



8  
BEYOND  
CANCÚN



12  
SHOPPING  
FOR KIWIANA

JANUARY 2017

# ENDLESS VACATION

PLAY | EAT | SHOP | RELAX | EXPLORE

## INFINITELY FIJI

IN THE LAP OF LUXURY



TOP 10  
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES

A THRILL A MINUTE  
AMUSEMENT PARKS WORLDWIDE

GLORIOUS GOA  
THE INDULGENT SIDE OF INDIA

# The world is your playground!

**Pack your bags! Perfect holidays, here we come!**



**Heritage Resorts at Matchroom  
(#1867)  
Málaga, Spain**



**Club Casablanca (#1668)  
Puerto de la Cruz,  
Tenerife Canary Islands**



**Wapato Point  
(#0936)  
Manson, WA USA**



**Summer Bay Orlando by  
Exploria Resorts (#3175)  
Clermont, FL USA**



**Sunset Royal Beach Resort  
(#2465)  
Cancún, Quintana Roo Mexico**



**Astoria Plaza Suites  
(#7773)  
Pasig City, Philippines**

**BE QUICK, GREAT HOLIDAYS DON'T WAIT!**



**Tenerife Canary Islands, Spain**



# 15

Dive into the clear blue waters or soak up some sun on the white sand beach

# 2017

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Luminescent skylines with thriving nightlife



### ON THE COVER

#### INFINITELY FIJI

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

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

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

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

Email [pacific.member@rci.com](mailto:pacific.member@rci.com)  
Phone 1300 368 800 AU, 0800 368 800 NZ  
Post AU PO Box 6495, GCMC, QLD 9726  
Post NZ PO Box 11561, Ellerslie, 1542



# Our Pacific Big Bang Draw Winner

Earlier this year, we asked you to deposit your week in order to win 2 weeks' accommodation at our RCI Affiliated Resorts, among other exciting prizes. We now have a winner of this grand draw!

## PRIZES

- Accommodation at 1 Pacific and 1 International Resort of your choosing
- Free travel to your preferred destination
- A GoPro HERO 4 Black 4K Ultra HD Waterproof Camera

## NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

# 2567



LUCKY WINNER:

# SHEILA YOUNG

A Classic Holidays member  
from New Zealand



## OGJIMA

# Cultural Exchange

By Chaney Kwak

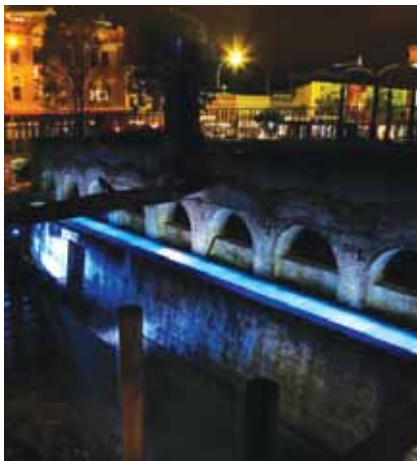
Japan's Setouchi Triennale festival highlights contemporary artists from around the world.

To see cutting-edge art this year, consider sailing to a chain of bucolic islands in central Japan's Seto Inland Sea for the Setouchi Triennale. The festival packs the calendar with exhibitions and performances on a dozen islands and in two port cities. The center of the action is 5.5-square-mile Naoshima, noted for its gorgeous Tadao Ando-designed Benesse Art Site. The project combines a six-room hotel with museums housing works by contemporary Japanese artists as well as internationally known painters, including David Hockney and Bruce Nauman. You can catch the second two installments of the three-part celebration from July 18 to September 4 and from October 8 to November 6, respectively.

ready,  
set,  
go



ready,  
set,  
go



## Go Art and About in Australia

See Sydney through the eyes of its local talent with the festival-style Art and About programme. Touting its catch phrase 'Art in unusual Places', the programme is sure to amaze and intrigue with its infinite display of creativity.

From September to November, be dazzled by explosive cabaret acts from the 50s to 70s and witness psychedelic live shows imagined by rock music's 'Prince of Darkness' Nick Cave. In December, stop by Lotus Lane to glimpse the dynamic art mural titled 'To be free is to have no fear' by artist Nadia Hernandez.

Previous installations include a water bar serving up water from different parts of Australia, and an art installation that involved painting trees blue with a biologically safe colouring agent.

<http://www.artandabout.com.au/>





TRAVEL GEAR

# 10 Gifts for the Traveller in Your Life

We've made your holiday shopping easier with this travel-inspired gift guide.

By **Courtney Kenefick**

Photography By **Pamela Ashley Pasco**



- ① TUMI 2-IN-1 JACKET AND NECK PILLOW [tylt.com](http://tylt.com); AU\$254
- ② ESKUCHÉ CLASSIC HEADPHONES [eskucheaudio.com](http://eskucheaudio.com); AU\$78
- ③ S'WELL HOT-AND-COLD BOTTLE [swellbottle.com](http://swellbottle.com); AU\$59
- ④ PICNIC TIME INSULATED BASKET [amazon.com](http://amazon.com); AU\$52
- ⑤ GARMIN HUD WINDSHIELD PROJECTION NAVIGATION SYSTEM [garmin.com](http://garmin.com); AU\$195

- ⑥ MIGHTY BRIGHT LED BOOK LIGHT [mightybright.com](http://mightybright.com); AU\$22
- ⑦ SATCHEL & PAGE LEATHER TRAVEL JOURNAL [satchel-page.com](http://satchel-page.com); AU\$65
- ⑧ ZAZZLE LICENSE PLATE PLAYING CARDS [zazzle.com](http://zazzle.com); AU\$35
- ⑨ GOGROOVE SMARTMINI AUX BLUETOOTH STEREO KIT [gogroove.com](http://gogroove.com); AU\$35
- ⑩ LUCKIES OF LONDON SCRATCH MAP [uncommongoods.com](http://uncommongoods.com); AU\$26



LANDMARKS  
THE WORLD

# TOP 10

## Pedestrian Bridges

Dynamic bridges that beautifully connect function and design

by **Kate Appleton**

Striking footbridges have been cropping up lately from Singapore to Portland, Oregon, drawing locals and tourists alike. When cars don't factor into the equation, architects can tap into all kinds of creative impulses, dreaming up bridges that unfurl like fans that glitter with LED lights. Many also provide one-of-a-kind vantage points, be they of lush forests or historic city centers. In short, these bridges combine the best of form and function.

1



**Henderson Waves Bridge**  
Singapore

Slinking along from one forested hilltop park to another, Henderson Waves Bridge gets its undulating shape from ribs of steel and yellow balau wood sourced from sustainable farms in Southeast Asia. Bench seating tucked into the curves creates sheltered alcoves for admiring the panorama of trees and city skyline—118 feet above bustling Henderson Road. Stroll along the bridge as part of the three-mile Southern Ridges trail, or turn up after 7 p.m., when the LED lights are blazing.

2



**Langkawi SkyBridge**  
Malaysia

When is a bridge a destination in its own right? When you have to catch a cable-car ride—the world's steepest—just to reach it. That's the case here atop Mount Machinchang, more than 2,000 feet above sea level, where the SkyBridge opened, in 2005 (much of the prefab structure was brought in by helicopter). The cable-stayed bridge bends around a single support pylon, providing a shifting perspective of rain forest, waterfalls and ocean as you cross it. Recent upgrades include a glass-bottomed middle section that's sure to get your adrenaline pumping.

**Pedro e Inês Footbridge**  
Coimbra, Portugal

A zigzag shape gives this bridge a disjointed look, as if the two ends, coming from opposite banks of the Mondego River, won't manage to meet in the middle. And that's fitting given that the 14th-century Portuguese lovers Pedro and Inês were fated not to be together. Jagged pieces of pastel glass cover the balustrades, filtering coloured sunlight onto the walkway. The overall effect is to add some modern flair to the well-preserved medieval university town of Coimbra.

3



4



**Merchant Square Footbridge**  
London, England

This London bridge cascades with a dazzling grace—five steel beams descend in the manner of a handheld fan being folded. Unveiled in 2014 by Knight Architects, Merchant Square is the latest footbridge with wow factor to open along the Grand Union Canal, in Paddington Basin. (The nearby Rolling Bridge opts to make way for boats by curling up into a ball.) The convenience and visual appeal of these structures enliven the neighbourhood atmosphere, setting a precedent for the boutique hotel, garden and event space currently in the works.





### BP Bridge

Millennium Park, Chicago

Millennium Park has become a favourite among Instagrammers, thanks to public art like Anish Kapoor's reflective bean-shaped Cloud Gate sculpture. The striking design of Frank Gehry's first-ever bridge rivals these large-scale works. The 925-foot walkway, sheathed with scale-like metal plates, snakes along from the park to the Daley Bicentennial Plaza. Not only is it a convenient way to rise above traffic-clogged Columbus Drive while delivering city skyline and lakefront views, it also muffles the noise from cars below.



### Tilikum Crossing

Portland, Oregon

Portland's first new bridge in 40 years makes room for foot traffic, bikes, light-rail trains, buses, streetcars...all modes of transport except cars. Tilikum means 'people' in the local Chinook language, and the structure links two former industrial neighborhoods where Portlanders increasingly choose to live and hang out (the South Waterfront and Central Eastside). Yet it also pays tribute to nature. The white cables' angles mimic the outline of Mount Hood, and osprey-nesting poles await at both ends. The LED lighting even changes according to the Willamette River's temperature, height and speed.



### Webb Bridge

Melbourne, Australia

Local artist Robert Owen and architects Denton Corker Marshall came up with a weblike design inspired by aboriginal fishing traps and baskets. They incorporated elements of the original rail bridge to create this updated version, across the Yarra River in Melbourne's burgeoning Docklands area. (Take a breather at one of WTC Wharf's alfresco riverfront restaurants.) Since its 2004 debut, Webb Bridge has attracted pedestrians, cyclists and the occasional wedding party posing for photos within the bridge's cocoon.



### Capilano Suspension Bridge

Vancouver, Canada

The bridge, suspended over Capilano Canyon, just north of Vancouver, dates from 1889 and was constructed simply of hemp rope and cedar planks. If vertigo starts to set in as you walk the 450-foot-long, 230-foot-high span, take heart from the knowledge that steel cables embedded in concrete now shore it up. Besides, it's a well-trod path taken by many of the 700,000-plus folks who visit the park annually. Other, more recent attractions include the glass-bottomed CliffWalk and Treetops Adventure, a series of viewing platforms amid old-growth trees.



### Puente de la Mujer

Buenos Aires, Argentina

For his first project in Latin America, Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava modelled a bridge on the silhouette of a couple in a tango lunge. But making that connection takes a stretch of the imagination; at first glance it's more likely to bring to mind a harp. Still, Puente de la Mujer (Bridge of the Woman) became an instant icon when it opened in 2001. It also fit right in with the revitalised Puerto Madero neighborhood, where the streets are named for notable women and stylish porteños come to play at night, when the white bridge is illuminated.



### Moses Bridge

Halsteren, Netherlands

Much like its biblical namesake, this bridge parts the water—specifically, the moat leading up to Fort de Roovere, one of a series of 17th-century fortresses in the southwest Netherlands. Moses Bridge grants access to the historic site while creating an optical illusion that appears to preserve the traditional purpose of a moat: hindering enemy access. (The span, which is even with the water, effectively vanishes when seen from a distance; head on it looks like a narrow trench.) Dutch firm RO&AD used a nontoxic coating to waterproof the wood and installed pumps to prevent any flooding of biblical proportions.

# Beyond Cancún

by Maribeth Mellin

Tropical islands, Mayan ruins and colonial cities wait just outside Cancún.

Most visitors head to Cancún to kick back on its white sand beaches and explore its vibrant nightlife. But there's even more to do just outside the city. Here are four day trip ideas for all types of travellers.

## STEP INTO HISTORY

The colonial city of Valladolid, one of the first Spanish settlements on the Yucatán Peninsula, lies roughly midway between Cancún and the Mayan ruins at Chichén Itzá. It's a great place to stop for an authentic Yucatecan lunch followed by shopping for handcrafted souvenirs, such as intricately woven hammocks sold in the main plaza by ladies dressed in embroidered huipiles (traditional shifts). Be sure to venture over to the cobblestoned Calzada de los Frailes (Pathway of the Monks), which leads to a beautifully restored colonial-era neighborhood filled with historic homes and the 16th-century San Bernardino de Siena monastery. It also branches off to side roads that lead to several dramatic caves and cool freshwater swimming holes called cenotes.



### EcoColors

011-52-998-884-3667;  
ecotravelmexico.com

**tickets, AU\$214\***

a person, price includes  
transportation from Cancún



### Garrafón Natural Reef Park

011-52-998-849-4748 ;  
garrafon.com

**tickets from AU\$115**

a person





### SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS

Schools of whale sharks—the world’s largest species of fish, which can reach lengths of 40 feet and a weight of about 11 tons on a diet of plankton—migrate to the warmer waters near Cancún from May to September. During these months, thousands of people head to the shore, eager to swim beside these docile giants. Cancún-based EcoColors offers responsible whale shark snorkel trips led by certified guides. Tours to feeding grounds are regulated, and swimmers are prohibited from touching the creatures and using flash photography.

### UNWIND ON A TROPICAL ISLAND

Funky Isla Mujeres lies about 12 miles northeast of Cancún yet seems a world apart.

The pace is languid here, and many people get around by scooter or golf cart instead of by car. Consider beginning your visit at the downtown waterfront then making your way to Garrafón Natural Reef Park, where parrotfish nibble on coral in clear waters and hammocks sway invitingly beneath palms. Activities include snorkelling, kayaking, swimming and biking. Afterward you can toddle back to town along the island’s windward side for a bit of shopping and a seafood lunch before taking a ferry back to Cancún.

### FOLLOW MAYAN FOOTSTEPS

The Tulum ruins may be the most photographed Mayan archaeological site in the region, but no picture could capture the

beauty of these pale gray limestone structures, set on bluffs above the turquoise sea. You can reach the ruins 80 miles south of Cancún in a rental car or by bus, or sign up for an organised tour. Just be sure to get there early in the day, before crowds mar the scenery. Shady trails wind past the well-marked buildings that formed a seaport for commercial trading between the 13th and 15th centuries. The largest, El Castillo, is thought to have been a lighthouse that helped guide ships through the reefs. Be sure to bring a swimsuit so you can take a dip in the cove below El Castillo. Small hotels and cafés line the long beach south of the ruins. To wind up your visit, try the pasta or poached fish at Posada Margherita, a hangout popular among travellers.



#### San Bernardino de Siena

011-52-985-856-2160;  
Calle 49 #238, Barrio de Sisal, Valladolid



#### Posada Margherita

011-52-984-801-8493;  
posadamargherita.com;  
Carretera Punta Allen  
km 4.5

**lunch for two, AU\$52**



#### Tulum

011-52-983-837-0796;  
Hwy. 307, 80 miles  
south of Cancún





LANDMARKS  
THE WORLD

# A THRILL A MINUTE

What's new at some of our favourite amusement parks around the world

by **Cara Greenberg**



Nothing says summer like roller coasters, waterslides and other adrenaline-rush-inducing thrill rides. From the most extreme to the enduring classics of childhood memory, these nine parks deliver. Step right up for summer fun!

## **PortAventura**

Salou, Spain

This seaside park, an hour from Barcelona, recently expanded to the tune of \$90 million, adding exciting new features. The park's Himalaya-theme Shambhala coaster is the tallest and fastest on the continent (83 miles an hour); and the water toboggan King Khajuna is Europe's highest, at 10 stories. Gentler souls can drift in tubes down the lazy river in the new Costa Caribe Aquatic Park section.

[portaventura.co.uk](http://portaventura.co.uk); adults AU\$79, kids AU\$69\*



**Tivoli Gardens**  
Copenhagen, Denmark

## **Tivoli Gardens**

Copenhagen, Denmark

A national treasure since 1843, Tivoli is an amusement park with two dozen rides as well as a lake and gardens, all packed into 21 acres in central Copenhagen. The big news for 2014 was the restoration of the century-old wooden roller coaster. But this venerable park keeps up with the times, as evidenced by Aquila, a state-of-the-art ride unleashing four g's of centrifugal force on riders.

[tivoli.dk](http://tivoli.dk); admission AU\$23, kids under 8 free

## **Europa-Park**

Rust, Germany

Go eye level with ladybugs in the new Arthur: In the Minimoys Kingdom, the largest indoor attraction added to Germany's behemoth theme park since it opened in 1975. Mammoth ants and bees and skyscraping blades of grass turn detailed scenes from French film titan Luc Besson's fantasy saga *Arthur* and the Invisibles into a dream universe. Of course, the 210-acre park has some fantastic roller coasters among its 100-plus attractions, like the Blue Fire, its first coaster with inversions.

[europapark.de](http://europapark.de); adults AU\$72, kids AU\$65





### Coney Island

Brooklyn, New York

A wonder of the world when electric light was new, Brooklyn's Coney Island still draws the crowds for boardwalk honky-tonk—750,000 for the outrageous, arty Mermaid Parade alone (June 21 in 2014). Sideshows by the Seashore is one of the country's last venues for sword swallows, fire-eaters, contortionists and snake charmers. The legendary 1927 Cyclone roller coaster, the swinging cars of the 150-foot Wonder Wheel and the refurbished circa 1906 carousel has some steep competition with the sleek new Thunderbolt, a modern-day steel looping coaster with corkscrew turns and a stomach-tossing 125-foot drop. [coneyisland.com](http://coneyisland.com); *book of 40 tickets, AU\$46 (number of tickets per ride varies)*



### Steel Pier Amusement Park

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Grab a pair of wraparound shades and head for the Jersey Shore, where \$23 million in recent improvements to the Steel Pier Amusement Park has brought the iconic 116-year-old attraction into the present day. Extending 1,000 feet into the ocean, the pier features two dozen rides, from such kiddie classics as Beach Buggies and the double-decker carousel to daredevils' favourites, like the Slingshot, the Mix and the Freedom Flyer, all aglow in retro colors at night. [steelpier.com](http://steelpier.com); *book of 35 tickets for AU\$40 (number of tickets per ride varies)*

### Massanutten Waterpark

McGaheysville, Virginia

It's all about H<sub>2</sub>O at Massanutten's Waterpark, part of the four-season Massanutten Resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains. From Memorial Day to Labour Day, outdoor attractions like the Rockingham Racer, a competitive four-person downhill slide, join year-round rides like Skyline Falls—250 feet of sharp turns and sudden drops. The Massanutten Meltdown, a bit of everything from water cannons and waterfalls to a giant tipping bucket, is a sure thrill as well. There's the Frog Pond for the little ones and tubing at Peak Splash and the Blue Ridge Rapids, and the surf's always up at the popular Pipeline.

[massresort.com](http://massresort.com); *adults AU\$50, kids AU\$34*

### Busch Gardens

Tampa, Florida

The jewel-spangled land of Pantopia, a celebration of ancient lore and fantastical architecture, debuted at Busch Gardens Tampa in 2014. Its centerpiece: Falcon's Fury, North America's tallest freestanding drop tower. Riders will pivot in midair

into a facedown dive earthward at 60 miles an hour. This is also the site of one of the country's largest zoos, famed for its 65-acre Serengeti Plain®, where you'll find endangered Grévy's zebras, reticulated giraffes and Malayan tiger cubs. [buschgardens.com](http://buschgardens.com); *adults AU\$107, kids AU\$100*

### Six Flags Fiesta

San Antonio, Texas

Is a six-story free-fall your idea of a good time? Then you'll love Bahama Blaster, the new waterslide with a trap-door launching pad at Six Flags Fiesta. After the floor drops out beneath you, you'll race in a clear capsule through twists, loops and coils before ending with a splash. And the year-old Iron Rattler is a high-tech marvel of a roller coaster, combining a wooden support structure with a steel track and rails for ultra-smooth turns, inversions, flips and barrel rolls. [sixflags.com/fiestatexas](http://sixflags.com/fiestatexas); *adults AU\$85, kids AU\$68*

### Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Amusement Park

Santa Cruz, California

Familiar to film buffs (The Lost Boys, Sudden Impact, Harold and Maude) and renowned for its stunning Pacific Ocean backdrop, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Amusement Park is home to the 1924 Giant Dipper roller coaster as well as the handcarved 1911 Looft Carousel, one of a handful of vintage merry-go-rounds anywhere with a working ring dispenser and an original Victorian pipe organ. Old-fashioned carnival games line the boardwalk, while a 300-game arcade offers nostalgic throwbacks, like Pac-Man and Space Invaders, as well as the latest in video games. [beachboardwalk.com](http://beachboardwalk.com); *one day of unlimited rides, AU\$4*

# SHOPPING FOR KIWIANA



You can't leave New Zealand without purchasing some 'kiwiana', a range of quirky items that define what it means to be Kiwi. Here, we shortlist the most popular and kitsch – make space in your luggage.



## THE BUZZY BEE

The popular toy was first designed in the 1930s by Maurice Schlesinger, and featured a bee with rotating wings and a clicking noise when the wings were pulled. It first became popular during the post-war baby boom, and an animated TV series Buzzy Bee and Friends was made. Today, you can see it on books, jigsaws and even clothing, but nothing beats bringing your nieces and nephews the real thing.  
([buzzybee.co.nz](http://buzzybee.co.nz))



## LEMON & PAEROA

Traditionally made with lemon juice and carbonated mineral water from the town of Paeroa, L&P is New Zealand's most famous soft drink. Its intentionally pretentious advertising slogan 'World famous in New Zealand' has become a popular Kiwi saying today. If you're serious about getting to the source of things, let curiosity drive you to the town of Paeroa. You will be greeted by a very large bottle at the end of the street explaining the history of the drink. Here's to a refreshing souvenir you wouldn't want to miss!

tool, it has today sold over three million copies, and remains the bestselling New Zealand book today. It is said that every Kiwi has an Edmonds recipe to which special memories are attached. The book was even chosen as part of the A to Z of New Zealand stamp series produced by New Zealand post. Know anyone who enjoys cooking? You know what to do.  
([edmondscooking.co.nz](http://edmondscooking.co.nz))

## PAVLOVA

This meringue-based dessert was named after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova when she toured Australia & New Zealand in the 1920s. This debatable dessert is often the centre of a friendly trans-Tasman rivalry as to its Kiwi or Australian origins. Be sure to ask for this crisp dessert with a moist marshmallow-like centre when you visit New Zealand. We recommend leading Auckland restaurant Euro for a delectable mini pavlova with feijoa sorbet, manuka honey meringue and raspberry shard. Irresistible!  
(Euro, +64 9-309 9866 | 22/147 Quay St, Auckland, 1010, New Zealand)



## NUMBER 8 WIRE

This humble 0.16" gauge wire has entered 'kiwiana' status for good reason. As this wire was traditionally the most preferred wire for sheep fencing, it lent itself to several other tasks. Today, it is a symbol of the Kiwi adaptability, and is used as a phrase to mean fixing something with some ingenuity. Who needs a handyman!

## EDMONDS COOKERY BOOK

This recipe book has become a quintessential ingredient in New Zealand kitchens. First published by a manufacturer of baking powder in 1908 as a marketing



## AT A GLANCE

### THE PHILIPPINES

"You're bound to have a lot of fun in the Philippines. The food is good, the people are friendly, and the views are splendid. Coron, to me, is the most beautiful island. It's like paradise. I wouldn't mind going back there again."

—JOSEPHINE U.



"Bohol has some of the best beaches, powdery white sand and dwarf coconut trees. It's very unspoiled compared to other places in the Pacific."

—ROSE G.



# THE PHILIPPINES

TIPS FROM THE  
RCI® FACEBOOK  
COMMUNITY.

"It's a beautiful country. Be sure to scuba or snorkel in the colourful coral reefs. In Boracay you can lie out on white sand beaches, and in Baguio you can marvel at mountains and venture into gold mines. You could spend a lifetime in the Philippines and still never see all the wonders it holds!"

—KEVIN S.

"I love the Philippines!"

—MARYANNE M.B.



## STAY RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES ISLANDS:



### Astoria Plaza Suites #7773

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Spacious condos and an excellent spa."



### Astoria Palawan #C984

**MEMBER REVIEW:** "Excellent service, wonderful units, beautiful grounds."



### Boracay Regency Beach Resort #A584

**Member Review:** Great location which is in the centre of Boracay island.



# INFINITELY FIJI

A mesmerising mosaic of over 300 lush islands, it's no surprise that Fiji is ranked within the 10 top travel destinations in the world.



# In the Lap of Luxury

## SUN, SURF, SEA

An independent island country located in the South Pacific, Fiji has made its name being a getaway hotspot, and for good reason. Over the decades it has earned titles as one of the best diving spots, and one of the best overall travel destinations in the world.

The quintessential Fiji experience undeniably involves a fair amount of time spent exploring its cerulean depths. Known as ‘the soft coral capital of the world’, the island country is the perfect place to snorkel, whether you’re a beginner or a seasoned swimmer. First-timers have dozens of shallow snorkel sites close to shore rife with rich marine life to explore. For a closer look at Fiji’s extensive aquatic life, the Namena Marine Reserve is an



excellent choice. Creatures including sea turtles, blue ribbon eels and tiger sharks roam freely among sea fans and coral.

You can also traverse the depths of the Somosomo Strait to witness the glory of the Rainbow Reef, a kaleidoscopic marvel that is home to equally iridescent fauna. Dive in and you’ll find yourself in the midst of countless brightly hued fish like the Squarespot or Lyretail.

Fiji is also a choice locale to catch a few waves, although with crests rising up to 20 feet, some experience is recommended. Every year, world champion surfers flock to the island for a bit of friendly







competition. Beginners and novices can still catch a few tamer waves, with surf resorts and instructors conducting regular lessons.

If you'd prefer to simply lounge back and enjoy the breathtaking view, head to Yasawa Island or Malolo Island. Translated to mean 'Heaven' in Fijian, Yasawa Island lives up to its name, its crystal clear waters and warm sands the perfect place to soak up some sun. The palm tree shade and hammocks on the secluded Malolo Island are equally inviting.



## STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN  
FIJI ISLANDS:



### **ULTIQA @ Fiji Palms #7580** **Deuba, Fiji Islands**

Fiji Palms is situated at Pacific Harbour, home of the Cultural Center, where colonial-style British Fiji is on display, and where native dancers perform the songs and dances of old Fiji. Here you may see the ancient ceremony of fire walking, watch the creating of canoes with stone axes, and observe bark-cloth mat and pottery making. Located on the beach, there's a myriad of ways to relax.



### **Wyndham Vacation Resorts at Asia Pacific** **Denarau Island #5883** **Nadi, Fiji Islands**

Set within some 670 acres of lushly landscaped gardens, WorldMark Denarau Island Resort offers luxury and comfort with tropical flair. On-site amenities at this fabulous resort include one of the largest swimming pools in the South Pacific, with a swim-up bar with wet and dry seating, restaurant, and wide variety of water sports and fun family activities. There's also an 18-hole international standard golf course, port and marina, gym, outdoor spa, children's pool, kid's club, massage center, and barbecue areas.



## LET SLEEPING GIANTS LIE

If you need a respite from the endless blue, head to Vitu Levu, Fiji's largest island, and drink in the lush green of The Garden of the Sleeping Giant. The spectacular topiary displays a variety of flora—primarily orchids—amidst tranquil scenery spread over a sprawling 20 hectares. Lily ponds and landscaped gardens make for excellent snapshot opportunities and add to the serene atmosphere.

Immerse yourself in nature further at the Sabeto mudpools. You can slough off any residual tension in the mineral-rich mud, then indulge in a holistically rejuvenating dip in the hot springs. For something more rigorous, the Orchid Falls & Jungle Safari tours take you into the heart of the tropical jungle. As you navigate between the ancient trees and vines, look out for the waterfalls nestled deep in the forest. The safari also lets you zipline through the expanse of green for a thrilling birds-eye view.

## UNEARTH HIDDEN GEMS

Fiji is not just paradise for tourists. Home to the second happiest people on earth, it holds a variation of religious institutions, from churches and mosques to Sikh and Hindu temples. The country is an ideal vacation spot year-round because it's safe to say that at any given time, locals are celebrating a range of festivities, between Diwali, Christmas and Prophet Mohammad's birthday. Its population is an amalgam of natives from Asian, European and Fijian heritage, contributing to its culture of warmth and hospitality.

To get a taste of this cultural melting pot, try one of Fiji's signature forms of cooking—the Lovo. 'Lovo' is 'feast' in the native language. What makes a lovo dish unique is that it is cooked in the ground itself. Heated stones are placed in a shallow pit in the earth, and are used to heat chicken, fish or pork, which is wrapped in leaves. The meat is topped with a healthy serving of root crops like tapioca to produce a wholesome and tantalising meal that's infused with natural barbecued smokiness.



## GETTING THERE

The best way to get to Fiji is by flight. Hop on a plane from several international airports for a direct line to paradise on earth. Although Nadi International Airport is the primary Fijian airport destination, there are other domestic airports for you to choose from.

Island hopping is a breeze with plenty of speed boat services available to take you from one exquisite location to another. Buses and taxis are also available to ferry you around the islands at prices that can go as low as AU\$4.





**DINING IN**  
RECIPES FOR  
RESORT MADE MEALS



# Clam Chowder

A great chowder that's brothy and full of clams.

by **Chef David Lapham**

I'll never forget my first taste of clam chowder. Our family friend Alice, a New England native, had made a pot for us. Alice later shared her recipe with my mother, who cooked it often for my brother and me. Alice's chowder was redolent of salt pork and onions, with a light, milky base and perfectly chewy clams.

Restaurants and lobster pounds across New England prepare clam chowder in different ways. Many recipes call for flour (in the form of a roux) as a thickener. The more flour added, the thicker the chowder will be. Alice's version, which I've re-created below, will always be my favourite. And like any good soup, it's so much better the next day.

## CLAM CHOWDER

24	cherrystone or large steamer clams, scrubbed of any grit	1	quart whole milk
		1	pint heavy cream or half-and-half
1/3	cup dry white wine		
1/4	lb salt pork or bacon, diced	1	bottle clam juice (if needed)*
1	medium onion, diced		Salt and freshly ground black pepper (to taste)
1	stalk celery, diced		
6	Russet or Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and diced		Chopped parsley and oyster crackers (garnish)

In a saucepan, add wine to clams, then cover, and cook over medium heat until they open. Remove clams from pan, extract the meat and roughly chop. Set aside. Pour broth left in saucepan into a bowl, making sure to leave any sediment in the saucepan; set broth aside.

In a sauté pan, cook salt pork over medium heat until crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon to drain on paper towels; leave remaining fat in the pan. Cook onions and celery in the same pan over medium heat, about 7 minutes.

In a soup pot, cover potatoes with the reserved clam broth and cook until tender, about 20 minutes. Add salt pork, onion, celery, clams, milk and cream. Bring to a simmer and continue cooking 15 minutes, but do not boil.

Taste for seasoning. Serve with chopped parsley and oyster crackers.

**Serves 8 to 10.**

*\*Add the bottled clam juice to the potatoes if your steamed clams don't yield enough juice to cover them.*

## STAY **Affiliated resorts in Cape Cod include:**

**Courtyard Resort #D086** 460 Main St., Hyannis

**The Cove at Yarmouth #1968** 183 Main St., West Yarmouth

**Pier 7 Condominiums #3018** 711 Main St., South Yarmouth

# TOP END DARWIN

DON'T BE FOOLED BY ITS SIZE. THE SMALLEST OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL CITIES PACKS AN ECLECTIC CHARM WITH ITS BALMY WEATHER, COLOURFUL OUTDOOR MARKETS AND A HOST OF ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES.







Darwin may not be a huge place or come to mind as readily as Sydney or Melbourne, but its charm and rich history belies its size. It is said everything in Darwin is 20 minutes away, with plenty to offer the traveller. Sail across the harbour to the Tiwi islands, and frolic under a waterfall in Litchfield National Park. Or simply, catch an old-time classic under the stars at the Deckchair Cinema.

### MAGICAL MARKETS

Sample Darwin's cosmopolitan mix of over 50 nationalities from its colourful markets held throughout the dry season. Savour a true melting pot of international cuisine from over 60 food stalls at the famous Mindil Beach Sunset Markets – think Brazilian, Sri Lankan, Greek, Cambodian, Japanese and more. Every Sunday and Thursday night, crowds gather to watch the talented buskers perform their magic to a breathtaking sunset sky. Don't forget to pick up a couple of handcrafted trinkets from the 130 craft vendors as you wind through the palm lined alleys of the market. ([mindil.com.au](http://mindil.com.au))



### UNDER THE STARS

Catch your favourite classic or discover a new indie film at the novel Deckchair Cinema on Darwin Harbour. Arrive early to enjoy the changing colours of the sunset from the comfort of your deck chairs. Gates open nightly at 6:30pm for the 7:30pm screening, seven nights a week from mid April to mid November. Expect the company of a possum or two, if you're lucky. A licensed kiosk provides the food and drinks you will need to accompany your flick, so all you will need to bring is an open mind, and some good company. ([deckchaircinema.com](http://deckchaircinema.com))

### CAGE OF DEATH

Get up close and personal with Australia's iconic saltwater crocodiles at Crocosaurus Cove. Brave a 360-degree experience in the famous Cage of Death that brings you face to face with the formidable and fearsome creatures, with photos to show for the saga. Or stroll along and admire the world's largest display of Australian reptiles, and exotic fishes like barramundi, sawfish and whiphays housed in the 200,000 litre freshwater aquarium. Prices start from AU\$35 per adult. ([crocosauruscove.com](http://crocosauruscove.com))



## STAY

RCI AFFILIATED  
RESORTS IN DARWIN  
INCLUDE:

### Ramada Suites Zen Quarter



Centrally located in Darwin's city centre, Ramada Suites Zen Quarter is only a 10 minute walk from the nightlife of Mitchell Street and its surrounding shops and restaurants. Located on Level 3 is Horizon Café which serves up piping hot daily buffet breakfasts. Work off your stress in the on-site fitness centre or the outdoor saltwater pool. Only a 5 minute drive away is the world-famous Mindil Beach Sunset Market where you can find hand-crafted souvenirs and natural skincare products.

**#RE36 – 3 nights from AU\$459/  
NZ\$489 1brm**  
**#RE37 – 4 nights from AU\$589/  
NZ\$619 1brm**  
**#RE38 – 7 nights from AU\$779/  
NZ\$819 1brm**

### Travelodge Mirambeena Darwin



Nestled in the heart of Darwin, a stone's throw away from retail and cultural districts sits the luxurious Travelodge resort. Soak in the relaxed ambience with the unique tropical pool, spa and café, or work up a sweat at the gym. Enjoy happy hour by the pool with drinks going at AU\$6.50 a pop.

**#RA46 – 3 nights from AU\$469/  
NZ\$499 1brm**  
**#RA47 – 4 nights from AU\$629/  
NZ\$669 1brm**



## NATIVE AUSTRALIA

Here's a rare opportunity to enjoy the best of both nature and culture. Hop on a two-hour Pudahkul Aboriginal Cultural Tour at the Adelaide River wetland, and immerse yourself in one of the world's most ancient cultures. Have a go at throwing a spear, try your hand at a didgeridoo or clapstick, and make a dilly bag. Learn about bush tucker and traditional medicine, and end with a serving of tea and damper – their bush bread. The tour operates 7 days a week from May to October, and bookings are compulsory.

(08) 8984 9282, [pudakul.com.au](http://pudakul.com.au)

## MAJESTIC WATERFALLS

Bushwalk, camp, or jump into croc-free plunge pools – these are but a few of the activities to expect at the gorgeous Litchfield National Park. The 1500-sq-km national park features stunning waterfalls that pour into crystal-clear cascades. You'll also see magnetic termite mounds built by cathedral termites. If you only have time for one attraction, make it the Wangi Falls. This majestic waterfall flows all year round, and splashes through a huge orange-rock outcrop into a gigantic

swimming hole lined by pristine forests. Have the luxury of time? Opt for the popular Tabletop Track that takes three to five days of bushwalking.

([litchfieldnationalpark.com](http://litchfieldnationalpark.com))

## DEFENSE OF DARWIN

At Darwin Military Museum, you will get to discover for yourself the fascinating and sobering history of Darwin's wartime involvement during World War II. Witness a spectacular collection of artillery housed in the original concrete bunker used by the army during its wartime defence.

([darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au](http://darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au))

Just adjacent to the museum, you will find the Defense of Darwin Experience, a AU\$10 million facility and interactive exhibition space dedicated to enriching visitors on Darwin's wartime heritage through firsthand accounts, multi-sensory theatre and iconic objects from WW2.

([defenceofdarwin.nt.gov.au](http://defenceofdarwin.nt.gov.au))

## WEATHER

The dry season, lasting from April to October, is the best time to visit Darwin with its predictable clear blue skies.



## GETTING AROUND

Regular bus services cover most of Darwin, for a flat AU\$5 day pass or AU\$15 for a week's pass. Or hop onto a Tour Tub, an open-air tourist bus with a guided commentary to key attractions from 9am to 4pm, but be sure to pre-book during the peak season (08) 8985 6322, [tourtub.com.au](http://tourtub.com.au)



# Glorious GOA

This idyllic Indian getaway, bordering the Arabian Sea, is home to powder-soft beaches, whitewashed churches and fragrant spice farms.

by **Aarti Virani**

Photography by **Aaron Joel Santos**



India's smallest state, a palm-fringed crescent with a Portuguese accent, is arguably its most enchanting. Curled along the country's lush western coast, Goa was once a thriving Spice Route colony that in its heyday, in the early 1500s, had a population larger than Lisbon's. After Portugal ended its 450-year occupation, in 1961, Goa became a hippie haven, synonymous with beachfront raves and the backpack brigade. But it's currently in the midst of a more sophisticated transformation, drawing millions annually for its ocean adventures, spiritual sanctuaries and unflappable allegiance to all things *susegad*—a local term that traces its roots to the Portuguese word *sossegado*, or “quiet.” The word captures the state's affinity for easy living. Here we present a weeklong itinerary that you can follow in its entirety or adapt for yourself. Whether you're wandering the old city's Baroque basilicas, touring a cinnamon plantation or lounging on a gleaming stretch of the 63-mile coastline, it's hard to get enough of sun-speckled Goa, or its homegrown calm.

To get around, you can rely on the region's comprehensive local bus network, hire a taxi (your resort can help you arrange this) or hail the humbler alternative: an auto rickshaw. Bicycles are also readily available for rent in most Goan towns.



Bom Jesus Basilica



Arambol Sweet Water Lake



## DAY 1: Historic Heart

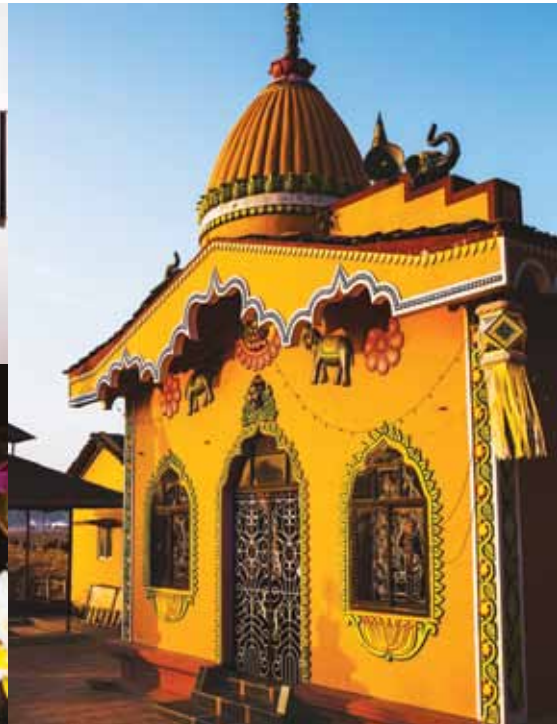
Start with a healthy dose of the past: a **Heritage Walking Tour** excursion (*Panjim Inn*; E-212 31st January Rd., Fontainhas; 011-91-832-222-6523; *tours, from AU\$10\* a person*) to the brightly coloured Latin Quarter in the state capital of Panaji, which is also sometimes known by its English name, Panjim. Goa's colonial history is palpable in the cobblestoned alleys of Fontainhas and São Tomé, lined with mango trees, wrought iron balconies and terra-cotta rooftops. For a break, duck into **Gallery Gitanjali** (182 31st January Rd., Fontainhas; 011-91-832-242-3331; [gallerygitanjali.com](http://gallerygitanjali.com)), which doubles as a café and exhibits abstract oil canvases by a rotating cast of Indian painters, in addition to a sizable collection of Scandinavian art. If you're craving more history, make your way to Old Goa, the region's ancient center (a 20-minute drive from Panaji), complete with beautifully preserved convents and churches. Highlights include the UNESCO-certified 400-year-old **Bom Jesus Basilica** (*Old Goa Rd., Bainguinim*; 011-91-832-228-5790), where a silver casket contains the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, and the grand **Sé Cathedral** (*Velha*). End the day with an hour-long evening cruise on the Mandovi River

(*Santa Monica Jetty, Avenida Dom João de Castro, Patto Colony, Panaji*; sunset cruises, from AU\$4 a person); Goan folk musicians will serenade you on board.

## DAY 2: The Life Aquatic

Get your morning chai fix at **Mapusa Market** (*Mapusa; every Monday–Saturday; 8 a.m.–6:30 p.m.*) and its kaleidoscopic array of kiosks, which hawk everything from Goan pottery to homemade pickles. Nearby Anjuna is the site of countless party shacks, including the renowned **Curlie's** (*near flea market, Monteiro Vaddo, Anjuna*; 011-91-955-247-1720; [curliesgoa.com](http://curliesgoa.com)), a two-story seaside wonderland that's a restaurant, an inn, a shopping mall and a dance club. But if you're looking to skip the swarms, go 20 miles north to Arambol Beach. Follow a winding road dotted with souvenir stalls and you'll end up at a curvy shore with gentle waves and easy access to **Arambol Sweet Water Lake**, a cliff-side launchpad that's perfect for paragliding (*independent operators are scattered among the shacks on Arambol and along neighboring Kalacha Beach*; a 10-minute flight, about AU\$33). Or opt for a surfing lesson—beginners are welcome too—courtesy of the international team at **Surf Wala** (*Bag Dando*





Rd., near surf club, Arambol; 011-91-962-300-1810; [surfvala.com](http://surfvala.com); 1.5-hour lessons, from AU\$46), where instructors give classes in English, Japanese, Russian and Hindi, among other languages.

### DAY 3: Au Naturel

Keep the outdoor adventures going with a biking trip to **Fort Aguada**, a 17th-century Portuguese bastion (*the location for many a Bollywood movie scene*), one of Goa's largest forts, on Sinquerim Beach—about 10 miles from Panaji. The rugged red laterite landmark, which was built to keep out Dutch invaders, is named for the freshwater spring it once housed. Book a guided tour through **Goa Nature Trails** (011-91-703-097-3005; [goanaturetrails.com](http://goanaturetrails.com); trips, including a helmet and light refreshments, from AU\$40), a reliable Candolim-based operator offering a three-hour mountain-bike outing that takes in a succession of fishing villages and the Church of St. Lawrence, perched on a hilltop and dedicated, appropriately enough, to the patron saint of sailors. The company also leads an hour-long guided kayaking trip along the backwaters of Nerul, a sleepy hamlet with a prawn hatchery and a cluster of charming riverside bungalows.

### DAY 4: Spice It Up

No trip to this former Spice Route hot spot is complete without a plantation excursion. At **Tropical Spice Plantation** (A-14 Arla Bazar Keri, Ponda; 011-91-832-234-0329; [tropicalspiceplantation.com](http://tropicalspiceplantation.com); admission and lunch, AU\$8), in central Goa, after being welcomed with a wreath of fresh flowers, you'll learn about the many medicinal benefits of your lush surroundings—home to black pepper, cardamom, nutmeg, vanilla, cinnamon and coriander plants—on an engaging 45-minute tour. It's followed by a hearty Goan buffet lunch of fish curry, fried potatoes and vegetable pulao served on banana leaves. On your way back to Panaji, consider a stop at the pretty **Mystic Meadows** (Rajnagar, Pissal Priol, near Khedekar Industries, Ponda; 011-91-832-298-5174; [bcogoa.org](http://bcogoa.org); admission, AU\$2), a fledgling butterfly-and-bee conservatory run by a budding wildlife painter, and the **Shri Shantadurga Temple** (Verem-Nerul Rd., near Chamundeswari petrol pump, [Verem;shreesantadurga.com](http://Verem;shreesantadurga.com)), an 18th-century shrine dedicated to the Hindu goddess of peace—and a vibrant example of Indo-Portuguese architecture.

### EAT

#### Mum's Kitchen

T: 011-91-982-217-5559  
W: [mumskitchengoa.com](http://mumskitchengoa.com)  
854 Martins Building, DB St., Panaji

Almost all the recipes at this cozy Goan joint—ranging from clams sautéed with coconut and coriander to a tart vegetable stew and disks of steamed rice cakes—are sourced from home cooks across the state.

Dinner for two, AU\$40\*

#### Bomra's

T: 011-91-832-291-4687  
W: [lilacafegoa.com](http://lilacafegoa.com)  
Tito's White House, Calangute-Arpora-Siolim Rd., Anjuna

Linger over a cappuccino or two at this rustic breakfast spot, where crowd-pleasers are the flaky croissants (baked in-house) and chili-and-cheese omelets.

Breakfast for two, AU\$20

#### Longinhos Bar & Restaurant

T: 011-91-832-273-9908  
Opposite Municipality Office, Luis Miranda Rd., Margao

One of Goa's oldest restaurants, this 50-year-old Margao mainstay, which began as a Portuguese military canteen, now serves up regional seafood favourites, like fiery prawn curry and stuffed crabs.

Lunch for two, AU\$13



### DAY 5: Southern Hospitality

To spend a day on Goa's more serene and soft-spoken side, head south. Begin with a visit to the **Goa Chitra Museum** (St. John the Baptist Church Rd., Mondo-Waddo, Benaulim; 011-91-832-657-0877; [goachitra.com](http://goachitra.com); admission, AU\$4), artist Victor Hugo Gomes's extensive ode to Goan history,

crammed with 4,000 regional objects, including farming tools, kitchen utensils and rare pottery. You can stock up on souvenirs at **Margao Market** (Gandhi Market Rd., Margao; Mon.–Sat., 8:30 a.m.–9 p.m.), a series of stalls in south Goa's capital city where you can sift through spices, soaps and household goodies. For a dip, there is no prettier perch than **Palolem Beach** or its slightly smaller neighbor, **Agonda Beach**. Declared one of the safest swimming spots in Goa, the former is a picture-perfect bay and a worthy kayaking and paddleboarding destination.

### DAY 6: Bird's-Eye View

You can hop on a morning ferry from the Ribandar jetty (about halfway between Panaji and Old Goa) for the 15-minute ride to sleepy Chorão Island and its main attraction: the **Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary** (Chorão Island, Panaji). Here you'll find yourself amid kingfishers, purple herons, white egrets, woodpeckers and cormorants, among other feathered folks. If the tide is high, boatmen, whom you'll spot near the ferry landing, can take you on a canoe tour of the mangrove-heavy isle (1.5-hour ride, about AU\$13). Come evening, try your luck at the **Deltin Royale** (Noah's Ark, RND Jetty, DB Marg, Panaji; 011-91-869-859-9999; [deltin.com](http://deltin.com);

admission, from AU\$48 a person, including a buffet dinner, unlimited drinks and playing coupons), a plush four-decker casino cruise—India's largest offshore gaming complex—with Vegas-inspired entertainment shows.

### DAY 7: Meditative Magic

Soak up Goa's signature susegad spirit in Mandrem, a northern fishing village turned hideaway. As the region's unofficial yoga and Ayurveda headquarters, the town and its laid-back beach are the backdrop to the **Ashiyana Yoga Center** (Junas Waddo, Mandrem; 011-91-985-040-1714; [ashiyana-yoga-go.com](http://ashiyana-yoga-go.com)), a picturesque retreat and spa nestled among swaying palms. Drop-in yoga classes are available. Or indulge in a relaxing treatment at the highly rated **Shanti Ayurvedic Massage Center** (Junas Waddo, Mandrem; 91-880-620-5264; one-hour massages, from AU\$59), where you can choose from options like warm-oil and herbal-powder massages, spa pedicures and henna tattoos. Wrap up your day at **Molly's Beach Shack Restaurant** (Molly's Nest, Mandrem Beach; 011-91-787-575-0217), where you can sip a sundowner, sink your toes into the sand and gaze at a fiery sunset as you bid your Goan holiday a reluctant farewell.



## STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN GOA INCLUDE:



#### Karma Royal Palms #3594

The Royal Goan Beach Club at Royal Palms is an elegant colonial-style complex with various apartments and villas.

**Member Review:** "We felt right at home."



#### Karma Royal Haathi Mahal #4129

This resort blends an Indian and Goan atmosphere with modern Western amenities. The central feature of this spectacular resort is a 3-tier swimming with sunken bar surrounded by landscaped gardens and waterfalls that also include water slides, a jacuzzi and a children's pool.

**Member Review:** "Prompt and friendly service."



#### Royal Karma Monterio #3820

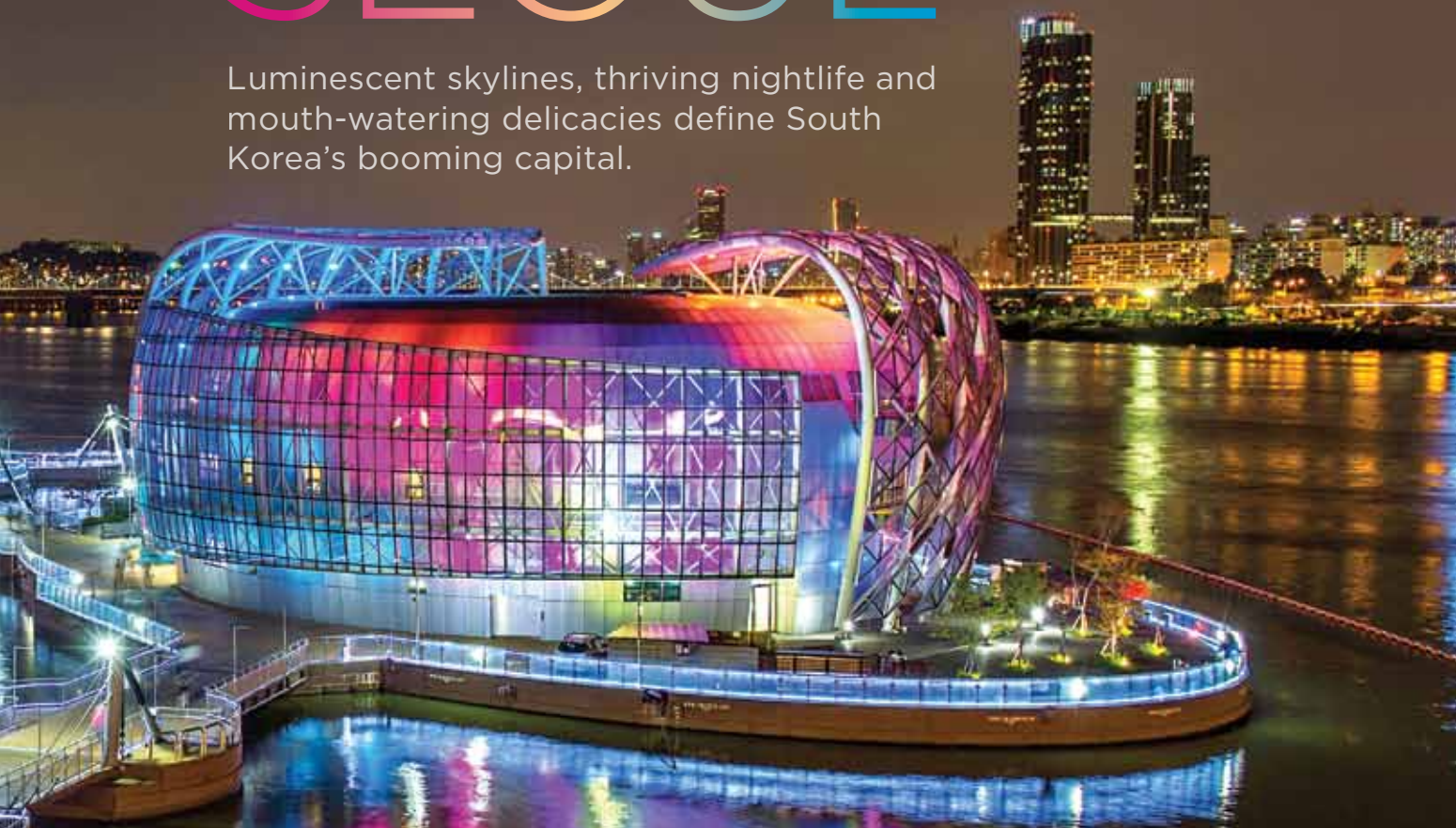
Nearby the Royal Goan Beach Club, watch the Arpora River flow to the sea, or take a 10-minute walk to Baga Beach, one of the most picturesque beaches in Goa.

**Member Review:** "The swimming pools are well-maintained."



# Wandering SEOUL

Luminescent skylines, thriving nightlife and mouth-watering delicacies define South Korea's booming capital.



## STAY RCI AFFILIATED STAYS IN SOUTH KOREA INCLUDE:



### **Hotel Aventree Jongno #RC53/RC54**

Located in the heart of Seoul surrounded by palaces, temples and popular shopping precincts in Korea, Hotel Aventree Jongno presents the perfect mix of contemporary culture, arts and history. Soak in the rich cultural history of over 2000 years with major tourist attractions near the hotel – Gyeongbok-gung Palace, Gwanghwamun Square and Insa-dong roads. Enjoy the elegant beauty of Korea and the energetic environment of Seoul, all at a reasonable price.

**(RC53) 3 nights from AU\$319/  
NZ\$339 Hotel**

**(RC54) 4 nights from AU\$429/  
NZ\$449 Hotel**



### **Shinshin Hotel Myeongdong**

Shinshin hotel is every bit a contemporary residence, its trendy minimalist exterior giving way to a chic yet cosy interior that will make you feel right at home the moment you step in. Get your daily fix of caffeine and bites at its charming café or take a trip down the neighbouring streets of Myeongdong for your fill of varied delicacies. Pick this award-winning urban stay and get a central location that's walking distance from landmarks like Seoul Tower.

**(RE45) 3 nights from AU\$449/  
NZ\$469 Hotel**

**(RE46) 4 nights from AU\$509/  
NZ\$539 Hotel**



## FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT

Home to more than half of South Korea's citizens, Seoul is a bustling metropolis that has skyrocketed to the forefront of world fashion, pop culture and technology. As the world's most wired city, it promises infinite vacation-worthy possibilities, waiting to be discovered. Its three massive amusement parks, Lotte world, Everland and Seoul Land, number among these recreational favourites.

For a varied choice of family fun, Lotte world is a promising pick. The park plays host to hair-raising rides like the Gyro Swing and the French Revolution. Kids will love fun rides like The Bumping Jester bumper cars and the underground waterway of the Adventures of Sinbad.

You can also head indoors for a bit of shade and cool off by the massive ice-skating



rink. Explore the numerous attractions in the indoor Adventure park or seize the chance to clinch a few good souvenirs or get some shopping done.

## MAKEUP MECCA

A retail experience in South Korea is incomplete with a visit to the Myeongdong district. A beauty haven for cosmetic lovers, many travel to Korea just to stock up on their world-class beauty products. Big name Korean brands like Innisfree and TheFaceShop are situated walking distance from each other, with many outlets offering handfuls of samples for the taking.

Drop off at the easily accessible Myeong-Dong subway station and trail the streets to shop affordable beauty and glamour products to your heart's content. Check in with the

retail staff in each store for tourist-friendly deals. Many outlets offer tax-free claims, so look out for possible cost cutters.

## CAFÉ-HOPPING

A must if you're in Seoul, explore the countless cafes peppering the streets of Garosu-gil or inject a little spontaneity into your trip and step into any quaintly decorated diner along the way. You'll find everything from cat cafes to the Dreamy Camera Café, a two-storey establishment shaped like a vintage camera.

Pamper your palate with the decadent confectionary on offer, from layered rainbow cream cakes to soft-serve topped with mini macaroons and cotton candy. Don't skip out on the Bingsoo, a refreshing ice-cold dessert with a shaved ice base, embellished with toppings like syrup, condensed milk and even fudgy brownie chunks.

For something a little more authentically Korean, the BBQ is a must-try. Now a region-wide craze, Korean BBQ is an experience in and of itself. A typical barbecue eatery gives you a rich selection of meats to grill, from black-pepper beef to tender wine-soaked pork belly. With generous servings of soup, kimchi and other tantalising side dishes, you'll be spoilt for choice.

## THE PATH LESS TRAVELLED

It's not all towering skyscrapers and blazing lights in Seoul. Traditional markets like the one found in Gwangjang still give you a glimpse into Korea as it is, without the bells and whistles. While a trip along the iconic Han River is a must, consider a detour under a lush canopy of trees in Seoul Garden or Boramae Park.

If you're hoping to catch a glimpse of the famed cherry blossoms, the Songpa Naru Park between April and May is the perfect place to get a few picturesque snaps.

## GETTING THERE

Getting to Seoul from more heavily populated regions like Busan is a breeze with the Korean Train Express (KTX). Racking up a speed of 300km/hr, travelling from one city to another is just a matter of 2 or 3 hours.

Express buses are also there to shuttle you between Seoul and other locales untouched by the KTX railway. Choose between economy and premium options for prices upward of AU\$3.







#### THE DETAILS

**ISETAN** - Higashi Shiokoji-cho, Karasuma-dori, Shiokoji sagaru, Shimogyo-Ku, Kyoto  
[kyoto.wjr-isetan.co.jp](http://kyoto.wjr-isetan.co.jp)

**JAPAN RAIL** - [japanrailpass.net](http://japanrailpass.net)

**NEW YORK BAR** - 3-7-1-2 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo; 011-81-3-5322-1234  
[tokyo.park.hyatt.com](http://tokyo.park.hyatt.com)

**PEAK BAR** - 3-7-1-2 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo; 011-81-3-5322-1234  
[tokyo.park.hyatt.com](http://tokyo.park.hyatt.com)

**TSUKIJI** - 5 Chome-2-1 Tsukiji, Chuo, Tokyo  
 011-81-3-3542-1111; [tsukiji-market.or.jp](http://tsukiji-market.or.jp)

# Good-Value Japan

First-rate sushi, inventive cocktails and World Heritage sites, all without breaking the bank.

Just because you're travelling across the globe doesn't mean you have to spend a fortune—or skimp on a good time. Here are a few wallet-friendly ways to enrich your trip.

## TOKYO

Consider taking advantage of your jet lag and heading to Tsukiji, Tokyo's fish market, on your first morning. Arrive around 4 a.m. if you want to watch the famous tuna auctions, at which chefs bid on 400 pounds of fish. If you prefer to sleep in a little longer, you can skip the auction and still go to the market for breakfast. Several small restaurants open to the public at 9 a.m. You may wait half an hour or more, but it's worth it to dine on some of the freshest sushi in the world. For less than AU\$39\*, a chef will prepare 12 pieces in front of you. Between bites of salmon or roe, you can sip complimentary miso soup and green tea.

Fans of the film *Lost in Translation* can reminisce about the indie flick at the Tokyo Park Hyatt's ritzy New York Bar. On the top floor of a 52-story skyscraper, the bar offers spectacular panoramas of Tokyo, an extensive cocktail list and nightly jazz performances. Settle your bill before the show begins to avoid the AU\$26 cover charge (8 p.m., Monday–Saturday; 7 p.m. on Sunday). Or spend the evening at the hotel's Peak Bar, on the 41st

floor, instead. A few of the movie's scenes were shot there as well, and the Peak Bar offers one big advantage: the Twilight Time special. For AU\$39 you can watch the sunset with unlimited drinks and canapés from five to nine nightly.

## KYOTO

If you're planning to travel outside Tokyo, you may want to purchase a Japan Rail pass. A one-way train ticket from Tokyo to Kyoto costs \$145, while the seven-day rail pass allows you to travel around Tokyo and to surrounding areas (including Kyoto) for a flat fee of AU\$157. The pass must be purchased before arriving in Japan.

Kyoto is home to 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, many of which are Buddhist temples or Shinto shrines. Temples often charge an entrance fee, while shrines rarely do. Although the fees generally aren't expensive, they can quickly add up.

After a day of sightseeing, return to the train station for fresh sushi at bargain prices. The station contains a department store known as Isetan, where you'll find a variety of sweets, and a large selection of prepared food. The grocery store sells some of Kyoto's most delicious sushi at low prices, and slashes those prices even further about a half hour before closing, at 8 p.m.



## STAY

RCI AFFILIATED STAYS IN JAPAN INCLUDE:



### Conrad Tokyo - Tokyo, Japan

Located just a few steps away from Ginza, the upscale shopping and entertainment area, Conrad Tokyo is a luxurious modern icon with breathtaking views. Consistently ranked amongst Tokyo's finest hotels, Conrad Tokyo features a Michelin-starred restaurant, Tokyo's finest spa and a superb collection of Japanese contemporary art.

(RD88) 7 nights from AU\$4779/ NZ\$5029 Hotel



### Grand Prince Hotel - Kyoto, Japan

The Grand Prince Hotel Kyoto features spacious guest rooms, elegant banquet halls, restaurants, and a Sukiya-style teahouse in the Japanese garden, offering you the quintessential Kyoto experience.

(RE19) 3 nights from AU\$579/ NZ\$609 Hotel  
 (RE20) 4 nights from AU\$1459/ NZ\$1529 Hotel

# Access great travel benefits with RCI Membership!

Enter a whole new world of travel possibilities for you and your loved ones with a selection of nearly 4,300 RCI affiliated resorts in over 100 countries. Deposit your week with us and get to use them with great flexibility!

## RCI Weeks Benefits:

### MORE TRANSPARENCY

Learn the exact Trading Power of all holidays!



YOUR DEPOSIT'S  
TRADING POWER OF 16

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SEARCH HOLIDAYS WITH EQUAL  
OR LESS VALUE THAN YOUR  
DEPOSIT'S TRADING POWER

OR



SEARCH ALL HOLIDAYS  
REGARDLESS OF TRADING POWER

### MORE VALUE

Receive Deposit Credits back when you book an Exchange requiring less Trading Power than that of your deposit. You can use them for a second exchange.

This means, you can potentially take two weeks of holiday with one deposited week!



YOUR DEPOSIT'S  
TRADING POWER OF 16

—



YOUR EXCHANGE HOLIDAY'S  
TRADING POWER OF 8

=



YOUR DEPOSIT CREDIT OF 8

### MORE FLEXIBILITY

Combine multiple deposits!



USE IT FOR  
ANOTHER  
EXCHANGE  
HOLIDAY

YOUR DEPOSIT'S  
CREDIT TRADING  
POWER OF 8



YOUR EXCHANGE  
HOLIDAY'S TRADING  
POWER OF 8

OR COMBINE  
WITH ANOTHER  
DEPOSIT



YOUR DEPOSIT'S  
CREDIT TRADING  
POWER OF 8

+



ANOTHER  
DEPOSITED  
WEEK OF 16

=



COMBINED DEPOSIT  
TRADING POWER  
OF 24

Trading Power values are for illustration purpose only.

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or **0800 368 800** (New Zealand)  
to find out more.

**RCI**



## Ongoing Search

Have your dream holiday planned out to the finest detail? If your answer is 'yes', Ongoing Search is the perfect option for you. Ongoing Search simply places you on a waitlist while it searches for your ideal holiday. Key in your desired holiday criteria and RCI will be on the lookout for relevant locations 24/7, notifying you once a resort match is found. It's a simple, hassle-free way to turn your dream holiday into reality.



### Didn't find what you were looking for?

Tell us more about your holiday request and we'll let you know when we find a match !

[Start an Ongoing Search Request](#)

## WHY SHOULD I START AN ONGOING SEARCH?

- **Save time and avoid hassle:** When you start an Ongoing Search, RCI does the work for you. We search 24/7 for your ideal holiday, based on the criteria you enter, eliminating the need for you to check the latest in travel offers manually. RCI will keep you updated on the search progress and notify you as soon as a match is found. You can even set your Ongoing Search to Auto-Confirm so RCI will confirm and book your dream holiday once it has been found.
- **Get prioritised access to member deposited inventory:** When you start an Ongoing Search, you are placed in the priority queue for new member deposited inventory, giving you a better chance of finding your desired holiday match.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Starting an Ongoing Search is easy. Just sign in to your account on RCI.com and search for a holiday using your desired criteria. If you are not able to find the exchange holiday you want, you are automatically given the option to start an Ongoing Search, already filled in with pre-populated criteria based on your previous search. Furthermore, you can modify your search based on the following criteria:

- **Destination:** Search by region, city or specific resort.
- **Click to Change:** Customise your search to meet your personal holiday needs. You can specify the type of holiday that appears in your search results as well as choose to see all available exchange holidays.
- **Date:** You can enter a specific date or a travel window.
- **Accommodation:** You can narrow your search by number of guests, unit size and check-in day.

**Key in your dream holiday on Ongoing Search and let RCI handle the rest.**

### BALI SHANGRILA BEACH CLUB

Bali, Indonesia

Alternatively laze by the pool and enjoy the quiet and peaceful atmosphere and the spectacular sea views and sunsets. The resort is also good for snorkelling and fishing.

(RB89) 7 nights from AU\$289/ NZ\$309 Hotel



### L'ERMITAGE FRANSCHHOEK CHATEAU

Western Cape, South Africa

L'Ermitage Franschhoek Chateau is nestled on the slopes of Franschhoek pass and offers a tranquil retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life. The French inspired cobbled streets, fountains and exquisitely maintained gardens form the back drop of one of the most picturesque settings in the Cape. Enjoy a round of golf at the nearby Jack Nicklaus Pearl Valley Gold Estate, paragliding over the valley, sample local and French cheese or visit one of the many vineyards. Alternatively just sit back and relax by the pool enjoying the sun and scenery, enjoy a glass of Franschhoek Estates' very own signature Sauvignon Blanc with lunch or dinner or a sundowner in Kizzy's Bar.

(RE89) 7 nights from AU\$1119/ NZ\$1179 Studio



### SWELL RESORT

Queensland, Australia

State-of-the-art facilities at Swell Resorts veritably ensure guests' enjoyment! Just a short walk from the patrolled surf beach, Swell Resort offer a heated outdoor pool and spa (in season) and poolside BBQ facilities, full-sized, lit tennis courts and a complete gymnasium, and on-site dining options, all in a lovely, landscaped garden environment.

(A033) 7 nights from AU\$779/ NZ\$819 1brm



### WYNDHAM LEGEND HALONG

Ha Long City, Vietnam

High quality services, friendly staff and upscale facilities such as a fully equipped Fitness center, 24-hour security, a kids club, daily housekeeping, gift shop and outdoor swimming pool can be enjoyed at the hotel.

(RE86) 3 nights from AU\$329/ NZ\$339 Hotel

(RE87) 4 nights from AU\$429/ NZ\$449 Hotel





### RAMADA REIA BEACH RESORT

Northland, New Zealand

Located on the beachfront, right in the heart of Doubtless Bay, Ramada Reia Beach Resort is the perfect place to use as a base to explore Northland. A short drive away you can discover Cape Reinga at the top of New Zealand, Paihia and the Bay of Islands home of the 'Hole in the Rock' and dolphin watching. Take advantage of the onsite restaurant and bar for breakfast, lunch or dinner or relax with a drink. After a long day's sightseeing relax in the spa pool, alternatively if you don't feel like leaving the resort enjoy a lazy day with your favourite book by the swimming pool. Additional facilities available to enjoy are the BBQ facilities and tennis court.

(RE82) 3 nights from AU\$559/ NZ\$579 1brm

(RE83) 4 nights from AU\$739/ NZ\$769 1brm

(RE81) 7 nights from AU\$1079/ NZ\$1129 Studio



### HOTEL AVENTREE JONGNO

Seoul, South Korea

With the 155 modern yet cozy guestrooms, restaurants, souvenir shops and other amenities as well as the major tourist attractions around the area including the Gyeongbok-gung Palace, Gwanghwamun Square and Insa-dong roads, Hotel AVENTREE Jongno will surely present you with wonderful memories of Seoul during your visit. We invite you to Hotel AVENTREE Jongno to enjoy the elegant beauty of Korea, the energetic environment of Seoul as well as the reasonable pricing and heartfelt services provided by our hotel.

(RC53) 3 nights from AU\$319/ NZ\$339 Hotel

(RC54) 4 nights from AU\$429/ NZ\$449 Hotel



### RAMADA MARCOOLA BEACH

Queensland, Australia

Get comfortable and relax in the contemporary and friendly style of the Marcoola Beach Resort, a private and secure complex where the vast uncrowded, white sand beaches complement the perfect serene holiday experience. The inviting apartment accommodations are surrounded by dynamic recreational facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, including a solar-heated sparkling lagoon and spa to stimulate the blood flow. If the limitless attractions of the Sunshine Coast seem overwhelming, let the on-site Tour Desk help. Parents can rely on the resort's childcare for some time out on the town.

(A017) 7 nights from AU\$779/ NZ\$819 Hotel



### THE ARROW PRIVATE HOTEL

Arrowtown, New Zealand

The Arrow has been designed so that comfort meets contemporary design with plush, king size beds and polished concrete floors. Enjoy canapés and refreshments in the historic stone cottage on the night of your arrival. Take the opportunity to wine and dine without the worrying of driving as The Arrow has a drop off and collection from Arrowtown Restaurants or Gantley's restaurant in the evenings. Each day a gourmet breakfast for two will be delivered to your suite through the 'secret cupboard'. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available

(RE71) 5 nights from AU\$909/ NZ\$959 Hotel



### TAMAR VALLEY RESORT

Tasmania, Australia

Tamar Valley Resort is situated 10 minutes' drive from Launceston's central business district and located in the grounds is the world famous Grindelwald Swiss Shopping Village which is open to the public every day from 9am. Here you will find local craft shops, souvenir shops, a chocolate shop, ice creamery, village bakery, news agency, general store, electronic games arcade, golf shop, mini golf and much more. Tamar Valley Resort offers extensive facilities such as an onsite restaurant, bar, gymnasium, tennis courts, heated indoor pool, sauna, heated spa, golf course, canoeing and paddle boats.

(RE59) 7 nights from AU\$809/ NZ\$859 2brms



### CAIRNS BEACH RESORT

Queensland, Australia

Enjoy the tropical gardens and salt water pool that surround Cairns Beach Resort. Dine at Coolooms on the Beach, a beachfront restaurant and bar and relax to the sounds of the waves lapping at the shore. Laze around the pool in reclining lounge chairs or grill on the barbecue and dine al fresco. Internet is provided for a nominal fee. The resort is just a short walk and no more than 10 minutes drive from most area activities.

(7112) 7 nights from AU\$729/ NZ\$769 1brm

**DCG5516**

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL,  
FREEDOM OF THE SEAS

**Portugal & Spain Transatlantic -  
Fly/Cruise Package**

18 Nights

**Provider: Our Vacations Direct**

**From Fort Lauderdale to Barcelona**

**Ports of Call:** Lisbon, Seville, Malaga,  
Palma de Mallorca  
Selected departures in 2017  
Inside (Q) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$3808\* pp Twin Share**

**Package includes:**

- Economy class airfare Sydney to Fort Lauderdale/Barcelona to Sydney
- 1 night pre cruise accommodation in Fort Lauderdale
- 14 night Transatlantic cruise
- 3 nights post cruise accommodation in Barcelona

*\* Price and Itinerary are to be used as a guide only/Price are based on per person, twin share/ Cabin categories and service types are based on lead in categories with prepaid government fees and port taxes or unless otherwise state/Airfares are based on return economy class and subject to the carriers' flight schedules and conditions./Stopovers and port transfers are at customers own expense/ Prices may vary depending on the departure date and or season/Package prices are subject to change or be withdrawn without notice/Prices shown are for payments made by cash. Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge. Further conditions may apply please contact our travel consultant for more information.*

**DC1JHXHM**

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL,  
SERENADE OF THE SEAS

**Norwegian Fjords Fly Cruise Package - 2017**

7 Nights

**Provider: Our Vacations Direct**

**Round trip from Copenhagen**

**Ports of Call:** Copenhagen, Stavanger, Bergen,  
Alesund, Geiranger  
Selected departures in 2017  
Large Oceanview Stateroom (I) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$3327\* pp Twin Share, twin  
share with exchange**

**Package includes:**

- Return economy class airfare to Copenhagen, ex Sydney
- 3 Nights accommodation at Absalon Hotel with full breakfasts daily
- 7 Nights Norwegian Fjords Cruise onboard Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas
- Port charges, fees, gratuities and airport taxes

*\* Price and Itinerary are to be used as a guide only/Price are based on per person, twin share/ Cabin categories and service types are based on lead in categories with prepaid government fees and port taxes or unless otherwise state/Airfares are based on return economy class and subject to the carriers' flight schedules and conditions./Stopovers and port transfers are at customers own expense/ Prices may vary depending on the departure date and or season/Package prices are subject to change or be withdrawn without notice/Prices shown are for payments made by cash. Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge. Further conditions may apply please contact our travel consultant for more information.*

**DTSFSGY**

LUXURY GOLD VACATION

**Indulgence in Eastern Canada and New  
England Cruise - 2017**

14 days

**Provider: Insight Vacations**

**Various departures in 2017**

**Highlights:** Toronto, Niagara Falls, Kingston,  
Ottawa, Quebec, Montreal

**Ports of Call:** Montreal, St Lawrence River,  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Sydney,  
Bar Harbor, Boston  
Selected departures in 2017  
Inside (Q) Twin Share

**Now from AU\$4855\* pp, twin share with  
exchange**

English and French cultures melt into this romantic journey through the picturesque and historic cities of Eastern Canada, including a Holland of America Canada & New England Cruise.

*\* 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/Must book and pay in full 27 October 2016 - Full supplier Conditions apply.*





**SAVE**  
AU\$1700\*  
per couple



**SAVE**  
AU\$1352\*  
per couple



**SAVE**  
AU\$900\*  
per couple

## DT1JAOEX

**Companion Fly FREE - Inc. taxes^**

**Kimberley, Kakadu and Arnhem Land Explorer - 2017**

16 days

**Provider: APT**

**Various departures in 2017**

**Itinerary:** Broome, Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Bell Gorge, Galvans Gorge, Manning Gorge, Drysdale River Station, Mitchell Plateau, King Edward River, Bradshaw Art Gwion Gwion, Mitchell Falls, Helicopter Flight, Gibb River Road, El Questro Wilderness Park, Purnululu National Park, Ord River, Lake Kununurra, Nitmiluk National Park, Katherine Gorge, Kakadu National Park, Yellow Water Billabong, Arnhem Land, Hawk Dreaming, Cannon Hill, Gulyambi Cruise, Ubirr Rock Art, Darwin

Discover the dramatic landscapes of the Kimberley and the beautiful Kakadu National Park. Enjoy an adventure that showcases the breathtaking landscapes and abundant wildlife of the Northern Territory at their best.

**Now from AU\$9744\* pp Tour Exchange**

*\* 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/Companion fly free is valid when you book a 4WD land tour, Kimberley coast cruise or a combined Broome Discovery package with a Kimberley coast cruise. Full supplier Conditions apply.*

## DT12XS36

**GoldLeaf Service**

**Classic Rail Circle - 2017**

10 days

**Provider: Rocky Mountaineer**

**Various departures in 2017**

**Itinerary:** Vancouver, Whistler, Quesnel, Jasper, Kamloops, Vancouver

**Vacation Highlights:**

- 5 day Rocky Mountaineer GoldLeaf Service
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- 9 nights hotel accommodation
- Vancouver Lookout, Capilano Suspension Bridge and Grouse Mountain
- Jasper Highlights Tour
- Rail station transfers in Whistler, Quesnel, Jasper, Kamloops and Vancouver
- Luggage handling and National Park Pass

See the Rockies by rail. Experience two train routes that carry you off on a sightseeing sojourn from alpine-inspired Whistler to the wildlife-rich stomping grounds of Jasper.

**Now from AU\$7658\* pp Tour Exchange**

*\* 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.*

## DTVKHBQ

**Book early and SAVE!**

**Best of British Tour - 2017**

16 days

**Provider: Albatross Tours**

**Various departures in 2017**

**Itinerary:** Tortworth, Gloucestershire, The Lake District, Edinburgh, Harrogate, Yorkshire, Stratford-upon-Avon, Leeds Castle, London

A magical tour with two, three & four night stays in Tortworth, Yorkshire, Stratford-upon-Avon, the Lakes District and Scotland.

**Now from AU\$6488\* pp Tour Exchange**

*\* 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/Book and pay your deposit by 15th January 2017 on any 2017 European Summer tour longer than 9 days and receive a \$300 per person discount off the tour price./Full supplier Conditions apply.*





RE63/  
RE64

#### SHIGIRA BAYSIDE SUITES ALLAMANDA

Sprawling grounds play host to the uber-contemporary Shigira Bayside Suites Allamanda. The upscale resort hotel boasts a golf course, natural hot springs, and inimitable seascape views. Located in one of the largest lagoons in Japan, the suites offer everything from sapphire blue pools to your own hot tub.



DA16

#### WYNDHAM SEA PEARL RESORT PHUKET

Perch on the cusp of luxury as you bask in the natural beauty of Phuket. The azure blue pools and décor of the Wyndham Sea Pearl Resort perfectly complement the lush greenery that surrounds it. Pamper yourself at the spa, sip a cocktail by the pool, or enjoy authentic Thai cuisine overlooking Patong Bay and the Andaman sea.



DA17

#### PATONG BAY HILL RESORT

The pristine interior of the Patong Bay Hill Resort gives way to breathtaking views of rich emerald topiary and crystal clear pools. Soak in the panoramic view of the adjacent Andaman Sea or work up a sweat at the sports and recreation fitness centre. Stop by the 16 shop outlets for some retail therapy and top up on your daily caffeine at the Cafe. No matter what you choose, a suite vacation in Patong Bay will be nothing short of spectacular.



DA06

#### LEAHE INTERNATIONAL CENTER HOTEL

Flaunting a full list of features ranging from a sauna to an arcade, the Leahe International Center Hotel is your home away from home. Winner of the 'Best Progress Award' by American Institute of Architects magazine, the hotel owes its refined air to its steel frames, glass walls and modern lighting. Head outdoors for a BBQ, or take your family to the theme park and water park all but 5 miles away.



RE50/  
RE51**LOTTE HOTEL GUAM**

Let the 5 star luxury of the Lotte Hotel Guam envelope you as you embark on an unforgettable vacation. Dive into the turquoise waters of the outdoor swimming pool, test your mettle at the fitness center or take a short walk to Gun beach to sink your toes in the warm sand.

RE65/  
RE66**HOTEL BREEZE BAY MARINA**

Feel right at home at the Hotel Breeze Bay Marina, with its traditional decor, perfect for that family getaway. Get a clear view of the ocean, no matter what room you pick. Unwind at the spa or have an unforgettable evening with an upbeat karaoke session.

RE67/  
RE68**WELLNESS VILLA BRISA**

Perched on the edges of Miyakojima island, the Wellness Villa Brisa places you mere metres away from diverse coral reefs and tranquil waters. Every room features a kitchenette, washing machine and microwave oven. Choose between Western-styled rooms and traditional Japanese decor for a genuine Miyakojima experience.

RE69/  
RE70**HOTEL NIRAKANAI IRIOMOTEJIMA**

Nature lovers will find Hotel Nirakanai Iriomotejima a secluded haven, surrounded by a serene rainforests and a stone's throw away from mesmerising rivers and waterfalls. Explore the untamed forests on a leisurely jungle cruise or take a short boat trip to nearby reefs for an unforgettable snorkelling adventure. If you feel like staying indoors, the spa, retail and food options will keep you more than occupied.



DE37

**HOTEL AMBIENT AZUMINO**

Hotel Ambient Azumino gives you a first-hand view of the Japanese Alps, a stunning sight that evolves with each season. Each spacious unit comes fully equipped with a kitchen. Dig into your choice of Japanese or French delights made from fresh local ingredients. Just a 30-minute drive away are some of nature's wonders: the Azumino National Park and Hotaka River.



DE38

**NEO-ORIENTAL RESORT  
YATSUGATAKEKOGEN**

Enjoy a rustic getaway in traditional cottages, tucked into extensive woodlands for absolute privacy. Sink into the hot spring bath and sauna for a spot of indulgence or opt for the spa treatment. Ideal for families or large groups, the expansive space is sure to accommodate and delight everyone.



DE39

**HOTEL AMBIENT IZUKOGEN ANNEX**

Tuck into this cosy loft for the ultimate rejuvenating vacation. Choose between its public and private onsens (natural hot springs), or venture out to glimpse scenic views of Mount Fuji. Dine at the authentic Japanese restaurant, savour some French cuisine, or cook up your own meal in the kitchenette, with your own stove and microwave.

# weekenders

## MESMERISING MALDIVES

&lt;&lt; MALDIVES



Water villa



Maldives White Sand Beaches

HOME TO SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST PICTURESQUE BEACHES, THE MALDIVES WILL GREET YOU WITH POWDER WHITE SANDS AND LUMINOUS BLUE WATER LIKE NOTHING YOU'VE EVER SEEN.

Set in the Indian Ocean, the Republic of the Maldives is a little paradise on earth, a stunning chain of islands formed of corals. A string of nearly 1200 islands, Maldives offers a holiday extravaganza on white-sand beaches, a truly wondrous undersea world and unparalleled service standards that will blow your mind.

One step into Maldives and the warm spray of salty air will tell you you're about to embark on a memorable vacation, on what feels like one lush, expansive beach. This tropical utopia is sunny all year round, and composed mainly of corals, explaining its intensely rich biodiversity.

The customs and social behaviour of the Maldivians is a blend of Indian, Sri Lankan, Arab and North African cultures. Though its vibrant and rich heritage comes from an infusion of many ethnicities, it has developed a unique and exclusive identity like no other.

Ornamental and scenic, the Maldives has one of the most diverse flora and fauna found in the entire world. One of the most disparate underwater sceneries on earth, the coral reefs and the open seas are inhabited by colourful and varied aquatic creatures. Most of the Islands also offer luxurious beach side shade with palm tree skylines.

Contributing to the thriving ecosystem in Maldives are the manta rays, which flock to manta point mainly between May and November. Snap on your snorkelling mask and dive in—these sting rays are docile around people.

You can also kick things up a notch with a definite bucket-list topper: an up close and personal encounter with whale sharks in the Southern Ari Atoll region. Racking up to a whopping 12 metres in size, these gentle giants will awe and captivate. Plenty of Maldivian diving and snorkelling sites offer you the chance to swim



## weekenders MALDIVES

with the largest fish in the world, in what is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

Hailing mostly from South Indian regions, Maldivian food is heavily influenced by Kerala and Sri Lankan cuisines. Expect curry laden with thick coconut milk, and side dishes rich in smoked fish, all of which are sure to entice and delight.

Jetting between islands on a speedboat is the best way to get around Maldives. You can also opt for a 'dhoni' which is a traditionally constructed sailboat that uses either motor or sails to shuttle between islands. As one of

the oldest forms of transport known to the country, it is an integral part of Maldivian culture. You are also spoilt for choice when it comes to fine dining, with the world's first underwater restaurant topping the list.

Maldives is, naturally, home to the world's first underwater spa as well. Make a trip to Filitheyo, Bathala and Medhufushi, relax at a spa, engage in pool and water sports or even simply lounge on the beach. There's never a dearth of things to do and sights to see in the Maldives. Regardless of which Island you visit, you will thoroughly enjoy yourself.



## weekenders MALDIVES

### EAT

#### Ithaa Undersea Restaurant

T: +960 668 0629

Conrad Maldives, Rangali Island, Maldives 20077

Maldives promises many once-in-a-lifetime experiences and this is certainly one of them. Rated 'the most beautiful restaurant in the world', the architectural wonder offers a 180 degree unfettered view of the Indian Ocean in all its splendour. Dive into Maldivian lobster carpaccio and truffle dumpling as you marvel at the thriving subterranean metropolitan around you.

#### Family Room Café

T: +960 754 2848

10105 Dhigga Magu, 23000 Hulhumale

World-class specialty coffee and sumptuous brownies have visitors raving about this unassumingly quaint establishment. Situated on the beach, the cosy Family Room Café is the perfect place to lounge and soak in the sights around you when you're feeling peckish.

### RELAX

#### Duniye Spa

T: +960 664 3157

Champa Building, 3rd floor, Malé 20187

Although being in Maldives is relaxing in itself, a soothing massage is essential to completing the whole package. Think freshly ground Coconut-Vanilla Body Polish and Tropical bath infusions from Duniye and you have the quintessential Maldives experience.

### EXPLORE

#### National Museum

T: +960 332 2254

Chandhanee Magu, Malé, Maldives

In the midst of the snorkelling sites, sandy beaches and luxurious fine dining establishments is the humble National Museum. A gift from China, the museum contains many hidden gems, ranging from medieval weaponry to a 6-metre Longman's Beaked Whale skeleton.



## STAY

### RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN MALDIVES INCLUDE:



#### Bathala Island Resort #DC71 North Ari Atoll, Maldives

The Bathala is a pure and simple paradise for marine explorers. This Maldives resort boasts one of the best house reefs in the area frequented by a host of exciting marine life. Dive with grey reef sharks on the house reef, explore coral-encrusted caves and overhangs or take a morning boat excursion to a fascinating thila or wreck.



#### Medhufushi Island Resort #DC72 Meemu Atoll, Maldives

The Medhufushi Island Resort is a haven of peace and relaxation. An air of tranquility pervades the idyllic island, which is surrounded by a spectacular lagoon in shades of turquoise and shimmering azure. If you want to experience laid-back luxury, you can't find anywhere better than Medhufushi Island Resort.

For additional resort listings, visit [RCI.com](http://RCI.com)

## Gold Coast – Beyond Surfers Paradise



Gold Coast Surfers Paradise  
City Skyline, Cityscape



THE 10.5 MILLION VISITORS WHO FLOCK THERE EACH YEAR CAN'T BE WRONG. FROM THE ICONIC SURFERS PARADISE TO ITS GREEN HINTERLAND HOME TO AUSTRALIA'S EXOTIC ANIMALS, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF THRILLS OR SMILES ON THIS 70-KILOMETER STRETCH OF COASTLINE.

Located 42 kilometers southeast of Brisbane central business district, the Gold Coast is Australia's most biologically diverse city. In just 50 years, it has expanded beyond surfing fame to become Australia's sixth largest city. The coastline is also big onscreen, having accounted for 75% of all film production in Queensland and features on the latest *Pirates of the Caribbean* installment.

### << GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA



The famed Surfers Paradise maintains its electric reputation through a bustling trove of beachside shopping, dining and popular events. From a 7D virtual reality experience, to its performing arts centre – it is no wonder visitors call this the complete holiday destination in one package.

You don't have to be a surfer to soak in the sun and sea. From a guaranteed whale sighting to jet packing into the sunset, there's a perfect beach activity for everyone. Not into adrenaline? Take in the magnificent views aboard a river cruise past homes of the rich and famous.

Cuddle a koala, and feed a kangaroo at Gold Coast's famous Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. When you're done, take time out to experience nature through a 180-meter Tree Top Walkway canopy of epiphytic orchids, ferns and birds. The walk is free-of-charge, and leaves you for the richer with an up-close rainforest encounter.

Witness firsthand the spectacle of thousands of glow-worms gleaming at you



from within the stunning Tamborine Mountain Glow Worm Caves. The caves are also decked with other natural wonders like stalactites and flow stones. Reservations are recommended if you're travelling in groups.

After the caves, stop by the adjacent Eagle Heights for a peaceful trek through the small local suburb. You can even try your hand at making cheese, watch the age-old art of cuckoo clock crafting and sample some home-made fudge.

For more locally crafted goods, schedule a trip to the Carrara Markets

on the weekends. Spanning over 10 acres, the markets' 400 over stores have something for everyone. Enjoy freshly picked produce, homemade pottery, locally crafted accessories and more.

Shuttling around the Gold Coast is an easy affair. With just one go transport card, you have every service from tram to bus, Brisbane and Queensland railway systems and even ferry at your disposal. Opt for the Brisbane railway's Door to Door service and you'll be chauffeured from your accommodation to the railway station and vice versa.



## weekenders

GOLD COAST - BEYOND SURFERS PARADISE

### EAT

#### Dracula's Cabaret Restaurant

T: (07) 5563 4900

1 Hooker Blvd, Broadbeach, QLD 4218

Tuck into Australia's hearty Italian cuisine made with fresh produce, amidst gasps and screams of delight. Enter Dracula's Cabaret Restaurant via a thrilling ghost train ride for an entertaining evening of comedy, rock and horror.

#### Blackboard Coffee in Varsity Lakes

E: [cafe@blackboardcoffee.com.au](mailto:cafe@blackboardcoffee.com.au)

7/240 Varsity Pde, Varsity Lakes, QLD 4227

Lauded as one of the best coffee pit-stops in Gold Coast, Blackboard's sweet creations are not to be missed. The casual joint melds mouth-watering flavours like salted caramel and liquid licorice with a unique syringe concept, allowing you to inject the filling into your doughnuts yourself. Look out for their latest additions, Cruffins, a sugary delight combining muffins with croissants.

### RELAX

#### Ripple Mobile Massage and Beauty

T: 0438 567 906

If you're sorely in need of some pampering, the Ripple spa will be a welcome addition to your itinerary. You'll be spoilt for choice with their extensive array of options, ranging from a warm peppermint foot soak to a Russian deep tissue massage, and even aromatherapy using reef shells. The best part—that this mobile spa comes to you.

### EXPLORE

#### Bums Bay @ The Spit

Southport, Gold Coast, QLD 4217

Discover the stunning beach that captured the imagination of Hollywood. Set as a backdrop for the fifth Pirates of the Caribbean installation, Bums Bay earned its name by being a popular spot for people to unwind, and moor their yachts. While diving in the pristine waters, see if you can catch a glimpse of a few renowned stars in action.

#### Whales in Paradise

T: Within Aus: (07) 5538 2111 /

International: +61 7 5538 2111

58 Cavill Avenue, Surfers Paradise, QLD 4217

With the promise '100% guaranteed Gold Coast whale sightings or get a full refund' you know you're in good hands. Whales in Paradise offers daily whale watching tours, with a water level viewing deck for an up-close look at the majestic creatures in their natural habitat.



## STAY

### RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN GOLD COAST INCLUDE:



#### Tiki Village International (0952)

Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia

The Tiki Village International Resort is situated on the Nerang River with the Gold Coast Hinterland as a backdrop. It comprises of 69 spacious, fully self-contained spa apartments in the heart of Surfers Paradise. Check out superb shopping, dazzling nightlife, and world famous theme parks in the vicinity.



#### Beach House Seaside Resort (1483)

Coolangatta, Queensland, Australia

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. Take a stroll at the resort's landscaped gardens, unwind by the sparkling pool, or treat yourself to some spa time. Approach our on-site activity staff for exciting ideas to enjoy all that Queensland's Gold Coast has to offer.



*Because your holiday means the world to us®*

**RCI®**

Committed to a lifetime of  
**holiday memories**