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12

SHOPPING
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15

SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE
PHUKET

WINTER 2013 (PACIFIC)

ENDLESS VACATION

PLAY | EAT | SHOP | RELAX | EXPLORE

Brazil *Samba, Sun & Sand*

AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE
**THE MOORINGS
RESORT**
BATEMANS BAY

WEEKENDERS
COFFS HARBOUR
AND OTAGO

6 HOLIDAYS, 2 YEARS, 1 OWNERSHIP

Because your holiday means...

making 2013

UNFORGETTABLE!



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Because your holiday means the world to us!



20

Some places get better
with age.

Winter 2013

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An oldie but a goody

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Samba, sun and sand

Feel the beat of one of the world's sexiest cities



ON THE COVER

Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer)
in **Rio de Janeiro Brazil**

Check out endlessvacation.com



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

All prices are in Australian dollars unless otherwise specified. For full membership terms and conditions please call our friendly reservation consultants or check out our website RCI.com

Endless Vacation Pacific magazine is produced independently by RCI Pacific.



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whole bunch of fun



Welcome

As many of you know, each year when the weather starts to cool down, so starts our bonus week season in some parts of Australia and New Zealand. This year is no exception, with great holiday opportunities available at really good resorts in some of the colder regions. Please consider taking advantage of really low trading power or great dollar value holidays that add an extra dimension of value to your RCI membership. Browse www.rci.com or give us a call to find out the best locations.

I'm pleased to advise that we are now receiving deposits from the great new Wyndham Resort in Torquay. This property is in a fantastic location right on the beach and so close to Melbourne. Keep a look out for availability over the coming months and get set to explore this great area that we haven't had exchange availability in before. There's more information on this and other new affiliate resorts on page 40.

Make sure you check out the Bonus Weeks for this season, as we have some great deals you can take advantage of if you are able to travel at short notice.

The New Zealand Holiday Ownership Conference will be held in Taupo in coming weeks and RCI is proud to be a major sponsor and contributor to this event.

From all of us at RCI, have fun and safe travels.

Charisse

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Please note: Walk in appointments for Members are no longer available at our Bundall office.

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ready,
set,
go

AUSTRALIA

Gold Coast Baby Shower

Dolphin calf makes a splash at Sea World

Gold Coast's **Sea World** has a new addition to **Dolphin Bay** - a baby dolphin which staff describe as "a cheeky little thing". The female calf, the first for the park's Sunnie and Kiama was born in January and weighed in at 15kg and 95cm-long. Also brand new at Sea World is **Seal Harbour** where visitors can get up close and personal to playful seals. The brand new exhibit features glass petitions and boardwalks just above the water's

surface. Plus step back in time more than 65 million years and into a new interactive **Dinosaur World** taking you on a journey into the prehistoric world and an outdoor forest featuring 14 amazing life-size dinosaurs. And expect to be blown away with the latest ride, the **Storm Coaster**. Due to open in September this spectacular ride will feature two roller coasters with a special effects cyclonic finish ending. www.themeparks.com.au



IN THE WILD: (from top) See the new baby at Sea World and then try your luck spotting one of its cousins in the wild, from atop a surfboard or if relaxing is more your thing from a highrise balcony (don't forget your binoculars).

ready,
set,
go



CHRISTCHURCH

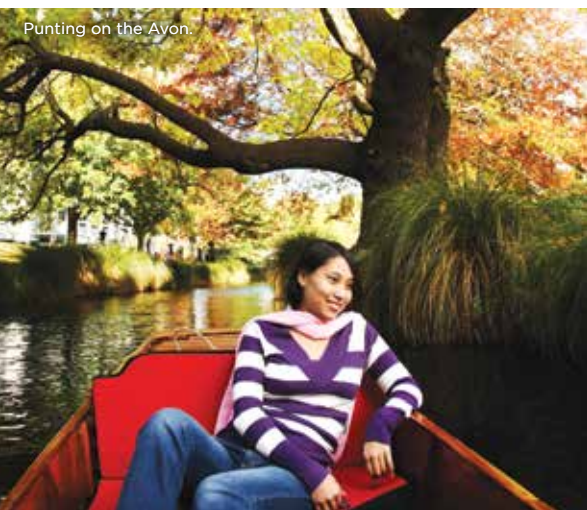
Open for business.

The world's travel bible has given travellers some words of wisdom - declaring 2013 as the year to visit Christchurch. Christchurch has been singled out by Lonely Planet for the way it is "bouncing back with a new energy and inventiveness" to put the city at number six on its list of 'Top 10 Cities for 2013'. Christchurch is the only New Zealand city to make it into Lonely Planet's annual Best in Travel publication - a collection of the world's best trends, destinations, journeys and experiences for the upcoming year.

What have Lonely Planet said about Christchurch?

"New Zealand's 'Garden City' is rising from the rubble created by devastating earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 with a breathtaking mix of spirit, determination and flair. With a unique opportunity to rethink urban form, **Christchurch** is bouncing back with a new energy and inventiveness. **Foodies** will be surprised by the variety of what is on offer, from Burmese to Turkish to local specialties, **live-music venues** have popped up all over the place, and innovative artworks fill empty demolition sites. 2013 will be an intriguing year to join the rebirth." For further information www.christchurchnz.com

Punting on the Avon.



The future is now in Hong Kong.



The Great Wall lives up to its name.



The Forbidden City.



TWO FACES OF CHINA: (from top) Experience a true 24/7 metropolis in Hong Kong (or Beijing for that matter) or step back in time on the mainland and experience the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

CHINA

Chinese New Year 2013

The Year of the Snake is in full swing across Asia. In 2013 The Chinese New Year which started officially on February 10, sees the dragon give way to the snake. This is an exciting year to travel to China. While traveling is possible year-round, spring (March to May) and autumn (September to early November) can be the best time to be on the road, as you avoid the sweltering heat of summer (June to August) and freezing chill of winter (November to February/March). For example, early spring and autumn in **Hong Kong** is predominantly enjoyable, as is autumn in Beijing Summer is the busiest tourist season, and getting around and finding accommodation during the peak summer crush can be draining. For further information www.tourismchina.org

MUST-HAVE

travel essentials for you

NEW FEATURES! RCI APP FOR IPHONE®, IPAD™ DEVICE OR IPOD TOUCH®

RCI unveiled the latest in its cutting-edge technology initiatives – two new applications for the iPad®, as well as two new features for its existing app for the iPhone®. In addition to the existing RCI TV and RCI SnapBook™ features, the RCI app for the iPhone® now offers users two new features: access to the RCI Resort Directory and RCI Member Account Alerts. The Resort Directory allows you to view all RCI affiliated resorts and search using resort names or locations. With a tap of the screen, you can save a resort to your “my resort” list, email a resort link to family and friends, compare resorts side-by-side, or share resorts on Facebook. The RCI Account Alerts feature help keep you current by sending important account information such as your renewal, expiration and deposit alerts.



HIGH AND DRY

Batiste Dry Shampoo banishes oily roots, giving dull, lifeless hair the makeover it needs without any water.

A burst of Batiste not only refreshes hair, but leaves it full of body and texture too. So whatever last minute plans come up, you can grab life by the hair.

There's even Bastise Mini, perfect for travel. All 5 fabulous fragrances can be purchased in a 50ml travel size for just **AU\$4.95 rrp!** Available in major chain supermarkets, chemists and Priceline. www.batistehair.com.au



ITRANSLATE - FREE APP

No more language barriers! ITranslate, translates words, phrases, sentences and whole paragraphs of text between different languages using Google's language translation service. So you can write and edit in many languages. Plus for just **AU\$0.99** upgrade to **ITranslate Voice**, instantly speak another language, voice to voice.

MAKE THE MOST OF AIRPORT LOUNGES

If you're a frequent flyer it pays to become a VIP member with the airline or purchase a VIP Priority pass so you can take advantage of the benefits available in airport lounges across the world.

- Chill out and read any number of complimentary newspapers and magazines
- Complimentary drinks and snacks, here's a chance to try out a new wine
- Take a shower, and some airport lounges even have beds
- Free Wi-Fi – plus charge up your gadgets
- Access to the printer if you need

With delays at today's airports, a treat away from this chaos can help make your holiday much more enjoyable. Please note that facilities vary per lounge so please check before traveling.



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landmarks

GHOST STORIES

Haunted Pennsylvania

THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

If goose bumps on your body make you feel alive, the thrills and chills that await in Pennsylvania will be a living dream. Renowned as being one of America's most haunted states, the wilds and cities of Pennsylvania are bound to satisfy the most avid ghost hunters among you. We've sourced the best haunted landmarks in Pennsylvania – and given you a place to run away to when it all gets a bit scary.



GHOSTS OF THE PAST: (this page top to bottom) Channel your inner Ichabod Crane and search for the headless horseman in one of Pennsylvania's many historic covered bridges. Ghosts of the past are sure to abound at Gettysburg, site of the famous battle and Lincoln's address. Time your trip and experience a re-enactment.

Pennhurst Asylum

Fog, some extremely innovative props and enough scary costumes to put Michael Jackson's Thriller to shame make up an evening at the scary but entertaining Pennhurst Asylum in Spring City – an easy hour and a half's drive for those staying at The Suites at Hershey. A former institution for the mentally and physically disabled, this Halloween attraction and city landmark will definitely go bump in the night. The first two rooms will educate you on the asylum's history via a series of photographs while the dungeons below will offer a frighteningly realistic walk through a haunted series of chambers. Not for the faint of heart.

Where to stay:

The Suites at Hershey 4857

The Suites at Hershey offers you a considerably less scary place to wander free. With access to the clubhouse, relaxing outdoor and indoor pools, a hot tub, a picnic and grill area plus a kid's playground and games room, you'll hardly even remember those ghosts down the road. Make sure to



HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL: (Clockwise from above) You can retreat to a safe haven in Pittsburgh before you enter the wilds of Pennsylvania's forests with their many waterfalls and lakes. After all that hiking stop in at Hershey and pretend you're Willy Wonka at Chocolate World. Philadelphia is Pennsylvania's other major city. You may not find any ghosts but the spirit of the world's most famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright lives on in 'Fallingwater' widely regarded as Americas best architectural work.

visit the Cocoa Train observation tower, where you can watch sugar and cocoa beans making their way to the factories by train.

Haunted DuBois

DuBois is renowned as being full of haunted buildings, one of which is the DuBois Central Catholic School (now part of the landmark that is DuBois Regional Medical Centre West) where the ghost of an old headmaster has been seen turning out lights and messing with doors. A young boy has also been seen frequently running down corridors. Another part of the DuBois Regional Medical Centre, which used to be the old convent, is visited regularly by a bell-ringing nun, who will also turn radios on by themselves. How kind of her. If you're planning a visit while staying at Wolf Run Manor, don't miss the old cemetery at the back, which has fallen into a state of sad and spooky disrepair.

Where to stay: Wolf Run Manor at Treasure Lake 5006

A sweet respite from your ghost-hunting mission is the nearby Wolf Run Manor at Treasure Lake, located in north central Pennsylvania at the heart of an 8000-acre resort community and less than half an hour from DuBois. At Treasure Lake, you can choose from three pools and two lakes with beach areas to swim in. There are also two PGA 18-hole golf courses.

Hotel of Horror

Numerous employees and customers at the legendary Lake House Hotel have reported paranormal happenings here and in the historic town of Saylorsburg in the picturesque Pocono Mountains, about half an hour from the Split Rock Resort. Two attractions designed to enhance the fear-factor feature professional staging, makeup and special effects and are guaranteed to

leave you running for the hills – the Altered Nightmares event and the Hotel of Horror. Make the most of the eerie mountainous environment and get involved in extra entertainment throughout the year.

Where to stay: Split Rock Resort, Lake Harmony 0369

If it all gets too much in the Hotel of Horror, head for nearby Split Rock Resort, also in the scenic Pocono Mountains. Covering 600 acres of beautiful hiking trails, lakes and streams for swimming, you can't fail to relax and unwind from your night terrors here. Challenge the family to a game on the 27-hole golf course, splash around in the fun indoor water park or try bowling, mini golf or indoor tennis.

Pennsylvania is the ideal destination to enjoy any number of haunted thrills before settling down for the night in a picturesque resort. **EV**



food

MARGARET RIVER

From paddock to plate

WHY MARGARET RIVER IS A FOODIE'S DREAM

There's a reason people are now flocking from all over Australia to the food and wine mecca that is Margaret River. Home-grown produce is all the rage and whereas Western Australia has it in spades, the people of Margaret River in particular know what to do with it. The Margaret River brand, as it has become, extends from the pantry to the fridge and cellar, meaning a diverse selection of gourmet provisions and farm gate-fresh produce is now something many people can't live without. Let's take a look at what makes the region's food so special.



Meat lovers heading to Margaret River have more than one reason to get excited – Snags and Sons is the latest venture from the man behind Perth's meatiest success, Jus Burgers, with all sausages sourced from Western Australian producers. Free-range Linley Valley pork sausages are flying off the shelves, as are the Margaret River tempeh sausages made with lupin and barley. Amelia Park lamb and beef sausages, Chittering Valley venison snags, a free-range chicken snag and the organic Blackwood Valley beef are all popular too. You won't find sausages of this quality, made with so much care, in many places. And with four restaurants all serving these tasty treats, you can't go wrong.

Those with a sweet tooth will be drooling at the Margaret River Fudge Factory, where you can watch confectionery

being made by hand before your very eyes. But keep those fingers under control – the temptation to dip could be overwhelming! As well as some of what has to be the world's best fudge, these guys also serve up a mouth-watering range of traditional chocolates, teas, coffees and milkshakes, as well as sweets and candy products to suit all tastes. Even the smell could get addictive.

For possibly the cutest breakfast spot in town, try Blue Ginger Fine Foods on Station Road. The décor in this hidden-away restaurant takes you back to the '40s and '50s with its eclectic, colourful mix of tables and chairs. It offers everything made solely from local ingredients, making it a top spot for breakfast, brunch and lunch, while organic and special dietary products, plus fresh, wholesome breads, savoury sausages, a huge selection of cheeses and sweet meats are served in their deli. Look out for the chef's gastronomic seasonal specials.



MARGARET RIVER GOURMET ESCAPE

Any food lover heading in the direction of Margaret River should try to schedule their visit around the delicious Margaret River Gourmet Escape if they possibly can. This four-day celebration of everything that's tasty about the region – namely acclaimed food and wine – will take place over November 22-25 in 2013. It promises to showcase the very best of Western Australia and the Margaret River region via a delectable line up of food and wine personalities, plus a program of unique events. But if you can't make it in November, never fear. There are all manner of food and wine tours running all year round to suit everyone's appetite. For more information visit www.margaretriver.com



W.A. GOURMET: (clockwise from left) Say cheese, just one of the many superlative local products available in this bountiful region. It wouldn't be a trip to Margaret River without sampling the world renowned local wines... white and red. Burn some calories and take a winery tour. A great snag is one of life's true guilty pleasures and Margaret River is home to some pretty amazing examples.



STAY

**RCI affiliated resorts near
Margaret River include:**

**Wyndham Resort &
Spa Dunsborough A789**

Whether you choose to indulge in the 'escape day spa,' enjoy a game of tennis or volleyball or workout in the fully equipped gymnasium, this resort has plenty on offer. There's also an outdoor pool and spa, children's playground and a barbecue area. And don't miss out on the alfresco dining at the onsite restaurant where you can try the sumptuous fresh regional produce from Margaret River.

MEMBER REVIEW: "We needed a short getaway from Perth/work and on arrival this resort was everything plus more of what we expected and needed. The location, amenities, staff and service were excellent. It is close to wineries, Dunsborough and Busselton, but without the hustle and bustle of being in a town. Wyndham Resort Dunsborough is definitely a place we will stay/visit again".

- Deb Cross and Kim Searl Feb 2013



And for the perfect accompaniment to all the fabulous wines you'll be taking home with you, make sure you make one final stop at Margaret River Organic Creameries. It's Western Australia's only organic dairy farm, producing a delicious range of pasteurised, unhomogenised full-cream milk, Havarti, Feta, Romano and Camembert cheeses. You can even sample their products at the Margaret River Farmers' Markets every Saturday.

The secret of Margaret River's delicacies is spreading fast. Start planning your trip soon so you don't miss out. **EW**

DON'T FORGET THE BEACHES: Not content with being a culinary powerhouse, Margaret River has a dramatic coastline well worth a visit in its own right.

Palm-fringed perfection

MAKING THE MOST OF FIJI

To know Fiji is to love it, and what's not to fall for in a tropical island paradise such as this? Fiji, a land of warm smiles, sizzling sunshine and white sandy beaches in the South Pacific, is blessed with more than 300 stunning islands – some inhabited and others offering tourists the chance to relax and unwind away from civilisation. We take a look at the highlights.

Nadi, on the biggest island of Viti Levu, is known as the gateway to Fiji, and this is where most international flights will land. From there, you can choose whether to fly or drive across to the other side of the island before a short boat ride to a tiny island paradise. Here you'll find Naigani Island Resort, the perfect base for sightseeing and experiencing the hospitable Fijian culture.

Naigani's rich tropical rainforest is home to some of Fiji's most precious and spectacular flora and fauna. Nature walks beckon fans of the great outdoors and it's imperative to remember your camera. Here you are almost guaranteed sightings of animals, birds and plants you won't find anywhere else in Fiji. Activities to while away the hours include kayaking the tranquil blue waters, fishing, barefoot golf or swimming in crystal-clear lagoons.



A visit to the village to meet the locals will also be one of the highlights of your stay. If you're lucky, you'll be there for a 'meke' (a traditional song and dance) – no need to bring your own booze as kava (which tastes a bit like mud, really) is in abundant supply. Fans of fishing can go out with the locals and help bring home the catch. Whether you like spearing coral trout or hunting for crabs, you'll have one of the best mornings of your holiday with the fishermen of Naigani Island Village.

Some of the safest snorkelling in Fiji can also be found around the spectacular fringing reefs of Naigani. A wide range of tropical fish species and sea creatures can be found, and if you're a fan of scuba diving this can be arranged through the resort. With warm waters and great visibility for most of the year, schedule some time spent in the waters of Naigani's reefs.





NATURAL BEAUTY: (clockwise from left) Palm trees, golden sand and turquoise water; what else do you need? A colourful local from one of the many world class dive sites. Beauty abounds. Your own sanctuary in Naigani Resort. Adventure time, explore close to shore reefs in a canoe made for three (or two).

DAY TRIPS FROM NAIGANI ISLAND

LEVUKA While you're staying at Naigani Island Resort, it's possible to travel by boat to the adjacent Ovalau Island and visit Levuka, the old capital of Fiji, rich in culture. Walk around colonial structures and relics and interact with the friendly locals as you take a trip back in time to Fiji's exciting past. **\$100pp** or choose Makogai Island (once home of the leprosy patients) **\$185pp** includes a picnic lunch.

CANNIBAL CAVES Cannibalism allegedly ended in Fiji in the late 19th century, but you can get a taste of its gruesome past as you explore the Naihehe Caves in Fiji's Sigatoka Valley. This area is known as Fiji's "Salad Bowl" thanks to the abundance of fruit and vegetables that grow here. These caves were home to Fiji's last existing cannibal tribe and many a human has been cooked in here. Don't lose your head!

OTHER DAILY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Snorkeling to Picnic Beach **\$25pp** or Outer reefs **\$50pp**. Dolphin trips **\$100pp**, Village visits **\$20pp**, light tackle fishing **\$80 per hour**, dive trips **\$100pp** and finish the day with a Sunset Cruz - onboard Hitch Hiker with Naigani serenaders **\$70pp**.

WHERE TO STAY:

NAIGANI ISLAND RESORT 4978

Exchange or 7 nights rentals from **AU\$589 NZ\$729** 1 brm
AU\$699 NZ\$859 2 brm

The intimate Naigani Island Resort will dazzle you with the old-world charm of Fiji. Go fishing in the surrounding waters for tuna, mackerel and mahi-mahi and ask the accommodating staff to make you a delicious fish and chip dinner with the fruits of your labour. As well as tranquil and tropical sandy beaches and turquoise lagoons, you can recline around the landscaped swimming pool, try scuba diving with the qualified diving instructors, challenge your loved one to a round on the golf course and tuck into a local and western fusion of food, served up in the restored plantation house, Riley's.

MEAL PACKAGES

2 Meal Plan - inc. buffet continental bfast & 2 course dinner **\$70pp**
3 Meal Plan - inc. buffet continental bfast & 3 course dinner **\$90pp**

A Fijian holiday is an experience you'll remember for life. Bula! **EV**



Prices subject to change, conditions apply to all tours - check with Naigani Island Resort for departure times and full terms and conditions.

Sheikh, shop & roll in Dubai

The modern metropolis of Dubai is a melting pot of expats and locals, all soaking up the sunshine, driving around in fast cars and shopping. The shopping in Dubai is well known for being some of the best in the world, and the tax-free lifestyle isn't to be laughed at either. Let's take a look at how one goes about shopping 'til they drop in this desert city of dreams.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Dubai Mall

Sunday to Wednesday
10am-10pm, Thursday to
Saturday 10am-midnight

The Souk

Daily 10am-11pm

Mall of the Emirates

Sunday to Wednesday
10am-10pm, Thursday to
Saturday 10am-midnight

Gold and Spice Souk


Daily 9am-10pm

As the world's largest shopping and entertainment destination and one of the annual Dubai Shopping Festival's strategic partners, The Dubai Mall is a gargantuan labyrinth of shops (1200 stores), two anchor department stores and over 160 food and beverage outlets. There's also an aquarium, should you feel like scuba diving with the resident sharks, an ice rink and a movie theatre inside, plus a light and water show around the fountains outside every night. There's really no need to look anywhere else, although of course there's a multitude of options to help you mix things up.

One of which is the oh-so-fancy Souk Madinat Jumeirah, to the west of the city centre and close to the man-made Palm Jumeira island. If you haven't already you'll fall in love with Dubai as you cruise on a manmade lake in a traditional wooden boat (known as an abra) – and that's before you've had the chance to sink your boat with all your shopping. It offers shoppers a traditional Arabian souk experience, complete with wind towers, narrow waterways and pretty lantern-lit hallways. A maze of specially selected shops and over 40 restaurants and bars entertain crowds both day and night.



Fancy a spot of skiing with your shopping? Just 10 minutes away you'll find the huge Mall of the Emirates. It was the go-to place for shoppers before The Dubai Mall took over, and it's still a premiere shopping mall in Dubai. With a staggering 520 international brands inside, plus a multitude of restaurants including Apres, the ski-themed bar offering an exceptional cheese or chocolate fondue, you could easily spend all day in here. Magic Planet is also a great destination for those with kids - it's the largest indoor family entertainment centre in Dubai, spread over two levels. And if theatre floats your boat, DUCTAC plays host to national and international theatre groups all year long. Oh, and don't miss Ski Dubai either if you're after a skiing or snowboarding lesson in the desert.

A shopping holiday in Dubai wouldn't be complete without a visit to the traditional souks in Deira - the old, original area of the city. To get there faster than a taxi will take you, jump aboard an abra along the Dubai Creek from The Dubai Mall, taking in the bustling local life as you go. Once you get there, you'll smell the spices. Practise your bartering skills and your Arabic too, and if you don't end up buying gold, don't leave without purchasing a typical Dubai souvenir: a camel ride. 

STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Dubai include:

Emirates Springs Hotel Apartments 5277

Situated 1.5 hour drive south of Dubai, the Emirates Springs Hotel Apartments is a tourist landmark in Fujairah. It boasts a swimming pool, restaurant and Sheesha terrace (for smokers) on the roof, offering panoramic views of the city and ocean. Enjoy a tasteful water pipe while savoring a traditional Arabic infusion. An easy walk from the fabulous beach and marina, you can choose from a wide range of activities such as diving, fishing and excursions to the many local attractions.

Oasis Court Hotel Apartments B&B R153

7 nights from AU\$719/NZ\$899 1brm

AU\$1139/NZ\$1399 2brm

Located in Bur Dubai's prime area in close proximity to the Dubai Creek, 'Oasis Court' Hotel Apartments is strategically located to reach out to the best in Dubai. Close proximity of Bur Juman Shopping Mall, banks and cafes, this is a perfect destination for shopaholics and leisure travellers.

DESERT OASIS: (clockwise from left) Souk it to me, the original Arabian mall. Wonders of Dubai; architecture, shopping and desert safaris. The Dubai mall, a vast shrine to shopping... more mini city than mall.





at a glance

NEW THINGS IN OUR
FAVOURITE PLACES



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Less than an hour's drive from Melbourne Airport, the Macedon Ranges is a diverse collection of unique villages, natural landscapes and boasts the largest concentration of natural mineral springs in the country due to its location in a mountainous area formed by volcanic activity.

SPA COUNTRY - DAYLESFORD AND HEPBURN SPRINGS

The natural mineral spring water is famous for their relaxing properties. Stroll through the public parks where you can sample and bottle the water free! Bring your own bottle/s. Enjoy the luxurious environment from an excellent choice of spa resorts.
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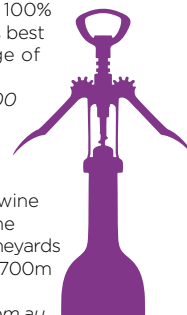


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40 VINEYARDS

The person who pours your wine at the cellar door could be the winemaker themselves. 40 vineyards Located between 350m and 700m above sea level.
www.macedonrangeswine.com.au



MACEDON RANGES & DAYLESFORD

HANGING ROCK

The towering peak of Mount Macedon and nearby Hanging Rock is part of a six million year old dormant volcano. Best known for the 1975 mysterious movie 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' Fact or Fiction?



DAYLESFORD

1st Saturday
9am - 1pm

KYNETON

2nd Saturday
8am - 1pm

RIDDLES CREEK

3rd Saturday
9am - 1pm



SWEET TOOTH?

Then the Chocolate Mill is for you. Just 7 minutes north of Daylesford Mon-Sun 10am-4:45pm FREE ENTRY FREE DEMO AT 11am and 2pm (03) 5476 4208 www.chocmill.com.au



TWO DAYS OF WINE & FOOD

16-17
NOV
2013

A weekend celebration of the food, wine and lifestyle of the Macedon Ranges in the springtime with wine tasting and entertainment at participating wineries of the region at the **Budburst Wine & Food Festival**.

STAY

RCI affiliated resort in Macedon/Melbourne region

Exchange: Mansfield Country Resort 0827, The Bright Resort 1175, Kyneton Bushland Resort 0830

7 NIGHTS HOLIDAY RENTAL Travelodge Southbank Hotel R783 **AU\$999 NZ\$1229**

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



PHUKET

— SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE —

As Thailand's largest and most popular island for holidaymakers, Phuket is a diverse and intriguing island to explore and is famous for its cosmopolitan, colourful vibe as much as it is for its delicious food, welcoming beaches and raucous parties. We take a look at the wonders of Phuket and what makes it one of Thailand's most visited destinations. Fried spider, anyone?

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS: Famous for its nightlife, shopping and scenery it is still hard to beat a Thai sunset on the beach.

From the fun-filled and crazy Patong to the remote stretches of sand in the north, there are few holiday destinations and indeed islands in the world that offer such a beautiful abundance of beaches as Phuket. The twisting coastal roads that stretch across the west gives visitors access to some of the best beaches in the world, but it's the outlying outlands, easily reachable by boat and a few days of island hopping, that are often the most special.

Koh Similan is one of the better-known archipelagos to visit in the Andaman Sea. Giant boulders dot the southern and western shores and as one of the top 10 most interesting dive areas in the world, you'll often find dive boats and learner divers in the waters. Look to the trees for crab-eating monkeys, squirrels, bats and lizards looking to feast on the wild jackfruit, rattan and bamboo.

Just a 45-minute speedboat ride and a 90-minute ferry ride from Phuket, the Phi Phi Islands of Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Leh are some of the most beautiful islands in Southeast Asia. Clear azure waters also attract divers and snorkellers, while white beaches, beautiful and jagged rock formations and inviting turquoise waters beckon sunbathers and swimmers.

The Racha (or Raya) Islands, are best known for their excellent diving and snorkelling opportunities. And with no cars, they're perfect for relaxing. Ao Siam bay on Racha Yai makes a great place to get back to nature on a pretty walk, while the uninhabited Racha Noi is popular for diving trips.



GET READY TO SAY 'WOW' ALOT: (from top) The view of Phi Phi Don. Mouthwatering Tom Yam Kung. If you like decorative architecture you will love Wat Chalong Pagoda. Virtually every short walk is rewarded with jaw dropping views of rainforest shored beaches.





MONOLITHS FROM THE SEA: The Phi Islands are a natural wonder and are a favourite backdrop for many Hollywood movies, from James Bond to The Beach.

Coral Island, or as it's known locally, Koh Hae, offers swimmers and sun-seekers two main beaches, Long Beach and Banana Beach. Snorkelling off Banana Beach is particularly popular with families and both offer myriad dining options along the shoreline.

CULINARY DELIGHTS OF PHUKET

If the thought of trying some new culinary delights on your holiday to Thailand leaves your mouth watering, you'll be pleased to know it isn't all Thai green curries, palm hearts with shredded coconut, fresh rose apples and mangosteens in Phuket – although those are some of the best things to eat in Thailand!

Thai natives also eat a lot of fried insects including cockroaches, ants, crickets and spiders. Fried crickets come lightly coated

in herbs and are crunchy, but remember to take the legs off first or your throat will be itching later. The Thai delicacy of deep-fried tarantula is called 'a-ping' and is usually freshly cooked and coated in a sugar solution by street vendors just after being harvested from their burrows – yummy. The best way to eat them is to snap a couple of legs off first, savour the slightly nutty flavour and try not to vomit.

If you're lucky enough to be visiting in October, you can't go past the annual **Phuket Vegetarian Festival**. This 10-day festival is held in honour of the local Chinese community and their belief that abstaining from meat and other stimulants during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar will aid peace, harmony and good health. Body piercing is a popular activity, as are other astounding acts of self-mutilation, as the celebrations



ROLL UP, ROLL UP FOR PHUKET FANTASEA

Conveniently located on Kamala Beach, Phuket FantaSea has labelled itself "the ultimate nighttime cultural theme park", and as the island's biggest show it's hard to find as much entertainment anywhere else. But FantaSea is more than the nightly stage show. The village combines an assortment of shopping options from jewellery to Thai crafts to beachwear, and the elephant rides and carnival games will keep kids entertained for hours. You can even eat here in a number of special restaurants.

Back to the show – look up to find whirling and twirling trapeze artists above a cast of hundreds, look to your left to find performing elephants and horses, and look in every direction for a magical blend of tradition and fantasy that will leave your heart pounding in your chest and a strange desire to visit all over again.

only serve to demonstrate faith and devotion to the gods.

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival is a time for local residents of Chinese ancestry to observe a strict 10-day vegetarian or vegan diet in order to cleanse themselves spiritually, and the performance of sacred rituals at various Chinese temples and shrines ensures that thousands of participants and tourists come along. Of course, watching people walking barefoot over hot coals always adds something extra.

EXPLORE PHUKET'S BUDDHIST TEMPLES

You can't visit Phuket without engaging with Buddhism somehow – around 95 percent of Thailand follows the Buddhist religion. And there's no shortage of temples to visit.



MANY HOLIDAYS IN ONE: (top to bottom) Another amazing vista, this time the view of Mue Koh Anghong. It is still possible to see shades of traditional life amongst the more tourism based attractions, from traditional long tail fishing boats to ladies going shopping in much the same way that they have for hundreds of years. Swim, eat, shop or unwind in the most tranquil surrounds imaginable at Sukhothai.



Heroines Monument is one of the most visited landmarks in Phuket and tells the story of how sisters Lady Chan and Lady Mook led the local people – the majority of whom were women – into battle with the Burmese intruders. After the war, Lady Chan helped locals rebuild their lives by getting into the tin-trading business, as well as other things – quite remarkable in a time when Thai women were used to traditional roles as mothers and housewives.

The Bang Neow Shrine is a highly regarded place of worship in Phuket, and features many smaller shrines in one elegantly decorated shrine, although fire has caused it to move locations a few times. The walls tell stories of Chinese literature and the adjoining building is turned into a vegetarian kitchen and canteen for the duration of the annual Vegetarian Festival.

The grounds of the Shrine, not far from the main market, are very impressive and display photos of the temple when it was one standalone construction back in 1911, with no walls or side-buildings. As one of the oldest spiritual centres in Thailand and having been through numerous renovations to acquire its three large alters and statues of Chinese gods, it's a must-see destination for all new visitors to Phuket.

Just outside of town, the beautiful **Kathu Shrine** is well known as the original home of Phuket's Vegetarian Festival and much work has been put into renovating it over the years using traditional techniques and materials. According to rumour, a Chinese opera group came to Phuket from mainland China and members began to get sick after abandoning their vegetarian diet. On beginning a diet ceremony in the Kathu Shrine, they got better and locals have been carrying it on ever since.

And, of course, you can't go past Phuket's **Big Buddha**. Known to Thais as the Phra Puttamingmongkol Akenakkiri Buddha, it rests on top of the Nakkerd Hills, and at 45 metres high it's easy to spot from a distance. As one of the island's most revered and spiritually important landmarks, plus one that offers a spectacular 360-degree view of Phuket, it shouldn't be missed.

SHOPPING IN PHUKET

Quirky Phuket Old Town is a showcase for the regular just as much as the absolutely bizarre. Whether it's fruit and veg, clothing, textiles or books you're



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: (clockwise from left) Twilight in Phuket Town. Feeling stressed? You will not struggle to find a location that can help with a tension relieving massage. Choose your colour, yellow, green or red but make sure you try an authentic Thai curry.

after, you'll find it all and more on the roads making up Old Town – Phang Nga, Rassada, Thalang and Yaowarat. Here are our top three must-visit stores:

1. BAN BORAN TEXTILES

For great quality bags, lamps, sandals, lacquerware products and tribal jewellery, head to one of the two Ban Boran shops in downtown Phuket. You'll find English-speaking assistants and, while making a purchase may be a hot and sweaty affair, you'll get the best of the best Thai goods and items from nearby countries.


2. THINK POSITIVE ('KIT DEE')

This Japanese, Burmese, Thai, Chinese and Indian emporium of fabulous knick-knacks will keep you browsing for hours on Yaowarat Road – how many Buddha heads, wooden ornaments and Japanese

robes can you fit into your suitcase? The answer is Think Positive. Test your bargaining skills with the Burmese shop assistant.

3. SIAM INDIGO

Known to be one of the leading Thai 'retro-fusion' restaurants in Phuket, Siam Indigo's collection of mosaic art and an adjacent shop selling women's clothing and accessories lure as many magpie-eyed shoppers in as its great food. Prices are good and the atmosphere is always lively. Don't miss Siam Indigo's 'Hip & Chic' market on the first Sunday of the month.

What's not to love about Phuket? With romance, culture, incredible beaches and great food and shopping, you'll be irrevocably tied to Thailand and planning your return before you even leave! 



STAY

**RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN
PHUKET INCLUDE:**



ANANTARA VACATION CLUB

PHUKET MAI KHAO*

7 nights from AU\$549/NZ\$669 1brm
AU\$709/NZ\$879 2brm

This brand new signature resort in northwest Phuket offers a truly luxurious escape of scenic authenticity. Just a few minutes' walk away to the tranquil sun kissed sands of Mai Khao – Phuket's longest beach. While the green forest of Sirinath National Park that fringes the resort is a gateway to an impressive natural playground of sea caves, mangroves, coral reefs and dazzling islands.

Prices May 2013 to March 2014

SABOEY RESORT AND VILLAS*

4 nights from AU \$409/ NZ \$509 Studio

Situated in the North-East of the island on Bangrak Beach, this secluded resort is designed to maximise serenity, space and privacy. Nestled amidst lush tropical gardens and landscaped around a stunning double-infinity freshwater pool and cascading Jacuzzi, which both allow a stunning seamless view onto the sea.

Prices May – Dec 2013

THE PALMS RESORT*

4 nights from AU \$609/ NZ \$739 2brm

Located just 30 metres from the long stretch of unspoiled white sands of Kamala Beach, and amidst an excellent choice of shopping and dining, this resort is a modern resort, well suited for the family.

Prices May to October 2013

*Subject to availability, prices exclude holiday season dates

DID YOU KNOW?

There is now 3 & 4 night Split Week Exchanges available for Phuket

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AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE.

Some places just get better with age. If you've never been to this favourite it's time to take a closer look.

THE



The Land of Many Waters certainly sounds romantic, and that's before you've even felt the splash from the crystal-clear sea. A stunning coastline of quiet beaches, historic villages, river estuaries and craggy headlands all make the Batemans Bay area of Eurobodalla Shire the ideal holiday destination in Australia. And you can explore it all from the fabulous Moorings Resort.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLAUDINE THORNTON



MOORINGS



B

atemans Bay has something for everyone. Just two hours from Canberra and roughly four hours south of Sydney, it's a great introduction to water-based activities thanks to the easily navigable estuaries in the **Clyde River**. It's also a popular holiday resort town and fishing destination for those looking for fun in the great outdoors. The surrounding national parks and mountains make for great hiking and walking opportunities, and photographers will especially love the **Clyde Valley**. Dozens of beaches with shallow waters make swimming safe, and Batemans Bay is famous for its excellent fishing all year round.

Just 10 minutes from the town centre is a holidaymaker's paradise – **The Moorings Resort at Tomakin**. The Moorings offers a number of luxurious holiday apartments available for rent and timeshare, and caters to guests of all ages and interests.

A temperate climate all year round means the beaches are relaxing and safe for swimming, and an indoor heated pool, full-size tennis court under lights, BBQ grills, games lounge, children's play area an onsite 9 hole golf course and you can even hire a boat. Resort guests can play a full 9 holes plus club hire for just \$10 per person. Or why not take a boat out on the water, for just \$25 for a half day you can hire a 14ft boat to carry up to 6 people. With all these activities at hand you'll have everything you'll ever need and more while staying on NSW's South Coast. Other activities including whale watching, fishing, snorkelling, golf and horseriding can also be organised for you.

A stay at The Moorings is a great chance to sample the regional produce. Don't miss the **Clyde River oysters**, which, coming from some of the cleanest waters on the planet, are often hailed by connoisseurs as the best oysters in the world. It's also worth visiting the historic village of **Tilba** to enjoy local wine, cheese and venison.



ALL KINDS OF TIME: From family time on the beach to time alone with a fishing rod, The Moorings water flanked setting is perfect for all things aquatic. Families are well catered for with mini-golf, jetties for fishing, a games lounge, childrens play area and boardwalks for afternoon strolls.



PICTURE PERFECT: An idyllic resort in an idyllic setting.



Catch of the day

Feel like catching your own supper? From the Durras in the north or the Moruya River in the south, or concentrate in the heart at the Tomaga River at the Moorings, you'll have access to the best fishing on the South Coast of New South Wales.

Marine aficionados are welcome to bring their own boats with The Moorings' marina offering direct access to one of the best game fishing spots in the country. If you don't have your own vessel you can book a fishing tour through the resort.

Experienced and licensed experts will take you to the famous marlin grounds, right on the edge of the continental shelf. In the colder months you may catch snapper morwong and flathead while marlin, tuna, kingfish and sharks are common in spring summer and autumn. Your fishing expedition will always come with heart-meltingly beautiful scenery.

And if your stomach doesn't take kindly to open water, The Moorings also boasts its own fully stocked fishing lake. Here you can hire a 14ft tinny and head up the river for a leisurely cruise or throw a line in.

Wildlife watching

It's easy to immerse yourself in nature during your stay at The Moorings, what with the national parks and state forests as beautiful backdrops. **Batemans Marine Park** sparkles just offshore in numerous shades of blue, inviting swimmers and snorkellers to spot hundreds of fish as do the waters of numerous beaches. Marvel the magnificent creatures of the sea and take a local whale watching tour, departing daily from Batemans Bay Moruya and Narooma. Plus **Broulee Beach** – about 10 minutes' drive away – is perfect for sunbathing and lazing as well as surfing, but don't forget the sunscreen!

Birdland Animal Park is a good chance to get the kids (big and little) up close to great Australian wildlife, while the

famous **Mogo Zoo** is only five minutes down the road from your accommodation. The privately owned sanctuary is located in the heart of the former gold mining town of **Mogo** and features more than 42 exotic species, including rare white lions. You're also likely to spot sea eagles, parrots, kangaroos, possums, bandicoots, wombats and wallabies during your stay. Suddenly those binoculars don't seem like such a bad Christmas present.

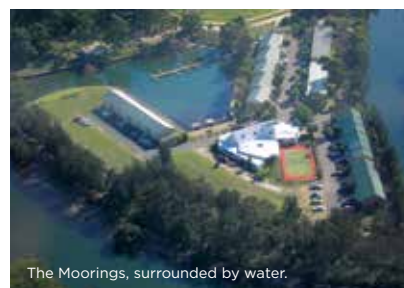
And for a real treat, head south to **Narooma** and out to **Montague Island**, about 11km offshore. The clear waters on the northern tip of the island are not only teeming with fish, but these fish are hunted by the island's colony of playful Australian fur seals, making for a particularly exciting snorkelling expedition. If you're lucky you may also get to swim with the island's colony of little penguins. Come at dusk and you'll see them wade ashore after feeding at sea. Want to go deeper? Licensed dive operation Pro Dive can organise a scuba-diving experience with the seals of Montague Island.



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: (clockwise from above) Hop down to the beach with the locals. Tempting fare at the restaurant. Teach the kids to fish in the stocked lake. If you don't catch lunch you can still enjoy a hearty meal in family friendly surrounds. Sunset on the Clyde River.



Alone time, The Moorings style.



The Moorings, surrounded by water.

Get out and about

About an hour's drive north from The Moorings, **Pigeon House Mountain** makes for an exciting and adventurous climb. If more than 8000 people do it every year, so can you! Named by Captain Cook himself in 1770 as **Pigeon House Hill**, any bird would deem this prime real estate and every human will get a breathtaking bird's-eye view of the surrounding rugged cliffs and gorges, mapped and carved by the winding Clyde River and its tributaries. When skies are clear, you can see how the coastline stretches all the way from Point Perpendicular in the north to Mount Dromedary in the south.

But if hiking's not quite your cup of tea, **Broulee** to **Rosedale** offers 10 kms of quiet and tranquil coastline perfect for kayaking. You can stop off at small beaches and watch the birds soar over rugged headlands or paddle out into open sea. You'll see the impressive scenery along this area with beautiful small stop off beaches along **Burrawarra Point**. A real must for any Moorings Resort guests is to ensure you have a meal at the **Moorings Restaurant and Bar**, whether it be breakfast, lunch or dinner. And make sure you ask about the wine promotion.

With so much to do and see in and around The Moorings, why would you holiday anywhere else? **EV**



dining in

Eurobodalla

LAND OF MANY WATERS
SOUTH COAST NSW

MOORINGS AVOCADO WITH COILA PRAWNS

Ingredients

Half avocado or mango (seasonal)
10 cooked and peeled Coila prawns (small to medium)
2 large King Prawns in shell
Mesculin Salad
French Mayonnaise

Method

Cut Mango/Avocado in half
remove seed and put aside
Peel Coila Prawns and put aside

French Mayonnaise

1 tablespoon French Dijon Mustard
2 egg yolks
1 pinch salt and pepper
2 cups vegetable oil
Half cup lemon juice

Method

Place egg yolks in stainless steel bowl. Add mustard, salt and pepper. Stirring slowly gradually add the oil. When all oil is added finally add lemon juice.

Add peeled prawns and French mayonnaise and place on mango/avocado. Serve with Mesculin Salad and King Prawns.


ENJOY



DAB HAND: The Moorings Restaurant & Bar Sous Chef Andrew Rose whips up a French Mayonnaise to go with Avocado and Coila Prawns. This easy to prepare dish is big on taste and a real crowd pleaser.

It's not difficult to see why this region is adored by those who live here. The pristine beaches and crystal clear waters of the lakes, with a backdrop of resplendent mountains and lush forests, are some of the qualities that can never be taken for granted.

A rich tradition of growing food in a clean and green environment makes this area unsurpassed for fresh seasonal produce. And the clear waters of the lakes and oceans continue to produce seafood and oysters of extraordinary quality.

Coila Lake is located east of the Princess Highway and north of the town of Tuross Head. Talk to old timers of Tuross and you will hear stories of bygone years of families prawning under torch light for the famous Coila prawn as a traditional summer holiday activity. Now just a memory of the past... 

Recipe courtesy Henri, Head Chef The Moorings Restaurant & Bar

Brazil

SAMBA, SUN AND SAND



VIEW TO A THRILL: Be it from world famous vantage points like Christ the Redeemer or Sugarloaf Mountain, Brazil is a mind blowing oasis from any and every angle.

SAY HELLO TO RIO

Whether you land in Rio de Janeiro to sunbathe on the infamous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, or to experience the crazy Rio Carnival, you can't possibly fail to have a great time in Brazil's most vibrant city. Don't be afraid to go off the tourist trail, but there are a couple of must-sees you simply can't miss.

Unveiled in 1931, Cristo Redentor (or Christ the Redeemer) was erected as a symbol of the city and is now one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Take a train or car (the train is cheaper, but it doesn't run all day) and it's easy to spend a few hours in His Holy Shadow as you sip an acai berry smoothie from one of the drink kiosks and marvel at the city below.

But for the best views of Rio de Janeiro, you simply must visit Sugarloaf Mountain – an impossibly striking natural landmark requiring two cable cars to reach. It will by far be the best rock you've ever climbed, but don't forget the sunscreen. The South American sun is a sizzler, especially when you're standing up high.

Back down at sea level, you'll be hard-pressed not to get several sightings of bare bums on Copacabana and Leme Beach, which runs alongside sparkling blue sea. For the best place to people-watch in Rio you can't miss it. You'll be lining up with bronzed locals for your caipirinhas (a local cocktail) at a series of kiosks and renting an umbrella from a vendor on his carefully

staked piece of land as curious favela kids giggle at your accent and show off their soccer skills. Let the ogling commence.

SAMPLE THE NATIONAL PASTIMES

If there's two things you must do while in Brazil, it's to experience the country's two greatest passions – football and samba. As Rio gears up for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, things have changed slightly at Maracanã Stadium but taking in a soccer game is an option no sports fan can refuse. Matches are loud, raucous, exciting and feature terrible food, but enjoy it while it lasts and listen to those samba drums pound. Oh, and watch out for smoke bombs – it's all just part of the fun.





UP AND DOWN: (top to bottom) Take the cable car to the top of Sugarloaf mountain and behold one of the world's great views. The sun may go down but Rio just keeps going, this city has plenty to see and do day and night - Flamengo Beach.

And you can't leave Brazil without trying the samba. Brazilians love it and its beats will be heard from every bar and club in the country, as well as on the streets. Get yourself down to a school run by famous samba dancers such as Carlinhos de Jesus, Marcelo Chocolate or Jimmy de Oliveira and at night take your dancing shoes to a music club, such as the lively Rio Scenarium in Lapa. You'll be stepping out like a pro in no time.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH FABULOUS FORTALEZA

With sizzling beaches and a party atmosphere, it's no surprise that many people flock north to Fortaleza when they're done with the stifling heat and expense of Rio de Janeiro. Fortaleza's permanent settlers date back to the 17th century, when the Dutch fell out with the Portuguese over the undeniably attractive territory. In spite of it being one of the smallest states in Brazil, the Ceará region boasts one

of the longest coastlines in the country and Fortaleza itself has some of the best urban beaches in Brazil.

Meireles is conveniently located next to the Feirinha de Artesanato (handicraft fair) and is a great stretch if you fancy a walk or even a jog along the water, while Iracema is a hive of activity in the evenings thanks to the surrounding restaurants and nightclubs. It also boasts the Ponte dos Ingleses (Bridge of the Englishmen) – the perfect spot for a nighttime stroll.

Mucuripe is actually just a continuation of Meireles, but is the place to go to get a glimpse of the traditional fishing culture of the area. Head down to the southern end of the beach towards the fish market to see fishermen taking their jangadas (traditional fishing boats) out to sea and returning to the beach – a photo opportunity not to be missed!

And last but not least is Praia do Futuro, considered the best beach for swimming and less built up than the other beaches. It's also famous for its barracas (traditional beach restaurants), which are right on the sand. Some of these have even expanded into bigger bars with music stages and swimming pools! Depending on what you're after – whether its peace and total tranquility in a crowd-free postcard paradise, or the chance to buy a bracelet and an ice cream from a wandering vendor when you feel like it – there's a beach for everyone.

After a long day sunning yourself on the sand, one of the best things to do is to take advantage of the abundance of fresh seafood, especially the crab. For the best of the bunch, head to Praia do Futuro and choose from one of the many barracas (rustic restaurants) along the beachfront, all serving crab in a delicious sauce with some seriously spectacular views of kitesurfers, windsurfers and lots of attractive people in swimwear. Don't forget to try asado (grilled red snapper) with salad too. It's a local favourite and you'll soon see why.

From there, take an evening trip to Fortaleza's most bohemian live venue. The buzzing Café Pagliuca offers jazz on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, tango on Thursdays and bossa jazz on Saturday, and each show starts at 9pm. If you're a bit low on cash, it helps to remember there's a free caipirinha with your feijoada (bean stew) on Saturdays from noon. So there's no excuse not to get down there.

If you're after a quieter side of the city, history buffs will enjoy a couple of hours spent perusing the exhibits of the Museu do Ceará – all dedicated to the history and anthropology of Ceará State in one interesting little museum. You'll find it housed in the former Assembléia Provincial (Provincial Assembly Building), so head off early and then entertain your fellow travellers with your impressive yet mysterious knowledge of the region.

And if you're lucky enough to be in Fortaleza on a Friday or Saturday night, make sure you take in a show at the Teatro José de Alencar. The impressive building dates back to 1910 and remains a hybrid of Art Nouveau and classical architecture, constructed with imported cast-iron sections from Scotland.



1



2



3



4

COLOUR AND MOVEMENT: 1. Other worldly Amazon landscape. 2. This country is football mad. 3. Morro Branco. 4. Christ the redeemer is as impressive up close as it is from a distance. 5. One taste of a Caipirinha and you will see why these potent drinks are so popular. 6. Amazon walkway. 7. Brazil's traditional boat the Jangadas. 8. The Macaw, one of many colourful locals. 9. Drums, drums and more drums... the beat of Brazil. 10. If you're game take a Samba lesson, if not watch a couple of experts perform Brazil's dance. 11. Carnival encapsulated, colour and joy.



12



5



6



11



10



8



9



7



UP AND DOWN: (clockwise from above) Fortaleza is a large city in it's own right and has a mix of old and new buildings and of course a beautiful Brazilian beach. Red snapper is a specialty and it does not get much fresher than this.



EXPLORE THE REGION

Brazil is a huge country – in size and personality. From the vast desert sands of Lençois Maranhenses to the largest rainforest on the planet – the Amazon – you'll never be able to see it all in one go. But if you're lucky enough to be staying in Fortaleza, you're well positioned to enjoy the many delights the state of Ceará has to offer. It's not called the "sunshine state" for nothing!

About two-and-a-half hours from the city (approx. 175km) is the "pearl of Ceará", the fishing village of Canoa Quebrada. Its stunning landscapes are reason enough to visit – think red cliffs and turquoise water – but there's no shortage of activities whatever your tastes. Thrill-seekers can take dune buggy tours over the sand dunes or head below sea level on a dive, while those after something more relaxing can head out on a jangada or enjoy a horse ride along the sand.

Tours of Canoa Quebrada will usually also include a trip to Morro Branco, but this natural wonder makes a spectacular destination on its own. Sea cliffs stretch outwards to the sea, creating a maze of colour you won't believe is real until you see it. Sunset views are truly mesmerising, and if you're looking for a Brazilian beauty spot in which to propose, this is it.

All in all, Brazil won't fail to disappoint. So pack your sombrero, sunnies, sunscreen and samba shoes and see how hard you fall for the world's most passionate country. **EV**



STAY

**RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN
BRAZIL INCLUDE:**



BOUGAINVILLE PARQUE HOTEL C302

Here's a great spot for the family and friends, located in the world's largest hydrothermal complex. In addition to its two large swimming pools, the hotel features an extensive children's water park complete with water slides and a free-fall kamikaze.

Members Review: "Great for the budget conscious"

DI ROMA EXCLUSIVE C757

Built above one of the most spectacular areas of Caldas Novas, Di Roma Exclusive offers an amazing view of the city. In this region known for its spring waters, the resort features traditional outdoor thermal pools that also feature a poolside bar.

THERMAS DIROMA HOTEL C069

Di Roma Thermas Hotel is located in Caldas Novas, in the south region of the state of Goiás, Center-West of Brazil. The hotel features water pools, showers, sauna, pool bar, coordinated recreation, and several other attractions.

THERMAS BOULEVARD SUITE HOTEL C670

Thermas Boulevard Suite Hotel has modern architecture that can be appreciated in all the resort. The Hotel offers a full fitness centre with gym, games room and beauty parlor. There are five swimming pools: two for adults, one with wet bar, one for children with toys and waterslide, and a relaxing pool. It also has restaurants and bars with International culinary standards for your leisure and wellness.

For additional resort listings,
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Kingscliff NSW

Perfectly located to explore the Tweed River Valley, and bordering Hinterland. Featuring a large lagoon style pool with views of the stunning coastline and providing a relaxed, casual atmosphere well suited to a beachside holiday.

7 nights from
AU\$899/NZ\$1109 2 brm





PARADISE ISLAND RESORT

Surfers Paradise Qld

Just a short stroll from the lively Surfers Paradise and the beach, or relax by the pool or play a bit of tennis while the children indulge in the kids' club. This rate accommodates up to 4 adults.

7 nights from
AU\$699/NZ\$859 1 brm



AUSTRALIS NOOSA LAKES

Noosa Qld

Only minutes away to Hastings Street and the beach, this resort is surrounded by wilderness and located on seven landscaped acres by the shores of Lake Doonella and Noosa River.

7 nights from
AU\$639/NZ\$789 1 brm



RAMADA RESORT

Port Douglas Qld

Fancy a holiday at a world class resort in Port Douglas at a fraction of the price normally charged? Well you can now. All rooms have garden views overlooking the Melaleuca rain forest and river system.

3 nights from
AU\$309/NZ\$379 Hotel



MARLIN COVE

Cairns Qld

Dive and discover the Great Barrier Reef. Trek through the World Heritage Daintree Rainforest. Soak in the sun and seaside atmosphere of one of nature's most desirable beach destinations - Marlin Cove Resort is the most relaxing and beguiling Cairns holiday accommodation.

7 nights from
AU \$899/NZ \$1109 1 brm
AU \$1039/NZ\$1279 2brm



ARTIQUE RESORT

Surfers Paradise Qld

Located a short walk from the bustling mecca of Surfers Paradise, and just 100 metres stroll to the patrolled pristine, sunny beaches of the Gold Coast, the resort offers fully self-contained facilities. The friendly staff can assist with theme park reservations and any other tour and entertainment tickets.

7 nights from
AU\$799/NZ\$989 1 brm
AU\$899/NZ\$1109 2 brm



OAKS ISTAY RIVER CITY

Brisbane Qld

Overlooking the Botanic Gardens and the CBD, centrally located Brisbane accommodation. Walking distance to the shopping and dining strip of Queen St Mall. Apartments, boast full length windows, kitchen, laundry and balconies to take advantage of the views.

3 nights from
AU\$589/\$729 1 brm
AU\$729/\$899 2 brm



THE SANDS AT YAMBA

Yamba NSW

A prestigious beachfront 4.5 star-rated property offers luxury self-contained apartments, overlooking Pipi Beach. Situated just a short stroll to Yamba's township with a variety of restaurants, cafes and shops along with some great sporting facilities including fishing, golf and surfing.

7 nights from
AU\$839/NZ\$1039 2brm



MANTRA TRILOGY

Cairns Qld

Trilogy Resort's premier location and landmark architecture amount to a superior expression of the Far North Queensland lifestyle. Enjoy the onsite pool and fitness centre or head out to the nearby restaurants and nightclub.

7 nights from
AU\$729/NZ\$899 1 brm
AU\$849/NZ\$1049 2 brm



BLUE HORIZON RESORT

Airlie Beach Qld

Airlie Beach is the ideal base from which to enjoy a huge range of activities, such as sailing the Whitsunday Islands, day trips to The Great Barrier Reef, scenic flights over Whitehaven Beach, skydiving, diving, and snorkeling.

3 nights from
AU\$999/NZ\$1229 1 brm
AU\$1289/NZ\$1589 2 brm

Let us take you on your next holiday



SAVE
AU\$2000
per couple



APT, MS Amaverde & Amadante

14 Night Magnificent Europe
River cruise between Amsterdam
and Budapest

Selected departures from May to December 2013
Outside Stateroom (Cat B) Twin Share
Today's Retail price from \$8640 AUD PP

**Now from \$7639 AUD PP
per exchange Twin Share**



SAVE
AU\$800
per couple



CAPTAIN COOK, MV Reef Endeavour

7 Night Fiji Island cruises
round trip Port Denarau

Selected departures from
May 2013 to March 2014
Outside Stateroom Twin Share
Today's Retail price from \$1879 AUD PP

**Now from \$1479 AUD PP
per exchange Twin Share**



SAVE
AU\$800
per couple



CELEBRITY CRUISES, Celebrity Solstice

17 Night Transpacific cruise
between Sydney and Honolulu

Selected departure on 11th April 2014
Aqua Class Balcony Stateroom (Cat A1) Twin Share
Today's Retail price from \$3999 AUD PP

**Now from \$3595 AUD PP
per exchange Twin Share**



SAVE
AU\$1000
per couple



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE, Norwegian Pearl

7 Night Alaska cruise
round trip Seattle

Selected departure in August 2013
Mini Suite with Balcony (Cat MB) Twin Share
Today's Retail price from \$2453 AUD PP

**Now from \$1953* AUD PP
per exchange Twin Share**

(*tips included)



SAVE
AU\$1090
per couple



UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES, River Beatrice

7 Nights Enchanting
Danube River Cruise between
Budapest and Passau

Selected departure on 28th July 2013
Outside Stateroom (Cat 2) Twin Share
Today's Retail price from \$4344 AUD PP

**Now from \$3799 AUD PP
per exchange Twin Share**



SAVE
AU\$1600
per couple



AZAMARA CLUB CRUISES, Azamara Quest

11 Night Northern Europe cruise
between Rome and Seville

Selected departure in November 2013
Oceanview Stateroom (Cat 7) Twin Share
Today's Retail price from \$3562 AUD PP

**Now from \$2762 AUD PP
per exchange Twin Share**

See these offers and more at rcicruiseholidays.com
or call **1300 724 262 AU / 0800 724 262 NZ**



SAVE
AU\$1100*
per couple
8
DAYS

**APT,
Icons Of The East
Kimberley Air Safari**

Discover Western Australia's amazing Kimberley by air. Your adventure includes a scenic flight into Purnululu National Park for two days of exploration. Then, fly to El Questro Wilderness Park and amazing Mitchell Falls.

RRP \$6750pp
NOW FROM \$6199pp**

RCI Exchange fee included



SAVE
AU\$1300*
per couple
23
DAYS

**GLOBUS,
Legacy of the Inca and
the Galapagos Islands**

Discover the lasting impact of the Incan civilisation during this exciting holiday to Peru. Highlights include Lima, the Nazca Lines, Cuzco, Sacred Valley, legendary Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, Uros Floating Islands, Quito, the amazing wildlife of the Galápagos Islands. Enjoy history at its best as you discover the stunning landscapes, cultural riches and local hospitality of South America.

RRP \$8419pp
NOW FROM \$7769pp*

RCI Exchange fee included



SAVE
AU\$1100^
per couple
29
DAYS

**TRAFALGAR,
European Supreme plus
Aegean Cruise**

Take the Supreme European tour and spend an amazing time exploring 11 countries! See the White Cliffs of Dover, friendly Amsterdam and the romantic Rhine Valley. Experience the cultures of Austria, Bulgaria and Romania. Revel in the ancient history of Italy and Greece, the splendour of Switzerland, and the glamour and gastronomy of France!

RRP \$7324 pp
NOW FROM \$6774pp^

RCI Exchange fee included



SAVE
AU\$800*
per couple
15
DAYS

**HELEN WONG
Mystical China**

Included return airfare to China.

Begin your China travel tour with exciting Shanghai tourism at its best. Travel onto the historical rich capital of Beijing, the UNESCO World Heritage listed Terracotta Warriors in Xian and fall in love with the adorable pandas in Chengdu. A highlight of your China travel package is a visit to Jiuzhaigou, a rare scenic gem nestled within your China tour.

RRP \$5260pp
NOW FROM \$4860pp*

RCI Exchange fee included



SAVE
AU\$1300^
per couple
9
DAYS

**PEREGRINE,
Splendours of Capri and
Amalfi Coast**

Luxury private touring.

The ancient streets of Pompeii remind us of a simpler time, when mornings were spent at the busy market and a hard day's work was rewarded with a soak in the thermal baths and a rustic dinner of fish and olives. Walking the ancient pathways of Capri and the sprawling gardens of Ravello it is easy to imagine that this kind of existence is still possible.

RRP \$7450pp
NOW FROM \$6799pp^

RCI Exchange fee included



SAVE
AU\$1400*
per couple
20
DAYS

**INSIGHT VACATIONS,
Grand Canadian Rockies
and Alaskan Inside
Passage Cruise**

Includes Gold Leaf Service & Oceanview Stateroom.

Glaciers and green forests combine to create a pristine experience that captures the grandeur of the Canadian West and Alaska.

RRP \$10004pp
NOW FROM \$9299pp~

RCI Exchange fee included



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

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

~Prices based on per person, twin share/Supplier conditions apply 24/6 High Season Departure.

^Prices based on per person, twin share/Premium cabin/Supplier conditions apply.

Subject to availability at time of print. Prices are shown in Australian dollars.

Visit **rcitourexchange.com**

Call **1300 301 022 AU / 0800 301 022 NZ**

How to get **6** Holidays in **2** years with just **1** Holiday Ownership!



Given as
a gift!

TRAVEL
DATE

Holiday #1

Fiji

Booked 11 months
in advance

Holiday #2

Las Vegas

Booked 8 months
in advance

Holiday #3

Wanaka, New Zealand

Booked 4 months
in advance

2012

JAN

MAR

AUG

OCT

DEC

2013

JAN

BOOKING
DATE

Using her 2011 deposit, Jane books an exchange to Las Vegas and receives a Deposit Credit with her left over Deposit Trading Power.

With the Deposit Calculator, Jane checks the Deposit Trading Power for her 2013 deposit. She then deposits it.

In preparation for the holiday's, Jane purchases an RCI Bonus Week (Holiday #3). She adds an RCI Guest Certificate and checks his gift off her list.

While relaxing after the holidays, Jane and her family decide to go on a cruise in 2013 (Holiday #5). As an RCI Platinum member, she books five cabins on a select cruise at the special RCI member price using just her 2012 deposit. She also receives another Deposit Credit.

And with her **RCI Platinum** Membership benefits, Jane receives

- A \$20 rebate for booking an RCI Bonus Week.
- A \$20 rebate for buying an RCI Guest Certificate

A discount on the cruise and she is able to book up to eight additional cabins for her family at the discounted price. **

It's possible! When you understand how important it is to deposit early, when to exchange and how to use the RCI planning tools, you can maximise your holiday opportunities by taking full advantage of your subscribing member benefits and RCI Special offers. With planning and booking that started a year in advance, here's an illustrative example of how Jane Doe - whose annual ownership is a week in June at a resort on the Gold Coast - and her family could enjoy six great holidays with RCI in two years.

The more you know, the more RCI holidays you can enjoy!*



Holiday #4

Drive-to holiday Coffs Harbour

Booked 2 months in advance

Holiday #5

RCI Cruise holiday

Booked 9 months in advance

Holiday #6

Hawaii

Booked 10 months in advance

... MAR • ... MAY • ... JUN • ... JUL • ... NOV • ...

2014

... JAN • ... MAY • ...

Jane learns she can combine deposits and begins looking into a Hawaii trip she's always dreamed of taking. She pays a fee to combine her Deposit Credit and her 2013 Deposit and starts an Ongoing search for Hawaii.

A \$30 rebate for combining Deposits

With her 2014 maintenance fees paid, Jane deposits her 2014 week at RCI.com. She notices her deposit Credit is going to expire, so she books a drive-to holiday to Coffs Harbour (Holiday #4).

Hawaii matches to Jane's search! She logs on to RCI.com to read member reviews, book her Hawaii holiday (Holiday #6) and begin looking at flights.

Reflecting on the many holidays she's enjoyed with her family in the past few years, Jane remembers it's time to deposit her 2015 week and start planning her next RCI holiday!

See page 38 for more details about RCI holiday planning tools.

Then log onto **RCI.com** today and get started on your holiday planning!

*These holidays are limited. Destinations and travel times are subject to availability and confirmed on a first come, first served basis. Offer includes only accommodations and specifically excludes travel costs and other expenses that may be incurred. Taxes, additional fees and charges may apply. Other restrictions may apply. Offer void where prohibited by law. All prices are based in AU dollars (AUD).

**Cruises are available for purchase by RCI subscribing members only (i) at a reduced price with an exchange of a qualified Deposit, or (ii) without exchange (sometimes referred to as Preferred Members rate). Certain Limitations apply. For Cruise terms and conditions call 1300 724 262 AU / 0800 724 262 NZ or go to rcicruiseholidays.com

Relax ... Holiday planning is fast, simple & flexible

And now RCI has made the online search process even more personalized for you!

At RCI.com we've improved the online search process and added some fun planning tools, so you'll find the inspiration and information you need to help make planning your next holiday almost as much fun as taking it.



PLAN EARLY

- >> For **RCI Weeks** exchange holidays, you can book two years in advance of check in
- >> For **RCI Points** exchange holidays, you can book 10 months in advance of check-in

Exchange your way



If you're an **RCI Weeks** member you can **Combine Deposits** or **Extend Deposits** to use in the future.

If you're an **RCI Points** member you can **Borrow Points** from your next Use Year to complete a reservation, or **Save** or **Extend** your **Points** to use for an exchange holiday in a future **Use Year**.

Let us do the work



If you haven't found what you are looking for, start an **Ongoing search**. Click the link on the right side of the **Search** page on RCI.com

Leave the rest to us! We'll search for you 24/7.

You'll get prioritised access to RCI Weeks holidays before they're available online.

We'll remember what you want



No more forgetting those great resorts you've stumbled across, simply click on the resort and add it to your **Favourite Resort** list and we'll remember it for you.

It's simple and convenient.

Personalised offers just for you



Coming Soon

When you log on to RCI.com, you'll see on the left side of your home page – **Personalized Offers** and **Account Alerts**.

This will cover discounted offers, timely reminders and recommendations to help find the perfect holiday.

DEPOSIT CALCULATOR Not sure what your week is worth?

Calculate your holiday's value and see the maximum Deposit Trading Power for your week if you deposited your week 2 years and 9 months before your week's start date and the Trading Power you'd receive if you deposited today.

Supply and demand affect holiday availability. Typically, the most desirable holidays will go first.

So search as early as you can – your fellow RCI members will be!

Check out **RCI.com** today!

GETAWAY
THIS WINTERGREAT HOLIDAYS
IN AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

Bonus Weeks

Stretch your holiday budget with RCI Bonus Weeks

7 NIGHTS
from
AU\$199
NZ\$249



Moon Palace, Cancun, Mexico

“ Moon Palace was just magical. Using Bonus Weeks, we were able to take our family and friends with us in December last year and we were treated like royalty. The resort was all inclusive and our biggest decision each day was choosing from the 54 swimming pools and 15 restaurants. We love Bonus Weeks; in fact we used them 3 times last year as it really provides exceptional value for money. We’ve also used Bonus Weeks for the Caribbean and Aventura Spa Palace.”

— Anna & Mario Athinodorou
Woodville South
South Australia

Did you know?

Bonus Weeks are excess exchange accommodation offered as cash holidays. You can enjoy an additional week without depositing. Traditionally Bonus Weeks are available within 45 days of travel and prices start from as low as **AU\$199** for an entire week.



Guest Certificates are also available for Bonus Weeks.

Take advantage of our unbelievable deals! Visit www.rcipacific.com.au/bonusweek
Call an RCI Reservation Consultant on **1300 368 800 AU** or **0800 368 800 NZ**

Subject to limited availability at time of publishing. No Spacebank or RCI Points contribution required

Great ocean escape



Wyndham Torquay C427 Victoria

situated at the gateway to the Great Ocean Road. Zeally Beach is steps away for swimming, surfing and a range of water sports. Back on land, you can enjoy a heated lagoon-style pool and spa pool, work out in the fitness center complete with a fully equipped gym, tennis court and an indoor lap pool, or choose a massage or beauty treatment at the spa. At mealtime, Ground Floor Cafe offers light meals, relax with a drink at the Sand Bar, or go to Latitude-38 Restaurant for international and seafood dishes as well as panoramic ocean views of Zeally Bay.



Torquay is the gateway to the Great Ocean Road with its wild and beautiful beaches and stunning landmarks like the Twelve Apostles.



Enotel Lido C882 Portugal

Situated in Portugal, where you will find dramatic views of the Atlantic Ocean from your bright, spacious rooms and suites, along with a choice of excellent restaurants, bars, and spa and fitness facilities available onsite.

Located just steps away from the center of Funchal, this award winning, all inclusive resort blends five-star comfort with an unparalleled selection of services and amenities.

Unwind on the sun-drenched beach right outside the hotel or take a relaxing stroll along the nearby seaside promenade or take to the hippest shops.

The Royal Haciendas R948/DO47/RI37 Mexico

This all-inclusive, beachfront resort is located within one of the Riviera Maya's most prestigious oceanfront golf communities, and is one of the six Royal Resorts in Cancun and the Riviera Maya. Offering spacious suites and an impressive array of activities, sports and services.



More affiliated resorts join the RCI® network

Elara D400 a Hilton Grand Vacations Club property, where you can overlook the heart of Las Vegas through the floor to ceiling windows in your suite, and then join the fun thanks to the central location.

Hokulani Waikiki, Honolulu D401 another Hilton Grand Vacations Club property, offering a quintessential Hawaiian experience of relaxing poolside under rooftop cabanas. [↗](#)



Riverwalk Resort C965 at Loon Mountain, currently in pre-construction phases. When finished this luxurious hotel residence club will feature an extensive list of amenities and world class services located within the White Mountains of New Hampshire in the Village of Lincoln.

Ramada Gurgaon Central C965 offering a new urban vacation choice in India, near the city centre of Delhi. [↗](#)



Resorts and properties newly affiliated with RCI may not have immediate availability. Please consult our RCI consultants for advice on finding a similar property, or visit RCI.com to see all your holiday exchange opportunities.



Shutterbugs Delight

IF YOUR CAMERA HAS BECOME YOUR FAVOURITE TRAVEL COMPANION IT MIGHT BE TIME TO TAKE IT ON A PHOTO TOUR

BY BOB KRIST

Do you annoy your family whenever you linger too long taking pictures on holiday? Do you cast yearning looks at the sunset while your group makes a beeline for the buffet line? You could be a candidate for a photo tour. These trips are designed for the way photographers travel: The pace is a tad slower, the itineraries put you in the best places at the best times to photograph, and they're led by professional photographers who can offer advice when you need it. Here's some help selecting your dream tour. (Prices vary widely, starting as low as \$570 and climbing up past six figures.)

Background Check

Don't be blinded by the destination ("I've always wanted to go to Bali!") without checking credentials. How many years has the company been in business? Will they share the names of past clients as references? How big is the group? Is the tour leader recognized name? And don't confuse a photo tour with a workshop. The leader will provide some instruction, but a photo-tour itinerary is designed for maximum shooting time and little or

no critique time. "I try to accommodate my guests' different experience levels and shooting styles," says Michele Burgess, an award winning travel photographer who has led tours for more than 25 years. "Some prefer to stick close by me for guidance, while others need time to wander." Flexibility is the key to Burgess's 15-to-20-person tours, which cover exotic locations like China, Madagascar and Kenya. "We're not locked into mealtimes, as a larger group might be," she says. "We can stay out as long as the light is good."

Ready for Their Close-up

Tours run by Lindblad Expeditions National Geographic Alliance use small Zodiac rafts launched from ships to give photographers a face-to-lens look at polar bears, seals, whales and other creatures that are difficult to shoot from land. "We've got a National Geographic photographer or one of our National Geographic-trained naturalist photographers aboard every vessel," says renowned nature and wildlife photographer Ralph Lee Hopkins, director of expedition photography. Tours visit such spots as the Galapagos, Antarctica, Alaska and Norway.

THREE TOURS TO CONSIDER

BLUE DOG

Tamborine Mountain, Queensland
Danielle Lancaster, freelance photojournalist shares her love for photography from half day workshops to international tours.
www.blue-dog.com.au

AUSTRALIAN PHOTO TOURS

Melbourne, Victoria
Craig Newell, commercial photographer offers tours and tutoring including a 3 day photo tour along the Great Ocean Road.
www.australianphototours.com.au

CAPTURE NEW ZEALAND PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

Established by professional landscape photographer Phillip Bartlett, who loves his small, yet magnificent, corner of the world, Cambridge, New Zealand. From one day tours of Waikato to 12 day expedition of South Island
www.capturenewzealand.co.nz

Keeping Everyone Happy

If your significant other doesn't share your photo passion but wants to tag along, check whether the tour accommodate non-shooters (some even provide alternative programs). Which ever tour you choose, bring a good attitude and punctuality to the mix. If you're late for a sunrise, for example, no one can talk Old Sol into delaying his light show. But that's a small price to pay to spend time with like-minded lovers of travel and photography while you increase the quality of the pictures you take. **EV**

take a shot

keeping bugs at bay helps to ensure an enjoyable holiday

BY HANNAH WALLACE

Contagious diseases are still endemic in some places, and food and water are more likely to be contaminated there. When in doubt, follow the "Boil it, cook it, peel it or forget it" rule. And at least a month before your trip, see a travel-medicine specialist to be sure you're up-to-date with routine vaccines (polio, tetanus, flu) and to

find out which shots or medications you'll need.

(The International Society of Travel Medicine lists doctors at istm.org.) We asked Lin H. Chen, M.D., director of the Travel Medicine Center at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA, which illnesses travelers should be most aware of. **CV**

YELLOW FEVER

Infection with this mosquito-spread virus is usually mild but can cause liver and multiple organ failure.

HABITAT Sub-Saharan Africa, Panama and South America.

VACCINE Not recommended for pregnant women, babies under nine months or people with compromised immune systems.

WHEN TO TAKE At least 10 days before your trip.

IMMUNITY 10 years.

HEPATITIS A

Often transmitted by contaminated food and water, Hep A isn't life threatening but can cause acute liver disease.

HABITAT Anywhere food workers don't wash their hands. Most prevalent in Africa, South America and South Asia.

VACCINE Havrix or Vaqta; immunoglobulin for babies under 12 months.

WHEN TO TAKE Ideally, at least two weeks before you leave.

IMMUNITY More than one year. For long-term protection, doctors recommend a booster shot six months after the first.

TYPHOID

A life-threatening illness caused by the *Salmonella Typhi* bacterium, generally spread via the fecal-oral route.

HABITAT Anywhere in the developing world, particularly South Asia.

VACCINE Either an injection or four capsules made of the live attenuated bacteria.

WHEN TO TAKE At least one week before your trip.

IMMUNITY The injection is good for two years, the oral vaccine for five.

MALARIA

Sometimes fatal, it's spread by mosquitos.

HABITAT Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, parts of Oceania. Can occur in more developed countries; check the CDC's malaria table for info.

PROPHYLACTIC Malarone, a combination of two antiparasitic medications; several other drugs.

WHEN TO TAKE Start one to two days before departure, then every day you're there and for seven days after your trip.

IMMUNITY Malarone works only when you're taking it.

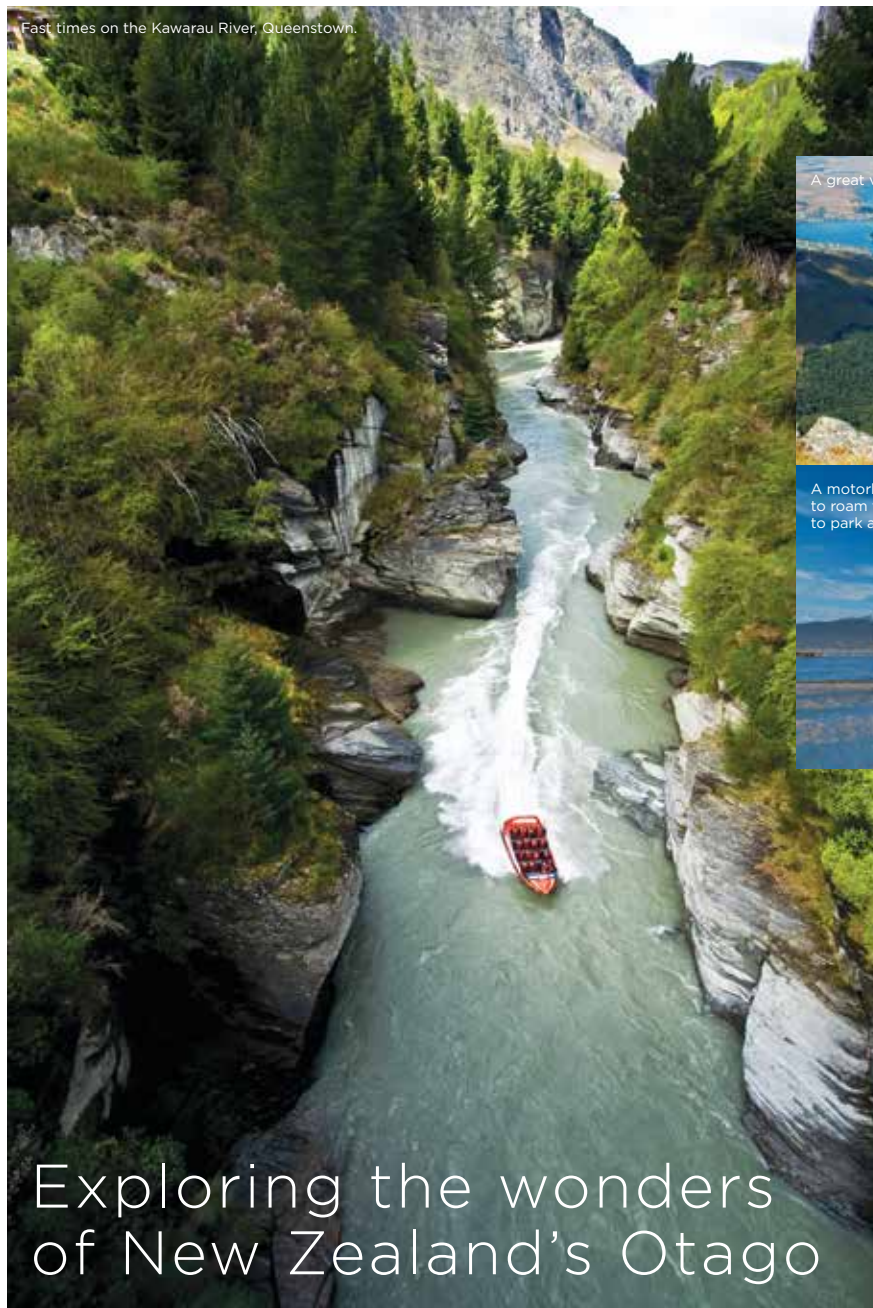
* Centres for Disease Control



Consult your doctor before taking any medication or being vaccinated. Use all medications as directed.

weekenders

Fast times on the Kawarau River, Queenstown.



Exploring the wonders of New Zealand's Otago

There aren't too many places in the world where you can stroll amongst barking wild seals, visit a life-sized yet miniature castle, kayak through semi-submersed caves or jet-boat down rock-strewn rivers all in the same place. For a taste of the great outdoors, Otago on New Zealand's South Island has it all.

<<

OTAGO, NZ

COFFS HARBOUR, AU

>>

A great view well earned, hiking in Queenstown.



A motorhome gives you the flexibility on a driving holiday to roam the country, finding beautiful and remote places to park and picnic.



The adventure capital of the world.

The heart of New Zealand's adventure tourism is in **Otago's Queenstown**. If it's skydiving or snow sports you're looking to participate in, this is your place. You'll also find adrenaline-pumping activities like bungee jumping, whitewater rafting, sky diving and mountain biking. And for something outdoors that's easier on the pulse, don't miss **Larnach Castle** in Dunedin.

After a big day on the slopes or the rivers, there's nothing better than sitting back with a glass of good wine. As the world's southernmost winemaking region, Central Otago is also the highest altitude wine region. It's renowned for its delicious pinot noir, and you can sample this and many more on the **Central Otago Wine Trail**, which

weekenders OTAGO, NZ

features over 30 vineyards, many of which have outstanding, award-winning restaurants.

The region is also a nature-lover's paradise - the rare royal albatross and the endangered yellow-eyed penguin, plus New Zealand sea lions, seals and many more species of wildlife call Otago home. Predominantly of volcanic origin, the peninsula is steep and bordered by the Pacific Ocean. On the harbour side, wildlife is attracted to the warmth, the sun and the shelter.

And whether you're visiting in summer or winter, hire a car and follow the coastal road past tiny settlements and deserted beaches until you reach the pretty **Taiaroa Head**. Take a camera as you'll be staring in wonder at the only other residents - the albatross colony. Look out for fur seals and sea lions on the **Otago Peninsula**, and don't forget 'the pyramids' at **Victory Beach**.

Time spent in the natural beauty of New Zealand's Otago is time well spent.



WINTER GAMES 2013

Visiting Otago in August? Make sure you check out the New Zealand Winter Games, running from the 11th to the 25th of the month. The elite winter sports competition features 1000 athletes from 50 countries competing in a range of alpine skiing, cross country skiing, freestyle skiing and snowboarding events. It's also one of the few leading sports events where able-bodied and disabled athletes compete together. For more information visit www.wintergamesnz.com

INFINITE VIEWS

From top: Yet another amazing vista over Lake Wakatipu. The pristine beauty of Glenorchy. Larnach Castle in Dunedin.

weekenders OTAGO, NZ

EAT

Scotia Bar & Bistro T: 0043 477 7704.
199 Upper Stuart Street, Dunedin. Try a wee dram from Scotia's rare and special selection of 300 whiskies served in the cosy library-esque whiskey bar before sampling from the hearty menu with smoky meats, game and even haggis. www.scotiadunedin.co.nz

RELAX

Spa at St Clair T: 03 455 0750
236 Forbury Road St Clair, Dunedin. Come and experience Dunedin's most luxurious Day Spa a few moments from the beach www.spastclair.co.nz

PLAY

Esplanade Surf School T: 0800 484141 or 021 484 141.
St Clair Esplanade, St Clair Beach, Dunedin. All levels of ability catered for in a safe and fun environment dedicated to improvement.

Offtrack Mountain Bike T: 64 (0)211 750 832.
Experience scenery, wildlife, history by mountain bike, tours tailored to your requirements
Half day tours from \$70. www.offtrack.co.nz

EXPLORE

Orokonui Ecosanctuary There are twice-daily guided tours (\$38 for adults, \$19 for children), or you can potter about on your own (\$15 adults, \$7.50 children. Open to visitors from 9.30am to 4.30pm daily except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There are also family concessions for guided and unguided tours.). www.oroconui.org.nz

Larnach Castle T: 00 64 3 476 1616.
145 Camp Road, Otago Peninsula. Visit New Zealand's only castle, explore the 'Garden of International Significance', Take High Tea in the Ballroom every day at 3pm. Open 9am daily, last admission 5pm Entry from \$12.50 www.larnachcastle.co.nz

Royal Albatross Centre T: 0064 3 478 0499.
Taiaroa Head, Otago Peninsula, Dunedin. The only mainland breeding ground of albatross in the world.
Summer: 24 Nov - 31 Mar Tours from 11am till 6pm
Winter: 01 Apr - 23 Nov from 11am till 3pm
Tours from \$40pp
www.albatross.org.nz

STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in New Zealand include:

Wyndham Vacation Resorts Wanaka C004

Located only a short stroll from the lakeshore and the heart of the village. The local area can provide you with all the relaxation or adventure you desire with something to suit everyone.

Travelodge Wellington

3 nights from AU\$309/NZ\$379 hotel room
4 nights from AU\$469/NZ\$579 hotel room
Located in the town centre and just a short stroll to lively cafes, shops and Wellington Harbour.

Spencer On Byron - Auckland

3 nights from AU\$439/NZ\$529 1brm
4 nights from AU\$569/NZ\$699 1brm
Standing tall on the North Shore in Takapuna, with unsurpassed views, this new business class hotel is fresh, innovative and welcoming.

*Subject to availability, prices current at time of print.

Take a short walk on a long pier in Coffs Harbour. **Right top** A trip to Coffs Harbour is not complete without a visit to the Big Banana where you can enjoy tobogganing, water slides, ice skating and the World of Bananas show. **Right bottom** Adventure time in the ocean or the rivers.

Coffs Harbour highlights



If you like your bananas big and your ocean a deep shade of twinkling blue, Coffs Harbour, a coastal city on the north coast of New South Wales, should be on your agenda. At just 530km north of Sydney and 390 km south of Brisbane, it's the perfect long-weekend destination for the whole family.



More than just bananas.

The Big Banana – there's stories and even puns about this famous 'big', but with over a million visitors a year, its attraction still hold a special place for visitors. More than just a banana-shaped statue make sure you experience the banana plantation, toboggan rides, water park, ice skating, candy kitchen, café, World of Banana's show and don't forget the banana themed souvenir shop.

But if it's dramatic landscapes you're after, **Dairyville's Bindarri National Park** makes the perfect setting for a family picnic. The spectacular **Bangalore Falls** will win you over in their rugged, off-the-beaten-track setting, so don't forget your camera. You never know when the protected rainforest might produce a rare giant barred frog.

For a touch of the mystical with your shopping, the **Bellingen Community Markets** are the

weekenders COFFS HARBOUR, AU

best place to go for a decent tarot reading in Australia, and it's here that you'll get a true taste of the region. Held on the third Saturday of each month, these are the biggest, best markets in the Coffs Harbour region with over 250 stalls as well as music and entertainment.

And just a brief trot from Coffs Harbour, **Bruxner Park Flora Reserve** welcomes walkers to its many well-signposted walking trails. For the weary, the new Forest Sky Pier at **Sealy Lookout** makes for a fantastic lookout point over the whole of Coffs Harbour, rising 310 metres above sea level. You'll find these gorgeous rainforest walks just a 10-minute drive from the CBD.

There are lots of things to do in Coffs Harbour for those with an adventurous spirit. Don't miss out on one of Australia's most interesting and scenic coastal cities.



COAST OR HINTERLAND
Pristine beaches or pristine rainforest the choice is yours.



weekenders COFFS HARBOUR, AU

EAT

Fiasco Restaurant and Bar T: 02 6651 2006.
22 Orlando Street, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.
Coffs Harbour's own little piece of regional Northern Italy with \$10 pizzas at the bar on weeknights. Tue - Sat from 6pm.
Price starts from: \$10.
www.fiascorestaurant.com.au

No. 2 Oak Street T: 02 6655 9000.
2 Oak Street Bellingen NSW 2454
Delicious two hatted dishes to delight all visitors Wed-Sat from 6.30pm
www.no2oakst.com.au

RELAX

Tranquility Day Spa T: 02 6658 2588 (ext 8503).
L1, Bayside Spa Centre, Novotel Pacific Bay Resort.
Get pampered and escape from the ordinary in a lush tropical garden setting. From \$25.
www.tranquilitysparetreat.com.au

Jetty Dive T: 02 6651 1611.
398 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour
Relax on a whale watching cruise in the Solitary Islands Marine Park. www.jettydive.com.au

Coffs Coast Camels T: 0448 CAMEL.
In front of the fishing club, Coffs Jetty Foreshores. Enjoy a cruisy ride atop a lofty camel along the beautiful Boambee Beach \$30pp
www.coffscostcamels.com.au

PLAY

Bonville Golf Resort T: 02 6653 4002.
North Bonville Road, Bonville. Voted AU's best golf resort and one of the world's most beautiful. From \$60. www.bonvillegolf.com.au

Running Wild Adventures T: 02 6653 8609.
Transfers available. Dorrigo Freefall mountain bike ride through World Heritage National Park down magical Waterfall Way. www.runningwild.com.au

Dolphin Marine Magic T: 1300 kisses.
65 Orlando Street Coffs Harbour. Swim with dolphins, get kissed by seals and enjoy the marine presentations. www.dolphinmarinemagic.com.au

EXPLORE

Liquid Assets T: 02 6658 0850.
38 Marine Drive, Coffs Harbour Jetty. Discover the Nymboida River on a white-water rafting tour. www.surfrrafting.com

Bellingen Markets T: 02 6655 2151.
Park Street Bellingen. The colourful and flamboyant Bellingen Markets held on the 3rd Saturday every month. Free entry. www.bellingenmarkets.com.au

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Skywalk
T: (02) 6657 2309. Dome Rd, Dorrigo
Walk above the trees on a suspended boardwalk at the Dorrigo Skywalk and Rainforest Centre. Free entry. www.environment.nsw.gov.au

STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Coffs Harbour include:



Korora Bay Village 0834

An award-winning boutique resort located where the mountains meet the sea at Coffs Harbour. On site activities include a solar heated swimming pool, a children's wading pool, heated spa, tennis courts, a fully equipped game room, mountain bikes, boogie boards, fishing rods, board games and picnic sets.

Wyndham Coffs Harbour - Treetops C012

Spend time in the heated pool, spa pool, strolling walking tracks or at the beach. This resort is also positioned to give guests access to a 9-hole golf course, two other pools, tennis courts, games room, day spa, restaurant and bar at the nearby Pacific Bay central facilities area.



YOU WERE HERE!

Nuremberg to Budapest



“ Evergreen River Cruise

I was thrilled to be able to experience the very heart of Europe on a luxury river cruise. It's hard to believe that we packed so much into the holiday, plus all the accommodation (luxurious and comfortable) and food was taken care of (there was so much food – all yummy!). We sailed down the Rhine

and on into the Danube Rivers, stopping each day to take in the many sights, towns and different cultures along the way. Being so close to everything, it was easy to discover each area in depth - Nuremberg with its fascinating history, Ravensburg - harking

back to medieval times, Passau – our jumping off point for Salzburg or Kromlov Castle, the beautiful Melk Abbey, my favourite – ages old Vienna and Schoenburg castle, then there was the very interesting Bratislava – a combination of communist and renaissance flavours all rolled into one, and the majestic Budapest with its stunning landmarks, unique history and colourful marketplaces. This was the trip of a lifetime, a discovery of the essence of Europe – I can't wait to return!



JACKIE HAMILTON, RCI TRAVEL

Member saves drowning toddler

Melbourne couple, Keith and Mary Sidebottom got more than they bargained for during their recent holiday to Magnetic Island. While stopping in at Hotel Arcadia for lunch they were startled by the sound of a lady screaming for help at the children's pool. Upon Keith's investigation, he was confronted with a toddler, unconscious and not breathing in her hysterical mother's arms.

Keith was hailed a hero when he swiftly put his first aid skills to practice and brought the drowning two year old girl back to life. It is estimated that the girl had stopped breathing for one minute before Keith performed CPR.

"We could have done without that experience on our holiday but as long as the baby is ok, I am feeling great," Mr Sidebottom said.

Mary Sidebottom said that although their holiday commenced with such an alarming event, it all worked out well in the end and they did find time to relax.



Because your holiday means...

making 2013

UNFORGETTABLE!



RCI[®]

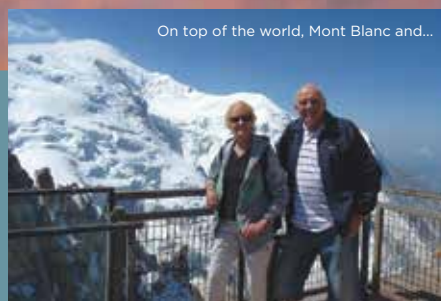
Because your holiday means the world to us!

Reaching Dizzy Heights

“ We were lucky enough to see a lot of amazing places during our 2012 travels... many with help from RCI. We covered most of Europe and South America (Argentina and Brazil) and RCI made it possible by organizing exchange accommodation in all of these areas.

Thank you Anna and the RCI team for providing excellent customer service, helping us live our dream... and to explore and admire the world. ”

– Derek & Sandy M. Brisbane, Qld.
RCI Silver Service members



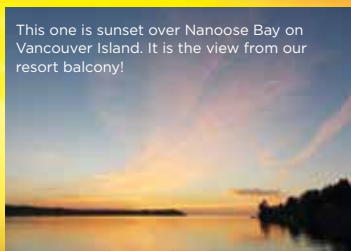
On top of the world, Mont Blanc and...



in Andes with Cerro Aconcaque.



Top of the world.



This one is sunset over Nanoose Bay on Vancouver Island. It is the view from our resort balcony!



Booked through RCI Points Partners our hotel was just a 10 minute walk to the Eiffel Tower – much closer on the bike.

32 countries, 83,000km and 6 continents

“ In late 2010 we began a mammoth round-the-world trip on our motorcycle. For 16 months we travelled through South and North America from Ushuaia in the south to Prudhoe Bay in Alaska – from the very bottom of the Americas to the very top. We then spent a couple of months in Western Europe and Southern Africa before arriving back in Australia in February.

We rode through 32 countries travelling for more than 83,000 kilometres. During the time we utilised our RCI points in Chile, Argentina, California, Vancouver Island in Canada, Paris and South Africa. These little tastes of luxury were incredibly enjoyable after months of hostels, hotels and camping. ”

– Brian Rix & Shirley Hardy-Rix
Doncaster Heights, Melbourne.
RCI Members



We stayed at the Kruger Park Lodge using Points.

You can read more about us and our journey at www.aussiesoverland.com.au

