

Media Backgrounder – Winter 2010

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Benzie County Winter Overnight Packages

Benzie County, Mich. (January 5, 2010) – In Benzie County you can find just the right place to stay overnight during the winter season where hotels, motels, inns, b&bs, and a top rated luxury resort are within minutes of beautiful natural areas to enjoy downhill skiing and snowboarding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and more.

The following are some of the wintertime lodging packages within the villages located in Benzie County:

Harbor Lights Resort Frankfort, Michigan

The Harbor Lights Resort located on the Lake Michigan shore in Frankfort offers a variety of room options from motel rooms and luxury whirlpool suites with fireplaces, to 3 bedroom condominiums.

They also have a year round indoor pool and hot tub. Their lakefront rooms offer fantastic views of Lake Michigan and the Point Betsie Lighthouse. Spectacular winter scenes can be enjoyed in the comfort and luxury of your room.

Harbor Lights Resort's winter rates are the lowest of the season and start at \$69 per night. Their package includes a "Stay 3 get one Free" special which is stay 3 nights in any room type and receive the 4th night free.

Call 800 – 346 – 9614 or see their website at www.harborlightsresort.net

**Betsie Bay Inn
Frankfort, Michigan**

Enjoy a two night stay in a Luxury Suite at the Betsie Bay Inn in downtown Frankfort, one block from Lake Michigan. Betsie Bay Inn is a historic Victorian inn with some rooms that feature a sauna and/or hot tub. Betsie Bay Inn is inspired by a Scottish theme and their restaurants include the Hotspur Pub, the Tantelle Dining Room, and ThistleBrae wine cellar.

The two night weekend package includes chocolate covered strawberries and a bottle of sparkling wine when you arrive, free appetizer to share with the purchase of dinner the first night, two free Garden Theater movie tickets with the purchase of dinner on the second night, and full breakfast in the dining room each morning. Luxury Suites feature a large room with King or Queen Bed, sauna and hot tub or Jacuzzi for two. Best Available, this offer is subject to availability.

Run Away from Home

Weekend Romance Package

Two Nights Stay (Friday & Saturday)

\$399 based on double occupancy

Call 231 – 352 – 8090 or visit www.betsiebayinn.com

**Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa
Thompsonville, Michigan**

Named the “#1 Resort in the Midwest” by Ski Magazine and named one of “Ten Best Winter Resorts for Families” by Parents Magazine, this top notch resort has 45 downhill slopes, plus terrain parks, a half-pipe, snow sports school and daily NASTAR racing.

Crystal Mountain also has a Destination Spa - *Crystal Spa* – awarded Favorite Hotel/Resort Spa: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic & Midwest by Spa Magazine and Top Ten Winter Sports Spa by SpaFinder. This \$5.5 million spa is the only LEED-certified spa in the Midwest and one of only six in the nation. *Crystal Spa* has numerous spa services, 12 treatment rooms, extensive fitness programming and a connection to the healthy cuisine from the Crystal Peak Performance menu served at the resort. Crystal Mountain has some of the finest resort lodging in the Midwest with over 260 hotel rooms, suites, condominiums, townhouses, and vacation homes available, including the new ski-in / ski-out three- and four-bedroom Bungalows at Crystal Glen. There are two upscale restaurants on the property, *The Thistle Pub and Grill*, a sophisticated restaurant within a relaxed lodge environment, and *The Wild Tomato*, which offers an Italian and Mexican menu within a festive setting.

A Sample of Crystal Mountain Resort's Winter Packages

Pure Michigan Family Ski Vacation

The Pure Michigan Family Ski Vacation is an all-inclusive way for the entire family to experience the ultimate in winter fun. The package includes nightly lodging, next day 9 – 9 lift ticket, Cross country trail pass, ice skating, hockey stick & puck, cross country ski & snowshoe rentals. There are fitness classes (18 years and older), with yoga and water aerobics (according to regular class schedule). Use of the Peak Indoor Pool and Fitness Center; indoor and outdoor hot tubs; family bonfires and rink side bonfires; Birds of Prey; Snow monsters story time; face painting; bingo; movie night; scavenger hunt; snowman search; board games; ski walking and spa discounts.

Weekends from \$299 per family, per night and midweek from \$219 per family, per night. (Based on two adults and two children in hotel accommodations. Taxes and service fee are additional.)

Mountain Romance Package

Enjoy 45 downhill ski runs and 40 kilometers of cross-country skiing, onsite dining, Crystal Spa, and a host of amenities at Crystal Mountain, and just relax in the Midwest's finest accommodations. Nightly lodging, one dinner for two with wine (or Margarita Samplers) and in-room sparkling wine with Tuxedo strawberries (8 white and dark chocolate dipped) per stay. Plus \$25 off of one spa treatment for each guest.

Package starts at \$198 per night.

(Rate is per couple, per night, based on double occupancy in hotel accommodations. Taxes and service fee are additional.)

Ski & Spa Package

Perfect for winter sports enthusiasts, the Ski and Spa Package includes two nights of lodging, a choice of one 50-minute spa treatment (per adult, per stay a \$110 value), admittance to fitness classes and motion studio, use of spa facilities on the day of the treatment (including luxurious locker rooms with infrared saunas and steam rooms, private meditation lounge, and outdoor meditation garden with hot tub), lift tickets valid upon arrival through departure, plus a complimentary cross-country trail pass. *Ski & Spa Package* starts at \$139 per person, per night.

(Rates are per adult, per night, based on a two-night stay double occupancy in hotel accommodations. Taxes and service fee are additional. Not valid with any other discounts, special offers or group rates. Rates are subject to change without notice.)

Midweek ski/room packages start at \$89 and Weekend ski/room packages start at \$129 per person. Many multiple night packages are also available.

More information online at www.crystallmountain.com or call 800-968-7686.

The Honor Motel Honor, Michigan

The classic “Mom and Pop” Honor Motel offers traditional motor lodge accommodations with a personal touch. There are 16 comfortable rooms with amenities like Cable TV, refrigerator and microwave, and in-room coffee within a small town country setting. The Honor Motel is within walking distance of quaint restaurants like Money’s Platte River Inn and Papa J’s Pizzeria and Diner, a 50’s style diner, for great breakfasts, lunches, or dinners. The Honor Motel is approximately 15 minutes from Sleeping Bear Dunes where cross-country ski trails and guided snowshoeing tours are available. They also offer snowmobiling from their door to the trails and have snowmobile trail maps on hand for guests and can help guests. Crystal Mountain is approximately 15 – 20 minutes from the Honor Motel for downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and rental of equipment.

*Winter Fun in Benzie County Package
Rent one pair of snowshoes and get second pair free
Snowshoe Rentals - \$10 all day (poles included)
Offer valid for Honor Motel guests only
(Based on availability, reservations required)*

Regular room prices range from \$49.50 to \$69.50
For package details call 231-325-3471 or see www.honormotel.com

Benzie County – Discover Northern Michigan Preserved, the home of Crystal Lake, Crystal Mountain Resort, port city of Frankfort, Point Betsie Lighthouse, and the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore and Park. Benzie County is a special place along Lake Michigan’s most pristine shoreline where people who love the outdoors and an active lifestyle can have it all: hiking, canoeing, kayaking, golfing, cross country and downhill skiing, fishing, boating, and more. Galleries, restaurants and lodging from casual to upscale are available. Learn more at www.visitbenzie.com.

For a complete lodging listing and more information about winter activities and locations in Benzie Country see www.visitbenzie.com.

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