

Club traveler

DREAM
PLAN
GO

COAST WITH THE MOST

GET A TASTE OF TWO
SOUTH CAROLINA DESTINATIONS

PLUS

MONTREAL

CRAFT
BEER

SKI
SEASON
TIPS



Hilton
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Every autumn, Vermont turns into a brilliant spectrum of red, orange and gold during the fall foliage season. Take in the sights by using your ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points through ClubPartner Country Walkers with a Fall Foliage guided walking tour. For more details, visit the ClubPartner Perks page on club.hiltongrandvacations.com.



Where is your favorite getaway for fall foliage? Tell us and send your pictures to feedback@clubtraveler.com.

COVER STORY



A Tale of Two South Carolinas

Find world-class golf courses, beaches and more in the Palmetto State

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Add an extra layer of security to your luggage with ReboundTAG, a microchip-embedded tag that uses radio frequency to quickly locate misplaced baggage at airports worldwide. Learn more at reboundtag.com.

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Dear Club Member



It has been a truly exciting year at Hilton Grand Vacations Club! And nothing is more exciting than bringing you new properties to travel to—from the urban lure of Washington, D.C., to the relaxing charm of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Get to know more about Hilton Head, if you haven't already experienced this coastal treasure, in our feature story on page 20.

A large part of this year has been focused on listening to and learning from you. The comprehensive benchmark survey some of you may have participated in this past spring was dedicated to discovering

what's most important to Members. We heard you loud and clear and appreciate your honest, constructive feedback.

We're not stopping here. We will continue to listen and do our part to keep you well informed through ongoing communication and requests for your input. Stay tuned for the launch of our new Member education program, which will share tips on how to make the most of your membership. Also, we will be extending contact center hours.

I hope you're feeling our unrelenting passion for enhancing your Club membership. We're thrilled to hear from Members who are enjoying the new Club website and mobile app. I'm pleased to share that new website will be updated on an ongoing basis as we work to deliver an excellent online experience for you.

With this in mind, please accept my sincere gratitude for your time and involvement this year. Our recent improvements were customized and fine-tuned according to your phone calls, emails and conversations with Club Counselors. Your feedback helps us to ensure that you love being a Hilton Grand Vacations Club Member.

Happy travels,

Stan Soroka
Chief Customer Officer

The Latest Travel Buzz

Contact a Club Counselor to check for availability and confirm reservations.

The Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations Club / Honolulu

Take in sweeping ocean views from this latest addition at the 22-acre Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort, scheduled to open in March 2017. Get a sneak peek at the luxurious accommodations and amenities on page 26.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club at The Flamingo / Las Vegas

Stay within steps of the nonstop action of The Strip at this 15-acre resort. Generously sized studios and one- and two-bedroom suites are equipped with everything you need, from full kitchens to internet access to washers and dryers. After a day on the town, treat yourself to amenities like a heated swimming pool and whirlpool spa.

Las Palmeras by Hilton Grand Vacations Club / Orlando

Use your Points to stay minutes from Walt Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando and SeaWorld Orlando. Deluxe one- and two-bedroom condominium-style units and studios provide ample room for families, along with on-site features like a heated outdoor pool, a waterslide and splash pad, a whirlpool spa, a fitness center, two bars and a restaurant.

Send Us Your Feedback!

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

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Hilton Grand Vacations Club

6355 MetroWest Boulevard, Suite 180
Orlando, Florida 32835 USA

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Dream

WHERE TO GO



Dream Vacation

Club Member **Janet L. Banks-Mott**, Owner at West 57th Street by Hilton Club since 2008, dreams of a trip “back in time” aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express from London to Istanbul with her family. “Being able to travel across the continent, sharing the sights and sounds, food and cultures of exotic cities, and making memories with our family would be the best! What a dream to capture the elegant style of travel from days gone by, each of us with a copy of Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express*, on our e-readers, of course!”

Where to Stay: Start your adventure at the luxurious **London Hilton on Park Lane**, a short trip from Victoria Station and with prime views of Hyde Park in the heart of the city.

Experience the beauty of Europe by train on a two-leg trip from London to Paris, then Paris to Istanbul.



Take Flight

Schedule your next vacation
around these exciting events

Sapporo Snow Festival

Japan, February 6–12

Visit a literal winter wonderland, where locals transform the streets of Sapporo into a magical display of ice and snow sculptures. About 2 million visitors flock to the festival each year. In the International Snow Sculpture contest, a dozen teams create intricate, towering works of art, including dragons, ancient deities and anthropomorphic creatures. Playing in the snow is more fun than looking at it, so take the kids to the Community Dome, aka Tsudome, to kick around on snow slides and snow rafting.



South Beach Wine & Food Festival

Miami Beach, Florida, February 22–26

Escape the cold to hobnob with foodies and celebrity chefs on the beach at this five-day food festival. Try incredible bites from more than 350 culinary tastemakers, including award-winning chefs such as past guests Joël Robuchon and José Andrés. Brush up your palate with *Wine Spectator* experts at curated seminars and chow down on burgers at the annual Burger Bash hosted by Rachael Ray. Just make sure to remember to bring your eating pants.



Major League Baseball Spring Training

Arizona and Florida, February–March

Can't wait for the first pitch of baseball season? Head south, grab a hot dog and watch your favorite teams warm up with practice games. Follow East Coast teams like the Boston Red Sox, Philadelphia Phillies, New York Mets and New York Yankees in Florida's Grapefruit League, or find Midwestern and West Coast teams like the San Francisco Giants, Cincinnati Reds, Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox in Arizona's Cactus League.

Art Basel

Hong Kong, March 23–25

Dive deep into the world of contemporary art as the international art show, which also has fairs in Basel, Switzerland, and Miami Beach, Florida, hits the road to Hong Kong. Discover more than 3,000 innovative artists and galleries from around the world as they showcase cutting-edge paintings, immersive installations and feature-length films. Don't worry about leaving the kids at home—the show has fun activities for children as young as 3 and educational tours just for kids.



Run Ashore

10 beaches for winter escape

1. Maracas Beach on Trinidad

Lined with palm trees and buffeted with warm Caribbean breezes, this crescent of golden sand is home to food stalls hawking the local specialty, bake and shark: a deep-fried fish sandwich with an array of toppings.

2. Wai'anapanapa State Park on Maui, Hawaii

Rarely crowded, this remote black sand beach features a lava cave sheltering a freshwater pool. Legend has it that a Hawaiian princess hid here from her vengeful king.

3. Phra Nang Beach near Ao Nang, Thailand

It's a 20-minute sail by long-tail boat from Ao Nang to take in the limestone cliffs peaking through the scenic waters of Phra Nang—a popular spot among rock climbers. Visit at low tide to walk out to the beautiful limestone karsts on Happy Island.

4. Whitehaven Beach on Whitsunday Island, Australia

Arrive by boat or seaplane to this protected ecofriendly beach in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Changing tides cause the white silica sand to swirl in the turquoise waters, creating breathtaking images to capture.

5. Llandudno Beach in Cape Town, South Africa

Surf and body-board in the brisk Atlantic, or enjoy a relaxing day of uninterrupted sunbathing at this gloriously uncrowded boulder- and granite-lined beach.

6. Hilton Beach in Tel Aviv, Israel

This party beach features full-service amenities such as bars, beach chairs and ice cream vendors in the heart of urban Tel Aviv. It's backed by Independence Park, popular with families and young locals.

7. Siesta Key Beach on Siesta Key, Florida

Dig your heels into Siesta Key's iconic quartz sand for a round of volleyball or teach your kids to float and swim in the gentle surf of the Gulf of Mexico, which stays warm late in the season.

8. Balangan Beach in South Kuta, Bali

A spectacular break just past the reef makes this beach a popular spot for surfing. For something closer to shore, its shallow waters are ideal for swimming, and the golden sand is just the right texture for sand castles.

9. Playa Tortugas in Cancun, Mexico

Rent snorkel gear from a shack on the beach and head for the water to spot stingrays and bright tropical fish swimming amid the coral reef. Dive off the pier into the sheltered waters, or grab a margarita at a beachside bar.

10. Playa de Papagayo on Lanzarote, Canary Islands

Go off the grid at this remote beach that's part of Los Ajaches Nature Reserve, renowned for its unadulterated beauty. Pack a cooler for this rustic destination (there are no vendors) to enjoy calm, temperate waters year-round.

THE BIG PICTURE

Banff National Park

On a clear day at Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada, the sky meets the earth, casting a reflection of the towering Merlin Ridge of the Slate Range onto the clear waters of Lake Louise. In winter, the 2,564 square miles of Canada's first national park transform into an alpine landscape with breathtaking glaciers, dense coniferous forests and ice fields. This is a place to truly experience nature, from skiing the slopes of Mount Norquay to snowshoeing in Marble Canyon to spotting elk and bighorn sheep on a hike through the Fenland Trail.

Bring a swimsuit even when snow is on the ground. The Banff Upper Hot Springs are open year-round, with water temperatures between 98 and 104 degrees Fahrenheit.



How to Get There

Explore Banff and nearby national parks Jasper and Yoho using your ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points toward a Tauck-guided tour. Climb a glacier, enjoy an alpine aromatherapy massage and scale the summit of Sulphur Mountain on a gondola during the Best of the Canadian Rockies tour. For more details, visit the ClubPartner Perks page on club.hiltongrandvacations.com.

High Rollers

Your guide to visiting Las Vegas

Don't forget your shades. According to photos taken by NASA in space, the Strip is one of the brightest places on Earth.

What to Do

Fall is the perfect time to enjoy outdoor offerings in Vegas. Check out **The Park**, an open-air greenspace and entertainment district between the New York-New York and Monte Carlo hotels. Grab a seat by one of the water walls or under a shady tree-shaped sculpture to marvel at Bliss Dance, a 40-foot-tall sculpture of a dancing woman by artist Marco Cochrane. Then head to brew pub **Beerhaus** to taste craft beer and play board games.

What to See

There's no shortage of shows in Vegas, but **The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil** at The Mirage is one you won't want to miss. Now in its 10th year, the acrobatic performance includes a revamp with new acts, costumes, choreography and technology set to the revolutionary musical soundtrack of The Fab Four.

Where to Eat

Chefs from around the world flock to Vegas, bringing a taste of their award-winning restaurants with them. The latest addition at Aria Resort & Casino: an outpost of the renowned New York Italian restaurant **Carbone**. Try modern takes on classic dishes such as baked clams served three ways (oregonata, clams casino and with sea urchin on top), along with throwback touches like tableside Caesar salad service.

Where to Stay

Club Members can stay near the action at **Hilton Grand Vacations Club on the Boulevard**, a luxury resort offering easy access to the city's famed downtown attractions. The premier accommodations include two heated swimming pools with a seasonal poolside bar and grill, an on-site spa and a fitness center.

How to Get Around

True to name, Las Vegas' famous Strip is one road lined with about 4 miles of resorts. The Las Vegas Monorail parallels roughly half the Strip but does not run all night. Public double-decker buses, known as The Deuce, stop in front of every major hotel. Taxicabs are everywhere, but the fastest way to get around is using a carbooking app such as Lyft or Uber. Beware of surge pricing, which can be three times the standard rate during peak hours.



Plan

HOW TO GET THERE

Established in 1859, Breckenridge was originally a mining town that has boomed into a year-round world-class resort, including five mountain ski areas.



Ask the Resort

It's almost time to hit the slopes at Valdoro Mountain Lodge in Breckenridge, Colorado. We asked **Gena Osborn**, resort director, and **Rafe Sykes**, Rocky Mountain Region general manager: What can Club Members expect for ski season?

"Sitting at 9,600 feet above sea level, Breckenridge has one of the longest ski seasons and some of the best snow in North America. From mid-November to mid-April, skiers and riders enjoy more than 300 inches of fresh powder on 2,900 acres of beginner to extreme terrain. For the best deals on skiing and snowboarding, purchase a multiday lift ticket before arrival on **snov.com**.

"Not a skier? Breckenridge offers an abundance of other winter activities, including snowmobiling, horse-drawn sleigh rides, ziplining, snowshoeing, dog sledding, historical and museum tours, and more. For all high-altitude outdoor activities, drink plenty of water and take it easy the first day or two, applying plenty of sunscreen and dressing in layers."

LEADER OF THE PACK



Know your space.

Standard baggage is usually a maximum dimension of 62 total inches (length + width + thickness), while oversized luggage is often capped at 155 inches with an extra fee. If you are bringing large gifts or other nonsports items, try to get them into suitcases or duffels instead of cube-style boxes, which use up a lot of space. Regardless of size, don't wrap gifts; they may be opened for inspection.

Pack tight.

Most airlines charge per bag, not per item. Which means people traveling together with items like surfboards or skis can pack multiple pairs into one bag for half the cost. Pro tip: Never pack boots in your suitcase. Most airlines don't count ski or snowboard boot bags separately if they accompany skis or snowboards.

Tee it up.

Golf clubs, in particular, require planning. While it's common for airlines to take responsibility for the safe transport of golf clubs in hard cases, it may prove difficult to fit multiple cases into a rental car with several golfers. If you use a soft case, wrap your club heads with towels or clothing to help pad.

Deal with wheels.

When traveling domestically, it's usually cheaper to ship a bike via UPS or FedEx Ground instead of checking it. Check your local bike stores for discarded cardboard boxes their bikes arrive in.

Carry it on.

Make sure to bring electronic accessories (bike and dive computers, cameras, golf GPS) and any critical gear that can't be rented if misplaced (prescription goggles) as carry-on luggage.

Living Large

Unburden yourself from oversized luggage with tips from travel writer Larry Olmstead

Between size and weight requirements, traveling with oversized and odd-shaped baggage can be a real head scratcher. Nearly every airline charges hefty fees (\$150 to \$250) for bicycles, surfboards and paddleboards, but not for snow-sports equipment, scuba gear or golf clubs—even if they are heavier. You might pay a damage waiver for golf clubs, but not ski equipment or bikes. To make matters more complicated, some airlines charge more on certain routes and for different classes, frequent-flier statuses and even seasons. Pack smart using these tricks.



Sport Luggage Stars

Golf Clubs

The **Sun Mountain ClubGlider Tour Series** is light and durable and has unique fold-out wheels that make it easy to move through airport lines.

Bicycles

The **CrateWorks Pro XL-C** is a light yet strong plastic shipping box that folds flat when not in use and includes specially shaped bike packing foam and external straps.

Skis

The **Transpack Hard Case Jet** is a lightweight, hard-plastic ski and snowboard case that is protective, rolls easily and can be strapped to rooftop racks.

Riding in Style

News and resources to make travel easier

Listen Up

Everyone loves a good flight freebie. Delta now offers all passengers complimentary in-flight entertainment on seat-back screens or through streaming on laptops, smartphones and tablets. And yes, that includes premium channels like Showtime and HBO and still-in-theaters movies.

Sigh of Relief

Travelers can give their pets, service dogs and emotional support animals a break at the new pet-relief facilities inside Terminal 4 at New York City's JFK International Airport. The 70-square-foot pet restroom features fake grass with an ornamental fire hydrant, plus disposable waste bags and a sink for owners to clean up.

Foodie Fliers

No need to rush to the nearest airport restaurant for a decent bite before your next flight. American Airlines has tapped celebrity chefs like *Chopped* judge and Nashville-based chef Maneet Chauhan, Hawaii-based chef Sam Choy and Dallas-based chef Julian Barsotti to consult on business- and first-class dining. United Airlines is also working with celebrity chefs for its in-flight menus, and serving complimentary snacks like stroopwafels and wasabi peas.

Island Hopper

Say "Aloha" to direct flights between Tokyo and Kona, Hawaii. The U.S. Department of Transportation recently approved Hawaiian Airlines' application for three flights a week between Haneda International Airport and Kona International Airport, the Big Island's first new regularly scheduled international flight since 2010. Flights are expected to begin before January 2017.

Smooth Sailing

Finish your in-flight entertainment uninterrupted during landing, as lengthy connecting gate information is now a thing of the past on American Airlines. Travelers can find gate information on individual flier screens on many newer planes or use their mobile devices to connect to Wi-Fi during the flight for updates. GateGuru, a free app for Apple and Android devices, can keep you in the loop with real-time wait times, gate changes and flight delays.



Travel Tech

Walk This Way

EasyJet has developed a pair of smart shoes called **Sneakairs** that work with your smartphone's GPS and Bluetooth to vibrate when you need to turn left or right while navigating a new city.

Play Tag

Rimowa's new **Electronic Tag** allows travelers to check in their luggage from home by smartphone and drop it off at the airport. Lufthansa is currently the only airline using the technology, but other airlines are expected to opt in.

Get Snappy

Photo geeks who miss Polaroid film will dig Impossible Project's new **I-1 instant camera**, the first camera in over 20 years using Polaroid photo format.

Touch Base

United Airlines plans to install up to **8,000 iPads** in the three terminals at George Bush Intercontinental Airport Houston. The devices will be free to use to search for airport information, play games, order food and shop.

Freeze Frame

Take great winter photos with tips from photographer Angela Tague

The shimmer of a fresh snowfall in Park City, Utah, or Breckenridge, Colorado, can trick your digital camera's sensor, leaving photos washed out or too dark. Use these tricks to create stunning, high-light winter snapshots.

Dial it down.

Gently darken a reflective snowy scene by using the exposure compensation dial to decrease the exposure in half- or whole-stop increments. Are shots too dark? Does snow look blue? Use the dial to brighten the exposure a few stops.

Think old school.

Hand-held light meters, gray cards and other manual tools for film photography exposure are handy in the winter. Use them to get a second opinion on exposure settings before pushing the shutter button on high-contrast scenes.

Shield yourself.

Lens hoods, which come included with most new camera lenses, can protect against sunspots and too-bright images.

Protect Your Gear

You wouldn't head outdoors in frigid conditions without an insulated coat and thick gloves. So, why not keep your camera cozy and ready to work?

- Wrap your camera in rain gear or an underwater camera housing to keep snowflakes and sleet from damaging your electronics.
- Use an insulated case to keep your camera slightly warm and functioning between shoots in low temperatures.
- Store extra rechargeable digital camera batteries in a pants or shirt pocket to maintain power thanks to your body warmth.
- Keep a microfiber cloth handy to wipe melting snowflakes from your lens—a scarf or sweater may leave fine scratches.
- Wear gloves with rubber-tipped fingers and palms to maneuver camera controls and improve your grip in cold weather.

Set and match.

Move beyond auto white balance to get more accurate colors and shadow details using the “flash,” “cloudy” or “shade” settings. Compare how the scene differs in each mode using your camera's playback setting.

Go RAW.

Adjust the exposure of your photo using editing software after the fact by shooting with RAW image file settings. RAW images lack contrast (good for photographing bright snow) and require post-processing to look vibrant.

Time it right.

Plan to photograph scenic or landscape shots in shadowy or dim evening light to reveal more details and less contrast. Plus, a glowing sunset adds warm orange-red hues to an otherwise common winter scene.



Save While You Give

Don't break the bank this holiday travel season

The holidays can leave a wallet substantially lighter after you buy gifts for family, friends and colleagues. Help keep your budget in check with these tips.

Tap some apps.

If you want to be really hands-off, try using an app that scouts the deals for you. Slickdeals is a free Apple and Android app that has a community of users sharing the best deals they find on the internet. New deals and coupons are posted every day, and you can set alerts for bargains you've been waiting for or that are selling out quickly.

Forget Black Friday.

Skip the twilight crowds the day after Thanksgiving and find some of the best deals online during Cyber Monday. Score big on travel websites to surprise someone with a trip. Also, sign up for newsletters through major retailers at least a month in advance to grab discount codes, and check the circulars at your local stores to find online specials as well.

Buy in bulk.

Do you have multiple people to shop for? Some websites and stores offer discounts if you buy in bulk—and it doesn't always have to be the same product, either. Look for quantity discounts and shipping savings if you spend beyond a minimum order.

Snip and ship.

Save big on shipping by watching for free-shipping notifications on your favorite sites. You can also find coupon codes online using RetailMeNot to cut shipping charges. Sign up for Amazon Prime to get free two-day shipping on eligible items, and compare shipping against other

sites. For physically mailing items, go with flat-rate boxes or media mail, which is limited to items such as books, CD and DVDs. Leave some time, though—media mail can take up to 10 days to deliver.

Use your Points.

Club Members can use ClubPoints and Bonus Points to save money on travel and rental cars through Club Member partners. Or, use Bonus Points to load up on gift certificates toward malls, spa services and golf packages. For more information, visit the Member Offers and Promotions page on the Club website at club.hiltongrandvacations.com.

Go

WHAT TO DO

Local Perspective

Cultures collide in the bilingual city of Montreal, a vibrant haven for art, music and cuisine. Club Members can stay in the heart of the city using Points at **Embassy Suites by Hilton Montreal**. Experience your next trip like a local with these insider tips from resident **Nicholas Reed**.

"Any trip to Montreal would be incomplete without a visit to the Old Port. Take in the Gothic glory of the Notre-Dame Basilica in the Place-d'Armes square, learn about the rich history of the city at the interactive Pointe-à-Callière Museum or enjoy a gourmet French meal in an 18th century stable house at Gibbys. Street acrobats and artists entertain tourists in English and French at Place Jacques-Cartier, where you can stop by Barroco for an elegant cocktail."

Sunlight streaming through the 332 colored glass panels at the Palais des congrès de Montreal creates a kaleidoscope at this prominent convention center.

Tap Into Fall

When the weather cools off, craft beer season heats up. Get your hands on these draft picks.

Pumpkin Ales

When it comes to pumpkin ales, most people love 'em or leave 'em. Arguably the most divisive seasonal beer, hundreds of pumpkin ales flood the market every fall. Some are brewed with pumpkin puree or extract; others incorporate pie spices, smoke or barrel-aging. With so many to choose from, order a beer flight or share bottles with friends to try them all. Start with perennial favorites Dogfish Head Punkin Ale and Southern Tier PumKing.

Porters

Dark and roasty, this style of beer is an import from London dating back to the 1720s. It's often lighter than its sister style, stout. Porters tend to carry a robust weight and comforting flavor profile ideal for lower temperatures, but there are all sorts of substyles like brown porters, roasted porters and Baltic porters. Draft picks include the rich and chocolaty Founders Porter and creamier Deschutes Black Butte Porter.

Stouts

Craft beer snobs argue that not much distinguishes contemporary porters from stouts, but try a few and make your own opinion. Typically, stouts are darker, heavier and richer than porters and carry strong flavor profiles such as coffee, chocolate and smoke. Guinness is the most ubiquitous of this category, though North Coast Brewing Rasputin Russian Imperial Stout is popular, and Goose Island has a cult following for its Bourbon County Stout.

View and Brew

Drink up in these cities known for their craft beers.

Portland, Oregon

Considered the craft beer capital of America, Portland is home to the highest number of independent craft breweries in the country, such as Deschutes and Ninkasi Brewing.

Chicago

Hop around this bustling craft brew city to try beers from renowned labels like Goose Island to local favorites Moody Tongue and Pipeworks Brewing.

Denver

Taste the nation during Denver's annual Great American Beer Festival, which hosts more than 400 craft brewers from throughout the country every October, including local breweries like Great Divide.

San Diego, California

The "Napa Valley of craft beer" is a must-see for fresh pints from breweries like Stone Brewing, AleSmith and Ballast Point.

Happy Trails

Make the most of five national parks, with kids in tow

Getting your children to appreciate the great outdoors sometimes requires a little coaxing. But these cool programs will have the kids dragging you to the nearest national park.

Yosemite National Park

Learn about nature through an art class at the Yosemite Art Center at Yosemite Village, California. Most of the year-round classes are open to all ages, covering methods like watercolors, impressionism and landscape painting.

fresh water for the 1.5-million-acre park in south Florida. Participants don muck boots through shallower parts of the slough, known as the "River of Grass," learning about bugs, wildlife and aquaculture along the way.

Grand Teton National Park

Experience this national park in Wyoming like a true adventurer with a Nature Explorer's backpack from the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center. Each pack comes equipped with a journal, lenses, field-guide cards and other activities tailored for kids ages 6 to 12 for self-guided hikes (with parental supervision).

Badlands National Park

Invoke the wonders of "Jurassic Park" at the Fossil Preparation Lab in the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. Watch scientists work on fossils recently found in the park, learn about the process and explore exhibits about the history of the park in southwestern South Dakota.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Grab an apron, goggles and gloves for a hands-on learning experience about the history of blacksmithing. On Tuesdays in summer, join a ranger dressed in period costume to ply the trade in a 100-year-old shed in Cades Cove on the Tennessee side of the park. Activities include helping with the fire, bending steel to create triangles or hammering out bells.

Everglades National Park

Kids ages 12 and up can get their feet wet on one of the ranger-led Wild Walk in the Wilderness tours through Shark River Slough, the main source of



From exploring the landscape of Yosemite to learning about fossils at the Badlands, national parks offer fun for kids of all ages.



LONG WEEKEND

Autumn Calling

3 days in the Berkshires

Norman Rockwell's paintings defined small-town America, and he chose Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in the Berkshire Mountains for the studio in which he would work until the end of his life. Situated a few hours' drive from New York City and Boston, the region comprises 30 towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut and is renowned for its fall foliage, antique shopping and outdoor recreation.

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Take a stroll through the gardens at Edith Wharton's former home, The Mount.

Day 1

Begin in Lenox, Massachusetts, at **The Mount**, which was the home of 20th century author Edith Wharton. An architectural jewel and National Historic Landmark, its multiple European-inspired buildings, formal gardens and surrounding forest will be cloaked in autumn color. Tours of the 42-room home, Georgian Revival-style stables and estate take place daily and include views of ReMix, a sculpture exhibit featuring 20 large-scale contemporary works throughout the grounds. Afterward, visit downtown Lenox's many boutique shops, including a wine shop and bar.

Day 2

Don't forget your camera. Pack a picnic and head to **Mount Greylock State Reservation** in Lanesborough, Massachusetts. Its namesake peak is the highest point in the state, offering stunning panoramic views of the Appalachian Trail. Experienced hikers might consider the 3.2-mile hike from Wilbur's Clearing to the summit. Shorter, less strenuous hikes are available off the state-designated Scenic Byway.

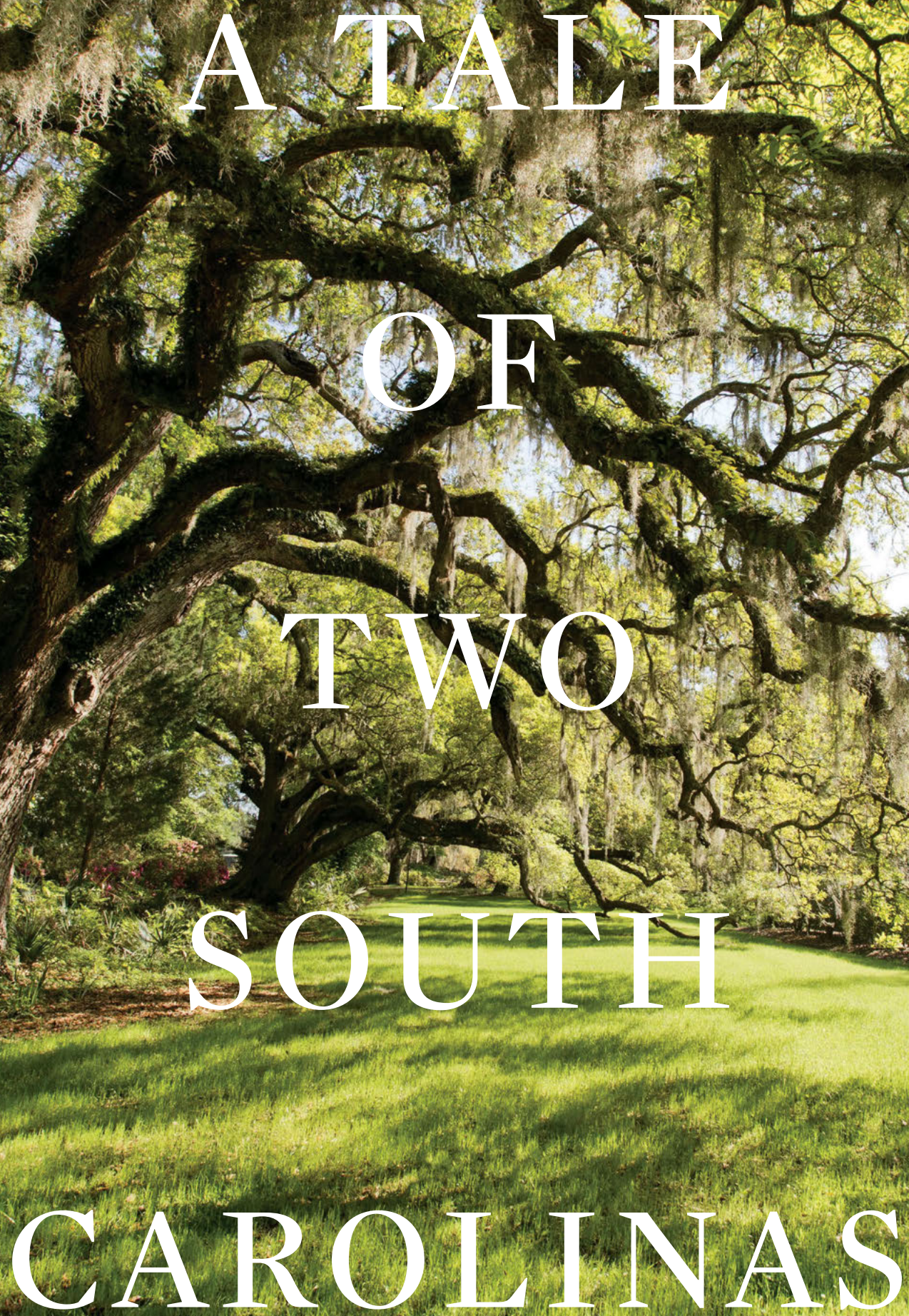
Day 3

Explore the region's diverse cultural opportunities in Williamstown, Massachusetts, home to liberal arts beacon Williams College. Stroll through the **Williams College Museum of Art**, which houses 14,000 works, including modern and contemporary Chinese art, Indian art and works by iconic American artists Edward Hopper and James Whistler. Don't miss dinner at Mezze Bistro + Bar, a contemporary American, seasonally focused restaurant nestled in a periwinkle-colored 19th century building.



Where to Stay

Club Members can stay at fantastic Berkshires properties, including **Hampton Inn & Suites Berkshires—Lenox** and **Hilton Garden Inn Lenox/Pittsfield**, conveniently located near major attractions.

A lush green lawn with large, moss-draped trees in the background. The trees have thick, gnarled trunks and dense foliage, with Spanish moss hanging from the branches. The scene is bright and sunny, with dappled light on the grass.

A TALE
OF
TWO
SOUTH
CAROLINAS

Known for world-class golfing, fishing, water sports and entertainment, you'd be hard-pressed to spend a dull moment in Hilton Head Island or Myrtle Beach. Make the most of your next trip to these two South Carolina cities with our insider guide.



Both Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head boast soft, sandy beaches for a relaxing getaway.



Grassy dunes provide a rustic backdrop on the beaches of Hilton Head.

One is a beachside city famous for its legendary golf courses, abundant wildlife and regional Gullah culture. The other is known for its bustling boardwalk, wide beaches, and food and wine festivals. Though Hilton Head Island and Myrtle Beach are only 200 miles apart, these two Lowcountry destinations are paradoxically as different as they are similar.

Nestled between two wildlife preserves on the southern tip of the state, the 42-square-mile, foot-shaped island of Hilton Head offers a secluded getaway packed with luxury golf courses and tennis courts. Despite its size, the island is home to an impressive number of cultural attractions, including galleries, museums and performing arts.

On the opposite side of South Carolina, near the state's northern border, Myrtle Beach has a more family-friendly feel. The city serves as a hub for the state's 60

miles of white sand beaches known as the Grand Strand. Vegas-style attractions and amusement parks provide nonstop entertainment for all ages, but it's easy to find quieter moments in nature at Myrtle Beach State Park. No matter which city you choose, you can find something extraordinary.

Hit the Beach

Nature is at the forefront of Hilton Head's beaches, which are surrounded by protected maritime forests and

freshwater wetlands. Head to the palmetto- and oak tree-lined Coligny Beach Park for a relaxing day at the shore, or go beachcombing at South Beach on the southern tip, where there's wildlife like bottlenose dolphins and red-throated loons.

In springtime, try water sports like sailing, fishing and crabbing for Atlantic blue crab. Rent a kayak or canoe at Shelter Cove Marina to explore the 11-mile saltwater lagoon or take a dolphin safari at Palmetto Bay Marina.

WHAT'S YOUR SOUTH CAROLINA STYLE?

Looking for a seaside getaway but not quite sure which city is right for you? Take this quiz to find out.

Boutiques and restaurants line the lively boardwalks of Myrtle Beach, but peacefulness is not far away. Soft white sand, clear blue ocean and sunsets so vibrant they require no Instagram filter can be found on the secluded stretch of the south end at Litchfield Beach.

Bike, walk or camp along the lush coastal trails of Myrtle Beach State Park and Huntington Beach State Park. Make a day of it by stopping at nearby Crazy Sister Marina for deep-sea fishing, Jet Ski rentals or a dolphin-watching cruise.

Tee Up

Some of the best golfing in the world can be found in both cities, but their fairways couldn't be more different. Palmetto, pine and oak trees line the ocean-side holes in Hilton Head, while Myrtle Beach boasts Spanish moss-draped greens and challenging sand traps.

Reserve tee times in advance at Harbour Town Golf Links, one of Hilton Head's most coveted golf courses and a PGA Tour location. At Sea Pines Resort, views of the sparkling Calibogue Sound from the 18th hole make this elite course extremely popular. If you can't get a tee time there, try Hilton Head National, in a storybook-like forest setting, or the three-course combination at Shipyard Golf Club, featuring 27 holes surrounded by tall oaks and water hazards.

In Myrtle Beach, experience the Old Southern charm of Caledonia Golf & Fish Club, featuring an antebellum-style clubhouse and lush greens along the Waccamaw River. Or hone your swing with a pro at the Dustin Johnson Golf School at Founders Group International's Indian Wells Golf Club, with pine and red oak forested courses through the marsh wetlands.

Bring the Kids

Prime your kids to become future golf pros in Myrtle Beach, dubbed the Mini Golf Capital of the World for its more than 50 courses. Scale the 50-foot "Mayan pyramid" at Cancun Lagoon

1
What's your idea of a romantic Friday night?

- A.** Dressing up to watch a symphony orchestra.
- B.** Going to dinner and a movie on the boardwalk.

2
Spending time outdoors means you go

- A.** Golfing near the beach.
- B.** Hiking and camping in the woods.

3
Your favorite way to take in culture is

- A.** Visiting a museum.
- B.** Walking through an outdoor sculpture garden.

4
What sounds most fun to you?

- A.** Seeing a comedy show and grabbing drinks downtown.
- B.** Riding roller coasters at an amusement park.

5
How would you rather experience marine life?

- A.** Going "crabbing" on a cruise ship.
- B.** Visiting the local aquarium.



If you answered mostly A's

Hilton Head Island is the retreat for you. There's exceptional culture and nightlife, internationally recognized golf courses and plenty of water sports.



If you answered mostly B's

Pack your bags for Myrtle Beach, which has a fantastic boardwalk, several amusement parks, family-friendly attractions and two state parks for camping.

Miniature Golf or help rescue Tinkerbell at the Peter Pan-themed course, Captain Hook's Adventure Golf.

Off the greens, head to Myrtle Beach Boardwalk for towering rides like the Sky Wheel gondola and the exhilarating Sling Shot, which sends passengers 300 feet into the air at up to 100 miles per

hour. Find upscale shopping and entertainment at Broadway at the Beach, with attractions such as Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach and an IMAX theater.

Get up close with Hilton Head's wildlife at the Coastal Discovery Museum, where you can encounter local reptiles, birds



South Carolina is renowned for Southern classics like fried chicken and barbecue.

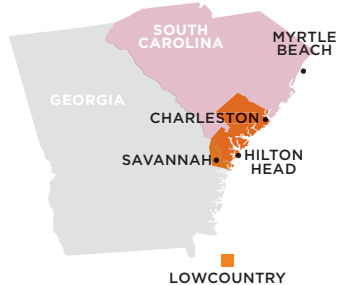
and mammals. And if the little ones want to run around, head to the interactive children’s museum Sandbox, featuring activities for kids 8 and younger such as a play kitchen, model airplane cockpit and pirate ship.

Taste the Lowcountry

Famous for its cuisine, South Carolina has more than enough barbecue, seafood and soul food restaurants to warrant its own culinary trip. Whole hog barbecue is an art form here, with four distinctive sauces: spicy vinegar and pepper; light tomato; heavy tomato; and its signature “Carolina Gold” mustard-based sauce.

Serious foodies should take a quick detour to Hemingway, about an hour outside Myrtle Beach, to visit Scott’s Bar-B-Que, a third-generation spot specializing in vinegar and pepper pulled pork.

Stop off at Dye’s Gullah Fixin’s to enjoy Hilton Head’s local flavor. This is soul food—scratch-made dishes like country fried chicken and smoked ham gumbo, plus coastal specialties like shrimp and grits, crab cakes and Lowcountry boil. No meat? No problem! Find vegetarian riffs on Southern classics like fried green tomatoes and house-made pimento cheese at A Lowcountry Backyard.



WHERE IS THE LOWCOUNTRY?

The term “Lowcountry” refers to the geographic and cultural region spanning from roughly Charleston, South Carolina, to Savannah, Georgia. Its signature cuisine has made this area a culinary destination. Blending local ingredients with Southern, Creole and African influences, the Lowcountry embodies a melting pot of flavors.

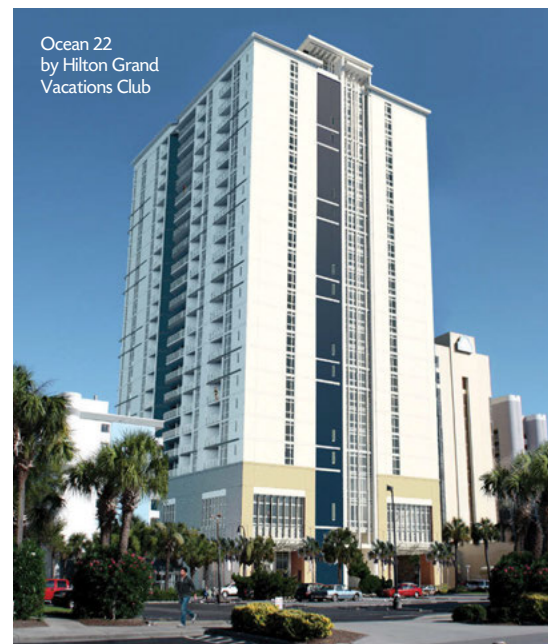
WHERE TO STAY

Club Members can reserve stays at these new Hilton Grand Vacations Club properties in the heart of South Carolina’s top attractions.

Ocean Oak Resort by Hilton Grand Vacations Club: Be one of the first to stay at Hilton Grand Vacations’ newest destination, featuring 125 modern two-bedroom suites facing the exclusive South Forest Beach area of Hilton Head. Relax in luxury accommodations, including spacious kitchens, spa-like bathrooms and sleek interior designs. Take advantage of sweeping views of the Atlantic coastline and amenities like an oceanfront pool and adjacent bar, a sun deck and an activity lawn. Reservations are now open, with check-in dates beginning January 2017.

Ocean 22 by Hilton Grand Vacations Club: Minutes from the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and Promenade and major attractions, this oceanfront high-rise is equipped with rooms boasting king-sized beds, sleeper sofas, full kitchens and separate living and dining areas. Guests receive complimentary access to more than a dozen golf courses, including Founders Group International’s Indian Wells Golf Club.

Hilton Grand Vacations Club at Anderson Ocean Club: Steps from Ocean 22, experience the Grand Strand with a refined European touch at Anderson Ocean Club. The 22-floor high-rise features luxury suites outfitted with Spanish colonial architecture, fully equipped kitchens and furnished patios facing the Atlantic Ocean. Unwind with a relaxing massage at the Awakening Spa, sipping on drinks at the seasonal pool bar or playing a round of golf on a championship course.



TOP: PETER FRANK EDWARDS/REDUX

Club

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Ask a Club Counselor

In each issue of *Club Traveler*, a Club Counselor will answer questions about how the Club works. If you have a question you'd like to submit to a Club Counselor, email it to feedback@clubtraveler.com and it may be answered in the next issue.

What are the benefits of enrolling in Points Protection coverage?

Not sure if you are going to be able to use all of your 2016 ClubPoints this year? That's where Points Protection comes in. The Points Protection program works as a safety net, giving you peace of mind that your Points won't expire that year. If you still have 2016 ClubPoints remaining in your account on or before December 15, Points Protection automatically processes the transaction of your choice (either Save or RCI Deposit).

Enrolling is easy. You can do it on the Club website or by phone with a Club Counselor, then there's nothing left for you to do. Bonus: You won't need to call us at the end of the year when our call volumes are at their highest.

– **Lizbeth, Elite Specialist, 3+ years with Hilton Grand Vacations Club**





Dip into the pool at the new The Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Honolulu.

Resolve to Have Fun

Plan your 2017 travel with these Club Member tips

From booking an adventure-packed cruise to saving big bucks on your next stay, check out four new ways to make the most of your Club Membership.

Future Islands

Grab your favorite aloha shirt and be one of the first to stay at The Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations Club in Honolulu, Hawaii. Opening in March 2017, this new 37-story property is the latest addition to the 22-acre Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort. Elegant one-, two- and three-bedroom suites and luxurious two- and three-bedroom penthouses are outfitted with bold, contemporary furnishings and amenities like fully equipped kitchens, private balconies, and washers and dryers. Get your feet wet in The Grand Islander's pool or one

of five additional swimming pools on property, including a 10,000-square-foot superpool, beach and saltwater lagoon, offering swimming, snorkeling and watercraft equipment rentals. Home Week reservations began earlier this year, and all Club Members are now able to make reservations at our newest property on Oahu—don't miss out!

Save Ahead

Don't lose your unused Points! Remaining ClubPoints expire December 31, 2016. Visit the new Club Member website at **club.hiltongrandvacations.com** to review your Points balance on the new Points Summary dashboard. Go to "Manage My Points," then click the "Save Points" link. Use your saved Points for reservations at Club-affiliated resorts during

the Home Resort or Club Reservation windows, and RCI Weekly or Nightly reservations from the date of save through the end of 2017.

App Action

Is the new Hilton Grand Vacations mobile app on your phone yet? Access all the best of Hilton Grand Vacations Club by downloading our new mobile app for Android and iOS devices. Find details about your reservation, on-site activities, dining options and special promotions using the "My Trip" feature. Interact with other Members for insider tips while on property using the "Club Guide" social community. Run out of shampoo or need to get something dry-cleaned? The app can handle that, too, using the "Front Desk Request" option. Download the free mobile app through the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Connect and Save

Tap into exclusive discounts simply by updating your email address on the new Club Member website. Club Members with a valid email address are eligible for offers like discounts on direct cash bookings at any Hilton brand property. Visit **club.hiltongrandvacations.com**, then click "Edit Profile" on the main dashboard and "Update Email Address" on the Primary Account section.



Meet and Greet

Get to know Rob Gunthner

Say “Aloha” to Rob Gunthner, area general manager of Hilton Grand Vacations’ Hawaii resorts. From the first mai tai to checkout, Rob is the person ensuring Club Members always have a flawless experience at Kings’ Land by Hilton Grand Vacations in Waikoloa. *Club Traveler* interviewed Rob about his job and his favorite things to do in the area.

Can you tell us a little bit about what your day is like?

There are very few times when any two days are alike. I typically get to the resort by 7 a.m. to catch up with any time-sensitive requests and check on the resort grounds. Walking past waterfalls streaming over the rocks into the pool, the snow-capped Mauna Kea and the emerald green fairways of the golf course, I know that my day is going to be great. For some of our Members, Hawaii is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we have a huge responsibility to ensure we are making their dreams become realities.

What is something about the resort that many Club Members may not know?

We have a weekly sunset hula dance show on Thursday evenings in our Clubhouse Courtyard. It started out as

a simple hula demonstration but has grown to be an exciting show featuring exotic dance numbers from around the Pacific region and a fire knife dance finale. The entertainers come from the renowned Hula Halau, which has participated in the world-famous Merrie Monarch Hula festival held each April on the Big Island.

Do you have a favorite memory about a Club Member who has stayed at the resort?

One of the great notes I received was from Club Member Michele H., who raved that everyone from housekeeping to bistro servers left an incredible impression with her family. Along with having a blast watching soccer and doing karaoke, she formed a connection with each Team Member by name. Knowing that our Team Members contributed to a Member’s vacation memories and that they felt inspired to tell us is one of the reasons I love my job.

What is your favorite Waikoloa activity to recommend?

We have two incredibly beautiful golf courses here, which I highly recommend. When I have Members who don’t play golf, I recommend they take an Ocean Sports Snorkel Cruise, which departs out of Anaehoomalu Bay within our resort complex. The vistas of the coastline from the boat are amazing, and the snorkeling in the bay is second to none.

Where is your favorite place to eat in the area?

If I want casual, I go to Lava Lava Beach Club at Anaehoomalu Bay—one of the few places in Hawaii you can put your feet in the sand and be served a Lava Flow cocktail during a magnificent sunset. For something more gourmet, head upcountry to Waimea to Merriman’s Restaurant, which is owned by one of the original Hawaiian regional chefs.

Lift Off

Exchange with **The Registry Collection**[®] program
to experience sought-after destinations

Club Members with Elite Premier recognition have exclusive access to **The Registry Collection**[®] program, a service offering exchange access to a collection of luxurious properties around the world. Approximately 200 properties are available through The Registry Collection[®] program and are either accessible for exchange or under development. The program features elegantly appointed accommodations in impeccably maintained surroundings.

Ready to explore exchange vacation destinations or book an exchange vacation with **The Registry Collection**[®] program? Club Members with Elite Premier status can visit club.hiltongrandvacations.com, then click on Elite Exchange Benefits. Interested in becoming a Club Member with Elite status? Call 888-585-9044.



The feeling of fresh powder under your skis or snowboard as you zoom down the trail, with the sun shining and the wind biting your cheeks—what's better than the thrill of hitting the slopes?

Whether you're looking to ski, snowboard or curl up with a cup of hot chocolate, the beauty and splendor of the mountains in Vermont and Colorado are beacons for those looking to embrace winter in all its glory.

Colorado's Christie Club at the base of Mount Werner in Steamboat Springs is a skier's dream. Take advantage of ski-in, ski-out accommodations and 165 ski trails covering 3,000 acres and 3,668 feet of vertical drop. Rise to sweeping views of the mountain from the balcony or patio of your elegant, spacious residence.

Explore dining, shopping and entertainment in nearby Steamboat Springs with recommendations from friendly, attentive staff. Then, wrap up the day by warming up next to the stone fireplaces and unwinding in the heated outdoor pool or jetted spas.

Eastward bound this winter? Escape to a 4,000-acre snowy playground at Clay Brook at Sugarbush in the heart of Vermont's Mad River Valley. Discover immaculate slopes and elegant, rustic accommodations tucked away in a corner of New England.

After you've finished carving up the mountain, relax in the heated outdoor pool surrounded by the serene, secluded wilderness.



Eat Your Heart Out

Discover culinary gems through RCI® affiliated resorts

Eating where locals do when traveling is the best way to peer into the soul of a city. These top culinary destinations shine a light on what chefs do best, often with ingredients right from their own backyards. From brisket and barbecue to oysters and farm-fresh produce, these cities are must-visit destinations for foodies.

NASHVILLE

Though best known for its country stars, Nashville takes its food seriously. Authenticity reigns here, with chefs delivering sophisticated takes on Southern standards like hot chicken and meat & three. Hit hot spots Rolf and Daughters or Husk to find out why Tennessee's capital is setting the standard for hip Southern food, followed by a round of bowling and craft cocktails at Pinewood Social for a taste of local flavor.

AUSTIN

Expect innovation in the Texas capital, known for “keeping it weird.” After all, this is the home of Gour dough’s fried chicken-topped doughnut. You’ll be hard-pressed to pick a favorite among the more than 1,000 unique, kooky food trucks that serve everything from tacos to Thai food. If sit-down spots are more your style, Austin’s restaurants highlight fresh local, seasonal and sustainable ingredients. This is barbecue country, so don’t pass up a visit to Franklin Barbecue or Lamberts for smoked brisket and pulled pork.



PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Strolling along Playa’s pedestrian-only Fifth Avenue, you’ll discover why this Riviera Maya city an hour south of Cancun in Mexico has been a longtime destination for chefs. New restaurants are always popping up, offering a range of flavors from Mexico’s Yucatan and Mayan cuisines. Enjoy favorites like bright, colorful tacos garnished with avocado and homemade hot sauces at Los Aguachiles or try local delicacies like huitlacoche (corn fungus) and Mayan stuffed and pan fried xcatic chiles at Yaxche.

Club Members can use Points to stay at RCI® affiliated resorts in spectacular culinary destinations across the globe. To find resorts in dining destinations, log in to your Club account at club.hiltongrandvacations.com and navigate to the RCI® Exchange site. Then, click “Vacation Ideas” at the top of the page, select “Featured Interests,” and click “Dining” for a list of resorts near culinary cities.

Remember that weekly reservations can be made up to two years prior to check-in. And if the dates you’re looking for aren’t available, you can set up an Ongoing Search* and RCI® will notify you when your ideal vacation becomes available.

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BELFAST

The capital of Northern Ireland is having a culinary renaissance, with renewed pride in its local bounty. Check out some of the nation’s best grass-fed beef, sumptuous artisan cheese and succulent oysters at St. George’s Market, operating since 1604 and housed in a Victorian building dating to 1896. *Game of Thrones* fans can enjoy afternoon tea service inspired by the HBO series at the Ballygally Castle Hotel. For something more innovative, try the experimental tasting menu at Ox restaurant or Irish fusion at Made In Belfast.



*THE CURRENT RCI EXCHANGE FEE IS REQUIRED TO SET UP AN ONGOING SEARCH. THE EXCHANGE FEE MAY BE REFUNDABLE IF NO MATCH IS FOUND, PROVIDED THE MEMBER IS OTHERWISE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. THESE VACATIONS ARE LIMITED AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

Fun in the Sun

Members share their favorite vacation memories



Mark and Julie Hamilton

Club Members since 2009

Featured trip: Marco Island, Florida,
August 2015, The Charter Club
of Marco Beach



“We were looking for a laid-back and relaxing trip, and Marco Island fit the bill perfectly. Although we didn't have much flexibility in our travel dates, the reservation staff helped us find exactly what we needed. As Club Members, we love the flexibility of being able to use both Hilton and RCI properties and the knowledge that the stay will always meet our expectations.

Julie and the boys (Mason and Marshall) did a snorkeling encounter adventure at an aquarium on Marathon Key on our first night in Florida. After driving across Seven Mile Bridge and doing a little shopping in the Florida Keys, we made our way to Marco Island, where we spent a full week at the Charter Club property.

On Marco Island, we took a fishing charter, catching enough grouper and snapper for a couple of nice dinners during the week. While we were out, we spotted dolphins and larger stingrays. The resort offers several catamaran-type sailboats, which we took advantage of for an afternoon sailing trip. We also spent a good bit of time enjoying the beach and the great shelling in the area.

Our family loves the outdoors, so we took a boat ride through a mangrove swamp in Everglades National Park to see herons, pelicans and other wildlife. During an evening thunderstorm, we watched twin water spouts dance over the ocean from the balcony of our unit.

Next up: We are looking at options to use Points to book RCI properties for a two-week trip to Yellowstone and Glacier national parks in 2017, which have both been on our vacation wish list for a while. With only a couple of more summers before Mason heads off to college, we decided it's time to take that trip. Our planning is in the early stages, but we plan to do some sightseeing, hiking and fishing and take ATV or rafting trips.”





Hilton Grand Vacations

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Traveling creates memories that last a lifetime. We're looking for passionate Club Members to share their inspiring stories.

What's your favorite vacation experience with Hilton Grand Vacations?

Send us an email to feedback@clubtraveler.com.



A VACATION STATE OF MIND

