



## DRIVE-TO DESTINATIONS

# MOUNTAIN MEETINGS

Now, more than ever, people are looking for an “escape” that’s also close to home. Drive-to destinations offer the ideal solution and there are plenty of options in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern U.S.

Mountain settings provide some of the most scenic, serene and enticing drive-to experiences available, and the region offers plenty of variety – from the Pocono Mountains to the Catskills to the Adirondacks to the Blue Ridge, there are outstanding opportunities available in numerous locations.

Each of the following mountain destinations provides planners with a number of unique offerings and opportunities for group outings and adventures.

Bonfire Reception at Camelback  
Resort in the Pocono Mountains  
photo courtesy of Camelback Resort



## THE POCONOS, PA

Just two hours from New York City and within a three- to five-hour drive of other major cities like Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and Washington, DC, the Pocono Mountains offers four seasons of fun and a tremendous variety of diversions that include luxurious resorts, fun things to do, outdoor adventures, bed and breakfasts and more.

The four-county region is famous for its natural scenic beauty and wide range of outdoor opportunities for recreation, including: state and national parks, lakes, rivers, streams, hiking and biking trails, plus quaint, historic towns. The varied landscape inspires a range of experiences, from private and peaceful to bold and exhilarating. Cottages and condos and hotels promote restful mountain moments, while waterparks and adventure courses offer excitement at every turn.

"All of our member properties are working closely with us and together, and we are all adhering to the guidelines set forth by the CDC and governor's office," explains Brian Bossuyt, executive vice president and CMO for the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. "We encourage all to continue to observe physical distancing, practice good hygiene, and to wear a mask."

In addition, The Pocono Promise is a combined effort of more than 250 member businesses that demonstrates the community's commitment to protecting the health, safety and well-being of residents, employees and visitors by following all federal, state and local public health guidelines - a continued promise among local businesses, festivals, parks and restaurants.

Woodloch provides an outstanding place for coming together as a group in the Pocono Mountains. "Vacations here are built on the concept of 'togetherness,' or bringing loved ones together, spending time with one another, and creating memories to last a lifetime," explains Lisa Hugaboom, director of corporate sales for the resort. "Through a unique array of home grown, team building type activities, a nostalgic, back-to-basics environment, pristine natural surroundings and a truly unique brand of hospitality, guests leave Woodloch with a renewed sense of connection with their own group."

Woodloch boasts more than 30 daily activities and amenities that leisure and business travelers alike can enjoy, such as go-karts, bumper cars, athletic and game show contests, boating, swimming, live music and more. "Additionally, our inclusive packages make for a seamless guest experience; beautiful accommodations, delicious meals, and non-stop activities, amenities and entertainment are all built in," says Hugaboom.

Spread across over 1,500 acres, Woodloch's picturesque mountain setting is an ideal place for guests to rediscover nature and seek solace in the outdoors. Even those who don't consider themselves particularly outdoorsy may be surprised by what an amazing escape nature provides these days, especially when most indoor entertainment has been greatly restricted.

Many of Woodloch's activities and amenities take place outdoors, like hiking, biking, boating, fishing, snowshoeing, snowtubing and ice skating. The great outdoors is always open and provides a much needed and stress-relieving break for attendees.

Camelback Resort is another great option in the Pocono Mountains for those in the region who are planning a retreat that is close to home. The resort's picturesque mountain setting inspires creative thinking, and Camelback provides plenty of options for gatherings, from outdoor venues to indoor meeting rooms with spaced out seating.

Team building activities are plentiful at Camelback, including a ropes course challenge, geo cache scavenger hunt, zip lining, snow tubing or even a good old-fashioned corn hole tournament. A little friendly competition can go a long way toward breaking down communication barriers and forging new internal partnerships.

Not to be overlooked are the many indoor and outdoor food and beverage options available. From dining at Summit House at the top of Big Pocono Mountain with breathtaking views to noshing with fare from a variety of food trucks to enjoying an outdoor welcome reception around campfires, Camelback offers many different scenarios and menus. In fact, the resort's new culinary team is about to launch new menus highlighting the area's many local farms, wineries and breweries, giving meeting attendees the opportunity to experience the Poconos through their palates in addition to sight and sound.

"Many of our meeting attendees enjoy exploring the natural beauty of the Pocono Mountains," notes Robin Lattinville, director of sales, Camelback Resort. "White water rafting, hiking, biking, fishing, golfing, horseback riding and snow sport experiences are nearby, as is the historic and charming town of Jim Thorpe, named after the Native American athlete. Jim Thorpe village boasts over 30 unique shops, a wide variety of restaurants, historic mansions, train rides and even a haunted jail. For a lively outing of slot machines and gaming tables, there is the Mount Air Casino nearby."

"Meeting in the mountains provides a very different perspective for most people," adds Lattinville. "There's a magical quality of getting up close and personal with nature in the crisp mountain air and listening to the soothing sounds of crickets, bull frogs and a crackling fire. For many guests, our setting brings back memories of their youth, and allows attendees to decompress in a relaxed environment. What better place to capture the undivided attention of a group and inspire collaborative problem solving?"