



Carmel-by-the-Sea selected as backdrop for 'Driving the Future' Innovation Car Tour

Inspired by technology, design, MINDDRIVE students showcase energy innovation during California coastal tour in their custom-made, all-electric Karmann Ghia

Downtown inns offering attractive event-related lodging discounts June 3-5

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, Calif., May 7, 2014 — A team of inner-city students from Kansas City, Mo., will explore California's coastline during an early June tour from the redwood forests near Eureka to the white-sand beach of [Carmel-by-the-Sea](#). To commemorate the event, downtown Carmel lodging properties are offering discounted nightly stays for visitors.

The event is part of an innovative, non-profit, after-school education program called [MINDDRIVE](#) in which mentors teach at-risk high school students critical thinking, creativity and entrepreneurship by restoring damaged exotic automobiles then rebuilding them into alternative-energy vehicles. MINDDRIVE will drive their all-electric Karmann Ghia from Eureka, Calif., heading south on Highway 1 en route to Carmel-by-the-Sea – designed as the official site for the finale celebration – on Wednesday, June 4.

This year's group of students and mentors re-built four Karmann Ghias into fully functioning electric vehicles, and will showcase two of their cars to spread their innovation-in-education message throughout their trek.

Here is a closer look at Carmel inns offering event-related lodging discounts:

- **Carmel Lamp Lighter Inn**, corner of Ocean Avenue and Camino Real; and **Forest Lodge**, Ocean Avenue at Torres and Mt. View. The two properties will extend a 25 percent discount on rooms booked for the night of the event, June 4. When booking the reservation at either property, guests are asked to mention the MindDrive event. For the Carmel Lamp Lighter Inn ([carmellamplighter.com](#)), call 888.375.0770 or 831.624.7372; for the Forest Lodge ([carmelforestlodge.com](#)), call 831.624-7372.
- **Hofsas House**, San Carlos and 4th. Guests who mention the MindDrive event when booking their reservation will receive a 15 percent discount for the nights of Tuesday, June 3 through Thursday, June 5. To make reservations, call 831.624.2745; for more information, visit [hofsashouse.com](#).
- **Inns by the Sea** ([innsbythesea.com](#)). Guests who book a reservation June 3-5 at any of Inns by the Sea's five downtown Carmel properties – **Candlelight Inn**, **Carriage House Inn**, **Dolphin Inn**,

Svendsgaard's Inn and **Wayside Inn** – will receive \$30 off the best available rate. Call 800.433.4732 and mention MindDrive, or book online and use the promo code “MDRIVE.”

- **Vagabonds House Inn**, Dolores and 4th. Guests who book a reservation between June 3 and 5, and mention MindDrive, will receive a 20 percent discount off their nightly stay at this bed and breakfast property. To make reservations, call 831.624.7738; for more information, visit vagabondshouseinn.com.

“This is a great opportunity for visitors to Carmel to experience in person how the MINDDRIVE organization has made a genuine impact on the lives of the students involved, and view the lineup of alternative-energy vehicles,” said Carrie Thiess, co-owner of the Hofsas House and member of the Carmel Innkeepers Association. “And, just before our summer season begins in earnest, this is the perfect time for guests to stay in one of our charming inns, visit our shops and restaurants, and relax at Carmel Beach.”

The Carmel Hospitality Improvement District – a joint organization of the City of Carmel, Carmel Chamber of Commerce and Carmel Innkeepers Association – is working to promote the village’s abundant attractions, events, and stunning seaside location. From its incomparable white-sand beach to many choices of distinctive meeting venues and lodging properties, Carmel-by-the-Sea has it all. For more information, visit carmelcalifornia.com.

MINDDRIVE is in its fourth year and annually serves 40 students from the urban core of Kansas City who, according to the organization, are said to be “slipping through the cracks of the ‘traditional’ education system.” MINDDRIVE is funded through the sponsorships of several companies and organizations, including Bridgestone and Hertz. For more information, visit minddrive.org.

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