

ENDLESS VACATION

MARCH-JUNE 2008

PLAY | EAT | SHOP | RELAX | EXPLORE

GOING BEYOND
CASINOS AND CARD GAMES

Las Vegas

JULY ON THE SLOPES OF
VICTORIA

INVITING BEACHES OF
MALAYSIA





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March-June 2008

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Introducing a new way to use your RCI Weeks

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19 May	Vesak Day
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Guest Certificate	S\$70

Call RCI's Holiday Guides to find out the latest on promotional prices for RCI Getaway specials. Alternatively, log on to our website at www.rci-asia.com for updated rates.

All prices quoted are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change without prior notice.

*Subject to GST charges for Singapore members

first note

Welcome to the new issue of Endless Vacation® magazine. As we embark on a new year, many of you may already be planning how to utilise your holiday exchange. We hope this issue of Endless Vacation® can bring you inspiring vacation ideas, as we provide resources and tips on destinations that appeal to different holiday preferences.

First, take a look at glamorous Las Vegas, a city known for its mega-resorts, bright neon lights and over-the-top hustle. If the 'ding-ding' of slot machines does not interest you, you can explore some of the surrounding areas, which promise some truly spectacular scenery.

If you are longing for a retreat in a winter wonderland between June and September, head Down Under to Melbourne, Victoria. Challenge yourself on the ski slopes and soak up the lively alpine village atmosphere, or take a scenic tour along the Great Ocean Road and Murray River. For beach bums who prefer the sun and sand, you can escape to the white powdery beaches of Malaysia's Port Dickson, Tioman and Langkawi. These lovely tropical beach getaways are Asia's most exciting and alluring holiday paradise, and will provide a tranquil escape for young and old.

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Here's a toast to a great year ahead and may you have a truly memorable 2008 filled with sweet RCI holidays!

ENDLESS **RCI**
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- A boutique resort nestled amidst lush tropical gardens
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TOP-UP FEE/NIGHT FROM SGD 27



Grand Ville Hotel, Bangkok

- Located in the vibrant, bustling commercial district of Chinatown
- A hotel with all basic amenities and facilities to comfort and pamper you

TOP-UP FEE/NIGHT FROM SGD 5



Maritime Park & Spa Resort, Krabi

- Set in a landscape of exquisite beauty, with forested mountains, lush tropical gardens surrounding a placid lagoon
- Near pristine beaches, idyllic coral islands and Krabi's national forest parks

TOP-UP FEE/NIGHT FROM SGD 15



{holiday snapshots}

RCI moments



1st

*"A roaring good time - well, for some - at
Genting Outdoor Theme Park."*

Benilda B. Sacluti
Stayed at the Genting View Resort, Malaysia



2nd

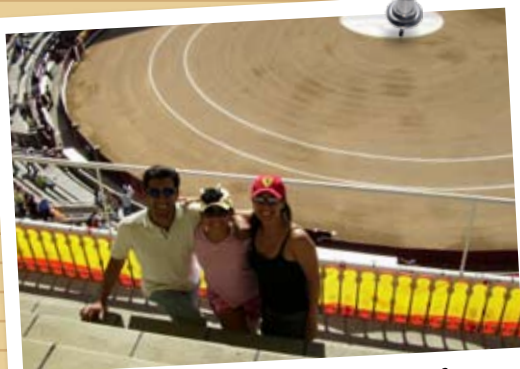
"Will you share my room?"
Surat Limtrakool
Stayed at the Holiday Club Pyha, Finland



3rd

*"Wow!!! Looks like I can fly like
an eagle over the Himalayas !!!"*

Sangrawee Asawakul
Stayed at the Club Mahindra Snowpeaks, Manali, India



"Feeling the adrenaline rush at the famous
Bull Fighting arena in Madrid."

Azdiar Mobed

Stayed at the Sahara Sunset Club, Spain



"What a beautiful sight!"

Bong How Lan

Stayed at the Therm Chitose Domino, Japan



"Smiles as sweet as the Lavender."

Yim Ching Soon

Stayed at the Silver Sands Resort, Perth, Australia



"I believe I can fly!"

Cecile Ventura

Stayed at the Nipa Beach Resort, Philippines

ENTRY FORM

1st PRIZE

1 week International
Holiday for 4*

2nd PRIZE

1 Asia Midweek
Getaway *

3rd PRIZE

RCI Goodie Bag

*Accommodation only.

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- Each member can send a maximum of 5 entries
- Each entry must be accompanied by a caption or write-up of not more than 50 words with mention of the location where the photograph was taken
- All entries must indicate the member's name and RCI Membership Number
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Name

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Date of Picture

Picture Caption

Name of Accommodation During Stay

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Date

Prints: Complete and attach this form (photocopies accepted) together with your pictures and mail to "Holiday Snapshots" The Editor, Endless Vacation, RCI Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, 8 Cross Street, #09-01/05 PWC Building, Singapore 048424 before **31 May 2008**

Digital Images: Include the information above with your high resolution pictures (300 dpi preferred) and email to asiamembers@rci.com before **31 May 2008**



{wish you were here}



Fall in love with Florida

*Move aside, Mickey and friends—there's certainly more to Florida than cartoon characters and roller coasters! Though theme parks dominate the scene, other experiences prove equally enthralling, as RCI member **Cynthia Ee** and her family pleasantly discovered.*

Vacation homes

My family spent three fantastic weeks in Florida last December: a week each at Clearwater, Orlando and Miami. Our three RCI resorts provided all the comforts of home, and much more! In **Camaron Cove** at Indian Rocks Beach, our simple but charming unit was located right on the beach. The kids had fun building sandcastles while my husband and I enjoyed morning walks on the beach, soaking in the sights and sounds.

In Orlando, our unit at **Sheraton Vistana** was a mere 10-minute drive from Disney World. It was so convenient to drive back to the resort for a bite, nap or bath – then head back to the parks again, refreshed and energised.

As for **Vacation Village at Bonaventure** unit in Weston, who would complain about a space of more than 100 sqm with a gigantic jacuzzi bathtub next to your bed? Our kids had such a splashing good time that we had to factor in a good one hour for their bath!

Shopping!

Down south in Sunrise, we found great bargains at *Sawgrass Mills*. If you'd like to get Disney merchandise at a bargain, make sure you make a stop here at the *Disney Character Premiere store*.

Beaches and piers

We explored the Gulf coast area, white sandy beaches and wildlife such as birds, manatees and dolphins.

John's Pass Village and Boardwalk on Madeira Beach is a charming fishing village lined with boat charters, restaurants and souvenir shops. And no one would ever forget the sight of *The Pier* at St Petersburg, a shopping complex shaped like an inverted pyramid.

Children's museums

We saw dinosaur fossils and experienced what a hurricane feels like at the *Museum of Science and Industry* in Tampa, which also houses a *Children's Science Center*.

At the *Young at Art Children's Museum* in Broward, kids can dabble in art and craft activities of various cultures, from Japanese to Native American. In the recycling section, they can learn how to turn waste into art. A special treat during our visit was an exhibition by Nickelodeon on Dora and Friends, with a guest appearance by Dora.



{wish you were here}



Nature safaris

In Clearwater, we viewed marine life with a marine biologist guiding us on a *Sea Life Safari*, the only cruise licensed to trawl the seabed to study marine life. We also spotted a dolphin – a rare sight!

On land, we rode a swamp buggy to see wildlife at a Native American preserve. The most memorable moment was when an ostrich poked its head inside our buggy, much to the delight of the children.

Walt Disney World

No visit to Florida is ever complete without visiting the four theme parks: *Magic Kingdom*, *EPCOT*, *Animal Kingdom* and *Disney-MGM Studios*.

The rides, shows and Disney experience were truly memorable. We spent seven days at the four parks but still wished we had more time. This means we'll be back again!

There is certainly much to fall in love with in Florida as you begin to explore the great treasures in this soulful and magical state!

Write & Win Cash!

Share your RCI holiday experiences with us! **The best story will be awarded S\$100!**

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The Editor

Endless Vacation

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Include your name, RCI Membership Number and a selection of photos with photo captions. Digital shots must be in high resolution (at least 300dpi).

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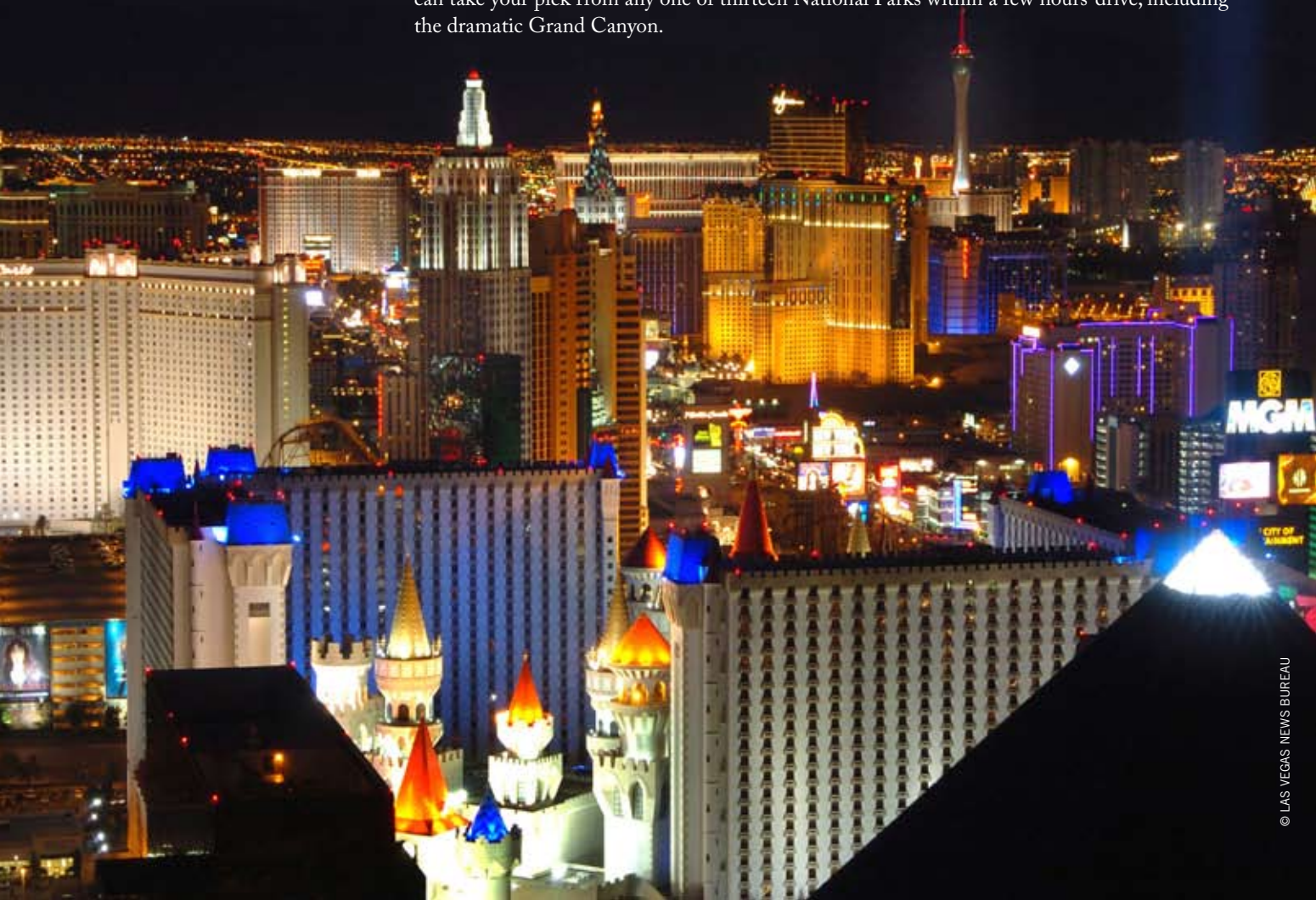
Viva Las Vegas

BY YU-MEI BALASINGAMCHOW

Bright lights, big city, high-roller games and lowbrow amusements – Las Vegas has all the glitz and excitement that you'd expect from the gambling capital of the United States. Its hotels are home to not only lively casinos but also headline entertainment acts, superb restaurants run by Michelin-starred chefs, and stupendous attractions such as a re-created Eiffel Tower or Statue of Liberty.

Las Vegas owes its modern face and character to a 1931 decision by the state of Nevada to legalise gambling, which paved the way for major casino and entertainment developments. Over the years, the buildings have gotten bigger and more fantastic, every one aiming to be the place to visit in Las Vegas. Today the Strip is lined with many of the world's largest hotels, their lights creating an iconic night-time landscape.

It's not all casinos and neon lights, either. There's an incredible range of shopping, as well as dozens of golf courses within a 17 km radius of the Strip. For a break from the urban buzz, you can take your pick from any one of thirteen National Parks within a few hours' drive, including the dramatic Grand Canyon.





Sightseeing on the Strip

If you're looking for the heart of the action, look no further than the Strip – a glittering boulevard of hotels, casinos, restaurants, nightclubs, shops and other attractions. Best experienced by night, its full 7 km stretch is dotted with some of Vegas's most well-known landmarks.

There's the choreographed fountain show at the **Bellagio's** man-made lake, with over 1,000 fountains dancing in sync to classical or Broadway tunes. At the **Mirage**, an artificial volcano "erupts" every half hour, complete with smoke, "lava" flows and thundering sound effects. There's nothing understated about the Strip and every hotel has its gimmick, be it **Caesar's Palace** with its Roman centurions or the **Luxor** with its King Tut Museum.

Family-friendly attractions also abound, such as the jangling arcade and free circus performances at **Circus Circus**, and heart-stopping thrill rides at the **Stratosphere**, the tallest free-standing observation tower in the United States. Looming at 35 m high, the latter boasts the 360-degree rotating Top of the World Restaurant & Lounge, with its bird's-eye view of the Strip and the city.

But there's more here than blinking lights and loud music. Art lovers can explore the **Bellagio's Gallery of Fine Art** or the



Venetian, which houses the **Guggenheim Hermitage Museum**, designed by eminent architect Rem Koolhaas. **The Mirage** is as famous for its indoor tropical rainforest, bottlenose dolphin habitat and aquarium as it is for its volcano. And curious celebrity-spotters may want to pop into the **Little White Wedding Chapel**, whose themed weddings are legendary (Elvis impersonators officiate regularly). This is where Bruce Willis and Demi Moore got married, among other famous personalities.

The Neon Nightscape

Say "Las Vegas" to anyone, and the first thing that probably springs to mind is the nightly neon explosion of colours. More than just a backdrop for nocturnal adventures, the flashy signs best represent the city's spirit of devil-may-care extravagance. Where else, after all, would you find a glittering Disneyesque white castle or the replica of an Egyptian pyramid, the latter with its own spotlight projecting majestically straight up into the sky?

The kaleidoscopic spectacle runs down the entire Strip and spills over to the downtown area around Fremont Street. Captured in numerous TV shows and films, it includes well-known illuminated landmarks such as the bright golden sign at the **Golden Nugget Casino**, the sassy cowgirl outline at the **Glitter Gulch** and the cowboy figure waving "howdy" at the **Pioneer Club**.



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Note:

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- Subject to availability at time of booking
- Cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions
- Offer ends 30 April 2008
- Terms and conditions apply



{play}

Shopping Your Heart Out


For shoppers looking for a good deal, Las Vegas offers a dazzling array of factory outlets to suit every fashion preference. Spread over three outlet malls, they bring together a comprehensive range of well-known and sought-after labels.

Lying just north of the Strip, **Las Vegas Premium Outlets** is the mall closest to the hotels and tourist attractions. A few miles south of the Strip is its sister establishment, **Las Vegas Outlet Centre**. Each mall has over 120 stores, packed with familiar names such as Calvin Klein, the Gap, Banana Republic, Tommy Hilfiger and Perry Ellis. Beyond clothing outlets, there are brand-name shoe stores such as Nine West, Kenneth Cole and Timberland, not to mention specialist stores for jewellery, watches, fine leather and luggage goods.

The third mall, the **Fashion Outlets** at Las Vegas, is located about 58 km southwest of the city, in the town of Primm near the border with California. With over 100 stores, it prides itself on premium stores such as Versace, Neiman Marcus Last Call and Williams-Sonoma Marketplace. You can find all sorts of bargain-price items here, at even one-third of their original retail price.

Bring Out the Chips

Enjoy a roll of the dice or the shuffling of cards? There's a table for you somewhere in Vegas, whether you're a newcomer to the table or a seasoned player, whether you're after a light-hearted round or a serious session. Casinos continue to be the main tourist draw in Las Vegas and the gaming possibilities just keep growing.

The casinos along the Strip are opulent and sophisticated, as one would expect, and offer the full range of games: blackjack, poker, baccarat, roulette and so on. They also have rooms for sportsbook and racebook wagering. Some games have high minimum bets – not for the faint-hearted! For those who shy away from private high-stakes games, there are penny slots, friendly “kitchen table” games and even free gambling lessons. 



travel tips

getting there

Fly to and from Los Angeles or San Diego. Both are about a six-hour drive from Las Vegas; a connecting flight will take slightly more than an hour.

McCarran International Airport is served by international and domestic airlines which connect to most major American and Asian cities. The airport is at the southern end of the Strip, about 8 km from downtown.

distances to other metropolitan areas

Los Angeles – 435 km
Phoenix – 470 km
Reno – 725 km
Salt Lake City – 675 km
San Diego – 550 km
San Francisco – 920 km

climate

Las Vegas enjoys a warm desert climate, including about 300 days of sunshine a year. Summers can be scorching, but most of the year is comfortable and dry.

Average daily temperatures

- Summer (July) – 34°C
- Winter (January) – 9°C

casino restrictions

Most casinos are open round the clock. While gambling is legal, only those who are 21 years of age and above are allowed to enter casinos. Some casinos will not allow children to remain on the premises after 6 pm, unless their parents are guests at the hotel.

Curfew laws also apply on the Strip. Those under the age of 18 are not permitted there without a parent after 9 pm on weekends and holidays.

getting around

Most of Las Vegas's attractions are centred on the Strip, so it's easy to get around on foot. Just remember that the mega-hotels are just that – mega – so distances between them are further than they appear to be. Local Citizens Area Transit (CAT) buses are also readily available (US\$1.25 per trip), including a 24-hour double-decker service called the Deuce which plies the Strip (US\$2 per trip or US\$5 for a 24-hour pass).



STOPOVERS

The Great Grand Canyon

For an experience that will refresh your soul with nature's breathtaking power, take a trip to **Grand Canyon National Park**. Foremost among all National Parks, it sprawls over about 5,000 sq km and is about a five-hour drive from Las Vegas.

The Canyon itself barely needs any introduction. Over five million years of erosion by the Colorado River has etched it into the landscape and created a sweeping vista of inimitable beauty. Most visitors approach it from the South Rim, leaving the North Rim less crowded. If you're adventurous enough to try hiking to the bottom, the distance is about 14.5 km from **Grand Canyon Village** – but it takes about twice as long to hike back up as it does to go down.

A less strenuous way to get an awe-inspiring view of the Canyon is to visit the **Grand Canyon Skywalk** on the Hualapai Indian Reservation. This attraction is not for those with a fear of heights: the Skywalk consists of a U-shaped glass platform that juts out 20 m beyond the Canyon's rim. Visitors can look down between their feet at 1,220 m of thin air or look ahead to the other side of the Canyon, 5 km away. A real feat of engineering, the Skywalk offers a 360-degree view that you could only get from a helicopter – but then you wouldn't feel the same heart-pounding anticipation.

On the Green in Mesquite

The golf course is king in the town of Mesquite, an hour's drive north of Las Vegas. There are seven championship golf courses scattered across the Virgin Mountain foothills, each with its own highlights. At **Oasis Golf Club**, there's an Arnold Palmer-designed course, set against beautiful desert scenery and rated among the top ten public courses by *Golf Digest*. The **CasaBlanca Golf Club** was designed by Cal Olsen and hosts the Nevada Open every year. The course at **Wolf Creek Golf Club** winds through red rock canyons and one of its back tees stands as tall as an 11-storey building.

But golf is only one of the reasons to visit Mesquite. It's also known for its 24-hour casinos, some with instant cash back facilities or, for those who enjoy the risk, no-limit poker tournaments. Another type of thrill is skydiving, probably the most adrenalin-pumping outdoor activity at Mesquite. More sedate options are hiking, biking or horseback riding. If you'd prefer a more relaxing experience, book a spa session at one of the golf clubs. With mineral pools and eucalyptus steam rooms to pamper the senses, their treatments are the perfect indulgence on a warm afternoon.

stay



- 0067 The Jockey Club
- 0110 Summer Bay Resort
Las Vegas
- 1837 The Carriage House
- 6052 Wyndham Grand
Desert
- 6389 The Cliffs at Peace
Canyon
- 6923 Grandview at Las
Vegas
- 2033 Grand Destination
Vacation Club at
the Oasis Resort,
Mesquite

fun facts

The first big casino on the Strip was El Rancho Las Vegas, which opened in 1941.

In the 1950s, the big draw in Las Vegas was not its casinos but the opportunity to watch atomic bombs being detonated at a test site in southern Nevada.

Ninety per cent of visitors to the city gamble, spending an average of US\$500 per person.

The average slot machine on the Strip generates US\$125 profit per day; each table game makes an average of almost US\$2,000.

Nevada laws don't require couples to be local residents in order to get married. All you need is US\$50 and a picture ID that proves you're at least 18 years old (you shouldn't be married to anyone else, of course). On the other hand, to get a divorce, you have to have been a Nevada resident for at least six weeks.



Victoria's Crown Jewels

BY NG WEI CHIAN

With something for everyone, Victoria's diverse regions are tailored to suit the palate of most discerning travellers.

Think Victoria in Australia, and your mind is bound to settle on the bright lights and bustle of Melbourne. While Melbourne certainly has much to offer, the rest of Victoria keeps up its end of things admirably. From the soaring peaks of the High Country to the placid waters of the Murray River, Victoria is a horn of plenty for the holiday-maker. Barrel down the slopes of the Victorian Alps, take a drive on the Great Ocean Road, or set out on a leisurely houseboat cruise down the Murray River.

The Wild Southwest: Down the Great Ocean Road

Geelong

A remarkable combination of rugged natural beauty and old-world charm, the **Great Ocean Road** is dotted with laidback resort towns and quaint seaside villages. If you are setting out from Melbourne, your journey will begin at **Geelong**, Victoria's second-largest city. Its foreshore is marked by wooden bollards sculpted to form whimsical figures which define

Geelong's lively community. Dine on fresh, delicate seafood at Geelong's restaurants or relax and breathe in the sea breeze at an al fresco café.

Central Geelong can satisfy even the most inveterate shopper, where chic fashions and novel buys can be found. Housed in a splendid Neo-Classical building, the **Geelong Art Gallery** holds an excellent collection of Australian and international art, with a strong focus on regional artists.

Follow the leader: Penguin-watching on Phillip Island

A cornucopia of wonders for the nature lover, **Phillip Island** is home to a panoply of wildlife, which includes little penguins, koala bears and fur seals. The Penguin Parade, as it has become known, takes place every night, with an army of penguins making their way from the sea to their sand burrows on the beach.

A southwestern cruise will bring you to **Seal Rocks**, which ranks among Australia's largest fur seal colonies. Koalas and birds are also among the highlights on the island.





The Twelve Apostles

Rising starkly from the Southern Ocean, The Twelve Apostles are 12 rock formations which stand as testaments to the power of nature. Hewn by the forces of erosion from limestone cliffs which were once part of the mainland, the tallest of these reaches a height of 45 metres. A network of tracks ensures accessibility to viewing platforms, but if you want a bird's-eye view of these giants, helicopter flights can be chartered within the vicinity.

Going with the flow : Along the Murray River

Measuring 2,700 kilometres from the craggy peaks of the Great Dividing Range in northeast

Victoria to Adelaide in South Australia, the **Murray River** traces a path which runs along picturesque towns with lyrical names like Echuca-Moama, Barham-Koondrook, Swan Hill, Mildura and Yarrawonga-Mulwala. Set off from Echuca-Moama, which lies about two-and-a-half hours' drive from Melbourne. Cruise down the river in a historic paddle-steamer, or hire a houseboat for an intimate weekend on the water. Even in winter, the sights and sounds along the river will draw you in. **The Swan Hill** region and **Mildura** also have a well-deserved reputation for good food and wine, and the vineyards are certainly worth exploring.





- 0825 Bayview Apartments, Phillip Island
- 0827 Mansfield Country Resort, Mansfield
- 0830 Kyneton Bushland Resort, Kyneton
- 0953 Murray Valley Resort, Yarrawonga
- 1169 Nepean Country Club, Rosebud
- 1179 Sunraysia Resort, Mildura

Fun Facts

- Victoria was the first Australian colony to have its own flag (1870)
- Echuca-Moama has the world's largest fleet of paddle-steamers
- Five of Australia's top 10 golf courses are in the state of Victoria
- The famous poem, 'The Man from Snowy River', is set in Corryong, Victoria

All other photos courtesy of
©Tourism Victoria



July on the slopes: Falls Creek, Mount Buller and Mount Hotham

If you still have visions of powdery ski runs and manoeuvring that tricky half-pipe from your recent winter holiday and are raring for more, look no further than the High Country. Majestic peaks and luxuriant scenery are its hallmarks, and the region loses none of its lustre in winter, merely exchanging its leafy mantle for a splendid coat of snow. Ski season opens around the first to second week of June and closes about the end of September to the beginning of October, depending on levels of snowfall and weather.

Falls Creek

Home to Australia's cross-country ski team, Falls Creek stands out for its expansive skiing grounds and varied winter sports facilities. Victoria's largest ski resort boasts 450 hectares of ski area which host over 90 trails, and whether you are a novice strapping on your first pair of skis or a seasoned winter sportsman, its perfectly groomed slopes will get your pulse racing in no time. Four terrain parks were created in 2007 for snowboarders wanting to bust their moves, and both kids and experienced freestylers will find a pipe suited to their skills.


Mount Buller

Figgles, telemarking and snowshoeing – this delightful hodge-podge of words is symbolic of the range of activities available on Mount Buller. Flawlessly smooth runs set the stage for the ultimate ski experience, and its sophisticated system of 25 ski lifts, the largest in Victoria, make for seamless transitions from slope to slope. It is little wonder then that the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia is nestled among the slopes of Mount Buller.

Mount Hotham

A trip to Hotham village is an inimitable experience, where you wend your way up the slopes of Mount Hotham before stopping a little more than 100 m from its peak, which rises to 1,861 m. The bracing, rarefied mountain air only serves to whet your appetite for the snowy slopes, and the high level of annual snowfall has earned it the epithet of 'powder capital' of Australia.

Even expert skiers will find a challenge on Hotham's double-black slopes, which are the toughest in Australia. Beginners, however, should not worry as slope difficulty is well-distributed, and over a quarter of the terrain has been marked out for starters.

As you head back to Melbourne for your flight home, you will undoubtedly be leaving with the knowledge that another trip is in order to catch what you missed of Victoria. 

Distances from Melbourne

Falls Creek	350 km
Mount Buller	248 km
Mount Hotham	375 km





Jewels in the sun

BY LINDA WONG WYE LING

stay



Port Dickson

3967 Bayu Beach Resort

7650 EC at The Legend Water Chalet

Located near the equator between Thailand and Singapore, Malaysia is home to beaches galore – long, sandy stretches fringed by crystal-clear waters, unspoilt landscapes and colourful underwater environments. It's hard to imagine a more peaceful setting.

There's the Straits of Malacca to the west, the South China Sea to the east and the Andaman Sea to the northeast, giving Malaysia some of the most beautiful islands and beaches in Asia. Across 4,800 km of coastline dotted with over 200 islands, an abundance of natural treasures lies waiting to be discovered.

Port Dickson

Located in Negeri Sembilan, Port Dickson – or PD, as it is known to locals – has long served as a weekend retreat for city dwellers seeking refuge from the urban hustle and bustle. Its proximity to the capital Kuala Lumpur makes it a favourite venue for recreation and events.



PD was originally called Arang ("charcoal" in Malay) for the charcoal that was made here. Although it later developed as a port, its main attraction today is an 18-km stretch of powdery soft beaches, lined by swaying palm trees, quaint colonial houses and numerous holiday resorts.

But PD is not only about beaches. **Cape Rachado** or Tanjung Tuan is renowned for its lighthouse, which was built by the Portuguese in the 16th century and is still operating today. On a clear day, you can see PD town and the outline of neighboring Sumatra in Indonesia from this vantage point.

Also in the vicinity is the **Tanjung Tuan Forest Reserve**, a protected park which spans about 80 hectares. You can hike along two jungle trails which lead to beautiful, unspoilt beaches. Nature lovers and bird watchers will love the rich flora and fauna in this park.

For a touch of history, visit **Fort Lukut** in the town of Lukut. The fort was built in 1826 by Raja Jumaat to protect the tin trade in the area. At the bottom of the hill below the fort is **Lukut Museum**, housing a wide range of artefacts and relics related to the tin mining industry that once made this a boom town.

Along the 9th mile of the PD coastal road lies an ostrich farm with not only a large collection of ostriches, but also fowl, peacocks, pheasants and crocodiles. The ostriches live in open paddocks and visitors can touch or feed them. The souvenir shop sells local handicrafts and ostrich-related souvenirs, such as ostrich oil, eggs, dusters and leather items.

PD is popular for fresh seafood prepared in traditional ways. Sample the ever-popular *ikan bakar* – fish grilled in banana leaves over hot coals – which can be found in hawker stalls around **Teluk Kemang**. Seafood can also be cooked in a variety of styles: in curry, baked or fried. *Kuih Muih*, or traditional Malay pastries and cakes, are also available everywhere.

A great time to visit PD is during Pesta Port Dickson, which is usually held in August. The festival includes several activities and cultural events relating to the life of the locals. Getting to PD is very convenient. There are plenty of buses, commuter trains and taxis plying between Kuala Lumpur and PD's plentiful resorts.



{relax}

Tioman

A picture-postcard island, Tioman is the largest of a group of 64 volcanic islands along the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia, off **Mersing**, Johor. It made its movie debut as the setting for the paradise island of Bali Hai in the 1958 film *South Pacific*, and even today, it's easy to see why. Stunning waterfalls cascade down tropical slopes and secluded beautiful beaches, flowing out to the clear blue waters and coral reefs. Tioman's unspoilt natural wonders are teeming with exotic wildlife and the waters are a diver's paradise, with coral and marine life visible up to a depth of 30 m.

Non-divers can appreciate the underwater landscape from a glass-bottomed boat. Look out for the Napoleon fish, golden striped trevally, bumphead parrotfish and shoals of fusiliers swimming playfully in the depths. If you're keen on adventure, take a boat ride to **Monkey Beach** or the uninhabited islands of **Tulai** and **Renggis** for a swim and a picnic.

For a peek into local culture, visit some of the villages scattered along the island's coastline. Located on the island's northwest is **Salang**, which boasts crystal-clear waters and colourful corals close to the coastline. **Tekek**, in the centre of Tioman, is the island's gateway by air and sea. **Juara** is a secluded east coast hide-away, boasting a wide beach that is a favourite for swimmers, sunbathers and campers. It also has a marvellous view of the sunrise. **Mukut** presents nature in its purest form: towering over the town are the twin peaks of **Dragon's Horn**, an unmistakable landmark and popular climbing location.

Whether it's a quiet, soothing escape or an adrenalin-filled expedition you're after, Tioman guarantees a rejuvenating and memorable holiday for you and your family. Berjaya Air offers direct flights daily from Kuala Lumpur and four times a week from Singapore. Alternatively, you can catch a ferry to the island from Tanjung Gemok and Mersing. Just avoid the monsoon season during late October to late February, as the seas can be rough and there may be disruptions to ferry services.

stay



Tioman

2864 Berjaya Tioman
Beach, Golf and
Spa Resort

4166 Berjaya Tioman
Suites



Langkawi

Off the northwestern coast of Malaysia lies Langkawi, the largest of 99 islands in its group. With legends attached to almost every cave, rock and lake, and folk tales passed down over generations, the island is also popularly known as Pulau Lagenda or “Legendary Island”.


Langkawi’s main attractions are its beautiful white beaches. The clear emerald waters are rich with marine life, and also host many water sports and recreational activities. While many beaches are popular, if you’re looking for fine white sand that won’t stick to your skin, try **Pantai Cenang**. At **Pantai Tengah**, you can rent boats to visit nearby islands or paddle around the shore in a canoe. Further away and more secluded is **Pantai Kok**, a beautiful sweeping bay with limestone hills and mysterious caves that can be explored with a guide.

In the north, Tanjung Rhu is named after its abundance of casuarina (rhu) trees instead of the usual palms and coconut trees. During low tide, you can walk across the sandbank to the nearby islands of **Pulau Pasir** and **Pulau Gasing**. Nestled amidst mist-covered hills, limestone crops and lush forests are fascinating waterfalls and caves waiting to be explored. For birdwatching, visit **Burau Bay** on the east coast, a roosting place for migratory birds.

Another interesting attraction is the cable car ride from **Oriental Village** at Pantai Kok to Mount Mat Cincang. As the cable car ascends, enjoy the immense beauty of the rainforest and **Telaga Tujuh Waterfalls** cascading from a grey rock face. For an even more spectacular panorama, walk across the suspension steel bridge at the summit. Not only is it an incredible experience, you’ll also get a different view of the island and sea looking towards the north.

Away from Langkawi’s beaches, other attractions include **Underwater World**, an innovative aquarium housing 5,000 types of aquatic life, mammal and reptile species. Another place of interest is the **Summer Palace**, a set from the filming of Anna and the King, where traditional Thai performances are held throughout the day.

For a real culinary experience, eat with the locals at their favourite hangouts like **Kuah** town and Pantai Cenang, and enjoy the diversity of culture and food. If it’s shopping you’re interested in, remember that all purchases are duty-free if you stay a minimum 48 hours on the island.

The best time to visit is during the dry seasons of November to March. There are direct flights to Langkawi via Air Asia or Malaysia Airlines. Alternatively, you can drive to Kuala Kedah or Kuala Perlis, and take the express ferries provided. 



stay



Langkawi

5461 Perdana Beach Resort

2860 Aseania Resort Langkawi

travel tips

LANGUAGE

Bahasa Malaysia is the official language but English is widely spoken and understood.

DRESSING

Malaysia is sunny all year round, so light clothing is ideal. However, it is advisable for ladies to wear long sleeves and long pants or skirts when entering mosques and other places of worship.

Don't forget to pack your suntan lotion for that perfect tan.

LOCAL CUISINE

As Malaysia is a multiracial country, food hawkers selling traditional and local delicacies of different races are a common sight. One can try *teh tarik*, a smoothened, creamed tea, and *roti canai*, a fluffy pancake prepared by a local person of Indian Muslim ancestry. Spicy Malay food, such as *nasi lemak*, and various kinds of Chinese noodles are also popular. Although water from the tap is safe for consumption, it is advisable to boil your water first. Bottled water is widely available and inexpensive.

Tipping is commonly included in bills at hotels and fast food chains.

VISA

Citizens from China, Taiwan, Vietnam and India are required to have a visa to visit Malaysia. Nationals from ASEAN countries are allowed to enter Malaysia for a month's visit without a visa. However, it is recommended that visa enquiries are made at the Malaysian embassy or Malaysian consulate closest to you, as regulations are subject to change.



{explore}

Been There ★ Done That

BY HOLIDAY GUIDES LAURA FERNANDO, GERALDINE TAN, CINDY TAN & AKIMA LI SHUO

Our Holiday Guides share their holiday experience in Langkawi

With eager and expectant hearts, a few of us from the Member Services team set off for idyllic Langkawi last October. We arrived on a bright and sunny day, just the perfect weather for the start of our three-day adventure around this tropical island. After clearing customs and immigrations, we arrived at the airport shuttle counter and booked a transfer to Perdana Beach Resort for a nominal fee.

Arriving at Perdana Beach Resort within 10 minutes, we were greeted warmly by the receptionist, who showed us to our spacious and cozy two-bedroom apartment. It came with a partial kitchen with cooking facilities, and the balcony offered a lovely view of the cool and inviting swimming pool.

With the receptionist's help, we hired an 8-seater car and had a great time exploring the island. Driving around was a breeze as there are only a few roads to navigate and traffic was minimal.

Shopping is fun and quite a bargain on this duty-free island. You can find significantly cheaper duty-free items in Kuah Town, about 20 minutes' drive from the resort. Shopping malls can also be found in Kuah Town such as Parade Megamall, Jetty Point and Langkawi Fairmall.

We visited Eagle Square, situated near the Kuah Jetty. Beautifully landscaped, it features a magnificent statue of an eagle, scenic ponds, bridges, terraces and restaurants.

Langkawi food is also fantastic! You can find eateries all over the island that will satisfy your palate. Besides fine dining options, check out any of the street bazaars for tasty local fare. The main bazaars can be found in downtown Kuah, while bazaars around Cenang and Black Sands Beach feature a variety of delicious Malay food at rock-bottom prices.

Another must is to catch a bird's-eye view of the island by hopping into the Langkawi Cable Car. A mere 15-minute drive from the airport or 30 minutes from Kuah Town, the cable car takes you on an exhilarating journey to the peak of the mountain. From the viewing platform, we had a panoramic view of Langkawi's magnificent islands, including the Andaman Sea and the lush green rainforest. The panorama was simply breathtaking!

If you love to relax and enjoy the sunshine, visit Tanjung Rhu beach or Datai Bay for their white sandy beaches. Cruises are also a great way for island-hoppers to explore the neighbouring islands. Visit the famous Pulau Payar Marine Park, which boasts a fascinating diversity of marine life and beautiful corals. It's an ideal spot for swimming, diving or snorkelling.

For those wanting to catch a sight of exotic wildlife, you should head to Underwater World, Langkawi Wildlife Park or the Crocodile Farm. Adventure seekers can sign up for the elephant and horseback tours, and for the truly brave, there's always the shark-feeding tours!

There's so much to see and experience in this enchanting paradise. Why not make it your next holiday destination?



DEPOSIT & WIN

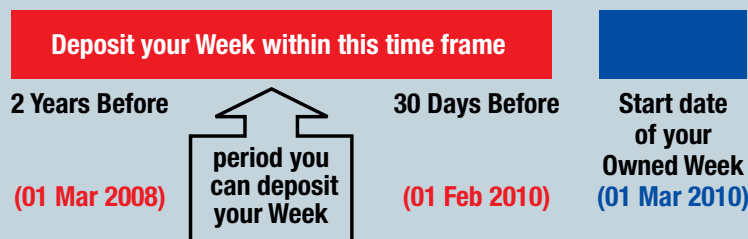
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**subject to availability at the time of request*

Deposit Timelines



When can you deposit your Week?

- As early as 2 years before the start date of the Week you own or
- As late as 1 month before the start date of the Week you own

How do you deposit your Week?

Call RCI Member Services on your country's toll-free number to deposit your Week.



NEW RENTALS

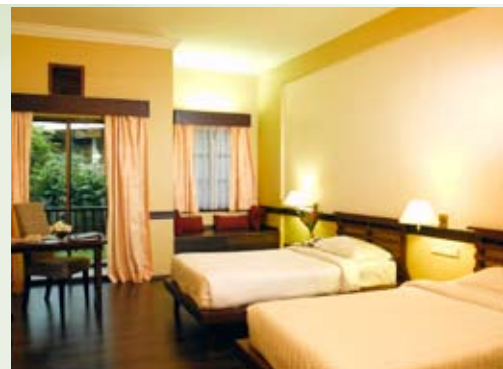
A'Famosa Resort

The name A'Famosa conjures images of a bygone era, when the bustling port city of Malacca was not only the commercial hub of Asia, but also an exotic melting pot of cultures, ideas and architecture. That romantic era may be over, but it can be re-lived at A'Famosa Resort, rated by many as the region's foremost leisure and holiday resort. Named after the famous 16th-century Portuguese fort, which once formed an imposing circle of stone around the entire city, the resort is situated on a 526-hectare site just outside Malacca, surrounded by rolling hills and lush countryside.

Touted as a one-stop destination for business and pleasure, A'Famosa Resort boasts an international championship 27-hole golf course, the highly-acclaimed Animal World Safari, Water World Theme Park, Equestrian Club and Microlight Flying Academy.

Besides hotel rooms and suites, guests can stay at luxury villas and bungalow accommodations, some with their own private pool. A'Famosa Resort is one of the few in this region that has something for everyone regardless of age, whether for the avid golfer, animal lover, watersports enthusiast or just someone looking for a blissful escape from busy city life.

The resort is strategically located off the North-South Highway –just half an hour's drive from the city of Malacca, 45 minutes from Kuala Lumpur International Airport and about an hour from Kuala Lumpur. The resort is also only two hours from Singapore. An alternative mode of travel is via rail, alighting at the Tampin Railway Station which is just a 10-minute taxi ride away.



RCI e-Comment Card

RCI

Chateau de RCI

First Name: [] Last Name: [] Email: [] Unit Type: []

City: [] Country: []

Check-in Date: [] Check-out Date: []

Unit # []

Unit Type []

Service

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4

Accommodations

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4

Overall Experience

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4

Additional comments: []

Submit

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Go Green

New Year Resolution

One innovation that was put in place was to move away from printed Comment Cards and send them via email instead. With this approach, RCI hopes to receive members' feedback in a more timely manner, so that prompt actions can be taken to respond to any immediate concerns.

What are Comment Cards for?

Comment cards are sent to every RCI member after an RCI holiday, so that they can provide feedback on their holiday experience. The feedback helps maintain the highest standards at RCI-affiliated resorts.

Key Components

An email will be sent to invite members to complete their post-vacation feedback via the e-Comment Card. Each member's comments are submitted to an online database, where RCI and resort affiliates can monitor and review the resort's performance.

Comment Card Scope

Scoring for the online comment card is based on a 5-point scale ranging from "Very Satisfied (5)" to "Very Dissatisfied (1)." Space for additional comments and an email link to Customer Service is provided, in the event the member needs any assistance.

RCI Rentals

Book your holiday at these great locations and enjoy special member rates. Now, this is what we call value-for-money!

SINGAPORE



Bayview Hotel, Singapore
[5383]
From S\$130

AUSTRALIA



Aanuka Beach Resort,
Coffs Harbour [6190]
From S\$109 (1 bedroom)



Erskine On The Beach, Lorne,
Melbourne [8414]
From S\$120 (1 bedroom)

CHINA



La Residence, Shanghai
[7620]
From S\$110 (2 bedrooms)

MALAYSIA



A'Famosa Resort, Malacca
[A396]
From S\$59*



Longbeach Resort, Gold Coast
[6127]
From S\$97 (1 bedroom)



Paradiso Resort Kingscliff,
New South Wales [6134]
From S\$129 (2 bedrooms)

UNITED KINGDOM



Ramada Hotel Docklands, London
[5295]
From S\$275 (1 bedroom)

FRANCE



Suite Hotel Paris Porte De Montreuil
[6206]
From S\$197

NEW ZEALAND



The Ridge Resort, Queenstown
[1824]
From S\$97 (3 bedrooms)

For more information on Resort Rental accommodation or to get the latest resort listing and their availability, please call our **Holiday Guides** at (65) 6223 4333 or your country's toll-free number.

- * Minimum 3 nights stay required
- Rates quoted are based on per room night, with minimum 7 nights stay required, unless otherwise stated
- Rates subject to change without prior notice



{updates}

Operational Resorts in Asia





CHINA		
7525	Beijing Shihao International Hotel	Beijing
7589	BLG - Beijing Longtou Apartment	Beijing
6785	Dawu Sea Feeling Hotel	Weihai
6034	Dianchi Garden Hotel & Spa	Kunming
A311	FVC @ Xiangxigu Holiday Village	Anhui
A312	FVC @ Xiaoshan International Hotel	Hangzhou
6629	Haixing Yunlong Bay Resort	Hainan Island
8586	HNA Resort Kangle Garden	Hainan
6406	Holiday Inn Tianan Wuhan	Wuhan
6838	Huizhou Tangquan Golf Club	Guangdong
8587	International Asia Pacific Convention Centre	Sanya
3954	Jiuhua Spa and Resort	Beijing
8585	New State Guest House	Hainan
7481	Noble Yacht Club, Hainan	Hainan
4326	Paradise Hill Hotel Zhuhai	Zhuhai
6408	Phoenix Resort	E Zhou, Hubei
4980	Surf Plaza Qingdao	Qingdao
6888	The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel	Dunhuang City

INDONESIA		
7590	Bali Emerald Villas	Sanur, Bali
5459	Bali Masari Resort	Sanur, Bali
6961	Bali Shangrila Beach Club	Candidasa, Bali
3505	Bali Tropic Resort & Spa	Nusa Dua, Bali
6363	Blue Point Bay Villas & Spa	Bali
5372	Club Bali @ Java Highlands Resort	West Java
3690	Club Bali @ Jayakarta Bali Residence	Legian, Bali
5368	Club Oasis @ Jimbaran Hills	Bali
6916	Gili Meno Bird Park Resort	Lombok
4170	Harris Resort	Batam
5458	Jimbaran Hills Resort	Bali
7724	Keraton Jimbaran Resort	Bali
3692	Mambruk Quality Resort	Serang, West Java
6302	Medewi Bay Resort	Bali









3851	Nirwana Bali Resort	Tanah Lot, Bali
3691	Risata Bali Resort & Spa	Kuta, Bali
3968	Royal Bali Beach Club @ Candidasa	Manggis, Bali
5254	Royal Bali Beach Club @ Jimbaran Bay	Bali
6920	RVC @ Hotel Rama Candidasa	Bali
6959	RVC @ Rama Garden Hotel	Bali
6918	RVC @ Ramayana Resort & Spa	Bali
6660	Seminyak Suites	Bali
5450	Swiss-Grand Bali	Nusa Dua, Bali

KOREA		
3893	Daemyung Resort Danyang	Chungchong buk-do
3889	Daemyung Resort Sorak	Gangwon-do
3892	Daemyung Resort Yangpyung	Gyeonggi-do
8714	Hanwha Resort Gyeongju	Gyeongsang buk-do
7901	Hanwha Resort Haeundae	Busan Metropolitan City
7902	Hanwha Resort Jeju	Jeju-City
8713	Hanwha Resort Phoenixpark	Gangwon-do
7903	Hanwha Resort Seorak	Gangwon-do
3049	Kensington Resort Seorak Beach	Gangwon-do
3697	Kensington Resort Chungju	Chungcheong buk-do
3048	Kensington Resort Gyeongju	Gyeongsang buk-do
3190	Kensington Resort Seorak Valley	Gangwon-do
4156	Ilsung Muju Condominium	Jeollabuk-do
4329	Ilsung Namhangang Condominium	Gyeonggi-do
4155	Ilsung Sorak Condominium	Gangwon-do
5550	Jeju Tovice Beach Condominium	Jeju-do
5551	Dogo Tovice Condominium	Chungcheong nam-do
3891	Vivaldi Park	Gangwon-do

MALAYSIA

2860	Aseania Resort Langkawi	Langkawi
4919	 Awana Genting Highlands Golf & Country Resort	Genting Highlands
4920	Awana Kijal Beach & Golf Resort	Terengganu
3967	Bayu Beach Resort	Port Dickson
2864	 Berjaya Tioman Beach Golf & Spa Resort	Pulau Tioman
4166	 Berjaya Tioman Suites	Pulau Tioman
3013	Country Heights WRC	Kuala Lumpur
4167	Duta Palms Resort & Anglers' Club	Rawang Selangor
4872	Duta Sands	Kuantan
3012	Duta Village Beach Resort	Kuantan
3010	Duta Vista Executive Suites	Kuala Lumpur
7650	EC @ The Legend Water Chalet	Port Dickson
1703	Genting View Resort	Genting Highlands
3196	Greenhill Resort	Cameron Highlands
5257	Heritage Hotel Cameron Highlands	Cameron Highlands
5259	Heritage Hotel Ipoh	Ipoh
2869	KL Plaza Suites	Kuala Lumpur
3957	Leisure Cove	Penang
5461	Perdana Beach Resort	Langkawi
7771	 Resort Suites at Sunway Lagoon Resort	Kuala Lumpur








PHILIPPINES

7773	 Astoria Plaza Suites	Pasig City
6781	Casa Del Mar Golf & Dive Resort	Cebu
3502	Laguna de Boracay Resort	Boracay Island
6741	 Leisure Vacation Suites	Baguio
5367	 Nipa Beach Resort	Ilocos Norte
1947	 Panoly Town & Beach Club	Boracay Island
6030	 Pearl of the Pacific Beach Resort	Boracay Island
7647	Puerto Del Sol Beach Resort & Hotel	Panagasinan
5369	 Sunrise Holiday Mansion	Tagaytay
7526	 SVC @ Subic Holiday Villas	Zambales
6278	 Tagaytay Dacha Villas	Tagaytay
5722	VCI Holidays @ Batangas	Batangas
5721	VCI Holidays @ Mactan - Cebu	Cebu
5720	VCI Holidays @ Tagaytay	Tagaytay




TAIWAN

4325	 Kentington Resort	Ping-Tong Hsien
2345	Victors Hualien Li-Yu Tan Resort	Hualien
4337	Wing On Golf Country Club	Tainan

THAILAND

5719	Chateau Dale Beach Resort	Pattaya
6305	Grand Tower Inn	Bangkok
6625	GVC @ Best Western The Elegance Suite	Bangkok
2861	Hotel Royal Crown	Phuket
2234	Jomtien Beach Paradise	South Pattaya
8715	 LHC Phuket Resort	Phuket
5962	MTC @ Pattaya Hill Resort	Pattaya
5456	MTC @ The Legacy River Kwai	Kanchanaburi
6373	MTC Plus @ Grand Tower Inn	Bangkok
4344	 Patong Resort Hotel	Phuket
4341	Patong Tower Condominium	Phuket
5556	Pattaya Hill Resort	Pattaya
3974	Quality Suites Airport Bangkok	Bangkok
5731	 QVC at the Samudra Retreat Samui	Koh Samui
5376	 Royal Bella Vista Country Club	Chiang Mai
4923	 Royal Lighthouse Villas @ Boat Lagoon	Phuket
1300	Sigma Resort Club	South Pattaya
5216	 Tai-Pan Hotel	Bangkok
4973	 The Allamanda Laguna Phuket	Phuket
5377	The Resonance Club @ State Tower	Bangkok

Note: Resort status is periodically reviewed and is subject to change. Resort status indicated here is current as of March 2008

 GOLD CROWN AWARD
 SILVER CROWN AWARD
 HOSPITALITY AWARD



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Alaska

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Relax in comfortable surroundings while you enjoy the local entertainment from humpback whales, orcas, porpoises and sea otters. Unwind in a stunning fjord, and then enjoy your gourmet dinner while listening to the symphony of calving glaciers.

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4-night Great Barrier Reef cruises round trip from Hamilton Island, Queensland, Australia.



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From **USD \$330*pp** Cruise Purchase

Asia is a kaleidoscope of life; a sophisticated fusion of East and West; a region of diversity where new and old meet at every turn. Experience the culture that makes Asia unique.

3-night Asia cruises from Singapore aboard Royal Caribbean.

*These are only an indication of a small selection of cruises available at time of print. All offers and upgrades are for selected dates, sailings, and cabin categories only, are subject to availability and are capacity controlled. Additional restrictions may apply. Your exact price depends upon selected day of departure, departure city, ship and cabin level. All prices and dates may not be available at time of booking. All information is subject to change without notice.

徽州

China Fantasy

Brilliant oriental culture

A beautiful place
with intriguing folks and tales,
come to remove the mystery veil...

FVC @ Xiangxigu Holiday Village (#A311)

FVC @ Xiaoshan International Hotel (#A312)



自由之旅度假俱乐部
Freedom Vacation Club

Shanghai Freedom Vacation Service Co., Ltd. is certified by RCI sale program and also is RCI most important strategic partner in China. Shanghai Freedom Vacation Service Co., Ltd is leading China leisure & vacation service industry, keeps 10% annual grows trends. We have been engaged in the activities of China timeshare's development, supervision and generalization in the past 12 years. Freedom Vacation Club offers mass quality customers and lucrative mutual financial benefits.

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