

## GET OUTTA HERE! Sneak peeks of elk, eagles on train ride

### Tips for roaming the Rockies

Though the snow is still blowing in Colorado, spring-time is about to blossom in Arizona's Verde Canyon. Blooms are about to spill down the red rock walls and flood the banks of the Verde River.

Board the Verde Canyon Railroad in Clarkdale for its daily half-day run to the abandoned Perkinsville station and back. Along the way see elk, eagles, osprey and landscapes accessible only by rail.

Resident eagles Black and Decker usually have one or two eaglets in their nest, which is visible from the train on the Eagle Watch ride.

On the Leprechaun Express (March 17), it's all about St. Patrick's Day, with traditional Irish fare, beer and live music.

The Easter Bunny hops aboard April 8 for the Easter Bunny Express.

After your train ride, the folks at the Blazin' M Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner and Western Show serve up an all-you-can-eat frontier-style meal and an evening of cow-boy entertainment.

The train depot is 25 min-

utes from Sedona. Call 1-800-293-7245 to make reservations, or book online at [www.verdecanyonrr.com](http://www.verdecanyonrr.com).

## Cross-country ski during trip to ranch

Located in the heart of Colorado ski country, The Home Ranch near Clark offers a special winter deal.

Throughout March, you can experience the Relais & Chateaux certified dude ranch for the reduced rate of \$50 per person with the purchase of two regularly priced night stays and includes all meals, transportation and activities.

You can cross-country ski with old-time ski guide Mike Braal on the ranch's groomed trails or go snowshoeing.

Sleigh rides and dog sledding are also options, or just relax by the enormous fireplace with a book from the ranch's library.

The Home Ranch is renowned for its cuisine, with chef Clyde Nelson having been featured in Food & Wine, Bon Appétit and Gourmet magazines.

Find out how to enjoy The Home Ranch's March room rate special and reservation packages by visiting [www.homeranch.com](http://www.homeranch.com), or by calling 1-970-879-1780.

## Camp for a cause at KOA fundraiser

Don't dally in reserving your place for KOA's "Come Camp & Care With Us Weekend" to camp for free at Kampgrounds Of America sites on May 12.

More than 350 Kampgrounds throughout the United States and Canada are participating, providing 30,000 free campsites and cabins.

If you're a paying guest at participating campgrounds May 11, your May 12 stay is free. The event is a fundraiser for KOA Care Camps for children with cancer.

To reserve your spot, visit [www.koa.com](http://www.koa.com), or call 1-406-248-7444.

Participating KOAs in Colorado are in: Alamosa, Colorado Springs, Cripple Creek/Colorado Springs West, Cortez/Mesa Verde, Cotopaxi/Arkansas River, Craig, Denver East/Strasburg, Durango, Estes Park, Fort Collins/Lakeside, Fort Collins/Poudre Canyon, Fort Collins North/Wellington, Grand Junction, Gunnison, La Junta, Limon, North Park/Gould/Walden, Ouray, Pueblo, Pueblo South/Colorado City and Royal Gorge/Cañon City.

COMPILED BY JOY HARPER

TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR  
CONSIDERATION: 636-0392 or  
[joy.harper@gazette.com](mailto:joy.harper@gazette.com).

