

...FOR A CAUSE, INC.
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VOLUNTOURISUM – HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITHOUT GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY

For A Cause, (www.rfac.org) has been organizing fundraising vacations dubbed “fund-cations” since 2001. Vacationers don’t have to dig ditches, build houses, or sleep in tents to help their favorite charity; instead they can spend a week in a castle, sleep on comfortable beds, and enjoy home cooked meals. In 2010 vacationers will do just that while traveling to Spain to help US based AIDS and breast cancer organizations.

The Spain Event, September 26 – October 2, 2010, is a combined walking or cycling vacation / fund-raiser where participants raise money for their favorite charity, then choose to either walk up to 60-miles or cycle up to 300-miles. “Participants can even spend their days at the castle, relaxing by the pool and reading a good book” said organizer Rob Webber. The event is structured much like any other multi-day fundraising event, participants decide if they want to walk or ride, then raise money for their charity, but that is where the similarities end. Instead of sleeping in tents, showering in trucks and standing in line for meals, participants stay in one central location, have private bathrooms, and don’t have to stand in line for anything. “I don’t have to use a port-a-jon for a week to show my commitment to my cause” said returning participant George Cominskie of Manhattan. “I can raise the money, put in the miles, and still get a good night’s sleep. I can also send 100% of my donations to the beneficiaries, something I can’t do on other events.”

Accommodations for the Spain Event are at Castell Sant Mori, located in the Catalonian region. The castle once hosted Queen Juana of Aragon and her son Ferdinand, has three floors, a gardened terrace, and a swimming pool. All 10-bedrooms feature unique furnishings and décor, inspired by the castle’s history. The bedrooms, a combination of twin or king beds, offer private accommodations in this group setting.

There are three registration options, which provide for a reasonably priced trip. Two options have minimum fundraising requirements while the third has no required fundraising. Options allow 100% of participant’s donations to go to the beneficiaries and not pay for event expenses and thus not pay for their vacation. “This option is not available on any other breast cancer, or any fundraising event, that we know of,” said Webber. “It’s what makes these events unique from the start.”

In 2009 participants on the Ireland Event stayed at Ross Castle in County Galway, with formal gardens, indoor swimming pool, and 90-acres of manicured lawns. The property has been featured in magazines and newspapers depicting its elegance and grandeur. Participants enjoyed homed cooked meals prepared by the castle staff, and raised \$38,000.00 for breast cancer and other organizations.

Information on the Spain Event, including registration information and photos can be found on the company’s website www.rfac.org.

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