



The Green Concierge Travel Journal

Winter 2011

GREAT IDEAS

Green Skiing

Some of us are not snowbirds flying south to seek sun, sand and warm water. But we enjoy and thrive on being outdoors in winter playing with our friends and families. You have many places to choose from when considering a ski vacation and Green Concierge Travel would like to help you hone on the ones who have made climate change a priority for themselves and their guests.

The National Ski Area Association's [Sustainable Slopes program](#) covers a range of activities from energy use to green building to water conservation to transportation to and around resort communities. Resorts sign on to the Charter and then report the actions they take to reduce climate change – from switching light bulbs to buying Green Power. Proactive resorts and skiers can glean good ideas and send them on to their favorite resorts from the [Green Room](#).

The Ski Area Citizens Coalition serves as an accountability monitor for ski area environmental efforts. The coalition is composed of a variety of non-profit organizations and individuals. They provide a [ski area report card](#). The report card evaluates four areas of environmental concern: habitat protection, protecting watersheds, addressing Global Climate Change, and environmental practices and policies of the resort. The report card is updated annually through efforts of the members of the Coalition.



Use either the Sustainable Slopes program, the Ski Area Citizens Coalition scorecard or both to help plan your next ski trip or to push your favorite area into the next level of environmental activity. And of course, contact Green Concierge Travel for more ideas on Green Skiing!

Below are some examples of looking at environmental progress in areas.

Transportation Breckenridge, CO

Last winter, we visited Breckenridge CO. We chose to fly to Denver but we could have taken the train one or both ways. (See the Union of Concerned Scientists report for travel footprint comparisons, [Getting There Greener](#)) Shuttles run from the airport to most of the resorts reachable from the Denver airport. Hopefully, with enough guest requests shuttle service might be added for

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the California Zephyr which arrives in Downtown Denver once a day from the west and once a day from the east. You can get off the train at Frazer/Winter Park which offers a seasonal shuttle service or you might consider Glenwood Springs if you are heading to the Aspen/Snowmass resort area.

At the Denver Airport, the gathering point for the shuttles is well organized with a luggage cart for each shuttle (different destinations). There could be a few more seats for those waiting. We climbed aboard with a group heading towards the Breckenridge area. The shuttle made a few stops prior to reaching Breckenridge. Upon arriving in the town, the driver stopped to pick up the key for our condo which was up the hill near the base of Peak 8 (The ski area is composed of several base areas with numbered Peaks). After dropping others at accommodations closer to the town center, the van delivered us to our door.

From then on, until we left, we used the FREE RIDE bus system. The system was extremely easy to use with frequent service, color coding of different routes and friendly drivers. We set out for the supermarket to load up on groceries and beverages at the local shopping center, a task made easy by FREE RIDE.

FREE RIDE serves visitors and employees getting around the Breckenridge area. Remote parking lots are located away from the slopes reducing the traffic at the base of the resort. Breckenridge has also put in a gondola that runs from the downtown transportation center up to the Peak 7 and 8 base areas. A chairlift at the south end of the resort runs up to Peak 9/10. The Free Ride system links the base areas together and the town of Breckenridge making for seamless après ski activities wherever you come off the mountain.

The Summit Stage bus service takes you between resorts in Summit County. What a great service since your lift ticket for one resort will be honored at others in the area like Keystone and Arapahoe Basin. Take the time to explore beyond what Breckenridge has to offer.

Accommodations

Hotel Terra, Teton Village, Jackson Hole, WY

<http://www.hotelterrajacksonhole.com/>

Why not try a place like Hotel Terra? Located in the Teton Village, you can walk to the ski lifts and ski home when you are done for the day. Once you get to Jackson Hole, grab a shuttle and head to Teton Village and Hotel Terra.

The Silver LEED certified Hotel offsets 100% of their electric and natural gas power through the purchase of wind, solar and hydro power sources. The offset is the equivalent to removing 329 cars from the road annually and a positive investment in the clean, domestic energy movement. More than 90% of the interior spaces of the hotel have natural daylight and access to outdoor views. Energy efficient heating and cooling systems can be controlled at the individual room level. Bathroom products and the towels and robes use organic ingredients and threads. Hotel Terra also supports Fair Trade using Equal Exchange coffee and linens from Coyuchi.

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Hotel Terra provides a variety of room choices from 1 room studios with kitchen facilities to traditional one and two bed hotel rooms to three bedroom suites. The facility has its own spa (which uses organic products) on the roof.

For more ideas on green skiing or to book a ski trip, contact Green Concierge Travel at 608.204.2717 or toll free at 877.200.2844 or visit us at www.greenconciergetravel.com.

El Camino Real de los Tejas – from San Antonio, TX One of 19 National Historic Trails

While visiting San Antonio, you can take in a culturally rich portion of the National Historic



Trail – El Camino Real de los Tejas. Connecting a series of Spanish missions, forts and outposts between Mexico City and Los Adaes, the first capital of the province of Texas (located in present day Louisiana), the trail still exists in many ways.

The trail provides that palpable sense of history that is so often missing when one travels in the United States. Modern day roads serve as connectors but the historic missions, farms, posts, and irrigation systems can still be seen in the landscape. Parts of the trail are indeed

returned to “trail” that can be walked and in some segments experienced by bike and horseback.

El Camino Real or the royal road was an approximately 2,580 -mile long corridor constituted the only primary overland route from the Rio Grande to the Red River Valley in Louisiana during the Spanish Colonial Period from 1690 - 1821. Today the trail has been designated a National Historic Trail (2004) under the National Park Service, one of 19 historic trails. During its heyday, the preferred route varied with people and politics, weather and natural elements so

that four distinct forks to the trail have been recognized - El Camino Real de los Tejas, Lower Road, Old San Antonio Road, and Laredo Road.



San Antonio provides a perfect base to explore the five 18th century missions along the road. San José, Concepción, San Juan, Espada with its nearby aqueduct and the Alamo provide powerful touchstones for looking back in our history. But these missions are not just relics but continue to have relevance to residents of the area today. It can be seen in the fresh flowers, lighted candles, local residents that attend mass or get married within the walls of the mission.

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Mission San Jose, pictured here, has been restored to the point that one can get a sense of the mission community of old. It also has a visitors' center which uses story telling to engage you in your visit and provides a great orientation to visiting all the missions.

The Alamo is one of the United State's most popular historic destinations and embodies the battle for Texas. Located in the heart of San Antonio, it is hard to miss. Find the right history buff and you will find yourself once again in the desperate battle that took place 175 years ago in February (February 23rd – March 6th, 1836). So put San Antonio on your destination list for 2011. Visit the Alamo but also explore El Camino Real de los Tejas and the cultural sites along its trail. And remember as travelers, that it was the rich resource of travel diaries, chronicles, and records of Spanish explorers that enabled the recognition and naming of this royal road.

Friends and Resources:

National Park Service - <http://www.nps.gov/elte/index.htm>

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association - <http://www.elcaminorealde los tejas.org/>

For more information and ideas for planning your trip to San Antonio, contact Green Concierge Travel at info@greenconciergetravel.com or 1.877.200.2844. Or visit our web site at www.greenconciergetravel.com.

POSTCARDS

Note: In this section of the newsletter, we want to feature the little gems that you find in your travels. These inns, picnic spots, museums, galleries, hikes and restaurants enrich your travel and provide unique glimpses into the places that you travel. Please send an email to info@greenconciergetravel.com if you have an idea for POSTCARDS.

Claire's, Hardwick, VT (22 miles from Stowe Mountain Resort, 25 miles from Montpelier)

<http://www.clairevt.com/index.html>

A restaurant where its all about community.. Started as a community investment project, this restaurant exemplifies total commitment to supporting local products and the economy. The chef, Steven Obranovich, begins his day from his kitchen on Main Street talking with farmers. The dishes conceptualized from back yard and regional produce are influenced by spices, flavors and cooking styles from around the world. Ninety percent of food spending for Claire's ends up in the region which includes Vermont sunflower oil and other cooking oils from Maine and Quebec. Seafood comes from coastal neighbors and locally based companies. And spices, chocolate, coffee, and sugar are certified fair trade so that even purchases further a field support those communities and their local food producers.

Check out the [year of cooking "calendar"](#) on the web site. Wonderful pictures tell the story along with great descriptions of how each key ingredient came to Claire's, was prepared and ended up on your plate! These portraits provide a beautiful introduction for any visitor to Claire's ethos. The commitment is total – from kitchen and dining room to the bar. The owners have made it a priority to source local beers, wines and spirits adding bar embellishments of locally grown

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cocktail snacks including pickled ramps and cucumbers. But no matter where the beverages come from quality and the sustainability and community connection standards apply.

Launched by four partners in May 2008 based on a community supported investment and business model, Claire's Restaurant and Bar oozes community from its employees, to its meals and live music to its bar offerings. The investment is mutual between the restaurant and the community. Claire's is sure to remain a leader in pioneering the Community Supported Restaurant model. Clearly Claire's values farm to table, an emphasis on local and sustainable produce, artisan products, and responsible business practices that support communities. Oh and did I mention Claire's is a member of [Chefs Collaborative](#), a national chef network that's changing the sustainable food landscape using the power of connections, education and responsible buying decisions. Visit Claire's, 41 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 228, Hardwick, VT, 05843, 802-472-7053

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chicago's Open House for Architecture

<http://caf.architecture.org/page.aspx?pid=1153>

Put it on your calendar now! Chicago is organizing an architectural open house in six neighborhoods over the weekend of October 14th – 16th. Fun for all ages, locals and visitors alike, the event opens the door to some of Chicago's most important and interesting buildings in a range of neighborhoods. This year's theme – sustainability and community – is bound to showcase innovations in energy and green technology and how buildings and their functions can sustain and enhance a community. So whether you are a green building geek, an architecture buff or cultural enthusiast, there should be something for you!

Whether you are an architecture buff, history enthusiast, or cultural novice, OHC2011 is a unique event that's fun for all ages, locals and visitors, suburbanites and city dwellers. Participating in OHC2011 is like getting a "backstage pass" to a wide range of Chicago's most important and interesting buildings located in many different neighborhoods. Key themes for OHC2011 community and sustainability—how places help sustain communities and how buildings demonstrate a commitment to energy efficiency and green technology.

4th Whale Shark Festival in Isla Mujeres in Mexico July 15th – 17th 2011

<http://www.whalesharkfest.com/>

Celebrating the beauty and culture of Isla Mujeres, Mexico, and championing the need to preserve a fragile marine ecosystem, ecotourism travel agency Ceviche Tours and the Isla Mujeres Department of Tourism announced the Fourth Annual Whale Shark Festival. The Festival combines shark watching with a community extravaganza that showcases the achievements, the traditions and the beautiful environment of Isla Mujeres.

Green Concierge Travel on Facebook – Become a Fan!

Green Concierge Travel has joined [Facebook](#) and wants you to become a fan. On Facebook, Green Concierge Travel will post tips, resources, other ecotravel news and host discussions. The

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Green Concierge Travel Journal will continue to be sent out on a quarterly basis. We hope you will join us on Facebook and link your friends in as well!

GREEN TRAVEL RESOURCES

Tell Us Whether Airlines are Recycling!

Green America is trying to find out if the airlines are walking the walk or...just talking the talk when it comes to recycling. So, to hold airlines accountable and to push them to do better, over the next year, Green America asks air travelers to take notes on what is really being recycled. Ask a flight attendant or the counter staff if the items below are being recycled. Then report back on a form on Green on Green America's web site.

Recycled items: Aluminum cans, Plastic bottles, Plastic cups, Newspaper/magazines and note any other materials recycled.

Report form: http://www.greenamerica.org/takeaction/airline/airline_recycling.cfm

NOTE: Green America will use this consumer information in a follow up report on the industry.

IN THE NEWS...

11.10 – **Silent Sports** have always been popular in the Midwest. Winter silent sports include snow shoeing and cross country skiing while summer sports include bicycle riding and walking. Read the article in Madison Originals Magazine Nov 2010 – Jan 2011 Vol 24 pages 32 – 33.

EVENTS, GREEN LIVING FESTIVALS....

Green Festival

San Francisco, CA - Apr 9 & 10, 2011

<http://www.greenfestivals.org/>

EPIC Sustainable Living Expo

Vancouver, Canada – May 13th – 15th, 2011

<http://www.epicvancouver.com/>

Green Festival

Chicago, IL - May 14 & 15, 2011

<http://www.greenfestivals.org/>

Green Festival

Seattle, WA - May 21 & 22, 2011

<http://www.greenfestivals.org/>

OpenhouseChicago

Chicago, IL – Oct 14th – 16th, 2011

<http://caf.architecture.org/page.aspx?pid=1153>

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If you have an ecotravel destination or question you would like covered or if you have an ecotravel tip or a “postcard” you would like to pass on to other green travelers, please email Green Concierge Travel info@greenconciergetravel.com. These news blasts will be sent out quarterly but we can post some things on the web! www.greenconciergetravel.com

If you want to be added/removed from the Green Concierge Travel Journal email list, please send an email to info@greenconciergetravel.com and put “Add to Travel Journal” or “Remove from Travel Journal” in the header.

Thank you to all Green Concierge Travel’s clients!

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