

FEBRUARY 2013

sierra

HERITAGE

Top 10 **X/C Trails**

High Country *Getaways*

Winter in the **National Parks**



Cedar House Sport Hotel, Truckee

SIX HIGH COUNTRY WINTER GETAWAYS

1 The Cedar House Sport Hotel, Truckee
BY NICOLE CHESLOCK

Patty and Jeff Baird set out to create an oasis, a place in the Sierra Nevada where guests can truly unwind and explore the beauties of the outdoors.

“Our guest experience is inspired by the amazing ski trips we took to the Alps. The front desk clerk, who also happened to be the son of the owners, took us skiing and then we’d see him or another family member serving dinner,” explains Jeff, who is often his guests’ guide of choice for interesting hikes

such as the Mount Judah loop or the more strenuous trek on the Pacific Crest Trail from Sugar Bowl to Squaw Valley.

In 2006, inspired by their European adventures where family owned and run inns offered the best in hospitality and dining, the Bairds built The Cedar House Sport Hotel, a 40-room boutique property in Truckee, CA. The exterior cedar siding comes from a re-forestation project in Camptonville, just 70 miles east of Truckee. All of the hotel’s core materials are reclaimed or recycled. The rooms, an eclectic mix of contemporary design, functionality and an organic edge

for comfort, feature European bedding with luxurious linens, individual down comforters and combed Egyptian cotton robes.

After completing The Cedar House, the Bairds added an on-site high tech event center and the Stella restaurant. And in May 2010 the Bairds fulfilled their vision as a year-round launching pad to outdoor adventures with the purchase of Tahoe Trips & Trails (TTT), an established adventure guiding company. Today TTT offers an alternative to ordinary vacations. The TTT experience is about the authentic thrills that come from experiencing natural places with someone who has spent

years hiking, skiing, paddling, and exploring the terrain. Even local residents seek out TTT.

Today the “sport” in The Cedar House is unmistakable. Hiking poles and backpacks hang alongside lush cotton robes, custom adventure and group trips are available through the hotel’s adventure concierges and the unsurpassed owner-operator experience offers excursions like no other. The most common question is no longer, “What is the sport in The Cedar House Sport Hotel?” but rather, “When can we hit the trail?”

TTT Adventures

As an active lifestyle hotel with an environmental consciousness, The Cedar House is just as dedicated to inspiring meaningful connections to the natural world as it is to offering unsurpassed accommodations and dining.

“Trailside picnic lunches, gourmet dinners and attention to every detail with ample downtime to fit your style, makes Tahoe Trips & Trails the ideal choice for adventurers seeking a milestone experience and exquisite getaways,” shares Patty. “We accommodate a variety of athletic abilities from those who enjoy a leisurely pace to the weekend warrior.”

New this Winter

Tahoe Trips & Trails holds permits to guide hikes on the most beautiful trails throughout the West. Whether you are treating yourself or those you love this holiday season, the ultimate experience for the most relaxed and the most discerning couples, families and solo travelers can be achieved with a guide.

“Our guests prefer one of two options, booking a group trip or customizing their adventure. New for 2013, we are offering the Tahoe Experience, a tailored adventure for four or more people that is only limited by the duration of your visit, your imagination and the overall fitness level of the guests. When you book an adventure with us, everything is included,” promises Patty. “We pair you with knowledgeable and experienced guides, provide transportation to and from the trailhead, offer fulfilling lunches and snacks,

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Vinson Smith, from Atlanta, sets up for a unique shot of Lake Tahoe during a recent Tahoe Trips & Trails hike (right) Mr. Smith's photo image photos courtesy of Xola.com

Discover the wonders

Lake Tahoe Photography & Hiking

Do you ever try to capture the magnificence of a Sierra landscape as the sun sets or rises but know you're missing something?

Have you taken a picture of snowmelt cascading down a granite wall only to wind up with a generic looking postcard image?

Do you wonder how to take interesting photos, the kind that transport viewers to the edge of an Alpine lake or to a trail lined with bright yellow Aspen leaves against a backdrop of pine trees?

Intrigued ?

If yes, TTT's three-day Lake Tahoe Photography & Hiking excursion with fine art photographer Niobe Burden offers an extraordinary experience with on-the-trail training, daily hikes, evening critiques and practical tips that go beyond nature's classroom.

Geotourism, travel that enhances the character of a place and the well-being of its residents, is more than a catchphrase. It's the essence of TTT. Burden helps participants capture the Sierra by guiding them in identifying a compelling leading line and experimenting with one-of-a-kind compositions. For example, guests stretch their imagination and practice lessons gleaned from the previous day's hike as they take in expansive views of Emerald Bay. Burden explains that by getting the off-stop higher and shutter speed low, it's possible to catch the flow of water in the nearby waterfall. Guests try different positions, sitting, standing and kneeling to capture the incredible contrast between the granite boulders and the Sierra's azure gem below. They capture the

shore just over the edge of the lake, zooming into nearby colors.

"There is a lot of variety in Lake Tahoe. Everything from historical to hiking part of the Pacific Crest Trail, one of the most incredible trails in the country," shares Burden before listing off more gems. "...from woods to granite boulders plus colorful wildflowers at upper elevations...You get woods, blue green waters, granite...an amphitheater of rock surrounded by these incredible peaks."

Next, a behind-the-scenes tour illuminates the history of Vikingsholm, a summer home built for Mrs. Lora Josephine Knight in 1929 that is considered Tahoe's hidden castle. The visit transports TTT's guests to a quieter, less harried time. Like all of TTT's adventures the emphasis is on a positive, unparalleled guest experience. While each trip promises incredible scenery, instruction and exquisite lodging and dining at The Cedar House, each trip is also shaped by participants' interests.

"The more closely you look at something the more you discover what is interesting. We concentrate on how you can simplify what you are seeing and find something interesting," explains Burden. "Participants walk away capturing more feeling and skills to make images more artsy."

SH

For complete details on Tahoe Trips & Trails' Lake Tahoe Photography & Hiking excursions, and a list of upcoming trips or to plan a custom Tahoe Experience for four or more, call 800.581.4453 or visit tahoetrips.com

exquisite dinners, permit and park fees."

Multi-sport adventures can be designed as 3G for three generations and include one sport or a combination of hiking, mountain biking, cycling, kayaking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting and a treetop adventure center. Available from Sunday through Wednesday from June 15 to Sept. 30, the multi-sport adventures include three nights at The Cedar House, breakfasts and lunches, as well as three days of guided activities including transportation.

Unwind and dine at The Cedar House after getting your lungs and legs in shape for the adventure of a lifetime, the 165-mile long Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT). New for 2013, TTT is offering a TRT package complete with winter training opportunities and summer segment hikes on the trail in collaboration with the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA). The training program is designed to build excitement and endurance to tackle segments of the Tahoe Rim Trail in summer 2013.

"Tahoe Trips & Trails was the first time I've ever tried a guided group vacation. I'll be doing one every year from now on," shares Steve Larson from Wheat Ridge, Colorado after experiencing a guided adventure with TTT.

The sun is shining. Snow covers the ski trails. Adventures await. Treat yourself to something priceless, time to reflect, revive and re-align to life's greatest pleasures, exceptional people, incomparable meals and life-changing adventures.

Winter offerings

- Half and full day snowshoe hikes
- Nordic skiing adventure
- Alpine skiing with North American Ski Training Center (NASTC). Ski with the top instructors in the United States and enjoy tech talks, dinner and lodging at The Cedar House. SH

→ Map reference, page 3: F- 6

Story courtesy of Nicole Cheslock, NC Communications, nicolecheslock.com

The Cedar House is located on Brockway Road in Truckee. Travel & Leisure Magazine named The Cedar House one of "The World's Greatest Hotels, Resorts and Spas" in 2011, and TripAdvisor.com awarded The Cedar House a Certificate of Excellence in 2012. For more information on the Cedar House Sport Hotel, call 866.582.5655 or visit: cedarhousesporthotel.com

2 The Chalet View Lodge and Spa Graeagle BY BOB CRUISER

At the crossroads of luxury and unspoiled wilderness near the town of Graeagle lies Chalet View Lodge, a one-of-a-kind boutique hotel and spa, where the Hickman family offers you an escape into the tranquility and magnificence of Northern California's Sierra.

Explore the area's hundreds of miles of spectacular trails on cross-country skis or by snowmobile, then return to the Lodge to unwind and enjoy a little serenity at the day

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