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**MAUI'S  
MOMENT**



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**SHOPPING  
HOBART**

AUGUST 2015

# ENDLESS VACATION

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## CANARY ISLANDS

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

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FOR SPRING**

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Santa Cruz de La Palma  
colonial street house  
facades in Canary Islands

# AUGUST 2015

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Tenerife, **Canary Islands.**

Check out [endlessvacation.com](http://endlessvacation.com)

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

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## Welcome

As an RCI member, you understand the benefits that holiday ownership can bring to you and your family - great accommodation, fantastic value and the opportunity to experience new places year after year. And with the days getting longer, what better time of year to take a well deserved holiday than in Spring.

There's a good reason why thousands of tourists flock to the Adelaide Hills each year to check out the mouth-watering delights on the Hahndorf Food Trail (pages 8-9). It's a place rich in heritage and a paradise for locally produced food and wine.

Beginning on page 15 we'll showcase the top 10 spring holiday spots in Australia and New Zealand. We will also give you some great tips for making the most of a holiday at Canary Islands (pages 21-25). Plus get the latest on some fantastic fly/cruise holidays on pages 38-39.

There are some great tropical adventures to explore in Far North Queensland's sunny Cairns (pages 26-30) and if your time is limited to just a short break you can experience the wonder of New Zealand's oldest wine region in scenic Hawkes Bay (pages 44-45) or discover the diverse range of cultural and holiday activities that can be experienced at New South Wales' beautiful Byron Bay (pages 46-47).

Read about our recent trip to Wanaka to host our Silver Service members (page 40). Don't forget to check out the Bonus Week Getaways section (page 43) and see what great deals you can take advantage of if you are looking to travel at short notice.

It is often said that travel can change the world, so next time if you are staying in one of our wonderful resorts, take the time to venture beyond the resort, and learn about the people and places that make each destination a unique place to visit.

Travel safe and have fun creating great memories.

Deirdre Bourke  
Director of Member Services  
RCI Asia Pacific

## GOLD COAST

# Woo-hoo Wuhan

Queensland to reach 80 million prospective tourists

ready,  
set,  
go



## Gold Coast to host direct flights to China

The deal has been struck between Queensland Airports, the State Government, China's Wanda group and Jetstar. Gold Coast Tourism chairman Paul Donovan said the flights would be between Wuhan, the most populous city in central China and the Gold Coast. The flights will operate twice weekly in the deal which has been underwritten by the government and the partner businesses. Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate said the flights opened the city to a catchment of 80 million Chinese, describing it as a "game changer". Jetstar CEO David Hall said the deal, to begin operating in September, would bring more visitors to Queensland than ever before. The service will open up the coast to the population of 80 million Wuhan residents and another 40 million who could access it via bullet train. Wuhan is 1100km south of Beijing and 800km west of Shanghai. - [www.newsroom.jetstar.com](http://www.newsroom.jetstar.com)

## CRUISING

## Making a splash

Launching this season, the 4180 passenger Anthem of the Seas (from \$1,299), from Royal Caribbean, has a glass viewing capsule that swings on a mechanical arm for 360-degree views of the sea, plus a skydiving simulator. Pontant's 122 cabin Le Lyrial (from \$2,690) is a more subtle affair, the luminous palette of blues inspired by polar ice and constellations. And the 4,200 passenger Norwegian Escape (from \$1,099) has a three story ropes course complete with skywalks and planks.

- LISA CHENG

Prices are in USD, per person and based on double occupancy.



## NEW ZEALAND

# Bigger and better...

Queenstown Airport may not be the largest airport in New Zealand, but it's the busiest and the fastest growing. The airport now welcomes more than 1.3 million visitors a year. Australasia's fastest growing airport will become a third bigger when its new \$17 million international terminal opens this month. "It's huge. It gives us great confidence to handle and provide a service level to inbound and outbound passengers that they deserve," says Queenstown Airport chief executive Scott Paterson. International passenger numbers are up 28 percent in the year to date. "During the peak in winter we will still be near our capacity and we've got a lot of room to grow," says Mr Paterson. With growth expected to continue, the airport will soon have to look at increasing its hours of operation, which could mean night flights next winter. Queenstown Airport has just recently marked the 20th anniversary of its first international arrival. - BROOKE GARDINER



## MELBOURNE

### Hungry little hippo

The baby Pygmy Hippo has made his first splash on display at Melbourne Zoo under the watchful eye of his mum, Petre. The 3 week old calf has been named Obi by keepers, which means 'heart' in Igbo, a local Nigerian language. Obi has grown quickly from his birth weight of around 5 kilos and now weighs over 13 kilos. He has been learning to swim in the nursery yard pool and has passed with flying colours. Recently Obi celebrated an important milestone as he ventured into the deeper water of the exhibit. Wild Sea Manager, Justin Valentine said 'he loves the water and spends hours in the small pool, so he is ready for the next step.' Pygmy Hippos are classified as endangered in the wild, however, due to their dense rainforest habitat, their exact population size is unknown. Obi and Petre are on display at the Zoo from 9am-5pm. Adults \$30.80, Children \$13.60. [www.zoo.org.au](http://www.zoo.org.au)

## FIJI

### Network expansion

Fiji Airways has expanded its route network with the launch of its new direct service between Wellington and Nadi. Fiji Airways is now the only airline flying directly between Wellington and Fiji all year-round. Fiji Airways Chairman, Nalin Patel says Fiji's links with Wellingtonians and New Zealanders from the surrounding region will be further strengthened by this new service.

"This is one of the most significant new routes recently announced by Fiji Airways, and reflects the airline's strong performance in New Zealand. For us, Wellington was a natural choice for a new service," he said. "The new service is already proving extremely popular here in New Zealand with healthy forward loads. We're obviously delighted by this response from Kiwis."

- REGINALD CHANDAR





TRAVEL GEAR

# Best in Tow

NO MATTER YOUR DESTINATION,  
THESE BAGS WILL HELP YOU GO  
THE DISTANCE.

BASED ON ARTICLE BY COURTNEY KENEFICK (US SPRING 2015, ENDLESS VACATION)



● The Double Deck travel bag from **Burton** ([surfstitch.com](http://surfstitch.com) \$229AUD) fits everything you need (and then some) for gear-centric trips and long getaways, thanks to two large compartments and stretch zippers.

● **Dakine's** first four-wheeled suitcase ([surfstitch.com](http://surfstitch.com) \$150AUD) is lightweight and chock-full of pockets. Plus, the design makes it easy to spot on the luggage conveyor: Good-bye, ribbon trick.

● The ball wheels on **American Tourister's** spacious carry-on ([bagworld.com.au](http://bagworld.com.au) \$221AUD) are built for speed in case you have to hustle at the airport, and the bag's easy-to-access laptop compartment helps you zip through security.

● Don't be fooled by the vintage-inspired aesthetic of **Bric's** leather-trimmed spinner ([shopstyle.com.au](http://shopstyle.com.au) \$567). Flexible and durable polycarbonate, double rubber wheels and a water-repelling zipper make it as practical as it is stylish.

● **L.L. Bean's** quick load upright rolling duffel ([global.llbean.com](http://global.llbean.com) \$211) is a great carry-on or weekender: The canvas is lightweight and sturdy, and the flannel lining and wide top opening make packing (slightly) more enjoyable. 🐾





LANDMARKS  
MAUI

# Maui's Moment

HAWAII'S SECOND-LARGEST ISLAND IS A NATURAL PARADISE.

EXTRACT FROM US ENDLESS VACATION MAGAZINE, SUMMER 2015, BY STIRLING KELSO

Hawaii is a no brainer when it comes to a tropical holiday. With its fresh clean air, warm tranquil waters, rich culture and breathtaking beauty, there's just no place on earth like Hawaii. The juxtaposition of the familiar with the exotic is especially pronounced on Maui, Hawaii's

second-largest island.

Cosmopolitan cities with  
top-notch restaurants

share real estate with thick jungles, windy highlands and sleepy towns where daily life revolves around the ocean's tides.

## WALEA'S COAST AND COOKING

Wailea, on Maui's southwestern shore, is the island at its most glamorous. Wide palm-tree-lined boulevards are flanked by glitzy hotels—the Fairmont Kea Lani; the Four Seasons; and the Grand Wailea, a Waldorf Astoria, among others—as well as impressive private homes and manicured sidewalks. Sunbathers dot the beaches along the hotel corridor, though there are plenty of empty

coastal stretches on the city's outskirts.

One of the prettiest is Makena State Park (Kihei; 808-587-0300; [hawaii.stateparks.org](http://hawaii.stateparks.org)), a shallow peninsula south of Wailea. Besides offering wide beaches, the coastline here overlooks uninhabited Kaho'olawe Island. If you prefer adventure to sunbathing, sign up for the Wailea Explorer Eco-Adventure with Maui Kayaks (Makena Landing; 808-874-4000; [mauikayaks.com](http://mauikayaks.com); \$130) for a chance to paddle alongside green dolphins and sea turtles and snorkel in the vast Skylight Caves.



## STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS  
IN MAUI INCLUDE:

### Kahana Falls 2788

Set in the delightful town of Lahaina, Kahana Falls offers a spectacular tropical escape on the exhilarating island of Maui. Take a dip in the luxurious swimming pool and enjoy the peaceful sound of the waterfalls.


### Kahana Beach Resort R996

7 nights from AU\$1381 / NZ\$1528 Studio

### The Gardens at West Maui R995

7 nights from AU\$1381/ NZ\$1528 1 brm

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0800 368 800 NZ**



**TREES AND SEA:** (this page) It's hard to believe this strangely beautiful but desolate landscape sits just behind Hana's verdant coastline, Haleakala Crater, Hana. The road to Hana, switchbacks, waterfalls and a dramatic coastline to keep you occupied. A more lush environment is hard to imagine, Twin Falls is one of many examples of a picture perfect scene that seem to appear around every corner on Maui. The Waihi Ridge trail is a perfect example of why Maui is considered unspoiled and a last link to old Hawaii.



### ESCAPE TO HANA

The most scenic way to get to Hana, on Maui's northeast coast, is via the aptly named Hana Highway, one of the island's most iconic landmarks. The narrow byway has switchbacks punctuated by waterfalls, long curves that hug Pacific cliffs and scenic water overlooks. During the whale migration (October through May), keep an eye out for humpbacks jumping and flapping their tails. If you blink, you just may miss Hana itself, a town where the concept of old Hawaii—nature winning the battle against over development—is still treasured. Many locals, whose families have lived here for generations, have never resided elsewhere on Maui, let alone in the mainland United States, and they're fiercely protective of the region's slow-paced way of life. Bartering for fruit and eggs is common among neighbours, and there's a paniolo, or cowboy culture.

Maui's Pipiwai Trail (Hana Hwy., mile marker 41, Haleakala National Park; 808-572-4400; [nps.gov/hale](https://nps.gov/hale); \$6.50), 16km south of Hana, is one of the island's most scenic trails. Hikers can cross bridges over rushing rivers and trek through dense bamboo forests. Then there's Waimoku Falls, a 120-metre waterfall that cascades down a moss-covered cliff, shrouding visitors in a cool mist. On your return hike, follow the falls to the Ohe'o Gulch, also known as the Seven Sacred Pools, where water plunges from one bright blue pond to the next before spilling into the Pacific.

Save an afternoon for Kaihalulu Red Sand Beach (trail begins at Uakea Rd.) that is within walking distance from Travaasa. The trail leading to the coast is wilder than Pipiwai, making the empty cove of dramatic red sands even more rewarding.

### EXPLORE THE UPCOUNTRY

Maui's interior makes up some of its most beautiful and diverse terrain. This is primarily ranch country, though there are also state and national parks that lure travellers up winding mountain roads. One of the most striking sights is the crater at Haleakala National Park (State Hwy. 378; 808-572-4400; [nps.gov/hale](https://nps.gov/hale); tickets, \$6.50), the remains of a dormant volcano and the island's highest peak. Early birds may be rewarded not only with a blazing sunrise but also with a before-dawn star show. You can spend the morning hiking around the stark landscape, where steep hills of black and red rock and sand are peppered with silver sword succulents and orange-berried pilo, a plant in the coffee family.





FOOD  
GERMANY FARE

# A taste of Germany in the Adelaide Hills



CHECK OUT THE MOUTH-WATERING DELIGHTS AT THE HISTORIC TOWNSHIP OF HAHNDORF SITUATED IN THE FABULOUS ADELAIDE HILLS.

BY GARY MACNAMARA

With its clean fresh air and far-reaching views and only a 20 minute drive from Adelaide city, Hahndorf is Australia's oldest surviving German settlement attracting over 800,000 tourists each year. Here you'll find several boutique cellar doors and trendy eateries serving the freshest and best local produce.

Along with its breathtaking landscapes, fascinating culture and rich heritage, Hahndorf is a paradise for locally produced food and wine.

Founded by Prussian immigrants in 1838, the strong German flavour in Hahndorf can be seen in the number of butchers, bakeries and gourmet stores that line the bustling main street.

When you decide to begin your stroll down Hahndorf's main street, make sure you do it on an empty stomach!

First port of call is to taste the local cheeses at Udder Delights' Cheese Cellar. This quaint shop is prominently located

with a large yellow cow displayed near the entrance.

Since opening in 1999, the cellar has earned a fine reputation for their handcrafted goat and cow milk cheeses. Try the creamy and delicious brie or blue vein and you could end up buying a huge half wheel for as little as \$10. You can learn more by booking into a free cheese tasting class.

Want to experience the true taste of Germany? Then you should look no further

**THE BEST OF TIMES, THE WURST OF TIMES:** Hahndorf is a little and delicious slice of Germany in the Adelaide Hills, visit the Kaffehaus for coffee and sweets and the Hahndorf Inn for a German beer with the traditional slice of lemon. Mouthwatering German sausage, the perfect accompaniment to the aforementioned beer. Finish off your food and drink odyssey with a selection of exquisite German style chocolate sweets.



than the Hahndorf Inn. Specialising in German food, this award winning restaurant is not to be missed. Whether it's a German platter or a trio of Bockwurst, Bratwurst or Weisswurst sausages, the menu has something for everyone.

Try a Schofferhofer Hefeweizen, Germany's number one selling iconic wheat beer and enjoy the full bodied taste on the back of your palate. Join in the warm atmosphere and traditional live music every Sunday.

A must see is the Hahndorf Hill Winery which offers exciting new wave wines, including Gruner Veltliner and Blaufrankish. It also hosts ChocoVino tastings, where fine wines are matched with the world's most exclusive chocolate. For the best hot chocolate in town look no further than Chocolate @ No 5. The

legendary chocolate will stir your senses of taste and smell. Using only the finest fresh butter, local cream and fruit purees, the resident chocolatier is more than willing to serve you up superb chocolate without any artificial preservatives or additives. Try the exquisite truffle and praline and take the time to savour the flavour.

Next port of call at the end of the main street of Hahndorf is Beerenberg Farm, one of Australia's oldest family owned condiment and sauce producers. There's a huge variety of jams, pickles, chutneys, mustards, relishes, marinades and sauces made to old Hahndorf recipes. The farm is run by the sixth generation of the Paech family and is open all year round. Bring your family and pick your own strawberries in season (late October to early May). Make sure you don't forget to drop into Hahndorf Sweets which can be

found inside one of Hahndorf's oldest cottages. This old fashioned sweet shop with its vintage posters has delicious fudge and fine sweets from your childhood which makes excellent gifts for friends and family.

Whether you're a day tripper or a tourist, Hahndorf has plenty of other attractions including museums, galleries, antiques, fabrics and leather shop to visit. The main festivals are Founder's Day that is on Sunday of the Australia Day long weekend, and The Hahndorf Band Festival and Musikfest in May. Whatever you do in Hahndorf we're sure you'll find the experience a memorable one. For more information visit [www.hahndorfsa.org.au](http://www.hahndorfsa.org.au) and [www.adelaidehills.org.au](http://www.adelaidehills.org.au) Be sure to call in to the Adelaide Hills Visitor Information Centre in the main street or call (08) 8388 1185.



Adina Apartment Hotel



## STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS  
IN ADELAIDE INCLUDE:

### Adina Apartment Hotel Adelaide RC95

7 nights from AU\$1349/NZ\$1499 1brm

### Oaks Horizons

3 nights from AU\$519/NZ\$579 1brm R606  
4 nights from AU\$689/NZ\$779 1brm R606  
3 nights from AU\$709/NZ\$769 2brm R607  
4 nights from AU\$929/NZ\$1029 2brm R607

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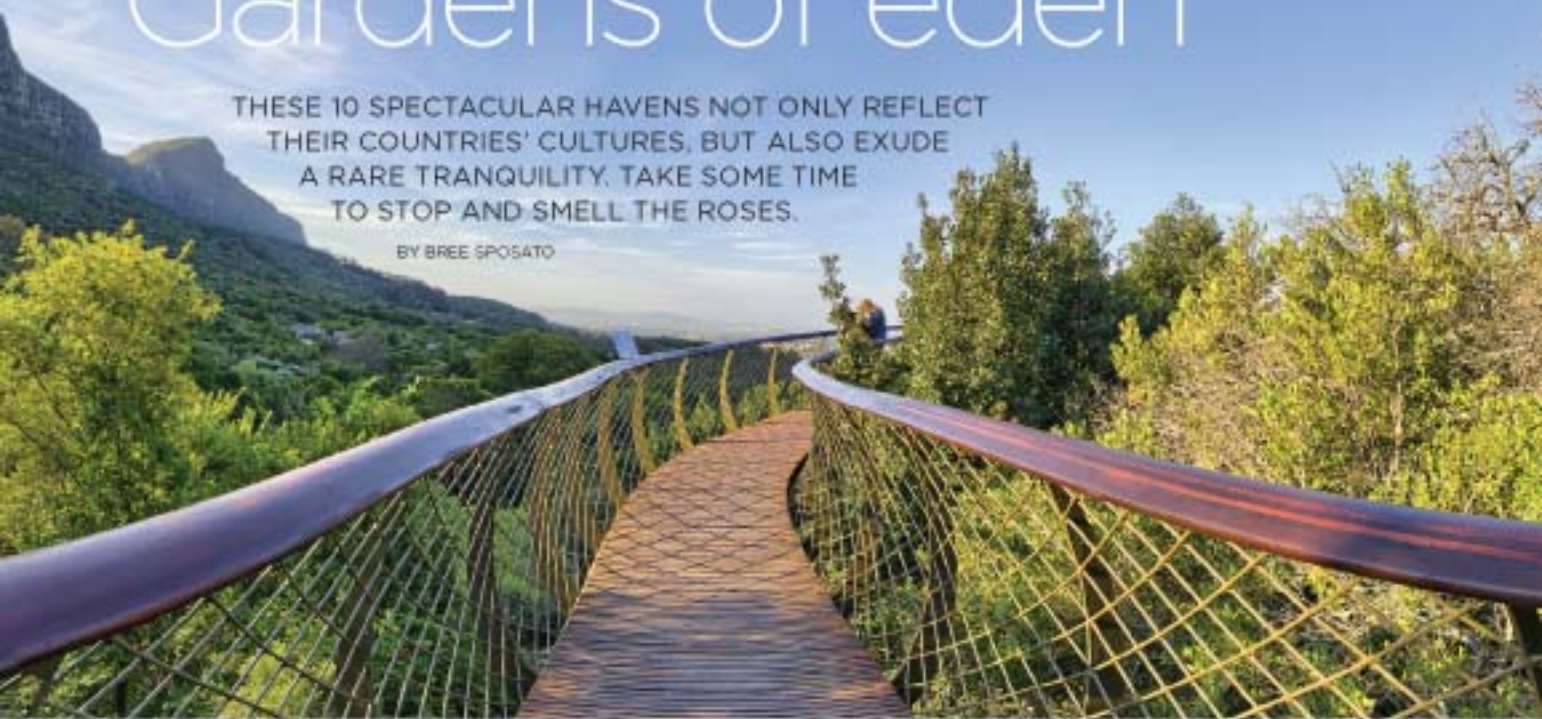


LANDMARKS  
THE WORLD

# Gardens of eden

THESE 10 SPECTACULAR HAVENS NOT ONLY REFLECT THEIR COUNTRIES' CULTURES, BUT ALSO EXUDE A RARE TRANQUILITY. TAKE SOME TIME TO STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES.

BY BREE SPOSATO



## Singapore Botanical Garden Singapore

Nestled in the heart of Singapore, these are the only English-style gardens in the tropics and are the only tropical botanic garden now on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Spanning 74 hectares and including the National Orchid Garden which has over 1,000 orchid species and 2,000 hybrids on display. On weekends, friends and families enjoy a stroll at the Gardens, or watch musical performances at the Symphony Lake - a long-standing tradition that dates back to 1861. [sbg.org.sg](http://sbg.org.sg)



## Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens Tokyo, Japan

Amid the chaos and colour of Tokyo city you will find this elegant expanse of serenity and greenery - laid out in 1629 by a feudal lord - it is surprisingly quiet. Today, the garden is home to a grove of ginkgo trees, three ponds, crumbling ruins, the Tokujin-do temple and small rice fields. Plum and weeping cherry trees make spring the blossom season an especially lovely time to visit this living work of art. [tokyo-park.or.jp](http://tokyo-park.or.jp)



## Na 'Aina Kai Botanical Garden Kauai, Hawaii

Abundant sunshine and warm showers make this 240-acre manicured garden on Kauai's north shore a lush paradise. You'll find nutmeg trees, hibiscus and the neon pointed blooms of birds-of-paradise. Wander through the on-site sculpture park (containing 160 pieces by 60 artists, it's one of the largest bronze-sculpture collections in the country), and explore the plantation of 60,000 hardwoods. There's also a great children's play area. [nazinakai.org](http://nazinakai.org)



### Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Richmond, Surrey, England

Greenhouses are the draw at this 326-acre oasis, which earned a spot on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites thanks to its terrific collection; there are 2,000 varieties of plants, some specimens dating from the 18th century. In February and March consider a visit for the orchids alone. [kew.org](http://kew.org)



### Jardim Botânico Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brazilian beauties, such as orchids and bromeliads, dot the 345-acre enclave, around which its namesake neighbourhood grew. Visit the three themed sections: the Cactário, the Japanese Garden and the Sensory Garden. Don't miss the greenhouse, which contains insectivorous species, such as Venus fly traps. [jbrj.gov.br](http://jbrj.gov.br)



### Fondation Claude Monet, Giverny Normandy, France

Art lovers will delight in the legendary painter's former home, spread over nearly five acres in Giverny. Divided into two parts: The Clos Normand is like a living en plein air painting, complete with thousands of tulips, peonies and irises. At the Water Garden, meanwhile, a Japanese-style bridge stretches over a lily pond. [fondation-monet.com](http://fondation-monet.com)



### Biltmore Asheville, North Carolina

This 8,000-acre estate is home to six formal gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Arranged around the 250-room Biltmore House, built by George Vanderbilt in the late 1800s and the country's largest house in continuous private ownership. Don't miss the four-acre Walled Garden, designed in a formal English style, where thousands of daffodils and tulips bloom in the spring. [biltmore.com](http://biltmore.com)



### Denver Botanic Gardens Colorado

Colorado's dry climate is on spectacular display at the Denver Botanic Gardens, which are split between three locations: the main, 24-acre York Street enclosure; the larger Chatfield meadow and historic homestead; and the Mount Goliath alpine-wildflower garden. [botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)



### Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden Cape Town, South Africa

Set on 90 acres along the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, the garden grows flowers from all over southern Africa, like the spiky king protea, and was the first in the world to be included within a Natural World Heritage site. Get panoramic mountain views as you walk along Kirstenbosch's new, 426-foot-long steel-and-wood canopy walkway. [sanbi.org](http://sanbi.org)



### Brooklyn Botanic Garden New York

This spring, Brooklyn's beloved 52-acre sanctuary debuts a Discovery Garden where kids can explore a meadow, a woodland and a marsh and experience a hands-on-gardening area. Open Tuesday–Friday: 8am – 6pm, Saturday & Sunday: 10am – 6pm. Closed on Mondays Adults \$12, Children \$6 and under 12 free. [bbg.org](http://bbg.org)



## SHOPPING

Hobart Tasmania

# Southern Charm

BY GARY MACNAMARA

Shopping in Hobart is always a pleasant surprise. With its intriguing arcades and small lanes hidden with specialty stores, boutiques and colourful eateries, you'll find a thousand delights in Hobart's City Centre.

While Hobart may not offer all of the major mainstream shopping of its mainland counterparts, it is a great place to poke around in little boutiques and eclectic shops and see great products from local artists. Don't expect buzzing fashion central but you will find a certain ambience and charm that you won't find in any other major CBD's in Australia. More importantly the service from the locals is always excellent and their friendliness contagious.

Handmark Galleries in Salamanca Place has been showing unique Tasmanian art, craft and design since 1980. If you are looking for something original, beautiful or special, this place is a must. There are monthly exhibitions with fine jewellery, pottery ceramics, wood and furniture on display from over 90 Tasmanian artists.

Wursthaus Kitchen located in the heart of the Salamanca district is a food lover's paradise in the centre of town. Wursthaus literally meaning "house of sausage" was established in 1985 and voted by "Gourmet Traveller" as one of the top five food stores in Australia.

More than just a deli and butchery, Wursthaus Kitchen is a highly respected Tasmanian Company manufacturing and distributing a vast range of high quality meat products to many of Tasmania's finest restaurants, hotels, caterers and delicatessens.

Wursthaus products can be found in all Tasmanian regional areas and the kitchen also sells fine Tasmanian wines, runs monthly cooking classes and has daily food and wine tastings.

One of Australia's best known outdoor markets, The Salamanca Market takes place every Saturday from 8.30am - 3pm at Hobart's Salamanca Place. Set against the magnificent sandstone facade of historic warehouses, the market attracts thousands of locals and visitors, every Saturday of the year.

Here you'll find over 300 stalls selling everything from fresh fruit, crisp organic vegetables, hot baked spuds and beautiful coffee and croissants. The markets also serve to highlight Tasmania's fine arts and crafts including hand designed glass, bold ceramics, stylish clothing and fine local timbers.

The Farm Gate Market offers an amazing range of produce and is a great way to spend a Sunday morning in Hobart. Not as touristy and perhaps more intimate than Salamanca,



#### RUSTIC RETAIL: (clockwise from left)

Hobart is a harbour city with retail, restaurant and residential tenants all jostling for position on the waters edge. The markets are great but the people are truly fantastic. Salamanca Markets have almost everything and are a great place to get the Hobart vibe, a little bit of bustle, a little bit of quirk and a lot of soul. Famous for its fresh produce and more recently for its artisan producers fare, preserves, beer, cheese and the list goes on. Spend a couple of days or better still a week and you can experience everything Hobart has to offer.



## STAY

**RCI AFFILIATED  
RESORT IN  
HOBART:**



#### Hobart Midcity Hotel

The Hobart Midcity Hotel retains its position as Hobart's leading inner city accommodation hotel, perfectly situated on the corner of Elizabeth & Bathurst Streets.

3 nights from AU\$449/NZ\$499 RA39  
4 nights from AU\$599 /NZ\$669 RA40  
7 nights from AU\$949 /NZ\$1049 RA41

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the goods for sale are so fresh as they are picked the night before and delivered straight to the market each Sunday morning. Trade begins with the ringing of the farm bell.

The market supports small, boutique and artisan businesses with buskers being an integral part of the atmosphere. The Farm Gate Market operates every Sunday on Bathurst St from 8.30am – 1pm rain, hail or shine.

In the heart of Hobart's colourful dock precinct in Macquarie St, make sure you take the time to enjoy a fabulous Tasmanian wine experience at the Gasworks Cellar Door. With its stylish interior design, here you can taste up to a dozen different wines from various regions of Tasmania, guided by highly informed staff. The cost is very

moderate (\$10 for six tastings) and a must for wine buffs.

Tasmania is often considered to be Australia's last untapped treasure trove of antiques because of its isolation. Definitely worth a visit is Hobart's largest antique shop, Antiques Warehouse which is located in the Heritage Listed Coogans Factory on the fringe of Hobart's CBD. With over 1500 sq metres of display space over two floors you can find a wide range of decorative items including antique and vintage furniture, home goods and old wares, sterling silver, original art and vintage fashion. Open seven days at 64 Warwick Street.

Also worth a visit is Warwick Oakman Antiques at Battery Point which has a classy selection of 18th and 19th century collectables.



AT A GLANCE  
BROOME  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2,240 KILOMETRES

The distance Broome is north of Perth. Fly direct to Broome from Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane & Darwin.

# Broome Western Australia

Broome is a delightful coastal tourist town in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Tropical and spectacularly beautiful, Broome is synonymous with pearls, turquoise seas, red cliffs, white sand and brilliant sunsets. With a flamboyant history, sun seekers and tourists from all over the world flock to this balmy paradise.

## GATEWAY TO THE KIMBERLEY

The Kimberley region is one of the world's last true wilderness areas with rugged ranges, white sandy beaches, pockets of lush rainforest and thousands of years of Aboriginal history. It is also where you'll find the Bungle Bungle Range in World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park.

## 2 SEASONS

The number of Broome's seasons. There's a winter season from May - October with daytime temperatures between mid 20s and low 30s. Summer is from November - April and has temperatures above the 30s with spectacular sunsets.

## 130,000,000 YEARS

The age of the dinosaur footprints at Gantheaume Point. The footprints from the early Cretaceous period are 30 metres out to sea and can only be seen during very low tide. Plant fossils are also preserved in the sandstone at Gantheaume Point.

## POPULATION

Broome has 14,000 permanent residents growing to over 45,000 per month during the tourist season.

## WORLD'S OLDEST OUTDOOR PICTURE THEATRE

The main town centre of Broome is known as Chinatown and has Broome's Sun Pictures - the world's oldest operating outdoor picture theatre.

## CABLE BEACH

In 1889, a telegraph undersea cable was laid from Broome to Singapore. The name Cable Beach was given to the landfill site. The beach is 7km from Broome and sunset camel rides operate daily along the beach.



## STAY RCI AFFILIATED RESORT IN BROOME INCLUDE:

### Oaks Broome Hotel

3 nights from AU\$509/NZ\$569 Hotel R592  
3 nights from AU\$749/NZ\$829 2brm R592  
4 nights from AU\$699/NZ\$779 Hotel R593  
4 nights from AU\$989/NZ\$1099 2brm R593

For additional resort listings, visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com)  
or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

# 10

## TOP SPOTS FOR SPRING

WE'VE SCOURED AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FOR 10 SERIOUSLY EXCITING PLACES THAT CELEBRATE SPRING WITH ACTIVITIES FROM FUN FILLED THEME PARKS, HISTORICAL MUSEUMS, IDYLIC MARKETS AND FINE WINERIES.

BY GARY MACNAMARA

1

### **BONDI BEACH,** Sydney, New South Wales

Golden sands and perfect waves, Bondi Beach is an iconic Sydney attraction. But there's more than just surf with fine dining, great shopping markets, picturesque coastal walks and a buzzing nightlife to experience. If you want to learn to surf there are excellent surf schools such as Lets go Surfing ([www.letsgosurfing.com.au](http://www.letsgosurfing.com.au)) with lessons from \$99. Among the dining options is Sean's Panaroma which offers modern Australian and Italian cuisine. Check out the idyllic Bondi Farmers Market [www.bondimarkets.com.au](http://www.bondimarkets.com.au) on Saturday featuring fine foods by the people who make them. The Sunday market will have spending up big with high fashion designers showcasing their up and coming designs at affordable prices.

Sydney's world-famous  
Bondi Beach.

### PORT MACQUARIE, New South Wales

Just a few hours north of Sydney on the mid coast, Port Macquarie has a distinctive mix of heritage buildings, modern hotels and diverse dining. Pay a visit to Timbertown, Wauchope. (ph 6586 1940; [www.timbertown.com.au](http://www.timbertown.com.au)). Explore Australia's finest heritage park and take a ride on the horse and carriage. Smell the distinctive aroma from the steam engines, sawn timber and home style cooking. Open 9.30-4pm daily. (Adults \$19.50, Children \$16). Take the 9 kilometre coastal walk from Town Beach to Tacking Point Lighthouse. The views are spectacular. Visit the Koala Hospital and see koalas up close and being rehabilitated. Open every day 8am-4.30pm. Admission is free with tours starting at 3pm. [www.koalahospital.org.au](http://www.koalahospital.org.au).

### GOLD COAST, Queensland

With its spectacular beaches, hinterland ranges, forests and beautiful waterways, the Gold Coast is the best romantic and family holiday destination in Australia. It has the biggest and best theme parks in the Southern Hemisphere. Australia's biggest theme park, Dreamworld has over 50 rides and you can experience the interactive Dreamworld Corroboree ([www.dreamworld.com.au](http://www.dreamworld.com.au)). Become lost in a world of fantasy and meet your favourite super heroes while experiencing the exhilaration of world class rides and movie attractions at Warner Bros Movie World ([www.movieworld.com.au](http://www.movieworld.com.au)). Get below the surface to discover a world of fun and adventure at Sea World. Watch majestic polar bears and get up close to the seals and dolphins ([www.seaworld.com.au](http://www.seaworld.com.au)). Don't forget to visit iconic Surfers Paradise, It's the major hub of the Gold Coast hosting top class music, culture and sporting events, as well as having amazing nightlife ([www.surfersparadise.com](http://www.surfersparadise.com)). At Jupiters Hotel & Casino you'll find a wide range of restaurants and bars and best of all its open for 24 hours. The Gold Coast is also home to Australia's biggest permanent markets - the Carrara Markets. With over 400 stalls covering 10 acres it's a treasure trove of the curious and the unusual. Of course there's endless beach activities on the Gold Coast with every water activity imaginable catered for including surfing, jet boating, parasailing, kite surfing, diving and great water parks.

### SUNSHINE COAST, Queensland

The Sunshine Coast in South East Queensland is a popular choice for those looking for a fantastic family holiday with a laid back atmosphere. While its home to many quality beaches throughout its 70 kilometre coastline, Noosa's Main Beach is the standout with a picture perfect sand, pristine water and waves that are ideal for swimming. Not far from Noosa is Australia Zoo which boasts a diverse array of animals including kangaroos, koalas, wombats and crocodiles. Don't miss the African exhibit that is truly world class (Adults \$59, Children \$35; [www.australiazoo.com.au](http://www.australiazoo.com.au)). With its wide network of rivers and canals, Coastal Cruises Mooloolaba provide great river and canal tours showcasing the best of the Sunshine Coast including its sunsets and fresh local

2



#### SPRING INTO IT: (top to bottom)

Pristine Miners Beach in Port Macquarie, one of New South Wales favourite getaway locations. The ever changing face of Surfers Paradise, Australia's premier family friendly holiday destination. Small but perfectly formed describes the Sunshines Coast's jewel... Noosa where the boardwalk meets the beach.

3



4



seafood ([www.cruisemooloolaba.com.au](http://www.cruisemooloolaba.com.au)). While in Mooloolaba take the time to visit Under Water World. Get hands on with some reef creatures in the touch pool and learn about aquatic Australian mammals (Adult \$31, Children \$21; [www.underwaterworld.com.au](http://www.underwaterworld.com.au)).

### KYNETON, Victoria

As a small town in the Macedon Ranges region of Victoria and a one hour drive from Melbourne, Kyneton (population 6,600) is a town steeped in history. At its heart is Piper Street, a wonderfully restored example of past times. Whether its food, clothes, craft, wine or art that you're looking for, you're sure to find something of interest here. Marvel at the wealth of bluestone buildings and heritage trees while a visit to the Kyneton Museum (Open Friday - Sunday 11am-4pm) is a must. The Kyneton Botanical Gardens provide an ideal starting point for the Campaspe River Walk which winds its way to the Kyneton Racecourse. On the second Saturday of the month, the Kyneton Farmers' Market in St Paul's Park becomes the hub of activity, as patrons stock up on fresh local produce then indulge in long lunches in the cafés and pubs. There's also a number family operated boutique wineries that offer intimate cellar door and dining experiences amidst fine pastoral country and granite strewn paddocks. Enjoy the warm welcome at the Maiaveda Holistic Health & Day Spa in Piper Street, rejuvenate the mind, body and spirit. Open 10am-8pm with 1 hour massages from \$80. [www.maiaveda.com.au](http://www.maiaveda.com.au)

### MILDURA, Victoria

Located in the far north-west of Victoria, this enchanting country town is set on the banks of the Murray River and surrounded by vineyards. The PV Rothbury, the fastest of the river boats, offers a 5 hour winery cruise from 10.30am on Thursday, with a visit to Trentham Estate Winery and a barbecue lunch at Kings Billabong. (Cost is \$75pp; [www.paddlesteamers.com.au](http://www.paddlesteamers.com.au)). Stroll along Chaffey Trail – a self guided walk and take in the highlights of the old Mildura homestead. Head to the Mildura brewery and sample the award winning beers - the Honey Wheat and Mallee Bull. Set in the former Astor Cinema, this is Mildura's trendiest drinking hole ([www.mildurabrewery.com.au](http://www.mildurabrewery.com.au)). Check out Harry Nanya Tours Indigenous guide Graham Clarke will keep you enchanted with Dreamtime stories and his deep knowledge and understanding of the Mungo region ([www.harrynanyatours.com.au](http://www.harrynanyatours.com.au)). Visit the Mildura Country Music Festival in September and see over 100 of Australia's finest country music acts ([www.milduracountrymusic.com.au](http://www.milduracountrymusic.com.au)).

### PERTH, Western Australia

From amazing man-made attractions and beautiful parklands, to extraordinary marine life, Perth has something for everyone. Experience the fun and excitement of Adventure World, Perth's premier fun park, featuring thrill rides like the Abyss rollercoaster and the medieval themed Dragon's Kingdom. Pay just one entry fee, then ride for free. Open September to May.



#### GO WEST (top to bottom)

Inland Victoria is a treasure trove of mountain resorts, wineries and perfect country towns of which Kyneton is just one. Situated on the banks of the Murray River is the beautiful town of Mildura, home to many wineries and breweries. All the way west is Perth, a beautiful city surrounded by natural beauty and fringed by a dramatic coastline.



[www.adventureworld.net.au](http://www.adventureworld.net.au). Nestled in the deep forest valley of the Darling Range is Araluen Botanic Park. Featuring both exotic and native species the park is a great place to relax or enjoy one of many delightful bush walks. The Araluen Train, complete with recorded commentary, is a popular attraction during the peak spring flowering season. Captain Cook Cruises offers excellent cruising on Perth's magnificent Swan River and is a great way to see Perth and Fremantle. Try the famous wine cruise to Sandalford Estate, followed by wine tasting and a delicious gourmet lunch ([www.captaincookcruises.com.au](http://www.captaincookcruises.com.au)). Fremantle Prison is one of Western Australia's major World Heritage Listed tourist attractions. Built by convicts in the 1850s it was used as a jail for almost 140 years. With solitary cells and gallows the prison is now a place of history, mystery and fun. Choose from a prison day tour (Adults \$20 Children \$11; tunnels tour Adults \$60 Children \$40; adventure or a spooky torchlight tour Adults \$26 Children; \$16 [www.fremantleprison.com.au](http://www.fremantleprison.com.au)).

### **BAY OF ISLANDS,** *New Zealand*

A three hour drive north of Auckland, the Bay of Islands encompasses 144 islands between Cape Brett and the Purerua Peninsula. Enjoy sailing, cruising, fishing or just swim alongside the dolphins. Uncover the history of the picturesque settlement of Kerikeri with a Kerikeri Half Day Tour (Adults \$60 Children; \$30 Ph+64 9402 7422). Explore the Bay of Islands with a Fullers Great Sights Bay of Islands dolphin watching cruise to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. Tours depart daily (Adults \$102 Children; \$51 Ph+64 9583 5790). Experience an unforgettable journey through the natural beauty of the Hokianga with Hokianga & Tane Mahuta Day Tour. Learn local stories and legends and get an authentic insight into early Maori history (Adults \$115 Children \$57.50; Ph+64 9402 7422). Visit the Russell Museum and see the story of the development of Russell / Kororarereka from a small Maori fishing village to a major port. See the one-fifth scale model of Captain Cook's Endeavour. Open every day 10am-4pm.

### **CHRISTCHURCH,** *New Zealand*

Situated on the Canterbury Plains on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, Christchurch is a garden city with great cycling paths and magnificent botanic gardens. Take in the city sights by joining a guided bike tour, Christchurch Bike & Walking Tours (Prices start from \$50pp for 2 hour tour includes bike, helmet and vest; [www.chchbiketours.co.nz](http://www.chchbiketours.co.nz)). For the ultimate overview of the city, Garden City (20 minutes flight costs \$199pp) will take you to lofty heights. See how much the city has changed since the 2010/2011 earthquakes. Helicopters ([www.helicopters.net.nz](http://www.helicopters.net.nz)) punting on the Avon River is an iconic attraction not to be missed. Departs from the historic Antigua Boat Shed landing. Sweep past the weeping willows, woodlands and the leafy banks. 30-minute tour costs \$25pp ([www.welcomeaboard.co.nz/punting](http://www.welcomeaboard.co.nz/punting)). If you're a history buff, take a fascinating journey through New Zealand's military aviation history at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand. Open every day and entry is free ([www.airforcemuseum.co.nz](http://www.airforcemuseum.co.nz)).



#### **EXPERIENCE NZ:** (counter clockwise from above)

The infinitely photogenic Bay of Islands is a bucket list must for any savvy traveller. Christchurch is a garden city with a decidedly English feel that can deliver a holiday ranging from genteel to adventure packed. Queenstown offers all of the thrill seeking activities anyone could desire but it's her natural beauty that will make your head spin.



Christchurch is known as the Gateway to Antarctica and you can learn more about this at the International Antarctic Centre where you can explore an icy way of living and cold-loving wildlife (Adults \$59 Children \$29; [www.iceberg.co.nz](http://www.iceberg.co.nz)).

### QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand

Set against the dramatic Southern Alps, Queenstown sits on the shore of the South Island's Lake Wakatipu. The surrounding Central Otago region is known for its magnificent wines and for adventure sports. Make sure you head out to Gibbston Valley Winery to sample world-class pinot noir wine in one of the picturesque vineyards. Cost \$5pp for tasting 3 newly released wines or \$12pp for wine and chocolate tasting ([www.gibbstonvalley.com](http://www.gibbstonvalley.com)). In winter, there's backcountry skiing while summer brings paragliding, mountain biking and bungee jumping. Check out the Kawarau Bridge Bungy (43m at \$195pp; <http://www.bungy.co.nz/kawarau-bungy-centre>) Just a 5-minute walk from Central Queenstown, Skyline Queenstown offers awe-inspiring views of the region and great entertainment and adventure for the whole family ([www.skyline.co.nz/queenstown](http://www.skyline.co.nz/queenstown)). Take the journey on the iconic Gondola up Bob's Peak to enjoy award winning cuisine in the scenic Stratosfare Restaurant as well as Kiwi Haka Maori culture performances and the Skyline Luge. Skyline Gondola passes cost \$32 for Adults and \$20 for Children. Be pampered at the luxury Body Sanctum Day Spa offering massage, body treatments, sauna and spa options. Mobile massages from \$70pp ([www.bodysanctum.co.nz](http://www.bodysanctum.co.nz)).



## STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS NEAR SOME OF THE FEATURED DESTINATIONS INCLUDE:

### SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

#### Travelodge Sydney Hotel

3 nights from AU\$499/NZ\$559 Hotel 7449  
4 nights from AU\$649/NZ\$719 Hotel 8074  
7 nights from AU\$1099/NZ\$1219 Hotel R784

#### Oaks Goldsborough

3 nights from AU\$609/NZ\$679 1brm RA30  
4 nights from AU\$809/NZ\$899 1brm RA31  
3 nights from AU\$949/NZ\$1049 2brm RA30  
4 nights from AU\$1259/NZ\$1399 2brm RA31

### PORT MACQUARIE, NEW SOUTH WALES

#### Port Pacific Resort 1816

Located in the heart of Port Macquarie, Port Pacific Resort is the perfect base for exploring the beaches, wineries, wildlife and art galleries of the mid north coast of New South Wales.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Spacious, clean and comfortable rooms. A great spot where you can walk to all types of restaurants, supermarkets and general shopping."

### COOLANGATTA, QUEENSLAND

#### Beach House Seaside Resort 1483

The Beach House Seaside Resort is in the most idyllic location overlooking the magnificent Coolangatta Beach, known for its spectacular surfing conditions and stunning scenery.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Lovely rooms, beautiful views."

### SUNSHINE COAST, QUEENSLAND

#### Oaks Seaforth

3 nights from AU\$519/NZ\$579 1brm R594  
4 nights from AU\$689/NZ\$769 1brm R595  
3 nights from AU\$709/NZ\$789 2brm R594  
4 nights from AU\$929/NZ\$1029 2brm R595

### KYNETON, VICTORIA

#### Kyneton Bushland Resort 0830

Set within more than 125 acres of natural bushland, Kyneton Bushland Resort is on the outskirts of Kyneton. Each villa is nestled in a unique bush setting, ensuring your complete privacy.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Good amenities, stunning surrounding area, good location for day trips, easy access to Melbourne."

### MILDURA, VICTORIA

#### Sunraysia Resort 1179

Situated on the famous Murray River Sunraysia Resort is a perfect place to take the family for a relaxing and memorable holiday. There are plenty of on-site activities provided including a gym, tennis courts, mini golf and swimming pools.

Members review: "Beautiful grounds, pools and activities. Clean units and great restaurant and bar."

### MANDURAH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### Silver Sands Resort 1171

Close to the Indian Ocean with great views from its pristine shores. There are many nightclubs, theme parks and shopping centres nearby.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Terrific resort in a great location within walking distance to shops and the beach."

### CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

#### Rendezvous Christchurch Hotel

3 nights from AU\$499/NZ\$549 Hotel RD62  
4 nights from AU\$679/NZ\$749 Hotel RD63  
3 nights from AU\$549/NZ\$599 Deluxe Unit RD64  
4 nights from AU\$729/NZ\$799 Deluxe Unit RD65

### QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

#### The Lofts Apartments 1727

The Lofts Apartments is the perfect base between Lake Wakatipu and Earnslaw Wharf, and a quick jump off point for Milford Sound or Mt. Cook. All the unique shopping and entertainment of Queenstown is right outside your door.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Clean and comfortable. Shops, most attractions were close by with an easy stroll"

#### Oaks Shores Hotel

3 nights from AU\$569/NZ\$629 Unit R481  
3 nights from AU\$869/NZ\$959 1brm R481  
4 nights from AU\$759/NZ\$892 Unit R482  
4 nights from AU\$1149/NZ\$1269 1brm R482

### PAIHIA, NEW ZEALAND

#### Club Paihia 1374

Breathtaking views and every amenity including multiple swimming pools, spa pools, sauna, fitness centre, gymnasium, tennis courts, barbecues and bushwalking track.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Fantastic location. Beautiful Bay of Islands. Walking distance to shops, restaurants."

For additional resort listings, visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com) or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ



**DINING IN**  
RECIPES FOR  
RESORT MADE MEALS

# Taste of the Philippines

A MELTING POT OF FLAVORS MAKES A DELICIOUS BRAISED CHICKEN.

RECIPE BY CHEF DAVID LAPHAM

**O**ur photo editor Pamela Pasco's mom, Evangeline, a great home cook, was born in the Philippines and raised her family on classic dishes, like chicken afritada. She provided the recipe below and taught us how to make it.

Although the Spanish roots of the word *afritada* indicate something fried, in the Philippines it refers to a tomato-based stew with the uniquely Philippine addition of fish sauce.

## CHICKEN AFRITADA

900 grams chicken, cut into pieces

2 tsp salt

1 tsp pepper

2 Tbsp flour

4 Tbsp vegetable oil

4 cloves garlic, crushed

1 medium onion, chopped

1 medium tomato, chopped

1 240ml can tomato sauce

2 tbsp fish sauce

1 bay leaf

1 tbsp dried oregano

240ml water

1 green bell pepper, diced

1 red bell pepper, diced

4 medium potatoes,  
cut into 2-inch pieces

2 carrots, cut into 2-inch pieces

1 cup frozen peas

Dry chicken parts and dredge in flour seasoned with salt and pepper; shake off any excess flour. Heat two tablespoons of the oil in a large pot over medium-high heat and brown chicken parts on both sides, about seven minutes; do this in batches to prevent crowding the pot. Remove chicken and set aside on a plate.

To the same pot, add the remaining two tablespoons oil and the garlic and onion and cook over medium-low heat until translucent, about five minutes. Add the tomato, browned chicken parts, tomato sauce, fish sauce, bay leaf, oregano, water, bell peppers, potatoes and carrots. Simmer 35 minutes, then add the peas and cook three more minutes. Serve with white jasmine rice.

## STAY RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDE:



### **Puerto del Sol Beach Resort and Hotel 7647**

Located in Bolinao, the picturesque Eden north of Manila and dubbed Pangasinan's Gateway to the world. It is a beautiful and exclusive resort nestled in the heart of the town.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Friendly staff." "Plenty of things to do."

**For additional resort listings,  
visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com) or call 1300 368 800 AU  
or 0800 368 800 NZ**



# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE CANARY ISLANDS

BY ERIN FLORIO

*Offering sugar-sand beaches, volcano hikes and some of the world's best windsurfing and weather, the Canary Islands are like Europe's own mini Caribbean.*

**STRIKING BEAUTY:** (clockwise from left)

Vivid orange rock and turquoise waters make the Canary Islands an arresting visual experience. The stunning cliffs of Gran Canaria. One of many churches with a view, Canary Islands Basilica de Candelaria in Tenerife. An idyllic spot to spend a day (or three), El Duque beach Tenerife.

## CANARY ISLANDS

TENERIFE

GRAN CANARIA

FUERTEVENTURA

You probably won't need to pack a raincoat when headed to the Canaries. This Spanish archipelago of seven major (and several minor) volcanic islands 96 kilometres off Morocco's southwest coast is said to have some of the best weather on Earth: 320 sun-flooded days a year and temperatures hovering around 24 degrees. It's little wonder that it has long been the winter playground of sun-starved Europeans. But the islands' collective beauty and climate are worth escaping to any time of year, and each isle has distinctive draws: Fuerteventura is a windsurfing hot spot; UNESCO-protected Gran Canaria offers giant sand dunes and miles of pine-shrouded mountain trails; and the coasts of Tenerife teem with marine life. On the following pages we'll show you which island may be best for you.

### ISLAND HOPPING:

(clockwise from below) Tenerife harbour with its mountainous backdrop. Playa del Ingles beach and Maspalomas Dunes, Gran Canaria. A traditional windmill on Canary Island, Fuerteventura. Sunset hiking on Roque Nublo, Gran Canaria. Water sports mecca Fuerteventura Beach, the place to try windsurfing, sailing and pretty much all other watersports.

### FUERTEVENTURA

#### Life's a Beach

The second-largest Canary (behind Tenerife) is a beach lover's paradise, offering more than 150 golden-sand playias. The showpiece among them is 10km-long Corralejo Beach, where powder-fine sands line a nature reserve. Farther south, sun worshippers park themselves along the 21km coastline of Jandía, a peninsula popular for windsurfing. Try your hand at the sport with René Egli (Playa Sotavento; 011- 34-928-54-74-83; [rene-egli.com](http://rene-egli.com); courses, from \$98\*), which offers courses and rentals from Sotavento beach, where the windsurfing world championships are held every July.

The underwater landscape here is brimming with tropical fish. At Jandía Divers (Hotel Iberostar Palace; 011-34-606-17-42-51; [jandiadivers.com](http://jandiadivers.com); three-hour dives, from \$65), German expat Stephan Reckers leads voyages into underwater volcano craters, home to angel sharks and barracudas. Once back on dry land, the Faro de Jandía lighthouse (Parque Natural Jandía) is just a few kilometres down the coast from here, along untamed dunes.



Tip: Get a four-wheel drive vehicle for the trip; there is little paved road south of town. The 600-year-old former capital of the Canary Islands, Betancuria, is located in a cactus-spiked valley on the west coast. The town is anchored by the white-walled Santa María cathedral (Calle de Alcalde Carmelo Silvera), rebuilt in the 1600s after being razed by Moorish pirates in 1593.

You'll find all sorts of crafts at Casa Santa Maria (1 Plaza Santa Maria de Betancuria; 011-34-928-87-80-36; [casasantamaria.net](http://casasantamaria.net)), a 17th-century farmhouse turned craft centre where you can watch artisans working the looms and pottery wheels before you select some pieces to bring home with you. The centre also has a restaurant of the same name (011-34-928-87-82-82; lunch for two, \$120); chef Dusan Senkerik's specialty is braised local goat. Never mind that post-lunch siesta; you'll want to walk off the meal amid the ancient tools and artifacts of Fuerteventura's native Majo tribes, artfully displayed at the Museo Arqueológico y Etnográfico (12-14 Calle Roberto Roldán; 011-34-928-87-82-41; admission, \$3), a five-minute stroll away.

## GRAN CANARIA Natural Playground

In 2005 UNESCO declared 40 percent, roughly 620 square kilometres, of Gran Canaria a protected natural biosphere. It's easy to see why this island is a nature lover's dream, with its Sahara-style sand dunes and volcanic-rock formations. Kick things off in Maspalomas, a tourist town on the southern tip and home to popular Playa de Inglés. Here you'll spot the spectacular Maspalomas Dunes, a desert like 1,000-acre (approx. 404 hectare) nature reserve of sand whipped by the wind into tall, undulating rows. They can be fun but tiring to conquer on foot; luckily herds of camels are saddled up and standing by to help you cross the sand ([camellosafari.com](http://camellosafari.com); rides, from \$18). Should you build up an appetite, try El Salsete (Calle Secundino Delgado; 011-34-928-77-82-55; [elsalsete.com](http://elsalsete.com); lunch for two, \$72), in neighbouring San Fernando, where lunch will be whichever fish chef Paco Viera picked up fresh from the market that morning.

For more of Gran Canaria's natural highlights, swing north on highway GC-60 from Maspalomas through the island's

arid lunar interior. Forty kilometres (and some steep turns) in, you'll reach Roque Nublo (Tejeda; 011-34-928-66-60-01), a 80 metre-tall volcanic-rock formation and place of worship for Gran Canaria's original, Berber settlers. From the parking area, it's a 35 minute hike to the rock, but well worth it for the sweeping, 360-degree views out across the palm-and salt-cedar-lined ravines and valley. Serious hikers will want to carry on northwest to the Parque Natural de Tamadaba, whose network of paths winds through pine and cactus forests filled with native fauna, like Gallotia lizards and peregrine falcons. If you can peel yourself away from the natural wonders, consider spending a day admiring Gran Canaria's 437-year-old capital, Las Palmas, pinched between two bays in the island's northeast. Past the cobblestoned Plaza Santa Ana, in the Old Town, is the Casa de Colón (1 Calle de Colón; 011-34-928-31-23-73; [casadecolon.com](http://casadecolon.com); admission, \$10), a petite museum inside a white-walled villa with latticed balconies and green marble doorways. The museum honours Christopher Columbus, who allegedly stayed here while his ship La Pinta was repaired before sailing the ocean blue



## WEATHER

The Canary Islands enjoy year-round sunshine, with temperatures averaging 27 degrees in summer and 18 degrees in winter. Note that mountains can be significantly cooler than the coasts.

## GETTING THERE

Major European airlines, including British Airways ([britishairways.com](http://britishairways.com)) and Iberia ([iberia.com](http://iberia.com)), offer direct flights to Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria and Tenerife

from London, Madrid and other cities, while budget carrier Ryanair ([ryanair.com](http://ryanair.com)) flies to all three from more than 30 European locations. Once there you can hop around with regional carrier Binter ([bintercanarias.com](http://bintercanarias.com)), which has several 45-minute flights between the islands throughout the day, or cross over the islands with Fred Olsen ([fredolsen.es](http://fredolsen.es)), a fast ferry that connects the Canaries' major islands. Journeys take up to three hours, and you can drive your rental car onto the ferry.

## GETTING AROUND

Though all three of these islands are served by public buses that can get you to major sites, car rentals are available at Cicar ([011-34-928-82-29-00](http://011-34-928-82-29-00); [cicar.com](http://cicar.com); daily rentals, from \$46) which has 39 offices throughout the archipelago.

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

in 1492. The museum features a replica of a cabin from the Niña and relics documenting the relationship between the Canaries and the Americas. Any day trip to Las Palmas should finish with sunset *tinto de verano* (red wine punch) and the town's signature *papas arrugadas con mojo* (cubed potatoes in a spiced sauce) on the waterfront terrace at El Charcón 41 (41 Calle Nicolás Estévez; [011-34-928-49-03-75](http://011-34-928-49-03-75); tapas for two, \$13).

## TENERIFE

### Trails and Whales

This teardrop-shaped Canary annually receives 5 million travellers, most of whom come for its dramatic landscapes and yearly Carnival celebration, said to be second only to those in Rio de Janeiro. It also has centuries-old footpaths pounded out by native Guanche tribes. The most challenging trail is up Mount Teide (Teide National Park; [011-34-922-92-23-71](http://011-34-922-92-23-71); [magrama.gob.es](http://magrama.gob.es)), Spain's highest peak and the third tallest volcano on Earth. Climbers can follow

the main path (La Rambleta) to the 3720 metre summit, crossing lava fields en route; it generally takes six hours. But the cable car ([telefericoteide.com](http://telefericoteide.com); one-way tickets, from \$21) can whisk you up in just eight minutes. Regardless of how you go, you'll need a permit first, obtainable at [reservasparquesnacionales.es/](http://reservasparquesnacionales.es/). Once you're at the top, it's nothing but open sky and views across the Atlantic to pint-size La Gomera Island, 120 kilometres offshore.

Mount Teide may be majestic, but so is the island's exceptional marine life— especially on its west coast. Spy pods of pilot whales and bottlenose dolphins during a four-hour catamaran cruise with Tenerife Dolphin (Playa de las Americas; [011-34-922-75-00-85](http://011-34-922-75-00-85); [tenerifedolphin.com](http://tenerifedolphin.com); day trips, from \$31), which sails through the strait separating Tenerife from La Gomera. For something more intimate, consider suiting up with Los Gigantes Diving Center (Galeria de la Marina; [011-34-922-86-04-31](http://011-34-922-86-04-31); [divingtenerife.co.uk](http://divingtenerife.co.uk); dives, from \$98) to swim right up to 270-kilo green turtles and six types of stingrays. After your plunge, visit Los

Gigantes cliffs, which drop nearly 610 metres into the Atlantic. Right in the shadow of the monoliths, brothers Juan Carlos and Jonathan Padrón will cook you a plate of Canarian black pork and grilled local lamb at island favourite El Rincón de Juan Carlos (2 Pasaje de Jacaranda; [34-922-86-80-40](http://34-922-86-80-40); [elrincondejuancarlos.es](http://elrincondejuancarlos.es); dinner for two, \$125).

Back on the west coast, you'll find the Ritz-Carlton Abama, home to Basque chef Martin Berasategui's M.B. restaurant (Carr. General TF-47, Guía de Isora; [011-34-922-12-60-00](http://011-34-922-12-60-00); [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com), dinner for two, \$340), the only two-Michelin starred restaurant in the archipelago. If you fancy something more classic, go on a tapas crawl through the Noria dining district in the capital, Santa Cruz. You can feast on cod croquettes and Spanish tortilla at spots like Bulan (35 Calle Antonio Domínguez Alfonso; [011-34-928-27-41-16](http://011-34-928-27-41-16); [bulantenerife.com](http://bulantenerife.com); tapas for two, \$13), a great way to refuel after admiring the work of homegrown surrealist painter Óscar Domínguez at TEA gallery (10 Avda. de San Sebastián; [011-34-922-84-90-57](http://011-34-922-84-90-57); [teatenerife.es](http://teatenerife.es); admission, \$12). Either way you're sure to get a delicious taste of the Canary Islands.



**HOT AND COLD:** (clockwise from far left) Road tripping Tenerife style, keeping your eyes on the road and off the view may be tough. Plaza de Santa Ana, Gran Canaria. Believe it or not a snow capped mountain on Tenerife, Mt Teide. Another beautiful view of Fuerteventura. Tenerife kicks on when the sun goes down.



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN  
THE CANARY ISLANDS INCLUDE:



#### Apartamentos Tropical Park 2403

Tenerife

Highlights at this coastal retreat include on-site diving lessons and nightly entertainment.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Plenty going on - yoga, archery, aqua aerobics. Great ocean views."



#### Callao Garden 2232

Tenerife

Mediterranean-theme accommodations within easy reach of Teide National Park.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Some of the best staff we've come across." "Rooms were very clean."



#### Dunas Club 2539

Corralejo, Fuerteventura

Walk to Corralejo's lively bars and restaurants from this peaceful complex.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "The location was spot-on." "The resort's restaurants, La Luna served superb, reasonably priced food."



#### Club Marina 2378

Tenerife

A sun-soaked sanctuary near Costa del Silencio's many water sports.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Spotlessly clean." "Loads of storage space." "Staff was exceptional."



#### Pearly Grey Ocean Club 1786

Tenerife

Recently refurbished cliff-side apartments with uninterrupted sea views.

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "We could watch the sun set and listen to the waves crashing against the rocks." "Friendly English speaking staff."

**For additional resort listings,  
visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com) or call  
1300 368 800 AU or  
0800 368 800 NZ**



# RAINFOREST

TROPICAL ADVENTURES IN SUNNY CAIRNS

BY CATHY WEVER

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach and reef. A long, narrow, sandy beach curves from the bottom left towards the center right. The water is a vibrant turquoise, showing the intricate patterns of the coral reef. Several people are walking along the beach, and a small boat is visible in the distance. The sky is a clear, deep blue with a few wispy clouds.

# TO REEF

With both reef and rainforest on your doorstep, Cairns offers easy access to many of Far North Queensland's most spectacular attractions, including the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef.



**NATURES ART GALLERY:** There are few natural treasures that can rival the Great Barrier Reef for pure spectacle and Cairns puts you right on its doorstep. If you have time, learn to scuba dive and experience the best the reef has to offer. If you don't have the time, then snorkelling can offer a great introduction to one of the world's true wonders.

## World's best diving

With its proximity to the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns is a divers' paradise. Whether you're a novice or seasoned at scuba, the stunning underwater environments of the region are a must-see for any visitor.

Choose from a wide selection of dive operators and diving tours that operate daily from the city's Reef Fleet Terminal. Most include diving around the spectacular coral gardens and marine life of the Outer Barrier Reef, while some also feature a stop at picturesque Green Island. Tours cater to experienced (licensed) scuba divers, as well as beginning (non-licensed) divers. The Cairns Visitor Centre lists a range of diving tours to suit all budgets.

You can even hire an underwater camera and photograph your dive to have a unique souvenir of your Great Barrier Reef experience. If you'd like to become a licensed scuba diver, Cairns is also the perfect place to learn. Keep your eyes peeled for Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) courses. A PADI course teaches you all the basic scuba

diving skills required to dive safely in open water, including how to use masks, snorkels, fins, regulators, buoyancy-control devices and a tank.

## Sensational snorkelling

Not keen on diving? Snorkel instead and marvel at close encounters with dazzling corals, fish and the other diverse marine life for which the Great Barrier Reef is internationally renowned.

Most snorkel tours out of Cairns include equipment hire, plus catamaran or speedboat transport to a well-equipped pontoon. From here, you can snorkel and swim for as long as you like, popping back up on deck when you feel like a break, some sunbathing, a snack or even a shower. Many pontoons also feature enclosed children's snorkelling areas, making them perfect for the whole family.

If you'd prefer to stay dry, look for tours to pontoons equipped with semi-submerged underwater observatories. See all the gorgeous colours and marine life of the reef without even getting wet!



**BIRDS EYE VIEW:** Only fifteen minutes from Cairns but a world away the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway allows visitors to see the coast and the rainforest from a unique perspective and is a must see for all visitors.



## Set sail

With its crystal-clear waters, the Cairns coast is an exceptional location from which to hoist the sails. From single-day adventures to more lengthy onboard stays, sailing tours from Cairns offer the exhilaration of the open sea combined with below-deck comfort and are ideal for those looking for a more intimate holiday experience.

Sailing tours can be perfect for smaller groups, and many tour packages allow you to customise your time on the water. You may also have the chance to visit quieter parts of the Great Barrier Reef. Typical sailing tour activities include snorkelling, scuba diving and, of course, helping sail the vessel, if you're up for it.

Overnight sailing tours are a local specialty, and many depart daily from the port of Cairns. Overnighting on the Great Barrier Reef is a true holiday highlight and a unique way to experience this world wonder's natural beauty. Overnight sailing tours include meals and accommodation on the yacht. Prices start from approximately \$330 per person.

## Ride the famous Kuranda Scenic Railway

Take the world-famous Kuranda Scenic Railway from Cairns to Kuranda – the village in the rainforest. This nearly two-hour heritage train trip takes you past stunning waterfalls, over wide ravines and through some of the most spectacular tropical rainforest in Queensland. Built

from 1886 to 1891, the Kuranda Scenic Railway is a feat of engineering – even by today's standards. Prices for a one-way trip start at \$50 for adults, \$25 for children and \$125 for families. Book at [www.ksr.com.au](http://www.ksr.com.au).

On arrival in Kuranda, you'll find a pretty village featuring a tempting array of activities, restaurants and shops – it's the perfect place to spend the day. Animal lovers will enjoy the Kuranda Koala Gardens or the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary, while the many cafes, coffee shops and restaurants provide a welcome chance to stop and relax. You can literally spend hours shopping in Kuranda – clothing, lollies, art and craft, souvenirs and jewellery are just some of the items on offer in the village's many quaint boutiques. For those who love to fossick, don't miss the Kuranda Original Rainforest Market and the Kuranda Heritage Markets – both open every day.

Many visitors to Cairns combine a trip on the Kuranda Scenic Railway with a ride on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Located in Barron Gorge National Park and operating between Kuranda and Smithfield (just 15 minutes from Cairns), the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway takes visitors on an incredible seven-and-a-half-kilometre journey over pristine rainforest in a gondola-style cabin. Stop off at Barron Falls Station and experience spectacular views of Barron Gorge, a deep chasm lined with dense rainforest vegetation. Alight at Red Peak Station (545 metres above sea level) to stroll on the boardwalk through



Look down on Cairns from a hot air balloon.

# TOURS

There are more than 600 tours that depart from Cairns every day! Here are our top three:

1. Learn about Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on a tour of Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park. Day and evening tours offer unique insight into one of the world's oldest cultures and feature dance performances, storytelling, boomerang throwing, fire-making and more. Prices start at \$60 per adult and \$40 per child.
2. Experience the beauty of Cairns at dusk on a harbour and sunset cruise. Priced from \$44 per adult, \$22 per child and \$110 for families, these cruises depart daily at 5.30pm and include a complimentary drink on deck before departure. Enjoy stunning views as the sun sets against the backdrop of the mountains. You might even see a local saltwater croc basking in the last of the day's rays.
3. Take to the sky in a hot-air balloon over Cairns and the nearby Atherton Tablelands. Float high above rainforest-fringed mountains and watch as the sun rises in the beautiful tropical sky. Enjoy spectacular 360-degree panoramic views and see whether you can spot a wallaby or two from the air. Operating daily, hot-air-balloon tours start at \$235 per person.

A trip to Cairns can be as busy or as carefree as you desire. In addition to diving, snorkelling and sailing, other water-based activities on offer locally include whitewater rafting, kitesurfing and fishing. On dry land, try a four-wheel-drive tour, enjoy a spot of birdwatching, go trekking through the rainforest or simply stroll around this walkable city and soak up the tropical vibe. If a warm and vibrant destination with countless options sounds like your kind of holiday, Cairns should definitely be on your list!



Cairns city



**THE WORLD'S BEST SEAFOOD:** Queenslanders love seafood and for good reason, they have the best in the world and Cairns has plenty of restaurants and cafes where visitors can sample some.

the rainforest's canopy layers. Gondolas depart regularly, but make sure you book ahead to experience this popular and intimate rainforest adventure. Prices for a one-way trip on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway start at \$50 for adults, \$25 for children and \$125 for families. Book at [www.skyrail.com.au](http://www.skyrail.com.au).

### Dining out in Cairns

Cairns restaurants serve up some of the freshest seafood in the world as well as a wide selection of international cuisine. Most of the city's eateries are concentrated along and around the Cairns Esplanade, between Florence and Spence streets. Here, you'll find a range of quality restaurants, casual cafes and classic food halls. For an atmospheric evening, try the Waterbar and Grill Steakhouse, which is located right on the water and offers stunning views of the Cairns Marlin Marina.

### Around town

As well as endless stretches of tropical beach, Cairns offers attractions aplenty in and around town. Don't miss the region's most comprehensive collection of reptiles, birds and mammals at the Cairns Tropical Zoo. Located on six hectares of landscaped tropical gardens, the zoo is home to saltwater and freshwater crocodiles, parrots, brolgas, emus, dingoes,

koalas and many more animals from Australia and around the world. Enjoy activities such as animal feeding and flight-bird shows or visit the Cairns Night Zoo for a unique evening experience. General-admission tickets are \$34 for adults, \$17 for children and \$85 for families. Tours, events and animal encounters cost an additional fee.

Take to the saddle and experience the countryside around Cairns on horseback. Meander through rainforest pockets, mangrove wetlands, sugarcane fields and native bush on a professionally guided trail ride. Blazing Saddles offers half-day trail rides for the whole family (the minimum age is four years old). The company caters to riders of all levels, from beginners to more advanced riders. Prices start at \$125 per person.

The 'food bowl of the tropics', the Atherton Tablelands (also known as the Cairns Highlands) is a picturesque region set in the mountains west of Cairns. Brimming with wildlife, the area boasts 300-plus bird species. See how many you can spot! Don't miss the area's glittering lakes and surging waterfalls, including Barron Falls and the much-photographed Millaa Millaa Falls. Gourmands will also enjoy the region's tempting produce. Tea, coffee, chocolate and wine are local specialties. 🍷



## STAY

**RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN CAIRNS INCLUDE:**



#### Mantra Trilogy 8413

Set above the newly developed waterfront esplanade, Trilogy Resort's premier location and landmark architecture amount to a superior expression of the Far North Queensland lifestyle. 7 nights from AU\$849/NZ\$939 1brm  
AU\$1049/NZ\$1159 2brm



#### Cairns Beach Resort 7112

Situated at Holloways Beach just 10 min drive to the Cairns CBD. Enjoy all the facilities including tropical gardens and saltwater pool that surround the resort. 7 nights from AU\$799/NZ\$889 1brm



#### Marlin Cove A029

On pristine Trinity Beach situated 15 minutes from Cairns. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, and discover the region's natural attractions; the Great Barrier Reef and the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest. 7 nights from AU\$899/NZ\$999 1brm  
AU\$1099/NZ\$1219 2brm

**For additional resort listings, visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com) or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ**

GET ON

RCI MEMBERS

# HOLIDAY

WITH RCI

*Nothing feels quite like being on holiday!*

As an RCI member, you have access to nearly 4,500 affiliated resorts across the globe, and we have all the tools you need to help you plan your holiday and play, eat, shop, relax and explore!

Here's what you'll find inside:

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Members Stories



## Open an Ongoing Search

Can't find the holiday you are looking for?

New deposits come in every single day, so let us do the work for you!

### Open an Ongoing Search

RCI will search for you 24/7 and notify you when a match is found. An Ongoing Search is like putting yourself on a waiting list for your dream holiday. It is the first place newly member deposited weeks are matched against, so members on the list are first in line and get prioritised access to the new deposited weeks before they're available online!





# Getting started is simple:

1. Click the Ongoing Search tab on the right-hand side of the search screen and enter your holiday criteria.

You can be as specific as you want, but as with a standard search, being flexible gives you the most options.

2. Begin your search.

RCI will continue to search until a resort match is found.

3. Get a notification to confirm!

RCI will contact you as soon as a resort match is found. You have the option of RCI auto-booking the resort for you as soon as a match comes through or you can wait and confirm it yourself. But remember, once a match is found, you only have 24 hours to confirm before the holiday is released to another member on the waitlist.



# Cutting Through the Jargon....

We know how confusing some terms can be, that's why we've included this guide to help it all make sense.

## Timeshare

Timeshare is a form of holiday ownership. You own the right (either directly or through a "club") to use a week (or longer) in resort accommodation for a set period of time.

Also known as **"holiday ownership", "your week", "shared ownership"**

## Affiliated resort

A resort which has been entered into a current business agreement with RCI.

Also known as **"partner", "associate", "resort"**

## Developer

The company owning the freehold of the resort; who construct the accommodation and leisure facilities. They may also employ a management company to run the resort.

Also known as **"resort", "affiliate", "management company"**

## Deposit

Deposit your week with RCI to exchange for another week of comparable value.

Also known as **"bank", "spacebank"**

## Deposit window

The 24-month period in which members may deposit their week(s).

Also known as **"reservation window"**

## Holiday

Exchange your week to go to another resort in another destination.

Also known as **"swap", "vacation", "exchange"**

## Bonus Week

Week long holidays at RCI-affiliated resorts which you book with cash.

Also known as **"extra holiday", "cash booking", "rental"**

## Deposit Trading Power

When you deposit your week, RCI assigns it a trading power, known as Deposit Trading Power.

Also known as **“DTP”, “credit”, “currency”, “value of your week”**

## Fixed Week

You own a week of timeshare at an RCI-affiliated resort that does not change every year.

Also known as **“home week”, “fixed ownership”, “timeshare week”**

## Exchange Trading Power

Every option in the RCI exchange system is assigned trading power, known as Exchange Trading Power.

Also known as **“ETP”, “exchange value”, “value of your exchange”**

## Floating Week

You own a week of timeshare at an RCI-affiliated resort which is not fixed. You will need to contact RCI.

Also known as **“floating time”, “variable week”, “floating deposit”**

## Combine your Deposit

Combine your deposits or Deposit Credit so that you can exchange for a holiday that has greater trading power than your deposited week.

Also known as **“bundle your weeks”, “join your weeks”, “mix your weeks”**

## Maintenance fees

You pay maintenance fees direct to the resort to ensure general upkeep and quality of your resort and it covers everything from refurbishment of rooms and facilities to the day-to-day running costs.

Also known as **“management fees”, “dues”, “resort fees”**

## Deposit Credit

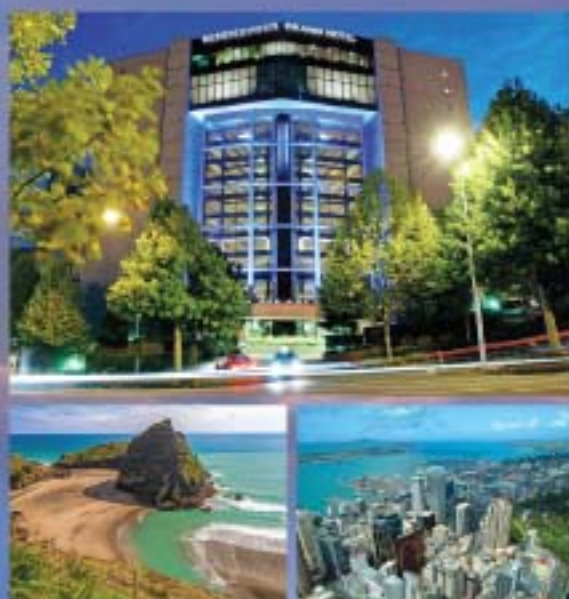
If the trading power of your Exchange Holiday is less than the trading power of the weeks you have deposited, you will receive a Deposit Credit that can be used (or combined) towards a future Exchange Holiday.

Also known as **“change back”, “credit”, “change”**

## Resort rating

Each of RCI's affiliated resorts are awarded a quality rating based on the comment card scores received from RCI members. They are known as RCI Hospitality, RCI Silver Crown and RCI Gold Crown.

Also known as **“3-star”, “4-star”, “5-star”, “key rating”**



### RENDEZVOUS HOTEL

Auckland NZ

Located in the city centre close to Queen Street and Viaduct Harbour where you will find some of the city's finest dining, shopping and entertainment venues at your doorstep. Take advantage of the great facilities and enjoy a swim in the heated indoor pool or have a delicious Teppanyaki meal at Katsura Japanese Restaurant.

3 nts from **AU\$459/NZ\$499** Hotel RD56

4 nts from **AU\$589/NZ\$649** Hotel RD57



### SWELL RESORT A033

Gold Coast QLD

Just a short walk to the patrolled surf beach of Burleigh Heads and offering a heated outdoor pool and spa (in season) with BBQ facilities, full sized tennis courts, a complete gymnasium and lovely landscaped gardens. Located close to popular James Street with a selection of restaurants, cafes and shops.

7 nts from **AU\$799/NZ\$889** 1 brm  
**AU\$1099/NZ\$1219** 2 brm



### MANTRA ON SALT BEACH R383

Kingscliff, NSW

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

7 nts from **AU\$949/NZ\$1049** 2 brm



### CAIRNS BEACH RESORT 7112

Cairns, Qld

Just a short walk and only 10 minutes drive from most area activities. Enjoy the tropical gardens and saltwater pool and dine at Coolum's on the Beach, a beachfront restaurant and bar while relaxing to the sounds of the waves lapping at the shore.

7 nts from **AU\$799/NZ\$889** 1 brm



### NOOSA KEYS RESORT A045

Noosaville, Qld

Centrally located alongside the Noosa River, the resort is surrounded by beautiful beaches. Play a few rounds of tennis, soothe yourself in the spa, soak up the sun or relax around the pool. Get to grill your favourite meal and catch up with friends at the barbecue area. Perfect for couples and families with plenty of activities close by.

7 nts from **AU\$769/NZ\$849** 2 brm  
**AU\$799/NZ\$889** 3 brm



### OAKS GATEWAY ON PALMER

Townsville, QLD

Gateway on Palmer is located on the waterfront and conveniently close to the CBD fringe. Facilities include a swimming pool on podium level with views over the river and city, and a fully equipped gym, along with a sauna and spa.

3 nts from **AU\$509/NZ\$569** 1 brm (R496)  
4 nts from **AU\$669/NZ\$739** 2 brm (R497)



### OAKS PLAZA PIER

Adelaide, SA

Beachfront apartment accommodation with resort facilities including indoor heated lap pool, gym, spa, plunge pool, sauna and steam room, plus a fabulous selection of bars, restaurants and cafes.

3 nts from **AU\$499/NZ\$559** Studio (R604)  
**AU\$799/NZ\$889** 2 brm (R604)  
4 nts from **AU\$659/NZ\$729** Studio (R605)  
**AU\$1059/NZ\$1169** 2 brm (R606)



### BREAKFREE ADELAIDE R716

Adelaide, SA

Located close to the central business district of Adelaide with a range of local transport options. Explore the many delights on offer in Adelaide, which is known locally as the city of churches. Take advantage of the city free bus that stops directly outside the hotel. Many local attractions can be reached on foot including the colourful arts district, Adelaide Convention Centre, casino and popular shopping destination, Rundle Mall.

5 nts from **AU\$899/NZ\$999** 2 brm



### ADINA PERTH BARRACK PLAZA

Perth, WA

Located perfectly in the centre of Perth with access to Kings Park, West Perth, East Perth, Northbridge, Subiaco and the Perth CBD. The area surrounding Barrack Plaza is home to historic buildings, state landmarks and several must-see attractions.

3 nts from **AU\$799/NZ\$889** 1 brm (RC93)  
4 nts from **AU\$1099/NZ\$1219** 1 brm (RC94)



### VILLAGE RESORT 1486

Port Macquarie, NSW

Set in lush gardens close by the Hastings River Broadwater. In your private lagoon, experience swimming and water sports of all kinds. While on the shores, the stylish bungalows are perfect for relaxing, BBQs, 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.

7 nts from **AU\$859/NZ\$949** 3 brm



**SAVE**  
AU\$1300  
per couple



### PNG DISCOVERY CRUISE

**Pacific Dawn**

10 Night

Round trip from Brisbane

Ports of Call: Alotau, Kitava Trobriands, Rabaul, Kiriwina Island, Doini Island, Milne Bay  
Selected departure in October 2015

Balcony (BB) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$2475\*pp  
Twin Share with Exchange**



**SAVE**  
AU\$1300  
per couple



### NEW CALEDONIA AND VANUATU CRUISE

**Sea Princess**

11 Night

Round trip from Brisbane

Ports of Call: Port Vila, Champagne Bay, Wala, Luganville, Noumea

Selected departure in December 2015

Oceanview (OF) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$2299\*pp  
Twin Share with Exchange**



**SAVE**  
AU\$1300  
per couple



### TRANSPACIFIC CRUISE

**Carnival Legend**

19 Night

From Honolulu to Sydney

Ports of Call: Raiatea, Papeete, Moorea, Bora Bora, Suva, Noumea

Selected departure in September 2015

Balcony (8F) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$2949\*pp  
Twin Share with Exchange**



**SAVE**  
AU\$2000  
per couple



### PRAGUE TO PARIS WITH MAGNIFICENT EUROPE

**Fly FREE\* to Europe**

**APT, AmaVerde**

21 Night

From Prague to Paris

Nuremberg, Bamberg, Wurzburg, Miltenberg, Rudesheim, Cologne, Amsterdam, Amsterdam

Selected departure in November 2015

Selected departure in March 2016

Balcony (P) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$14,640\*pp  
Twin Share with Exchange**



**SAVE**  
AU\$1500  
per couple



### MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

**Azamara Quest**

11 Night

From Barcelona to Nice

Ports of Call: Ibiza, Palma de Mallorca, Mahon Minorca, Propriano, Amalfi, Sorrento, Livorno/Florence, Portofino

Selected departure in September 2015

Oceanview (08) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$4697\*pp  
Twin Share with Exchange**



**SAVE**  
AU\$800  
per couple



### FLY CRUISE PACKAGES

#### GRAND ASIA

**Princess Cruises,  
Sapphire Princess**

21 Night

From Singapore to Beijing

Ports of Call: Laem Chabang, Phu, My, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Pusan, and Beijing.

#### Package Includes

- One Way Airfares from Sydney to Singapore
- 3 Nights' accommodation in Singapore
- 17 Night Cruise from Singapore to Beijing aboard the Sapphire Princess in a balcony cabin
- 1 Nights' accommodation in Beijing
- Port Charges fees and Airport Taxes

**Now from AU\$4276\*pp  
Twin Share with Exchange**



FOR MORE OFFERS VISIT [rcicruiseholidays.com](http://rcicruiseholidays.com)  
OR CALL 1300 724 263 AU 0800 724 263 NZ

**SCENIC TOURS**



**22  
DAYS**

**PERU ADVENTURE,  
GALÁPAGOS & AMAZON  
CRUISING (2016)**

**Highlights:** Quito, Galapagos Islands cruise, Lima, private charter Amazon cruise, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Cuzco, Lake Titicaca

Discover the icons of Quito and Peru including Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley, plus a Galápagos Islands cruise and a three night cruise on the Amazon River.

**Now from AU\$16,644\*pp** Exchange  
**Save AU\$1700\* per couple!**

\* Prices are to be used as a guide only and based on per person, twin share/ Prices and itineraries are subject to change, prices may vary per departure and will be confirmed at time of booking. Full supplier conditions apply.

**NORTHERN EXPLORER WITH  
PRE ALASKA CRUISE (2016)**



**16  
DAYS**

**NORTHERN EXPLORER WITH  
PRE ALASKA CRUISE (2016)**

SilverLeaf Service with Ocean-view Stateroom

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FOR MORE OFFERS VISIT [rcitourexchange.com](http://rcitourexchange.com)  
OR CALL **1300 301 022 AU 0800 301 022 NZ**

# How to host a holiday

A holiday of fun filled activities and laughter was enjoyed by eight Silver Service members and their partners when RCI hosted a weekend away in Wyndham Vacation Resorts Wanaka, New Zealand.

The weekend provided an opportunity for some of our RCI team to engage with members, and also for members to connect and make friends with like-minded people who love to travel and live life to the fullest.



Pretty as a picture.



Proud RCI and Wyndham members Ross and Janet Pickering from Queensland can't wait to return.

"Just wanted to say we had an incredible time. The staff were extremely helpful and polite and great ambassadors for the RCI brand. Next time we're planning to bring the family."

*Ross and Janet Pickering  
from Queensland*

To maintain your Silver Service RCI membership you need to book at least 2 holidays within your annual membership. RCI reserves the right to cancel the Silver Service membership program at any time. Silver Service membership cannot be transferred. Privileges and rewards relating to the Silver Service program can only be used by the primary account holders.

Host and RCI Director of Member Services, Deirdre Bourke said it was a great weekend for RCI staff who enjoyed spending quality time with the members.

**“We all had a wonderful weekend sharing our RCI experiences over a meal in a spirit of friendliness and laughter”**

*Deirdre Bourke*

**WANAKA WONDERLAND:** If a picture is worth a thousand words then this shot tells you all you need to know about Wanaka... natural beauty and pure majesty combine to make Wanaka a must visit destination for all RCI Members.



New friends

John and Enid Mead from New South Wales were happy to share their thoughts on the weekend and are already planning a return trip.

**“We had a really great time and enjoyed both the company of the RCI members and our wonderful hosts. We feel this is a really good way to get to know other members and be able to discuss our RCI experience in a relaxed setting.”**

**“In addition the facilities were excellent and we really appreciated the gifts. A huge thank you to all those involved and we will certainly be attending other Silver Service events in the future”**

*John and Enid Mead from New South Wales*



# Stay the Course

DON'T SKIP OUT ON YOUR DAILY JOG. THESE TIPS HELP YOU KEEP IN SHAPE WHILE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY

BASED ON ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN SUMMER 2015 U.S. ENDLESS VACATION MAGAZINE, WRITTEN BY HANNAH WALLACE.

Just a decade ago, runners on holiday had to find new routes on their own, either dodging traffic in unfamiliar cities or asking their resort concierge for an easy 5km loop. These days runners have so many online resources to choose from, the question is, which one to use? We asked Elizabeth Comeau, digital editor at Zelle, Runner's World's new online magazine for women, for the best ways to find great runs when you travel.

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## Crowdsource your run

So-called map apps can be full of information, allowing you to search runs by location and length. Comeau recommends MapMyRun.com, RunKeeper.com and Strava.com. These apps, all of which are free, also have a community aspect: They let you upload your run and share it with other runners. (You can make your profile public or limit your audience to people in your social network.) "If there's a route you do a lot, you can save it and even name it," says Comeau, who had one called "Elizabeth's lunchtime Castle Island Run" when she lived in Boston. All three apps have robust membership internationally as well as domestically, which means that you can find routes in Amsterdam, Munich, Tokyo or New York just as easily as in Sydney or Christchurch.

## Map it online

Though it's not an app, Runner World ([runnersworld.com](http://runnersworld.com)) has a route finder with a perk. You can search by surface type: grass, asphalt, and trail, track and so on.




## Yelp it

Turns out Yelp is not just for restaurant reviews. "When I really have trouble finding a route, I go to Yelp," Comeau says. She enters the city she's about to visit, clicks on the Talk menu (a general Q&A forum) and then fires away. "Yelp has really loyal users-and a segment of them happen to be runners."

## Run with a club

Most cities have at least one running club, and it typically offers several daily runs. "A bonus you run with will tell you where the best coffee is," Comeau says. Most running stores know about local clubs, but you can also find a directory at [coolrunning.com.au](http://coolrunning.com.au) or [coolrunning.co.nz](http://coolrunning.co.nz).

## Wear a fitness tracker

Though they don't find you a route, wearable fitness trackers, like Misfit and Fitbit, are more accurate than apps at tacking your distance, pace, calories burned and heart rate. They can also be synced with amp apps, and this makes it easy to get the best out of both tools. Comeau wears a Fitbit on her wrist but says Polar and Garmin make good fitness trackers as well. A fitness tracker is also easier to run with than a clunky smartphone. 

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ENDLESS HOLIDAY 43

# weekenders

## Fantastic wine and much more

Sample a drop and enjoy all that this region has to offer.

<< HAWKES BAY, NEW ZEALAND



Lord of the Rings style scenery.



Art Deco buildings abound.

AS THE OLDEST WINE REGION IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE COUNTRY'S SECOND LARGEST, HAWKES BAY PRODUCES SOME OF THE WORLD'S FINEST FULL-BODIED RED WINES BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE THAN WINE TO THIS SUNNY REGION.

Located at 39.4°S, on New Zealand's North Island, Hawkes Bay has a climate similar to Bordeaux in France. Red wines dominate here with over 80% of New Zealand's plantings of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah grapes but the area also specialises in rich and wonderful Chardonnays.

With an annual average of 2,200 sunshine hours and low rainfall and humidity, Hawkes Bay is one of the sunniest regions of New Zealand. It's the perfect climate for orchards and of course, internationally acclaimed wineries. So whatever time of the year you visit, you're guaranteed to have sunny, dry weather - perfect for exploring this stunning region.

Hawkes Bay was named by Captain James Cook in honour of Admiral Edward Hawke who decisively defeated the French at the Battle of Quiberon Bay in 1759. It is made up of several areas and spans from Mahia in the north through to Porangahau in the south, covering 1.42 million hectares and 350km of Pacific Ocean coastline.

The main areas encompass Wairoa, Mahia and Lake Waikaremoana as well as Hastings, Napier and Central Hawkes Bay. The city of Hastings and the township of Havelock North are nestled among the main wine growing areas while the affluent city of Napier sits by the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean.

One of the main reasons tourists flock to Napier is to experience the Art Deco Centre which is world renowned for its architecture. Rebuilt in the 1930's after a massive earthquake, it hosts the country's biggest celebrations of Matariki, the Maori New Year.

Hawke's Bay has a great range of activities for those seeking a little thrill with horse riding, rafting and kayaking. It's a place where tourists can shop at the farmers' market and enjoy locally grown delicacies or indulge in traditional gourmet food. You can also walk the forest

## weekenders HAWKES BAY, NEW ZEALAND

trails of the Ruahine and Kaweka Forest Parks. Another popular attraction is Cape Kidnappers, home to the largest mainland gannet (takapu) colony in the world.

If you're looking to do the wine trail you can easily do a self tour by picking up a Hawke's Bay Food and Wine Trail Map from one of the local Visitor Information Centres. You'll discover over 30 wineries open for wine tasting with many also offering alfresco and restaurant dining. If you prefer not to drive, you can cycle from one winery to the next along one of the three Hawke's Bay Trails on a hired mountain bike.

Hawke's Bay is steeped in Maori history and culture. From the rugged Te Urewera National Park and Lake Waikaremoana to the majestic Te Mata Peak, there are many great walking tracks. You can join an experienced tour group and learn about the Maori people and their traditional hunting and gathering techniques. Join in a traditional feast (Hakari) that marks a special event or visit MTG Hawke's Bay Museum Theatre Gallery in Napier where you'll see fantastic exhibits from New Zealand's cultural history. Easily accessible by air, land and sea. Air New Zealand

operates daily flights to Hawkes Bay from Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. These flights take under an hour.



Cape Kidnappers, Hawkes Bay.

## weekenders HAWKES BAY, NEW ZEALAND

### EAT

#### Indigo Napier

T: + 06 834 4085

24A Hastings Street, Napier 4140, New Zealand

If you are looking for an excellent curry then Indigo Napier is the place to be. This fine dining Indian restaurant uses only fresh local ingredients and a traditional charcoal tandoor oven to create great authentic flavours. Open from 5pm.

[www.indigonapier.co.nz](http://www.indigonapier.co.nz)

#### Mission Restaurant

T: + 06 845 9354

198 Church Road, Greenmeadows, Napier 4112, New Zealand

Nestled in the Taradale hills, Mission Restaurant offers diners sweeping views of Napier and the coast. The restaurant has contemporary fine dining with a European influence. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner.

[www.missionestate.co.nz/restaurant](http://www.missionestate.co.nz/restaurant)

#### Ten Twenty Four

T: + 06 845 9354

1024 Pakowhai Rd, Hastings 4120, New Zealand

The "go to" restaurant when visiting Hastings, Ten Twenty Four has imaginative dishes using only fresh local produce. Try the Chef's Choice dinner which is matched with some great local wines. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Sunday.

[www.tenttwentyfour.org](http://www.tenttwentyfour.org)

#### Old Church Restaurant and Bar

T: + 06 844 8866

199 Meeanee Road just outside of Napier

Beautiful restored with international chefs, this is a must visit. Taking out 2 hospitality awards in 2015 Best Ambiance and Style and Outstanding Restaurant.

[www.tenttwentyfour.org](http://www.tenttwentyfour.org)

#### Napier Urban Food Market

Lower Emerson Street, Napier 4110, New Zealand

Be one of thousands of locals and visitors who soak up the friendly, relaxed atmosphere of the Hawke's Bay Farmers' Markets. Shop for a wide

range of fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, bread, eggs, pickles and preserves straight from the producer. Held every Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm.

[www.foodhawkesbay.co.nz](http://www.foodhawkesbay.co.nz)

### RELAX

#### Hawke's Bay Express Day Tour

T: 021 935 820

100 Marine Parade, Napier South, Napier 4110, New Zealand

The Hawke's Bay Express is a luxurious road train that's a steam train on the outside and a 1930s time warp inside. The informative commentary outlines the history of the 1931 earthquake and the city's subsequent Art Deco rebuilding. Tours last 1.5 hours and cost \$50 for adults and \$25 for children.

[www.hbexpress.co.nz](http://www.hbexpress.co.nz)

#### Bay Heliwork Helicopter Tour

T: 0508 229 435

130 Hill Road, Twyford Hastings 4120, New Zealand

Enjoy Hawke's Bay's picturesque coastline or take a ride over the stunning Kaweka and Kaimanawa Ranges around Mt Ruapehu and Tongariro National Park. Flights from \$90 per person with pick-ups from Napier Airport or Hastings.

[www.bayheliwork.co.nz](http://www.bayheliwork.co.nz)

### EXPLORE

#### MTG Hawke's Bay

T: +64 6 835 7781

Tai Ahuriri, 1 Tennyson Street, Napier 4110, New Zealand

Located in the heart of Napier, MTG Hawke's Bay has a nationally significant collection of art and memorabilia displayed in major exhibitions. The MTG Theatre hosts a great program of film and performing arts. The exhibitions and galleries are open Monday to Sunday from 10am - 6pm. Entry to the museum and gallery is \$10 adults and \$7.50 children.

[www.mtghawkesbay.com](http://www.mtghawkesbay.com)

#### Art Deco Centre

T: + 64 6 835 0022

7 Tennyson Street, Napier 4110, New Zealand

The Napier Art Deco Trust promotes the city's architectural heritage through a one and two hour Deco walk. Learn about the devastating earthquake that destroyed the city in New Zealand's worst natural disaster. Departs the Visitor Information Centre daily at 10am. Cost is \$10 and \$15 (2 hours).

#### Black Rose Wine Experience

T: + 64 (0)27 334 0474

85 Kaiapo Road, Hastings 4120, New Zealand

Enjoy up to five delightful wineries aboard a luxurious and comfortable black limousine. There's an onboard fridge to chill your drinks and you can even enjoy a sip between vineyards. 3 hour trip costs \$95 per person. Available 7 days.

## STAY

### RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN HAWKES BAY INCLUDE:



#### Taupo Ika Nui 0900

Just a 2hr 15 minute drive from Hawkes Bay, Taupo Ika Nui overlooks the beautiful Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest fresh water lake. Features a large indoor heated pool, two large spa pools and a recreation room.

For additional resort listings, visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com) or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ

# Beautiful Byron Bay



Natural and beautiful



Dawn patrol

WITH ITS GLEAMING WHITE SANDY BEACHES, CLEAR BLUE WATER AND BOHEMIAN LIFESTYLE, BYRON BAY IS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATIONS.

Located 800kms north of Sydney and 175kms south of Brisbane, Byron Bay is a town known for its relaxed lifestyle, outstanding beaches, wonderful scenic outlooks, lush greenery and family-friendly environment. Clean and undeveloped, there are no high rise buildings to block the views here.

## << BYRON BAY, AUSTRALIA

Cape Byron, the headland adjacent to the town, is the easternmost point of mainland Australia. James Cook named the area after renowned navigator John Byron, grandfather of the poet Lord Byron.

During the popular summer holiday months, Byron can get busy with the resident population swelling by three or four times. It has become a major destination for both domestic and international tourists, including backpackers who travel along the east coast of Australia.

The town has several pristine beaches with its surf breaks among some of the best in the world. The area is noted for its wildlife and whale watching with the hinterland scenery attracting its fair share of visitors.

Considered the spiritual home of Australia's alternative culture, Byron Bay has many creative people from musicians and sculptors to surfers and novelists all encouraging many music festivals and events throughout the year.

There's also a thriving health and well-being industry where you can relax and enjoy one of the many day spas or visit a spiritual healer. More recently, the area is fast gaining a reputation for its fabulous Australian cuisine and delicious cafe lattes from its award winning restaurants.

Byron Bay also lies close to subtropical rainforests and areas such as the Nightcap National Park and Minyon Falls are both within easy reach of the town. Being part of the New South Wales northern rivers region, Byron Bay is on the doorstep to small farming communities growing macadamia nuts,

blueberries, lychees and various milk and cheese products. Many of these gourmet foods can be found at the popular local farmers markets.

For those looking for something more adventurous there is a wide variety of other activities on offer including skydiving, hang gliding, scuba diving, kayaking with the dolphins, horse riding, golf, fishing and artistic workshops.

Not to be missed is Cape Byron which protrudes into the Pacific Ocean and offers spectacular views from the headland. You can walk to the lighthouse

or drive with parking costing \$7. If walking, allow about two hours for the entire 3.7km trip. From the Cape you will see stunning views over the bay to Mt Warning, the Border Ranges and south to Tallow Beach.

The 1901 lighthouse has maritime and nature displays. You can venture to the top with a tour which operates from 10am to 3pm (gold coin donation).

Cape Byron is also one of the best vantage points for whale watching. From the end of June to August, the huge humpback mammals migrate northwards in the warm

northern waters and return with their new babies in September and October.

Getting to Byron Bay is easy. There are three airports within two hours drive of Byron Bay. Gold Coast Airport at Coolangatta, is served by domestic and international carriers. From there you can take a bus to Byron with the trip taking around 45 minutes. Brisbane International Airport has light rail and buses running directly from the Brisbane Roma Street transit terminal while the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport has direct flights from Sydney and Melbourne.

## weekenders BYRON BAY, AUSTRALIA

### RELAX

#### Buddha Gardens Balinese Day Spa

T: 02 6680 7844

1 Skinners Shoot Rd, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

One of Byron Bay's hidden gems, the Buddha Gardens Byron Bay Day Spa is devoted to health, beauty and relaxation. Experience a deep tissue, Swedish massage, hot rock or signature bamboo massage in Balinese-inspired surrounds. The perfect place for time out with your loved one.

[www.buddhagardensdayspa.com.au](http://www.buddhagardensdayspa.com.au)

#### Byron Bay Community Markets

T: 02 6685 6807

Butler St Reserve, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

Held on the first Sunday of each month, the market offers a great range of hand crafted wares, artworks, locally grown produce and many food stalls. There are also local designers selling clothes, bags and jewellery at great prices.

[www.byroncentre.com.au/markets](http://www.byroncentre.com.au/markets)

#### The Farm

T: 02 6684 7888

11 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

The Farm promotes sustainable farming and goes back to traditional methods of growing food for the community. Great for singles, couples and families. Make sure you visit the Three Blue Ducks Restaurant.

[www.thefarmbyronbay.com.au](http://www.thefarmbyronbay.com.au)

### EAT

#### The Balcony Bar and Restaurant

T: + 02 6680 9666

Cnr Lawson and Johnson Streets, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

Located in one of Byron Bay's last historical buildings, this iconic restaurant is one of the first you see when visiting the town. A great place to enjoy a cold beer or a lovely cocktail, you can order delicious tapas or choose from the extensive dining menu and award winning wine list. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

[www.balcony.com.au](http://www.balcony.com.au)

#### The Green Bistro

T: +61 415 303 149

18-20 Marvell Street, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

Overlooking the Byron Bay bowling green in the heart of town, The Green Bistro serves fresh local cuisine and is the No.1 rated restaurant for Byron on Trip Advisor. Popular with tourists, families and members, the food is excellent and well priced.

[www.thegreenbistrobyronbay.com.au](http://www.thegreenbistrobyronbay.com.au)

#### Cicchetti Byron Bay

T: 02 6685 6677

19/20, 108 Jonson Street, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

Named after the Venetian word for tapas, this elegant restaurant has black and wooden themed interior decked with vintage leather bench seats and handmade timber tables. The menu combines traditional and contemporary Italian cuisine. Try the wholemeal lasagne with local pork sausage, or seared Angus beef complemented with an extensive wine list to perfectly match each dish. Open every day for dinner and Friday to Sunday for lunch.

[www.cicchetti.com.au](http://www.cicchetti.com.au)

### EXPLORE

#### Lone Goat Gallery (Byron Library)

T: 0490 004 542

28 Lawson Street, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

The Lone Goat Gallery is Byron's premier community gallery and a quiet cultural haven from the hub of Byron. The name was inspired by the last goat of a small herd that roamed the Cape Byron headland by the Lighthouse. See the many creative exhibits from locals. Open 10am-4pm daily during exhibitions.

[www.byron-bay.com/lone-goat-gallery](http://www.byron-bay.com/lone-goat-gallery)

#### Byron Bay Gyrocopters

T: 0487 502 550

Tyagarah Airfield - Byron Bay, 52 New City Road, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Discover the breathtaking beauty of Byron Bay from above with professional flight instructors. Fly around the lighthouse and over beautiful

beaches and observe the marine wildlife including the whales, dolphins and sharks. See the world famous Mount Warning and Byron Bay hinterland. Flights last around 30 minutes.

[www.flygyro.com.au](http://www.flygyro.com.au)

#### Mountain Bike Day Tours

T: 0429 122 504

As the only bike tour company in Byron you can join other two-wheel adventurers through fire trails, in subtropical rainforests or explore nature reserves, secluded forest tracks and golden beaches. Caters for all levels. Minimum of 4 people required for tour.

[www.mountainbiketours.com.au](http://www.mountainbiketours.com.au)

## STAY

### RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS NEAR BYRON BAY INCLUDE:

#### Beachcomber International Resort 1811 Coolangatta, Qld

Just 50 minutes drive from Byron Bay, the Beachcomber International Resort is located in the heart of Coolangatta and has great access to restaurants, bars, and shopping on Queensland's Gold Coast.



#### Tamarind Sands 5716 Bogangar, NSW

Just a 40 minute drive from Byron Bay, Tamarind Sands is an ideal escape for a family getaway or just the two of you. Play a round of tennis, splash by the pool, or stroll through the beautiful gardens.

For additional resort listings, visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com) or call 1300 368 800 AU or 0800 368 800 NZ



# Three winners

Christine Washington, Janice Farr and Sheryl Foster shared their holiday stories and **WON Coles Myer Gift Cards worth \$100**



“If ever there was a perfect place to stay, then this was it. My husband and I travelled to Scotland earlier this year and stayed in the Scandinavian Village at Aviemore. We had booked to travel to the city of Inverness but Aviemore is the place to be. We booked our train in advance which saved several pounds. While it might seem like a

## Aviemore stole our hearts Christine Washington

long journey, the seven and a half hour trip from Kings Cross was an absolutely beautiful journey with the final train stop only 10 minutes walk from the Scandinavian Village. The accommodation had a lovely warm country feel and everything from the heating, the beds and the staff were all excellent. We hired a car and drove around Loch Ness which took a couple of hours. Along the way there were lovely coffee shops and plenty of castles to visit but we found just driving around the area and taking in the beautiful views was just as relaxing in itself. The shops were just

a few minutes walk away and we enjoyed meandering along the main street. We found a lovely pub called The Old Bridge Inn run by Owen. We chatted with the locals who were very hospitable and the food was fantastic, having been sourced from local farmers. After a delightful afternoon we strolled back to our accommodation which was located in a truly picturesque setting. Although we have travelled all over the UK, Aviemore really stole our hearts. The setting, accommodation, the locals and the staff all made for a perfect retreat.”





Nun's Valley



The Carlton Hotel



Madeira's coastline

## Madeira Magic Janice Farr

“As keen RCI members we have enjoyed exchanges in many countries but our latest exchange at the Pestana Madeira Beach Club was definitely one of the best. We knew very little about the island of Madeira but wanted to go somewhere warmer for our visit to Europe in February and March of this year. After a little research we discovered that Madeira was a small Portuguese island that lies off the African coast. It has a Mediterranean climate, spectacular scenery and is a popular stop off for cruise ships. We found out that Winston Churchill was a regular visitor and often painted the quaint fishing villages.

The resort was in walking distance to the main town of Funchal and our two bedroom apartment was situated right by the sea and the gentle sound of

breaking waves was enough to lull us to sleep most nights. Despite its older furnishings, it was immaculately clean and very well equipped. Being part of the Carlton Hotel, we had use of indoor and outdoor pools, a spa and several restaurants. There was a dedicated Member's Service Team who were more than happy to organise trips and deal with any inquiries we had. We booked a wine tasting tour and got to see the rest of the island and learn more about Madeira and its wines. We learnt Madeira was famous for its walking tracks and its beautiful flowers. We were surprised to recognise many varieties of flowers from Australia and we even drove through Eucalyptus forests. If you are looking for somewhere different we absolutely recommend this beautiful Island.”

## Irish town proves a hit Sheryl Foster

“In September last year we booked into a cottage in County Galway, Ireland using some of our RCI points. The cottage was located just outside the town of Oughterard. To get to and from our cottage we had to cross the bridge which was featured in the movie “The Quiet Man”, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. As we soon discovered the bridge was a popular spot for photographers and tourists wanting to take photographs. Our cottage was surrounded by the hills of Connemara and we often found horses and sheep grazing by our front door.

The people of Oughterard were very welcoming and we met some very interesting characters. Desmond at the Camp Street Cafe regaled us with

many stories about the area and we found this entertaining whenever we dined there. We went on a cruise to the town of Cong where much of “The Quiet Man” was filmed. Here we found a marvellous statue of John Wayne holding Maureen O'Hara in his arms. We discovered later when we watched the movie back at the cottage that we had eaten lunch in the very pub that featured in the movie.

From a sightseeing perspective the cottage proved to be perfectly located and during our week we visited Kylemore Abbey, the Cliffs of Moher, Brigit's Garden, Bunratty Castle, Folk Park and of course Galway. We were blessed with perfect weather and friendly people wherever we went, all of which made for a fantastic stay.”



Kylemore Abbey



The Duke and Maureen O'Hara

*because your holiday means everything to you and that means the world to us.*

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