

Dream Vacations Include Ski Tours

There's snow in Delta Air Lines' winter packages this year. It's skiers' snow of breath-taking mountain slopes, and the packages are Delta's expanded dream vacations to "total experience" ski lodges in New England, Canada, Colorado or California.

Travel agents have colorfully illustrated brochures with details and rates. Delta provides special containers to protect skis, in flight.

Skiers can travel with skis, poles and boots, in addition to two checked bags and carry-on, at no extra charge. Rental cars, which can be arranged at the same time as the vacation package, all have snow tires and ski racks.

The following are representative of the ski tours in all four areas, with rates per person based on double occupancy. Add air fare to get to local cost.

amusements

•New England—"Ski Big Squaw Mountain," six days, five nights, from \$69 MAP at Big Squaw Mountain Lodge, ideal for couples or for families and groups. "Big Squaw" rises 3,200 feet above Moosehead Lake in Maine. There's a double-chair lift to the top, plus two T-bars for the lower slopes. Package price includes transfers from Bangor airport, daily lift tickets, and daily group ski lessons of two hours each, plus ice skating, indoor pool and sauna.

•Canada—"Ski Mont Sutton," six nights, from \$169 MAP, in the province of Quebec, with ski privileges at Mont Sutton interchangeably

with four other Canadian ski areas within 30 miles. The Mont Sutton package includes transfers from Montreal Airport and five daily lift tickets.

•Colorado—"Ski Aspen," six days, seven nights, from \$110 EP high in the Rockies. Lifts soar to over 11,000 feet, peaks to over 14,000 feet. You choose from 88 lodges and four slopes, with transportation from lodge to slopes included in package price. Transportation to Colorado is via Delta to Dallas, Chicago, or Kansas City, for connections to Denver, then to Aspen.

•California—"Ski Tahoe," eight days, seven nights, for \$159 EP, including two nights at the Westbury Hotel in San Francisco and motorcoach transfer to Lake Tahoe for five nights at the Sahara Tahoe Hotel and Casino. Package price includes daily transfers to any of four ski areas, arrival cocktail and meal, a starter stake of \$6 in the casino, and a Virginia City and Lake Tahoe Rim sightseeing tour.

Dogsledding Sweeps Midwest

Jack London, America's turn-of-the-century author who placed such importance on man's battle with nature and the "survival of the fittest," doubtless would have been pleased with the rebirth of dogsledding that has swept the upper midwest in general, and Michigan in particular.

Maybe it's the lure of the "good ole days." Or simply the challenge of pitting man against nature, using only his skills and those of animals he has trained.

Whatever the answer, the woods and trails of northern Michigan will be ringing with the cries of "gee" and "haw" this winter as never before.

And energy crisis or not, the residents of Traverse City will be praying for a white Christmas, because on Dec. 28-30 the eyes of the dogsledding world will be focused there for a two-day, 60-mile cross-country race.

Teams will race 30 miles from Traverse City to Kalkaska on the 28th, and the other 30 miles from Kalkaska to Grayling on the 30th. The trail follows various cross-country trails to the Michigan Hiking and Riding Trail into Kalkaska, and then through to Grayling. In its entirety, this trail begins at either Empire or Alberta and ends at Tawas City.

According to Randy DeKulper, of Fremont, first vice president of the Great Lakes Sled Dog Assn., the idea of a cross-country race had been discussed a few years ago,

but there wasn't enough interest to make it work.

Dogsledding enthusiasts suggested it again this year, especially after the 1,000-mile race from Fairbanks to Nome, Alaska. They liked the idea of running a similar race in Michigan, and decided to take the plunge.

The original concept, said DeKulper, was to run the race from west to east across the state, using the Michigan Hiking and Riding Trail. However, some of the GLSDA members reconsidered and compromised on a two-day, 60-mile race which they felt was more realistic for a first time event.

This is still a pretty ambitious undertaking, said DeKulper because 30-mile races aren't normally run in Michigan. Even Canadian races usually average 10-20 miles. In the Fairbanks to Nome contest, the top teams averaged about 50 miles a day at the most, but they had trained for several months prior to the race.

The Traverse City to Grayling race will begin about 9 a.m. on Dec. 28, possibly starting in downtown Traverse City. The race will be based on time. The teams will start at two-minute intervals and will be clocked from the time of takeoff until they reach Kalkaska, and again on the second day from Kalkaska to Grayling. DeKulper said trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams, and patches to all participants.

The event is aimed at building interest in dogsledding, but in addition, the GLSDA is laying the groundwork for a seven-day, cross-state race from Lake Mich-

igan to Lake Huron planned for next season, said DeKulper.

Tom Nixon, a dogsledding fan from Coopersville, said the real key to successful dogsledding is a good lead dog. He said most dogs can learn the "gee" (right) and "haw" (left) commands in four to five weeks, but it takes two to three seasons to develop a really good, dependable lead animal.

He feels that females often make the best lead dogs because they're less independent than males and their romantic inclinations seem to be more subdued.

He also pointed out that there is considerable physical and mental pressure on the lead dogs, because the animal is responsible for directing the entire team, and mental because he must concentrate intensely on the voice signals which are the only means of guiding the sled.

For hobby dogsledding, Siberian huskies are commonly used. For the professional level, Alaskan malamutes and Siberian huskies are bred to produce the popular Alaskan huskies.

One can enter hobby dogsledding for about \$300 including two dogs, sled and necessary gear. Professionals may pay \$1,000 - \$1,500 for a lead dog, and invest a total of \$3,000 - \$4,000 for an eight-dog team, excluding expenses for food, transportation and upkeep.

The running weight for most dogs is 45-55 pounds. Nixon said dogs can start competing at 12-15 months, and if they're reared for properly can continue to compete for eight to nine years.

Mercy Gets In Spirit

The holiday spirit is overwhelming Phil Marcus Esser Professional Music Theater members and special evenings are planned for the Dinner Theater presented by Mercy College of Detroit.

"Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris" is the musical review of 25 Brel songs which range in mood from cynical irony to delight and laughter to compassion.

New Year's Eve will be celebrated with the gourmet dinner at 8 p.m., the show at 9:30 p.m., followed by dancing to live music, and continuous entertainment by the versatile cast and "drop-in" professional entertainers for the rest of the night.

Dinner and the show for groups of eight or more will be presented Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 20-23.

The regular schedule is dinner at 7:15 p.m., theater at 8:30 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays; 6:15 p.m. dinner and 7:30 p.m. theater, Sunday evenings.

Contact Mercy College, 8200 W. Outer Drive, for reservations.

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Bethlehem Star Will Be Explored
It was so bright the three wise men followed it to Bethlehem. Exactly what the "Star of Bethlehem" was isn't known, but there are several possibilities.
Those possibilities will be shown this month in the Cranbrook Institute of Science planetarium, 500 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills.
"The Star of Bethlehem," or an explanation of what the star that appeared at the birth of Christ might have been, will be projected on the planetarium's domed ceiling throughout December in special Christmas week demonstrations, as well as during the regular demonstrations.
Special additional Christmas week demonstrations will be given Dec. 26, 27, 28 and 31 at 2 and 3 p.m.
Regular demonstrations will continue to be given at 4 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays, and 2, 3 and 4 p.m. weekends. All planetarium demonstrations are free with museum admission.

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An Old Fashioned Christmas

CRAFTS AT CHRISTMAS
in the Museum
See candle and doll makers, potters and glass blowers, the wreath maker and seamstress, and many others, along the Museum's Street of Shops. Relax over lunch in the Garden Room.

Sleigh Rides
Ride a sleigh from Entrance to Town Hall—40 cents. Full Village Sleigh Tours—\$1.75. Carriages if no snow.

Toys and Dolls Miniature Circus
Special exhibit includes displays of miniature nineteenth century toys and dolls, along with a circus of gaily painted animals and acrobats.

CAROLERS at Martha-Mary Chapel
... and through the Village streets each afternoon add the sounds of Christmas to the sights of an earlier holiday period. And in the Museum, scheduled performances of Christmas music played on antique instruments.

ON STAGE!
JACK and the BEANSTALK
The Greenfield Village Players present this two-hour childhood classic, with four lavish settings and astonishing magical effects, in the Museum Theater, beginning Dec. 15. Adults—\$2.25; Children—\$1.25.

Christmas Gifts
Fine books, toys, glass and pewter reproductions, and handcrafted articles on sale in the Museum Theater & Souvenir Shops and General Store.

DECORATED HOMES
Village visitors may go in many of the homes and see how their original occupants would have decorated them in an earlier century.

Christmas Season Hours: Weekdays 9-5
Weekends 9-5:30. Closed on Christmas and New Year's Days. Admission: Adults—\$2.25; Children 6 through 14—\$1.00.

Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum
in Dearborn, Mich.