



Kids programs at resorts like The Homestead are becoming very sophisticated.

Shot Values & Family Values

BY ANN COCHRAN

Family vacations to the Middle Atlantic's top resort destinations can be fun and learning experiences for the kids, especially when they are not tagging along with Mom and Dad.

One early morning on The Homestead's famed Cascades course, 9-year-old Tommy was engrossed in the scenery. Mist and fog were hanging over and around the tops of the green and lavender mountains. When I called his name to get his attention back to the game at hand, he sighed and said, "This is just like heaven." At the end of the weekend, as we pointed the car toward home, my rough-and-tough 13-year-old, Harris, leaned forward and said, "Thank you for bringing me here, Mommy." When was the last time he called me Mommy? For that matter, when was the last time he was so calm and appreciative?

A sentimental television ad reminds us that credit cards can help solidify relationships and create special memories by financing vacations with loved ones. While few people – even on Madison Avenue – would promote reckless spending, an investment is not a bad way for parents to look at a thoughtfully planned vacation with their children.

One of the most multifaceted family resort experiences in the Mid-Atlantic is the historic Homestead. By car, it is four hours southwest of Washington, D.C., in the gentle Allegheny Mountains. Since 1766,



“Robert Trent Jones’ Gold Course and Rees Jones’ Green Course. Think of it as a Father-Son Invitational.”

Lanny Wadkins

As our touring pro Lanny Wadkins would tell you, respect for the game was apparently a hereditary gene in the Jones family. With classic, breathtaking tracts founded by nature and perfected by genius, the Golden Horseshoe is ranked in the *Top 100 You Can Play* by *Golf Magazine* and listed among Robert Trent Jones’ top six designs by *Golf Digest*. Grab your clubs and get ready to play a round, because this is one family reunion you’ll want to attend. Call 1-800-501-0170 for more information on the Golden Horseshoe. An American Classic.





Nemacolin Woodlands' Mystic Rock course and its exquisite toy store.



in one form or another, The Homestead has offered travelers relaxation and recreation. The building and grounds have come a long way from the wooden lodge that accommodated about 15 guests who were interested in the valley's famous spring-fed pools. Those hot springs are still bubbling. One is just a few yards from the front of the Homestead Spa.

The Homestead is known for premier golf experiences, at the two acclaimed Cascades Courses and the historic Old Course. The Cascades is consistently ranked among the top 50 courses in America. The first tee of the Old Course is the oldest one in continuous use in the United States. In 1892, it was part of a six-hole layout. The designers of the Cascades, Lower Cascades, and Old Course were William Flynn, Robert Trent Jones, and

Donald Ross, respectively. If you can tear yourself away from the pristine courses for instruction, the Golf Advantage School includes personalized video analysis and complete individual attention.

For family members who do not appreciate the links, there are horses to ride, carriages to ride in, 12 tennis courts, shooting sports, hiking or biking on 100 miles of wooded trails, fly fishing, falconry and bowling. In the winter, no one should count on sitting by the fire due to lack of activities. When the weather turns cold, The Homestead turns its attention to skiing, ice skating, snowboarding and indoor tennis. The spa is a quiet oasis. Without scheduling any treatments at all, savvy guests go there to stretch out on a cushioned wicker chaise, enjoy a cool beverage and maybe do a little reading.

Who doesn't long for a weekend away in a relaxed atmosphere, in a galaxy far away from telemarketing calls, the Internet, e-mail, the Cartoon Network and Nintendo 64? Many families have more money in the bank than time together at the dinner table. In The Homestead's dining room, even difficult teen-agers tend to mellow in sophisticated

surroundings. Young children become more well-behaved than many of their parents thought possible. The Homestead's setting is a lifetime away from the city and its equally hectic suburbs. The family bond can be strengthened in such a sanctuary, where mountains seem to embrace and protect, comfort and quiet. For a time, there are no tight schedules to keep, no demands, no rushing, no stress.

The Homestead has always had high quality children's programs and plenty for children and parents to do together as well. As the year 2000 approached, the resort's owners decided to celebrate by building a special world for its 12-and-under guests. In keeping with the gracious style of the resort, The Homestead KidsClub building comes complete with its own scaled-down version of the main hotel's signature entrance: a wide front porch lined with white wooden rocking chairs and bright red geraniums. The clubhouse design was generous with windows. Even on a cloudy day, it is sunny inside.

The Homestead KidsClub is not your everyday child-care program where crafts are made from popsicle sticks. What makes The Homestead's youth program so

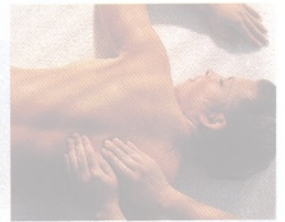


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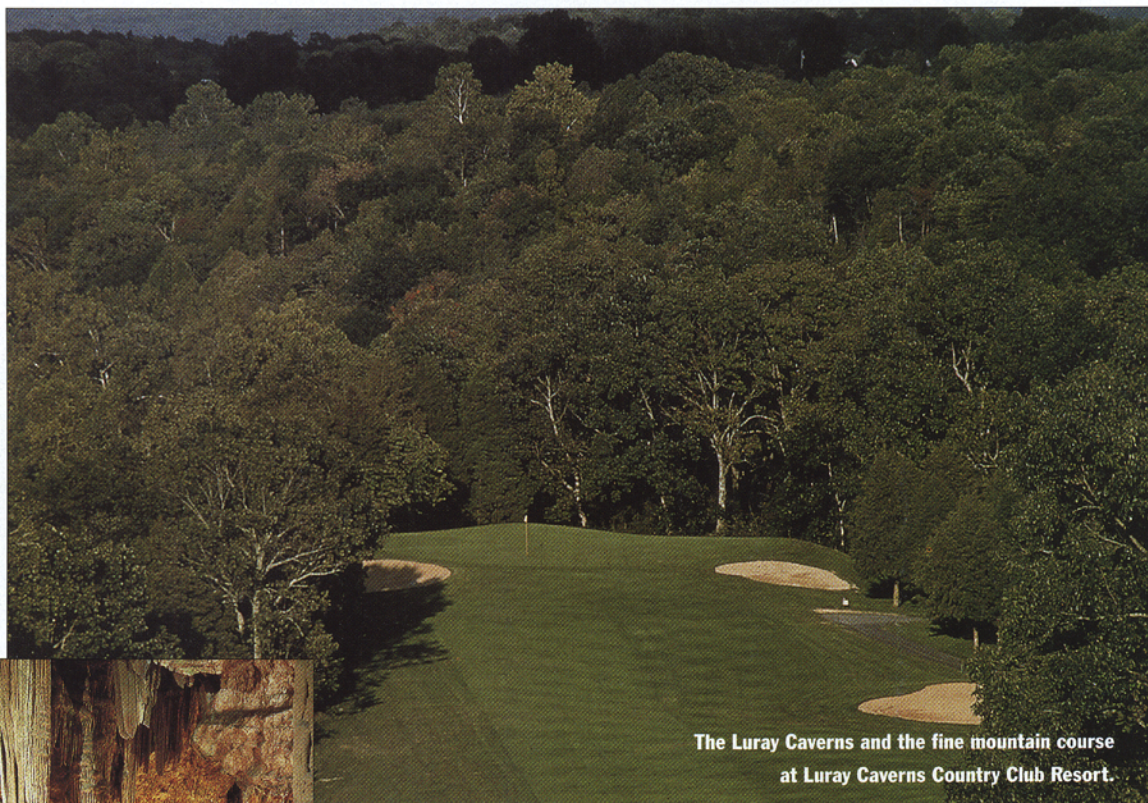
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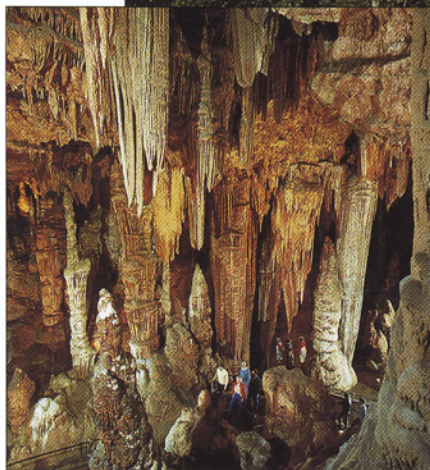
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The Luray Caverns and the fine mountain course at Luray Caverns Country Club Resort.



different? Yes, children can return home with a space mobile, a painted Shaker-style box, or a gecko key chain they created, but the real difference is that The Homestead KidsClub has brain as well as a heart. Its literature promises “learning-made-fun.” Activities are designed to challenge as well as entertain the resort’s young guests. Director Julie Hicks looks way beyond supervision as the KidsClub’s mission.

“We want to offer children a resort experience as unique and as grand as The Homestead itself,” she says.

With that goal in mind, children move between three main areas of activity: literature, art and science. At the Children’s Literary Center, teaching children an appreciation of literature is easy with an outstanding library of regional folklore and historic not-so-tall tales. At the Art & Design Center, kids use their

creativity to make everything from their own pottery to custom-designed bird feeders. The Science & Biology Center features nature hikes. Kids can bring back indigenous plants to look at under the microscope.

Back in the clubhouse, guinea pigs and geckos wait for some attention. For large animal education, counselors regularly take the children up to the barn to visit the horses. It’s not all fun-learning and no pure play, however. There is plenty of time to fish at the kids-only fishing pond or splash in the outdoor pool. For stormy weather, the elegant indoor pool cannot be considered a disappointing alternative. Kids of all ages ooh and aah when they enter this ballroom-sized room with its towering palms, lacey coffered ceilings and arched windows. The pool’s continuous-flow feature fascinates children. A recent group gathered close to a counselor to feel the warm water as she explained how a natural hot spring feeds the pool.

KidsClub counselors are animated young men and women who react the minute a child walks through the clubhouse door. After Hicks sets the tone with a warm smile and enthusiastic welcome, a counselor approaches and

walks the new child around to a variety of activities he can choose from while waiting for the first group activity. These counselors don’t just point the way. They sit down and play the game, build the castle, look through the microscope. Parents report that their children are enthusiastic about the counselors, and after a few minutes of conversation, it is clear that what is so special about them is not what they do but who they are deep down: caring, funny, active, warm, creative and patient.

When parents walk away from a child who is absorbed in an interesting activity with an engaging counselor, they can head for the golf course or mineral baths without hesitation about whether or not their child is happy. One mother confides, “I have to remember to plan better and limit my daughter’s time here during our next visit. Kara loves the KidsClub so much she wants to stay with Julie and the gang all the time, even for the dinner program. I feel a little guilty, although I have absolutely adored having so much time alone and with my husband.”

The KidsClub offers half-day and full-day supervised play and activities for children ages 3 to 12 who are divided into two age

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CARROLL VALLEY GOLF RESORT

Surrounded by the Catoctin Mountains, Carroll Valley Golf Resort offers 36 holes of terrific golf. The resort's hotel overlooks the first of the two 18-hole courses designed by the renowned team at Ault, Clark & Associates, designers of the famed TPC at Avenel course in Potomac, Md. This 6,800-yard course winds its way over storybook hills and around huge, old trees, a lake, and bunkers.

Just minutes from the Carroll Valley Course is the second 18-hole course, Mountain View. Also designed by Ault & Clark, this 6,300-yard course features a natural grass driving range and a Civil War-era building that houses the pro

shop. Judging by the name, you might guess that it has a mountain range for a backdrop.

Although Carroll Valley does not have an organized children's program, it does host many families with children who enjoy golfing with their parents. For family members who do not golf, the community offers an unbelievable array of diversions. In addition to Gettysburg – and all the history, ghost and bicycle tours that go with it – there's a miniature horse farm nearby (Land of Little Horses), the charming Catoctin Zoo about 20 minutes south, Hershey Park only one hour away, and plenty of family activities that go with a destination area. There are also antique malls, art galleries, nurseries, fruit markets, riding stables, wineries, and a kid-friendly bowling alley. Shopping may not qualify as a sport or an educational activity, but it is especially worthwhile in Pennsylvania's outlet malls: There is no sales tax on clothing or shoes.

Information: (800) 548-8504

Web site: carrollvalley.com

For area attractions: gettysburg.com

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

Colonial Williamsburg is not known as a romantic destination, but it can be for those who take a stroll along the streets of the historic area in the moonlight. For another nighttime activity, the candlelight tour called Ghosts of Williamsburg has been known to make couples want to hold hands.

Colonial Williamsburg is in the midst of a five-year, \$100 million renovation, the largest in its history. The project that began in early 2000 is enhancing the Visitor Center, central utility plant, and three of its five hotels: the Williamsburg Inn, Williamsburg Lodge and Williamsburg Woodlands. This project is no reason to delay a trip. Disruptions to the Williamsburg experience are being kept to a minimum.

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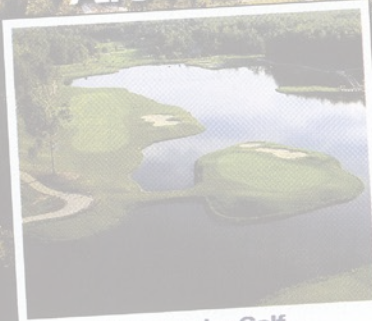
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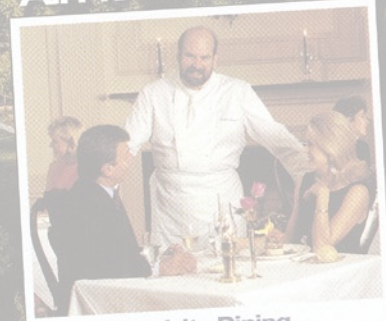
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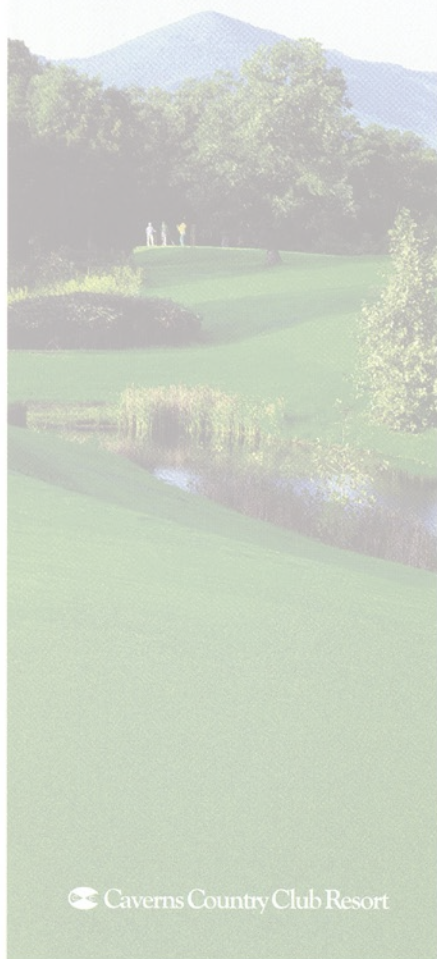
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Family Destinations

Renovation of the historic Williamsburg Inn is reflecting the intentions of Williamsburg benefactor John D. Rockefeller Jr., who opened the hotel with his wife in 1937. Honoring the Rockefellers' original design, each guest room will be distinctively decorated and graced with fresh flowers, books and an umbrella in every closet. The Inn is a National Trust for Historic Preservation Historic Hotel of America. On June 1, many renovated guestrooms will be ready for guests.

Renovation or no renovation, the Historic Area has always provided visitors with hours of wandering, pondering and exploration. Shopping that is appealing to both adults and children is nearby in the Historic Area shops and in Merchants Square's specialty shops. In addition to all there is to do as a family, some parents might want some time alone. Those who do can look into the Young Colonials' Club for children ages 5-12 staying at the Williamsburg Inn, Providence Wings, Lodge, Colonial Houses, Williamsburg Woodlands and the Governor's Inn. For a nominal fee, children enjoy activities designed just for them. Evening programs begin with dinner and include Colonial-style entertainment with music and magic. In Williamsburg, there are bed-and-breakfasts and several budget motels in addition to traditional and historic hotels.

How could one forget about golf in such an appealing area of the country? The golf courses operated by Colonial Williamsburg are open to the public. The Golden Horseshoe courses, blending the old and the new, have won many awards. The Gold (by Robert Trent Jones Sr.) and the Green courses are rated by Golf Digest in the top 10 places to play in Virginia.

After a round of golf, families can get back together and choose from many Williamsburg area attractions. There are too many historic homes, plantations, and museums to list in a short article, but a few must be pointed out. For a wild time with or without children, head for Busch Gardens, one of America's most

beautiful theme parks. The Candle Factory has an observation room that allows visitors to watch how soap and candles are made. This factory produces 5.5 million candles a year. The 750-seat Music Theatre of Williamsburg is worth checking out, as is the Williamsburg Winery.

Information: (800) HISTORY

Web site: history.org

For area attractions: williamsburg.com

FORD'S COLONY

Just a few minutes from the historic charm of Colonial Williamsburg, Ford's Colony fulfilled its golf master plan last year when the final 18 holes of the 54-hole resort opened.

One of Virginia's biggest and best golf resorts, Ford's Colony, which opened in 1985, has become more than just a place to play.

The Dining Room in the main clubhouse is a five-star restaurant with one of the best wine cellars in the state. Ford's Colony is also a community of upscale homes. The founding concept of Ford's Colony was to develop a retirement community in a Southern location to take advantage of the fair weather and attract folks from the Northeast and the Midwest.

Being so close to a family destination hasn't hurt. Now there are plenty of families that live in Ford's Colony and plenty more that visit to enjoy the Colonial atmosphere.

In addition to the Marsh Hawk, Blackheath and Blue Heron courses, Ford's Colony has tennis, swimming and miles of walkways for lazy strolls around the community.

Information: (800) 334-6033

Web site: fordscolony.com

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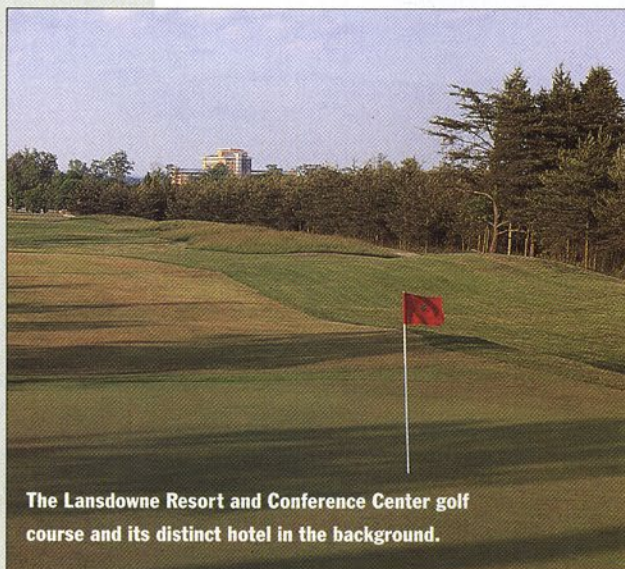
TIPS FOR GOLF TRIPS WITH KIDS

- Let every family member, no matter how young, have some say in planning the trip and choosing at least one activity.
- Factor in some one-on-one parent-child time, and some adults-only time.
- Resist the temptation to fill up every minute. Each member of the family will enjoy having time with absolutely nothing to do.
- Keep the kids on their normal eating and sleeping schedule, or close to it, to avoid meltdown.
- Stock up on snacks for the room to avoid the lure of the minibar.
- Discuss age-appropriate spending money ahead of the trip: how much and when to hand it out.
- Consider Books-on-Tape for the car, either for individual tape players or for family listening.
- Order room service once in a while. Not every meal has to be eaten in a restaurant, where kids get restless.
- Call your destination directly when you are planning a trip. It's a mistake to rely entirely on Web sites, which are beautiful but not necessarily updated on a regular basis.
- Find out what children's programs are offered when you are visiting, no matter what you have read. Things change all the time in the hospitality business.

shops. The Robert Trent Jones Jr. golf course was designed to meet Lansdowne's requirement that it provide a great experience for players of every ability. If you are a pro, however, you will not be bored. There are plenty of challenges for the best golfers.

Parents who visit Lansdowne love Resort Rascals, a supervised recreation program for children ages 3 to 12. The kids enjoy arts and crafts, swimming, biking and nature walks, and tennis and golf clinics. In the evening, pizza parties and movies allow Mom and Dad to wine and dine alone.

Non-golfers and those who do not play



The Lansdowne Resort and Conference Center golf course and its distinct hotel in the background.

all day, every day, can decompress in Lansdowne's newly expanded day spa, where professional clinicians offer massage therapy, skin-care treatments, body wraps and hair styling. Swimming is another alternative, in the tropics-inspired outdoor pool, or, if it is cool or rainy, in the heated lap pool and Jacuzzi spa, which are open year-round. Lansdowne did not forget tennis. The racquet center has four all-weather courts that are lighted for night play. Instruction is available for beginners to advanced players.

And there is more: Lansdowne's health club has the expected exercise and weight training equipment, plus classes and personalized fitness counseling. They rent out mountain bikes, too. You and your family can also get your exercise on hiking

and jogging trails that wind around the hills surrounding the property.

Information: (800) 541-4801, (703) 729-8400

Web site: lansdowneresort.com

LURAY COUNTRY CLUB

Since the site's founding in 1878 by a tinsmith and a local photographer, visitors by the millions have flocked to Luray Caverns. While it isn't the East Coast's biggest tourist attraction, it is the most popular cave in Eastern America and a great family getaway.

The caverns are a U.S. Natural Landmark, as well they should be for something that took 4 million centuries to form. The guided tours lead visitors through the enormous chambers of towering stone columns and crystal-clear pools. It is nothing short of amazing.

The Great Stalacpipe Organ creates concert-quality music from the surrounding stalactite formations and is the world's largest musical instrument.

Back on top, the Luray Caverns Country Club Resort provides dramatic golf with the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley as the backdrop. The 6,499-yard course rolls along the mountains providing vistas of both the valley and mountains.

The resort provides comfortable accommodations in nearby motels in quiet country settings.

Information: (888) 443-6551

Web site: luraycaverns.com

OCEAN CITY, MD.

What could be better than taking your family to a place where the toughest question you have to ask each day is which beach or which golf course to go to? As you would expect, Ocean City has plenty of sand and sand traps. There are accommodations in every price range, and lots of amusements for children of every age group.

Many scenic and challenging golf courses can be found in and around Ocean City. Lush fairways have been built beside marshes and wetlands. The ocean breeze blows through sea pines. The natural beauty of any coastal area enriches the golf experience, while water hazards

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Family Destinations

threaten to frustrate it.

Although Ocean City is known as Maryland's resort destination, the courses of Delaware are also convenient. Bear Trap Dunes, just west of Bethany Beach, is a quick trip up Coastal Highway. The Rick Jacobson design through the manufactured beach dunes covered in sea grass is a constant reminder that after the round you will be back on the beach forgetting about your slice and worrying about your tan. Bear Trap Dunes is a player-friendly course, as long as you don't stray too far off the plush fairways. Jacobson provides plenty of real estate for fairways, but if you end up in the sand, which likely you will at some point, the prudent play is back to the fairway to try to keep from making a big number.

Among the other top courses in the resort area are the new Links at Lighthouse Sound, a spectacular Arthur Hills design along the Assawoman Bay with views of the Ocean City skyline and Eagle's Landing, Ocean City's highly rated

municipal golf course. The first certified Audubon Sanctuary in Maryland, the course overlooks Sinepuxent Bay and Assateague Island. The Bay Club, the Beach Club, Rum Pointe, Ocean City Golf & Yacht Club, Pine Shore, Ocean Resorts Golf Club and River Run make up the rest of the core of the 17 golf courses around Ocean City.

Numerous golf packages are available throughout the year. You might think it is difficult to get a tee time when you're at the beach for your summer vacation, but that is not the case. The golf package season of March through May and September and October fills the courses, but during the summer, when most vacationers are more interested in the beach, the golf courses are accessible.

Information: (800) 4OC-GOLF

Web site: oceancitygolf.com

PENN NATIONAL

Penn National Golf Club & Inn declares itself Pennsylvania's best-kept

secret. Visitors will agree it is a natural beauty, situated in the Cumberland Valley near Gettysburg. The changing seasons make the mountains a beautiful backdrop for its two 18-hole golf courses. Penn National offers every modern amenity along with a sense of history. Even now, Penn National's courses attract U.S. presidents from nearby Camp David.

Long ago, prominent citizens such as Robert E. Lee and J.E.B. Stuart visited the pre-Civil War White Rock Manor House that is the centerpiece of the Penn National Inn. This imposing brick structure is surrounded by five modern brick guest lodges. The Penn National Inn is located on the eighth fairway of the Founders Course, and, as one might expect, boasts spectacular views of the mountains.

The original Founders Course, designed by Edmund Ault, designer of the TPC at Avenel and Toftrees, is noted for its mature tree-lined fairways, large contoured greens and strategically placed

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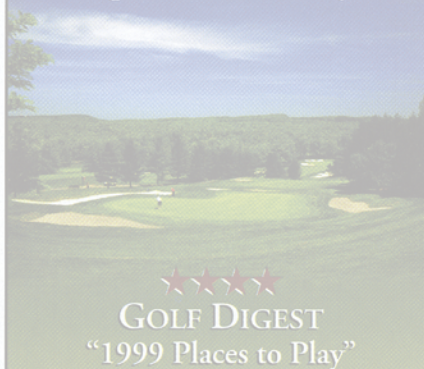


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Golf Package #2

2 Nights Accommodations • 3 Days of Golf (includes all greens fees, cart, surcharges & taxes) • 2 Full Breakfast • 1 Dinner at your Choice of 30 restaurants • Travel Agent Commissionable 10% on Room Rate Only • Complimentary Hospitality Room with bookings of 20 or More Rooms • Complimentary Bag Tag, tees & Gold Gift Golf Widow & Custom Packages Available

2001 Golf Package	1/1/01-3/15/01 10/29/01-12/30/01	3/16/01-6/16/01 9/14/01-10/28/01	6/17/01-9/13/01
Weekdays	\$149.00	\$239.00	\$329.00
Weekends	\$199.00	\$329.00	\$379.00

All rates are per person, 2 nights, 3 days, based on double occupancy • Holidays and special events excluding Fri., Sat. & Sun. are considered weekends when playing golf that day
Additional surcharge for certain courses.

Ocean City Amateur Golf Tournament



Entry Fee

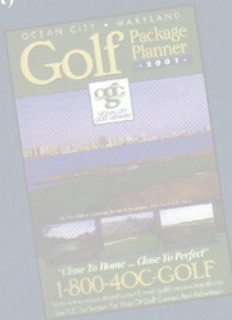
Entry Fee: \$465 Per Player

How To Enter

Credit card payment: Call Ocean City Golf Getaway at 1-800-40C-GOLF or fax name and address with credit card number and exp. date. Payment by check: Send name, address and telephone number to Ocean City Amateur Golf Tournament, c/o Ocean City Golf Getaway, 9935 Stephen Decatur Hwy, Unit #141, Ocean City, Maryland, 21842. There will be four divisions. Men under 55, Women under 55, Seniors 55-64, and Super Seniors 65+. Please note division the entry is for. The number of entries will determine the number of divisions.

Deadline

May 1st (includes all activities in schedule of events) (\$500 Per Player after May 1st)



Join us on **June 17 through June 20th** in Ocean City, Maryland. That's when Ocean City Golf Getaway will host its first amateur only golf tournament. Play 3 courses including Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club (Newport or Seaside), The Beach Club (Inner or Outer Links) and the final day at Eagle's Landing or River Run. There will be four divisions; Men under 55, Women under 55, Seniors 55-64 and Super Seniors 65+. Number of divisions will be determined upon the number of entries received. It's an amateur golf tournament for all playing levels. Major prizes, gift bag, \$100 gift certificate at participating pro shops, nightly functions and socials are all included. Don't get left out. This will be the most spectacular amateur golfing tournament of 2001. Of course, space is limited. Contact Ocean City Golf Getaway at 1-800-40C-GOLF or 410-213-7050. Or visit us at www.oceancityam.com for more information or an entry form.

Championship Golf At It's Finest. Need Tee Times or Golf Package Information, call our toll free number at 1-800-40C-GOLF or visit our website at www.oceancitygolf.com. There you'll be able to make On Line Tee Times and get information on Golf Packages (starting at \$99) including a list of our "Preferred Restaurants" and Golf Saving Specials.

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Ocean City Golf Getaway

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Family Destinations

white-sand bunkers. This course winds around a seven-acre lake and through the native stands of trees enhanced with an additional 4,000 trees and shrubs as well as extensive landscaping of ornamental grasses and flowers.

In contrast to the Founders Course, Iron Forge is nearly treeless, a tribute to Scottish links land courses, where nature provides the challenges. The Iron Forge Course, designed by Ault, Clark & Associates, gives the golfer water challenges on four holes. At Penn National, practice makes perfect. It has a 40-acre complex with an expansive practice green, natural grass tee areas, practice bunker, and a lighted driving range with covered all-weather tees. Penn National hosts the nationally known America's Favorite Golf School, offering instruction from May through October.

Although there is no formal children's program, other activities that can be enjoyed by the whole family include tennis, swimming, hiking, horseshoes,

volleyball and bocce ball. Trout fishing in Falling Springs is only a few miles away. Historic Gettysburg is 20 minutes east. The area around Chambersburg played a pivotal role in the Civil War and has many interesting places to visit.

Information: (800) 221-7366

or (717) 352-3000

Web site: golfpa.com/courses/pennnat

ROCKY GAP LODGE & GOLF RESORT

On the shores of Lake Habeeb and beside the heavily wooded Evitt's Mountain, the approach to Rocky Gap Resort has you relaxing naturally along the way. The first Jack Nicklaus signature course in Maryland was built in this spectacular spot, in Rocky Gap State Park. Nicklaus and his team integrated the natural features of the area into a stimulating golf experience. There goes your relaxation.

In addition to golf, the resort staff has put together an incredible assortment of other activities for guests of all ages. Since

Cumberland, Md., played an important part in the early history of the United States, there are many nearby historic sites and attractions to visit. On the active side, the resort can arrange fly or bass fishing, guided bike rides, a horse handling course, rappelling or rock climbing, kayaking, scuba or snorkeling, canoeing, white water rafting, even caving. You can visit one of their sporting clay sites, or take a ride on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. For culture, visit some of the area's art galleries and Penn Alps, which showcases Appalachian crafts and music.

For younger children, there are a la carte programs ranging from one hour to 5 1/2 hours, plus all evening activities for children ages 6 to 12. Most of these programs have nature themes geared to interest kids through activity and education. Call before you go to see what's current.

Massage services are available at Rocky Gap. Indulge in a traditional Swedish massage, or go for a facial massage with lavender, wild orchid, volcanic mud and cool herbal mist. If you are more daring, ask for the warm stone aromatherapy, a Serenity at Rocky Gap exclusive.

The guest rooms at Rocky Gap feature custom-made Shaker style furniture. Junior and Lakeview suites are available for families who need more space. The Presidential Suite and Governor's Suite have kitchenettes.

Information: (800) 724-0828

or (301) 784-8400

Web site: rockygapresort.com

NEMACOLIN WOODLANDS

Nemacolin Woodlands is an elegant resort 65 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. If your taste runs to classic European hotels, stay at Chateau LaFayette, Nemacolin's recognizable showpiece. If you prefer the warmth and charm of an historic mountain lodge, The Lodge is for you. If roomier accommodations are preferred, one and two bedroom town houses are available. Beyond its luxurious accommodations, Nemacolin is known for its fine restaurants, equestrian center, giant kids-activities facility, sporting clays, tennis, a first-class spa and of

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course, two golf courses.

Nemacolin's Mystic Rock Course, designed by the legendary Pete Dye, sprawls through the property's wooded acreage. With its giant boulders, oversized bunkers and undulating greens, Mystic Rock received top honors from prominent golf magazines in its opening year. Demonstrating its commitment to family golf, Nemacolin will soon be participating in the U.S. Kids Golf Program. Families will be able to play together on The Links, Nemacolin's more traditional course. Special tee markers will shorten the yardage on each hole, making it feasible as well as fun for younger children to play.

For parents who want time alone, the Nemacolin Kidz Klub Program provides both full and half days – and evenings – of fully supervised entertainment and activities for children. Traditional baby-sitting is also available. Nemacolin doesn't forget teens. The staff organizes trail rides, sporting clay competitions, time at the climbing wall and ropes course, swimming, fishing, skating and golf. There are video games and virtual reality games, air hockey and all kinds of table games. Kids can rent in-line skates and mountain bikes. Nemacolin's Activities Center has plenty of indoor and outdoor activities for all seasons and all ages.

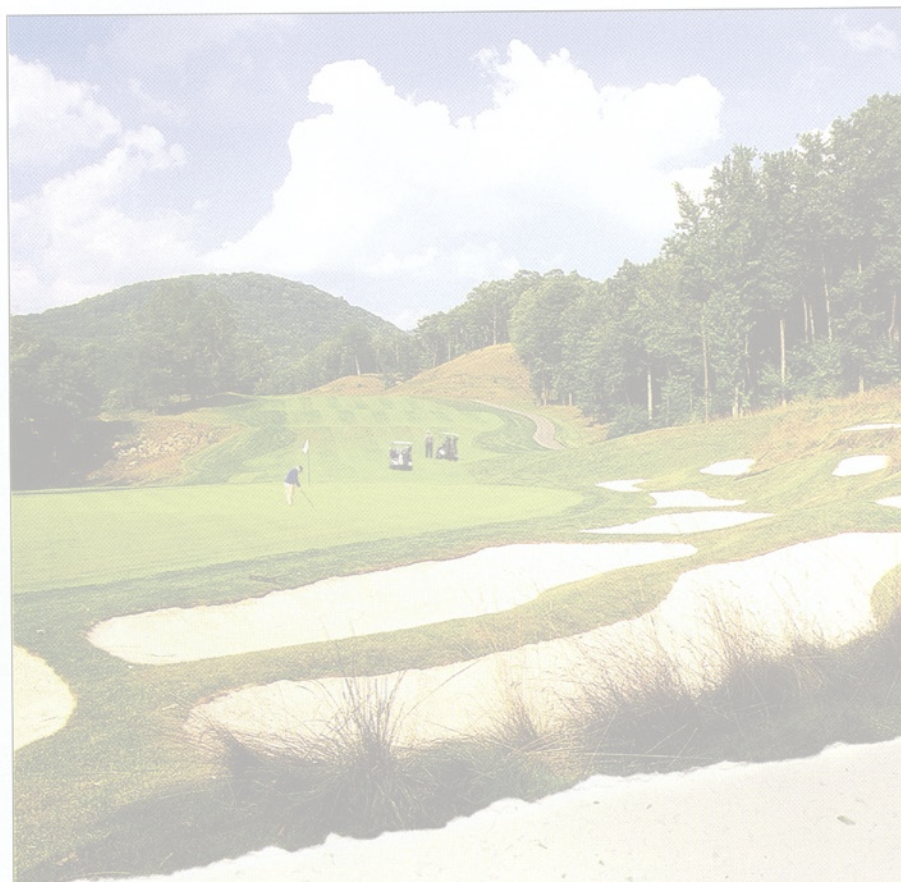
Information: (800) 422-2736
or (724) 329-8555

Web site: nemacolin.com

TURF VALLEY

You'll have to travel quite a distance to find more amenities and golf spread around one resort than at Turf Valley located in Ellicott City, Md. There is also a lot of fun for the whole family as well as the golfer. There you will find a full-service European spa, indoor and outdoor pools with an outdoor patio and pavilion for parties, recreation areas complete with tennis courts, sand volleyball, basketball and shuffleboard, and a soon-to-be-completed children's playground and picnic area.

The resort atmosphere at Turf Valley



Full of Wonder. Plenty of Wild.

Let West Virginia be your link to relaxation! We're home to America's first golf course, and Condé Nast's best golf resort for 2000. With our mountains as your backdrop, you'll have a challenging game in a setting of awesome beauty.

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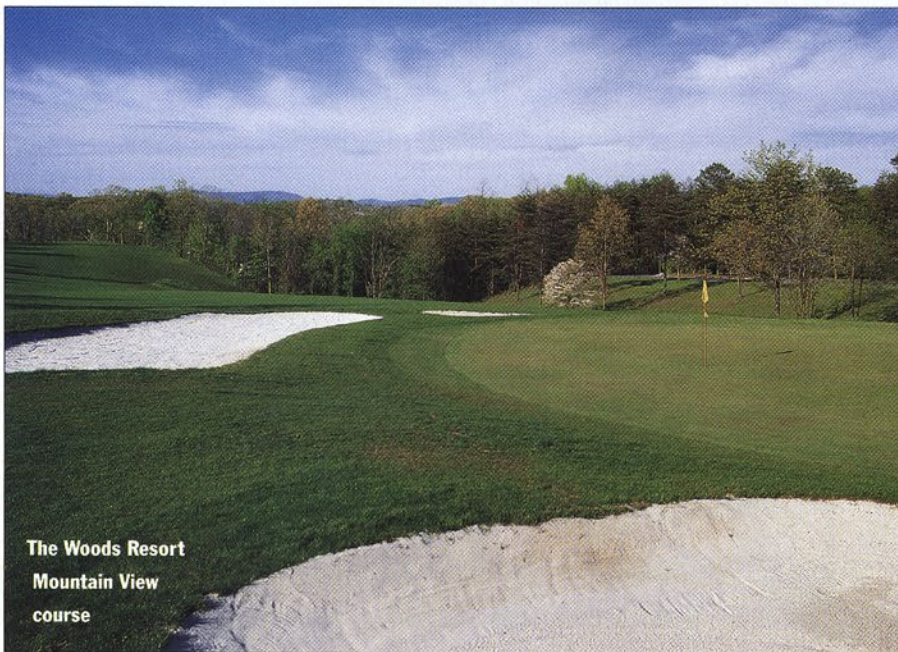
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The Wintergreen Resort's
Stoney Creek course



The Woods Resort
Mountain View
course

but Nick and Mary Mangione purchased Turf Valley Country Club in 1978 and it has since been turned into the Northeast's premier resort conference center, golf and spa.

Turf Valley's greatest commodity is space and its 54 holes of golf. The three layouts surround a 223-room deluxe hotel featuring 28 suites and 40,000 square feet of meeting space. The more than 1,000 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds also feature a whirlpool and steam room, a fitness room, Alexandra's fine-dining restaurant, casual dining in The Terrace on The Green, and The Fairway Lounge.

*Information: (888) TEE-TURF
Web site: turfvalley.com*

WISP RESORT

Immaculately groomed and conditioned, Wisp lies in the heart of Garrett County, the westernmost and largest county in Maryland. Close by is Deep Creek Lake, the largest inland lake in the state, with more than 65 miles of shoreline. Wisp is situated on Marsh

may best be described as quiet quality. The staff is friendly and attentive, the accommodations, meeting space and amenities are first rate and the golf is plentiful and challenging. While other resorts may be located in exotic destinations and have longer histories,

few can match Turf Valley's constant effort to improve on its own developing tradition.

The management at Turf Valley attributes its warmth and charm to the fact that it is family owned and operated. Originally it was a lush, green horse farm,

Mountain, part of the Allegheny Mountain Range.

The Golf Club at Wisp is a par-72 course designed by Domenick Palumbo. Although Wisp is a mountain course at the base of the resort's ski slopes, the terraced design minimizes steep hills. Narrow, tree-lined fairways require knowledge of the course but reward accuracy off the tee. Five water hazards, a beautiful stone fountain on the 18th hole, and more than 90 grass and sand bunkers will give you something to write home about.

The primary lodging facilities are the Wisp Resort Hotel and Will O'the Wisp. Wisp management also owns and operates nearby Cabins on the lake, Lake Breez Motel and Lakeside Motor Court.

Garrett Community College's Willy Wisp Summer Fun Camp provides children ages 3 to 11 recreation as well as enrichment. Weeklong summer sessions are open to guests staying at the Wisp Resort Hotel on a daily or weekly basis.

Activities include outdoor games, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, basketball, kickball and tennis. One of the most popular activities is hiking. The children go to some of the local state parks for nature activities and special tours from park rangers.

Information: (301) 387-4911

Web site: gcnet.net/wisp/

THE WOODS

The Woods is located halfway between Berkeley Springs and Martinsburg in West Virginia's eastern panhandle at the northern gateway to the Shenandoah Valley. This 1,800-acre golf resort and community is proud of its affordability for guests and residents. Originating in 1976 as a vacation home community, The Woods has grown to include a variety of accommodations, a restaurant, year-round recreation, a conference center, 27 holes of golf with another nine on the way and nearly 1,000 homes.

The 6,500-yard, par-72 Mountain View

Course highlights the recreational offerings. For a quick round, try the Stony Lick nine-hole course, which has some of the most beautiful and challenging holes at The Woods. If you would like some advice about your swing, The Woods offers instruction through its Pro Golf School. Lessons come with an unusual money-back guarantee.

The Woods' recreational opportunities and ever-expanding facilities provide year-round fun.

Outdoor recreation includes two 25-meter pools, lighted tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, a softball field and a horseshoe pit. Many guests prefer to spend their leisure time walking or jogging on the many miles of lightly traveled country roads surrounding The Woods, which is bordered on three sides by Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area, which has 75 miles of hiking trails and a 205-acre lake for fishing and canoeing. Guests may also fish at The Woods.



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Family Destinations

The Woods' indoor recreational facilities provide rainy-day and winter activity, with a heated swimming pool, whirlpool, tennis and racquetball courts, a gymnasium for volleyball and basketball, and a fully equipped exercise room. Massage therapists are available for sore muscles or plain old luxurious indulgence.

Beyond The Woods, West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle boasts numerous scenic historic and cultural activities within a short drive of The Woods. History buffs enjoy Harpers Ferry National Park; historic Shepherdstown, the oldest town in West Virginia; Antietam Battlefield; and Berkeley Springs, a favorite retreat of George Washington. Each summer, the Contemporary American Theater Festival comes to nearby Shepherdstown. For the adventurous, ask about whitewater rafting and kayaking. Sports fans can see professional auto racing and thoroughbred racing at the right time of year.

Information: (800) 248-2222

Web site: thewoodsresort.com

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

Is Virginia Beach another Myrtle Beach in the making? Maybe not quite yet, but the weather is admittedly milder down south, and they do have a decent number of good golf courses, making this area a good choice for a family incorporating golf into a vacation or weekend away. Virginia Beach prides itself on maintaining a family atmosphere, so bring the family.

The eight featured courses of the Virginia Beach Golf Association were designed by some of the sport's best known professionals: Rees Jones, Pete Dye, Fred Couples, Gene Bates and Curtis Strange, a Virginia native. Lakes, creeks and marshes that link to the Chesapeake Bay, an extension of the Virginia Beach marine environment, factored into the design of these courses.

In addition to golf and the beach, a family can enjoy a variety of activities when they stay in Virginia Beach. Nature lovers should explore some of the 7,700 acres of barrier islands, maritime forests,

marshes and beaches that are home to red foxes, minks, migratory birds and Virginia Beach's only nesting bald eagles. Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens are just an hour away.

Information: (866) 4-VB-GOLF

Web site: vbfun.com

WEST VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

In the wild and wonderful state of West Virginia you could cascade down the Class V rapids of the New River, climb the spectacular flat-faced Seneca Rocks, ski down the expert slopes that are abundant in the Potomac Highlands, rappel off the side of the New River Gorge Bridge.

Or you could choose not to endanger your life and play golf.

It may not get your heart going like a rumble down a world-class whitewater river, but for the connoisseur of golf, West Virginia is a quaint four-diamond establishment, its menu offering everything from courses at state parks to the unrivaled Greenbrier.

On the map, West Virginia looks like it got the land that Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio didn't want, and if that's the case, its founders did a pretty good job with what they were handed. Over the years, people no less than the likes of Charles Blair MacDonald, Robert Trent Jones, Pete Dye, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus have reshaped some of the land to make it darn hospitable for golf.

The state resort parks round out the best of golfing West Virginia. Joining Cacapon are Twin Falls and Pipestem in the south and Canaan Valley in the heart of the state.

They offer varying golf challenges (Twin Falls is short and flat, Canaan Valley is more forgiving and open, Pipestem is a contrast of birdie chances and head scratchers) at very affordable rates.

With the leaves popping on trees, courses throughout the state leap into spring. Golfing West Virginia is a relaxed sabbatical certain to spur a return trip. It can't be guaranteed, however, that every 2-footer will fall.

Information: (800) CALL-WVA

Web site: callwva.com

WINTERGREEN RESORT

Have you ever thought about playing golf and skiing on the same day? It is a possibility at Wintergreen, where a 3,000-foot difference in elevation between the mountain and valley sometimes results in temperatures that make ski and golf conditions ideal on the same day.

Wintergreen, located in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, is a bona fide four-season resort. With property that spreads from mountaintop to valley, guests can have two distinct golf experiences: Devils Knob, the highest course in Virginia, and the nationally-ranked Stoney Creek course. Stoney Creek now features 27 holes designed by Rees Jones, who praised the Wintergreen landscape for its great natural beauty. If you are interested in lessons for golf, or tennis, skiing or horseback riding, professional instructors are available at Wintergreen.

In addition to golf and skiing, tennis and horses, outdoor activities seem unlimited. A partial list includes pony rides for children, lake sports, fishing, biking, horseshoes, volleyball, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing and rappelling, and a ropes course.

For the culturally inclined, Evans Center for the Performing Arts, a 450-seat acoustical shell at Wintergreen, provides a perfect setting for a variety of musical programs during the spring, summer and fall.

Parents appreciate resorts that focus on children. Family Circle and Better Homes and Gardens magazines selected Wintergreen as one of the top family resorts in the country, in large part due to Treehouse, their nationally recognized children's program.

And yes, there is a spa, with fitness equipment, aerobics classes, pools, hot tubs and any number of spa treatments. At the end of the day, guests stay in well-maintained, privately owned condominiums and single-family homes that range in size from studios to seven bedroom homes that perfect for families or to share with friends. ♦

Information: (800) 266-2444

Web site: wintergreenresort.com