

TRAVEL

SPLURGE

What: A bed and breakfast afloat in Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

How much: \$295 to \$395 per night depending upon the season

Why: Martha Vineyard's only floating bed and breakfast is a 40-foot Islander Cutter sailboat moored in Oak Bluffs Harbor. Land-lovers, don't worry; the boat can remain moored during your entire stay. Beaches, shops, restaurants and America's oldest working carousel are just around the corner, but there's no need to ever leave the Cutter.

Kitchen amenities include a refrigerator, microwave, toaster oven, coffee maker and daily continental breakfast. The salon and bedroom feature a sleeper sofa, TV/VHS player, single bed, private bathroom and queen-size bed. For more information, visit abedandbreakfastfloat.com/index.htm.

BARGAIN

What: The Inn at Canal Square in Lewes, Del.

How much: \$125 to \$245 per night depending upon the season and accommodations

Why: Clean. Quiet. Comfortable. You couldn't ask for more at the Inn at Canal Square. On the waterfront in historic Lewes, the inn calls the beautiful Lewes Canalfront Park its neighbor and is just one mile from Cape Henlopen State Park beaches, 15 minutes to Rehoboth Beach and 40 minutes to Dover Downs. Nearly all inn rooms feature a waterfront balcony — the perfect place to gaze at the sun rising or setting over the shimmering waters. Parking and high-speed wireless Internet are complimentary. For details, visit theinnatcanalsquare.com.

LAST-MINUTE DEALS

SIERRA NEVADA ISN'T JUST A BEER

Take in the sights of 100-year-old pines and the peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains from the Inn by the Lake, situated on the edge of Lake Tahoe's south shore. Book your stay by Sept. 8 and you'll receive your seventh night free. Receive two free nights (good through Jan. 1, 2011) when you book an eight-night stay by Sept. 8. For details, visit lodgingcompa.ny.com/r170-u5470/b1749_inn_by_the_lake.html.

BONJOUR SAVINGS

Fly round-trip from D.C. to Paris on Air France for \$600 when you book your trip by Sept. 9. This deal is good for flights departing through Oct. 24. For details, visit airfrance.us/US/en/local/resainfovol/meil-leuresoffres/marketing_webfares3.htm.

— *Compiled by Jessica Novak.*

WORTH THE TRIP



PHOTOS BY ROBIN TIERNEY

Rollin' with the slopestylers

Extreme fun ramps up in Winter Park, Colo.

By Robin Tierney
Special to The Examiner

It's all downhill from here. I just saw a cyclist sail down a mountain, fly off a jump, cruise sideways on a wall, levitate to spin his bike mid-air, then do a 720-degree flip. That's no hallucination. It's the Crankworx slopestyle event in Colorado's Winter Park Resort.

Slopestyle, the new big thing in extreme sports, is a downhill free-style ride on a course of jumps, drops and obstacles, with scores based on the execution of tricks.

Located 67 miles northwest of Denver in Grand County, Winter Park has the country's biggest network of mountain biking trails and 143 ski runs. Base elevation's 9,000 feet, and Winter Park Mountain's summit is 10,700 feet, so give your body a day to adjust, carry water and stay hydrated to avoid altitude sickness.

At the resort, two chairlifts whisk hikers, bikers and bikes to summit trailheads. My Zephyr Express

seatmate is Sharon McDowell, who earlier that afternoon competed in Crankworx's pro cross-country ride — 24 miles in two hours. The exercise physiologist wanted some post-race exercise; additions skew to the healthful in these parts. Before moving to Colorado Springs to work at the Olympic Training Center, McDowell was a bike messenger in Washington, D.C. "That was hard." Yeah, like extreme cycling is a roll in the park.

At the summit, signs designate trails "easy" and "difficult." I conclude that "easy" has a different meaning in extreme sportsland, after struggling alone along the rocky, rutted, root-filled Fantasy Meadow trail. My fantasy involved making it back with bones intact.

More my style: the serene Fraser River Trail, six miles of woodland parks, brooks, wildflowers and bustling towns.

The resort's \$49 full-day Adventure Pass (age 5s and under free) covers outdoor family fun including chairlift rides, a climbing wall, bungee bouncing and — for stress-free speeding — the Alpine Slide, with fast and slow tracks twisting downhill for 3,030 feet.

Another Winter Park attrac-

EVENT WATCH

Trestle Bike Park Races: New series for all ages and experience levels. Sept. 19 to 20.

» Info: 970-726-1590; ccenter@skiwinterpark.com

Want to go?

800.729.5821
grand-county.com

800.903.7275
playwinterpark.com

tion is geocaching, a GPS-driven scavenger hunt with caches hidden around the mountain. There are free classes and GPS rentals at the resort. The less adventurous can search for rare Belgian beers at the new Cheeky Monk cafe.

Accommodations range from the budget Vintage Hotel to lodge rooms and condos, all with secure storage lockers. So you can bring your gear, or rent it. Or safely fantasize as you ride the chairlift to the summit.

Reach Robin Tierney at robin-tierney@gmail.com.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Tips for female travelers: Don't forget your dental floss

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. — What do dental floss, shower caps and dryer sheets have in common?

They're all products that can serve multiple purposes when you travel, according to "101 Tips for Women Travelers," a new free booklet from Overseas Adventure Travel and Grand Circle Travel. More than 70 percent of the two tour companies' clients are women, and the booklet is comprised of ideas from female employees, guides and travelers around the world.

Among the tips: Dental floss is so strong it can double as a makeshift laundry line for clothing you might be handwashing on the road.

Many travelers swear that dryer sheets repel mosquitos if you tie one to your belt loop or backpack or slip one in with your bedding. They also help keep a suitcase full of clothes or a musty rental car smelling fresh.

And stash those free hotel shower caps in your luggage for later use. You can use them to wrap up a damp swimsuit, cover a camera in the rain, or help insulate anything you're carrying that might either leak or get wet.

To receive the "101 Tips" booklet, call 800-873-5628. You should receive a free copy within two to three weeks.

Art festival coming up in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

JACKSON HOLE, WYO — Thousands of art lovers attend the Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival each year, scheduled this fall for Sept. 10 to 20.

More than 50 events are on the program, including art shows, music, cowboy poetry and even a Western fashion show.

Other events include an exhibition of Western furniture and home accessories, studio tours, a gallery walk, ranch tours, concerts and a real estate auction.

One of the signature events of the festival is the National Museum of Wildlife Art's Western Visions fundraiser, Sept. 16 to 18, which includes a series of shows and sales of work by more than 150 artists, from photography to jewelry to miniatures. Demonstrations of painting and sculpting techniques are also on the program, along with a Wild West Artist Party, Sept. 17, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., \$200.