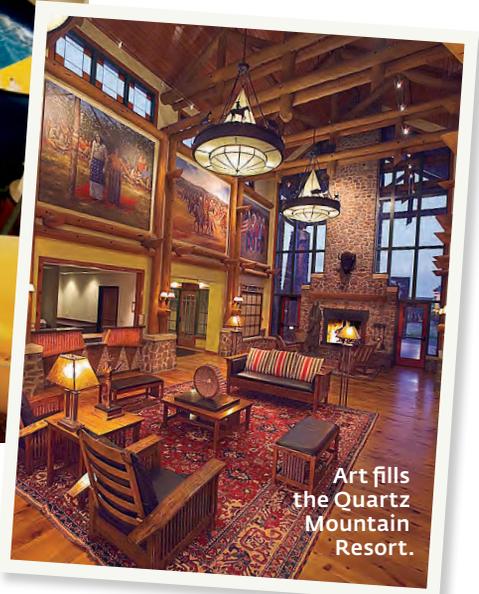




It's always summer inside the Great Wolf Lodge.



Art fills the Quartz Mountain Resort.

Check In To More Than a Room

These hotels offer surprising added amenities, from a water park to an art gallery.

BY JENNIFER MCKENZIE FRAZIER

FOR THE WATER PARK FAN

Great Wolf Lodge
Grapevine, Texas

What You'll Find: The resort's decor, with its pine beams and huge trees in the lobby, evokes a log cabin in the woods. But the lodge is only 7 miles from DFW Airport. The resort combines that rustic feel with modern amenities—an arcade, an ice-cream parlor, Cub Club (a *National Geographic Kids*-sponsored workshop with art projects and games), and select rooms decorated for children with animal characters painted on the walls.

Bonus: Bear Track Landing, an indoor water park with 11 waterslides, 7 pools, and a 6-story-high funnel ride called Howlin' Tornado. (Only resort guests are allowed.)

Editors' Tip: Have the kids in front of the lobby fireplace by 8 p.m. for story time with Wiley the Wolf.

Details: greatwolf.com/grapevine or 800-693-9653. Rates start at \$189 and include cost of water park.

FOR THE KIDS

Chattanooga Choo Choo
Chattanooga, Tennessee

What You'll Find: This 100-year-old former train station now houses a hotel, restaurant, and Model Railroad Museum. Kids love the trolley rides around the property and the singing waitstaff at the Station House restaurant.

Bonus: Sleep in a restored railroad car; the rooms feel a bit dated, but kids don't mind. Call in advance to reserve one.

Editors' Tip: Go to chattanoogaofun.com to print a coupon for \$20, good in any restaurant or shop at the hotel.

Details: choochoo.com or 800-872-2529. Standard room rates start at \$139; train cars start at \$179.

FOR THE ART LOVER

Quartz Mountain Resort
Arts & Conference Center
Lone Wolf, Oklahoma

What You'll Find: This lodge sits in the Wichita Mountains about 135 miles west of Oklahoma City. Rooms are comfortable, not fancy. That's okay—your main activities will likely include hiking or just sitting by a fire pit.

Bonus: Home to the Oklahoma Arts Institute, the resort is one large Southwestern arts gallery. All the pieces throughout the hotel were either created by students or donated by the institute.

Editors' Tip: Reserve a tour of the nearby caverns where you'll see paintings made by a local Kiowa tribe.

Details: quartzmountainresort.com or 877-999-5567. Rates start at \$124. *



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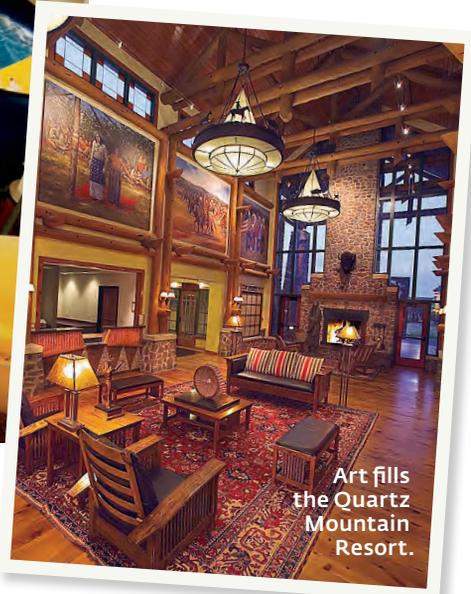
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