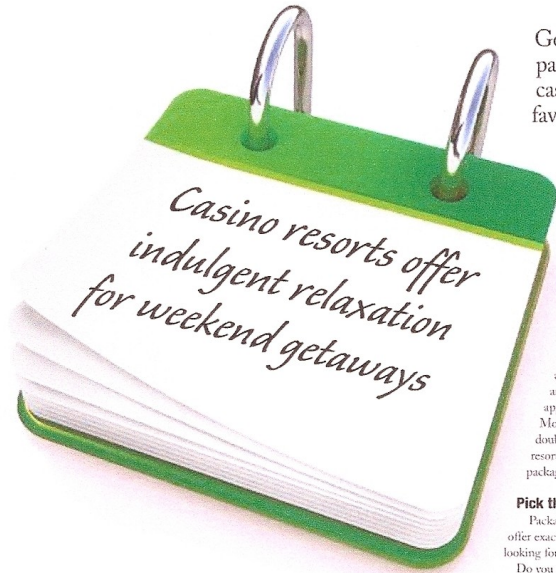


Need a mini-break?

By Elizabeth McQuern and Angela Parker For Custom Publications



Getaway weekend packages at Indiana casino resorts are a favorite among mini-vacationers.

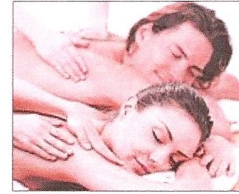
These sweet deals can be money-savers, with activities, amenities, special events and treats bundled together for a lower-cost outing. Pick a weekday package over a weekend package to save even more.

You'll want to make reservations as far in advance as possible, but at least two weeks ahead. Reservations are based on availability of accommodations and amenities such as spa appointments and golf tee times. Most packages are based on double occupancy, and many casino resorts reserve the right to change package details.

Pick the perfect package

Packages are crafted thoughtfully to offer exactly the kind of experience you're looking for — whatever that might be. Do you need to unwind? Try a slow-paced spa weekend. To liven things up, book a luxurious gaming package. Many casino resorts with golf courses offer getaways on the greens. Then there are girls-only rendezvous, couples' retreats, entertainment packages and seasonal themes.

Casino resorts are the perfect setting for mini-reunions, family events and bridal showers. For added convenience, pick a package that plans your activities and meals.



Casino resorts offer relaxation packages that are great for couples or girlfriend getaways.

Spa time

"A lot of newlyweds come in for our Art of Relaxation package as part of their honeymoon," said Ken Calvin, assistant spa manager of The Spa at French Lick Springs Hotel.

The Spa spoils patrons with Vichy showers, facials and wraps. Full salon services include hairstyling, manicures and pedicures for head-to-toe rejuvenation.

Calvin said the most popular spa services are beauty treatments and massages, especially the sacred stone massage, which uses warm stones and heat-assisted relaxation.

A relaxing getaway at Belterra Casino Resort & Spa must include a visit to the Beleza Salon and Spa, which offers a sauna, steam room, private whirlpool, showers, workout/weight room and complimentary admission to the gym and sauna for hotel guests.

Golf anyone?

A golf course makes an idyllic setting for a relaxing yet competitive getaway, and several Indiana resort casinos with world-class courses offer golf-centered packages.

The equestrian-themed Chariot Run golf-centered course at Horseshoe Southern Indiana is 7,200 yards of bent-grass greens, fairways and trees. West Baden and French

GameGuide



Photo: iStockphoto.com

Many Indiana casinos offer world-class golf courses.

Lick guests have access to the brand-new Pete Dye course, the restored 1917 Donald Ross course and the nine-hole Valley Links. Tom Fazio designed Belterra's course to include more than 2,200 trees.

Let us entertain you

Big-name performers provide a natural focal point for concert getaway packages. Judy Hess, director of communications for Caesar's Indiana, said Horseshoe Southern Indiana designs its most popular stay-and-play packages based on visitor feedback.

"Entertainment is big for us," she said.

You might want to coordinate a stay at French Lick Springs Hotel with one of its holiday celebrations, murder mystery-themed evenings, arts and crafts fairs or antique shows. Or, if you prefer a weekend of gaming, many resorts offer special casino promotions.

Shopping spree

You won't leave your weekend getaway empty-handed — and you won't have to leave

your getaway to do it. Many casino resorts have an array of shopping venues that feature the finest of everything such as fine jewelry, designer clothing, fresh flowers and fine art prints. You'll also find affordable souvenirs for the folks back home and even toothpaste to freshen your stay.

Some of the more unusual shops include Harley-Davidson at West Baden, which offers licensed clothing, collectibles and gifts, and French Lick Springs' Circa 1901 shop that showcases fun flapper-era styles. Need the perfect \$10 accessory? Bijoux Turner at Horseshoe Casino Hotel has it.

At Belterra's appropriately named "Bling" jewelry store, Maxine Barker shows off high-end baubles such as Gucci and Movado watches.

"Our most popular items are rings — especially birth stones," she said. "We also sell lots of gold, which seems to always be in style." ♦



Casinos offer shoppers an entertaining variety.



Visit casino Web sites for upcoming concerts.

Pick your getaway

Here's a sample of getaway packages at three of Indiana's best-known casino resorts. Check their Web sites for current information.

Belterra Casino Resort & Spa

Get details about Belterra getaway packages at www.belterracasino.com/internet-specials.aspx.

Bed & Breakfast

One overnight stay, two breakfast buffets in the Ultimate Buffet

\$49 per night Jackpot
Three-night stay in a Classic Room for \$49 per night Sunday – Thursday

Relax

One overnight stay, two breakfast buffets in the Ultimate Buffet, two amenities (18 holes of golf or 50-minute Swedish/therapeutic massage)

Putt & Pamper

One overnight stay, two breakfast buffets in

the Ultimate Buffet, four amenities (18 holes of golf or 50-minute Swedish/therapeutic massage)

The Weekender

Two-night stay, four breakfast buffets in the Ultimate Buffet, four amenities (18 holes of golf or 50-minute Swedish/therapeutic massage)

Couples Retreat

Two-night stay in a Classic Room, four breakfast buffets in the Ultimate Buffet, one couples massage at Beleza Spa, \$100 dining credit

West Baden Springs Hotel and French Lick Springs Hotel

West Baden and French Lick are sister resorts that share some similar packages. Get details about their getaway packages at www.frenchlick.com/hotels.

Packages offered by both West Baden Springs and French Lick

Spring Bed & Breakfast

One overnight stay and breakfast in bed for two

Art of Relaxation

One overnight stay for two, one 50-minute Swedish massage and one signature pedicure

Donald Ross Experience

One overnight stay, two rounds of golf for one guest at The Donald Ross Course at French Lick, and use of the driving range and practice facilities, bag storage and shuttle transportation

West Baden Springs

Eighth Wonder of the World

One overnight stay, historic tour for two, and an afternoon tea for two

Hall of Fame

One overnight stay, one round of golf at both the Donald Ross Course and the Pete Dye Course and use of the driving range and practice facilities, bag storage and shuttle transportation

Pete Dye Experience

One overnight stay, two rounds of golf for one guest at the Pete Dye Course and use of the driving range and practice facilities, bag storage and shuttle transportation

Girlfriend's Getaway – Manicures and Martinis

One overnight stay, West Baden Signature Manicures for two and martinis for two served under the dome in Ballard's Bar

French Lick Springs

Family Fun

One overnight stay, four games of bowling, in-room movie, large pizza

Girlfriend's Getaway: Slumber Party

One overnight stay at French Lick Springs Hotel, in-room movie, one large pizza delivered to the room, in-room dessert