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 Hilton Grand Vacations Club

&

ROME, ITALY

HOW MUCH TO TIP

SAVE ON GOLF



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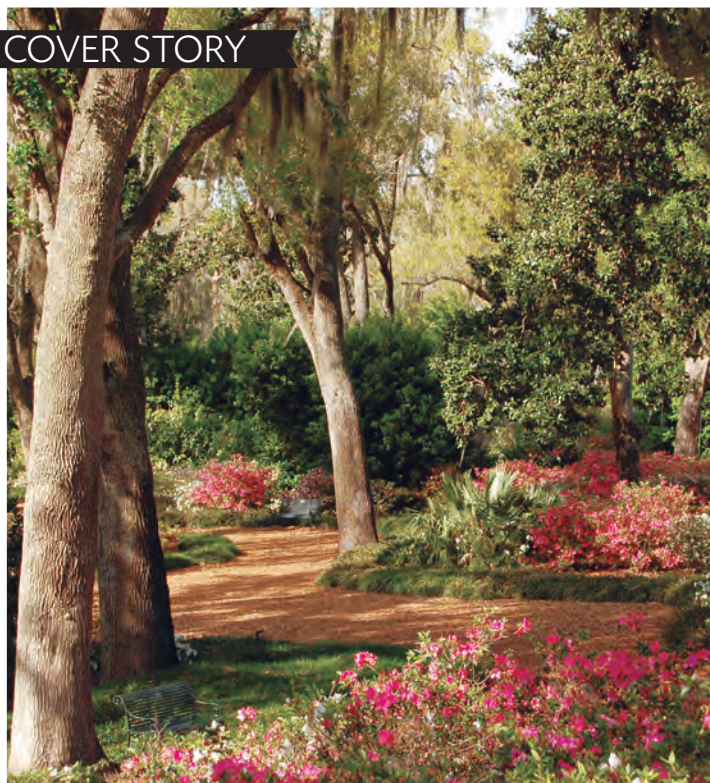
What's your favorite activity on vacation? Tell us and
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Club traveler

SPRING 2015

DREAM • PLAN • GO

COVER STORY



Beyond Orlando

What to do outside of the famous theme parks

20

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Travel Tip

Gmail users, here's a trick to help you find your flight info without having to search through old emails. Type "flight status" into the Google search bar. It will display (just for you!) your upcoming flight numbers and times and even the gate.

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Dear Club Member



Though you don't often hear from me directly, it remains my sincere privilege to serve as president of Hilton Grand Vacations. In the seven years since I assumed this role, our Club membership, program offerings and resort collection have grown considerably.

Our leadership team has also evolved through the years, most recently with the appointment of Stan Soroka as senior vice president of Club, Resort and Brand Services. A member of the Hilton Worldwide team since 2010, Stan has more than 34 years of hospitality experience. We are very fortunate to have previously worked closely with Stan when he oversaw our resort operations for several years, and I'm pleased to welcome him back to the team. I'm also appreciative of the many years of leadership that Kim Kreiger provided, dating back to the formation of Hilton Grand Vacations Club, and we wish him all the best.

Warmer days have arrived for us in Florida and summer is just around the corner, and I know many of you have exciting vacations planned for 2015. For more travel inspiration and the latest Club developments, we'll continue to bring you *Club Traveler*. We have some great plans in the works to enhance your Club membership experience, and I'll count on Stan to keep you posted.

Best wishes for a year of unforgettable journeys.


Mark Wang
President
Hilton Grand Vacations



Stan Soroka

ON THE WEB

The most popular stories this winter on **clubtraveler.com**

- 1 "Protect Your Remaining 2014 Points in 3 Simple Steps"
- 2 "Hilton Grand Vacations Club Coming to Hilton Head Island, S.C."
- 3 "The Best Day to Buy Airline Tickets Has Changed"
- 4 "A Walk Through History at Hilton Hawaiian Village"
- 5 "Club Members Share 2015 Travel Plans"

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What do you think about *Club Traveler*? Send us an email at feedback@clubtraveler.com.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club

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Google+: [Club Traveler](https://plus.google.com/ClubTraveler)

Dream

WHERE TO GO



Visitors to Utah's Monument Valley can pay an access fee to drive through the park on a 17-mile loop.

3

Dream Vacation

Andy and Lisa Knight, Club Members since 2006, live in St. Albans, England, and dream of taking a driving tour of Utah's monuments.

How to get there: Club Members can use points to rent a motor home from **El Monte RV** at locations across the U.S. Explore Utah on your own, or follow one of El Monte's detailed itineraries. The 7-day tour of Utah's National Parks starts and ends in Salt Lake City and includes Canyonlands and Arches. Or take the longer 11-day road trip that begins in Las Vegas and includes the Grand Canyon, Moab and Monument Valley.



Save the Date

Schedule your next vacation around these exciting events



Dragon Boat Festival

Hunan Province, China, June 20

This Chinese holiday dates back more than 2,000 years. The main culinary custom involves eating sticky rice dumplings called zongzi, but the most popular activity is the racing of dragon boats. Teams of men row narrow boats shaped like colorful Chinese dragons, and the winning team is said to bring harvest and a happy life to the people of their village.

Wife-Carrying World Championship

Sonkajarvi, Finland, July 3–4

This unusual event is as hilarious as it sounds: Male competitors carry a female teammate through an obstacle course that includes water, sand traps and gravel. Some competitors take it very seriously, training for the event, while others don wacky costumes. The winner is awarded their wife's weight in beer. The annual championship, held in Finland since 1994, has been growing in worldwide popularity.



Bastille Day

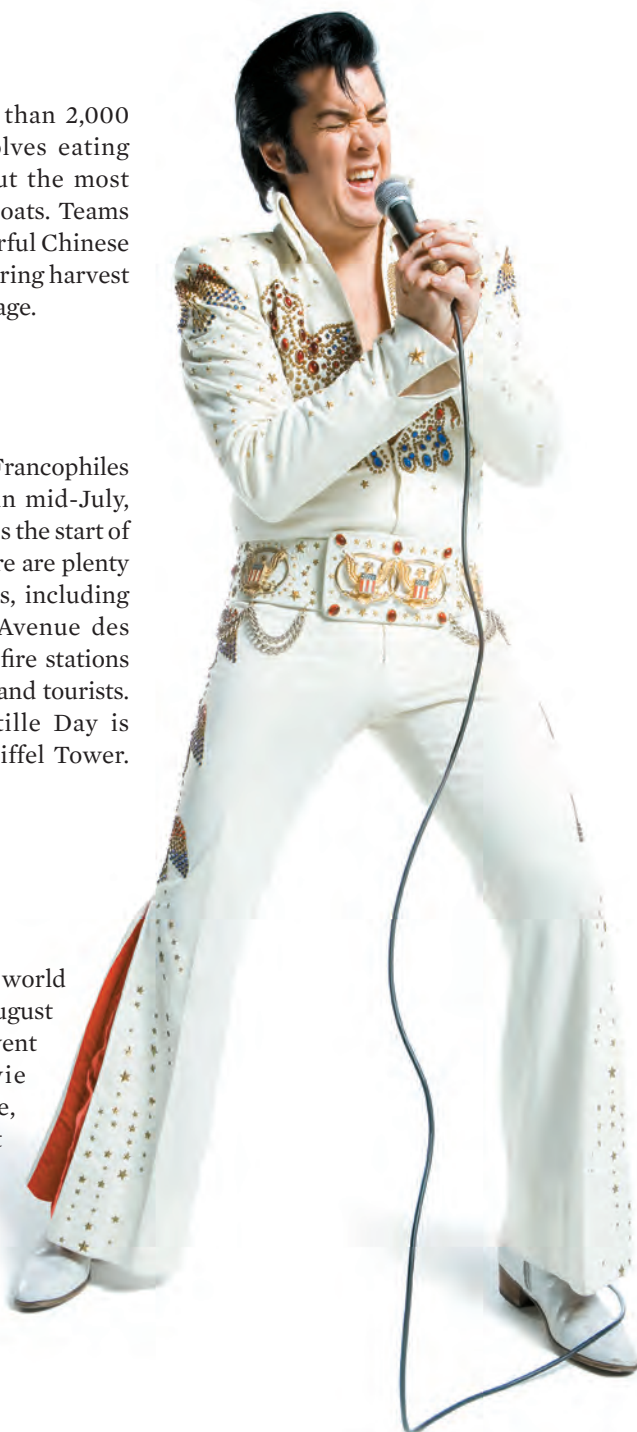
Paris, France, July 14

For a true taste of history, Francophiles should plan to visit Paris in mid-July, when the city commemorates the start of the French Revolution. There are plenty of public parties and events, including a military parade on the Avenue des Champs-Élysées, and most fire stations host balls open to Parisians and tourists. But the highlight of Bastille Day is evening fireworks at the Eiffel Tower. Expect huge crowds.

Elvis Week

Memphis, Tennessee, August 8–16

Elvis fans from around the world gather in Memphis every August to celebrate the King. The event includes concerts, movie screenings and, of course, Elvis impersonators. But the cornerstone event of the week is a candlelight vigil beginning at the gates of Graceland that leads to Elvis' gravesite in the Meditation Garden.



Lights, Camera, Travel

10 places you can visit where movies or TV shows are filmed

1. Dubrovnik, Croatia

This historic walled city filled with baroque buildings and orange tiled roofs is the real-world home to King's Landing in the HBO show *Game of Thrones*.

2. Matamata, New Zealand

Bilbo's house, Bag End, can still be found in the *Lord of the Rings* movie set on this lush farmland about two hours south of Auckland.

3. Kualoa Ranch, Hawaii

Lost's Hurley teed off in this gorgeous valley stretched between two steep mountain cliffs, the same site dinosaurs roamed in *Jurassic Park*.

4. Highclere Castle, England

Lord Grantham may be master of the magnificent *Downton Abbey* on TV, but Highclere Castle, where it's filmed, is the home of the real Lord Carnarvon.

5. Sedona, Arizona

Magnificent red rock formations sprouting out of the desert have set the scene for numerous Hollywood westerns, such as *Apache* and *Broken Arrow*.

6. Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Ian Fleming penned the James Bond novels at his Goldeneye estate in Jamaica, and several of the movies have been filmed on the island, including the iconic shot of Honey Ryder emerging from the sea in *Dr. No*.

7. Hongcunzhen Village, China

Wudan master Li Mu Bai dashed across the water of this 900-year-old village in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. The treetop fight between Li and Jen was shot nearby in Anhui Bamboo Forest.

8. Cortona, Italy

Diane Lane's dilapidated villa in *Under the Tuscan Sun* was filmed at Bramasole, a real-life villa purchased and restored by author Frances Mayes.

9. Salzburg, Austria

Numerous tours take travelers to locations where *The Sound of Music* filmed, including Mirabell Gardens, where Maria and the von Trapp children sang "Do-Re-Mi."

10. Seaside, Florida

Pastel houses, white picket fences and glowing sunshine may have been faked for Jim Carrey in *The Truman Show*, but they're all real in Seaside, where it was filmed.



Galápagos Islands

When Charles Darwin visited the Galápagos in 1835, he intended to explore active volcanoes, but it was the unique Galápagos wildlife that made a lasting impression, inspiring his scientific theories. The 20 islands, located in the Pacific Ocean west of South America, are famous for their endemic species, such as the marine iguana, the world's only lizard to forage in the sea. Today, the islands belong to Ecuador and form a national park and biological marine reserve that attracts about 180,000 travelers each year eager to follow in Darwin's footprints.

Because of their loud bark and playful nature, Galápagos sea lions are known as the "welcoming party" of the islands.



How to Get There

Travel to the Galápagos is highly regulated, and tourists are required to be accompanied by a certified guide. ClubPartner Tauck offers a nine-day “Cruising the Galápagos Islands” vacation aboard an expeditionary-style yacht. For more information, visit **tauck.com**. Contact a Club Counselor to exchange ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points for Tauck travel certificates.



Be a Part of It

Your guide to visiting New York City

What to See

Every visit to New York should include at least one Broadway show. Club Members Harriet and Joe LaFoy recommend **Jersey Boys**, playing at the August Wilson Theatre.

What to Do

The **9/11 Memorial Museum** makes a powerful impact. Give yourself time to thoughtfully explore the exhibits, and be prepared for an emotional experience.

Getting Around

Always give addresses with cross streets. They'll help your cab driver know where to drop you off.

Where to Eat

The LaFoy's dined at the iconic **Russian Tea Room** (just steps from West 57th Street by Hilton Club). Advance reservations are a must and can be made online.

Where to Stay

West 57th Street by Hilton Club is ideally located in the heart of midtown Manhattan within walking distance of many world-famous landmarks.

The 9/11 Memorial, located at the site of the former World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, is free to the public and open from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.



KEVIN VOELKER PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

Plan

HOW TO GET THERE



Canyons Golf is an 18-hole, par-70 course featuring more than 550 feet of elevation change and stunning views of the Wasatch and Uinta mountains.

9

Ask the Resort

Park City, the home of **Sunrise Lodge, a Hilton Grand Vacations Club**, may be known for world-class skiing, but it offers year-round activities, too! We asked Rafe Sykes, general manager of the Rocky Mountain Region and Hilton Worldwide's "General Manager of the Year" for HGV resorts, what's fun to do there in the spring.

"Springtime brings a wide range of activities. The area is great, because depending on the time, you can still go skiing at some of the resorts or you can play golf. If you time it right, you could even do both in the same day. Also, hiking, fishing and mountain biking all get started in the spring. And starting this spring, the Canyons will open its new golf course to the public, meaning golf will be available just a stone's throw away from Sunrise Lodge."



Have a question about your favorite resort? Email it to us at feedback@clubtraveler.com. We'll ask the resort manager for you.

Other Options

Travel writer Larry Olmsted reveals alternatives to checking your bags

Traveling with bulky luggage is a hassle. It's also expensive, now that airlines routinely charge up to \$45 each way to check a bag. The good news is that these fees have birthed new alternatives to checking.

More travelers are moving toward simply shipping luggage in advance. This is cheaper and easier than most people think thanks to e-commerce retailers like Amazon that have driven freight prices way down. Luggage Forward offers home-to-hotel luggage delivery to destinations around the world. Shipping your luggage lets you breeze through the airport and, if you rent a car, lets you go smaller. Club Members can use Luggage Forward at a discounted rate when you book your luggage shipment at luggageforward.com/hgvclub.

For golf and ski trips, another option is to ship just your gear. Companies like ShipSticks or ShipSkis typically charge less than half what FedEx or UPS charges to ship clubs, skis or snowboards. Rates for full golf bags start around \$40—about the same as a checked bag. You use regular luggage, no special boxes necessary, but weight and protection still matter. For clubs, consider Sun Mountain's ClubGlider Journey, a padded, wheeled travel bag that's under 11 pounds. For skis or boards, it's hard to beat Thule's new RoundTrip Double Ski Roller.

Sometimes it doesn't make sense to bring your own gear at all. Rentals are available at most ski resorts and golf destinations. For skis, the newest options are national delivery services that come right to your room. Try Rentskis.com or Black Tie Skis. For clubs, Golf Rental World lets you order customized rental sets online for delivery to resorts across the U.S.



CHUNG LEE



Stop, Thief!

Follow these clever tips to prevent your bags from being stolen at the airport.

Get to the luggage carousel quickly. Don't linger when you arrive at your destination.

Buy luggage that is an unusual color or print and stands out in the sea of plain black bags.

Avoid carrying designer luggage. Thieves assume expensive bags contain expensive items.

Consider buying a tracking device such as Trakdot or LugLoc that slips into your luggage.

Plane Advice

News and resources to make travel easier

Space Case

Isn't it frustrating when there's not enough room in the overhead bins for your carry-on bag? Airplane manufacturer Boeing has developed new overhead storage called Space Bins that are roomier and hold nearly 50 percent more carry-ons than traditional overhead bins. Space Bins make their debut on Boeing 737 jets in late 2015. Alaska Airlines will be the first air carrier to get them.

Best Buy

Sunday is the best day of the week to purchase airline tickets, according to the Airline Reporting Corporation (ARC). It analyzed nearly 130 million round-trip tickets purchased in the U.S. in 2013 and 2014 and found that the lowest average prices for both domestic and international flights can be found on Sundays. Airfare experts have long advised travelers to purchase tickets on Tuesdays to get the best fares, but ARC says airlines charge more during the week because that's when business travelers buy tickets.

Bottle Service

In recent interviews, the former head of the Transportation Security Administration, John Pistole, revealed that the agency was working on nixing its policy that limits liquid containers you can carry onboard to 3.4 ounces or less. The 3-1-1 Liquids Rule is one of the most frustrating security restrictions for travelers, forcing them to search for miniature bottles of deodorant and pay big bucks for bottled water inside the airport gate. No date has been set, but when the rule is eased, it will likely start with travelers in the PreCheck program.



COURTESY OF BOEING



Point the Way

Use points to purchase airline tickets or rent a car through Hilton Grand Vacations Travel. A ticketing fee will apply. Contact a travel agent by email at gctravel@hgvc.com or by phone at **855-256-3922** or **808-846-6360** from 1 to 9 p.m. EST Monday through Saturday.

Get Appy

Before your next trip, download these travel apps to your smartphone or tablet:

Travel Butler won't pack your bags for you, but it will prepare a list of items you need to pack, from clothing to electronics to bathroom essentials. Just tell it where you're going and for how many days. It even checks the weather. It's free for Apple devices.

Seat Alerts monitors seat availability on your next flight and alerts you when your preferred seat opens up. There's a free version and a pricey Pro version that lets you search multiple flights. It's available for Apple and Android devices.

FlightTrack5 provides beautiful, live flight maps with satellite and weather radar so you'll know exactly where the plane is and when it's arriving at your destination. It costs \$4.99 and is available for Apple and Android devices.

This Magic Moment

Tips and tricks for photographing people with landmarks

Snapping photos of your friends and family members in front of famous landmarks is a vacation tradition. You can make your pictures look like they belong in a guidebook by practicing these photography tips.



● Play with scale.

Not sure how to get the Taj Mahal and your family members all into one frame? Take their photo several yards in front of the landmark, so it becomes part of the background. Try shooting from a low vantage point, such as having everyone sit on the ground, to avoid blocking the structure.

● Capture moments.

Avoid taking pictures of people standing stiffly and posing for the camera. Instead, try telling a story. Snap photos of your children splashing the water in front of a famous fountain or your spouse sitting on a rock contemplating the vastness of the Grand Canyon.

● Frame your subjects.

Take an extra minute to creatively position people near a statue or structure. Use colorful flowers in a nearby planter as a foreground element, or place your children in the center of the Chichen Itza pyramid so that it creates a natural, towering border above them while filling the camera frame.

● Avoid the rush.

Popular landmarks tend to be less crowded with tourists during early mornings and evenings. If you can't beat the crowds, move away from them and go to an uncommon viewpoint. Use your imagination to find a new angle.

● Be respectful.

When photographing religious and ancient landmarks, rely on natural light and boost the ISO to get sharp images. Avoid using a flash inside galleries and monasteries, as repeated light exposure can damage the artwork.

Sweet Tee

Ways to save some green on golf trips

Between gear and greens fees, the costs of a golf vacation can add up quickly. Here are ways to save money without sacrificing quality.

Go off-season. Many of the most popular golf destinations are in warm southern climates, and peak season is almost always the winter months. Ironically, weather can be better in the off-season. Both Arizona and Florida do experience frost delays and unsavory winter weather during their peak months, but summer, while hot, will always assure you of great golf weather—and rock-bottom prices. Seasonal savings are dramatic: Greens fees routinely drop by 50 to 75 percent in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area. Florida, Las Vegas, South Carolina, Los Cabos and many other top golf destinations offer similar discounts.

Rent gear off-site. Every golf course rents clubs, but usually at high prices, typically in the range of \$75. You can pay half (or less) and get better choices of gear, including customized mixed sets, by using specialty golf rental shops. These are found in major golf markets such as Scottsdale, where Golf Travel Center has a location at the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. Hawaii has several, including Golf Maui and Kauai Golf Rentals. Golf Rental World lets you rent customized sets online for delivery to resorts anywhere in the U.S.

Play later. Early morning tee times are considered most desirable, so many courses

discount slots later in the day. “Twilight” rates often run 30 to 60 percent off. But this doesn’t mean playing at dusk. In Las Vegas, most twilight rates start at noon.

Replay. One of the easiest ways to save money on top courses is by playing a second round the same day, and even the toniest facilities typically offer deep discounts for “replay.” Playing 36 holes and then taking a day off to sightsee or sit by the pool is cheaper than playing 18 holes two days in a row. For instance, the popular Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort charges \$99 for a single round but \$149 for two the same day, a 50

percent discount. Plus, a free lunch is provided for those booking two full rounds.

Get a last-minute discount. A slew of websites specialize in liquidating unsold tee times for last-minute play, usually 24–72 hours in advance. After all, if no one plays, the course loses potential revenue. These discounts, which often exceed 50 percent, are typically available in major markets with lots of courses like Orlando, Las Vegas, Scottsdale and Hawaii. Some sites also cover Scotland, Ireland, Canada and Mexico. Major online companies include Last Minute Golfer, GolfNow, TeeOff and Golf18Network.

Go

WHAT TO DO

The menu at Rose's Luxury changes seasonally, but Smoked Brisket served family style is a mainstay.

15

Local Perspective

Club Members visiting the nation's capital this summer may be wondering where to eat after exploring the monuments. We asked Washington, D.C.-area resident Mary Frances McGuiness for a recommendation.

She says **Rose's Luxury** is the hottest restaurant in town—and the hardest to get into. Rose's doesn't take reservations, and guests line up outside to get a table about an hour before it opens. "Go during the week," McGuiness recommends. The cozy eatery, located in the booming Capitol Hill district, serves house-made pastas and creative small plates—the pork and lychee salad is her favorite. McGuiness says the servers are outgoing and friendly and typically drop off a complimentary dish, such as dessert. "It's just like going to a friend's house for dinner."



LONG WEEKEND

When in Rome

How to spend
3 days in the
Eternal City

As the old saying goes, Rome was not built in a day. And you won't be able to see it all in one—or even in three. The historic city is filled with monuments, museums and ancient wonders, making it one of the world's most visited tourist destinations. Club Members sailing on the 2015 ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure should plan a long weekend visiting Rome's must-see attractions before embarking on their Mediterranean voyage.



Ralph Waldo Emerson described St. Peter's Basilica as "an ornament of the earth."

Day 1

The rich history of Rome can overwhelm you, so start small with a trip to the Spanish Steps, where Gregory Peck finds Audrey Hepburn in the 1953 movie *Roman Holiday*. The steps, all 135 of them, are part of an elegant square surrounded by 18th-century buildings. They're iconic—and often crowded. For a delightful introduction to Roman culture, sit for a spell and watch people go by, and then visit the nearby shops and cafés.

Day 2

No trip to Rome would be complete without a tour of the world-famous Colosseum. The ancient amphitheater used for gladiator fights is one of the largest and most stunning remnants of the Roman Empire. You can walk around and explore the Colosseum on your own—bring a guidebook—or book a guided tour that provides access to areas such as the lower dungeons. Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online to avoid long lines onsite. Spend the rest of your day exploring other historic sites, including the Roman Forum and the Pantheon.

Day 3

Get ready to check a whole bunch of items off your bucket list. At Vatican City, you can take photos of the colorful Swiss Guard, stroll through St. Peter's Square and visit St. Peter's Basilica. Inside, you'll see major works of art, including the *Pietà* by Michelangelo, and you can climb to the top of the dome for a spectacular view. Also, don't miss the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, where you'll see Michelangelo's famous ceiling and other frescoes.



Buon Viaggio!

Club Members are invited to join the 2015 ClubPartner Perk Grand Adventure to the Mediterranean. This 10-night voyage departs from Rome on Monday, September 14, 2015. For more information, including the complete itinerary and rates, visit clubtraveler.com and search for "Mediterranean cruise."

JEREMY WOODHOUSE/CORBIS

The Tipping Point

How much you should tip in restaurants around the world

Dining out in a foreign destination can be one of the best parts about going on vacation. But when you finish snacking on seaside ceviche in Puerto Vallarta or indulging in elegant éclairs at a Parisian café, how much should you tip your server?

Australia: Servers earn competitive salaries as well as overtime pay, so tipping is not necessary in the land down under. However, leaving 10 percent of the total receipt is common in exemplary situations, such as dining with a large group.

Canada: Plan to leave 15 to 20 percent after a meal, just as you would in the United States. Most Canadian eateries don't include automatic gratuity on the bill unless you're part of a sizable group or from a country that doesn't usually tip. Look for "auto-grat" listed on the bill to see if you've been charged a tip.

China: It is not a cultural norm in mainland China to tip. Some restaurant owners believe tipping condones an undervaluing of employees by their employer, and many post signs asking visitors to refrain from tipping. In Hong

Kong, however, look for a 10 percent service fee added to your bill, or feel free to round the total up and leave the coins.

France: Tipping is required by law in France and already included in your bill. The 15 percent service charge is divided among the staff, though sometimes shared by the owner. A small extra tip is always appreciated—leave 1 euro for every 20 euros of food and drink you buy.

Italy: Tipping is not customary in Italy, but look closely at the menu. A service charge of 1–3 euros is usually added to meals and shows up automatically on the check as the "coperto." Most visitors still round up their bill a few extra euros for noteworthy service.

Japan: If you leave a tip, your server will likely come running after you to return it. Tipping does not exist in Japan, even for cabbies and hotel bellhops.

Mexico: Restaurant workers typically receive little to no base salary, making tips essential in Mexico. Plan to leave approximately 15 percent of your total bill before the value-added tax is applied. If you see "propina" on your bill, it's not necessary to tip more.

Thailand: Tipping isn't customary, but many travelers round up the bill to the next even amount. Some restaurants in Thailand now include a 10 percent service fee, in which case no additional tip is required.



Scream Machines

3 thrilling new roller coasters opening in 2015

Fasten your seatbelts! Coaster lovers are in for a thrill this year as amusement parks around the country promise to open bigger, faster and more hair-raising rides than ever before. Here are three of the most anticipated rides for kids of all ages.

Twisted Colossus

The Griswolds are going to love this. The iconic wooden Colossus featured in *National Lampoon's Vacation* is getting a 21st-century makeover. Southern

California's Six Flags Magic Mountain will keep much of the ride's white lattice structure but replace the rickety track with steel. The ride lasts four breathtaking minutes and features nearly 5,000 feet of track, which Six Flags says makes it the longest wood-and-steel "hybrid" coaster in the world.

Thunderbird

Get ready for the ride of your life. Holiday World, located in rural southern Indiana about an hour west of Louisville, Kentucky, will wow guests this year with the nation's first launched wing coaster. What does that mean? Riders launch from 0 to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds instead of being pulled up a hill by a chain, and the seats dangle over the sides of the steel track, much like a bird's

wings. The 140-foot coaster ride lasts 1 minute and 18 seconds and features four inversions.

Fury 325

Hope you're not afraid of heights. Carowinds in Charlotte, North Carolina, is opening the world's tallest "giga-coaster" (one that's over 300 feet tall). It carries riders an exhilarating 325 feet in the air along a chain lift before plunging them down an 81-degree angle at the scorching speed of around 95 mph. After the first drop, riders soar another 190 feet and tackle another 111-foot hill before eventually turning around for the trip back to the station. The track is a generous 1.25 miles long and the ride lasts 3 minutes and 25 seconds.

The Twisted Colossus will feature a "High Five" element where riders in different cars can reach out toward each other.





The Other Side of

ORLANDO

There's so much more to see and do in the Orlando area. O-Town resident Rebecca Strauss reveals the best attractions when you're not at the theme parks.



INDO

Your main reason for visiting Orlando may be to meet some of its world-famous residents, like Mickey Mouse, Harry Potter and Shamu. After all, the Central Florida destination is known as the Theme Park Capital of the World for its abundance of thrilling parks—when you go, don’t miss the new Seven Dwarfs Mine Train roller coaster at Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom or the fantastically realized Diagon Alley attraction at Universal Studios Florida.

But there’s far more to do and see in the City Beautiful than just the parks. Leave a few vacation days to experience the real Orlando, a thriving metropolitan area of more than 2 million people. From moonlight ziplining over pine flatwoods to snacking on Spanish-inspired tapas and strolling Winter Park’s celebrated Park Avenue, Orlando’s got something to please everyone.

Night Out for Adults

Start your evening with house-made guacamole, prepared tableside, and your choice of more than 10 margaritas—the Pama Rita is divine—at Rocco’s Tacos in the Dr. Phillips neighborhood. Then it’s a short hop to I-Drive, where you can ride the brand-new Orlando Eye, opening May 4, a 400-foot observation wheel modeled after the famed London Eye.

Night Out With the Kids

Forever Florida, about an hour south of Orlando, offers the state’s largest zipline park, and the course opens every Saturday night for the Starlight and Moonlight Zipline Adventure. Adults and kids 8 and up can soar over hardwood trees at speeds of up to 30 mph. The area’s wildlife—deer, bobcat and bear—is more active at night, offering you the opportunity to spot some real locals. Groups are capped at 10, so book far in advance, especially on a full-moon night.



Best Tour

Enjoy the water on the Winter Park scenic boat tour, conducted upon an intimate 18-passenger pontoon. The itinerary includes a narrated tour of Winter Park’s chain of lakes, with backyard peeks onto the wide lawns of the area’s affluent residents. One-hour tours depart on the hour daily from 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

COURTESY OF ROCCO'S TACOS;
STEVEN GREAVES/GETTY IMAGES



Best Shopping

Fulfill your retail fantasies at the Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets, with stores such as Ann Taylor, Calvin Klein and Prada offering

everything from new work clothes to those designer sunglasses you've had your eye on. Big bargains draw big crowds, so shop on a weekday. Perhaps best of

all, there's a Members-only entrance gate behind Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Tuscany Village, making it convenient to carry all your shopping bags back to your suite.

Best Day Trip

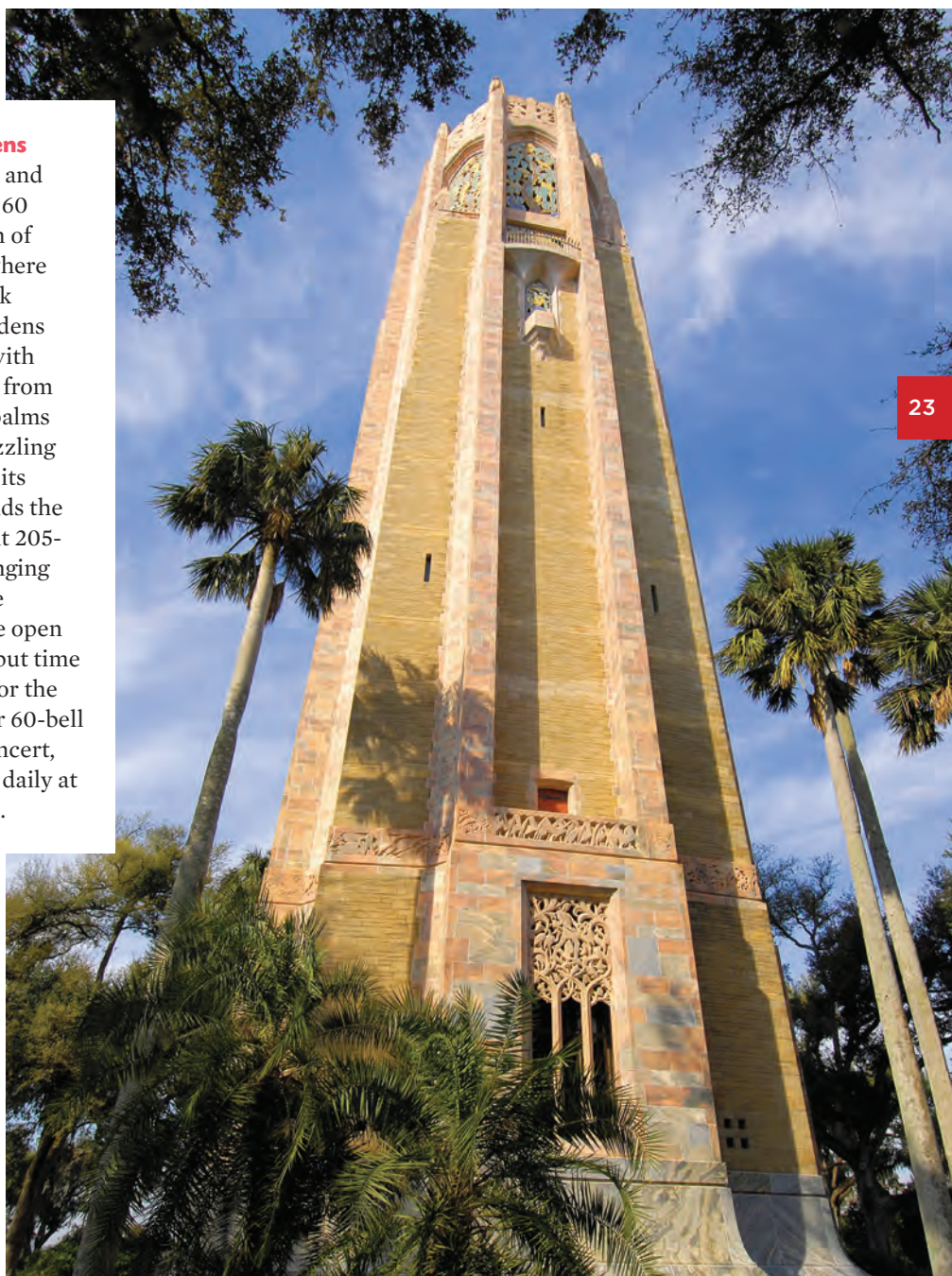
Orlando is only an hour from the east coast beaches; take advantage of this proximity with a visit to charming New Smyrna Beach. Stroll the five blocks from the river to the ocean on Flagler Avenue, stopping in at one of the street's many bars and restaurants for a snack. Forgot your beach towel? Never fear: Clothing and beachwear shops abound. After you've gotten your fill of the sand, finish your day at the classic local joint JB's Fish Camp on Mosquito Lagoon, where you can dine waterside on local seafood or rent a kayak or paddleboard to explore the lagoon or Indian River.

Best Gardens

Find peace and tranquility 60 miles south of Orlando, where historic Bok Tower Gardens blossoms with everything from ferns and palms to lush, dazzling azaleas. At its center stands the magnificent 205-foot tall Singing Tower. The gardens are open every day, but time your visit for the spectacular 60-bell carillon concert, performed daily at 1 and 3 p.m.

Best for Foodies

One of the city's top tables is Txokos (pronounced cho-kos) Basque Kitchen on Corrine Drive in the heart of the trendy Audubon Park neighborhood. Part of the East End Market, a neighborhood hub where you can pick up local seafood, meats, coffee, cheese and baked goods, Txokos turns out authentic pintxos (small plates) perfect for sharing, such as lamb leg empanadas and fried shishito peppers. The "kalimotxo" cured, smoked and roasted pork belly alone is worth the visit.





Best for Nature Lovers

Drive the 90 minutes to Homosassa Springs on the west coast for an up-close and personal visit with one of the area's most famous seasonal residents, the West Indian manatee. Although the gentle giants live in the nearby Crystal River year-round, the colder months of November through March draw them in droves to the springs' consistent 72-degree waters. Local manatees are quite used to visitors and will often approach for a belly scratch. Initiation of contact is strictly at the animals' discretion. Snorkel tours in the shallow river are great for kids and novices, and generally begin quite early in the morning.

Best People Watching

Just east of downtown is the city's best-known park, 23-acre Lake Eola Park, where you'll find the iconic fountain that graces the central city's street signs. There's a mile-long pedestrian path that's great for joggers, dog-walkers and

casual strollers. Stop in at one of the waterfront restaurants, such as Relax Grill, or feed some of the park's resident swans. If you'd like a view of the shore from the water, rent one of the swan-shaped paddleboats available across from Relax Grill for \$15 per half hour.

Where to Stay

Club Members can stay at three spectacular Club resorts in Orlando.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club at SeaWorld (pictured at right) was built for fun. The Bermuda-style retreat, which boasts several stunning pools and a 50-seat movie theater, is conveniently located across the street from SeaWorld and just minutes away from Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Tuscany Village immerses guests in the beauty and ambience of its inspiration, Tuscany. The resort is built around beautiful Lake Alexander, offering guests idyllic views along its lakefront walking path, and provides gated access to Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets next door.

Parc Soleil by Hilton Grand Vacations Club offers guests unlimited activities, from its extensive on-site recreational amenities to a super pool with interactive water features and slides. The resort blends French-inspired design with European sophistication, exemplified by brilliant en-suite bathrooms you'll have to see to believe.



PAUL NICKLEN/CORBIS; HILTON GRAND VACATIONS

Club

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Breckenridge, Colorado, is renowned for its spectacular outdoor activities, including horseback riding.

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Ask the Club

What does Home Week mean?

Home Week is one of the four types of reservations within the Club. It is the option that provides Members with the greatest advantage in securing advance reservations. Home Week reservations are consecutive-night reservations at the resort at which you own, in the season and unit type you own, for the number of days you own, checking in on the resort's standard check-in day. There is no reservation fee for a Home Week reservation, and the annual allotment of ClubPoints assigned to the ownership interest will be fully utilized for your reservation. A priority reservation window is offered for Home Week reservations, allowing owners to request reservations up to one year (365 days) prior to desired check-in date. The priority window ends nine months (276 days) before check-in for most resorts or six months (180 days) for select resorts. You may confirm a Home Week reservation outside of the priority window if availability permits.

JESSE UNRUH/GOBBECK



Have a question for the Club? Email us your question to feedback@clubtraveler.com, and we may answer it in the next issue.

Read All About It

News and updates from your Club



Green Zone

Hawaiian culture has a strong connection to its land. Honoring that heritage, Hokulani Waikiki by Hilton Grand Vacations Club was designed and built with a focus on preserving Oahu's natural resources, and it's now been awarded LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. To obtain LEED certification, buildings must use environmentally friendly construction practices and meet sustainability requirements that include water and energy efficiency, materials and resources, and awareness and education. As one of its green initiatives, Hokulani Waikiki uses a system that reclaims heat from cooling towers to heat domestic water and the plunge pool.



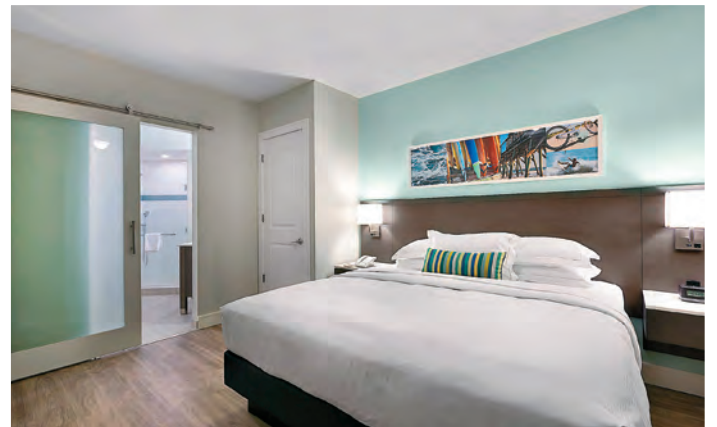
Go Big

Hilton Grand Vacations Club has teamed up with Smart Destinations to offer Club Members big savings on sightseeing and other vacation activities. Go Cards are digital passes that grant admission to museums, tours and attractions in the city you're planning to visit for one discounted price. For instance, a Go Orlando Card All Inclusive Pass includes admission to 35 Orlando attractions, including Kennedy Space Center, Legoland Florida, Ripley's Believe It or Not! and Gatorland. Go Cards are available for Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Orlando, San Diego and San Francisco. For more information, including how to purchase, visit **clubtraveler.com** and search for "Go Cards."

COURTESY OF LEGOLAND, HILTON GRAND VACATIONS

Sweet Carolina

Our newest Club resort, Ocean 22 by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, is expected to open in August in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. At 24 stories, Ocean 22 is the tallest resort in Myrtle Beach and features 220 luxurious condominium-style units. The oceanfront property includes an outdoor pool, indoor pool, hot tub, pool bar, lobby bar, fitness center, kids' space and grab-and-go deli. It's located on the Grand Strand at North Ocean Boulevard and 22nd Avenue. Ocean 22 owners can request Home Week reservations up to 12 months (365 days) prior to check-in date, while general Club Members can request reservations up to 9 months (276 days) prior to desired check-out date.



Rave Reviews

What people are saying about Hilton Grand Vacations Club resorts

Kings' Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club

Bill and Amy Wooster, owners at Kings' Land by Hilton Grand Vacations Club since 2009, say:

"This is our home away from home—true aloha, peace of mind and gorgeous amenities and grounds. The staff are the embodiment of Hawaiian Aloha, and we always count down the days until we return."

Tip: Attend an authentic Hawaiian luau at the nearby Hilton Waikoloa Village. Ask the concierge at Kings' Land to make your reservation.

West 57th Street by Hilton Club

Joe and Karen Schneider, owners at The Hilton Club – New York since 2010, say: "West 57th Street is sleek and modern. It feels like you live in a building with a doorman who knows your name."

Tip: There are plenty of restaurants nearby, but why not start each day by enjoying the complimentary continental breakfast.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club at MarBrisa

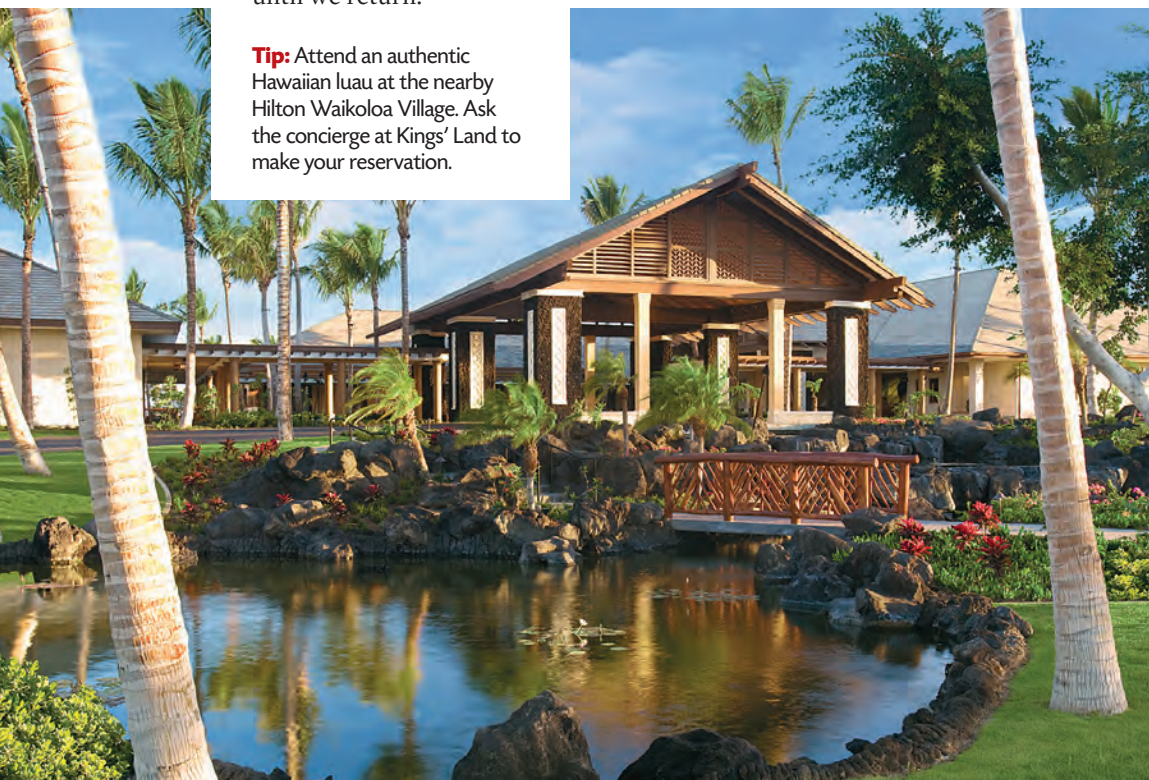
Cor and Ann Van Overeem, owners at Lagoon Tower by Hilton Grand Vacations Club since 2001, say:

"Check out the big new pool area at MarBrisa. This pool area has the new children's clubhouse and a bar and grill—you can spend the whole day in the sun there. We sure did!"

Tip: Legoland California is within walking distance. Look for the back gate, which provides a private entrance for guests staying at MarBrisa.

Want to give a shout-out to your favorite Hilton Grand Vacations Club resort? Email us at feedback@clubtraveler.com. We may feature your comments.

HILTON GRAND VACATIONS





McWay Falls is an 80-foot waterfall in Big Sur, California, that flows year-round.



Vacation Variety

Make exchange reservations with RCI

As a Hilton Grand Vacations Club Member, you have the opportunity to book vacations with RCI, the largest vacation exchange network in the world. RCI allows Club Members to expand their vacation options and explore spectacular destinations in places such as the Caribbean, Europe and South America.

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE CAN I BOOK AN EXCHANGE VACATION WITH RCI?

RCI allows Club Members to plan exchange vacations far in advance. Weekly reservations may be requested up to two years prior to check-in. For nightly stays at participating RCI resorts, reservations may be requested up to 10 months prior to check-in.

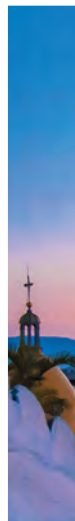
More to Explore

4 exchange destinations to consider for your next vacation

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VERMONT MOUNTAINS

Vermont's mountain resorts may be a mecca for skiers throughout winter, but when the snow melts, the good times don't stop. Golf lovers, mountain bikers and nature enthusiasts flock to the state for breathtaking scenery and endless mountain activities. Take a dip into spring-fed swimming holes, hike through cobblestoned villages and snap photos of the postcard-perfect New England countryside, with its covered bridges, winding back roads and weathered red barns. Mount Snow boasts one of the country's oldest golf academies, while Stratton offers a little slice of Europe in Vermont. And then there's Smugglers' Notch, an all-inclusive resort full of family-friendly activities from waterslides to climbing towers.





SHENANDOAH VALLEY, VIRGINIA

Spectacular scenery and vibrant history are just two of the things that make the Shenandoah Valley one of the great vacation destinations in the eastern United States. The region stretches 200 miles across the Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains. Outdoor activities abound, from fishing and golf to white water rafting on the Shenandoah River. Hike portions of the famous Appalachian Trail, explore stalactites and stalagmites in Luray Caverns or take a scenic drive along the popular Blue Ridge Parkway. Pristine scenic beauty awaits year-round in the Shenandoah Valley, but the autumn colors are especially magical.

SEDONA, ARIZONA

Take a trip to another world without leaving the planet. Sedona's famous red rock monuments, bearing names such as Courthouse Butte and Bell Rock, spiral into the Arizona sky, forming startling formations like nothing you've ever seen. It's no wonder Hollywood has filmed more than 75 movies there. Hundreds of miles of trail crisscross the area, allowing visitors to hike or bike into the monuments. Sedona is also believed to be the site of a major energy vortex that promotes inspiration and healing, so it's become home to a lively artist and New Age community. You can spend days enjoying the area's art galleries.



PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

Imagine spending lazy days relaxing under the sun on a sandy beach, followed by authentic Mexican margaritas in a cozy café. That's life in Puerto Vallarta, one of Mexico's most popular and sophisticated travel destinations. The area stretches around the warm, sparkling blue waters of the Bay of Banderas, which offers exciting ocean activities such as diving, snorkeling, and whale and dolphin spotting. Visitors can explore quirky shops, flea markets and fine-art galleries, or simply take a relaxing stroll along the cobblestone streets of historic Old Vallarta. Puerto Vallarta is the perfect tropical destination for resort vacation travelers.

Ready to explore exchange vacation destinations or book an exchange vacation with RCI? Log in to your member website at hgvclub.com or myhiltonclub.com. Then click the "My Club" tab and select the "RCI Affiliated Resorts" link.

LOVELY CRUISE

Club Members share memories of their voyage Down Under



Tim and Jill Learn

Club Members since 2013
Recent trip: 2014 ClubPartner
Perk Grand Adventure to
Australia and New Zealand



“This was our first real cruise and our first Club adventure. The very friendly and helpful crew of the *Celebrity Solstice* and the Club representative, Nanette, made this magnificent trip carefree. The service provided by the porters, waiters and wine stewards was always excellent, and how could you beat sunrise over the Sydney Opera House as viewed from our stateroom?

We really enjoyed the main-dining-room experience. The service was truly excellent and the food was superb, prepared and presented with a bit of elegance, served by friendly, efficient waiters. Truth is, we enjoyed almost everything, but we both enjoyed the Beef Wellington immensely. The French onion soup was the No. 1 appetizer, and the chocolate cake and cheesecake were both phenomenal.

The highlight of the cruise was the reason for our trip: the fjords! On November 9 (Jill's birthday), we cruised through the spectacular Fiordland National Park. We got the full experience; the weather was partly sunny as we entered Milford Sound, watching the incredible Southern Alps appear as we ate breakfast on our veranda. By the time we were returning to the Tasman Sea, it had become misty, with low-lying clouds covering the peaks of the mountains. At one point, we were up on deck observing the breathtaking views, including the glaciers, and pondering how Captain James Cook could have navigated sailing ships within these sounds. The clouds appeared to be following the ship with a bit of rain, and a few whitecaps added to the excitement!

We chose to follow the cruise with a weeklong stay [in Hawaii] at Grand Waikikian by Hilton Grand Vacations Club. We spent our time golfing and visiting friends on the island—it is very much an island paradise. Sunsets are stupendous, and it's amazing to see how many people stop to participate, observing closely for the last 30 minutes or so. I suspect some are trying to catch a glimpse of the elusive green flash.”

VACATION TIP:

Take advantage of all the entertainment onboard, not just the nightly shows. For instance, Tim says the lectures on Captain James Cook's explorations in the South Pacific were quite informative and interesting.



Hilton Grand Vacations Club

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A VACATION STATE OF MIND

