

# Local Leisure

Celebrate the New Year with a fun and easy excursion to one of these close-to-home destinations.





## Ballantyne Resort

Only about 30 miles south of Lake Norman, The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge is a Four-Star, AAA Four-Diamond hotel. Guests here can enjoy an award-winning golf course, tennis, luxurious spa and salon, and a gourmet restaurant.

### Sleep

The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge boasts 200 guest rooms, 14 suites, and a four-bedroom cottage. The elegantly appointed, spacious guests rooms have seamless glass showers and separate oval tubs, 10-foot ceilings, LED TVs, and large picture windows, with the Grand Deluxe rooms overlooking the scenic golf course. Suites range from 800 square feet to the 1,200-square-foot Presidential Suite, and include amenities such as private balconies, living rooms, dining tables, kitchens, and walk-in closets. Larger groups can stay at the 3,670-square-foot Cottage, which has four bedrooms/bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, wet bar, and patio with beautiful golf views.

### Eat

Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the newly revamped Gallery Restaurant specializes in contemporary American cuisine. Under the direction of talented chef David Moore, the Gallery's eclectic menu changes seasonally, and includes such favorites as seared flounder, veal, and duck. The stylish restaurant also has a spacious bar and full wine list. For lighter fare, such as salads, wraps, and sandwiches, there's the Ballantyne Spa or Golf Pavilion, and the Veranda, located in the lobby, has a full bar and serves coffee and pastries.

### Play

One of the main attractions here is the championship, 18-hole golf course. Set among rolling hills and hardwood forests, the course features a pro shop, driving range, and putting green. It's also home to the renowned Dana Rader Golf School, which offers a number of programs and personalized instruction for players of all ages and skill levels. Other recreational opportunities include the spa, which has 18 treatment rooms, whirlpool, sauna, indoor and outdoor pools, and a fitness studio with the latest cardiovascular and weight-training equipment. Adjacent to the spa are lighted tennis courts, where guests can take lessons from resident tennis pro Peter Marmureanu.

