



26
NORTH
QUEENSLAND



21
PERFECT
PIAZZAS

AUTUMN 2014 (PACIFIC)

ENDLESS VACATION

PLAY | EAT | SHOP | RELAX | EXPLORE

4

FAVOURITE
BEACHES

SOME OF THE BEST
SPOTS AROUND THE
WORLD FOR SUN
AND SAND

SPECIAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY
MEMBER SECTION

TREASURE HUNT
FIND THE 40s AND
WIN AN IPAD



Because your holiday means...
una vacanza romantica
{romantic holiday}

Flip to
page 39
to find your
holiday
planning calendar



Autumn 2014

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ON THE COVER

Liguria, **Italy.**

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out RCI.com.

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RCI®

Because your holiday means the world to us®



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JOIN IN THE TREASURE HUNT AND WIN AN IPAD!

To celebrate RCI's 40th anniversary, the Endless Vacation team hid the number 40 (in red) throughout the magazine. See if you can find all 12. Their locations will be revealed in the next edition of Endless Vacation. Here's a hint - the first one is on page 13. Find all 12 and email a short story (up to 250 words) and photo of your favourite RCI holiday and go in the draw to win*. Entries close 5pm EST 22 April 2014. The winner will be notified by email at the end of April 2014. Send your entries to marketingsupport@rci.com. *Conditions apply



40
▲
This is what you are
looking for start hunting
from page 13.



Welcome

This issue of Endless Vacation® magazine marks RCI's 40th anniversary and we have plenty of great reasons to celebrate with our readers.

The world has transformed a lot over the past 40 years with new technology and advances rapidly changing the way we do things. We can now book our flights, accommodation and tours from our mobile phones, take photos on numerous mobile devices and share them instantly across the world through social media.

Through all these changes, RCI has been right there with you. Just check out some of the new blue tooth wireless speakers on their way in our Travel Gear section (page 5). With greater technology, there comes a higher expectation in the variety and quality of accommodation that our RCI members would like to experience. Nevertheless the fun and excitement of taking a well earned holiday will always stay the same.

This issue is bursting with some exciting holiday options. Check out our 40 favourite beaches from around the world (pages 15-20) and the 40 ways RCI is celebrating with you to make your holidays special (pages 32-44.)

There's shopping in Hangzhou, China (pages 10 & 11), plus a planning calendar to help you book your next memorable holiday experience. Don't forget to check out our members' stories as they share some of their wonderful holiday experiences from across the globe (pages 43-45.)

We are grateful to have been part of your holiday memories for the past 40 years and we look forward to making the next 40 years even more memorable.

Happy holidays from all of us at RCI.

Andrew Heslehurst

Andrew Heslehurst
Director - RCI Pacific

AUSTRALIA

Desert Voyages

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia announced their major events program for 2014 in conjunction with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra's Symphony performance at Uluru on 19 - 20 October 2014.

ready,
set,

THE ROCK WITH THE MOST:
All roads lead to Uluru, the iconic rock formation is the centrepiece of numerous events and festivals in the red centre and is a must-do for visitors to the region.

The inaugural Tjungu Festival will be held from 24 - 27 April. Tjungu, pronounced tjoo-ngoo, meaning meeting or coming together in local Anangu language, will celebrate the best of Indigenous culture, past, present and future.

The colourful Outback Fest from 3 - 4 May will be an authentic Aussie outback experience. Featuring the Uluru Camel Cup race day complete with fashions on the Field and a Camel Calcutta, the weekend culminates with a true Outback Ball under the sparkling night sky.

The Australian Outback Marathon will be held on 26 July 2014 and is set to be the biggest yet. Set amongst one of the most iconic backdrops in the world, entrants from every continent will once again pound the red dirt with spectacular views of Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

The spectacular night sky is often amongst the highlights of a stay at Ayers Rock Resort, with low humidity and minimal light pollution allowing a view of the stars and planets that few other places on earth can claim. The Astronomy Weekend, from 22-24 August, will be led by some of the world's leading experts and will include discussions on the structure of the cosmos and more.

Visitors to Ayers Rock Resort will have the opportunity to experience the natural beauty and wonder of the destination, whilst also immersing themselves in the cultural offerings throughout the resort, including cultural dance performances, spear and boomerang throwing classes, daily art markets and much more.

For more information see www.ayersrockresort.com.au

ready,
set,

NEW ZEALAND

Natural High

One of New Zealand's most famous and historic backcountry farms, Mt Nicholas High Country Station (Mt Nic) near Queenstown, is open to visitors with the launch of a new series of exclusive tours.

Mt Nic station sits on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, on the opposite side to Queenstown and is only accessible by water. The tour's excursions available aboard Queenstown's newest on-water tourism attraction, the Spirit of Queenstown Catamaran will provide an unrivalled opportunity to access an isolated and beautiful natural landscape.

The catamaran and high country tours are offered by long-time Kiwi tourism icon Southern Discoveries, an award-winning tourism company that has been operating for more than 50 years. The new Spirit of Queenstown catamaran, which launched scenic trips on Lake Wakatipu earlier this summer season, is now taking passengers

to the high country station for the first time. Mt Nicholas High Country Station is located in a peaceful and normally inaccessible area on the western shore of Lake Wakatipu. 'Mt Nic' is New Zealand's oldest family run high country station. Southern Discoveries General Manager John Robson said it was an amazing opportunity to work with the owners of Mt Nic Station to provide a unique insight into New Zealand's rural heritage.

"Mt Nic showcases the high country at its best," he said. "It's truly breath taking out there and also a place to escape and relax while enjoying the peaceful surroundings."

Covering 100,000 acres, the working station which runs 30,000 merino sheep would provide different experiences daily, Robson says. "Along with the stunning views, you may encounter cows with their calves, shepherds and their dogs moving merino sheep, fallow deer or rabbits."



OUTER SPACE

The Sky's (Not) the Limit

Space travel may finally be a possibility for a hefty price. Travel tycoon Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic (virgingalactic.com; from \$285,000) has already made test runs in the Mojave Desert. His SpaceShipTwo is expected to send six passengers at once hurtling into zero g's starting this year. Next up is entrepreneur Michiel Mol's SXC (spacexc.com; from \$110,000). Once it's up and running, SXC's Mojave campus will offer daily service to the edge of earth's atmosphere in a specially designed spacecraft that will give passenger astronauts a stunning view of the planet from more than 95km's up. The queue behind these two risk takers is long, but other companies launching commercial travel to space include Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin, starting in 2016. - Adam. H. Graham



HAWAII

Maui makes a splash

Hawaii's second largest island is home to a handful of stylish new hotels. The Andaz Maui at Wailea (maui.andaz.hyatt.com; doubles from \$740 per night) launched last September, with 297 units set on a powder white beach. On the north shore, Lumeria Maui (lumeriamau.com; doubles from \$375 per night) opened with tropical gardens plus wellness and adventure retreats. Meanwhile, the Residences at Kapalua Bay is about to relaunch as the Montage Kapalua Bay (montagehotels.com; doubles from \$1360 per night). Its 50 suites and 30,000-square-foot spa will overlook the Pacific, where sunsets gild the sky. - C.A.

**Prices have been converted to Australian dollars. Estimated meal prices do not include drinks, tax or tip.*



TRAVEL GEAR

No Wires Necessary

Today's portable Bluetooth wireless speakers stream music from your mobile device with the touch of a button (some can even work as speakerphones). Here are some of our favourites.

BY ADAM BAER



1 LOGITECH UE™ BOOMBOX

A boom box for a new era: Eight mini speakers produce a smooth mix of sound frequencies with significant bass and the box connects to three devices at once and remembers eight. ue.logitech.com; AU\$276

2 Jawbone Mini Jambox

Weighing in at just over 450gms, this aluminium encased mini speaker/speakerphone comes in nine colours with five grill textures for some stylish sounds. jawbone.com; From AU\$229

3 JBL Charge

Its battery lasts 12 hours and it can charge your mobile devices with a microUSB cable while it plays. With a neoprene carrying case, it can go anywhere you need power. www.ehifi.com.au; From AU\$188

4 Panasonic SC-NT10

Skip the wait for the phone-to-speaker pairing, since NFC technology speeds the connection. The device has a rugged shell designed to stand up to heat and cold. www.panasonic.com/au/home/; From AU\$125

5 Sony Splash Proof Speaker

Relatively lightweight, it's also splash proof and has superior sound for poolside placement. One of five colour options will match any cabana. www.sony.com.au; From AU\$179

6 Sony SRSBTM8B

With an NFC Smartphone Connection this speaker provides 20 hours playback with just 4x AA batteries. Make hands free calls without missing a beat. www.sony.com.au; From AU\$127

TOP 40 ROAD SONGS

Endless Vacation® magazine's editors created a list of 40 classic songs for a road trip. If you feel inspired, hit play on these before you hit the gas.

1. "Born to Run" Bruce Springsteen
2. "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" Jimmy Buffett
3. "Come Fly With Me" Frank Sinatra
4. "Cruisin'" Smokey Robinson
5. "The Distance" Cake
6. "Fantastic Voyage" Lakeside
7. "Fly Away" Lenny Kravitz
8. "Fly Away From Here" Aerosmith
9. "Freebird" Lynyrd Skynyrd
10. "Freeway of Love" Aretha Franklin
11. "Get Back" The Beatles
12. "Go Your Own Way" Fleetwood Mac
13. "Hit the Road Jack" Ray Charles
14. "Homeward Bound" Simon and Garfunkel
15. "Holiday" Madonna
16. "I Drove All Night" Cyndi Lauper
17. "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)" The Proclaimers
18. "Interstate Love Song" Stone Temple Pilots
19. "Islands in the Stream" Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers
20. "I've Been Everywhere" Johnny Cash
21. "King of the Road" Roger Miller
22. "Leaving on a Jet Plane" John Denver
23. "Life in the Fast Lane" The Eagles
24. "Life Is a Highway" Tom Cochrane
25. "Like a Rolling Stone" Bob Dylan
26. "Lost Highway" Hank Williams Sr.
27. "Me and Bobby McGee" Janis Joplin
28. "On the Road Again" Willie Nelson
29. "Proud Mary" Creedence Clearwater Revival
30. "Ramblin' Man" The Allman Brothers
31. "Road Trippin'" Red Hot Chili Peppers
32. "Route 66" Nat King Cole
33. "Surfin' U.S.A." The Beach Boys
34. "The Long and Winding Road" The Beatles
35. "The Wanderer" Dion
36. "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'" Nancy Sinatra
37. "Vacation" The Go-Go's
38. "Viva Las Vegas" Elvis Presley
39. "Walking on Sunshine" Katrina and the Waves
40. "Where the Streets Have No Name" U2

Sea change

PORT MACQUARIE IS THE PERFECT LOCATION TO EXPERIENCE HERITAGE AND HISTORY BY THE SEA

KEN EASTWOOD

One of the oldest towns in New South Wales, Port Macquarie isn't just where the rainforest meets the sea – it's a town with a richly preserved cultural heritage. Founded in 1821, Port Macquarie now boasts around 41,000 residents. Its heritage is preserved proudly in its bricks and mortar, including one of its best known features, the third oldest surviving church in the country, St Thomas Anglican Church. It has services on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK: Historic Roto House has been preserved as it would have been in 1891, giving visitors a rare insight into how life was lived more than 100 years ago.

Immerse yourself in history and culture

To gain an understanding of the complete history of the area, visit the excellent and extensive Historical Society Museum, situated in its heritage-listed building at 22 Clarence Street.

For a more active experience, join one of the informative heritage walking tours run by former council historian Mitch McKay (Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage, 30 Clarence Street, 0447 429 016). His tours begin at the extraordinary Glasshouse, on the corner of Clarence and Hay streets, which functions as the town's entertainment centre and regional art gallery. A living cultural museum, it is situated on the site of the 1823 built cottages of the convict overseers, and the first council chambers and school of arts building around 1892. Archaeological remains and artefacts uncovered during the excavation are displayed in the basement.

Other must see attractions are the 1869 courthouse, on Clarence Street and the classy Royal Hotel, restored in 1999, which provides a top spot for a refreshing ale or three.

Get out and about in nature

Despite being a busy commercial hub, Port Macquarie is threaded with peaceful green strips. In the Kooloonbung Creek Nature Reserve, which has extensive tracks along the water, you'll find the historic cemetery with nearly 1500 buried soldiers, convicts and settlers dating back to 1824.

To the north of town, the 9000 hectare Limeburners Creek National Park has pockets of rainforest, wetlands and wildflower laden coastal heath, plus extensive Aboriginal history and many indigenous sites.

The town is perhaps best known for its koalas, in particular the Koala Hospital, which cares for around 250 sick, injured or orphaned koalas a year. After experiencing feeding times at 8am and 3pm, wander across Macquarie Nature Reserve to Roto House, a beautiful timber home built in 1891, where you can experience life in Port Macquarie as it was more than a century ago 🐨



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN
PORT MACQUARIE
INCLUDE:

Village Resort 1486

Set in lush gardens the Village Resort is a family friendly resort close by the Hastings River Broadwater. It has a private lagoon where you can experience swimming and water sports of all kinds. While on the shores, the stylish bungalows are perfect for relaxing, barbecues and enjoying warm tropical nights. To keep you busy, try out the all weather tennis courts or the recreational clubhouse with indoor heated pool, sauna, spa and gym.

Port Pacific Resort 1816

Port Pacific Resort is located in the heart of Port Macquarie and is the perfect base for exploring the local beaches, wineries, wildlife and art galleries of the mid north coast New South Wales. The resort offers a heated swimming pool, children's wading pool, gymnasium, sauna, indoor and outdoor spas, half tennis court and billiards room.

Wyndham Flynn's Beach 7822

An ideal vacation spot for families, couples, or groups, Wyndham Flynn's Beach is a delightful respite away from the day to day routines. Soak and splash in the sparkling pool, soothe yourself in the adjacent Jacuzzi spa or indulge in some sauna time. Alternatively stroll in the beautifully landscaped, award winning gardens.

Vacation Village 0832

Vacation Village is a great place for the entire family. Enjoy tennis, the heated pool, spa, mini-golf and golf driving net. There is a playground, communal lounge area, squash, billiards, and table tennis. The resort has plenty of facilities to keep the kids entertained including a clubhouse. Port Macquarie has numerous restaurants, some within walking distance of the resort.

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



HISTORY, BEACH OR BOTH?: (clockwise from top) St Thomas Anglican Church, The Glasshouse, The Hastings River, Miners Beach, Ellensborough Falls and the Port Macquarie Lighthouse.



Foodie's island fantasy

ESCAPE TO THE TROPICAL PACIFIC RIM ISLAND OF FIJI FOR CULINARY FARE THAT'S FRESH, FLAVOURFUL AND FUN.

KASEY CLARK

Bula - Welcome to Fiji - this is your place to step back in time, where you can relax, indulge, re-assess and appreciate the things that really matter in life - health, family, your loved ones, nature and a sense of perspective. The heart of the South Pacific, Fiji is a land of blue-green lagoons, lush rainforests, pine forests, mountains and 1600kms of white, sandy beaches. Blessed with 333 tropical islands, Fiji makes for the perfect holiday.



TAKE ALFRESCO TO THE NEXT LEVEL: (clockwise from above) Think of the best, freshest food you have ever eaten and now imagine eating it on the beach in paradise... this is Fiji. Another perfect day in Paradise. Catch of the day and everyday, Fiji has an abundance of natural bounty but at the top of the list is seafood. After all the eating, drinking and sun bathing you may well need a relaxing island style massage.

Fiji is the stuff of fantasies, a tropical island boasting stretches of sandy beach, stunning coral reefs and that much-sought-after holiday vibe of true escapism.

It can also fulfil your gastronomic flights of fancy. Fresh, seasonal produce – from farm to table and sea to plate – and recipes rich in tradition and multicultural influences are just another reason you won't want to leave paradise.

THE MUSTN'T-MISS MENU

There are staples of the local cuisine – rice, sweet potato, taro, cassava, coconut and seafood – as well as time-honoured dishes that you won't want to pass up on your Fijian holiday:

- Palusami is a traditional dish of corned beef or fresh fish wrapped in taro leaves and steamed in coconut milk.
- Lovo is food slow-roasted over hot rocks in an earth oven. The Fijians take local meats, seafood and vegetables, wrap them in banana or palm leaves and cook them to a tender, smoky goodness.
- Kava is the traditional – and intoxicating! – Fijian drink made from the roots of the Polynesian shrub of the same name.
- Vudi vakalolo – last but never least – is a coconut-infused dessert.

FIJIAN FINDS You don't have to go far from your accommodation to find these and other local delicacies.



Fiji Palms (0676), for example, is just 50 km to the Fijian capital of Suva, where you'll find reasonably priced and tasty restaurants as well as bustling markets teeming with tropical produce.



Want to become even better acquainted with Fijian food? Take part in a cooking class at the Flavours of Fiji Cooking School, or stay at **Wyndham Resort Denarau Island** (5883). The Wyndham also boasts a swim-up bar with wet and dry seating and a restaurant where you can indulge in some local favourites.



If you want great Fijian food where you lay your head, the **Malolo Lailai Lagoon Resort Club** (2884) boasts the Terrace Restaurant, which draws on the island's diverse flavours and cultures and highlights the freshest local produce.

HUNGRY? Well, pack your bags and get ready to relax among the requisite palm trees, turquoise waters and fabulous Fijian sunsets, but be sure to bring that empty stomach and your sense of culinary adventure, too! 🍹



SHOPPING

Hangzhou, China

Something old , something new

TIME TRAVELLING IN HANGZHOU IS A REALITY WHEN ANCIENT MONUMENTS RUB SHOULDERS WITH MODERN MEGA-MALLS.

A day out shopping in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang, showcases what 'new China' is all about – the perfect introduction of East meets West, with old enhancing new. From the sensuous pleasure that is shopping for famous Hangzhou textiles to the international brands offered around Wulin Square, Hangzhou deserves its reputation as a shopper's paradise.



Pavilion with a view on West Lake.



LOOK BACK WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE:
(clockwise from above) No signs of quaint historic buildings here, Hangzhou Convention Centre shows Hangzhou's modern face. Two roads that illustrate perfectly Hangzhou's split personality, one hundreds of years old through an ancient bamboo forest and the other racing into the future and the heart of Hangzhou city.

Traditional meets trendy

A lovely place to start your day is in Qinghe Fang, particularly Hefang Street, one of the oldest streets in Hangzhou, dating back to the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). Hundreds of quality antique and local crafts stores selling traditional goods such as chopsticks, fans and silk umbrellas line these bustling streets, as well as ancient pharmacies and teahouses. The trendy Nanshan Road is another excellent place when shopping for souvenirs, including teas and chopsticks, or visit Imperial Street for its historical and cultural merits.

To market

From Qinghefang Street, it's a reasonable stroll through the heart of Hangzhou to Silk City (253 Xinhua Road), a market with over 600 silk and embroidery vendors, making it the largest in the country. Si Ji Qing market (31-59 Hanghai Road) is also a great place to pick up traditional clothing and fabrics. Other markets worth a visit include the Gaoxin Computer Market (345 Wensan Road) and, if only for a look, the cacophony that is the Bird and Flower Market (by Wushan Square).

Big brands and even bigger malls

When you're ready to move back into the 21st century, head for Yan'an Road where large department stores sell everything from the latest fashion to technology to curios. You should also stop in at the Hangzhou Shifeng Tea Company Ltd (228 Yan'an Road) to buy top-quality white chrysanthemum and Longjing teas. For high-end international brands, you can't beat the stores along Hubin Road or the Hangzhou Mansion Shopping Mall (1 Wulin Square). Wulin Square is a shopping destination in itself and a favourite place for fashionable Hangzhou locals to meet up.

Night shop

To end your day, check out one of Hangzhou's many night markets. Wushan Night Market (between Renhe and Huixing Roads) is a hangout for hip youth and the offerings are suitably trendy and quirky. Haggling here is perfectly acceptable, even expected. 🍵

STAY RCI AFFILIATED RESORT IN HANGZHOU:

FVC @ Jinma International Hotel Hangzhou

Located in a region known for its world class silk, the FVC @ Jinma International Hotel is around 14 kms from the ancient and scenic Hangzhou and about a 20 minute drive from Xiaoshan Airport. The area has been called a "Paradise on Earth" with its picturesque West Lake. The full service hotel is designed for your enjoyment, comfort and convenience. During your stay you can take a workout at the fitness centre, relax at the sparkling indoor pool or just relax in the sauna or steam room. The 28th floor restaurant offers a plentiful selection of dining choices including authentic Fujian and Hangzhou style dishes. Other local choices include the Chaoshan Seafood Restaurant, as well as Japanese and Italian restaurants. For those seeking unbeatable fashion bargains why not take a taxi ride to the Si Ji Qing Clothing Market, just 13 kms away from the hotel.

7 nights from AU\$169/NZ\$189 Hotel Units

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

Paradise found

FIND A HIDDEN SLICE OF PARADISE ON THE LITTLE-EXPLORED MALAYSIAN GOLD COAST. WITH MANGROVES STRETCHING INTO THE STRAIT OF MALACCA AND JUNGLE DIPPING ITS TOES INTO THE SEA, SEPANG IS THE PERFECT MALAYSIAN GETAWAY.

CASSIE HARREX

Just 35 minutes from Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Malaysia's Sepang Gold Coast is a perfect place to rest and unwind. While its Formula One racetrack steals the spotlight, the beaches, rainforests and outdoor activities make this an ideal place to experience the best of Malaysia at any time. Our Golden Palm Tree Iconic Resort & Spa offers luxurious over-water villas that are meticulously laid out in the shape of a giant palm tree. Stretching almost a kilometre into the sheltered Strait of Malacca, it offers everything from adventure activities to full spa facilities and guarantees you a luxury holiday unlike any other. Three- and four-night stays are available.

Rev your engines

No Sepang holiday is complete without a visit to its Formula One racetrack and adjoining National Automobile Museum. Here you can view classic cars, learn about the circuit and hear stories from its many motoring events. Entry is free and the museum is open 9 am–6 pm daily.

Linger on Lover's Bridge

By far the most spectacular spot to watch the sun dip into the sea, this bridge juts in to the sea and

is held together with a mix of concrete and, the further out you go, simple wooden planks. Watch fisherman reel in their daily haul, then grab a seat as nature puts on its finest show.

Tour the river

Discover the wealth of flora and fauna dotting the Sepang River as you putter along this mighty waterway in a wooden boat. Once you've finished spotting monkeys, otters and waterbirds, refuel on ikan bakar, a grilled fish specialty offered at the seafood restaurants dotting the shoreline.



DISCOVER SEPANG BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE DOES:

Sepang has it all, exotic wildlife, close proximity to Kuala Lumpur and myriad adventure activities all in a tropical beachfront setting with a palm tree shaped over water resort.



EAT

Perahu T (603) 3182 3600

No. 67, Jalan Pantai Bagan Lalang,
Kg Bagan Lalang, 43950 Sungai Pelek,
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

Perahu serves a wide selection of Malay style barbeque and grilled seafood, specialising in local marinades.

www.goldenpalmtree.com

Passage Thru India T (603) 2145 0366

KL International Airport, Sepang, Malaysia

Try the Indian cuisine or enjoy vegetarian meals in a quiet relaxed atmosphere.

www.bestpenangfood.com

PLAY

Golden Palm Tree Sea Villa & Spa

T (603) 3182 3600

A five star haven of peace, perfect for eco adventure, non motorized water sports, family friendly fun or just relax and unwind.

www.goldenpalmtree.com

EXPLORE

Sepang International Circuit

T 603-8778 2200

Jalan Pekeliling, 64000 KLIA,
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

Home of the Malaysian Grand Prix and the Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix. Take a behind the scenes circuit tour. Adults \$50. Students \$25.

www.sepangcircuit.com

STAY RCI AFFILIATED
GOLDEN PALM TREE ICONIC
RESORT AND SPA:

**Golden Palm Tree Iconic - 3 Night
Studio - AU\$349 / NZ \$379**
Avail. From June

**Golden Palm Tree Iconic - 4 Night
Studio - AU\$469 / NZ\$499**
Avail. June To Sept.

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



Adventure time on Sepang



AT A GLANCE
NEW THINGS IN OUR
FAVOURITE PLACES

Forster, NSW Australia



Situated in the mid north coast region of New South Wales, Australia, Forster is a large coastal town in the Great Lakes Council LGA, about 308km northeast of Sydney. It is immediately adjacent to its twin, Tuncurry, which is the smaller of the two towns.

Because of its close proximity to Sydney, just over four hours drive, Forster-Tuncurry is a popular summer family holiday destination. With its large lakes and white sandy beaches, visitors can enjoy dolphin cruises, fishing, sail boarding and scuba diving. Other notable nearby attractions include the Bicentennial Trail, Cape Hawke and Booti Booti National Park.



FORSTER

NAME GAME

The usual local pronunciation of the name is "Foster". The town got its name from William Forster, who was briefly Premier of New South Wales and who later served as Agent General in London.

223 metres

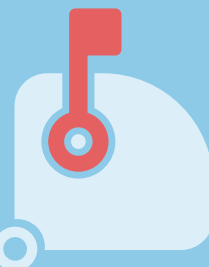
To climb to the summit of Cape Hawke for spectacular views.

Beaches Galore...

The beaches around Foster are all fabulous, starting with Main Beach which is a protected beach, making it ideal for families. Nearby Pebbly Beach is also a good spot for families as is Burgess Beach. Other beaches not to miss include One Mile Beach and McBrides Beach, ideal to escape for a day. Seven Mile Beach stretches south from Cape Hawke down to Booti Hill and the Ruins, great for fishing and surfing.

1 OCTOBER
1872

The date the first post office opened in Forster, with John Wyllie Breckenridge as postmaster at a salary of £10 a year.



1996

The small Forster Surf Life Saving Club achieved national recognition when their under 18 beach sprint relay team won gold at the Australian Championships.



STAY RCI affiliated resorts near Forster include:

Pacific Palms 1808

Just 20 minutes from Forster is the perfect spot for a relaxing holiday with beautiful beaches and numerous bird species to observe. The vast waterways, magnificent wildlife and crystal clear blue water provides for a very family friendly holiday. The resort offers extensive facilities, including a swimming pool, spa, sauna, gymnasium, barbecue and playground.

Seashells Beachfront Resort 3952

Seashells is ideally located next to the beach and surrounding Manning Valley attractions. Guests can enjoy the large swimming pool, sandy beaches with water sports, outdoor tennis and squash courts, miniature golf and a covered barbecue area. There's also a fully equipped gym and spa, resort playground, recreation room and spa for the perfect holiday experience.

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

For information about tours and activities check out www.visitnsw.com/destinations/north-coast/forster-and-taree-area/forster

4

We searched the world for the most enticing, stunning and inspiring stretches of sand, surf and crystal clear waters - from Hawaii to the Gold Coast. You'll find the perfect spot for action, indulgence and romance. Just pick your beach and get packing.

FAVOURITE BEACHES

United States & Canada

◆ Polihale Beach Kauai, Hawaii

Dunes frame this wild 27kms stretch which is not only the westernmost public beach on Kauai but also the longest sandy shoreline in Hawaii. Since Polihale is accessible only via an old 8kms farm road, few travellers venture here, so the isolated coastline, known for great shelling and blood red sunsets, is even more rewarding.

◆ Venice Beach Los Angeles, California

Sure, the water is nice, but Venice Beach's raison d'être is its scene. Here surfers and soccer players strut their stuff along the water's edge while street dancers, body builders and tattoo artists hang out near the city's 4kms promenade.

◆ Padre Island National Seashore Padre Island, Texas

Forget the party beach of South Padre Island. Right next door is the longest expanse of undeveloped barrier island in the world, the Padre Island National Seashore, which ambles along for an impressive 100kms. Empty beaches are almost guaranteed here. Many accessible only by boat or four wheel drive. And the coastline is home to dozens of endangered animals including the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle.

◆ Footbridge Beach Ogunquit, Maine

The Algonquian Indians called the stretch of powdery white sand Ogunquit, which means "beautiful place by the sea." Centuries later, just when Ogunquit Beach faced the threat of over development, the city declared it a public park and limited access to three entry points.

◆ Head of the Meadow Beach Truro, Massachusetts

For a quiet retreat along 65kms Cape Cod National Seashore, visit Head of the Meadow Beach. Its warm summer waters are great for swimming and wading and the ever changing sandbar makes for awesome bodysurfing. Keep an eye out for seals, dolphins and whales as you stroll the beach or bask in the sun.



◆ Hither Hills Beach Montauk, New York

After a morning spent exploring Hither Hills State Park's woodlands and the walking dunes of Napeague Harbor, spread a blanket on this wide stretch of sugary sand. Families return year after year for a prime front row seat at the edge of the Atlantic and water that's great for swimming, paddle boarding and fishing.

◆ Oceanfront Beach Virginia Beach, Virginia

At 89 blocks, the Oceanfront is the longest beach in the city. Its wide yellow sands are divided into two distinct sections. The North End, great for families, is quiet and fairly residential while the South End packs a punch with hotels, waterfront restaurants, music venues and a 4kms boardwalk lined with ice cream shops.

◆ Nags Head Beach Outer Banks, North Carolina

A 2011 beach replenishment reinforced the 18kms long Nags Head shore, protecting it against the wrath of Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, which would batter many of its fragile sister beaches. Settled more than 150 years ago it continues to attract holidaymakers with endless diversions, like snorkelling, sailing, sea kayaking and hang gliding.

Central & South America

◆ Playa Conchal Guanacasteh Costa Rica

The white sands here are made of millions of washed up conchas (shells) that have been crushed to fluffy granules over time. As you walk south, the beach grows wider and more spectacular and Playa Conchal's relatively calm, crystalline waters almost beg you to take a dip in them.

◆ Ipanema Beach Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This sexy city beach near the Dois Irmãos (Two Brothers) mountains may be one of the best places on Earth to people watch. Boardwalk stands sell beer and cachaça, a sugarcane spirit, to tanned, well built beachgoers.

◆ Atacamesh Province of Esmeraldas, Ecuador

Bounce up to any of the thatched roofed bars lining the wide beach of Atacames, order a fruity cocktail and let the reggaeton, cumbia and merengue rhythms move you. Locals come to Atacames mostly to party, especially on weekends and holidays and all throughout the dry season (June through September).

◆ Playa Brava Punta del Este, Uruguay

The iconic La Mano statue by Chilean artist Mario Irarrázabal has made this beach Punta del Este's most photogenic stretch of sand. The sculpture, which has massive concrete and plastic fingers reaching through the beige beach, is only part of what makes the playa stand out among Punta del Este's long peninsula of enviable shorelines.

◆ Pinamar Beach Pinamar, Argentina

Pinamar Beach is where porteños on the hunt for warmth and sunshine go on holiday in the southern hemisphere's summer. High season peaks in January, though March generally offers better deals and more privacy.

◆ Playa Negra Concón, Chile

The rocky coastline in this seaside town, 25kms north of Valparaíso, is awash in fine black sands rich in volcanic mineral. That dark hue attracts heat, but don't let the beach fool you: The water stays cold in these parts, thanks to the Humboldt Current coming up the coast. Still, people enjoy swimming in the comparatively gentle waves.

◆ Inch Strand Dingle Peninsula, Ireland

If it's epic beauty you seek, visit this 5kms long stretch of golden sand and dunes in the southern foothills of the Slieve Mish mountains, where the 1970 classic Ryan's Daughter was filmed. A certified Blue Flag beach (a mark of high environmental and quality standards), it's popular for angling, surfing, windsurfing and sunbathing.

◆ Dona Ana Beach Lagos, Algarve, Portugal

Of all the magnificent beaches that define the Algarve coast, in southern Portugal, the scenic coves in Lagos may be the most beautiful, thanks to their dramatic limestone cliffs and clear turquoise waters.

Lifes a beach (from left) The people are as interesting as the sand and surf in California's Venice Beach. Brazil's Ipanema Beach is a truly exotic location. A more genteel option could be Nags Head in North Carolina or for a change of pace you could sample the crystal clear waters of Dona Ana Beach in Portugal.

◆ **Las Salinas Beach**
Ibiza, Spain

This beach is a social place, whether you chat with your neighbours on the white lounge chairs or spend time at one of the many nightclubs, where young socialites mingle with Spanish footballers. Las Salinas is a fun time, but the sand and surf aren't too shabby.

◆ **La Grande Plage**
Biarritz, France

La Grande Plage at France's ritziest Atlantic coast beach is a wide, sweeping arc backed by stately 19th century residences and bookended by rugged cliffs. The reliable waves draw surfers by the bus load and the supermodel types who cheer them on, all of which makes for great people watching during the busy summer months.

◆ **Cala Mariolu**
Sardinia, Italy

It's hard to see the beach for the beachgoers during high season on Sardinia's congested Costa Smeralda beaches. So make a break for this hidden snorkelling cove on the Gulf of Orosei, where cliffs shelter a secret inlet and turquoise waters lap at smooth white stones. Hiking to the beach down the cliffs is tricky.

◆ **Red Beach**
Santorini, Greece

Don't expect long white sand beaches when traveling to Santorini. Hidden inlets, many with red or charcoal hued sands are much more common here. Visitors to this island rarely skip Red Beach, which gets its name from its volcanic rock sands.

Australia & The Pacific

◆ **Byron Bay**
New South Wales, Australia

For everything that Australia has to offer its residents and visitors, there is still one thing that draws visitors to Australia more than anything else and that is its beaches. The sparkling sands of Australia's most easterly point attracts visitors from all over the world.

◆ **Bondi Beach**
New South Wales, Australia

If you're looking for a beach full of things to do, there is nowhere better to go than Sydney's Bondi Beach. One of the world's most famous beaches, Bondi Beach offers visitors everything from surf competitions to beachside coffee shops. With about 1km of the world's softest sand, Bondi Beach is definitely one stop that any visitor to Australia has to make.

◆ **Gold Coast**
Queensland, Australia

The Gold Coast is a collection of nearly two dozen beaches and provides a very glamorous beach-going experience. The sea is clean, blue, and very warm in the summer. Main Beach and Surfer's Paradise are both world renowned for their excellent surfing. For a perfect family outing, BBQ's or stroll on the shore you could check out Broadbeach and Nobby Beach.



GET BEACHED (clockwise from below left) Beaches don't get any more iconic than Bondi. Sun, sand, surf and French flair in Biarritz. Pure and perfect in Mt Maunganui, New Zealand. Another spectacular day dawns on Surfers Paradise. Natural beauty and retail distractions on Patong Beach, Thailand.



◆ **Whitehaven Beach**
Queensland, Australia

Located on Whitsunday Island in Queensland, Whitehaven Beach has been voted by many visitors as one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Few who have walked on its baby powder white sand will argue against its magnificence.

◆ **Cable Beach**
Western Australia, Australia

If you're looking for a beach that combines culture and a tropical resort atmosphere then Cable Beach in Western Australia is the ultimate destination. Cable Beach is known for its Chinese and Japanese pearl divers and great views of the sunset.

◆ **Wineglass Bay**
Tasmania, Australia

Anyone looking for a bit of adventure will welcome the search for this isolated little beach. Located in Freycinet National Park in Tasmania, Wineglass Bay is shaped like a perfect smile.

◆ **Hyams Beach**
New South Wales, Australia

If your desire is to catch a glimpse of some of Australia's wildlife, then Hyams Beach just three hours south of Sydney in Jervis Bay New South Wales is probably right up your alley.

◆ **Bells Beach**
Victoria, Australia

If you're hungry for a little competition, then Bells Beach is definitely the Australian beach for you. Home of the longest running surf competition in the world, Bells Beach is world famous for one thing, surfing.

◆ **Piha Beach**
West Auckland, New Zealand

The birthplace of Malibu board riding in New Zealand, Piha is the country's most famous surfing beach. It's rugged cliffs frame the sea while the commanding Lion Rock stands guard and the lush bush of the Waitakere Ranges provide plenty of opportunity for exploration, walking and picnicking.

◆ **Kaiteriteri Beach**
Nelson, New Zealand

A short drive from the Nelson Township, picturesque Kaiteriteri is decidedly the best beach in the South Island of New Zealand. Golden sand and the highest rate of sunshine hours in New Zealand mean Kaiteriteri Beach has all the prerequisites for an idyllic seaside experience.

◆ **Ocean Beach**
Mount Maunganui, New Zealand

Mount Maunganui is something of an oddity in that it has both an ocean beach and a harbour beach, Pilot Bay. The placid harbour beach is good for swimming while Ocean Beach is more dramatic, and popular for surfing and bodysurfing. For good reason, Mount Maunganui is dubbed "Surf City."

◆ **Ninety Mile Beach**
Northland, New Zealand

Whether you count in miles or kilometres, it's still a really long beach. While the name Ninety Mile Beach is actually a misnomer (it's really only 55 miles long, and New Zealanders use kilometres rather than miles), it is justly a top tourist destination for its staggering beauty.

◆ **Natadola Beach, Viti Levu, Fiji**

A turquoise sea, pure white sand and palm shade trees, Natadola Beach has it all. The beach has earned a reputation as the greatest treasure of Fiji's main island, Viti Levu. The reef forms a lagoon, providing a haven for swimming and at low tide you can walk all the way out to the reef.

Asia

◆ Bo'ao Yudai Beach, Hainan, China

Locals on the island province of Hainan, nicknamed China's Hawaii, consider Yudai Beach the region's most precious gem. This crescent shaped sliver of white sand snaking between the Wanquan River and the South China Sea is said to be the world's narrowest and longest stretch of beach separating the sea from freshwater.

◆ White Beach, Boracay, The Philippines

Royal palm trees hang gracefully over the crystalline sands of White Beach, which is often included in the world's best lists. Visitors from Asia and beyond flock to its mythic shores and despite its far-flung location, they come for its glassy waters, snorkelling and boho-chic beach shacks.

◆ Patong Beach, Phuket, Thailand

Patong's 2km strip of golden sand is one of the most popular beaches in Phuket. It's a place to watch the world go by. By day, Patong Beach is a hive of activity with parasail and Jet Ski operators, boat drivers, beach vendors and masseuses all vying for the attention of the many visitors relaxing on the beach chairs.

◆ Salang Beach, Tioman Island, Malaysia

The largest island on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, Tioman is also by far the most famous of them all. The island's beauty has long attracted visitors to its shores and captivated the imagination of countless others. For those who love to party by the beach as the sun goes down, Salang Beach with its trendy nightspots is the place to dance the night away.

◆ Yalong Bay Beach, Sanya, China

Sanya in Hainan Island is the best choice for a southern China beach holiday after your trip on mainland China. Yalong Bay Beach is about 30 minutes driving from Sanya Airport and 20 minutes drive to downtown Sanya. The most popular beach for relaxing in Sanya, Yalong Bay Beach is a clean sandy beach with crystal clear waters away from the hustle and bustle.

◆ Datai Bay Beach, Langkawi, Malaysia

Langkawi on Malaysia's west coast is one of the country's premier holiday destinations. The island offers beautiful beaches of white sand, palm trees, sandy coves, clear waters and coral.

◆ Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui, Thailand

Chaweng is Koh Samui's busiest and biggest town, which is centred on the island's best beach. Chaweng Beach is the longest beach on the island and is the major centre for both entertainment and shopping. Chaweng is also nightlife central with its sophisticated cocktail bars and restaurants.

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



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS NEAR SOME OF THE FEATURED BEACHES INCLUDE:



**Innseason Resorts
The Falls at Ogunquit C309**
This resort is situated on Ogunquit's famous trolley route.
639 Main St., Ogunquit, Maine



Barclay Towers 1407
Steps from Virginia Beach, with Atlantic Ocean views.
809 Atlantic Ave.,
Virginia Beach, Virginia



**Barrier Island Station
- Kitty Hawk 3679**
Set in a maritime forest adjoining a 700 acre wildlife preserve. 1 Cypress Knee Trail, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina



**Palm Beach Shores Resort and
Vacation Villas 4856**
Relax by the pool or on the beach.
181 Ocean Ave., Palm Beach Shores,
Florida



**Pacific Shores Fractional
Residences A717**
An oceanfront resort on Vancouver Island. 1-1600 Strouglar Rd., Nanoose Bay, British Columbia, Canada



Mayan Palace Nuevo Vallarta 4350
A beachfront resort overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Ave. Paseo de las Moras, Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico



**PPAI Hard Rock Hotel &
Casino Punta Cana A795**
Enjoy nine restaurants, a large casino and white sand beaches.
Blvd. Turistico Este. Km 28, Macao, Dominican Republic



Mariner Shores Resort 1726
A family-friendly resort near Burleigh Heads National Park.
260 The Esplanade, Miami, Queensland, Australia

RENTAL RESORTS

**7 nights from AU\$1400/NZ\$1494
Pono Kai Resort**
Immerse yourself in the island's culture and traditions at this oceanfront resort.
4-1250 Kuhio Hwy., Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii

**7 nights from AU\$599/NZ\$649
Royal Decameron Issil RA94**
Soothing green gardens and traditional Moroccan/African inspired design await you at this all inclusive resort.
Circuit De La Palmeraie Marrakech, Morocco

Perfect Piazzas

SEVEN AMAZING SQUARES YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF

BY GARY WALTHER

Venice's Piazza San Marco. Siena's Piazza del Campo. Piazza della Signoria in Florence. The iconic piazzas of Italy have played central roles in the country's history; that you even recognise their names underscores their significance.

Centuries after these town squares were created, their gravitational pull is as strong as ever. The piazza is still the main stage for Italian city life, where locals and visitors stroll, flirt, shop, chat and sit back to watch the street theatre unfold. But not all of Italy's central squares are as famous as Rome's Campo de' Fiori. Here are seven lesser known piazzas that offer as much architectural and communal drama, without all the crowds.



Piazza Maggiore, Bologna



Piazza del Duomo, Siracusa.



Piazza Maggiore, Bologna.



Lucca Piazza dell'Anfiteatro.



Piazza degli Scacchi, Marostica.



San Cerbone Cathedral, Piazzì Garibaldi, Massa Marittima.

Massa Marittima Piazza Garibaldi

This walled hill town is in “the other Tuscany,” the slice of the province along the Tyrrhenian Sea known as the Maremma. A slightly askew triangle, defined by the stairs and facade of the 13th century San Cerbone Cathedral, the piazza is the setting for Lirica in Piazza, a performing arts festival that has been hosted here for the past 28 years. For a few days each August, the small triangle becomes an opera stage, the perfect setting for this public space that is itself an aria.

Siracusa Piazza del Duomo

The Roman philosopher Cicero described the temple that stood on this spot 2,000 years ago as a beacon, its gilded doors reflecting the sunshine and helping sailors guide their ships. Over the millennia the house of worship was repurposed, destroyed, plundered, rebuilt and redecorated which resulting in a semi-oval public space whose surrounding buildings articulate the styles of nearly every century. Columns of the duomo were taken from the Doric temple of Athena, previously on this spot. The Palazzo Beneventano del Bosco represents the restrained symmetry of the 16th century. The facade of the cathedral, rebuilt after an earthquake in 1693, is entirely Sicilian Baroque with ornate wrought iron gates and elegant statues. Walk around this piazza and it's as if you were walking through time.

Bologna Piazza Maggiore

This may be the most underrated piazza in Italy. Here the stern Italian Gothic brick Basilica of San Petronio faces off against the grandly arcaded Palazzo del Podestà. The piazza's long ends are a study in architectural history, with the squinty eyed, pointed windows of the Palazzo d'Accursio and its late medieval sibling, the Palazzo dei Notai, staring down the arches and pilasters of the

Renaissance Palazzo dei Banchi. Stroll through this former seat of money changers and bankers today and you'll find yourself embraced not by the echoes of tinkling gold coins, but by the aromas emanating from a web of narrow streets housing some of the city's finest food markets.

Marostica Piazza degli Scacchi

The name means the Plaza of Chess, a reference to this medieval piazza's giant chessboard. On the second weekend of September in even numbered years (2014), it is the setting for a spectacle in which performers dressed in costumes of the Middle Ages enact a live chess game. The show is allegedly based on a match played in the 15th century to settle a romantic rivalry between aristocrats for the hand of Lionora Parisio, whose father was the lord of Marostica Castle. Even if it's not true, it makes for a fantastic backstory.

Lucca Piazza dell'Anfiteatro

Piazas are often brilliant accumulations of history and this one is no exception. The elliptical shape reflects its Roman origin as a stadium for large-scale events and gladiatorial games. Over the centuries though, it has lived many lives as a prison, a storage place for salt, a communal vegetable garden and terraced housing, all of which nibbled away at the grand shape. Architect Lorenzo Nottolini restored the amphitheatre in the 19th century. It is now crisply outlined by plain-faced 19th century residential buildings but the remains of Emperor Claudius's earliest structures are just 2 metres below the pavement.

IT'S HIP TO BE SQUARE: (clockwise from left) Sicily's Piazza del Duomo dates from ancient Roman times. A temple to the goddess Athena was on the site of today's cathedral. Piazza Maggiore is the medieval heart of modern day bustling Bologna. Piazza dell'Anfiteatro, in Lucca, is the perfect piazza to experience true alfresco dining. The town of Marostica is famous for it's giant chessboard; where every even year, in September, a game of chess using live pieces is played. The top of triangular Piazza Garibaldi in Tuscany, is formed by the San Cerbone Cathedral.



Piazza delle Erbe, Verona.



Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere, Rome.

Rome Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere

In a city of operatic Baroque piazzas, this one stands out as a light, lilting piece. It takes its name from one of the oldest churches in Rome (erected circa A.D. 340), which dominates the space. The present structure is an accumulation of additions and subtractions, thankfully, the splendid mosaics inside have remained a constant since the 13th century. The rest of the square is reinforced with buildings built after the 16th century and the piazza remains the living room for residents, the very gentrified once working class quarter across the Tiber.

Verona Piazza delle Erbe

The Palazzo Maffei dominates this long slim triangle, but that's the piazza's only aristocratic touch. The sides are composed of a pleasing miscellany of residential buildings that look as though they were slotted in when a space became available. The effect is not dissimilar to that of a nicely worn in couch. Once you've been amply cradled in the piazza's comfort, spend some time at the Case Mazzanti, a stretch of residences frescoed with allegories of Ignorance, Prudence, Envy and Providence. Dozens of cafés set right in the piazza provide the perfect setting for contemplation.



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN ITALY INCLUDE:

Rental Resorts

Carpediem Roma Golf Club 7 nights from AU\$729/NZ\$779

Just over 20kms from Rome, Carpediem Roma Golf Club is good base for exploring the villages and countryside near Rome. A city overflowing with history, culture and nightlife Rome is a must see for visitors. See the famous sites including the Roman Forum, the Coliseum, Piazza di Spagna (the Spanish Steps) and the Vatican which is the heart of the Catholic Church and home to priceless art treasures. Stop by one of the elegant shops on the via Condotti or visit the Trastevere Area with vibrant nightlife and inexpensive restaurants.

Carpediem Assisi Living Club 7 nights from AU\$849/NZ\$909

The Carpediem Assisi Living Club has an excellent location and beautiful views of the countryside. There is an outdoor pool, tennis, sauna and exercise equipment. With many medieval towns in the vicinity car rental is readily available for excursions beyond the mountain. Horseback riding is also available one and a half kilometres from the resort.

Residence Letojanni 7 nights from AU\$929/NZ\$999

The village residence is situated in a panoramic position overlooking Taormina on the Calabrian coast. On site there is a bar, snack bar children's play room and swimming pool. The stunning views, quiet location and nightly entertainment all make for a great relaxing holiday.

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



**DINING IN
RECIPIES FOR
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Keep it simple, Italian style

IT'S HARD TO THINK OF A MORE ITALIAN INGREDIENT THAN THE HUMBLE TOMATO

ADAPTED FROM "THE TUSCAN SUN COOKBOOK,"
BY FRANCES MAYES AND EDWARD MAYES



TOMATO TOWN: Every Italian region has amazing cuisine but it is hard to go past Tuscany with it's sun ripened tomatoes and breathtaking scenery.

When we think of Italian cuisine we often think of pizza and pasta. Let's start by saying that Italian cuisine simply doesn't exist as there is no single Italian cuisine. Italy has 20 regions and each region or often each province or even each area, has its own culinary tradition. From the north to the south you will find the German style foods in South Tyrol, the African like couscous dishes in Sicily, Tuscany's rustic foods and spicy Calabrian courses.

Most authentic Italian pasta recipes are very simple with few ingredients such as pasta col sugo (pasta with fresh tomato sauce and parmigiano) or pasta col pesto.

So, if you really want to savour and appreciate authentic Italian cuisine – I'll be waiting for you in Italy! In the mean time here is a classic Italian recipe pulled from one of the top selling Italian cookbooks of 2013. The Tuscan Sun Cookbook 🍅

ROASTED TOMATO BRUSCHETTE

60 or so cherry tomatoes, halved,
stem ends trimmed
Half cup extra virgin olive oil
3 tablespoons minced fresh rosemary
3 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves
3 tablespoons fresh oregano leaves
5 garlic cloves, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste
Bruschetta or crostini
(grilled or toasted baguette slices)
Preheat oven to 200 degrees

Arrange tomatoes cut side up on a parchment-lined 12 x 16 sheet pan. Drizzle the olive oil over them, scatter the herbs and garlic, and season with salt and pepper. Bake for two hours, turning the tomatoes once.

Coarsely chop the tomatoes for bruschetta or simply press a tomato onto each crostino.

Leftover tomatoes can be packed into jars, topped with olive oil, and stored in the fridge for a week.

COOK'S NOTE: You may substitute 25 medium tomatoes, quartered or three, large cans of plum tomatoes, drained and quartered for the cherry tomatoes. If you must substitute with dried herbs cut the amount in half.



FAR NORTH

from the madding crowds

BY SHAWN LOW

Far North Queensland (FNQ) is perhaps the best example of the diversity in Australia's landscape. This 273,000-plus sq. km swathe of land nestled in the northeast corner of the continent is home to rural mining towns, sugarcane and banana plantations, dense patches of tropical rainforest, dusty former gold-mining towns, more than 70 national parks, the vast barren outback and a coastline that plays host to the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef.

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The world's largest coral reef system, The Great Barrier Reef.



One of the best ways to exploring the Barrier Reef



Cairns Esplanade



The public swimming lagoon in Cairns.

A ROAD TRIP IS THE PERFECT WAY TO EXPLORE FNQ. JUMP IN YOUR CAR OR 4WD AND BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY IN BUZZY CAIRNS.

CAIRNS

The Far North's largest city is also a popular transport hub: domestic and international visitors fly into this laidback provincial city to pick up a car, book tours to the Great Barrier Reef and party hard before heading out to the rest of the region.

Cairns is a great place to bookend your FNQ trip. Take a dip in the stunning man-made foreshore lagoon and soak in some sun. Towel off and wander to the nearby *Salt House* (Marina Pt, 6/2 Pier Point Rd) for an afternoon pint or a sundowner. This sleek contemporary restaurant-bar serves up great food and killer cocktails in a picturesque setting beside the yacht club.

The arty set should check out the *Cairns Regional Gallery* (40 Abbott St) and the *Centre of Contemporary Arts* (96 Abbott St). The former, set in a 1936 heritage building, hosts high quality visiting exhibitions such as Goya's etchings. The latter plays host to edgy contemporary art and has a superb gift shop

stocking reasonably priced prints, crafts and jewellery produced by Aussies.

For those seeking adventure, dive shops dot the city and you can easily pick up your PADI scuba diving license in a couple of days. In fact, the Great Barrier Reef is probably one of the most scenic places in the world to tickle your diving fancy and makes for good bragging rights. Check out *Deep Sea Divers Den* (319 Draper St) or *Pro-Dive* (cnr Shield and Grafton St).

The obvious highlight of a visit to Cairns is a trip to the stunning Great Barrier Reef. Countless tour operators run a multitude of tours. If you're pressed for time you can visit the reef on a day tour, which generally includes transport, lunch and snorkelling gear. Each operator has a different stomping ground: you could visit Paradise Reef, Green Island, Lizard Island, Moore Reef... the list goes on. A rule of thumb: the outer reefs take longer to get to but are less damaged and unspoiled.

TO THE TIP: CAPE YORK PENINSULA

The drive to Australia's northernmost tip is strictly 4WD-only and then only passable outside of the wet season. The 925 km journey from Cairns takes you up the peninsula to Cape York and is arguably one of Australia's most iconic road trips.

The journey requires careful planning (or a tour) and takes you through cattle stations, old homesteads, Aboriginal communities, the mining town of Weipa and Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park before finishing at the tip of Cape York. The intriguing Torres Strait Islands lie beyond. To begin your adventure, pick up Ron and Viv Moon's Cape York – An Adventurer's Guide.



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THE TABLELANDS LOOP

Embark on a counter-clockwise loop of this hilly region, passing through picture-postcard towns and agricultural farmland in an ambling fashion.

Start your journey at the chilled-out town of Kuranda, best accessed via the historical Kuranda Scenic Railway, which commenced operations in 1891. This 34 km rail journey wends its way from Cairns through 15 tunnels and jaw-dropping vistas. After fossicking for handicrafts and local produce at the local markets, head back down via the *Skyrail Rainforest Cableway*. The Skyrail is one of the world's longest gondola cableways and a modern counterpoint to the Kuranda train. If you take the Skyrail, you'll need to book a transfer back to Cairns as it terminates at Smithfield, 15 minutes from the city.

Continue south, passing through Mareeba, the administrative heart of the agricultural region. Here, the town's main street evokes mid-west America and makes for a perfect setting for an R. M. Williams commercial. Stop by the *Mt Uncle Distillery* (1819 Chewko Rd, Walkamin) for a tasting of its superb whisky rum and honey vodka and a wood-fired pizza or two.

Push on back south past Mareeba to Atherton, a good in-between stop for visiting nearby Herberton and Yungaburra. Route 52 takes you to charming Herberton, where pretty jacaranda trees line the streets with its backdrop of historical buildings. A must-see here is the *Herberton Historic Village* (6 Broadway St). The site houses a private collection of 50 painstakingly restored buildings – each packed with historical objects – dating back to 1870. Stop for a surprisingly good fish burger at the *Jacaranda Coffee Lounge* (52 Grace St) before heading on to the eerie Mt Hypipamee Crater. From the car park, go past Dinner Falls – a series of waterfalls – to this 128 m water-filled crater: certainly not for those who suffer from vertigo!

Return to Highway 1 and loop northeast to Yungaburra. Cairns locals retreat to delightful Yungaburra for a spa retreat and a touch of top-quality country dining.

The Yungaburra Markets, held every fourth Saturday of the month, offers visitors a chance to mingle with the locals and stock up on craft and produce. Get directions from the tourist information centre to the platypus-viewing platforms and stake out for a sight of these cute monotremes paddling along the stream. Finish your visit with a meal at *Flynn's* (17 Eacham Rd). Chef and owner Liam Flynn serves up an ever-changing mix of award-winning European and Mediterranean-inspired dishes made from local produce.

From Yungaburra, make a slight detour south towards Malanda. Join a guided rainforest walk and you might spot a tree kangaroo. The animal parade continues at Malanda Falls – look out for saw-shelled turtles and pademelons.

Heading a further 20 minutes south from Malanda will lead you to Falls Circuit near Millaa Millaa. Sate your appetite for waterfalls by doing a loop of the four falls along this 16 km route: Millaa Millaa, Zillie, Ellinjaa and Mungalli Falls. Reward your hard work with delicious homemade ice cream and yoghurt at *Mungalli Creek Dairy* (251 Brooks Rd).

On the route back to Cairns, drop by Lake Barrine in the Crater Lakes National Park. This popular, croc-free waterhole is perfect for a dip during the summer. If the water's too cold, go for a walk along a 5 km track through thick rainforest ringing the lake. *The Lake Barrine Rainforest Teahouse* (Gillies Hwy) overlooks the lake and offers Devonshire tea in addition to 45-minute lake cruises. Nearby Lake Eacham, is another idyllic spot with crystal-clear waters – jump off the swimming pontoon and keep your eyes out for turtles!



Skyrail Rainforest Cableway



A Fan palm tree canopy found in the Daintree Rainforest

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ON THE ROAD

If you're hiring a car, note that you're not allowed to take 2WDs along unsealed roads. If you're planning a road trip up north through the Cape York Peninsula via Cape Tribulation and the Bloomfield Track or heading west along the Savannah Way, you'll need to hire or drive your own 4WD.

Note that mobile phone reception is patchy and you should always ensure your vehicle has spares. Carry ample drinking water in the event of a breakdown. Note also that the region is impassable during The Wet (November–April). If you're game for adventure, look up 'Cape York River Crossing' on YouTube for some hairy 4WD action.

Most of the unsealed roads become corrugated towards the end of tourist season, making for a bumpy ride. When the road narrows down to a single lane, take care and give way to oncoming road trains... yes, they have (unofficial) right of way.

If you're taking alcohol into the region, you'll need to respect restrictions put in place around 'dry' Aboriginal communities. The restrictions either ban or limit the amount and type of alcohol you can carry into a community.



Bloomfield Falls



Cassowary

PORT DOUGLAS AND AROUND

Sandwiched between Daintree National Park and the Great Barrier Reef's Lizard Island, flashy Port Douglas makes for a perfect launching pad for further exploration of the region. The town is a great place to splash out on some of the best food in the region.

Book a meal at *Harrisons* (22 Wharf St): here, chef-owner Spencer Patrick uses his Marco Pierre White training to whip out reasonably priced degustation menus. On Sunday mornings, tip back a perfect espresso at *Origin Espresso* (cnr Grant and Warner St) before a spot of craft shopping at the *Port Douglas Markets* (Anzac Park, end of Macrossan St).

From Port, strike north towards the Daintree region. Mossman Gorge, has a superb 2.4 km walk around the idyllic gorge and surrounding rainforest or you can sign up for one of the Kuku-Yalanji Dreamtime Walks at the visitors' centre. For a bite to eat, *Mojo's* (41 Front St) serves delish fusion Aussie-French fare.

Continue on 24 km north towards Cape Tribulation – cross the Daintree River cable ferry for lush, rainforest-covered hills that tumble coastward. There's plenty to see and do in this region: sign up for kayak fishing tours via Cape Tribulation Paddle Trek and spot dugong along the way.

The *Daintree Discovery Centre* (Tulip Oak Rd) has a fantastic aerial walkway that gives visitors a bird's eye view of the rainforest and its animal species. On the topic of animals, keep your eyes peeled for elusive cassowaries while touring the region. This large prehistoric-looking flightless bird is endangered and a rare sight.

The stretch of road has abundant turn-offs into creeks and stretches of pristine beaches: just take a chance on one and be surprised. Another surprise is the *Daintree Ice Cream Company* (Lot 100, Cape Tribulation Rd), which serves up ice cream made with fruit and produce from its orchard.

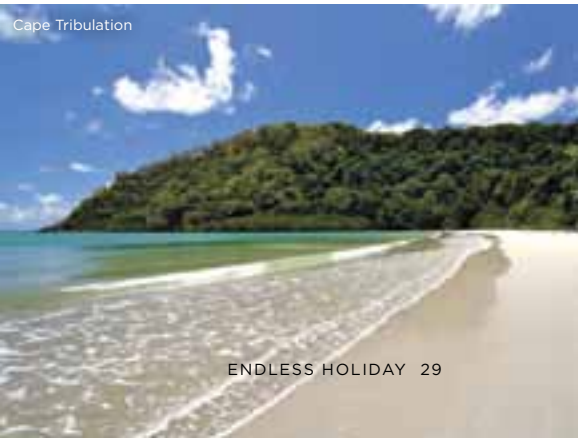
This stretch of coastline is part of the Great Barrier Reef and much less visited than the islands off Cairns and The Whitsundays. A gem (pun intended) in the region is Jewell Reef. This pristine reef is popular for sport fishing and well worth the trouble and cost to access. Try a tour through Nomad Sportfishing Adventures.

If you're driving a 4WD, you can push on to historical Cooktown via the Bloomfield Track (otherwise you'll have to go the long way round inland via the Peninsula and Cooktown Developmental roads). Stop by the impressive Bloomfield Falls (aka Wujal Wujal Falls) and book a tour run by the Walker family. You can also book some well-regarded tours on the site. The tours, run by indigenous elder Willie Gordon from Cooktown, take in Aboriginal rock art, history and Dreamtime stories.

Cooktown is famous for being the site of Australia's first non-indigenous settlement. In 1770, then-Lieutenant James Cook struck a reef offshore and had to set up camp at Cooktown to make repairs. The crew was on the ground for 48 days and pre-dated the First Fleet by eight years! The town today is popular with anglers looking to hook barramundi and trevally. Visit the *James Cook Museum* (50 Helen St) for an in-depth history of Cooktown. 2



Port Douglas overview



Cape Tribulation



Mossman River Daintree National Park.



Sunrise at Palm Cove



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND INCLUDE:



Ramada Resort Port Douglas

Nestled among rainforest gardens, water features and a lagoon style swimming pool, Ramada Resort Port Douglas is a tropical oasis with sprawling grounds and brilliant resort facilities all within easy access of the World Heritage areas the region has to offer. The resort is an easy five minute stroll from iconic Four Mile Beach and a short drive away from the cosmopolitan cafes, restaurants and bars of Macrossan Street and Marina Port Douglas.

3 nights from
AU\$349/NZ\$379** 1 brm
up to Mar 2014 availability

4 nights from
AU\$469/NZ\$499 1 brm
up to Mar 2014 availability



Mantra Trilogy

Located on the Cairns Esplanade, Mantra Trilogy is within walking distance to some of Cairns best restaurants, the Reef Casino, Cairns Central Shopping Mall and the newly developed Cairns Lagoon. All of the rooms are comfortably furnished with spacious balconies and some with ocean views. Onsite guests can laze on the sun deck by the pool overlooking the ocean. Just a short walk from the hotel you can take advantage of the location by catching a charter boat out to the reef which departs daily from the Cairns Marina.

7 nights from
AU\$769/NZ\$829 1 brm



Half Moon Bay Resort

Half Moon Bay Resort is situated at Yorkeys Knob, a delightful tranquil location on the northern beaches of Cairns. Located just 10 minutes north of Cairns Airport and 15 minutes from the city centre, the resort features a freeform salt water pool with spa pool attached and BBQ area. It is within easy walking distance of local restaurants, the local yacht club and marina and the Yorkeys Knob shopping centre.

7 nights from
AU\$779/NZ\$839 1 brm



Marlin Cove Resort

Nestled near the beautiful Trinity Beach, Marlin Cove Resort is a mere stone's throw away from an afternoon swim, a shopping spree in fabulous boutiques and a romantic alfresco dinner. With the accommodation set among a picturesque rainforest corridor you have the opportunity to frolic with native animals and birds as well as spend long restful hours at the spa or sandy saltwater lagoon pool. More than your average Cairns beach resort, Marlin Cove Resort is a refreshing departure from your humdrum holiday.

7 nights from
AU\$899/NZ\$969 1 brm



Mantra Amphora

Mantra Amphora has a stunning location on the Esplanade in Palm Cove, just metres from the beach. The resort features a spectacular central swimming lagoon with many coves and nooks shaded by massive palm trees. Palm Cove is fast becoming the Riviera of tropical North Queensland and Mantra Amphora provides the ideal base to explore the surrounding area. A mere thirty minutes drive north from the bustle of central Cairns, Palm Cove is for those seeking luxury amidst palm fringed tranquillity. The Cove is ideally situated between Port Douglas and Cairns, giving easy access to the multitude of day trips available.

7 nights from
AU\$699/NZ\$749 1 brm

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2 Mantra Wings Resort Gold Coast Qld

Just two minutes from the city heart of Surfers Paradise and within minutes of the Gold Coast Convention Centre and Broadbeach cafe precinct, Wings combines an unrivalled position with a peaceful atmosphere. The resort provides a variety of activities including tennis courts, lagoon swimming pool, sauna, waterfalls and a grotto style spa.

7 nights from
AU\$929/NZ\$999 2 brm



1 Breakfree Aanuka Resort Coffs Harbour NSW

Just 2kms from Coffs Harbour city, BreakFree Aanuka Beach Resort is an absolute beachfront tropical style resort ideal for families and couples. You will love the endless recreation facilities including an outdoor rock pool with slide, children's pool and play area, cave spas, tennis courts, mini putt putt golf, beach volleyball and Diggers Beach just a short stroll from your room.

7 nights from
AU\$899/NZ\$969 2 brm

40



3 Australis Sovereign Gold Coast Qld

Australis Sovereign Hotel provides excellent accommodation minutes away from the beach and the vibrant town centre of Surfers Paradise. The area offers sensational shopping, restaurants, nightlife, adventure parks and water based activities. A lagoon style swimming pool with a waterfall, children's wading pool and tropical landscaping ensure you will be rejuvenated throughout your stay.

7 nights from
AU\$799/NZ\$859 1 brm



4 Breakfree Great Sandy Straits Hervey Bay Qld

Located in the aquatic playground of Hervey Bay, Breakfree Great Sandy Straits Marina Resort has absolute water front and is the only resort to offer uninterrupted views of the Bay and Marina. Hervey Bay is famous for its whale watching and the gateway to Fraser Island. While at the resort, there's a wide range of shopping and eateries to discover.

7 nights from
AU\$599/NZ\$649 1 brm



7 Allegra Hervey Bay Hervey Bay Qld

Ideally positioned at Hervey Bay's magnificent Shelly Beach and overlooking World Heritage listed Fraser Island. Allegra beachfront apartments feature beautiful alfresco terraces or balconies with designer kitchens, master suites and zoned air conditioning.

7 nights from
AU\$919/NZ\$989 2 brm



10 Spencer on Byron Auckland NZ

A combination of luxury accommodation and award winning dining with panoramic views of Auckland Harbour and surrounds. Just 500 metres from Takapuna Beach and only 10 minutes from Auckland.

4 nights from
AU\$669/NZ\$709 1 brm



5 Wanaka Villas at Heritage Village Wanaka NZ

These large two storey villas are luxuriously appointed and situated just minutes from Wanaka, Standard features include a fully kitted designer kitchen in a contemporary open plan setting, as well as a gas fire for cosy winter evenings. There's also the tennis court and gym to keep you entertained.

7 nights from
AU\$929/NZ\$989 2 brm



8 Aruba Surf Gold Coast Qld

Only two blocks away from one of the most popular tourist destinations in Queensland, Aruba Surf resort puts you in the centre of the action! Close to Broadbeach, take time to enjoy the outdoor pool, spa and BBQ area.

7 nights from
AU\$659/NZ\$709 1 brm



11 Quality Hobart Midcity Hotel Hobart Tasmania

Quality Hobart Midcity Hotel is one of Hobart's leading inner city accommodation hotel. Enjoy meals at ESUS Lounge & Restaurant or simply relax in the comfort of your room and let room service pamper you.

7 nights from
AU\$899/NZ\$969 1 brm



6 Breakfree Rainbow Shores Sunshine Coast Qld

Breakfree Rainbow Shores is located just over 1km from Rainbow Beach on the Sunshine Coast. There are unspoilt sandy beaches, bush walking tracks, wildlife, surfing and trekking. With four swimming pools, a heated spa and children's playground there's plenty of things to do at this popular resort.

7 nights from
AU\$659/NZ\$709 1 brm



9 Arlia Sands Hervey Bay Qld

Hervey Bay is the "Whale Watch" capital of Australia and gateway to beautiful Fraser Island. Arlia Sands apartments are situated in the middle of Torquay, 60 metres from Hervey Bays' best beach. This is a motel style property.

7 nights from
AU\$779/NZ\$839 2 brm



12 Breakfree Cosmopolitan Gold Coast Qld

This apartment complex is right in the centre of Surfers Paradise. Step outside and you will find all the restaurants, nightclubs, supermarkets and the great shopping of Surfers Paradise.

7 nights from
AU\$629/NZ\$679 1 brm

13



Azamara Club Cruises, Azamara Journey

10 NIGHT Alcazar, Dali & Gaudi Mediterranean Voyage from Lisbon to Barcelona

Ports of call: Lisbon, Cadiz, Gibraltar, Valencia, Mahon Minorca, Port Vendres, Palamos, Barcelona

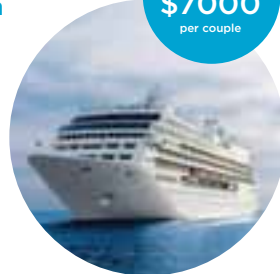
Selected departure in Sept 2014 Oceanview (08) Twin Share

Was from: \$6,855pp

Now from: AUD \$3,349*pp Twin Share

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$7000
per couple



14



APT, MS AmaDagio/ AmaLegro

14 NIGHT Romantic Journey Rhone and Seine River Cruise from Arles to Paris.

Selected departure in Oct 2014 Panoramic Balcony Twin Share

Was from: \$9,485pp

Now from: AUD \$8,925*pp Twin Share

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1120
per couple



15

Norwegian Cruise Line, Pride of America

7 NIGHT Hawaii Cruise round trip Honolulu



Selected departures from Nov 2014 to Jun 2015 Balcony (BF) Twin Share

Was from: \$2,753pp

Now from: AUD \$2,209*pp Twin Share

Prepaid gratuities of \$90pp are not included.

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1080
per couple

16

Princess Cruises, Diamond Princess

9 NIGHT Japan Cruise



Selected departure in Sep 2014 Balcony (BF) Twin Share

Was from: \$2,199pp

Now from: AUD \$1,699*pp Twin Share

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1000
per couple

17

P&O Cruises, Pacific Pearl

16 NIGHT Bounty Adventure South Pacific Cruise



Selected departure in Oct 2015 Balcony (BA) Twin Share

Was from: \$4,299pp

Now from: AUD \$3,775*pp Twin Share

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1040
per couple



18

Insight Vacations - Country Roads and Vineyards of Italy

15 DAYS

Departs: 21 Sep 2014

Combine your love of travel with your passion for wine! Italy's cultural cities of Rome, Florence, Venice are perfectly complemented by rustic villas in the wine-growing areas. And with expert wine advisors and someone to drive, it makes perfect sense!

WAS: \$5,585pp

NOW: AUD \$4,765*pp

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1600
per couple



19

Trafalgar - Splendours of Japan with Hiroshima

13 DAYS

Journey through the most exciting metropolis in Asia, Tokyo, before trying your hand at sushi making. Taste Sake in Takayama and see mighty Mount Fuji. Experience a dance performance by Geisha and Maiko ladies in Kyoto. Eat a traditional Japanese Ryokan in Kyoto before heading to iconic Hiroshima.

WAS: \$7,350pp

NOW: AUD \$6,799*pp

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1300
per couple



20

APT - Spirit of India 2015

16 DAYS COMPANION FLIES FREE

Discover the magic of India as part of a small group. Delight in the treasures of the Golden Triangle - Delhi, the Taj Mahal, Jaipur. Then explore the remote lower Ganges River on a luxurious river cruise.

- **APT EXCLUSIVE!** 7 nights aboard the brand new RV Ganges Voyager
- Complimentary drinks with meals on board your Lower Ganges River cruise

WAS: \$11,195pp

NOW: AUD \$10,644*pp

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1300
per couple



21

APT - Spain and Portugal Delights 2015

21 DAYS

Companion Fly Free to Europe*

Rich in beauty, history, and tradition, Spain offers something for everyone. Start in Madrid, soak up the magic of Toledo, then embark on a grand tour of Andalusia the home of bullfighting, sherry and flamenco.

WAS: \$12,240pp

NOW: AUD \$11,789*pp

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$1100
per couple



22

Alaska, Canadian Rockies and Hawaii

31 NIGHT

Departs: 8 Sep 2014

Airfare included

Vancouver - Inside Passage - Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, Victoria, Calgary, Lake Louise, Banff, Yoho National Park, Fraser River Valley, Honolulu, Hilo, Mount Kilauea, Kailua, Lahaina - Maui

WAS: \$15,651pp

NOW: AUD \$14,599*pp

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$2100
per couple



23

Globus - Spirit of South America

15 DAYS

Explore the beauty of South America during this exhilarating holiday to Brazil, Argentina and Peru.

WAS: \$6,225pp

NOW: AUD \$5,825*pp

RCI Exchange fee included.

SAVE \$800
per couple

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

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* All prices based on per person, twin share. Subject to availability at time of print. Prices are shown in Australian dollars. Further conditions apply please contact our travel consultant for more information.

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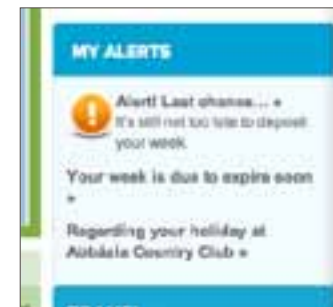
26

Discover the new Holiday Ideas section and travel anywhere - from Manhattan to Mazatlán to Mykonos via articles, resort reviews, pictures, blog posts, member stories and more. Explore great content for detailed information on every destination, from favourite tourist attractions to trendy restaurants, great places to relax, the best spots to take the kids, even off the beaten path beaches and hiking trails. ●

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Searching is easier than ever!



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& that means
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HOLIDAYS	NZ		AU		NZ		AU		NZ		AU	
	2014		2015		2016		2014		2016		2014	
New Year's Day	Jan 01	•	Jan 01	•	Jan 01	•	Jan 01	•	Jan 01	•	Jan 01	•
Day after New Year's Day	Jan 02	•	Jan 02	•	Jan 04	•	Jan 02	•	Jan 04	•	Jan 02	•
Wellington Anniversary Day	Jan 20	•	Jan 19	•	Jan 25	•	Jan 20	•	Jan 25	•	Jan 20	•
Australia Day - National	Jan 27	•	Jan 26	•	Jan 26	•	Jan 27	•	Jan 26	•	Jan 27	•
Auckland Anniversary Day	Jan 27	•	Jan 26	•	Feb 01	•	Jan 27	•	Feb 01	•	Jan 27	•
Nelson Anniversary Day	Feb 03	•	Feb 02	•	Feb 01	•	Feb 03	•	Feb 01	•	Feb 03	•
Waitangi Day	Feb 06	•	Feb 06	•	Feb 06	•	Feb 06	•	Feb 06	•	Feb 06	•
Royal Hobart Regatta Tasmania	Feb 10	•	Feb 09	•	Feb 08	•	Feb 10	•	Feb 08	•	Feb 10	•
Labour Day - WA	Mar 03	•	Mar 02	•	Mar 07	•	Mar 03	•	Mar 07	•	Mar 03	•
Taranaki Anniversary Day	Mar 10	•	Mar 09	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•
Canberra Day - ACT	Mar 10	•	Mar 09	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•
Eight Hour Day - TAS	Mar 10	•	Mar 09	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•
Labour Day - VIC	Mar 10	•	Mar 09	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•	Mar 14	•	Mar 10	•
Otago Anniversary Day	Mar 24	•	Mar 23	•	Mar 21	•	Mar 24	•	Mar 21	•	Mar 24	•
Good Friday	April 18	•	April 03	•	Mar 25	•	April 18	•	Mar 25	•	April 18	•
Easter Saturday - Except TAS & WA	April 19	•	April 04	•	Mar 26	•	April 19	•	Mar 26	•	April 19	•
Easter Monday	April 21	•	April 06	•	Mar 28	•	April 21	•	Mar 28	•	April 21	•
Easter Tuesday - TAS	April 22	•	April 07	•	Mar 29	•	April 22	•	Mar 29	•	April 22	•
Southland Anniversary Day	April 22	•	April 07	•	Mar 29	•	April 22	•	Mar 29	•	April 22	•
ANZAC Day	April 25	•	April 25	•	April 25	•	April 25	•	April 25	•	April 25	•
May Day - NT	May 05	•	May 04	•	May 02	•	May 05	•	May 02	•	May 05	•
Queen's Birthday	June 02	•	June 01	•	June 06	•	June 02	•	June 06	•	June 02	•
Western Australia Day	June 02	•	June 01	•	June 06	•	June 02	•	June 06	•	June 02	•
Queens Birthday National - Except WA	June 09	•	June 08	•	June 13	•	June 09	•	June 13	•	June 09	•
Picnic Day - NT	Aug 04	•	Aug 03	•	Aug 01	•	Aug 04	•	Aug 01	•	Aug 04	•
Canterbury (South) Anniversary Day	Sept 22	•	Sept 28	•	Sept 26	•	Sept 22	•	Sept 26	•	Sept 22	•
Queens Birthday - WA	Sept 29	•	Sept 28	•	Sept 25	•	Sept 29	•	Sept 25	•	Sept 29	•
Labour Day ACT, NSW, QLD & SA	Oct 06	•	Oct 05	•	Oct 03	•	Oct 06	•	Oct 03	•	Oct 06	•
Hawkes' Bay Anniversary Day	Oct 24	•	Oct 23	•	Oct 21	•	Oct 24	•	Oct 21	•	Oct 24	•
Labour Day	Oct 27	•	Oct 26	•	Oct 24	•	Oct 27	•	Oct 24	•	Oct 27	•
Marlborough Anniversary Day	Nov 03	•	Nov 02	•	Oct 31	•	Nov 03	•	Oct 31	•	Nov 03	•
Recreation Day - TAS	Nov 03	•	Nov 02	•	Nov 07	•	Nov 03	•	Nov 07	•	Nov 03	•
Melbourne Cup Day - VIC	Nov 04	•	Nov 03	•	Nov 01	•	Nov 04	•	Nov 01	•	Nov 04	•
Canterbury Anniversary Day	Nov 14	•	Nov 13	•	Nov 11	•	Nov 14	•	Nov 11	•	Nov 14	•
Chatham Islands	Dec 01	•	Nov 30	•	Nov 28	•	Dec 01	•	Nov 28	•	Dec 01	•
Westland Anniversary Day	Dec 01	•	Nov 30	•	Nov 28	•	Dec 01	•	Nov 28	•	Dec 01	•
Christmas Day	Dec 25	•	Dec 25	•	Dec 27	•	Dec 25	•	Dec 27	•	Dec 25	•
Boxing Day - National, Except SA	Dec 26	•	Dec 26	•	Dec 26	•	Dec 26	•	Dec 26	•	Dec 26	•
Proclamation Day - SA	Dec 26	•		•		•	Dec 26	•		•	Dec 26	•

2014*											
Week	NZ	AU	Friday to Friday				NZ	AU	Saturday to Saturday		
1			Jan 03 - Jan 10						Jan 04 - Jan 11		
2			Jan 10 - Jan 17						Jan 11 - Jan 18		
3	•		Jan 17 - Jan 24				•		Jan 18 - Jan 25		
4	•	•	Jan 24 - Jan 31				•	•	Jan 25 - Feb 01		
5	•		Jan 31 - Feb 07				•		Feb 01 - Feb 08		
6		•	Feb 07 - Feb 14					•	Feb 08 - Feb 15		
7			Feb 14 - Feb 21						Feb 15 - Feb 22		
8			Feb 21 - Feb 28						Feb 22 - Mar 01		
9		•	Feb 28 - Mar 07					•	Mar 01 - Mar 08		
10	•	•	Mar 07 - Mar 14				•	•	Mar 08 - Mar 15		
11			Mar 14 - Mar 21						Mar 15 - Mar 22		
12	•		Mar 21 - Mar 28				•		Mar 22 - Mar 29		
13			Mar 28 - Apr 04						Mar 29 - Apr 05		
14			Apr 04 - Apr 11						Apr 05 - Apr 12		
15	•	•	Apr 11 - Apr 18				•	•	Apr 12 - Apr 19		
16	•	•	Apr 18 - Apr 25				•	•	Apr 19 - Apr 26		
17	•	•	Apr 25 - May 02				•		Apr 26 - May 03		
18		•	May 02 - May 09					•	May 03 - May 10		
19			May 09 - May 16						May 10 - May 17		
20			May 16 - May 23						May 17 - May 24		
21			May 23 - May 30						May 24 - May 31		
22	•	•	May 30 - Jun 06				•	•	May 31 - Jun 07		
23		•	Jun 06 - Jun 13					•	Jun 07 - Jun 14		
24			Jun 13 - Jun 20						Jun 14 - Jun 21		
25			Jun 20 - Jun 27						Jun 21 - Jun 28		
26			Jun 27 - Jul 04						Jun 28 - Jul 05		
27			Jul 04 - Jul 11						Jul 05 - Jul 12		
28			Jul 11 - Jul 18						Jul 12 - Jul 19		
29			Jul 18 - Jul 25						Jul 19 - Jul 26		
30			Jul 25 - Aug 01						Jul 26 - Aug 02		
31		•	Aug 01 - Aug 08					•	Aug 02 - Aug 09		
32			Aug 08 - Aug 15						Aug 09 - Aug 16		
33			Aug 15 - Aug 22						Aug 16 - Aug 23		
34			Aug 22 - Aug 29						Aug 23 - Aug 30		
35			Aug 29 - Sep 05						Aug 30 - Sep 06		
36			Sep 05 - Sep 12						Sep 06 - Sep 13		
37			Sep 12 - Sep 19						Sep 13 - Sep 20		
38	•		Sep 19 - Sep 26				•		Sep 20 - Sep 27		
39		•	Sep 26 - Oct 03					•	Sep 27 - Oct 04		
40		•	Oct 03 - Oct 10					•	Oct 04 - Oct 11		
41			Oct 10 - Oct 17						Oct 11 - Oct 18		
42			Oct 17 - Oct 24						Oct 18 - Oct 25		
43	•		Oct 24 - Oct 31				•		Oct 25 - Nov 01		
44	•	•	Oct 31 - Nov 07					•	Nov 01 - Nov 08		
45			Nov 07 - Nov 14						Nov 08 - Nov 15		
46	•		Nov 14 - Nov 21				•		Nov 15 - Nov 22		
47			Nov 21 - Nov 28						Nov 22 - Nov 29		
48	•		Nov 28 - Dec 05				•		Nov 29 - Dec 06		
49			Dec 05 - Dec 12						Dec 06 - Dec 13		
50			Dec 12 - Dec 19						Dec 13 - Dec 20		
51	•	•	Dec 19 - Dec 26				•	•	Dec 20 - Dec 27		
52		•	Dec 26 - Jan 02						Dec 27 - Jan 03		

* Some affiliated resorts use their own calendars, which may differ from above.
Please verify dates with your home resort before you book.

2015*						
Week	NZ	AU	Friday to Friday	NZ	AU	Saturday to Saturday
1	.		Jan 02 - Jan 09			Jan 03 - Jan 10
2			Jan 09 - Jan 16			Jan 10 - Jan 17
3	.		Jan 16 - Jan 23	.		Jan 17 - Jan 24
4	.	.	Jan 23 - Jan 30	.	.	Jan 24 - Jan 31
5	.		Jan 30 - Feb 06	.		Jan 31 - Feb 07
6	.		Feb 06 - Feb 13			Feb 07 - Feb 14
7			Feb 13 - Feb 20			Feb 14 - Feb 21
8			Feb 20 - Feb 27			Feb 21 - Feb 28
9		.	Feb 27 - Mar 06		.	Feb 28 - Mar 07
10	.	.	Mar 06 - Mar 13		.	Mar 07 - Mar 14
11			Mar 13 - Mar 20			Mar 14 - Mar 21
12	.		Mar 20 - Mar 27	.		Mar 21 - Mar 28
13			Mar 27 - Apr 03	.	.	Mar 28 - Apr 04
14		.	Apr 03 - Apr 10	.	.	Apr 04 - Apr 11
15			Apr 10 - Apr 17			Apr 11 - Apr 18
16			Apr 17 - Apr 24			Apr 18 - Apr 25
17	.	.	Apr 24 - May 01	.	.	Apr 25 - May 02
18		.	May 01 - May 08		.	May 02 - May 09
19			May 08 - May 15			May 09 - May 16
20			May 15 - May 22			May 16 - May 23
21			May 22 - May 29			May 23 - May 30
22	.	.	May 29 - Jun 05	.	.	May 30 - Jun 06
23		.	Jun 05 - Jun 12		.	Jun 06 - Jun 13
24			Jun 12 - Jun 19			Jun 13 - Jun 20
25			Jun 19 - Jun 26			Jun 20 - Jun 27
26			Jun 26 - Jul 03			Jun 27 - Jul 04
27			Jul 03 - Jul 10			Jul 04 - Jul 11
28			Jul 10 - Jul 17			Jul 11 - Jul 18
29			Jul 17 - Jul 24			Jul 18 - Jul 25
30			Jul 24 - Jul 31			Jul 25 - Aug 01
31		.	Jul 31 - Aug 07		.	Aug 01 - Aug 08
32			Aug 07 - Aug 14			Aug 08 - Aug 15
33			Aug 14 - Aug 21			Aug 15 - Aug 22
34			Aug 21 - Aug 28			Aug 22 - Aug 29
35			Aug 28 - Sep 04			Aug 29 - Sep 05
36			Sep 04 - Sep 11			Sep 05 - Sep 12
37			Sep 11 - Sep 18			Sep 12 - Sep 19
38			Sep 18 - Sep 25			Sep 19 - Sep 26
39	.	.	Sep 25 - Oct 02		.	Sep 26 - Oct 03
40		.	Oct 02 - Oct 09		.	Oct 03 - Oct 10
41			Oct 09 - Oct 16			Oct 10 - Oct 17
42	.		Oct 16 - Oct 23	.		Oct 17 - Oct 24
43	.		Oct 23 - Oct 30			Oct 24 - Oct 31
44	.	.	Oct 30 - Nov 06	.	.	Oct 31 - Nov 07
45	.		Nov 06 - Nov 13	.		Nov 07 - Nov 14
46	.		Nov 13 - Nov 20			Nov 14 - Nov 21
47			Nov 20 - Nov 27			Nov 21 - Nov 28
48	.		Nov 27 - Dec 04	.		Nov 28 - Dec 05
49			Dec 04 - Dec 11			Dec 05 - Dec 12
50			Dec 11 - Dec 18			Dec 12 - Dec 19
51	.	.	Dec 18 - Dec 25	.	.	Dec 19 - Dec 26
52	.	.	Dec 25 - Jan 01	.	.	Dec 26 - Jan 02

2016*						
Week	NZ	AU	Friday to Friday	NZ	AU	Saturday to Saturday
1	.	.	Jan 01 - Jan 08	.		Jan 02 - Jan 09
2			Jan 08 - Jan 15			Jan 09 - Jan 16
3			Jan 15 - Jan 22			Jan 16 - Jan 23
4	.	.	Jan 22 - Jan 29	.	.	Jan 23 - Jan 30
5	.		Jan 29 - Feb 05	.		Jan 30 - Feb 06
6	.	.	Feb 05 - Feb 12	.	.	Feb 06 - Feb 13
7			Feb 12 - Feb 19			Feb 13 - Feb 20
8			Feb 19 - Feb 26			Feb 20 - Feb 27
9			Feb 26 - Mar 04			Feb 27 - Mar 05
10		.	Mar 04 - Mar 11		.	Mar 05 - Mar 12
11	.	.	Mar 11 - Mar 18	.	.	Mar 12 - Mar 19
12	.		Mar 18 - Mar 25	.	.	Mar 19 - Mar 26
13	.	.	Mar 25 - Apr 01	.	.	Mar 26 - Apr 02
14			Apr 01 - Apr 08			Apr 02 - Apr 09
15			Apr 08 - Apr 15			Apr 09 - Apr 16
16			Apr 15 - Apr 22			Apr 16 - Apr 23
17	.		Apr 22 - Apr 29	.		Apr 23 - Apr 30
18		.	Apr 29 - May 06		.	Apr 30 - May 07
19			May 06 - May 13			May 07 - May 14
20			May 13 - May 20			May 14 - May 21
21			May 20 - May 27			May 21 - May 28
22			May 27 - Jun 03			May 28 - Jun 04
23	.	.	Jun 03 - Jun 10	.	.	Jun 04 - Jun 11
24		.	Jun 10 - Jun 17		.	Jun 11 - Jun 18
25			Jun 17 - Jun 24			Jun 18 - Jun 25
26			Jun 24 - Jul 01			Jun 25 - Jul 02
27			Jul 01 - Jul 08			Jul 02 - Jul 09
28			Jul 08 - Jul 15			Jul 09 - Jul 16
29			Jul 15 - Jul 22			Jul 16 - Jul 23
30			Jul 22 - Jul 29			Jul 23 - Jul 30
31		.	Jul 29 - Aug 05		.	Jul 30 - Aug 06
32			Aug 05 - Aug 12			Aug 06 - Aug 13
33			Aug 12 - Aug 19			Aug 13 - Aug 20
34		.	Aug 19 - Aug 26			Aug 20 - Aug 27
35			Aug 26 - Sep 02			Aug 27 - Sep 03
36			Sep 02 - Sep 09			Sep 03 - Sep 10
37			Sep 09 - Sep 16			Sep 10 - Sep 17
38			Sep 16 - Sep 23			Sep 17 - Sep 24
39	.		Sep 23 - Sep 30	.	.	Sep 24 - Oct 01
40			Sep 30 - Oct 07		.	Oct 01 - Oct 08
41			Oct 07 - Oct 14			Oct 08 - Oct 15
42			Oct 14 - Oct 21			Oct 15 - Oct 22
43	.		Oct 21 - Oct 28	.		Oct 22 - Oct 29
44	.	.	Oct 28 - Nov 04	.	.	Oct 29 - Nov 05
45	.	.	Nov 04 - Nov 11		.	Nov 05 - Nov 12
46	.		Nov 11 - Nov 18			Nov 12 - Nov 19
47			Nov 18 - Nov 25			Nov 19 - Nov 26
48	.		Nov 25 - Dec 02	.		Nov 26 - Dec 03
49			Dec 02 - Dec 09			Dec 03 - Dec 10
50			Dec 09 - Dec 16			Dec 10 - Dec 17
51			Dec 16 - Dec 23			Dec 17 - Dec 24
52	.	.	Dec 23 - Dec 30	.	.	Dec 24 - Dec 31
53			Dec 30 - Jan 06			Dec 31 - Jan 07

* Some affiliated resorts use their own calendars, which may differ from above. Please verify dates with your home resort before you book.

YOU LOVE A GOOD HOLIDAY DEAL

BONUS WEEKS FOR
Less than \$40 a night!



32

FIJI
Malolo Lailai Lagoon
Resort Club
7 nights From \$249

33

TAHITI
Club Bali Hai Moorea
7 nights From \$99



CLOSER TO HOME... >>



34

BATEMANS BAY
NEW SOUTH WALES
The Moorings
7 nights From \$99

35

MILDURA
VICTORIA
Sunraysia Resort
7 nights From \$139

Take advantage of these anniversary deals!

Bonus Weeks are excess accommodation offered as cash holidays. This means you can enjoy an additional week without using your deposit!

Subject to limited availability. No Spacebank or RCI Points contribution required.

YOU ALWAYS GIVE *a warm* WELCOME

More For Your RCI® Membership

In 2013 RCI added 175 new properties to its global exchange network including resorts in North America, South America, Europe, India and Asia.

“ We are proud of both the number and quality of properties added to the RCI® exchange network in 2013, and our approximately 3.7 million members will be happy to find that their choices have expanded now to nearly 4,500 affiliated resorts across the globe.

We are thrilled to be affiliated with some of the most well respected brands in the hospitality sector as we work together to propel the holiday ownership industry forward.



GORDON GURNIK
- PRESIDENT, RCI.



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RCI ROADSHOW COMING SOON!

RCI Pacific hold Information Sessions throughout the year. Find out where and when our RCI Roadshow is coming to a city near you and get to learn how to make the most of your membership!

www.rcipacific.com.au/roadshows

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VILLANDRY RESERVE

brings yet another vacation option in Brazil to our members. The luxury suites feature terraces overlooking the Bosque Encantado Valley, providing visitors with a serene escape into nature. The property boasts a spa, a bar and lounge, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a heated pool, a wet sauna, a home theater and a bowling alley.

Several impressive properties were also added from existing affiliation agreements. These include a new resort through **Hilton Grand Vacations Club** at the *Trump International Hotel* in Las Vegas; 12 properties by **Club Mahindra** in India; and three new itineraries from **TradeWinds Cruise Club** in St. Maarten, the British Virgin Islands and Guadeloupe.

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



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RCI Silver Service *members memoirs*

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What Dreams are made of...

In 2012 we had a once in a life time holiday starting with autumn in Ontario, Canada. We stayed a week at Carriage Hills Resort in Horseshoe Valley. This was a great spot as you could commute to Toronto and even do a day trip to Niagara Falls. From there it was a short flight to New York, staying at The Manhattan Club. If ever you get the chance to go there grab it with both hands. We were only a block back from Central Park and a couple back from time square – amazing! On the first day we walked to Time Square and Taylor Swift was performing. On another night after seeing a show on Broadway we ran into Snoop Dog and then the Microsoft launch of Windows 8 was happening all around us at the time.

After our exciting time in New York, we travelled to New Orleans for Halloween and there's no place in the world like New Orleans. It was wild and fun. The Resort Wyndham Avenue Plaza organised a ghost tour for us and we were the only lucky ones to get a photo of an actual ghost. "From there we went to the bright lights of Las Vegas staying at Hilton Grand Vacation Club on the strip. Wow! Not much sleep but a lot of fun."

Next we flew to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico to attend our son's wedding. Here we were on a cliff overlooking the Arch - a perfect day in a perfect location.

Thank you to RCI for organising all our accommodation and ensuring everything went smoothly. Our transition from one resort to the next was just perfect!

In 2014 we are heading back to Cabo to meet our brand new granddaughter. What a wonderful life we have and thanks to RCI for being part of that!

- EVELYN & JAMES DEFOE



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The holiday of a lifetime

Seven years ago my husband and I moved from Australia to Canada. Separated by 26 hours and the Pacific Ocean we found it increasingly difficult to meet with our family still in Australia. Costs of flights, availability of accommodation and taking holidays in high season were just some of the issues we faced in seeing each other.

That was until my mum was "suckered" into purchasing time share with RCI. I say "suckered" because, like most I was initially a skeptic. But after eleven amazing RCI holidays over a seven year period (Mexico, Thailand, France, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, India, Hawaii), I'm a skeptic no more!

Mexico, Puerto Vallarta would have to be our favourite. The resort was phenomenal, boasting amazing fine dining restaurants and room service that made you want to stay in for the night. The wonderful night life, relaxing by the pool and lovely friendly and attentive staff made for a fantastic holiday. Puerto Vallarta itself was beautiful - hidden islands, ATV adventures, horse riding, Tequila, (that didn't taste like rubbing alcohol), local markets, authentic street food all added to our unforgettable holiday experience. We've been back since with our newborn daughter.

The above was submitted by
- AUDREY & ROBERT RANGEL'S daughter.

More

RCI MEMBER STORIES

THIS PAGE COULD BE YOURS!

Share your story (250 words) and a photo of your amazing RCI holiday to: marketingsupport@rci.com

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“ We love RCI for making it possible for us to have ongoing adventures with the ones we love. ”

Having a ball abroad

We left Australia flying Qantas to Dubai where we transited to a flight direct to Manchester. My sister welcomed us at the airport and we enjoyed her hospitality enormously whilst in the UK. We also travelled to Newcastle on Tyne and the Lake District. During our time there we caught up with many relatives and friends. We stayed 6 days at the Vermont Hotel in Newcastle before returning to Manchester and on to Heathrow for our flight to Miami, Florida.

In Miami we stayed at the Vacation Villages Resort at Weston for 2 nights then moved on to the Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort in Fort Lauderdale. We found the stay really enjoyable. Our unit was spacious and very comfortable as well as being handy to the beach (100 metres away) and plenty of excellent restaurants.

The staff were very cheerful and helpful. Whilst there we visited Beeton House which was right next door to the resort, a must see visit for anyone staying in Fort Lauderdale. Built back in 1880 by an artist it is an exquisite home with a huge garden.

One of the highlights of our trip was a full day visit to the Everglades and what a day we had! The commentary from our guide was excellent and the very informative tour included a 45

minute airboat ride where we saw alligators, turtles, dolphins, sea cows and an abundant variety of birds. We then had another trip on a flat bottomed boat over a lake where we had a buffet lunch. This was followed by a courageous demonstration of alligator handling tricks with a grand finale involving the trainer holding the upright head of the alligator tucked under his chin. We weren't sure whether he was very brave or just slightly crazy!

The weather in Florida was hot the whole time we were there but we loved it. The timeshares we stayed in were all superb – loads of room, big kitchens and balconies (5th & 9th floor in 2 timeshares) and pools and spas everywhere.

The cruise on Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas represented the very best of cruising with the ship being one of the most technically advanced in the world. Outside every lift area there was a touch screen on the wall that gave you directions and maps to anywhere on the ship. With 6,200 passengers and 2500 crew on board, we had a ball.

The five star meals were superb and they even had a flying fox line that ran for about 100 metres over the central area of the ship. We even had luck playing the pokies on the ship - every time we played we won! Once my wife made a mistake on one machine and after only one press of the button won \$175! Also the

embarking and disembarking from the ship was extremely streamlined, saving us lots of time.

Our final week of timeshare was organised by RCI at Wyndham's Palm Ayre Resort at Pampano Beach, Fort Lauderdale. This proved the most luxurious of all. From here we visited many local museums and tourist attractions which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Our last 3 days were spent at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Miami where we visited the famous Miami South Beach, an amazing set up. With wall to wall restaurants along one side of the road directly opposite the famous beach we found Miami a very beautiful city with lots to enjoy. We flew out of Miami to LAX and on back to Melbourne. All in all we had a very rewarding holiday.

- JOHN & ELEANOR GREENER



Graham Cahill, standing nervously close to the edge!

Magical Malta

We spent a few days in Malta and what a wonderful place it is to visit. The sunrises and sunsets were unbelievable and the crystal clear waters of the blue lagoon were absolutely breathtaking. The caves by the sea were spectacular and this was the place where the Count of Monte Cristo was filmed.

The friendly English speaking locals, the great timeshare resort and the cruise boat to the blue lagoon all made for a fun holiday in the sun. How can you ask for any more than that?

- NELLA SPANO

The themed Casinos were well worth exploring. You could go from Paris to Egypt, to Rome and Venice, to New York, the beach and of course the circus all in one day.

We took advantage of the Deuce and SDX buses with a 24 hour pass. The Deuce services the Casinos, going from Fremont Street at the northern end to the Four Seasons at the southern end. If you want to do a casino tour and keep off your feet and out of the sun this is the way to go. The SDX travels between the Las Vegas premium outlets - a shopaholics dream!

Las Vegas itself may be all about the entertainment and casinos, but it is also a great place to use as a base for exploring the Grand Canyon. The West Rim is home to the Hualapai Indians and of course the now famous Skywalk. The South Rim is perhaps more scenic, but much more crowded. A short walk down the Canyon Rim Trail is rewarded with fewer crowds and some great photo opportunities.

- GRAHAM CAHILL

Thank you RCI

With the help of RCI, the aim of our holiday was to showcase our wonderful country to our well-travelled granddaughters, now resident in Dubai. I was a little anxious at first initially as it was mid July, but Mother Nature was kind to us! The girls spent an action packed four fantastic days at Don Pancho Resort, Bargara. They were able to experience boogie boarding in the surf, explore the gentle tidal lagoon, hunt for sea creatures in the rocks and enjoy a visit to a lavender farm.

More fun was to be had dancing to live music at a local cafe, playing at the giant turtle park, seeing the puppies for sale at Shalom Sunday Markets, but best of all was the bike ride to Mon Repos Turtle Hatchery.

While there were no turtles at this time of year there were several kangaroos lazing in the sun as the eight of us rode by. How Australian is that?

It was then bye bye Bargara and hello Cedar Lake! This magnificent family resort in the Gold Coast Hinterland is only half hour from most attractions in the area. Feeding the bird life, riding lessons and a trail ride at the nearby equestrian centre, canoeing, paddle boating, mini golf and bush walking to Hinze Dam were all at our fingertips.

Further afield was the Australian Outback Spectacular, Albert River Winery, Mt Tamborine and great bush walking in the National Parks. It was just a superb Australian holiday filled with unforgettable experiences.

- DONALD & BARBARA GRIFFITHS



weekenders

Phillip Island... Home of the World's Smallest Penguin

<< PHILLIP ISLAND, AU

BAY OF ISLANDS, NZ >>

The wildlife is part of the main attraction at Phillip Island.



The Island's extensive boardwalks provide visitors access to the most picturesque vantage points.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PLACE THAT'S RUGGED, ALLURING, HAS UNIQUE WILDLIFE AND IS NO MORE THAN TWO HOURS DRIVE FROM MELBOURNE, THEN WHY NOT CONSIDER TAKING A WELL EARNED BREAK AT PHILLIP ISLAND. AT 26KMS LONG AND 9KMS WIDE, PHILLIP ISLAND IS HOME TO UNIQUE WILDLIFE, SUCH AS THE WORLD FAMOUS LITTLE PENGUIN, THE WORLD'S SMALLEST PENGUIN. AN ICONIC DESTINATION PHILLIP ISLAND ATTRACTS MORE THAN HALF A MILLION VISITORS ANNUALLY.

Phillip Island is a place of incredible natural beauty and is named after the first governor of NSW, Arthur Phillip. Besides watching hundreds of little penguins returning to their burrows in the famous Penguin Parade in the evening, the island offers an abundance of wildlife experiences for all ages.

You'll be able see the Penguin Parade from the viewing stands and boardwalks at sunset as they return to their sand dune burrows after a day of fishing. If you haven't yet witnessed these flightless, aquatic birds waddle from the sea you wouldn't realize just what an incredible sight it is.

Located just ten minutes drive from the Penguin Parade is the delightful *Ramada Resort Phillip Island*. *Ramada Resort Phillip Island* is helping the Penguin Foundation in its quest to protect and preserve the only remaining little penguin colony at Phillip Island.

Managed by the Wyndham Holiday Resorts Asia Pacific Group, The nature retreat resort is sponsoring the Penguin Foundation by adopting a little penguin and funding research and conservation work. Funds raised will go towards monitoring penguin burrows and sponsoring a university Honors' student to research penguins for 12 months.

weekenders PHILLIP ISLAND, AU

The sponsorship is in line with the company's global Wyndham Green program, which strives to reduce environmental impacts via a number of initiatives.

"We understand that the sustainability of tourism on the island is a direct reflection of the little penguins and the thousands of tourists that flock to Phillip Island each year to view them," said Matt Taplin, Senior Vice President of Resort Operations and Property Development at Wyndham Holiday Resorts Asia Pacific.

"Couple this with our Wyndham Green Program and this opportunity became a great way for us to express our ongoing commitment to not only the environment, but also our appreciation to the Penguin Foundation and Phillip Island Nature Parks for all the work they do to make Phillip Island the best place to holiday in Victoria."

A registered charity organisation, The Penguin Foundation is erecting a commemorative plaque to thank Ramada Phillip Island on its new corporate sponsor's board. The board will hang at the Penguin Parade.

Set on 65 acres surrounded by natural bushland, the *Ramada Resort Phillip Island* provides the perfect holiday destination for couples and families. With its unique private setting, resort guests can enjoy excellent facilities including an outdoor swimming pool and spa, an indoor lap pool, a health centre with gym and spa, games

room, children's playground, two tennis courts, two picnic barbecue areas, an onsite restaurant, café and pizzeria.

For those who like to explore the surrounds, there are seven kilometres of walking and cycling tracks around the resort.

Phillip Island also has many pretty beaches and protected bays to explore and has one



Phillip Island plays host to the annual MotoGP event

of Victoria's top surfing breaks. Its seaside villages offer an array of shopping, dining and cafés. And if you didn't already know, Phillip Island is of course home to the Moto GP, World Championship Superbikes and V8 Super Cars. 🏁



Ramada Resort Phillip Island



weekenders PHILLIP ISLAND, AU

EAT

Ramada Resort Numbers Restaurant, Café & Bar *T: +61 3 595 28000.* The Numbers Restaurant Café & Bar offers a relaxed, family friendly dining experience from succulent steaks to creamy pastas and fresh salads. Open for breakfast and lunch on Saturdays and Sundays, and for dinner Wednesday to Saturday from 5pm. Bookings are essential.

Ramada Resort Woodfired Pizzeria The resort's Pizzeria specialises in woodfired pizzas as well as offering indoor and alfresco dining. The Pizzeria is open for dinner seven nights per week from 5:30pm. Takeaway is available.

Harry's on the Esplanade *T: +61 3 5952 6226.* 11 Beach Road Rhyll, Phillip Island. Situated in the quiet little village of Rhyll on Phillip Island this unique setting has amazing 180 degree water views. Dine on the balcony or inside in the rustic but stylish restaurant. The menu is comprised of local produce,

fresh seafood and dishes from around the world. www.theforeshore.com.au

PLAY

A Maze 'N Things *T: +61 3 5952 2283.* This award winning tourist attraction is a hit with families and boasts an array of activities from a two kilometre wooden labyrinth, maxi golf, to Puzzle Island - an interactive world of illusion.

Phillip Island Wildlife Park *T: +61 3 59 522 038.* 1805 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes. Home to over 100 different species of Australian animals, Phillip Island Wildlife Park offers the chance to hand feed and experience Australian animals up close and personal.

EXPLORE

Wildlife Coast Cruises *T: 1300 763 739.* Cowes Jetty, 11/13 The Esplanade, Cowes. Cruise out to Seal Rocks to see over 6,000 Australian fur seals. The two hour cruise includes a tour with commentary around

Phillip Island's north west coast, a visit to Seal Rocks bringing you within metres of seals and afternoon tea. Adults \$72, children \$49. October - April Daily 2pm or 4.30pm. May to September Daily 2pm only (excluding Thursdays). www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au

The Nobbies Centre *T: + 61 3 5951 2800.* 1320 Ventnor Road, Summerlands. Stroll along The Nobbies Centre boardwalk while admiring magnificent views along Phillip Island's rugged south coast. See the sea bird gardens that wind their way along the boardwalk. View Seal Rocks, home to Australia's largest fur seal colony. Contact Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Churchill Island Heritage Farm *T: + 61 03 5951 2800.* 246 Samuel Amess Drive, Churchill Island. Churchill Island Heritage Farm is a working farm with highland cattle, sheep, ducks, chickens and Clydesdale horses. Accessed by a bridge from Phillip Island, Churchill Island is a place where one can step back in time in history.



<< BAY OF ISLANDS, NZ

Aerial shot of Urupukapuka Island, Bay of Islands.



Waitangi National Reserve



Exploring the region on two wheels.

40

Bay of Islands... NZ's Adventure Playground

WHETHER YOU'RE INTO SAILING, CRUISING, FISHING OR ECO TOURISM THERE'S ALWAYS PLENTY OF FUN STUFF TO DO AT ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS. THE BAY OF ISLANDS IS FAMOUS FOR ITS DAY CRUISES, WILDLIFE AND EARLY HISTORY

A three-hour drive or 35-minute flight north of Auckland, the Bay of Islands encompasses 144 islands between Cape Brett and the Pururua Peninsula and includes the boutique towns of Opuā, Paihia, Russell and Kerikeri. The Islands are located in the Cape Reinga, which is about 210km by road at the northern tip of the country.

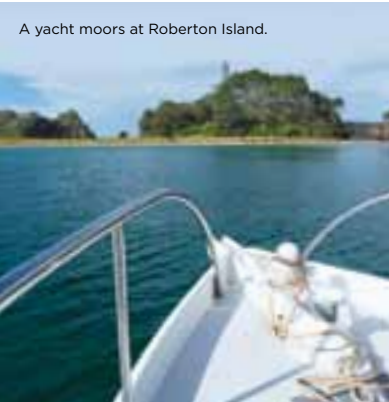
The bay itself is a natural harbour with a 16km wide inlet with several arms which extend into the land, notably Waikare Inlet in the south and Kerikeri and Te Puna (Mangonui) inlets in the northwest. The small historic town of Russell is located at the end of a short peninsula that extends into the bay from the southeast.

The Bay of Islands was given its name when Captain James Cook stopped here on his round the world journey in 1769. Anchoring at Roberton Island, Captain Cook made contact with the local Maori people and immediately started trading with them. At Waitangi you can learn more about the original settlers and the local Maori descendants.

The famous American author Zane Grey marveled at the beauty of the Bay of Islands in the 1930's. He was enthralled by the local dolphins and the beauty of the beaches and he returned many times to take part in game fishing.

You can now live a lifelong dream and swim alongside the dolphins in their world and see these beautiful marine mammals right up close and personal.

A yacht moors at Roberton Island.



With the warmest water in New Zealand and the friendliest dolphin species (Bottlenose), the Bay of Islands is the best place to experience swimming with dolphins.

Besides the dolphins, there is an abundance of other birdlife including Blue Penguins, Gannets, Grey Warblers, Tui, Pukeko and the New Zealand Dotterel. You can also visit the Poor Knights Islands which Jacques Cousteau rated as amongst the very best diving spots in the world. There you will get the chance to see a variety of marine wildlife including manta rays and killer whales.

There are over 100 great dive sites in the Bay of Islands region, with shipwrecks, coral and rocky coastlines to dive around. Big Game fishing at the Bay of Islands is as good as it gets, with marlin, snapper and kingfish fishing available.

Play a game of golf at Waitangi National Reserve on the 18 hole course that takes in spectacular elevated views. The region also offers many tracks where you can go hiking, mountain biking or horse riding. 🐾

weekenders BAY OF ISLANDS, NZ

EAT

Gannets Restaurant *T: +64 9403 7990.*
Russell Corner Of Chapel & York St, Russell.
Gannets is the best spot for seafood in the Bay of Islands. Watch the chefs prepare dinner in an open kitchen and relax with a glass of wine. Try the homemade breads and dips and treat yourself to some of the great local wines from around the Bay.

35 South Aquarium and Restaurant Bar *T: +64 9402 6220.*
69 Marsden Rd, Paihia.
35 South has a 60,000 litre saltwater aquarium filled with local fish. The restaurant specialises in delicious fresh seafood and supreme service. Beautifully situated over the water in the centre of Paihia, 35 South has spectacular views of the Bay of Islands. Dine inside the restaurant around the aquarium or alfresco on seaside decks. A great Paihia venue 35 South offers breakfast, lunch and dinner. Open 7 days from early till late.
www.35south.co.nz/

Ake Ake Vineyard Restaurant *T: +64 9407 8230.*
Rd 3 165 Waimate North Rd, Kerikeri.
Dining at Ake Ake is an excellent way to sample the best The Bay of Islands has to offer, whilst being perfectly complemented by Ake Ake's fabulous award winning wines. The restaurant uses fresh local produce in their lunch and dinner menus that are wholesome and full of flavour. Many ingredients are sourced locally including wild mushrooms, fresh vegetables, meats and seafood.
akeakevineyard.co.nz/

RELAX

Makana Confections *T: +64 9407 6800.*
504 Kerikeri Rd, Kerikeri.
Check out some of New Zealand's finest chocolate and confectionery at this boutique chocolate factory in Kerikeri. Watch how chocolates are made, taste a few samples and shop for delicious chocolates. Makana specialises in quality handmade confectionery, all made with the freshest natural ingredients.
www.makana.co.nz/

The Waitangi Golf Course

T: +64 9402 8207.
Tau Henare Dr, Paihia, Northland.
With its well groomed greens and fairways the Waitangi Golf Course provides an exciting challenge, combined with a great panorama of views over the Bay of Islands and Russell as well as Waitangi, Opuā and Mount Bledisloe. The course is surrounded by flowering native trees, which provide sanctuary for many varieties of native birds.
www.waitangigolf.co.nz/

EXPLORE

The Russell Museum *T: +64 9403 7701.*
2 York St, Russell.
The museum tells the story of the development of Russell/Kororareka from a small Maori fishing village to a port of call for visiting ships and today's tourist town. See the one-fifth scale model of Captain Cook's Endeavour and the Maori taonga including a small waka (canoe). *Open every day January (10am - 5pm) and February - December (10am - 4pm)*
www.russellmuseum.org.nz

Kerikeri Half Day Tour - Fullers Great Sights Bay of Islands *T: +64 9402 7422.*
Uncover the history of the picturesque settlement of Kerikeri. Discover some of Kerikeri's best keep secrets in this popular afternoon tour. *Adults \$55*
www.newzealand.com/au

Hokianga & Tane Mahuta Day Tour - Fullers GreatSights *T: +64 9402 7422.*
Experience an unforgettable journey through the natural beauty of the Hokianga. Visit Tane Mahuta and learn local stories and legends. A unique and authentic insight into early Maori history. *Adults \$100*
www.greatsights.co.nz/new-zealand-tours

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