

# ENDLESS VACATION

ISSUE 1 - 2011

PLAY | EAT | SHOP | RELAX | EXPLORE

## Scandinavia

North of the Beaten Track

Asian &  
International  
Top Travel Picks

Check-in to  
New Partner Resorts

Exclusive Members'  
Section

# Editor's Message

T

he world is simply awesome. No matter where you are on this planet, you are never far away from a natural spectacle that inspires and amazes. This issue highlights a few of nature's wonders that we should all experience at least once in our lifetime.

There's no better place to start than **Scandinavia**. North of Europe, the region is blessed with breathtaking sights like the Northern Lights or *Aurora Borealis* and our front cover has never looked more bewitching. The best time to experience the Lights is during The Polar Nights, when the Sun, as if on cue, remains hidden and the skies transform into a perfect canvas for the Aurora's surreal colors. The region is also famous for its ancient fjords and natural hot springs.

If bright lights of the city are more your thing, we have a few suggestions that would break the monotony: be prepared to paint the town in **Alicante**, Spain; live it up in **Lake Tahoe** or **Boracay**; wine and dine in **Yantai** or **North South Wales, Australia**, just to name a few.

Naturally, we also have your favorites: helpful travel and shopping tips, the latest additions to our resort portfolio, your special **RCI Moments Contest** and, (drum roll, please) the very first winner of "**How Was Your Holiday?**".

Do check out our social media platforms which will help you discover more about the world's best vacations and how to enjoy them all at your fingertips.

Don't we wish our holidays can last forever? Well, with Endless Vacations, they can...



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# RCI Events

## 2010 Road Trips

We have traveled near and far to bring RCI Members the latest happenings and updates within the membership circle. We've brought more than the usual weekends to Manila, Kuala Lumpur, ChongQing and Bangkok by showcasing various talks and face-to-face sessions with the RCI Vacation Guides. It was truly a memorable experience, and we're sharing with you some snapshots as a way of looking back and saying "thank you" for being with us through our fruitful 2010.



Manila, Philippines



ChongQing, China



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Bangkok, Thailand





# Scandinavia

## North of The Beaten Track.

Scandinavia is a historical and geographical region of Northern Europe. Scandinavia is defined as the three kingdoms that historically shared the Peninsula. They are **Denmark, Norway** and **Sweden**. Today it also includes **Finland** and **Iceland**. Each country has distinct charms and irresistible highlights. Together they offer a smorgasbord of thrills, entertainment, and unique natural attractions. But first a brief introduction to help you get acquainted with the countries that make up this incredible region.

**Denmark** is the southern-most Scandinavian country. It is also the smallest. It consists of the Jutland peninsula and over 400 islands. Bridges link some of the islands to the mainland. Denmark's low lying terrain is dotted with low hills, windmills and traditional thatched cottages. **Copenhagen** is the capital of Denmark and home to the little mermaid. This "friendly old girl of a town" is a bustling metropolis with shopping, culture and nightlife par excellence, yet is still small enough to be intimate, safe and easy to navigate.

Also called "*The Land of Vikings*" and the "*Land of the Midnight Sun*" because here the sun doesn't set for months on end. **Norway** is also the northernmost country in Europe. It's famous for its deep fjords, trolls and wooden churches. **Oslo**, its capital is the largest city of Norway, and the third largest city in Scandinavia. In 2010 it was ranked as the most expensive city in the world. Still there are bargains to be enjoyed during the Oslo's seasonal sales in January and August.

**Sweden** boasts numerous lakes and is the largest of the Scandinavian countries - both in area and population. Stockholm, the capital is made up of 14 islands connected by some 50 bridges. The city is lively, and cosmopolitan with modern Scandinavian architecture featuring lots of brass and steel, complementing fairytale towers, a captivating **Old Town** (Gamla Stan) and lots of green space. Refreshingly, over two-thirds of the city is dedicated to waterways, parks and green spaces.

With a surprisingly mild climate, **Iceland** is Europe's westernmost country, and the second largest island

in the North-Atlantic ocean. It's an avid photographers paradise offering spectacular scenes of volcanoes, glaciers, geysers, and waterfalls. **Reykjavik** is the capital and largest city of Iceland. It is the center of Icelandic culture and the tourist capital of Iceland. **Reykjavik** still maintains its old world charm and visitors will have the opportunity to experience Icelandic life untouched by commercialism.

Finally there's **Finland**. Hundreds of thousands of islands and lakes beckon to be explored. Helsinki or Helsingfors is the capital. Founded in 1550, the "Daughter of the Baltic" has been the Finnish capital since 1812, when it was rebuilt by the tsars of Russia along the lines of St Petersburg. Today, **Helsinki** is a vibrant metropolis with a charming a small-town feel. The best time to visit is in summer, when Finns peel off their overcoats and flock to outdoor bars and cafes to enjoy the sunshine.





### Getting Around: It's Easier Than You Think

It may seem a little daunting, but Scandinavia is well connected by air, sea, rail, and road or a combination of them. But two of the most convenient ways are by air and ferry. All the main cities have international airports, and even some smaller cities cater to international flights. Almost all European airlines service Scandinavian airports.

A more scenic mode of transportation is the ferry. Major coastal cities are connected by ferry lines, and the larger long-distance ferries are cruise ships, which feature decks full of shops, restaurants, spas, and saunas. Longer routes are usually conveniently scheduled to sail at night, so you arrive fresh at your destination, not to mention you'll also save on accommodations. (If you travel by ferry to Norway or pass through Åland, take advantage of Tax Free sales on board, since Norway is not part of the EU. For the same reason the Stockholm-Helsinki ferry, is a great place for a drink or two as you escape the heavy taxation on alcohol.)

### Never Run Out Of Things To Do

The region is famous for its spas, hot springs, fjords, skiing, hiking and music festivals. It also offers visitors over 300 historically and culturally fascinating castles, chateaus and manor houses from various periods,

especially in **Denmark** and southern Sweden. **Kronborg Castle**, the setting for Shakespeare's Hamlet, and the ancient renaissance-style **Egeskov Castle**, located close to Hans Christian Andersen's birth place, are just a start.

But definitely one of the most memorable, and awe-inspiring sights is definitely not man-made. **The Northern Lights** or *Aurora Borealis* is a natural phenomenon that paints the night sky with unearthly, surreal colors. The **Lapland** (the northern part of Finland, Norway and Sweden) offer ringside seats to the Lights which usually reach their peak in September and March, but are equally mesmerising in October and April. True to its name, the Lights can best be seen around midnight.

The **Midnight Sun** is another natural phenomenon that occurs in **Norway, Sweden** and **Iceland**. Unbelievable as it sounds the sun is visible even at midnight. A full 24 hours of sun a day makes it easier to plan outdoor activities at leisure. The best times to bask in endless sunlight is from May 14 - July 30. Take advantage of this phenomenon by indulging in the region's more popular activities. 24 hours of sunlight may take some getting used to and your concierge will be happy to help you acclimatise.

Conversely, **Polar Nights** are an equally unique experience for travelers. This phenomenon can last 2-3 months.

In northern Norway's Hammerfest (northern-most city of the world) the sun remains hidden for most of the time. During Polar Nights, the landscape is covered in snow, and this beautifully reflects the light of the stars above. Polar Nights are the perfect time to watch the Northern Lights dance across the sky.

In **Scandinavia**, whale watching is another popular activity, and many travelers choose to go whale watching in Norway or Iceland. Adventurous travelers can even sign up for special whale watching safaris which allow a once in a lifetime opportunity to swim with the whales! The best months are between April and October. Whale safaris out of Iceland are very popular as one quarter of the world's whales have been recorded in its nutrient-rich waters.

Closer to land you may want to venture out to Lapland which straddles the northern parts of **Norway, Sweden** and **Finland**. The indigenous Sami call the area home. In fact, they have inhabited the northern arctic and sub-arctic regions of Scandinavia and Russia for at least 5000 years. They eke out a livelihood through fishing and the rearing of reindeer. They are nomadic and keeping track of their whereabouts can be an adventure in itself.



### Music To Your Ears

If music is your passion, then Scandinavia, and in particular Denmark, will satisfy all your desires. Scandinavia is known for its many music festivals during the summer months. After months of chilly temperatures, Summer is welcomed with unabated entertainment. Some of the most popular music extravaganzas are:

**Roskilde Festival** in Denmark, early July - One of the world's most famous rock festivals, it draws a crowd of 70,000.

**Ruisrock** in Finland, also in July - Finland's largest music festival, held on an island near Turku.

**Hultsfred** in Sweden, July - Sweden's main rock festival, takes place in southern Sweden.

**Quart** happens in Norway, June/July - Norway's main rock festival, takes place in Kristiansand in southern Norway.

**Iceland Airwaves** rocks in October - A progressive, trendsetting, music festival that attracts around 2000 visitors every year, besides the many locals showing up.

### Scandinavian Buffet Like No Other

The cuisine of the region are quite similar, although each country does have its signature dishes. Seafood features prominently on restaurant menus, although beef, pork and chicken are more common in many everyday dishes. Potatoes are the main staple, most often simply boiled. Fresh herbs are used to accentuate the ingredients. Famous pan-Scandinavian dishes include pickled Herring, meatballs, smoked Salmon and Smörgåsbord, a popular lunch option with bread, herring, smoked fish, cold cuts and more. Bread is served with all meals and comes in dozens of varieties, with dark, heavy rye bread being a specialty.



And, of course, there's the delicious Scandinavian pastries, more popularly known around the world as Danish.

Scandinavia may seem like a distant world to most travelers, but it's closer than you think. It's merely a short hop from most major European cities. But the rewards are immense and the memories of your holiday here are well worth traveling off the beaten path for.

## Do's:

- Offer to buy a drink if you've made a new friend in a bar. But keep in mind, Finns can hold their drinks well.
- Use a fork and a knife when eating. No food is finger food in Finland if the silverware is available.
- Always wear your seatbelt in Norway, as they strictly enforce car safety.
- The dress code for Norwegian working places and schools are laidback. Collar shirt and jeans are acceptable.

## Don'ts:

- If are invited to someone's home, take off your shoes before entering the apartment.
- Stay until kahvi and pulla (coffee and bun) have been served.
- Visit without calling first. The door may not open without a prior notice, especially on weekends.
- In Norway, the personal space is very big. Avoid greeting people with other than a firm handshake.

## stay

### FINLAND

A123 Holiday Club Ellivuori  
3550 Holiday Club Airisto  
2940 Honka Hollida  
Hannunkivi

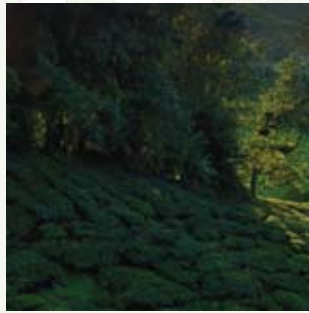
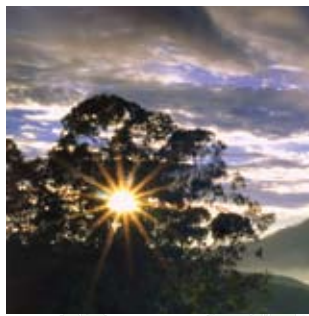
### DENMARK

2056 Feriecentret Rågeleje Klit

### SWEDEN

1943 Fjällvattnet  
1946 Fjällbyn



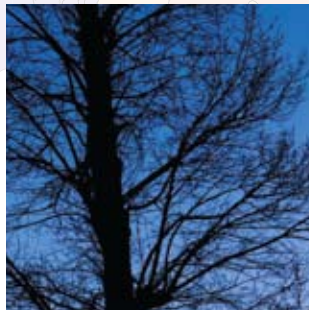
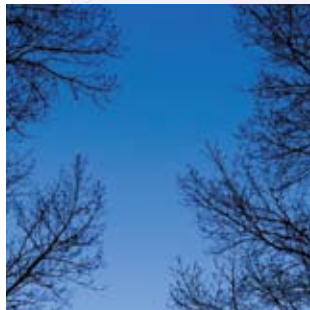
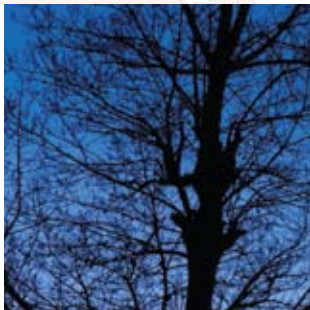


From picturesque coastlines to rolling landscapes fed by the monsoon rains and bustling cities sizzling with energy, the diversity of Asia's landscapes is a treat for any traveler. Explore Malaysia's **Cameron Highlands**, uncover the secrets of **Yantai** or simply laze on the pristine white beaches of **Boracay**.

Then there's the food. Tuck into fiery Asian favorites, or get adventurous with local dishes from a road side stall. It's a hodgepodge of colors, smells, flavors and personalities. Asia is deliciously rewarding to all.

# Asia

BORACAY • LU GU HU • YANTAI • CAMERON HIGHLANDS







# Boracay

## Never A Dull Moment

Boracay is an island of the Philippines located approximately 315 km (200 miles) south of Manila. In 1990, it was voted by the BMW Tropical Beach Handbook as one of the best beaches in the world and in 1996 by British publication TV Quick as the world's number one tropical beach. Decades ago, **Boracay Island** was a possessively guarded secret so only a few knew of its existence. Tourism only began to develop in the 1970s. One story claims that a foreign movie crew accidentally "discovered" this island paradise. Others maintain that it was the German traveler, Jens Peters whose book turned a quiet secret to one of the best beach destinations in the world.

### Life's A Beach

**Boracay Island** has more than a dozen unique beaches and many coves. Most of these beaches have the same powdery white sand for which the island is famous for around the world. Boracay's two PREMIER tourist beaches are **White Beach** and **Bulabog Beach**.

**White Beach** is a famous stretch of white sand where it all happens. The major attractions here are sunbathing under swaying palm trees or on the sparkling white sand. Wading and snorkeling are popular here, as the waters are shallow. For the more adventurous, skim boarding, banana boat rides, and sailing are excellent options.

**Bulabog Beach** comes alive during the early months of each year when windsurfers, and kite surfers skim across its waters. Amateurs and professionals take advantage of the strong winds as they race from one end to the other. The strong winds last until June or July, when the southwest monsoon begins. A paradise for those who love playing on the azure waters, **Bulabog Beach** offers a quiet alternative to **White Beach**.

### Dive In, The Water's Great

There are over 20 dive sites within a 30 minute boat ride of the island. And they cater to both beginner and experienced divers. From easy beach dives to deep drop-offs, from wreck dives to fast drift-dives and even night dives. Regardless of your experience, you'll have excellent opportunities to encounter sharks as well as manta rays and turtles. You can enjoy close-up views of soft and hard coral, sponges, nudibranches, sea stars and other denizens of the sea. For the more passionate, dive safaris, from one day to one week, are also available for exploring more distant sites aboard comfortable, fully equipped dive boats.

These are just some highlights of **Boracay**. The island like its sea is teeming with life. The question you have to ask yourself is what kind of island holiday you desire.

## Do's:

- If you are diving, ensure that you're properly qualified.
- Always dive with a buddy.
- Sun protection is a must.
- Take time to relax, and enjoy doing nothing.
- Explore the many beautiful beaches.

## Don'ts:

- Never do a dive beyond your capability.
- Beware of rip tides, even in calm waters.
- Monsoon winds can be very strong, play it safe.
- Stay out of the water when under the influence of alcohol.
- Refrain from sea food that isn't properly cooked.

## HOW TO GET THERE

The quickest way to travel to Boracay Island, is via Manila's domestic terminal. The two flight options you have, are to fly directly to either the cities of Kalibo or Caticlan on Panay Island.

The flight time to either city is 1 hour.

The airlines that travel to either Kalibo or Caticlan are **Philippine Airlines**, **Asian Spirit**, **Cebu Pacific** or **Air Philippines**.

## stay

- 3502 Laguna De Boracay Resort
- 6030 Pearl of The Pacific Beach Resort
- A548 Boracay Regency Beach Resort





{relax}



# Lu Gu Hu

## Surprise Yourself



**Lugu Lake** is called the “mother lake” by the Mosuo people, an ethnic tribe that have lived in the region for centuries. In Mosuo culture women play a dominant role in the family hence the region is also referred to as the “*The Kingdom of Women*”.

The lake is thought to have been created by a geological fault millions of years ago. It is an alpine lake which simply means it sits above sea level. In fact at an elevation of 2,685 metres it is the highest lake in the **Yunnan Province**. The lake is rimmed by mountain ranges and is so large it boasts five islands four peninsulas, 14 bays and 17 beaches. Needless to say, it's home to some of China's most spectacular scenery.

### **Emerald Seas**

Instead of coral reefs, the freshwater lake is perfectly suited for sea grass giving certain areas of the lake an emerald sheen. Sea grass attracts a wide variety of marine life which in turn are irresistible to birds that prey on them. During the autumn and winter months thousands of birds visit the sea grass. A great way to experience this avian spectacle is to venture out onto the sea grass in paddle boats. An old wooden bridge spans part of the lake and makes a

picturesque picture with its winged visitors flying above it.

The Mosuos, Yi, Han and Tibetans who inhabit the area live a harmonious life. And it's not unheard of to hear melodious voices singing about the beauty, romance and love for the area.

### **Gemu Goddess Mountain**

At 3,754 meters above sea level, **Gemu Goddess Mountain** is the highest point along the lake. To reach it and the spectacular views it offers, travel from **Dazu Naxi Village**, your path will take you through a Cypress forest. Once you've reached the peak you'll also discover both the Goddess Temple and the Goddess Cave. The Mosuos consider this mountain sacred. You'll feel blessed too when you realise that this vantage point reveals Lugu Lake as a crescent moon. During the Mosuo festival to honour the Goddess, hundreds of people form a long colourful dragon as they circle the mountain while singing praises to her.

### **Mosuo Villages**

The Mosuos are a primarily agrarian society, and their daily life focuses on raising crops and caring for livestock.

They are largely self-sufficient, able to raise everything they need for day-to-day life. Because of their matriarchal culture, Mosuo's homes are distinct from the other tribes that inhabit the lake. Mosuo homes are basically four rectangular structures, built in a square, with an open central courtyard. Animals and humans live together. The first floor is dedicated to the livestock, such as water buffalo, horses, geese, and poultry. And also cooking and dining. The second floor is for storage, and house the private rooms of Mosuo women. The rest of the family sleep in communal quarters. A visit to a Mosuo village is an excellent way to understand this unique culture. Two famous villages are **Luoshi** and **Lige**. The naturally beautiful scenery, and the slow-paced idyllic life is the perfect antidote to modern civilisation.

You'll find the village folk are forthcoming and hospitable, and are more than happy to share a meal of hot-pot or a cup of Tibetan butter tea with you.

## Do's:

- Take a cruise on the lake.
- Take in the spectacular sunrise.
- Ensure you have enough cash as their are no ATMs handy.
- Sun protection is important.
- When on the lake wear a life-jacket.

## Don'ts:

- Refrain from discussing their marriage customs.
- Ladies must not sit on the brick bed.
- The temperature can change drastically so don't wander out without extra warm clothing.
- When sailing on the lake, women should not sit at the bow.

# stay

A533 HIVE @ Lugu Hu Holiday Hotel



Yantai lies in northeastern Shandong province. Yantai, which means “Smoke Terrace”, was a small fishing village during the Ming Dynasty. Wolf-dung fires were lit on today’s Yantai Hill to warn the fishing fleets of approaching pirates during the Ming Dynasty. However, the arrival of the British and many other western nations in the late 19th century, turned what was once a backwater into a busy port. Taking advantage of its geographical location on China’s coast, near the entrance to the **Bay of Bohai**, Yantai has developed into a very important harbor in China, and one of the three most prosperous and fastest developing cities in **Shandong Province**. Surprisingly, it’s only recently that the city has become popular with travelers.



Although Yantai is located in North China, monsoons regulate the climate, keeping it warm and humid. The average annual temperature is 25°C. Exquisite fruits and vegetables are plentiful in Yantai. The long coastline and over 60 islands richly reward seafood lovers with a bounty of sea-cucumbers, abalones, scallops, crabs and prawns. The picturesque city was named by the United Nations as one of the most inhabitable places in the world.

#### Taste of China

Yantai is the birthplace of **Lu Cuisine** (i.e., one of the eight famous regional cooking schools of China, the other seven are the Cantonese, the Chuan, the Hui, the Mei, the Su, the Xiang and the Zhe schools of cuisine). Traditional Lu dishes figure prominently in the restaurants throughout Yantai, though Lu Cuisine is far from being the only type of cuisine available. In recent years, seafood dishes have outstripped Lu Cuisine in popularity. In addition, wheaten food such as noodles and dumplings are common.

#### Yantai Highlights

**Kunyu Mountain** offers awe inspiring scenery. The mountain is covered by lush, ancient trees, among which flow numerous clear streams. Countless mysterious and deep gorges largely remain untouched by human beings. The original ecosystem is well-preserved, making the charming and inviting natural beauty worthy of your appreciation. The mountain lays claim to over 1000 species of plants and animals.

**Mount Kunyu** is also famous for its religious and cultural heritage. It was revered by both Taoist monks and Chinese emperors, who came in search of the elixir of life, the belief in the existence of which was widespread at the time. **Kunyu Mountain** is the perfect tourist destination all year round. In Spring, green valleys are filled with wild flowers. In Summer, its cool temperatures make it the an ideal escape from the heat. In Autumn, orange maple trees and dark green pine needles create a riot of colours. While in winter, the land is a blanket of white.

**Moushi Manor** is as old as the city itself. It is the residence of generations of Mou Molin Family, the wealthiest and most powerful landlord of the Qing Dynasty. It is also the best-preserved and is typical of the homes of landlords of the Qing Dynasty. The manor contains six courtyards, covering an area of 20,000 square meters, with over 480 rooms. The buildings are colorful and adorned with flowers and animals.

River tiles of different colors give the walls the look and pattern of a tiger. Not surprisingly, these walls are called “*tiger walls*”. Legend has it that coins were inserted in between the tiles to fill the space between them and the smoothness of the whole wall. The most resplendent wall in the complex is made of 386 hexagon-shaped tiles. Each of the 386 tiles bears a hexagonal flower made of pebbles. Together the 386 tiles form a large mural comprising hundreds of flowers.

Yantai, may be on the road less traveled but it won’t disappoint the traveler. If anything, it will surprise and reward you with many delightful memories.

## Do’s:

- Bring a convertor because the voltage for China is 220V.
- Remember to ask for bottled or mineral water. Tap water is not potable in China.
- Visit historical sites and immerse yourself in the Chinese culture.

## Don’ts:

- It’s best to exchange your money only in a bank.
- Tipping is not commonly practiced here. However, for those taking trips with guides and drivers, tipping is expected.

## HOW TO GET THERE

You can fly to Yantai from Beijing. A number of airlines are available including Shandong Airlines, Air China, and China Eastern Airlines. Not all airlines have daily flights.

## stay

A525 Ramada Plaza Hotel Yantai



# Waiting to be Explored Yantai







{ eat }

The **Cameron Highlands** is one of Malaysia's most extensive hill stations covering an area of 712 square kilometers. At an altitude of 1,200 metres. Not surprisingly, the temperature seldom rises above 25°C during the day. At night, however, it can reach a chilly 12°C.

In 1931, the British and the locals moved in to settle on the slopes of the mountain. They were soon followed by tea planters and vegetable farmers who found the fertile soil, good drainage and cool climate to be especially suitable for the growing of their crops. Today, the area is as well known for its tea estates, boasts a golf course, several old English cottages, three inns, two boarding schools, a dairy, nurseries, vegetable farms, a Government Rest House and an Experimental Agricultural Station.

The hill station not only has an extensive network of roads, it is also the highest point on the Malaysian Peninsular which is accessible by car.

reservations as there's very little to do after the sun goes down. You can satisfy your craving for English, Chinese, Indian, Malaysian, Thai and Japanese. You'll find most restaurants are located in **Tanah Rata** and **Brinchang** districts, however, most locals dine in the districts of **Tringkap** and **Kampung Raja**. Discover sumptuous Chinese steamboat meals (a 'do-it-yourself' meal, cooked in steaming hot broth), spicy Indian banana leaf meals (a spicy, hearty fare of rice and curries), and typical Malay delicacies.

Some notable 'must-try' are the Big Strawberry Farm Cafe for everything strawberry- strawberry fried ice cream, strawberry waffles, strawberry sundaes, strawberry shakes, fresh strawberries. For freshly brewed local tea and scones, make a beeline for **Lakehouse** or **Ye Old Smoke House**. And **Cameron Organic Produce** is one of the most popular restaurants in **Cameron Highlands** serving the best organic steamboat.



## HOW TO GET THERE

Bus coaches from **Kuala Lumpur** go to and fro **Cameron Highlands** on a regular basis. These are the 2 main operators: Kurnia Bistari Coaches and Unititi Express Service



# Cameron Highlands High On Food

## A Taste Of Cameron

Blessed with a multicultural past, the cuisine of **Cameron Highlands** is as eclectic as its residents. In fact, there is no shortage of places to eat. At night (especially during weekends & holidays) restaurants require

So it goes without saying, that if you're planning a trip to Malaysia's **Cameron Highlands**, there's one thing you must never forget to bring along: an insatiable appetite.



## Do's:

- Try the locally famous cuisine.
- Ask the locals for restaurant recommendations.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Do remove your shoes when entering a local home.
- Explore the outdoor attractions.

## Don'ts:

- Never wander off the beaten track. It's easy to lose your way in the surrounding jungles.
- Remember you're in a multicultural, multi-religious region.
- Never point with your right forefinger. The thumb is preferred.
- Refrain from eating with your left hand.
- Driving when you're tired is a bad idea.

## stay

3196 Greenhill Resort  
5257 Heritage Hotel  
Cameron Highlands



# BUYER BEWARE

It's easy to forget ourselves when shopping overseas, especially on holiday. You're in a great mood. You desperately want a memento. You want to share the holiday with family back home by buying them gifts. And, oh my goodness, everything is so cheap.

But it pays to keep in mind the following to ensure your shopping is as enjoyable as your holiday.

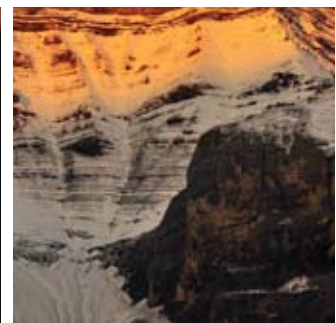
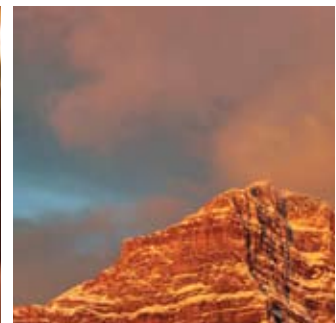
- 1** Shop around and compare costs and services.
- 2** Don't be pressured into buying immediately.
- 3** It's alright to bargain even if the item has a fixed price.
- 4** Check items very carefully. You can't return them once you get home.
- 5** Know what you are paying for.
- 6** Ask for warranties that are recognized in your country.
- 7** Check to see if you can claim on any Value Added Tax (VAT).
- 8** If you are entitled to a VAT refund, you must normally apply for the refund before you leave the country where you bought the items.
- 9** Be aware that in some countries, items such as artwork and antiques may require an export license. This may incur additional fees. Ask before you buy.
- 10** Ask specifically about return and exchange policies.
- 11** Before you travel, familiarize yourself with your country's customs policies regarding prohibited and restricted items.
- 12** Beware of prices that are "too good to be true" and merchandise that may be counterfeit.
- 13** Insurance can protect you in case your purchase is lost or damaged in shipping.
- 14** Check handicrafts made from raw materials carefully - don't buy items showing signs of insect infestation or damage.
- 15** If you plan on sending your shopping home by freight or mail, declare the contents accurately - penalties will apply for false declaration.

# International

TAHOE • CANMORE • NEW SOUTH WALES • ALICANTE

*"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." – Mark Twain*

Travel not only broadens the mind, it introduces us all to varied cultures, sights, and sounds. When you travel, talk to other tourists and locals. Almost everyone will recommend favorite places to stay or eat, or an attraction that is a must-see. Eat where the locals do. You'll learn a lot about the area you're visiting. Look out for special tourist passes or find out which attractions are free. In many cities, some museums are free to visit. Laughter and friendships, landscapes and brushes with interesting and varied cultures - these are what make travel enriching and worthwhile.







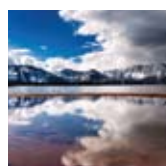
**Lake Tahoe** is the largest alpine lake in North America, in the Sierra Nevada range. The lake was formed about 2 million years ago and is a part of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Lake Tahoe that we know of today was shaped during the ice ages. But that's not why you want to be here.

**Lake Tahoe** is a vacation you'll never forget; crystal blue waters, perfect sandy beaches surrounded by a spectacular mountain range and alpine forest. It's been the playground of millions, and counting you millions and ONE.

It's quite impossible to fill you in on all Tahoe has to offer, so here are some suggestions. But really they're just a drop in the lake.

#### Tahoe-Let Me Count The Ways

Even if you haven't been on a bike since your childhood, you can find a mountain bike ride that is right for you. Tahoe is so bike friendly that cyclists can practically go anywhere without using a drop of gas. There are paved trails from **Stateline** all the way to **Camp Richardson** and from **Tahoma** to **Tahoe City**. The opportunities exist to choose to go all out on balls-to-the-walls terrain or to just take a romantic, scenic lakeside cruise.



# Tahoe

## Waterworld And More...

But if swinging a club is your thing, golfing in Tahoe is an experience any player can enjoy. For golfers visiting from lower altitudes, playing in the Tahoe area means a noticeable increase in distance on their drives and long-wedge shots. A potential par saving 10 percent increase. Just remember the higher you hit it the farther the golf ball travels.

Luckily you don't have to travel far if you love the water. Every imaginable water sport is found right here. Spending a day on Lake Tahoe is a great way to have some water-based family fun. It is not, however, the only way. For those who are ready to move beyond the lake, river rafting is a great alternative for summer recreation. Experience a mellow, relaxed trip that is perfect for families without any previous experience. While adrenaline junkies can hit the more difficult class 3 rapids.

Away from the lake, you can discover swimming holes. Like **Spooner Lake**, which is just one of many. The lake is small and shallow, which makes for warm water

early in the season.

Go camping! Yes, ditch your well-appointed hotel room, and comfortable bed, to live it out in lush meadows, under heavenly stars. It's hardly *Man versus Wild*, the popular TV series. In fact, with the help of a qualified guide you'll find yourself wondering if you shouldn't just spend your entire vacation this way.

If you happen to be at Tahoe during the month of May, you'll definitely want to experience the West Shore's Memorial Weekend, if not only for its **Foothills Farmer's Market**. From 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., the market features produce and food from regional farmers. Organic eggs are just one reason people stop by. Later in the summer it's watermelons, cherries and strawberries.

Do yourself a favor and discover Lake Tahoe for yourself. Because North America's largest Alpine lake is filled to the brim with ways to make your holiday memories last longer than the ice age.



## Do's:

- Research Lake Tahoe to get the most out of your stay.
- Pack appropriate clothing.
- Insect repellent is a must in Summer.
- Take time to smell the alpine air.
- Talk to the locals to discover Tahoe gems.
- Let your hotel know where you're going and time of return.

## Don'ts:

- Never do an activity beyond your ability.
- If hiking, never stray from the marked trails.
- Rush any activity.
- Eat any wild fruits unless advised by a guide.

## HOW TO GET THERE

Most visitors fly into Reno/Tahoe International Airport, about an hour's drive to Tahoe on Interstate 80. Major airports are also located in the San Francisco Bay Area, about 4 hours away, and Sacramento, about 2 hours away.

## stay

0924 Tahoe Beach & Ski Club  
4066 Lake Tahoe Vacation Resort  
0485 Americana Village



{ play }



**Canmore** is located on the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies, 1 hour west of Calgary (1.5 hours west of the Calgary airport). **Banff National Park** lies just to the west and north of Canmore, with the town of Banff only fifteen minutes away. There is no better place to base as you plan your exploration and discovery of the Canadian Rockies. **Canmore** is the base camp of choice for the discerning traveler who recognizes the value of an authentic mountain community oriented to sharing a passionate sense of place with its guests. **Canmore and Kananaskis Country** together create the perfect combination of a four season mountain village coupled with incredible wild land areas well suited for a variety of recreational pursuits.

#### Summer Loving

**Canmore** rewards visitors during the spring, summer and fall seasons with an incredible variety of walks, hikes and bike trails. There is a phenomenal variety of mountain bike trails to be enjoyed here. The **Spray Lakes** area offers quick access to alpine terrain with the average trip taking between two and three hours. A number of longer half and full day hikes are also available.

If you prefer to get your feet wet, you can enjoy placid river paddling on the waters of the Bow River. Guides will ensure you get the best out of your experience. A more interpretive experience can be had on the Bow River, which passes right through Canmore. Float trips take visitors on a calm voyage down the Bow. This trip is a great chance to enjoy incredible scenery and maybe sight some wildlife. Kids as young

as age three can take part, which makes this trip ideal for the young family.

Want to capture some wildlife? You can. **Canmore Kananaskis** is trout country. The waters of the **Upper Bow River** are home to naturally reproducing wild brown trout, while the many lakes of the region offer opportunities to pursue rainbow, cutthroat, brook trout, lake trout and there are even golden trout in a few locations.

The very history of the **Canadian Rockies** has much to do with climbing, and the mountain culture thrives today more than ever in Canmore. In summer, at least eight crags await discovery within half an hour's drive. These offer a wide range of climbing options, from bouldering to day-long multi-pitch climbs. There is more than enough here to challenge any level of climber.

#### Closer to Earth

**Canmore's** dining scene includes well over 30 eating establishments from ethnic cuisine to local Alberta beef, fine dining, family restaurants and cozy cafes. Restaurant decks (patios) abound throughout Canmore and also at the Kananaskis Village. Once you have experienced dining on a deck on a warm day here, you'll definitely place it on your list of unforgettable Canmore Kananaskis experiences.

Strolling around Canmore in summer is a pretty relaxed affair. As you meander along the streets, you'll very quickly discover that the Canmore shopping orients to tasteful collectibles, a number of outstanding art galleries, an internationally acclaimed quilt store, a chocolatier, a gem factory and much



more. The experience is distinctly casual, and perhaps a little addictive. Unlike most cities, you will not feel rushed or pushed.

And that in a nutshell is the essence on Canmore. Friendly, accommodating locals. A relaxed atmosphere. Unintimidating surrounds. Now isn't that what a holiday is suppose to be?

## Do's:

- Make the Canmore Visitor Information Centre your first stop.
- Acquire the best information possible regarding the trail of your choice.
- Regardless of trip duration, carry an effective noise maker (air horn or other device), as well as bear spray.
- Advise someone of your selected destination and projected return time.
- Obey trail closures.

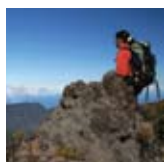
## Don'ts:

- Never approach or feed the wildlife.
- Keep small children close while in densely forested areas.
- Avoid using forest, and wildland trails on a solo basis.
- Do not approach elk or their calves.
- Avoid any area where you find or smell a dead animal.

#### HOW TO GET THERE

The total driving distance from Vancouver to Canmore is 542 miles. You can also fly, take a bus or travel by rail. The closest International Airport is in **Calgary**. Banff does have an airstrip, but there is no commercial service. An expensive charter flight will be required to land right in the park. **Vancouver International Airport** is an approximate 12 hour drive to the west. Springbank Airport (west of Calgary, towards Banff) is nearly 80 km from Banff. It operates short charter flights.

# It Simply Rocks Canmore



## stay

2119 Banff Gate Mountain Resort





You can't discover **New South Wales** without first knowing Sydney. It's the most populous city and it's also the state capital of New South Wales. Sydney offers the perfect base to explore its award-winning vineyards.

New South Wales' wine region is centered in the **Hunter Valley** - stretching from **Wollemi National Park** in the South to **Barrington Tops National Park** up North.

Here, you're assured that your wine tasting adventure is paired perfectly with gourmet food. Award-winning, top-rated restaurants are liberally sprinkled across New South Wales. You can stock up on delicious gourmet goodies at the farm gate, artisan bakeries, family-owned wineries and the regular farmers' markets that are now a tourist feature of most major New South Wales towns. Impress your friends with rare vintage wines, organic hand-made cheeses and fresh seafood from some of the cleanest waters in the world or a box of succulent organic figs, juicy peaches or crisp apples.

#### Let The Tasting Begin

You can choose to do one day forays into New South Wales vineyards. However, you can opt to stay for a short break or long weekend to enjoy a regional cooking class or wine tasting course at vineyards that offer accommodations.

There are a variety of tours that you can opt for. There are the usual coach tours. And there are tours for more intimate groups. These are conducted in a luxury limousine and each tour is customized and private. You can allow them to hand pick the best Hunter Valley wineries, restaurants, cafes, and local producers, or you can suggest your own. For a truly unique way of viewing the wineries, you can also take to the air. Helicopter tours are available, and they offer you a view that's as inebriating as the wines. They even offer heli-lunch tours.

There's always the incredibly amazing option of living in wine country. Some are major resorts, others intimate guesthouses. Some are modern but built in Australian colonial style and many are converted from old mansions and cottages. Some are actually on the vineyards and some a short drive away. Either way, prepare yourself for a level of indulgence that's almost sinful. Many properties are rated four, four and a half and five-star.

If you've never been on a wine holiday before, New South Wales' vineyards are the perfect choice for your first taste. The scenery is as amazing as the wines, and food you'll encounter. The atmosphere is relaxed and there's none of that wine snobbery you'd expect.

Best of all, you can bottle all your great New South Wales memories, and savor them whenever you're in the mood.



## Do's:

- Relax, you're in wine country.
- If you are intending to stay on a vineyard, book early.
- Experiment pairing wine and food.
- Bring back your favorite bottles.
- Look out for boutique wineries.

## Don'ts:

- Be aware of your country's Custom's regulations regarding alcohol.
- If you drive, don't drink.
- Do not speed, not all roads are paved, or lit at night.
- Never litter.

## HOW TO GET THERE

A self-drive holiday is definitely one of the best ways to explore Sydney and its surrounding regions. The beauty of it all is that the regions are all within a short drive from the city so you can enjoy the best of city and nature experiences. The scenic route will be Sydney to Blue Mountains and then Hunter Valley. Total travel time is approximately 6 hours.

## stay

- 1174 The Moorings
- 1816 Port Pacific Resort
- 1803 Boambee Bay Resort

# New South Wales Wine Country





{ eat }



# Alicante

## Celebrate Living

**Alicante** is located on Spain's eastern coast, about halfway down the **Costa Blanca** to the south of **Valencia** and **Benidorm**. **Alicante** is one of Spain's oldest cities, tracing its history back to the Romans more than 2,000 years ago. It's famous for its excellent weather. It offers countless sightseeing attractions-cathedrals and churches, stunning beaches, amazing Mediterranean weather, and a very vibrant nightlife - if you can handle the late hours.

In fact, just 45 minutes drive north of Alicante is another haven for night birds. **Benidorm** is very popular due to its many bars, restaurants and fun attractions for kids and adults, such as **Terra Mitica**, **Terra Natura**, **Mundomar** and **Aqualandia**.

The Spanish truly love to live. And this passion is the main ingredient found in their cuisines.

### Savour Alicante

**Alicante**, like most of Spain, is famous for its cuisine. Almost every restaurant in Alicante offers some variation of paella, the country's most celebrated dish. The traditional one-pan recipe pairs short-grained rice with ingredients like rabbit, chicken, seafood and snails. The all-seafood version, often taken by outsiders to be the most authentic paella, is actually a later development.

Alicante cuisine, always brings two things to mind: freshness and quality. The local cuisine adds its own original flavour to its paella dishes by giving big importance to the rice and fish combination. A must-try is paella a la alicantina, a lovely

combination of rice and chicken or pork, tender artichokes, and seasoned with a touch of red or green pepper and the arroz a banda (rice in fish broth).

One thing visit you should bear in mind is that late hours observed in Spanish kitchens are taken to an extreme here: Except at a few tourist establishments, it's bad form to turn up for lunch before 2 p.m., or for dinner before 9:30.

Here's a great way to bring home the special flavors of Alicante, make your own paella.

## Do's:

- Tips are expected when visiting a bar or restaurant. Hotel porters, theatre ushers and taxi drivers should be given tips as well.
- Always carry small change because you will require it while using public bathrooms.
- Be prepared to have late lunches and dinners. It is advisable to take a nap ("siesta") to adjust oneself to the Spanish schedule.

## Don'ts:

- Don't wear shorts when going to the church. It should only be worn on the beach or the resort.
- The Spaniards talk very rapidly. So don't be taken aback about the way they speak. They don't even pronounce the z's and the internal c's of any word.



## HOW TO GET THERE

The distance between Barcelona and Alicante is about 650 km (approx. 400 miles). It is a 6 to 7 hour drive. You can take the Autopista motorway, where you need to pay a toll on some parts. It is less crowded, than the Carretera Nacional road which is free, but often very crowded. Plan on a few breaks and you will definitely enjoy the drive (especially around the Costa Blanca where the Autopista offers some wonderful views along the coast line. The train from Alicante to Barcelona takes about five hours and depart from Barcelona Sants station. Buses from Barcelona to Alicante take about 7 and a half hours. There are also scheduled flights to Alicante.

## stay

2827 Albir Garden  
3053 Parque Denia Club





## PAELLA ALICANTE

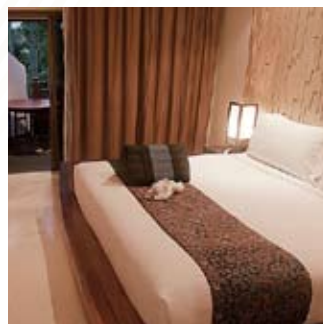
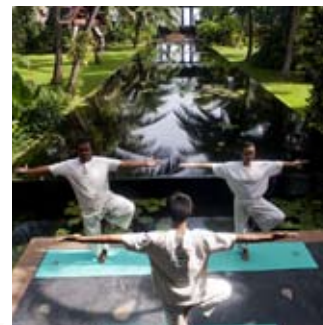
### INGREDIENTS:

- 7 tbsp of good olive oil
- 3 medium green peppers, seeded and chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- 3 tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 8 young and tender artichokes, chopped
- 1 lb short grain rice
- 1 qt water
- 1 lb pork, diced
- Saffron
- Sweet (Spanish) paprika
- Salt

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat the oil in a large skillet and fry the peppers lightly and quickly to avoid burning them.
2. Set them aside. In the same oil, fry the garlic, tomatoes and artichokes over low heat.
3. Add the rice and stir, then add the saffron and paprika.
4. Add the water and salt to taste.
5. When it begins to boil, add the pork and let the mixture cook vigorously.
6. Puree the fried peppers with a little water and add to the rice.
7. Continue cooking, without stirring, until the rice is half done, then reduce the heat and cook slowly until finished.

The rice should be cooked, dry and have the grains separate (rather than stuck together).



# ANANTARA



## Anantara Vacation Club

Born in Thailand and spreading throughout Asia and beyond, Anantara is taken from the Sanskrit word meaning, “without end”, which embodies heartfelt generosity. This genuine philosophy has developed Anantara into a brand that is renowned for delivering experiences steeped in indigenous luxury and refined Asian hospitality.

Each Anantara Vacation Club resort destinations are inspired by the culture and history of their location, with infinite opportunities to experience new adventures or simply unwind in the luxury of your beautiful surroundings.

### Anantara Vacation Club Bophut, Koh Samui, Thailand

Anantara Bophut sits along Bophut Bay, near charming Fisherman's Village. Guests are treated to a relaxed elegance with privacy in this little tropical enclave. With it being just a few minutes away from the airport, the convenient location just further add up to the Thai hospitality blended with the Anantara style that makes this an ultimate private hideaway.

There are 20 exclusive Suites and Pool Villas, all reflecting contemporary Thai design and embellished by Anantara's signature style. Well equipped with luxurious amenities such as a 40" LDC TV, International satellite TV, DVD Player, and even high-speed WiFi.

### Anantara Vacation Club Phuket, Thailand

Discover the vibrancy of southern Thailand with Anantara

as your guide. An invitation to explore an undiscovered side to Phuket coaxes you to venture into a world away from the everyday and see this famous island through fresh eyes.

A mere 15 minutes travel from Phuket International Airport, it's located between the sun-kissed, unspoiled beach of Mai Khao - Phuket's longest beach - and the green forests of Sirinath National Park - an impressive natural playground of sea caves, mangrove forests, coral reefs and dazzling islands.

Anantara is nestled within gardens of coconut palms, jasmine, orchids and birds of paradise, enhanced by an extensive signature lagoon meandering through which takes inspiration from a traditional southern Thai village. Indulge in modern comforts of staying in the Garden Pool Villas and embrace the feeling of freedom as fresh sea-breeze flow through the open lounging spaces.

### Anantara Spa

Awarded as people's choice “World's Best Hotel Spa-Asia” in 2009 by Travel & Leisure, Anantara Spa offers a spacious sanctuary of 3,000 square meters, featuring six glass-walled treatment suites, each with its own tropical water garden. From these havens of natural harmony come local rituals and ancient remedies. Calm and cool skin with our Sun Soother therapy, relinquish to a dedicated Golfer Massage or find balance in a Thai Herbal Steam with colour therapy.



# NEW RESORTS



## The Seminyak Village Resort & Spa (A547) | BALI, INDONESIA

**The Seminyak Villa** reflects a distinctive Balinese style in its design, blending the perfect use of copper, indigenous timber and hand-woven fabrics. The thatched roof and interior design express Balinese style and home comfort so you can experience the delights of tropical Balinese living. Choose from any of the 76 rooms in the 52 villas that offer the finest luxury villa accommodation in Seminyak. The nearest beach is only a 5 minute drive away and within walking distance are the finest boutique shops and dining places in the centre of Seminyak. And is a mere 25 minute drive from Ngurah Rai International Airport.



## Chateau De Bali Dreamland (A550) | BALI, INDONESIA

Nestled in the southernmost peninsula of Bali, make your dreams come true with Dreamland Villas & Spa. Stay in any of the 42 luxury villas, each with its own swimming pool, private courtyard and open-air pavilion. The harmonious blend of Balinese traditional architecture, swathed in international elegance and style with the promise of uncompromised luxury, privacy and convenience.

## Chateau De Bali Ungasan (A551) | BALI, INDONESIA

This newly-opened 5 star luxury villas offers the ultimate in holiday luxury combined with the indulgence of exceptional personal service within an exclusive world. Perched high up on the hill of Ungasan, overlooking the Indian Ocean, **Chateau de Bali Ungasan Luxury Villas & Medical Spa** embraces both the mystique and uniqueness of Bali.



### **Boracay Regency Beach Resort (A548) | BORACAY, PHILIPPINES**

Enjoy the breathtaking view of the sea from one of its 285 world-class rooms and luxuriate in world-class service that promises an unparalleled experience. Boracay Regency boasts of striking Mediterranean-inspired architecture, landscaped gardens and expansive beach front, all amidst the crystal clear waters and powder-white sand of the world-famous Boracay island.



### **One Tagaytay Place (C384) | TAGAYTAY CITY, PHILIPPINES**

One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites has elegant guestrooms, swathed in serene shades of brown, which lend the same calming effect as Tagaytay's cool climate. The experience is further enriched by amenities such as a wellness spa, fitness center, swimming pool, and restaurant. Just 90 minutes from Manila, the hotel is an ideal venue for social and corporate gatherings with its fully equipped grand ballroom and function rooms.



www.iconicvacationclub.com

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# RCI Fees

## RCI EXCHANGE FEES (Effective January 1, 2011)

RCI EXCHANGE FEES	Contact Centre	Online (www.rci.com)
Asia	S\$188	S\$168
International	S\$388	S\$338
Weekend Exchange – 4D/3N*	S\$119	N/A
Midweek Exchange – 5D/4N*	S\$119	N/A

\*Only applicable for Selected Asia Resorts.

## RCI CANCELLATION POLICY (Effective January 1, 2011)

If a Confirmed Exchange is Cancelled the Full Exchange Fee will be forfeited

## MEMBERSHIP FEES\*

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
S\$150	S\$360	S\$500

\*Subject to GST charges for Singapore members.

## SPACEBANK EXTENSION

3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
S\$30	S\$60	S\$120

## OTHER TRANSACTIONAL FEES

Guest Certificate	Reinstatement Fee	Combine Fees
S\$70	S\$360	S\$135



# RCI<sup>®</sup> moments

## 1st PRIZE

1 week International Holiday  
for 4\*

## 2nd PRIZE

1 Asia Midweek Getaway  
for 4\*

## 3rd PRIZE

Exclusive RCI Goodie Bag

\*RCI-Affiliated Accommodation only.



“Imagine the days  
when Palace beauties  
were invited to lavish events!”

**SIM CHIEW SUAN, SINGAPORE**

Stayed at XIV (EKSIV)  
Karuizawa Resort



“Not a basketball. Not a volleyball.  
Not a beach ball. Maybe it's a hug-a-ball...yeah, I mean  
this ball is huggable!”

**LEILANI C. UY, PHILIPPINES**

Stayed at Nipa Beach Resort, Ilocos Norte, Philippines



“We headed to the Cultural Village to appreciate  
African songs, dances, rituals and even learn a  
few words in the local dialects.”

**LETICIATAN CHUA**

Stayed at Sun City Vacation Club, South Africa



"This is feeding time for the wild lorikeet birds at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Just hold a plate in your hand that's filled with honey; and lorikeet birds are all around you."

**LAU AH LENG, MALAYSIA**  
Stayed at Santorini Holiday Apartments, Gold Coast, Australia



"Feeling like a star at Movie World Gold Coast."

**SYAMSYILA BINTI MD GHAZALI, MALAYSIA**  
Stayed at Tamarind Sands, Australia



"Hey, Ma. Are we not at Venice. How come the people don't understand me? They say Ni Hao. Oh, I forgot we are at the Venetian at Macau. Hen Hao. Sheh sheh."

**ANTONIO A. RUFINO, PHILIPPINES**  
Stayed at City Garden Hotel, Hong Kong



"The Church of Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo witnessed the sweet and joyous moment of our honeymoon."

**LIEW MUN HONG, MALAYSIA**  
Stayed at Oaks Shores, Queenstown, New Zealand

The personal information collected on this form will only be used to conduct this competition and is consistent with the RCI® Privacy Policy.

- Each member can send a maximum of 5 entries.
- Each entry must be accompanied by a caption or write-up not more than 50 words with mention of the location where the photograph was taken.
- All entries must indicate the RCI Membership Number.
- Please do not staple or pin the prints.
- RCI® reserves the right to publish these photographs in any of its publications.

## ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Country: \_\_\_\_\_

RCI Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Picture: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture Caption: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Accommodation During Stay: \_\_\_\_\_

*All prints and slides should have been taken while on an RCI holiday, and will be considered the property of RCI Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 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, 37 Jalan Pemimpin, #05-01 Blk A Clarus Centre Singapore 577177 before **31 July 2011**.

**Digital Images:** Include the information above with your high resolution pictures (300 dpi preferred) and email to [ev-editor@rci.com](mailto:ev-editor@rci.com) before **31 July 2011**.





# POINT & SHOOT GREAT SHOTS

Any kind of camera, in the hands of someone who knows what they're doing, can take a great photograph. This applies to film SLRs, digital SLRs, and point-and-shoot cameras alike. So don't feel disadvantaged if you don't have the latest and greatest. Here are some tips on taking better point-and-shoot photographs.

## Play with your camera.

Technology in today's Point & Shoot cameras have improved tremendously. Compact cameras today have nearly as much flexibility, and functionality as many Digital SLRs. Don't just stick with automated features, learn to manipulate the manual settings like ISO, shutter speed, and aperture. Read the manual, play, experiment, and practice. You'll get the most out of your camera.

## Play with the flash.

Your Point & Shoot model has the ability to turn the flash on and off. Learn to use ambient light, and fill light to avoid that overexposed "snapshot" look. Using the flash in daylight/outdoor/brightly lit situations can help to balance the range of contrast in the image.

## Framing the perfect shot.

Sometimes the image in the viewfinder may come out different in the actual photograph. Use the composition guides that are superimposed over the image on the viewfinder to align your photographs.

## Play with perspective.

Today's Point & Shoot models are compact, and lightweight. This opens up a whole range of opportunity for uniquely angled shots. That you don't have to fuss with lens changes or lug a bunch of equipment around enables you to walk further, climb higher, and shoot faster.

## Talk to your friends.

Ask your friends for opinions on their Point & Shoot cameras, or borrow their models to find the one that is right for you. Do your research and read the reviews to ensure the model you purchase is the right one for you.



# How was your Holiday?

**Our winner, Lalipat Pokprasert from Thailand shares with us their honeymoon story made extra special by RCI. She gets to win for herself a digicam to capture more moments with RCI.**

It was the most memorable trip of our life. We were married on 17 April 2010 in Thailand. We've traveled to many places together- Hong Kong, China, Japan, New Zealand, but nothing compares to our Honeymoon! We called RCI, and they suggested us to stay at a ski resort called "Les Crete", which is more than 1000 feet high from land. It's quite isolated but absolutely ROMANTIC!!

We stayed at Les Crete from 1 May-8 May 2010. Staying there was the right decision. Although it's not ski season, it's still such a heavenly place. The weather was great; the atmosphere was wonderful and also, the people were very friendly. The good thing of long staying at one place is that we don't have to waste our time to keep on packing our stuff. And we felt right at home in the ski resort.

All the facilities in the resort were so perfect. They've got everything we need. The room was very big, clean and cozy, especially the kitchen; it's huge! Back in Thailand we hardly cook, but here, we were inspired to cook. We went to the supermarket at the bottom of the mountain, bought a lot of fresh food enough for a week and used the kitchen alright. We went out for sightseeing everyday. However, we came back specifically to cook dinner everyday. My lovely husband was a great cook, guide and navigator. I think this trip with RCI is really unforgettable and the most impressive trip ever. We love you, RCI.

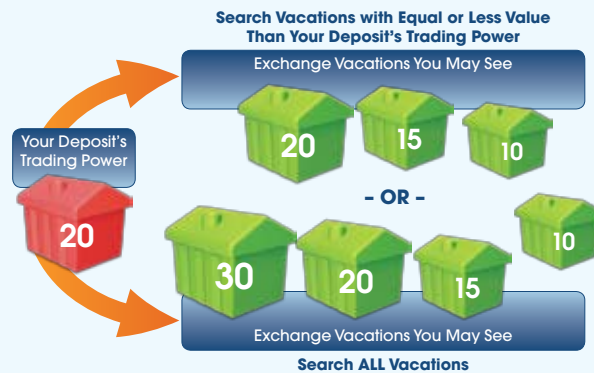


## Understanding the Enhancements to your Membership



The new enhancements will give you more control over your vacation planning experience. In addition to the opportunity to exchange your vacation time for another vacation week, you will also have the flexibility to:

- ➔ **Know the Deposit Trading Power of your Week:** RCI members often wonder how RCI determines what Exchange vacations their Deposit will be able to trade into. Now, you'll be able to see the trading power value of your deposited week. You'll see how your Deposit Trading Power changes based on when you deposit, and after depositing, you'll be able to see how your Deposit Trading Power compares to the trading power of all available exchange vacations.
- ➔ **See ALL Available Inventory:** When searching for an Exchange you will be able to choose to see only the inventory that is equal to or less than the trading power value of your deposited week, or of all available weeks in the system. By choosing to see all available inventory you'll even be able to see vacations that require more Exchange Trading Power than that of your available Deposits.

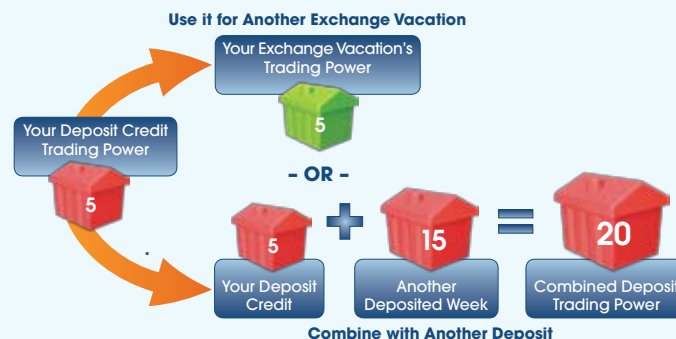


- ➔ **Get More Vacation Options with Deposit Credits:** Upon exchanging your vacation time, you'll receive a Deposit Credit for any remaining Deposit trading Power. That means if you trade down for an Exchange vacation with lower Exchange Trading Power than your Deposit has, you'll receive a Deposit Credit, for the difference between the Deposit Trading Power and Exchange Trading Power, posted to your account to use by the travel thru date of the original Deposit.



You can use this credit in two ways:

1. **Exchange it for another vacation:** You can use your Deposit Credit to book a second vacation or equal or lesser value than the other credit.\*\* So essentially, you can get two vacations using one week!
2. **Combine it with another Deposit:** You can combine your Deposit Credit with another week that you have deposited to increase the trading power of that Deposit. With higher Deposit Trading power, you can trade up into an Exchange vacation requiring more trading power than that of your original Deposit, giving you more Exchange options than you had before!





## Is My Deposit Trading Power Changing?

The trading power of your deposit isn't changing! It has always been there and is used to determine the exchange options available to you, and it still will. The added flexibility is in that now you will SEE your Deposit Trading Power, as well as the Exchange Trading Power of available vacations.

## FAQ's

### ➔ What happens if I choose to deposit or exchange now?

Not to worry, you won't miss out on anything if you deposit or exchange now. In fact, if you deposit early, 2 years to 9 months in advance of the start date of your week, you will be sure to get 100% of your available Deposit Trading Power to use when you Exchange, and if you're ready ready to book a vacation, you'll save more than \$20 off the call center exchange fee when you book online. If you have a week in the system, after the enhancements are made available, you'll be able to see its Deposit Trading Power.

### ➔ What will this change do to the exchange vacations I'm able to see?

You will still have at least the same number of vacation options as you do today. IN fact, depending on how you choose to search and use your weeks you may have access to more options than ever before!

### ➔ Should I wait?

No. As always, our available Exchange vacations change rapidly! Many members are depositing early to guarantee they receive 100% of their available Deposit trading Power to use when they Exchange. By waiting to Exchange, you'll risk missing out on the Exchange that's perfect for you.

### ➔ Why change now?

For over 35 years, members like you have enjoyed exchange vacations all over the world, and for over 35 years we've worked to provide you with the value and flexibility you've asked for. We're constantly working to enhance your RCI membership providing new technology, new vacation options and added flexibility.



# RCI.com



RCI.COM GIVES YOU 24-HOUR ACCESS TO ALL THINGS RCI®. AFTER YOU'VE LOGGED IN, YOU CAN:

- Find and book available exchange vacation opportunities
- Search and book Extra Vacations<sup>SM</sup> Getaways, Last Call<sup>SM</sup> Vacations and RCI Cruise Vacations
- Manage your account and view account details
- Deposit your week(s)

Access to RCI.com and all it has to offer is easy. If you're not already registered, simply log onto RCI.com and click the Register Now button. You'll then be prompted through the sign-up process.

## How to Register

1. To register at **RCI.com**, log on, **click Register Now** and **select Weeks Member**.
2. Enter your **Member ID number\***, **Name** and **Contact Information** including your **Email Address** and then submit.
3. You'll receive an email with your new PIN number and instructions on how to complete your registration.

\*Find your RCI® Subscribing Membership ID number on an RCI Affiliated Resort Confirmation sheet or on your copy of Endless Vacation® magazine above your name on the address label.



## Once you're on RCI.com

You'll discover exciting improvements, more information and enhanced content!

Resort listings feature more photographs, more detailed information about the resort and helpful local travel information, including Google Maps. You'll also find resort ratings by **RCI** members like yourself to help better plan your vacation. And you're invited to share your opinion about resorts you visit.

You can manage your account, search for your next great vacation, get travel resources, find the answers to frequently asked questions and review your Subscribing Member benefits.



**And there's more!** Your online experience will never be the same again. While browsing through **rci.com**, feel free to explore the latest social media efforts of RCI that will keep you glued to that screen, or phone, a little bit longer.



Some things are more fun and easily understood when seen as videos, especially if it showcases the many RCI-affiliated resorts. RCI has its own YouTube presence through the **RCI\_Timeshare Channel**, where over 90 of these high-definition videos are uploaded. Sit back and enjoy watching the destination reviews while you dream of your next exotic getaway.



You're probably used to seeing the very corporate RCI site that features all that you need to know about the company and the resorts. This is the lighter, casual side of RCI. Updated twice a week, great vacation stories are shared by other fellow members in this online diary. You can read and participate by giving your comments and tips! **blog.rci.com**



Being part of our Facebook family entitles you can get the latest scoop about anything RCI. Join the conversation, exchange tips and discuss fun facts and trivias...basically, anything under the vacation/timeshare sun.



Be "tweeted" to juicy information about popular destinations --in 160 characters or less. Get instant updates and relevant travel news from reliable sources retweeted to help feed the voracious travel soul in you. Join today and follow **@RCI\_Timeshare**.

## iPhone App for RCI!

Download the free iPhone® application and you're all set to **SNAP, SYNC and SHARE!**

The **RCI SnapBook** allows you to take photos, videos, voice memos and texts on your iPhone® while you're on vacation. You can sync these contents to **RCI Snapbook.com** and keep it online. It can be published as a scrapbook, timeline or map display, all good to go for sharing with family and friends!













{updates}

# Resorts in Asia













Legend for RRP

-  GOLD CROWN AWARD
-  SILVER CROWN AWARD
-  HOSPITALITY AWARD


## CHINA

3954	Jiuhua Spa And Resort	Beijing
4326	Paradise Hill Hotel Zhuhai	Zhuhai, Guangdong Province
6034	Dianchi Garden Hotel & Spa	Kunming, Yunnan Province
6408	Phoenix Resort	E Zhou, Hubei Province
6785	Weihai Dawu Sea Feeling Hotel	Weihai, Shandong Province
6838	Huizhou Tangquan Golf Club	Huizhou, Guangdong Province
6888	 The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel	Dunhuang, Gansu Province
7525	Beijing Shihao International Hotel	Beijing
A525	Ramada Plaza Hotel Yantai	Yantai, Shandong Province
A535	Ramada Hotel Wuxi	Wuxi, Jiangsu Province
A530	BBMG Badaling Hot Spring Resort	Beijing
A533	 HVC @ Luguhu Holiday Hotel	Sichuan Province
7790	FEC @ Bao Yue Lou	Nanjing, Jiangsu Province
A517	Lijiang Sina Hotel	Lijiang, Yunan Province
4980	 Surf Plaza, Qingdao	Qingdao, Shandong Province
7481	Noble Yacht Club, Hainan	Haikou, Hainan Island
7589	BLG - Beijing Longtou Apartment	Beijing
A311	FVC @ Xiangxigu Holiday Village	Huangshan, Anhui Province
A312	FVC @ Xiaoshan Int'l Hotel	Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province
A536	FVC @ Lijiang Harmony Inn	Lijiang, Yunan Province
8585	 HNA @ Beach & Spa Resort Haikou	Haikou, Hainan Island
8586	 HNA @ Kangle Garden Hainan	Xinglong, Hainan Island
8587	HNA @ International Asia-Pacific Convention Centre Sanya	Sanya, Hainan Island
A524	BSC @ Olympus Club	Beijing

## INDONESIA

3505	Bali Tropic Resort & Spa	Nusa Dua, Bali
3691	 Risata Bali Resort & Spa	Kuta, Bali
3692	Mambruk Quality Resort	Serang, West Java
3851	Nirwana Bali	Tanah Lot, Bali
4170	 Harris Resort	Batam
5450	 The Grand Bali - Nusa Dua	Nusa Dua, Bali
5459	 Bali Masari Villas & Spa	Sanur, Bali
6302	Medewi Bay Resort	Bali
A515	 Sekuta Condo Suites	Bali
6916	Gili Meno Bird Park Resort	Lombok
6961	 Bali Shangrila Beach Club	Candidasa, Bali
7724	Keraton Jimbaran Resort	Bali
A547	 The Seminyak Village Resort & Spa	Bali
A538	 Bali Island Villas & Spa	Bali
A526	Goodway Hotel	Batam
3690	Club Bali @ Jayakarta Bali Residence	Legian, Bali
5372	Club Bali @ Java Highlands Resort	West Java
A516	Club Bali @ Kota Bunga Resort & Spa	West Java
A539	Hawaii, A Club Bali Resort	West Java
7590	 Bali Emerald Villas	Bali
6660	Seminyak Suites	Bali
6918	RVC @ Ramayana Resort & Spa	Bali
6920	 RVC @ Hotel Rama Candidasa	Bali
6959	RVC @ Rama Garden Hotel	Bali
3968	 Royal Bali Beach Club @ Candidasa	Manggis, Bali
5254	 Royal Bali Beach Club @ Jimbaran Bay	Bali
A550	Chateau De Bali Dreamland	Bali
A551	Chateau De Bali Ungasan	Bali

## MALAYSIA

1703	Genting View Resort	Genting Highlands, Pahang
3013	Country Heights WRC	Kuala Lumpur
3967	Bayu Beach Resort	Port Dickson
A540	 Golden Palm Tree Sea Villas & Spa	Selangor
2864	Berjaya Tioman Beach Golf & Spa Resort	Pulau Tioman
2869	KL Plaza Suites	Kuala Lumpur
4166	Berjaya Tioman Suites	Pulau Tioman
2860	Aseania Resort Langkawi	Langkawi, Kedah





3010	Duta Vista Executive Suites	Kuala Lumpur
A521	Palace Of The Golden Horses	Selangor
A522	Country Villas Kajang	Selangor
3196	Green Hill Resort	Cameron Highlands
3957	Leisure Cove	Penang
5461	Perdana Beach Resort	Langkawi
4919	Awana Genting HL Golf & Country Resort	Genting Highlands
5257	Heritage Hotel Cameron Highlands	Cameron Highlands
5259	Heritage Hotel Ipoh	Ipoh
7771	Resort Suites @ Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel	Kuala Lumpur

## PHILIPPINES

3502	Laguna De Boracay Resort	Boracay Island
A366	Club Balai Isabel, Inc	Batangas
A510	The Azalea Baguio Residences	Baguio City
6030	Pearl Of The Pacific Beach Resort	Boracay Island
6278	Tagatay Dacha Villas	Tagaytay
6781	Casa Del Mar Golf & Dive Resort	Cebu
7647	Puerto Del Sol Beach Resort & Hotel	Pangasinan
A548	Boracay Regency Beach Resort	Boracay Island
C384	One Tagaytay Place	Tagaytay City
5369	Sunrise Holiday Mansion	Tagaytay
7526	SVC @ Subic Holiday Mansion	Zambales
5720	VCI Holidays @ Tagaytay	Tagaytay
5721	VCI Holidays @ Mactan - Cebu	Cebu
5722	VCI Holidays @ Batangas	Batangas
6741	Leisure Vacation Suites	Metro Baguio
7773	Astoria Plaza Suites	Pasig City
A006	The A. Venue Hotel Suites	Manila

## SOUTH KOREA

3889	Daemyung Resort Sorak	Kangwon-Do
3891	Vivaldi Park	Kangwon-Do
3892	Daemyung Resort Yangpyeong	Kyungki-Do
3893	Daemyung Resort Danyang	Chungchongbuk-Do
3049	Kensington Resort Seorak Beach	Kangwon-Do
3048	Kensington Resort Gyeongju	Kyongsangbukdo
3697	Kensington Resort Chungju	Chungbuk
4171	Kensington Resort Jirisan	Kyongsamnam-Do
4155	Ilseung Sorak Condominium	Kangwon-Do
5551	Dogo Tovice Condominium	Togo
7901	Hanwha Resort Haeundae	Busan Metropolitan City
7902	Hanwha Resort Jeju	Jeju-City
7903	Hanwha Resort Seorak	Kangwon-Do
8713	Hanwha Resort Phoenixpark	Kangwon-Do
8714	Hanwha Resort Gyeongju	Gyeongsangbuk-Do

## TAIWAN

4325	Kentington Resort	Ping-Tong Hsien
4337	Wing On Golf Country Club	Tainan

## THAILAND

1300	Sigma Resort Club	South Pattaya
2234	Jomtien Beach Paradise	South Pattaya
2861	Hotel Royal Crown	Phuket
5216	Tai-Pan Hotel	Bangkok
5719	Chateau Dale Beach Resort	Pattaya
4341	Patong Tower Condominium	Phuket
4344	Patong Resort Hotel	Phuket
8715	LHC Phuket Resort	Phuket
4973	LHC @ Allamanda Laguna Phuket	Phuket
A520	LHC @ Boathouse Hua Hin	Cha-Am, Phetchaburi
4923	Royal Lighthouse Villas @ Boat Lagoon	Phuket
5376	Royal Bella Vista Country Club	Chiangmai
5377	The Resonance Club @ State Tower	Bangkok
5456	MTC @ The Legacy River Kwai	Kanchanaburi
5962	MTC @ Pattaya Hill Resort	Pattaya
6373	MTC Plus @ Grand Tower Inn	Bangkok
5731	Q Signature Samui	Koh Samui
6432	QVC @ Andaman Beach Suites	Cha-Am
6305	Grand Tower Inn	Bangkok
5556	Pattaya Hill Resort	Pattaya
6440	Club Thara @ Patong Beach Resort	Phuket
C382	Anantara Vacation Club @ Phuket Villas	Phuket
C383	Anantara Vacation Club @ Bophut, Koh Samui	Koh Samui

## VIETNAM

A542	Ana Mandara Villas Dalat - Resort & Spa	Dalat City
A543	Evason Ana Mandara Nha Trang - Six Senses Spa	Nha Trang Khanh Hoa
A544	Ana Mandara Resort Ninh Binh	Ninh Binh
A545	Ana Mandara Resort Hue	Thua Thien Hue

# Special Rates

At Great Locations!

## Shanghai, China

From SGD108 per night



### Citadines Shanghai Biyun

Citadines Shanghai Biyun is located within the Jinqiao Export Processing Zone and ten minutes drive away from the Zhangjiang High-tech Park. This 196-unit residence boasts of convenient location with snazzy design and chic home furnishings. With leading-edge multimedia technology plus broadband access and WiFi zones to facilitate the adaptation of a chic living space to a modern home office for the cosmopolitan dweller.

## Sukhumvit, Bangkok

From SGD74 per night

### Citadines Sukhumvit 8

Meant for busy international professionals who yearns to relax in a spacious space and yet still connected to high-tech amenities for business and leisure. Living here puts you in the centre of city action. The modern atmosphere and interiors, the services and facilities and the stylish layout are designed for your comfort while visiting the unique city of Bangkok.



## Phuket, Thailand

From SGD95 per night



### The Bel Air Resort & Spa

One of unique concepts that the Bel Air offers is apartment style living for families in a hotel environment. There's a Toddlers' Playroom, Teen Chill Zone and a Private Movie Room to keep kids of all ages busy while parents relax. Exquisite & spacious rooms and suites with branded guestroom amenities, high-speed WiFi, in-dining programs, excellent value spa services, restaurants and bar facilities.

## Melaka, Malaysia

From SGD85 per night

### Avillion Legacy Melaka

Established in 1998, Avillion Legacy Melaka is a 228-room city hotel situated in the charming town of Malacca. Inspired by the city's colonial history, the hotel's architecture is further complemented by its elegant interiors, including an impressive glass dome lobby and classic Roman pillars. With its close proximity to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, it is the perfect venue for city dwellers looking for a business or leisure getaway.



## Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

From SGD195 per night



### Ascott Kuala Lumpur

Designed to cater to discerning executives and expatriates, Ascott Kuala Lumpur's features are spacious and elegant apartments, personalized services and extensive business and recreational facilities. Ideal for overseas assignments, leisure vacation and relocation, the residence offers an exclusive city retreat while being just across the street from the famous Petronas Twin Towers, KLCC Putra Line (Light Rail Transit), KLCC Park and a wide variety of dining and entertainment options.

## Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

From SGD136 per night

### Hotel Istana

Located right at the heart of Kuala Lumpur. This 5-star business hotel have 505 well-appointed guestrooms & suites with modern amenities and high speed broadband connectivity.



Terms & Conditions Apply. Subject to availability and some properties are on allotment basis which is not applicable for nightly booking.





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