

prevue



Destination experiences for meetings + incentives

The Incentives Impact

Localized programs reward communities and attendees

SOUTHEAST SOPHISTICATION

Big-city amenities for groups of all sizes

OUTDOOR WELLNESS IN TEXAS

Nature adds ripples of enrichment to meetings

BUCKET LIST CRUISES

Execs share top picks

ONLY IN L.A.

The ultimate red carpet experience

The Incentives Impact

A photograph of a marina at dusk. The sky is a deep blue, and the water reflects the lights from the buildings and boats. In the foreground, a wooden deck with a metal railing and a red handrail runs along the edge. The marina is filled with various boats, including yachts and sailboats. In the background, modern buildings with lit windows are visible, and a tall, thin tower (the Washington Monument) can be seen in the distance.

The definition of a rewarding incentive for top performers is changing by leaps and bounds—DC to India.

By Johnalee Johnston





Above: Guest room at Ventana Big Sur, An Alila Resort

Snowbird Ski Resort offers a slopeside village for shopping and entertainment, a conference center and North America's only ski tunnel.

ski-in, ski-out distillery (**High West Distillery & Saloon**), to dabble with one of the largest collection of genealogy records in the US at the **Family History Library** or to marvel at the majestic **Great Salt Lake. Place Heritage Park** at the mouth of Emigration Canyon offers a glimpse of Utah's early settlements, complete with demonstrations by leatherworkers, woodworkers, blacksmiths and yarn spinsters, and distinct venues for corporate events. MPI organized an event in **Library Square** that had one dance troupe performing on the side of a glass building, while the Foothills Cultural District offers a variety of creative venues for events, including **Red Butte Gardens** and **Natural History Museum**.

Twenty minutes south of Salt Lake on 1,200 acres in Big Cottonwood Canyon, groups can experience a gourmet dine-around (10 options in all) without ever having to leave **Solitude Mountain Resort** and its four lodges. Recent renovations touched the Roundhouse restaurant, offering Himalayan- and Wasatch-inspired fare, along with an improved on-mountain experience. They also partnered with **Bohemian Brewery** for the creation of the solitude brewski mountain lager, considered a "must-try" at

the resort. And when your groups are not swooshing down the mountain or immersed in mountainside brainstorming sessions, they may find biking, hiking and disc golfing (or Frisbee golf) to be welcome and enticing diversions.

At the base of the former mining town of Alta in Little Cottonwood Canyon, another option beckons groups to the famously lightly powdered slopes. **Snowbird Ski Resort** offers a slopeside village for shopping and entertainment, five accommodation options, a conference center, 11-story atrium and North America's only ski tunnel—all spread over 4,700 acres. Oddly enough, the world's largest privately held collection of oriental rugs can also be found here, and groups can piggyback on year-round events—brewfests to mud runs to wine pairing classes—or test their endurance on a mountain biking adventure along the manmade Snowbird's Big Mountain Trail.

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

The biggest news by far coming out of Monterey is the reopening of the **Monterey Conference Center** in the city's historic downtown following



Above: Foxwoods banquet

Mandala coloring to soothe the soul, photography hikes and neuroacoustics meditation across 160 acres and 12,000 sf of indoor-outdoor meeting space happens at Ventana Big Sur - An Alila Resort.

a \$60 million renovation. The now LEED-certified center, adjacent to the newly renovated **Portola Hotel & Spa** and connected to the **Monterey Marriott**, offers more than 40,000 sf of flexible meeting space—elevated to 104,150 sf of meeting and exhibition space when factoring in the two hotels. Renovations are in the air throughout Monterey, and the LEED-certified Portola Hotel & Spa's revamp of all 379 guest rooms, lobby and new lobby bar and restaurant, Jacks Monterey, is the talk of the town. Meanwhile, **Pebble Beach Resorts'** 30 new guest rooms and two golf cottages, a.k.a. Fairway One, allow golf aficionados to step right onto the green from their rooms. Pebble Beach Resorts will also roll out a renovation next year of all 454 guest rooms at The Lodge, The Inn at Spanish Bay and Casa Palmero.

Last year's reopening of Ventana Big Sur marked the North American launch of **Ventana Big Sur – An Alila Resort**, a luxury hotel from Two Roads Hospitality. Named after the Sanskrit word for “surprise,” the timbered eco-friendly property, edged by California's

forests, the Pacific Ocean and Santa Lucia Mountains, provides unexpected wellness, art and culture experiences to attendees such as mandala coloring to soothe the soul, photography hikes and neuroacoustics meditation across 160 acres and 12,000 sf of indoor-outdoor meeting space. Close to 60 rooms and suites are available, and luxury glampsites in the Redwood Canyons offer the ultimate natural recharge. Off-site, the purple sands of **Pfeiffer State Beach**, arches of **Bixby Bridge** and historic **Point Sur Light Station** beckon groups, while **Save Our Shores**, the **Elkhorn Slough Foundation** and **The Offset Project** assist with CSR programs and zero-waste events. The TV buffs in your group may enjoy walking in the footsteps of leading “Big Little Lies” characters.

MASHANTUCKET, CONNECTICUT

Luxury bowling is an actual thing and the **Foxwoods Resort Casino**, just a 25-minute drive from Waterford in the forested