

The Dallas Morning News

Travel

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Sunday, May 9, 2010

dallasnews.com



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5 places for Hill Country fun

By JUNE NAYLOR
Special Contributor

The Hill Country's list of appealing resorts has never been better. Other favorite destinations have plenty of new reasons to visit this year. Here's a quick look at the options.

Horseshoe Bay Resort

Families can book activity-packed vacations, with diversions such as swimming from white-sand beaches, banana-boat rides, tennis clinics, treasure hunts and hula-hoop contests, as well as golf on three courses. Also at this resort on Lake LBJ, a little less than an hour northwest of Austin, are a spa and fitness center, and a full-service marina. Lodging ranges from condos with one, two or three bedrooms, as well as traditional hotel rooms and suites at the on-site Marriott. Dine at the Yacht Club Grill, Lantana Grill & Bar, Cap Rock Grill & Bar or Slick Rock Grill & Bar.

Contact: 1-877-611-0112 or 830-598-2511; www.hsbresort.com. Rates start around \$180.



Horseshoe Bay Resort

Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa

Located on the outskirts of San Antonio, this is the place for floating on the 950-foot-long Ramblin' River and sending your daughter to the SPAhhHT Youth Spa for braids and nail art. Turn teens over to the Underground Teen Space for electronics and gaming. At the Windflower Hill Country Spa, adults can enjoy a Sunshine Glow Scrub, among other treatments. Fun and games abound, including an Iron Chef-style competition.

Contact: 210-647-1234; <http://hillcountry.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>. Rooms start around \$285.



Hyatt Hill Country Resort & Spa

Lake Austin Spa Resort

The refurbished Garden Library, sitting at one end of the organic gardens, and the freshened Lake Room, where lectures take place, are noteworthy enhancements with English country-house appeal. New spa treatments include a CoffeeBerry Natureceuticals Anti-Aging Facial and the Advanced AHA Anti-Aging Body Treatment.

Contact: 1-800-847-5637; www.lakeaustin.com. Rates start around \$1,555 for a three-night stay.



Lake Austin Spa Resort



Terry Vine Photography

Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa

A short drive east of Austin, this retreat keeps you busy with golf, spa treatments, zip-lining, wall-climbing, rafting and kayaking on the Colorado River, hiking, biking, horseback riding, stargazing and roasting s'mores, as well as lounging by the pools and playing in the water park. Four days each week, you can meet the resort's new mascots, Texas longhorns named T-Bone and Rib Eye, and a pair of Percheron draft horses named Julius and Caesar, the latter pulling guests around the resort in a big red wagon.

Contact: 512-308-1234; <http://lostpines.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>. Rates start around \$300.