

Area offers unlimited lodging choices

The Grand Traverse area, with its beautiful bays, close proximity to Lake Michigan, and encompassing an abundance of rivers, forests, and inland lakes, offers unlimited possibilities for recreational activities to visiting families.

A random survey of area lodging finds a variety of amenities aimed at appealing to the entire family; from toddlers to teens and parents.

The Homestead Resort, surrounded by Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore and situated on Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Crystal River has by its very location the perfect opportunity to entertain the recreational interests of the whole family. With two heated pools, sandy beach, playground, tennis courts, sailboats, canoes, paddle boats, wind-surf boards, and new sea kayaks, there's plenty to do for everyone. Recreation director Pete Edwards said the resort runs a children's program June through Labor Day with two levels, a toddler activity time, and pre-teen adventures. He credits activities director Bob Jutherland with talents as resident storyteller, poet and funny man.

"The kids really love him," said Edwards.

The resort has an extensive tennis program for all ages, headed by tennis pro Billy Rex Johnson.

Three nights a week are devoted to pre-teens or teens with pizza and movies for the two groups.

Babysitting services are available and parents might use their free time nearby at the resort's retail shops, or go fishing aboard the Dancing Bear charter boat



Record-Eagle file photo

Wading is a popular — and inexpensive — pastime.

which docks at the resort.

The Grand Traverse Resort Village, with two golf courses including the Jack Nicklaus course, The Bear; an indoor sports complex featuring tennis, racquetball

courts, exercise and weight rooms, saunas, and indoor and outdoor pools and whirlpools, is the largest resort in the region.

Families are given special consideration with such activities as family bingo night every Saturday.

Babysitting services are available at all times and the resort's requirements for sitters include a minimum age of 16, references and screening by a supervisor. Sitters are further evaluated by the guests.

Live entertainment, nine restaurants and lounges, and a new gallery of retail shops can all be found at the resort.

Other area resorts such as Sugar Loaf in Leelanau County and Shanty Creek-Schuss Mountain in Antrim, noted for their excellent skiing in the winter, offer tennis, golf, swimming and other family pastimes for the spring and summer months.

Ranch Rudolf, located in the Spider Lakes area south of Traverse City, and surrounded by state forest land, is a "sort of dude ranch," according to its spokespeople. With bunkhouse, motel units, and camping available, a family can have its choice of lodging. Families take advantage of the ranch's horseriding, canoeing, and innertubing on the Boardman River; swimming in the outdoor pool, or fishing in the trout pond. Tennis and volleyball courts are also on the premises. Until Memorial Day, horseback riding and canoeing are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. The third week in May the ranch is the site of the Onion Run, a 4-wheel drive, all-terrain trail drive. The restaurant and bar is the site for live entertainment on weekends.

Camping is the choice for many vacationing families, and the area is full of state parks and private parks for campers.

Jellystone Park, located seven miles from Traverse City, is geared towards family camping with 221 sites for tents and campers.

What child wouldn't get a kick out of catching sight of Yogi Bear, and friends Boo-Boo and Cindy while out for a wagon ride around the woods? The bears will even climb in for a ride back to camp. At other times daily, the three ride about the grounds getting their pictures taken with the kids.

Two full-time recreation directors organize daily activities for all age groups, including dances, movies, bingo and other games. A heated pool and playground facilities are also available.

Hotels and motels along the West and East Bays offer sandy beaches for sunbathing and sand play, swimming pools and playgrounds, and most lodgings not directly on the water have swimming pools or are close to public beaches and parks. For example, the new Knight's Inn is right across the street from a one-block square city park and playground. The new Hampton Inn is across from the state park beach on East Bay, and the Day's Inn and Shadowland Motel are neighbors to the Civic Center with its running track, indoor pool, playground and fields.

It's clear that families will have no trouble finding lodging that suits their needs and interests when planning a stay in the Grand Traverse Area.

VALUABLE COUPON

Wind Fun

SAILBOARDS AND SKURFERS

- Sales • Lessons
- Rentals

Bring This Ad . . .
Save 1/2 Price on Your Rental!

For Information Phone
616-946-3109

BUILDINGS

Affordable Shrink Film

- Greenhouses, Utility Buildings, Spa Enclosures, Etc.
- Colors: White, Blue or Clear
- Custom Sizes, Treated Wood Bases, **WARRANTED**

For More Information call 946-5147

PROTECT-A-BOAT

OF TRAVERSE CITY
10309 Cherry Bend Rd.
Traverse City, MI

Fashion is for boys, too — and the best boy's fashions are at

Old Town Kid Stuff

through sizes 14 for dress up occasions or fun in the sun

OLD TOWN KID STUFF

941-0410
418 SOUTH UNION, OLD TOWN, TRAVERSE CITY
OPEN MON., TUES. & WED. 10:00-6:00
THUR., & FRI. 10:00-9:00; SAT. 10:00-5:30