

Cabin Fever

Experience the wilderness without roughing it

By Colleen D'Angelo

For someone who doesn't like to camp out – who gets itchy at the mere thought of spending the night in the woods without Egyptian cotton sheets – finding tolerable, winter getaway accommodations in the wilderness of Ohio seemed like “mission impossible.” But after much research and firsthand experience, I uncovered some unique, upscale – luxurious, even – properties that were per-

fect for those of us who want to experience nature without roughing it.

Hocking Hills

Hocking Hills, located about an hour southeast of Columbus, is renowned for its hills and beauty, as well as its state parks complete with rivers, gorges, waterfalls and caves. Winter can be an incredible time to hike these areas, especially after a snowfall or an ice storm, when icicles hang from the trees like crystals on a chandelier. Photography workshops are available to study the frozen waterfalls, and many people indulge in cross-country skiing, horseback riding and maple sugaring.

You can also visit antique malls, quilt and craft shops, glassware outlets and farmers markets. Of course, the low-key option is to pamper yourself with a beautiful cottage in the woods, a good book, a roaring fire and the one you love.

long ago. It has been such a special experience,” Georgia says. “There are miles of serene woodland trails with handy maps to help you explore the acreage. You won't hear any road noise, but you might see scores of deer, wild turkey and grouse.”

Each cottage has a gourmet kitchen with all amenities, including details like a food processor and Calphalon cookware. There is a stone fireplace in both the family room and master bedroom, along with deluxe pillow-top mattresses, ultra soft linens, pristine bathrooms and Aveda toiletries. The wide-planked wood floors, cathedral ceilings and picture windows enhance the dramatic views. You can enjoy your bubbling hot tub in its own private gazebo while listening to one of 100 satellite music choices.

Head to a local restaurant for dinner or stay in and grill out using the stainless steel barbecue grill, then check the football scores on the flat screen TV with 120 channels, put your feet up and indulge in a martini. The glasses are already there.

Black Ridge Cabin & Lodge

Logan, Ohio and Rockbridge, Ohio
Proprietor Mark Black
614-327-1946
www.blackridgecabins.com

Larger groups that want to enjoy a state-of-the-art cabin experience will enjoy Black Ridge Cabin or Lodge. The Lodge was completed in August 2007, and is 3,500 square feet, with four bedrooms and three full bathrooms. It's



Cherry Ridge Retreat, Logan, Ohio



Cherry Ridge Retreat

Logan, Ohio
Owner Greg Georgia
877-380-7771
www.cherryridgetreat.com

A quiet, romantic getaway in Hocking Hills with all the comforts of home (and more). There are five private cottages, plus a Lake House and Boat House, and the nearest country road is a mile away.

Greg Georgia has owned all 140 acres for 14 years, but built the first rental cabin only three years ago. “I wish I had done it



**Black Ridge Cabin & Lodge
Logan and Rockbridge, Ohio**



ideal for a family reunion or group of friends and can sleep up to 16. It has a 25-foot stone fireplace, a fully equipped kitchen and all of the high-end towels and linens.

After a hike on one of the many trails, stretch out in your private theatre room with a 106-inch screen, surround sound and theatre seating. There is also a pool table, poker table and a fully stocked game room for the kids.

The Cabin is 2,100 square feet and was built in 2006. It has a master bedroom, loft area, two full bathrooms and can sleep up to eight. It has two fireplaces, a complete kitchen, pool table and an LCD flat screen HDTV. Both Black Ridge properties have a hot tub, fire pit, gas grill and acres of land to explore.

Owner Mark Black originally built Black Ridge Cabin to enjoy with his family. "I've rented to so many wonderful people," he says. "My only complaint is that business is so good, I can't get any time there with my own kids."

**Glenlaurel - A Scottish Country Inn
Rockbridge, Ohio**

Innkeepers Greg and Kelley Leonard
1-800-809-7378
www.glenlaurel.com

If you are looking for luxurious accommodations with elegant food, visit Glenlaurel. Billed as a Scottish country inn with wooded cottages, it indeed looks like something out of a fairytale. Glenlaurel has 19 rooms, suites, cottages and crofts. Each cottage has its own decorative flavor with Scottish plaids. All have a kitchenette, fireplace and a hot tub on the deck overlooking the gorge or ravine. Some have king-sized sleigh beds and private gardens.

Awarded
"Most Romantic Hideaway"
by Arrington Publishing

"One of the top
B & B's of Northeast Ohio"
- Akron Beacon Journal

1-800-320-3338

Secluded cabins with Jacuzzi and fireplace
in the Heart of Amish Country.
A place you will return to again and again.

Donna's Premier Lodging
of Berlin, Ohio

CROWNE PLAZA®
COLUMBUS NORTH
THE PLACE TO MEET.

By combining
high-quality, with
professional,
passionate, "can do"
service providing
meeting planners &
business travelers
with the best meeting
experience, and a
better nights sleep.

- 300 guest rooms featuring Sleep AdvantageSM
- 19,800 square feet of flexible meeting space for 10-1000 people
- Complimentary high speed internet
- Complimentary airport transportation, and parking
- 7500 sq ft Grand Ballroom and our 4800 sq ft Grand Pavilion
- Indoor/Outdoor Pool, Whirlpool, fitness center

614-885-1885 Phone • 614-885-3813 Fax
6500 Doubletree Ave. • Columbus Ohio 43229
www.CrownePlaza.com/ColumbusNorth



Glenlaurel, Rockbridge, Ohio

Upon arrival, you will receive a note from the Leonards, welcoming you with chocolates and Glenlaurel Shortbread. Explore the private, 140-acre estate with its walking trails, rock cliffs, caverns and waterfalls.

Save room for dinner, as the dining experience is one of a kind. Celtic music sets the tone with a bagpiper playing on the hill. Join other guests in the Loch Ness Pub for "Happy Half Hour." For dinner, you're greeted by your host and treated to a verse from Scottish poet Robert Burns. Dinner is by candlelight, jacket requested.

A full gourmet breakfast is included, or a continental breakfast may be delivered to your door for \$5. Continue your blissful stay with a walk to the spa and wellness center.

Holmes County

Holmes County is located two hours northeast of Columbus and is the heart of the world's largest Amish population. A visit is a step back in time to home-style cooking and sleigh rides. Tour an Amish farm, learn how to make cheese, or shop for antiques and Amish furniture. Enjoy the slower pace and the beauty of Holmes County while surrounding yourself with luxury.

Donna's Premiere Lodging

Berlin, Ohio
 Owners Donna and Johannes Schlabach
 330-893-3068
www.donnasofberlin.com

Donna's Premiere Lodging is designed as a romantic hideaway for couples. Attention is paid to every detail, such as the sparkling apple cider, fruit basket and plate of homemade cookies at check in. Donna can also arrange for roses, chocolates, balloons or an in-room massage.

There are 23 units, including villas, cottages, aromatic cedar log cabins and

chalets. Kitchens have imported granite countertops and cedar cabinets. The chalets have cathedral ceilings with skylights and two fireplaces, a waterfall Jacuzzi and a pool table.

"Romancing the Stone" is a three-level cabin built around a large rock formation. Water cascades over the natural rock and runs through the lower level of the cabin. Directly across from the rock sits a heart-shaped Jacuzzi where you can enjoy the sights and sounds of nature.

Fergully Creek

Berlin, Ohio
 Owners Kathy and Paul Marner
 330-893-2424
www.fergullycreek.com

Kathy and Paul Marner have three deluxe cabins to choose from: Rosewood, Cicada's Song and Cherry Blossom. Each was built for two, but there is a sleeper sofa for extra guests. The gas log stone fireplaces soar 15 to 20 feet into the high, cathedral ceilings.

A complimentary gift basket sets the tone on arrival. Soak in a Jacuzzi, relax in one of Fergully Creek's fluffy robes, and check out the satellite TV. In March, a "Winter Barbecue Special," is held, with everything needed for a steak dinner for two. "Once people get here, they end up enjoying time away and staying inside the beautiful cabins," Kathy says.

The Inn at Honey Run

Millersburg, Ohio
 Owner Phillip T. Jenkins
 1-800-468-6639
www.innathoneyrun.com

Tucked away on 70 acres of woods and pasture is an award-win-

ning, contemporary inn with rooms at a main lodge, guest cottages and 12 earth-sheltered honeycombs. The Inn at Honey Run, known for being arts-centered, has a tradition of hosting educational symposiums, and fireside presentations are held on Sundays in the winter.

The spa and wellness center has private and group classes, offering massage therapy, facials and meditation.

The cabins feature two bedrooms, a studio kitchen, soaring wooden ceilings with a stone fireplace, and large windows to bring nature inside. The honeycombs are tucked into the hillside, each with a sandstone fireplace and private rock-curved patio overlooking the ridge.

The cuisine is memorable, starting with homemade hot Amish cereal, freshly baked bread and a full pot of coffee, delivered to your door for breakfast. Boxed lunches are elegant and dinners are "big city meals in the countryside," and may include parmesan-crusted organic chicken or Angus steak. ❖

Colleen D'Angelo is a contributing writer for Luxury Living Magazine.



Fergully Creek, Berlin, Ohio

