GREAT VALUE GETAWAYS STARTING AT \$269 PG 22



07 THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD



14 **KUALA LUMPUR SHOPPERS PARADISE**

PACIFIC ISSUE 1, 2012

PLAY | EAT | SHOP | RELAX | EXPLORE

Irope's Rising Stars

CROATIA TURKEY BULGARIA

GREEN RESORTS

EXTRA HOLIDAYS EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS

> A TASTE OF THE **SUNSHINE COAST**

January 2012 contents



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in each issue **31** MEMBER LETTERS









Welcome, this New Year brings exciting changes to your member magazine. We are thrilled to launch our new look and new name - Endless Vacation (formerly TravelLife) exclusive to Australian, New Zealand and Pacific RCI members. And what great holiday deals there are for you to choose from in this bumper issue some are so cheap I double-checked we hadn't misprinted the prices! Look at page 26 for accommodation in Asian holiday hot spots from just \$209 per week!

In 2012, we pledge to continue to work hard, evaluate everything we do to ensure that your membership offers you exceptional value, and as always continue to help you and loved ones create more enriching holiday experiences.

We believe education is the key to ensuring our members capitalise on their many benefits. Once again, we will be bringing our free Weeks Enhancements Roadshows to a location near you, look out for session dates or simply call our Reservations Team for details.

The New Year also brings new opportunities to holiday the way you want; I encourage you to deposit your Week as early as possible to retain your maximum Trading Power and discover how you can increase your choice of holidays.

Got a destination in mind? Start an online search or ask a Reservations Consultant to do this for you, our system will search 24/7 and soon as a match is found, we will contact you.

We're here to help you make the most of your time in 2012!

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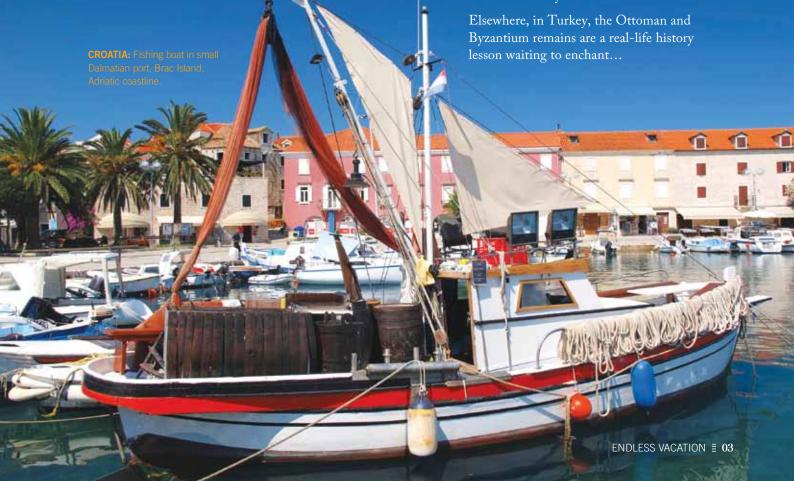
Europe's Rising Stars

{ affordable beauty }



CROATIA, TURKEY AND BULGARIA ARE HOLDING THEIR OWN AGAINST THE MAINSTREAM EUROPEAN HOLIDAY OPTIONS, OFFERING IN MANY CASES, CHEAPER ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORT AND EXPERIENCES.

Financial trumps aside, these countries also boast a world of hidden, eye-opening delights. Bathing in the refreshing waterfalls of Plitvice Lakes National Park and tantalising your taste buds with Italian-inspired gastronomy are all enlightening experiences that make Croatia an ideal place to put on the wish list. Bulgaria on the other hand, with its deep gorges, sinister caves, unique traditions and delicious cuisine also makes for an attractive alternative holiday destination away from the masses.





CROATIA

Dubrovnik, the 'Pearl of the Adriatic' is now the focus of a major restoration project by UNESCO, repairing some of the damage inflicted by armed conflict in the 1990s. Explore the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque palaces, take photos as you stroll around the fountains and enter the incredible churches and monasteries still untouched by time before heading to Zagreb, a medieval capital boasting as many bars and clubs as cobbled streets.

Zagreb in the northwest is one of Europe's oldest cities, yet undoubtedly one of its most happening metropolises. As the largest city in the Republic of Croatia it is well worth at least a couple of days, but if relaxation is calling, the high-speed train between Zagreb and Split via Zadar is the most convenient way of travelling the 256 kms to the coast and takes just 5 and a half hours.

The Dalmatian Coast offers all the calm and tranquility you desire, plus tourist facilities and a Rivera lifestyle at a fraction of the cost of heading to the South of France. Backed by rugged and majestic mountains, picture-perfect paradises like Brela Beach mean privacy and seclusion are as easy to score as a sun tan.

Warm turquoise waters invite you in for swimming and snorkeling, but to really see what the coast is made of, hire a sea kayak and explore hidden nooks and crannies, and watch as even more spectacular beaches appear on each horizon. There are many companies offering kayak tours around the coast, ranging from half a day to a whole week. Expect to pay about \$65 a day, including lunch.

If freshwater kayaking appeals, the Cetina River is one of the best places in Croatia. White water rafting is also popular here, but if you prefer to keep your feet on dry land, explore the surrounding villages for peace, quiet and some stunning architecture.

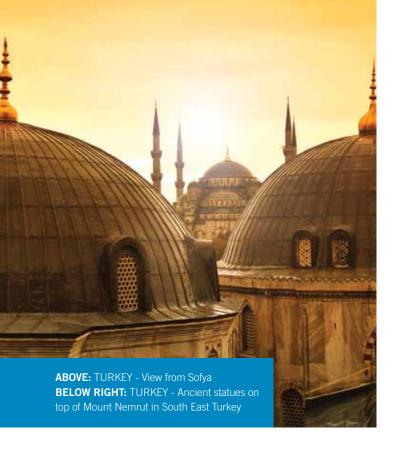


LEFT: ZAGREB - Renovated famous landmark St Mark's Church ABOVE: CROATIAN PENINSULA - City of Rovinj in Istria BELOW: KORCULA ISLAND - The old town of Korcula

For nature, beauty and a heritage that dates back to pre-historic times, look no further than the Island of Brac, separated from the mainland by the Brac Channel. Oil, wine, sour cherries and almonds are all farmed here and the quarries of the island of Brac have been a source of stone for building for centuries.

Another Dalmatian island must-see is the rugged Korcula Island, best known for its abundance of olive trees and picturesque Korcula Town. Don't miss a visit to Marco Polo's house – legend has it he was born here and it's best not to argue this fact with the locals.







TURKEY

No visit to modern-yet-ancient Turkey is complete without at least a few days in Old İstanbul. From the gargantuan Blue Mosque to Topkapı Palace and the markets, east meets west in a dazzling show of sights, smells and colours.

The mesmerising Aya Sofya is a good place to start prepare to be dazzled by the stunning interior. Hagia Sophia too is a photography hot spot from which to marvel at both Ottoman and Byzantium contributions under one magnificent dome. There are mosaics inside over 700 years old.

Modern Beyoğlu on the European side of İstanbul is the centre of the city's buzzing nightlife. Pedestrians stroll at all hours along Istiklal Caddesi (the Grande Rue) in search of the chicest cafes, bars, bistros and restaurants. For an historical walk, explore the hidden Ottoman hans (caravanserais) and the cinnamon-scented labyrinthine of shopping streets on your way to the Spice Bazaar (Mısır Çarşısı).

If you'd rather soak up the sights without moving your feet, take to the water for a boat ride on the Bosphorus. There are lots of companies offering dinner and sunset tours, many of which begin in Eminönü.

On the south bank of the Golden Horn in Istanbul, Eminönü has been a major shopping area for centuries. This was the spot from which the Byzantines bought their fruit, vegetables and grains, although these days, a fake Rolex is perhaps easier to come by than an apple. Sophisticated shoppers head to Kanyon, a multi-purpose complex in the Levent financial district.

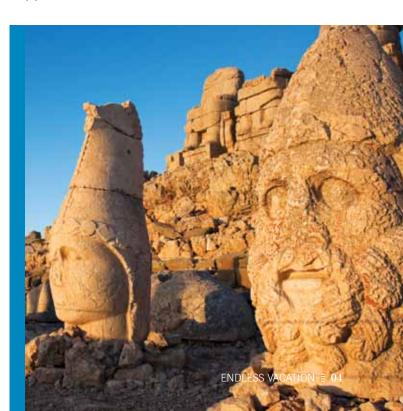
Looking for adventure? In 1987, Mount Nemrut was made a World Heritage site by UNESCO. This 7000-ft mountain is the site of an impressive amount of ancient statues at the summit, all erected around what's presumed to be a royal tomb from the 1st century BCE. For a hire car, bus or even helicopter up to the top, the nearby town of Adiyaman will cater to your needs. There are also overnight tours running from Malatya.

Another World Heritage site to take in is Goreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia, in Central Anatolia. Explore the lunar-like landscape and gaze in awe at mushroom-shaped rock formations known as fairy chimneys. Hierapolis-Pamukkale too, is a preserved site offering spectacular snow-white limestone with thermal springs, which the Romans thought to be therapeutic.

BULGARIA

From monasteries and churches over ten centuries old, to ancient tombs and sanctuaries, majestic mountains and exceptional local wines, Bulgaria's turbulent history has done nothing to harm its attraction as a holiday destination. Sitting between Europe and Asia, Bulgaria offers endless options for luxury and vast landscapes at a fraction of the price you'd pay for the same in its neighbouring countries.

Wine production has a long history in Bulgaria, dating back to the times of the Thracian. A wine-tasting holiday will cost you less here than in the Mediterranean and will buy you more fun, too.





There are five wine producing regions in Bulgaria, each of which has its own distinct features. The famous Bulgaria Sungurlare Misket comes from the Sub Balkan Region, whose deep valleys produce some truly unique microclimates. Reds from the Southern Region (including the Tracian Valley from the Balkan Range to the Greek border) are superb.

Take some time to explore the Black sea towns and villages in Bulgaria, many of which remain unspoilt by mass tourism. Marvel at the street architecture giving Sozopol - the site of the Apollonia arts festival every Autumn - its special charm. For romance, the tiny town of Balchik on the Black Sea coast is 2600 years old and boasts beautiful old hotels and welcoming restaurants. The more popular Albena, 35 km north of Varna, is host to top class restaurants, small and intimate spots on the shore, bars, taverns, discos and folk-style music venues.

If you feel like smearing yourself with rotting seaweed, fish, crabs and mussels, head to the Bourgas salt pit. Better than it sounds, Bourgas is the biggest natural open-air Spa centre in Bulgaria and the lye here is known for its healing properties.



DALMATIAN COAST & SPLENDOURS OF EUROPE RIVER CRUISE - 26 DAYS

Experience the unique beauty, history and culture of the Eastern Mediterranean, as you feel yourself transported into medieval times on a tour to Dubrovnik and its surrounds. Then, board your boutique rivership and prepare to be entranced by wonderful European cities and stunning historic sights as you travel from Budapest to Amsterdam.

FRENCH BALCONY PRICE!!!

Was From AU\$11,790*pp NOW ONLY AU\$9739*PP

*BASED ON TWIN SHARE/CABIN CAT.A - CONDITIONS APPLY

\$4000*
PER COUPLE
Including RCI Exchange Fee

Going off-piste? Bulgaria currently reigns as the destination for budget conscious skiers with some calling the Balkans the new Pyrenees. There are lots of skiing options available, with hotels dotted among the pine trees in the resort of Borovets. Cheaper food, drinks and accommodation than other, previously more popular Alpine destinations are attracting more return guests than ever before.

Whichever one of Europe's rising stars you choose to explore first, you'll probably save enough on your annual holiday to allow another trip. Why not extend your journey and see a different part of the world, for less?



RCI – AFFILIATED RESORTS INCLUDE:

CROATIA

FONTANA RESORT / PINUS APARTMENTS (7429), Jelsa

Located on the picturesque island of Hvar. The architecture of the town is dominated by beautiful buildings dating from the 19th century.



TURKEY

KAMELYA WORLD VACATION CLUB (C324), Colakli Manavgati

MEMBER REVIEW: "Fabulous holiday at Kamelya and would definitely recommend it. Lovely staff, consistent high standards and there is no way that I can think of that would improve this resort."



PINE BAY HOLIDAY RESORT (5276), Aydin

Located on a unique peninsula in one of the bays around the popular holiday town of Kusadasi, on the coast of the Aegean Sea.



ASTYRA SPA & THERMAL RESORT (A830), Balikesir



MEMBER REVIEW:
"The resort is lovely!
Everything was clean
and new."

*Bookings by RCI Travel and by RCI Cruise are facilitated through our Vacation Centre (OVC), Travel licence No. 3008099. Prices advertised include an Exchange Fee of AU\$199/ NZ\$229 per booking and are per person based on twin share unless otherwise stated. Terms and Conditions will vary by provider and are in addition to the standard Terms and Conditions of Our Vacation Centre which can be found on www.rcitravel.com.au

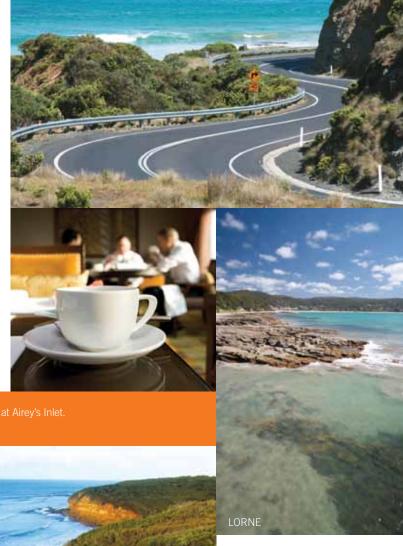


s one of Australia's best tourist drives, the Great Ocean Road leads you through charming coastal towns, quaint maritime villages and picturesque beaches – all before astounding you with the majestic Twelve Apostles.

Located just 275 kilometres from Melbourne, a leisurely four-hour drive to these iconic limestone stacks will ensure you take in all the sights along the way.

Although not officially on the Great Ocean Road, you might begin your journey with a stop at Queenscliff. This historic seaside village on the Bellarine Peninsula boasts elegant Victorian buildings and picturesque fishermen's cottages. Hesse Street will delight you with its galleries, shops and eateries as will Port Phillip Bay's diving reefs and marine life.

From Queenscliff travel on to the village of Lorne, the perfect seaside location to relax and enjoy the shops, boutiques and café culture. If you're a food and wine lover, Lorne makes a great stop, however, you can tantalise your taste buds all the way along the Great Ocean Road.





Relish the local seafood and regionally produced cheeses, at any of the villages and visit the cellar doors of the numerous vineyards, which will be highlighted on your map.

Nestled in the heart of the Great Ocean Road is Apollo Bay, the perfect place to base yourself for day trips to surrounding villages and tourist destinations. Apollo Bay is also the starting point of the Great Ocean Walk, which covers the ninety-five kilometres to the Twelve Apostles. Alternatively you can reach them by car within an hour's drive.

Suggested Itinerary

Morning

Start your day early by packing a picnic breakfast and take the hour's drive to Port Campbell and The Twelve Apostles. Here, the wild, pounding Southern Ocean and gusty winds gradually eroded the limestone cliffs of the mainland, forming caves. Over time, the caves became arches and once they finally collapsed stacks of rock up to forty-five metres in height were left standing. One of the best times of day to view The Twelve Apostles is sunrise when you can witness the amazing changes in colour.

Lunch

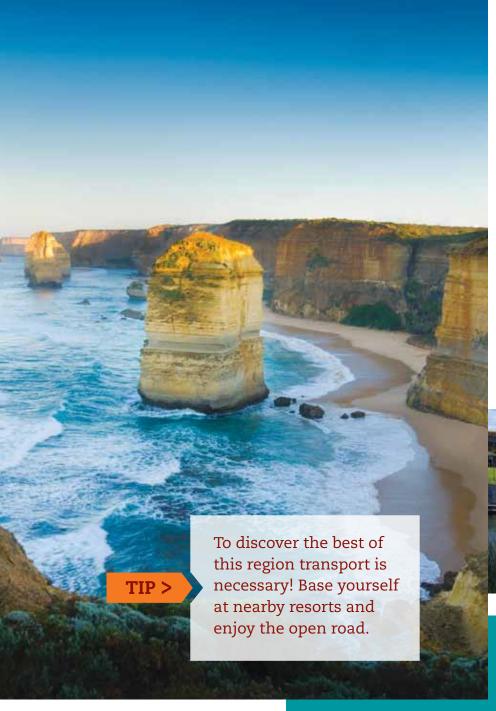
For lunch head back to Apollo Bay and call into the local co-op to buy your own fresh fish or dine at one of the many specialist restaurants and cafes. Enjoy the sumptuous local seafood, truffles, olive oil, wine and cheeses.

Afternoon

Relax while taking in the sights of Apollo Bay before heading to the beach for some sand, surf and perhaps a spot of fishing. Finish your day with dinner at Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant where Southern European cuisine and local seafood are specialties.







Day Trippin'

Warrnambool and Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village

Another fun day trip from Apollo Bay is a visit to Warrnambool, just over two hours away by car. Here you can visit Flagstaff Hill, which is an ideal place for uncovering the history of the shipwreck coast and the Great Ocean Road. By day, Flagstaff Hill recounts some of the tragic history of the 180 or more ships which have lost the battle with the Shipwreck coastline. By night, experience 'Shipwrecked', a theatrical multi-media extravaganza, bringing to life the unfortunate end of the Loch Ard.



ABOVE: Flagstaff Hill's historical Maritime Village. **LEFT:** The Twelve Apostles at sunrise.



stay @

RCI AFFILIATED VICTORIAN RESORTS INCLUDE:



BELLBRAE COUNTRY CLUB (3958) Bellbrae

Discover the beauty and tranquility of this peaceful country resort located in the hills overlooking Torquay, at the beginning of the Great Ocean Road. Great for families, the resort has its own mini-farm where children (and adults) can feed the animals.

KYNETON BUSHLAND RESORT (0830) Kyneton

MEMBER REVIEW: "This resort is a hidden wonder! Quiet, peaceful and just beautiful. Kangaroos wandering the bushland, birds, kookaburras. And the pool! What a beautiful location, and Kyneton itself is a lovely spot for shopping, eating and drinking. Loved the whole experience and the fabulous mosaics in the mini golf area. Very classy."

WORLDMARK RESORT BALLARAT (7660) Ballarat

MEMBER REVIEW: "A beautiful base from which to explore a very interesting and historic city and surrounds."

NEPEAN COUNTRY CLUB (1169) Rosebud

MEMBER REVIEW: "Had a great week away, resort is in a perfect position near several quality golf courses whilst Peninsula Hot Springs two minutes down the road was a highlight."

TATION OF A TIME

Each year in Australia, we have the pleasure of witnessing one of nature's most beautiful wonders as thousands of whales make their journey north from the Antarctic to breed in warmer waters. Getting a glimpse of these magical creatures is easier once you know when and where to go. Between May and November, you can spot whales on land or at sea from many scenic locations along the coastline.

WA: DUNSBOROUGH

Famous for long days of sunshine, blue skies and brilliant beaches, all perfect conditions for whale watching. See blue, humpback and southern right whales migrating through Geographe Bay. Tours leave Augusta from June to September.

VIC: WARRNAMBOOL

Situated just three hours south of Melbourne, Warrnambool is popular with whale watchers each year between June and September. This is a popular spot for female Southern Rights to flock for calving. A whale-watching platform is provided for visitors.

NSW: SYDNEY

Humpback Whales migrate up and down the coast between May and November each year. A whale-watching cruise is a great way to see the whales and take in the harbour.

QLD: HERVEY BAY

Humpbacks pass Hervey Bay from July to November. Sheltered by Fraser Island, the waters here provide perfect conditions for migrating whales and you will find plenty of cruises to choose from.

Book Ahead

BOOKING A TOUR Getting up close and personal to the whales is equally exhilarating and humbling, an experience you're sure to remember. Along the way you can expect to see dolphins, turtles, sharks and plenty of fish. Operators offer half-day, three-quarter or full day tours. Most half day tours cost between AU\$70-100 for adults, AU\$50-60 for children and \$270 plus for families.

QLD: WHITSUNDAYS

Get up close and personal with passing whales in the warm waters of the Whitsundays. You will find a variety of whale watching trips available departing from Airlie Beach between July and September.

QLD: GOLD COAST

Last year, the Coast surpassed Hervey Bay as the nation's number one whale watching destination. This is one of the best places to see whales travelling north and south during August as whale traffic heads in both directions. This region also has a longer whale-watching season with whales arriving to the Coast six weeks ahead of Hervey Bay. The season takes place between June and November and the Coast's most reputable operator is Sea World Whale Watch offering exciting close encounters with Humpbacks every year aboard the luxurious, purpose-built whale-watching vessel Spirit of Migaloo, famous for her environmentally friendly design, air-conditioned interiors, huge whale viewing decks and state-of-the-art Whale Theatre. Book online at www.seaworldwhalewatch.com.au or Freecall 1800 649 994.

Get the View

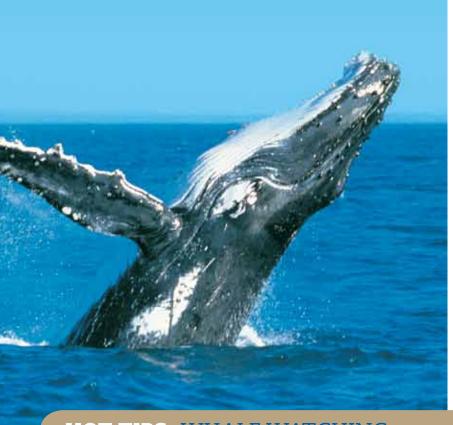


VIEW FROM LAND Basing yourself at coastal RCI affiliated resorts, allows you the freedom to easily make your way to ideal viewing locations usually within walking or bike riding distance. Whales generally travel close to the shore within one or two kilometres from the beach making them easy to spot.









HOT TIPS: WHALE WATCHING

- Pre-book your tour to avoid disappointment
- Book with a reputable tour operator most tours offer full refunds if no whales are sighted
- Prepare for sea sickness even if you have never been sick taking tablets to stop queasiness is a good idea
- Be prepared for the weather wear a hat, apply sunscreen, take a windbreaker or jacket especially during winter
- Bring a camera charge, check batteries and attach a strap



QUEENSLAND

EXCHANGE



MARINER SHORES RESORT (1726) Miami, Gold Coast Located just opposite Burleigh Beach.

RENTAL

ARTIQUE RESORT
Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast
7 Nights from AU\$899*/NZ\$1179*

BREAKFREE GREAT SANDY STRAITS Hervey Bay 7 Nights from AU\$699*/NZ\$919*

ARLIA SANDS Hervey Bay 7 Nights from AU\$729*/NZ\$949*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EXCHANGE



WYNDHAM DUNSBOROUGH RESORT & SPA (A789) Dunsborough

A luxurious resort with extensive facilities and amenities.

Member Review: "The scenery and tours available in this area are fantastic. Beaches, blue water that has to be seen to be believed, caves, wineries and gourmet food, the south west has it all."

* Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print.



GOURMET

SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL

The Sunshine Coast and the outstanding food trail on the drive up from Brisbane to Noosa is a culinary adventure. From beautiful coastal scenery to award winning dining and wine, the Coast is one of Australia's most popular food playgrounds.

YANDINA

WHAT The Ginger FactoryWHERE 50 Pioneer Road, Yandina, QLD



Just 90 minutes north of Brisbane, discover the colourful and rainforest setting that is the Ginger Factory. Perfect for adults and kids with lots to do and see and best of all admission is free. Learn all there is to know about the ginger industry and take a stroll through the heritage-style village of Gingertown. The Bliss Ice Creamery is hard to resist with 65 mouth-watering flavours to choose from all made onsite from the freshest ingredients.

BEST BITS

- > The Ginger Café
- Ginger Train Tour –
 on-board original cane train
- > The Ginger Shop gourmet foods, kitchenware, body lotion and perfumes
- > The Superbee Honey Shop OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM - 5PM PHONE: (07) 5446 7100

VINEYARDS WITH CELLAR DOORS

WHAT Boutique wineries WHERE Various Locations



A geographically blessed region featuring 10 small boutique wineries often family owned producing premium award winning wines. The cellar doors offer visitors personalised experiences including barrel tastings and dining in scenic relaxed settings. Ranges include Shiraz, Chambourcin and Chardonnay through to Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

BEST BITS

- > Flame Hill Vineyard, Montville QLD PHONE: (07) 5478 5920
- > Maleny Mountain Wines, Maleny QLD PHONE: (07) 5429 6300
- > Eumundi Winery, Eumundi QLD PHONE: (07) 5442 7444
- > The Little Morgue Winery, Yandina QLD PHONE: (07) 5441 5951

MALENY

WHAT Maleny Cheese &

The Cheese Stop Café and Shop

WHERE 1 Clifford St, Maleny, QLD



Home of European-style cheese making, enjoy the magic of Maleny with a taste and experience you won't forget. Open daily you can see and taste styled cheeses and yoghurts being made or sit on the deck at the cheesery and enjoy the peaceful surroundings with a beautifully presented Cheese Stop Café Platter and a glass of wine.

BEST BITS

- > A wide selection of cheese available
- > Handcrafted fine Swiss chocolates
- Gourmet foods: Jams and fruit pastes, Montville coffee
 PHONE: (07) 5494 2207



NOOSA INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

WHEN 17 -20 May, 2012 WHERE Noosa, QLD



This is undoubtedly Australia's premier food & wine festival, a gastronomically eventful four-day festival popular with locals, tourist's, celebrity chefs and the media. The festival boasts international and local iconic winemakers, restaurateurs, lifestyle events and live entertainment.

BEST BITS

- > Food and Wine
- > Relaxed Environment
- > Opening Concert and Welcome Party 5.00pm - 8.30pm, Lions Park, Noosa Heads
- > Best way to experience the festival is with a Gold Pass

NOOSA DINING

WHERE Noosa, QLD



Famous for endless dining options from casual to high end, there are over 170 local restaurants in Noosa. The restaurants offer innovative and fresh dishes making them extra appealing is the use of superb fresh local seafood, fruits, vegetables and meats. You'll find 16 Sunshine Coast restaurants awarded with the Australian Good Food Travel Guides coveted Chef Hats Awards with a fantastic concentration of Modern Australian Cuisine.

BEST BITS



stay

EXCHANGE

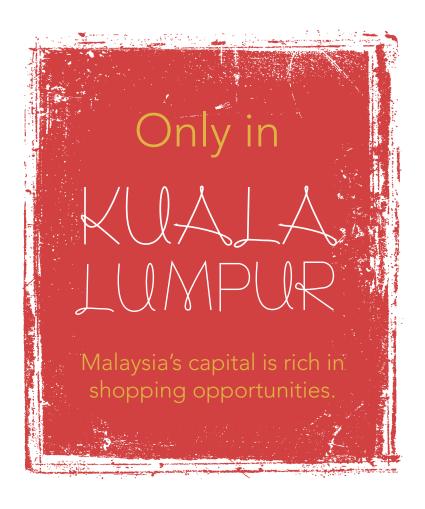
RENTAL

AU\$589*/NZ\$769



AU\$649*/NZ\$849*





uala Lumpur is the best walking town in Southeast Asia. With a population of less than 2 million, it has all the amenities of a much larger city yet retains an intimate, almost cosy charm. Wandering the streets of KL, you soon discover that the city is one great emporium. Retail outlets range from sidewalk vendors working out of cardboard boxes to luxury boutiques and department stores, all offering an alluring

array of chic, delicious and entertaining ways to part you from your money.

Posh markets

KL is a young city and it really came into its own in the years after World War II. From the beginning, Jalan Bukit Bintang (Star Hill Street) has been the city's prime retail district. Today it's an elegant, tree-shaded avenue of lavish international shops and malls - the modern Asian marketplace is air-conditioned against the steamy tropical heat.

Tomorrow's fashions

If Starhill Gallery is too sedate for you, the liveliest marketplace in town is just around the corner. Sungei Wang Plaza, on Jalan Sultan Ismail, is a bright jumble of tiny shops (anchored by the fine Parkson department store) where scrappy young designers work out of hole-in-the-wall boutiques.



Antiques and more

Central Market is a great place to pick up T-shirts and other souvenirs from pushcart vendors; there are also shops selling antiques, vintage toys and Malaysian crafts like songket, a fine cloth woven with gold and silver threads. KL's most delicious place to shop for antiques is Precious Old China, a Malacca-style Nyonya restaurant at Central, where even the chair you sit on is for sale (And yes, the lunch is excellent).

Malay tradition

Without a doubt, the best-known Malaysian brand is Royal Selangor, the pewter-maker celebrating its 125th anniversary. Royal Selangor products are sold at fine stores throughout the city and at the airport, but the most fun place to shop for pewter is at the factory in the suburb of Setapak. You'll start your tour in the small museum, then visit the factory floor (where you can bang out your own pewter dish) and finish up in a beautiful shop that sells a wide array of teapots, tankards, fruit bowls and picture frames. All portable - and unbreakable!















KL PLAZA SUITES (2869) Kuala Lumpur

Part of Fahrenheit 88 a major shopping, dining, residential and office complex located within the Bukit Bintang and Golden Triangle tourist attractions offering hundreds of first class shopping and dining outlets as well as outstanding entertainment options at night.

PALACE OF THE GOLDEN HORSES (A521) Selangor

Tagged as "Asia's Most Extraordinary Hotel", this world-class award winning luxury hotel has a dedicated conference centre and state-of-the-art facilities. 480 room resort with distinctive Moorish-Malaysian architecture and 20 minutes from the city centre.

AWANA GENTING HIGHLANDS GOLF AND COUNTRY RESORT (4919) Pahang

Located in the cool Genting Highlands an hour from Kuala Lumpur, this mountainside resort has great views and is a city of entertainment with a 24-hour casino, both indoor and outdoor theme parks, theatres, and more. Walk through a 100-million-year-old rainforest and have a day of fun above the clouds.

MEMBER REVIEW:

"A free bus runs regularly partway down the mountain to connect with the bottom of the skyrail and the main bus station."



Thailand's curries are fiery, but the *massaman* versions found in the south are a nuanced balance of hot, sour, salty and sweet. The name is thought to come from Muslim traders who traveled the Spice Route from Persia to India with cardamom, cloves and cinnamon.

This curry tastes best with beef, but you can also make it with chicken or duck. Find the ingredients, including the curry paste, at your local supermarket. Once all the elements are combined, let

it slowly stew, then serve over jasmine rice. A salad of cucumbers pickled with ginger and garlic will counter the richness.

MASSAMAN BEEF CURRY

Serves 4

2 tbsp. vegetable oil

700 g. chuck or round steak, cut into approx.

4cm cubes

2 tbsp. fresh galangal or ginger, julienned

small onion, thinly slicedcinnamon stick, broken in half

3-5 tbsp. massaman curry paste

1 14-oz. can coconut cream (not sweetened)

1 14-oz. can coconut milk

2 tbsp. sugar

2 tbsp. tamarind paste

2 tbsp. Thai fish sauce

unsalted roasted peanuts, choppedwaxy potatoes, peeled and cut into

1½-inch cubes

2–3 Thai bird chiles

Kaffir lime leaves or Thai basil for garnish

Heat oil in heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the beef in batches; brown on all sides. Remove with slotted spoon to a bowl. Add ginger, onion, cinnamon and 3 tbsp. of curry paste (or more, to taste) to pan and cook, stirring, until onion is soft, about 5 minutes. Lower heat. Return meat to pan and stir in coconut cream, coconut milk, sugar, tamarind paste, fish sauce and half the peanuts. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook over low heat for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Add potatoes and continue cooking until beef is very tender and potatoes are soft (about 30 minutes longer). Cut chiles into thin slices and sprinkle over curry, along with the remaining peanuts and lime leaves or basil.

RENTAL

THE BEL AIR RESORT & SPA Phuket

7 NIGHTS FROM

AU\$479*/NZ\$619*

EXCHANGE

MTC AT THE LEGACY RIVER KWAI (5456) Kanchanaburi

Amid a secluded atmosphere of mountain range, green forests and lively rivers in Kanchanaburi, lies this wonderful haven. In the evening, dine in the elegant restaurant or floating restaurant by the river, which serves tasty cuisines.

SIGMA RESORT CLUB (1300) South Pattaya

This beachfront resort is an excellent place to take in the sun, waves, and beautiful waters of enchanting Thailand. This resort is known as the perfect place for a quiet, relaxing holidays.

* Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print.

For more information and additional resort listings, visit RCI.com or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ



5 LOCATIONS5 GREAT MARKETS



where to shop while on holiday

Sydney Fish Market

PYRMONT, NSW

The largest market of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Dine at the fine cafés and restaurants, go on a tour or attend a cooking class at Australia's leading cooking school.

Open from 7am every day except Christmas Day.



Eumundi Markets

SUNSHINE COAST, QLD

This plastic bag free market, held in the centre of town is 20kms from Noosa Heads. You'll find the biggest diverse art and craft market in Australia.

Wednesdays 8am - 1.30pm

wednesdays 8am – 1.30pm and Saturdays 6.30am – 2pm; (07) 5442 7106



Supporting growers and producers from all over Northland, food is as fresh as it can be, often harvested or made on market day. Locations: Kerikeri every Sunday 8.30am – 12noon or Paihia every Thursday

2pm – 5.30pm



Chatuchak Market

BANGKOK, THAILAND

Nicknamed the "Thai Experience," this weekend Market is the place to do some serious shopping! You'll find everything here.

TIP > Show up early, haggle for EVERYTHING and enjoy this incredible experience.



Queen Victoria Market

MELBOURNE, VIC

An enormous sprawl of enclosed food halls and open sheds, "Queen Vic" is divided into a number of Market Precincts; the Deli Hall, Elizabeth Street Shops, Fruit and Vegetables

The Meat Hall, Organics, General
Merchandise, and the Wine Market to name a few. Open everyday except

Monday and Wednesdays;

(03) 9320 5822

Share your holiday!

Because your holiday means the world to us, RCI offers you convenient ways to stay informed:



Facebook.com/ RCITimeshare



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Twitter.com/
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The RCI Blog Blog.RCI.com



You Tube
YouTube.com/
RCITimeshare



IN RECENT YEARS, **RCI MEMBERS** HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY 'GREEN CONSCIOUS' AND THE DEMAND FOR ECO-EXPERIENCES AND 'GREEN' HOLIDAYS ARE STEADILY GROWING IN POPULARITY.

Cotourism Australia estimates that in 20 years green initiatives will graduate to mainstream as the industry discovers self-sustainability.

Launched two years ago, RCI pioneered the industry's first ever eco-friendly 'Go Green' program, created to encourage and promote the adoption of green initiatives by affiliated resorts. Since the program's

inception, many affiliate resorts have demonstrated credible advances in Energy, Waste, Supply Chain, Water Management, and Nature and Cultural Environment cultivation.

Resorts such as the top three Going Green award recipients are maximising the social and economic benefits to business and their communities, thereby reducing negative impacts to the environment.



Winner

CLUB PAIHIA, NZ (1374) Bay of Islands

A runner up in 2010, Club Paihia improved on an already impressive array of practices. Situated in a natural setting, Club Paihia recently converted part of the resort into opportunities to rehabilitate and feature the original native habitat. Members can now enjoy the specially built boardwalk through the forest and local school children are encouraged to build bird feeders and do projects on local wildlife.

Refurbished blocks are impressively eco-friendly from paint to the patio and a Bokashi recycling system is provided in every unit. Prize money earned last year from being a runner-up enabled the resort to replace a paper newsletter with a dedicated Club Paihia TV channel providing guests with information about sustainable activities and other news.

Book your Green experience today.



ESPECIALLY FOR RCI® MEMBERS

Welcome

to this exciting section in Endless Vacation Magazine

With each issue, you'll now receive special content that will help you get the most out of your holiday ownership with your RCI member benefits. In this section, you'll find information and updates about your benefits, a preview of what's new, additional opportunities for great holidays available to you at very special members-only prices-and more!

Enjoy this new section, and please tell us what you think. Email us at editor@rci.com with any feedback or suggestions. We're eager to help you find the holiday of your dreams!

Rentals

We guarantee you'll

SAVE

with our Best Price Guarantee. SEE PG. 22

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Visit

RCIcruiseholidays.com or call 1300 724 262 AU 0800 724 262 NZ



CAPTAIN COOK CRUISES MV REEF ENDEAVOUR

7 Night

Fijian cruise from Port Denarau Stateroom Twin Share

Was from AU\$3149*pp Now from AU\$2003*pp

Including RCI Cruise Exchange Departs: February to April 2012 SAVE OVER AU\$2200* per exchange!

> Captain Cook Cruises

APT RIVER CRUISES MS AMALOTUS

7 Night

Mekong River cruise from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City

Deluxe Balcony Suite

Was from AU\$3290*pp

Now from AU\$2789*pp

Including RCI Cruise Exchange

Select Departures: June 2012 to April 2013 SAVE OVER AU\$1000* per exchange!

Book this deal by 29 Feb 2012 & get return flights for just \$699^pp!

CELEBRITY CRUISES CELEBRITY INFINITY

7 Night

Alaska Cruise round-trip from Seattle Ocean view with Balcony Twin Share

Was from AU\$2085*pp Now from AU\$1498*pp

Including RCI Cruise Exchange

Departs: 18 May 2012

SAVE OVER AU\$1100* per exchange!



ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISE LINE RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS

17 Night

Trans-Pacific cruise Sydney to Honolulu Superior Ocean View with Balcony Twin Share

Was from AU\$4017*pp Now from AU\$3506*pp

Including RCI Cruise Exchange

Departs: 13 April 2012

SAVE OVER AU\$1000* per exchange!



*Bookings by RCI Travel and by RCI Cruise are facilitated through our Vacation Centre (OVC), Travel licence No. 3008099. Prices advertised include an Exchange Fee of AU\$199/ NZ\$229 per booking and are per person based on twin share unless otherwise stated. Terms and Conditions will vary by provider and are in addition to the standard Terms and Conditions of Our Vacation Centre which can be found on www.rcitravel.com.au. ^Conditions apply.



Britain and Ireland and Splendours of Europe River Cruise 30 Days

A trip fit for Kings! Explore the royal history of Britain and Ireland. Walk through Westminster Abbey, enjoy a Guinness in Dublin, and be captivated by picturesque villages as you travel Scottish highlands. A riveting journey completed by experiencing the splendours of Europe on a majestic river cruise.

Was from AU\$12940*pp NOW ONLY AU\$10840*pp

Including RCI Tour Exchange
*Based on twin share/cabin Cat.A – conditions apply





Treasures of Vietnam and Cambodia 20 Days

This 20 day adventure combines the best Vietnam and Cambodia including Hoi An, Hanoi, Angkor Wat and Siem Reap. Highlights include a Junk cruise around Ha Long Bay and a luxury 7 day Mekong River Cruise.

Was from AU\$7795*pp NOW ONLY AU\$7145*pp

Including RCI Tour Exchange
*Based on twin share/seasonal surcharges apply





Cape Cod and the Autumn Foliage 18 Days

Start your holiday in historic Boston, make your way to Plymouth, savour the views of Cape Cod, and explore Martha's Vineyard. Continue along Maine's coast stopping in various picturesque locations, visits to Shelburne Heritage Park, and a guided tour to Ben and Jerry's Ice-cream factory are included. Tour ends in New York City!

Was from AU\$4478*pp NOW ONLY AU\$3978*pp

Including RCI Tour Exchange
*Based on twin share/selected dates only





FIRE & ICE SEPTEMBER 2012* 30 Nights Fly/Cruise/Rail/Tour Package

Alaska, Canada & Hawaii.

Highlights: Alaskan Inside Passage, Sawyer Glacier, Mount Robson, Jasper, Columbia Icefields, Lake Louise, Banff, Rocky Mountaineer, Fraser River Valley, Hawaiian Islands.

DEPARTS: 29 August 2012

Inside Cabin AU\$8198*pp Outside Cabin AU\$8466*pp Balcony Cabin AU\$10,189*pp

Including RCI Tour Exchange
*Additional Fire and Ice terms and conditions apply.

*Bookings by RCI Travel and by RCI Cruise are facilitated through our Vacation Centre (OVC), Travel licence No. 3008099. Prices advertised include an Exchange Fee of AU\$199/ NZ\$229 per booking and are per person based on twin share unless otherwise stated. Terms and Conditions will vary by provider and are in addition to the standard Terms and Conditions of Our Vacation Centre which can be found on www.rcitravel.com.au

Introducing...

Ramada Port Douglas

iews can't get much better than picturesque Port Douglas. Only a one-hour drive from Cairns and a five-minute stroll from famous Four Mile Beach, you'll be forgiven for thinking you have a starring role in the latest advertisement for Tropical North Queensland!

This visually spectacular resort offers members access to spacious, well-equipped and modern hotel rooms that complement the tropical and peaceful surrounds.

With an inviting resort lagoon pool, complete with waterfall and bar, this is the ideal place to unwind.

The area boasts world class golf courses, first class dining and several wildlife and nearby environmental parks to explore. The Ramada Port Douglas is the perfect base for exploring all the wonders of this truly unique region.





Distance from the resort...

Cairns International & Domestic Airport	63km
Four Mile Beach	250m
Port Douglas Village Centre	4km
Cape Tribulation	80km
Mossman Gorge Rock Pools & Falls	16.6km

3 nights from AU\$269*/NZ\$349*

4 nights from Au\$349*/NZ\$459*

* Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print.



RCI Price Beat Guarantee

We want you to be sure that you are getting the best available rate on your Holiday Rental accommodation. So if you find a better offer on the rental accommodation supplier's home website for the equivalent RCI Holiday Rental accommodation, at the same location and reservation dates, we will match the price you have been quoted PLUS give you a further 10% off.

Visit www.rcispecials.com.au/pricebeat for more details





FREESTYLE RESORT

Apartments overlook a tropical reserve on one side and the lush gardens with sunken saltwater pool and spa on the other.

PORT DOUGLAS, QLD



ALLEGRA HERVEY BAY

Ideally positioned at Shelly Beach and overlooking the blue ocean waters to nearby Fraser Island and beyond, Allegra is destined to become your favourite beachfront resort.

HERVEY BAY, QLD

Find your slice of Northern Sunshine



SUMMIT APARTMENTS

Located right on the doorstep to the beautiful Whitsundays, and nestled in the foothills of Conway National Park, it offers amazing views of the beach and the magnificent islands of the Whitsundays.

AIRLIE BEACH, QLD



MARLIN COVE

Situated 15 minutes from Cairns, enjoy the relaxed atmosphere or take the opportunity to discover the region's unique natural attractions; the spectacular Great Barrier Reef and the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest.

TRINITY BEACH, CAIRNS, QLD

* Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print.

Southern Calling



MANTRA ON JOLIMONT

Located centrally in Melbourne's sporting and cultural hub with attractions such as the iconic Royal Botanic Gardens, Victorian Arts Centre and CBD all within easy walking distance.

EAST MELBOURNE, VIC



VIBE RUSHCUTTERS BAY

You will love the convenience of staying at this dynamic park side location. Enjoy high fashion amidst the boutiques of Sydney's Double Bay and craft markets of Paddington only a two minute drive away.

RUSHCUTTERS BAY, NSW



AUSTRALIS DIAMOND BEACH RESORT

A comfortable 3-hour drive from Sydney, this is a regional paradise. Enjoy the neighbouring region of the Great Lakes including unspoilt waterways, pristine beaches, national parks, and ancient rainforests.

DIAMOND BEACH, MID-NORTH COAST, NSW



OAKS GOLDSBROUGH

Enjoy central Sydney accommodation in an architecturally renovated historic landmark building. The nearby Star Casino is within five minutes walking distance.

DARLING HARBOUR, NSW

* Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print.



OAKS SHORES

Located on the very scenic Lake Wakatipu, Oaks Shores is a luxuriously appointed Queenstown apartment-style hotel in popular ski resort town and just 15 minutes' drive from the airport.

QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND



ARUBA SURF

Soak up the contagiously laidback atmosphere at Broadbeach while you enjoy the resort's full spectrum of amenities or stop by the front desk for assistance arranging local tours or theme park tickets.

BROADBEACH, GOLD COAST, QLD



CHIFLEY ALICE SPRINGS

This Resort combines efficient and friendly outback service with modern, comfortable facilities situated on the banks of the famous Todd River with its magnificent river red gums.

Scenic

ALICE SPRINGS, NT



OAKS BROOME

Set in picturesque Roebuck Bay, the resort is surrounded by extensively landscaped gardens and two sparkling swimming pools.

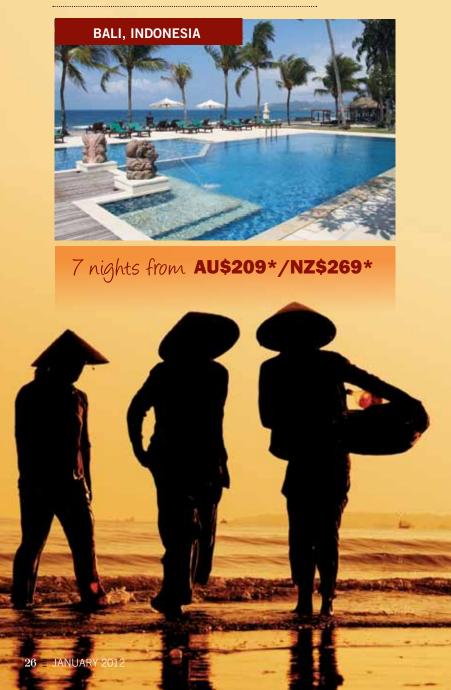
BROOME, WA

* Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print.

Exotic

Holidays to vibrant Asia are great for the budget-conscious. From relatively cheap airfares, to bargain shopping and the rich cultural heritage, Southeast Asia is terrific value for travellers.

RVC @ Hotel Rama Candidasa







4 nights from **AU\$429*/NZ\$559***

BALI, INDONESIA





3 nights from **AU\$459*/NZ\$599***

SINGAPORE

Bayview Hotel Singapore



3 nights from AU\$469*/NZ\$609*

SINGAPORE

Astoria Plaza Suites



7 nights from **AU\$299*/NZ\$389***

PASIG CITY, PHILIPPINES

^{*} Prices are based on low season and are subject to availability at time of print.

Bonus Holidays in

USA & LANDA

Samoset Resort (0624)



7 nights from **AU\$534*/NZ\$705***

MAINE. USA

Samoset Resort is a AAA Four Diamond, oceanfront resort in Rockport, featuring a state-ofthe-art health club, aerobics, hot tubs, massage therapy, saunas, indoor and outdoor pools, tennis, basketball and a children's playground. Play golf on the 18-hole championship course awarded Best in State by US Golf Digest Magazine. In winter, enjoy cross-country skiing on the golf course or downhill skiing at nearby Camden Snow Bowl. This is a perfect retreat for a romantic getaway, family holiday, or group outing.

Vacation Village At Parkway (4940)



7 nights from **AU\$349*/NZ\$451***

FLORIDA, USA

Silver Lake Resort - Silver Points (6815)



7 nights from **AU\$349*/NZ\$451***

FLORIDA, USA

Carriage Hills Resort (4200)



7 nights from **AU\$329*/NZ\$419***

ONTARIO, CANADA

Bluegreen Club 36 (A851)



7 nights from

AU\$447*/NZ\$581*

LAS VEGAS – NEVADA. USA

Grandview At Las Vegas (6923)



7 nights from

AU\$380*/NZ\$503*

LAS VEGAS – NEVADA, USA

Get More from Your Exchange with Deposit Credits!

And enjoy more holidays with your RCI Weeks member benefits

RCI introduced enhancements to your membership to provide you with more flexibility for planning your holidays. Among those exciting changes are Deposit Credits, which you receive when you book an exchange holiday that requires less Trading Power than the Trading Power of your deposit.

So now, you get to keep any "extra" Deposit Trading Power-as a Deposit Credit- which you can use toward another holiday. I am more than happy that at last I will be able to know and see the Trading Power of my entitlement, best of all I get a Deposit Credit back for this. I am excited about being able to combine my Deposits and use them towards a second holiday. In my opinion, this is the best enhancement benefit.

Carry on innovating; these enhancements are

- MAYER COHEN, RANDWICK, NSW

Here's how it works



1

Call an RCI
Reservations
Consultant or go
onto RCI.com to
select a holiday

2

Select an Eligible Deposit Pay the Exchange Fee & Confirm your booking

Receive a Deposit Credit for any unused Deposit Trading Power!

Here are a few of the ways you can use your Deposit Credits

- Toward another RCI exchange holiday
- Combine it with another deposit and/or Deposit Credit (RCI.com/CombinedDeposits)
- Toward a holiday to keep or be given to your family or friends as a gift with an RCI Guest Certificate

Questions? Call us on 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

WHAT'S NEW FOR RCI POINTS® MEMBERS AT **RCI.COM**?

As an RCI Points member, you've always had access to both RCI Points and RCI Weeks affiliated resorts – but now, searching for the one that's right for you has just become easier.

If you haven't seen **RCI.com** lately, we think you're going to love the latest improvements:

- One search for seeing all your possible exchange holiday options
- Enjoy more detailed resort information at your fingertips
- Get personalised resort recommendations based on your interests and travel preferences, and more...

Everything you love about RCI is now better than ever – and it's easy to get started right away.

REMEMBER

if you haven't already registered at **RCI.com**, now is the time!

It's the only way to see the new benefits for yourself, 24/7!

EASY PLANNING. EASY BOOKING. EASY GOING.



Bargain Bonus BREAKS





SEASHELLS BEACHFRONT RESORT (3952)

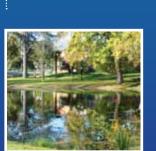
Hallidays Point, Coastal NSW

MEMBER REVIEW

"Great location. Saw a whale and calf heading South on the beach as the whales were only about 100 metres off beach, it was an amazing experience."

7 NIGHTS FROM

AU\$249*/NZ\$319*



KYNETON BUSHLAND RESORT (0830)

Kyneton, Central VIC

MEMBER REVIEW

"A most enjoyable and relaxing stay, great base for daytrips. Thank you... we'll be back."

7 NIGHTS FROM

AU\$299*/NZ\$389*



LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB (1172)

Numurkah, VIC

MEMBER REVIEW

"Very helpful & considerate resort manager. We were always out visiting other towns around Numurkah or poolside at the resort. People were friendly and courteous we enjoyed our stay."

7 NIGHTS FROM

AU\$249*/NZ\$319*



NAIGANI ISLAND RESORT (4978)

Naigani Island, Fiji

MEMBER REVIEW

"We thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The meals were very good, the staff friendly and we felt we experienced the real Fiji."

7 NIGHTS FROM

AU\$199*/NZ\$259*



NEPEAN COUNTRY CLUB (1169)

Rosebud, VIC

MEMBER REVIEW

"This is a wonderful resort the staff are excellent and we look forward to many more holidays there. Thankyou RCI for your great work too."

7 NIGHTS FROM

AU\$199*/NZ\$259*



SUNRAYSIA RESORT (1179)

Mildura, VIC

MEMBER REVIEW

"Great resort for families and offers plenty of activities for all tastes."

7 NIGHTS FROM

AU\$309*/NZ\$399*

Dear RCI...

Taupo, New Zealand

Thank you - Our week of relaxation at Lake Edge in Taupo was simply wonderful. The Resort is of the highest standard and is still one of our favourites, just the magnificent views of the lake from each unit makes waking up in the morning worthwhile. The unit was very clean, well prepared and had all the amenities one would expect. Mary the manager was very pleasant on our arrival and was most helpful during our week. Carole and I will certainly be making another booking there during 2012, although it is not one of our purchased timeshares.

- Norman and Carole, NZ



We have just returned from a fabulous 7-night holiday in Fiji staying at Worldmark by Wyndham Denarau Island. We have nothing but positive things to say about our RCI holiday experience! From the moment we arrived to harmonious sounds of local Fijian musicians and exuberant smiling faces enthusiastically greeting us with "bula bula"... to our last glimpse of the resort as generous staff with waving hands wished us "safe travels"... our adventure was simply perfect. The resort is set amidst beautifully manicured tropical gardens, with the longest pool we have ever encountered (perfect to burn off the calories from all the scrumptious food available onsite). The staff never ceased to seek to make our holiday memorable and selflessly served us day and night with warmth and genuine care. To anyone who has never yet "tasted" Fijian hospitality we would heartily recommend a trip to the South Pacific. Like us, you will plan to return! "Vinaka" RCI for treasured holiday memories.

- Andrew & Donita, Port Macquarie, NSW

Kimberley Cruising

Using a special offer from RCI Silver Service, we found ourselves indulging in an 11-night Kimberley cruise aboard the 'Coral Princess'. In the company of 46 other like-minded passengers, we enjoyed so many experiences. Whether it was visiting Aboriginal art sites, zooming over the turbulent waters of the Horizontal Waterfalls in a zodiac dinghy, swimming in rock pools, splashed by cascading waterfalls or spotting crocodiles, birds, turtles and even tiny bats. The colours and rock formations of the Kimberleys are just



amazing. The list of interesting activities and fascinating sights just goes on! One unusual occasion was the feeding of tawny nurse sharks from the lowered platform at the stern of our boat. You would not believe that sharks could appear so friendly and appealing. Admittedly, they are bottom feeders and lack the sharp, nasty teeth!

It was a trip that we had only ever dreamed about! Thanks RCI.

- Christine & Brian Lockleys, SA



Are you missing out?

Only RCI gives you back what's left after you book an Exchange Holiday with less Trading Power than your Deposit.





START PACKING

Start packing and use it to

book an Exchange Holiday.

OR



COMBINECombine it to an

existing Deposit.



GIVEGift it to a friend or family member.

TURN 1 DEPOSIT INTO 2 OR MORE EXCHANGE HOLIDAYS

Wondering how you receive a Deposit Credit?



SEARCHED ...for a holiday using

a deposit

 \rightarrow

15 BOOKED

...an exchange that required less Exchange Trading Power...



5

RECEIVED
...a Deposit Credit