



21
**BEAUTIFUL
BORACAY**



26
**SLOW DOWN
ST MARTIN**

APRIL 2015

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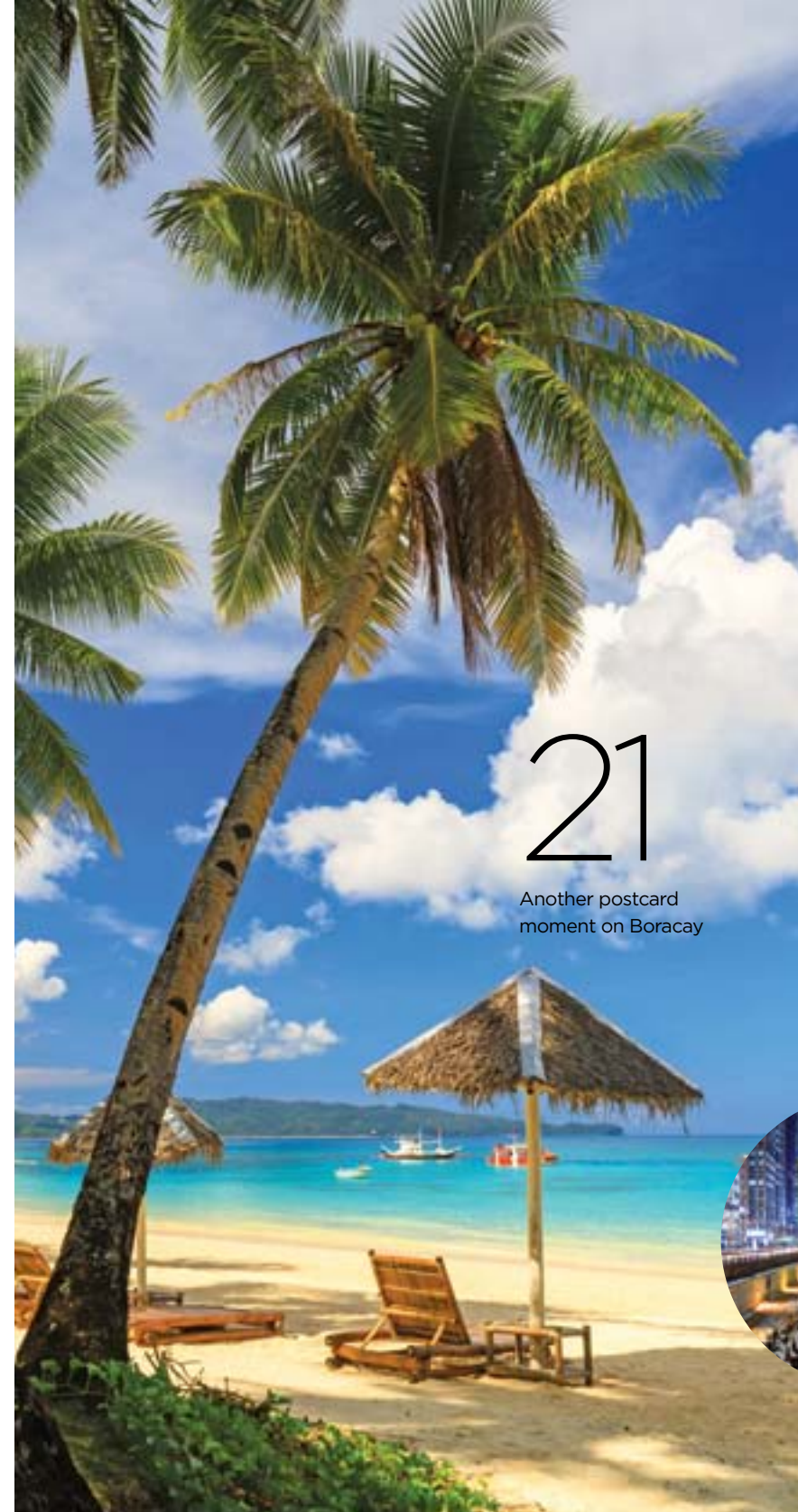
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Another postcard
moment on Boracay

APRIL
2015

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ON THE COVER
Gyeongbokgung Palace, **Seoul, Korea.**

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Welcome

There's no time like the present to start planning your next vacation adventure. Whether it's a short getaway or an extended trip, through your membership with RCI, we have your favorite vacation destination in the world covered.

In this issue of Endless Vacation® magazine we'll show you some great places to discover with your loved ones. You'll need plenty of energy this year to explore all the exciting destinations we have on offer and what perfect way to re-energize than to add superfoods to your daily regime. Check out page 12 and see what food is trending in 2015. Will the humble cauliflower take over from kale as the new superfood?

Our feature article takes you to South Korea's capital Seoul, which has become a top vacation destination for China. We know you'll be 'jumping at the bit' to book flights for your next rejuvenating retreat. We've also got hiking on the Caribbean island of St. Martin on page 26 and check out Bangkok's vibrant city on page 38

If that's not enough, then kick back and discover Bali's beach life with chic cafes and stunning ocean sunsets on page 40. Check out the latest deals on cruises, and new resorts starting on page 36. Plus we provide some great tips to make the most of your membership on page 32.

Thanks for your continued support and loyalty in allowing RCI to help you discover what the world has to offer. Happy vacations and travel safe.

Jonathan Mills
Managing Director, Asia Pacific

BEIJING

Fly Direct

Air China announces direct Melbourne-Beijing service



Beijing

Melbourne



Air China, the official carrier of the People's Republic of China, recently announced that a direct service between Melbourne and Beijing will commence on June 1st, 2015. The service will operate four times per week with evening departures on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. It will increase to a daily service from October 25th, 2015.

Currently, Air China operates five times per week with non-stop service from Melbourne to Shanghai then onwards to Beijing. As of June 1st, this service will be from Melbourne to Shanghai direct with 199 economy class seats that boast a generous seat pitch of 32".

ready,
set,
go

SINGAPORE

Singapore's Changi Airport has been voted the World's Best Airport

Changi Airport Singapore was named the World's Best Airport by air travelers for the third consecutive year at the 2015 World Airport Awards, held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Barcelona, Spain.

Singapore Changi Airport connects customers to over 200 destinations worldwide, with 5,000 arrivals and departures a week by 80 international airlines.



SINGAPORE

Singapore, number 1

Lonely Planet has chosen Singapore as the world's top country to visit for 2015.

As one of the world's most multicultural cities, Singapore is always celebrating something. But Singapore has an extra special reason to put on the party hat as it is the Golden Jubilee in 2015. To coincide with the anniversary, Singapore is set to usher in a number of new attractions in 2015, including the National Art Gallery and the Singapore Sports Hub, which will host the 28th Southeast Asian Games. With more than a dozen MRT (metro) extensions currently in development, it'll soon be easier to get around.



TRAVEL

EasyJet App ready for Apple Watch Launch

EasyJet has created a dedicated app for the Apple Watch. The app will be ready to download when the long awaited new wearable launches on April 24th. One of the main benefits of the app, which will be available in five languages, will be the Passbook boarding pass that will enable quick and easy use throughout the airport. Another key feature of Apple Watch will be Glances, which will inform and remind passengers of important parts of the journey, including check-in detail, pre-departure information, weather in destination, up-to-date local currency exchange rates and real time flight status. The app is a continuation of EasyJet's successful flight tracker tool.

JAPAN

Tokyo Disneyland in Japan to unveil "Stitch Encounter" in July

"Stitch Encounter" will open in July at Tokyo Disneyland in Japan. The interactive attraction based on Walt Disney's "Lilo & Stitch" replaces the "Captain EO" ride. The attraction will also feature Disney's first Japanese-speaking Stitch... konnichiwa.



TRAVEL GEAR

5 Great Gizmos You Need to Pack



- 1. TREASURE TAG** Attach the Nokia Treasure Tag to your belongings and it alerts you when you are about to leave them behind. Find your lost things by using the Treasure Tag app to locate lost possessions with visual and audio guidance, or using location data on a map. *SGD\$42*
- 2. BACKBEAT PRO** Wireless, Noise Cancelling Headphones + Mic. Music headphones make any moment more personal. Get lost in rich, lifelike audio and enjoy the quality sound. With up to 24 hours of continuous wireless use, you're going to need a longer playlist. *SGD\$317*
- 3. 3D SOFT PADDED CONTOURED SLEEP MASK** This cushioned and contoured sleep mask comfortably blocks out light and allows you to blink. A soft combination of sponge and soft polyester fabric envelops your eyes in cool comfort and velvety darkness for blissful slumber - anywhere, anytime. Great for travel as well as the home. *SGD\$15.95*
- 4. JBL CHARGE 2 SPEAKERS** With great sound quality that booms through the cylindrical chamber, the deal is only made sweeter with its fantastic battery life. *SGD\$180*
- 5. APPLE WATCH** The Apple Watch is at long last coming this year - you can set your friends' inferior Android Wear watches on it - and we know all about what's literally been hiding up CEO Tim Cook's sleeve. *Starts at SGD\$476*



GOOD FOOD
BEER

CHINA

BEIJING

SHANGHAI

HONG KONG

HAINAN

SHANDONG

YANTAI
WEIHAI

HAIYANG

QINGDAO

for the love of Beer

TWO CITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF SHANDONG HAVE QUICKLY BECOME SOME OF THE TOP SUMMER RESORTS AND VACATION HOT SPOTS IN CHINA AND NORTHEAST ASIA.

BY GARY MACNAMARA



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN
HAIYANG AND QINGDAO

SRC@BEST WESTERN

Sea View Grand Hotel Haiyang D673

With panoramic views of Haiyang golden beaches, the hotel provides a tranquil spot to relax and unwind. The hotel offers fine cuisine from all over, with options including Chinese, Cantonese, Southeast Asian, and Korean. You can indulge in an international seafood buffet or opt for Korean barbecue or Japanese sashimi.

Surf Plaza - Qingdao 4980/SE06/SD06

3 or 4 nights Split Weeks Available

Located between the sea and hills and within the bounds of Shilaoren, Qingdao, with its mild climate, is renowned as a place for summer vacations and recuperation. Close to the beach and amenities the bank next door. There are several small restaurants nearby including the mall about 10 minutes drive away.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com or call (65) 6223 4333

HAIYANG

Located in the peninsula province of Shandong in eastern China, Haiyang is a coastal city situated in the center of the prime tourist cities of Qingdao, Yantai and Weihai.

Haiyang is the perfect combination of natural wonder and cultural intrigue. The city is known for its newly discovered primitive beauty and is a prime destination for beach sports with its 142 mile coastline.

Here you can enjoy some of the nation's best beach sporting and leisure facilities including yachting clubs, sailing events, sand carving parks, and beach volleyball and basketball clubs.

If golfing is your game then the Tiger Beach Golf Course is the place to be with its seaside course built into the natural landscape. Away from the beach you can explore picturesque mountains, free flowing rivers and waterfalls and lush vegetation.

While in Haiyang, take the time to enjoy the special vegetable called Haiyang's Little Cucumber, (also known as fruit cucumber). With its crisp texture this mouthwatering beauty is half the size of an ordinary cucumber and tastes as sweet as fruit.

QINGDAO

Just two hours drive from Haiyang is the must see city of Qingdao. Every summer since 1991, China's beer-brewing capital has held the Qingdao International Beer Festival, sometimes referred to as Asia's Oktoberfest.

It started as 100th birthday celebration but has quickly become the largest beer festival in Asia, attracting several million people. Starting in the second week of August the festival runs for two weeks and kicks off with a grand opening concert and ceremony.

There's beer tasting, evening entertainment, drinking competitions and carnival events to keep you entertained. The festival attracts the top breweries from across the globe including Heineken from Holland, Tiger from Singapore, Kirin & Asahi from Japan, Budweiser from the US, Beck's from Germany, Corona from Mexico and the famous Chinese beer, Tsingtao (pronounced "ching dow").

Besides beer, there's a whole variety of food to tempt your taste buds, plus music, laser and dance shows to entertain you. Expect to see numerous beer tents filled with rows of people swilling beers and beautiful women dancing on stage to the sound of Gan Bei 干杯! (bottoms up). If you are planning on bringing the family, best to arrive early in the morning or leave before dark.

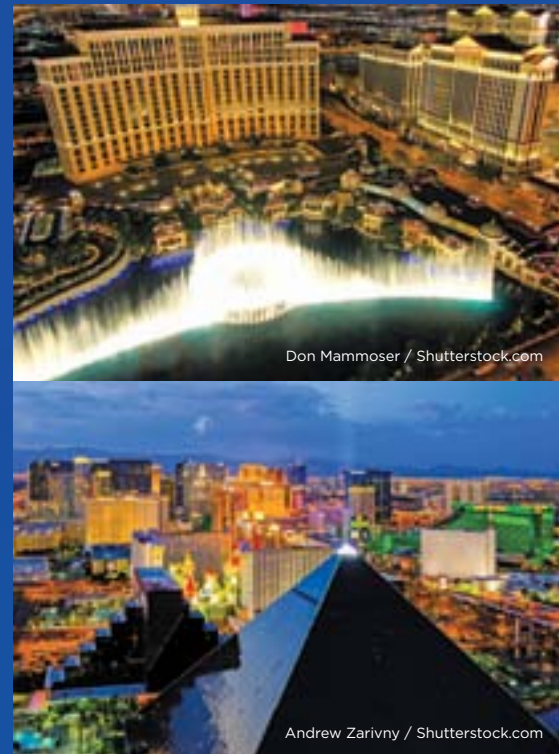
Don't forget, beautiful Shilaoren beach is just a 30 minute walk away, so plan ahead and enjoy the sunset!



FIRE AND ICE: City on the sea, Qingdao. The Qingdao International Beer Festival... relatively early in the day. Tsingtao, the world's number one Chinese beer.

Viva Las Value!

SINFULLY GOOD VALUE IN 'SIN CITY'



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Las Vegas conjures visions of neon lights, spectacular shows and, of course, countless coins overflowing from row upon row of pokie machines. But they don't have to be overflowing from your pockets. Beyond the constant 'ka-ching' of the casinos, you'll find yourself hitting the holiday jackpot in the Entertainment Capital of the World.

Shopping steals and deals

With souvenirs and shopping sprees essential to most holidays, Vegas takes some of the worry off your wallet. From designer labels and brand-name shoes to gifts and cool stuff for the kids, the city's factory outlets are great places to bargain-hunt. Downtown, check out the Las Vegas North Premium Outlets and Las Vegas South Premium Outlets (the two are about 15 minutes apart by car and together boast approximately 290 shops).

To pick out the perfect mementos of your time in Las Vegas, you can't go past Bonanza Gifts. The self-proclaimed "World's Largest Gift Shop" features everything from SGD\$1 fun gifts to customary t-shirts and shot glasses to Native American jewelry and Elvis memorabilia.

Economical eats

For frugal fare, there's no better bargain than a Vegas buffet. Most of the casinos feature restaurants with all-you-can-eat breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner deals. For really good value, tuck in to the Ports O' Call Buffet at the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino. There you'll find breakfast and lunch for about SGD\$11 and dinner for about SGD\$17. And for more cheap eats at any hour of the day, visit one of the three Earl of Sandwich locations in the city for hot sandwiches, wraps, salads and more.



SENSORY OVERLOAD: (from left) The strip at night, 4.2 miles of entertainment, dining and shopping... buckle up. Some things in life are free, the Bellagio Hotel offers a light and water show which is timed to music, or maybe just walk the strip as many hotels offer some sort of free entertainment to lure you in. If there is one thing better than an all you can eat buffet it's an all you can eat dessert buffet just make sure you bring a belt with some holes left in it. Or maybe buy one? If you like shopping, Las Vegas has you covered, shop in the future at one of the cutting edge outlet malls or maybe ancient Rome is more your pace... if not virtually every other theme is covered.

Shows, sights and high stakes

With so many dazzling performances in Vegas, taking in a show is a must on any Sin City itinerary. Many of the casino venues offer dinner-and-show packages or discounts if you buy tickets for more than one show at the same venue. Alternatively, a number of discount ticket outlets, such as Tix4Tonight, provide same-day, half price deals. For some good no-money fun, a stroll along the famous Vegas Strip serves up plenty of free shows along the way. Wander by the spellbinding Fountains of Bellagio to take in their choreographed combination of water, music and light.

Embrace that big-top nostalgia by watching the free daily circus acts at the aptly named Circus Circus casino. Or simply go casino hopping to check out their elaborate themes and costumes. Baffled by blackjack? Curious about craps? Many of the casinos offer free gaming lessons. Already fancy yourself a seasoned gamester? Even gambling can be affordable and fun if you set your budget – and stick to it! After all, even though the famous tagline is "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas", all your money doesn't have to!



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Kobby Dagan / Shutterstock.com



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN LAS VEGAS AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL & EXCHANGE INCLUDE:

Grandview at Las Vegas (6923)
7 nights from SGD\$460
Removed from the buzz of The Strip but close enough to enjoy all the attractions.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club on Paradise (5426)
7 nights from SGD\$1412
Perfect location quietly located just off the Strip but within easy access via monorail.

The Cliffs at Peace Canyon (6389)
7 night from SGD\$560
Located 20 minutes from the world-famous Strip.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com



SHOPPING

Melbourne Victoria

Melbourne Style

BY LEANNE MACNAMARA

The vibrant city of Melbourne is a shoppers' paradise for all ages. From international and Australian designer clothes and jewelry to The Queen Victoria Market and second hand shops, you'll find something to suit your credit card balance.

Whatever your shopping tastes it's a good idea to bring along a survival kit when you plan your next shopping extravaganza in Australia's number one retail destination Melbourne, Victoria.

- ✓ Comfortable shoes
- ✓ Credit card and some cash (OK, maybe lots of cash)
- ✓ A bottle of water
- ✓ Extra luggage
- ✓ Lots of energy
- ✓ A shopping list

The Queen Victoria Market also known affectionately as 'Vic Market' or 'Queen Vic', has been the heart and soul of Melbourne for more than a century. A historic landmark spread over two city blocks, it's a vibrant and bustling inner city market where you can shop for everything from Australian fruit and vegetables, local and imported gourmet foods, to cosmetics, clothing and souvenirs. Open five days a week Tuesday 6am - 2pm, Thursday 6am - 2pm, Friday 6am - 5pm, Saturday 6am - 3pm, Sunday 9am - 4pm. Wednesday night markets can be another option, check out the website for opening dates and times. www.qvm.com.au. Located on Lonsdale Street, **Melbourne Central** in the Central Business District boasts over 300 shops.

Here you can browse through book stores, buy Australian opals, visit your favorite hairdresser, chill out over lunch or fill your shopping bags to bursting point.

Collins Street is where your credit card could really take a hit. Experience some exclusive big name fashion shops such as Giorgio Armani, Salvatore Ferragamo, Louis Vuitton, Versace and Welford. Even if your bank account doesn't match Bill Gates, it's worth having a look at what's on offer. You'll find some very cool items here to drool over.

Located at the western end of the CBD, **Docklands** is Melbourne's newest retail mecca. The shopping center is situated right under the observation wheel and you'll find bargains to be had in a myriad of

laneways filled with factory type outlets.

Bourke Street Mall is full of all the big name stores like Myer and David Jones. If you are looking for up market clothing and jewelry, then spend a day wandering through these exclusive stores.

Chapel Street is an eclectic mix of second hand and grunge shops featuring exclusive Australian designers. There are also plenty of eateries to sit and revitalise in between shopping. It's recommended you start on one side of the street and then back down the other so you don't miss any great bargains.

Swanston Street is not listed inside the regular tourist brochures, but there are plenty of bargains to be found down in the basement shops. This is also a great place

to grab those cheaper priced souvenirs.

Southgate is on the south bank of the Yarra River. The area is predominantly restaurants and cafes as well as a number of boutiques. You can also catch any number of tour boats to take a relaxing break from all the sidewalk markets. www.melbournrivercruises.com.au

Outlet Shopping Tours offer another fun day of retail therapy visiting back street wholesalers and outlet shopping streets. Sit back and relax for the day shopping in Melbourne without the worry of carrying bags, catching trains and trams, paying for taxis or finding car parks. Prices start around SGD\$94 per person. Tours operate: 9am-5pm - Monday to Saturday. www.outletshoppingtours.com.au



RETAIL THERAPY: (clockwise from left)

The city of Melbourne viewed from Southbank, a fantastic dining and shopping precinct in its own right. Melbourne Central, situated in the CBD and with over 300 shops is a great option set within unique architecture. The Queen Victoria Market and Collins Street are Melbourne institutions and should be on any serious shopper's itinerary. Nothing illustrates the ease of which visitors can navigate Melbourne and its shopping precincts more clearly than trams crossing in front of Flinders Street Station, tram, train, bus, taxi, city bike or on foot the choice is yours.



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN
MELBOURNE
INCLUDE:



Travelodge Southbank Hotel (R783)

Within easy walking distance to great restaurants and cafes, impressive shopping, renowned art galleries and the Crown Casino.
7 nights from SGD\$1040 Hotel



Adina Apartment Hotel St Kilda (RC92)

Located in the heart of St Kilda and only moments from the attractions that make Melbourne famous. Eateries, cafes and designer shopping are right on your doorstep.
7 nights from SGD\$1300 1 brm

For additional resort listings,
visit RCI.com



SUPER FOODS

GREEN UP YOUR DIET

A GREAT WAY TO KEEP ON TOP OF YOUR
HEALTH IS TO LOOK AT WHAT YOU EAT
AND DRINK AND SUPERFOODS ARE A
TREMENDOUS START.



So what are 'superfoods' and what makes them so superior to others and what's trending in 2015?

'Superfoods' are healthy foods that are low in calories and high in nutrients. They pack a lot of punch for their weight and are excellent sources of antioxidants needed by your body. While some superfoods cleanse and detoxify the body, others encourage a healthy digestive system.



◆ Matcha Green Tea

Many of us now know that green tea is good for us due to its antioxidant qualities. However beyond the realm of regular green tea, lies an incredible superfood known as matcha green tea (pronounced MA-cha). It's a powerful superfood and contains over six times the antioxidants in goji berries, seven times the antioxidants in dark chocolate, 17 times more antioxidants than blueberries and 60 times the antioxidants found in spinach. And that's just in one teaspoon!



◆ Spirulina

Spirulina is cultivated micro-algae and has been consumed for thousands of years by the indigenous people in Mexico and Africa. It is one of the highest known protein sources on Earth and contains 70% complete protein, more than steak which is 25% protein once cooked.



◆ Moringa

A green powder made from the leaves of a tree native to Africa and Asia, Moringa is reported to have twice the vitamin A of carrots, twice the iron of spinach, more potassium than bananas, more vitamin C than oranges and more protein than yogurt. Guaranteed to boost your energy levels, mood and immune system.



◆ Kale

Kale is something we should all eat more of. Those dark green leaves are loaded with vitamins, calcium and iron. Buy the whole plume like leaves so that it is easy to strip out the tough stems. Toss the leaves in olive oil and salt, spread on a baking tray and bake for 15 minutes or so 200C to make kale crisps.



◆ Green leafy vegetables

Readily available and highly nutritious, however most people do not eat enough of them. Fresh raw green leafy vegetables contain high doses of chlorophyll, easily digestible proteins, enzymes and a wide range of vitamins and minerals. These vegetables act as mini-transfusions for the blood, a health tonic for the brain and a cleanser of the kidneys. Rocket, spinach, dandelion greens, kale, watercress, parsley, lettuce, endive, chicory, broccoli, sprouts and mustard sprouts are a few to name.



◆ Wild blue-green algae

Algae was the first form of life on Earth and wild blue-green algae is a phytoplankton which has a 60% protein content and is a more complete amino acid than beef or soy beans. It contains one of the best known food sources of beta carotene, vitamin B and chlorophyll. It has also been shown to improve brain function and memory and help with viruses and flu.



◆ Cauliflower

In 2015, expect to see cauliflower hailed as the new healthy white. Try it grated to make a flour substitute in pizza crust or chopped finely as a delicious cauliflower rice or couscous. A member of the cancer fighting cruciferous family of vegetables, cauliflower is anti-inflammatory and antioxidant rich. It provides your body with an impressive dose of vitamin C, vitamin K and beta-carotene while supporting healthy digestion and detoxification.



◆ Barley grass

With 11 times more calcium than cows' milk, 5 times more iron than spinach and 7 times more vitamin C and bio-flavonoids than orange juice, barley grass juice has anti viral properties and neutralizes heavy metals such as mercury in the blood.



◆ Chlorella

Chlorella is a fresh water algae which has all the B group vitamins, vitamin C and E and many minerals. It's fantastic for the immune system and for reducing cholesterol and preventing hardening of the arteries.



◆ Cacao

If you have a sweet tooth, cacao is the purest form of chocolate you can consume. It is raw and much less processed than cocoa powder or chocolate, and has a high source of antioxidants and magnesium.

HEART & SEOUL

Move over Tokyo, Taiwan and Singapore our Chinese and Hong Kong travelers have found a new place to hang out. Seoul, the capital of South Korea has fast become one of the coolest vacation destinations in Asia. We love Korean soap operas, brands, fashion, music, shopping and the general vibe from the locals.

GARY MACNAMARA



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY: Seoul has leaped from the shadows of other popular Asian cities to become the destination of choice for those in the know.

WHILE KOREAN SOAP OPERA STAR, JUN JI-HYAN, (MY LOVE FROM THE STARS) MAY HAVE CREATED THE NEW CULINARY CRAZE OF FRIED CHICKEN AND BEER, THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THIS VIBRANT CITY. SEOUL IS A FASCINATING MIX OF THE OLD AND THE NEW FROM THE BUDDHIST TEMPLES, PAGODAS AND PALACES TO MODERN SKYSCRAPERS WITH NEON LIGHTS.

Seoul is home to many old historic sites like Gyeongbokgung and Changdeokgung Palaces, and places of traditional culture like Bukchon Hanok Village, Insa-dong, and Namdaemun Market.

The shopping and entertainment districts of Myeongdong and Apgujeong, and Asia’s largest underground shopping center COEX Mall, draw huge numbers of visitors every year.

The Hangang River, which runs through the center of the city, has a distinctive landscape that offers a myriad of resting places for visitors to stop and relax.

You can take a romantic stroll through one of Seoul’s most beautiful paths, Deoksugung’s Stone Wall Path and then go shopping at Myeong-dong or the Namdaemun Market. When the sun sets why not head up to N Seoul Tower for the most stunning nightscapes of Seoul.

As one of the most popular tourist destinations in Asia, Seoul is packed with traditional markets, high-end labels, cutting edge technology and some great bargains.

If you love fashion and style you are in for a treat. Megeongdong is the center of shopping in Seoul with over 300,000 square meters of pure shopping. Here you will find big brand names such as Zara, the fashion giant UNIQLO, H&M and Nike.

Migliore Mall is another major draw card for shoppers with its famous Lotte Department store with several floors of duty free shopping where you buy hands free and pick up at the airport later.

Dongdaemun offers a mega shopping experience where you can shop all day and night. Many shops specialize in Korean made fashion and you will find yourself in shopper’s paradise with over 26 malls to wander through. One of the best things about Dongdaemun is the night markets where you can shop until the sun rises. This is also a fantastic place to try some of the local cuisine.

APGUJEONG

If you love high end shopping and people watching you’ll be in seventh heaven. One of the wealthiest areas in Seoul, Apgujeong has many name

brands such as Louis Vuitton, Prada and Channel to name a few.

ITAEWON

Itaewon offers plenty of the hip-hop fashion and general clothing plus the street shopping is awesome. This area is famous for its custom tailored suits and is renowned for providing excellent quality at great prices.

GAROSUGIL

One of the newest hotspots in Seoul, Garosugil has some of the latest global trends and fashion. Remember window shopping can also be lots of fun plus there are some fabulous cafes and restaurants to chill out and watch the world go by.

LOTTE WORLD TOWER AND MALL

Recently opened, Lotte World Tower is a super-skyscraper reaching up to 555 meters in height. Once the structure is completed in October 2016, the tower will have 123 floors and will be the tallest building on the Korea Peninsula. The



SERENITY IN THE CITY: Cheonggyecheon Stream sits 15 feet below street level creating a calming oasis for walking and contemplation in the middle of a bustling modern city.

entertaining and shopping complex includes cinemas, duty free shopping, an aquarium for families and an avenue for shoppers looking for luxury goods.

INSA-DONG

Insa-dong Street is the focal point of Korean traditional culture and crafts. Stores in Insa-dong specialize in hanbok (traditional clothing), hanji (traditional paper), traditional teas, pottery, and folk craft. Insa-dong is also close to other tourist attractions including Gyeongbokgung (the royal palace during the Joseon Dynasty) and the Cheonggyecheon Stream.

INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING DISTRICT

Two anchor department stores (Lotte and Shinsegae) and a number of large shopping malls lie along the streets of Myeong-dong. Here you can shop for everything from clothing to cosmetics. After shopping you can check out the Myeong-dong Cathedral and the nearby Namdaemun Market, a market with over 600 years of history.

SEOUL JUNGANG MARKET

This hidden gem boasts more than 1,000 vendors and has become one of the biggest dried seafood markets in Korea. Try some of the country’s best anchovies, squid and dried pollack, and be sure to check out the market’s vendors that sell vegetables, rice cakes, bread and meat of all kinds. If you’re feeling hungry, try the mandu gook, a simple and savory dumpling soup, or bindae duk, a skillet-fried mung-bean pancake.

KOREAN FOOD

While many of our Asian foods such as Japanese and Chinese have become popular through the world, Korean food is still making its mark. Korean cuisine is referred to as hansik and the key to hansik is fermentation. The quintessential fermented food of hansik is kimchi, and while there are hundreds of types of kimchi, the most popular and well known is spicy fermented cabbage. Other typical fermented foods found around the

Korean table are jang (sauces) including ganjang (soybean sauce), gochujang (red pepper paste) and doenjang (soybean paste).

MAKE YOUR OWN KIMCHI

At the Kimchi Academy House, you can learn Korean history and culture through kimchi! It offers kimchi-making classes guided by a professional kimchi instructor. Participants can taste the kimchi they make or take it home with them. Phone: +82-2-318-7051 (Japanese / English), +82-2-318-7052 (Chinese). Email: kimchischool@naver.com

SAMCHEONG-DONG

Samcheong-dong is one of the most unique places in Seoul. Gyeongbokgung Palace lies to its left and Changdeokgung Palace to its right, with Cheong Wa Dae and Insa-dong to the north and south

NEW AND OLD: It was not so long ago that Sushi was considered exotic, so be adventurous and sample some kimchi. Spend a day and night in Dongdaemun and prepare for shopping and sensory overload. In Seoul the old is never far from the new and vice versa, few mega cities allow the two eras to sit so comfortably together.





Gyeongbok Palace



Seoul in summer

respectively. According to the principles of feng-shui, Samcheong-dong is said to have the absolutely ideal location. Samcheong (sam means “three” and cheong “clean or good”) was given its name in reference to the three things it has plenty of, clean water, beautiful neighboring mountains and kind-hearted residents.

Deoksugung Palace served as a royal residential palace when most of the other palaces in the country had been burned down during the Imjin War (1592-1598). At the palace’s rear garden sits a Romanesque pavilion, Jeonggwanheon Pavilion, designed

by Russian architect Aleksey Seredin-Sabatin. This space is regarded as one of the most romantic spots in the city and it isn’t uncommon to spot couples walking hand-in-hand around Deoksugung Doldamgil.

GYEONGBOK PALACE

This former seat of power is probably Korea’s most famous royal palace. It was built in the late 1300s and has been reconstructed numerous times.

CHEONGGYECHEON STREAM

A walk along this 3.6-mile stream is almost as good as a spa for clearing one’s mind. While it’s just off Sejongro,

one of the busiest boulevards in Seoul, Cheonggyecheon is remarkably quiet because the stream is more than 15 ft. below street level. It’s very serene with small waterfalls and nearly two dozen overhead bridges.

WAR MEMORIAL OF KOREA

This is the best place to learn about Korea’s history, especially its relationships with its near neighbors. Though it calls itself a war memorial it is really a huge military history museum (SGD\$4.20 admission) with tanks, planes and guns on display. Take subway line 4 to Samgakji Station.

SEOUL CITY TOUR BUS

If you want to hit most of Seoul’s major attractions but aren’t keen on traversing the city by taxi or subway, these buses are the way to go. For a mere SGD\$10, you can hop on and off at the major markets and N Seoul Tower. Look for the blue sign poles around the city to board. Double- and single-decker buses run Tuesday through Sunday from 9am to 7pm. There is also a night run from 8pm to 10pm.

JJIMJILBANG-KOREAN SPA

Is a place where one can not only enjoy the spa, shower, and sauna but also sleep overnight at an affordable price. It is a popular getaway for families, couples and friends and a great place to relax.

VARIED BEAUTY: (clockwise from top left) Man made and natural beauty is in abundance at Gyeongbok Palace. Seoul is a surprisingly green metropolis and can be a real joy to explore on foot... or you can give your feet a rest and jump on the ‘Hop On, Hop Off’ sightseeing bus. Korea has a history of many invasions, a great place to learn about this is at the War Memorial of Korea. Close out a long day of shopping with a walk around the grounds of one of Seoul’s most romantic locations, Deoksugung Palace.



Deoksugung Palace

18 APRIL 2015



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STAY

RCI AFFILIATED
RESORTS IN
SEOUL INCLUDE:



Ramada Encore Dongdaemun

A modern and stylish hotel located in the bustling business and shopping district of Dongdaemun. 3NTS from SGD\$655 (RC71) 4NTS from SGD\$780 (RC72)



RAMADA SEOUL JONGNO

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RAMADA NAMDAEMUN

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For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com



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NEW THINGS IN OUR
FAVORITE PLACES



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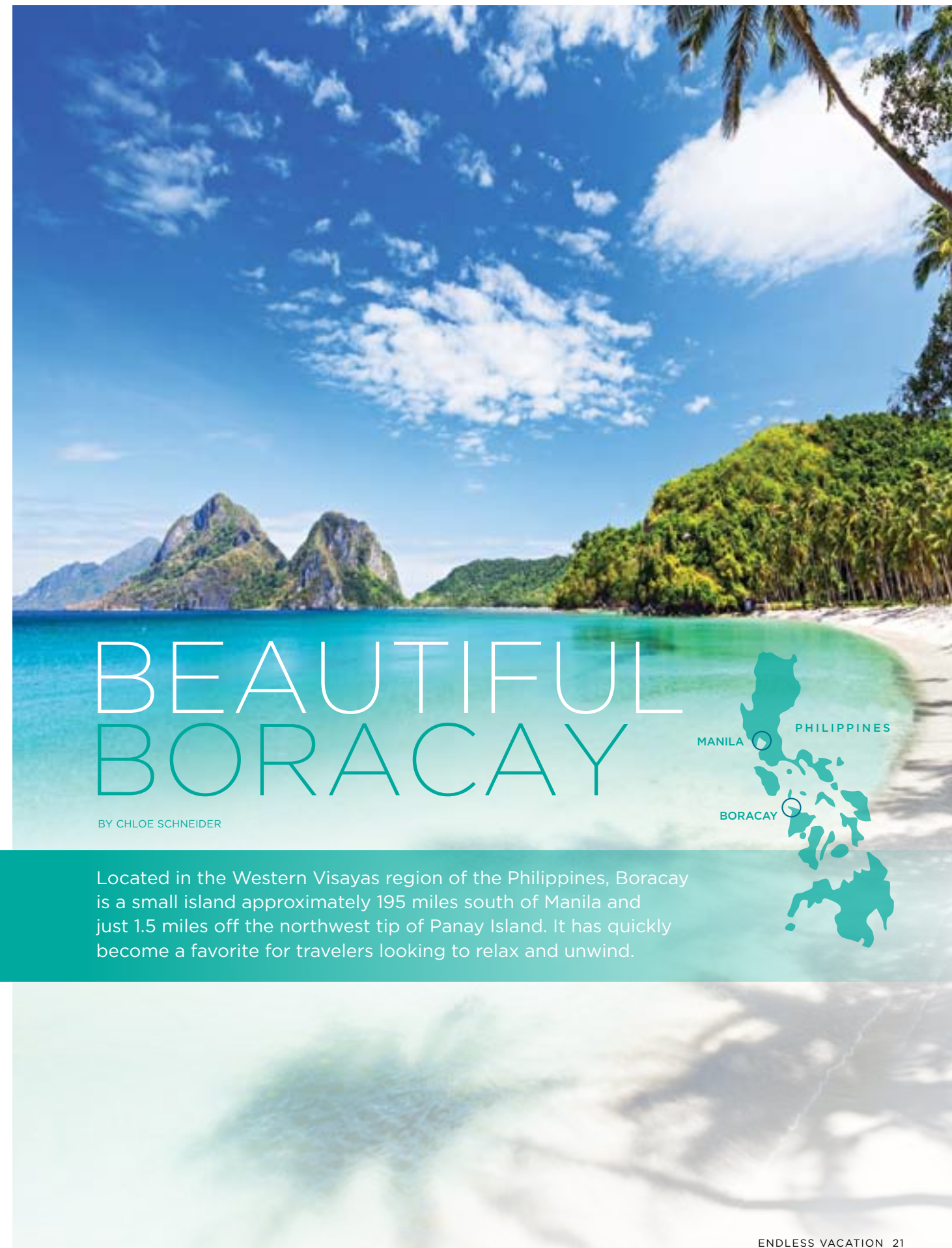
STAY

RCI affiliated resort in Macedon/Melbourne region

Exchange: Mansfield Country Resort 0827. Exchange: The Bright Resort 1175. Exchange: Kyneton Bushland Resort 0830.

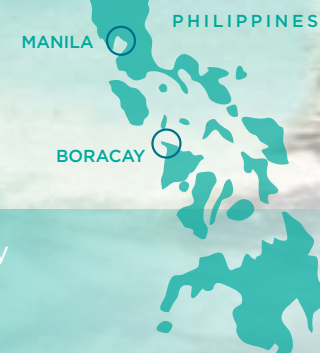
7 NIGHTS RENTAL Travelodge Southbank Hotel R783 SGD\$1040

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com



BEAUTIFUL BORACAY

BY CHLOE SCHNEIDER



Located in the Western Visayas region of the Philippines, Boracay is a small island approximately 195 miles south of Manila and just 1.5 miles off the northwest tip of Panay Island. It has quickly become a favorite for travelers looking to relax and unwind.



Igor Plotnikov / Shutterstock.com

ISLAND OF PLENTY: Boracay is the definition of a tropical island, perfect white beaches, crystal clear waters in every shade and tone of blue and all of the watersports and activities that you would expect to go along with it.



GETTING THERE

As the area has grown, airlines have been gradually adding flights to meet demand, making getting to the island slightly easier. A little competition also means the lower prices make for a less expensive trip. Still, there are no direct flights, so getting there will require a journey by sky, land and sea.

The most common route involves flying to either Caticlan or Kalibo, then taking a vehicle to Caticlan Jetty Port where, from 5am to around 10pm, boats are available to take you on the 10-20 minute ride.

Depending on the season, you will arrive on either Tambissan Jetty or Cagban Jetty in Boracay, where a trike will be available to take you to your resort.

BEACH-HOPPING

White Beach is the famed, so-beautiful-it-hurts stretch of sandy beach on the island, and for good reason. No Instagram snapshot can do the pristine, powdered-sugar sand and crystal-clear water justice. The only drawback is that, as is common of popular spots, peak seasons can see it get busy.

If you're craving tranquility, keep walking around the point from the north end of White Beach to find Diniwid Beach or, better yet, book an island-hopping tour. Typically these tours will involve a trip out to Crocodile Island (which, thankfully, is named for its shape and not its residents), Crystal Cove, Puka Shell Beach and Panoly Beach.

Travelers craving an off-the-beaten-track experience can swim or snorkel to beaches like Ilig-Iligan Beach, where your adventure will be rewarded with incredible views of limestone islets.

ISLAND ACTION

If you find yourself with some steam to blow off, rest assured there is no shortage of water sports and activities to get your heart racing.

One of the most popular is cliff diving at Ariel's Point. The point is around 35-45 minutes away by boat, so visitors generally book a day trip including transportation, snorkeling, cliff diving and a barbecue buffet lunch. A word to the wise: book at least one day ahead.

Want more? All the usual island suspects, including scuba diving, parasailing, stand-up paddle boarding, sailing and jet skiing can be booked by hotel staff, and if you're looking for a white-knuckle experience to remember, the Flyfish ride, where a giant

inflatable fish is pulled along by a speedboat, is a must.

If all that hasn't left you exhausted, the island practically transforms into a giant outdoor nightclub when the sun goes down, so you can dance the night away while world-class DJs play and fire dancers line the beach.

LOCAL DELICACIES

Food on the island is plentiful and, if you know where to go, incredible. Lechon, or suckling pig, is a local delicacy in the Philippines and, although it is said Cebu has the best of it, you can still find this crispy-skinned, flavorful and unforgettable meat in Boracay.

If seafood's your thing, D'Talipapa, a famous wet market where you can buy live seafood from stall vendors and have it cooked just to your liking at nearby restaurants, will quickly become your personal paradise. If seafood's not your thing, this just might be the experience that changes your mind.

Sweet teeth have not been forgotten – mango shakes, coconut water, exotic island fruits and baked goods (the Calamansi muffins from Real Coffee are legendary) are sure to satisfy.



FRESH IS BEST: Where else can you select seafood direct from the ocean and have it cooked for you immediately? If you can wait an hour or two, you may choose a table with an unbeatable view right on the seafood's doorstep.



SHOP AND SPA

Tourists looking for a shopping spree won't find their salvation in Boracay, but you certainly won't go home empty-handed. Along the beachside, you'll find brightly-coloured strands of handmade beaded

necklaces and bracelets that will make the perfect trinket to take home, and D'Mall is a partially open-air shopping center that will cover all your basic needs.

If you'd rather indulge in spas than shoes, you're in luck. Between the tranquil Mandala Spa located on the hilltop above Angol Road, there's the exotic Tirta Spa and the Chi Spa, where you'll find the perfect treatment to restore and rebalance.

No matter how you spend your time on vacation here, you are bound to remember Boracay as a piece of paradise.



SPEND OR MEND: Take a break from the sand and water and shop for local crafts or perhaps treat yourself to a restorative massage or treatment.

CHECK
OUT



Palawan Island

is another up and coming destination to check out in the Philippines.

Palawan is known for its tropical beaches and wildlife sanctuaries, as well as for being home to some of the best scuba diving sites in the world. San Rafael is just a short drive from Puerto Princesa City, where visitors can find a host of shopping and dining options. Puerto Princesa, known as one of the cleanest and greenest cities in the world, also serves as the venue for conferences, festivals, sporting events and other activities.



STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS TO CHOOSE IN THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDE:



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Malay, Aklan, Philippines

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For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com



Astoria Palawan C948

San Rafael, Palawan Island

Enjoy a relaxing and pampering holiday experience with fun in the sun along the resort's beachfront. In an effort to create a natural, eco-friendly environment, the resort incorporates a rustic, encompassing modern design that utilizes raw concrete, local stones and sustainable building materials.

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ST MARTIN

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Viewpoint over Philipsburg.

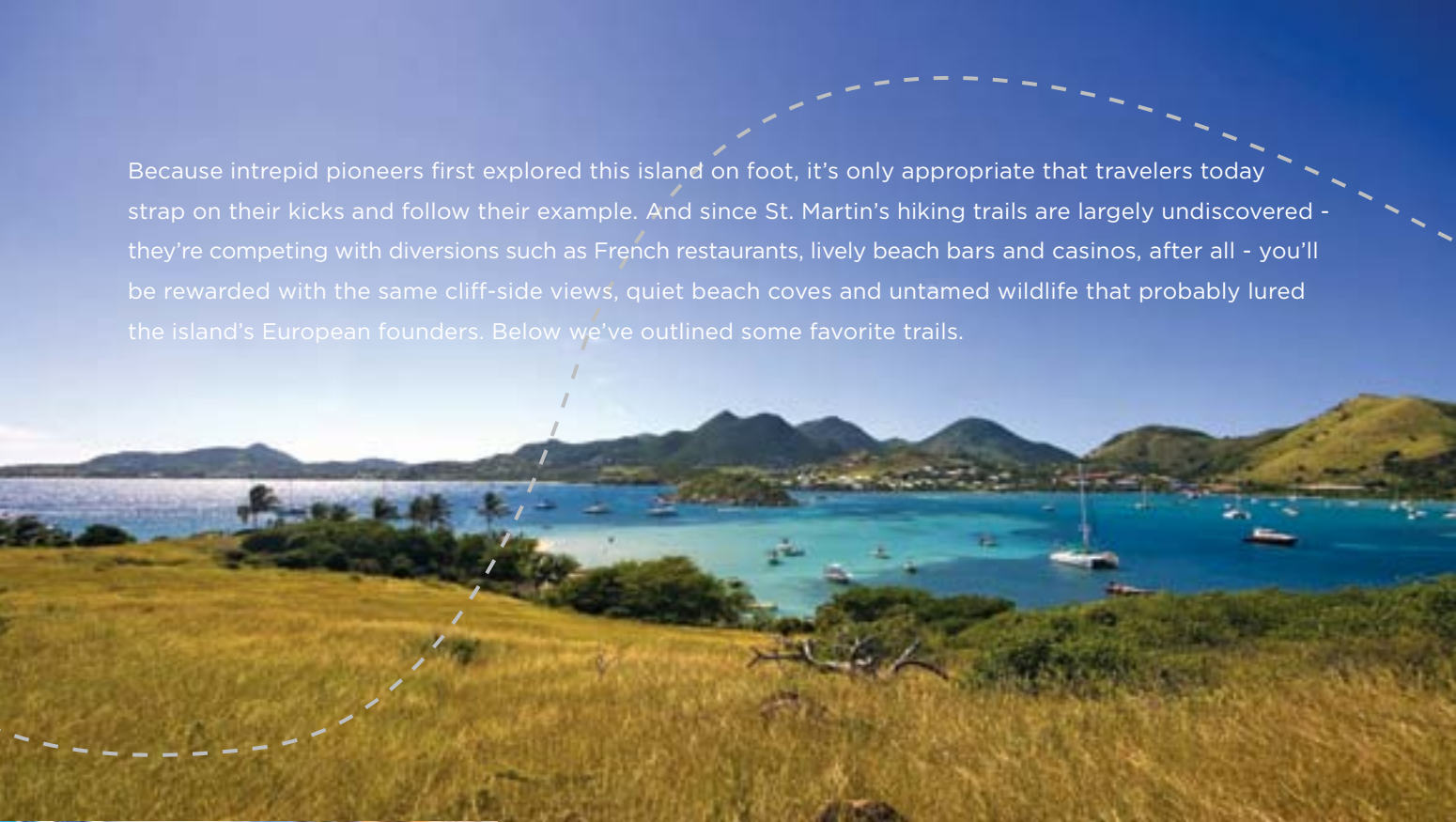
slow down

ON ST. MARTIN

You're on island time - no need to rush. Explore the place on foot by taking one of these scenic hikes.

BY STIRLING KELSO

If you've ever studied a map of St. Martin, a 34-square-mile French-Dutch island in the Caribbean, you may have noticed that the French side is bigger - a lot bigger. According to legend, the border was determined by a Frenchman and a Dutchman who found themselves in Oyster Pond, on the east coast. Having agreed that the spot at which they met on the island's other side would determine the dividing line from Oyster Pond, the two parted ways and raced around the perimeter. En route, the Frenchman drank wine. The Dutchman? He chose gin.



Because intrepid pioneers first explored this island on foot, it's only appropriate that travelers today strap on their kicks and follow their example. And since St. Martin's hiking trails are largely undiscovered - they're competing with diversions such as French restaurants, lively beach bars and casinos, after all - you'll be rewarded with the same cliff-side views, quiet beach coves and untamed wildlife that probably lured the island's European founders. Below we've outlined some favorite trails.



Pinel Island

Boats (tickets, SGD\$14) leave St. Martin's northeast coast every half hour to get to this small isle, uninhabited except for a few restaurants and bars. After disembarking, most travelers settle on yellow beach chairs, leaving the rest of Pinel for explorers. Paths cut through high grasses and purple-flowered sea potato vines, leading to a seaweed-covered beach that makes for great shelling. Farther along you'll spot a scenic slope where the island's iguanas—some quick and green, others ancient and gray—congregate, sunning themselves on warm stones.

A flat trail through blooming agaves and thick shrubs leads to another empty crescent of sugar-white sand on Pinel's east coast. Look for marine life ranging from thumbnail-size crabs to dark red sea urchins. The beach is also a nesting ground for green and leatherback turtles, though sightings are rare.

If you're hungry, grab a table at Karibuni (Pinel Island; 011-590-690-39-67-00; karibunipinel.com; lunch for two, SGD\$95, on the island's main beach). Besides conch-filled pineapple salad and whole

roasted snapper, there's grilled spiny lobster with butter and garlic. Crustaceans can get pricey, though; for a less expensive lunch, try a hot ham-and-cheese sandwich at Snack Pinel (Embarcadère de Cul de Sac; 011-590-690-61-55-01; no website; lunch, SGD\$16, back on the mainland).

Back Bay

While it's just minutes from the town of Philipsburg, few people know that this scenic 1.5 mile hike exists, as its trailhead is at the end of a neighborhood street. The path itself is well kept, though, and travellers who take the time to find it will be rewarded with dramatic views of undeveloped cliffs and crashing turquoise waves.

Steep grassy hillsides are punctuated by black boulders, and stretches of tall grasses ripple in the Caribbean breezes. The hike is mostly flat with a few short inclines, but you may encounter low-lying native plants, some of which, such as endangered pope's head cacti and acacia, have thorns, so wear pants and good walking shoes. Follow the trail for 50 minutes to a route that zigzags down to a natural pool at the ocean's edge.

Paradise Peak

At 1,391 feet, Pic Paradis, or Paradise Peak, is the highest point on St. Martin. To anyone who has hiked the Appalachians or Rockies, this trek may not look challenging, but don't let the green hill fool you. Trailheads begin at Loterie Farm (103 Route Pic Paradis, Rambaud; 011-590-590-87-86-16; loteriefarm.com) the original owner acquired the land rights in a lottery—an adventure center with zip lines, a children's play area and three restaurants. Stop at the reception desk for a hiking map (SGD\$9.50) and instructions; guided hikes are also available (SGD\$45; advance reservations required).

Moss-covered signs point you through the route's lowlands, already dense with foliage. You can't help but hum the theme from Indiana Jones as you swipe aside hanging tree roots or grab thick ropes to hoist yourself up steep inclines. Farther along the 2 mile trek, you'll pass an abandoned sugar mill and rewarding overlooks of coastal towns Marigot and Philipsburg and may even spot mongoose and elusive wild monkeys. Nothing beats the peak, from whose 360-degree lookout point St. Martin and other, distant Caribbean islands are unfurled below you.

TRAIL MIX: (clockwise from opposite page) Take the Paradise Peak Trek and you will find the City of Marigot and other picturesque coastal towns. If you need a break from mother nature, shopping in Philipsburg could be for you. Hiking is big on St Martin, you don't have to travel far to be rewarded with magical views and historic relics. When the sun goes down it's time to fuel up in the bars and restaurants on some fine Caribbean fare, cold beer, hot spices and the sort of seafood you would expect from this amazing region.



EAT

Enoch's Place

Follow locals to this no-frills restaurant on market days for fried red snapper and piping-hot johnnycakes. Arrive early—the fish sells out fast. *Marigot Farmer's Market, Marigot; 011-590-590-29-29-88; breakfast for two, SGD\$27*

L'Estaminet

A nice alternative to the traditional French eateries in Grand Case. Try modern dishes, like sole with vanilla butter, foie gras with a granita. *139 Grand Case Blvd., Grand Case; 011-590-590-29-00-25; dinner for two, SGD\$164*

Lazy Lizard

Many dishes at this waterfront restaurant in Philipsburg have an Indian twist (curried chicken, a spiced burger). Sample cocktails with house-infused liquors. *29 Great Bay Boardwalk, Philipsburg; 011-721-580-7888; lazylizardsxm.com; lunch for two, SGD\$41*

Trellis

This elegant restaurant at the Belmond La Samanna hotel has dining nooks overlooking the water. The steak tartare and conch stew are standouts, as is the wine list. *Baie Longue; 011-590-590-87-64-00; belmond.com; dinner for two, SGD\$205*

La Villa

A French spot with candlelit tables. Don't miss the garlicky escargot, lobster-stuffed ravioli or house-made passion-fruit rum. *93 Grand Case Blvd., Grand Case; 011-590-590-52-36-59; lavillasxm.com; dinner for two, SGD\$164*



FRIAR'S BAY

Friar's Bay

Locals talk of a lengthy hike that begins and ends in Grand Case, a town on the French side. It's a beautiful but confusing route, so we picked out our favorite portion, a 20-minute walk connecting Friar's Bay and Happy Bay.

Fuel up with an espresso at Friar's Bay Beach Café (Friar's Bay Beach, La Savane; 011-590-690-49-16-87), then head north to a peninsula trail that rewards you with views of bobbing sailboats. Wildlife is pretty easy to spot: You may pass cows munching on sea greens as well as pelicans, brown boobies and migrating red-billed tropical birds.

The lesser-known Happy Bay, a ring of canvas-colored sand outlined in waxy beach plums and royal palms, is a great spot to watch the sunset, so before you make the trip, pack some provisions. Stalls

at Marigot's Farmer's Market (Marigot Harbor), held Wednesday and Saturday, sell everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to spices and passion-fruit liqueurs. Close by, La Sucrière (Front de Mer, Marigot; 011-590-590-51-13-30) has baguettes and almond- and apricot-filled pastries. Round out the picnic basket with cured meats and fromage from Simply Market (Central Marigot; no phone), a French grocery store. You'll also find a nice wine selection.

The Frenchman would be pleased. 🇫🇷

Additional Hiking Resources:

Joyce Tours and Services Along with private-boat excursions and town history tours, island-based trip planner Joyce Prince can set you up with hiking guides who lead everything from beach walks to advanced jungle treks. 5 Davis Dr., Middle Region; 305-831-5742; joyceprince.com

Local Tour Guide Experience St Martin through the eyes of a local private guide! Take a Saint Martin private tour and explore this two-toned tropical paradise with a local guide. Browse the tour suggestions on their website - each can be customized just for you. toursbylocals.com



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ST. MARTIN
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MEMBER REVIEW: "We really enjoyed the resort as well as the rest of the island." "Clean, well-maintained resort with very helpful, friendly staff." "The views from the room were breathtaking."

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Here's what you'll find inside:

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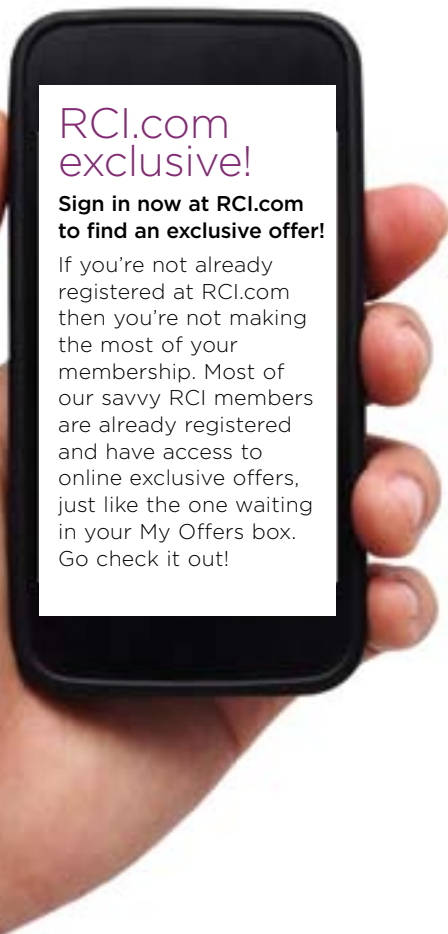
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Weekenders

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Use your Deposit Credits to book a second vacation!

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Understanding Deposit Credits

You receive a Deposit Credit when you exchange your Deposit for one with lower Exchange Trading Power than your available Deposit Trading Power. The difference in trading power is put back on your account in the form of a deposit, to use toward future exchanges. This “left over” Deposit Trading Power is known as a Deposit Credit.

DEPOSIT CREDIT



Inside Tips Deposit Credits are a great way to increase your Deposit Trading Power without giving up a full week. If you have a Deposit Credit on your account consider using it first when combining.

What Can I Do With My Deposit Credit?

Exchange it for another vacation

You can use your Deposit Credit on its own to search for and book a second vacation. Simply select the Deposit Credit to search against and find available exchanges with equal or less trading power. It's like getting two vacations for just one week!

Combine it with another Deposit or Deposit Credit

You can combine your Deposit Credit with another deposited week, or another Deposit Credit, to increase that Deposit's Trading Power. With higher trading power you will have access to trade into an exchange vacation with higher trading power than that of your original Deposit. This can give you access to more exchange options than you had previously.

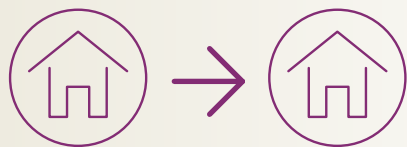
What EXACTLY is a Combined Deposit?

Combined Deposits allow you to combine multiple deposits or Deposit Credits for a fee, and turn them into one combined “week” with higher trading power. Each of your Deposited Weeks, combined Deposits or Deposit Credits has a Deposit Trading Power assigned to it. When you combine any of these, they appear as one week with a new higher Deposit Trading Power. You can then book an exchange that requires more trading power than your original week had. You might be able to book a vacation you never thought possible! It's a great way to get that extra special vacation you've been dreaming of.

How Long Does it Take Before I Can Use My Combined Deposit?

You can use it right away! Once you select the weeks you want to combine and pay the combine fee, you will be able to use the Combined Deposit right away. There is no wait time required!

EXCHANGE FOR A VACATION



YOUR DEPOSIT CREDIT

YOUR EXCHANGE VACATION'S TRADING POWER

COMBINED CREDITS



YOUR DEPOSIT CREDIT OF 5

ANOTHER DEPOSITED WEEK OF 15

COMBINED DEPOSIT'S TRADING POWER



Inside Tips Make sure the vacation you want is available for the dates you want before you combine two full weeks.



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Extra Vacations are excess accommodation offered as cash vacations. This means you can enjoy an additional week without using your deposit!

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PER WEEK



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The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel



MALAYSIA Langkawi (5461)
Perdana Beach Resort



CHINA Yantai City, Shandong (A525)
SRC @ Ramada Plaza Hotel Yantai



PHILIPPINES Tagaytay (5369)
Sunrise Holiday Mansion



CHINA Guilin (C943)
HIVC @ Yangshou No 1 Yard



THAILAND Chonburi (1300)
Sigma Resort Club (South Pattaya)

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SD67 3 night / SE67 4 night
Pasig City, Philippines

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GREENHILL RESORT
SE03 3 night / SD03 4 night
Pahang, Malaysia

Located at the top of a hill, this resort commands a panoramic view of Tanah Rata town and the surrounding hills. The unique, Tudor-style, design and beautiful landscaping of flowers and gardens further enhance the ambiance of the cool refreshing environment.



PALACE OF THE GOLDEN HORSES
SE09 3 night / SD09 4 night
Selangor Malaysia

Tagged as Asia's Most Extraordinary Hotel, this world-class award winning luxury hotel has a dedicated conference center and state-of-the-art facilities. With a distinctive Moorish-Malaysian architecture and equestrian theme, the hotel offers an outstanding variety of dining and entertainment, fitness and relaxation options.



REGENT HOLIDAYS @ RAMA CANDIDASA
SE24 3 night/ SD24 4 night
Candidasa Bali, Indonesia

Located on Bali's eastern coast, this resort is far away from the crowds, on a picturesque, private beach. Here you may enjoy mountain trekking, water sports and swimming pool, set between the gardens and the deep blue sea. You may also indulge in Indonesian style massage and other healing treatments, all with an ocean view.



J'S NICHINAN RESORT
SE91 3 night / SD91 4 night
Miyazaki-Ken, Japan

Combining traditional Japanese style with Western comforts, the resort offers guests an ideal place to experience Nichinan. Visit the many attractions or stay and enjoy the onsite restaurant, pool, outdoor spa with aromatherapy treatments, 18-hole golf course with gorgeous views, Korean-style granite steam sauna, and entertainment options like karaoke.



J'S KOBAYASHI GOLF & RESORT
SE90 3 night / SD90 4 night
Miyazaki-Ken, Japan

The resort is situated in a prime location at one of the most vibrant areas of Kyushu. Enjoy the resort on-site hiking trails for daytime adventure, as well as take a walk through the pristine greens for a round of golf. Work up a sweat at the fitness center and pamper yourself with a massage at the spa.



LHC PHUKET RESORT
SE05 3 night / SD05 4 night
Phuket, Thailand

Discover a world of luxurious vacation in this exclusive resort within easy reach of the Andaman Sea. Enjoy a multitude of activities: riding atop majestic elephants, relaxing at renowned spas, teeing off at an award winning 18-hole golf course, or simply unwinding beneath a swaying palm tree.



HNA@ INT'L AP CONVENTION
SE39 3 night / SD39 4 night
Sanya, Hainan China

Luxurious five-star hotel located about 10 minutes drive from Sanya Phoenix Airport. The resort boasts 473 luxurious guest rooms and various modern facilities and is near to the most famous attractions such as the West Island Marine Amusement World, Nanshan Cultural Tourism Zone, the End of the Earth, and the Sanya International Golf Club.



SAVE
US\$1200
per cabin



AZAMARA CLUB

Azamara Quest

12 Nights Northern Europe Cruise
From Copenhagen to Stockholm

Ports of Call: Copenhagen - Lubeck - Wismar
- Ronne - Gdansk - Tallinn - St Petersburg -
Helsinki - Stockholm

Selected departure in August 2015

Club Oceanview Stateroom

Now from US\$4995*pp
with RCI Exchange

Deal code: DCILWMGD



SAVE
US\$850
per cabin



CELEBRITY CRUISES

Celebrity Equinox

12 Nights Mediterranean Discovery
Cruise From Barcelona to Istanbul

Ports of Call: Barcelona - Marseille - Nice
- Florence - Civitavecchia/Rome - Valletta
Grand Harbour - Mykonos - Piraeus /Athens -
Kusadasi - Istanbul

Selected departure in September 2015

Balcony Stateroom

Now from US\$2330*pp
with RCI Exchange

Deal code: DCGPDP8



**BEST
BUY**



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

Norwegian Epic

7 nights Mediterranean Cruise
Round trip from Civitavecchia / Rome

Ports of Call: Civitavecchia / Rome - Livorno
/Florence - Cannes - Palma de Mallorca -
Barcelona - Naples

Selected departure in November 2015

Inside Stateroom

Now from US\$705pp

Deal code: DC1FDDIF



SAVE
US\$1000
per cabin



PRINCESS CRUISES

Sapphire Princess

10 Nights Asia New Year Cruise
Round trip from Singapore

Ports of Call: Singapore - Bali - Port Klang Kuala
Lumpur - Penang - Phuket

Selected departure in December 2015

Inside Stateroom

Now from US\$885*pp
with RCI Exchange

Deal code: DCZD7NM



SAVE
US\$600
per cabin



CELEBRITY CRUISES

Celebrity Millennium

16 Nights Asia Cruise
from Singapore to Sydney

Ports of Call: Singapore - Benoa Bali - Darwin -
Cairns - Brisbane - Sydney

Selected departure in March 2016

Oceanview Stateroom

US\$1740*pp
with RCI Exchange

Deal code: DCWE9KC



**BEST
BUY**



ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES

Legend of the Seas

10 Nights Exotic Asia Cruise
from Singapore to Hong Kong

Ports of Call: Singapore - Ko Samui - Laem
Chabang Bangkok - Sihanoukville - Ho Chi
Minh City - Nha Trang - Hue - Hong Kong

Selected departure in October 2015

Inside Stateroom

Now from US\$1266pp

Deal code: DC1G0J8X

* Prices are to be used as a guide only and based on per person, twin share/ Prices and itineraries are subject to change, prices may vary per departure and will be confirmed at time of booking.

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New Affiliated Resorts

New properties are added to the family of RCI® affiliated resorts every month. This is just one more way we're working to deliver more options, more flexibility and more opportunities for you to travel. Here are two more we have recently added to our portfolio of more than 4,500 resorts in over 100 countries around the world.



Lands end on Miyazaki



J'S NICHINAN RESORT D867

Miyazaki-Ken, Japan

Combining traditional Japanese style with simple Western comforts, J's Nichinan Resort offers guests an ideal place to experience Nichinan. With many different attractions within 15 minutes to an hour of the resort, guests can explore the destination and return to the resort's amenities, which include an onsite restaurant, pool, outdoor spa with aromatherapy treatments, 18-hole golf course with gorgeous views, Korean-style granite steam sauna and entertainment options like karaoke. For added convenience, guests can also take advantage of the resort's concierge services during their stay.



J'S KOBAYASHI GOLF & RESORT D866

Miyazaki-Ken, Japan

The resort's prime location in one of the most vibrant areas of Kyushu offers many exciting activities for vacationers. Families and couples can enjoy the resort onsite hiking trails for daytime adventure, as well as take a walk in its pristine greens for a round of golf. Work up a sweat at the fitness center and then pamper yourself with a massage at the spa. Enjoy a bite to eat at the resort restaurant or make your own delicious dish on the outdoor grills.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com

weekenders



<< BANGKOK, THAILAND

WITH A POPULATION OF OVER ELEVEN MILLION INHABITANTS AND THE CAPITAL OF THAILAND, BANGKOK IS A CITY KNOWN FOR ITS HIGH RISE BUILDINGS, HISTORIC CHARM AND NAUGHTY NIGHTLIFE. BUT DON'T BE MISLEAD. IT IS ONE OF ASIA'S MOST COSMOPOLITAN CITIES WITH EXOTIC TEMPLES, EXQUISITE CANALS, BUSY MARKETS AND A VIBRANT NIGHTLIFE THAT APPEALS TO TRAVELERS OVER THE WORLD.

Today, Bangkok (or Krung Thep, "The city of angels") as it is known, is a modern city that retains the grandeur and glory of its famous past. From a world famous floating market to spectacular palaces and a colorful Chinatown, Bangkok has an intriguing mix of old world charm and modern convenience. There are endless bars, shows, restaurants, cafes and high end shopping to enjoy.

A trip to Bangkok would not be complete without visiting Thailand's Grand Palace, possibly the premier Bangkok sightseeing attraction. Situated in the heart of Bangkok's Rattanakosin Island, the gleaming spires of the Grand Palace are conveniently located near some of Bangkok's most exotic temples, including the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaeo), the Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) and Wat Pho. These iconic destinations are popular favorites with all visitors who

travel to Bangkok looking to appreciate Thailand's unique cultural traditions. Other historical and cultural sightseeing 'must sees' include the National Museum, Vimanmek Mansion and Suan Pakkad Palace, all of which have fine art collections and are considered to be national treasures. One of the main reasons visitors flock to Bangkok however, is to experience the world class shopping. Whatever you're looking for you'll find it here. From towering modern, air

conditioned malls to the hustle and bustle of its famous street markets, Bangkok has all kinds of places to blow your baht (Thai currency). Central Embassy Bangkok is a luxury lifestyle mall, boasting an impressive collection of high end designer stores, fine dining restaurants and first class cinemas. Located in the heart of Bangkok's retail district near Siam, this huge shopping center has all the big name stores.

Siam Paragon is an immensely popular shopping mall offering high end fashion brands, Southeast Asia's largest aquarium, a 16 screen cinema and a comprehensive selection of world class restaurants. Considered to be the center of Bangkok, Siam Paragon provides fashionable, luxury living for well heeled locals and international visitors with money to burn. Eight floors high and packed with 2,000 shops MBK is Bangkok's legendary shopping mall. It has everything from clothing, fashion accessories, handbags, leather products, luggage, electrical goods and cameras. There's even entire floors dedicated to shoes, handbags, fashion and furniture.

Expect to find a wide range of highly desirable international brands like Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Prada and Hugo Boss at Gaysorn, a luxurious upmarket white marble complex housing exclusively high end luxury goods and designer labels. There's also a selection of Thailand's most innovative designers including Fly Now, 'Senada Theory and Klostet Red

weekenders BANGKOK, THAILAND

Carpet as well as the best Thai beauty brands such as Thann and Panpuri. Looking for something different? The Chatuchak Market offers the best street food in Bangkok at the end of the Skytrain line. Venture a little further to experience a unique half day shopping at Damnoen Saduak Floating Market. The colorfully clad merchants at these lively

markets paddle along congested canals in sturdy canoes, laden with fresh fruit and vegetables to sell to shoppers on the banks. The best time to visit is early morning. For the night time shopaholic Bangkok has some amazing night markets. Head down to the night market in Patong for some great designer bags. It's also one of the world's most famous red light districts.

Come night time, check out the views at Sirocco, an open air bar on the 64th floor of an impressive skyscraper called the State Tower. It's the perfect way to wind down with Bangkok's beautiful night scenes. 📷

weekenders BANGKOK, THAILAND

EAT

Rossini's at Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit

T: 0 2649 8364
250 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok, 10110, Thailand

This award winning restaurant provides exceptional Italian cuisine, combining top quality imported ingredients with innovative techniques, enhanced by luxurious interiors evoking a Tuscan countryside villa. Has direct access via a skywalk from the Asok BTS Skytrain Station. Open 6pm - 10.30pm.

www.rossinisbangkok.com

Nang Gin Kui

T: 85 904 6996
Charoen Krung Soi 20, Chinatown, Talad Noi, Samphanthawong, Bangkok 10100, Thailand

Located in Bangkok's Chinatown and offers a breathtaking view over Chao Phraya, The River of Kings. The restaurant offers an all-inclusive Thai fusion 15 course dinner set menu with sparkling wine, desserts, coffee, tea and seasonal fruits. Guests are seated around traditional Thai low tables on soft floor cushions.

www.nangginkui.com

Le Normandie Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental

T: 2 659 9000
48 Oriental Avenue, Bangkok 10500, Thailand

For authentic French food served in a truly classic and elegant setting, Le Normandie is the best in Bangkok. Situated on the top floor of The Oriental Hotel with splendid views of the Chao Phraya River. Fois gras and roasted sisteron rack of lamb are some of the menu highlights prepared by French master chefs.

www.mandarinoriental.com

PLAY

Dusit Zoo

T: 0 2282 7111
IBT No.71, Rama 5 Road, Dusit, Bangkok, 10300 Thailand

One of Bangkok's oldest attractions, the Dusit Zoo has animals from all over the world ranging from penguins and kangaroos, to the African attractions like tigers, lions, giraffes, and hippos that inhabit the Savannah section. Other attractions include the Ananta Samakhom Throne Room and Dusit Palace as well as a swimming lake and mini train ride. Open 8 am - 6pm.

www.zoothailand.org

Chatuchak Weekend Market

Paholyothin Road, Bangkok

For the best shopping in town and something for everyone in the family, Chatuchak is one of Bangkok's best attractions. Originally a flea market, it is the largest market in Thailand with over 5000 stalls selling everything from clothing to pets, antiques, plants, jewelry and food. There are lots of cafes where you can enjoy a great cappuccino or have a cold beer. Open Saturday and Sunday 6am - 6pm.

Spice Roads

T: 0 2381 7490
45 (Sub Soi Pannee) Soi Pridi Banomyong 26 Sukhumvit Soi 71 Bangkok, 10110 Thailand

Spice Roads is a leading bicycle touring company offering riders, of all abilities, the best of Thailand on two wheels. Their trips combine cultural settings, great sceneries, visits to floating markets, quiet canals and off road coconut plantations.

www.spiceroads.com

EXPLORE

Temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho)

T: 0 2226 0335
Chetuphon Road, Banglamphu, Thailand

The Temple of the Reclining Buddha is located next door to the Grand Palace. It's the largest and oldest temple in Bangkok and is home to the enormous reclining Buddha. The Reclining Buddha was crafted to celebrate King Rama III's restoration (1824 - 51). At 150 ft long and 49 ft high, it is the largest Buddha image in Thailand. Open 8am - 5pm.

www.watpho.com

The Grand Palace

T: 0 2623 5500
Na Phra Lan Rd, Maharaj Pier, Bangkok, Thailand

Built in 1782, this famous palace complex features several magnificent buildings including Wat Phra Kaeo (Temple of the Emerald Buddha), which dates back to the 14th century. The robes on the Buddha are changed each season by the king of Thailand which forms an important ritual in the Buddhist calendar. Open 8.30am - 3.30pm.

www.tourismthailand.org

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

T: 0 2623 5500
499, Kamphaengpet 6th Road / Lad Yao, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand

Built in 2012 and a must see for any art lover, the five story museum houses over 800 pieces of modern paintings and sculpture. Open 10am - 6pm, Tuesday to Sunday.

www.bangkok.com

STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN BANGKOK THAILAND:



MTC at the Legacy River Kwai 5456
Located just 16 miles from Kanchanaburi town, the resort provides a secluded atmosphere between mountain ranges, green forests and tranquil rivers. The carefully blended architecture is in perfect harmony with the surrounding nature. Activities include swimming, fishing, basketball, tennis and a relaxing sauna. In the evening, dine in the elegant floating restaurant by the river.

Grand Tower Inn 6305

Just 45 minutes from Bangkok International Airport, the Grand Tower Inn is a great base to explore lively Bangkok. Offering panoramic views of the city, the hotel has a fully equipped fitness center, sauna, jacuzzi and outdoor swimming pool. The on-site restaurant offers a variety of local and international cuisines.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com



INDONESIA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLAND, BALI IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO CHILL OUT. WHETHER IT'S FOR A FAMILY HOLIDAY, HONEYMOON, SURF TRIP, GIRLS SPA GETAWAY, YOGA RETREAT OR A LUXURY VILLA ESCAPE - WHATEVER YOUR REASON FOR VISITING, THERE IS LITERALLY SOMETHING FOR EVERY INTEREST IN TROPICAL BALI.

Located just south of the Equator and sandwiched between the islands of Java and Lombok in central Indonesia, Bali is a mecca for great adventure, sports and fitness activities.



Bali is by far the most popular tourist destination in Indonesia and has always been a popular favorite for those keen on surfing. The island is also a main destination for Australian, Japanese, Korean and European tourists. With four million people, Bali is the only Hindu society in Southeast Asia.

It's an island where luxury beach resorts touch base with historic Hindu temples, towering volcanoes and undulating rice terraces. It is a visual treat for tourists who love exotic culture and those who know how to have fun.

The sprawling south coast beach areas of Kuta, Legian and Seminyak are the most popular bases for Bali's three million annual visitors and are the main surfing beaches.

Kuta offers a vibrant beach life and stunning ocean sunsets along with hundreds of bars, restaurants and late night clubs. Slightly further north of Legian is Seminyak, home to chic bars, classy boutique shopping, French patisseries and fine dining restaurants. Virtually free of street hawkers, Seminyak's sophisticated atmosphere and relaxed pace of life make it ideal for a family beach holiday.

Bali's capital city and administrative center is Denpasar, located in the south of the island close to the beach resorts of Kuta and Sanur. It is a small bustling city with excellent shopping.

Situated just beyond Denpasar is the beautiful beach resort of Sanur where you can enjoy water sports and romantic beachfront dining. Its pristine sandy beaches are fringed by attractive boutique shops and fine seafood restaurants.

The real cultural heart of Bali however, is the town of Ubud which offers numerous fine art galleries and cultural centers. The surrounding countryside is filled with traditional stone carving, ceramic and textile producing villages such as Mas, Penestanan and Batuan.

Ubud is also the place to be for some of the best white water rafting and hiking. You can trek through some dense jungle near

Bali's only active volcano, Mount Batur, or enjoy the beach life on the north coast.

Bali's highest volcano, Mount Agung, is on the eastern side of Bali. When you ascend the stairs to the monumental courtyard, you'll find a central shrine dedicated to the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. You can organize a local tour guide to take you to Mount Agung and along the way, you can stop by some other spectacular temples such as Ganung Batukau and Tanah Lot.

Another popular beach town in the south of Bali is Jimbaran Bay. Every night, the beaches are packed with makeshift wooden huts with eating houses offering

fresh seafood supplied by the local fisherman. You can indulge in a delightful meal of fresh fish or grilled lobster while mixing with the friendly locals.

At the end of your busy day exploring Bali what better way to escape the daily grind than with a luxurious spa treatment in exotic tropical surrounds. Enjoy a couple massage with your loved one or treat yourself to a manicure and pedicure.



weekenders
BALI, INDONESIA



RELAX

Spa Bali Seminyak

T: 0361 737 932
Jl. Petitenget, Seminyak, Kerobokan, Seminyak, 80361
Open from 10am until 11pm daily, the spa offers a complete array of spa and beauty treatments including massages, body scrubs, manicures, pedicures and hot stone massages. It also has a hair salon facility.
www.spabali.biz

Hatten Wines Tour

T: 0361 767 422
Komplex Dewa Ruci, Jalan By Pass Ngurah Rai, Kuta
Learn all about Bali's exotic red and white wines with a cultured day of wine tasting as well as cookery demonstrations. Full day visits to the vineyards based in North Bali can also be arranged.
www.hattenwines.com

EAT

Zibiru Restaurant

T: 0361 733 265
Jalan Drupadi 7, Seminyak, Bali 80361
Zibiru offers farm-to-table authentic Italian cuisine in a unique Balinese setting. Live jazz every Wednesday and Saturday with dinner from 5pm - 12am.
www.zibiru.com

Jimbaran Bay Beachfront Restaurant

T: 0361 216 8521
Kelan, Jimbaran Bay
Enjoy delicious seafood and romantic sunsets while dining on the beach.
www.jimbaranbeachrestaurant.com

Jenja Restaurant, Bar & Club

T: 0361 882 7711
Seminyak Jl. Nakula
Serving Arabian and Asian cuisine, Jenja presents a one stop dining and evening entertainment restaurant on two levels. The first level features ultra stylish interiors and three dining areas including an outdoor area.
www.jenjabali.com

PLAY

Kendra Gallery

T 0361 736 628
Jalan Drupadi 88B, Seminyak
A great addition to the vibrant art scene in Seminyak, the gallery is a great place for art-loving travellers to mingle with the creators behind the artworks. The gallery is within a 10 minute walk to Jalan Laksmana that is lined with world class restaurants.
www.kendragallery.com

Be My Guest Tours - Sea Walking Experience

T +65 6743 9812
A safe and unique underwater activity allowing you to walk on the sea bed and explore the myriad of marine life and corals around Sanur Beach. It's the closest thing to scuba diving but without the hassle of heavy equipment. 2 hour duration.
www.bemyguest.com.sg

Elephant Safari Park, Taro, Ubud

T 0361 721480
Acclaimed as the World's Best Elephant Park, facilities include an Information Centre, Museum with a large collection of elephant memorabilia and the only mammoth skeleton in South East Asia. Open 8am to 6pm daily.
www.baliadventuretours.com

White Water Rafting

T 0361 721480
Grab your oars and get ready to rage with this exhilarating rafting adventure on the spectacular 33 Rapids on Ayung River.
www.baliadventuretours.com

STAY

RCI AFFILIATED RESORTS IN BALI INCLUDE:

Medewi Bay Retreat 6302

Just 20 minutes from Negara, Medewi Bay Retreat is an impressive tropical island resort set amongst picturesque mountains and coconut plantations. The resort is surrounded by mountains, ocean and coconut plantations and has a massage gazebo to relax and revitalise.

Royal Bali Beach Club at Candidasa 3968

Located at Balina Beach on the outskirts of Candidasa, the resort is surrounded on one side by coral filled seas and on the other by an active volcano. Great for snorkeling and fishing, the resort has ambience that is uniquely Balinese. The resort has glass bottom boats for viewing sea life and a restaurant that provides regular entertainment in the evenings.

Regent Holidays @ Rama Candidasa

6920 (SE24 SD24)
3 or 4 nights SPLIT WEEKS
Located in Candidasa on Bali's eastern coast, this resort is far away from the crowds, on a picturesque, private beach. Here you may enjoy mountain trekking and water sports, and swimmers may choose the shimmering ocean waters or relax by the swimming pool set between the gardens and the deep blue sea.

For additional resort listings, visit RCI.com

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