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ODYSSEY

NOVEMBER 2013

ENDLESS VACATION

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England

EXPERIENCE THE SOUTH WEST



THAILAND
PANDA ROMANCE

GOURMET
GOLD COAST

VENICE
ITALY

Because your vacation means...

la dolce vita

{the good life}

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Walk where Romans once walked and
unravel the legend of King Arthur

2013

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vacation
planning tips!



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ON THE COVER

Cornwall, **England.**

Check out endlessvacation.com 
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Welcome

At RCI we have an excellent line up of travel and tourism news in this edition of Endless Vacation. This issue we have some great destinations for you to explore, from wine tasting in France to shopping in Seoul.

Catch up on some of the latest resort news including our latest arrivals with new affiliate resorts. In August this year RCI proudly welcomed Empark Hotels and Resorts Group to our China portfolio with seven new resorts and more on their way for you to choose from for your next vacation. RCI is pleased to bring such a variety of choices in quality properties to you.

Other good reading includes an excellent article where we entice you with cliff top castle walks to scrumptious tearoom treats in South West England. We explore our sun kissed beaches of the Gold Coast in Australia, Goa in India and Hainan in China.

We give you some great tips on travelling if you are sick, plus on page 38 we show you how to make your vacations count.

Check out pages 40 and 42 with some perfect short break vacations in Bali, Indonesia and the Philippines. And make sure you read pages 32 and 33 on Ongoing Search that will help you plan the vacation of your dreams.

Happy reading

Adrian Lee
Managing Director – RCI Asia

Single black and white female seeks black and white male to start family.

ready,
set,
go



THAILAND

Panda Romance

Looking for love in China

Four year old Lin Ping, Thailand's most loved giant panda is searching for love in the central Chinese city of Chengdu. Dubbed her "Flight of Love" in the northern city of Chiang Mai, Lin Ping has been watched by curious fans since her conception thanks to her own TV channel dedicated to her. Lin Ping was conceived 4 years ago by the artificial insemination of Chuang Chuang and Lin Hui, two pandas provided by Beijing to Thailand in October 2003.

The Du Jiangyan Giant Panda Base of the China Conservation and Research Centre has arranged six male pandas for Lin Ping in the hope she will find her partner. A veterinarian will accompany Lin Ping during her visit and she'll enjoy the riches of her favourite foods including fruit and bamboo and plenty of fun toys including plastic balls and rubber tires.

In 2014 the panda pair will fly to Thailand to raise a family for at least 15 years.



CITY OF ROMANCE: The Chinese city of Chengdu, a great place for single panda girls looking for long term relationships and a nice place to visit for us humans too.

ready,
set,
go



SOUTH KOREA

Tanjala Gica / Shutterstock.com

The best place to land and take off...

Incheon International Airport, South Korea's busiest airport, is the only airport in the world to be voted best in the world by Council International for eight consecutive years. When complete, the 72-gate, 7.4-million-square-foot Terminal 2 will effectively double the airport's size and boost its role as a key asset to Korea's fast-growing economy. Lush expanses of indoor green space will feature natural daylight; waterfalls, koi ponds, and streams intermingled with luxury lifestyle centers and boutique shopping.

The retail lifestyle centers offer double-level shopping and remote duty-free pick up of purchases from Seoul.



High rolling goes to new levels.

LAS VEGAS

Vegas Tops Itself

The crown jewel of Sin City's new multi-million dollar shopping district, the Linq, will be the 550-foot-tall High Roller Ferris Wheel, which will eclipse Asia's 541-foot Singapore Flyer as the world's tallest. Each of the 28 glass-enclosed cabins will carry as many as 40 people on a half-hour ride that offers bird's-eye views of the Strip and desert. First call for passengers comes early next year. caesars.com



Ginkaku-ji Temple in Kyoto, Japan during the fall season.

CHINA

Chinese Travellers Changing Trends

According to the Wall Street Journal, although mainland China travellers tend to prefer Hong Kong and Macau for their duty-free shopping, increasing numbers of tourists are exploring beyond Greater China for their rest and relaxation. A recent survey by travel website Trip Advisor found that nearly half of the top 20 international destinations for Chinese travellers were in Southeast Asia, while locations such as Kyoto, Japan, and Jeju Island in South Korea are undergoing explosive growth in interest from mainland Chinese tourists. According to Chinese travel agency Ctrip, Chinese interest in Southeast Asia is driven by the country's young white-collar workers, who don't have the time or money to go as far as Europe. Trip Adviser's 20 most popular outbound destinations for mainland Chinese travellers were based on July and August 2013 figures on Daodao.com, a customised version of Trip Advisor designed specifically for Chinese travellers. Hong Kong was at the top of the list of popular destinations among Chinese tourists, followed by Phuket in Thailand and Taiwan.



TRAVEL HEALTH

Too Sick to Fly?

WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU BECOME ILL WHILE YOU'RE AWAY ON VACATION.

BASED ON AN ARTICLE BY HANNAH WALLACE, TOO SICK TO FLY (U.S. ENDLESS VACATION MAGAZINE)

We all know not to fly when we're sick - an airplane is a petri dish for germs. But what if you're already at your destination when you catch something? We interviewed Devyani Lal, M.D., a rhinologist at the Mayo Clinic's Arizona campus, for advice including how to alleviate your symptoms and avoid infecting other travelers.



Postpone your flight

"If you are really sick, you should just stay at your destination," Dr Lal says. Most airlines let you rebook, but you'll be charged a cancellation fee (anywhere from \$120 to \$180, depending on the type of ticket you purchased) and any difference in airfare. Travel Insurance may cover the cost of rescheduling your flight, though you will probably need a doctor's certificate. Smartraveller.com.au states travel insurance is as essential as your passport, regardless of your travel destination. If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel! If you incur medical expenses while overseas and you don't have travel insurance, you are personally liable for covering these costs. The Government cannot pay for medical expenses overseas. Nor will your domestic private health insurance. Some travel insurance offer a trip-interruption benefit that includes illness. So if you're too sick to board the plane and you get a doctors certificate you may be covered.

If you must travel, wear a mask

It will undoubtedly call attention to you, and that's probably a good thing. If you're

sick "you're creating a virus factory," Dr Lal says, and you don't want to subject others to your germs. (As Lal points out, 90 percent of colds are caused by viruses, which are highly contagious. Bacterial infections are less common and don't spread as easily.) Some pharmacies and airport vendors sell masks.

Congestion relief

The Neti pot is an Indian device used to clean out the sinuses: You pour warm, salty water from the pot into one nostril and let it drain out the other. "The Neti pot has very low side effects and is well tolerated by most patients, Dr. Lal says. "I'd say that 99 percent of my patients like it." As another option, try squirting salty water (either previously boiled or distilled) into your nostrils with a plastic squeeze bottle. Both Neti pots and nasal squeeze bottles are sold at pharmacies. (Be sure to clean the Neti pot or squeeze bottle as directed between uses.*)

Help for a sinus infection

Start treatment with a nasal decongestant (such as Vicks Sinex), since there are fewer side effects, Dr. Lal says. If that doesn't help, try an oral decongestant such as Sudafed.

(Don't take Sudafed if you have severe high blood pressure, or severe coronary artery disease.) To keep your ears from hurting during the flight, use a nasal spray 25 minutes before takeoff and 25 minutes before landing. "The lining of the nose is connected to the eustachian tube, which equalizes pressure from the ear to prevent pain," Dr. Lal explains.

Antibiotics - the last resort

As viruses cause most sinus infections and colds, antibiotics are useless against them (and a cold will go away in a week anyway). But should your cold not go away after a week, or has gotten worse, you may have a bacterial infection. See a doctor, who may prescribe antibiotics. If you're prone to infection and are traveling to a country where finding antibiotics may be difficult, consider asking your doctor to give you a short course of antibiotics to carry with you just in case. ☺



LANDMARKS
FRENCH VINEYARDS

Vine Tuning

RHONE VALLEY AND THE RIVIERA

BASED ON AN ARTICLE BY GARY WALTHER, VINE TUNING
(U.S. ENDLESS VACATION MAGAZINE)



Scads of wineries in France welcome visitors, but the point is to visit the ones that are grand cru (that is, exceptional) in terms of both history and landscape - offering not just a taste of the wine but also a taste of the regional wine culture and terroir. Here are 5 French estates that do just that.



THE RIVIERA

Château de Crémat

The intertwined C's carved into the stonework and etched into the windows here should look familiar. That's right, they make up the Chanel logo, except Crémat had the logo first. In the 1920s, Coco Chanel was pals with the then owner, and he gave her the copyright as a gift. (The château's logo is now CK, for current owner Cornelis Kamerbeek.) Crémat stands in the hills above Nice in the Bellet appellation, the smallest in France. Don't miss the Terrasse du Ciel (Terrace of Heaven) for its panoramic view of Nice and the sea. The easiest way to get there is on the No. 62 bus from Nice. Catch it at the Magnan bus station, and after a scenic 25-minute ride, it will stop right outside the château's gates. *442 Chemin de Crémat, Nice*

Clos Sainte Magdeleine

This is the Miss World of vineyards, set on a thumb-shaped peninsula high above the Mediterranean. The wines are from the Cassis appellation (pronounced cass-see to distinguish it from the black currant liqueur) and the estate is best known for its white wine, exotic with notes of almond and honey. The tour takes in the domaine, where groves of olive, mulberry and almond trees grow, and the cellar, concluding with a tasting (\$22 per person). Cassis, a particularly comely town, is 15 miles southeast of Marseilles. For one of the most scenic drives on this coast, follow the winding Route du Crête from Cassis to La Ciotat. *clossaintemagdeleine.fr*

NOTHING TO WINE ABOUT: (left to right) Avignon is only 20 miles from Domaine de Coyeux and is well worth the detour. Bonnieux, a classic, picture perfect Provençal hill town. Wine tasting for purely scientific purposes. Facing page. (clockwise from top) Chateau de Beaucastel, fantastic wine and an equally impressive setting. Grand Cru vineyard in the Rhone Valley. Cassis, a beautiful and unique wine making region that overlooks Neice.

RHONE VALLEY

Château de Beaucastel

This top winery shows off the rugged vineyard landscape of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The terrain's chief peculiarity is its galets, softball-sized stones that look like the remnants of a meteor shower. In fact, they were torn from the Alps during the last Ice Age and deposited here. Some experts say the stones help ripen the grapes by absorbing heat during the day and releasing it at night. Beaucastel, one of Châteauneuf-du-Pape's best, is the only property that still uses all 13 grape varietals permitted by law in the appellation. You will be delighted by the impressive barrel room and the charming tour guide. By appointment only; *beaucastel.com*

Domaine de Coyeux

Beaumes-de-Venise, 20 miles northeast of Avignon, is the sweet spot of the Rhone Valley, known particularly for its dessert wine made from muscat, once called the Nectar of the Pope. The tasting room at this top producer, which also makes red wine, has an impossibly beautiful setting. The vineyards undulate away toward robust rock outcroppings called the Dentelles de Montmirail for their teethlike shape. The tasting room is in a modern rendition of a traditional Provençal mas, or farmhouse. *Route de Lafare, Beaumes-de-Venise*

Château la Canorgue

This property is in Bonnieux, the classic Provençal hill town that formed the heart of the world described by Peter Mayle in his best seller, "A Good Year". In fact, the 17th-century château is such an exemplar - honey-colored stone, cornflower-blue shutters - that it was the setting for the 2006 film of the same name, starring Russell Crowe and Albert Finney. (Trivia: A swimming pool installed for the movie was later covered over and the ground replanted with vines.) The château is known for its handsome blue bottles - more like packaging for Swedish water than for French wine. *Route du Pont Julien, Bonnieux* 🍷



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN FRANCE
PYRENEES INCLUDE:

Thalacap Catalogne 4180

Located at Banyuls Sur Mer, a few miles from Spain. Thalacap is a thalassotherapy (seawater) center and offers a five-day vitality treatment at very good rates for RCI members. You can also explore the region, enjoy the beach or for the more energetic, go mountain bike riding.

Cela Alenya A217

Located in the centre of Alenya village in the southern part of the Languedoc Roussillon, 5 minutes away from the beach and the 18-hole golf course of Saint Cyprien. It offers sports and leisure facilities such as bar, jacuzzi, swimming pool, and medical beauty treatments.

Cela Canet Malibu Village 2576

Between the Mediterranean and the Pyrenees, discover the exceptional environment and the ideal location of the Malibu Village. When it's time to play the resort has 6 swimming pools, tennis, squash and games plus a choice of 3 onsite restaurants.

Cela Canet Malibu Premier 3731

On site amenities include restaurant, snack bar, bar, squash and tennis courts. Malibu Village has its own superb pool. A car is necessary to fully enjoy the area.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com

Mountains of Food

TAKE AN EXCITING JOURNEY OF CULINARY DISCOVERY
THROUGH THE GOLD COAST HINTERLAND

BY LEANNE DE TOERKENCZY

The Gold Coast Hinterland has an amazing variety of gourmet food and wine for the fervent foodie. Get ready for a journey of discovery taking you to some of the best food and wine producers in the Gold Coast Hinterland.

With a humungous collection of gastronomical delights including wineries, breweries, fudge shops, cafes, coffee houses, tea houses, cheese factories and restaurants, here's just a snippet of what you'll find in this amazing area.

Purlingbrook Falls, Springbrook.

Witches Chase Cheese Company
165-185 Long Road, North Tamborine
Tel: 07 5545 2032
www.witcheschasecheese.com.au
Open Mon-Thurs 9:30-4pm
Fri-Sun 9:30-5pm

A producer of fine cheese, Witches Chase Cheese Company makes Camembert, washed rind, feta, blue cheese and more using goat's and cow's milk. And when visiting you can't go past their delicious gourmet ice cream. View the cheese-making process and enjoy a free tasting. You can even learn to do it yourself with cheese-making classes held throughout the year.

Dancing Waters Café
33 Forestry Road, Springbrook
Tel: 07 5533 5335
www.dancingwaterscafe.com
Open every day 10am-4:30
(sometimes closes at 4pm for massage clients)

Located right next door to Springbrook National Park and the Purlingbrook Falls walking track, the café has been established for around 25 years. Anastasia Theodore, who has been operating the café since late 2007, has added her naturopathic philosophy and experience to the menu and quality of ingredients used. Anastasia provides a healthy café selection of foods including vegetarian, vegan and gluten free alternatives.

The Chocolate Kingdom
Shop 2, St Bernards Shopping Centre,
Siganto Street, Mount Tamborine
Open daily

The Chocolate Kingdom offers exclusive hand made chocolates and confectionery. Try the Dutch licorice range or diabetic chocolate. Learn from the experienced chocolatier as you watch the chocolate making process through factory windows or visit the retail store in Gallery Walk.

Sirromet Wines
Mount Cotton
850 Mt Cotton Road, Mt Cotton
www.sirromet.com

The Cellar Door is open seven days from 9am to 4.30pm. Light Meals served and tours operate between Wednesday and Sunday. Dinner Thursday to Saturday and breakfast on weekends.

Sirromet is a first-class winery located at Mount Cotton, just 40 minutes drive from the Gold Coast. Sirromet combines a fully operational winery, vineyard, cellar door and award-winning restaurant. Take in a Winery Tour and Tasting and go behind the scenes of a working winery and learn about the winemaking process. The award-winning Restaurant Lurleen's with resident celebrity Executive Chef Andrew Mirosch at its reigns is a dining experience not to be missed. Enjoy mouth-watering Modern Australian cuisine with panoramic views to Moreton Bay.

The Old Teahouse Gallery
7 Johns Road, Mudgeeraba
Tel: 07 55253053

Open Friday 11am to 2.30pm,
Saturday, Sunday 10am to 4pm.
Closed first Friday of each month
Reservations recommended

Nestled in the green of the hinterland, close to Mudgeeraba, being in easy reach of the Gold Coast and Brisbane. It's the perfect place to relax and enjoy being pampered in elegant surroundings. Its old-world grace and charm and its peaceful, leafy setting make The Old Teahouse Gallery the perfect choice for those looking to take high tea Gold Coast style.

Grannie Macs Fudge and Lolly Shop
139 Long Road, Gallery Walk,
Eagle Heights, Mount Tamborine.
Tel: 07 5545 1999

This is an absolute hit with everyone who loves fudge. For fudge and a whole lot more, sample from over 50 flavours of fabulous home made fudge. UK and Dutch lollies,

licorice, ice cream, sugar and gluten free products. Also find Australia's collectable Beanie Kids in store.

The Wine Barrel Restaurant & Lounge
Shop 8/59 Railway Street,
Mudgeeraba
Tel: 07 5569 0017

The Wine Barrel Restaurant & Lounge is a little gem tucked away on Railway Street in Mudgeeraba. This suburban haunt is frequented by locals who fell in love at first dine; it's the perfect place for wine after work, a romantic dinner or Sunday brunch. The owners knew The Wine Barrel was needed in the area so they built it from the ground up, adding to the restaurant's rustic charm and modern layout. It is ever enticing with welcoming service and beautifully prepared dishes. Choose between tapas and the a la carte menu, or enjoy a bit of both - perhaps paprika salted tempura soft shell crab followed by confit duck leg with Congo puree, white asparagus and cinnamon cherries. 🍷



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS ON
THE GOLD COAST
INCLUDE:



Mariner Shores Resort 1726

Beachfront resort located conveniently opposite North Burleigh beach and offers a unique family vacation. Burleigh Heads National Park and a multitude of restaurants and surf clubs are accessible via beachside walking and cycle paths.

Beachcomber International Resort 1811

Set back one block from Coolangatta Beach, Beachcomber International Resort is a high rise building located in the heart of Coolangatta with access to restaurants, bars, and shops

Beach House Seaside Resort 1483

This resort is located in an idyllic location overlooking the magnificent Coolangatta Beach, known for its spectacular surfing conditions and stunning scenery.

RENTAL RESORTS

Australis Sovereign 7 nights from \$943 1brm

Comfortable accommodation minutes away from the beach and the buzzing town centre of Surfers Paradise.

Breakfree Imperial Surf 7 nights from \$943 2brm

Situated just a short stroll from a patrolled beach and on the doorstep to the hub of the Gold Coast's Surfers Paradise.

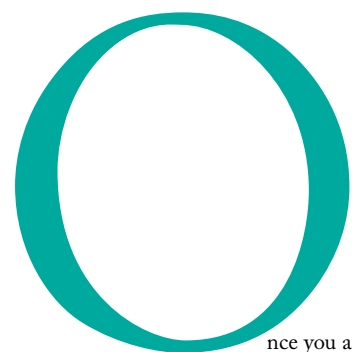
*Subject to availability, prices current at time of print

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com

Tobago's Turn

*Tobago feels like the Caribbean the way it used to be.
How much longer can we keep it a secret?*

BASED ON AN ARTICLE BY BARBARA PECK, SMALL WONDERS
(U.S. ENDLESS VACATION MAGAZINE)



Once you arrive on Tobago, power down your smartphone and put away your shoes. No, really, thongs or flops will do fine. Fancy clothes? Not needed here; you're on one of the Caribbean's least glitzy islands.

The littler of the two sisters that make up the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago sits just off the coast of Venezuela and is less than 120 square miles. You can drive around the island in a day, even if you stop to marvel

at the views in its hilly northern half, where each palm-fringed bay seems lovelier than the last.

Getting Around

Renting a car gives you the most freedom, but be aware that roads can be steep and winding. Taxis are available, or you can book a tour. A boat tour is another good option - especially in a glass-bottomed boat.

Beach Time

Pigeon Point is the headquarters of Tobago Waterholics, one of many companies offering deep-sea fishing, dive trips to the famous Buccoo Reef and boat tours. Along the way you'll see countless pelicans and maybe spot dolphins and giant leatherback sea turtles. *Pigeon Point Road; 868-688-7669; tobagowaterholics.com; coastal tour, \$110 per person*

Into the Wild

When you book an Off-Road Safari with Tobago Now, your guide will probably be the irrepressible Fabrizio Ceppi, of Swiss-Italian heritage. He drives through isolated villages, like Culloden and Mason Hall, and if swimming under a waterfall has always been a fantasy, ask Fab to take you to the Highland Waterfall. *868-639-1476; tobagonow.com; six-hour Off-Road Safari, \$97 per person, includes a light lunch.*

To Market, to Market

Scarborough, the capital, won't require a long visit. But the market is worth seeing, especially on a busy Friday or Saturday. While you're in the vicinity, keep an eye out for locals lining up beside a food truck. They're probably waiting for doubles, and you should too. These are East Indian sandwiches consisting of hot, fluffy fried




ALWAYS SUMMER (Left to right) Locals wearing brightly colour traditional dress. Bougainvillea in full bloom. Market stall in Scarborough. Sunset at Pigeon Point Tobago. Picturesque Parlatuvier Bay.

bread wrapped around a filling of channa (curried chick peas) and doused with chutney and hot sauce. It's the fast-food snack that's satisfying at any hour (and costs less than \$1.20 a piece).

Just outside Scarborough is Fort King George, built in the 1770s by the British. Its museum offers an overview of island history and well worth a visit. Admission is about \$1.00.

Time to Spare

German ex-pat Veronika La Fortune and her Trinidadian husband, Lennon, run a horse-rescue operation called Being With Horses.

Besides therapy sessions for disabled children and adults (plus an annual summer camp), they offer rides to tourists. *Buccoo Bay; 868-639-0953; being-with-horses.com; two-hour ride, \$99 per person*
For a change of pace, take a yoga class at Kariwak Village, Crown Point; 868-639-8442; yoga class, about \$14 

**GO "ON LOCATION" ON TOBAGO AT
ENDLESSVACATION.COM**

EAT

Call to book a table; some restaurants are open for limited hours.

The Fish Pot

Catch of the day (mahimahi, barracuda, red snapper)
Pleasant Prospect; 868-635-1728; lunch for two, \$26*

Blue Crab

Stop here for a lunch of local cuisine-blue crab with dumplings, Main & Robinson Sts., Scarborough; 868-639-2737; lunch for two, \$28; cooking demo, about \$53 per person, including meal

Jemma's Seaview Kitchen

The only Tobago restaurant that's right on the beach. Main Rd., Speyside; 868-660-4066; dinner for two, \$71



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS ON
TOBAGO INCLUDE:

Sandy Point Beach Club 0080

A beachfront property with a swimming pool, tennis court, clubhouse and more. *Crown Point*

Member Reviews: "Great resort if you like beaches, wonderful people, an untouristy place, reggae and calypso, inexpensive vacation, West Indian food."

"The rooms are very clean. I love the nightly entertainment."

"The staff is by far the best we have yet encountered. Courteous, helpful and quickly responding to any questions or problems."

For complete member reviews (as member reviews have been condensed) and additional resort listings, visit RCI.com

Gangnam Style

PACK YOUR BIGGEST SUITCASE AND COME SHOPPING IN SEOUL

BY LEANNE DE TOERKENCZY

The capital of South Korea, Seoul, is a fascinating mix of the old and the new: from the Buddhist temples and palaces to the fashion runways of downtown.

Seoul is one of the most popular tourist destinations and it is packed with traditional markets, high end labels, cutting edge shopping and some great bargains. So wear comfortable shoes, put on a smile, bring your money and let's go shopping.



Temple overlooking Gangnam district.

Myeongdong If you love fashion and style you are in for a treat. Megeongdong is the centre of shopping in Seoul consisting of over 300,000 square meters of pure shopping. Here you will find big brand names such as Zara, the fashion giant UNIQLO, H&M and Nike. Migliore Mall is a major draw card for visitors and shoppers. There is easy access to it's stores through various subway connections and it is regarded as the shopping district for the 5 to 20+ age group. Teenagers tend to flock here, as there is entertainment and a great Food

Hall on level seven. There are so many shops here, and many sell unique self-designed clothes, bags and shoes. Plus it has the famous Lotte Department store with several floors of duty free shopping where you buy hands free and pick up at the airport later. Some shops have prices on them but many don't so get ready to bargain, it's all part of the fun.

Dongdaemun This is a mega shopping experience where you can shop all day and shop all night. There are a number of large buildings and there is



It's not all about retail therapy: **Left** South Korea has a rich cultural heritage you can experience like the royal guard parade of ceremony in Kyongbokkung Palace. **Right** Seoul is a modern, sprawling metropolis but you can still find a slice of serenity in places like the Park of Namsan Tower (which is particularly beautiful in Winter).

shopping inside and outside the buildings. Many shops specialise in Korean made fashion and you will no doubt find yourself in shopper's paradise with over 26 malls to wander through. One of the best things about Dongdaemun is the night markets. The vendors setup around 9pm and you can shop until the sun rises. This really is shopping utopia! This is also a fantastic place to try out some local cuisine.

Apgujeong One of the wealthiest areas in Seoul, Apgujeong is where all the high end fashionistas hangout. Name brands such as Louis Vuitton, Prada and Channel have setup their main shops here. There's also the Galleria Department Store, housing top line fashion labels. If you love high end shopping and people watching you'll be in seventh heaven. Despite the high end shops there are also plenty of affordable, yet trendy

shops to check out as well, so don't be too scared off by all the luxury.

Itaewon Famous for its custom tailored suits, Itaewon is well worth paying a visit. This area is renowned for providing excellent quality at great prices. The price of a tailored, custom designed suit starts as little as \$200 and most tailors speak English. There is also plenty of the hip-hop fashion and general clothing plus the street shopping is awesome.

Garosugil One of the newest hotspots in Seoul Garosugil has some of the latest global trends and fashion. Keep in mind when it's cutting edge the price is usually expensive so it is best to shop sparingly. Remember, window shopping can also be lots of fun plus there are some fabulous cafes and restaurants to chill out and watch the fashionistic world go by. ☺



Cheonggyecheon stream in Seoul is the result of a massive urban renewal project.



STAY
RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN SEOUL
INCLUDE:



Springdale Golf & Resort D469 Situated in Seogwipo, famous for its location on the southern tip of the island, featuring the magnificent Mt. Hallasan and Seogwipo coastline with beautiful cliffs and rock formations, this is an ideal location to stay. The two story resort boasts environmentally friendly spacious, modern and simple rooms and features Hinoki Tree accents to promote stress relief.



Casaville Shinchon Seoul C949 This resort is located in the heart of Gangbuk and only one minute walk to the Shinchon subway station. Featuring modern and stylish furnishings this property provides comfort and pleasure for your vacation. 24 hour service and close proximity to all modes of transport and restaurants.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com



AT A GLANCE


NEW THINGS IN OUR
FAVOURITE PLACES

LAS VEGAS

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS PART OF THE USA



38.9
MILLION PEOPLE
VISIT LAS VEGAS
EACH YEAR




\$160
is the starting
rate to tour
the Grand
Canyon west
rim by bus from
Downtown Las
Vegas.

255 FOOT

If a 255 foot nosedive on one of the world's tallest and fastest, scream machine roller coasters is more your scene, then head down to Buffalo Bill's in Primm and see how you hold up against the Desperado's Turbo Drop. Located 40 miles south of the strip, shuttle buses available.

1.3 MILLION gallons
of underwater real estate
and more than



30 SHARKS, that's
what you will be swimming in
at the Shark Reef Aquarium
at Mandalay Bay

108

stories, it's the highest
controlled free fall in the
world and the SkyJump
at the Stratosphere is
where you can leap from.



160 WINES
BY THE
GLASS

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RELAX
HAINAN, CHINA

China's Seaside ESCAPE

From white-sand beaches to world-class golf courses,
the island of Hainan is JUST THE PLACE
for a tropical getaway

BY JENNIFER CHEN





VACATION METROPOLIS: (Clockwise from left) Hainan is no sleepy beach town, it is a buzzing city with all of the trappings you would expect... shopping, restaurants and a lush tropical hinterland teeming with wildlife. Offering all styles of accomodation from family friendly to high end luxury. All roads lead to the beach day and night. In between eating, sunbathing and shopping you can take in one of the many cultural attractions.

Its 24 Balinese-inspired treatment rooms and suites surround a traditional courtyard; some have private Jacuzzis and tubs made of Italian stone. Treatments range from facials to the “Shen Harmonizer” - a soothing deep-tissue massage using warm volcanic stones that are meant to get your qi (life energy) flowing. Afterward, linger in the jade steam room or sign up for a gentle session of tai chi.

The spas run by the Banyan Tree hotel chain are known for their state-of-the-art facilities, experienced therapists and Asian-inspired therapies. At the 61-villa **Banyan Tree Sanya** (6 Luling Rd., Sanya; 86-898-8860-9988; banyantree.com), on the Luhuitou Peninsula, the spa has 16 suites and an area devoted to Thai massage. The highlight is the cutting-edge hydrothermal complex, where therapists guide guests through a series of cabins equipped with rain showers, jet pools, a hammam and even ice. (Alternating between hot and cold is believed to boost blood circulation.) The two and a half hour Oriental Ritual combines Tibetan massage techniques with a body scrub that is followed by a soak in a lavender-scented bath.

At newcomer **Anantara Sanya's** spa (6 Xiaodonghai Rd., Sanya; 86-898-8888-5088; anantara.com), the eight treatment rooms have traditional Chinese touches (daybeds, birdcages, live koi). There's also a plunge pool, steam room, spa-jet pool and Swiss-shower room. Sign up for one of the tea-based treatments, such as the Green Tea Purification, a three-hour session that includes a bath, scrub, body wrap and massage - all using products that contain green tea leaves, which are thought to help detoxify, boost the immune system and ease aches and pains.

Surfing, palm trees and powdery beaches aren't usually the first things that come to mind when you think of China. But that's exactly what you'll find on the island of Hainan, the country's southernmost and smallest province. Located in the South China Sea, the island was in ancient times a lonely backwater inhabited by banished dissidents and other undesirables. As China's fortunes have soared in the past two decades, the newly wealthy have discovered Hainan, drawn by its sunny shores, clear waters and balmy climate.

Hainan is now home to China's most luxurious beach resorts as well as pampering spas and internationally acclaimed golf courses. So far, development has focused on the provincial capital, Haikou, on the north shore, and Sanya, the resort enclave in the south. As a vacation destination, Hainan may not be to everyone's taste: The crowds of Hawaiian-shirted local tourists are difficult to elude, especially during the winter high season, and beyond the resort areas there's little to do. But if you're

traveling to Hong Kong and looking to squeeze in a relaxing beach escape, the 90-minute flight to Sanya may be just the ticket. Here are some of the best of what Hainan has to offer.

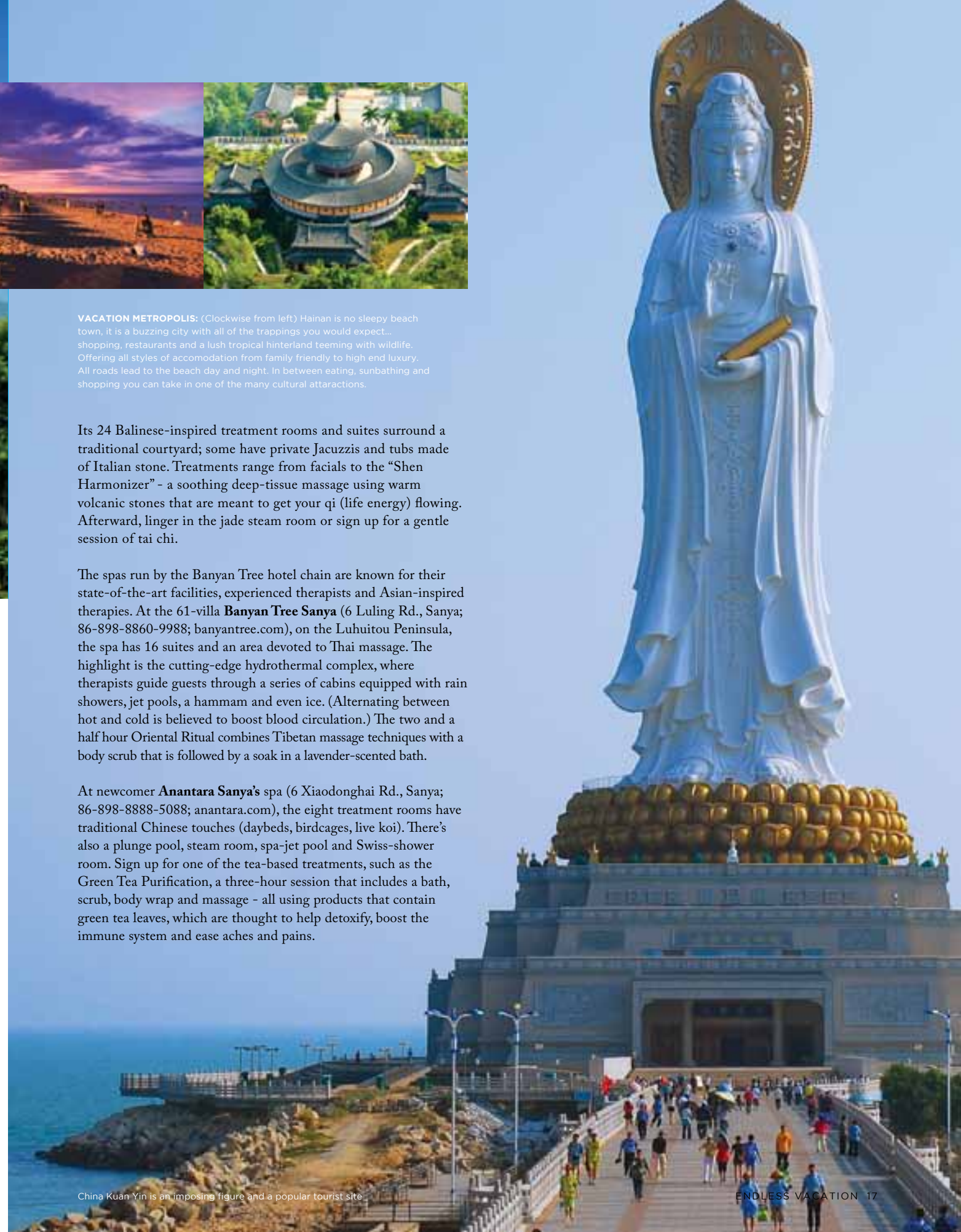
On Spa Time

Sprawling over 215,000 square feet and encompassing 61 treatment rooms, a library, a café and a garden, the spa at the Mission Hills Resort Haikou (1 Mission Hills Blvd., Haikou; 86-898-6868-3888; missionhillschina.com) is one of the world's largest. Its circular design resembles that of the houses built by the area's Hakka people, and Chinese traditions are incorporated in the treatments. The Pearl of the Orient facial uses locally harvested ground pearls, believed to help soothe and hydrate the skin. Some 200 hot and cold springs for bathing are on the grounds.

On Sanya's scenic Yalong Bay, the Ritz-Carlton, Sanya offers the 30,000-square-foot **ESPA**, the hotel chain's largest spa in Asia (Yalong Bay National Resort District; 86-898-8898-8888; ritzcarlton.com).



UNEXPECTED CHINA: You could be excused for thinking you were in Mexico or the Bahamas but this is China.



China Kuan Yin is an imposing figure and a popular tourist site

LIFES A BEACH: It's not hard to see why the beach is Hainan's main attraction, perfect for long romantic walks or seaside exploration for young adventures but if you get tired of sand between your toes you can take in a round of golf or two.



Best Beaches

Palm-fringed beaches are Hainan’s main lure and the reason for the island’s (somewhat hyperbolic) nickname, China’s Hawaii. **Yalong Bay Beach** (admission \$10) is Sanya’s star attraction: a nearly five-mile-long stretch of white sands framed by jungle-clad mountains and crystalline waters. Some of the area’s toniest resorts are located here, which means fewer beach vendors.

A 90-minute drive northeast of Sanya, **Riyuewan Beach** is the island’s premier surfing spot. Amateurs and veterans travel here for the famous left-hand point break. It’s considered an excellent spot for first-timers to learn to ride the waves. Once sleepy, the area is now chockablock with surf shops and backpacker accommodations, but it’s still less hectic than Hainan’s better-known bathing spots.

On the east coast near the town of Bo’ao is **Yudai Beach** (admission \$11.30), a narrow strip between the Wanquan River and the South China Sea (the name means “jade belt”). While its sand is not as fine as that of Yalong, it’s nowhere near as crowded.



Tee Time

Hainan already has more than 29 golf courses, and is fast becoming Asia’s golfing capital. Leading the way is the **Mission Hills Resort Haikou**, whose 10 courses lie on top of a chain of dormant volcanoes. Designed by the innovative Schmidt-Curley firm, the courses range from the player-friendly Preserve, which stretches to 6,535 yards, to the rugged, 350-acre Blackstone, built with international tournaments in mind.

If 10 courses sounds overwhelming, consider the 18-hole Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course at the **Yalong Bay Golf Club** (yalongbaygolfclub.com), shaped like a dragon’s claw and covering 168 acres overlooking the sea. Near Haikou, the **West Coast Golf Club** (www.westgolf.com.cn/en) has an 18-hole course for all skill levels, also with sea views. Need to work on your swing? There’s a double-level driving range with 60 bays here.



FOOD WITH A VIEW: There are a multitude of eating options in Hainan and a great many of them are on the beachfront, affording great views of the beach and ocean beyond.



MONKEY BUSINESS: The lush hinterland is teeming with wildlife including many rare species.

Day-tripping

Long before large numbers of Han Chinese began migrating to Hainan during the Song Dynasty (960–1276), the island was populated by the Li, an ethnic minority from southern China known for their women’s intricate facial tattoos. Li, as well as members of the Miao tribe, still live on the island, and it’s worth arranging a trip to their villages to see another side of Hainan (The touristy Li and Miao Village at Bing Lang Gu is not recommended). Ask your resort’s concierge to set up a private tour. And during your visit, always request permission before taking photos. Inland, Hainan is still covered with

subtropical rainforests where black crested gibbons, clouded leopards and numerous bird species dwell. A two-hour drive from Sanya, the 172-square-mile **Jianfengling National Forest Park** (admission \$16.30), in the island’s southwest, provides your best chance to spot these rare animals. Make sure to go with a guide; this can be arranged by a tour agency or through your hotel. A good day trip from Haikou is the **Shishan Volcanic Cluster National Geopark** (about nine miles away; admission \$12.55) a collection of dramatic craters and caves formed by long-ago eruptions. But however you choose to spend your time on Hainan, you’re sure to leave refreshed.



STAY
RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS ON HAINAN
INCLUDE:

Noble Yacht Club 7481
Just 15 minutes from downtown Haikou, this resort has peaceful gardens and rooms with sweeping sea views.
99 W. Binhai Rd., Haikou
MEMBER REVIEW: “Lovely morning beach walks. The staffs were helpful and friendly.”

HNA @ International Asia Pacific Convention Center Sanya 8585
A beachfront property in Haikou, set in a lush tropical garden and close to many major attractions. 111 W. Binhai Rd., Haikou
MEMBER REVIEW: “If you want to get away from it all, this is the place.”

HNA @ Kangle Garden 8586
This 42-acre resort has natural hot springs, tropical gardens, a golf course and tennis courts. Kang Le Garden, Wanning, Xinlong
MEMBER REVIEW: “Hot-springs water in the showers. Nice landscaping.”

Experience, Discover, Enjoy

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

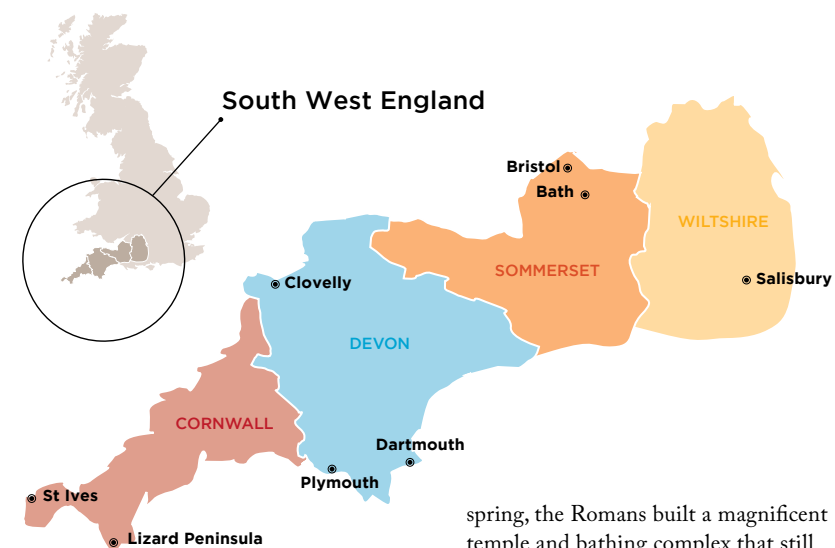
BY LEANNE DE TOERKENCZY

From cliff-top castle walks to scrumptious tearoom treats, South West England is bursting with wonderful days out for your entire family.

This is the home of iconic Stonehenge, magnificent Bath Spa and quaint honey coloured Cotswold villages. Beautiful Cornish beaches, gently rolling Devonshire hills and miles of lush English countryside just waiting to be discovered.

Pack your best walking boots for this vacation and get ready to enjoy some of the best cream tea, discover historical cathedrals and castles and walk where Romans once walked as we explore an absolutely beautiful part of England.

It's a good idea to consider purchasing a 9 or 16 day heritage admission pass. This will give you free entry into over 100 historic attractions plus free or reduced entry to hundreds of events and includes maps. Cost from \$50. www.english-heritage.org.uk



SOMMERSET

BATH is the perfect base to explore the West Country, including the Cotswolds and Stonehenge. There is a range of tours to the surrounding area. You can join an organised tour or contact one of the local guiding companies who can tailor a tour to suit your requirements.

When in Bath do as Romans do...

Nourished by Britain's only natural hot springs, Bath is a city shaped by its waters. Today you can visit the magnificent Roman Baths temple or bathe in Bath's warm, mineral-rich waters at Thermae Bath Spa. Visit the heart of the World Heritage Site. Around Britain's only hot

spring, the Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex that still flows with natural hot water.

Special package includes 2 hour session at Thermae Bath Spa, a ticket to the Roman Baths and a 3 course lunch in the Pump Room. Cost \$130 per person. Details and bookings are available at Bath Tourist Information Centre. www.visitbath.co.uk

BRISTOL has an amazing choice for shoppers with Bristol Shopping Quarter in the heart of the city, the out-of-town complex at The Mall Cribbs Causeway, the abundance of independent boutiques in Clifton and St Nicholas Market in the Old City. In the city centre, Bristol Shopping Quarter is home to Cabot Circus, Quakers Friars, The Galleries and Broadmead, which together have over 500 stores. With two covered shopping centres, easy access and great value parking for over 3500 cars, Bristol's city centre is a not to be missed shopping destination.



WILTSHIRE

A prehistoric monument of Wiltshire and one of the most famous sites in the world, Stonehenge is the remains of a ring of standing stones set within earthworks dedicated to worship the sun and the moon. Situated about 2 miles west of Amesbury and 8 miles north of Salisbury. Stonehenge was constructed in three phases. It has been estimated that the three phases of the construction required more than thirty million hours of labour. And speculation on the reason it was built range from human sacrifice to astronomy. www.stonehenge.co.uk

SALISBURY claims its fame from Salisbury Cathedral. Be inspired by the peace and beauty of one of Britain's finest medieval cathedrals, set within eight acres of lawn and surrounded by historic buildings and museums in the beautiful Cathedral Close. This spectacular building is unique in being built almost entirely in one architectural style, Early English Gothic and has Britain's tallest spire (123m/404ft) plus numerous famous literary connections.

Explore the roof spaces on a tower tour, climbing 332 steps to the base of the spire to enjoy the magnificent views across Salisbury. Or just relax in the Refectory restaurant with a choice of homemade treats and a fabulous view of the spire. The famous boy and girl choristers sing daily services with Evensong at 5.30pm Monday to Saturday or 4.30pm on Sunday. www.salisburycathedral.org.uk

Ancient monuments The city of Bath is well known for its rich Roman history and its baths are World Heritage listed; Stonehenge is a monument that leaves all who visit the site in awe of this ancient engineering feat.



National gems Rolling fields dot the landscape throughout Devonshire; Clovelly clings defiantly to its steep hillside setting; The Union Jack proudly waves over the family favourite beach of Woolacombe; Plymouth's picturesque harbour.



North Devon's spectacular coastline.

DEVON

Devon has such a diverse and beautiful natural environment combined with a mild climate that it's not hard to see why visitors return here year after year.

Two coastlines provide miles of sweeping golden beaches presenting spectacular cliff top walks. The Exmore and Dartmoor National Parks offer ideal prospects to explore some of nature's best unspoilt open regions and the timeless Devonshire countryside is a peaceful setting of farms, fields and dense overgrown hedgerows teeming with wildlife who inhabit them.

Delightful towns, charming old villages and busy fishing harbours are perfect for a traditional British seaside vacation. There are beautiful gardens, castles and gracious homes to explore.

North Devon has some of the premium sandy beaches in the British Isles including Woolacombe, a blue-flag beach, which was recently voted one of the world's top ten. Quaint harbours at Lynmouth, Clovelly and Ilfracombe provide a charming contrast to the spectacular coastline including the Hartland Peninsula where the coastal path follows dramatic cliffs and tiny coves.

There is a unique collection of English parish churches in North Devon. They are free to visit and include irreplaceable

examples of architecture, archaeology and art across 1,000 years of history.

Historic churches to visit in North Devon & Exmoor

- Church of St. Martin of the Tours, Elworthy. Open daily
- St. James' Church, Luffincott, Holsworthy. Open daily
- St. James' Tower, Upton. Exterior access only
- St. Petrock's Church, Parracombe. Open daily
- St. Peter's Church, Satterleigh, nr. Umlerleigh. Open daily

Devon's always been known for its fabulous food. Its farms and coast produce some of the best fresh produce in the country, and it boasts wonderful tearooms, great foodie pubs, and one of the top-rated fine-dining restaurants in the UK Michael Caines' Gidleigh Park.

And Devon now has another big foodie draw: Plymouth. This up-and-coming coastal city has become a celebrity chef restaurant hotspot, with diners able to choose from Hugh Fearnly-Whittingstall, James and Chris Tanner, Gary Rhodes, Mitch Tonks and Anton Piotrowski. So if food is your thing then be prepared for some gastronomic courses that are sure to ignite your palate.



The sights Colourful fishing boats on long stretches of pebbled beaches are a sight throughout Devon; Polperro fishing village in England's South West; Dartmouth Castle guards the entrance to the Dart Estuary.

HISTORIC HOUSES



Hartland Abbey is a fascinating house. Built across a narrow, wooded valley leading to an Atlantic cove, Henry VIII gifted the Abbey to The Keeper of his Wine Cellar, whose descendants live here today. Experience not only the stunning interiors, collections, beautiful gardens and walks but also the warmth and friendliness only found in a family home cherished for generations.



Arlington Court is an unexpected jewel: a complete family estate. The intimate Regency house contains treasures for all tastes, from model ships to shells, all collected by the Chichesters. Offering incident and contrast, the 19th-century picturesque garden is a perfect place to explore, picnic or play. There are working horses and carriage rides to keep the story alive.

Adult - \$17.50

Family (2 adult, 2 child) - \$46.30

Child - \$8.75

PLYMOUTH is one of the most lively and captivating locations to visit in Devon. With its rich maritime heritage and its status as the regional capital for culture. If you're a nautical enthusiast, then be sure to make a trip to Plymouth Hoe. This is one of the most beautiful natural harbours in the world. If you are willing to climb 93 steps up Smeaton's Tower you can get fantastic views of Plymouth. Or if that sounds too hard you can hop on the Wheel of Plymouth. Also set against the backdrop of Plymouth's picturesque harbour is Barbican, a bustling collection of specialist shops, cafes, restaurants, and world-class attractions in Devon. In addition, there's Sutton Harbour, where you can visit the world-famous Plymouth Gin Distillery or drop in on the National Marine Aquarium.

CLOVELLY clings to a steep 400ft cliff where donkeys were once used to transport people and goods up the steep cobbled streets. The Quay (stone platform for unloading and loading ships) here dates back to the 14th Century and has a great deal of smuggling and pirate history associated with it. This picture-postcard, once bustling fishing village has kept its original charms. Colourful, flower bedecked cottages line the steep cobbled streets (where traffic is banned) and lead down to the ancient harbour below. High Street in Clovelly is steep and can be slippery - so do

wear sensible footwear. If you walk down you can take the fare-paying Land Rover service back to the top. Your entrance fee to the village covers an audio-visual programme introducing you to Clovelly's fascinating history, two museums – the Kingsley Museum and the Fisherman's Cottage, Clovelly Court Gardens and Parking. It's good to know that a substantial part of your fee contributes to Clovelly's ongoing restoration and maintenance program. *Adult: \$13 Child: \$8.30 (ages 7 to 16) Family: \$34.50 (2 adults, 2 children).*

DARTMOUTH is home to Dartmouth Castle, one of the most beautifully located fortresses in England. For over 600 years Dartmouth Castle has guarded the narrow entrance to the Dart Estuary and the busy, vibrant port of Dartmouth. Climb to the top for dramatic views across the estuary and see how it could be blocked in wartime by a heavy chain. There's also plenty to do inside the castle and if the weather is fine, you can make it a full day out with a riverboat trip from the town quay up to the castle, landing you a minute's walk away from the castle entrance. After you have explored the castle, there is a riverside tearoom with light lunches and snacks. *Entry: Adult \$10.20, Child (5-15 years) \$6.15, Concession \$9.20 and Family \$26.40.*



CORWALL

This is a land of myths and legends, from King Arthur and his supposed birthplace at Tintagel Castle to the dragons, pixies and giants that roam along the 50 miles of heritage coastline. It also has a more tangible maritime and mining history. If you love the ocean you will be in your element exploring picturesque fishing villages, drinking local ales in smuggler’s inns, sampling freshly caught seafood, taking on new water sports or simply losing track of time on Cornwall’s 300 or so beautiful golden beaches.

With the longest stretch of continuous coastline in Britain, you’ll discover tiny Cornish fishing villages, secret coves, spectacular beaches, sweeping bays and dramatic cliffs, plus beautiful moorland and stunning countryside.

ST IVES is a quaint village with cobbled streets and fisherman’s houses. Steeped in unique history, legend and tradition, much of which can be revealed through the physical remains and standing buildings located in the town. Some of the remains are located in obscure places and others are seldom recognised as being of importance particularly if you don’t

Southern Seas The quaint fishing village of Port Isaac, on the North Cornwall Coast.

know what you are looking for. One of the best ways to explore St Ives and learn about the town’s rich and varied past is to take a guided walking tour which can be arranged at the Guildhall Tourist Information centre. Departs at 10am cost \$20.30 www.stiveswalks.co.uk/

THE LIZARD PENINSULA the most southerly part of the British mainland, is a place apart. A combination of the mild maritime climate and complex and unique geology has produced an area with a distinctive character. Take a long walk along the beach and take in the breathtaking views, seals basking in the sunshine and listen out for the call of the Cornish Chough bird. A couple of miles along the road is Cadgwith and quaint little fishing village with a pebbled beach dotted with colourful boats. Pop in for some Cornish icecream you are sure to love it.

Minack Theatre is an open-air theatre dramatically situated on the cliffs at Porthcurno, near Land’s End, and hosts a season of plays and musicals from May to September. This is an awesome way to go to the theatre. Visit during the day and take in the breathtaking views plus the café serves a fantastic Cornish cream tea. It does get cold at night, even in the summer so take plenty of layers. ☺



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN SOUTH
WEST ENGLAND
INCLUDE:

Tresco 0591
Located on Tresco Island only 28 miles off the Cornish coast. This exclusive private subtropical island is 30 miles from Lands End, where seals and dolphins swim, crowds are unknown, children play in safety, cars are banned, and the only sound is bird-song. The 3 and 4 bedroom converted period cottages are in rural and beach settings.

Woodford Bridge Country Club 1916
The resort offers an indoor pool, health club with exercise equipment, hot tub and sauna, massage, and beauty and hair salon services. There’s also a games room, Internet access, restaurant, snack bar, and live entertainment. Fishing, squash, badminton, and a playground are available on the property as well.

Tregenna Country Club 3576
Nestling on the edge of Exmoor National Park, Kentisbury Grange Country Park commands some of the county’s most arresting views of sweeping horizons and panoramic vistas of seemingly endless natural beauty. Just a short drive away, the magnificent dune-lined beaches of Saunton Sands and Ilfracombe are crying out to be explored.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com

**Prices are subject to change due to currency exchange rate.*

English Cream Tea

BY LEANNE DE TOERKENCZY

The cream tea is considered the regional dish of Devon. Today Devonshire Tea has been adopted with varied recipes around the world in many tourist regions. However, the traditional scone is made from just a few ingredients and things that you would normally find on a farm. That’s how scones with clotted cream and jam originally come from farms. So the best place to savour your scones is Devon, but if you can’t get there yet, try out our simple recipes.

SCONES

Makes 12
Best served warm from the oven (if hot the cream slides off) and should be eaten on the day.

Oven temperature: 220 °C preheat
Cooking time: 10-15 minutes
Cooking utensil: greased oven tray

Ingredients
2 cups self raising flour
¼ teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon of butter
¾ cup milk

Method
1 Collect ingredients
2 Rub butter into flour and salt, using the fingertips
3 Mix into a soft dough with milk. Add additional milk if required
4 Turn on to a lightly floured board and knead until smooth and elastic
5 Roll out 2cm thick and cut into shapes using a cutter or knife
6 Arrange on oven tray and glaze tops with milk using a pastry brush
7 Place in oven above the centre and bake until golden brown. To test, the sides of the scone should be set
8 Lift onto a cake cooler
9 While still warm break in half and serve with clotted cream and strawberry jam and a pot of tea.



FOOD

English Cream Tea



A pot of tea

A good tea is recommended to help wash down all the sugar and complements the dish brilliantly.

While milk is optional, the teapot is essential for a good cup of tea and it really does taste better from a China cup.

QUICK STRAWBERRY JAM

Makes ¾ to 1 cup
Refrigerate for up to 10 days or freeze for longer storage.

Ingredients
2 cups strawberries, hulled
¼ cup sugar
1 Tbsp. lemon juice

Method
1 Place the strawberries in a food processor or blender and process until smooth or chunky, whichever way you like
2 Put strawberries, sugar and lemon juice into a non-stick skillet and bring to a boil over medium-high heat
3 Let boil rapidly until reduced and thickened, approximately 10 minutes Pour into a jar and allow to cool to room temperature before covering and storing in the fridge

CLOTTED CREAM

Makes 2 ½ cups
(Refrigerate for up to 5 days)

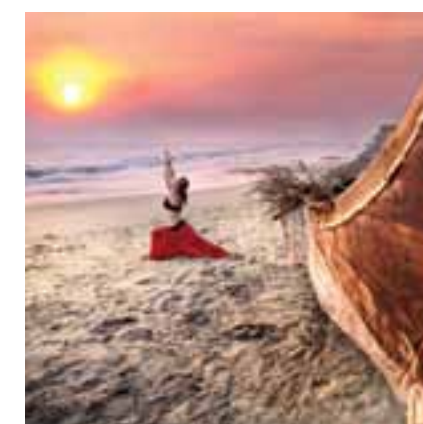
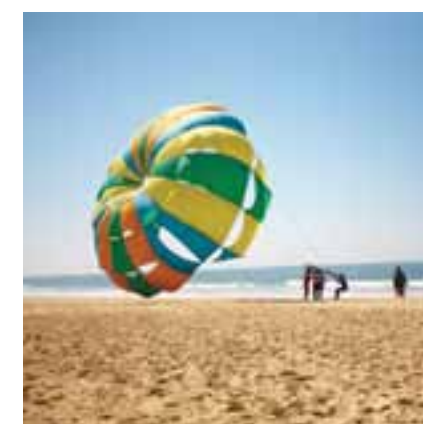
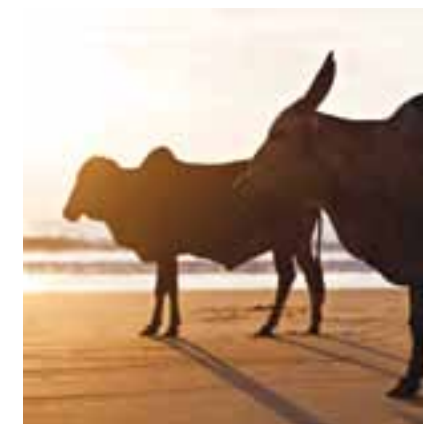
Ingredients
2 cups (500ml) pure cream

Method
Stir cream until smooth and pour into a shallow ovenproof dish. Place dish in a water bath on the lowest shelf of the oven and bake at 100 degrees for about 6 hours. Refrigerate the cream until chilled and set. Use as required.

GOA STYLE

Exotic sun-kissed sea beaches, magnificent scenic beauty, adventure sports, carnivals and architectural splendors of its temples and Portuguese churches have made Goa an absolute favourite with vacationers around the world.

BY LEANNE DE TOERKENCZY



A MANY SPLENDORED THING: (clockwise from top) The fleet is in for the day. Not your average crowded beach. The cathedral of Saint Francis in Old Goa. There is no better place for beach yoga... than in the home of yoga. Every kind of beach sport is at your fingertips. The beach is great but the food... one of the true pleasures when in India.

Situated on the western coast of India in the coastal belt known as Konkan, Goa has a soul that reaches deep into its thought-provoking history, rich culture and some of the most beautiful natural scenery that India has to offer.

Legends from Hindu mythology credit Lord Parshuram, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu with the creation of Goa. Over the centuries various dynasties including Rashtrakutas, Kadambas, Silaharas, Chalukyas, Bahamani Muslims and most notably the Portuguese have ruled Goa. On December 19, 1961 the Indian Army from Portuguese colonisation liberated Goa and it became a Union Territory along with the enclaves of Daman and Diu. On May 30, 1987 Goa was conferred statehood and became the 25th state of the Indian Republic.

Goa has a multi-hued and distinctive lifestyle quite different from the rest of India. Hindu and Catholic communities

make up almost the entire population with minority representation of Muslims and other religions. Because of its diversity there are some great activities to do and places to go when vacationing in this unique part of the world. Let's take a glimpse.

BODY ART

Get a black henna tattoo painted onto any part of your body by a tribal tattoo artist right on the beach. You can choose from a large variety of designs, ranging from simple to really intricate. And the best thing about a henna tattoo is that it fades away after a few weeks so you can't be bound for too long to your choice of design!

PARTY

There is live entertainment and dancing music in Goa's popular nightspots so let your hair down, rid those inhibitions and join in with some traditional Goan dancing. Goa has many popular cultural events throughout the year so check out their calendar to see

what is happening during your planned vacation. www.goatourism.gov.in

SNACK SHACKS

When it comes to food Goa certainly knows how to please our taste buds. There are numerous shacks that provide an amazing range of food and aside from the stellar menus and wonderful cooks, they are a great place to hang out with your friends and family. Infantaria at Calangute has a large collection of superbly prepared snacks and bakes. Their breakfast options are superb. Curly's on Anjuna is a shack that serves some seriously good food. You'll always find a group of hippies sitting around here and young people playing ball on the beach in front. Britto's at Baga is a very popular beachside multi cuisine restaurant with tables leading onto the beach where you can dig your toes in the sand while digging into a grilled lobster. At night, all their tables are candle lit and the sea breeze is just perfect.



FRESH FISH TO FIREWORKS: (clockwise from left) Fresh fish and cocktails on the beach. The view over the verdant surrounds of Old Goa. Handcrafted jewellery at one of Goa's many markets. Fire-twirling is a common yet striking sight on the beaches of Goa. Say goodbye to your white t-shirt and show your true colours at the Festival of Colour.

OLD GOA

Visiting Old Goa is quite the experience and one feels totally transported back in time wandering around its corridors and by-lanes.

Goa has some of the best and oldest churches – so make a point of visiting a shrine or two during your vacation and appreciate the culture and architecture. The Basilica of Bom Jesus, located in Old Goa is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Containing the tomb and mortal remains of St Francis Xavier, this 3-tiered structure of Doric, Corinthian and Composite styles is a must visit for first-timers! Mary Immaculate Conception Church in Panjim is also an intriguing piece of architecture. When visiting South Goa a must visit is a trip to the Church of St. Alex this is the oldest church in GOA and the first chapel church situated on the banks of the Angoddi Tollem Lake.

BEACHES

Goa has endless beaches including Palolem Beach, one of the worlds top beaches

located in South Goa. North Beaches steal the limelight but the South beaches can be calmer and beautiful. Asvern Beach and Calangute Beach are both in North Goa. Dotted with shacks and lounges be prepared to kick back with a Mojito or Pina Colada. Among the exotic beaches of South Goa Arassim Beach and Utordo Beach are also very popular. If you are after peace and quiet, Aganda Beach is well worth a visit. It is unspoiled and untouched by fisherman and tourists with a serene beach setting located near the town of Maordo.

If you plan your trip to Ashwem anywhere in between September to February don't forget to check out the Olive Ridley turtles. Ashwem is the nesting place for this rare species of turtles.

WATER SPORTS

Goan beaches are filled with water sport opportunities including water skiing, jet skiing, scuba diving, banana boat or take a sunset/moonlight boat cruise along the

Mandovi River. You might be lucky enough to do some dolphin spotting while you are enjoying your cruise.

TOUR THE SPICE PLANTATION

Visit the Spice Plantation in Ponda area called Sahakari Spice Plantation. This hidden gem is the largest spice plantation in the region. There are regular tours so you can learn about the different spices including Peri Peri (hottest chilies in the world). You will be welcomed in a traditional way by offering Aarti, Kumkum, and a garland of flowers. Then you will be served with herbal team. Enjoy a healthy and nutritious Goan lunch, served in the traditional manner on a banana leaf.

SPLASH WITH THE ELEPHANTS

A fun thing to do when visiting Goa is to bath an elephant. The Tropical Spice Plantation will not only give you a traditional cultural and history tour but you will be treated to an amazing experience with their gentle giants (elephants).

You can enjoy a brief ride on an elephant but the best fun is the elephant bath. The elephants are in the water and you get to wade in and climb on their backs and soon you will be enjoying a bath with the elephants. Be prepared to have lots of laughter and get drenched. You can spend as much time as you want with the elephants and feed them as well. It will no doubt be a memorable experience and a highlight of your vacation.

SHOPPING SPREE

Ingo's Saturday Night Bazaar in Apará is a must. Here you will find hundreds of vendor stalls selling beads and jewelry, clothing, stoner paraphernalia and music. Even if you are not a big shopper, this is a fun place to go, as there is plenty of nightlife entertainment including jugglers, live musicians and plenty of food. The street shops are also popular, situated in the cities of Baga and Calangute. You can expect to find souvenirs, sarongs, swimwear, jholas (colourful trendy bags), and beads. Plus most beaches have vendors

touting their wares, but stay firm with what you want and your price as they are known to be a bit pushy.

RELAX

While in Goa take time out and enjoy some pampering. There are many Ayurvedic/ Ayurveda centres in Goa, which allow the ancient healing and medicines to distress and reenergize. Ayu means life and Veda means knowledge, and so Ayurveda is often referred to as the “Science of Life”. Treat your senses to a transcendent atmosphere with a perfect balance of physical and spiritual wellness. The Balinese Massage at Snip Salon and Spa is located on the main road between Calangute and Candolim. Try their aromatic massage where you will drift away as you blissfully retreat from the cares of the world. www.snip.co.in

HOW TO GET THERE

Dabolim Airport, the sole airport of Goa is the nearest airport to the state. This civilian cum military airport connects the place

to both national as well as international destinations. Flights to Goa are frequent and well connected to all the corners of India. The airport is owned by the Indian Navy and is 30 kms away from Panaji.

GETTING AROUND

Travelling around Goa is fairly easy. There is an extensive road network, which connects most places in Goa.

By Bus: There are private as well as state transport corporation run bus services which service all the major locations. Despite the overcrowding, noise and off-schedule service, there is a special charm in travelling in the private buses which are brightly painted and filled with colourful local characters.

By Car: A number of companies offer rental cars, both self and chauffeur-driven. Besides rented cars, there are the ubiquitous tourist taxis, which are available near most hotels and resorts and at all the tourist



VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE: (clockwise from above) India is famous for its spices and Goa is no exception. A great place to watch the sun go down. I don't know art but I know what I like... pick up the ultimate souvenir.

attractions. There are two types of taxis the white-colored tourist taxis, and the yellow-topped black regular taxis. Almost all major towns and tourist attractions have a taxi stand, where both types of taxis are available. Most hotels also arrange a taxi for you on request. Ensure that you fix a price for the entire journey before you sit in, so that you don't get overcharged at the end of the trip

By Motorcycle: Goa has a unique and very popular mode of transport known as a 'pilot'. This is in reality a motorcycle taxi. The motorcycle taxis are easily recognised by the yellow mudguards and yellow number plates. The driver who is known as the 'pilot' carries only one pillion rider at a time. Bargain with the pilot for a good rate for the trip before you set out.

Another great way to see Goa is to hire a Vespa (scooter/motorized bike). It's the best way to explore the numerous roads and tracks, which will take you out into the villages and farming area. Scooters or motorbikes for rent are available in the main street on all popular Goa beaches. Scooters or motorbikes that are legally registered for hire have Black/Yellow, tourist vehicle and number plates.

By Auto-rickshaw: The three-wheeled auto-rickshaw taxi, painted yellow and black, is a common site in all Goan towns. This taxi is basically the front half of a motor scooter with a couple of seats mounted on the back. They usually take two to three passengers and are quite speedy on the crowded roads of Goan towns. Above all, they are very cheap as compared to taxis for travelling around the town. ☺



STAY
RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN GOA
INCLUDE:



Royal Goan Beach Club-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 pool with sunken bar surrounded by landscaped gardens and waterfalls that also include water slides, Jacuzzi and children's pool.

Phoenix Park Inn Resort 5677
Located north of Goa and just five minute walk to the famous Candolim beach. Features include a large swimming pool and children's pool, an English pub, bar, barbeque, fitness center, Ayurvedic massage therapy and live entertainment on most evenings.

The Royal Goan Beach Club at Royal Palms 3594
An elegant colonial-style complex, pools, palm trees, sidewalk, and flowers fill the spaces between the residence buildings, creating a peaceful, tropical atmosphere. An on-site restaurant serves classic Indian dishes and continental cuisine.

For additional resort listings in GOA, visit visit RCI.com

GET ON Vacation

RCI WEEKS SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS

WITH RCI

More than 150,000 RCI members in North America took a vacation in Autumn 2012.

Why don't you join them this year?

2013 is ticking away. If you haven't already booked a vacation with RCI this year, what are you waiting for? Each season offers plenty of vacation experiences for you to enjoy - from relaxing to invigorating, seaside to mountainside, a romantic trip for two to a lively family gathering. With RCI you have access to great vacation options that can make anytime of the year a vacation season!

On pages 38 and 39 you'll find more interesting and inspirational statistics about where your fellow RCI members from North America are travelling and how they're taking advantage of their RCI member benefits. Isn't it time you joined them? Even if you've already enjoyed an exchange vacation with RCI this year, you have access to other travel benefits through RCI that can help you spend even more time on vacation.

Start planning now and add your name to the list of RCI members who will be counted among the happy vacationers of 2013.

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Find your vacation experience **FASTER AND EASIER** when you search on RCI.com!



Be Among the First in Line

An Ongoing Search with RCI gives your vacation request prioritized access!

STARTING AN ONGOING SEARCH for an RCI® Exchange vacation is a lot like getting a table at a popular restaurant. You wouldn't show up without a reservation at the nicest, most romantic restaurant in town for Valentine's Day dinner and expect to get a great table. In fact, you might call months in advance to secure the reservation you want. With RCI, an Ongoing Search is similar - just submit your desired vacation place and time and it gets you in line for the vacation you want, and is especially helpful if the vacation destination you want is high in demand.

You can help get the vacation you want by reserving your place in line with an Ongoing Search!

On average, more than 12,500 RCI exchange vacations are **confirmed** through Ongoing Search **each month**.

As many as **50%** of vacations confirmed in an Ongoing Search **occur within 12 days** of opening the search.

Think of an Ongoing Search as a waiting list for the vacation you want. When you start an Ongoing Search, you can tell RCI where you want to go and what ranges of dates you can travel and set unit configuration preferences. Then **RCI will continually search its systems-24 hours a day, seven days a week** - for vacation options that match your selected criteria.

As new deposits come into the system, **RCI checks all Ongoing Searches first to see if there is a match before those deposits are available for anyone else** to book through regular search on RCI.com or through the Call Centre. It's just like

when a table opens up at a restaurant; a party with a reservation will be seated before a party without one. It's also important to start your search early because one of the main factors determining where 'in line' you are is when you began your search.

An Ongoing Search lets you control your vacation search without having to manually search again and again. You can periodically check the status of your Ongoing Search online - that way you can let RCI know right away if you want to book a matched unit or continue searching for something else.

If you're not placing Ongoing Searches regularly, you could be missing out of some of the best vacation exchanges RCI has to offer!

DID YOU KNOW?

When setting up your Ongoing Search, be sure you have enough Deposit Trading Power for the week you're interested in, and find out what your dream week has historically traded for by using the Exchange Planner on RCI.com. If you're searching for a vacation that is in demand or that typically trades for more Trading Power than your deposit is worth, consider combining deposits to improve your chances of getting the vacation you're looking for.

To learn more about starting an Ongoing Search, visit www.rci-asia.com/microsite/WE_InsideRCI/understandOngoingSearch.php

RCI Welcomes Empark Hotels and Resorts Group to China's Growing Portfolio

RCI has expanded its portfolio of more than 4,000 affiliated resorts in more than 100 countries through its latest affiliation with Empark Hotels and Resorts Group. The affiliation agreement includes seven resorts located in great vacation destinations in China.

“It is with great pride that we welcome Empark Hotels and Resorts Group to our network of affiliated resorts,” said Adrian Lee, managing director, RCI Asia Pacific. “Expanding our China network through this affiliation reaffirms our commitment to offering great vacation options in highly-desirable destinations in Asia and throughout the world.”



Empark Grand Hotel Ningbo D517

Situated at Hangzhou Bay in close proximity of Hangzhou Bay Bridge – a highway bridge linking Shanghai and Ningbo. You can retreat in luxury with all its natural beauty and historical charm and enjoy one of the top-ranked indoor heated swimming pools in all of Ningbo. When it's time to kick up the action, grab a friend and head to the tennis courts or find your Zen in the yoga room. Wind down at the indoor pool or spa, which features a diverse menu of soothing, signature treatments. When it's time to satisfy your palate, enjoy a range of cuisine options including local Chinese and Mount Fuji Japanese delicacies.



Empark Grand Hotel Anhui D513

This landmark resort features floor-to-ceiling windows affording guests a bird's eye view of Lakeshore's colorful and charming scenery. Explore nature while you master your racquet game on the outdoor tennis court, or take it inside to kick up your energy at the health club. Wind down at the indoor pool or spa, featuring a diverse menu of soothing, signature treatments incorporating indigenous flora and fauna to make your relaxation experience one to remember. When it's time to satisfy your palate, take a seat at the Chinese restaurant and enjoy your choice of Hui-style and Yue-style cuisine, or an international buffet.



Empark Grand Hotel Tengchong D510

Tengchong provides a wide range of activities on site, including an outdoor pool, where swimmers and sunbathers can breathe in the fresh mountain air and take in the gorgeous views. The resort also features tennis courts, a golf driving range, and a spa with a range of treatments that incorporate beautiful, tranquil settings and indigenous flora and fauna. There are several dining options available, including a buffet restaurant and a traditional Chinese restaurant. Golf enthusiasts of all levels can play 54 holes across three area courses designed by golf architect Roger Packard.



The Empark Grand Hotel Kunming D511

This resort features extensive on-site recreational facilities and amenities. Its Tropical Spa offers more than 30 rejuvenating treatments including massages, facials, body wraps and therapy baths, and the spa facilities include both indoor and outdoor pools and a Jacuzzi. There are five onsite restaurants offering a range of cuisine from Chinese and Japanese to Western and deli style foods. Daytime excursions and tours can be booked through the onsite travel agents, and the resort's nightclub and entertainment venues provide plenty to do after the sun goes down.



Empark Grand Hotel XishuangBanna D509

The XishuangBanna provides many onsite amenities for guests, along with great service. An in-hotel spa offers a range of services to relax and rejuvenate, and a sauna is available to unwind further. Featuring four restaurants on site, guests can choose from Chinese, Western, barbeque and Yunnan cuisine. Golfers can enjoy 27 holes at the Riverside Orchard course adjacent to the hotel, designed by renowned golf architect Roger Packard.



Empark Grand Hotel Xi'AN D512

This luxurious resort is known for its unique design that retains the charm of the ancient city. Visitors can expect five-star quality service along with modern equipment and facilities. In down time, guests here can make use of the sauna, health club, chess room and billiards room. For onsite dining, the hotel offers a buffet style restaurant and a specialty authentic Chinese restaurant, along with a bar and nightclub. The 24h our front desk and sightseeing tour desk is available to assist in planning area tours and help you make the most of any trip to Xi'AN.



Empark Grand Hotel Guian D515

The first luxury resort of its kind in the region, this resort features extensive onsite recreational facilities and amenities to appeal to all ages. Explore its “hot spring fairyland” which features a range of thermo pools including hot spring with flowers and Chinese herbs, a children's bubble hot spring and a cave hot spring. Find thrills at the waterpark or retreat to the spa for relaxation where you can choose from a full range of healing treatments. When hunger strikes, enjoy gourmet dining from one of three resort restaurants offering Chinese, Japanese and Western dishes, in addition to local cuisine.



New Affiliated Resorts

Did you know? Every month, new properties are added to the family of RCI® affiliated resorts, just one more way we're working to deliver more option, more flexibility and more opportunities for travel. Here are a few more newcomers to our portfolio of more than 4,000 resorts in over 100 countries around the world

Casaville Shinchon Seoul C949 »

CasaVille Sinchon Seoul is a serviced residence furnished with a modern and stylish interior with a 24-hour security service. Conveniently located in the Seoul City Center and in close proximity to the subway station, this resort provides great access points. Shopping streets such as Myeongdong, Dongdaemun and Namdaemun market are located nearby. Other tourist attractions, including the popular Deoksugung Palace and Gyeongbokgung Palace, are easily accessible via the subway.



Super city Seoul.

More affiliated resorts from the RCI® Network

Best Western Sandakan » Hotel & Residence C591

This luxurious hotel is located in Bandar Letat Jaya, midway between Sandakan airport and the city center – only 10 minutes away to link to the Northern Ring Road highway.

Sandakan is known as the "City of Nature", providing an entry point into Malaysian Borneo's most magnificent ecotourism and historical attractions. There are three restaurant in the hotel to choose from; enjoy a wide selection of grilled Asian and Continental dishes with Buli Buli's "fresh from the sea" grilled seafood specialties; Cowie's, the English Pub serves "pub grub" accompanied by a wide discerning choice of beverages in a traditional setting and The Olive Garden; a fusion of Mediterranean cuisines presented in a contemporary restaurant.



Springdale Golf & Resort D469 »

Situated in Seogwipo, off the south coast of South Korea, on the southern tip of Jeju Island, this resort is famous for its location. Take a few swings on its beautifully architected golf course, designed by one of the best course designer's in the USA and sculpted by Japan's top course artists. Relieve any stress with some forest therapy as you

stroll through the beautiful white cedar Hinoki Tree Walking Trail that lines the resort, or indulge in some free spirited horseback riding. When hunger strikes, take a seat at the Club House in the café restaurant where you'll enjoy traditional Jeju food and barbecue cooked on the resort's custom-made, corn-fueled barbecue grill.



An upcoming boutique beachside resort in Koh Samui, Thailand.



Tides Boutique » Samui Resort & Spa

Located directly on the shores of the Gulf of Thailand in the idyllic village of Plai Leam Tides Boutique Samui Resort & Spa offers some of the best views on the island and provides the perfect combination of luxury and relaxation. Soak up some sun on the resort's private beaches or cool off in the infinity pool, which offers uninterrupted views of the nearby sea and surrounding islands.


RCI: Vacations You Can Count On



In

79 members
took more than
20 vacations
each through RCI!

vacationing domestically travelled an average of

A stylized illustration of a white commercial airplane, viewed from a side-on perspective, flying towards the left. The plane has two engines mounted under its wings, a tail fin, and a row of windows along its fuselage. The background is a solid orange color. In the bottom left corner, there is a white, stylized letter 'D'.

to their vacation destination in 2012

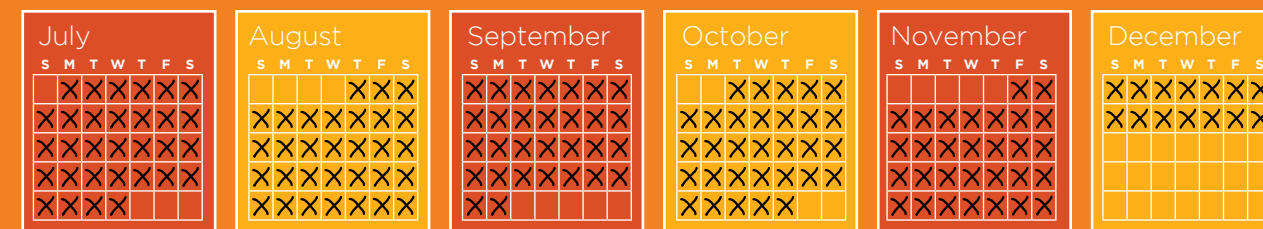
One RCI member has
gone on vacations in
25 countries
through RCI

One RCI member has gone on vacations in

33 states and provinces

throughout the
United States
and Canada

One RCI Member vacationed for **24 weeks** continuously in 2012!



That's nearly **6 months, or 168 days**, of vacations in a row!

More than
150,000
RCI members took
a Summer vacation
in 2012



More than
100,000
members sent family
or friends on vacation
with a Guest Certificate ²
in 2012

Have you booked your next vacation yet?
Start planning now at **RCI.com!**



1 These vacations are limited and subject to availability. RCI Weeks Members: Subject to availability based on value
vacation exchange principals/ RCI Points Members: Subject to availability and your accessible balance.
2 Guest certificate recipient must be at least 21 years of age. Certain fees and time restrictions apply.

weekenders

Bali, island paradise.

<< BALI - INDONESIA

PHILIPPINES >>

Bali's highest volcano Mount Agung.

Sun kissed white sandy beaches, traditional cultural life; magnificent interior landscapes, temples and rice terraces are just some of the places to explore.

For some of the best white water rafting and hiking, head to Ubud where can kayak along white water rapids surrounded by tropical jungle. There is opportunity to trek some of the dense jungle such as Mount Batur, the only active volcano of Bali or love the beach life on the north coast.

Seminyak is a very popular destination in Bali. You will find an exotic mix of luxury resorts, shopping and a good choice of vibrant restaurants and some trendy nightlife spots. The beaches are popular for local artisans selling their handcrafted wares. Jalan Laksmana is one of the main shopping and dining streets in Seminyak. Seminyak has a number of excellent spa & massage

VISITORS TRAVEL TO BALI FOR VACATIONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CHASING THE BEACHES, SUN, ROMANCE AND PARTIES. BALI MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. FROM PARTY DESTINATIONS SUCH AS SEMINYAK, TO THE TRANQUIL TROPICAL JUNGLE IN UBUD, THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

The island of Bali is one of the most romantic, exotic and affordable vacation destinations. One of Indonesia's 13,700 islands Bali is a mecca for great adventure, sports and fitness activities.

A short drive from the coast, Ubud is a little cooler and a lot greener.

weekenders BALI, INDONESIA

centers for the ultimate relaxation. Ubud is the cultural focus of Bali, with spectacular landscape of dense jungles, soaring mountains and fertile rice paddy fields terracing the mountain's edge. Ubud also features some magnificent Buddhist temples and religious sights. There are plenty of shops and boutiques in Ubud. Further out of town you can visit many of the furniture workshops and see the craftsmen at work. Many of the established merchants can arrange for products to be shipped home for you.

Mount Agung is Bali's highest volcano in the eastern area of Bali reaching 3,148 meters. It last erupted in 1963. You can ascend the stairs to the monumental courtyard gate facing the main temple. The central shrine is dedicated to the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The best way to visit Mount Agung is to arrange a local driver (tour guide) to take you out on a day trip. You can organise for them to take you to some of the other spectacular temples along the way including Ganung Batukau and Tanah Lot. Jimbaran Bay is a popular beach town and fishing village in the southern area of Bali. Some call this

the rite of passage to visit when you visit Bali. Every night the beaches are packed with makeshift wooden huts local Indonesian "warung" eating-houses - fresh seafood is supplied by the local fisherman and cooked by the locals on the beach in front of you. Indulge in a hearty and inexpensive meal of fresh fish or grilled lobster while mixing with the friendly locals.



TEMPLE IN THE SEA

The much photographed Tanah Lot is well worth a day trip which can be easily organised through your accommodation as can tours to many other temples and attractions.



It does not matter if you are carrying a surfboard or a beach towel, Bali's beaches are breathtaking.

weekenders BALI, INDONESIA

EAT

Jimbaran Bay Beachfront Restaurant
T: (0361) 216 8521.
Kelan, Jimbaran Bay.
Dining on the beach! Delicious seafood & romantic sunsets.
www.jimbaranbeachrestaurant.com

KuDeTa T: (0361) 736 969.
Jl. Oberoi No.9 Seminyak Benoa Kuta Selatan Badung Bali, 80361.
The dining scene at KU DE TA has scooped many prestigious international awards including top awards from Wine Spectator and The Miele Guide.

RELAX

Jari Menari 'Dancing Fingers' T: (0361) 736 740.
Raya Basangkasa #47, Seminyak Area.
Imagine, laying in this room, having a massage surrounded by nature therapists.
www.jarimedari.com

PLAY

Bali World Heritages Tour
T: 04 777 4141. Departs 9am - 5pm
Taman Ayun, Lake Beratan and Ulundanu Beratan Temple, Candi Kuning Fruit and Vegetable Market, Jatiluwih, and Tanah Lot. Pick up and drop off at most accommodation. www.toursbylocals.com

Elephant Safari Park, Taro, Ubud
T: (0361) 898 888. Jalan Elephant Park Taro, Taro Village, Tegallalang, Ubud.
Park Open 8.00Am to 6.00Pm daily.
www.elephantsafariparklodge.com

White water Rafting

T: (0361) 721 480.
Grab your oars and get ready to rage with this exhilarating rafting adventure on the spectacular 33 Rapids on Ayung River.
www.baliadventuretours.com

STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Bali include:

Medewi Bay Retreat 6302
An impressive tropical island resort set amongst picturesque mountains and coconut plantations. The town of Medewi is hidden away on the West Coast of Bali, just 20 minutes from Negara. The resort is surrounded by mountains, ocean and coconut plantations.

Royal Bali Beach Club at Candidasa 3968
Located at Balina Beach on the outskirts of Candidasa, the resort is surrounded on one side by coral-filled seas and on the other by an active volcano. The resort is great for snorkeling and fishing and the ambience is uniquely Balinese. The resort has glass-bottom boats for viewing sea life and an outdoor Jacuzzi, as well as a restaurant with regular entertainment.



It's More Fun in the Philippines

THE PHILIPPINES IS AN ARCHIPELAGO BOUNDED BY THE PACIFIC OCEAN, TO THE EAST THE BASHI CHANNEL, TO THE NORTH THE SULU AND TO THE SOUTH THE CELEBES SEAS. A BEAUTIFUL VACATION DESTINATION WAITING FOR YOU!

Here in the Philippines, the beach is only half of your island vacation, the water is just as inviting too. From the gentle, clear water of Boracay to the gigantic surf breaks of Siargao, you'll find a spot just perfect for you. You can enjoy snorkeling above glistening corals and just inches from the hull of World War II shipwrecks. Or if you are a diver you can go into the darker caverns of these sunken vessels and uncover history hatch by hatch.

PICTURE PERFECT
Prepare to have your 'wow' reflex altered forever, the Philippines has so many beautiful vistas you may become numb to them by the end of your trip.

According to underwater photographer, Robert Yin, Tubbataha Reef should be on the bucket list of every serious diver. There are a number of dive tours you can book through and hire all the gear you need. However if you don't wish to travel too far out there are some amazing reefs including Anilao, Calamianes and Cebu islands, which are just a shore entry away. Sit down to lunch as soon as you strip off your wetsuit!

Philippine beaches are the ideal escape where you can rent a kayak to paddle around the islands or take a guided boat tour, which often includes a delicious lunch.

The country is divided into the geographical areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Its capital, the City of Manila, is in Luzon.

Filipino's love their food, so you won't run out of options for meals. There are plenty of options of first class restaurants with world class chefs, world cuisine, family style dining places, cafeterias and food court stalls. "Halal" and kosher food are available.

Manila's nightlife is one of the most vibrant in Asia. When the sun goes down and whether you're in a party-packed street or shoreline, refreshments are served almost everywhere. DJs come from all over the world to party.

Filipinos, you'll find, are passionate when it comes to shopping. Whether you find yourself in the city, in the middle of a beautiful island resort, or relaxing in an outrigger boat, you can always go for some casual retail therapy.



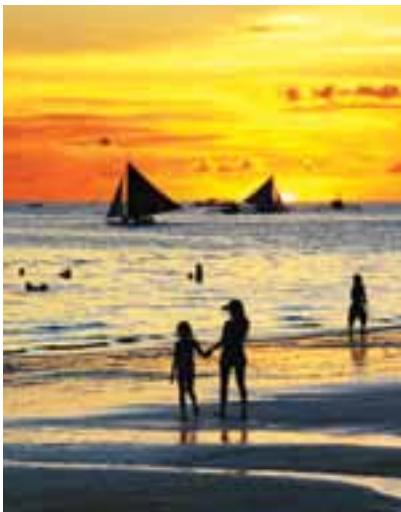
You can visit volcanic Camiguin, or mystical Siquijor and experience the contrast of sandy shores and deserted coastlines, private islands, isolated coves, and quiet bays. Or if you would prefer try scaling the World Heritage Site of the Banawe Rice Terraces, a natural wonder best seen up close.



Or if you enjoy some adrenaline activities try zip lining over seven stunning waterfalls in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

There is a reason why this country was chosen for many movie settings, it is simply beautiful, exotic and alluring.

SHOP, DIVE, EXPERIENCE
(Left to right) On top of everything else the shopping is great. Divers paradise, the Philippines should be on any divers bucket list and even if you don't dive you can see an abundance of underwater marvels just snorkelling close to shore. The end of another Philippine day.



weekenders PHILIPPINES

EAT

Ka Lui's (kah-LOO-wees) T: (048) 433 2580.
After a tour of the world-renowned Subterranean River, have lunch or early dinner at Puerto Princesa's best-known grill restaurant. 369 Rizal Ave., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. www.kaluirestaurant.com

Abe (AH-beh) T: 856 0526.
Innovative dishes like lamb adobo with popped garlic, binukadkad na (butterfly style) crispy pla-pla or tilapia, and bamboo rice with shrimp and mushroom. Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila. <http://ljcrestaurants.com.ph/abe/>

Chocolate de Batirol (cho-co-LAH-te de BAH-tirol) T: 0916-375-6510.
Picnic at about 4,500 feet above sea level! Simple food is served on tables under the shade of fragrant pine trees. Igorot Garden, Gate 2, Camp John Hay, Baguio City. chocolatedebatirol@yahoo.com



PLAY

Puerto Princesa Underground River T: (6348) 4342509 or (6348) 7230904.
A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature. A permit is required and can take up to two weeks. undergroundriver_ppsrnp@yahoo.com

Danao, Bohol T: (038) 4122338.
Are you up for an insanely good scream? Try feeling what it's like to free-fall from a cliff and experience a pendulum swing across a wide gorge. E.A.T. Danao Park. www.eatdanao.com



STAY

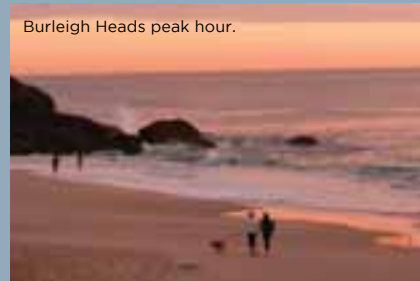
RCI affiliated resorts in Philippines include:

Eastgate Village Resort C723
Set against a backdrop of a protected rainforest, this tropical paradise is just a two-hour drive from Manila. There are many ways to enjoy a relaxing escape, whether it's taking a dip in the outdoor swimming pool, exploring local terrain over bicycle trails, or playing a few invigorating rounds of tennis.



SVC at Subic Holiday Villas 7526
Subic is complete with facilities including a fully equipped gym, swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, go-kart and car racetracks, skating rink, bowling alley, an 18-hole golf course, and an equestrian center. Subic Bay is best for cruising, jet skiing, parasailing, canoeing, fishing, and yachting. You may also explore the world of sea mammals in Subic's Marine Exploratorium.

New RCI Members Share Their Australian Vacation Story



“ We joined RCI last September as a new family member. The three of us were among a team of 22 tourists that took the first package tour to Australia with Shanghai Runner on May 14. This was the first time that Shanghai Runner had organized an outback tour. As it was an important tour, Shanghai Runner appointed Ms Qin (Qin Hua) to lead the ten-day trip. The trip had quite a varied itinerary,

which we enjoyed a lot. Being outback in Australia we enjoyed the fresh air, the natural scenery and the gourmet food delights. Our team leader Ms Qin (Qin Hua) was very helpful and friendly and treated us like one big family. Every day was new and exciting. During the trip, we saw beautiful scenery and animals living in harmony with people and the city.

While on the Gold Coast we were able to take in the magnificent views of the sea at sunrise. The sea seemed to go on forever and touch the sky in the distance. It was a really unforgettable experience to see the ocean at sunrise especially when the sky changes to a bright red colour. It is a fantastic feeling to stand on the beach and look out over the ocean. It was just like the local tour guide had told us. We felt like we were the only ones there.

At the Gold Coast we found the local people to be very polite and friendly when you greeted them on the beach in the morning. The people always walk on the left side of the road here. Moreover, Australian people know

how to enjoy themselves. You can see couples, lovers or old friends enjoying the hot coffee and breakfast in the cafes by the beach. You can take in the fresh air and see the sunrise by the sea while enjoying your breakfast. Seeing the people relaxed is always a pleasure to observe. Australian people also like to exercise. In the morning, you can see people of all ages enjoying exercise along the beach. You see people exercising in other parts of Australia and it helps to give you a positive mental outlook on life. Australians also like to share a picnic by the beach or on the grass on the weekend, with their children or friends. People are allowed to play on the grass in Australia. Australian people are very carefree and they have a good social welfare system. Many families own yachts and 28% of these families have their own wharfs. Some people like to relax by taking their yachts out for a day's fishing

Lastly I would like to tell you how I felt about our tour leader. I got to meet Mr Qin Hua personally for the first time. I found Ms Qin (Qin Hua) to be very amiable, conscientious, diligent and able to manage things

very well. She was excellent in putting our daily schedules together to ensure each day ran smoothly without any issues. She was easily able to put people at ease and solve any issues or concerns from the team members. She was very passionate and warm to all and provided great service and practical advice to us all. During the trip, she lived with team members and always gave the best room to others. Every night Mr Qin Hua would write in the logbook so as not to interfere with the others sleeping, he offered to sleep on the

sofa in the living room. During the day he showed us around and was always keen to cook dinner for the members as soon as we got home. We really appreciated his warm and engaging personality and he really embodied the company's care and concern for its members. I would also like to thank Ms Qin for the great work she also did for us.

I came away from this trip feeling that I had made the right choice to become an RCI member. We plan to visit more destinations

through Shanghai Runner in the future. With everyone in the group registered as an RCI member, the trip is very safe with all members getting along harmoniously. I will also be sharing my experiences and this way of traveling with my friends and we are looking forward to making more friends with RCI members. These are just some of my experiences about traveling to Australia.”

RCI Members: The Xu Jinqing family.

Where else have RCI members been?



Hukka Falls, New Zealand



Featherdale Wildlife Park with baby koala, Australia



Whose smile is sweeter?
Hong Kong Disneyland



Astoria Boracay Resort,
Boracay Island



Heroes of Huka Falls Conquerors
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