



SPOTLIGHT ON...
SEVEN MILE BEACH

PAGE 8



RESORT PROFILE –
KAIMANAWA LODGE

PAGE 19

COVER IMAGE
Phuket - Thailand

TRAVEL

life

BUDGET *breaks*

JULY 2011
16070

**BARGAIN
ASIA BREAKS
CRUISE & TOUR
EXCHANGE
SPECIALS**

**EAST COAST USA
TOP TIPS TO HELP YOU SAVE
OFF SEASON AUSTRALIA**

CALL 1300 368 800 AU 0800 368 800 NZ FOR MORE INFORMATION

RCI®

Welcome from Charisse

Here at RCI we love to offer our members exciting membership opportunities to continually add value. Enhancing your RCI membership is always

at the forefront of everything we do, and I am thrilled to announce that we have a fabulous competition where you could win a BRAND NEW CAR or a holiday to sunny Florida!

With an amazing prize pool valued at over \$40,000, this HUGE competition is a first for RCI and it's open to all Pacific members. All you need to do to have a chance at winning is continue using your membership to book holidays, deposit your Weeks, book with RCI Travel, Cruise or Tours, or renew your membership. Jump online at www.winbigwithRCI.com to find out more!

I'm also very excited to see how well the RCI Roadshows are being received. Over the course of the next 6 months RCI is coming to you to tell you all about Weeks Enhancements and how these new benefits will enrich your RCI membership.

RCI Roadshows are the perfect opportunity for you to learn more about the recent changes and to meet face to face with some of our team. The feedback so far has been fantastic with many members already putting their new knowledge to work. Keep an eye out in your inbox for details of upcoming information sessions.

Charisse -

Charisse Cox
Managing Director – RCI Pacific
Email: Charisses.Desk@rci.com

MAIL BAG

We love hearing about your RCI holidays and receiving your feedback. If you have a travel story or photos to share with us, email editor@rci.com and you could win \$200 RCI dollars towards your next holiday.

RCI reserves the right to edit your submissions



Winning letter

This edition's Winning Letter is a fabulous poem from one of our very creative members who holidayed in Bali

A Bali Holiday Experience

A driver was waiting at Denpasar

To take us to our resort, Risata.

We checked in without any bother or fuss

The friendly staff was looking after us

Our suite was splendid, bringing oohs and ahs

As we looked around, it was great so far.

A huge swimming pool looked most inviting

Banana lounges - everyone relaxing.

An open restaurant overlooks the pool

Ensuring frazzled families stay cool.

In case it rains, there's covered dining too

Internet access is provided for you.

There are scheduled activities every day

Supervised and free; you don't have to pay!

Plenty of places to eat in Kuta

Or Seminyak which is a bit dearer.

Touring covered Uluwatu Temple

Where cliff top views were awesome and ample.

Shopping, walking and water sports galore

Galleries, craft shops, spas and much, much more!

The boys enjoyed the white water rafting

The girls - the markets, haggling and shopping.

Australia Day brought fireworks aplenty

Our pleasure was beyond elementary.

We really loved snorkelling and Turtle Island

Where a turtle chomped my finger unplanned!

There were pythons, eagles and bats to hold

Stories we've bought back and yet to be told.

Tanai Lot Temple surrounded by sea

Sunset dinner was a winner for me.

Casa Luna cooking school, now there's a treat

The food and company were hard to beat.

We visited Bali Kids orphanage

Where overseas aid assists them to manage.

We gave them things to make it easier

Radiant smiles – for a short time happier.

Kantanami Volcano to the north

We visited on February the fourth.

Captivating to hazy horizon

Lava vista to dazzling lake beyond.

The eleven hour day was quite a haul

For us it was nearly a very close call.

Our driver's eyes gradually became slits

He falling asleep – us out of our wits!

The Bali Zoo was a family affair

Lions and tigers in more than one pair.

This holiday's been lots of fun for us

Now back home to Oz - separate states - unjust!

Frances

Modbury North, SA



CONTACT RCI

EMAIL pacific.member@rci.com **PHONE** 1300 368 800 AU, 0800 368 800 NZ

POST AU PO Box 6495, GCMC, QLD 9726 **POST NZ** PO Box 11561, Ellerslie, 1542

RCI TRAVEL 1300 301 044 AU 0800 301 044 NZ **RCI CRUISE** 1300 724 262 AU 0800 724 262 NZ

Not Getting **Emails?**

Are you receiving the latest holiday deals and specials from RCI? Call us to opt into receiving email updates about Bonus Week Sales, Holiday Rental and Exchange offers, Cruise & Tour Exchange deals and much more!

Get **'APPy'**



Downloading a free iPad or iPhone app is a good way to research your holiday destination before you get there. Use them to find out where to go, what to see and where to eat. And once you're on holidays, some apps have inbuilt maps to help you get around. RCI's own app allows you to share holiday stories and tips with other RCI members across the globe. Check it out in the iTunes store today.

Upgrade your RCI Membership to **Platinum and Save**

The RCI Platinum membership is designed to help you get even more from your RCI membership. Enjoy a wide range of exclusive benefits such as Priority Access, rebates on select RCI transactions, opportunities for complimentary unit upgrades and much more.

You will enjoy the most flexible Weeks Holiday Exchange membership in the industry and more value through a range of exciting benefits.

Call an RCI Reservations Consultant on **1300 368 800 AU** or **0800 368 800 NZ** for more details.

RCI PLATINUMSM



Comment card winners

Remember to fill in your comment cards after your holiday for the chance to win \$200 RCI dollars. Latest comment card winners are:

JUNE 2011

Greg & Adrienne,
Christchurch, NZ

JULY 2011

Graeme & Irene,
Dingley Village, Vic

**WANT
TO WIN
\$200?**



The experts in holiday exchange!

Because your holiday means the chance to **WIN BIG WITH RCI!**

During winter all you need to do is book an RCI Holiday, renew your membership, deposit your Week, or book with RCI Travel, Cruise or Tours.

Don't forget to budget for **Travel Insurance**

Getting treatment overseas is definitely one thing that will break your holiday budget. Here is a list of the most expensive locations to occupy a hospital bed per night costs (supplied by AAMI)

1. New York City \$16,000-\$21,500
2. Hawaii \$10,500
3. Canada \$10,000
4. France \$9500-\$12,500
5. Germany \$9500-\$12,500
6. California \$8500
7. Florida \$8500
8. Thailand \$3000
9. Indonesia \$3000
10. Vietnam \$2000-\$2500

So make sure you factor in Travel Insurance for your next holiday!

Call RCI Travel on **1300 301 044 AU** or **0800 301 044 NZ** to get a member-only quote!

RCI RESERVATIONS CONSULTANTS – 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

FOR ONLY AU\$60* / NZ\$57* A YEAR, your RCI membership represents excellent value for money. With exclusive member benefits and access to holiday specials, you could save hundreds or even thousands on your next RCI Holiday. Sometimes these savings might not seem completely obvious, so we've come up with these top tips which will be sure to give you extra bang for your buck.

Top holiday tips **FROM RCI**

BOOK A BONUS WEEK

Bonus Weeks are one of the best value for money holidays you can get! From as little as AU\$199[^] / NZ\$269[^] you could book a seven night holiday without having to use your Week or Points

SAVE WITH HOLIDAY RENTALS

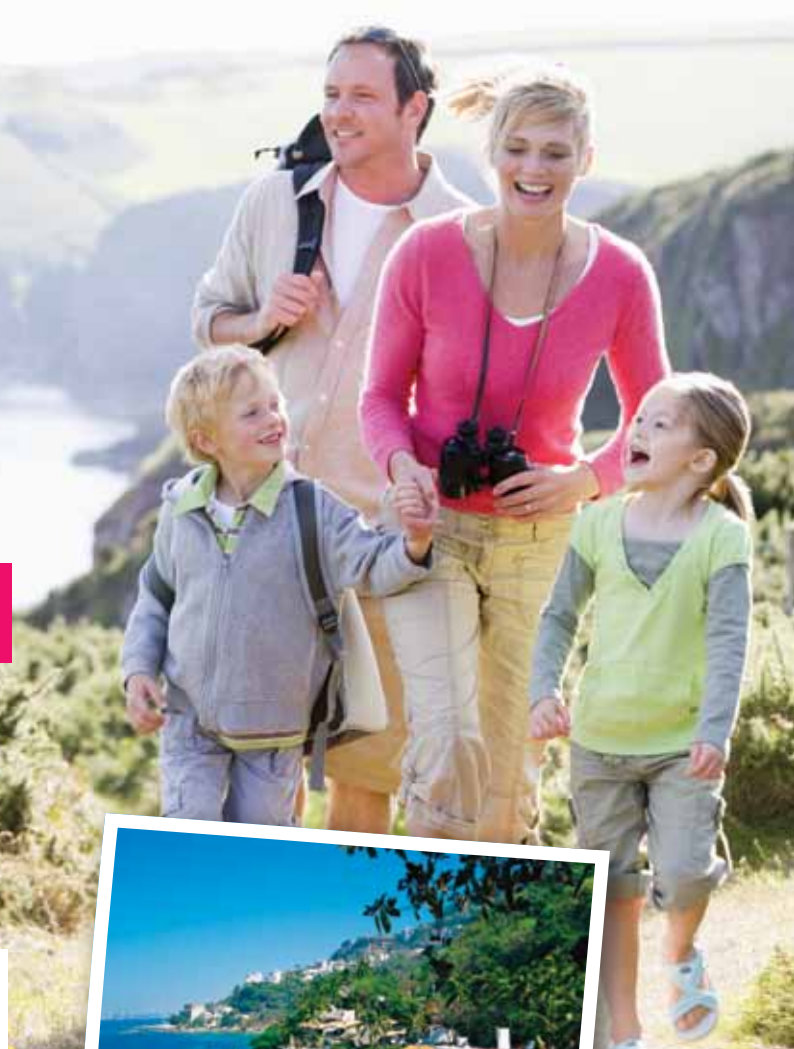
RCI Holiday Rentals could save members up to 50% off advertised rack rates at a number of well-known hotels and resorts in your favourite holiday destinations locally and internationally.

COOK IN SELF-CONTAINED APARTMENTS

One of the best things about timeshare resorts is that pretty much all of the accommodation is self-contained. This means you've got a handy kitchen where you can try your hand at cooking local dishes with fresh produce bought from local farmers markets. By cooking in-room meals a couple of nights, you can afford to splash out at that fancy Michelin star restaurant you've been hearing about.

BOOK OUTSIDE HIGH SEASON

This is a top tip for two reasons. Firstly because it means there will be more exchange availability to choose from and secondly because it means you won't be charged tourist season prices at local attractions and you won't be swamped with tourist season crowds. Instead you can enjoy your holiday just that little bit more without having to line up, fight the masses, or fork out a fortune for sightseeing.



BOOK EXTRA HOLIDAYS WITH DEPOSIT CREDITS

The recent enhancements we've made to Weeks membership means Weeks members will receive Deposit Credits when they book an exchange with less Trading Power value than that of their Deposit. These Deposit Credits can be used to book further holidays. This means you could get more than one holiday for your Week!

TOUR AND CRUISE EXCHANGE

Exchanging your holiday ownership towards any cruise or tour in RCI's exchange program could save you a bundle! With average saving of AU\$1800, your next exchange could take you on an exciting journey anywhere in the world. Tours and Cruises are often a great way to save money on holidays as most activities and meals are factored into the total price.

BE OPEN MINDED AND PLAN EARLY

Planning early allows you to take advantage of cheap flight offers and early-bird offers from cruise and tour companies.

*Membership Fee based on five year Weeks membership.
[^]Bonus Weeks availability are subject to availability at time of print and require no Spacebank or RCI Points contribution.



Visit **RCI.com** to find out more about your RCI membership benefits
or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

**MORE THAN
\$40,000
IN PRIZES**

WIN



with RCI

The experts in holiday exchange!

For the chance to **WIN one of these great prizes** simply:

- > Book an RCI Holiday
- > Book with RCI Travel, Cruise or Tours
- > Deposit your Timeshare Week
- > Renew your RCI Membership



The Hyundai prize includes:

- > 2011 Hyundai i30 5 door hatch
- > Automatic transmission
- > Statutory and on road costs (first year)
- > Valued at \$23,074



The Florida Getaway includes:

- > Return flights for two from New Zealand
- > 14 nights accommodation (RCI Resort)
- > Valued at \$9,000

WIN BIG WITH RCI! Call us today on 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

RCI®

This competition is conducted by RCI Pacific Pty Ltd, ABN 46 084 640 933, of Level 3, Waterside East Tower, Holden Place, Bundall QLD 4217. Competition opens at 00:00 hrs on 1/6/11 and ends at 24:00 hrs on 20/8/11. Complete Terms and Conditions for RCI's Win Big can be found at www.winbigwithrci.com or by calling RCI Reception on +61 7 5588 9999. A draw will be held at 3pm on 24/8/11 at Suite 205, 22 Mountain St, Ultimo NSW 2007.

Australian Member Draw. The Eligible Entrants whose entries are the first four valid entries drawn (each a "Finalist") will each win one Draw Prize valued at \$1,950. i) return economy flights for two people from the capital city closest to the winner's place of residence to Coolangatta airport (except where Brisbane is the winner's nearest capital city) arriving on Monday, 12 September 2011 and departing on Tuesday, 13 September 2011. ii) twin share accommodation at the Wyndham Surfers Paradise Resort on the night of Monday, 12 September 2011. iii) the right for the Finalist to participate in the Car Giveaway which will commence at 12 noon on Monday, 12 September 2011 at Watermark Hotel Surfers Paradise and iv) return ground transfers between Coolangatta airport and the Accommodation. The four Finalists will each select one of four keys supplied by the Promoter. The Finalist whose Key opens the driver's door of the Event Car is the Major Prize winner. Major Prize: An Hyundai i30 1.6SX 5 door hatchback motor vehicle valued at a maximum of AU\$23,074. The remaining finalists receive an RCI Prize Pack valued at AU\$953 comprising of 5 year RCI membership, One RCI Bonus Week and One RCI Exchange.

New Zealand Member Draw. Major Prize: Two week holiday for the winner and one guest (2 people) in Orlando, Florida, USA valued at a maximum of NZ\$9000 including return flights from Auckland. The name of the Finalists and their prizes and the name of the winners will be published in November 2011 edition of TravelLife and in The Australian on 21/9/11. Authorised under NSW Permit No LTPS/11/04557. ACT Permit No TP 11/02019. VIC Permit No 11/1045. SA T11/1033.

OFF-SEASON TRAVELLING IS OFTEN THE BEST TIME TO TAKE A HOLIDAY. YOU CAN GET FANTASTIC DISCOUNTS ON ACCOMMODATION, TOURIST ACTIVITIES, FLIGHTS AND YOU MIGHT EVEN HAVE THE WHOLE PLACE TO YOURSELF. IT CAN GET STIFLINGLY HOT IN SOME AREAS OF AUSTRALIA DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, SO WHY NOT TAKE A WINTER BREAK AND ENJOY THE COOLER CLIMATE AND RELAX IN EXCLUSIVE STYLE?

Australia's top picks all to *yourself*

Rosebud, Victoria is a great place to take an off-season vacation. With one of the largest beachside commercial centres on the Mornington Peninsula, there is a plethora of shopping destinations, manicured parks and reserves. Nature lovers in particular are spoilt for choice, with an abundance of walking trails and bushland to explore.

History buffs will enjoy the Cape Shanck Lighthouse and Museum just south of Rosebud in the Mornington Peninsula

National Park, which offers a taste of nautical history and explores the early days of lighthouse technology. Guided tours of the lighthouse run daily, for AU\$15 per adult, AU\$9 per child or AU\$40 for a family with up to four children. You can also take your own self-guided tour at AU\$12 per adult, AU\$8 per child and AU\$34 for a family. You won't need to splurge on an expensive lunch, as these tour prices include entry to the BBQ area on site, so bring picnic supplies!

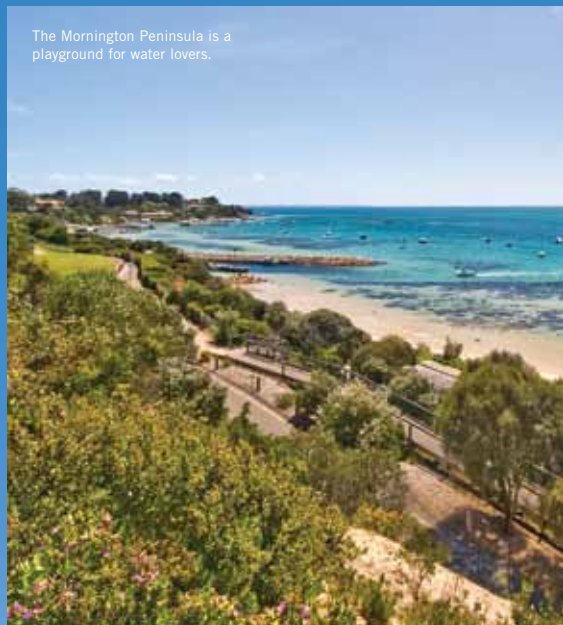
You can also explore the Cape for free on any one of a number of coastal walking

trails, with some even leading down the sea cliffs to the beach. These trails form part of the 27km Coastal Walk that stretches all the way to London Bridge near Portsea.

Back closer to town, between Rosebud and nearby Dromana, the peak of Arthurs Seat, at 300 metres above sea level, offers incredible views along the peninsula.

Another great way to explore the beauty of the Peninsula on a budget is to head to Greens Bush in the National Park – a large expanse of native bush surrounded by farmland, home to 167 bird species and 32 different mammals, including swamp wallabies and grey kangaroos.

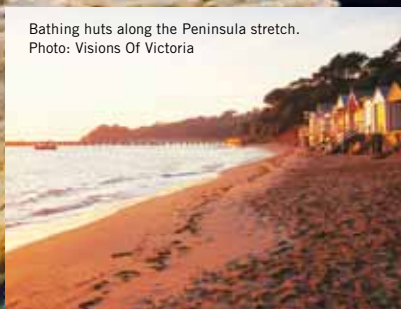
The Mornington Peninsula is a playground for water lovers.



Strawberry Farm.
Photo: Visions Of Victoria



Bathing huts along the Peninsula stretch.
Photo: Visions Of Victoria



Explore one of the coastal walking trails leading to London Bridge near Portsea.

With all these fantastic winter offers, and reduced prices for accommodation and transport, now is the season to take advantage of everything Victoria has to offer.

Visit **RCI.com** to book
or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

Mornington Peninsula pier.
Photo: Peter Dunphy, Visions Of Victoria



Cape Schanck Lighthouse.



Lavandar farm
Photo: Visions Of Victoria



An ideal place to stay and at great rates during the off-season, right in the heart of the vast and beautiful Mornington Peninsula, is the Nepean Country Club in Rosebud. Take some time out while staying at this exclusive resort to roam the 35 acres of magnificently landscaped gardens.

For a change of pace, escape the hustle and bustle of city life in Kyneton, Victoria. As the gateway to the Gold Rush, Kyneton boasts many beautifully preserved bluestone buildings, and visitors can spend hours strolling the streets admiring the historic architecture, particularly along Piper Street.

As well as a number of golf courses, art galleries and fine restaurants, this picturesque country town boasts a number of attractions for off-season visitors on a budget. The Botanical Gardens feature 17 heritage-listed trees, and are just as beautiful in the off-season with the trees ablaze with colour in autumn and creating striking silhouettes in winter. Entry is free.

The Kyneton Mineral Springs are a great picnic spot, where visitors can pump the finest quality mineral water free of charge. The park has public toilets and BBQ areas, so bring your own supplies and make a day of it.

Of course a visit to Kyneton isn't complete without exploring the beautiful Macedon Ranges. Head out for a day of gentle hiking and experience the mystery of Hanging Rock (otherwise known as Mt. Diogenes), the volcanic rock formation made famous in Joan Lindsay's 1967 novel and the 1975 movie, Picnic at Hanging Rock. The reserve is open from 10am til 5pm every day except Christmas Day, and entry is only AU\$10 per vehicle.

The charming country town of Numurkah is located at the gateway to the Murray River, just two-and-a-half hours north of Melbourne. Heading here in the off-season means you will have much of the town and surrounding attractions to yourself, and can take advantage of the many affordable and even free attractions and events.

Treat yourself to an afternoon at a local winery, or try some fresh produce including various cheeses and buffalo meat. Eddy's Family Farm Café is on a buffalo farm and a unique and affordable spot for lunch, with dishes between AU\$3.50 and AU\$7.50 for the famous buffalo steak sandwich. Farm tours are also available by appointment where you can hand-feed the buffalo.



Historic Piper Street Kyneton

Monichino Winery in nearby Katunga is open seven days, and visitors can take advantage of the BBQ and picnic facilities in a relaxed and charming setting. Or nature lovers might enjoy a visit to Kinnairds Wetland, with walking trails and boardwalks to explore the abundant flora and fauna, and picnic shelters for a spot of lunch. Entry is free but check ahead, as it's prone to flooding.



Coastal overview



Kyneton Botanical Gardens



Discover one of the many wineries that dot the region.

STAY



NEPEAN COUNTRY CLUB (1169)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

KYNETON BUSHLAND RESORT (0830)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB (1172)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

SUNRAYSIA RESORT (1179)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

TASSIE FOR 2

IF A ROMANTIC GETAWAY IN A UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL LOCATION IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, YOU CAN'T GO PAST SEVEN MILE BEACH IN TASMANIA, AND WYNDHAM SEVEN MILE BEACH RESORT IS NESTLED IN AN IDYLIC LOCATION.



Take long and intimate walks along the incredible beach nearby – with numerous viewpoints, you can appreciate the vast beauty of your surroundings. If you don't feel like venturing out, the resort offers a swimming pool, spa, tennis court, barbecue area, bar and restaurant.

However if you do want to explore your surroundings – which is highly recommended as this area is one of the most beautiful in Australia – here are some budget ideas. Firstly, and luckily, the resort is only 21km from the historic city of Hobart. Hobart is ideally situated on the Derwent River and there is plenty to see and do in this serene city.

Exploring the Salamanca Markets is a great way to spend the day. Open every Saturday from 8.30am, entrance is free and it's a great place to soak up the vibrancy of Hobart. You will find all kinds of gifts, arts and crafts and local produce.

It doesn't cost much for passes to visit the historic site of Port Arthur, which housed over 2000 convicts back in 1840. There are also some self guided Convict Trails that take you towards the Tasman Peninsula, where you'll discover the breathtaking sea cliffs and observe the abundant flora and fauna.

STAY



**WYNDHAM VACATION
RESORTS SEVEN
MILE BEACH** (8726)

Best Availability: Jul – Nov 2011

Only 40 minutes from Hobart, The Huon Valley is a must see. This World Heritage-listed National Park offers an awesome landscape. For the more intrepid, there's also a five-hour trek to South Cape, or a gentler 20-minute bushwalk may take your fancy.

Those with a sweet tooth can treat themselves to a tour of the Cadbury's Chocolate Factory. You will learn how all that yummy chocolate is made and even get to taste some samples. Admission is only AU\$7.50 for an adult – what a sweet way to spend the day!

Also available with
Bonus Weeks! Turn to
page 19 for details!



Visit **RCI.com** to book your Tasmanian Exchange
or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

Save with CRUISE EXCHANGE

4

FOUR TOP CRUISE
EXCHANGE
DEALS JUST FOR
RCI MEMBERS!

Heading out to sea for a few days is the perfect way to keep track of your budget while on holidays. Whether venturing through the South Pacific or the Mediterranean, a cruise is a great way for you to save money. With the majority of cruises offering a fully inclusive price meaning you can put your mind at ease instead of worrying about your wallet!

DEAL ONE PRINCESS CRUISES



13 or 14 night New Zealand cruises in December 2011 & January 2012 from Brisbane, Sydney & Melbourne on Dawn, Sea or Sun Princess

- Oceanview Twin share
- Was from AU\$3118* pp
- Now from AU\$2618* pp with Cruise Exchange

Upgrades to Balcony categories also available!

Join Princess for a 13 or 14 night adventure across the Tasman from Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne to New Zealand. See breathtaking fjords, charming towns and modern metropolises whilst enjoying the on board food, accommodation and entertainment – all for one fully-inclusive price.



DEAL THREE CELEBRITY CRUISES



Celebrity Solstice, 28 night Grand Asia voyage from Dubai to Sydney. Cruise on Solstice prior to its arrival in Australia. Departs 11 November 2012

- Balcony Stateroom
- Was from AU\$4856*pp
- Now from AU\$4255*pp with Cruise Exchange

A voyage of grand proportions, Celebrity Cruises 28 night Asian adventure is the perfect way to see the highlights of Asia. Be part of history as you cruise on board Celebrity Solstice - one of the biggest and most spectacular ships ever to visit Australia.



DEAL TWO VIKING RIVER CRUISES



Grand European Tour, 15 day/ 14 night cruises between Amsterdam & Budapest. Selected departures October & November 2011

- Oceanview Stateroom
- Was from AU\$4599*pp
- Now from AU\$3898*pp with Cruise Exchange

Imagine 15 magical days along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers. From Holland's windmill-studded tulip fields to Germany's fairytale castles, from the engineering marvel of the Main-Danube Canal to the picturesque vineyards of Austria's Wachau Valley, this epic voyage presents the highlights of Holland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.



DEAL FOUR AZAMARA CLUB CRUISES



Azamara Quest, 7 night Mediterranean cruises from Rome or Athens to Italy & Greek Islands. Selected departures in September & October 2011

- Oceanview Stateroom
- Was from AU\$2248* pp
- Now from AU\$1539* pp with Cruise Exchange

Whether your dream is wandering the cobbled streets of medieval villages, savouring a latte or a glass of vino in an outdoor café, or solving the riddle of the Sphinx, it can come true on an Azamara Club Mediterranean Cruise. Sailing from Rome or Athens to Italy and the Greek Islands, this 7 night voyage offers the ultimate Mediterranean itinerary.



*Cruises available for purchase by RCI Members only. Rates are per person based on double occupancy and when applicable a valid Spacebank or Points contribution is required and exchange fees apply. Government fees and taxes are additional. The rate is determined by availability, sailing date, departure city, cabin location, cruise line, ship, length of cruise and itinerary. Itinerary may vary by sailing date. Prices are shown in Australian Dollars, however to bring you the best deals some cruises and offers may be charged in US Dollars due to currency of purchase. Prices are correct at time of print and may change slightly to those indicated due to currency fluctuations. +Please see individual cruise offer for further details including information on Exchange value calculations.

Visit rcicruiseholidays.com to find out more about RCI Cruise Exchange or call 1300 724 262 AU or 0800 724 262 NZ

TRAVEL TO THE STATES WHILE THE DOLLAR'S

hot hot hot!



Shenandoah Valley

The USA has been a top holiday destination for Australians for many years now. Everybody who knows anybody knows somebody who has been to New York City, Las Vegas, San Francisco, or even all three. But now that our economy is booming and the Australian dollar is so strong, it's time to get back over to The States and discover a fabulous new holiday destination. We've picked three of the best up and coming areas so you can have the pleasure of visiting them as soon as possible.

Forget the snowy peaks of Europe; take a flight over to Massanutten, Virginia, for a fun-filled outdoor family getaway. Situated in the majestic Shenandoah Valley, this year-round Virginian resort has ski and golf facilities as well as a themed water park. The main attraction, obviously, is the snow. You can choose to ski, snowboard, snow tube or even spend a magical evening night skiing with your family. All 14 of the resort's ski trails are lit up, creating a memorable and atmospheric winter wonderland.

In summer, kids will love the indoor and outdoor water park, having their choice of 'Meltdown Slides', 'Inner Tube Slides' and 'Avalanche & Skyline Falls'. Everyone can get involved – if you dare.

There are also a number of tours from Massanutten available, and now's the ideal time to take advantage of the favourable exchange rate. The resort offers vineyard

tours each Tuesday for US\$40 per person, visiting the Barbourville Vineyard and Horton Cellars and including a scenic drive over the mountains.

History buffs can choose from a day trip to Washington D.C (US\$89 per adult, US\$79 per child) taking in all the major sights – including the Arlington National Cemetery, The Capitol, Supreme Court, Library of Congress and Jefferson Memorial – or a Civil War Tour to three nearby battlefields, the Hall of Valor Civil War Museum and more for US\$60 per person.

When hunger strikes, book a table at the Blue Ridge Buffet and Restaurant for family dining with a view over the Water Park and surrounding mountains. A la carte and buffet options are both available (adult buffet US\$12.95, children US\$6.95). For something more laid back, try the Woodstone Deli and Pizzeria, open 7 days.

But if it's warmer climes you're after, the Sunshine State is the ideal getaway for you and your family. And now is the time to book, with so many fantastic flight deals out there. Orlando boasts sunshine most of the year, so going off-season is an excellent idea. World-renowned for its theme parks, kids will have the holiday of a lifetime, with Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, SeaWorld and Aquatica to name only a very few.



SeaWorld

Visit **RCI.com** to book your budget USA break
or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ



STAY



MASSANUTTEN

**THE SUMMIT AT
MASSANUTTEN** (3640)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

**WOODSTONE AT
MASSANUTTEN** (5711)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

ORLANDO

**VACATION VILLAGE
AT PARKWAY** (4940)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

**SHERATON VISTANA
RESORT** (0450)
Best Availability: Aug – Dec 2011

MYRTLE BEACH

**PRESIDENTIAL VILLAS @
PLANTATION RESORT** (4220)
Best Availability: Sep – Dec 2011

**THE LINKS GOLF &
RACQUET CLUB** (0446)
Best Availability: Sep – Dec 2011

For the adults, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play on a Floridian golf course, and you'll be spoilt for choice in Orlando. The Bay Hill Champions Course is home to the Arnold Palmer Academy, but for something more affordable, check out the Bella Collina Golf Club (course designed by Nick Faldo, about US\$55 per round) or the Champions Gate National, designed by Greg Norman (about US\$75 per round).

South Carolina is perhaps a surprising family holiday destination, but it really

is a spectacular place to take the family with an incredible choice of resorts, motels, beach houses and condo rentals available along the 60-mile stretch of golden sand that is Myrtle Beach.

There is no shortage of entertainment; Family Kingdom seaside amusement park features more than 30 rides, with all-day wristbands great value at US\$24.50. And for visitors of all ages, a day trip to historic Charleston packed full of excitement includes a carriage tour of the city centre, a lunch-time harbour cruise on the Carolina Belle, and a visit to Boone Hall Plantation – one of America's oldest, continually operating plantations. You will also have time to shop at the Old City Market and take in sights including Fort Sumter (where the first shots of the Civil War were fired) and a number of stately homes, all for US\$110.

The Broadway at the Beach entertainment complex features restaurants, bars, theatres and more than 100 shops, but with all that water and sunshine, it would be a sin not to get on a banana boat, go parasailing, boogie boarding or kayaking.

There you have it, three wonderful excuses to take the family back to the states.

**Enjoy a luxury holiday
on your terms as the
Australian dollar rides high.**



Boone Hall Plantation



Myrtle Beach

EXCHANGE FOR AN RCI TOUR

SETTING OFF ON A TOUR WILL PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE AS YOU FIND THAT THE PLANNING TAKES CARE OF ITSELF. WITH FRIENDLY AND PROFESSIONAL GUIDES SHOWING YOU THE BEST OF WHAT EACH AREA HAS TO OFFER. YOU CAN EXPECT A GOOD PRICE THAT INCLUDES A NUMBER OF MEALS AND ACTIVITIES, ENSURING YOU ARE CARED FOR AND DON'T HAVE TO WASTE TIME STRESSING OUT ABOUT ORGANISING YOUR HOLIDAY!

FOUR TOP TOUR EXCHANGE DEALS JUST FOR RCI MEMBERS!



DEAL #1

ROCKIES WITH ALASKA BY SEA & LAND

23 DAYS

WAS FROM AU\$11,895* pp
NOW FROM ONLY AU\$11,294* pp with Tour Exchange
SAVE UP TO AU\$1200 per couple!

Take in all the very best Canada and Alaska has to offer, promising truly unique memories, wonderful experiences and an appreciation for a part of the world that remains almost untouched. Highlights include the Rocky Mountaineer Rail and a seven night Inside Passage Cruise.

BONUS

Companion Fly Free! *^
Ask for details!



DEAL #2

HIGHLIGHTS OF EUROPE

14 DAYS

WAS FROM AU\$3675* pp
NOW FROM ONLY AU\$3274* pp with Tour Exchange
SAVE UP TO AU\$800 per couple!

Varied landscapes, magnificent scenery, history galore, a treasure trove of art and architecture... a glorious reflection of Europe at her best. Winter departures - Christmas markets are open in Heidelberg, Munich and Salzburg on selected departures.

INSIGHT VACATIONS
The Art of Touring in Style

DEAL #3

MAJESTY OF EGYPT AND JORDAN

19 DAYS

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Visit rcitourexchange.com to browse tour itineraries
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CAIRNS

on a budget

CAIRNS AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS BOAST SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND SCENIC VIEWS TO BE FOUND IN AUSTRALIA, AND ARE JUST AS ENJOYABLE **ON A BUDGET OF \$50 A DAY.**



9AM

Take a drive north of the airport, cruising along the Captain Cook Highway and past the sugar cane fields. After about 15 minutes, you'll see a sign to Kuranda. Drive the winding 25km Kuranda Range Road and stop off at the lookout point, taking in the phenomenal views across Cairns to Green Island. Once you have arrived in Kuranda village, wander the streets and admire the quaint aboriginal-inspired setting.



1PM

It's lunch time, and for the perfect spot, head back onto the Captain Cook Highway for about 15 minutes, turning off to the right at Palm Cove. Palm Cove's main strip has a wide variety of affordable cafes and restaurants, which look out over a beautiful golden beach. Cocky's on the Cove is a great choice for affordable but quality food. Mains between \$5 and \$15.



7PM

Take an evening walk through the streets of Cairns and forget the fancy restaurants; find a nice spot with a view and enjoy some fish and chips. Splash Seafood Restaurant (103 The Esplanade) serves traditional fish and chips from \$14.



11AM

Next stop is the impressive Barron Falls. Rather than taking the sky rail, it doesn't cost anything to walk through Barron Gorge National Park outside Kuranda. This relaxing boardwalk stroll through the differing layers of the rainforest's canopy will take you out to the spectacular Barron Falls. Apparently it's best during the rainy season, with the rain and mist giving an impressively eerie atmosphere.



2.30PM

It's time to hit the road again, driving north up to Port Douglas. This exclusive beachside village is a great place to do some window shopping, which costs you nothing at all. Take a stroll on the famous Four Mile Beach and enjoy the fresh air and beautiful views.



4.30PM

Head back down south to Cairns city in time to watch the sun set over the famous esplanade.

STAY



CAIRNS BEACH RESORT

7 nights from: AU\$579* / NZ\$799*

MARLIN COVE

7 nights from: AU\$729* / NZ\$999*

HALF MOON BAY

7 nights from: AU\$649* / NZ\$889*

CHIFLEY PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL

7 nights from: AU\$1159* / NZ\$1589*

*Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print. Room sizes vary between resorts.



Light trails from Bangkok traffic



MARKET MADNESS IN BANGKOK

The infamous Khao San Road in Bangkok was immortalised in the movie *The Beach*. Since then it has become even more popular with backpackers and overpopulated with stalls. But the crazy and overwhelming atmosphere is the charm of Khao San Road. For the real bargain hunters, it's still an amazing place to find big brand T-shirts, jeans and underwear and update your wardrobe with some designer labels at a fraction of the normal price. There are also stalls selling beautiful Thai silver jewellery at a third of the price you would pay back home.

Taste some cheap and authentic street food along the way. Recommended by locals are the slices of duck smoked over sugar cane, pork stir-fried with Chinese olives and the sticky rice and mango for a sweet treat.

ASIA TRAVEL HOTSPOTS FOR

BARGIN HUNTERS

BEFORE YOU GO ON HOLIDAY, IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO GET SOME INSIDE KNOWLEDGE. YOU DON'T WANT TO TURN UP AT YOUR DESTINATION AND BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AS SOON AS YOUR FEET HIT THE GROUND. ASIA IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO FIND A BARGAIN OR 10 –

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR FANTASTIC ACCOMMODATION, DELICIOUS STREET FOOD AND CHEAP MARKETS, READ ON.

SHOPPERS DELIGHT IN KOH SAMUI

Koh Samui is a bargain hunter's dream. With the main shopping sites in Chaweng, Lamai and Nathon, many a purchase can be made. Before entering these markets, make sure you have your bartering hat on. Bartering is half the fun of market shopping and means you can leave satisfied with your purchase and price. Chaweng's market takes over the beach road and you can buy anything here, from electronics to jewellery and good old lethal weapons; shop to your heart's desire. Lamai's market tends to be cheaper than Chaweng, but is a much smaller version. This may suit those of you who desire a more relaxed approach to finding that holiday bargain. If you're looking to invest in some traditional Thai furniture, Bophut beach is the place to be. Take a wander around the streets of the fisherman's village and see what you can pick up.



Bangkok's Royal Palace



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ECLECTIC BALINESE FOOD

You'll find the very best of Indonesian cuisine in Bali. With a mix of Indonesian, Thai, Indian, Chinese and Malaysian dishes at such affordable prices, it will be hard not to spend your holiday eating your way around Bali. The result is a blend of spicy and sour flavours, fresh seafood and tropical fruit. Ubud is the place to dine if you are looking for traditional Balinese dishes, surrounded by exquisite paddy fields and complemented by the wonderfully hospitable locals. The famous stepped paddy fields are where the locals grow red, white and black rice. In the central market you'll find local fruits, beans, rice and takeaway food. Banana leaf-wrapped lunch packages are incredibly cheap, with a selection of rice, different curries and meats inside. Warung is the name given to the many street stalls dotted about the island. They sell cheap and delicious locally made Balinese specialties. A local gem is Murni's Warung, a divine restaurant with a relaxing atmosphere (www.murnis.com/warung/warung.htm).



CANDID CANDIDASA

Away from touristy and overpriced Kuta is the lesser-known but wonderful Candidasa. If art is your thing, this is the place to stay with several art shops lining the main street. You will also find handicrafts and souvenirs made by locals from the neighbouring villages. None of the shops have price tags on their products, so perfect your bargaining skills and bag yourself some cheap gifts. You can even dine in style in this quiet and ambient village. There are a few exquisitely positioned beachside restaurants with cheap Balinese and Western menus to cater for all palates.

Keep these insider tips in mind and you'll have a fabulous eating, drinking and shopping holiday all on a thrifty budget.



Over looking Bali's fertile coastline.

STAY



BALI

ROYAL BALI BEACH CLUB AT CANDIDASA (3968)

Best Availability: Feb - Dec 2012*

RVC AT HOTEL RAMA CANDIDASA (6920)

Best Availability: Aug - Dec 2011*

THAILAND

BEL AIR RESORT & SPA, PHUKET

7 nights from: AU\$529^ / NZ \$719^

SABOEY RESORT & VILLAS, KOH SAMUI

7 nights from: AU\$409^ / NZ\$689^

CITADINES SUKHUMVIT, BANGKOK

7 nights from: AU\$339^ / NZ\$619^

*Holiday Rental prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print. Room sizes vary between resorts.

^Holiday Exchange subject to availability at time of print and subject to Trading Power where applicable. Exchange Fee applies.



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TURANGI

GATEWAY TO TONGARIRO

ONLY A FEW MINUTES' WALK FROM THE CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS AND SCENIC WALKWAYS OF THE TONGARIRO RIVER, KAIMANAWA LODGE IS A YEAR ROUND OUTDOOR PLAY GROUND, OR GREAT PLACE TO RELAX, THE CHOICE IS YOURS.



KAIMANAWA LODGE (1812)

WHERE Taupahi Road, Turangi

ROOMS Studio, one and two bedroom units

FACILITIES Pools, games room, playground, restaurant, fireplace, laundry

BEST AVAILABILITY Aug – Dec 2011

*Subject to availability at time of print and subject to Trading Power where applicable. Exchange Fee and/or RCI Points contribution apply

STAYED HERE?
Post your review online at www.RCI.com



The park-like grounds of Kaimanawa Lodge mean plenty of room for kids to play on the playground, ride on the resorts own bikes, enjoy the pool or games room. Adults enjoy the choice of the dedicated BBQ area, or one at their own unit.

Only a few minutes' drive from the largest lake in New Zealand, Lodge guests are well situated to enjoy a variety of water sports, or simply relax on its sandy beaches.

The source of Lake Taupo, the Tongariro River provides for relaxing fly fishing for its world famous trout, fantastic mountain biking trails, and thrills for the whole family with some of the most scenic white water rafting in New Zealand.

Whether you are interested in the art of fly-fishing the river, or enjoying the waters of New Zealand's largest lake, Kaimanawa Lodge can organise fishing guides at great rates who will ensure you have the best possible day, and the guides will provide any gear you might need.

The nearby National Trout Centre regularly host kids fishing days, and with its underwater viewing chamber, aquarium and museum it gives an insight into trout fishing, a year round activity, and some of the finest in the world.

Turangi is the gateway to the World Heritage Tongariro National Park, New Zealand's first, and most visited. It is home to many fantastic walks, from short easy ambles, through to full day hikes amongst volcanic cones, including the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. All walks are open to freedom walkers, but guides are available to take care of you, and share insights into this unique landscape. Most walks are open throughout the year, but visitors in the winter months mainly come to enjoy the two ski-fields on nearby Mt Ruapehu, an easy 45 minute drive from Kaimanawa Lodge.

To relax and unwind, the local thermal mineral pools are a must, with massage

therapy also available in the township.

Centrally located in the North Island, Turangi is a great base for day excursions to everything from the geothermal wonders of Rotorua, the glow-worm caves of Waitomo, or the wine trails of the Hawkes Bay. Horse-trekking, quad bikes, bungy jumping, jet boating and skydiving and scenic train trips are all nearby.

Looking for somewhere different in New Zealand?

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Taupo Ika Nui (0900)

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