

Adventure

Deals



By **Michael Grimes!**

Our first Adventure Deal takes our staff just up the road to Del Lago Resort and Conference Center. From a man-made lake to man-made beaches, from family outings to festive celebrations, this locale is sure to have something for everyone. The natural beauty is amazing, and with the personalized attention that we received, the resort staff can only be described as exceptional.

8 a.m. – Kayaking: “You are going to get wet this morning,” hollered Lawrence Mason, the owner of North Lake Conroe Paddling Company.

This was not the way I envisioned spending my morning, but I have to admit that my kayaking tour may have been the most memorable event of the day.

“We offer the guests kayak rentals for individuals and small groups, and we welcome newcomers and experienced paddlers to come join us on the lake,” Lawrence said, as we pushed away from land.

For close to an hour I was amazed with the extraordinary handling and extreme comfort of my kayak, however, the pain of trying to keep up with my guide was just starting to hit me. It was a good 45 minutes of paddling to the left and paddling to the right, but to glide on top of the water without the roaring sound of a motor was an untarnished and memorable way to experience the lake.

9:30 a.m. – Golf: Originally designed by acclaimed player/architects Jay Riviere and Dave Marr, the 6,794-yard Del Lago course was more than I could ask for after a morning of rowing.

The pristine beauty of the course came from the cascading waterfalls, bubbling fountains, and an island tee box that made this course quite memorable, despite all of my bogeys. The fairways and greens could have been in better shape, but the overall experience left me wanting to come back and enjoy all 18 holes; and with weekend prices at \$17.50, I’m sure that I will be back soon.

11 - 12 p.m. – Climbing Tower/Ropes Course: “Are you kidding?” was the first and last thing I remember asking my instructor. I thought my arms were going to cramp up on me while simply strapping on the protective headgear I was told to wear.

Somewhere on the 52-foot rock wall my footing gave out, or perhaps it was my arms that failed me, as I leaped from one spot to the next. All I know is that I made it nowhere near the top, and that my instructor was by no means finished with me.



The ropes course was up next and that included a 30-foot telephone pole to be climbed. Not just climbed, but at the top you’re supposed to stand up – straight up – and then leap to a trapeze bar dangling six feet higher and almost another eight feet away from the pole. Since I failed the climbing tower I could not be denied this challenge.

“When I count to three I want you to jump,” the instructor demanded. Evidently I did something right because everyone seemed thrilled when I landed. I was just happy to have survived.

12 - 2pm – Kiva: A Southwestern-themed restaurant, Kiva combines Native American lore with a New American style of cooking. Lunch was perhaps the highlight of the day, making every painful row, tough golf shot, and difficult leap well worth it. The decor places you in the middle of a Southwestern village, and the fare masterfully blends a range of regional flavors. From the first dish to the last, the creations did nothing but exceed any and all expectations.

2 – 4 p.m. – Marina Activities: Placed on the shores of 22,000-acre Lake Conroe, Del Lago is fast becoming one of Lake Conroe’s most popular boating centers. As we coasted out of the 300-slip full-service marina I had no idea what part of the lake we would explore. We toured the dam and visited an uninhabited island while our captain talked of all of the amenities offered. From jet skis to fishing tours, the marina has a variety of vessels and packages that are available to custom fit the size and needs of any group. Just don’t forget the sunscreen.

4:30 p.m. – Poker: To showcase everything the resort has to offer the staff got creative and planned a Texas Hold’em Tournament. Located in The Grandstand Sports Bar & Upper Deck, with hidden celebrities in the two-story-high sports murals, this sports-inspired club was the perfect setting for our friendly game of cards.

After an hour of hearing “all in” on several occasions, I made my move with pocket Jacks. This was the first and last decent hand I would see as the chip leader not only called my raise, but also came over the top and forced me to bet my remaining chips. After the river was dealt, the Regional Sales Manager (James Coumbe) sat there looking at his winning hand. He flopped a straight and I was done, flat broke and exhausted.

As I limped through the cavernous lobby I was reminded of exactly why I would return to Del Lago. The evil Sales Manager (who had set up the rugged itinerary and beaten me at cards) and his staff had not only exceeded setting up a day that we at Absolutely Sports requested, but they generously offered an extra night at the resort.

They have an unmatched reputation for excellence in food quality, service standards and attention to detail. So if you and your family are looking for a special get away this summer, use your imagination and then let Del Lago exceed your expectations. **!**

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With coupon. One coupon per table. Not valid with Free Kids meal or any other offer. Expires 7/31/06

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