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04

ANDALUSIAN
DREAM
SOUTHERN
SPAIN



09

THE ROAD LESS
TRAVELLED
IN FLORIDA

PACIFIC ISSUE 5, 2012

ENDLESS VACATION

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THE BEST DOWN UNDER

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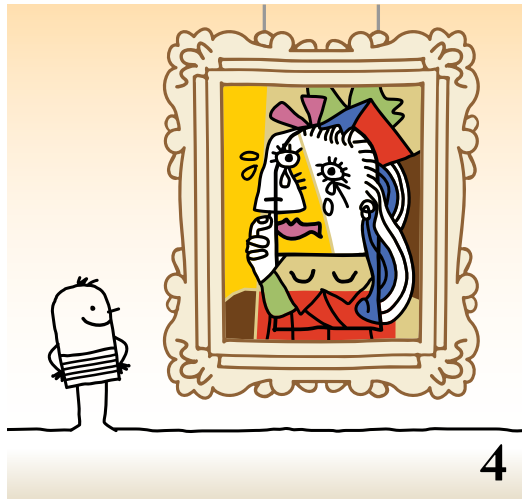
A mix of old and new ways to explore Sydney

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Greetings!

Please enjoy reading about the many holiday options we have for you in this latest magazine.

I've just returned from the experience of a lifetime – a much anticipated Alaskan cruise on the Celebrity Century! This lived up to my expectations and I would thoroughly recommend it for a holiday with a difference. It's not hard to see why cruising just keeps getting more and more popular; everything you need to be as busy (or not) as you wish is at your fingertips.

I loved the different eating options, shows each night, cafes, shops and spa options. The shore excursions gave us such wonderful surprises – seeing a wild brown bear in the Spasski River, full of spawning salmon, was breathtaking. And still more black bears in the wild at Ketchikan, as well as whales, seals, deer and bald eagles. I'd seen pictures of the Hubbard Glacier before, but to sit on my comfortable balcony and glide by this natural wonder was an unforgettable experience. A few days in Vancouver pre or post cruise are a must; this has to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, especially when enjoyed in summer. Visiting Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island was a highlight not to be missed. I stayed at RCI affiliated resort Rosedale on Robson, a great option in a very handy location.

I've ticked this destination off my list, where to next? I hope this edition of Endless Vacation gives you some ideas for your next overseas holiday.

Charisse

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LEGEND



play

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Cover Image:
Beach boxes, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.



PARIS

The Louvre Expands

Add a wing and regional branch, Paris's icon gets more iconic

The **Louvre** recently unveiled a new wing with galleries dedicated to Islamic art, its largest expansion since the glass pyramid 20 years ago. Set in the Visconti courtyard, the two-storey glass structure has an undulating roof that lets in plenty of natural light to illuminate more than 18,000 works spanning the seventh to the 19th centuries. On December 4, the Louvre-Lens, a regional branch in the city of Lens, opens on 50 acres, just 70 minutes north of Paris by high-train speed. It will consist of five buildings that mirror the design of its counterpart in Paris and will rotate works from the Louvre's collection, holding two exhibitions a year. *Louvre.fr*

ready,
set,
go

CALIFORNIA

The 'Happiest Place on Earth' better known as Disney California Adventure Park has expanded

After an ambitious five year expansion program and US\$1.1-billion makeover, the wait is over for Disneyland's second park. The biggest investments went to building an entirely new entrance designed to look like Los Angeles did when Walt Disney arrived in the 1920s and to an entirely new "land," called Cars Land, sporting a themed racing ride and two other rides all tied to the Disney-Pixar movie Cars. On the downside ticket prices for Disney's little sister are up because Disney expects the remodelled park to soar in popularity.

QUEENSTOWN

Voted the number one destination for Kiwis

Its official, Queenstown is the location New Zealanders enjoy holidaying at the most domestically, according to a recent survey of 17,000 Kiwis conducted by TravelBug. It's a favourite locale for North Islanders, thanks to the regions distinct four seasons and diversity appealing to all ages, tastes and budgets.

HEALTH

Travelling off the beaten track? Don't forget your Lifestraw

Water is a real issue when you travel or spend time in the great outdoors. That is where you need LifeStraw, a handy device that makes most fresh water drinkable filtering out germs and dirt and its good for 1000 litres of drinking water. Used extensively in humanitarian aid and by governments internationally, they have now been released to the public. It's super light, reliable, and you can take it everywhere. *Available for AU\$30 from www.lifestraw.com.au*



Andalusian Dream

BE SEDUCED BY SOUTHERN SPAIN

The belle of the Spanish ball

.....

This is the Spain of fortified castle towns, medieval cathedrals and landmarks, hospitable people, stunning landscapes and some of the best food in Europe.

.....

The capital of the region, Málaga, is the ideal place to base yourself as a visitor. It's one of Europe's sunniest places – and Málaga is one of its oldest cities. An ancient port city once occupied by the Moors, the architecture of Málaga invites long lazy strolls stopping to admire historic buildings and to sample the culinary and cultural delights. It's a fascinating place, with a 16th century Gothic/Renaissance catholic cathedral taking pride of place in the centre. Above the town sits the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro (admission AU\$3/ NZ\$4). While most of the castle has fallen into ruin, the views from the ramparts are incredible. One suggestion,

without too much strenuous uphill climbing, is to take a bus or taxi up to the castle, and walk back down.

The newest attraction in Málaga, and one that draws tens of thousands of visitors, is the fantastic Museo Picasso Málaga dedicated to the city's favourite son Pablo Picasso. Housed in a 16th century building that has been carefully restored to its former glory, the museum displays over two hundred of Picasso's works and visitors will appreciate the free guided tours on a walk-in basis (11.30am Wednesday's in English) included in the fee of admission (AU\$7/NZ\$9). Wander down into the basement to take in the Phoenician and Roman ruins that were uncovered during the restoration.





Andalusian architecture



Gibralfaro Castle in Málaga



Larios Street, the main street of Málaga



Tapas treats at Gorki

After an afternoon at the museum, head to nearby café La Teteria for tea and cake. Then, if you're still keen to immerse yourself in art, carry on to the museum of contemporary art, or wander the many tree-lined avenues with open-air markets.

As with the rest of Spain, it's after dark that the streets of Málaga come alive. Nobody eats until at least 10pm, and bars and restaurants are all buzzing until the early hours of the morning. The central lanes are the place to head for an atmospheric buzz, with dozens of cosy bars serving tasty tapas and the sherry-like wines that the region is famous for.

Antigua Casa de Guardia, which has been serving drinks since 1840, is famous for its boiled prawns and barrels of wine, while Gorki is another popular destination for those looking to sample tapas in a more upmarket setting.

For shopping, the best place to head to in Málaga is Muelle Uno, a glamorous shopping strip close to the harbour.


From Málaga, it's an easy day trip by car to some of the most stunning towns in all of Spain, it's definitely the best way to get around and see all the breathtaking landscapes on offer.

East Bound

From Málaga, head one and a half hours inland to Granada. With a reputation as Andalusia's coolest city, Granada never fails to disappoint those who like their cities to provide plenty of buzz. It's a vast city with a growing African population that has done a lot to influence the food on offer.

Granada's most famous monument is without a doubt the Alhambra, a Moorish fortress that began in the 13th century and which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Attracting millions of visitors a year, it's a good idea to get here early to avoid the crowds.

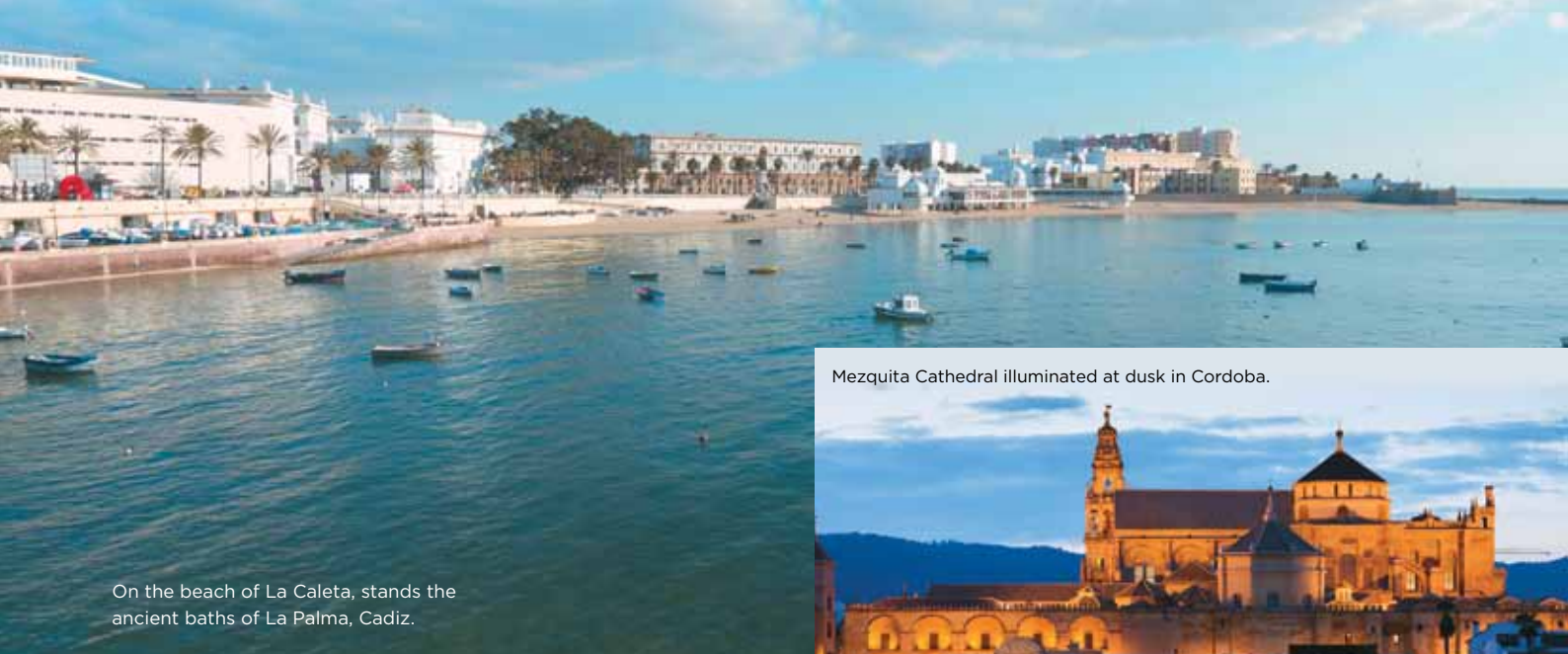
Granada's many bars and clubs attract a young crowd, but the Old Quarter, with



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its warren of ancient streets, provides a reminder of what the city was once like. This is the place to come for traditional crafts and small jewellery boutiques. Granada is famous for marquetry, and many shops sell guitars and furniture that have been decorated in this style.



On the beach of La Caleta, stands the ancient baths of La Palma, Cadiz.

A perfect end to a day in Granada is a soak in a traditional Arab hamman. A bathing experience like no other, you'll leave relaxed and refreshed.

From Granada head north and within an hour you'll be standing at the top of Santa Catalina Castle in the picturesque town of Jaen, where you'll capture picture-postcard Andalusian views of olive groves and mountains. There's a magnificent renaissance cathedral to admire as well before you potter around the steep hillside lanes.

Sitting on the Mediterranean Sea, three hours from Málaga, Almeria is a beautiful old town, setting for many a spaghetti western and the place where John Lennon recorded Strawberry Fields.

Start off at the 19th century market Mercado, the highlight of this day trip. Go with an empty stomach and stroll between the stalls, sampling the many delicacies of the region before heading to one of the many bars that circle the hall.

The old town Al Medina is characteristic of small towns in the region, proudly showcasing its Arabic roots. Other classic areas to take in include the Ayuntamiento – a classic colonial-style building and plaza – and Colegio des Artes.

Close to Almeria lies Parque Natural de Cabo de Gata. This is an absolute must for any traveller to the region, mainly because the landscape is truly mind-blowing – think volcanic landscapes fringed by white-sand beaches and isolated coves. Go for a dip at the best beaches, Las Salinas and La Almadraba de Monteleiva. Stop off at the quaint fishing village of Roquetas de Mar en route for a freshly caught seafood lunch.

Mezquita Cathedral illuminated at dusk in Cordoba.



Gardens at the Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos in Cordoba.

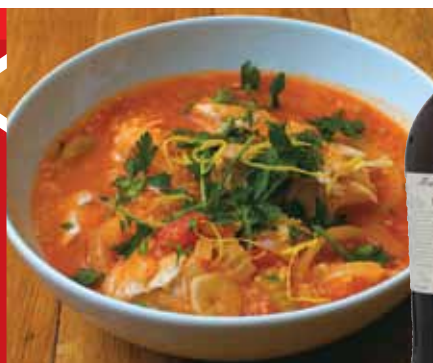


West Bound

Córdoba also called Cordova in English is a city an hour and a half's drive from Jaen or just under two hours direct from Málaga. Córdoba's history stretches back to Roman times, when it held a strategic position as a vital trade port. It was once the capital of the Moorish kingdom of Al-Andalus and after it was recaptured by the Christians in 1236 they left many of the buildings standing, so struck by their beauty they

A Savoury Detour

Fans of fresh seafood should make a beeline for Sanlúcar de Barrameda, a 64 km drive north of Cádiz. There are easily half a dozen superb restaurants here, but Casa Bigote is the best known. Expect tasty fish stews and langostinos (prawns) simply boiled, then sprinkled with sea salt. Order a glass of manzanilla, the dry sherry produced locally. 10 Bajo de Guía; make a reservation 956 36 26 96



Jaen City taken from Santa Catalina Castle



Inside the Alcazar of Seville



Close-up detail of a bullfighter costume.



The bull arena of Seville



Parque Natural de Cabo de Gata

were unable to destroy them. They even built a cathedral in among all the Islamic buildings, so today it resembles a half-church half-mosque.

Aside from the stunning cathedral, Córdoba's other architectural wonders include the Alcázar, a fortress built in 1328, a fort and a medieval Jewish quarter 'La Juderia', which comprises a tangle of winding lanes opening onto sun-drenched courtyards filled with flowers.

May is the best time to visit the city, when the temperature is at its most pleasant and when festivities bleed from dusk into the early hours of the morning. Music can be heard echoing through the narrow streets, lamps light the courtyards that are festooned with flowers, and food and drink can be found on every street corner.

Back on the Road

Seville is perhaps the most romantic city of all Andalusia's incredible choices and an easy two and a half hours leisurely drive west of Málaga. Both the biggest city and the region's capital, Seville is a delightfully festive place all year round

– the type of city made for moonlit strolls, candlelit drinks in cave-like tapas bars, dancing in the streets and blowout meals in stellar restaurants.

Among its most historic monuments is the Alcázar, an ancient castle and fortress surrounded by lush gardens. Through eleven centuries, the Alcázar has stood proudly guarding the city and is one of its most popular attractions.

Opposite the Alcázar lies the biggest cathedral in the world, built on the site of a mosque. Seville is still a religious city and loves to roll out the pageantry during Holy Week. At Easter, jewelled statues are paraded through the streets, the strains of mournful music can be heard overhead and a magical atmosphere pervades the city.

Seville is the heart of two iconic Spanish traditions: flamenco dancing and bullfighting. For an evening of truly authentic flamenco, seek out the Casa de la Memoria de Al-Andalus. There's limited space, but the atmosphere here is really rather wonderful so you could choose to stay the night or continue onto the city of Huelva, a further hour's drive for a jam-packed day of sightseeing.

As for bullfighting, whether or not it appeals, it's hard to avoid Seville's bullring, the oldest in Spain. Fight season runs from April – October, however tours run year round.

Huelva's main attraction is its plethora of seafood bars and restaurants. In fact the fish section at El Carmen market is quite a sight, even if you aren't there to barter for some tuna.

Huelva's busy history as a trade port is displayed at the Museo de Huelva, while if shopping is your focus the best streets to explore are Concepcion, Berdigon and Palacio. This is also one of the best places to buy colourful Flamenco outfits. There's a factory on Calle La Palma where you can deck yourself out with maracas and sombreros as well.

With so many treats lying in wait – from windswept white-sand beaches and epic mountain roads, to truly beautiful historic cities brimming with history, and with a culture that embraces food, drink and joyful living, southern Spain quite clearly deserves its place as one of the top holiday destinations in the world. ^{EV}



Colorful traditional flamenco dresses

El Rocío, Huelva



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Southern Spain include:

ALMERÍA



Vera Beach Club 3091



Almeria, on the eastern edge of Andalusia, is located an hour and a half outside Granada, the Vera Beach Club gives you a traditional Spanish experience. Just a few minutes' stroll from the resort will take you to the white sand beach and tranquil waters of the Mediterranean. From the resort you can take a quick walk toward the shops and restaurants in Garrucha. The Alhambra, Mojacar, Garrucha harbour, Mini Hollywood, and aqua parks are all within a 250 km drive of the resort.

Member Reviews: "Lovely resort. Good pool and pool bar. Closeness to beach is a bonus."

"This was our second visit to Vera Beach Club. We really enjoy the location, surroundings, and the feeling of security within the resort."



IN AND NEAR MÁLAGA



Los Amigos Beach Club Playamarina 1979

Try your luck at the casino, just 10 minutes from the resort, or shop during the day and party in the towns of Málaga, Fuengirola and Marbella at night. Located in the southern part of Spain known as the Costa Del Sol. A car is recommended to fully enjoy the area.

Member Review: "The resort is friendly, big enough not to feel crowded when full and all the staff work hard to make it an excellent resort."



Sunset Beach Club 1469

Boasting a magnificent location right on the water's edge, offering stunning views of the nearby Benalmádena Yacht Harbour, the resort's convenient location means the villages of Mijas and Fuengirola are just a short drive away, as are many tennis and golf clubs.

Member Review: "Sunset Beach is right on the beach with great hotel facilities on site. Good location, easy walk to restaurants and the Marina."



Crown Resorts at Club Marbella 2404

Situated midway between Fuengirola and Marbella on the Sitio de Calahonda and in the heart of the Costa del Sol, there are numerous facilities available on site for guests. Its central location makes day-trips possible to Gibraltar, Morocco, Granada, and many other places. A car is recommended to fully enjoy the area.

Member Review: "This resort was wonderful. Restaurants and a mini market was only 5-7 min walk. The resort provides shuttles to its other resorts if you want to use their amenities, also shuttles to supermarket and the beach. They offer excursions to many popular cities at reasonable costs."



Heritage Resorts Club Playa Real 4803

Within easy reach of the famous resort towns of Marbella and Puerto Banus, Club Playa Real occupies a superb beach-front position within the tranquil setting of the area known as Marbesa Village.


Member Review: "Outstanding. There was even a "starter" supply of food for breakfast already provided in the refrigerator in addition to coffee, tea, and 2 bottles of wine. We couldn't ask for more and have never experienced this in all our 20 + years of travel to RCI resorts."

For complete member reviews (as member reviews have been condensed) and additional resort listings, visit RCI.com or call an RCI Reservations Consultant.



THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED...

FLORIDA



It's not all Mickey Mouse ears and rollercoasters when you choose to holiday in Florida. Away from the theme parks, all-you-can eat buffets and discount malls is a world of trickling waters, coastal hammocks and all the wildlife you can hope to photograph. Consider getting back to nature and beyond the theme parks and make memories to last a lifetime in Florida.

Doorway to the Everglades - South Florida



The Boardwalk Daytona Beach



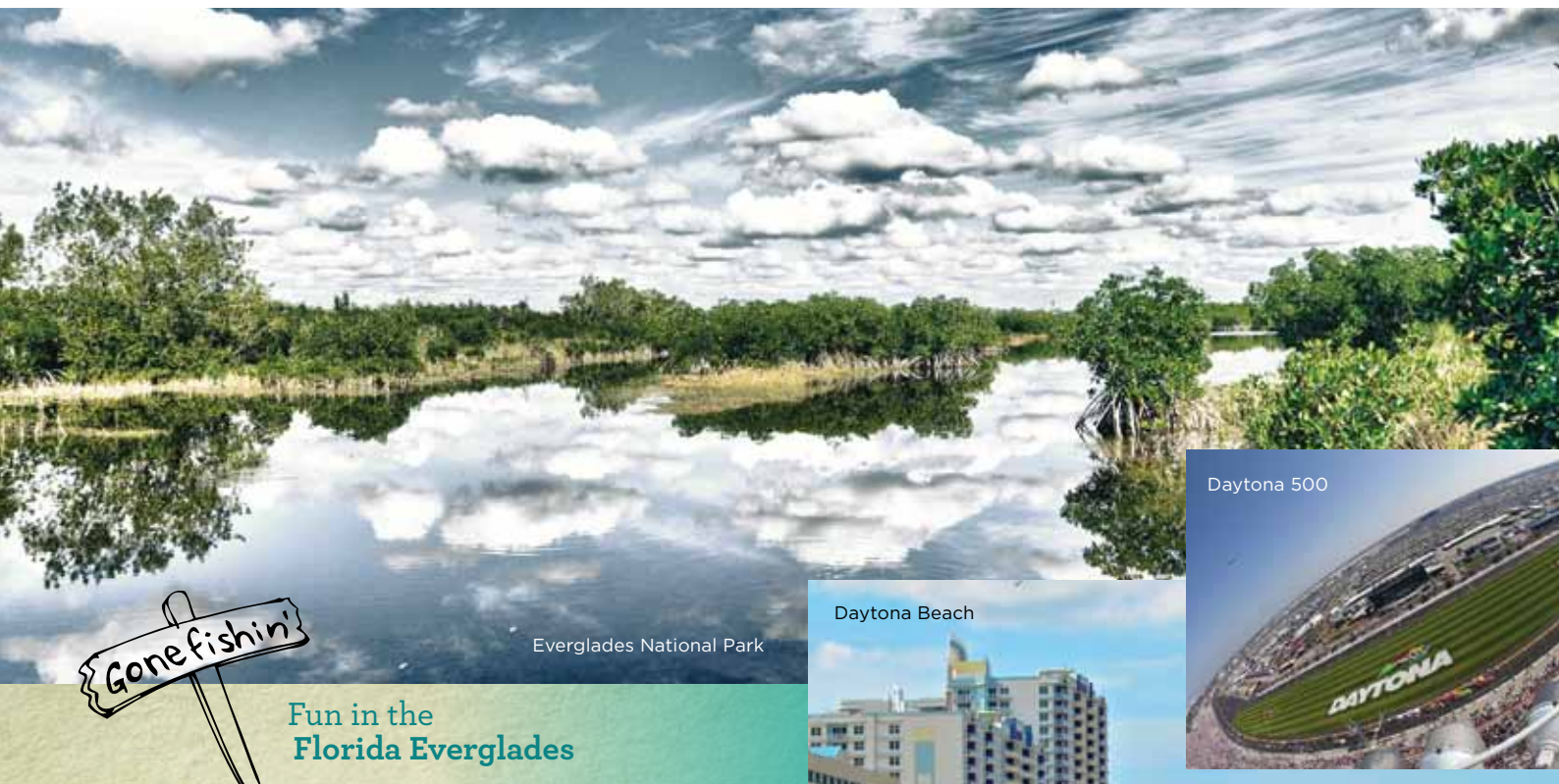
St Augustine Lighthouse



Manatee - Florida Springs



Explore the waterways by kayak



Everglades National Park

Fun in the Florida Everglades

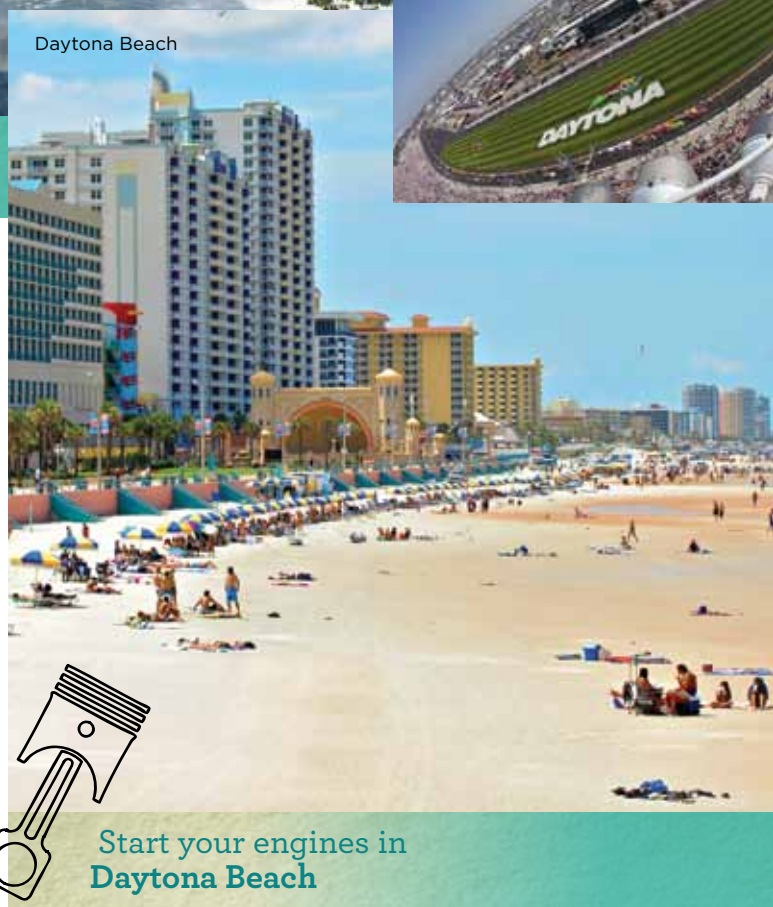
Shaped by water and fire, the ever-changing landscape of Florida's Everglades makes for an interesting experience all year round, and there's something here for everyone. Much of the 1.5 million-acre park, which covers the southern tip of Florida, is a trackless wilderness. But with cycling opportunities, nature tours, trekking, fishing and canoeing, plus frequent flooding in the wet season and sometimes drought in the dry season, what you see in the Everglades is entirely dependent on when you go.

If smiling at gators is on your agenda, then **Everglades Alligator Farm** is the best place to have a brush with a big-toothed beast, here's where you'll find all 14 feet of Grandpa, their most famous resident. You can also watch an informative wildlife show every hour, take an airboat ride or walk with a guide to see crocodiles, caimans and snakes.

A thrill for all ages, there's nothing like getting a glimpse of life in the Everglades from a resident who's lived here all their life. Some of the Floridians offering these exciting swamp buggy tours are fifth or sixth generation. Learn about conservation, restoration and wildlife as you zip through ancient Cyprus swamps and beautiful pine islands. If you're taking the kids, look for a tour that takes children along for free.

For adventure fans and wildlife lovers, boarding an airboat, a classic Florida adventure, is a great way to get up close and personal with nature in the Everglades while learning about the land and water from captains who've grown up with the alligators. An Everglades airboat tour is a thrilling ride in what sounds like a Daytona 500 stock car which seems to be one that few can resist and offers the chance to see eagles, osprey, sandhill cranes, egrets, herons, wild pigs, deer and more. Zip through the only place in the world where crocodiles and alligators live together and explore temperate and tropical plant communities.

When you've had enough of the National Park, explore the nearby attractions, distances are short enough that you can get a good feel of the area in day trips, either to Miami, Fort Lauderdale or the Palm Beaches, on the east coast, and to Marco Island or Naples, on the west.

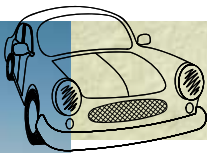


Daytona Beach

Start your engines in Daytona Beach


World famous Daytona Beach welcomes walkers, joggers, bikers and cruisers from all corners of the world. Relaxation aside, Daytona does have a long time reputation for lightning-fast thrills. As "the official attraction of NASCAR" the **Daytona 500 Experience** part museum and part arcade, right next to the city's legendary track, visitors can go head-to-head in a simulated stock car race at speeds up to 300 km/h or take a tour of the **Daytona International Speedway** aboard an open-air tram that travels through the garage area, the pit road and the famed high banks of the Daytona 500. Nearby **Speed Park Motorsports** has three go-kart tracks to test your skills plus the ultimate race car attraction - dragsters.

And if it's nature you'd prefer to experience, you'll find the Daytona Beach area rich in natural treasures! Whether it is by land or by sea, opt to rent a kayak or canoe, hike or bike the nature trails, board a river tour, or pack a picnic - for a close encounter with nature's bounty.



Drive from St Augustine to Amelia Island

A day trip from St Augustine to Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach will put a smile on your face and give you the chance to experience canopy roads and pretty two-landed bridges rising over glistening inlets. St Augustine is about 167 km from Orlando, so spend the night in town and the next day take the I-295 East Beltway over the St John's River before taking the Heckscher Drive exit, then keep going for an hour. Pick up a picnic gourmet deli style lunch at **Amelia Island's Gourmet Gourmet** (Fernandina Beach), who'll prepare a feast for your taste buds.

Fernandina Beach is a lovely spot for some sunbathing, but it's also a very good place to hire a bike. Bikes are affordable and can be hired at an hourly rate or AU\$14/NZ\$18 for the day. If you feel like a bit of action on the water, you can also rent surfboards and paddleboards. If you're travelling with kids, look out for the wild blackberries that grow along the greenway in Fernandina Beach. They're great for picking and eating. 



Everglades local



Best Springs in Florida

There's nothing like a refreshing soak in a spring, and geologists estimate there are more than 700 freshwater springs in Florida, which is actually the largest concentration on Earth. The best ones fill up fast so it's best to get there early. Alternatively, take advantage of camping facilities so you're the first ones there in the morning.

Not all springs are kid-friendly, though some offer tubing, diving, snorkelling and swimming, so check which ones are best for you before you go. Some of the most popular springs in Florida are Ichetucknee, Rock Spring, Blue Spring, Fanning, Wakulla and Wekiwa, with Ichetucknee being the best for tubing. An easy hike here will take you to **Blue Hole Spring**, the largest spring in the park and a popular choice for scuba divers.



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts near the Everglades include:

Mizner Place 7559

The resort's prime location puts guests within walking distance of the wonderful restaurants, stores, and nightlife at the Town Centre Shops.



Member Reviews: "We spent days at the Fort Lauderdale beach and had great drinks and lunches there."

"The Resort was very beautiful, comfortable and most of all, like a home away from home."

Lehigh Resort Club 0101

An hour from Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach, with a beautiful golf course and amenities that include tennis, miniature golf and picnic areas with grills.

Member Reviews: "From the moment we arrived, we were treated with the utmost courtesy. Employees were very helpful and accommodating."

"A lot of wonderful activities and many places you can go for a day trip. Everglades, Marco Island, Naples, Ft. Myers Beach, Sanibel and Captive, Edison Ford winter homes and a Casino."

RCI affiliated resorts in Daytona Beach and St. Augustine include:

Sea Club IV 0475 Daytona Beach Shores

The resort has a heated outdoor pool for swimming and sunning, or you can spend a day exploring Daytona's boardwalk, Space Needle, Museum of Arts and Sciences, and Tomoka State Park.



Member Reviews: "This resort was very nice. The other guests, with some coming for over 30 years, were extremely nice. We enjoyed the restaurants and the lighthouse. Our family would love to come back to this resort."

"From management to every employee they were a pleasure. My wife and I were celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary and it was relaxing. We would highly recommend this resort."

The Beach Club at St. Augustine 0890

St. Augustine is the oldest city in the United States and offers historic attractions including the 21-acre mineral springs park where the Fountain of Youth and American Indian burial grounds are located. It also features the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and Spanish exploration exhibits.

Member Reviews: "Enjoyed our stay. Everyone was very helpful. St. Augustine very interesting and the food was GREAT!"

"The place was lovely, views great and the service people exceptional. We can't wait to try and get in there again."

For complete member reviews (as member reviews have been condensed) and additional resort listings, visit RCI.com or call an RCI Reservations Consultant.

RCI has 395 affiliated resorts in Florida. Pinpoint regions of interest using the Resort Directory on RCI.com



AUSTRALIA'S BEST BEACHES

WITH A COASTLINE THAT STRETCHES OVER 37,000 KM, IT'S NO WONDER THAT AUSTRALIA BOASTS SOME OF THE BEST BEACHES IN THE WORLD. IN FACT, IT HAS SO MANY ACHINGLY BEAUTIFUL SWATHES OF SAND THAT CHOOSING THE BEST ONES IS SOMETHING OF A CHALLENGE. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE'VE CHOSEN WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE THE TOP EIGHT IN THE COUNTRY.

1

BELLS BEACH, VIC

This beach of legend is the site of the annual Rip Curl Pro Surf & Music Festival. The town of Torquay is one of the surfing capitals of the world, with a surfing museum, surf school and monstrous waves to tackle, but even those who don't surf will enjoy a visit thanks to the stunning scenery.

Walk the cliffs above the sandy beach, snorkel at infamous Point Danger Marine Sanctuary or take a scenic flight for unique views of the area. And if surfing isn't your thing, there are plenty of protected bays nearby where the swell is almost non-existent, and which are perfect for swimming.



STAY

Bellbrae Country Club 3958

Member Review: "We had a lovely time at the resort - we did not know it existed and rang to use up some Points, absolutely unexpected and totally enjoyable."

SEVEN MILE BEACH, TAS

Located less than an hour from historic Port Arthur, Seven Mile Beach in Tasmania attracts people year round, whatever the weather, because of its scenic location and its closeness to town. Its powder-soft sand and shifting ice-blue waters make it popular with families as well as fitness fans – there are many people out running, horse riding and walking their dogs along the beach.



STAY

Wyndham Seven Mile Beach 8726

Member Review: "Unit was very comfortable, well-appointed and well located for day trips to almost anywhere in Tasmania."

Quality Hobart Midcity Hotel

Hobart CBD

3 nights from **AU\$399*/ NZ\$519***

3

MARGARET RIVER, WA

2

Beautiful Margaret River, just a few hours drive south from Perth, is a land of wild outback, rolling vineyards, boutique towns and miles and miles of pristine, uncrowded coastline. The town of Margaret River, surrounded by wineries, is famed for its restaurants and art galleries – in November every year they celebrate a fabulous Wine & Food Festival, perfect for foodie-lovers.

The nearby beaches of Yallingup and Dunsborough are among Western Australia's finest stretches of sand. Dunsborough's crystal waters attract dolphins and this beach is particularly great for diving, while Yallingup is famous for its surfing.



STAY

Wyndham Dunsborough Resort & Spa **A789**

Member Review: "We had never visited Dunsborough and surrounding areas of Margaret River and enjoyed our stay immensely."

Australis Margaret River

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

MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VIC

Just south of Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula comprises a number of sandy bays and a scattering of pretty seaside towns. You may in fact have seen images of the colourful beach huts that back the beaches on the front of postcards.

Rosebud, Rye, Sorrento and Portsea are the most family-friendly and laid-back of the beaches, with calm waters and soft sands. Sorrento and Portsea are rockier, but have wonderful coastal views.

Rosebud is the sporting capital of the region – there are several golf courses and sports clubs nearby. Rye jetty is the place to head for boat trips out into the bay and the best views of Arthurs Seat, the highest mountain in the area. Alternatively, take a hike to Cape Schanck, where a historic lighthouse sits on the tip of the peninsula.



STAY

Nepean Country Club & Day Spa **1169**

Member Review: "The boardwalk at Cape Schanck lighthouse is a must do. We have been before, but took the family this time. Our son took our 9 year old grandson to Point Nepean as he has shown some interest in war history."

4

COFFS HARBOUR, NSW

5

Backed by rainforest and surrounded by National Parks, Coffs Harbour is one of the most glorious locations on the east coast of Australia. The beach here is never overcrowded and the town itself has a city buzz combined with a small town feel, with plenty of cafes, bars and shops to keep visitors entertained.

The jetty is a great place for an al fresco meal before heading along the marina to admire the views of Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve.



STAY

Korora Bay Village **0834**

Member Review: "I thoroughly enjoyed my time here. You need a car to go shopping but it's an easy walk to the local beach."

Wyndham Coffs Harbour - Treetops **C012**

Member Review: We had a really wonderful holiday. The timeshare is in a beautiful setting, the accommodation just great, staff friendly and helpful and the weather was amazing!!! Thank you!!"

6

PORT MACQUARIE, NSW

The perfect place for nature lovers, Port Macquarie has 18 lovely beaches to choose from. The top two are Lighthouse Beach, where you can take a camel ride across the sands and spot whales and dolphins, and Flynn's Beach, which is a popular place for swimming and surfing. Both have plenty of shady areas where you can picnic, barbecue or play a game of beach cricket.

STAY

Port Pacific Resort 1816

Member Review: "Although the weather was unkind, we had a very relaxing week. Great restaurants and coffee shops nearby."

Wyndham Flynn's Beach 7822

Member Review: "The tropical surroundings of the resort were very relaxing with easy access to the beach."

GOLD COAST, QLD

The Gold Coast's most famous beach is iconic Surfers Paradise, but don't let the name put you off. It's not just a great place for surfers. It's brilliant for families or those seeking a little buzz to go with their beach as it's packed with theme parks and over 150 bars and restaurants.

Close by is Broadbeach, which hosts an annual jazz festival as well as frequent operas in the park. There's also Burleigh, one of the best spots for swimming and body boarding in the area.

Don't forget to check out Snapper Rocks, one of the world's biggest swells and, consequently, probably the most crowded wave in Australia. It's a great place to head to watch the pros wrestle the waves.



STAY

Mariner Shores Resort 1726

Member Review: "A truly fabulous resort. Complemented with wonderful, helpful staff & because of them, I'd be back in a heartbeat."

Artique Resort, Surfers Paradise

7 nights from **AU\$899*/ NZ\$1159***



Greatest Ironman (surf lifesaving) legend Trevor Hendy on why he loves Surfers Paradise:

"Surfers Paradise Beach has always been my favourite, whilst there are some others in the world with better waves and fantastic memories; Surfers Paradise is the heart of the experience for me. I grew up there, learning to patrol and learning to traverse the breakers and ride the waves back to the beach. On any given day it has the most incredible collection of locals, Australian holiday goers, day trippers and visitors from around the world. With great weather and challenging waves, the beach can be packed at the drop of a hat and you never know where to look next. I've always felt that you could, in some small way, experience most things happening in the world on that one beach. Clean white sand, beautiful blue ocean, unpredictable breakers and people from around the world... Heaven!"

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

8

NOOSA HEADS, QLD

150 km north of Brisbane, Noosa's main attraction, other than its golden beaches, is its spectacular coastal National Park. Noosa Main Beach has a great protected area for swimming, but there's also good surfing. Legendary surfer-shaper Bob McTavish once famously declared surfing at Noosa was "like having a cup of tea with God." It's fun to walk along the boardwalk, watching the surfers and trying to spot dolphins and whales out at sea.

Away from the beach, be sure to check out the relaxed town of Noosa. Hastings Street, which runs along the beachfront, is filled with al fresco cafes, cool boutiques and wine bars.



STAY

Australis Noosa Lakes, Noosaville

7 nights from **AU\$589*/ NZ\$759***

Noosa Keys Resort, Noosaville

7 nights from **AU\$639*/ NZ\$829***

For complete member reviews (as member reviews have been condensed) and additional resort listings, visit **RCI.com** or call an RCI Reservations Consultant.

EGYPT

BEYOND THE CAPITAL

EGYPT CONJURES IMAGES OF MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE LIKE NO OTHER PLACE ON EARTH, THANKS IN PART TO ITS ANCIENT HISTORY OF PHARAOHS AND PYRAMIDS, BUT ALSO DUE TO HOLLYWOOD, WHO HAS FEATURED IT AS THE BACKDROP FOR MOVIES RANGING FROM AGATHA CHRISTIE WHODUNITS TO ACTION-ADVENTURE FILMS LIKE THE MUMMY.

Beyond the capital city of Cairo, where ancient palaces and amphitheatres rub shoulders with modern buildings, museums and first-class shopping malls, lies an entire country made for exploring.

ON THE NILE

Aswan is a much more relaxed and welcoming city than Cairo. Sitting in the far south of the country on the banks of the Nile, and often referred to as the gateway to Africa, Aswan is incredibly picturesque. Felucca boats with their white sails bustle at the dock and palm trees stretch far into the distance. A stroll or bicycle ride along the banks of this great river is a must for all visitors to the area, and if you head south out of town you'll come to the beautiful Ferial Gardens, one of the highlights of the city.

Garden lovers will also appreciate a boat trip over to Kitchener's Island, site of the Aswan Botanical Gardens. Founded in the 1890s by Lord Kitchener, the grounds are filled with rare plants and birds. Another boat trip to take is across to Elephantine Island, the site of a Nubian village and various temples.

For shopping, head straight for Sharia as-Souq, a busy marketplace filled with Nubian handicrafts. The sights and smells here will transport you back centuries. After a morning spent perusing the stalls, head to the port and hire a felucca to carry you across to the camel-trekking zone. From here you can mount a dromedary for a bumpy ride to the Monastery of St. Simeon.

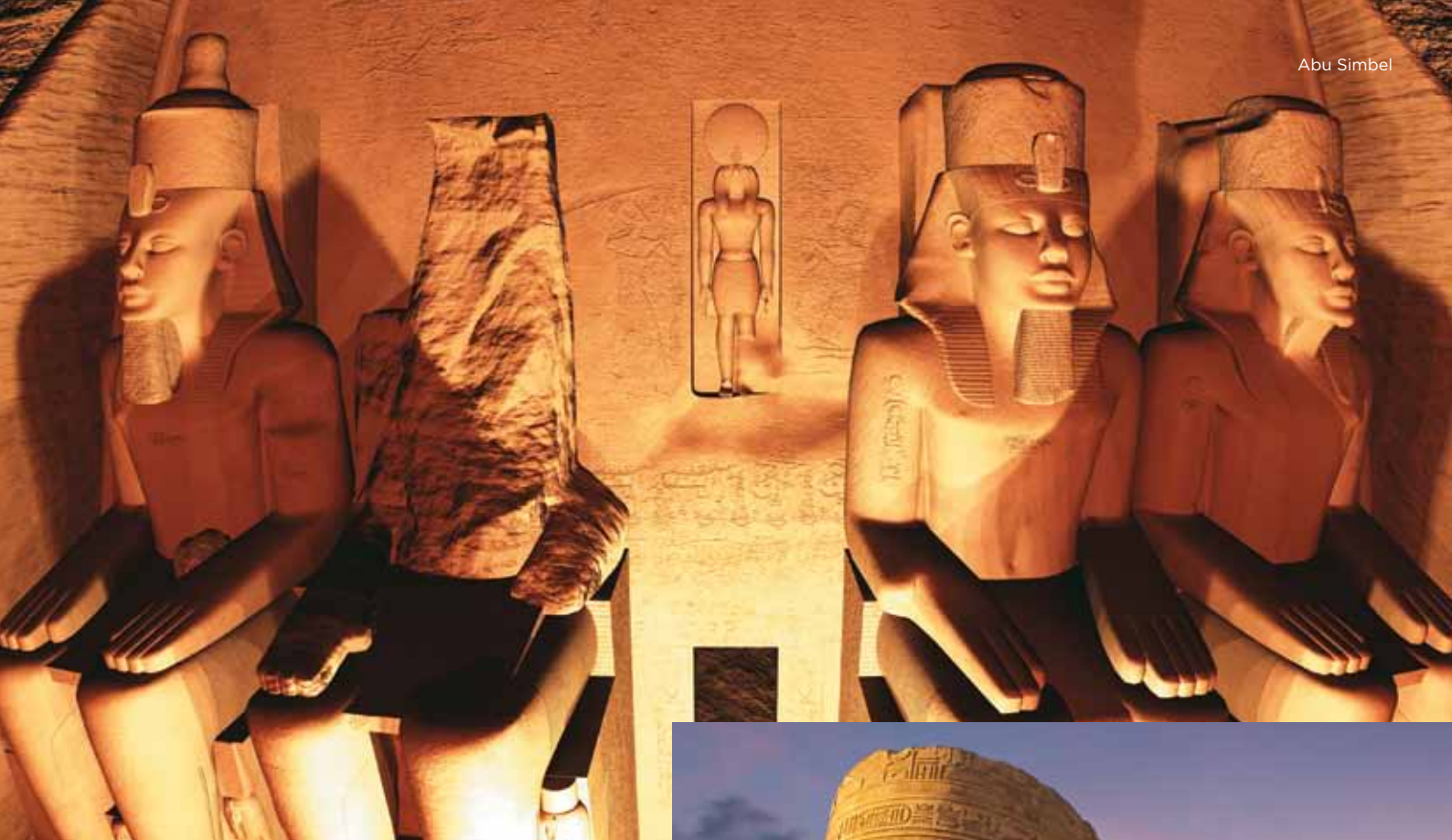
The greatest site in Aswan is undoubtedly the Tombs of the Nobles, which cover the northern hills. The burial site for many princes, the view from the top, down over Aswan and across the Nile, is quite staggering.



Felucca on the Nile River at Aswan

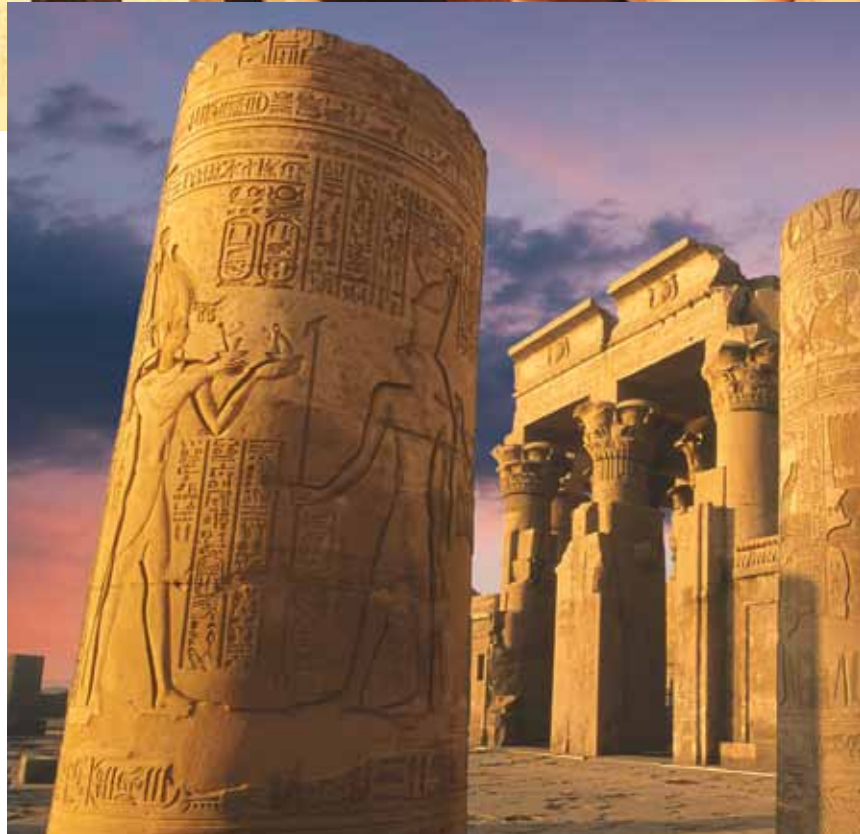
THIS PAGE: Luxury hotels line the shores of Sharm el-Sheikh





Most people use Aswan as a departure point for a daytrip to Abu Simbel, one of the most famous temples in Egypt. You'll need to get there by bus because a giant dam blocks felucca boats from making the journey by river. Built beside the pyramids of Giza, by the great Pharaoh Ramses II, it's worth timing your visit to take in the daily sound and light show that illuminates the buildings. The Abu Simbel Festival takes place in February and October with music, traditional dancing and food on offer around the temple.

From Aswan board a luxury felucca boat and sail sleepily down the Nile to Luxor (once known as Thebes). You'll feel like you're starring in a movie as you scramble over the ruins of Kom Ombo, a temple dedicated to the god Horus and stand before the Colossi of Memnon. No trip to Luxor would be complete either without a tour of the famous Valley of the Kings.



Wall ornament at the Hatshepsut Temple Luxor



Temple of Queen Hatshepsut in Luxor

SUN AND SEA IN SOUTHERN SINAI

From Aswan or Luxor it's a short flight to the Sinai Peninsula (expect to pay between AU\$100-A\$U200 one way), where imposing mountains give way to a desert plain that falls into startling blue sea. Alternatively, for an opportunity to view the Red Sea up close, make your way to Hurghada for a short stopover.

Hurghada's biggest draw the Red Sea is the ideal place to come for a windsurfing, sailing or diving adventure. There's a definite buzz in Hurghada, with plenty of restaurants, bars and clubs drawing package holidaymakers from afar.



The beach at Hurghada



Mount Sinai camel guide



Coral Reef in Red Sea

Kom Ombo temple at sunset on the Nile



One day trip of note from Hurghada is a 4x4 desert safari out into the desert. Away from the crowds you can draw breath and catch a glimpse of how the ancient Bedouin once lived their nomadic lifestyle travelling between desert oases.

Each week there are three fast ferries between Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh. You can take a slow or fast ferry across the Red Sea for

a relaxing week in Southern Sinai, home to gorgeous Sharm el-sheikh. The crossing takes just 1.5 hours and costs AU\$48/NZ\$63.

Sitting on the southern tip of Sinai rests the town of Sharm el-Sheikh it is well known as one of the best dive spots in the world. If you want to dive, a trip to Ras Muhammad National Park comes highly recommended. Once a fishing village, the town of Sharm el-Sheikh is now a bustling tourist destination that attracts visitors from all over the world, drawn to the image of crystal clear sea and blistering white sand.

These areas are home to several resorts, which lure travellers looking for some much needed R&R after traipsing around Egypt's many sights. It's possible to kick back in one of these resorts for several days and do nothing but relax, enjoy the fine weather and sample the wonderful spa treatments on offer. However, there's more to the area than just pretty beaches and great coral. For thrill seekers who prefer to get their kicks on dry land, desert safari tours are a must – you can go by Jeep, quad bike or camel!

MEDITERRANEAN SEA



Sinai is the setting for many of the stories from the Old Testament, and the scenery away from the beaches and resort areas is very much of the biblical kind. Moses is said to have first discovered God on Mount Sinai, where he received the Ten Commandments in the form of stone tablets. Walking tours take hikers up into the high mountain ranges, once home to hermits and monks. Two-day trips make the most of

the stunning scenery at sunset and sunrise.

At the foot of Mount Sinai, hidden in a tiny gorge, sits the UNESCO site of St. Catherine's Monastery, home to about 20 Greek Orthodox monks, and site too of a small mosque used by passing Bedouin monks. The Burning Bush of bible fame can be found within the monastery's walls, as well as a collection of ancient priceless manuscripts.

No other place on Earth offers as much in the way of epic historical sights than Egypt, but it's also easy to break away from the usual beaten track and head off on your own adventure, tailored to take in desert, beaches, mountains and shipwrecks, and to balance history and traditional culture with modern-day living and luxury. EV



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Egypt include:

ASWAN



Isis Island Aswan 3843

This exotic resort is situated exclusively on a green island in the River Nile in the centre of Aswan, where incredible Pharonic temples and monuments are located.

Member Reviews: "Excellent location and friendly. The unit had a great view of the Nile."

"Our room was basic but clean. We used it mainly to sleep so not much was required. Really appreciated the free boat shuttle on the Nile to get off the island - call it a "mini tour" at no cost."

Available also as Bonus Week
7 nights from AU\$319*/ NZ\$409*

SOUTH SINAI

Hilton Sharm Dreams Resort 7436

Located on the Sinai Peninsula and on the banks of the Red Sea, guests have access to seven outdoor pools, three restaurants and shopping malls. Magnificent coral reefs offer unforgettable snorkelling and diving opportunities.

Member Reviews: "Excellent property, very courteous staff, and an amazing holiday that my family and I had at Hilton Sharm. We would love to visit again!!!"

"The RCI part of the Hilton hotel resort was superb; the man that cleaned our unit every day made swans from towels and surrounded it with petals from the garden."



Ful Medames in Cairo

When flying in or out of Cairo try this popular and ancient national dish for brekkie. Partially or fully mashed fava beans (broad beans) slow cooked in a copper pot until they are soft, flavoured with olive oil, lemon juice, herbs and spices. Eat with baladi, an Egyptian bread or pit bread.



Pyramisa Sharm el-Sheikh Resort 4405

This large resort is situated in a unique location on Sharks' Bay, a private bay with a view of Tiran Island. There are also various excursions to the desert where safaris can be enjoyed by camel or car.

Member Review: "Great access to the beach, the sun beds were good, easy to get towels, water activities were all very good. We also went quad biking and water skiing."

Available also as Bonus Week
7 nights from AU\$319*/ NZ\$409*

*No Spacebank or RCI Point contribution required for Bonus Week. Subject to limited availability at time of print.

For complete member reviews (as member reviews have been condensed) and additional resort listings, visit **RCI.com** or call an RCI Reservations Consultant.

Sunrise on the red rocks of Sinai


Egyptian street at night

Kushari Serves 6

Egyptian vegetarian dish

Rice is among the most important staple meals in the whole globe, in particular in Asia plus the Middle East. Kushari (also Koshari or Koshary) is an inexpensive Egyptian vegetarian dish of rice, lentils, chickpeas and macaroni topped with tomato sauce and fried onion. This simple yet healthy dish is very popular and widely sold in small Egyptian restaurants and roadside stands. With its full complement of protein, Kushari is often considered the Egyptian national dish. Although there are many variations, enjoy this easy to prepare fast food meal, while on holiday or at home.

PLACE lentils in a large saucepan and bring to a boil. Allow to simmer on low for 30 minutes, or until tender and drain. **WHILE** lentils are cooking, cook white rice in 2 cups of water for 20 minutes, or according to package directions until tender. **FILL** a separate saucepan with lightly salted water and bring to a boil. Add the macaroni and cook until tender, about 8 minutes and drain. **MEANWHILE**, heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat. **ADD** onion and garlic; cook and stir until onion is lightly browned. Pour in the tomatoes or sauce and season with red pepper flakes and **SIMMER** over medium heat for 10 to 20 minutes, add a little water if necessary and **SEASON** with salt and pepper, set aside. **MEANWHILE**, for an additional crispy topping of onions, heat 2 tbsp. oil olive in a large skillet over medium heat; **FRY** onions for 15 minutes or until deep golden brown, stirring frequently. Remove onion with a slotted spoon to several layers of paper towels. In a large serving dish, **STIR TOGETHER** the lentils, rice, drained chickpeas and macaroni. **MIX** in the tomato sauce until evenly coated.

To serve this dish, you can put it in layers, like the Egyptians do, or just mix it all together. But if you would like to do it all the Egyptian way, start with a bottom layer of mixed rice and lentils. A second layer of macaroni followed by a layer of sauce mix and a top layer of chickpeas. Add fried onions to garnish. 

- 1 cup brown lentils
- 1 cup uncooked long grain white rice or Basmati
- 1 cup uncooked macaroni (elbows or other small macaroni)
- 1 or 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 cups tomato sauce or crushed tomatoes
- 1 400g can of chickpeas
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon crushed or dry red chili pepper flakes (or more to taste)

Salt and black pepper to taste

Crispy Onion Garnish

- 2 onions, finely sliced
- Oil for deep-frying





EXPLORE *a part of history*

Arrowtown PURE GOLD

Just a 20-minute drive from Queenstown, the beautiful and popular Arrowtown in the Otago region of New Zealand's South Island continues to attract thousands of visitors every year. It's a must-visit destination for its gold-mining history as much as its tranquil atmosphere, boutique shopping, seasonal activities and excellent food and wine.



A HISTORY LESSON

Arrowtown is a four-season town built on the banks of the Arrow River, which was an established source of gold in the 1860s. These days you'll find a multicultural town with a lot to offer, but it's worth spending some time learning about the history at the Lakes District Museum.

WALKING AND CYCLING

As the walking and cycling centre of Wakatipu, Arrowtown is host to the start and end of many walking trails and cycle

tracks, always more comfortable to endure in the summer months. You can always find useful maps and local information at the Lakes District Museum. Picnic lunches can be easily acquired from many of the specialist cafes and delis in the main street or a leisurely lunch and coffee can be enjoyed on the return back to the village.

The Gibbston River Trail is a three-hour walking and cycling trail, which runs along the Kawarau River. Take your time over this one, cross impressive timber bridges and wildlife-watch at sheep grates.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN ARROWTOWN

Although some excellent skiing and snow-based activities draw the crowds to Queenstown in winter, Arrowtown itself is probably best to visit in summer, when you can take your picnic down to the river, go for a paddle and soak up the sun. This time of year is when the colours and the atmosphere in town are at their best, and when a walk to the historic Chinese mining huts will also make for some beautiful photographs.



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Queenstown include:

Queenstown Mews 1729

Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is New Zealand's premier four season lake and alpine resort. Just a 5 minute walk from the main shopping precinct, you'll find most of the stores open 365 days of the year.

Member Reviews: "An excellent holiday destination. Queenstown and the surrounding districts were breathtakingly beautiful, with good shopping, restaurants and first class amenities. I highly recommend this resort; it's in a reasonably quiet location and is close to the town centre."

"A great place to stay in such a spectacular location with such beauty. It compared well to Switzerland."



EAT *Wining and dining*

In town you'll find a selection of award winning food and wine with a delightful mix of cosmopolitan cafes and restaurants offering an interesting array of New Zealand, European, Italian, Indian, Thai and French inspired cuisine.

GOLD PANNING


Don't miss the chance to pan for gold in Arrowtown. Kids will love the thrill of finding small flecks and, if you're lucky, you might even discover a tiny nugget in your pan. You might not make your fortune by gold panning here these days, but you will make a memory to last forever.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

If it rains on your visit, there are plenty of cute little boutique shops that feature top New Zealand and international fashion, home interiors, art galleries, jewellery, tourist and craft shops alongside artisan chocolatiers, bakeries and ice cream stores. Catch a movie at the boutique cinema Dorothy Browns in town and relax in old-fashioned style.

WAITIRI CREEK WINES

An award-winning portfolio of exceptional wines brings people to dine and sip the wines at Waitiri Creek Wines, just 25 minutes by car from Queenstown and a 10-minute drive from Arrowtown. Lunch is served in a restored 1893 church set amongst alpine beauty. Tuck into a steak and prepare yourself for a very satisfied palate.

Arrowtown is a town for all seasons and you'll want to come back and visit, so start with summer where the idyllic Main Street will be filled with visitors strolling the cobbled lined streets, families picnicking in the parks and beside the river, children playing in the skate park and people hiking some of the most scenic tracks in the region making your experience pure gold. 



discover
arrowtown.com
pure gold



Oaks Shores

Just 15 minutes' drive from the airport, Oaks Shores spacious apartments are impeccably appointed with chic, contemporary furnishings and balconies, most with stunning views over the lake and mountain ranges (Hotel Rooms do not have views).

3 nights from **AU\$339* / NZ\$429***

4 nights from **AU\$449* / NZ\$579***





SHOPPING *Singapore*

48 HOURS IN SINGAPORE

STOPPING OVER IN SINGAPORE? IT MIGHT SEEM LIKE A BUSTLING, SWEATY CITY OF COMMUTERS BUT THERE ARE HIDDEN GEMS AMIDST THE MADNESS. IF YOU'RE SPENDING 48 HOURS IN SINGAPORE AND LOOKING TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME, YOU'LL FIND PLENTY OF OPTIONS AND SHOPPING IN THIS FUN, COSMOPOLITAN CITY.



National Orchid Garden

Take in the view - Singapore Flyer.



DAY ONE - AM

Visit the Botanic Garden

Nothing really opens in Singapore until at least 11am, so it's worth making the most of the quiet and heading to the Botanic Gardens, which opens its gates at 5am and closes at midnight. You can spend a lovely morning here breathing in the flowers and watching joggers, ladies with dogs and people practising Tai Chi. Take in the virgin rainforest and don't miss the National Orchid Garden, with over 1000 species and more than 2000 hybrids (www.sbg.org.sg).

Get Arty

When you're all flowered out, take in some artwork at the impressive Ritz-Carlton on Raffles Avenue. If the huge Frank Stella installation at the entrance doesn't blow your mind (it weighs three tonnes!) the glistening pair of Dale Chihuly crystal glass sculptures anchoring the buildings wings will. Andy Warhol, David Hockney, Rainer Goss and Henry Moore all have work here and it's free to view. Take the iPod tour and then have a pre-lunch cocktail at the bar.

DAY ONE - PM

Take to the skies

Take an early afternoon ride on the Singapore Flyer and see the city from up high. Some airlines will include the flyer on a stopover ticket, so ask when you book. Especially good on a clear day, the Singapore Flyer is fun for all the family and even better if you pay a bit extra for a private car to avoid the crowds.

Discover an entertainment hub

From here you'll be very close to Marina Bay Sands. This hotel and shopping hub, casino and entertainment complex will keep you occupied for the rest of the day. See what's playing at the theatre or shop 'til you drop at some of the best retail and designer stores outside of Orchard Road. Dine at one of the many restaurants, then make a beeline for the Sands SkyPark and Ku de ta, a bar on the very top level. Here you can enjoy a sunset cocktail with one of the best views in Singapore.



Just add cocktails - Sands SkyPark.



EAT

Eating out seems like a full-time occupation for the locals and for good reason. A good place to start is Singapore's famous hawker centres where authentic Malay, Indonesian and Chinese dishes set you back as little as **AU\$3/NZ\$4**.

DAY TWO - AM

Visit Chinatown

At the Chinatown Heritage Centre you'll find fascinating bedroom sets, kitchens and street scenes to inspire you, all from the late 19th and early 20th century. A stark contrast to the towering skyscrapers around the corner, the Chinatown Heritage Centre is an intriguing glimpse into Singapore's past. Tacky souvenirs are available from the gift shop on your way out.

Shop and escape the heat


Head by cab or bus to Orchard Road, it's the country's main shopping artery filled with malls and department stores and even if you don't intend to buy anything, it's always fun to stroll along the charming tree-lined streets. Among the recent additions is the massive ION Orchard, where the shopping ranges from luxury brands to popular street brands like Topshop. The new

kid on the block is Orchard Central, the digital eye-catching exterior is something to behold and this new retail experience appeals to the sophisticated urban shopper. Inside you'll also find the world's tallest indoor via Ferrata climbing wall. There's a cinema along Orchard Road too, so you can avoid the sticky heat for a couple of hours and catch the latest movie.

DAY TWO - PM

Be by the water

Singapore's bustling Clarke Quay is the place to be in the afternoons for the market stalls, which are often set up along the water. Shop here for locally-made crafts and clothing. You'll also find restaurants offering all sorts of cuisine, with plenty of waterside seating and the odd live band to add to the festival atmosphere.

With so much to do in the Lion City, you'll need longer than 48 hours next time! 



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Singapore include:

Bayview Hotel

3 nights from AU\$549*/ NZ\$709*

Nestled close to the famed Orchard Road shopping centres and close the cultural scene. A 24-hour food court is located just next door.



Member Review: "We are extremely satisfied with our stay at the hotel and there is nothing to grumble about."

Berjaya Hotel Singapore

3 nights from AU\$419*/ NZ\$539*

In the heart of Chinatown the hotel is a tribute to the elegance and opulence of the colonial era. Attractions nearby include the Singapore River, Boat Quay and Clarke Quay.



Member Review: "Overall excellent, the hotel staff were very helpful and happy to put day to day tour plans in place for optimum benefit, greatly helping my family enjoy their holiday in Singapore."

*No Spacebank or RCI Points contribution required. Prices are subject to availability at time of print.

Chinatown is food and souvenir heaven.



Clarke Quay shopping mecca.





FOOD Norfolk Island

Isle of Bounty



Images courtesy of Norfolk Island Tourism

Just a two-and-a-half-hour flight from most Australian cities, and one and a half hours from New Zealand, the joys of Norfolk Island are just waiting to be discovered. In fact, with amazing sunsets, beautiful scenery, a unique history, delectable cuisine and lots of things to do, a short break here makes for the perfect getaway and best of all visitors to the World of Norfolk are treated like family members.

W W W

theworldofnorfolk.com.au

Things have changed quite a lot since Norfolk Island was inhabited by convicts. These days you can learn more about Norfolk Island's unique convict history, through the story of the Descendants of the Bounty Mutineers at the **Norfolk Island Museum**. And if travelling back in time sounds like fun, you'll love **The Pitcairners Dinner and Show** (AU\$78/ NZ\$101), which promises an enthusiastic re-enactment of Bounty Day over a scrumptious smorgasbord of Norfolk Island food.

The crystal clear, sapphire coloured ocean tempts fisherman, kayakers and swimmers alike. There are no commercial wharfs here so if you're going anywhere by boat – you'll be surprised to see the boat airlifted off the pier and then dropped into the ocean. Take a day trip to Phillip Island or arrange a fishing


trip to catch kingfish, trevally, rock cod, tuna and more. For scuba divers, there are 30 first-class dive sites while for snorkelers, Emily Bay and Slaughter Bay promise lots of fish, lovely coral reefs and good visibility in the warmer months.

Foodies will appreciate the 'paddock to plate' approach to Norfolk Island dining. Traditional dishes are influenced by the local mix of British and Tahitian cultures found in more than 35 restaurants and eateries on the Island, refreshingly, you won't find a McDonalds in sight! Not to be missed, the **Island Fish Fry** is a firm favourite and is a feast of fish, entertainment and the best sunset over Puppy's Point.

If you're here to experience family life on Norfolk Island, a Progressive Dinner will get you dining at the homes of four wonderful

local families. It's a great way to meet new people, learn something new and appreciate home cooking.

For a round of golf head to **Norfolk Island Golf Club**, situated on a World Heritage Site. Tee off on this nine-hole course and soak up some of the Islands best views. On Grassy Road, you'll find a well-maintained mini golf course, and clay target shooting is available at the picturesque Anson Bay on Saturdays.

With so much to do, a trip to Norfolk Island will truly inspire and rejuvenate you. 



STAY RCI affiliated resorts in Norfolk include:

Channers on Norfolk

7 nights from AU\$1149*/ NZ\$1489*

Apartments are modern and fully self-contained. Centrally situated in Taylors Road, it's just a leisurely stroll to Norfolk's tax free shopping centre and only a two minute drive to enjoy Norfolk Island's beautiful swimming beaches, golf course and World Heritage Listed convict area.

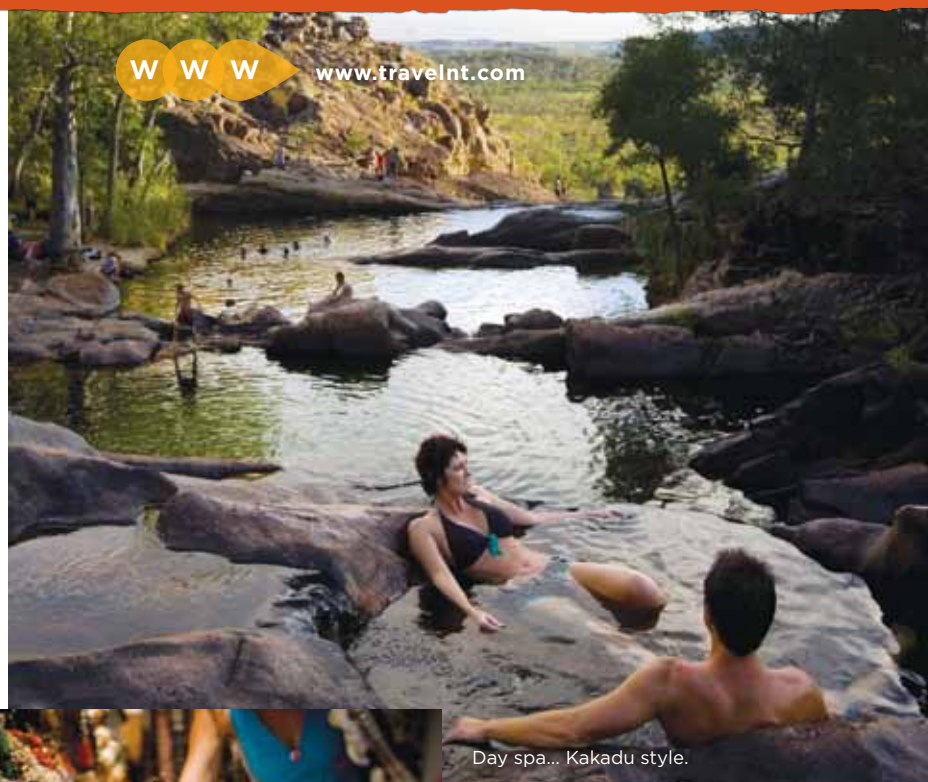
Member Review: "The management showed typical Norfolk Island friendliness and courtesy. The proximity of the accommodation to town is a plus."

*No Spacebank or RCI Points contribution required. Prices are subject to availability at time of print.



GO WILD IN DARWIN

Sizzling Darwin is quite literally a hot destination. But as well as sipping chilled drinks to keep cool, there's a whole lot to do and see in the Northern Territory's biggest city.



W W W

www.travelnt.com

Day spa... Kakadu style.



Find a keepsake at the Sunset Markets.

Kakadu It

A day trip to Kakadu National Park is easy to arrange from Darwin. Most tours will include a cruise along the famous Yellow Waters for the chance to spot some crocodiles and a visit to the ancient Nourlangie Rock with its Aboriginal rock art. In Kakadu, birds, bees, dazzling blue skies and waterfalls keep the kids intrigued and take your breath away.

Feed the fish at Aquascene

Aquascene is a unique fish-feeding experience that children will remember for a long time. Go early if you want the sucky milk fish to eat from your hands because in

busy times there's more bread in the water than fish. Afterwards, take a stroll along the new wharf precinct.

Hang with the crocs at Crocosaurus Cove

Darwin's number one tourist attraction, Crocosaurus Cove on Mitchell St, provides the chance to enter the Cage of Death and be attacked by a giant saltwater croc from a Perspex box (fun for some, apparently). See the snakes and lizards and hold a baby crocodile. Kids will love it.

Dine at Mindil Beach Sunset Market

You'll find interesting markets in Parap and Nightcliff, though the best in Darwin on Thursdays and Sundays is Mindil Beach Sunset Market. Watch the sunset as you feast on cuisines from all over the world – save some room for a banana and Nutella crepe. Musicians will keep all entertained as night falls.



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Darwin include:

Cullen Bay Resort Darwin 3 nights from AU\$399* / NZ\$519

The area has become one of Darwin's most popular dining/shopping precincts with many fine restaurants and coffee shops.



Travelodge Mirambeena Darwin 3 nights from AU\$269* / NZ\$349*

Located in the heart of the CBD, close to everything in town while providing privacy in a lush setting.



*No Spacebank or RCI Points contribution required. Prices are subject to availability at time of print.

Catch a flick at the Deckchair Cinema

This outdoor cinema at the southern end of the Esplanade was set up by the Darwin Film Society and offers double features on Friday and Saturday nights (AU\$20/ NZ\$26). Snuggle up under a blanket, order food and drinks from the bar or enjoy a picnic and each others company.

From crocs to movies under the stars, there's more to do than sweat the weather in Darwin. EV

THE | STAR

The Star (formerly Star Casino) is Sydney's new one-of-a-kind leisure and entertainment venue. There are plenty of celebrity chef restaurants to choose from as well as casual dining, a bustling nightlife, world class gambling and an opportunity to catch a show at the Lyric Theatre.




\$14 per person

The cost of a round trip from Circular Quay in Sydney Harbour to Manly is one of the best ways to see all the famous icons. Spend the day exploring Manly Beach and enjoy a lazy lunch at the landmark Newport Arms Hotel.

BRIDGE CLIMB

Conquer your fears and brave this dizzying (but completely safe!) ascent up Sydney's other famous landmark the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Harry's CAFÉ de WHEELS

A trip to the original Harry's in Woolloomooloo lets you enjoy authentic Aussie tucker while gazing at pictures of famous diners from Colonel Sanders, Frank Sinatra, Brooke Shields and Sir Richard Branson. Try the famous Pie & Peas or the yummy Hot Dog de Wheels with chilli con carne and cheese sauce.



6km

The Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk is the best way to see the most legendary beach in town and take in coastline vistas and cosy beaches. Each spring the Bondi to Tamarama Beach section of the walk is home to the popular Sculptures by the Sea exhibition.

Paddington

Sydney's longest running community market and ultra-chic Saturday destination can be found along Oxford Street's shopping strip.



STAY



RCI affiliated resorts in Sydney include:

Wyndham Sydney 8728

Known for its harbour lifestyle, Sydney delights visitors with fantastic beaches, weather and a trendy cosmopolitan scene. Located just minutes from Hyde Park, Oxford Street, and only a stone's throw away from Darling Harbour (Sydney's waterside hub of restaurants and bars) you'll love exploring shops and attractions from this central location.

Member Review: "Well situated - near trains and walking distance to and from many shops and attractions. Apartment was provided with plenty of china, cutlery etc. Very comfortable and convenient."

Rentals:

Oaks Goldsbrough

3 nights from AU\$649*/ NZ\$839*

Travelodge Sydney Hotel

7 night from AU\$999*/ NZ\$1289*

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

ESPECIALLY FOR RCI® MEMBERS

Season for *renewal*

Spring has sprung, and there's no better way for you and your loved ones to rejuvenate than by enjoying a great RCI holiday! As a member you have access to great resorts in popular destinations around the world. So get the most out of your membership and take a tip from Mother Nature: it's time to rejuvenate today!

**LOOKING
FOR A GREAT
HOLIDAY?**

This special section
will help you
get started
TODAY!

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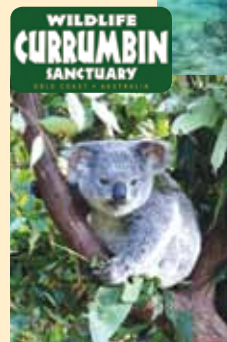
Tweed Ultima Holiday Apartments

Tweed Heads, NSW

7 nights from AU\$749*/ NZ\$969*

A few minutes' drive from the Coolangatta Airport and right on the door steps of some of Australia's most beautiful beaches, the holiday apartments offer a perfect atmosphere and facilities for a great holiday. Within walking distance of Tweed Heads and the Coolangatta CBD, with its variety of shops, restaurants, cafes, bars and entertainment.

**BONUS
OFFER**



Book now travel later to receive two FREE Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary adults tickets

For all bookings made in September 2012 - (for all available travel dates).

*No Spacebank or RCI Points contribution required. Prices are subject to availability at time of print.

Spring Break...

a week or 3 days, you choose.



3 nights from
AU\$249*/NZ\$329

Wyndham Dunsborough Resort & Spa

Dunsborough, WA

7 nights from AU\$549*/NZ\$709*

A luxurious resort with extensive facilities and amenities on the property, including a beauty and day spa, a fireside wine bar, a tour desk and gourmet dining is available at Toby's Restaurant & Bar, which offers premier wines of the region.



WorldMark Resort Golden Beach

Golden Beach, QLD

7 nights from AU\$729*/NZ\$949*

Boating, fishing, and swimming in the tranquil waters of Pumicestone Passage are at your front doorstep and all the Sunshine Coast's famous attractions are nearby - theme parks, international golf courses, pristine surf beaches, natural wildlife and spectacular hinterland scenery - all for you to enjoy.



Wyndham Surfers Paradise

Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, QLD

7 nights from AU\$939*/NZ\$1219*

The resorts central location means you have easy access to all the sights and experiences on offer from theme parks, beaches, waterfalls and wineries to first class dining, shopping and entertainment. The Gold Coast is the perfect fusion of city and beach lifestyles and at the heart of it all is Wyndham Surfers Paradise.

Don't forget to take advantage of the **RCI Price Beat Guarantee!**
Visit www.rcispecials.com.au/pricebeat for terms and conditions.



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



Vibe Rushcutters Bay

Sydney, NSW

7 nights from AU\$1169*/NZ\$1509*

You will love the convenience of staying in the dynamic park side location of Rushcutters Bay. Enjoy high fashion in the boutiques of Sydney's Double Bay and craft markets of Paddington, or five minutes in a taxi takes you into Sydney CBD for the delights of Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street shopping.



Oaks Plaza Pier

Glenelg, SA

3 nights from AU\$529*/NZ\$689*

On the beachfront of Adelaide's popular seaside suburb Glenelg, enjoy the resort facilities, which include an indoor heated lap pool, gymnasium, spa, plunge pool, sauna and steam room- plus, a fabulous selection of bars, restaurants and cafes.



Oaks iStay River City

Brisbane, QLD

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

Overlooking the Botanic Gardens and the CBD, the hotel apartments are known for their contemporary style, convenience and amazing views. Brisbane's sophisticated shopping and dining strip of Queen St Mall and South Bank are all within walking distance.



Sunbird Beach Resort

Miami Beach, QLD

7 nights from AU\$899*/NZ\$1159*

Step into paradise at the most unforgettable Main Beach resort on the coast. You can either spend your days at this luxury playground relaxing poolside in the warmth of the Gold Coast sun or in the heated indoor pool and spa.



Half Moon Bay Resort

Cairns, QLD

7 nights from AU\$639*/NZ\$829*

Situated at Yorkeys Knob, the resort is in a delightful tranquil location on the northern beaches of Cairns. It is within easy walking distance of local restaurants, the Half Moon Bay Yacht Club and Marina, and the Yorkeys Knob shopping centre.



Turn your holiday dreams into

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL AMAZING LAST MINUTE DEAL!!

Radiance of the Seas
18 Night Trans-Pacific Cruise between
Honolulu and Sydney
Inside Stateroom (Cat N) Twin Share
*Was from AU\$2628*pp*
Now from AU\$1899*pp
SAVE OVER AU\$1400 per exchange!
Selected Departure: September 2012
Includes RCI Cruise Exchange Fee



CAPTAIN COOK CRUISES M.V. REEF ENDEAVOUR

3, 4 & 7 Night Fiji Island cruises
round trip from Port Denarau
Outside Stateroom (Cat stateroom) Twin Share
*Was from AU\$1022*pp [3 NTS]*
Now from AU\$772*pp
SAVE AU\$500 per exchange!
Selected Departures: October 2012 to January 2013
Includes RCI Cruise Exchange Fee
4 Night Itinerary from AU\$999*pp
7 Night Itinerary from AU\$1618*pp



AZAMARA CLUB CRUISES AZAMARA JOURNEY

17 Night Luxury Asia Cruise
Oceanview Stateroom (Cat 6) Twin Share
*Was from AU\$5500*pp*
Now from AU\$4434*pp
SAVE OVER AU\$2000 per exchange!
Selected Departure: February 2013
Includes RCI Cruise Exchange Fee



CELEBRITY CRUISES CELEBRITY SOLSTICE

17 Night Australia cruise between Perth and Sydney
Balcony Stateroom (Cat 2A) Twin Share
*Was from AU\$3038*pp*
Now from AU\$2638*pp
SAVE AU\$800 per exchange
Selected Departure in February 2013



REALITY

HELEN WONG

Splendid Yangtze - 26 DAYS

AIRFARE INCLUDED

Was from AU\$7990*pp

Now from AU\$7590*pp

SAVE AU\$800 per exchange!

This is one of the most comprehensive and diverse journeys to discover the true history and cultural diversity of China. You will experience the natural beauty of China's countryside contrasted with the glittering cities that rival any modern day metropolis. Plus all the delicious cuisine, comfortable accommodation and friendly locals help to make this a trip to remember.

Includes RCI Tour Exchange Fee

*Prices based twin share, per person/Supplier conditions apply.

Helen Wong's TOURS

EVERGREEN TOURS

Budapest to Rome - 12 DAYS

Was from AU\$ 4395*pp

Now from AU\$3995*pp

SAVE AU\$800 per exchange!

Prepare to be mesmerised by the wonders of Italy. Visit monumental cathedrals, enchanting vineyards, appreciate some of the world's finest art, tantalise your taste buds with famous Italian dishes, shop in Milan and relax with a cappuccino.

Includes RCI Tour Exchange Fee

*Prices based twin share, per person/Supplier conditions apply.

Evergreen tours

GREAT TRAINS OF EUROPE TOURS

Winter Wonderland Tour - 20 DAYS

Paris to Prague by rail

Was from AU\$9950*pp

Now from AU\$9399*pp

SAVE OVER AU\$1100 per exchange!

Enjoy Europe's Winterland by rail as you travel through Europe's most romantic cities and wind through the magnificent Swiss and Austrian Alps. Spend New Year's Eve in Paris and experience Switzerland's spectacular New Year's Day celebrations including Interlaken's spectacular fireworks display. Enjoy 3 nights on Venice's Grand Canal before making your way to Prague. Plus, an Australian Historian Tour Director will accompany you throughout the tour.

Includes RCI Tour Exchange Fee

*Prices based Twin Share, per person/Supplier conditions apply.

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Grand Rail Circle - 20 DAYS

Was from AU\$ 6524*pp

Now from AU\$5974*pp

SAVE AU\$1100 per exchange!

An epic trip made up of three successive rail routes fuses the sigh-triggering sights of the Rockies with two fun-filled nights in Whistler, Canada's premier resort town. Along the way, take sightseeing tours in Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper, and explore seven cities in British Columbia and Alberta.

Includes RCI Tour Exchange Fee

*Prices based Twin Share, per person/Gold Leaf Service/Book before September 30, 2012/Supplier conditions apply.

EARLY BOOKING BONUS
UP TO AU\$1500* PER COUPLE

皇建極

Take Control...

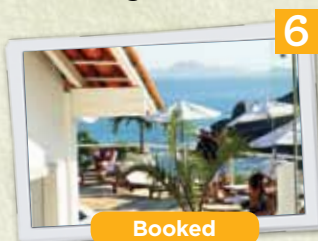
Is your timeshare working the hardest it can for you?

An RCI membership offers you not only complete transparency so you can see all of your holiday options but it also gives you complete control over your holiday planning experience, and it has never been so clear and so simple!

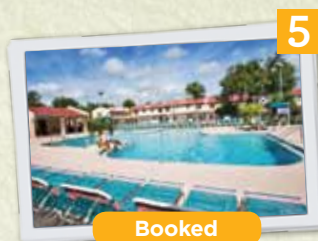
Your fellow timeshare owners are already enjoying multiple holidays from a single deposit with RCI. Here are some real life examples of how members are getting the credit they deserve!

Jeff M & Eileen J of Wellington, NZ

THEIR DEPOSIT RECEIVED 19 TRADING POWER



Resort Caravelas, Brazil
Exchange Trading Power **6**

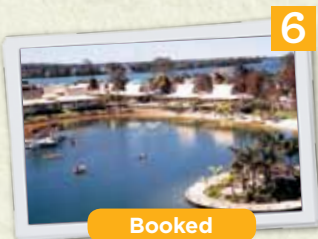


GEVC @ Fantasy World Club Villas, Florida
Exchange Trading Power **5**

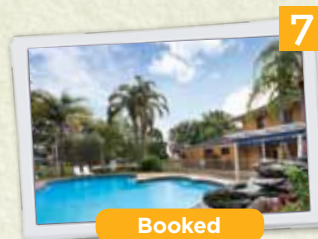
PLUS 8 Deposit Credits to use towards another holiday

Donald & Dulcie B of Bellingen, NSW

THEIR DEPOSIT RECEIVED 13 TRADING POWER



The Holiday Club @ Village Resort, NSW
Exchange Trading Power **6**

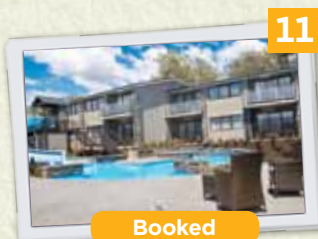


Vacation Village, NSW
Exchange Trading Power **7**

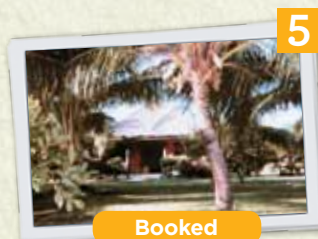
MAKE SURE YOUR TIMESHARE IS WORKING FOR YOU!

Bramwell & Colleen M of Auckland, NZ

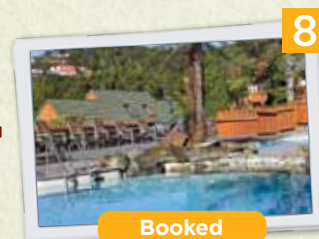
THEIR DEPOSIT RECEIVED 24 TRADING POWER



Wyndham Wanaka, NZ
Exchange Trading Power **11**



Malolo Lallai Lagoon Resort Club, Fiji
Exchange Trading Power **5**



Club Pahia, NZ
Exchange Trading Power **8**



Congratulations to Helga Z., Mosman NSW
Winner of RCI's Suite Life competition.
Enjoy your 7 night holiday at Wyndham
Seven Mile Beach in the luxurious Presidential Suite!

Call today to Get the
Credit you Deserve on
1300 368 800 AU or
0800 368 800 NZ

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The RCI Points Partners Program allows you to exchange Points for discounts on a wide range of travel products and services.

So when you're ready to plan your travels, remember that some of the best resources available to you as an RCI Points member is the RCI Points Partner providers, giving you access to some of the world's best hotels, rental cars, cruises, and activities.



By using **Points Partners**, you can cover every part of your holiday needs...



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL
MELBOURNE, VIC

3 nights from
50,000 RCI POINTS*



Y HOTEL HYDE PARK
SYDNEY, NSW

3 nights from
44,000 RCI POINTS*



IBIS BRISBANE
BRISBANE, QLD

3 nights from
59,000 RCI POINTS*



HOTEL MIRAMAR
SINGAPORE, ASIA

3 nights from
56,500 RCI POINTS



CROWNE PLAZA
AUCKLAND, NZ

3 nights from
62,500 RCI POINTS



RYDGES LAKELAND
QUEENSTOWN, NZ

3 nights from
59,000 RCI POINTS

Call RCI Points Partners on **1300 369 476 AU or 0800 569 476 NZ** to book now

*Bookings by RCI Travel are facilitated through our Vacation Centre (OVC), Travel licence No. 3008099. Point values based on low season and subject to availability. Exchange fee is payable on Points Partner bookings of AU\$119/NZ\$129. 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 **Point value based on 3 days car hire.

DID YOU KNOW? Every month, new properties are added to the family of RCI affiliated resorts, just one more way we're working to deliver more options, more flexibility and more opportunities for travel. Here we highlight a small sampling of newcomers to our portfolio of more than 4,000 affiliated resorts around the world.



Secrets Royal Beach Punta Cana by UVC **C861**



Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

At this adults-only resort, the facilities include a lazy-river-style pool, a fitness centre, a Spa by Pevonia, a casino and 24-hour concierge services. Guests enjoy unlimited food and beverages from 10 dining options, 14 bars and lounges and a swim-up pool bar. All Inclusive, with 640 metres of palm studded, white sandy beach on the turquoise blue Caribbean sea and access to sister property Now Larimar.

What's not to love about Hawaii?

With more fantastic **Maui** properties added, you won't be able to resist going back or for the first time!



Maui Beach Vacation Club **C611**



The Gardens at West Maui **C613**



Hono Koa **2620**



Kahana Villa Resort **C612**



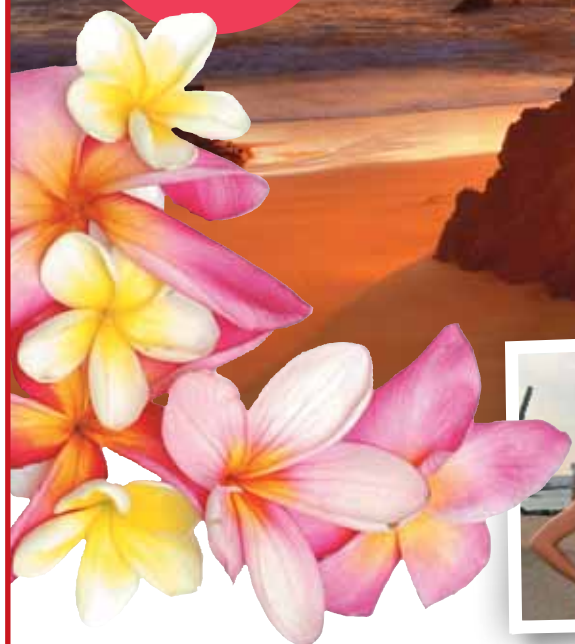
Maui Banyan Vacation Club **C615**



Kahana Beach Resort **C608**

SHARE YOUR
HOLIDAY STORIES.

PLEASE EMAIL
EDITOR@RCI.COM



Hawaii

We (family of 6 - 2 adults with 4 teenagers) recently spent 3 weeks of holidays in Hawaii, we spent the first two days on Oahu, hired a car drove around the island, saw Pearl Harbour and went shopping.

The next week we stayed at the SVC Paniolo Greens Resort on the Big Island. You need to hire a car for this timeshare as it is not on the coast but a 10 km drive inland from the beach. The best thing we did was listen to the information brief on the Saturday morning at the timeshare, from this we booked a trip to Mauna Kea, the highest mountain, a snorkelling trip and got local information on good drive trips to take.

We then flew to Kauai and took a helicopter trip; this was spectacular and gave us a good feel for the island. My advice

is to stock with groceries at Lihue before you get to Princeville. We stayed at the Wyndham Ka Eo Kai resort at Princeville. The unit had recently been updated; an added bonus was being able to use all the facilities of the other Wyndham resorts at Princeville. The welcoming staffs were wonderful showering us with leis, don't miss the information talk. We went Snorkelling in the South Poipu area, saw the grand canyon of the Pacific - Waimea Canyon, and swam with turtles. In the north the beaches and quaint one-lane bridges just added to the extreme charm of the Princeville-Hanalei areas. We also spent some days in Maui and this is not an island to miss. We loved the aloha of Hawaii and would definitely recommend these two resorts.

- Mark & Sandie W (and family)., Singleton NSW

Naigani, Fiji

This was our first introduction to our own timeshare holiday. We were VERY impressed with the support from the RCI travel consultants. We stayed on Naigani Island in Fiji for one week. We were a bit disappointed on arrival that the scuba diving advertised on the web page was unavailable, as dive centre was temporarily closed down. However, the manager arranged for a dive instructor to come to the island so we would not miss out. That was good service. As for the dives - the soft corals were fantastic, and the fish abundant.

- Glenn & Dianne W., Orange NSW



Because your holiday means...

a cure for spring fever!

Spring has **sprung!**

What better way to spend your 2012 Spring than on holidays!

STOP HIBERNATING! Take advantage of great availability now in these fantastic locations:



Coffs Harbour



Mornington Peninsula



Bargara



Bay of Islands



Wanaka



and many more...

7 night Bonus Weeks from only

AU\$199

*No Spacebank or RCI Point contribution required for Bonus Week. Subject to limited availability at time of print.

Be quick to spring into your holiday

Call **1300 368 800 AU** or **0800 368 800 NZ**

RCI®