



Winter Wonderland

Snow brings out the best in Greer

GREER IS KNOWN AS the town at the end of the road. While it does sit at the end of State Highway 373 in Arizona's White Mountains, Greer has always felt more like the treasure at the end of the rainbow to me.

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest surrounds Greer, providing access to 2 million acres of public playground. At an elevation of 8,500 feet, Greer is the perfect year-round escape from the low desert.

Summers are ideal for hiking,

backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, or simply relaxing in the cool mountain air. The winters, however, are magical. The tiny hamlet transforms into a wonderland of snowy drifts amid the towering ponderosa pines. The air fills with the smell of fireplaces and the night sky opens up, showing the brush stroke of the Milky Way.

Winter offers a chance for sledding, sleigh rides, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and skiing at nearby Sunrise Ski Resort. Each November and December, Greer is also host to the North Pole Experi-

ence, where families have a chance to visit Santa's workshop and spend an unforgettable night with Santa and his elves.

You'll find many lodging options in Greer. The famed Molly Butler Lodge offers a variety of cabins, from simple one-room retreats to lavish abodes ideal for several families. Greer Lodge Resort & Cabins offers lodging in a relaxed resort environment.

About 10 miles north of Greer, Hidden Meadow Ranch offers a luxury escape you can design to fit your idea of the perfect way to relax. You can enjoy gourmet meals, relax in your luxurious cabin, or spend the entire day enjoying on-site activities. Winter fun includes sleigh rides, trail rides, sledding, ice-fishing, and the chance to take a back-country excursion on the ranch's SnowCat.

Just about five hours' drive from Phoenix, Greer is an ideal weekend escape. You'll find yourself transported to a simpler life, where the air is clear, the city feels light years away, and the stars in the sky seem to go on forever.

SUSAN LANIER-GRAHAM is a freelance writer based in Arizona.

After the Wallow Fire

Greer escaped largely unharmed from a dangerous forest fire last summer. The worst fire in Arizona history, the Wallow Fire, raged just outside town, burning nearly 540,000 acres of forest.

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