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Explore the doorways of great cities with wonders old and new

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The world's history has always kept us awed by how much our civilisation has grown over the centuries. What we know now as tourist sites were actually important gateways that served as instrumental structures that boosted a city's business and trade relations in the ancient times. Stepping onto these places seems like a travel back in time, taking us to significant moments in history. Being there as well make us look at how a city has transformed such an important site into a beautiful sight.

In this new issue of Endless Vacation, we take you to the world's former ports that are now mesmerising tourists must-visit spots. We also give you places that serve as entryways to nature's wonders and breathtaking escapes. From Asia to Europe, we give you some of the places that will surely open doors to the world's stunning locations and magnificent structures.

Step into the old-world and discover contemporary European culture when you visit Amsterdam, which used to be an important trading site for the Dutch. If exploring the Mediterranean is in your next vacation list, the Canary Islands and Málaga, Spain's colourful port cities, are your access to experiencing nature's finest and exciting festivals. Intrigued by China's natural wonders? Enter Guilin, China's gateway to the best and most unique landscapes. The portal to discovering about the Mayan culture is Cancun, one of Mexico's top holiday destinations, where you can also fall in love with exotic cuisine and its vibrant lifestyle. If relaxing is in your itinerary, Tioman, which was once a busy trading port, is your entryway to revitalising your senses amidst Malaysia's its tropical allure.

Book your vacation, get ready with your cameras, and prepare to experience the past and the present when you enter these fabulous scenic spots. What you will bring home with you from this experience is truly the wonderful opportunity to look at the world in a different light.

Lim Kuo Ching Editor

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Amsterdam: Access to the old and the new

An interesting mixture of rich history and contemporary culture, this city opens your eyes to a vibrant world

Much has been said about Amsterdam, but one thing is for sure: it is the perfect place to discover the old-world charm of Europe and the dynamism of a modern society. The capital of The Netherlands, Amsterdam is the country's largest city. It used to be a 13th-century fishing village on a river bed and has progressed over the years as a financial, cultural and creative centre.

Amsterdam is known as Venice of the North, owing to its lovely canals that surround the city amidst a backdrop of beautiful architecture and over a thousand bridges.

These canals were an important part of trade relations for Amsterdam. The right to free passage was instrumental for its economic development. From its earliest days as a trading city, Amsterdam has forged relationships with other cultures. No wonder that this city has become a melting pot of cultures and one of the most multicultural cities in the world.

Whether you want to immerse yourself in culture and history, simply want to experience its delectable varieties, or just to indulge in the high of discovering troves of great shopping finds, this lovely canalside city offers just about anything to suit your European getaway.

DISCOVER AMSTERDAM'S SCENIC SIGHTS

than Venice and its watery maze canals are considered its most distinguishing

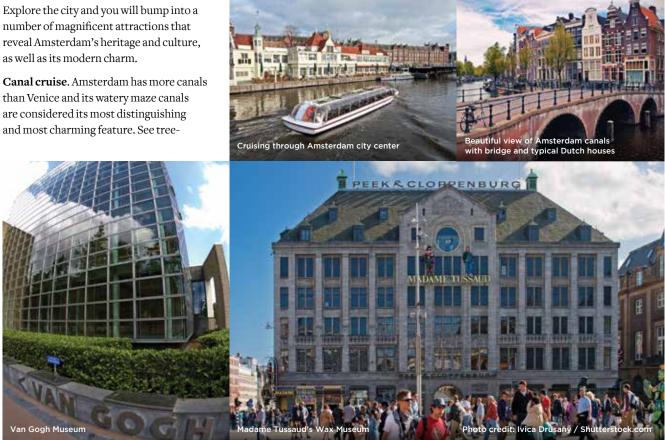
lined channels, luxurious canal houses and architectural structures such as the tower of Westerkerk (Western Church), the tallest in Amsterdam, or Anne Frank's house as you cruise along the city's winding waterways.

Learn about Dutch art and history. Make sure to drop by the city's worldfamous museums, such as the Van Gogh Museum or the Rijksmuseum. Or spend an afternoon visiting one of its many art galleries where you can see old and contemporary art collections.

Bring the kids to an awesome adventure.

Amsterdam also boasts of attractions that will surely delight families. See the wax figures of celebrities and historic figures at the Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, see the city in a different light atop the Science Centre NEMO, or get acquainted with animals at Amsterdam's Zoo.







Get into the Heineken Experience. Visit the former Heineken Brewery, offering exhibits on Heineken's rich history and tradition of beer brewing. Attractions include a mini brewery, a tasting bar, and the 'Stable Walk', where you can access the stables of Heineken's iconic Shire horses which still deliver beer throughout the city.

Savor the flavor of Dutch cheese. Make sure to drop by De Jacobs Hoeve/Henri Willig cheese farm, where you can see how the famous Gouda cheese is made. Tour the farm to see the goats and sheep that supply the milk, and have a taste of their cheese made the traditional way.

Discover the beauty of nature. At the Keukenhof Gardens, touted as the world's largest flower gardens, admire the blooming tulips, amaryllis and other flowers. There are themed pavilions, floral mosaics, and more for visitors of all ages.

Treat your palate to Dutch flavors.

Discover Dutch cuisine and sample their beers, or enjoy a cup of coffee at Amsterdam. Here's what you should try:

Taste local cuisine and discover new specialties such as erwtensoep, pea soup with ham and smoked sausage; stamppot, mashed potatoes mixed with vegetables and served with meat and gravy; and suddervlees, slowly braised meat.

Amsterdam also has numerous watering holes where you can enjoy a drink or two. Check out the city's thriving bar scene, chat with some locals and party Dutch-style!

Check out Amsterdam's cafés where you can spend a few hours enjoying a sip of coffee as you read a magazine or newspaper, or have a chit chat with your friends. Amsterdam has a long tradition of café culture and this is best discovered at their grand cafés, which are spacious and very stylish places to unwind.

SHOP FOR GREAT FINDS

You can shop for almost anything in Amsterdam: from high-end fashion brands down to the local souvenir items. There are multi-storey department stores and exclusive boutiques, as well as shops that sell antiques and contemporary Dutch design. What's more, you can enjoy taxfree shopping on your purchases for a minimum spend of 50 Euros.

Visit The Nine Streets (De Negen Straatjes), an area of nice narrow streets dotted with great restaurants, cafés, art galleries, boutiques and vintage stores. Here you can choose an array of styles and trends at affordable prices.

Drop by Kalverstraat and Leidsestraat, Amsterdam's two main shopping streets. Leidsestraat has exclusive boutiques where you can shop for brands like Karen Millen, Paul Warmer or Shoebaloo. Kalverstraat has famous designer brands such as H&M, Mexx, Esprit and Zara.

If you're looking for vintage clothes, local items, and Dutch clogs, visit the Waterlooplein, Amsterdam's best-known flea market. Here you can find just about anything from pillow cases to bicycle parts.

For more information, visit http://www.germany.travel/en/ leisure-and-recreation/scenic-routes/romantic-road.html

For more information, visit http://roel.web44.net/ canna/bulbfield.htm





• In Amsterdam, the water is the mistress and the land the vassal. Throughout the city, there are as many canals and drawbridges as bracelets on a Gypsy's bronzed arms. -Felix Marti-Ibañezv

The best time to visit Amsterdam is between April and September, where the days are longer and the temperature is milder. Plan your vacation now and discover the amazing sights and interesting culture of Amsterdam.

Amsterdam Dos and Don'ts

or ATMs.

Amsterdam has been known to be a very tolerant city, especially when it comes to selling and consuming cannabis products. Only licensed coffeeshops are permitted to sell cannabis products. Do not confuse coffeeshops with 'koffiehuis' (coffee house), which sells only coffee and light meals, or with café, which is a casual restaurant or bar.

- just wander in and out.
- Drinking alcohol on the streets is against the law.
- Do not walk on the bike lanes.

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#8145 Landal Hoog Vaals Vaals, Netherlands www.landal.co.uk

#C903 Landal Landgoed't Loo

PS 't Loo-Oldebroek. Netherlands www.landal.com



Be alert for pickpockets who usually victimize tourists with lots of baggage. They usually frequent the train from Schiphol International Airport to the city,

Greet assistants upon entering or leaving shops. The Dutch consider it rude to

Rent a bike and ride around the city. Biking is a great way to see and get around the city. Do not ride your bike at night without lights to avoid being fined.



TOUR THE ISLANDS

The Canaries are comprised of islets and seven major islands: Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro. Each island boasts of unique vistas and natural wonders that are a league of their own.

Prepare to experience something different each day at Tenerife, the largest and the best-known island in The Canaries, with over 10 million visitors a year. You could be visiting a museum today or watching a rock concert the following evening. Tinerfeños have mastered the art of having a good time, with their fondness for discos headlined by international DJs and wild foam parties.

Fond of superlatives, Tenerife also has the grand Pico del Teide. At 3,718 metres, it is Spain's tallest peak.

Escape from the big, busy Tenerife and be carried off by the powerful winds of Fuerteventura. There is no better place for surfers, windsurfers and kite flyers in need of an adrenaline rush.



Mediterranean Gems: Spain's Canary Islands and Málaga

Multicolored kites fill the sky in The Canary Islands

Experience nature at its finest and explore Spain's culture at these vibrant port cities

Sophisticated, intense and dedicated to living life to the fullest, Spain is a country full of intoxicating elements, from superbislands to talk-of-the-town festivals and a brilliant art scene. Interested to know more? Visiting The Canary Islands and Málaga is the first step.

The Canary Islands, also known as The Canaries, are a Spanish archipelago located just off the northwest coast of mainland Africa, between the borders of Morocco and Western Sahara. The name was said to be derived from the Latin Canariae Insulae, which translates to 'Island of the Dogs'. Historian Pliny the Elder has noted that huge dogs inhabited the islands in ancient times. Experts however, have come up with an interesting theory: these so-called dogs were actually a species of seals; canis marinus or 'sea dogs'.





Journey on to Gran Canaria, where diverse landscapes and climates make the island truly unique. Choose from sunkissed beaches, secret coves, countryside vistas and even sand dunes! Plus, enjoy modern living in the capital, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, with its chic shopping centres, theatres, performance venues, bars and restaurants.

Lanzarote's spectacular volcanic landscapes, on the other hand, seem to be out of this world. Centuries-old lava streams rest side by side with stunning rock formations, geysers and mountain ranges.

Meanwhile, La Palma's clear skies take star gazing to a whole new level. The most important astrophysics observatories in the northern hemisphere can be found on this island due to its clear, unpolluted skies.

Then, step into the seemingly enchanted forests of La Gomera. Rich in flora, fauna and landscapes sculpted over the centuries, it is a popular hiking destination.

A paradise for scuba divers, El Hierro is surrounded by clear blue waters. Explore



pinnacles, deep drop offs, caves and tunnels. Hidden in the many crevices are lobsters, shrimps, anemones eels, rays and a wide variety of fish!

Land lovers will also delight in El Hierro's fertile valleys, dramatic cliffs, dense forests, ancient trees and reptiles seen nowhere else.

VIVA LA CARNIVAL!

After getting to know the archipelago, it's time to mingle with local residents through carnivals. Each island has its own traditions and festivities, but one thing's for sure: these events are colourful and a whole lot of fun, at par with those of Rio de Janeiro.

Don't miss La Palma's 'Fiesta de los Indianos', held every February in honour of immigrants who returned to the islands after making their fortune in the New World. Participants wear traditional white costumes and are covered with talcum powder as they move to electrifying island rhythms.



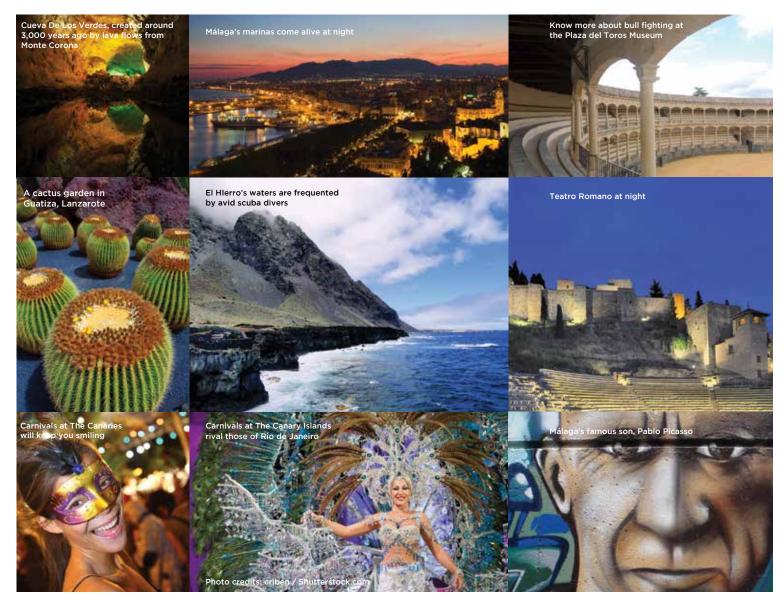
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BLENDING THE OLD AND 27 THE NEW

Just as vibrant as the carnivals of the Canary Islands is Málaga, located along the coast of southern Andalucia and set against the sparkling Mediterranean Sea. Its quaint streets, tree-lined promenades, monuments and calm shores are both historic and cosmopolitan.

The birthplace of artist Pablo Picasso, Málaga is known for its numerous art museums, which have infused new life into the city. Explore at your own pace and be rewarded with interesting finds.



BE IN THE MOOD FOR ART

Pay homage and be inspired by Málaga's pride: Pablo Picasso. The Museo Picasso Málaga has 204 Picasso paintings, sketches engravings and sculptures, which cover almost every phase and influence of the artist's colourful career. The museum also hosts exhibitions featuring Málaga's contemporary artists such as Gomez Enrique Jose, Isaac Martin Roldan, Pedro Iglesias Asuar, Mayte Martinez, Carmen Offermann and Carmen Soto.

Museo Casa Natal de Picasso, Picasso's birthplace, mixes compelling personal

memorabilia with modern art shows.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo and Museo Carmen Thyssen both have excellent collections of 19th and 20th Century Spanish paintings.

Controversial and intriguing, know more about Spain's bull fighting history at the Plaza del Toros Museum, the busiest bullring in the region.

Get a glimpse of everyday Málaga life and Málaga folklore at the Museo de Artes y Costumbres.

SOAK UP ON HISTORY

From the Phoenicians to the Romans, important Mediterranean civilisations established trade routes in Málaga, thanks to the strategic location of its ports. See priceless artifacts dating back to these times at Alcazaba, an Arab fortress built in the 11th century. Then, climb up the hill to get an excellent view of the city. Looming over Alcazaba is **Castillo de Gibralfaro**. built by Abd ar-Rahman I, a Cordoban emir from the 8th century.

Stop by Teatro Romano on your way down. This Roman amphitheatre was excavated

in 1951. You can bring along a picnic basket and enjoy a meal on the stone steps as you marvel at its timeless grandeur.

In the heart of the city is **Catedral de** Málaga. It's popularly known as La Manquita (meaning 'The One-Armed') since its southern tower was never completed. This beautiful Renaissance cathedral has a series of chapels with exquisite religious imagery.

Other churches of interest in the area include Los Mártires, Sagrado Corazón and Santo Cristo de la Salud.

WALK THIS WAY

Málaga's mild climate and old world feel make it ideal for long, meandering walks. Start the day by watching the sun rise at La Malagueta, Málaga's famous beach. Then head out to Paseo de la Farola which offers a stunning of view of the Málaga Port and one of the city's iconic landmarks: the Farola, a 200-year-old lighthouse.

Stroll down to Plaza de la Merced and Málaga Park and relax amidst the charming gardens and timeless architecture. Travel back in time at Alameda Principal, a boulevard adorned with centuries-old trees and buildings. Jardín Botánico features towering palms, refreshing lakes and spectacular seasonal blooms.

THE HARBOUR COMES TO LIFE

Málaga's famous marinas are home to the world's most luxurious yachts and the latest sports boats. Come evening, the bars and cafes along the marinas pulsate with live music and entertainment, attracting revellers across Spain and the rest of Europe.

Spain has had a long love affair with the sea with art, with life. At the Canary Islands and Málaga, the romance continues.



-Felix Marti-Ibañezy



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See Málaga come alive

- Visit during the Holy Week and witness spectacular processions that start on Palm Sunday and continue until Easter Sunday. Scenes from the Passion of Christ are displayed on larger-than-life floats.
- For cinema enthusiasts, the Málaga Film Festival in April is a week-long exhibition of Spain's finest films.
- Held every August, be caught up in a whirlwind of activity with Feria de Málaga. This fair is a vibrant showcase of the region's finest wines, tapas, bull fights and flamenco shows.

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

ACATION

RCI + Me Moments

A Pleasant Sunny Holiday in Beautiful Tenerife





With the help of RCI Holiday Guides, Mrs. Li, we took a tour of Paris, Tenerife and Madrid in Europe in August this year. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip, especially Tenerife, a place recommended by her which left us with an absolutely memorable experience.

Tenerife is the largest among all the Canary Islands, which are located in the south of Spain. It is also known as "Happy Islands" in the world. Geologically, it is part of Africa, but according to the law, it is actually an overseas autonomous community of Spain. The island is blessed with beautiful sunshine, scenic mountains and waters, elegant houses scattered here and there rows upon rows and lush vegetation. Pictures that you take are as

beautiful as those printed on the postcards. This part of the world is home to the highest point of Spain - Teide Peak, which is the world's third highest volcano and one of the 16 existing active volcanoes in the world. The mountain is 3,718 metres above sea level. Taking the high-speed cable car, it can climb more than 1,000 metres within five minutes to reach the top. The unique geological structure makes the local landscape and ecological system quite diverse, ranging from sea beach to snow-capped mountains, dense woods to deserts and rock formations. Undoubtedly, the vast stretch of beach is something essential for island scenery. It is always a busy place on a weekend as families and friends rush here to enjoy the beautiful sunshine, soft sand and waves.

On the island, there is a wealth of economic, diverse and considerate tourist

programs available, such as a tour around the island, visiting the Teide Park which features the volcanic landforms, exploring Tenerife under the star-filled night sky, taking the submarine down to as deep as 27 metres in the Atlantic Ocean for a glimpse of the undersea world, taking the ship to watch the whales and fishing out in the sea. Among these, the tour around the island is the most interesting. It can help you have a taste of the unique style of the island, including the craggy cliffs, broad beaches, barren sand dunes, vast stretch of banana plantations, peaceful towns, time-honored churches, thousand-year-old dragon trees, traditional hollowed-out embroidery, and delicious local food such as the seafood, Canary soup, tapas, papas arrugadas and home-brewed wine.

The Beverly Hills Club we checked in is a Gold Crown holiday resort. The beautiful

white houses built on the mountain slope together with blue sky form a picture que scene! All the houses are equipped with the necessary facilities for daily life. The one-bedroom apartment we stayed in has an open kitchen. The kitchen wares in it are even more complete than those in our own home, which really made us feel at home. Below the balcony is a swimming pool which is free of charge. Sunshinelovers can enjoy the sun-bathing on beach chairs every day. Performances of songs and dances can be seen at the atrium every night. The passionate Spanish dance is that impressive. This is really a wonderful holiday paradise!

When leaving here, we couldn't help exclaiming: Goodbye, beautiful Tenerife!

Thank you for giving us an unforgettable experience!

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Entryway to China's best landscapes

Boasting some of the world's most unique scenic spots, Guilin offers tourists something breathtaking at every corner

Escaping to China is always a good idea if you're looking to experience Asia's old-world culture and marvel at just about any natural wonder you've always dreamt of seeing. If the best of what Mother Nature offers is what you want to take away from your next vacation, then Guilin is the perfect place to bring out your wanderlust.

Guilin is a prefectural city located in the northeast of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in Southern China. Its name literally means Sweet Osmanthus (also known as sweet olive), owing to the abundance of the fragrant flower throughout the prefecture. It takes pride in being one of China's top tourist destinations with its plethora of unique landscapes that came to be known as some of the best sights in the world.



EXPLORE DISTINCTIVE NATURAL WONDERS

Guilin boasts of the best landscapes under heaven. With a topography that is probably the most unique in the world, Guilin is peppered with scenic spots that will easily amaze you. Wherever you turn, there's always something to capture your eyes at this picturesque paradise. Get close to nature and explore these great sights:





Elephant Trunk Hill. Located in the downtown area of the city, at the junction of the Li River and the Peach Blossom River, this hill looks like a giant elephant dipping its trunk into the river. One of the most famous hills in the city and regarded as the symbol of Guilin, the hill is 3.6 hundred million years old and features amazing views for you to explore: Water Moon Cave, Elephant's Eye Stone, Pagoda for Puxian and Yunfeng Temple.

Yangshuo Yulong River. This river lets you marvel at beautiful Karst (limestone) formations. See the locals on the rafts as they traverse the river to get to their houses, markets, and rice paddies, as well as to tour tourists around Yangshuo. On the river stands the 400-year-old Yulong Bridge, which you can get to via bicycles.

Folded Brocade Hill. Also known as Dai Cai Hill, this hill derives its name from unusual looking rocks broken horizontally. It consists of Yueshan Hill, Look-On-All-Direction Hill, Crane Peak, and Bright Moon Peak. Here you can visit attractions such as the Folded Brocade Pavilion, Yuyue





Pavilion, Chengren Tablet of Masters Qu and Zhang, Yangzhi Hill, Wind Cave, Brocade Building, Wangjiang Pavilion, and Nayun Pavilion.

Daxu Ancient Town. This town boasts of ancient structures from the Ming and Qing dynasties. Perched on the northern bank of Li River, it is lined with old residences, shops and stalls, where you can sample delicious yet cheap snacks.

Longji Rice Terraces. Built into the hillsides, these rice terraces were first built in the Yuan dynasty and completed in the Qing dynasty by the Zhuang people. There are about 66 kilometres of these rice terraces whichshowcase the resourcefulness and creativity of the ethnic groups in using land and water resources in the mountainous area.

ENGAGE IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH NATURE AS YOUR BACKDROP

Apart from exploring its beauteous wonders, Guilin also gives you the chance to experience great activities that you and your loved ones would surely enjoy:

Cycling in Yangshuo. Escape onto the countryside with your bicycle and see the orchards and paddy fields surrounding the mountains. This will give you a glimpse of the Chinese rural life.

Learn Chinese painting and calligraphy. Immerse yourself in basic Chinese painting and calligraphy skills with a teacher to guide your strokes. Drawing tools such as brush, ink, paper and inkgrind will be provided for you. An hour-long class will bring out the artist in you as you learn more about China's history in the arts.

Conquer the mountains. With its Karst mountains, Guilin is a good site to test your rock-climbing skills. There are commercial rock climbing clubs in Yangshuo that offer professional climbing guide, free rock-climbing information, as well as training programs for newbies. Popular rock-climbing peaks include Moon Hill and Wine Bottle Hill.

Take shots of Guilin landscape. Guilin has always been a great subject to photograph. Bring your trusty camera and take snapshots of the beautiful sceneries in Yangshuo, Longsheng or Xingping.

SEEK SOLACE IN MOTHER **NATURE'S CRADLE**

Guilin also boasts of places where you can relax and just breathe in the beauty of nature. You can go on a cruise on Li River, one of National Geographic magazine's top 10 watery wonders. Feel the gentle breeze as you view amazing landscapes on both sides of the river.

Go for a leisurely walk at the Big Banyan Tree, a top scenic attraction in Yangshuo, which was said to be planted in the Jin dynasty.

You can also find inner peace and commune with nature at the Seven Star Park, the largest and most beautiful park in Guilin that features rivers, caves and rocks. Or find solitude at Solitary Beauty Peak, a natural stone chamber believed to be the study used by the famous poet Yan Yanzhi.

The best time to travel to Guilin is during the warmer months, which is between September and November. So plan your vacation now and discover nature all over again in Guilin.

China Dos and Don'ts

- allowing them to be seated first.





ATION



• When meeting locals, extend your right hand to shake hands. If you're male, wait for the woman to extend her hand first.

· Extend courtesy to the elderly by offering them to enter the room first or

· Do not put your chopsticks straight on the bowl of rice, as this is the way the Chinese lay for dead people in big festivals.

· Saying "No" is considered impolite by the Chinese. In lieu of "No," you can instead use "I will think about it" or "I will get back to you on this."

> #C934 HIVC@Yangshuo No. 1 Yard China Guilin

(Refer to page 24 for more information on HIVC@Yangshuo No. 1 Yard.)







Enter a world of ancient glory and exotic delights

From magnificent primeval structures, thrilling eco parks, exotic cuisine and flamboyant colors, a wealth of wonders await you at Cancun

Cancun is a lively southeastern Mexican city, located on the northeast coast of the Yucatán Peninsula in the state of Quintana Roo. It has made a name for itself as one of Mexico's most popular holiday destinations; rich in history, natural wonders, good food, great shopping finds and so much more.

EMBARK ON A MAYAN JOURNEY

JUST A few hours away from Cancun are unique wonders of the Mayan civilisation, a dynamic society that has endured for more than 3,000 years. The Mayans were known for their art, architecture, and mathematical and astronomical systems, which were all ahead of their time. The Mayan culture is best appreciated by visiting these sites:

Chichen Itza. This awe-inspiring World Heritage Site is located west of Cancun in the Yucatan Peninsula. Named as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, it is known for its incredible symmetry and astrological importance to the Mayan civilisation. Dominating Chichen Itza is the **Temple of Kukulcan**, the Mayan name for the god Quetzacoatl. Visitors from all over gather here during the spring and autumn equinoxes to watch the temple as it casts a shadow of a plumed serpent. The shadow appears to slither down the

Chichen Itza's most famous landmark, the Temple of Kukulcan, at sunset pyramid and fertilise the earth. It is a wondrous sight not to be missed.

Coba. Approximately 90 kilometres from Chichen Itza, this ancient Mayan city is nestled between two lagoons and is shrouded by a dense jungle. History enthusiasts will be fascinated by its pristine archaeological sites.

Ek Balam. A recent discovery, Ek Balam's wonderful secrets have yet to be entirely revealed. Located 145 kilometres from Cancun, its principal buildings, temples and palaces were once sacred centres and seats of power, where the governors and priests held court.

Tulum. One of the most-visited Mayan ruins in Mexico, Tulum sits on the edge of a cliff looking out over the turquoise waters of the Caribbean. Its name, which translates to 'wall' in Mayan, refers to the fortified walls which once protected the city from invaders.



ECO-ADVENTURES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Go on a Cancun's eco-adventures for yet another educational experience. Whether on land or underwater, these activities offer fun and excitement for the entire family. Tour Isla Mujeres, Isla Contoy and Isla Holbox, natural nesting places for exotic birds and other wildlife, to swim with the dolphins and whale sharks; snorkel in the calm inlets of Xcaret Eco Park; and see the ocean's wonders at Xel-Ha, the one of the world's largest natural aquariums.

Escape to Puerto Morelos. A friendly, laid-back fishing village located only 35 kilometres from Cancun, Puerto Morelos has enchanted visitors with its rustic charms.

Must-dos in Puerto Morelos include:

- · Planning a day at Selvatica. A must for adventure lovers, this park has over 330 acres of forests. Zipline, mountain bike, drive army trucks to natural caverns, snorkel, ride on a horse and more.
- Going where the wild things are. Located 2 kilometres from Puerto Morelos, Crococun is a great place to see the local wildlife. Venture into jungle and see crocodiles, monkeys, snakes and other surprises.
- · Jumping into a cenote. Also known as sinkholes, cenotes are a network of underground streams and rivers beneath the Yucatan peninsula. Main cenotes include Las Mojarras, Cenote Siete Bocas, Cenote Boca Del Puma and Cenote Verde Lucero.

ENJOY A HARMONY OF FLAVORS

Outdoor activities are bound to work up appetites. Fortunately, Cancun has a variety of sumptuous dishes to choose from. With many European merchants trading in its ports, Cancun cuisine deliciously combines European and Mayan influences. Ingredients commonly used are sour oranges, which serves as a pungent marinade; achiote, or annatto seeds; pepitas, or pumpkin seeds; and chaya, local spinach packed with vitamins, minerals and protein.

Feast on Cochinita Pibil, a delicious dish made of pork marinated in achiote, sour orange juice, peppercorns, garlic, cumin and salt. The meat is wrapped in banana



leaves and cooked in a pit oven until it slides off the bone. This is usually served with fresh tortillas and chopped onions.

Fish lovers will enjoy Pescado Tikin Xic, which is baked or barbecued grouper fish. Panuchos are fried corn tortillas filled with black bean paste and topped with shredded chicken, lettuce, tomatoes and onions. Rich and comforting, Sopa de Lima is chicken broth with shredded chicken, lime and fried tortilla strips. Frijol con Puerco is a black beans and pork stew best paired with rice. A sprinkling of chopped radish, cilantro and onions makes this a flavourful treat.

A SHOPPER'S DELIGHT

Mouthwatering Cancun dishes provide the perfect energy boost for yet another adventure: shopping. From ultra-chic designer stores to flea markets and small boutiques, Cancun has it all for the serious shopper.

La Isla Shopping Village. Shop to your heart's content in a glittering, ultratrendy shoppers' paradise complete with Venetian-inspired canals and walkways.

Plaza Caracol, Plaza Las Americas, Kukulcan Plaza and Luxury Avenue. These shopping centres are home to hundreds of boutiques, including some of the world's most luxurious brands. Their wide range of specialty restaurants, bars and cafes are great for relaxation after all that retail therapy!

Market 28. Hunt for great bargains in this huge flea market situated in the heart of downtown Cancun. Get one-of-a-kind souvenirs and silver jewelry at affordable prices.

Designed to resemble an old Mexican village, Plaza Bonita next door is lined with colourful buildings filled with shops selling quality Mexican handicrafts and pieces of art.

With fair weather all year round, it's always a good time to plan a Cancun getaway.



The Cancun International Airport is located 32 kilometres from the resort. Leave the airport and turn right on Highway 307 towards Playa del Carmen. Approximately 10 minutes after going past Puerto Morelos you will see an impressive Mayan arch on your left, which welcomes you to the Mayan Resorts Complex.

- Dress comfortably
- Don't forget the sunscreen
- Keep yourself hydrated expensive onsite.
- Hands off, please
- Read before you go
- Hire a guide
- Prepare to be amazed wonder run free.

-Marcus Garvey

Mayan Palace Riviera Maya (#6483)

Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo Mexico www.mayanpalace.com.mx

The Grand Mayan Riviera Maya (#6973)

Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo Mexico www.thegrandmayan.com.mx

Planning an archaeological tour? Here are some tips

When climbing pyramids or doing long walks on rough ground, sneakers or hiking boots are your best bet. Get extra protection with a hat and a pair of sunglasses.

Apply sunscreen at all times, even on cloudy days. And if you're trekking through a jungle, be advised to bring insect repellant as well.

Bring your own water. Buy a bottle or two beforehand as prices may be more

It's best not to touch stones or pottery shards that you may find. Insignificant as these may seem, the historical information they provide may be important.

A little bit of research can go a long way to help you understand what you're seeing.

Having said that, hiring a local guide will make your visit much more interesting.

Mexico's ancient cultures are still shrouded with mystery; let your sense of

• A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.



Tioman: A glimpse of paradise

A delightful introduction to Malaysia's tropical treasures

If you're visiting Malaysia and are overwhelmed with the country's numerous leisure options, Tioman Island is a good place to start.

Tioman is the largest in a volcanic group of islands located 32 kilometres off the east coast of peninsular Malaysia, in the state of Pahang. It has eight main villages, the largest and most populous being Kampung Tekek in the north. Once a busy trading post, Tioman has played host to Chinese, Arab, and European merchant ships, as evidenced by the porcelain shards that can be found on beaches around the island.

But the island's main attractions are its amazing natural wonders. Endangered mammals such as the Binturong, Longtailed Macaque, Slow Loris, Black Giant Squirrel, Red Giant Flying Squirrel, Mouse Deer, Brush-tailed Porcupine and Common Palm Civet inhabit the island's

rainforests. Rare bird species, including the majestic Frigatebird, call Tioman home. And its azure waters are filled with beautiful corals of all shapes and colours and a diversity of sea creatures.

Tioman has something for every traveller: from families with small children to honeymooners, thrill seekers and even those looking for a slice of exclusivity and luxury.



DO A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING

Get a feel of Tioman by going on a day-long island tour. Highlights of this tour include a quick dip in the Asah Waterfalls; a souvenir photograph with the Dragon's Horns; duty free shopping at Tekek; snorkelling at the Marine Park, where schools of colourful fish welcome visitors; and a stop at Tioman's other villages.

TAKE THE DRAGON BY **THE HORNS**

Tioman is steadily carving its niche as a haven for extreme sports enthusiasts. The island's stunning limestone formations and overhanging walls offer opportunities for rock climbers of all levels to test their skills and determination.

Hardcore climbers can attempt the full, five-day climb to Dragon's Horns, twin granite peaks that only a few climbers have

conquered. Beginners need not worry; local guides organize climbing expeditions to easier sport climbing routes. Bouldering enthusiasts can test their balance on the massive boulders that line the beaches.

TAKE THE PLUNGE AND **SNORKEL**

With crystal clear waters and an amazing variety of marine life, a stay in Tioman would not be complete without a snorkelling trip. Be amazed by breathtaking coral gardens teeming with life at Tulai Island, Renggis Island, Marine Park, Monkey Bay and Salang, where you could get a chance to see black-tip sharks.

GO DEEPER

For the more adventurous, Tioman's temperate climate and excellent underwater visibility makes it one of







the most popular diving destinations in Malaysia.

Explore over 20 dive sites that are sure to amaze everyone, from the newly certified to the experienced wreck diver - there's just so many things to see and explore. What's more, this is one of the few places



21

in Malaysia where you are likely to come across schools of dolphins! Tick an item off your bucket list and get certified for recreational diving from one of the many dive centres in the island.

TREK THROUGH THE JUNGLE With about 12,000 hectares of lush

rainforests, refreshing mountain streams, waterfalls and a colourful menagerie of birds and mammals, Tioman is an excellent trekking destination.

Embark on a 7 kilometre, four-hour trek along the Tekek - Juana trail. Walk through the hills for exciting encounters with monkeys, monitor lizards, scores of birds, insects and centuries-old trees. Then relax amidst the golden sands of Juana beach on the other side of the island.

Other popular treks cover trails across the villages of Gentling, Pay, Air Bating and Salang, with stops at Monkey Bay. Be sure to load up on water, snacks and insect repellent for a safe and enjoyable hike.



Berjaya Tioman Resort (#2864) bvc@berjaya.com.my

Tioman Island Resort (#4166) bcv@berjaya.com.my



- Respect marine life. Take nothing but pictures and debris that may be floating in the water.
- Prevent accidental contact with the reef or kicking up sediment by practicing good fin and body control.
- · Remind your boat crew to anchor away from the reef and make sure that all rubbish are stowed away.

REJUVENATE AFTER GREAT ADVENTURES

Take a breather from all the excitement and relax at Tioman's renowned spas: the Ayura Spa and the Paya Holistic Spa. Services offered include traditional massages that use a variety of local herbs and spices, body scrubs and wraps, facials, hand and feet grooming and a selection of hair spa treatments.

A round of golf at Berjaya Tioman Golf, Beach & Spa Resort's 18-hole international standard golf course is just as soothing, with a stunning vistas of the beach on one side and rich greens on another. This par-71 course is filled with challenging hazards such as ponds and bunkers.



66 Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.99 -Ralph Waldo Emerson

RCI Complimentary Letter

Cheers to the RCI Team

Members were impressed by the RCI team's focus on going the extra mile to make each holiday the best it can be. Here's what they have to say about our staff:



I would like to commend my holiday guide, Ben Kunarat, for providing excellent customer service. She gave me great ideas on how I could spend my vacation. She quickly responded to my queries and has been consistently courteous ever since our first conversation.

I'm grateful for her assistance, which helped me create a wonderful trip itinerary. My memorable experience has made me want to continue my RCI membership.

Thank you!

Ben Kunarat

Thanapon Nerakanthee Thailand



Wei Ni did her best to find accommodations that were within our tight travel budget. What's more, the unreliable mobile phone signal in our area did not hinder her from trying to reach us. She was able to maximise our resources so efficiently that we actually had something left for our next vacation. Amazing!

Richard Lim Philippines



Pearlyn patiently explained how vacation exchanges work. She also encouraged me to go online and assisted me in every step of the booking process. Pearlyn was very courteous and

Philippines

Pearlyn

accommodating. Jose Maria Mina



Jenniefer Flores

Jenniefer was very helpful. In fact, she even sent me website links to interesting places my family and I can visit in Singapore. She also went out of her way to tell us of an existing promotion on tickets to Universal Studios, which saved us money!

Reynaldo M Aquino Philippines





Resort Highlights



HIVC AT YANGSHUO NO. 1 YARD (#C943)

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Yangshuo County is a mountainous region known for its natural wonders and scenic tourist attractions. The small town of Yangshuo is home to the famous West Street, filled with shops selling local handicrafts and restaurants, serving both Western and Chinese food. The Li River's karst vistas are famous worldwide. Explore them in a bamboo raft or on a cruise and enjoy the magnificent view. Other attractions include Elephant Trunk Hill which is the symbol of Guilin, and the Longsheng Rice Terraces, a spectacular example of a harmonious relationship between the people and the landscape.

RESORT HIGHLIGHTS

The only villa on the hillside, this resort boasts of a panoramic view of Yangshuo County. The hotel is built in the Suzhou Garden tradition, integrating the styles of Old Shanghai villas and those of Jiangnan art. A lovely roof overlooks the famous Impression Liu San Jie, with the waters of the Li River as its stage, and the twelve mist-shrouded hills and the heavens as its backdrop. This is also the well-known site of an outdoor folk musical by the famous director Zhang Yi Mou.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

Studio units feature balconies or small courtyards with scenic vistas. Onebedroom units also include a sitting room spacious enough for a small party or meeting. Equipped with excellent amenities, all units surpass three-star hotel standards.

KENSINGTON RESORT JEJU MARINA (#C944)

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Jeju Island is Korea's southernmost volcanic island, graced by Halla Mountain. Known for its breathtaking scenery and unique volcanic features, Jeju has 368 oreum, or small mountains, and caves perfect for hiking and exploring. It is the only place in the world to receive all three UNESCO designations in natural sciences. Visit Seongeup Folk Village, an authentic Jeju village, or go to Jeju Folk Village Museum for vivid cultural exhibits. The Green Tea Museum, on the other hand, is set amidst green tea plantations and is built to resemble an actual teacup.

RESORT HIGHLIGHTS

This waterfront resort is a lovely getaway. Take a leisurely stroll by the waterfront and browse through the boutiques, or step up the pace with a game of tennis. At mealtime, enjoy flavourful local specialties at the Korean restaurant on site.

UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

Stylish ocean-view units are airconditioned and are decorated in pleasant neutral tones. One-bedroom units sleep up to four and include a double bed and Korean-style futons. Three-bedroom units sleep up to 7 and include a doublebed room and two Korean-style futons. All units feature hot showers in a private bathroom, TV, telephone, hair dryer and a well-equipped kitchenette that has a refrigerator, two-burner stove, rice cooker and cutlery.





VACATION



"A holiday of a lifetime, a lifetime of holidays" Laguna Holiday Club is proud to be celebrating its 15th anniversary throughout 2013 with exciting prizes, special events and exclusive offers for members, particulary for those who have been with us right from the beginning.

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Exchange

with **R**ČI

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Ma. Joselynn D Mateo Philippines

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Wang Chen Qingdao, China

Why RCI.com Contest

Members were invited to answer the question, "Why should you go to RCI.com?" in 30 words or less. The participant with the best entry got to walk away with an iPad Mini.

Out of the hundreds of submissions received, RCI's panel of judges chose these letters, which highlighted the convenience of booking a holiday through RCI.com:

Shortlisted Entries

Time is money. With R com, valuable informa on holiday destination facilities available is rig fingertips. This gives n time to do the things I And the best part is, th process is super simple

Rajinder Kumar Chu Singapore

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Pan Wen Yan Shanghai, China

Booking holidays through RCI.com is as easy as A, B and C -Access, Book and Confirm!

Rose Tan Soo Gek Singapore

What's not to like about RCI.
com? No more long queues and
automated responses. Plan your
dream holiday and browse online
within the comforts and safety of
your own home. It's wonderful!
Huang Cheng-Chung Zhang-Hua, Taiwan

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透過RCI.com這個無國 界的空間,可讓人輕易 的盡情體驗各國風情。

Chee Cheng Siew Malaysia



How to Register an Account

RCI.COM is Now Available in Chinese!





Step 2

Select Weeks Members, enter your Member ID number, name and Contact Information including your Email Address then submit.

Benefits

- Manage and view your account details
- Search for the resort availability anytime anywhere
- Search and book Extra VacationsSM Getaways
- Get our best prices for vacations by booking online

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Step 1

Log on to www.rci.com, select China-Simplified Chinese, click Register Now.

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Step 3

Read the Terms & Conditions and Click "I Accept" to complete the registration process.

Final Step

Activate your account via your confirmation email received and start searching and booking for your holiday now!

Introducing **RCIPLATINUM**[®]

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You'll be among the first in line when it comes to exchanging for sensational upscale hotels and resorts in destinations such as Chicago, San Francisco, and Hong Kong, RCI Platinum members benefit from Priority Access to specially-acquired exchange vacations in highly sought after destinations in many different locations.

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Enjoy personalised services with Limousine and Airport Transfer Services with discounts off on all major type of vehicles in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand and Asia.²

Car Rentals - Enjoy Premium services and discounts off car rentals in the USA. Canada. Europe. Australia, New Zealand and Asia with first class and preferred service. No queues, no paperwork.²

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serviced apartments with specially priced accommodation in various locations in the Asia Pacific and Europe.²



Something to Note:

Most RCI Weeks subscribing members can upgrade to RCI Platinum^{s™} membership at any time, so long as it is at least 5 months of paid membership. Contact RCI to start enjoying the benefits of RCI Platinumst membership today!



Resorts in Asia

CHINA

A530	Beijing Badaling Hot Spring Resort	Beijing
7525	Beijing Shihao International Hotel	Beijing
7589	Blg-Beijing Longtou Apartment	Beijing
6034	Dianchi Garden Hotel & Spa	Kunming
A536	FVC @ Lijiang Nan Yuan E Jia	Lijiang
A311	FVC @ Xiangxigu Holiday Village	Anhui
A312	FVC @ Xiaoshan International Hotel	Hangzhou
C700 👑	HIVC @ Chongqing Sheraton International	Chongqing
A533	HIVC @ Luguhu Holiday Hotel	Sichuan
8585 👑	HNA @ Beach & Spa Resort Haikou	Hainan
8587	HNA @ Intl'I Asia Pacific Convention Centre Sanya	Hainan
8586 👑	HNA @ Kangle Garden Hainan	Hainan
C722 👑	Huangshan Grandview Resorts Hotel	Anhui
6838	Huizhou Tangquan Golf Club	Guangdong
3954	Jiuhua Spa & Resort	Beijing
A517	Lijiang Sina Hotel	Lijiang
7481	Noble Yacht Club, Hainan	Hainan
4326	Paradise Hill Hotel Zhuhai	Zhuhai
6408	Phoenix Resort	E Zhou, Hubei
A535	Ramada Hotel Wuxi	Wuxi
A525 👑	Ramada Plaza Hotel Yantai	Shandong
4980	Surf Plaza Qingdao	Qingdao
6888 👑	The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel	Dunhuang City
6785	Weihai Dawu Sea Feeling Hotel	Shandong

INDONESIA

7590	Bali Emerald Villas	Sanur, Bali
A538 👑	Bali Island Villas & Spa	Bali
5459 👑	Bali Masari Villas & Spa	Sanur, Bali
6961 👑	Bali Shangrila Beach Club	Candidasa, Bali
3505	Bali Tropic Resort & Spa	Nusa Dua, Bali
A516	Club Bali @ Kota Bunga Resort & Spa	West Java
3690	Club Bali @ Jayakarta Bali Residence	Legian, Bali
6916	Gili Meno Bird Park Resort	Lombok
A526	Goodway Hotel	Batam
4170	Harris Resort	Batam

A539	.*. RCI	Hawaii, A Club Bali Resort	West Java
7724		Keraton Jimbaran Resort	Bali
3692		Mambruk Quality Resort	Serang, West Java
6302		Medewi Bay Resort	Bali
3851		Nirwana Bali	Tanah Lot, Bali
3691		Risata Bali Resort & Spa	Kuta, Bali
C386	1	Royal Bali Beach Club at Sanur	Bali
3968		Royal Bali Beach Club @ Candidasa	Manggis, Bali
5254	Ŵ	Royal Bali Beach Club @ Jimbaran Bay	Bali
6920		RVC @ Hotel Rama Candidasa	Bali
C385		RVC @ Ivory Seminyak Resort & Spa	Bali
A515		Sekuta Condo Suites	Bali
5450	1	The Grand Bali - Nusa Dua	Nusa Dua, Bali
A547		The Seminyak Village Resort & Spa	Bali

KOREA

7901		Hanwha Resort Haeundae	Busan Metropolitan City
7903		Hanwha Resorts Seorak Sorano	Gangwon-do
3697	R	Kensington Resort Chungju	Chungcheong buk-do
3048		Kensington Resort Gyeongju	Kyongsamnam-do
4171		Kensington Resort Jirisan	Kyongsamnam-do
3049	. * . RCI	Kensington Resort Seorak Beach	Gangwon-do

MALAYSIA

2860	Aseania Resort Langkawi	Langkawi
4919	Awana Genting Highlands Golf & Country Resort	Genting Highlands
3967	Bayu Beach Resort	Port Dickson
2864 👑	Berjaya Tioman Resort	Pulau Tioman
3013	Country Heights WRC	Kuala Lumpur
A522	Country Villas Kajang	Selangor
C702 👑	Damai Beach Resort	Sarawak
3010	Dutu Vista Executives Suites	Kuala Lumpur
1703	Genting View Resort	Genting Highlands
A540 👑	Golden Palm Tree Sea Villas & Spa	Sepang
3196	Greenhill Resort	Cameron Highlands

5257	Heritage Hotel Cameron Highlands	Cameron Highlands
5259	Heritage Hotel, Ipoh	lpoh
2869	KL Plaza Suites	Kuala Lumpur
3957	Leisure Cove	Penang
A521 👑	Palace of the Golden Horse	Selangor
C440	Penang Times Square-Birch The Plaza	Penang
5461	Perdana Beach Resort	Langkawi
7771	Resort Suites at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel	Petaling Java
4166	Tioman Island Resort	Pulau Tioman

PHILIPPINES

7773 👑	Astoria Plaza Suites	Pasig City
A548	Boracay Regency Beach Resort	Boracay Island
6781	Casa Del Mar Golf Resort	Cebu
A366 👑	Club Balai Isabel	Batangas
C723	Eastgate Village Resort	Olongapo City
A509 👑	EL Puerto Marina Beach Resort	Pangasinan
3502	Laguna De Boracay Resort	Boracay Island
6741	Leisure Vacations Suites	Baguio
5367	Nipa Beach Resort	liocos Norte
C384 👑	One Tagaytay Place	Tagaytay
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
A006 👑	The A. Venue Hotel Suites	Makati
A510	The Azalea Baguio Residences	Baguio
5722	VCI Holidays @ Batangas	Batangas

TAIWAN

4325 📸	Kentington Resort	Ping-Tong Hisen
4337	Wing On Golf Country Club	Tainan
THAI	LAND	
C383 👑	Anantara Vacation Club at Bophut Koh Samui	Koh Samui
C382 👑	Anantara Vacation Club at Phuket Villas	Phuket

)		Chateau Dale Beach Resort	Pattaya
0		Club Thara at Thara Patong Beach Resort	Phuket
5		Grand Tower Inn	Bangkok
1		Hotel Royal Crown	Phuket
4		Jomtien Beach Paradise	South Pattaya
5	Ŵ	LHC Phuket Resort	Phuket
3	Ŵ	LHC at Allamanda Laguna Phuket	Phuket
0		LHC at Boathouse Hua Hin	Phetchaburi
2		MTC at Pattaya Hill	Pattaya
6		MTC at The Legacy River Kwai	Kanchanaburi
3		MTC Plus at Grand Tower Inn	Bangkok
9		Patong Bay Garden	Phuket
4		Patong Resort Hotel	Phuket
1		Patong Tower Condominium	Phuket
6		Pattaya Hill Resort	Pattaya
1		Q Signature Samui	Koh Samui
2		QVC at The Andaman Beach Suites	Cha-Am
6		Royal Belle Vista Country Club	Chiang Mai
3	Ŵ	Royal Lighthouse Villa at Boat Lagoon Resort	Phuket
C		Sigma Resort Club (South Pattaya)	South Pattayav
5	₩	Tai-Pan Hotel	Bangkok
7		The Resonance Club at State Tower	Bangkok
5	*	UVC at Marrakesh Hua Hin Residences	Hua Hin
6		UVC at Noble Remix Thonglor	Sukhumvit

VIETNAM

8	Sea Links Golf & Beach Villas	Binh Thuan
12	Ana Mandara Villas Dalat Resort & Spa	Dalat City
8 👑	Hon Tam Eco Green Resort	Nha Trang Khanh Hoa
14	Emeralda Ninh Binh	Gan Vien

Note: Resort status is periodically reviewed and is subject to change. Resort Status indicated here is as current as of 1 March 2013





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