

All Expenses Paid? Maxwell Tyler Houghton

Are you tired of the same old vacation options? I cannot count the number of times I have heard my kids complain, “Not Hawaii again! Why can’t we ever go somewhere cool?” Well, if this sounds familiar to you, why not consider leaving the kids at home with your soon-to-be ex-wife and taking a calming sabbatical retreat at the Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC)?

I know what you are thinking. With all the options available for the needs of *the average vacationer*, why should I choose LCC over, say, a relaxing fortnight at the state mental hospital or a soothing dip in an active volcano? I will tell you why.

Even before you arrive at our quaint Northern Nevada locale, you will be pleased to discover the first benefit of this *charming adventure* – *free transportation to and from* our facility on the windowless hulk we lovingly call the “Gray Goose”. Not only is the bus ride free, but if you arrive and find that our accommodations do not meet your personal needs, we will be happy to provide you with additional transportation to one of our more-isolated sister facilities, located throughout the beautiful Silver State, where our enthusiastic staff will be sure to help you maximize the benefits of your stay.

One of the most frustrating things about traveling away from home is the realization that you have forgotten to pack some of the simplest things, like a toothbrush or underwear, for example. Here at LCC, you do not have to worry about these minor inconveniences, as your vacation package is absolutely *all-inclusive*.

That is right, leave your suitcase at home and come as you are. Your all-inclusive vacation *package comes with*: universally appealing *underwear and t-shirts* in any color you like, excluding all colors but white; *calming blue casual/formal outer-wear* in almost your basic size; stylish, retro footwear leftover from Soviet, black market Converse stores; and everything you need to control your personal hygiene, provided you are completely or nearly bald, have no sense of smell, and do not care what others think. Other items, including clothing, may be purchased at an additional cost to your bewildered loved ones back at home. And if you do not like *white underclothing*, just send it to our on-site laundry facility, and it will be returned to you in a lovely earth-tone color, or you could hire a private laundry man to wash your things in his toilet. Do not worry, I think he cleans it first.

If you are like me, and I know you are, you will agree that nothing is less comfortable than those fluffy, pillow-soft mattresses you find at your average five-star hotel. That is why at LCC you will be provided with a *convenient roll-able mattress* that can also triple as a yoga mat and a punching bag to work out your pent-up *stress*. You will also get a clean set of our exfoliating bed sheets, once a year, in a dazzling 87-threadcount. And you will just love our *environmentally-friendly blankets, made of all recycled materials (mostly used Brillo pads and Mylar balloons)*. If you are one of those fussy sorts who needs a pillow for your head, you may purchase one, and only one, or simply roll-up your one change of clothing and stuff it in your *extra t-shirt*. What could possibly be more comfortable than that?

All of these items can be stored safely away in your secure, semi-private room, which may include a view of the surrounding dirt and sagebrush. We hope you like your new roommate, because we guarantee he is going to love you. Backrubs anyone? That is right, massages are included in your vacation package, whether you like it or not. And what about a bathroom? Do not worry, you will be sleeping in it.

Do not stress over your security concerns while you are sleeping either. *Our gated community is monitored* constantly by a staff of adequately-paid employees who have chosen to work at LCC despite both of their other available employment options. They will make rounds on a periodic basis and shine a tactical flashlight through your closed eyelids – the wince lets them know you are doing fine. And if that does not make you feel safe, try to remember that, though he was convicted of cold-blooded murder by a jury of his peers, there is a six-percent chance that your new nocturnal companion is telling the truth when he *wakes up screaming* about his innocence.

Another pain of the traditional vacation is the *constant worry over where to eat*. I, for one, hate all those choices of restaurants and multiple menu items. That is why, here at LCC, we make all of those choices for you, adhering strictly to the five major food groups: *starches, nitrates, fillers, salts and trans-fats*. If you love hotdogs and other extruded meat products, our kitchen is going to feel like an absolute paradise full of mystery and intrigue.

I hear you asking, “What if I don’t like hotdogs and bologna cutlets that smell vaguely of cat urine?”, and that is a great question I get from time to time. Do not worry. Our *prison commissary has everything you might expect* to find at the average small-town convenience store and at only triple

the regular price. *If you know math*, you will understand, that is triple the convenience. Just bypass the touch-screen kiosk that is perpetually out of order and fill-out one of our ultra-sensitive Scantron forms leftover from Reagan-era SAT testing and *you may receive* about half of what you think you might want or need, sometime next week, unless there is a holiday coming or someone you have offended works in the canteen.

When you are ready to work-off the carbohydrates from all of your convenient snacking, you may choose to enjoy our state-of-the-art gymnasium (circa 1957). Those of you unfamiliar with the gym may want to call him James. Ha! That is just a little humour. But seriously, here at LCC, we have every piece of equipment you could ever need to build the upper body of a Norse god and the legs of a fourteen-year-old.

If organized sports are more of your speed, you can enjoy any of our regular intermural recreation programs, either as an athlete or as a spectator. Feel free to post your bets with the on-site sports-book and get ready to take competition to an unhealthy level as you watch very seasoned athletes sacrifice life and limb for the simple love of the game, and a desire to avoid being stabbed in the shower when the game is over.

Let us assume you did play a vigorous game of softball, soccer or competitive Dungeons & Dragons, and now you are suffering from a light sports-injury, like a broken leg or a dislocated jaw. Never fear because here at LCC we have the very “best” doctors to barely graduate veterinary school. Did you know you could cure almost anything, including cancer, by simply drinking more water? This is just one morsel of the volumes of sound medical advice dispensed daily by our knowledgeable staff. But you should be aware that any sports injury you incur will not be covered by your state-provided health plan.

While you are in the neighborhood, you may want to see the eye doctor, assuming you made an appointment 18-24 months ago. And once your basic prescription is determined and then carefully transcribed by a nurse, you will be able to choose from two stylish frame selections, shady drifter or scuba diver.

Do not forget to visit our dental department, where even the smallest cavity can be fixed with a simple tooth extraction. Do not worry, we will not cloud your mind with useless pain medication. Our motto here is, “No drills, no pills and no frills”. Also, as an added bonus, every dental visit comes with a free speech impediment.

Now, for those of you who are considering an extended stay, you may want to consider taking advantage of our education department. At an added cost, you can pay a guy with candy bars to do all your homework and earn a degree in business management, as well as a horticulture certificate, which covers all of the basic requirements to begin an exciting new career as a marijuana farmer. Remember, prisoners in state custody are not entitled to the benefits of Pell grants and student loans, so you should plan for this in advance of your stay. If you are staying for only a short time, you should consider the less expensive Serve-Safe program, where you can learn to work in the competitive and rewarding fast-food industry or enroll in any one of our prisoner-taught life-skills courses where you can gain the basic knowledge you failed to obtain in the eighth grade.

If you are the enterprising sort and would like to explore your career options while at LCC, you should consider a job in the culinary department. Do not worry, all the knives are chained to the tables. And if you can read and write at an eighth-grade level, why not apply to teach others the advanced things you know as a tutor in the education department? You may also want to consider a more refreshing and vigorous outdoor job as a *groundskeeper* or *sports referee*. Most of these jobs are part-time and pay only in experience and “good-time”, but *full-time employees can expect to earn as much as sixty-five dollars a month, after only five years of service*. That means that after you pay a percentage for room-and-board, whittle away at the bill from that softball injury, and meet any of your court-mandated obligations and DOC required savings for your departure, you could have as much as *eight dollars per month in spending money*. If you do not know how to keep a budget, you will learn in no time flat.

When you and the parole board do decide it is time to leave our facility, we will be more than happy to assign you a personal liaison who will monitor your re-entrance into everyday life and *inform our administration if they feel you may benefit from a longer stay* at this or one of our sister facilities. Of course, any return trips will also be included, free of charge.

Critical acclaim for our facility could not be better. In fact, LCC administrators and staff note the facility is “up to standard”. And “Boogy” from cell-block 2 was quoted saying, “This dump is way better than the other *fourteen prisons* I been in”. If all of this sounds too good to be true, you could not be more wrong. The only question you have to ask yourself is, how can I possibly afford to attend such a world-class destination? Payment

options are simple. Anyway, *space is filling up fast*, so *do not delay*. Run-out and commit a felony today!

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