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20

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In the past 12 months we have sent RCI Pacific members to 83 different countries.

WHICH ONE WILL YOU CHOOSE?

A photograph of the Tower Bridge in London at night, illuminated with warm lights and reflected in the water below. The bridge's two towers and suspension cables are clearly visible against the dark sky.

TO BOOK YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY TODAY
CALL 1300 368 800 **AU** OR 0800 368 800 **NZ**

Autumn

2013

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on the cover

No shrinking violet, Santorini in Greece is one of the Med's most photographed towns... it's easy to see why

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

Autumn 2013

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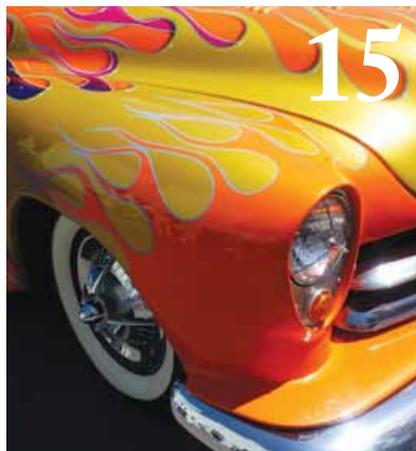
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Rolling hills, award-winning wines and gourmet food



Welcome

Welcome to our first issue in 2013! All of us at RCI hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking ahead to another year of travel and memorable experience.

Endless Vacation magazine has undergone an exciting transformation, and with more features and a bigger size, we hope to bring you even more travel news, holiday ideas and exclusive member deals in upcoming seasonal editions.

We are pleased to bring you another jam packed edition with our Autumn issue of Endless Vacation. Features include the alluring Greek Islands, (pg24) and discovering luxury in Mexico, (pg20) wine and dine at the Barossa Valley (pg46) and rock on at the Cooly Rock Festival on the beautiful Gold Coast beaches. (pg15) Plus get the latest tech news on gadgets and Apps for your travels (pg5).

Our RCI Consultants care about you, and are committed to provide you with the best holiday planning because we want you to get the most out of your RCI membership. Get the latest news on holidaying with RCI by registering with one of our FREE educational sessions (pg2)

Why not send me some photos and a short letter about your recent holiday, we love to hear from you and we might publish it in our next edition.

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

Charisse

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LEGEND



play

Look for these symbols throughout the magazine.



rci



eat



shop



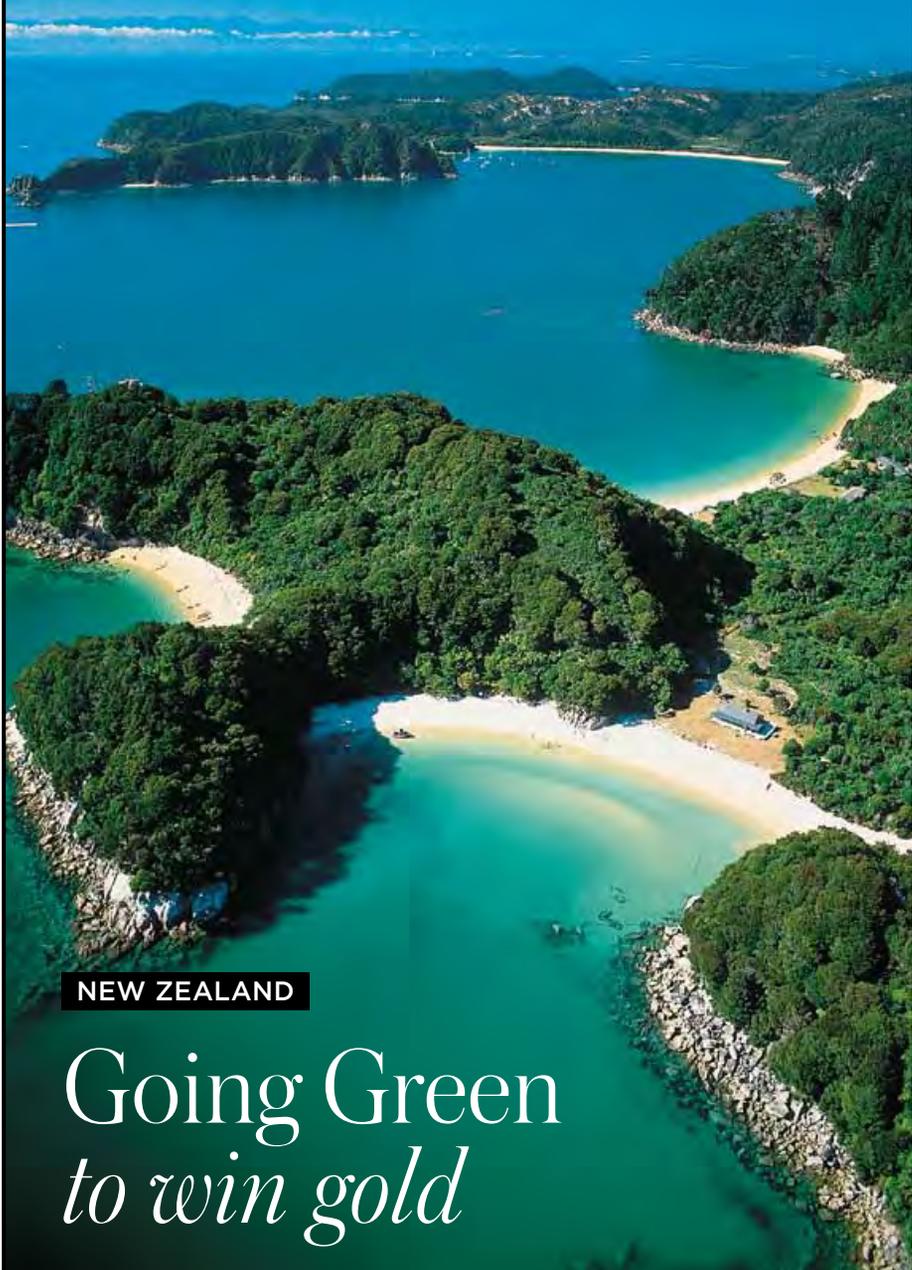
relax



explore



value



NEW ZEALAND

Going Green *to win gold*

Club Paihia has the Midas touch

New Zealand RCI affiliated resorts are leading the charge in turning timeshare properties into more green-friendly accommodation havens. **Club Paihia** turned green to gold for the second year running as a winner of **RCI Pacific's Go Green Awards**. The resort significantly improved an already impressive array of green accomplishments, including ongoing refurbishments, cost effective sustainable practices, continued care for an adjacent native wildlife habitat and an evident enviro-friendly supply chain of management. Runners up **Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific Torquay** and another New Zealand property - **The Pines Resort in Wanaka**, were recognized for strategically working toward becoming models of in-town sustainability within resort communities. As the coveted RCI 'Go Green Award' program continues to grow and gain support regionally, it has also expanded on an RCI global level.

ready,
set,
go

MONTREAL

The largest underground city in the world

Did you know that Montreal has a second city right underneath it? It's an unconventional attraction, but ranked one of the most amazing man-built wonders in the world.

Montreal's Underground City (also called La Ville Souterrain or RESO) is a huge complex of connecting shops, bars, restaurants, movie theatres, museums and more, with over 32 km of tunnels to explore. Because of its underground city, Montreal is sometimes referred to as "Two Cities in One". It's definitely a must-do and it is easily accessible from just about anywhere in the city.



World's best: San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO

The best city to visit

The darling of America's west coast, famous for its flamboyant style, hills and cable cars is the best city to visit in 2013 according to **Lonely Planet's** annual list. This year, the city plays host to the 34th **America's Cup** and with big changes and upgrades scheduled along San Francisco's waterfront - do you need any more reason to visit? Immerse yourself in the city's thriving cultural scene, events calendar and myriad of culinary options. September 7 - 22, 2013. americascup.com

ready,
set,
go

AFRICA

Capture Africa's Magic

It is said, you can't claim you've travelled Africa until you've done a sunset cruise on the **Chobe River**; and doing it with a professional outfit like Pangolin Photo Safaris makes it even more memorable.

Pangolin Photo Safaris operates in Botswana's **Chobe National Park** and has done an excellent job of enabling novice and professional photographers to take their perfect wildlife photos. Set up by photographers, Pangolin offers specialized vehicles and boats designed with the needs of photographic clients in mind, so nobody gets in the way of your shot. Pangolin will take you where the wildlife is to get great photographic results of birds, elephants, buffalo, monkeys, crocs and so on.

Catering to all levels, packages range from single 3-hour safaris to 5-day photographic safari workshops with acclaimed international wildlife photographers. pangolinphoto.com

IRELAND

A Gathering of Epic Proportions

Do you have an Irish name or relative? Simply love the music and culture? 2013 is the perfect year to tick Ireland off your bucket list or return to trace your roots, thanks to the biggest tourism initiative ever staged, and referred to as "**The Gathering**". Throughout the year communities will showcase and share the very best of Irish culture, tradition, and spirit so expect existing festivals like **Dublin's St Patrick's Festival** (March 14-18), to be bigger than ever. The Gathering is happening all over Ireland. For a map and calendar of events visit thegatheringireland.com



Relive the magic of the Hobbit when you visit the breathtaking film locations



NEW ZEALAND

Hobbit Hot Spots

Fans of the new movie can get a glimpse of Middle Earth (aka New Zealand) by visiting the main location where scenes were filmed.

The first prequel of the **Lord of the Rings** movie trilogy, **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey**, hit cinemas last December to the delight of many fans across the world. Set in fictional Middle Earth, the film was shot in where else but New Zealand. Enjoy a tour around the shire and see where Bilbo Baggins lives at a private farmland near Matamata, a village on the North Island, which is home to 'Hobbiton'. Visit the set made famous by **Peter Jackson's** interpretation of the **Lord of The Rings** novels and fall in love with the stunning views that pan across the **Kaimai Ranges** along with Hobbit holes seamlessly designed to blend into the natural environment. Tour includes guided escort though the 10 acre Hobbiton movie set and ends at the **Shores Rest Café** where patrons can enjoy a cup of coffee and a bonus **Sheep Farm Experience** (hobbitontours.com \$59).

Must-have *travel apps and gadgets*

HITTING THE ROAD JACK KEROUAC-STYLE? YOU WON'T WANT TO LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THESE MODERN TRAVEL MUST-HAVES.

Top App



Wish you were an owl so you could see everything around you at once? Well the **360 Panorama app** turns your iPhone into one. Swing the camera round all those amazing scenic destinations and capture snow-capped mountain ranges, infinite beaches and even the whole bar in one easy-to-upload panoramic photo.



Kindle Top Gadget

Reading books should be a joy, not something that weighs you down, but tell that to the jetsetter who travels with six Lonely Planet guidebooks in their rucksack. Your **Kindle** stores thousands of books in one lightweight digital tablet. Easy and quick to charge, pick one up online or from electronic stores.

TOP PRODUCT

Spacesaver compression

storage bags



This is a clever, cost-effective way to save up to **75 per cent of space in your luggage without a vacuum cleaner**. The process is simple, pack, seal, roll and store (check out the demo video at the website). Waterproof and reusable, ideal to store dirty and wet clothes, pillows and bulky items. The bags come in medium and large sizes available from globaltravelproducts.com.au. (Cost: From AU\$11.95)

Top App

Learn a language with Michel Thomas



If you're sick of being misunderstood in foreign countries, brush up on your language skills as you go with Michel Thomas. **This app is free to download**, lessons start at only a few dollars and it's easy peasy to learn Spanish, French, German or Italian. Just plug in your smartphone, learn on the bus and download the next lesson when you find a Wi-Fi connection.

Top App *Check Please!*

Tipping etiquette varies from country to country and calculating the right amount to tip can be ever so confusing even if you're a seasoned globetrotter. Check Please is a handy app that calculates the tip or your share of the bill - the total with or without tax too. The "lite" version is free but displays advertising, the "full version" is \$0.99 with no advertising.





SUN COUNTRY

OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE MURRAY VALLEY

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE MURRAY VALLEY FOR A RELAXING 'BUSH-STYLE' HOLIDAY IN THE HEART OF NATURE. WITH WINERIES APLENTY, QUIANT FARMING TOWNS, STUNNING NATIONAL PARKS AND A RANGE OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURES TO BE HAD BOTH ON LAND AND ON WATER, THIS PART OF AUSTRALIA - KNOWN TO LOCALS AS SUN COUNTRY - IS A DESTINATION YOU CAN EXPERIENCE IN MANY WAYS.



Thompsons Beach, Cobram (Murray River)*



Golfing at Yarrawonga-Mulwala Golf Club*

The 2400km-long Murray River winds its way through the valley and is the lifeblood of the area, drawing visitors keen to experience the peace the river holds and the range of activities that take place on and off the water. Lined by red gum forests, and with several golden beaches stretching along its shores, it's without a doubt the perfect place to unwind and connect with nature.

If you've holidayed here previously or never before, you'll find there's several ways to customise your experience in the Sun Country. Foodies can indulge in a complete gourmet experience along the Farm Gate Trail, families can gather the kids for a fun-filled week of activities, nature lovers can explore the various wetland and woodlands, and there's maximum fun to be had in and out of the water or simply relax and just get away from it all.



Fishing in Lake Mulwala*

HIKING, KAYAKING AND

ADRENALINE SPORTS

Begin a tour of the valley with a stop at the towns of **Yarrawonga** and **Mulwala**, which sit on opposite sides of the Murray River. It's the ideal spot for water sport fans, golfers and hikers to base themselves. It's also a great place for families as it offers the chance to get close to nature, and it has enough in the way of activities to keep even the most active member of the family happy.

Explore the area at your own pace by hiring a kayak and heading into the backwaters and lagoons to find your very own private stretch of beach for the day. Alternatively, hire a bike for a slow pedal through the wetlands.

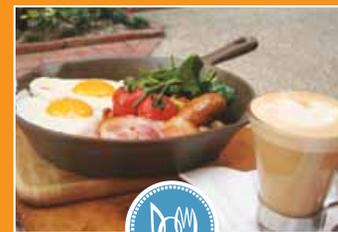
Adrenaline junkies can get their kicks jet skiing or speed boating on scenic **Lake Mulwala**. If you'd rather take it easy, it's possible to join a more sedate steamboat cruise or charter your own fishing boat for the day. For those staying at **Lake Edge Resort**, take advantage of hiring the BBQ

Boat; it's a budget-friendly option (cost \$40 for two hours) that allows you to cruise along the lake and fry up some lunch.

Love the water but keen to stay dry? Enjoy an afternoon soaking up stunning views of **Lake Mulwala** on the **Malibu Deck of Mulwala Warterski Club** whilst indulging in a refreshing beverage.

FAMILY FUN

The **Barmah National Park**, **Boomanoomana State Forest** and **Murray River Reserves** all have enticing river beaches where you can lay



EAT

NOSH DELI: Try the 'Nosh Up' - it's their famous Aussie Brekkie fry up of local smoked bacon, free range eggs, truss tomatoes, mushrooms, hand-made hash brown, local sausage and baby spinach served in the one pan for easy eating!

40 Belmore St, Yarrawonga;
^\$18; noshdeli.com.au



Clockwise: Wine tasting at Monichino Wines.* Lake Mulwala Sunset.** Canoeing on the Murray River.* Bike riding along the Murray River.*

out a towel and a picnic and then spend the day swimming, fishing or hiking the many trails that criss-cross the area.

For families wondering how to keep young kids entertained, look no further than Mulwala's very own amusement park, or the splash park on the waterfront. We guarantee you'll have as much fun as the kids. Alternatively, grab a cooler and fire up the BBQ at either **Barooga Botanical Garden** or **Thompson's Beach**, which come complete with ample shade, playgrounds and grassy areas for running around.

FOODIES PARADISE

The picturesque village of Numurkah makes for a great day trip out into the country. Gourmet lovers will appreciate the local food on offer, from cheese and wine to olives, chocolate, beer and honey. While history buffs will appreciate the museums that delve into pioneer life and showcase how homesteaders used to live. The surrounding hills are dotted with old pubs and antique shops, as well as farms and wineries, and it's easy to spend a day or two exploring them all.

Alternatively, plan your own gourmet escape following the **Farm Gate Trail**, which

calls in at a number of vineyards including **Cape Horn**, as well as at a brewery and several working farms. Meals are available daily at the **Big Strawberry**, weekends at **Cape Horn** Vineyard and by appointment at **Buffalo Brewery**. **Byramine Homestead** offers a range of light lunch options, as well as Devonshire Tea. **Monichino Wines** offers coffee and cheese platters and **Cactus Country** and **Renaissance Chocolates** offer coffee and snacks.

A SPOT OF GOLF

This area isn't only famed for its food and wine however, it's also renowned for its golf courses. The **Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club** has three golf courses to choose from, all of which are set along the **Murray River** and offer stunning views and challenging terrain. Meanwhile, **Numurkah's** 18-hole course is a great spot for those seeking a more relaxing round of golf.

The peace and tranquillity of the stunning Murray Valley is what makes it such a special holiday destination for couples as much as families. Surrounded by nature on all sides, there's nothing to do but relax and have fun. 



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in the Sun Country region of Victoria include:

Lake Edge Resort 1731 MULWALA, NSW

Lake Edge Resort is on the shores of Lake Mulwala, an 11,000 acre lake offering a great variety of water sports and superb fishing.

Member Review: "We have been to this resort 4 times now & just love it."

Murray Valley Resort 0953 YARRAWONGA, VIC

Close to Lake Mulwala and nearby to Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club, a 45-hole golf complex adjacent to the Murray River.

Member Review: "Enjoyable week in a well located resort."

Lakeside Country Club 1172 NUMURKAH, VIC

North Eastern Victoria is the gateway to the Murray River. Visit Ned Kelly's Last Stand at Glenrowan, local wineries and local produce outlets.

Member Review: "A great resort that far exceeded our expectation."



*Prices are in Australian Dollars unless otherwise stated. Meal prices do not include drinks, tax or tip.



Hainan CHINA



Sunbeds in Sanya, China

Did you know that Hainan, China is a great family holiday destination that's often overlooked by everyone but the Chinese? This little Chinese province is actually on track to become one of the world's leading tourist destinations by 2021 and is set to be the next big thing. In fact, it's often called the "Hawaii" of Southeast Asia thanks to the distinctive tropical climate and an abundance of fresh cuisine. Asia. Isn't it time you checked out what all the fuss is about?

Hainan became part of the newly created **Hainan Province** in 1988 and is China's southernmost province. The capital, **Haikou**, sits prettily on the northern coast of **Hainan Island**, and the popular tourist destination **Sanya** reels in visitors on the south coast. Thanks to its tropical monsoon climate, known for being a lot like **Phuket** in **Thailand**, it has no winter and boasts a comfortable annual climate of 23-25°C.

As the Oriental **Hawaii**, you won't want to miss Hainan's famous beaches in **Sanya**, which include **Dadonghai** and **Tianya Haijiao**. The scenery is absolutely awe-inspiring and along the **Tianya Haijiao** shoreline, you'll be greeted with majestic stones beautifully carved with characters depicting local folklore - similar to Aboriginal Dreamtime stories.

Dadonghai beach located 3 km southeast of downtown **Sanya** is ideal for diving, beach sports, bathing and sunbathing. Expect clear blue sea, sunshine and white sand plus everything to support a seaside tourist location, including a large shopping square **Seashore Park** along the shore.

For a spiritual experience like no other head to the **Nanshan Culture Tourism Zone**, 40 km southwest of **Sanya City** in the **Hainan Province**. Countless visitors flock to the area, drawn by the beauty of **Nanshan Mountain** (South Mountain), making it a principal eco-tourism zone. The area has a profound Buddhist

influence on the surrounding culture made up of three theme parks: **Hainan Custom Culture Park**, **Blessing and Longevity Park**, and **Buddhism Culture Park**. Dine on the area's renowned vegetarian dishes and be impressed by the acrobatic skills on display during the live Kung Fu performance.

It's relatively easy and cheap to get around **Hainan** by taxi, and prices start at around ¥5 (about AU\$0.80/NZ\$1) for the first 2 km. Be warned, though, that most drivers don't speak English. There's a new high-speed railway planned, which will connect **Haikou** and **Sanya**, although cycling is also a popular option, and bikes can be hired once you're there.

In terms of culinary delights like any popular tourist destination, the island has an abundance of food from all over the world but one thing that you just cannot escape when you wander through the streets of any city or town on the island is the aroma of freshly cooked food wafting through the air.

Hainanese cuisine takes its influences from Mainland Chinese food as well as the cooking styles of the indigenous Li and Miao people. The food is light, not as varied as some of China's other regions but it's exceptionally fresh which has propelled Hainan's dishes to worldwide acclaim. Seafood is abundant, so expect to see lots of prawns, oysters and a variety of fish on street food stands and restaurant menus. Equally palatable are organically grown fruit

Hainan, an Island metropolis



and vegetables which are a popular drawcard to the island, given that natural flavours are guaranteed because local producers cannot afford pesticides.

In terms of popularity, Wenchang chicken will certainly be the dish you'll remember when you look back on your holiday. Served poached, cut into pieces with a mixture of sauces, salt, garlic and other spices, the dish warrants its signature status. Hainanese chicken rice is a popular, signature dish and you'll probably see Jiaji duck and Dongshan mutton on a few menus too. For seafood, look out for the local specialty Hele crab and team it with a delicious side of pumpkin rice.

You'll see plenty of people sipping their Anchor beer while staring out at the sea in Hainan, which is home to the popular Anchor Brewery. If you're keen to try something a little different then look out for locally brewed pineapple-based beers, they might sound weird but they're worth a try. Fresh coconut milk is also a must in Hainan.

Close to nearby stopover destinations, Kula Lumpur, Singapore and Bangkok, why not hop on over to Hainan for an oriental holiday like no other! 

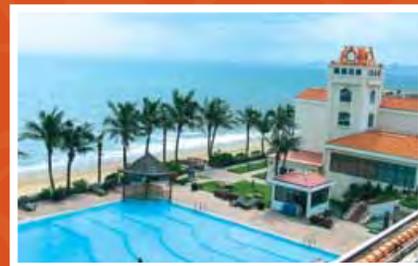
STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Hainan include:

Noble Yacht Club, Hainan 7481

Located in the Qiongzhou Straits tourism zone about 15 minutes from downtown, the resort is surrounded by beautiful beaches, green gardens and artistically designed buildings.

Member Review: "Location & ambience excellent. Taxis were abundant."



HNA @ Beach & Spa Resort Haikou 8585

The hotel is endowed with a charming 1 km coastline and tropical rainforest and is located between two international-standard golf courses.

Member Review: "The resort is out of town so we ventured out on our own using public transport and trains and managed to cover attractions at Yalong Bay and Sanja in a day."



HNA @ Intl'l Asia Pacific Convention Centre Sanya 8587

This five-star hotel is in the scenic Sanya tourism zone. It has 473 luxurious guest rooms and various modern facilities. Helpful, well-trained, and courteous staff provides you with a memorable holiday.



For additional resort listings and Bonus Weeks availability, visit RCI.com or call **1300 368 800 AU** or **0800 368 800 NZ**.

*Prices are in Australian Dollars unless otherwise stated. Meal prices do not include drinks, tax or tip.



VANUATU

COUPLES ESCAPE TO THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH

Couples therapy Vanuatu style



Vanuatu has been recognised as the happiest place on Earth on the Happy Planet Index. So if you're in dire need of a sunny holiday that will turn your frown upside down, why not consider a holiday that offers good value and plenty of smiles? Summer in Vanuatu runs from November to March and reaches an average temperature of 28°C. Every day is a good day to get packing, so why not start now?

From romantic bushwalks, picnics on sparkling beaches and sunset horseback rides to cultural and community tours, there are lots of activities for loved-up couples in Vanuatu. If you're hungry for adventure there are plenty of options to explore from land sailing to absailing down a waterfall, off-road adventures in two seater buggies to an array of water sports.

You can't miss the **Mele Cascades** if you're looking for a romantic destination in Vanuatu. **Mele Cascades** is just a 30-minute bus ride from Port Vila's centre. Take a picnic and some photos. You'll find plenty of happiness here.

Melanesian Nights are popular with tourists in Vanuatu and are a great insight into why the locals are so darn happy. You'll find them held at most major resorts and hotels. Make sure you participate in the kastom dancing and a kava-drinking ceremony.

Relight the fires of romance in Vanuatu with a blissful sunset cruise on **Erakor Lagoon**. Cruises on **The Barge** can be arranged by your resort and guarantee a special evening of cocktails, live entertainment and unforgettable views of the illuminated lagoon at night.

If you're keen to explore other hidden treasure, the nearby islands are well worth the hour's flight to experience insights into cultures that have remained largely unchanged for centuries. Nature puts on an impressive firework display in Vanuatu, courtesy of the active **Mount Yasur** volcano on **Tanna Island**. With an experienced guide, you can cross the eerie moonscape ash plains right to the crater's edge. Don't worry, you're in good hands. Alternatively, a cultural tour to **Tanna's Kastom Villages** will help you learn about traditional medicines, local foods, customs and arts and crafts.

There's a reason people are so happy in Vanuatu. As a former Anglo-French colony in the South Pacific, Vanuatu boasts a pretty archipelago of 83 islands and an adventure awaits on each one. Its stunning series of coastlines and white sandy beaches were once inhabited solely by the indigenous Ni-Vanuatu people, some of whom you can still interact with today. Step back in time and surrender to the charms. You're on island time now.

The **Breakas Beach Resort** in **Port Vila, Efate Island** is an ideal resort to simply sit back and unwind. It offers a boutique holiday experience for adults-only, just a 10-minute drive from Port Vila's CBD. Lounge amongst bougainvillea and frangipanis and gaze at the azure-blue ocean on a 2 km private beach. You'll be more than happy with the 22-metre infinity pool overlooking Vanuatu's slice of the Pacific Ocean.



Try your hand at catamaraning



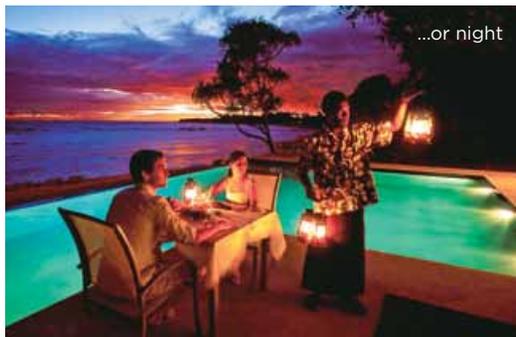
Yet another idyllic vista



World class diving



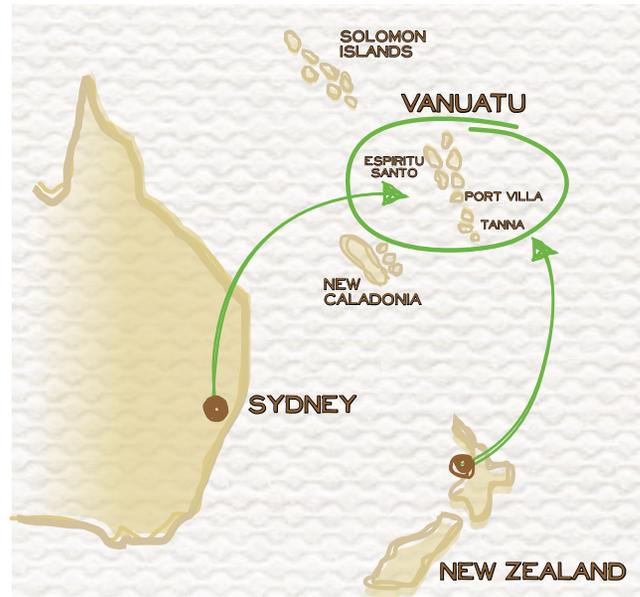
Clock up some pool time, day...



...or night



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



Take a day trip to the marina sanctuary of **Hideaway Island** and visit the underwater post office (yes, really) or find Nemo from a glass-bottomed boat. If you want to say “Hi” in person, try snorkelling.

Espiritu Santo is the largest island in Vanuatu and there are lots of things to do. At the **Lysesep Culture Park** you’ll get to experience the unusual customs of the first inhabitants of **Santo**, or visit a coconut oil factory. If you’re a scuba diver, you’ll find amazing diving in Vanuatu, but you can’t afford to miss a dive on the famous **SS President Coolidge** wreck. This 200-metre American luxury liner sank in 1942 and is famous for being one of the easiest and most fascinating shipwrecks to explore.

If you can’t wait to feel the sun on your skin, leave the frowns at home, dust off your suitcases and start planning some couple’s romance in Vanuatu – the happiest place on Earth. ^{EV}

STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Vanuatu include:

Breakas Beach Resort, Porta Villa

7 NIGHTS FROM AU\$1399*/NZ\$1779*



BEING ONE OF THE MAIN HUBS FOR TRAVEL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BANGKOK LOCATED IN THAILAND IS A POPULAR STOPOVER FOR A FEW DAYS. AS WELL AS RECLINING BUDDHA'S AND THE GRAND PALACE, IT'S ALSO HOME TO SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST SHOPPING EXPERIENCES. HERE'S HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STOPOVER IN BANGKOK.

More Bangkok for

Try to head out early each day to make the most of your time. Order your breakfast using room service facilities or head to the food court at the **Emporium**. With heaps of choices, this is a more upscale affair than other mall food court options – and you need to fill your stomach because your shopping adventure starts here.

East meets West on **Khao San Road**, which gets going at around 10am. This is the place to snap up all the cheap sundresses and hair braids you can get your hands on. **Chatuchak Market** is a sprawling weekend alternative with some of the best street food in Bangkok at the end of the Skytrain line. If you want to travel

further, try a half-day unique shopping experience at the **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market** home to colourfully clad merchants who paddle along canals in sturdy canoes laden with fresh fruit and vegetables to sell to shoppers on the banks. This buzzing market is at its best in the early morning before the crowds arrive and the heat of the day builds up. The tour further includes a visit to **Phra Pathom Chedi** in **Nakorn Pathom**, supposedly the largest pagoda in Southeast Asia.

For vintage wares, you'll find all the retro glam you desire at **Siam Vintage**. You'll find slightly more accessories than clothing here, not a big deal given that the rest of

Siam Square, the hub of all things cool is filled with the latest boutiques, high-end brands and independent traders so there's shopping to suit all budgets and tastes.

You may need to set aside an entire day for the **MBK** – arguably Bangkok's most famous shopping mall. With thousands of different shops, food outlets and even cinemas, you'll find anything you could ever need – and many at bargain prices. Just like the markets, prices at **MBK** are negotiable, so put your bartering skills to good use in air-conditioned comfort.

For the real shopaholics, the fun needn't stop when the sun goes down. Bangkok's night markets are a flurry of amazing





your buck!

aromas and colours, and it's here you'll find some of the best bargains. For some great copy designer bags, head to the **Night Market in Patpong**. Although it's one of the world's most famous red-light districts, at night the bustling market draws many a tourist and backpacker shopping for that illusive bargain.

Massages are a dime a dozen in Bangkok, and you'll be hard-pressed to find a bad one. Away from Khao San Road, however, where AU\$5/NZ\$6 massages on questionably hygienic mattresses might worry you, you can find some real luxury at The Peninsula Spa. Its romantic décor and setting will banish all the stress from your

shopping adventure in no time.

If you're staying at a hotel with a bar, catch the sun going down with a sundowner, or alternatively check out the views at Sirocco, an open-air bar on the 64th floor of an impressive skyscraper called State Tower. It's the perfect place to wind down each day and see Bangkok city at night.

Looking to escape the crowds as you enjoy some traditional Thai food? Head to the garden at The Mango Tree, a quiet retreat on Silom. Afterwards, chill out to the sounds of some soothing jazz at the popular Saxophone Pub. It's a great place to meet other travellers and swap tips. 

YOU CAN'T BEAT DESTINATION BANGKOK



HAVE YOU BOOKED

YOUR SOUTHEAST ASIA STOPOVER YET?

STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Bangkok include:

Tai-Pan Hotel

Perfectly situated in the "heart of the city", a prime location that provides easy access for traveling around Bangkok.

Member Review: "Good place to stay, convenient location for exploring Bangkok."



Citadines Bangkok Sukhumvit 23

A wide array of popular shopping and entertainment outlets, local and international restaurants, even museums and theatres are in the immediate vicinity or just a short drive away.

3 nights from AU\$199/NZ\$249



Citadines Sukhumvit 8

Surrounded by a vast array of cosmopolitan restaurant nightclubs, shopping centres, entertainment areas and parks. There is a complimentary tuktuk service from the hotel to the nearby Nana Skytrain station for quick travel throughout the city.

3 nights from AU\$179/NZ\$219



QUEENSTOWN WINTER

Queenstown is set to take centre stage for New Zealand's 10 coolest days during the **Queenstown Winter Festival**. Thousands of revelers take to the streets to celebrate the start of the winter season. With fun and frivolity on and off slopes including, street parades, music, fireworks, comedy, food and wine events, crazy races and quirky entertainment. winterfestival.co.nz

FESTIVAL 21 TO 30 JUNE 2013

15 Minutes

From central Queenstown overlooking the majestic Lake Hayes is multi award winning Amisfield's Winery & Bistro. Start your visit with an informative wine tasting session from only \$5 then indulge in Amisfield's famous shared dining experience, 'Trust the Chef' a set menu using the freshest ingredients available on the day for \$55 per person.



Relax. Recover. Reinvigorate.

Slip into the pure, hot, bubbly tub waters, soak up the view and surrender yourself to the deep, penetrating warmth and gentle massage of the unique private spa pools at Onsen Hot Pools.

Hours 11am-10pm. **PH: 03 442 5707**

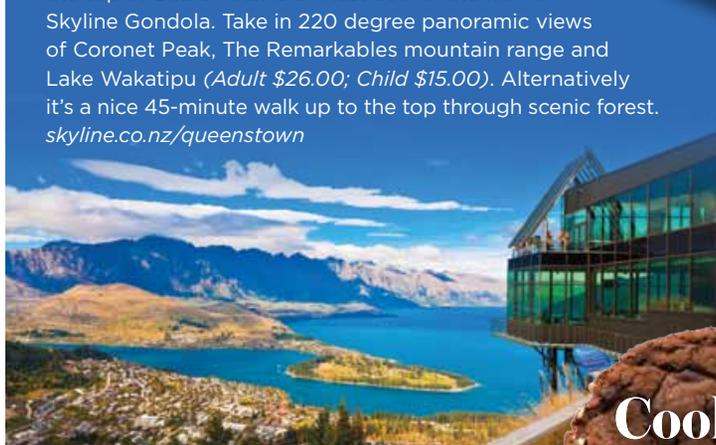
(1 child free per paying adult before 3pm).

FROM \$46

QUEENSTOWN

450m

Above Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu to the top of Bob's Peak is a 'must-see' in the iconic Skyline Gondola. Take in 220 degree panoramic views of Coronet Peak, The Remarkables mountain range and Lake Wakatipu (*Adult \$26.00; Child \$15.00*). Alternatively it's a nice 45-minute walk up to the top through scenic forest. skyline.co.nz/queenstown



6 GOLF Courses

Within a 25 minutes of the town centre, offer everything from family friendly 9-hole courses to breathtaking 18-hole championship courses with rugged mountain backdrops and immaculately groomed fairways.



Cookie Fix

Visit the world's first Cookie Bar from iconic NZ brand Cookie Time. Enjoy hot, freshly baked cookies, hot chocolates and ice cold milk. Have a play on the interactive touch screens whilst savouring cookie goodness.

STAY



RCI affiliated resort in Queenstown:

Queenstown Mews 1729

Just a few minutes' walk from the beautiful Queenstown Botanic Gardens and 5 minute walk from the main shopping precinct of Queenstown.

Member Review: "We have stayed in many timeshares around the world. This one is in the top 3."

Rental: Oaks Shores

3 nights from **AU\$299*/NZ\$379***
Hotel room^

3 nights from **AU\$529*/NZ\$669***
2 brm Apartment^

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



ROCK ON!

The rock 'n' roll era may be long past, but that's not to say its influence doesn't live on. Rock 'n' roll changed the world, impacting everything from fashion and language to lifestyles and attitudes, and still today, millions of fans enjoy recreating the era of Elvis, The Beatles and rockabilly.

Gold Coast's Cooly Rocks On brings the music, fashion and vibe of the 1950s and '60s to life.

The biggest festival is Cooly Rocks On, an 11-day event that takes place in Coolangatta on the Gold Coast, and which in 2013 will run from May 31 to June 10.

Once known as the Wintersun Festival, Cooly Rocks On split away from its parent festival and now operates as a separate event. Last year, 80,000 people, most wearing carefully curated vintage outfits, turned up to the Cooly Rocks On Festival, which has a brilliant retro vibe and unrivalled energy.

Set on the stunning beachfront of Coolangatta, a two-kilometre stretch of town is taken over by live music, swing bands and Elvis impersonators. There's even a Miss Pinup contest and a retro market hosting over 100 craft and vintage fashion stalls.

More than a thousand classic cars, hot rods and custom cars cruise through town during the Grand Finale weekend, which marks just one of the many highlights of the festival. But if cars aren't your thing, there's always the Poodle-Oodle Parade, where cute four-legged fluff-balls are primped and preened before being sent for walkies down a catwalk.

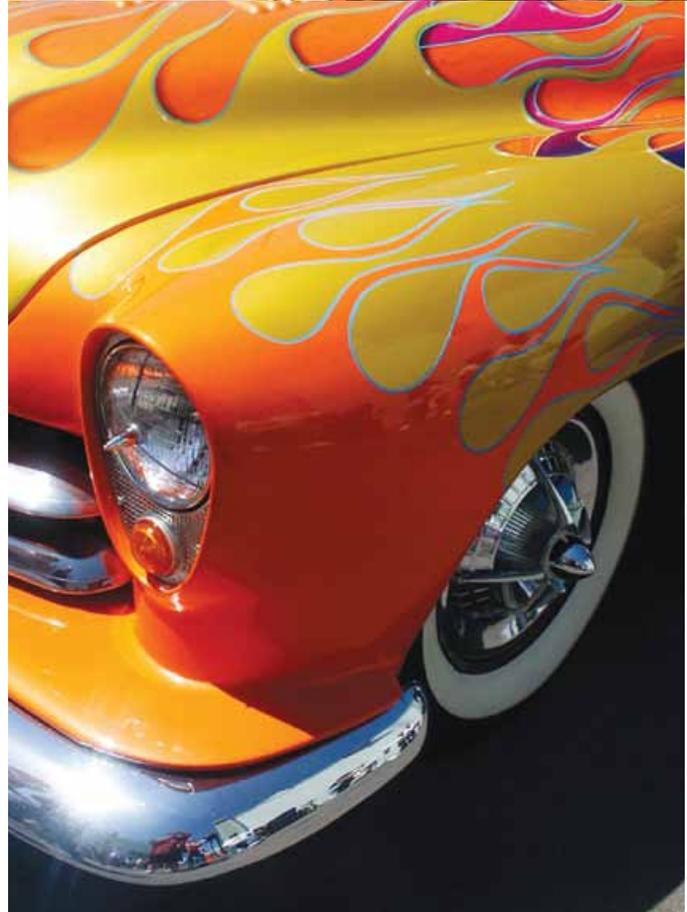
Aside from cars and poodles, music and dancing are the main draw, with several venues around town playing host to an awesome selection of live bands. You can choose to be a wallflower and watch the many demonstrations of swing dance and rockabilly competitions, or you can sign up to a workshop and learn how to dance your pop socks off to the sounds of Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash.

Tweed-Coolangatta is the premiere tourist destination on the border of New South Wales and Queensland, Australia.

For a break away from the festivities, this sub-tropical region offers nature based, rural experiences with five world heritage listed national parks. Abundant bird life and sub tropical vegetation, state forests, kilometres of unspoilt, clean beaches, rivers and lakes abundant in bird and marine life, wetlands and crystal clear streams, marine reserves and offshore natural resources combined with a sub tropical climate with year round mild temperatures all in close proximity to the attractions and theme parks of the Gold Coast.

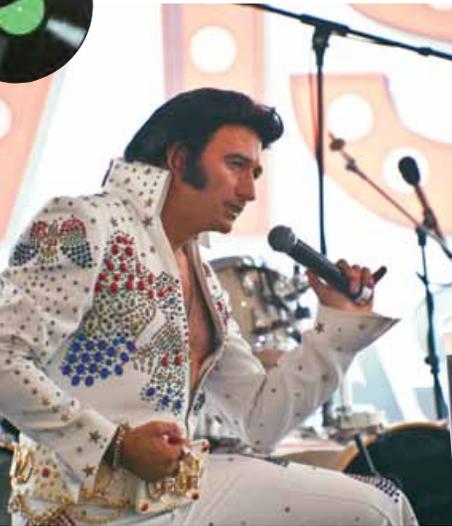


Cooly Rocks On. Set along on the foreshore of Coolangatta Beach front, there is something of interest for everyone.





If you're keen to head off on a rock 'n' roll pilgrimage outside of Australia though, these holiday ideas themed around the rocking '50s and '60s should fit the bill nicely.



THE ELVIS TOUR

No true rock 'n' roll fan would miss the chance to visit Graceland – Elvis's home in Memphis, Tennessee. The house is now a museum that you can tour, and the shop sells all sorts of Elvis paraphernalia. (Adult tickets from \$32-\$70).

If you still can't get enough of the King after a visit to Graceland then there's always the Elvis Presley Car Museum – home to all 33 of Elvis's cars – to explore as well.

While in Memphis, it's worth paying a trip too to Sun Studios, where many of rock 'n' roll's most famous musicians, including Elvis, recorded their albums (Adult tickets: \$12 plus tax).

Graceland attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors and is a little like a theme park these days with more wandering Elvis impersonators than a Vegas convention, but a trip to Tupelo in Mississippi, birthplace of the king of rock 'n' roll offers an intriguing look at Elvis's early life and influences.

Visitors can tour the modest two-roomed house where Elvis was born and raised, the church where he learned to play guitar and take a look around the museum dedicated to the crooner. There's even an annual Elvis festival held over the first weekend in June (\$20 entry).

LAS VEGAS FOR ELVIS FANS

Die-hard Elvis fans should head from Graceland straight to Las Vegas to catch one of the many sell-out shows featuring Elvis lookalikes. The Las Vegas Hotel & Casino's Elvis show is one of the better ones. It's here in fact that the real Elvis once reigned supreme, performing an incredible 837 times.

You'll be able to take a photograph with Elvis on any Vegas street corner, but it's also possible to go one further and have him officiate at your wedding. The Graceland Wedding Chapel and Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel both offer Elvis-themed packages.

SURF BALLROOM, CLEAR LAKE, IOWA

After playing a gig in the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, famous musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper climbed aboard a small private plane headed to the next destination on their tour schedule. The plane crashed just a few minutes after take-off, killing everyone on board and leaving people to proclaim this date in 1959 as the day the music died.

The Surf Ballroom remains forever frozen in the 1950s, paying homage to these musical legends. Entry is donation only and the tour is self-guided, but it's well worth handing over a few bucks for, if only to gaze in awe at all the original décor. Just a few kilometres away you can also visit the crash site and monument to the well-loved rockers.

SAN FRANCISCO PSYCHEDELIC

Over on the west coast of America, in San Francisco, the birthplace of the '60s hippie movement still draws a steady influx of visitors keen to visit the Haight-Ashbury area where it all began.

Take a Flower Power Walking Tour, following in the footsteps of Joni Mitchell, Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix, and learn all about how rock 'n' roll influenced everything from politics to fashion in this exuberant city.

THE BEATLES AND LIVERPOOL

The birthplace of The Beatles is one of the UK's most cosmopolitan and creative cities, drawing millions of visitors a year. The highlight of any visit is a stop at the interactive award-winning attraction, the Beatles Story, which showcases the journey of the four young boys from Liverpool into one of the greatest bands to ever live (Adults \$20).

There's also a Magical Mystery Bus Tour, which trundles visitors around sites including Penny Lane before dropping them off at the famous Cavern Club. Buried deep underground, the club was used as an air raid shelter during the war and was afterwards transformed into the famous music venue that would go on to host The Beatles more than 300 times.



Whether you choose to stay in Australia and rock out at one of the retro festivals, or tour the mythical sites listed above, you'll soon realise why people become addicted to pursuing the rock 'n' roll lifestyle. Given the fun to be had, long may Rock 'N' Roll reign supreme! 🎸



STAY RCI affiliated resorts on the Gold Coast and Tweed Coast include:

7 nights from
AU\$769*
NZ\$979*
1 bdrm



SWELL RESORT

Located at beautiful Burleigh Heads on the Gold Coast, this state of the art complex offers luxury and an extensive range of onsite resort facilities plus it's just a short walk from the patrolled surf beach.

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

7 nights from
AU\$639*
NZ\$819*
1 bdrm



MERMAID BEACH PARK VIEW

Situated within close proximity to the popular dining and nightlife precinct of Broadbeach enjoy the vivacious atmosphere. Just a short stroll to Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, Jupiter's Casino and the beach.

Member Reviews: "Awesome hosts made our holiday fantastic - highly recommended".

7 nights from
AU\$749*
NZ\$959*
2 bdrm



TWEED ULTIMA HOLIDAY APARTMENTS

Located in a tremendous position, less than 200 meters from outstanding beaches and just a few minutes' drive from Coolangatta Airport, you will appreciate the proximity.

Member Reviews: "Kids just loved it as they could walk everywhere and I loved it as I didn't have to drive anywhere".



BEACH HOUSE SEASIDE RESORT 1483

Overlooking the magnificent Coolangatta Beach, known for its spectacular surfing conditions and stunning scenery your day can be as relaxing or action-packed as you'd like.

Member Reviews: "Definitely the location - fabulous views of the ocean and surfers and also handy to local stores and restaurants".



MARINER SHORES RESORT 1726

This resort is positioned just opposite Burleigh Beach with the Burleigh Heads National Park and a multitude of restaurants and surf clubs easily accessible.

Member Reviews: "Our week at Mariner Shores provided a relaxing getaway with tons of restaurant options, friendly staff and great beach access".



TAMARIND SANDS 5716

Whether you're playing a round or two of tennis, sunning and splashing by the pool, or strolling through the beautiful garden areas, Tamarind Sands is an ideal escape to relax and rejuvenate.

Member Reviews: "It is an easy walk (1 1/2 blocks) to Cabarita Beach. The pool and hot tub area are well maintained and have sun-shade area".

For more information visit **RCI.com** or call **1300 368 800 AU** or **0800 368 800 NZ**



Vintage Cool



RETROSHEILA

17 MCLEAN ST, COOLANGATTA

Mon – Sat 11am to 5pm

Retrosheila sells quality vintage clothing and collectables, owned by the charming Gregory Pead whom has an impeccable eye for detail and selecting the most glorious retro prints. Retrosheila is a treasure trove of garments and collectables hand selected from Australia and London. Find a wide selection of menswear as well as 1940's and 50's evening and day wear dresses.



THAT SHOP

**2/33 MCLEAN STREET,
COOLANGATTA**

**Mon – Sat 9am to 5pm
Sundays 10am to 4pm**

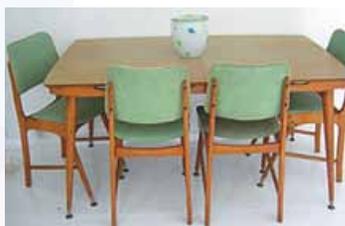
That Shop is a clothing and accessories store with a fabulous point of difference! While their passion for 1950's style fashion has followers of the Pinup, Retro, Rock n Roll and Rockabilly subcultures seek out this fabulous store, most often their customer is the average woman who is seeking a classic, individual and feminine way to dress!! Delightful staff offering exceptional customer service makes for a shopping experience you won't forget!

THE SHED

45 FERRY ROAD, SOUTHPORT

Mon – Sat 9am to 4pm

The Shed is the place to shop if you are looking for an affordable way to furnish your new place and create an individual style with a few vintage or retro pieces. The Shed brings together an eclectic mix of second hand, vintage and retro furniture and homewares. From sofas, lounges and chairs to tables, buffets and homewares, there's something for everyone at pocket-friendly prices. And there's new stock every week so there's always more to explore and inspire you at The Shed.



THE SALVOS

1730 GOLD COAST HWY, BURLEIGH HEADS

Mon – Sat 11am – 5pm

What is a Salvansita? Salvansitas are people who combine looking good with doing good! Purchase from the Salvos and you will help raise much needed funds for meals, beds, counseling or rehabilitation. If you have an addiction for rummaging through the meticulous hoards of treasures then Burleigh Salvos is the place to do your pre-loved shopping for books, collectables and clothing or quirky furniture pieces.

**SHOP 7 50 JAMES STREET,
BURLEIGH HEADS**

**Mon – Sat 9am to 5pm
Sundays 10am to 4pm**



DISCOVER TRUE LUXURY

MEXICO

The Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico combines the best of the Caribbean (*picture talcum-powder sand & gently swaying palms*), with the mystery of the ancient Mayan civilisations buried in lush wild jungle. For the ultimate in high end luxury holidays, look no further than this idyllic stretch of Mayan Riviera.



Many five-star resorts boast about having a paradise setting, but our pick of hotels, including a handful of Palace Resorts, set the stage for world-class holidays. Chosen for their sweeping views and access to the finest beaches in the world, it's no surprise these resorts are often featured in lists of the best hotels in the world, or that they are frequented by the rich and famous, drawn by the allure of unrivalled service, seclusion and the finest dining and spa treatments imaginable.

We help you select the perfect destination for your holiday.

CANCUN

Cancun is probably the most popular destination in Mexico, but also one of the most popular in the world. This is a holiday destination for everyone – there are beaches, entertainment, food, drink, and an experience you'll never forget. Similar to Vegas, Cancun draws a lively crowd seeking excitement and glamour. But if nightclubs and casinos don't appeal, downtown Cancun reveals a softer side to the city. A local arts scene thrives here and is well worth exploring.



Clockwise from left: Luxury and location - Le Blanc Spa Resort one of RCI's finest all inclusive resorts on the Yucatan Peninsula. **Food glorious food** - Visit Mexico and find out why it is famous for its cuisine. **Set sail** - A boat trip is the perfect way to explore the Yucatan Peninsula. **Tee time** - choose from an abundance of spectacular golf courses. **Chill out** - Do alot or even better... do very little. **Time travel** - Explore Mexicos Mayan history at Chichen Itza one of many ruins.



Truth is you'll never run out of things to do, the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean reveal a wonderland of coral and fish, making for fabulous snorkelling, diving and fishing. If you'd rather stay on dry land, why not join a jeep safari, journeying off-road through jungle terrain and visiting the ruins of Mayan temples?

If it's retail therapy you seek you won't be disappointed. It's a shopper's paradise, with everything from designer stores to flea markets. What's more, shopping is duty free, so it's the ideal place to stock up on cosmetics and jewellery. For exclusive brands and luxury names, go no further than Luxury Avenue. As the name suggests, you'll want to take your credit card when you

hit up the 250 boutiques that line this street. For a more purse friendly experience head to Market 28 located downtown. This huge open-air flea market hosts a maze of stalls and vendors selling everything from silver to sombreros, post cards to leather and because of its central location you get to experience more of the real Cancun and culture than you do shopping in the Hotel Zone markets.

There are several spectacular five-star resorts to choose from in Cancun, adult-only resorts are a perfect option for couples seeking romance and relaxation while others are family-orientated and feature kids clubs. Both are fantastic for those wanting to take full advantage of all-inclusive features that don't break the bank.



Cancun

La Dolce Vita consistently earns the title of best restaurant in Cancun. This is fine Italian dining with beautiful sunset views and the best lobster in town. *Av. Coba N. 87; Lunch or dinner for two \$30-\$65.*

Du Mexique offers fabulous French dining with a unique Mexican twist. *Av. Bonampak 109, esq. calle Pargo; Dinner for two \$60-\$100.*

Playa del Carmen

La Ceiba no-frills open-air spot. Sit at wooden tables for a traditional Mexican breakfast (chilaquiles, huevos rancheros) and stellar juice concoctions. *30th Ave. at Constituyentes St.; breakfast for two \$15.*

Hotel Básico A seafood restaurant on the terrace of a 15-room "industrial contemporary" hotel. Order guacamole, seviche and the stellar poblano pepper stuffed with corn and cheese. *Fifth Ave. at 10th St.; lunch for two \$35.*

Puerto Morelos

La Petita (Lighthouse Road) for a true authentic Mexican experience join the local fisherman for fresh fish and lobster at this exceedingly casual but fabulous cheap local eatery.

At the other end of the spectrum is **John Gray's Kitchen** run by a former Ritz-Carlton chef. *Av. Ninos Heroes; Meals for two range between \$40-\$80.*

Isla Mujeres

Lolo Lorena (Rueda Medina s/n) is a well-kept secret among regular visitors, garnering rave reviews. Be sure to book a table in the romantically-lit garden. *Av. Rueda Medina; dinner for two \$70.*

NOTE: All prices are in AUD unless otherwise specified and do not include drinks, tax or tips.



Tulum, Mayan Ruins Cancun



Isla Mujeres



Shopping, Playa Del Carmen



Ik-Kil Cenote

The Golf Club at Moon Palace: Enjoy whatever you want, whenever you want it - fine dining, premium wines and spirits, water sports, nightly entertainment - without hesitation. Don't miss playing a round on the legendary Jack Nicklaus golf course. Retire to your private spa or plunge into one of the seven pools in the resort and swim up to the bar for a signature cocktail.

Le Blanc Spa Resort: Situated in a secluded cove with a stunning lagoon on one side and crystal clear sea on the other, Le Blanc is the closest you'll get to paradise on earth. Luxury here reaches dizzying new heights and you'll find yourself unwinding from the moment you step foot inside the resort, helped partly by the fact this is strictly an adult-only resort.

PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Upmarket Playa del Carmen has a more sophisticated vibe than other locations on the coast. It's almost European in its appeal, with plenty of fantastic restaurants and shopping boutiques to enjoy.

Playa is the place to be for relaxation combined with high-end shopping and gourmet cuisine, but also appeals to those who like a little excitement. There are many water sports on offer in the bay, from jet skiing to scuba diving.

With a vibrant mix of local boutiques and designer stores, Playa's shopping is one of its many appeals. It's also the place to head to for local handicrafts. Take a stroll around Calle 12 and 14 for the best boutiques, stopping along the way at one of the many wine bars.

Puerto Morelos



Playa has long been known as the top place on the Riviera Maya for food. An hour south of Cancun, Playa serves up a booming restaurant scene that lures chefs and diners alike. Take a stroll along Fifth Avenue, Playa's pedestrian-only main street (also known as La Quinta), where you'll find most restaurants or venture a few blocks off Fifth for no-fills authentic Mexican dining experiences. Try La Exquisita de la 38 (Calle 38), for the best tacos in town (\$13). *Two of our favourite luxurious resorts in Playa include:*

The Grand Velas R. Maya Ambassador: This all-inclusive resort nestled between sea and jungle is winning more awards than we can count. There's a Zen environment for those seeking utter relaxation and an oceanfront section for the ultimate in privacy.

El Dorado Royale Spa Resort:

Voted one of the top 100 hotels in the world by Conde Nast, this adult-only hotel is the perfect spot for celebrating a special anniversary. Laze away the days in a hammock or a hot tub built for two, or eat your way around the seven restaurants.

PUERTO MORELOS

Situated on the Yucatan Peninsula, a mere 24 km south of Cancun, Puerto Morelos still retains old-world charm and quaintness. The soft sands and gentle waves draw visitors, especially families.

The coral reef is the biggest attraction in the area, making it a mecca for divers. There are many underwater caves brimming with fish, and because it's a protected area the coral is undamaged.

There's a great local artisan's co-op at Hunab Ku Market where you can find beautifully handcrafted hammocks, textiles, ceramics and jewellery.

Style meets luxury at **Secrets Silversands Riviera Cancun by UVC**. Enjoy the serene environment and astonishing amenities in this hip yet sophisticated resort perched on the Mayan coast. It offers plenty to entertain and

entice. As well as eight swimming pools and a spa, there's a full fitness centre, entertainment centre and activities ranging from cocktail classes to aerobics and beach volleyball.

ISLA MUJERES

Isla Mujeres leads the way when it comes to relaxation. It's a slow-paced island where not much goes on, apart from the odd hatching of turtles at the local sanctuary. With crushed coral beaches and excellent snorkelling, Isla Mujeres is the place to head for a quiet meander.

Beyond the sugar-soft beaches, there's not much to do on Isla Mujeres except to enjoy the chilled island life. Isla Contoy, a nature reserve, is definitely worth a visit, to experience the pristine unspoilt beaches and solitude. You can also swim with dolphins and visit the turtle sanctuary.

For the ultimate luxuries stay opt for **Isla Mujeres Hotel Palace**: This all-inclusive resort puts the lux in luxury. Reached via boat, this small and personal hotel offers intimacy and seclusion with sunset views over the ocean.

EXPLORE THE YUCATAN

Though it might be impossible to tear you away from your poolside lounge for longer than it takes for a sunset stroll along the beach, there's much to explore in this part of the world. Spectacular scenery and centuries of culture lay just a stone's throw away.

Frequently used by directors as the backdrop for sunscreen advertisements, Tulum has been wowing visitors for decades with its blisteringly white sands, turquoise sea and dramatic backdrop of Mayan ruins. Another very popular site is Chichen Itza (\$8 entry), site of the Kukulcan Pyramid and Mayan observatory.

The Yucatan Peninsula is also famous for its cenotes - underground lakes that were sacred places to the Mayans. Many are filled with archaeological treasures (as well as the ancient remains of sacrificed humans). You can swim, snorkel and dive at most of the cenotes.

Whether you're seeking a romantic escape amid luxury surroundings, or the ultimate relaxing getaway, then the Mayan Riviera should be high on your list of must-visit destinations. Just a peek at the snow-coloured sands and the achingly blue ocean will see your stress levels plummet. From golf, spas and private oceanfront villas to gourmet dining and superlative service, you'll be so well looked after you won't ever want to go home. **EV**



Getting there

The easiest way to get to Mexico is to fly out of Dallas/Fort Worth then 2.5 hours onto Cancun.



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Mexico include:

Cancun



Ai The Golf Club at Moon Palace A134

Bask on the powdery, white-sand beaches, swim and snorkel in aquamarine waters or try your luck at deep-sea fishing.

Member Review: "This is in the top 5 resorts we've stayed at anywhere in the world."

Ai Sun Palace 2902

Located along one of the finest beaches in Cancun, this all-inclusive beachfront resort is ideal for couples.

Member Review: "Beautiful hotel, great staff - overall a wonderful experience."

Ai Beach Palace 2999

Located on the beach in the heart of Cancun's hotel district, this resort has a Kids Club that plans daily activities for ages 4 to 12.

Member Review: "Our family enjoyed every moment. We did not want to leave!"

Ai Le Blanc Spa Resort 4104

Indulge in seven restaurants and lounges, three outdoor pools, a fitness centre, sauna and steam baths plus a tranquil day spa.

Member Review: "Best all-inclusive resort we have stayed in yet! Their service is beyond compare."

Zoetry Paraíso de la Bonita by UVC C588

At this award-winning, luxurious boutique resort, the Unlimited Luxury Program includes all suites, all meals, and beverages.

Member Review: "Gorgeous resort, food was excellent, can't wait to return."

Playa Del Carmen



Ai Playacar Palace 2994

Set in the heart of Riviera Maya, Playacar Palace is located only steps from the beautiful Playa del Carmen in the bustling hotel zone.

Member Review: "I would rate this resort outstanding, 5 star! The location is close to 5th avenue and the ferry can't be beat."

Ai Grand Velas R. Maya Ambassador A865

The elegant, sumptuous accommodations of this resort exemplify a luxury lifestyle.

Member Review: "It was so peaceful, restful and very beautiful. We really didn't have to do anything but be there."

El Dorado Royale, A Spa Resort 6290

An adults-only resort that provides the ultimate in service. Swim in one of 13 pools and get pampered with spa services.

Member Review: "All I can say is... WOW! If we could give this resort a higher rating we would!"

Puerto Morelos



Now Sapphire Riviera Cancún by UVC C592

Suitable for families with a vast array of activities for children and teenagers, couples and groups.

Member Review: "The pool and pool activities were wonderful. The entertainment staff could not be better!"

Secrets Silversands Riviera Cancún by UVC C585

Member Review: "We absolutely loved every moment at this resort. Our room was the best - swim-out and ocean front. It was amazing. The food was great too."

Isla Mujeres

Ai Isla Mujeres Palace A495

Enjoy spectacular coral reefs, water caves archaeological sites and ecological parks and beaches.

Member Review: "We would highly recommend this resort for couples wanting to get away and relax."





Tequila Prawns

Serves 2

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 white onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 10 prawns, peeled, deveined, halved lengthwise
- 1/4 cup tequila
- 3 Roma tomatoes, diced
- 2 limes, juiced
- 1 tbsp. chopped coriander (known as cilantro in Mexico)
- 1 avocado, peeled, pitted, diced
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper

Heat a medium sauté pan with the olive oil, sauté the onions and garlic. When the onions are translucent, add the prawns and continue to sauté for 3 to 4 minutes. Add in the tequila and burn off the alcohol. Add the tomatoes and sauté for another 3 to 4 minutes. Add the lime juice when the prawns are fully cooked. When prawns are fully cooked, fold in the coriander and avocado. Season with salt and pepper and serve. Alternatively, spoon prawn mixture onto lettuce leaf and place in centre of tortilla wrap and fold, serve with accompanying relish.

Colourful Yucatan cuisine

Forget the typical burritos and enchiladas that spring to mind when thinking of Mexican food... the cuisine of the Yucatan Peninsula has so much more to offer.

The Yucatan Peninsula (home to famous holiday spots such as Cancun, Playa del Carmen and the Riviera Maya) though still part of Mexico, serves up its own typical style of cuisine that is very different to that of the rest of the country. Partly due to the region's isolation that the Sierra Nevada mountain range once ensured, and partly due to the ancient Mayans influence, Yucatan food has its own distinct dishes and flavours. Food is renowned for its unique blend of spices, such as pumpkin seed powder, oregano, red onion, sour orange, sweet pepper, lime, achiote (marinating paste), capsicum pepper (X-cat-ik), habanero chili pepper, and coriander. Cleverly combined with key ingredients including turkey, chicken, pork, fish and seafood - Yucatan cuisine is colourful, flavoursome and healthy. This dish makes for a perfect appetizer or light lunch. EV



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GREEK *Odyssey*

There's no better time to visit the Greek Islands



Traditional Greece - Symi island.



The economic pain in Greece is well publicised, so it's no surprise that the number of tourists visiting the country has dropped. But travelling to a country during a recession can bring unexpected rewards, such as fewer tourists to contend experiences – mezze, ouzo and ancient archaeological wonders included.



Greece is a friendly and welcoming country, and its myriad islands offer something for everybody, from historical ruins to deserted beaches and ancient walled cities. The food is universally good, the weather fantastic and the sea in this balmy part of the Med is a thousand shades of aquamarine.

Here's the lowdown on some of our favourite the main Greek islands:

CRETE

Greece's largest island is also one of its most interesting and makes for an ideal holiday base. With ancient, crumbling ruins scattered across hillsides, a stunning landscape of gorges, mountains and golden beaches, as well as a number of picturesque port towns, there's plenty to keep you busy in Crete.

While much of the north coast has been overdeveloped, Crete is so large that it's possible to take a barely-trodden path into the interior and come across isolated villages where tourism has yet to make its mark.

There's plenty to uncover here too, the ancient ruins of the Bronze Age Palace of Knossos are a must-see. According to legend, King Minos once lived here and built a labyrinth beneath the palace to contain his son, the Minotaur.

Today, you can tour the site (though there's no labyrinth to get lost in), but it's quite difficult to picture what this enormous palace, inhabited for almost 2000 years, would have looked like.

The Samaria Gorge in West Crete has become a tourist mecca. It's a 16km-long gorge with sheer rock walls, cypress trees and crystal clear mountain streams that run all the way to the coast. It's well worth the hike, but be sure to set off before 7am when the coaches descend and thousands of tourists flock through the narrow pass.

Alternatively, there's always the Imbros Gorge, 57 km southeast of Chania which attracts far fewer tourists and is every bit as beautiful. It's also half the length of the Samarian Gorge, so much better suited to those who don't make a habit of hiking.

The atmospheric Venetian port of Chania is regarded as the most beautiful city in Crete – some say in all of Greece.

Its multi-coloured houses and the narrow lanes of the old town invite lazy exploration. Stroll along the harbour and stop for dinner at one of the many restaurants with outdoor terraces, or shop in the old town for locally made artisanal products including olive oil, wine and leather goods.

For some pampering, head to Elounda to try thalassotherapy (sea hydrotherapy and algae wraps are a speciality) at one of the many world-class spas.

Spyros Taverna in Gouves is highly recommended by foodies seeking great Greek food at a reasonable price. The views from the terrace here are a highlight, as is the owner's sense of humour.

For something higher end, Swell in Kokkini fits the bill nicely. This is Michelin-starred Greek food in a sophisticated setting, making it the ideal spot for a celebratory meal.



Cyprus: Stunning emerald green water and rock arch formation on Cyprus island.

Santorini: (Above) Romantic settings await from every rooftop. (Top left) Magical Santorini sunset's at Firostefani.

SANTORINI

Think of Greece and the picture-postcard image that most likely springs to mind is of Santorini – whitewashed houses against a blue sky and sparkling iridescent sea. It's the most photographed of all the Greek Islands and as a result very popular, particularly with wealthier tourists.

Santorini is actually a vast volcano caldera, with the town perched on the cliffs of the volcano wall above a dazzling blue lagoon. The sunsets here are famous and best viewed from one of the many restaurants that line the caldera rim.

Walk along the caldera rim from Oia to Fira, the main town, stopping along the way to climb up to the ruins of an ancient monastery, which offers some of the best views over the Cyclades.

Sign up to one of the many sailing trips or scuba diving courses on offer and be sure to visit Akrotiri, a 3500-year-old town preserved in ash, much like Pompeii. A stroll around the grounds gives a fascinating insight into what it must have been like to live in ancient Greece.

For a romantic candlelit dinner, try Metaxi Mas, where local food is served on a balcony overlooking the sea. Alternatively, dine at Toseraki, which is situated away from the madding crowd in the small port town of Vlychada. This traditional tavern offers excellent seafood and fantastic service.

CYPRUS

Cyprus's rich and fertile lands have been fought over for centuries, resulting in a mishmash of beautiful architecture. Today the country, said to be the birthplace of Aphrodite, remains split, with Turkey occupying the north and Greece the south.

While many of the towns in Cyprus have been overrun by developers and have as a result garnered a reputation as package holiday hell (you're best off steering clear of Ayia Napa), there are plenty of quieter areas that are well worth exploring.

Cyprus still retains kilometres of unspoiled coastline, all open to discovery if you hire a 4x4 and hit the road. The beaches in Cyprus are beautiful, particularly those of the Karpass Peninsula.

For a taste of Ancient Greece, head to the small villages around Akamas or explore the beautiful city of Nicosia surrounded by 16th century Venetian walls, where elements of empires stretching back to Neolithic times can be seen.

After a day exploring Nicosia, you might enjoy spending a few hours unwinding in the Hamam Omerye, a traditional Turkish bath housed in a 14th century restored building.

If you prefer more action, hike the many beautiful trails of the Troodos Mountains, stopping for lunch and a glass of local wine in a traditional taverna.

Why not scramble over the ruins of Ancient Kourion an archaeological site, or the Tomb of the Kings in Paphos? If you like your history more modern, there's always the medieval castle in Limassol to explore as well.

Foodies should head to Zanettos Taverna (South Nicosia); it's the best place to sample mezze. It's hidden away and hard to find, but worth the trouble. In Paphos, the number-one tavern is 7 St Georges, where everything on the menu comes from the owner's garden.



Rhodes: Hippocrates square in the historic Old Town of Rhodes Greece.



Lesvos: Petrified forest.

Before you go...

There are so many other Greek Islands to explore each offering a unique experience well worth the day trip or simply add-on to your stay.

SKIATHOS

The islands stunning beaches and Old Port were used as the backdrop for several scenes in the movie Mamma Mia. As a result, it has become fairly popular with tourists, but don't let that put you off. Skiathos is still among the prettiest of the Greek Islands and if you come during the off-season you're guaranteed to find a piece of unspoiled paradise. Be sure to eat at Asproolithos, where the cast and crew of Mamma Mia used to dine.

It takes between 1.5 and 3.5 hours by ferry or hydrofoil to reach Skiathos from Agios Konstantinos, or 50 minutes by plane. By sea expect to pay about \$37 for a one-way ticket.

Corfu: (Right) Town forttrus.

Skiathos: (Below) The oldest parts of the island are some of the most picturesque.



LESVOS

Lesvos is the birthplace of countless poets and writers and is one of the most cultural and least visited of the Greek Islands. It's also the third largest, with 370 km of coastline. Vatera in the south is one of the longest beaches in Greece, but the real highlight of the island is the Petrified Forest.

The eight-hour ferry ride from Athens costs around \$30 one-way. There are several flights a day to Lesvos from Athens. Expect to pay around \$120 for the hour-long flight.

RHODES

Rhodes gets a mixed rap, with some proclaiming it to be a package tourist nightmare, while others rave about its mild climate and many World Heritage-status sites. The island is a mixture of ancient ruins and cities, blissful beaches, towering mountains and wild hinterland,

and it's possible, away from the crowds, to experience something of what Greece was like hundreds of years ago. Fly direct from Athens on several low-cost operators for around \$100.

CORFU

Made famous by Homer and more recently by Gerald Durrell, Corfu lies just 20 km off the coast of Albania. Venetian castles and Byzantine churches rub shoulders here, while the town of Corfu itself is a thriving cosmopolitan hub of winding cobbled lanes, cool bars and art galleries. It's possible to while away many days in the town, enjoying the vibe and stopping to refuel in quaint tavernas.

Other highlights of Corfu include the quaint village of Kassiopi, which dates back to Roman times, and the Museum of Asian Art. It takes six hours by ferry to reach Corfu from Athens and costs about \$30. Alternatively catch a flight for around \$150.



HALKIDIKI

The birthplace of Aristotle has everything from lush green forests to golden beaches and clear turquoise sea. It's a haven for water-sports enthusiasts (there's a huge swimming competition here every year), as well as for mountain bikers, with kilometres of track through pine and oak forests.

During summer, an arts festival draws many musicians and artists to the island. Halkidiki doesn't have an airport, so you need to make your way to Thessaloniki where it's a two-hour journey on to Halkidiki. Flights cost about \$75.



Greece has 227 inhabited islands, so it's still possible to find a perfect secluded beach in the archipelago. Wherever you choose to go though, you're guaranteed sunshine, crystal clear sea, great food and stunning landscapes.

Halkidiki: Karydi beach and Vourvourou, Halkidiki, Greece.



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in the Greek Islands include:

CYPRUS

Club Aphrodite at Erimi Gardens 2152

Limassol

Club Aphrodite is a large seaside resort situated on Akrotiri Bay, on the charming southern coast and just 10 km from Cyprus' second-largest city Limassol (Lemesos).

Member Reviews: "The cleanliness and furnishings are excellent. The meals in the restaurant are excellent and very reasonably priced."



Paradise Kings Club Paphos 6234

Paphos

The resort in Paphos offers panoramic views of the majestic Mediterranean Sea, with one of the finest beaches and landscapes anywhere.

Member Reviews: "Great village! Paphos town and harbour are gorgeous."

SANTORINI

Santorini Villas 6087

The resort is just 2.5 km from the capital of Santorini, Fira, and there are bus services to the beach, Oia village and other destinations as well.

Member Reviews: "Although not fancy, the units are quaint, well kept, and comfortable. Staff are very welcoming, friendly, and helpful."

CRETE

Village Heights Golf Resort 7514

This resort is of the true, traditional Cretan Village style nestled among lush landscaped gardens, with breathtaking views.

Member Reviews: "Centrally located on the island, not far from beaches, and shopping. Also, the resort is relatively new."

Leoniki Residence 4836

The property is steps away from the azure waters and beautiful beaches of the Cretan Sea.

Member Reviews: "We loved the week. Leoniki provided a great first experience to get us ready for the next more challenging Greek adventure."

Grand Leoniki 7456

The resort offers guests an opportunity to relax in the sun or under palms. There is a Health Club, a grocery store and live entertainment.

Member Reviews: "An excellent resort. Crete is an amazing island; we found the scenery, the history and the locals an absolute knockout."



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See PG.39

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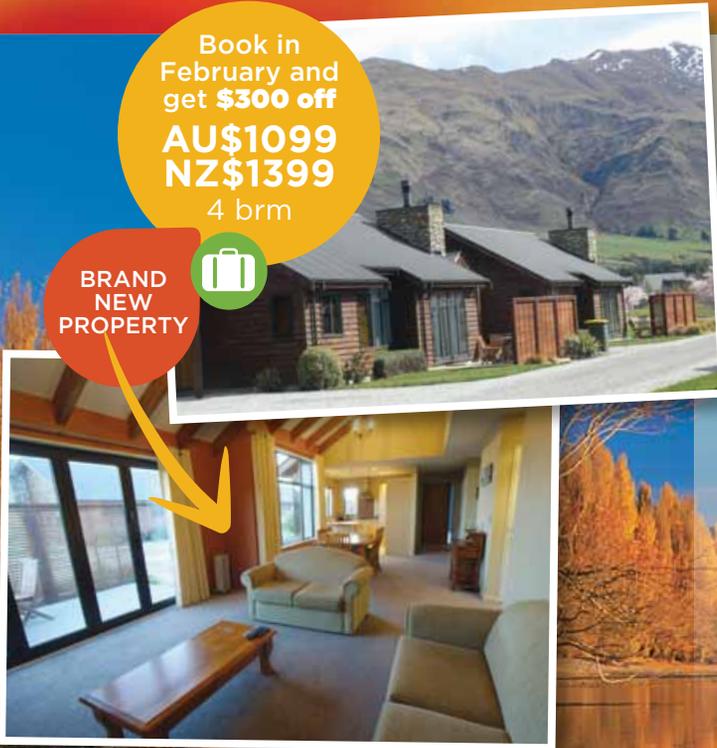
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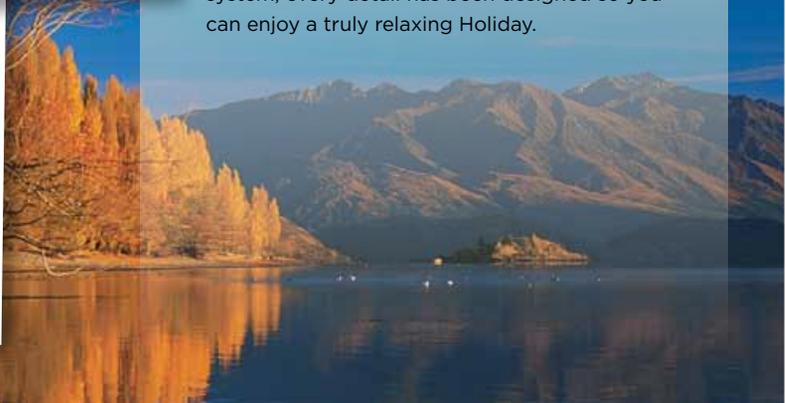


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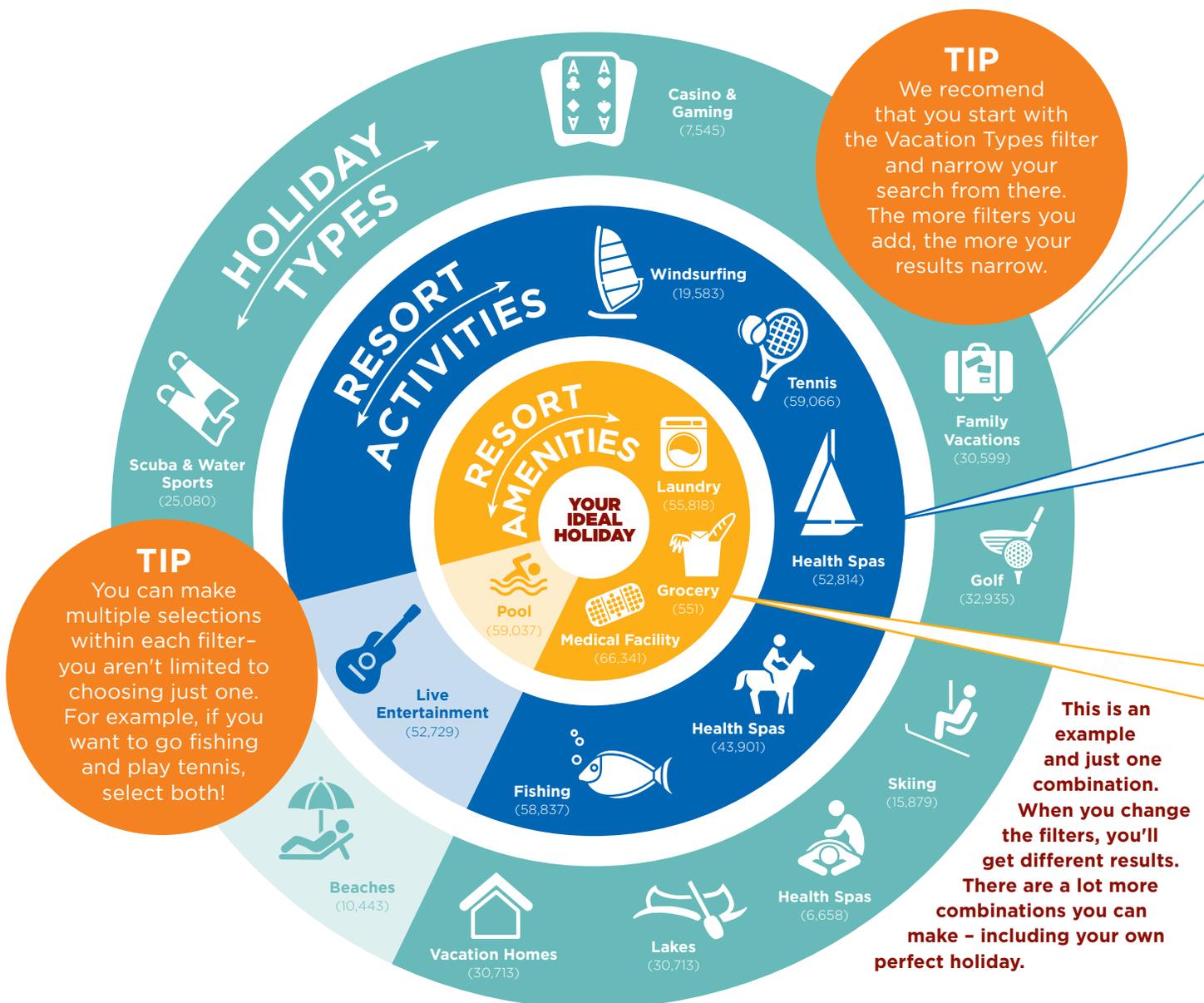
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Use as the primary filter for searching for destinations worldwide that meet your needs. Each holiday type shows you exactly how many holidays are available. In this example, there are 10,443 beach holidays to choose from.

You're much more likely to find a great holiday if you start your search with all your options open, then apply filters to narrow down the exact holiday you want



Defined:

Beach, Golf and Spa:

Must be onsite

Casinos: Must be within 16 km of the resort

Family Vacations: Must have at least two of the following: children's pool, game room, playground, childcare

Skiing: Downhill slopes must be within 16 km of resort.

When searching on RCI.com, you'll see these filters on the left-hand side of the page.

(Numbers of available vacations are shown as examples only.)

HOLIDAY TYPES

Beaches [10443]
Casinos/Gaming [7545]
Family Vacations [30599]
Golf [329351]
Health Spas [6658]
Lakes [30713]
Scuba & Water Sports [25080]
Skiing [15897]
Vacation Homes [210]



RESORT ACTIVITIES

Pick your favourite thing(s) to do!

Click on the desired activity and your search results will be filtered accordingly. Don't forget: You can select more than one activity to look for resorts where everyone can enjoy what they want to do!



Defined:

To be attributed to the resort, the activity must be within 33 km of the resort, but often the activity will be onsite.

RESORT ACTIVITIES

Beach [16779]
Boating [52814]
Casino [18173]
Downhill Skiing [26368]
Fishing [58837]
Golf [65087]
Horseback Riding [43901]
Lake [489651]
Live Entertainment [52729]
Scuba Diving [14983]
Tennis [59066]
Waterskiing [42496]
Windsurfing [19583]



RESORT AMENITIES

Start with your holiday experience

This search filter is a great tool for homing in on specific resorts after you've picked your holiday type. If a pool is a must for your family, use this filter to show only the resorts that have pools.



Defined:

The amenities must be onsite at the resort to be included on the list.

RESORT AMENITIES

Grocery [551]
Health Club [30513]
Laundry [55818]
Medical Facility [66341]
Pool [59037]
Spa [336381]
Whirlpool/Hot Tub [58358]

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FRANCE | Grandcamp-Maisy **B896**
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ITALY | Giglio **BH13**
 Florence > Well located for exploring Tuscany, this is also a good choice for those wishing to visit the art city of Florence, the astonishing Piazza del Campo of Siena, and a host of other cultural interests.



PORTUGAL | Quinta Do Outeiro **BM65**

Viana Do Castelo, Portugal > Cas S Pedro is a former farmworker's cottage, has granite walls, wooden floors and an enclosed garden.



SPAIN | Casa Algarrobo **BD11**

Malaga, Spain > This attractive modern holiday villa in 5500 square metres of countryside has a private pool and is nestled among the olive groves above Lake Vinuela and just a short drive to the pretty village of Alcaucin.



UNITED KINGDOM | Viking Lodge **BV78**

Broadstairs, England > Stroll amongst the fishermen's and smugglers' cottages, indulge at the Italian ice cream parlours overlooking the beach and see what inspired Charles Dickens.



SCOTLAND | Scott Cottage **BB47**

Stirlingshire, Scotland > Situated in the heart of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, charming and spacious, these two attached cottages sit in an isolated corner of Loch Katrine at Stronachlachar.



IRELAND | Araglen **B084**

Cork, Ireland > In the peaceful Araglen Valley, 8 miles from bustling Fermoy, this delightful house is a central base for touring Cork, Waterford, Kerry and Tipperary.

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family friendly Noosa

It's easy to see why Noosa, with its kilometres of golden beaches and family-friendly vibe, is one of the top holiday destinations in Australia.

Family friendly it may be but Noosa still offers plenty of opportunity for quiet contemplation.

From water sports including jet skiing, surfing and kayaking on the unspoilt **Lake Cooroibah** to on-land sports like mountain biking, skating and horse riding, Noosa and its surrounds offer it all. If you can tear the kids away from the beach for long enough then there's also the zoo and the **Aussie World Theme Park** to explore.

The town of Noosa is a chilled-out beachside spot. Its main drag, **Hastings Street**, offers al fresco cafes, independent boutiques and an eclectic mix of restaurants and bars.

After a swim in the calm waters off **Noosa Main Beach**, grab a picnic and either cycle or walk along the boardwalk to **Noosa National Park**, keeping an eye out for whales, dolphins and koalas along the way.

Don't miss out on exploring the **Noosa North Shore**, a seemingly endless stretch of white sand, towering dunes and sparkling ocean, backed by tropical rainforest. You can hop aboard the ferry from Tewantin to get there.

Noosa is also the gateway to **Fraser Island**, the world's largest sand island and a place of unrivalled natural beauty. It's the ideal place for kids to roam thanks to its lack of cars. It's possible to take a ferry to Fraser from Rainbow Beach or Riverheads.

With so much to inspire both adults and kids, you're guaranteed relaxation as well as action in this idyllic part of Queensland.



Beautiful from any angle

NOOSA EATS

Famous for endless dining options from casual to high end, there are over 170 local restaurants in Noosa. The restaurants offer innovative and fresh dishes. Making them extra appealing, is the use of superb fresh local seafood, fruits, vegetables and meats. You'll find 10 restaurants throughout Noosaville and Noosa Heads awarded with the Australian Good Food Travel Guide coveted Chef Hat Awards with a fantastic concentration of Modern Australian Cuisine. 



Club Noosa



Noosa Keys Resort



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Noosaville and Noosa Heads include:

Noosa Keys Resort Noosaville 7 nights in a 3 bdrm from \$AU729/NZ\$929

Just a casual stroll along the river will lead you to shopping, a variety of restaurants, river cruises, parks, children's playgrounds and much more.

Australis Noosa Lakes Resort 7 nights from \$AU639/NZ\$819

Located on seven landscaped acres by the shores of Lake Doonella and Noosa River and surrounded by wilderness, you are only minutes to Hastings Street.

Club Noosa 1036

The resort is on top of Noosa Hill overlooking Laguna Bay. It is approximately 400 meters from Hastings Street with its charming village atmosphere.

Member Review: "Close to Noosa Junction with many shops and good supermarket, easy access to Hastings Street shops, Noosaville cafes and riverside walks, national park walkways. Very well appointed resort with large spacious units."

Noosa Heads

WEEKENDER GUIDE



EXPLORE

Eumundi Market (07) 5442 7106
80 Memorial Drive Eumundi; 30 minutes' drive from Noosa Heads; Wed & Sat; eumundimarkets.com.au

Kayak Noosa (07) 5455 5651
194 Gympie Terrace; The Boathouse, Noosaville; Tours start at \$55pp or hire stand up paddle board from \$20, kayak from \$30 per hour kayaknoosa.com

Belmondos Fresh Food Market (07) 5474 4044
59 Rene St Noosaville; Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 8.30am-4pm; belmondos.com

Australian Nougat Company (07) 5442 76174
4 Tallgum Ave, Eumundi; Free tastings, viewing windows and gift shop
Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 9am-1pm
aushnougat.com.au



EAT

Shades Cafe Wine Bar Noosa (07) 5448 0055
9 Sunshine Beach Rd Noosa Heads; Entree \$4

Zachary's Gourmet Pizza Bar (07) 5447 3211
30 Hastings Street Noosa Heads; Average Price for Entree & Main - \$25

Wasabi Restaurant & Bar (07) 5449 24432
2 Quamby Place Noosa Heads; Average Price for Entree & Main - \$80

iS Tapas (07) 5447 1818
249 Gympie Terrace Noosaville; Average Price for Entree & Main - \$40



RELAX

Ikatan Balinese Day Spa (07) 5471 1199
46 Grays Road Doonan; Traditional Balinese body treatments, packages High Tea starts at - \$37pp ikatanspa.com

Noosa Springs (07) 5440 0333
Links Drive Noosa Head; Golf and Spa Resort just a few minutes from Hastings Street and beaches noosasprings.com.au



WINE & DINE South Australia

Wine & Dine in South Australia's Barossa Valley

Spend an exquisite holiday exploring the Barossa Valley, home to some of the finest history, cuisine and vintages in all of Australia



Famed for its wines, the Barossa Valley, just an hour by car from **Oaks Horizon** in Adelaide's CBD, is a marvellous destination for a day trip. With acres of vineyards flowing down rolling hills, the landscape alone is worth the trip. But when you combine it with the added appeal of vineyards, historic old towns and gourmet restaurants, you have a winning formula.

The oldest town in the valley is picturesque **Gawler**. Follow the **Barossa Heritage Trail** to unlock the history of this European settlement, or alternatively take the **Barossa Butcher, Baker, Winemaker Trail**, which highlights the distinctive food and wine traditions of the area.

The town of **Angaston** has some of the best-preserved historic buildings in the valley, and is also home to the weekly farmers' market, where locals sell their homemade wares.

Be sure too to visit the family-run **Apex Bakery**, founded in 1924. The fire in the grate here has burnt out only once in all that time, and the homemade bread and cakes are to die for.

Another great family business is **Maggie Beer's Farm Shop**. Stock up on gourmet pies and tarts before heading off for a picnic by the beautiful **Barossa Reservoir**.

Among the best wineries in the area is **Chateau Tanunda**, you can tour the estate, taste the wines and even play croquet.

Seppeltsfield Winery is internationally renowned. It's the only winery in the world to release a 100-year-old vintage every single year, and visitors can sample a wine from the year of their birth.

With so much to do (and so many wines to taste), you might find yourself wanting to take more than a one day trip out to the valley. **EV**

Beautiful scenery and world class food and wine. The Barossa Valley is ideal for a weekend away or if you are lucky a longer break.

Barossa Valley

WEEKENDER GUIDE



EXPLORE

Barossa House Tours (08) 8562 4022

Tour Barossa (08) 8563 1000

Pick up from accommodation.

Full day and half day winery tours.

Full day including lunch start - \$95

Tours depart daily; bookings essential

Self-Guided Bush Tours

Barossa Visitor Information Centre

66-68 Murray St, Tanunda (08) 8563 0600

Balloon Adventures (08) 8389 3195

Depart daily, weather permitting AU\$300per adult

www.balloonadventures.com.au

Barossa Helicopters (08) 8524 4209

www.barossahelicopters.com.au

10 minute tours to indulgent packages

Number of people per flight: 2-3

Prices start AU\$69 per person (10 min tour)

Barossa Trike Tours 0438 623 342

www.barossatriketours.com.au

Joyrides to adventure day tours

Prices start AU\$60pp (40min joyride)



EAT

Appellation at The Louise in the Barossa Valley

Corner Seppeltsfield and Stonewall Roads, Marananga

(08) 8562 2722; dine@thelouise.com.au

Ala cart award winning restaurant

Wanera Wine Bar & Restaurant

65 Murray Street, Angaston 08 8564 3275

Closed on Tuesdays www.wanerawinebar.com.au

40's Café

Dine in or take away; 30 Murray Street, Angaston,

(08) 8564 2901; www.40scafe.com.au Award winning Pizza,

Open 7 days 9am-til late

Artisans of Barossa

(08) 8563 3935; www.artisansofbarossa.com

Cellar Door opens 11am-6pm, 7 days

Private tasting and guided tours available

Prices start AU\$75, min 4 persons



RELAX

Endato Day Spa

Novotel Barossa Valley Resort, Golf Links Roads, Rowland Flat

(08) 8524 0071; barossavalley@endota.com.au

Bali Traditional Spa

31 Murray Street, Tanunda,

(08) 8563 0657; www.balitritionalspa.com.au



PLAY

The Whispering Wall

The Barossa Reservoir, Yettie Rd, Williamstown

1300 650 950; Open Daily, unless fire ban

Barossa Bowland & Mini Golf

89 Menge Rd, Tanunda. Opening hours: Mon/Sun 10am-6pm

Tues, Wed, Thur 10am-8pm, Fri/Sat 10am-til late

08 8563 3177; www.barossabowland.com

What's On

Barossa Vintage Festival 2013

A celebration of wine, food, music, art, culture and tradition!

30 March - 7 April 2013

9am-5pm

"the largest and longest running wine tourism festival in Australia"



Adelaide viewed from the Torrens



STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Adelaide include:

Oaks Horizon

3 nights from AU\$579/NZ\$739

Positioned in the heart of the CBD, the hotel features spacious, modern apartments, and is conveniently located on North Terrace, opposite the Convention Centre and Skycity Casino.

YOU WERE HERE: *South Africa*

South African Sojourn

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your holiday
stories.

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The Peninsula, an RCI affiliated resort in Seapoint on the beachfront makes a perfect base for exploring in and around Cape Town - the vibrant major city of the Western Cape in South Africa.

“ Heading south down the coastal road of the South Atlantic Ocean, often called, possibly the most beautiful peninsular drive in the world, towards the Cape of Good Hope, the scenery is quite spectacular. You pass through Clifton and Camps Bay with their many boutique al-fresco restaurants and coffee shops displaying wonderful and varied menus to Chapman's Peak and Simon's Town. Often on this route you can come across a troop of baboons whom inhabit the Table Mountain National Park.

Just south of Simon's Town is Boulders, the home of African Penguins at 'Tuxedo Junction'.

At Strand, on the beachfront of False Bay is Strand Pavilions (RCI affiliated resort), which is built out over the beach beyond water level, as if you are holidaying on a Pier.

Hermanus is considered the place for whale watching and yes you can see them breaching and frolicking very close to the beach in the bay.

Table Mountain, Stellenbosch, Constantia, and Somerset

West are places where the wine buffs head to sample the offerings at the cellar doors, together with the wonderful dining opportunities set amongst some of the most beautiful countryside available.

Heading east along the Garden Route towards Knysna and Plettenberg Bay, you could be fortunate to stay at Eagles Nest or one of the other RCI resorts close by. The Knysna Elephant Park, a home for rescued elephants, is certainly worth visiting.

There are regular flights from Cape Town to Durban in KwaZulu – Natal, with Umhlanga Rocks only a short drive from the new Durban Airport. The white glistening sandy beaches stretch for many kilometres north and south, making this the 'major tourist destination' of Congo.

Breakers and Umhlanga Rock are great locations for just enjoying the lifestyle of the beach and all it has to offer or be adventurous and tour around the surrounding countryside, which is mostly sub-tropical. ”

- PETER & CHRIS P., QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA RCI MEMBERS



Phuket *island adventure*

This fun island provides an unbeatable combination of spectacular scenery, tropical sunsets, powdery-white, palm-lined beaches, and superb hospitality.

Be one of the first to experience exceptional service and quality holidaying at Anantara Vacation Club Phuket Mai Khao Resort. Located between the sun-kissed and unspoilt beach of Mai Khao, (Phuket's longest beach) and the green forests of Sirinath National Park, an impressive natural playground of sea caves, mangrove forests, coral reefs and dazzling islands making it an ideal resort to holiday at.



*Exceptional Anantara quality and service
and the much photographed Phang Nga Bay*

New
affiliated
resort



STAY

RCI affiliated resort
in Phuket, Thailand.

Anantara Vacation Club Phuket Mai Khao

7 nights from AU\$539* / NZ\$689* - 1 bdrm

7 nights from AU\$719* / NZ\$909* - 2 bdrm

*These rates are valid for 12 months from 1 May 2013, excluding holiday season dates 21.12.13 - 03.01.14 and 25.01.14 - 07.02.14.

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