

30 The Perfect Creole PUDUCHERRY



16 The Land of ti Midnight Sun MINLAND

VACATION ANYDEC 2015

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MONSOON



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Cover: The Great Ocean Road Nature & Landscape, Victoria State, Australia



Editor's Note

Dear RCI® Members

Over the past few months, I have been travelling extensively, visiting many of the RCI-affiliated resorts in India and those we will be bringing to you in the future. On one such occasion, while enjoying breakfast, I couldn't help noticing the vast spread on the buffet counter. From piping hot idlis, vadas and dosas, to parathas, poha, oatmeal, pancakes and cereals and the array of fruits, the menu was endless.

It struck me quite clearly; we, as human beings, thrive on variety being the spice of life, an ethos that we stand by at RCI®. We have always endeavoured to provide variety to our members, in every possible way.

In this issue of Endless Vacation, we have covered destinations ranging from the quaint Puducherry town in South India (\$.30) to the ethereal splendour of faraway Finland (\$.46). Whether you are in search of the divine wilderness in God's Own Country (p.8), or an action-packed Kodagu holiday in Coorg (p.12), it's all in here for you. Those seeking an American holiday with a good blend of thoda sin and thoda fun-don't miss the Vegas (p.39) and Orlando (p.42) stories. And for whom our own beloved Goa works best, be sure to leaf through our Goan feature (p.18)

Variety isn't only about holiday destinations, but also about how members like you choose to make a holiday booking. More and more members are going online to www.rci.com to make their holiday choices and bookings. By now, I am sure you are all aware that you can get discounts of upto 25% when you book online. So, do go online if you haven't already done so

On the other hand, for members who prefer the personal touch, your vacation guides are always there for you, and needless to say, it is always a pleasure to interact with you. Whatever your choice of holiday may be or the way you chose to book a holiday, at RCI®, we firmly believe in being able to provide with the choices that you want. I leave you with a small quote to get you started (just in case!)...

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."

-Saint Augustine

Happy holidaying, Eli Bedur

Pali Badwal. Managing Director



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December is a great time to visit the beautiful Yercaud, with sunny days and chilly nights. At Sterling Rock Perch, we stayed in a well-maintained duplex unit with a fully-equipped kitchen, large enough to cook for a family of four. Our balcony had a fantastic view of Salem, especially at night. The resort is one of the best places for relaxing. It is situated on the slopes of Shevarov Hills. overlooking Salem. It is in the midst of multiple view points. There is much to do in this lovely place.

B.S.S.S. Srinivas Murthy, ote train passing through the fogis in

Way paints in the same

Unforgettable Thekkady



I visited Thekkady with my wife, Vasantha, and my daughter, Anusha at Club Mahindra Holidays. We have travelled to most of the tourist spots in Tamil Nadu but somehow, missed Thekkady. It is a fantastic holiday destination. Club Mahindra offers high-class facilities. The restaurant location is very nice: the breakfast buffet and dinner were both excellent We used the spa, and it was an experience we've never had anywhere else. Overall, it was a wonderful trip, and we thank RCI and Club Mahindra for their support. Thanks! V. Ravi.

Fort Changoa Luni



Timeless Puducherry



Club Mahindra, Puducherry, is one of the most ideal vacation destinations, especially if you want to get away from your busy, everyday life. We spent a full week at the resort. The personnel at the travel desk, the restaurant, and even the chauffeur, were very attentive and efficient. The staff organised some fun activities for us. Being foodies, we had to mention the food at the restaurant: it was extraordinary. Being in a French Colony, Club Mahindra Puducherry serves the tastiest cakes and pastries. Overall. it was a fantastic stay. We would love to go back again!

Nitin Kumar. Sterling Holidays



Alluring Australia



Recently, my wife and I had a truly fantastic five-day holiday in Australia at the Port Pacific Resort. The resort is a couple of hours away from the city, but easily accessible. Staying at the resort was an experience by itself. It had a great view and the staff were really friendly. Check-in and checkout were a breeze. It was very well-maintained and had an array of activities on offer that could keep one occupied throughout their stay there. Australia is every nature-lover's dream come true, with stunning scenery and versatile terrain. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly and look forward to our next holiday with RCI!

Sachin S. Kelkar Odvisev

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Calling on Uncle Sam



I went on a long vacation to USA. In the past, I had booked hotels at various places, but the hotels booked through RCI were the best. I booked two resorts through RCI; one at Las Vegas, and other at Orlando. Both the resorts were outstanding. My wife and two kids will never forget the wonderful vacation in the USA. Thanks, RCI

Valk ve sawa herd di delper

Anand P Shah. Club Mahindra

Policy On Member Contributions: Please note that any entry, story, information,

content, artwork, photograph, video, image, etc., including entries received for Magic Memories. Snappy Holiday Recines and Wish You Were Here (collectively, the 'content/entries') shared by you must be original and you must be the owner of it. By sharing entries with us, you grant RCI a licence to unlimited and unrestricted use in any media, worldwide, without any payment or consideration, and expressly waive any copyright or trademark rights or any other rights that you may have under any other law in this regard. RCI reserves the right to use or publish these entries, in any form, format, medium, language, etc., in whole or in part, in any of its publications/ partner publications or presentations in India or abroad without obtaining any written permission, licence, or consent from you in any manner whatsoever. The entries submitted by you will be considered the property of RCL and will not be returned. By sending an entry to us. you represent that you own or have the necessary rights, licences, and permissions (without the need for any payment to another person or entity) to use, and to authorise RCI to use, such entries for commercial and non-commercial purposes. You also agree that RCI reserves the right to edit the content, including the text and images shared by you, to fit available space or to ensure consistency with style guidelines; to use the content at its discretion in any format/ medium of communication; to correct errors in language; and to touch up images to ensure better reproduction of the content in any medium of communication. You agree that RCI may include your full name, and any other information related to you, in the event that your entries are published, and you also agree that RCI is under no obligation to publish entries shared by you. You agree that prize winners for the Endless Vacation® contests or any other contests or content will be decided by RCI and riendly and efficient, We loud the studio all atter to us. There were many a such decision shall be final and binding. Endless Vacation® Magazine is published twice a year by RCI India Pvt. Ltd. Original articles and contributions may be reproduced or transmitted only with written permission from the publisher. No responsibility is accepted by RCI India for any losses or other consequences resulting from advertisements or other material in this publication. All offers appearing in the publication are subject to terms and conditions and availability. @RCI 2015.

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lue-Addition | Membership Section







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RCI Recommends | Kerala | RCI Recommends

alukés Treats from Kerala...

From beautiful hill stations, tropical greenery and has visibility parks to stunning beaches, serene backwaters and tantalizing food, Kerala is truly a slice of paradise. Situated between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, this mesmerising state is home to some of the best sightseeing spots and natural attractions in India. The natural beauty and the location of Kerala make the state seem like heaven on earth.



Being a preferred holiday destination for thousands each year, Kerala is well-connected to other cities. You can fly directly to Kerala; many flight carriers touchdown in the airports at Cochin, Trisandrum and Calicut. Many private and government buses (Volvo and normal busses) also ply to various cities and towns in Kerala. The Indian Railways have a number of trains headed to Kerala every day, Driving down to Kerala is also a popular option.





Kerala food is a godsend to foodies. It boasts of a range of delicious food that any visitor must yr, Most of the food is econout-based, which adds a rich flavour that can make your palettes sizzle. Make sure you try putta and kadada curry, the appear and steve combination, and disyuppean served with egg curry. The spicy chicken fry vinduals medit normalation or the nadate beef fry in local restaurants are guaranteed to blow your mind! Being a coastal area, fernal also offeres delectable seafood—prawn curry, the muses last sirf of y fullionablemy ularthysisth, fish mode (curry), happa (steamed tapioca) with fish curry and much, much more

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The cultural heritage of Korala is revealed in its varied dance forms, martial arts and cuisine Kathalali, over 300 years old, originated in Kerala and is a delightful medley of opera, ballet, masque, and pantomime. Other noted dance and martial arts forms are Krishnanattam. Mohinyattam, Koodyattam, Kalaripayattu, Parisa Kali and many, many more.

Onam is the harvest festival of Kerala. Onam usually falls between the Malayalam month of Chingam (Aug-Sept) and marks the homecoming of legendary King Malahakh. Festivities last for ten days and bring out the best of Kerala culture and tradition. Intrinsively docorated poolalam, ambrosial onasadya, breathtaking snake boat race and exotic Kailosttikali dance are a few of the features of Onam.

While all of Kerala is worth experiencing, here are a few of our favourite destinations.



Munnar

What seems like the world's largest bonus is really Munnar with its lush expanses of endless tes gardens, behnding into the horizon. Munnar is every hone-mooners' dream with tood weather, almost all year round. Home to the famous needsharing flower Bloomes every twebe years) and the Nighri Tahr, this dreamy town is a must-see if you are a tea-love. Do wist the Tea Museum and the Tea Factory, where you can taste different types of less. Other things you must not miss are the Mattupetty Dam, Top Station and the Eravikulam National Park

Kumarakom

An absolutely enchanting backwater destination, Kimurachom is a cluster of little islands on the Vembanad Lake, the largest fresh water lake in Kerala. The fresh water of the lake runs into the mainland making a labyrinth of lagoons, brooks, canads and waterways. Kimurachom is known for delectable seafood and toddy, something one might want to try. The adventurous could indulge in water sports such as windsaling and waterskiing or even canoe out into the quiet waters and catch ones own dinner, in true Kerala style.

Poovar

Powar is a natural gem where the lakes, rivers and seas meet the land. Unspoilt by tourism and unexplored, it is enveloped by the most serene backwaters. Known for its pristine and unspoiled beauty, Powar is frequented by those who love solitude.

Thekkady

The mention of Thekkady fires up the imagination with thoughts of elephants, endless hills and rubber and spice plantations. Thekkady is one of the finest wildlife reserves

Thekkady

in India, peppered with picturesque plantations and hill towns that holds fantastic opportunities for treks, mountain walks and jungle safaris.

Allenney

Alleppey, also known as the Venice of the East, is a mare of canals, waterways and the backwaters. Famous for backwater houseboats and snake boat races, Alleppey has much to offer travellers. Thy the fish/prawn curries with rice or steamed rapioca. Alleppey is also known for coir exports (don't miss the coir handicrafts?), fine umbrellas and examiste theurhes.

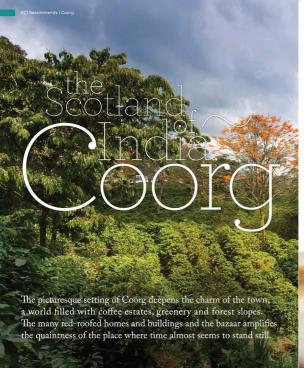
Kochi

A coast lined with an array of ports, heritage structures and Chinese fishing nets, Kochi is a whithwind of surprises with a delightful melangie of old-meets-new culture. Old Town, or Fort Kochi is accessible by road and ferry from Ernakulam and has many interesting things to see, like the Dutch palace, the Jewish Synagogue and a multitude of legacy churches. Needless to say, the cuisine is exquisite, especially the seafood. Do go bakery-hopping, if time permits, to sample the many bladel goodless.



STAY RCI affiliated resorts in Kerala include: Alleppey Panoramic Sea Resorts Asthamudi Club Mahindra Backwater Retreat Cannanore Kairali Heritage Cherai Club Mahindra Beach Resort Kollam Cambay Palm Lagoon Kumarakom D459 Club Mahindra Kumarakom Kumarakom C263 Leisure Vacations Gold Field Lake Resort Kumarakom D695 Royal Grove Club Mahindra Lake View Munnar Monnar Sterling Terrace Greens Munnar The Tall Trees Poovar Club Mahindra Thekkady 1963 Club Mahindra Tusker Trails

Sterling Woods N' Spice



oorg offers a range of experiences to enjoy the great outdoors, be it white water rafting, trekking, kayaking, canoeing or even biking. And should one crave solitude, that isn't too hard to have in this wilderness wonderland. The sprawling estates, the lush slopes and the stillness in the air all add to the artist's inspiration. A holiday in Coorg presents ample opportunities to see and experience amazing sights.

GETTING THERE

The quaint town is easy to access-it is approximately 150-160 kilometers from Mangalore and Mysore, which have the nearest airports to the town, and is about 120-130 kilometers from the Kasargod and Kannur railway stations. Government and private buses ply on a daily basis from the major cities in Karnataka to Coorg.

TASTING THE AUTHENTICITY

Coorg boasts of a number of tasty dishes that any traveller must try. Most of the Kodava cuisine is prepared from the produce grown on the land and found in the forests. The food is usually rich in spices, coconut and curry leaves. Hosts are warm and meals are often an open-house affair. Walk into a Coorgi home, and one will chance upon the much-talked about Coorgi food, such as koli curry (chicken), kadambuttu (rice dumplings), noolputtu (rice noodles) and bambale (bamboo shoot) curry. Wine is made from a number of locally produced fruits, such as gooseberries, oranges, paddy, and orange plums. Toddy, made from pine or coconut trees, is also quite a popular drink.

STAY

RCI affiliated resorts in Coorg include:

Club Mahindra Kodagu Valley

Club Mahindra Viraipet

C477 Kadkani River Resorts

Orange County Resort

..... TRIVIA

01. Bylakuppe, near Coorg, is the biggest Tibetan settlement in South India

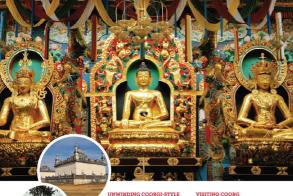
02. Legend has it that the Kodavas are descendants of

03. Hockey is a favourite with the Coorgi community. Many

VIEWING THE BEAUTY

Abbey and Iruppu Falls are simply magnificent during the monsoon. Abbey Falls is set in the midst of coffee and spice plantations, while Iruppu Falls is surrounded by dense greenery. Mallalli Falls is another spot that is quite popular; it is one of the tallest falls in Coorg. Raja Seat is a popular picnic spot, located amidst the beauty of the town. The picnic grounds offer an excellent view of the surrounding mountains and the valley, as well. Tadiyendamol, the tallest peak, allows a spectacular view, as well as a glimpse of the Arabian Sea. Nagarahole National Park and Dubare Elephant Camp are two places to visit if you want a glimpse of majestic tigers and elephants. Talakayeri Wildlife Sanctuary is home to various animals. including snakes, tigers and leopards.





in the backwaters of the river Cauvery is also a great way to kick up your

EXPERIENCING SPLENDOUR Coorg has a number of memorable spots that every sightseer must visit at least once. These include the Madikeri Fort, Omkareshwara temple, Cauvery Nisargadhama, the Bhagamandala, the Golden temple and Naalkunaadu palace. Another unique experience one must not miss is visiting the beautiful Namdroling monastery in the Tibetan settlement. Bylakuppe. The monastery has a modest canteen that serves divine

Prefer to golf the day away? Madikeri and Pollibetta have scenic nine-hole golf courses, ideal for leisure golfing.

heels (October-May).

The Valanoor Fishing Camp, located

Rejuvenate your body, mind and soul at the Swaasthya Ayuveda Retreat Village. Set amidst four acres of spice and coffee plantations, the retreat offers a refreshing, unique ayurvedic experience

Ponnampet gives tourists the chance to microlight in gliders, allowing you to glimpse the beauty of Coorg from the skies.

VISITING COORG

The best time of the year to visit Coors is generally between the months of November and March. While the weather is pleasant all around the year, the harvest festival, Puttari is celebrated around this time, and allows tourists the chance to experience traditional song and dance celebrations native to the town.

A local guide-who you can easily find in the town-can help you decide what you want to see, do, eat and experience on your holiday. @

Yere jewel of South India:

Cool weather and greenery all around, Yercaud is a sleepy little hill station in Tamil Nadu that is mesmerisingly beautiful. Derived from the word 'yeri kadu' (Tamil for 'lake forest'), Yercaud is situated at an altitude of almost five thousand feet. Nestled in the Shevarov Hills (on the Eastern Ghats), the immense beauty of the town made it a highly popular vacation spot with the East India Company...



steamed dumplings.

RCI Recommends | Yercaud Yercaud | RCI Recommends

Quiet Excitement:

Let there be no doubt in your mind—the town of Yercaud is actually located around the lake it is named after. Yercaud Lake is a serene spot, the silence broken only by the occasional motorboat, but otherwise, undisturbed by all the activity around it. Adjoining the lake is a park with a tower that gives you a full view of the the lake and its surroundings...

What's most exciting about Yercaud is its unpredictable weather. Where else can you hope to experience an early morning fog, followed by a sunny spell and then, out of the blue, a quick shower, and beaming sunshine again? It gives one the feeling of experiencing all the four seasons in a matter of hours. Truly amazing!

The monsoons transform Yercaud into a delightful garden of greenery, and this is an ideal time to visit if you are looking to get away from the chaos of the cities. If you are outdoorsy, you could brave a walk to the many of the tourist spots around town. Walks are pleasant, with no traffic to worry about and the fauna around is a real treat for the eyes. Alternatively, you can taxi around to the sights that are outside the town. Taxis and autos are easily available near the lake.

Yercaud is known for savoury preparations made of quail, which can be bought from the small food halls near the bus stand. Another must try is the tribal cuisine, found at the restauant of Hotel Shevaroy.

Here is a seven-day itinerary to keep you going in Yercaud.





Day Ol

Boating at Yercaud Lake Anna Park + Deer Park (The tower at the park gives you a panoramic view of the lake.) Horse-riding + sunset at Yercaud Lake (Tip: don't forget to carry mosquito repellant!)

Day 02

Bhavani Singh's Perfumery (Ask for a tour of their greenhouse and their recommendations for items to purchase) Pakodas at Pakoda Point Annamalayar Temple Rose Garden

Day 03

Shevarovan Temple Lalitha Thirupura Temple Sunset at Karadiyur Viewpoint Horticultural Research Station

Day 04

Killivur Waterfalls (Ensure you wear comfortable walking shoes!) Lady's Seat + Gent's Seat (Magic Moment pics are a must-take!) Children's Seat Viewpoint

Botanical Orchidorium Kurummampatti Zeological Park Day 06

1000 Lingams Temple

Hogenikkal Waterfalls Hanumaan Temple-Namakkal Tharamangalam Temple

Day 07

Kolli Hills Mettur Dam + Park Pulampatti Reservoir



The (roller-coaster) ride from Salem to Yercaud has 20 hairpin bends? On the way, you also see monkeys by the road. Do be careful not to be eating with the windows rolled down, else your food will be gone before you can bat an eyelid!



RCI affiliated resorts in Yercaud include:

D031

Hotel Shevarovs

C082 Lake Forest

Sterling Rock Perch

····· Happy Trivia ······

The cultivation of coffee in Yercaud was introduced by a Scottish Collector of Salem called David Cockburn. It was only after cultivation of coffee, the place started to develop as a holiday destination.

Itinerary suggested with input from Mr. K.Kathiravan, GM. Hotel Shevarov, Yercaud.











Goa is the place to visit if you are looking for a vacation where you do nothing but enjoy the sun and the beach, party and savour the most delicious seafood. Be it during the summer or the winter, Goa is one spot that guarantees true relaxation and sheer fun all round the year.

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Despite being the smallest state in India, Goa has been an integral part of the rich Indian history. This state was one of the major Indian trade centres even back in early times. Rich Goan history can be traced back as far as the prehistoric times, but the first written reference dates back to the Sumerian period. The land was ruled by kings hailing from various dynasties between 1" century B.C. and 1500 A.D. The Muslim rulers conquered Goa in 1350 A.D., and later was conquered by the Portuguese. Even after India's independence, the land was controlled by the Portuguese until the year 1961, until Goa was accepted as a state of India in the year 1987.

RCI Recommends | Goa Goa | RCI Recommends

#01 THE BEACHES



Every beach in Goa is beautiful and unique, especially in the southern part, which is largely frequented by residents and holidayers alike. Of course, you just can't miss the beach parties that take place at night. The picturesque setting and the amazing music make for an intoxicating experience.

Take the time to visit Arambol Beach, Mandrem Beach and Asvem Beach in North Goa-these are some of the best places where you can soak up the sun and simply relax. Some of the best spots in South Goa include Palolem, Polem, Patnem and Raibagh beaches.



Goa has more than just the beaches -rent a bike to see the true magnificence of the place. You'll see coconut palms, lazy rivers (Terekhol, Zuari and Mandovi), majestic falls (Dudhsagar Falls) and the simple beauty of nature all around you. If you are a nature enthusiast, visit the Sahvadri mountain-the vast expanse of greenery is sure to awe you.

#02 THE VIEW

#03 THE CULTURE



The culture in Goa is an eclectic blend of its colourful past, as well as the local Indian cultures. The people of this land are believed to have music in their blood, with musical traditions passing from one generation to the next. Declared as a world cultural heritage (by unesco, nonetheless). the many churches and convents are a pleasure to see. The houses, villas and buildings in the place are a blend of Hindu Goan and Portuguese styles and add to the beauty of the place. You can spend an entire day at Old Goa-make a trip down to the Museum of Christian Art, the Goan version of Madam Tussands

5890 Averina Beach D554 Club Mahindra Emerald Palms

4883 Club Mahindra Varca Beach

5743 Lotus Suites Goa

C908 Palmarinha Resort & Suites 5677 Phoenix Park Inn

3594 Royal Palms 3726 Royal Benaulim

3820 Royal Monterio

4129 Royal Haathi Mahal D034 Sterling Club Estadia C766 Sterling Villagio Inn. Goa

4891 Sun Village

#04 THE FOOD



Goa gives you the chance to gorge on delicious seafood that is worth every penny you pay. Lobsters, tiger prawns, fish steaks and more, along with traditional food, like sorpotel, sol kadi, vindaloo and xakuti, are simply to die for. You can ask for recommendations and make lists of restaurants to eat at, so you get a taste of traditional Goan food. Some of the must-try restaurants include Britto's, Infantaria, Thalassa. Martins Corner and The Upper House-each restaurant offers you a variety of cuisines that will blow you away! Magic Park, in Arambol, serves delectable vegan gourmet food.

casino life of Vegas. Goa is international standards

#06 THE SHOPPING

If you go to Goa, you just have to shop. From junk jewellery to gothic accessories and hippie clothing,



#05 THE LIBERALITY Unlike most cities in India, Goa is incredibly liberal-even the past of the land is proof of this. The Portuguese who ruled Goa back in the day were known to be quite liberal too Call it the influence of the past, but you can simply be vourself and enjoy your holiday. Dress as you like, do as you wish. and go where you like-true

Goa is truly a heaven for holidayers looking to let down their hair and simply be themselves. You can eat, shop, sightsee and party-these are all you need to make your vacation a whopping success.

freedom.

and April and is a great place to pamper yourself, shop and gorge on delectable food. Added to this is the presence of live local bands performing an eclectic mix of music. What more can you ask for? @

bamboo and shell work to brassware, you can find a great variety of items on sale in the many Goan markets. Walk into the busy Mapusa Market -a very popular market among locals and visitors alike. Here, you can buy a range of things including traditional handicrafts, antiques, textiles, spices, homemade pickles and much more. The flea market in Anjuna is held weekly on Wednesdays and it offers an exquisite range of artifacts. Apart from the clothes, footwear, jewellery, it also has local handicrafts and spices. The Calangute Market on Calangute beach is a great place to buy iewellery and sarongs, as well as trinkets made

of seashells, metal, clay and leather.

Mackie's Night Bazaar, at River

Baga, is held between November

MAGICA * MEMORIES

Now, that's what we call a perfect holiday!!!



TARACHAND N BHARATWALA Fort Chanwa luni



Club Mahindra

AVINASH HMALKANI Vits Mumbal



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*Please refer to the terms and conditions reparding Membar Contributions on page 06. You could also post or courier your entries to The Editor, Endiess Vacation RCI India Pvt Ltd. Pine Valley, Pirst Level, Embassy Golf Links Business Park, Off Intermediate Ring Road Bangalous 560 071, India;



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ENDLESS VACATION 25

Membership Section | Resort Listing Resort Listing | Membership Section

the rabadis and chaach-lassis work their magic on you

RAJASTHAN

Grand resorts to explore in all their royal splendour Call it the call of dal-bati-churma ker sangari!

MADHYA PRADESH

beauty. Treat yourself to Bhopali kababs and baflasl

GUJARAT

Foodies, embrace your new favourite holiday destination that is sure to make you swoon with its delightful dhoklas and khandvis

MAHARASHTRA

Larger-than-life resorts in this large state to ensure you are well-tended to. And, of course, lots of shrikhand and pani puri to keep you going

The rich cultural heritage and buzzing energy in this place will leave you feeling overwhelmed. Count on vindaloo and our resorts to make you comfortable while here

KARNATAKA

irresistible combination of tradition and wilderness and bisi-bele-bath to add to the charm.

This sliver of paradise, with its lush terrain, is not only a treat to the eyes, but also a treat to the tastebuds (think fish molee and puttu-kadala curry!).

TAMIL NADU

Take to the hills, plains, beaches or wilderness! Dig into pongal, puliogare and piping hot rasam.

Palate Joy: India on a platter

A variety of resorts in 4 different places and an

Represents indicative number of resorts in the region

"The list of resorts above are only indicative. Please visit www.rol.com for details. The food mentioned is only a casual representation. Map not to scale. The above picture is only a pictorial representation of the many states of India and not

HIMACHAL

You will be spoilt for choice with our spread of resorts. in this heaven on earth. Indulge in mouth-watering atkoris and badanas.

UTTARAKHAND

Who can resist the adrenaline rush you get from standing atop a cliff and the food rushes from gorging on aloo ke gutke and ihangora ki kheer?

LITTAR PRADESH

Get a slice of history in Shah Jahan's magnificent city. Banarasi chaat and bedmi aloo kachoris don't get hetter than this

SIKKIM

This unexplored wonderland has stunning resorts to make your stay memorable. Steamed momos and

ASSAM

Sipping on hot tea, overlooking the the wild, wild east. Sounds divine? So does downing masor tengaand pitha in that amazing weather

WEST BENGAL

The mere mention of Bengal, brings a sparkle to the gastronome's eye. Indulge your insatiable appetite for football, rasgullas and cultural heritage!

ODISHA

Immerse yourself in the glory of bygone Hindu reign. And while you're at it, try some fish orly and rasabali

ANDHRA PRADESH

While in this Nizami place, why not sample their architectural as well as culinary flavours? Birvani and kahahs herkoni

PUDLICHERRY

This quaint Indo-French town will never cease to surprise you, and neither will its kadugu yerra and





Enjoy legendary Royal hospitality with Royal Resorts!



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Goa | Shimla | Kumarakom | Jaipur



A true-to-the-land experience



- Coorg Coffee, Spice & Plantation Life: A 300 acre working plantation resort tucked deep within the cool green hills of Coorg at a height of 800 m. Bordered by the legendary river Cauvery. Surrounded by virgin forests. Enveloped by the heady aroma of coffee and spice. Shrouded in myths and legends Welcome to Orange County, Coorg, a Gold Crown resort.
- Kabini Wildlife, the Tribal Way: A resort inspired by a tribal village. Designed around a pristine river. Bordered by a legendary forest. Welcome to Orange County, Kabini, tucked within the Nilgiri Biosphere. A journey that takes you closer to the heart of a rustic land. One that opens up the wild side of nature.

Special Offers For RCI Members







Fly in to Puducherry airport and hire a taxl to drive you to your resort. You could also take a train to Puducherry or Villupuram. Alternatively, you could reach Puducherry by the many buses that ply from Chennal and other major cities in South India or even drive down ECR.

Puducherry, or Pondicherry, is a quaint place, known not just for the dynamic Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville, but also its French heritage. The combination of the French joie-de-vie and the serenity of the Ashram make Puducherry, where modern heritage coexists with spiritual culture, a perfect place to relax, far from the hustle and bustle of the metropolitan cities.

Visit Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville, where the residents still follow the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and experience the cultural activities that are organised there. The beaches are a great place to spend your evenings. You can watch the sunset from the shores, and indulge in the beauty around you. The hundred and fifty year old lighthouse still stands in the town, and is an impressive sight to behold—even if you have seen it before. The Notre Dame de la Conception—almost three hundred years old—is just as impressive. If you like art, make sure to visit the churches—the stained glass panels in

the Sacred Heart Church, and the oil painting in Our Lady of Angels Church (gifted by Napoleon III) are added bonuses that you can peruse at leisure. The Botanical Garden has more than a thousand five hundred different species of plants flourishing in the garden and is a place every nature enthusiast must see. White Town, or the former French colony, is peppered with quaint boutiques and caffé with food that is unique to the town.

> Alluring Auroville: Auroville is a great place for you to shopyour choices are unlimited, as the gift items you can buy here are simply exquisite. You can buy attractive junk jewellers, home décor items, and intricately carved handicraft items. The Puducherry beach has many small stores where you can buy gift items and curios as well. Many of the outdoor activities are centered on the many beaches. You can take a dip in the sea, take a river cruise on Chunambar River, or even take yoga classes in one of the many centers in the city.

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SERENITY BEACH AUROVILLE INFO CENTRE

HANDMADE PAPER FACTORY TRANQUEBAR MATRI MANDIR (AUROVILLE) ART GALLERIES

MUST-BUYS

ESSENTIAL DILS+SOAPS LEATHER BAGS+ACCESSORIES HAND-MADE STATIONERY ANTIQUE FURNITURE (ECR) BAKERY GOODIES (AUROVILLE) TRINKETS (AUROVILLE)

CREOLE FOOD (PONDY FLAVA) SEAFOOD (FOR SURE!) PAAYA (NEXT TO RAILWAY ST.) CHOCOLATES+DESSERTS ORGANIC FOOD (YUMMY!) TWO-SIDE PIZZA (AUROVILLE)

MUST-DOS

CYCLE AROUND TOWN ART GALLERY VISITS POTTERY SESSION (AUROVILLE) SUNRISE BREAKFAST (BEACH) SUNDAY BAZAAR (MG ROAD) ORGANIC FARMING

Delectable Delights: The influence of the French is still evident in not only the atmosphere of Puducherry, but also the cuisine enjoyed by the people. The result of the French and Indo influences has produced a unique taste that is simply delicious—an exciting blend of Indian and Continental flavors. Try the assad, coconut curry, soya dosa, and tandoori potato dishes at local restaurants. Also dishes that you must not miss sampling are the curried vegetables. Italian baked beans and the stuffed cabbage. Puducherry is also one of the fewest places in India where you can buy bona fide French food items, like brioches, baguettes and French pastries.

A vacation in Puducherry is guaranteed to leave you feeling blissful, especially if you plan your trip between the months of October and February. You are sure to leave a piece of your heart in the exquisite place. Au revoir, city life! •

Ahmed Demystifies

Have doubts about your RCI membership and benefits? No worries: our discerning Adviser Ahmed is here. Write to us with your queries and Ahmed will answer your questions and demystify your membership.

WER PROTECTION Trading power protection protects the deposit trading power (DTP) used towards your exchange vacation. Without trading power protection, if you need to rebook or cancel your vacation, the DTP that you used towards your exchange is recalculated based on the date you are rebooking or cancelling your vacation. Trading power protection ensures that, in case you rebook or cancel your exchange reservation, all of the DTP used for that exchange will be returned to your

account.

THE RCI PLATINUM" MEMBERSHIP

To make your RCI membership experience even more special, you can enroll into RCI Platinum™. This fantastic upgrade option complements the holiday and travel opportunities you already enjoy as a RCI member, RCI Platinum™ rewards you with a wide range of benefits from guaranteed discounts on holiday bookings to Priority Access to vacation in highly sought-after destinations. Plus : Free Dining Plus nembership, forex discounts and so much more.

COMBINING DEPOSIT

When you have a Deposit Credit or multiple deposit in your account you can maximize your exchange options by combining the deposits by paying a small fee. How does that help? The trading power of your 'Combined Deposit' will be the sum of the trading power value of all your deposits or Deposit credits combined. Thus, with a Combined Deposit, you could book a holiday with an Exchange Trading Power that's greater than the trading power of any single. deposit you have!





RCI Recommends | Australia | RCI Recommends



A ustralia has quite a varied culture and heritage because it is not only being in Australia, and not just its culture, food, and lifestyle. Apart from the rich cultural environment, the continent boasts of several famous sights and world heritage properties—these monuments of beauty are definitely worth seeing up close and personal. If you like to rough it on holidays, or are adventurous, you will enjoy every minute you spend on the Australian lands. After all, Australia is known for its open spaces and natural beauty.

GETTING AROUND:

Since the continent is sparsely populated, getting around from city to city is easier if you rent a car. Domestic flights are plenty, since it is faster and more convenient to travel from city to city. The major cities have public transport that you can use to get around the city

with ease.

REACHING AUSTRALIA: Considering that

Australia is a continent that is away from most places, the ideal way to travel to Oz is by flight to either Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne or Perth. Domestic flights from these places could take you to your final destination. If you are travelling between November and February, during the cruising season, you can even choose to sail your way into your yacation!

SIGHTS:

The Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef in the world, is simply breathtaking, with abundant marine life and individual coral cays and reef systems. You can scubs dive, sonckel, take an aircraft tour, go on a cruise or even self-sail at the reefs to catch a closer climose of this magnificent attraction.

Cable Beach is the perfect beach with sparkling water and white-as-light sand and one of Western Australia's main attractions. The southern part of the beach has paths that wind through Minyir Park's red dunes, a place that has spiritual significance to the people of Yawuru. You can spend your entire day exploring the north and south areas of Cable Beach. In the evening, take a camel ride down the beach in the evening to end the day on a pleasant note.

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FLORA & FAUNA

The wildlife in Australia is quite diverse. If you are a nature enthusiast. Oz is the ideal place for you to visit. Apart from animals in the wild, you can also visit plenty of wildlife parks and zoos to capture glimpses of other kinds of flora and fauna.

The Warrawong Fauna Sanctuary is a great place to visit in South Australia. Monarto Zoo, also located in South Australia, is a zoological park that has animals from around the globe. The park is home to some rare animals, including bilbies and mallee-fowls. The Territory Wildlife Park is less than 50 kms from Darwin, this wildlife park is a great place for you to see

beautiful.

Go surfing,

scuba diving, and

kayaking here. Indulge

your taste buds with the fine

dining and wine from restau-

River is to die for. The waves

are ideal for surfing-one of

the best spots to surf

in Australia.

rants along the way as well.

The scenery at Margaret

Wetlands

Monsoon Vine Forest and Woodland, Ballarat Wildlife Park, near Melbourne, is home to many animals such as echidnas, quokkas, koalas, and quolls.

Caversham Wildlife Park, in West Australia, has a walkthrough area, allowing you glimpses of kangaroos, koalas, dingos and wombats.

Sanctuary is an ideal place to visit for bird and reptile enthusiasts. There is an aviary as well as a reptile facility that will knock your socks off!

The Currumbin Wildlife

several

activities that are fun

and worth the effort. Climb

the Sydney Harbour Bridge

spectacular landscapes. Or

even hire boats to islands.

OTHER

(i.e. Coathanger Bridge climb) to capture an amazing view ACTIVITIES: of the city below. Or see the To top off all the whale sharks at Ningaloo nature-watching and the Reef, without having to wear flora and fauna. any scuba gear. The Indian there are Pacific train takes you along the most scenic route with

and drop anchor near local resorts and treat yourself with tasty food and wine. If you love art, you must visit the Burrup Peninsula, where you can look at ancient aboriginal art

Australia is defenitely the holiday destination, if you are looking for a holiday that will take you closer to nature and the wild a

in the country.

DID YOU KNOW

the Great Ocean Road and

the 12 apostles, waterfalls.

surf breaks-that are truly

you get to see many sights-

'the unknown southern land') before it was discovered by

STAY

RCI has affiliated resorts across Australia. Visit www.RCl.com

Drive along

Feature | United States Les Vegies | RCI Récommends



Fancy a visit to Uncle Sam's land? Hundreds of thousands, each year, visit the United States to see it's incredible sights, of which the world speaks. There's something in it for everyone—fun, adventure, tranquility, art and culture, buzzing nightlife. Live life on the edge, in the buzzing sindiffie. Live life on the edge, in the buzzing sindiffice. Live life on the edge, in the buzzing of sindiffice. The life on the edge, in the buzzing of sindiffice.

What's life without thoda sin and thoda fun? So what is it that you seek? **Merrilyur**

TICKET**

TICKET*

TICKET

THE BECKONING OF

If you've got vacation time approaching around the corner, and you've saved enough to splurge and pamper yourself, Las Vegas is definitely the place to head to. The biggest attraction of vacationing in Las Vegas is the fact that apmbling is legally allowed in the city. This alone is enough to draw in almost forty million visitors every year. Downtown Vegas is the original Vegas—the area that was first developed. The famous Vegas strip that people visit is technically not a part of Vegas city, but is under Clark County Lurisdiction.



A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience: There are at least 150 casinos in the

There are at least 150 casinos in the Las Vegas valley region, the oldest being Golden Gate, which was opened in the year 1906 (then called Hotel Nevada.) The legalization of gambling has ensured that casinos have become extremely popular tourist spots. The casinos provides a rich variety of gaming options, including a sports and race book system.

Enjoying Your Night:

There is no dearth of bars, clubs and lounges in the city where you can entertain yourself during the afterhours. With a little research, you can easily find a diverse range of bars, clubs and lounges that can ensure different (not to mention memorable) kinds of experiences.

Indulging Your Palate:

Las Vegas is indeed a true foodie haven. You get a great variety of different cuisines from across the globe. Many restaurants have all-you-can-eat buffets that are totally worth your money. The next time you are in Vegas, make sure that you sample food from the famed Vegas restaurants.

Getting the Whole Experience:

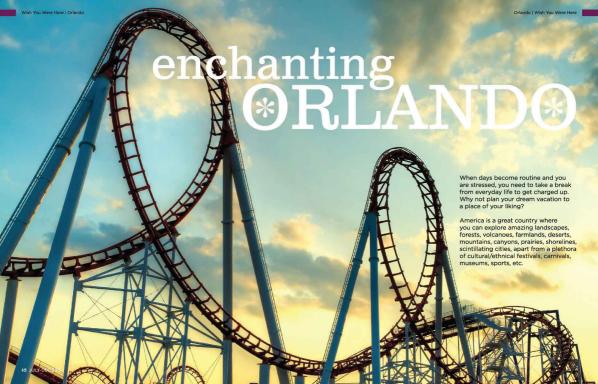
Going on a tour of the city is a great way to ensure that you get to visit all the tourist attractions in Vegas. Sightseeing tours on wheels (i.e. buses) can be a fun way to familiarize yourself with many popular locations in the city. These tours are conducted on double-decker buses with open tops. There are some night-time tours that you can opt for, that takes you to places that are lively in the evening, like Fremont Street. If you want to learn the history of downtown Vegas, a walking tour is just the thing for you. You can purchase

a self-guided tour book (which offers you coupons for entertainment, dining and gaming) or choose to hire a guide.

You can choose to visit the places that were integral in the evolution of the Vegas pop culture. For a reasonable price, you can hire a guide to escort you through the outdoor museum, showing you famous signs, classic hotels, historical architecture and newer cultural hubs in downtown Vegas.

Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas (as the boards read). Welcome to your unforgettable Vegas vacation. •





If Florida is the world's holiday capital, then Orlando. with its amazing sights, is its epicenter. It has a dazzling array of attractions for all ages-theme parks, water parks, amusement parks. carnivals, fine restaurants, golf courses, malls and an ever-active night life.

RCI recommended Kissimmee, instead of Orlando. They selected the best suite in 'Vacation Village at Parkway' on Arabian Nights Boulevard for a week's stay in June. We realized the importance of this, when we found that VVP was quite conveniently located from there. They allotted us a rather luxurious suite, with a fully-equipped pantry. well-furnished rooms, TVs, internet access and a swimming pool. Since we were vegetarians, we took with us an ample supply of ready-to-eat food packs, thus, the pantry came in handy in this home-away-from-home Reception and hospitality at the resort was top notch. Kissimmee felt like going from thrills to tranquility. making us feel at home. Legendary recreation parks and other tourist spots like the Walt Disney World resorts, Hollywood Studios and Kennedy Space Center.

Our resort arranged shuttle services to a central place where we could catch the bus services arranged by the Disney authorities to their main attraction Epcot.

Sea World were all closeby.





STAY

RCI has affiliated resorts across Orlando. Visit www.RCl.com



We used similar facilities to visit 'Sea World'. We journeyed to KSC on a luxury bus.

It is advisable to spend a day at each park, in order to cover all the main attractions Our sincere thanks to RCI. for sending us on this lovely vacation, It was, indeed, a dream come true!

Our 5-month stay in the United States gave us the opportunity to plan and visit everything that was what we wanted to see around Orlando. A few of the theme parks made quite an impression on us, like Animal Kingdom, where your imagination runs wild and time flies when you meet real, imaginary and extinct animals. We were absolutely amazed by Epcot. Disney's tribute to science and technology. Don't miss "World Showcase", "Innoventions" and "IllumiNations" here. The Magic Kingdom transports you to the magical worlds of all the Disney characters we grew up with. This particular park is a favourite with children.

We ended our visit with these 'all-in-one' lifetime experiences of entertainment. fun. excitement, adventure and education. We had such a lovely time and would like to visit Orlando again! o

Story submitted by Seetharam S.R., Club Mahindra



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Wish You Were Here | Finland the land of the midnight sun

66 For the summer holidays, we decided to tour the Baltic States. We were absolutely elated when RCI confirmed a beautiful resort in the city of Tampere in Finland. ●●



In view of my parents being in their 70's, we planned the trip in the second fortnight of May so that summer would just be setting in and the temperatures thus more comfortable to handle. Our timerary was thus automatically finalised with a seven day stay in Finland, followed by a further seven days in other Baltic states.

The icing on the cake was provided when we learnt that the cruise ship, Princess Maria, sails on a 1 day/2 nights cruise to St. Petersburg. Russia, and it we book and travel on the cruise we are exempt from having to obtain Russian visas viz. We landed into Helsinki and took a taxi directly to the jetty to board Princess Maria. The cruise liner was a beauty with seven decks and all kinds of facilities on board.

The view of Helsinki, port and city, were fabulous! St. Petersburg is a fantastic city and we spent a wonderful day there exploring the various canals of river water (St. Petersburg is called the Venice of the North!) and the bustling city with its beautiful buildings.

On returning back to Helsinki, we spent the day exploring the city. This included a hop-on-hop-off bus tour as well as several walking tours (self guided). The city tiself was small but dainty and rather quite, as if the locals were just waking up from the hibernation of the long winter. One of the best parts of Helsinki was the railway station; the building itself as well as the facilities and the bustle of people moving in and out. We boarded the train to Tampere and reached our resort around 10 pm; and it was bright and sunny at the time! The land of the midnight sun!

Tampere turned out to be a small, but fantastic town and we had an

absolutely wonderful time during the six days we stayed there. The resort itself was extremely good, and it was right by the lakeside, just 2.5 kms from the railway station and town centre which were easily accessible by public buses. The open-air ranch bar on the lake ide was real nostalgia! The best part of all this was that sunrise would be around 3 am and it would get dark only around midnight, so we got about 18 hours each day to enjoy our stay in Finland!

We explored the resort with its facilities; and planned day excursions to the towns of Turku and Tallinn. We visited the town centre and saw local attractions like the cathedral and the Finlayson Factory.

Tampere has the Sarkanniemi Adventure and Theme Park, famously called 'The Angry Birds Park'. Luckily for us (and our daughter!), the park was open for the summer. The day was spent enjoying the various rides and other activities there.

On day six of our stay in Tampere, we hired a car for the day and drove towards the North West of Tampere, which, we had been told, was a scenic drive through the Finnish countryside with the beautiful lakes and forests. Being vegetarian, we had packed a picnic lunch which we had at a beautiful lake side chalet.

It was finally time to bid goodbye to Tampere, as we boarded our flight, we were sure our sweet memories of Tampere (and Finland as a whole) would remain with us for the rest of our lives!

Story submitted by Hiren T. Goradia, Sterling Holidays.

Fee Reckoner



Guest Certificate

International-Short Haul

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Upto 2 days to travel start date	₹3,990



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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

Platinum me	moeramp
1 year	₹4,057
2 years	₹7,101
3 years	₹10,145
4 years	₹13,189
5 years	₹15,218



Deposit Extension

3 months	₹1,520
6 months	₹3.043

Deposit Combining Fee Combining fee ₹3.042

rading Power F	rotection
Vithin 30 days	₹1,995
O+ days	₹3,990

Kenewai	
1 year	₹6,594
2 year	₹10,145
3 year	₹13,189
5 year	₹17,754
10 year	₹30,437

Exchange cancellation 30 days before check-in Bonus / GetAway Specials

Cancellation Fee

(% of bonus fee forfeited)	
61 days before check-in	30%
31-60 days before check-in	50%
0-30 days before check-in	100%

₹3,500

CANCELLATION POLICY

GetAway Special 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*.

Standard Exchange in case you cancel at least 30 days before your check-in date*, your Exchange Fee will be refunded after deducting a Cancellation Fee of \$3,500. There will be no refund if you make the cancellation less than 30 days before the checkin date* | However, if you cancel at least two working days before the check-in date*, your deposit week utilised can be used for future vacation confirmations, as long as it is within the validity period, and your RCI membership has not expired I The Trading Power of your deposit will be recalculated from the date of cancellation, unless you have availed Trading Power Protection.

All fees/offers/benefits/promotions mentioned in this issue of Endless Vacation are subject to change without prior notice. Fees mentioned are inclusive of taxes, applicable 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 www.RCI.com to avail our special online fees. "TPRO can be purchased up to 14 days prior to confirmed start dates. *Terms & Conditions apply.

Call the RCI member helpline for details.

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: www.RCI.com





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Murphy's Law: Fun facts of life to add some colour to your day!



Law of Mechanical Repair: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.

Law of Probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.





Law of Random Numbers: If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

Doctors' Law: If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, and by the time you get there you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment, and you'll stay sick.





Variation Law: If you change queues, the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

Law of the Bath: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.





Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.





The Coffee Law: As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold

Seating Law: People with seats furthest from the aisle arrive last.



Renew NOW GAIN more



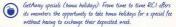
As someone who is already inclined toward taking yearly holidays, it is beneficial to utilise the full potential of your RCI membership by renewing it right away.











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RCI Member Helpline Toll Free (All India): 1.800.419.2131 Website: www.rcl.com



*Terms and conditions apply.



Don't we all get nostalgic about the monscons from our childhood days? Remember the paper boats we set sail in streams of water and dancing in the rain on the way back from school? Or how we all sat huddled in the verandah with hot chai and pakodas, watching the evening rain in all its splendour?

Wouldn't it be great to make new memories of the monsoons that you could look back to? It could be any place, from the magnificence of tropical Coorg or the royal beauty of Jaipur to the all-time favourite Goa.





DESTINATIONS: Goa, Loorg, Puducnerry, Yercaud, Kodai, Munnar, Ooty,
Kumarakom, Corbett, Jaisalmer, Mussoorie, Poovar, Lonavla, Masinagudi, Jodhpur, and many more!

'Conditions apply, Check with your RC quide for evallability and applicability.

RCI

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