



It's always summer inside the Great Wolf Lodge.

Check In To More Than a Room

These properties offer surprising added amenities, from a water park to a movie theater. **BY JENNIFER MCKENZIE FRAZIER**

FOR WATER PARK FANS

The Hotel: Great Wolf Lodge Grapevine, Texas

The decor of this resort, with its pine beams and huge trees in the lobby, evokes a giant log cabin in the woods. But the lodge is only 7 miles from DFW Airport. The resort combines a rustic feel with modern amenities—an arcade, various food outlets including an ice-cream parlor, and Cub Club (a *National Geographic Kids*-sponsored workshop with art projects and games).

Bonus: Bear Track Landing, a huge indoor water park with 11 waterslides, 7 pools, and a 6-story-high funnel ride called Howlin' Tornado. Only guests are allowed, which means short (if any) lines to the rides.

Editors' Tip: Stick the kids in their pj's and get them in front of the lobby fireplace by 8 p.m. for story time with Wiley the Wolf.

Details: greatwolf.com/grapevine or 800-693-9653. Rates start at \$189 and include cost of water park. (Other locations include Williamsburg, Virginia, and Charlotte-Concord, North Carolina.)

FOR THE MOVIE BUFF

The Hotel: The Chase Park Plaza St. Louis, Missouri

This high-rise property is luxurious with fresh floral arrangements, a sweeping staircase, and elegant chandeliers. You'll never need to leave with all the offerings: a spa, a workout center that covers an entire floor, four restaurants, five bars, a



The Chase Park Plaza

flower shop, and a heated outdoor pool.

Bonus: A five-screen movie theater located in the hotel lobby shows recent hits and indie flicks.

Editors' Tip: Don't miss "Peanuts" Whalum singing Frank Sinatra classics at Chaser's Lounge across from the movie theater.

Details: chaseparkplaza.com or 314-633-3000. Rates start at \$159 on weekends.

FOR THE KIDS

The Hotel: Chattanooga Choo Choo
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Kids are crazy for this 100-year-old former train station that now houses a hotel and Model Railroad Museum. They love the trolley rides around the property and the singing waitstaff at the Station House restaurant.

Bonus: Sleep in a restored railroad car that's surprisingly roomy with a queen-size bed and a daybed. Though the rooms may feel dated, your kids will like them. Call in advance to reserve one, because they book up quickly.

Editors' Tip: Go to chattanoogaofun.com, and click on "Coupons." Under "Attractions," print a coupon for \$20 in "Choo Bucks." They are good for use in any restaurant or shop at the hotel.

Details: choochoo.com or 800-872-2529. Standard room rates start at \$139; train cars start at \$179.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE CHASE PARK PLAZA

FOR THE ART LOVER

The Hotel: Quartz Mountain Resort
Arts & Conference Center
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma

This small lodge sits in the picturesque Wichita Mountains 135 miles west of Oklahoma City. Rooms are comfortable, but by no means fancy (there's no room service, but there is free Wi-Fi available in the lobby). That's okay—your main activities are probably going to include hiking, golfing, and sitting by a fire pit.

Bonus: Home of the Oklahoma Arts Institute, the resort is actually a Southwestern arts gallery. All the pieces throughout the hotel were either created by students or donated by the institute. Find paintings of American Indian scenes and vintage black-and-white photographs.

Editors' Tip: Reserve a free tour of the caverns in the Wichita Mountains where you'll see ancient paintings created by the Kiowa tribe.

Details: quartzmountainresort.com or 877-999-5567. Rates start at \$124. *

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF QUARTZ MOUNTAIN RESORT



Art fills the Quartz Mountain Resort.