

Snowbound

With an average snowfall of eight feet each winter, the quaint little town of Greer (population 122) is a veritable winter wonderland, and the best place to be in Greer and take in all the wonder is Greer Lodge & Cabins

STORY BY MARC BOND

Looking for an authentic locale to spend your next ski trip? Why trek out to Colorado when Greer Lodge & Cabins is right here in the Sun.Sea.Strip? A snow and ski lodge in the winter, Greer Lodge & Cabins sits on the banks of the **Little Colorado River** and is surrounded by the **Apache National Forest**, home to the largest elk population in the West. In addition, three private lakes sit smack dab in the center of the breathtaking Greer Valley, home to wildlife such as elk, deer, antelope, bald eagles, bears, turkeys, Canadian Geese, ducks, owls and much, much more.

Originally constructed in 1948 out of natural logs from the neighboring forest, the historic Greer Lodge, which rests only eight miles from **Sunrise Ski Area**, was recently remodeled and expanded by owner **Doug Sandahl**. The 11 cozy, romantic and luxurious lodge rooms are exclusively for adults. They are equipped with **Bose** CD stereos instead of televisions, and some even have two-person Jacuzzi soaking tubs and offer breathtaking views of the Greer Valley and the surrounding forests. Enjoy the snow while nestled in the accommodations, perfect for Valentine's Day. **Westin Heavenly** mattresses, down comforters and pillows, 350-thread-count sheets, upscale lodge furnishings by **La-Z-Boy**, fireplaces and expansive decks all make for a plush stay.

Got a family in tow? The 12 spacious log cabins are designed to accommodate families of all sizes, from two to 14, with fireplaces, fully equipped kitchens, barbecues, satellite TVs with DVDs and board games for the family.

The Greer Lodge is an authentic snow and ski lodge, complete with crackling fireplaces, exposed log construction, soft lighting, breathtaking views and an intimate bar/lounge. Its **373 Grill Restaurant** is known as the best steakhouse in the White Mountains, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner year round.

Most evenings, guests can enjoy live music, featuring songwriter, singer and acoustical guitarist **CJ Burton**. Listen to your favorite songs near the crackling fire while sipping on a hot toddy, or dance the night away with the person of your dreams on the intimate dance floor. Outside, catch softly falling snowflakes around one of the fire tables on the expansive decks, listening to the sound of the running stream below.

Snowman building is easily available in the snow-covered meadows of the Greer Valley, located right outside your front door. Snow sledding for the kids and sleigh rides are available close by, as are snow boarding and snow skiing at Sunrise Ski Area, just a few minutes away. Sunrise has 10 lifts, low prices for ski passes, a large staff of qualified instructors, miles and miles of intermediate slopes and plenty of snow. Skiers from around the Southwest have proclaimed Sunrise "The Best Kept Skiing Area in the West." Great for the whole family, it's easy to get to and park at, and there are no lines on the slopes. Cross-country snow skiing is also very popular, and Greer has some of the best trails in the West.

Refresh those tired muscles after a day on the slopes. Enjoy a relaxing deep tissue *Après-Ski Massage*, available back at the lodge.

The drive to Greer is spectacular in and of itself. From Phoenix, drive through some of the prettiest high desert you'll ever see, before entering the largest Ponderosa pine forest in the world, where you'll spend the majority of your drive. The roads have been expanded and now feature a divided highway much of the way, making Greer an enjoyable, scenic and easy four-hour drive from Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque or Flagstaff.

Greer Lodge & Cabins is open year round. Call 928.735.7216 for reservations, or visit their website at www.greerlodgeaz.com.



Unwind after a day on the slopes in the Greer Lodge & Cabins lobby



Cozy up in one of the 12 spacious log cabins



Come on, it's lovely weather for an sleigh ride together with you