

PIE-EYED IN PORTLAND?

All You Can Feast packages for the Feast Portland festival, T2

TRAVEL

> BUSINESS TRIP

Brushing up on corporate skills on Sea Island

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

All work and no play makes Jack, the employee, more than a dull boy; it affects Jack's — and Jackie's — productivity, morale and desire to stick around. That's why smart companies take care to keep their best people happy.

Sending leadership teams off to a big beautiful villa with impossibly high ceilings on a private island off Georgia is one way to do this. Sending them for a reward or corporate retreat to Sea Island, which has access to the five-star resort the Cloister and its restaurants, championship golf courses, horseback riding and a shooting school, isn't all luxury vacation.

Staying at Exclusive Resorts' villas adjacent to the Cloister gives you access to all the resort's amenities and provides you with many opportunities to brush up on your rudimentary business skills.

Feel free to take the following list to your boss if you think it might get you somewhere, perhaps even to Sea Island:

Team building

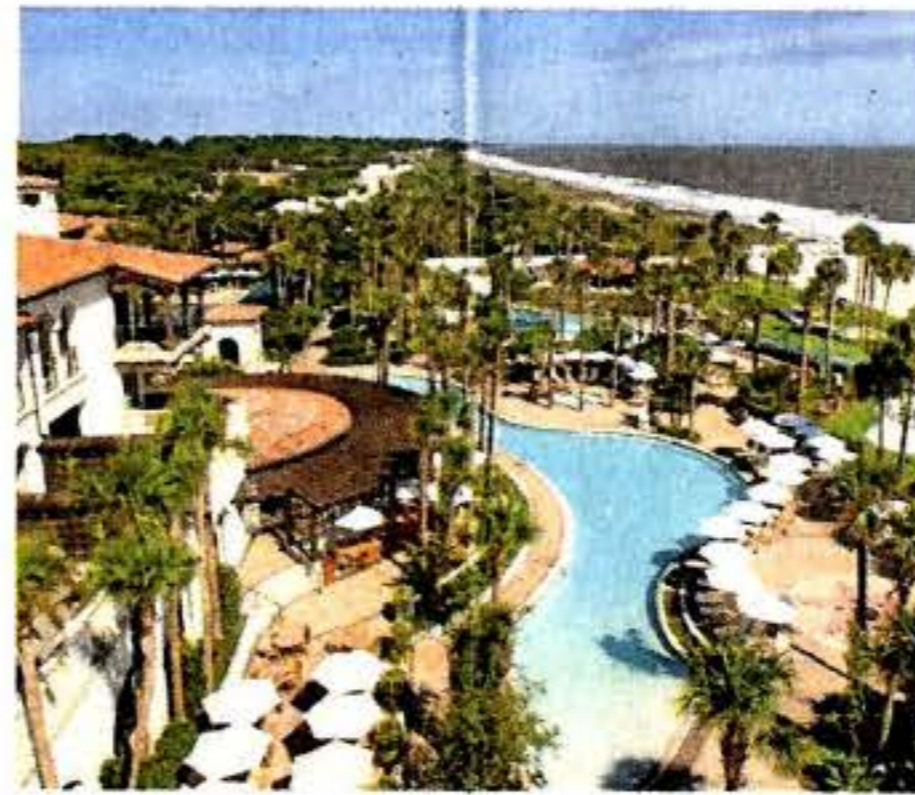
When you arrive at the villa, your concierge has stocked the fridge and the bar with the items you and your colleagues requested.

You work together to find the glasses, open the wine and arrange cheese and crackers on a platter.

In the morning, the earliest riser makes the coffee, grabs a cup and disappears back into his or her spacious bedroom, which has a TV, a fireplace and a bathroom big enough for a dance party.

You can negotiate cooking each other breakfast and/or lunch in the Martha Stewart-worthy kitchen or make your own individual omelettes. Either way, no one has to clean up.

GEORGIA continued on T2



Sea Island has three fabulous pools.

> IF YOU GO

Well-suited
Pack dress clothes for the evening.

Let loose and do some deal-making while clay-pigeon shooting

GEORGIA from T1

In the evening, an Exclusive Resorts' chef arrives and shoos you out of the kitchen to prepare a dinner of grilled fish, roasted vegetables and a dessert of cheesecake with fresh berries.

Decision making

Where to read the Harvard Business Review? The private pool at the villa? One of the three pools at the Sea Island Beach Club? Or, throw your big striped beach towel on one of the lounge chairs on the beach and feel the Atlantic breeze, while you look up to see people renting standup paddle boards or HobieCat sailboats.

If you choose to venture beyond your quiet little garden to the Beach Club, be prepared to decide what you want to drink when the waiter arrives and whether you want your Georgia Peach or Moscow Mule frozen or with ice.

Eat what you kill

While this is a way of life for those who work on commission, the whole team can absorb the concept while fishing on the Atlantic. Strap on the fishing belt, insert the pole and start reeling in dinner. Or not. If, like our group, you only catch little sharks, you won't get anything for the grill, but you will get a photo holding a



A fishing boat heads out from Sea Island in the hope of reeling in dinner.

mini-Jaws and valuable coaching in how to throw a shark overboard: Aim carefully! And, once you let go, snap your hands back fast, cause that shark is very mad and has very sharp teeth.

Study organizational behaviour
Successful leaders understand how people function inside a group. After

kayaking up Village Creek on the mainland side of the island, pull up to a giant sand bar and walk around to study local group dynamics. Horse-shoe crabs the size of your head mate on the sand. White Royal Turns fly around showing off fish in their mouths to incentivize a partner. Risk-averse American Brown Pelicans fly impossibly close to the water

to dive for fish. And hundreds of Black Skimmers, heavily influenced by their peers, take off as if they are one spectacular organism.

Respect deadlines

Keep an eye on the time as you chase the almighty (sand) dollar on the sand bar. It's a fast rising tide and you want to be back in your kayak before

it comes rushing back in. Besides, you want time to go to the luxurious 65,000-square-foot fitness centre and spa next to the Cloister Hotel. You'll probably want to budget more than your usual hour, because beyond the treadmill and some weights, there's the pool, the water atrium and tennis courts.

Work on your golf game

Or ditch it all together and do some deal-making while clay-pigeon shooting.

"It's like golf with a shotgun," explains Jimmy Duncan, an instructor at the Sea Island Shooting School. With his expert coaching, even a novice can shoot a series of clay pigeons out of the sky, an experience as exhilarating as any hole in one. But, if you still insist on playing with clubs, there are three championship golf courses on Sea Island.

Envision success

Hop on a bike from the Beach Shop and spend a couple of hours riding up and down the lush streets between the Atlantic and the river to see the simple elegant beauty of small vacation homes and the opulence of large stately manors in the quiet neighbourhood.

Jennifer Allford was a guest of Exclusive Resorts at Sea Island. Follow her on Twitter @jenniferallford