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RCI PLATINUM



- 6 India Unplugged
 15 superb desi destinations
- Hard Rock Hotel

 It's time to rock & roll—Goa
- 17 Exploring the Americas USA, Canada, Mexico
- 24 Mesmerising Maldives Filitheyo, Bathala, Medhufushi
- 28 Discovering Oriental Treasures Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia
- 34 The Pacific

 Australia, New Zealand
- 40 United in Diversity: Europe

 Canary Islands, Greece, Hungary,

 Switzerland
- 50 Mystical Africa South Africa, Kenya

Also in this Issue

- 5 New Affiliations
- 48 Fee Reckoner

HUNGARY: Star-studded cityscapes





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Dear RCI® Members,

Explore more, experience more with RCI®.

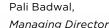
It has been our constant endeavour to bring you as many new resorts at as many new destinations.

The much-awaited island holiday experience is now available to you through our latest affiliation with AAA Hotels and Resorts in the exotic Maldives (pg. 24). It gives us great pleasure in giving you three Maldives resorts in Filitheyo, Bathala and Medhufushi. Talking about experiencing more, we are happy to announce our association with the iconic Hard Rock chain of hotels (pg. 14). Hard Rock hotel, Goa, is the first of its kind in India, giving you one more reason to head for Goa! In addition to this, through Sterling Holidays, we have added two more exciting destinations to our resort listing-Kufri, Shimla (pg. 5) and Agra (pg. 5). Club Mahindra Holidays has a new resort in the picturesque town of Munnar (pg. 5) giving you more reasons to visit God's own country.

In this edition of Endless Vacation, we touch upon the diverse range of RCI® resorts across the Americas (USA, Canada, Mexico) (pg. 17), Europe (Canary Islands, Greece, Hungary, Switzerland) (pg. 40), Africa (Kenya, South Africa) (pg. 50), the Pacific (Australia, New Zealand) (pg. 34), Asia (Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia) (pg. 28) and the fifteen most popular destinations in the wondrous India (pg. 6). Whatever your holiday needs, be it land or sea, RCI® has an experience that is suited to your requirement. With nearly 4300 resorts in over 100 countries, spread across 6 continents, you can truly have a world of experiences with RCI®.

Happy holidaying to you!







NEW DESTINATIONS. NEW EXPERIENCES

Grab a brand new holiday experience at exciting new destinations.





CLUB MAHINDRA

Mount Serene-Munnar DC73

A property inspired by Indo-British architecture. this resort has spacious and ornate accommodation and is surrounded by tea plantations. You can engage in plenty of exciting activities or just relax and let the mountain air soothe you.







A traveller's paradise, Regal Vista offers an awe-inspiring view of the majestic architecture that dots Agra's landscape. Regal Vista has top-notch facilities and amenities that is sure to make your stay lavish and worthwhile.







STERLING

Kufri-The White Ridge DC77

Luxury meets comfort in this gorgeous resort, giving its visitors a great view of the surrounding mountainous landscape. The White Ridge is beautifully designed, keeping in mind your need for an unforgettable holidaying experience.









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A MUSSOO

Athithi devo bhava—this best describes the Indian mentality since time immemorial. Literally translating into "guests are like God," India is a place that ensures that every visitor to the land receives true Indian hospitality and feels welcome always.

land of beauty, rich culture and traditions, and an amazing history, India is truly a land blessed by the Gods themselves. Planning to tour the Indian soils for a holiday, you will truly be spoilt for choice. From the beautiful hill stations peppered across the country and the amazing scenery, to the many sacred pilgrimage places, cities and towns with the beautifully erected temples and more, a holiday to India has vast potential. Add to the mix the fact that an Indian holiday is truly an affordable one—food, stay, conveyance and even the keepsakes as well.

A lot of the poignant story of India can be seen through the architecture of old Indian buildings, monuments and temples, as well as the art work on display. If you are looking to nurture your spiritual side, there is no better place than India for you to do so. You can also choose to explore the natural beauty of the country, be it hill stations, the mountainside, beaches or the wilderness. A true holiday experience includes sampling the local cuisines as well, and India does not disappoint. Foodies, you're in for a treat!

Irrespective of whether you choose to party in Goa, trek on the McLeod Ganj hills, scuba dive in Andaman, camp under the stars in Manali, indulge in the beauty of Coorg or even explore the Hampi ruins, an Indian holiday promises to please, thrill and wow you every second of every day of your trip.





Goa

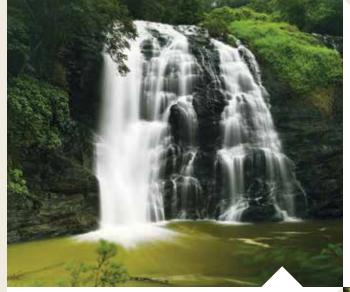
A paradise of sun and sand, Goa is the place to visit if you are looking to unwind and let loose your wild side. Goa is one holiday destination that promises entertainment and fun all through the year, regardless of the season.

Beaches in Goa are plenty, each of them unique and beautiful, visited by visitors and natives alike. Goa also boasts of some of the best views, lazy rivers, majestic waterfalls, amazing coastlines and lush nature everywhere. With a rich history, a delightful blend of Portuguese and Hindu Goan cultures seen through its numerous convents, churches, temples and villas, Goa promises history and architecture enthusiasts a lot to take back with them.

Goa is also a haven for the gastronomically adventurous. Delicious seafood be it fish, prawns, lobsters, squid or more; promises not to disappoint every time you savour the dishes.

Walk away from your holiday with numerous trinkets available in the markets and bazaars in Goa—from gothic accessories and jewellery to traditional handicrafts, antiques, clothing and more, there is always something for everybody.





Coorg

Packed with teakwood and sandalwood trees, spice and coffee plantations and hills bathed in mist, Coorg makes an ideal holiday destination when you are looking for a holiday away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The lush greenery, verdant valleys and the breathtaking mountains, not to mention the quaint town itself, present a picture of sheer beauty.

There is plenty to see in Coorg, from Namdroling Golden Temple and Bhagamandala and Omkareshwara Temples to the beauty of nature in Nisargadhama, the sunset at Raja's Seat, Madikeri fort, museum and more. You even have the opportunity to bathe, feed and ride elephants at Dubare Elephant Camp.

Jodhpur, or as it is popularly known, 'the Sun City of India' is famous for its blue-coloured buildings. It boasts of stunning forts and palaces that reflect the fascinating past of the city.



Of course, any itinerary must include visits to the impregnable Mehrangarh Fort and Umaid Bhawan Palace. Jaipur also offers a range of other places to see, including Clock Tower, Old City Markets, Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park, Jaswant Thada, Mandore Gardens, Balsamand and Kailana Lakes.

Ooty

One of India's best and most popular hill stations, Ooty is a place that is infused with charm and beauty. Fresh air, beautiful weather and a serene atmosphere. Don't miss the Botanical Gardens, the Rose Gardens, the Tea Factory and the view from Doddabetta Peak. Irrespective of what you choose to put in your itinerary, Ooty offers you plenty of things to do and places to see. Of course, your trip to Ooty cannot be complete without sampling and buying the delicious homemade chocolates and various tea available here.



The Nilgiri Mountain Railway runs through pristine hills and is a must-try for families. The vintage toy train runs from Ooty to Coonoor and back.





You can arrange to go on a guided walk through the lush ea plantations of Munnar. You'll get a chance to pick tea eaves, meet tea-pickers and taste different teas too!

Munnar

Characterised by its sprawling tea plantations and winding roads, Munnar has been a popular holiday spot since the British times. The many wondrous sights in and around the hill station add to its appeal, including Echo Point, Ernakula National Park, Mattupetty Dam, Kurinjimala Sanctuary, Rajamala Wildlife Sanctuary and Thattekad Bird Sanctuary. If you love adventure, you have the option to hike, trek and camp at many scenic locations.

Corbett

Jim Corbett National Park, with dense hills and grasslands, is a popular holiday destination. It is the oldest national park in India. One of the nine tiger reserves of Project Tiger, visitors throng to the national park to catch a glimpse of the famed gigantic, Bengal tigers. Additionally, Corbett National Park is also home to a large variety of flora and fauna. While at Corbett, you must go on tiger safaris, wildlife safaris and jeep safaris. Corbett National Park offers a range of other outdoor activities as well, including river crossing, rappelling, and angling.



Soak in the sight of Tsomgo Lake, surrounded by towering mountains on all sides.

Gangtok

Sikkim's capital city of Gangtok is a charming hill station that is enveloped by beauteous scenery all around. From the snow-capped peaks of Mount Kanchenjunga to the abundant greenery all around and high-altitude lakes, the hill station is a holiday spot that reaches out and calls to your aesthetic sense. Gangtok is home to a number of monasteries, including the Enchey Monastery and the Rumtek Monastery. Relish the beauty of nature all around you from one of the many viewpoints around Gangtok, such as Ganesh Tok and Hanuman Tok, or simply drive over the Nathu La pass, which goes through the lake, while appreciating the scenery all around.

Mussoorie

The hill station of Mussoorie is located quite close to Dehradun. This dreamy town promises awe-inspiring sights of snow-capped peaks, waterfalls and the Doon Valley. The waterfalls here—Kempty Falls, Dhanaulti Falls and Jharipani Falls are a must-see. If you love the outdoors, you can indulge yourself while hiking or walking on the trails, the best of which are found at Pari Tibba, Bhadraj Forest and the Benog Wildlife Sanctuary. You can shop for various attractive mementoes in remembrance of your trip in the hill station, at places such as the Mall Road, Kulri Bazaar and Landour.



Shimla

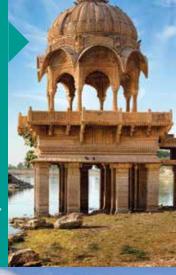
Once the summer capital during the British era, Shimla is now one of the top holiday destinations in India. Located close to the Himalayas, the weather in Shimla is cool, regardless of the time of the year. The famous Mall Road never fails to attract visitors to the hill station. Added attractions include Jakhoo Hill, the Shimla Ridge, Summer Hill, the Shimla Museum, Daranghati Sanctuary and Annandale. You can also luxuriate in the presence of the majestic Chadwick Falls, enjoy the quiet beauty after a snowfall, appreciate the abundant wildlife in and around the city and even simply ogle the amazing architecture of the buildings. There is always more to see than time permits.

Udaipur



Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer is a city defined by its golden-coloured fort. The dunes of the Thar Desert, bewitching palaces, magnificent havelis and the stunning Jain temples are just some of the reasons why Jaisalmer is so popular. Visiting the Jaisalmer Fort, the Patwon-ki-Haveli and the Salim Sing-ki-Haveli is well-worth your time.





Manali is steeped in natural beauty and splendour. It is believed to be where the Gods and Manu took refuge from the floods that deluged the earth in ancient times.



Kodaikanal

Nestled amid the Palani hills, Kodaikanal is a magnificent hill station in Tamil Nadu—one of the most picturesque places in the state. The city is filled with slopes, bowers, creeks, enormous trees and lush green meadows. Coaker's Walk allows some of the best sights the hill station has to offer. Trekking and hiking in the hill station are activities that will make you fall in love with Kodaikanal. Plan an excursion (a day-long one) to Dindigul, Kukkal Caves, Thalaiyar Falls and Dolmen Circle to experience some thrilling sights in and around the hill station. Add to your itinerary a trip to Kodai's churches, temples and museums as well.

Called the "Venice of the East", Udaipur is enchanting and romantic. It is rich in culture and traditions, its festival celebrations are accompanied by dance and song.

Top sights to see include the City Palace, the Lake Palace, Bagore Ki Haveli and Maharana Pratap Memorial, Ahar Museum, Shilpgram Museum, Fateh Sagar Lake, Rajsamand Lake and Jaisamand Lake.

Manali

Surrounded by lush forests, snow-capped peaks, and flanked by the River Beas, Manali offers some mouth-watering local dishes, such as Dham (a trout dish), red rice and saag, masala omelettes and a range of delicious teas. Many temples dedicated to a number of Gods mentioned in ancient scriptures can be found across the Kullu Valley. Enjoy the true beauty of Manali in places such as the Solang Valley, Pandoh Dam, Bhrigu Lake, and Rohtang Pass. There are many national parks and sanctuaries in the land as well. The many temples and monasteries in Manali are well-worth a visit as well.



In the past, Panchgani was a rather popular holiday retreat with the British, as seen by the many colonial cottages and holiday homes.

Panchgani

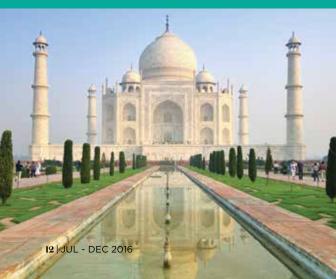
The hill station of Panchgani, once a summer retreat for the British in the nineteenth century, is currently one of India's most popular holiday destinations. Quaint and charming, this little hill station is surrounded by five hills, and is a far cry from the bustling cities.

There are plenty of picturesque viewpoints in the hill station, including Table Land, Parsi Point, Arthur Seat and Sydney Point. Pristine waters beckon every tourist in Panchgani, from the Venna and Tapola Lakes to the Lingmala Falls in all its glory during the monsoon months and the Dhom Dam.

Nainital

One of Uttarkhand's most-visited hill stations, Nainital is a place of immense and awe-inspiring beauty. The spectacular landscapes and the cool climate makes Nainital a prime holiday destination. Places you should visit include the Aurobindo Ashram and St. John's Church. Appreciate the beauty of the outdoors in Nainital through trips to Naina Peak, Tiffin Top, Nainital Zoo, Kilbury, Snow View Point, Gurney House, The Flatts, and Kainchi Dam. Engage in adventure sports such as paragliding, river rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, horse-riding, and more.





STAY



RCI has affiliated resorts across India.

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Grab yourself the best of desi vacations. Choose from resorts in destinations like Goa, Coorg, Ooty, Munnar, Puducherry, Udaipur, Jodhpur and many more.

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GOA | SHIMLA | KUMARAKOM | JAIPUR





ROCK PRODUCTION OF THE PRODUCT

destination rich in culture and entertainment, Goa shares the same vibrant and carefree spirit as the Hard Rock brand. Have a rocking holiday at Hard Rock Hotel Goa, the first resort of its kind in India. Located in the heart of Calangute just minutes from a number of famed beaches, Hard Rock Hotel Goa is a complete entertainment destination, offering world-class accommodations, stylish design and unparalleled service that redefines lifestyle hotel living. Hard Rock Hotel Goa is centrally located near the best attractions and activities in Goa, popular beaches of Calangute, Baga, Anjuna and Vagator. Key attractions like the Night Market, Fort Aguada, St. Alex Church and the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa are a must-visit and the hotel has all the means for you to do so!

LAID-BACK LUXURY

Hotel accommodations don't get much better than those at Hard Rock Hotel Goa. Live like a rock star in one of the 135 stylish rooms and suites, which feature signature furnishings like our spacious work desk and custom-made bedding that invites you in for a deep, satisfying slumber. This is not just a hotel, it's an iconic experience with a vibe you can't afford to miss. Take a dip in the long, blue pool, enjoy fabulous food and drinks any time of the day. Browse Hard Rock's famous collection of music memorabilia adorning the walls throughout the hotel. From gold records to iconic outfits, their collection brings music to life and tells the stories of your favourite musicians and stars. Expect a rolling red carpet holiday that offers you an unforgettable, VIP experience.

THE VIP LIFE

Live freely at Hard Rock Hotel Goa. Sample international cuisine or a classic hamburger at Sessions, float around in the crystal blue pool and enjoy a fabulous cocktail at the poolside bar. Of course, it wouldn't be a Hard Rock Hotel without music, so during your stay, you'll enjoy legendary live performances and customised playlists and guitar jam sessions in your room with Sound of Your Stay®. No matter how you spend your Goa vacation, it will be unforgettable when you stay at Hard Rock.

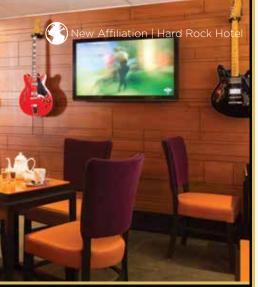
WINE 'N' DINE

As one of the most popular holiday destinations in India, it's no wonder that Goa has a fabulous selection of world-class dining. You'll find some of the most delicious and inspiring chef-curated cuisines right at Hard Rock Hotel Goa. With three unique dining options, there's something to satisfy every taste and craving, from buffets featuring traditional Indian cuisine to poolside bites and cocktails.













LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

GET FIT AT BODY ROCK®

Just because you're on vacation doesn't mean you have to drop your routine. Maintain that rock hard physique you've worked so hard for at the state-of-the-art Body Rock® fitness centre. You'll find everything you need to work up a sweat, including top-notch cardio equipment and two resident staff trainers to guide you. What more could you ask for?

GET YOUR ROCK SHOP® SWAG

Dress like the rock star you are when you shop at the Rock Shop® at Hard Rock Hotel Goa. Browse the rock star closet for Hard Rock gear that is recognised around the world, from t-shirts and hoodies to jewellery and commemorative pins. Stop in and pick up some classic Rock Shop® swag and tell the world that you vacationed at Hard Rock Hotel Goa.

GET WET AND WILD

Day or night—it's always a party at the Hard Rock pool. Turn the pool into your own aquatic dance floor as a DJ spins the hottest tunes on select nights. Throw in some beach balls and have a blast—after all, it is your holiday! You'll find their pool is the perfect place for some wet and wild fun. There's room for everyone to chill out because it is the longest pool in town! There is also a kiddie pool so the little ones can splash around while you relax.

RELAX AT ROCK SPA®

Rock Spa® will revitalise your soul with an array of enticing treatment options. Unwind in your own private relaxation room, make it a date with a private couples' massage or enjoy a glass of champagne while soaking in the hydrotherapy tub. From traditional to music-infused treatments, you'll be rubbed the right way at Rock Spa®. •





the calling: EXPLORING THE AMERICAS



The possibilities of what you can do in the Americas are endless—from enjoying nature, to experiencing American hospitality in the urban cities to relaxing on some of the best beaches and even taking a road trip, if you wanted to. Holidays in USA, Canada or Mexico is ideal for any kind of vacation, be it a solo trip, a holiday with family or even a honeymoon. The goal of your holiday notwithstanding, the Americas have plenty to offer every one of its visitors.



The Land of Promise: JSA

The United States of America is a place that you should visit at least once. Take, for instance, that their flag was designed as a school project by a seventeen-year old (who got a B-), or the fact that one of the country's presidents owned a saloon, and another was an executioner—interesting aspects to a land that offers its residents and visitors a whole different perspective of the land of promise.



rom relaxing in the lush Central Park, strolling around Times Square (New York City) and viewing the stunning Bellagio Fountains (Las Vegas) to embracing your inner child at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom (Orlando) and appreciating the aesthetics of the French Quarter (New Orleans), a trip to the USA promises a fulfilling and satisfying holiday experience. Nature enthusiasts will not be disappointed either on a vacation to the United States—Mount Rushmore (Keystone), Big Sur

(California), Grand Canyon (Arizona) and Niagara Falls are just some of these breathtaking sightseeing options. In America are also three of the world's oldest rivers-the Susquehanna, the New and the French Broad Riversbelieved to be centuries old.

If you are planning a fun-filled family holiday, amusement parks are definitely one place you should add to your itinerary. Chicago, the place where the first Ferris wheel was built and erected, now houses a one hundred and fifty-foot Ferris

wheel at Navy Pier. Other things for your family to indulge in here include making a trip to IMAX, visiting the children's museum and appreciating the displays at the Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows. The world's highest roller coaster is housed at Six Flags Great Adventure (New Jersey)another stop that you should make just for the ride. Six Flags Magic Mountain and Cedar Point are amusement parks that are worth a trip to as well.

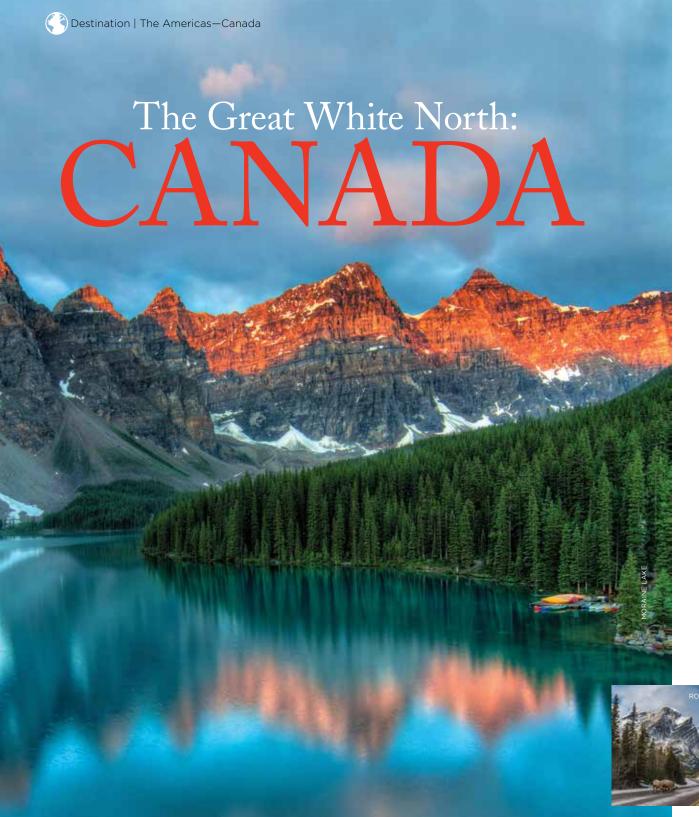
Best time to visit- All year around



STAY RCI has affiliated resorts across USA. Visit www.RCI.com



Live your dream American holiday! Choose from resorts in destinations like Las Vegas, Orlando, Clermont, Atlantic City and many more. Visit www.RCI.com for more information and bookings.



66 The natural wonders in Canada are plenty, like the Canadian Rocky Mountain Park, the Dinosaur Provincial Park, Cabot Trail, the Niagara Falls, and the Nahanni National Park Reserve are some of Canada's best sights, where you can capture brilliant photographs of Canada's untouched beauty.

rom glaciers and mountains to forests and secluded lakes, Canada has much to offer its visitors. This land of almost unparalleled natural beauty is just one of the reasons why tourists and vacation goers love Canada.

The natural wonders in Canada are plenty, and these spectacular attractions draw visitors in thousands, if not more. The Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks, the Dinosaur Provincial Park, Cabot Trail, the Niagara Falls, and the Nahanni National Park Reserve are some of Canada's best sights, where you can capture brilliant photographs of Canada's untouched beauty.

Outdoor and adventure enthusiasts have plenty to do here as well. You can engage in activities ranging from camping, hiking and climbing

to fishing, skiing, mountain biking and canoeing in various parts of the country. If you have the time, try your hand at snowshoeing as well.

Canada also offers you plenty of entertainment avenues. The many events and festivals in the country are celebrated grandly, allowing you a glimpse of the Canadian culture. Some of the best Canadian celebrations include the Celebration of Light (Vancouver), Edmonton Folk Music Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival and the Celtic Colours International Festival (Nova Scotia).

The urban cities in Canada also promises amazing sights and experiences, like the CN Tower, the walled Quebec City, museums, galleries and the like. Cities like

Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, Montreal and Victoria are perfect for holiday getaways.

The best reason that Canada is such a popular holiday destination? It is truly an affordable place.

Best time to visit- April to October

STAY



RCI has affiliated resorts across Canada.

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Serenity is closer than you think! Choose from resorts in destinations like Shanty Bay, Whistler, Collingwood and many more.

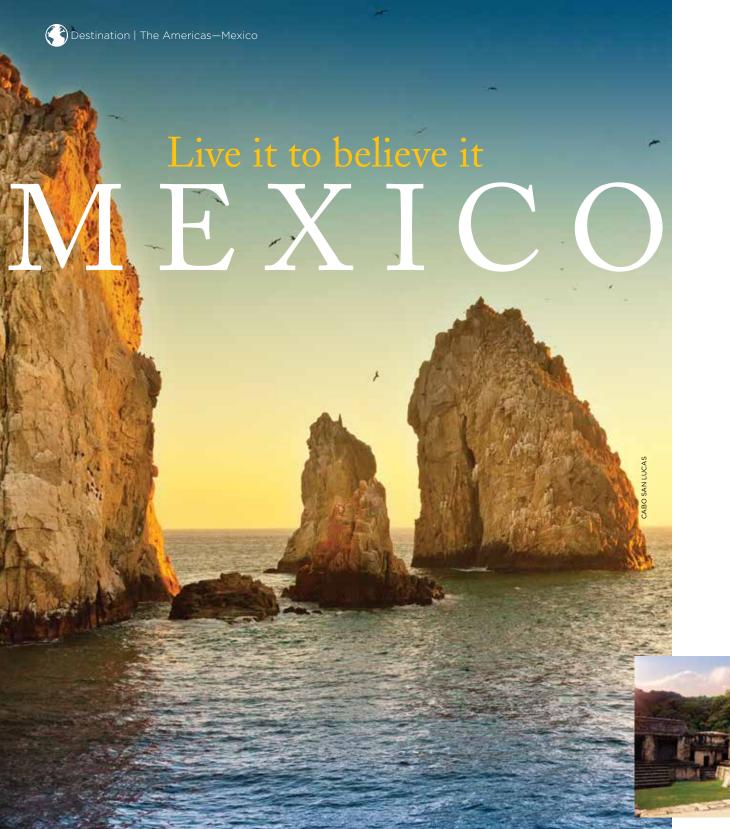
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20 | JUL - DEC 2016 ENDLESS VACATION | 21





66 What's most amazing about Mexico is its seamless blend of volatile, yet stunning natural beauty, magnificent and vivid cities, history of ancient civilisations and warm hospitality...

▼ country with strong roots in history, tradition and culture. Mexico is one of the most frequented holiday destinations in Latin America. The warm waters of the Mexican Gulf and the Pacific coast's rocky beaches depict the natural beauty of Mexico to be as varied and diverse as the land's cultures and traditions.

Mexico promises every visitor a sunny beach vacation—one of its main attractions. The sand and the surf attract many a traveller, while others choose to visit the land to enjoy the water sports and activities the country has to offer. Kicking back at a beach resort is another option if you are looking for a beachside vacation.

Mexico has plenty of sights to enthral its visitors, the expansive Chapultepec Park and the

Chapultepec Castle, the National Museum of Anthropology, the Palacio de Bellas Artes, the Great Pyramid of Tenochtitlan and more. You can zip line, explore the ruins and relax at the beach in Coba. or engage in one of the many activities at the Xel-Ha Park. Or simply appreciate the splendour of the Arch of Cabo San Lucas and enjoy what the Sistema Dos Ohos has to offer. Two things are certain on a Mexican holiday – one, you will always have things to do and places to see, and two, you will never be bored.

A trip to Playa del Carmen, Oaxaca Cozumel, Tulum, Guadalajara, Mexico City and other such cities is almost essential on a trip to Mexico. Each of these cities has its own charm and an endless number of sights that have the potential

to awe you into silence. Other Mexican cities to visit include Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Zihuatanejo, Merida, San Miguel de Allende and Yucatan.

The food in Mexico is something every traveller is bound to enjoy. Your options are much broader than just tacos and tamales, you get to choose from varieties of mole (toasted chilli and chocolate sauce), local seafood dishes in the coastal regions and a wide range of delectable wines.

A Mexican holiday promises you great value for money, friendly and warm natives, a thriving nightlife and entertainment, and an experience you will not be able to forget for years to come.

Best time to visit- December to April; July and August

STAY



RCI has affiliated resorts across Mexico.

Visit www.RCI.com



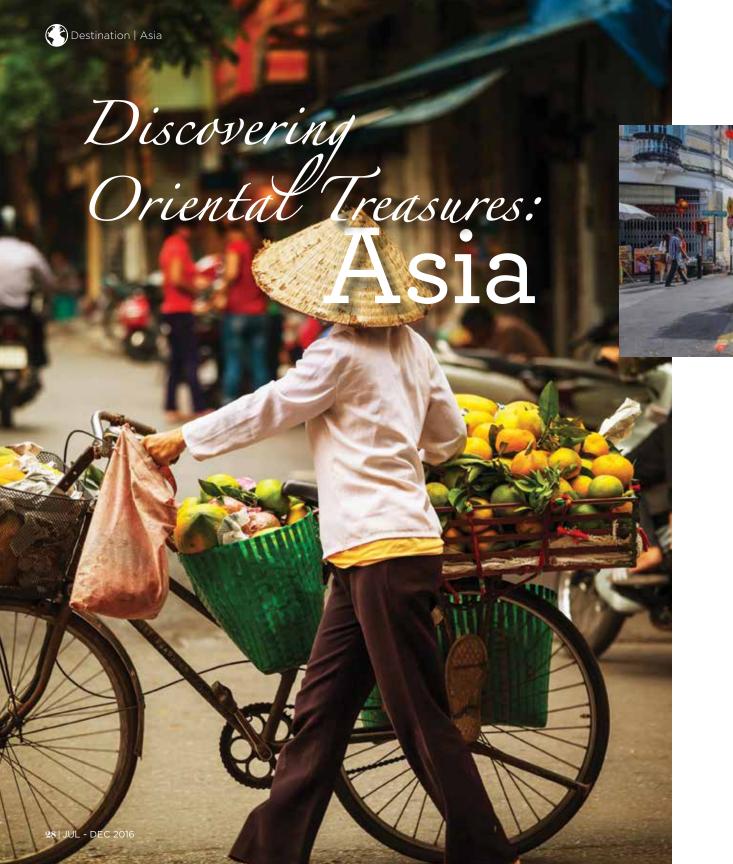
Spice up your vacation with a getaway in Mexico. Choose from resorts in destinations like Playa Del Carmen, Cancun, Cabo San Lucas and many more. Visit www.RCI.com for more information and bookings.





sharks, manta rays and eagle rays.

by a spectacular lagoon.









If for no other reason, the exotic and mouth-watering Asian cuisine is reason aplenty to cross the oceans and mountains to reach the land. The delectable dishes to put on your list of must-try dishes include Pho, Kalbi ribs (a Korean dish), Pad Thai and, of course, authentic dim sum (Chinese appetiser dish).

Find yourself surrounded by mystery-shrouded history, offbeat rituals and rich culture. Asia promises some of the best tourist experiences. Consider the older, fast-disappearing lifestyle that you can witness in places such as Hong Kong's Tai O fishing village. The modern world—the other side of the coin—has plenty to offer tourists as well. Some of the most modern structures in the world are also located in Asia.



Beauty in abundance: Indonesia

A wonderful combination of waterfalls, beaches, mountains and forests, Indonesia is a breathtaking place and another of Asia's best holiday destinations.

\intercal ake the time to bask in the beauty of Indonesian nature—from Lake Toba (North Sumatra) and Mount Bromo (East Java) to the stunning coastlines (especially in Satonda) and idyllic land of Raja Ampat, your list of to-see destinations and things to do will be long enough to keep you on your toes the entire time you are in the country. The country is home to some of the world's most active volcanoes, and you can hire guides to climb up

the mountains. Make the time to see the many tea plantations and strawberry fields that pepper the country as well.

Indonesia is especially known for its diverse wildlife-elephants, tigers, apes, komodo dragons and more. The Betung Kerihun National Park and Gunung Palung National Park in Kalimantan allows you a chance to experience Indonesian wildlife it its best. If you like reptiles, a trip to Komodo National Park is a must.

Ancient cultures rainforests filled with endagered animals make Indonesia a once-in-lifetime experience.

Foodies will not be disappointed on a holiday to Indonesia either. From the juicy Indonesian satay and the spicy beef Rending to delectable Indonesian fried rice and the healthy Sop Buntut, every meal in Indonesia promises complete satisfaction.



Best time to visit: between mid-June and mid-September



"In Thailand's history there have been dissensions from time to time, but in general, unity has prevailed."

Asia—Thailand | Destination



ne of Asia's top holiday destinations, Thailand presents its visitors with a brilliant combination of islands, beaches, scenic views, legendary moonlight parties and culture. Also known as the 'Land of Smiles' because of the friendly people, Thailand is a great place to kick back and relax. Best of all, a trip to Thailand is relatively inexpensive—allowing you to enjoy your time away from your daily life with no worries.

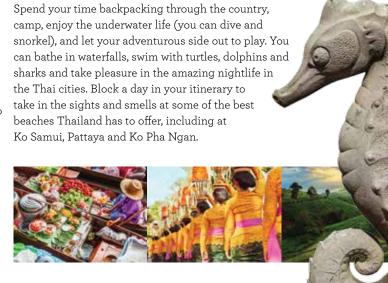
Adventurous? Try authentic Thai foodthe aromatic and spicy food is bound to have you hooked. From the popular Pad Thai (a rice noodle dish) and the spicy tom yam kung (Sour shrimp soup) to Laap (seasoned minced meat) and Khao Soi (curry-flavoured noodle soup) and more -your must-try dishes list can be neverending. The street food in the country is simply delicious.

Best time to visit:

November to March







ENDLESS VACATION | 31

Of Rising Skylines:

Malaysia

Malaysia—a land of beauty, rich culture, amazing sights and undescribable experiences. From soaking up the sun and exploring new lands to indulging in new tastes and shopping till you drop, Malaysia has everything necessary to make your holiday a blast right from the start. If you are a history and/ or culture enthusiast, you will find plenty to do in the country as well. The land is literally a melting pot of cultures-Asian, Chinese, Indian and Southeast Asian. The best of the cultural contrasts in Malaysia is evident especially in Penang. Enjoy some quiet time at the UNESCO world heritage site of George Town, where several colonial architectural structures, classic churches, beautiful Hindu and Buddhist temples and elaborate mosques are located.

The Malaysian beaches are, in a word, beautiful. Save a day to relax on Redang's amazing beaches, sun bathe on the Langkawi beach or even enjoy chilled beer at the beaches at Perhentian Islands. Engage in various water sports and activities in Malaysia, from diving to snorkelling and more.

If there was one thing that unites all its pockets of ethnicities. religions and landscapes, it's food... (you) will never go hungry here.

- Lonely Planet

The authentic Malaysian cuisine makes the country a haven for food lovers. From the scrumptious Roti Chanai and Chicken Satay to beef Rending and Nasi Leak, your options are plenty. Penang is especially known for its Nasi Kandar and Laksa Penang dishes.





STAY



RCI has affiliated resorts across Malaysia.

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The natural beauty of Indonesia will soothe your senses. Choose from resorts in destinations like Bali, Denpasar, Palau Batam and many more.

There's more to Thailand than tuk-tuks, thai curry, and white sand beaches. Rediscover Thailand. Choose from resorts in destinations like Phuket, Kanchanaburi and many more.

Pack your comfy shoes and ready your credit cards your Malaysian holiday awaits you! Choose from resorts in destinations like Langkawi, Selangor, Pahang and many more.

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Sun, sand and surf—the best things to look forward to on a holiday—make a trip to the Pacific Islands, the finest possible kind of holiday. The islands, dotting the world's largest ocean, offer a diverse range of experiences, both, culturally and geographically, but do not affect the enchanting experience of the brave soul that ventures to these distant shores.

With over twenty-five thousand islands in the vast Pacific Ocean spanning across sixty million square miles, a holiday to this part of the world offers you plenty of choice. The varied geography of the lands, the different cultures, the different people, their food, the tropical weather and just about everything promises every visitor to the Islands a mind-blowing, thrilling experience that is simply unforgettable.

The islands have much to offer tourists—attractive beaches, bountiful local fishing spots, serene boating locations and not to mention the abundant shopping options for local crafts and customs. Taking overnight cruises, boat and ship tours, walking tours, and hiking/ trekking through the wilderness are just some of the things to do on these

islands. Adrenaline seekers will not be disappointed when they visit these islands either—from wakeboarding, kayaking, and jet boarding to hobie cat sailing, hot air ballooning, fishing and snorkelling—there is no dearth of outdoor activities on the Pacific Islands.

With a number of the islands located quite close to the eastern Australian coast, many of the small Pacific Islands are ideal for short getaways and weekend holiday destinations—especially Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Take the time to enjoy the luxury residences and the fine dining options on Laucala Island (Fiji) and get close to nature by swimming with humpback whales on the Vava'u Islands (Tonga). Savai'i (Samoa) boasts of some of the best natural sights

in the Pacific—untouched by man—complete, with volcanoes and beaches, while Tahiti is the best place for surf enthusiasts to enjoy the waves (the Billabong Pro Surf Competition is held here annually). The Espirito Santo area (Fiji) is known for its diving spots—particularly their wreck dives. The Cook Islands-mostly undeveloped—is peppered with clear and vibrant lagoons, another place where you get to explore to your heart's content, and Easter Island is the place to kick back, relax and enjoy the sunrise/ sunset. No matter which of the Pacific Islands you choose as your destination, there is plenty to do, see and experience.

Two of the most well-known and visited islands of the Pacific include Australia and New Zealand.







66 A huge place to explore, Australia is a great place for the adventurous. Mind-blowing scenery, hip cities, great food and drinks and an amazing cultural history, Australia has much to offer tourists. The continent-country is a popular tourist destination, and is also home to several national parks as well as World Heritage Areas.



The Land of Oz offers its visitors an eclectic mix of the old and the new. The modern cities present an interesting contrast to the forgotten outback towns, and offer you a chance to embrace the wild and the primitive and discover Australia for yourself.

The kangaroos, Tasmanian devils and the koalas, not to mention the Outback, Great Barrier Reef and Ayers Rock, are all a part of what sets Australia apart from the other Pacific Islands. The large and varied continent holds many surprises that will awe you into speechlessness, every single time—and this is true especially of the Australian landscape. From coastlines and beaches to the arid interior and snow-capped

mountains, you see in Australia beautiful contradictions that few places in the world can boast of.

No Australian holiday is totally complete without a wine-tasting experience—the continent is one of the world's largest exporters of wine—and Australia is known for its award-winning whites, reds, sparkling and blended wines. If you are gastronomically adventurous, experiment with the Australian cuisine. The list of possibilities are endless—the Aussie barbecue, chocolate biscuits, the Aussie meat

pies, ANZAC cookies, pavlova, the Aussie Bush Tucker (and of course, kangaroo meat) and more-should top your list of must-try Australian

Best time to visit- October to April

STAY



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If the Land Down Under is calling out to you, you're in luck! Choose from resorts in destinations like Gold coast, New South wales, North Queensland and many more.

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36 | JUL - DEC 2016 **ENDLESS VACATION | 37**



Paradise of the Pacific NEW ZEALAND

66 A country of diverse natural beauty, in New Zealand, you'll come across jagged mountains, rolling greenwards, picturesque lakes, scarped fjords, white sand beaches, and volcanic zones.

 $\overline{\Lambda}$ land replete with awe-inspiring landscapes, superb wine and food and a fascinating culture, New Zealand is one of the most visited holiday destinations. From the fertile Otago plains and the snow-capped Southern Alps to the cosmopolitan cities such as Wellington and Auckland, the land never ceases to surprise and awe—one of the reasons that so many movies are filmed here. This pacific holiday destination is an ideal option for those who are in their element when outdoors.

When in New Zealand, try the local food—an interesting blend of Asian, Polynesian and European flavours. These include pavlovas, hangis, the Kiwi meat pies, whitebait fritters, possum stew and more. Try the New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc as well—a dry white wine—that goes well with fresh Greenshell mussels, goat cheese and/ or crayfish.

Make time amidst your gastronomic adventures to soak in the sights in NZ. From visiting the Auckland Museum and taking the sightseeing tours on classic double-decker buses to exploring the Waitomo Caves and whale

watching in Kaikoura, NZ offers its visitors plenty of experiences that will remain with you for a long time coming. Capture the beauty of the lands at the most picturesque spots as well, like the view from the Bay of Islands, the scenery along the coast from Westport to Frans Joseph, the shorelines of the Coromandel Peninsula and along Highway 6. 3

Best time to visit- December to February



STAY



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Soothe your soul in New Zealand's lush and green landscape. Choose from resorts in destinations like Auckland, Christchurch, Queenstown, Bay of Islands and many more.

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38 | JUL - DEC 2016



Idyllic life: Tslands

Dramatic terrains, a wealth of cultural activities, quaint seaside villages, windsurfing and kitesurfing, camel rides and golfing: expect the unexpected.

The Spanish archipelago (i.e. the Canary Islands) promises you a great experience—amazing climate, vibrant energy, and a starry night sky, among many other things. A holiday in the Canary Islands is quite easy on your pocket as well—a definite added advantage.

Must-dos: Dolphin show, visiting wineries, participating in the carnivals, jeep safaris and exploring the waters on chartered boats.

One of the sunniest places on earth, the Canary Islands are a great place to kick back and soak up the sun, even during the winter months. The climate adds to your holiday, allowing you to relax at one of the eighty heavenly beaches on these islands. From secluded and private beaches to beaches with plenty of parking spaces and

cold beer available close at hand, you are spoilt for choice.

An all-day English breakfast, the comfort of one of Canary Islands' resorts and the sun is all you need to while away a whole day. The epic scenery all around you is an added bonus—the Saharan sand dunes in Masapalomas, rugged central mountains, and the beautiful cliffs on the west coast of the islands all add to the magic and charm of the Canary Islands.

Not to miss on these islands are the numerous windsurfing and Hawaiian surfing spots—a mind-blowing experience for adrenaline junkies.

Outdoor enthusiasts also have the option of engaging in a wide

range of outdoor activities—from paragliding and volleyball, to mountain biking and diving. Try your hand at Salto del Pastor, a local sport for more thrills. Other things to do on these islands include watching dolphin shows, visiting wineries, visiting carnivals, taking jeep safaris and exploring the waters on chartered boats.

March and May; September and November

Best time to visit- Between



Feast your eyes upon ancient sun-kissed ruins, the endless coastline with its surfers, striking landscapes with volcanoes and lush forests...

The clear blue water, peppered with small islands, small towns, amazing cuisine and great value for money makes Greece one of the best global holiday destinations. A land rich in history, the archaeology in the country of Greece is simply magnificent, and is a part of every Greek holiday. The temples dedicated to Zeus and Hera, the Olympic Stadium, and the Parthenon are just the tip of the iceberg. Delphi and Delos are two other places that should be included in your holiday itinerary.

With over one thousand miles of coastline, the Greek beaches are overwhelmingly beautiful. Arvanitia (on the Peloponnese), Lalaria Beach (on Skiathos) and Paradise Beach (on Mykonos) are some of the best beaches to spend a lazy day. If you are looking to Jet Ski, or windsurf, visit the Agios

Indulge in sumptuous mousakas, strong fetas, Mediterrainian wine, and you'll never want vacation to end!

Georgios, Perivolos and Perissa beaches.

The Greek cuisine widely uses olive oil. If you are a connoisseur of cheese, you will not be disappointed in the varieties available to you either—from feta and mizithra to graviera and kefalotyri—the possibilities are endless. Sample the spicy cuisine in Thessaloniki (especially the mussels with pilaf), the exquisite eggplant dishes in Leonidio, and the chickpea soup in Sifnos are some of the best known local Greek dishes.

Sights to not miss in this country include the Green Hole (Thassos), Sarakiniko (Milos island), the village of Oia, Merton Beach (Kefallonia) and Naxos (Cyclades). These amazing destinations are also some of the best places to capture photographs of your holiday in a land that pleases in every way possible.

Best time to visit- Between April and October



Star-studded cityscapes:

Hungary

A trip to Hungary makes for an ideal vacation for not just architecture and history enthusiasts, but also those who love to try new cuisines.

espite being a small country, Hungary offers its visitors an unforgettable kind of experience. Every Hungarian city has something unique to offer the visitor. A number of UNESCO world heritage sites can be found in cities such as Aggtelek, Budapest, Pannonhalma, Forto, Pecs and Hortobagy.

Known for its wine tasting experiences, the variety of Hungarian wines is something you must sample, be it at a festival or in private wineries. The Hungarian local spirit, Palinka, comes in various

flavours that promise to

make your palate tingle for more. The traditional

14 JUL - DEC 2016

gypsy-style pork, Hungarian goulash and the varieties of fish soups available in the country are just some of the must-try dishes to add to your food itinerary.

Hungarian cuisine is known for its flavour. spices and richness. Goulash and fish soups here are a must-try!

Hungary is also built around waters which are believed to have healing properties, and there are baths all across the country—ideal places to relax your mind and body. The Szechenyi Thermal Bath is Europe's biggest bath complex.

If your vacation coincides with a local Hungarian festival, don't miss out on the delicious food and the fantastic music. Some of the most popular Hungarian festivals include Sziget Music festival, and Bull's Blood festival of wine.

Best of all, the country is an ideal place for a budget holiday.

Best time to visit- July-August



With unparalleled landscapes, a peaceful environment and spectacular cities, Switzerland will blow your mind from the very minute you set foot on it.

Tn Switzerland, you are spoilt for **⊥** choice in terms of what to eat, what to see, what to do and what to experience—which makes the place a great choice for a fun-packed holiday.

This land that boasts of four national languages (French, Romansh, German and Italian) also boasts of various cuisines from the four regions—a must for the gastronomically adventurous.

The Italian Saffron Risotto, the German Landjager tops the list of must-try foods in Switzerland. Also add to your list the delectable cheese fondue and rosti, available at most of the restaurants across

the country. Of course, the sinful Swiss chocolates are perfect to carry back home with you as well.

The amazing view at the Matterhorn (overlooking Zermatt, at the border of Switzerland and Italy) is

There is a lot more to contemporary Swizterland than cuckoo clocks, the Alps and chocolates.

something that you ought not to miss—this iconic landscape is part of the Paramount pictures and the landscapes, and you have the chance to snap some amazing photographs to commemorate your trip.

Adrenaline seekers and outdoor enthusiasts will be thrilled in this magical country either—you can engage in a wide range of outdoor activities and sporting opportunities when in Switzerland.

Best time to visit- July-August





STAY







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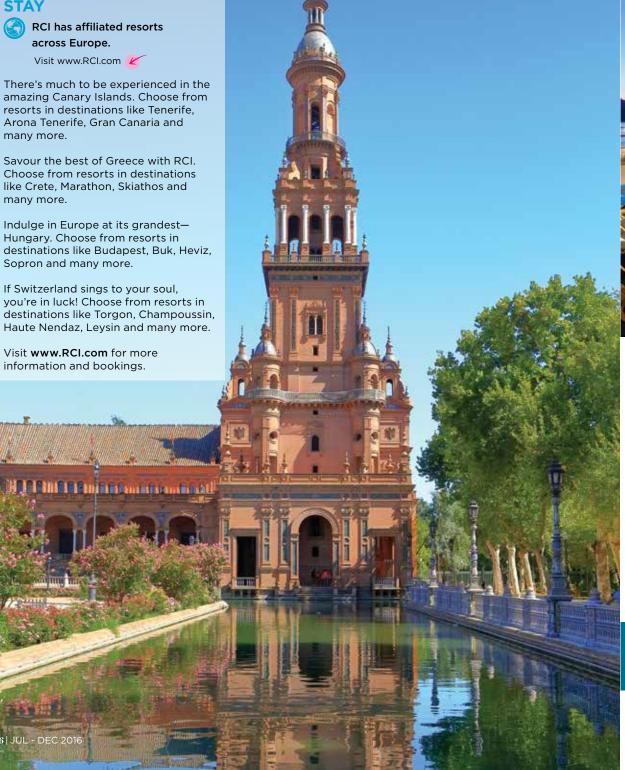




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ENDLESS VACATION | 49



Mystical Trica

66 From the plentiful wildlife and its rich history to the range of activities that guarantee to exhilarate, Africa is one land that you need to see for yourself to appreciate the true mysticism of the land.

The land of Africa promises visitors more than just amazing wildlife and animals; it promises so much more. Thrill and adventure, exotic and romantic, relaxing and exciting, a vacation in Africa is a beautiful combination of mixed elements that add to your holiday experience. The land has it all—a spectacular wildlife, tropical beaches, fascinating culture, majestic scenery, vibrant cities and more. A trip to Africa promises an experience like never before.

From the plentiful wildlife and its rich history to a range of activities that guarantee to exhilarate, Africa is one land that you need to see for yourself to appreciate the true magic of the land. The many geological wonders in Africa include the world's highest sand dunes in the Namib Desert, the world's most powerful (and largest) Victoria Falls, and the world's second largest river canyon, not to mention the world's largest un-flooded and unbroken volcanic caldera and the lush world in the Okavango Delta, among many others.

The continent is an ideal one to visit for nature lovers— spanning over fifty independent states, the land is covered by hot deserts, majestic rivers and waterfalls, Savanna grasslands, mountains, and breathtaking coastlines. A lot of the undiscovered and untouched land in the continent makes it a must-visit holiday destination for those that seek a communion with nature. Many animal reserves in this continent allow people to glimpse the beautiful creatures in their natural habitat. across plains and jungles, lush with flora that is native to this continent blessed by the Gods. Camping and hiking in this world untouched by man offers an experience like none other.

History and art enthusiasts will not be

very epitome of diversity—of people,

language and cultures. African art,

steeped in tradition, tells stories

disappointed in Africa either. With one of

the world's richest cultures, the land is the

gods and deities. Africa is known for its outdoor galleries-with more rock art sites compared to any other continent, some of which dates back about forty thousand years. Other things to do in Africa include whale watching (South Africa), scuba diving, going on safaris, playing golf (especially

in South Africa, Kenya, Namibia and

luxurious rail journey.

Zimbabwe), relishing the African cuisine

(including Biltong, Fufu, Mandazi, Dodo,

Chermoula, and Nyama Choma), visiting

the world-class spas, and even enjoying a

Countries where tourists throng each

treasures), South Africa (for a little bit

of everything), Kenya (for its amazing

year include Botswana (for its unspoiled

that spellbind, awe and inspire. Paintings, sculptures, masks and statues tell stories that date back eons—to the time of the









wilderness), Tanzania (for the sheer experience), Uganda (for its wilderness and the mountain gorillas) and Zambia (for the sights, like Victoria Falls). You can also consider adding to your list of places to visit Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Seychelles.

The land of Africa is simply surreal, a place where tourists can feast on natural beauty, sample amazing food, and cater to the demands of their mind and soul too.





A Natural Superpower

SouthAfrica

66 Explore a country that is rich in natural treasures, wildlife and a diverse culture... **●●**

The beauty of South Africa is just one of the perks of a visit to the country. The land also offers a combination of culture and landscapes that is stunning, a magnificent showcase of flora and fauna, and a wide range of outdoor activities to get your adrenaline running.

From relaxing on splendid beaches and glimpsing the wildlife in parks and reserves to enjoying a delectable variety of food and wine to enjoying the sunshine, you are bound to enjoy every single minute in the country. South Africa's people are warm, friendly and welcoming, making the holiday experience so much better. The country is also ideal for a family vacation, with a number of kidsfriendly places, such as Garden Route and Cape Town. If history is what you are looking for on your vacation. South Africa's Cradle of Humankind, also known as "Mrs. Ples", a fossil that dates back over

two million years, is a must-see, as are the KwaZulu-Natal battlefields.

Fast becoming one of the world's adventure capitals, South Africa is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. One such destination is St. Lucia. Go on excursions, and safaris (or, even better, a horse safari). You can kayak with the crocodiles, take a river cruise, and witness

of Storms, ride an ostrich in the Safari Ostrich Farm, climb to the top of the Drakensberg Mountains, or simply watch the whales in Hermanus—these are some experiences that only South Africa can offer you, ones which will stay with you for the rest of your life.

If your holiday agenda includes a touch of adventure, head for



A photographer's delight: Everything from the deserted Kalahari and hippos on the gorgeous Limpopo River, to the savannah in Kruger National Park is a feast for the eyes.

the Loggerhead and Leatherback turtles lay eggs. A microlight flight near Durban, zip lining in Durban or Tsitsikamma and adventure touring in the Cango Caves are perfect activities to get your adrenaline pumping as well. Soak in the sights from the top of the lighthouse above the Cape

Whale Coast, Kruger or Garden Route. Alternatively, if your sense of adventure revolves around your taste buds, try the local food and wine in cities like Cape Town, Madikwe, and Winelands.

Best time to visit- Between May and October- for safaris and watching wildlife

The Pride of Kenya

Kenya is home to more than fifty national parks, as well as some of the world's endangered species.

Kenya is also one of Africa's most-visited countries. Experiences and places to see that span from safaris (at Masai Mara) and sights (of Mount Kilimanjaro) to walking across the equator and relaxing at the beaches make Kenya a great holiday destination. Kenya presents a pretty picture from the mountain ranges and the calderas that surround it and the Great Rift Valley that divide the country to the peaks of Mount Kenya that are snow-capped, obsidian caves, hot springs and natural geysers, the beauty and charm of Kenya in undeniable.

The country boasts of friendly people, great weather, great food and great places to stay, the affordability and of course, the great scope for adventure—all essential to make a holiday a memorable one.

Kenya is home to more than fifty national parks, as well as some of the world's endangered species. The Big Five—lions, leopards, elephants, buffalos and rhinos—are found in abundance in the reserves and parks here, apart from the many other creatures.



The wildebeest-migration in the Masai Mara National Reserve, the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Lamu, the flocks of pink flamingos in Lake Nakuru National Park and the Mount Kenya Forest Reserve promise some of the best holiday sights and memories for nature enthusiasts. Don't miss the awe-

inspiring sights of the Great Rift Valley and Mount Kilimanjaro—two of Kenya's top attractions. If you are looking to capture beautiful photographs, a day trip to Nairobi National Park allows you the chance to photograph the natural beauty of the Kenyan flora and fauna.

Some of the top things to do while in Kenya include taking wildlife safaris in places such as the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, visiting the Sarara Singing Wells in the Samburu National Reserve, Amboseli, Masaai Mara, Tsavo East and Lake Nakuru, relaxing on the shores of the East African Indian Ocean, climbing to the top of Mount Kenya and hiking in Hell's Gate National Park. Other things to do in this enchanting land include diving and snorkeling at the coral reefs, soaking up the sun on some of the best beaches on the continent and exploring the Swahili history and culture on some of the tropical islands.







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