

RCI PLATINUM®

Step up to the **RCI Platinum** Experience



Summer2018 **CONTENTS**

FEATURES

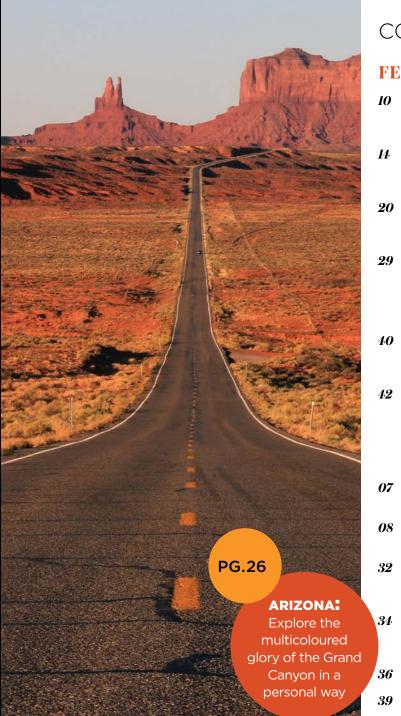
- **Jamaica** There is more to this Caribbean Paradise than just Reggae music
- Morocco Experience Africa, Middle East and Europe, all in one place
- Our take on some of America's major attractions
- A weekend in Venice A walk through Italy's floating city

RCI Recommends

- Negombo, Sri Lanka A fabulous short-haul international holiday
- Wayanad A perfect drive-to destination from Bengaluru

Also in this Issue

- Member Speak Vacation experiences from RCI members
- How to Plan a Successful Family Vacation
- Let's Get Social Your dose of travel inspiration, on our social media
- Picture Perfect Tips on how to capture your favourite vacation moments
- Fee Reckoner
- **New Resorts**



ENDLESS VACATION | 3



Editor's



66 Thanks for letting us share in the fun and excitement of your vacation memories for the past 25 years.

2017 marks a special year for RCI India, our 25th anniversary. We couldn't have made it here without you! Thanks for letting us share in the fun and excitement of your vacation memories for the past 25 years.

Vacations provide a great time for family bonding; the destination, vour resort and the activities you indulge in become a setting towards this end. At RCI. we have understood this, and strive to make your family time more enjoyable by offering new vacation options.

In this Special Anniversary Edition of Endless Vacation, we invite you to explore our international getaways. The showstopper, of course, is the USA featuring New York, Washington, D.C. and the **Grand Canyon**, on *Pg.18*. In Africa, Morocco offers a trip of a lifetime with its incredible sights, sounds, tastes and smells, on Pg.12. And if you are thinking of a beach vacation, visit Jamaica; the Caribbean Paradise has a bevy of beautiful beaches, besides its list of fun and adventure, on Pg.08.

As always, it is a joy for me to introduce our newest resorts to you (Pg.39). With Arie Lagoon, RCI brings you a fabulous short-haul vacation in Sri Lanka. The breathtaking beaches, colonial history, spectacular hill stations, and visa on arrival make Sri Lanka irresistible. For those longing to hit the road, Sterling Wayanad, in Sultan Bathery is a perfect driveto-destination from Bengaluru. Check in to the waterfalls, browse the forest reserve or just follow the wild elephant trail: there is a lot to do in Wayanad. Our other new escapes include Sterling wildlife resort in Kanha, Neonz Lifestyle & Recreation Club offering 5-star luxury in Charotar and Palm Greens Club, a fun place for the entire family in Gujarat.

As part of our celebrations, we have planned many exciting things for you. So stay tuned! Finally, a reminder to take advantage of our online exclusive offers on RCI.com.

We hope this issue will inspire you to gift new experiences to the people who matter to you most: your family.

Now, grab a coffee and enjoy our special anniversary edition.

Here's to a #LifetimeOfVacations

Aruna Jathar

YOUR SIGHTSEEING BEGINS AT RCI.com

RCI.com has a brand new look and lots of helpful new features, making it easier, than ever before, to search and book your dream holiday, online. Not only that, you get guaranteed discount whenever you book online.

RCI.com is a great new way to find inspiration for your next holiday. Destination pictures, instant availability, friendly search options, fabulous savings...

Our helpful tools and great content, will help you plan your next holiday with much ease.



ENDLESS VACATION | 5



6 | JAN - JUN 2018



On this wonderful occasion of our 25th anniversary, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all our members for being a part of our journey. Because your vacation means the world to us at RCI India, we commit ourselves to taking your vacation experience to the next level in the days to come.

.....

Sabina Chopra
Managing Director
RCI India



Member Speak

VIVA LAS VEGAS!

We vacationed at the Hilton Vacation Club in Las Vegas and had a wonderful, enjoyable stay. We had booked a 2-bedroom apartment, and got a well-furnished Junior Suite with a basic kitchen interconnected to a 1-bedroom apartment with a large sitting-cum-full kitchen.

The heated pool was quite large and we enjoyed the best jacuzzi ever! The hotel is situated at the end of the Strip near Circus Circus, Riviera and one has to take the Deuce bus which comes every 15 minutes to the centre of activity. Since we are senior citizens, and have often been to Las Vegas, we were quite happy with the peace of the Hilton Vacation Club and easy accessibility to the famous hotels Wyne, MGM, Bellagio, Paris, Venice and the brand new Aria.

Hope this proves helpful to RCI members interested in Las Vegas, which has no comparison in the world for casinos, entertainment and fun!

.....

Ketki Patel
Sterling Holidays





INCREDIBLE LEH, LADAKH

Our six nights in Leh came to an end but the beautiful memories of the trip will remain forever. Each moment was a mesmerizing experience. The expert team at the resort in particular headed by Mr. Sunil Sharma made the whole stay a pleasant one. Be it our trip to Leh or other arrangements, I did not have to plan much, it was all well taken care of by the team. The itinerary was good and so were the arrangements and logistics partners that took us to Nubra and Pangyong. Global Family Home is exactly as the name spells. The resort provided a very different experience and the location was simply amazing.

99

Naveen Kapoor Club Mahindra

Want your story to be featured in Endless Vacation? Write to us! Send in your story, with lots of exciting pictures, and your interesting holiday experiences will be shared with the RCI community!

Email us at editor.ev@rci.com

How to Plan a Successful Family Vacation

Bring everyone together with these tips.

If you're hesitating to take time off because you're intimidated by the prospect of planning a family vacation, you're not alone—it's not always easy crafting a vacation that appeals to everyone. But when planned properly, traveling with family members can improve relationships between grandparents and grandkids, brothers and sisters, parents and children. Follow these simple guidelines for a getaway that'll help keep every generation happy.



Plan ahead

First things first: Set aside your vacation dates early. According to Katie Denis, chief of research and strategy at Project: Time Off, one of the biggest challenges people face is finding the time and committing to it. "The single most important thing you can do is block the calendar, even if you don't know what you're going to do yet," she says. It also gives everyone something to look forward to and plenty of fodder for dinner-table conversations.

Get the kids involved.

A report by Project: Time Off, showed that including children—particularly older (and more opinionated) ones—in planning is a great way to bond before a vacation. When the time comes to actually participate in the chosen activity, they're more likely to be engaged. And while theme parks may be on many a dream list, the children surveyed (ages 8 to 14) mentioned enjoying simpler activities, such as going to the zoo.

Pick a destination that's good for all ages.

You've likely heard it before: You can't please all of the people all of the time. But you can come close by visiting a place that appeals to everyone (and that matches everyone's physical abilities). Older grandparents and smaller children may not be able to take strenuous hikes or speed down the slopes, for example. Beach getaways can be ideal because you can be as active or as laid-back as you please. Big cities where there are plenty of museums and sights to see are also a great choice because they allow for a great deal of flexibility.

Start a tradition.

Many people have fond memories of renting the same beach house or ski lodge or lake cabin every year—and Denis says there is value in this type of ritual, particularly with children. "If you establish something early, they're more likely to carry it on into adulthood," she says. Instill good habits by planning an annual vacation, whether it's to the same destination year after year or the same type of place, such as always traveling to a beach in January.

(Adapted from an article that originally appeared on endless vaction.com)













THE CARIBBEAN PARADISE

hen Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica in 1494, he called the place, "the fairest land my eyes have ever seen." Jamaica is indeed a fair land blessed with lush verdant green landscape, therapeutic waterfalls, mighty mountains, white sandy beaches, and friendly locals with their warm smiles that makes you feel at home in an instant!

"Sun is shining, the weather is sweet, make you want to move your dancing feet"—these lines from a famous Bob Marley song sums up Jamaica quite accurately. The year-round tropical climate, the hidden natural beauty and the inimitable vibe of Jamaica will make sure you get your feet moving. Here are some must-try experiences in this Caribbean Paradise.

Hit the Beach

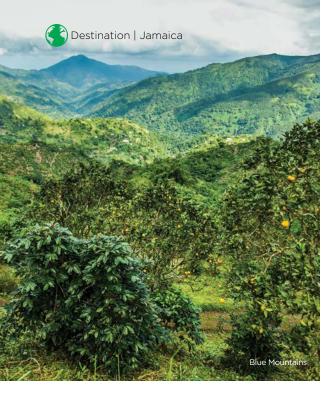
Once you land in Montego Bay or simply MoBay, settle down in your resort before you venture out to the beaches.

The Doctor's Cave Bathing Club founded in 1906 (doctorscavebathingclub.com) is perhaps the most famous beach in MoBay. Here, you can choose to lounge under an umbrella and enjoy the crystal clear water or go snorkelling. The beach is private and charges a minimal entry fee—highly recommended!

Bluefields beach located 40 minutes from Negril, on the west of the Island is another major attraction. This is one of the last few beaches in Jamaica where the entry is free and is open to public. Enjoy the idyllic setting and the pristine beach; and during weekends, you can have the beach all to yourself.







Hike the Blue Mountains

To enjoy a Jamaican sunrise, lace up your shoes and hit the Blue Mountain trail for a predawn hike to the summit of Blue Mountains. The sunrise view from Jamaica's highest point is one of the top-rated experiences. Located between Kingston and Port Antonio, the Blue Mountain Peak rises up to 2.256 metres above sea level. The seven mile climb takes about four hours, plus three for the journey down. The narrow, rugged path is steep, but the incredible scenery you get to view along the way is unbeatable.



Dive in

Go beyond the main tourist attractions and Jamaica will reward your efforts. The country's many hidden waterfalls—some of them even with therapeutic effects—are not to be missed.

Reach Falls, located 45 minutes from Port Antonio, is a spectacular spot; a rejuvenating bath in the natural heart-shaped pool here is a must-try. Dunn's River Falls, located near Ocho Rios, is another crowd-puller. Climbing the waterfall in a handholding human chain is a popular activity, and a great way to experience the falls.

If cliff diving sounds like fun, head to the Blue Hole Mineral Spring in Negril. The dive into the 22 ft deep mineral-rich water is a refreshing experience. Rick's Cafe in Negril is another famous cliff-diving spot. Sundown, cliff divers show off their skills, as crowds gather to witness this acrobatic feat.



Experience Jamaica like a local

The best way to experience the culture of a nation is through its people. Jamaica's Meet the People Program is an innovative initiative that lets you explore Jamaica, through the eyes of a Jamaican. Once you know your travel dates, contact The Jamaican Tourism Board and they will get in touch with you and make arrangements to meet the local Jamaicans. How it works? They match you up with people who are willing to share their skills with you; be it music, arts, cooking or culture. Visit: visitjamaica.com for more information.

Taste the Local Cuisine

Jamaica is a treat for any foodie looking to savour delicious cuisine. Here are our recommendations.

Jerk Chicken

The highlight of Jamaican cuisine is the famous Jerk Chicken. Jerk is a cooking style originated from Jamaica that uses a special blend of jerk spices to marinate the meat. These include Scotch bonnet peppers and allspice. Sample this vibrant delicacy from a traditional jerk shack or any restaurant around the island.

Scotchies restaurant and Pelican Grill located in Montego Bay are a favourite among locals as well as tourists for their spicy jerk chicken dishes.



Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee

If you are a coffee enthusiast, don't pass up this chance to taste the most expensive coffee bean in the world. Grown in the misty cold climate of the Blue Mountains, the bean acquires a mellow, sweet, aromatic flavour that makes it a unique blend. Don't forget to pick up some packets of this rare coffee bean at the end of your tour.

Getting around

To experience Jamaica's local life up close, travel in the big yellow buses run by the government. They are cheap but can be unreliable outside cities. A more convenient way to get around would be by hiring a contract carriage; spot them with red license plate and the letter 'P' before the numbers. For a relaxed and hassle-free travel, book through a private tourist transfer company. Paradise Travels (paradisetravelsinja.com) is one of the best companies with services in all the major towns. The drivers are friendly, knowledgeable and double up as your local guides.

How to get there

The majority of visitors to Jamaica land at Sangster International Airport located in Montego Bay. In addition to international terminals, this airport has a domestic terminal with local flights that depart regularly to Kingston, Negril, Port Antonio and Ocho Rios.

Plan your escape

Join millions of travelers who make the most of their vacations in Jamaica through CityDiscovery's tours & activities.

rci-citydiscovery.com





RCI has affiliated resorts across Jamaica

Visit: RCI.com







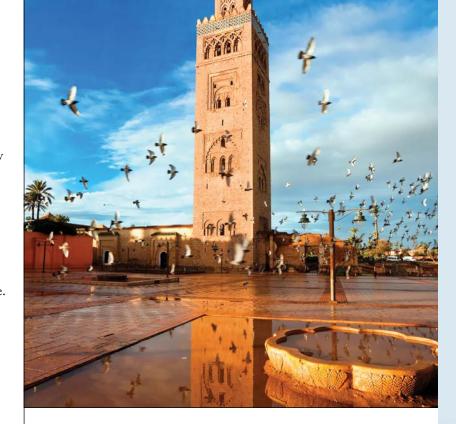
Tangier, the gateway to Africa

From Spain, the town of Tangier in north of Morocco is just a hop, skip and jump away. In fact, there are ferry services from Spain that take you to Tangier in just under forty minutes. Thousands go there to experience Africa in a day and by evening head back to Spain, after experiencing Tangier's top sights.

In Tangier, visit the Kasbah Museum located inside a former sultan's palace. The museum which houses a huge collection of archaeological artifacts and beautiful art give a glimpse into Morocco's fabled past.

Cape Malabata is another Tangier highlight, located 6 miles east off the town. From the lighthouse here savour the panoramic view of Strait of Gibraltar and the beautiful Mediterranean Sea.





Casablanca's architectural marve

Casablanca is Morocco's cosmopolitan city that acts as a transit point for tourists. Here, high-end fashion boutiques and fast food chains coexist with Casablanca's colonial era Art Deco buildings.

In Casablanca, the prime attraction is Hassan II Mosque, located in *Boulevard de la Corniche*. This is Morocco's largest mosque and at 210 metres, the mosque's minaret is the world's tallest. Enjoy an evening taking in the beauty and fine craftsmanship of the mosque, as it stands tall facing the Atlantic Ocean.



Moroccans and mint tea

One of the remains of Morocco's French colonial past is evident throughout, especially in Tangier. And that is, Morocco's cafe culture. All age group can be seen enjoying their cuppa over the latest news. Moroccans consume tea in large quantities and take immense pride in pouring tea into their glass, which they consider nothing short of an art.

Visit one of the cafe's and watch this Moroccan pastime. Cafe Hafa overlooking the Bay of Tangier is a popular spot. Opened in 1921, Cafe Hafa was once a favourite hangout for some of the most famous writers and musicians. Sit there, take in the beautiful views sipping on a mint tea and get yourself inspired.



Many travelling to Morocco go there just to visit Marrakech. Set against the snow-capped High Atlas Mountains, Marrakech is the international city of Morocco offering a true cultural adventure.

Marrakech's showstopper, of course, is the action-packed *Djeman El Fna* square. By evening this popular square comes alive with snake charmers, musicians, chefs and jugglers lending the area a carnivalesque atmosphere. If you are a foodie, there's no better place to go for a gastronomical adventure than *Djeman El Fna* square. The dazzling sights, the fantastic mix of street food and the maze-like souqs make Marrakech an unmissable experience.





Sougs of Fes

Souqs are the heartbeat of Moroccan towns. These traditional markets are a major part of Moroccan life and one of the top experiences of the country. Fes is popular for its labyrinths of souqs, where each street is devoted to a particular trade—the artisan shops, the aromatic bakerys, rugs and spices shops and so on.

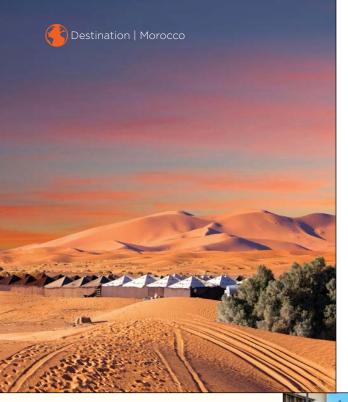
Whether you visit the souq to shop or for a cultural experience, Fes's UNESCO World Heritage Site can be quite rewarding. Pick up a Moroccan artistic rug while there and remember haggling is common in Morocco, so don't shy away from it; quote half the selling price and usually they agree to you.

Tagine: the signature dish

Tagine is a cooking form named after the clay pot in which it's cooked. This is Morocco's signature dish, and follows a slow cooking process which enhances the taste of food. The dish is a savoury stew usually made with lamb, chicken or vegetables.

While you are in Marrakech, take up a half day cooking class at *La Maison Arabe*. The class gives you a hands on experience of Tagine cooking and also gives you a peek into Moroccan culture. The express class costs about 300 dirhams per person, which includes a complimentary Tagine you can take back home.

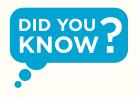




Sahara's starry nights

A six-hour drive from Marrakech will lead you to the edge of the great Sahara. Opt for a desert safari and go deep into the desert with only stars for your direction (sorry, Google Maps doesn't work here). The four hour long camel ride on the dunes set against the blue sky is nothing less than breathtaking. Stay the night at a desert camp and get uninterrupted views of millions of stars with no light–pollution to spoil the view.

A two-day trip to Zagora from Marrakech is a good way to experience the desert within a short time. The trip includes crossing the High Atlas mountain and a visit to the Berber Village of Ait Benhaddou, famous for Gladiator movie location.



Zellige is an artistic Islamic tile work that appears in Moroccan architecture and decorative arts. These intricate hand-cut patterns without a beginning or an end are said to portray infinity.



Getting around

Getting around Morocco is a straightforward affair. The major cities are well connected by RAM airlines. All major European countries have flight connectivity to Morocco. Morocco has a good inter-city railway system that gets you faster and cheaper from one stop to another. Cars are relatively expensive but give you the freedom to move around.

STAY



RCI has affiliated resorts across Morocco

Visit: RCI.com

Make your Goan holiday, truly royal.

It takes hospitality of another kind to meet the demands of the discerning modern traveller. At Karma Royal Haathi Mahal Goa, we have perfected the art of hospitality to provide you with a true royal experience. From our most modern amenities to the friendly staff, a royal treatment awaits you at every turn.

Come over and experience it for yourself.

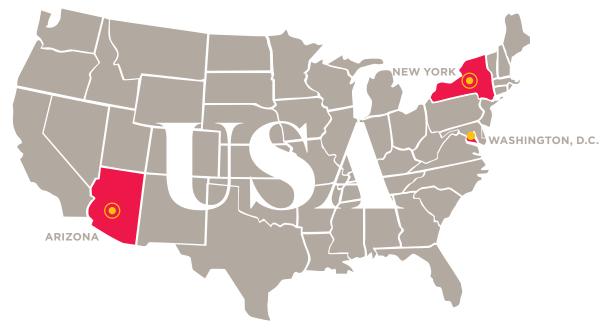
Karma Spa & Wellness | Kids Club | Jacuzzi | Restaurant & Bars | Cinema | Swimming Pools



To book your holiday, call your RCI Guide now at 1.800.419.2131







AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT GETS



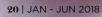




If there's one country that needs no introduction, it's the USA. Its influence—be it arts, music, movies, literature or fashion—is quite unmatched in the world.

But beyond what music and movies capture, USA offers much more. The dynamic cities, laid-back towns, awe-inspiring national parks, miles of beautiful shorelines—you just name it, USA has them all.

Here, we bring you our top picks, all accessible from RCI affiliated resorts. For big-city wonder, there's New York City; to get a peek into USA's history, look no further than Washington, D.C.; and for some time of reflection and to get your nature-fix, head to the one-and-only Grand Canyon. This is USA, as big, bold and beautiful as it gets.



Destination | USA



Go beyond Manhattan's attractions to Brooklyn, to experience the real New York City.

While in NYC, start with the obvious landmarks. The Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building and World Trade Centre Site are the most famous ones. To enjoy unparalleled views of Manhattan skyline, take a cycling trip or a walking tour on the Brooklyn Bridge. But if shopping is your thing, a trip to Fifth Avenue and its iconic stores is a must.

Go beyond Manhattan's attractions to Brooklyn, to experience the real New York City. This suburb located couple of subway stops across the East River is one of the most diverse neighbourhoods offering great dining, shopping and sightseeing options. A must-visit!

NYC also happens to be USA's culinary capital. So for an authentic American experience visit any of the Diners; Katz Delicatessen in Brooklyn is a NYC institution and a popular spot; go there for their famous Pastrami Sandwich.

Finally, don't forget to pay a visit to the soothing environs of Central Park.
Stroll inside the park to get yourself recharged before you head out to catch

the excitement and brilliance of Times Square. Stay on and soon you will find out why NYC is called the city that never sleeps.

NYC is huge and takes a good amount of time to cover all the major attractions. So decide upfront the sights to cover and the ones to leave out. After all, you need some reasons to visit this great city again, don't you?

Niagara Falls

A trip to New York State is incomplete until you treat yourself to the roar of the majestic Niagara Falls (easily accessible

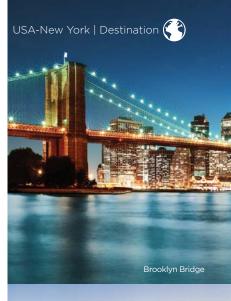
from NYC as well as New

Jersey). The view of over

150,000 gallons of water
per second cascading
over rocky crest is a sight

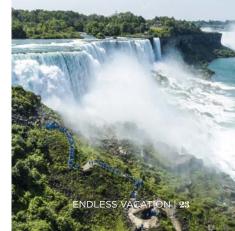
to behold. Get on
the Maid of the
Mist boat tour
to enjoy the falls
from its base—and
be prepared to get
drenched. To get up
close to the falls, opt
for the Cave of the
Winds tour. The tour
takes you down on an
elevator deep into the
Niagara Gorge; from
here experience

the views of the rushing waters standing as close as a mere 20 metres.





Niagara Falls



Washington, D.C. is the official 'city of free;' meaning, you can enjoy most of the historic monuments and museums



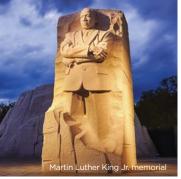
WASHINGTON, D.C. The capital city, rich in history

Washington, D.C., or just DC as locals call it, is where one learns about the great American history. While many historic monuments dominate the iconic capital, the city offers something for the whole family.



The very first thing that comes to mind when we think of DC is the White House. This neoclassical building is every bit as majestic as it is shown in news and movies, but there are equally attractive structures in and around DC; most of them open 24 hours, 365 days and free to access.

Washington, D.C. is the official 'city of free;' meaning, you can enjoy most of the monuments and museums for no cost, provided you book early. The monuments are concentrated in 'The Mall area, a 2-mile stretch of national parkland that provided the setting for some of America's most defining moments.





closed for renovation will reopen in 2019. From here, get to the Lincoln Memorial: the elevated life-like statue of Abraham Lincoln pulls you in with its aura. Stroll inside the memorial in silence and read the famous speeches by Lincoln engraved on the wall. It was on the steps of Lincoln Memorial that Martin Luther King Jr. delivered the famous "I have a dream" speech. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial is another highlight in the Mall area.

for no cost.

States.

It is here that the world comes to

understand all about the United

monuments here is the iconic Washington Monument (the

largest obelisk in the world).

The structure which is currently

Standing tall among the

However, the Mall is not the only attraction in DC. Get away from the Mall to enjoy DC's other offerings. The Smithsonian Zoo with its exotic animals (including giant Panda) is something kids will enjoy. Yes, entry is free here as well.

The Smithsonian Castle visitor center provides information about the various museums to plan your trip. The collection of Smithsonian Museums is another great way to engage the whole

family. Kids will enjoy the Air and Space Museum that has a huge

display of historic airplanes and

spacecraft.

In DC, visit the famous Newseum, an interactive museum of news, to explore the evolution of news broadcast. Here, you can visit various exhibits and even get to play a TV newsreader. Finally, don't forget to meet all the Presidents of the USA; get up close and personal with all 44 of them at Madame Tussauds. DC.

In between, if hunger pangs strike you, head to Ben's Chili Bowl restaurant to gobble up some classic smoked hotdog. This DC institution established in 1958 is a famous hangout for presidents and Supreme Court justices. Location: 1213 U Street NW Washington, D.C.

When to visit:

September to November and March to May are the best times to visit DC. But if you happen to visit around July, don't miss the 4th of July celebrations and fireworks. During summer, you can witness the area come alive and get covered in pink as the cherry blossoms.

24 | JAN - JUN 2018 ENDLESS VACATION | 25









ARIZONA

Home to the Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon is nothing like anything you have ever seen. Even today, geologists find it difficult to get their head around this world wonder carved out by the mighty Colorado River about 5 billion years ago. Located on the north-west of Arizona State, the park boasts views of grand scale.

GETTING AROUND

Among the three rims of Grand Canyon, the South Rim is easily accessible and hence a popular site among tourists. For the famous skywalk experience, head to the West Rim. Mather Point located close to the South Rim visitor center offers one of the most scenic views of the Canyon. After a long drive, this is an ideal place to relax and enjoy a picnic lunch.

There are various ways to enjoy the Grand Canyon. If you are short on time, choose the shuttle bus service. The bus picks you up from the National Park entrance and takes you around the various viewpoints.

If you wish to experience the Canyon in a personal way, there are many trekking trails to choose from. The trek down reveals the Canyon's multicoloured glory which keeps changing as you go down. But keep in mind that the terrain is rough, dangerous and may not be suited for all.

Quick facts: From the deepest point, the Canyon is as tall as

three Empire State buildings placed on top of the other; and lengthwise it is as wide as the island of Manhattan. And only less than 5 percent of visitors venture into the Canyon itself.

For a relaxed tour of the Canyon, opt for a Bike tour. The tour provides opportunity to spot rare animals, learn about Native American history and more, with a friendly guide joining along on a traffic-free trail of the Canyon.

From the deepest point, the Canyon is as tall as three Empire State buildings placed on top of the other:

Another great way to experience the Canyon is riding on a mule. Mules are sure-footed animals with a great sense of selfpreservation—making them a safer option on narrow trails. The mule ride takes you down to the Phantom Ranch, where you can spend the night before heading back the next day. The experience of sleeping right inside the Canyon is incredible.

Mule rides are limited to a small number: advance booking of up to one year is advised.

The colours of the Canyon come to life during sunset and sunrise. So don't be in a rush to leave; stay on and you will get to witness one of the most magnificent natural displays.

REACHING GRAND CANYON

Club the Grand Canyon exploration with a Las Vegas trip. A drive from Vegas to the Canyon offers scenic views if you like desert landscape. Lake Mead and Hoover Dam provide two great stops in between. Grand Canyon is approx.250 miles from the Las Vegas Strip and the journey takes about 5 hours. Make the journey a two-day trip to fully enjoy the Canyon before you head back to Vegas. You can also choose from the various day tours available from Vegas. 🗈

STAY



RCI has affiliated resorts across the USA













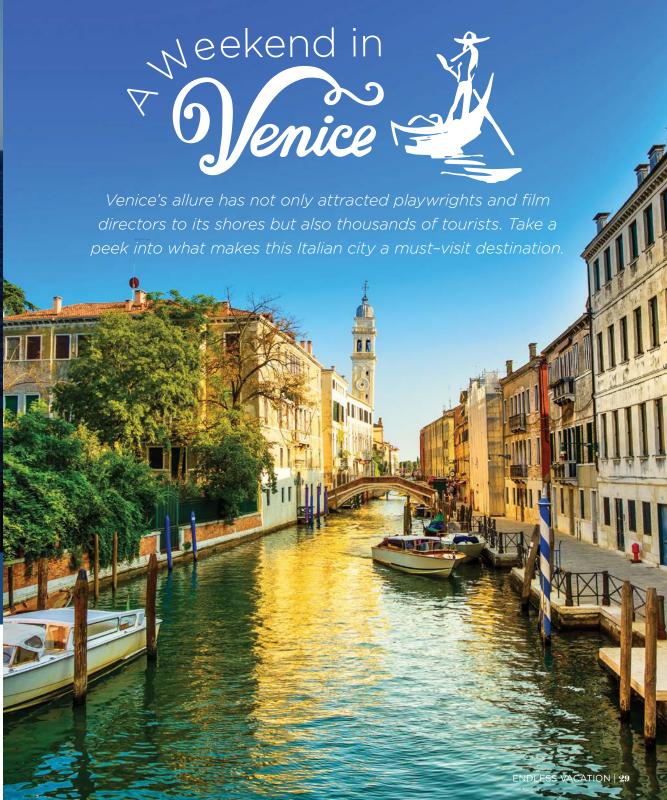
RCI offers the best available rates on a vast selection of over 20,000 worldwide cruise itineraries, including all major cruise lines such as Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Norwegian, MSC, Costa, Disney, Carnival, River cruises and many more.

DESTINATIONS: EUROPE | CARIBBEAN | MEXICO | ALASKA | ASIA | AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND | SOUTH AMERICA HAWAII | PANAMA CANAL | CANADA & NEW ENGLAND | BAHAMAS | TRANSATLANTIC & TRANSPACIFIC CRUISES

Book early to avail exciting offers on various liners and destinations.

Call us at +91 80 6691 5503 for more destinations and information or simply visit: RCI.com

Terms and conditions apply. "RCI does not make any representations regarding any of the services provided by cruise lines. Information about such cruise lines services is based on information obtained from the applicable providers. RCI is not responsible for, and shall have no liability for any inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information regarding services that are not provided directly by RCI."





The thrill of seeing Venice city begins even before you reach there. Your boat ride from Marco Polo Airport acts as a time machine, taking you centuries back in time. This ancient floating city you read about in books and seen in movies, will appear as impressive as you imagined. While tourists rush through the city, you will need at least two days to cover the main landmarks and uncover the hidden gems.



St. Mark's Square

This is Venice's main square and prime attraction. Arrive as early as you can to enjoy the square in all its grandeur, minus the crowd.

Head straight to *Campanile de San Marco* (The Bell Tower) to get a panoramic view of Venice. The view of St. Mark's Basilica, the Grand Canal and Venice stretch out across small islands from the tower is a breathtaking sight. The entrance to Bell Tower costs approx. 8 Euros/person.

After a good half an hour, walk into the St. Mark's Basilica where the remains of St. Mark the apostle is buried. This ornate religious landmark stands as a testimony to the city's power and dominance of the past. This is no more evident than in the Basilica's glittering ceiling mosaics made of 24-carat gold. Its blend of Renaissance, Gothic, Romanesque and Byzantine architecture is a treat for those who appreciate architecture styles.





Gondola ride

The highlight of a Venice trip undoubtedly is the Gondola ride. Mark Twain once referred to these iconic boats as "the gentlest form of locomotion ever devised." One ride on it and you will soon agree with Twain. A Gondola can carry 6-7 people and is perfect for the whole family to experience the city lesuirely. Take in the city's Renaissance and Gothic palaces as you pass by, watch Venetians go about their daily lives, and click away those ancient bridges, pallazos and some fun selfies, of course.



Quick Tip: While riding a gondola is a unique experience, it costs approx. 90 Euros and upwards. The Vaporetto (water bus) service is the cheapest mode of transport around.



Glassmaking in Murano

To witness the ancient Roman art of glassblowing, catch the vaporetto line 42 from Piazza San Marco that takes you to the island of Murano. The island with its beautiful sidewalk cafés presents a quieter and laid-back side of Venice. Head to a glassblowing factory and sit through a demonstration. The glass being shaped into various fascinating forms by a master artisan is an enjoyable experience. Pick up a souvenir or two at the end of your visit.



Wander the alleys

One of the top things to do in Venice is to get wonderfully lost in its back-alleys. Everywhere you turn there is a stunning photograph waiting to be captured. So put away your map, and allow the city to surprise you. This is also the best way to get a glimpse into the local life and Venice's colourful architecture. (Don't worry about getting lost; this is only an island, so you will eventually get back to where you started).





Rialto Bridge

Venice has more than 400 bridges connecting its islands. But the most famous one is the Rialto Bridge—the only bridge that's still around from ancient Venice. The Grand Canal view from the top of the Rialto Bridge is one of the best.

Check out the various stalls around the Rialto Bridge for shopping and to pick up some souvenirs. And before you call it a day, treat yourself to some authentic Venetian Gelato. *La Boutique Del Gelato*, located close to the Rialto Bridge sells the city's best Gelato.

To conclude your Venice tour, head back to St. Mark's square in the evening. Sundown, as the tourists thin out and the lanterns come on, Venice takes on a mysterious look. Enjoy the cool breeze blowing from the lagoon; the sound of the gentle lapping of waves; the soothing music from the nearby café orchestra; and the magnificence of San Marco even more grand—all begging you to stay on before you say *arrivederci* (goodbye) to this beautiful city.

RCI Member Exclusive

With City Discovery, a RCI partner, get to experience the best of Venice highlights with skip-the-line tickets to St. Mark's Basilica, a gondola ride along the Grand Canal, get a peek at the Murano method of glassblowing, a world renowned art and many other unique experiences. Go ahead, make the most of your vacation.

STAY



RCI has affiliated resorts across Venice Visit: RCI.com



Let's get social

Follow our social media pages for vacation tips, stories and the latest news from the world of RCI.

TOP PICKS







San Francisco, California

Did you know the Golden Gate Bridge's famous "International Orange" colour was only meant to be the primer? It takes 5,000 to 10,000 gallons of paint to maintain the iconic image of this bridge!



Québec

Dream Destination of the Week: Discover the beauty of Québec City, where you can take a tour through Old Québec, surrounded by authentic shops, cafes, and beautiful architecture!

Follow us @instagram.com/rcivacations





Atlantic City

WANDERLUST WEDNESDAY: There's something for everyone in Atlantic City, USA. From the famous boardwalk to the fine dining and entertainment, excitement is just around the corner in this world-class city.

Follow us facebook.com/rciindiavacations



Vacation on your screen

Subscribe to RCI's YouTube Channel for your dose of inspiration that include resort videos from around the world, travel tips, recipes, member information and more. Get a peek into the various destinations and take a quick tour of the resorts before you book. Also watch videos about RCI Weeks, Exchange and Trading Power to make the most of your membership. Access all videos on your desktop, laptop or mobile devices. Now, sit back and enjoy your virtual holiday.

Visit: Youtube.com/RCITimeshare

32 | JAN - JUN 2018 **ENDLESS VACATION | 33**













Vacations are times that you wish never come to an end. But before you know it, even the best vacation—like all good things in life—comes to an end. However, a good documented vacation can take you back to your favourite moments, again and again. Here are some tips on how to capture those precious vacation moments. Grab a camera and get set to click away.

Be a storyteller

Document your vacation from start to finish; click the packed bags, the travel to the airport, and everything in between that narrate the story of your journey.

Keep your camera handy

Keep your camera handy to capture those candid shots and also ensure it is charged—makes the difference between a great shot and no shot.

Focus on people

Save your landscape photograph from becoming a postcard image by including people in them; people lend your photos that personal touch.

Click your meals

Want to remember that cuisine you ordered from a local restaurant? Simply click a picture. Who knows if you will ever visit the place again.

Go candid

Along with your posed photographs, do click genuine shots like a laugh, a funny expression, or someone taking a nap; these will be the priceless moments you will cherish.

Try new angles

The famous landmarks—from the Taj Mahal to the Statue of Liberty have been shot millions of times. So try new perspectives, from a rooftop restaurant or an observation deck. You will be surprised with the results.

Capture the locals

Nothing gives a sense of a place like getting the locals into the photographs. So look out for shopkeepers, waiters, or other interesting characters on the street to pose for a photo.

Forget your camera

Sometimes, you get so busy clicking the surroundings that you forget to enjoy the moment. So, once in a while remember to put away your camera and take in the beauty of the place.

Got some great vacation moments to share? Then post them on our facebook page @facebook.com/rciindiavacations







Fee Reckoner

Here's a handy guide to the updated rates of RCI services. When in doubt, check it out.



FULL WEEK EXCHANGE

Domestic Exchange	₹8,059
International-Short Haul	₹8,059
International-Long Haul	₹21,499
Cruise Exchange#	₹13,259

SPLIT WEEK EXCHANGE

Domestic Exchange	₹8,059
International-Short Haul	₹8,059

GUEST CERTIFICATE

Up to 2 days to check-in date*.....₹3,579

#Provided by third party

Extra Vacations: Fee varies according to destination, season, date of travel, occupancy of the unit and the resort's RCI rating. Ideally to qualify for and to avail Extra Vacations, ensure that a current year or future year week is deposited with RCI.

Add-On Member Pack: You can get an additional RCI Membership Pack for your co-member for a nominal fee. Call RCI member helpline for more details.

1 year	₹3,759
2 years	₹6,449
3 years	₹9,039
4 years	₹11,459
5 years	₹13,259

DEPOSIT RESTORE

Restore ree	₹2,329
DEPOSIT EXTENSION	
3 months	₹1,469
6 months	₹2,959
DEPOSIT COMBINING FEE	
Combining fee	₹2,959

TRADING POWER PROTECTION FEE**

Within 30 days	₹2,019
30+ days	₹3,989

RENEWAL FEE

1 year	₹6,719
2 years	₹10,299
3 years	₹12,989
5 years	₹17,469

CANCELLATION POLICY

(0) OF DONILIC FEE FORESTED)

EXCHANGE CANCELLATION	
30 days before check-in*	₹3,58
BONUS / GETAWAY SPECIALS	CANCELL ATIO

(% OF BONOS FEE FORFEITED)	
61 days before check-in*	30%

ridays before check in	
i1-60 days before check-in*	50%
0-30 days before check-in*	100%

RCI Deposit RestoreSM RCI Weeks Members who deposit a Week less than 271 days before the start date of such Week may receive a lower Deposit Trading Power for such Week in accordance with Trading Power Adjustment Schedule. The RCI Deposit Restore product allows RCI Weeks Members to deposit a Week less than 271 days before the start date of such Week (but at least 15 days prior to the start date of such Week) and receive the full Deposit Trading Power for such Week by purchasing the optional RCI Deposit Restore at the time of deposit. RCI Weeks Members whose Weeks are deposited by their resort and who wish to avail themselves of this option must purchase the RCI Deposit Restore product before the end of the next Business Day after receiving notice that the Week has been deposited by the resort into the member's RCI Deposit Restore product is not made available to all members please contact RCI member helpline for more details and for other terms & conditions.

EXCHANGE CANCELLATION POLICY: There will be no refund if cancellations are made less than 30 days before the check-in date* | However, if the cancellation is made at least two working days before the check-in date*, the deposit week utilised can be used for future vacation confirmations, as long as it is within the validity period, and the RCI membership has not expired | The Trading Power of the deposit will be recalculated from the date of cancellation, unless the member has availed Trading Power Protection.

EXTRA VACATIONS CANCELLATION POLICY: If you cancel at least 61 days prior to the check-in date*, you will be entitled to a refund of 70% of the fee | Cancellations made from 31 to 60 days before the check-in date* will be entitled to a refund of 50% of the fee | There will be no refund for cancellations made less than 31 days before the check-in date*.

All fees/offers/benefits/promotions mentioned above and in this magazine are subject to change without prior notice. Fees mentioned are exclusive of taxes. Applicable taxes will be charged extra as per government regulations. Call RCI Member Helpline for details and check for latest updates at the time of availing any service.

*Check-in date: as mentioned in your RCI Confirmation Voucher. Visit RCI.com to avail our special online fees. **Trading Power Protection (TPRO) can be purchased up to 14 days prior to confirmed start dates. Call the RCI member helpline for details. #"RCI does not make any representations regarding any of the services provided by cruise lines. Information about such cruise lines services is based on information obtained from the applicable providers. RCI is not responsible for, and shall have no liability for any inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information regarding services that are not provided directly by RCI." *Terms & Conditions apply.

For the latest information on fees and applicability, call the RCI Member Helpline: Toll Free (All India): 1.800.419.2131 Bangalore: +91 80-4184 9100, +91 80-6691 5555 Email: indiarci@rci.com Website: RCI.com

36 | JAN - JUN 2018





RCIPLATINUM[®]

GUARANTEED DISCOUNTS: Save up to ₹3,000 on Exchange Holidays, ₹1,500 on Exchange Split Week Holidays and 10% off on Extra Vacations GetAways*.

FREE UNIT UPGRADES*:

Complimentary last minute upgrades when you take an Exchange Holiday.

DEPOSIT RESTORE*: Deposit a week up to 6 months and receive full Deposit Trading Power.

GUEST CERTIFICATE*: Save up to 50% when you gift a RCI® holiday.

LOUNGE ACCESS: Get an exclusive 35%* off on services at elite Plaza Premium Lounge at Bengaluru, Hyderabad and New Delhi airports.

PRIORITY ACCESS: Get priority access^ to inventory available at high-demand destinations.

FOREX SAVINGS: Get exclusive benefits on the purchase of foreign exchange and other benefits from Centrum Forex.

CITY DISCOVERY: Get a special 20% off on airport transfers, city tours, restaurant booking etc.

50% OFF: Get a 1-year subscription to Travel + Leisure Magazine at 50% lesser.

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP FEE



RCI Platinum membership and benefits are subject to terms and conditions. Fees mentioned are exclusive of taxes. Applicable taxes will be charged extra as per government regulations. Please call the RCI member helpline for details. RCI reserves the right to modify/withdraw Platinum membership/Platinum benefits without prior notice.

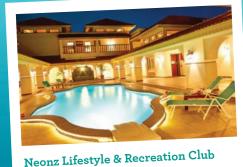
RCI Member Helpline Toll-Free (all India): 1.800.419.2131 Website: RCI.com

MORE RESORTS MORE VACATIONS

Every few weeks, RCI adds new resorts to its ever expanding directory of over 4,300 destinations worldwide. Here are our latest additions.







Anand Dist. (DC90)



Arie Lagoon, Negombo – Sri Lanka (DC74)







N egombo, an Old Dutch settlement located on the western coast of Sri Lanka, is an ideal place to rejuvenate before you set out to explore the rest of Sri Lanka.

remains of the colonial past are Negombo's main attractions. A number of ornate Portuguese churches present here earned Negombo another title, 'Little Rome'. The Katuwapitiya Church and the Grand Street Church are the two biggest

The beaches, the lagoon and

parishes in Negombo.

The Dutch Fort Gate constructed in 1672 and the Dutch Canal are other two highlights here. The Dutch Canal, about 100 Km long, is still being used to this day and offers a different perspective of the town.

Being a traditional fishing town, Negombo is a food lover's dream, with plenty of seafood available. Try some from your resort or visit a local restaurant.

The yellow, sandy beaches

and the friendly atmosphere of this fishing town provide a perfect setting to get introduced to the Sri Lankan way of life. Set aside a day on arrival or before return to explore Negombo.

How to reach: Once you land in Bandaranaike International Airport (*Sri Lanka's main airport*), head to the serene setting of Negombo; this small beach town is closer than Colombo (only 15.7 Km).

Sri Lanka currently offers visa on arrival to Indian travellers. There are direct flights from all major Indian cities into Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's main cities: Colombo, Hambantota, Galle, Jafna and Kandy.

Not to miss: Adam's Peak, Galle, Kandy, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Pettah, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Yala National Park and whale watching trips.

Arie Lagoon DC74



Escape to Arie Lagoon, a luxury hotel in Negombo lying between the shimmering waters of the lagoon and the Indian Ocean, in the fishing village of Thalahena. This 4-star Negombo lagoon hotel, which provides easy access to the airport and the commercial capital Colombo, is your getaway to paradise!





Facilities: Spa, Two Swimming Pools, Gymnasium, Private & Semi-Private Excursions, Free Bicycle Service, Water Sports and more.

How to reach:

Colombo: 38.5 Km (51 min)

Bandaranaike International Airport: 15.7 Km (29 Min)

New Resorts





Wayanad

If you are looking for a weekend getaway from Bengaluru, look no further than Wayanad. Situated 1,000 metres above sea level, Wayanad provides a perfect escape for the entire family.

Wayanad is situated in an elevated picturesque mountainous plateau in the Western Ghats. The vast stretches of mist-capped mountains, green meadows of valleys, white water springs, blue water lakes and wild forests express their splendid natural beauty.

However, what you will find most endearing about this quaint little hill station is its large tribal population of about fifty-strong tribes and their fascinating lifestyle. Here, you can also get a very close chance to experience the thrills of jungle life. Let's explore some of the top attractions in Wayanad.

MUTHANGA FOREST

Rich in biodiversity, the Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Drive along the road to Muthanga from Sultan Bathery to spot roaming animals. The forest department arranges jungle jeep safari for tourists.

EDAKKAL CAVES

Edakkal Caves situated about 21 Km from Sultan Bathery are two natural caves 1,200 metres above sea level. Dating back to 6,000 BC, these caves are known for their pictorial depictions. The 3-hour long trek through the Ambukuthy Mala is worth the climb.

POOKODE LAKE

Surrounded by forest and set in a serene environment, this fresh water lake is ideal for boating. Or if you wish, take a stroll around the lake spread across 13 acres. Early morning and evenings are ideal times to visit.

KURUVA ISLAND

Kuruva Island or *Kuruvadeep* is a protected delta on the river Kabini. You can find varied species of flora and fauna here. The entrance to this island is restricted, and monitored by the Department of Forest of Kerala because of the rich biodiversity.

CHEMBRA PEAK

Chembra is the highest peak in Wayanad, located 2,100 metres above sea level. It is an ideal spot for trekking enthusiasts. The trek takes about 2 hours to climb. Enroute you can also spot the famous heart-shaped lake.

BANASURA DAM

Located in the foothills of Banasura hills, the dam is the largest earthen dam in India and is the second largest in Asia. Speed boating is a major attraction here. The small islands submerged in the reservoir are a sight to behold.

Best time to visit

The most suitable time to visit Wayanad is between September and April.

Sterling Wayanad DC91



Let nature cast a spell on you at the all-new Sterling Wayanad. Located in the picturesque town of Sultan Bathery, here you can discover the verdant rice paddies, spikey ginger fields and picturesque coffee plantations. Overlooking the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Sterling Wayanad is sure to guarantee some exciting views of the jungle.





Facilities: Steam Bath, All-Day Dining, Holiday Activities Centre, Conferencing Facilities, Swimming Pool, Jungle Viewing Deck and more.

Nearest Airports: Kozhikode Airport - 118 Km; Mysore Airport - 107 Km

Nearest Railway station: Kozhikode Railway Station - 100 Km

42 JAN - JUN 2018 ENDLESS VACATION | 43

New Resorts One of the second of the second

Sterling Kanha DC92



Why read 'The Jungle Book' when you can open your window to it? Breathe in the scent of the wild at the new Sterling Kanha situated close to the famous Kanha National Park, the largest in Madhya Pradesh. Rejuvenate at a swimming pool in a luxury camp, before you set out to spot the Swamp Deer and explore the fascinating tiger trails that inspired Rudyard Kipling to write his legendary book.



Facilities: Resto-Bar, Swimming Pool, Laundry Service, Badminton Court, Jungle Safari, Holiday Activities Centre and more.

Nearest Airports: Jabalpur 166 Km (3 hrs, 45 min); Nagpur 279 Km (5 hrs, 30 min); Raipur 256 Km (4 hrs, 20 min)

Nearest Railway Station: Jabalpur 166 Km (3 hrs, 45 min); Gondia Junction 145 Km (3hrs, 30 min)

By Road: From Raipur 223 Km (4 hrs, 10 min); From Nagpur 253 Km (5 hrs, 17 min)







Neonz Lifestyle & Recreation Club DC90



Neonz Club, an exclusive lifestyle and recreation club is set to take you on a luxurious ride of freedom and rejuvenation. Neonz Club is a world-class holiday hangout, party hot-spot, business hub, foodie's paradise and health and wellness retreat—all under one roof.

Spread across 15 sprawling acres of land in Charotar, just off Ahmedabad, Neonz Club is a welcome break from the monotony and dullness of a staid city-life. Come here to be amazed by the magnitude of choices or to be transformed by the lavish treatment and experiences





Facilities: Swimming Pool, Multi-cuisine Restaurants, Miniature 18 Hole Golf Course, Outdoor & Indoor Games, Car Rental, Laundry Facilities and more.

Nearest Airport:

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport - 56 Km



New Resorts





New Resorts

Palm Greens Club DC88



Palm Greens Club Resort is a club-cum-getaway resort located 25 Km from Ahmedabad. Spread across 21 acres, Palm Greens Club offers 36 Rooms with modern amenities such as an artificial lake for boating, a water themed park with activities like rain dance, water rides and wave pool, a satellite link movie theatre of 120 seating capacity for movie enthusiasts. Also on offer are the huge lawns and banquet halls making it a perfect venue for hosting parties and other large group gatherings.



Facilities: Spa, Swimming Pool, Restaurant, Game Room, Screening Room, Spa, Water Theme Park, Wedding and Events Space and more.

Nearest Airport: Ahmedabad 36.8 Km

By Road: From Bareja 11 Km







*Terms and conditions apply.

RCI® Helpline (toll-free): 1.800.419.2131 | RCI.com





Snow or beach? Hill station or theme park? Whatever be your idea of a summer refreshment, we have the right destinations for you. Just remember to book early, and make your next summer a refreshing time for the whole family.



Because your vacation means the world to us"

RCI Member Helpline Toll Free (All India): 1.800.419.2131

RCI India Pvt. Ltd. Pine Valley, First Level, Embassy Golf Links Business Park, Off Intermediate Ring Road, Bangalore 560 071 Tel: 080 41849100/66915555 | Fax: 080 25237813 | Email: indiarci@rci.com | Website: RCI.com | CIN: U29246KA1995PTC017334

*Terms and conditions apply. Check with your RCI guide for availability and applicability. The price mentioned above is for a domestic exchange holiday.