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## **A YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION WITH COMPELLING NEARBY ACTIVITIES**

For some guests, a stay at The Pines Resort and Conference Center means trading the flurry of everyday life for the tranquility of a mountain hideaway. However, those seeking a more active escape, can enjoy an assortment of recreational and cultural options available all year long.

The Pines Resort sits on the shores of Bass Lake, a popular outdoor playground rich with fishing, water skiing, patio boating and canoe outings. Just beyond the lake, travelers hike along waterfalls, explore art galleries, travel by steam train and marvel at bald eagles crossing the Sierra skyline. The Pines is also a convenient base from which to discover the majesty of Yosemite National Park, only 17 miles away.

### **Enticing Outdoor Adventure**

With hiking, mountaineering, wildlife watching and rafting in the summer, plus skiing, ice skating and snow shoeing in the winter, Yosemite National Park is a must-see natural wonder. Guests of The Pines appreciate easy access to Yosemite's south entrance, Wawona and Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Guests traveling to the popular Yosemite Valley, with its numerous famed granite peaks, meadows and waterfalls, are encouraged to park their cars in a day-use area and see Yosemite by foot, bike, guided tour and free shuttle bus transport.

Tucked between Yosemite and The Pines Resort, the family-owned Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad takes guests on a narrow-gauge adventure through local logging history. The Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company flourished here between 1899 and 1931, harvesting nearly one and a half billion board feet of lumber. Today, daily steam engine tours and moonlight trips traverse the pine and fir forests between March and October. Charters, special events, and sit-down dinners are hosted on the grounds throughout the year.

Closer to The Pines, adventure travelers explore the scenic Sierra foothills by mountain bike, on horseback or in historic Model T Fords. Guided fly fishing, whitewater rafting and hiking tours set off during the summer, when day hikers and backpackers also head to the Lewis Creek and Goat Mountain Trails, among others. Snowmobile and dog sled tours are popular each winter. The Pines Resort and Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau in Oakhurst can provide details on rentals, trails and tour options.

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Showcasing local landscapes without the adrenaline rush, the Sierra Vista National Scenic Byway crosses giant sequoia groves, alpine lakes and meadows, rock formations and wildflower fields on its 100-mile trek into the Sierra National Forest. Three picturesque golf courses are also within a short drive of The Pines Resort.

### **Food, Wine and Culture**

One of Bass Lake's most beloved traditions are outdoor concerts held in summer months on The Pines Resort's lakefront deck. As the setting sun throws shadows over the Sierras, locals and visiting guests dance to live jazz, blues and classic rock while sampling a menu of mixed grill items, sides, specialty cocktails and frosty drinks. Those looking for live stage entertainment enjoy the Golden Chain Theatre in Oakhurst (just eight miles from Bass Lake), which presents melodramas, comedies, mysteries and dance performances throughout the year.

Art enthusiasts also head to Oakhurst to visit galleries featuring nature-inspired paintings and sculptures. Many local artists also invite guests to watch the creative process during the Sierra Art Trails Open Studio Tour held each October. Artisans present an array of handcrafted goods and antiques during annual festivals, such as Oakhurst's Summerfest Music and Crafts Fair and the Coarsegold Peddlers Fairs.

Local Native American traditions come alive during the Precious Sunset Indian Pow Wow, held each September in Bass Lake. For a more in-depth peek at area cultures, North Fork's Sierra Mono Museum includes ceremonial items, weapons, tools and beadwork among its exhibits. Fresno Flats Historical Park in Oakhurst showcases 19th century California life with scheduled and self-guided tours of restored homes and farm buildings, while the King Vintage Clothing Museum boasts outfits and accessories dating back to the 1700s.

Another favorite stop for families is the Children's Museum of the Sierra, also in Oakhurst. Here, youngsters dream big while enjoying interactive exhibits like Artist's Corner, Good Cents Bank, The Dig and Pizza Restaurant. The Picayune School, a one-room schoolhouse at the Coarsegold Historic Museum, presents education from another era; also on site are a packed-adobe home, artifacts from a blacksmith and tool shop, gold-panning items and books on local history.

Madera County, known for its dramatic scenery and rich history, is establishing itself in the wine industry, as well. Influenced by the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the San Joaquin River and warm summer winds, vineyards in the Madera American Viticultural Area grow grapes suited to dry table wines, sweet dessert blends and ports.

Many of the small wineries along the Madera Wine Trail are family owned, and several share their wines in on-site tasting rooms. Annual events, such as the Wine and Chocolate Weekend (February), Spring Wine Trail Adventure (June) and Holiday Spirit Wine Trail Weekend (November), offer festive opportunities to sip, sample and savor local wines.

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