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DECEMBER 2004

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Skiing and Staying Around Cataloochee

Rent a log cabin near Maggie Valley, so you can spend plenty of time enjoying one of the state's popular ski areas.

A young girl, her face flushed from the chill and excitement of her first run, tugs on her father's parka. "Can we please go again, Daddy?" Her plea joins the gleeful shouts of other children (and even a few adults) in their pilgrimage to the bottom of the slopes. When you're planning an excursion this winter to the family-friendly Cataloochee Ski Area, grab a nearby cabin for a few nights to prolong your time on the slopes.

The Long and Winding Trails

For more than 40 years, Cataloochee's mile-high mountain has welcomed visitors from all over the Southeast. Its draw comes largely from the fact that the runs here cater to a wide variety of

skill levels. Cataloochee has 10 trails and slopes, from green circle (easiest) to black diamond (most difficult). Even if the heavens have been stingy, snowmaking machines still maintain all 10 slopes, including the popular Rock Island Run and Lower Omigosh.

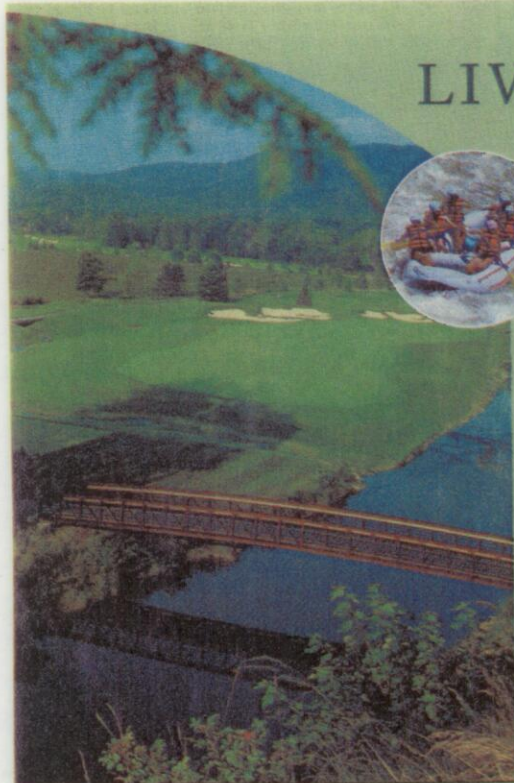
Cataloochee offers daily classes (\$18) and private lessons (\$45 for one hour) for first-timers or those looking to hone their techniques. If children are in tow, you may consider enrolling them in Catt Trackers (ages 4 to 7) or Catt Explorers (ages 8 to 12), half- to full-day programs that introduce youngsters to the slopes.

Speaking of kids, one of the special offers during this season is Cataloochee's Kids Ski and Stay Free Program



Cataloochee offers programs for kids, especially first-time skiers.

coordinated with some of the local hotels, motels, and lodges. Excluding holidays and Fridays and Saturdays, one child under 18 skis and stays free with each paying adult. Of the partici-



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LIVE THE legacy

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pating properties, we suggest Boyd Mountain Log Cabins, a tiny village of authentic log cabins nearby.

Cozy Cabins

"You don't have to climb to the top of a mountain to enjoy a little mountain seclusion," says Dan Boyd. Even though his property is only one-tenth of a mile from busy U.S. 276, you would never know it. Once here, you'll be convinced that you have escaped to a secret hamlet.

Six cabins, pieced together from century-old log dwellings in the surrounding counties, flank ponds that, this time of year, teem with rainbow trout. While the accommodations appear rustic, Dan's wife, Betsy, has taken care to comfortably furnish each cabin with antiques, Oriental rugs, and modern kitchens. And did we mention the fireplaces? How better to end a day of skiing than with your socked feet before an orange glow as the crackling logs send you to slumber.

Cataloochee Ski Area: 1080 Ski Lodge Road, Maggie Valley, NC 28751; 1-800-768-0285 or www.cataloochee.com. **Boyd Mountain Log Cabins:** 445 Boyd Farm Road, Waynesville, NC 28785; (828) 926-1575 or www.boydmountain.com. **Rates:** \$140-\$275. **Another lodging option:** Cataloochee Ranch, next door to the ski area, has a lodge and cabins on-site (they do not participate in the Kids Ski and Stay Free Program); 1-800-868-1401 or www.cataloochee-ranch.com. **Rates:** \$79-\$129, lodge; \$129-\$159, cabins. ♦



Each of the Boyd Mountain cabins was built from structures found in surrounding counties.

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Visit Charleston this winter and experience America's most beautifully preserved architectural and historic treasure. But that is only the beginning. Besides world-class shopping, dining and sun-drenched beaches, Charleston is home to the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, February 18-20. Come, be a part of the largest wildlife art show in the U.S., with over 350 artists and exhibitors, outdoor outfitters and guides.

For more information call or visit the web sites below.

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