hike, camp, catch a fish, tour a historic home or come face to face with our state's amazing geology, you can do it all at an Arizona state park. Read the Travel section every Sunday to visit one of the state's 27 parks, where you can do all these things and more. And go to travel.azcentral.com for slide shows and videos of the parks, plus more things to do near each one.

TODAY: TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK

What you can do there: Tour the museum that illustrates the city's raucous history.



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

NEXT WEEK: CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK

Swim, fish, boat, camp or take a leisurely hike. On Feb. 23, this park south of Lake Havasu will host a Geocache Bash, where you can use your GPS unit to hunt for hidden treasures.

Cupid's top 15: A list of romantic getaways

By Chelsea Schneider
 THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

For couples wishing to celebrate Valentine's Day away from home, Arizona hotels offer myriad romance packages, and there's more to the getaways than roses and chocolates. From flying over the Grand Canyon in a private helicopter to nestling in a 1920s bed-and-breakfast, here are 15 packages that will make your Valentine's Day memorable.

SEDONA

■ Sedona Rouge Hotel & Spa

What: The "Andalusia Romance Package" includes a two-night stay, champagne, chocolate-covered strawberries, a 60-minute couples massage and \$100 dining certificate for Red's Restaurant. Where: 2250 W. Arizona Blvd. Price: \$649 through Feb. 29, \$719 through May 31. Details: 866-312-4111 or www.sedonarouge.com.

■ Enchantment Resort

What: The "Suite Romance Package" includes a two- or three-night stay, welcome gift, candlelight dinner for two at Yavapai Restaurant or room service with bottle of Enchantment house wine or champagne, 60-minute spa service per person, and use of tennis courts, mountain bikes and the Mill amo spa.

Where: 525 Blythe Canyon Road. Price: \$1,576 for two nights, \$2,091 for three nights. Offered year-round. Details: 800-826-4180.

■ Casa Sedona Bed & Breakfast Inn

What: The "Romance Package" includes three

See 15 GETAWAYS Page T8

TRAVEL BRIEFS
ARIZONA

Greer, Camelback resorts honored

Two Arizona resorts have received "Most Excellent" commendations from Conde Nast Johansens, an international luxury-travel-guide publisher. Hidden Meadow Ranch, north of Greer in the White Mountains, was named "Most Excellent Ranch," and Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, in Paradise Valley, was named "Most Excellent Spa Hotel." Ten properties in the United States and Canada were chosen for the list, which was determined by reader votes, resort guests and a Conde Nast Johansens inspection. Details: www.hiddenmeadow.com or 866-333-4080; and www.sanctuaryoncamelback.com or 480-948-2100.

NATIONAL

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ervices

Which of four major political United Kingdom divisions accounts for more than 80 percent of UK's population?

TOP TEN

Most romantic island retreats

According to *Coastal Living* magazine:

1. Bermuda.
2. Manhattan.
3. Big Island of Hawaii.
4. Whidbey Island, Wash.
5. Lovers Key, Fla.
6. Cumberland Island, Ga.
7. Princess Royal Island, British Columbia.
8. Greve Island, Miami.
9. Naples Island, Long Beach, Calif.
10. Anquilla.

GROUQUIN ANSWER

England

— Chicago Tribune

TRAVEL PEOPLE

Pair savor scenic, gastronomic delights of France

Mike and Susan Maas of Phoenix have enjoyed good food and wine on three vacations in France.

By Mike and Susan Maas
SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

Bon appetit is the most popular phrase in France. At least that's what we decided as we sampled the wonderful cuisine throughout Provence and the Cote d'Azur, also known as the French Riviera.

Our two-week trip in October found us headquartered in the charming village of St-Remy-de-Provence, just 75 kilometers north of Marseille, for the first week and Villefranche-sur-Mer, a Mediterranean seaport just east of Nice, for the second.

We enjoyed the quiet bustle of Provencal village life, walking through the narrow streets to shops, restaurants or historic sites. From St-Remy, we took day trips by car to visit the ubiquitous med-

ieval villages that dot the hillsides of this region, including Les Baux, on its steep granite outcropping, Roussillon, with its glorious ochre soil; and Chateaufort-du-Pape, whose sole purpose today is the marketing and sale of the region's famous wines.

Although the drive from Provence to the Riviera was short, the change in ambience was amazing. Villefranche-sur-Mer was home to the U.S. Navy's sixth Fleet during the mid-1960s, and today hosts a variety of cruise ships and yachts in its small, quiet harbor. From there we took day trips to Nice to walk along the beautiful waterfront and to Monaco to check out the Monte Carlo Casino.

We also walked the narrow streets of St-Paul-de-Vence, a medieval village perched above the Mediterranean. This hilltop town attracted famous painters, including Chagall and Matisse, and has numerous art galleries and



Susan and Mike Maas, headquartered in Villefranche-sur-Mer the second week of their vacation, found memorable dining experiences throughout Provence and the French Riviera.

restaurants.

But the highlight of any trip to France is the food, and ours was no exception. The freshest ingredients made breakfasts unforgettable, whether we ate in the hotel or in an outdoor cafe along the waterfront.

Lunches were as simple as soups, as complete as the *plat du jour* or as impressive as one restaurant stated, "the unforgettable salad *nicoise*."

Dinner in Provence and the Riviera is a memorable experience, not to be

started too early and not to be rushed. Our favorite meal was in a small restaurant in St-Remy, where we enjoyed a codfish soufflé appetizer followed by lamb en croute and topped with rich, opulent chocolate mousse. All this was accompanied by a great bottle of a Chateaufort-du-Pape wine.

However, in France, not all phenomenal meals need to be in a charming cafe or bistro.

On our way home, we had an unexpected treat in the dining room of the Best Western Marseille Aéroport, which proves that in France it's all about the food and not the location.

E-mail your essay of 400 words and a picture of you at your destination, plus your name, address and telephone number, to traveleditor@arizonarepublic.com. Articles are subject to editing. Photos cannot be returned. We will contact you if your story is selected.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

ARIZONA

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HIDDEN MEADOW RANCH

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Details: www.hiddenmeadow.com or 866-333-4080; and www.sanctuaryoncamelback.com or 480-948-2100.

Enjoying a cool Chile



Diane and Wayne Johnson of Goodyear took a cruise in November to South America. The couple snapped this photo while onboard the Norwegian Dream. This is the Analla Glacier, one of the many beautiful glaciers in the fiords of Chile. We cruised for 18 days, experiencing the beauty of Chile, Uruguay and Argentina.

SHARE A PHOTO

Submit the best photo from your travels within the past two years for publication on this page and on azcentral.com. Include a brief description of when and where the image was taken. Send high-resolution JPEGs to traveleditor@arizonarepublic.com. Include your name, address and phone number. This invitation is not for professional photographers. By uploading a photograph, you certify that you own the photo or have the right to upload it to azcentral.com to use and publish it, and that you understand that all photos submitted to azcentral.com may be published, used or distributed in print, electronic or other media. [Azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com) reserves the right to reject any photo.

Food, zip-line and more on 7-day float to Mexico

By Joe Kafka
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico — Stuffing yourself with food is popular fodder for jokes on cruise ships, but it's serious business. I gained eight pounds during a seven-day cruise to the Mexican Riviera in November. My wife gained six.

Did we really eat that much in a week? Did we ever. But we also dined for several weeks in advance because that's our pre-cruise strategy.

We are becoming cruise veterans, chalking up No. 5 on a trip to the Mexican Riviera, so we are well aware of the culinary temptations. And good food is one of the reasons we cruise.

But there are plenty of other reasons to go, including onboard activities ranging from rock-climbing to karaoke and port excursions that include a zip-line, soaring from treetop to treetop about 100 feet above the jungle floor.

Is 60 too old for such shenanigans? I was about to find out.

We took our trip aboard Royal Caribbean International's Vision of the Seas. It's smaller than some of the megaships we've sailed

on, but it didn't lack amenities or activities: swimming pools, saunas, shops, lounges, disc, shuffleboard, rock-climbing wall, belly-flop contest, karaoke, elaborate song-and-dance shows, magicians, jugglers, comedians.

But we still found time for a nap or two. And there was plenty of quiet time to read on deck or by the pool, or just watch the waves.

Likewise, there was no shortage of things to do in Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta, which is where Gina, 54, and I booked our zip-line excursion.

After checking in at the distillate office of Vallarta Adventures and taking a great hourlong ride through the countryside in a canvas-covered truck, we arrived with 11 others at the zip-line site. The company calls it a canopy tour.

Within minutes, we slipped into body harnesses, put on thick gloves and got our instructions. Keep your feet up on take-offs and landings, and use the glove with the extra-thick leather pad to hit the brakes on the overhead steel cable that serves as your conduit from one tree platform to the next.

Fun? We'd do it again in



Zip-lining on a canopy tour of a jungle near Puerto Vallarta requires a body harness, thick gloves and following instructions.

a heartbeat. Strenuous? Nope, unless you count the hike back to the truck, an uphill trek that took about 20 minutes but included a stop for a cold bottle of water and short rest for weary legs.

Then it was back to town. Shoppers (and we are) found the usual tourist trinkets — T-shirts, colorful art and jewelry.

Town tours also are popular. We saw a beautiful cathedral in Mazatlan and other wonderful architecture during a bus trip through the city. For the adventurous, other excursions featured parasailing, horseback riding, snorkeling and sand dunes.

Back onboard, the most tempting diversions are the edible ones. Food is available round

Book a cruise

The Cruise Lines International Association Web site, www.cruising.org, allows you to search 24 cruise lines by destination. A travel agent can help you book the cruise. To book online, use the cruise line's Web site, an online travel agency such as Expedia or Travelocity, or a dedicated cruise site such as www.cruisecenter.com or www.cruisecompare.com.

the clock. Passengers can fill up at the buffet, which features a dizzying display of delectable dishes. And there are almost always hot dogs, burgers and pizza available. Dine for soft-serve ice cream.

For white-tablecloth dining, seat yourself in the elaborate dining room for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

And most of the food is very good. As for selection there's nothing like having five or six main courses to choose from at lunch and dinner.

The fish? How about a steak tonight? Or both. No problem. Waiters are there to please. Is it lobster night? Two, please. Appetizers galore. Breads. Salads. Almost no end to the desserts.

After we lose the weigh we gained on our last trip we'll likely head back to sea. Are we cruise-aholics? You bet.