

# **CONTENTS**

























# The East Coast is Calling

Head east for your next adventure with Hilton Grand Vacations



Admire the autumn leaves at Taughannock Falls State Park in New Yor

As the weather cools down, your next adventure is calling. Visit New York City for leaf-peeping in Central Park, shopping in Manhattan and unforgettable performances on Broadway. Soak up Charleston's Southern charm and experience its antebellum architecture, world-class dining and enchanting water views. Head to Myrtle Beach for an oceanside stay, complete with great golfing and ample family fun. Make the holidays magical by visiting Orlando and its famous theme parks. Or perhaps cap off the year with a sensational sunset in Barbados.

When you make your Home Resort at one of these destinations, you'll have priority booking for whenever you want to stay. Get away to the places you've been dreaming of — we'll help.

To explore new ownership options, visit the <u>Club website</u> or call

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# TRAVELER



# Welcome from Stan Soroka

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Dear Club Members,

The arrival of fall marks not only the return of cooler weather, but also a time to reflect on the past year from a perspective of gratitude. As I look back on Hilton Grand Vacations' extraordinary year, I find myself thankful for our Owners and Team Members, and everything we've accomplished together. You inspire us to think bigger, better and brighter, and I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate some of this year's accomplishments with you.

### **Acquiring Diamond Resorts**

In early August, HGV completed the acquisition of Diamond Resorts, resulting in one of the world's largest timeshare companies with a combined portfolio of 710,000 Owners, 154 properties and the broadest range of offerings in vacation ownership. The world of travel continues to evolve and with this acquisition, HGV is better positioned for that future. We continue our work integrating these two amazing companies as part of our phased, multi-year approach. As new membership and timeshare product opportunities become available, I look forward to sharing these with you.

### **Opening More Properties**

Our cover story in this issue of Club Traveler shines a spotlight on Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations. This is one of five new properties we've opened in 2021, the others being Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club (Charleston, South Carolina), La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club (Los Cabos, Mexico), The Central at 5th by Hilton Club (New York City) and The Beach Resort Sesoko by Hilton Club (Sesoko, Japan). Each resort has its own distinctive character and charm, taking cues from its unique surroundings. While varied, they each adhere to the same high levels of quality and service you've come to expect from HGV. I hope you'll have the opportunity to visit one of these new locations soon.

### **Furthering Your Travels**

Speaking of travel opportunities, it's fantastic to see travel demand continue to accelerate. All HGV properties are open and welcoming guests. Domestically, many of us have adapted to the new normal and learned to identify any pre-travel requirements based on our destination. Internationally, we continue to see more borders reopen. In fact, in early November, we started welcoming back many of our Club Members from the United Kingdom and the European Union. It's wonderful that many of you are embracing travel once more.

To further enhance your future vacations, we've packed this issue of *Club Traveler* with a bounty of inspiration. In "The View From Here," we showcase the spectacular sea views that can be enjoyed during a stay at La Pacifica Los Cabos. "Las Vegas: One City, Five Ways" ventures beyond the Strip and explores a whole other world of sophisticated dining, immersive shopping and natural beauty spots. And "48 Hours in New York City" outlines the ideal itinerary for experiencing fall in the Big Apple.

I hope that as you reflect on this past year, you too find things to be thankful for. Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and New Year! Here's to 2022!



### Stan Soroka

Executive Vice President & Chief Customer Officer



# Venture Further

With borders continuing to reopen around the world, consider booking a stay at one of these sought-after destinations outside the United States



# Hilton Vilamoura Vacation Club, Portugal

R. da Torre D'Agua, Vilamoura

Explore the colorful charms of the Iberian Peninsula at Hilton Vilamoura Vacation Club. Thanks to the resort's prime location in Vilamoura, a thriving marina town in southern Portugal, you'll have everything you need within easy reach — from excellent restaurants to top-rated golf courses and high-octane water sports.

Of course, there's also plenty to do within the resort, which sits alongside Hilton Vilamoura As Cascatas Golf Resort and Spa. On-site amenities include five outdoor pools and one covered pool, a fitness center, a golf shop and a recreation room. Enjoy some downtime at the spa, which is the largest and most luxurious in the Algarve. Or simply relax in your 1- or 2-Bedroom Suite, which comes with a balcony and a soaking tub.

As Hilton Vilamoura Vacation Club is in high demand, be sure to plan ahead and book as early as the reservation window allows.



# Hilton Grand Vacations at Borgo alle Vigne, Italy

Via di Casanova, 11, Selvatelles, Pisa

For the quintessential Tuscan experience, book a stay at Hilton Grand Vacations at Borgo alle Vigne. Ensconced in the bucolic countryside, the palazzo-style property offers stellar views of expansive vineyards and verdant olive groves. Minutes away, you'll find top-notch golf courses and picture-perfect beaches. where you can spend an afternoon in the sun. You'll also be a short drive from Florence and Pisa, which are home to must-see attractions - from the majestic Pitti Palace to the worldclass Uffizi Gallery and, of course, the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa.

After an action-packed day, unwind in your 1-, 2- or 3-Bedroom Suite, which features a full kitchen, a washer/dryer unit and a terrace. Or take a dip in the outdoor pool, which overlooks the rolling hills in the distance. Read the <a href="Spring 2020">Spring 2020</a> issue of Club Traveler for a peek at the views you can enjoy from the property.



# Hilton Grand Vacations at the Crane, Barbados

Crane Resorts, Crane, St. Philip

Founded as Barbados' first-ever hotel back in 1887 Hilton Grand Vacations at the Crane - which is situated in the island's easternmost parish of St. Philip - remains the oldest continuously operating resort in the Caribbean today. Despite its oldworld charm, the sprawling 40-acre property offers plenty of modern conveniences, with spacious studios and suites featuring complimentary Wi-Fi and cable TV. There's also a wide range of amenities, including five restaurants, three bars, a day spa, a fitness center and a 1.5-acre cascading cliff-top pool complex.

Right on your doorstep is picturesque Crane Beach, which is renowned for its pink sands and azure waters. Further afield, you'll find historic plantations, rum factories and natural beauty spots such as the paradisiacal Hunte's Gardens, which is filled with an exotic array of tropical flowers and trees.

At the time of writing, <u>Portugal</u>, <u>Italy</u> and <u>Barbados</u> are welcoming vaccinated tourists. Please check official travel restrictions for each destination before your trip. You might be required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test before boarding your flight. If you're a U.S. resident, you'll have to present proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test on your flight back to the country. Visit the <u>CDC website</u> for details.

# **ClubPoints Planning Tips**

# Hilton Vilamoura Vacation Club, Portugal

Platinum Season: 1,440 Points for a 3-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a 1-Bedroom to 7,000 Points for a 7-night stay in a 2-Bedroom
Gold Season: 1,020 Points for a 3-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a 1-Bedroom to 5,000 Points for a 7-night stay in a 2-Bedroom
Silver Season: 720 Points for a 3-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a 1-Bedroom to 3,500 Points for a 7-night stay in a 2-Bedroom

# Hilton Grand Vacations at Borgo alle Vigne, Italy

Platinum Season: 1,440 Points for a 3-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a 1-Bedroom to 11,500 Points for a 7-night stay in a 3-Bedroom Premier Gold Season: 1,020 Points for a 3-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a 1-Bedroom to 9,600 Points for a 7-night stay in a 3-Bedroom Premier

# Hilton Grand Vacations at the Crane, Barbados

Platinum Season: 1,575 Points for a 3-night stay (Mon-Thu) in a Studio Plus to 24,000 Points for a 7-night stay in a 3-Bedroom Ocean Penthouse

Gold Season: 1,125 Points for a 3night stay (Mon-Thu) in a Studio Plus to 17,500 Points for a 7-night stay in a 3-Bedroom Ocean Penthouse



Images: Jake Naughton

# La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club

With exclusive access to 11.3 acres of sugary sand and expansive views of the glittering Sea of Cortés, <u>La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club</u> is a beach lover's dream. Situated on the tip of the Baja Peninsula, within the award-winning Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort, it is the ideal setting for a sun-drenched vacation.

The tropical theme continues in the resort, which features bright, breezy interiors and colorful design elements inspired by Mexican culture. Each of the 74 units come with a plush king-sized bed, a 65-inch TV, and a private balcony or terrace with sweeping ocean views. Elsewhere within the resort, you'll find four swimming pools (two with swim-up bars), a fitness center, seven food and beverage outlets, a full-service spa and salon, and more.

If you're looking to explore the local area, the restaurants, boutiques and galleries of Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo are within easy reach. Alternatively, immerse yourself in nature by horseback riding along the powdery beach, hiking in the majestic Sierra de la Laguna mountains or ziplining across the vast Baja California desert.



Relax on the resort's sun-dappled veranda



Take a refreshing dip in one of the four pools



Enjoy expansive sea views from the comfort of your suite



Colorful artwork adorns the walls of the resort

# **Near the Resort**



Sierra de La Laguna mountains

With its rugged mountains and steep valleys, this UNESCO-protected biosphere reserve is a wonderland for adventurous types. Here, you can go hiking, bouldering, canyoneering and even mountain biking, all while enjoying sweeping Baja California views.



Cabo Real Golf Club

Looking to practice your swing? Play a round or two at this palm-dotted 18-hole golf course, designed by notable American architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. The course sprawls across 2,800 acres with broad fairways that overlook the Sea of Cortés.



Cabo Pulmo National Park

Go swimming, diving or snorkeling at this marine reserve, home to a colorful array of wildlife – from manta rays to dolphins and whale sharks. The park also cradles the oldest of the three coral reefs found on the west coast of North America.



# Las Vegas One City, Five Ways

Words: Alexandra Owens

Venture beyond the Strip and explore the secret sides of Las Vegas – from colorful art festivals to some of the Southwest's most beautiful canyons

From restaurants decked out with <u>authentic Picasso artworks</u> to malls modeled after <u>Venetian canals</u>, Las Vegas does nothing in halves. Yet, there's so much more to this flamboyant city than bright lights, glittering casinos and glamorous nightclubs. Look beyond the buzzing Strip and you'll discover a whole other world of quietly sophisticated dining, under-the-radar nightlife, bluechip art, immersive shopping and natural beauty spots.



Tuck into immaculately plated French fusion dishes at Partage Photo by Sabin Orr

# Food

Some of the best food in Las Vegas can be found off the beaten path. In Chinatown, Yui Edomae Sushi serves fresh sushi using fish flown straight from Japan, and at a fraction of the price it would cost in an establishment just a few blocks east. Next door, Partage creates mouth-watering French fusion dishes like pork glazed with soy sauce and honey, scallops with seaweed chutney and oxtail croque monsieur. For some of the best Thai food in the country — never mind the city — head to Lotus of.

Siam. The restaurant's khao soi (curry noodles), spicy mushroom dip and other Northern Thai delicacies have won numerous awards and received rave reviews from the likes of the James Beard Foundation and Gourmet magazine.

Looking for a snack? Tacos el Gordo has you covered. Its three locations dish up handmade corn tortillas loaded with guacamole and traditional meats such as *suadero* (beef brisket), *carne asada* (grilled beef) and chorizo.



The Laundry Room is a speakeasy-style bar with an entrance concealed behind a bookcase

# Nightlife

Speakeasy-style bars like <u>The Laundry Room</u> – a cozy former laundromat with an entrance hidden behind a bookcase – and <u>Here Kitty Vice Den</u> provide exclusivity without the stress or cost of bottle service. If you want to put on your dancing shoes, <u>On the Record</u> provides a more laid-back experience than the typical mega-clubs, with indoor and outdoor spaces offering plenty of room to bust a few moves.

For a taste of old Vegas, try a specialty sour beer at <u>Atomic Liquors</u>, the city's first freestanding bar. This is where customers once watched explosions taking place in the Nevada desert several miles away, and where the Rat Pack drank after their nightly gigs.



Admire hundreds of eye-catching neon signs at the Neon Museum

# **Arts and Culture**

In recent years, Las Vegas has made a name for itself as an art destination. From contemporary master Ugo Rondinone's brightly painted <u>"Seven Magic Mountains"</u> planted in the middle of the desert to <u>"Akhob,"</u> James Turrell's immersive light installation, the city is full of exciting art. Stop by the 18-block <u>Arts District</u> on First Friday, a free community festival with street performances and food trucks. During this monthly event, thousands of visitors flock to venues like the <u>Arts Factory</u>, which houses the studios of more than two dozen regional artists.

Nearby, the Neon Museum showcases over 250 of the Strip's iconic neon signs – many dating from the 1950s to the 1980s – that once adorned the city's casinos and hotels. Take a guided tour of the Neon Boneyard to learn about trends in design and technology, or visit at night to catch "Brilliant," an immersive musical show that illuminates the history of Las Vegas.



The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace pays homage to classic Roman architecture

# Shopping

Shopping is practically a sport in Vegas. Check out <u>The Shops at Crystals</u> for luxury brands like Louis Vuitton and Prada, or head to <u>The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace</u>, which ranks among the world's <u>highest-grossing malls</u>. Among the latter's 160 boutiques and Roman-themed streetscapes, you'll find <u>Urban Necessities</u>, a wildly popular sneaker shop hawking vintage and rare shoes. And if you're staying at <u>Elara by Hilton Grand Vacations</u>, you'll be glad to know that the resort offers direct access to the <u>Miracle Mile Shops</u>.

For a twist on the modern mall, check out the <u>Downtown Container Park</u>, an outdoor shopping and entertainment complex built from stacked metal shipping containers. Pick up some candy at <u>Sugar Shop</u>, order a personalized airbrushed print at <u>Ziggy's Art Studio</u> or browse designs from local brands and artisans at <u>Third or Arrow</u>.

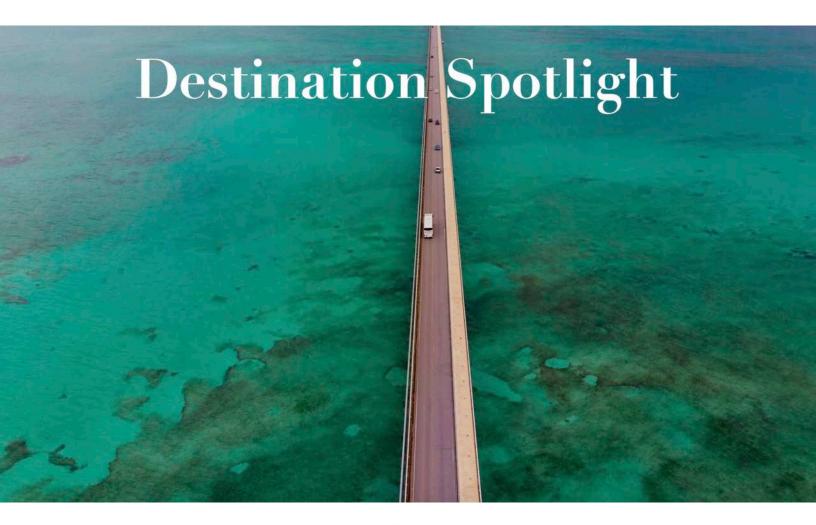


Explore the Colorado River on an inflatable kayak

# Nature

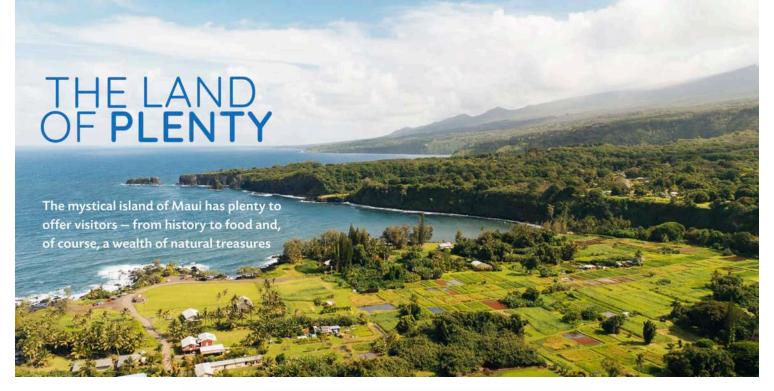
If you need a break from the bustle of the Strip, venture beyond the city limits — some of the most beautiful mountains and canyons of the American Southwest lie within easy reach. With its dramatic sandstone cliffs, seasonal desert waterfalls and Native American petroglyphs, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area remains a favorite with local hikers, climbers and cyclists. Explore the area on foot or hitch a ride with Pink® Jeep Tours.

Further afield, you'll discover the Colorado River, one of the largest rivers in the country. Book a <u>kayaking tour</u> that takes you below the gigantic Hoover Dam, and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife like bighorn sheep — and even bald eagles during the colder months. It's also possible to see the Grand Canyon from here. While the beloved natural wonder is found in Arizona, it's close to the state border and can be accessed on a half- or full-day trip from Las Vegas via <u>helicopter</u>.



# Kouri Bridge, Okinawa Prefecture

Okinawa Prefecture in Japan comprises over 150 islands, some of which are connected by bridges. If you're renting a car on your next trip to the prefecture, be sure to drive the scenic Kouri Bridge (pictured), which is Japan's longest toll-free road bridge at 1,960 meters. It connects Yagaji Island and Kouri Island, which are both easily accessible from Okinawa Main Island. Roll down your windows to take in the spectacular ocean views on either side of the bridge — the striking emerald and cobalt hues of the water have to be seen to be believed.



Words: Kyle Ellison

Photography/Videography: Tanveer Badal

# "Maui is magical ... it's truly an adventurer's haven"

If you visit one beach every day on Maui, it would take you over 60 days to explore all of its shores. Add in hiking trails? Tack on a couple more months. And if you want to fully absorb every facet of the island's rich history and culture? Well, that would take an entire lifetime, which is probably why many visitors return year after year — to pick up right where they left off.

"Maui is magical," says Oren Masserman, a local musician. "Here, I can surf, hike, paddle or dive, before hopping on a mountain bike and watching the sunset on the beach. Having the ocean as a playground is a dream — it's truly an adventurer's haven."





Immerse yourself in nature on Maui

# **East Maui: For Natural Treasures**

Picture pristine beaches, verdant bamboo forests and majestic waterfalls — you'll find all these and more in East Maui, which encompasses the districts of <u>Hana</u> and <u>Kipahulu</u>, as well as the famous <u>Pools of Oheo</u> (Seven Sacred Pools).

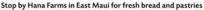
Waianapanapa State Park, which is home to the picturesque black-sand beach at Pailoa, recently instituted a reservation system to combat the growing crowds. If you plan to sink your toes in its soft sands, be sure to book ahead. Do also make time for other East Maui adventures like bodysurfing at Hamoa Beach, spelunking in the Kaeleku Caverns or hiking the four-mile Pipiwai Trail, where you'll have to crane your neck to take in the full beauty of the 400-foot Waimoku Falls.

Above all, remember to tread lightly and with respect when visiting this small community. This means honoring the *kapu* ("no trespassing") signs and being aware of streams and beach conditions, which can change rapidly.



Pailoa Beach is a beautiful black-sand beach in East Maui







Sink your toes into the soft sands of Pailoa Beach



Rambutans for sale at Hana Farms



Maui's Upcountry is famous for its pineapple plantations

# ₾ Upcountry: For a Taste of Farm Life

Set high on the slopes of the Haleakala volcano, Maui's verdant Upcountry region is arguably its best-kept secret. Here, palm trees give way to jacarandas that burst into bloom in the springtime, and *paniolo* (cowboys) rodeo and ride the undulating pastures. This is Maui's farming country, where locals swap their boardshorts for boots and cultivate everything from coffee to cheese.

To literally taste the fruits of their labor, stop by one of the many farms that are open to visitors. Check out O'o Farm for its breakfast or lunch tours, during which you can sip coffee brewed a hundred yards from where it was grown, or dine on gourmet dishes beneath a vine-covered trellis. Savor sweet pineapple on a Maui Pineapple Tour, or sample dollops of artisanal goat cheese at Surfing Goat Dairy. If you're looking for a tipple, head to Maui Wine, Hawaii's oldest winery, where you can enjoy a glass of Syrah in a room that once housed royalty. To ensure a tour is available, we recommend inquiring about reservations in advance.



Meet the goats at Surfing Goat Dairy, which produces award-winning cheeses



Visitors enjoy heading up Haleakala's summit for the glorious sunset views



The sun sets behind a sea of clouds on Haleakala



A farmer inspects his crop on a pineapple plantation on Maui



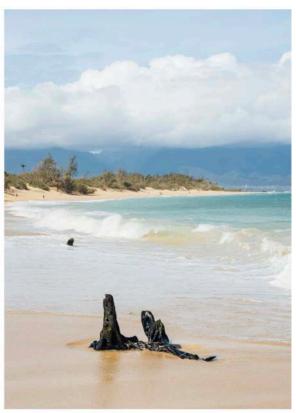
Tuck into dishes such as noodles and rice bowls at Tin Roof

# ★ Central Maui: For Dining and Shopping

While Maui might not have the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Honolulu on Oahu, the Central Maui towns of Wailuku and Kahului certainly hold their own when it comes to a key feature of big-city living — food. Here, you'll discover many local eateries dishing up affordable ethnic cuisine.

Tin Roof is the culinary brainchild of local chef Sheldon Simeon, who rose to stardom after his performance on reality TV show *Top Chef*. There aren't any tables, but locals still queue patiently for dishes like *mochiko* chicken (deepfried chicken) and pork belly rice bowls, which they enjoy in the comfort of their cars. Feeling like Thai food? Head to My\_Thai for classics like *khao soi* (noodle soup). Vietnamese? There's A Saigon Café, where you can tuck into *canh chua* (sweet and sour fish soup).

After filling your belly, head to Market Street in Wailuku for shopping. Check out <u>Native Intelligence</u>, which curates gifts ranging from intriguing books to handcrafted jewelry.



The shoreline at Baldwin Beach is dotted with old tree roots

# ₹ North Shore: For a Road Trip

Arguably Maui's most notable attraction, the <u>Road to Hana</u> is a 52-mile trail that snakes through verdant green jungles and across one-lane bridges, passing numerous waterfalls along the way. This scenic, serpentine journey deserves nothing less than an entire day, so plan accordingly.

To best experience this route, we'd recommend getting an early start and grabbing a quick breakfast of coffee in the chic beach town of Paia. Before setting off, make some time for a quick stroll along <a href="Baldwin Beach">Baldwin Beach</a> — the clarity of its turquoise waters has to be seen to be believed.

During your journey, remember to pull over for locals trying to pass. Also, be sure to park only in designated spots, as heavy fines are handed out to those who stop along the side of the road.



There are many spectacular waterfalls along the Road to Hana



 $\boldsymbol{A}$  roadside stand sells crepes, smoothies, fresh fruit and more



Admire gorgeous landscapes during your road trip

The 225-foot Pioneer Mill smokestack is an unmissable sight

# ₩ West Maui: For a History Lesson

On the surface, West Maui is the postcard-perfect version of the tropics: Think golden beaches, cobalt waves and palm trees that sway gently in the breeze. Dig a little deeper, however, and you'll discover that its fascinating past tells the story of Hawaii's different eras, from pre-contact times through today.

The town of Lahaina — which is perhaps best known for its galleries, shops and enormous banyan tree — was once the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and home to *alii* (traditional nobility). In the 19th century, it was also the whaling capital of the Pacific, where hundreds of ships would anchor just offshore, seeking provisions, company and booze — a stark contrast to the Western missionaries who had recently settled on land.



The Wo Hing Society Hall was originally built to serve the growing Chinese population in Lahaina



The old-school Sugar Cane train transports passengers from Lahaina to Kaanapali



Chinese lanterns line the street leading to the Wo Hing Society Hall



Lahaina's gargantuan banyan tree was planted all the way back in 1873

Talk to any lifelong local and you'll be regaled with tales of how West Maui's slopes were once blanketed with fields of green sugar. Today, the <u>Pioneer Mill</u> smokestack — a reminder of the region's plantation roots — still keeps a watchful eye over the town.

To relive the past, stop by the <u>Lahaina Visitor Center</u> and pick up a map of the <u>Lahaina Historic Trail</u>, which will take you to 62 significant sites — from prisons and prayer sites to forts. This two-hour, self-guided walking tour will shine a whole new light on this thriving town.

# **Maximize Your Maui Vacation**

While at Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations, stop by the front desk and inquire about receiving your Grand Experiences card. This card provides exclusive discounts and offers at participating partner restaurants, activities and attractions. For example, you can explore Maui Ocean Center, a multi-sensory aquarium; dine at Humuhumunukunukuapua'a, an idyllic restaurant set on a floating lagoon; and raise a toast at Maui Brewing Co., a brewery-to-table restaurant offering 36 craft and specialty beers on tap.



Surfing is a popular pastime on Maui



Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations is our newest property in Hawaii

# ₹ South Maui: For Making Your Base

If your idea of the perfect vacation involves sun, sea and sand, make your base in South Maui, which is home to a wealth of beaches. Hugging the coast of Maalaea Bay in Kihei, the newly opened Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations offers easy access to amazing sunset views and some of the island's best stretches of sand.

In addition to peaceful sunrise strolls — you might even see whales breaching in winter — Kihei offers plenty of affordable dining options. Make a pit stop at the food truck park just mauka (inland) of Azeka Shopping Center for barbecued meats, burgers, local-style plate lunch (rice with macaroni salad and a few proteins of choice), tacos and more.

South Maui is also a haven for water sports, including surfing, paddleboarding, snorkeling and diving (often alongside Hawaiian green sea turtles). Just be sure to get out on the water early — conditions are most favorable at the start of the day before the wind picks up.

Clearly, on this magnificent, multifarious island, you can never run out of activities – you can only run out of time.

# **Travel Responsibly in Maui**

Maui is open and welcoming visitors, including nonessential travelers. All incoming guests, regardless of vaccination status, must comply with Hawaii's Safe Travels program. This includes the completion of pre-travel forms and, in some cases, reporting of a negative pre-test taken with a trusted travel partner and uploaded to the state's Safe Travels website prior to departure. Any guest who does not comply with the pre-test or meet the vaccination requirements must observe a mandatory 10-day quarantine upon arrival. Find out more here.

Also, sustainable tourism has surged to the forefront of Maui's visitor industry. Through recent initiatives like the Malama Maui County Pledge, travelers are encouraged to take care of the island by being mindful of wildlife, avoiding dangerous activities like hiking on private land, and respecting the local culture. You can also gain a deeper sense of place by participating in volunteer opportunities through the Malama Hawaii program. By minimizing your travel footprint, you can help safeguard the island's health for years to come — especially since you know you'll want to return someday.

# Capital Gains

Get a whole new perspective of the U.S. capital on these two eye-opening tours

Words: Nell Mauer Illustration: Muti



# By Water

When British explorer John Smith journeyed along the Potomac River in the 17th century, he encountered an "abundance of fish, lying so thick with their heads above the water ... for want of nets we attempted to catch them with a frying pan."

While there are certainly a few fish on the elbow of the 405-mile river that courses through Washington, D.C., on its way to Chesapeake Bay, my tour guide, Hannah McIntosh, is more intrigued by the multitude of water birds she spots. "Hey, it's Eddie the Egret," she says, pointing at an icy-white, long-legged creature as it swoops over our heads. "I see him almost every time I come out."

It's shortly before sunset in Washington, D.C., and I'm paddling the army-green waters of "the Nation's River" – the Potomac's moniker – on a kayak tour with watersports operator <u>Boating in DC</u>. As our group departs from the boathouse in Georgetown, Hannah explains that <u>Key Bridge</u>, the towering, six-arched structure we're gliding under, is the capital's oldest, linking D.C. with suburban Arlington, Virginia.

"Though politicians may claim that D.C. was built on a swamp, it's really this river that has powered it," Hannah continues as we paddle past the lowest section of Georgetown — notable these days for its tranquil <u>Georgetown Waterfront Park</u> and buzzy riverside cafes. According to her, George Washington farmed on the banks of the Potomac a few miles away in Alexandria, and colonial-era tobacco planters shipped their crops back to England from Georgetown via the river. "The push-pull of nature and commerce has always been present in these waters," she says.

As we glide south, Hannah points out the bucolic, tree-filled <u>Theodore Roosevelt Island</u>, telling us that the 88.5-acre park wasn't always so wild. Once home to Nacotchtank people, it later held a 19th-century estate built by the descendants of founding father George Mason, before serving as a U.S. Army camp for free Black soldiers during the Civil War. "During the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration cleaned it up, carved trails and made it into a park dedicated to naturalist president Teddy Roosevelt," she explains.

Rounding the southeastern tip of Roosevelt Island, we spot yet more birds — an osprey perched on a treetop and a green-and-white kingfisher zipping through the air. Then, we unanimously fall silent as the view opens up to reveal the majestic <u>Lincoln Memorial</u> and the equally awe-inspiring <u>Washington Monument</u>. "The monument looks different from the water, doesn't it?" says Hannah. She explains that the obelisk dedicated to the first president is two different shades of white because construction ceased during the Civil War and when builders resumed work after, they couldn't match the stone exactly.

Here, we all pose for a photo, paddles in the air, before traveling back toward Georgetown, but not before making one last stop in front of the gleaming white marble façade of the <u>John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts</u>, which presents over 2,000 shows and events every year. Kennedy was a notable yachtsman and adored being out on the water with his family, Hannah explains.

As the setting sun reflects the 35th President's namesake building on the surface of the river, I realize that, like him, I've fallen in love with the water too.

### What to Do in D.C. if You Have ...



### **One Hour**

Take a stroll along the National Mall, a verdant two-mile stretch starting at the Lincoln Memorial in the west and ending with the U.S. Capitol to the east. Along the way, you'll see attractions like the Washington Monument, the Smithsonian Castle and, if you look north, the south side of the White House.



### **Two Hours**

Start at the <u>U.S. Capitol</u>, where you can book a free guided tour of the historic building. Then continue along the National Mall, where you might have just enough time to pop into the <u>Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History</u> or the acclaimed <u>National Museum of African American History and Culture</u>.



### **Three Hours**

Consider a hop-on, hop-off bus tour to cover more ground. You'll see most of the monuments, some of the downtown area and maybe even the Washington National Cathedral in uptown — hop off to spot the gargoyles (including the one of Darth Vader) on its ornate exterior. For a quick bite, grab a crab cake at Old Ebbitt Grill.

# By Land

A few days later, I trade my water shoes for walking shoes to explore Georgetown on foot. I'm excited to wander around D.C.'s oldest neighborhood via a two-hour tour with Washington Walks. But when I first meet my guide, David Kaplan, he explains that the area actually predates the city of Washington by decades, and that it even functioned as its own municipality until 1871. "It was here because of the Potomac River. Tobacco farmers would bring their wares here to ship back to England," he says. "It wasn't even named for George Washington, but for England's King George II."

David says that by exploring the narrow red-brick sidewalks and shaded lanes of this famous neighborhood, our tour group will get a glimpse of its diverse past. As he explains, "people think of it as this exclusive enclave, but throughout its history, Georgetown was home to working people, freed Blacks and all kinds of characters" — including celebrated chefs, notorious spies and a future president or two.

One of our first stops on the walking tour is the buttercup-yellow, 19th-century clapboard house on **2706 Olive St**, where TV chef Julia Child lived and whipped up meals from 1948 to 1961. During this period, Child – the wife of a diplomat – had yet to attend cooking school in France or star in her own TV show. "But she was known for hosting cooking classes for local women," says David. "Child's only rule was, when their husbands came over to eat the food they'd made during class, the men had to compliment their wives' cooking or they'd get thrown out."

Similarly, the other residences that David shows us highlight Georgetown's long and colorful history. He points out a stately red-brick rowhouse at 3307 N St, where Jackie and John F. Kennedy lived just before moving into the White House in 1961. After Kennedy won the election in 1960, reporters often camped out on the sidewalk, even in the dead of winter — the new president was fond of announcing his cabinet positions right on his front steps. Today, a plaque on a house across the street pays tribute to the neighbors who took pity on the reporters and served them hot coffee.

As we walk back in the direction of the river, David tells us about one of Georgetown's largest and most curious structures, Halcyon House. Work on the brick-and-stone mansion started in the 1780s, but much of the architecture dates to the 1900s. It was then owned by a nephew of Mark Twain, who, says David, "believed that as long as he kept adding on to the house, he wouldn't die. But eventually, I guess he took a day off."

We also pass many houses of worship on our stroll, including the <u>Kesher Israel Congregation</u>, a 20th-century synagogue with marbled green glass windows, and <u>Mt. Zion United Methodist Church</u>, which was established in 1816 and today stands as the oldest Black congregation in D.C.

But the <u>Church of Two Worlds</u>, housed in a decrepit 1906 stone chapel with dusty stained-glass windows, makes the biggest impression. "It's a Spiritualist church, where people go to contact the dead," says David. Visit during an infrequent service and you might find yourself communing with George Washington, an ancient Viking or even some of the neighborhood's famous former residents.

At the end of the day however, you don't need to hold a seance to commune with the past in Georgetown. All it takes is an immersive historical tour like David's to imagine tricorn-hatted colonial merchants haggling over tobacco prices — or even a young Jackie Kennedy pushing a pram down the red-brick sidewalk.



Hone your swing at Rock Creek Golf Park

# Tee Off in Washington, D.C.

Most recent U.S. presidents (except Harry S. Truman and Jimmy Carter) played a little golf around D.C. And at <u>East Potomac Golf Course</u>, the links come with stellar views of the Potomac River and the Washington Monument. It's particularly lovely in the spring, when the area's cherry blossoms burst into bloom.

The par 5, nine-hole course at the <u>Rock Creek Golf Park</u> in upper Northwest D.C. is shaded by mature trees and feels far removed from city life. Don't be surprised to see deer, foxes or even an owl or two if you have an early tee time.

Langston Golf Course, considered the most challenging of the District's public courses, was built in 1939 to serve the city's Black population.

Today, it's popular with golfers from all walks of life. Make time for a meal at its on-site restaurant, which serves hearty Southern breakfasts.



# Plan Ahead

Make the most of your Club membership before the year ends – and get a head start for 2022

# Save Your 2021 Points

Still have ClubPoints to spare this year? Unused ClubPoints from 2021 can be carried over to 2022 – all you'll need to do is save them via the Manage My Points section on the Club website. Saved Points have the same benefits as ClubPoints, except they may not be used to make Home Week reservations or converted to Hilton Honors Points. Alternatively, if you're planning a long year-end vacation, you can always borrow Points from next year's allotment, too.

Important Tip: The deadline to save your 2021 ClubPoints is December 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Avoid the endof-year rush by saving your Points early on the Club website, which can be accessed 24/7.

If you need help from a Club Counselor, please know that you may experience long wait times due to high call volumes. Peak call volume occurs on Monday and Tuesday, so consider calling between Wednesday and Friday.

# Pay Your Fees

Assessment billing season is here once again. Despite Hilton Grand Vacations' acquisition of Diamond Resorts, there will be no change to the way you pay your 2022 Club Dues and maintenance fees. The assessment billing process will be conducted as in previous years, and the same payment options will be available to you. For greater convenience, you can access your statements and pay your fees online — simply follow the steps on this page.

Planning Tip: Payment of your 2022 assessment bill is due by January 1, 2022. Please note that if you are not up-to-date on your account, you may be denied access to your reservation.



Relax in a contemporary studio or suite at The Quin by Hilton Club

# **Start Booking**

Many resorts in HGV's portfolio are in high demand, so we recommend booking well ahead for 2022 trips. Home Week reservations provide Owners with an exclusive booking window that can be helpful when planning a visit to a popular destination. And as a Club Member, you have the opportunity to elevate your vacation lifestyle with a purchase at one of our newest resorts.

We are currently selling inventory for several new and upcoming properties, including La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club, Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club, The Quin by Hilton Club, The Central at 5th by Hilton Club, Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations and The Beach Resort Sesoko by Hilton Club. Explore these new ownership opportunities on the Club website today.

# **Latest Travel Requirements**

Traveling to the continental United States: As of November 8, non-U.S. citizens who are not immigrants to the United States are required to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status before traveling to the country. Fully vaccinated air passengers, regardless of citizenship, continue to be required to show a negative pre-departure COVID-19 test taken no more than three days before their flight. All travelers are also required to provide basic contact information to airlines before boarding flights. For more information, visit the <a href="CDC website">CDC website</a>.

In New York City, guests at HGV properties will require proof of receipt of at least one dose of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine to access certain on-site amenities, including dining and fitness facilities. Local restaurants, museums and entertainment venues also require proof of vaccination.

Traveling to Hawaii: Hawaii is open and welcoming visitors, including nonessential travelers. All incoming guests, regardless of vaccination status, must comply with the state's Safe Travels program. This includes the completion of pre-travel forms and, in some cases, reporting of a negative pre-test taken with a trusted travel partner and uploaded to the state's Safe Travels website prior to departure. Any incoming guest who does not comply with the pre-test or meet the vaccination requirements must observe a mandatory 10-day quarantine upon arrival. Find out more here.

# Happy to meet you



HGV Explorer Jessica M. from Virginia has been an Owner since 2019. "Based on the way I travel, vacation ownership just makes sense," she says. While she enjoys the opportunity to use her ClubPoints to travel with family and friends, she also often flies solo. Click on the icon to discover what she loves most about her Home Resort, Hilton Grand Vacations at Tuscany Village in Orlando.

# Awards Galore!

We're thrilled to share that HGV won several awards in 2021. Firstly, Club Traveler magazine clinched seven accolades at the 2021 Charlie Awards, which honors achievements by magazines published in Florida. These include Charlie awards (the toptier awards) for Best Traditional Illustration, Best Photo Illustration and Best Photography (Single Photo Image); Silver awards for Best Overall Magazine and Best Overall Design; and Bronze awards for Best Design Department and Best Writing/Feature Headlines. This October, the magazine also received its first-ever first-place award in the 2021 Eddie and Ozzie Awards for its Summer 2020 cover design in the Custom Content category. Presented by Folio magazine, the awards recognize editorial and creative excellence in publications across the United States. Check out our award-winning cover.

In addition, HGV has been recognized for our positive workplace culture. We have been named among the Best Places to Work in 2021 by the *Orlando Business Journal* — an exclusive ranking of the top employers in Central Florida. We were also ranked 12th by *Newsweek* and the Best Practice Institute (BPI) on the inaugural "Most Loved Workplaces" list, an annual compilation of the top 100 companies where employees are the happiest and most satisfied at work. This is a shining testament to the positive and meaningful work environment we have fostered over the years.

Our resorts have been in the spotlight as well. Recently, the rooftop plunge pool at <u>Hokulani Waikiki by Hilton Grand Vacations</u> was named among the best in Hawaii by <u>trip101.com</u>.

# **Expanding Our Spirit of Service**

As part of our continuing commitment to give back to the communities where we live and work, we have donated \$100,000 to global nonprofit housing organization <a href="Habitat for Humanity">Habitat for Humanity</a> to aid in the building and repairing of homes across the United States. This will give families and individuals an affordable place to call home, and help them achieve the stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

# Your HGV by the Numbers

2021 has been a year of growth for Hilton Grand Vacations. Be it opening properties in new locations or expanding our footprint at existing destinations, we continue to deliver additional travel opportunities to our Club Members.



The number of new properties we opened in 2021



The number of units added across our new resorts



The number of units added at three of our existing properties



127,020

The number of new units available for booking across our resort portfolio

# New Openings

At Hilton Grand Vacations, we're constantly expanding our global footprint – take a closer look at our five newest properties, which opened their doors in 2021



# 1. La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club, Mexico



Situated on the tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, La Pacifica Los Cabos by Hilton Club is a slice of paradise



The colorful furnishings are inspired by Mexican culture



Many of the studios and suites come with luxurious bathtubs



The resort's pool overlooks the Sea of Cortés

# 2. Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club, South Carolina



The lobby at Liberty Place Charleston by Hilton Club is adorned with local artwork



The resort's elegant decor pays homage to Charleston's antebellum architecture



Step out in style at Liberty Place – the resort's central location means you'll be within easy reach of Charleston's best attractions



The city's scenic waterfront parks are a 20-minute walk from the resort

# 3. The Beach Resort Sesoko by Hilton Club, Japan



With an enticing outdoor pool and easy access to white-sand beaches, The Beach Resort Sesoko by Hilton Club in northern Okinawa is ideal for a laid-back vacation



The resort's suites feature bright, contemporary interiors



Some bedrooms come with spectacular sea views

# 4. The Central at 5th by Hilton Club, New York City



The Central at 5th by Hilton Club in New York City features spacious Studios and 1-Bedroom Suites



The resort is characterized by sleek, contemporary decor



Housed in a 34-story tower, The Central at 5th is a striking addition to the Manhattan neighborhood

# 5. Maui Bay Villas by Hilton Grand Vacations, Hawaii



Take a dip in the resort's outdoor pool, which will also feature a pool bar once construction is complete



The resort is decked out with furniture made from natural materials like wood and rattan



Each suite comes with a well-equipped kitchen, so you can easily make your own meals



Discover why Maui Bay Villas is the perfect base for your next Hawaii vacation

# 48 hours in ... New York City

Fall is a truly magical time in the Big Apple - here's what the city has to offer during this time of year.

Words: Rachel Eva Lim

Fall is a truly magical time in the Big Apple - here's what the city has to offer during this time of the year



# Day one 10 A.M.

Start your morning with an invigorating bike ride along the Hudson River Greenway, which runs along Manhattan's west side. The greenway features a dedicated cycling path and offers outstanding river and skyline views, as well as plenty of fall foliage. Rent a Citi Bike near Battery Park - the trail's southernmost entrance point - and begin cycling uptown.

### 12 P.M.

Once you've worked up an appetite, exit the greenway and head to Barney Greengrass on the Upper West Side. This historic Jewish institution has been feeding the neighborhood with its silky smoked fish, bagels and matzo ball (dumpling) soup since 1908. Another local favorite is casual

Mexican joint El Mitote, where you can fuel up with fish and steak tacos, plus a warming bowl of pozole (pork and hominy stew).

### 2 P.M.

End your meal on a sweet note at Levain Bakery, located a short stroll away. Grab one of its enormous cookies, which pair particularly well with a cup of hot chocolate from the nearby Jacques Torres Chocolate. Then, head a few blocks east to Central Park for some leaf-viewing action. The sprawling urban oasis comes alive in the fall, with its lush trees ablaze in fiery shades of red, orange and yellow.

### 5 P.M.

Drop by your studio or suite at The Quin by Hilton Club to freshen up before grabbing a cab to Greenwich Village. First, swing by Dante - currently No. 2 on the World's 50 Best Bars list - to sample its seasonal fall cocktail menu. Then, head a few blocks west to charming Via Carota for dinner. Tuck into comforting Italian favorites such as velvety cacio e pepe (cheese and pepper pasta), arancini (stuffed rice ball) and grilled octopus served with green olive pesto.



8 P.M.

With Broadway set to reopen this fall, you would be remiss not to catch a show during your time in the Big Apple. Besides the starstudded musicals and plays, consider checking out a smaller Off-Broadway show, laughing along with stand-up comedians at the Comedy Cellar, or taking in an immersive performance like "Sleep No More" or "SCAM New York."

# Day two .A.M.

For breakfast, ride the subway to Abraço in the vibrant East Village. This cozy neighborhood café and bar bakes some of the best olive oil cake in the city. Grab a slice — along with the frittata of the day if you're feeling particularly hungry — and enjoy it with the café's signature cortado.



# 11 A.M.

It's time for some museum hopping. The New Museum is Manhattan's only dedicated contemporary art museum and puts on a rotating series of exhibitions that highlight lesser-known, cutting-edge artists. Nearby, you'll also find the International Center of Photography and the Tenement Museum. The former is dedicated to showcasing the best of photography and visual culture, while the latter chronicles the lives of the area's immigrants during the 19th and 20th centuries.

### 2 P.M.

The Lower East Side is known for its tasty eats, so you'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to lunch. For a languorous meal, feast on pork buns, dumplings and rice rolls at Nom Wah Tea Parlor, one of the city's top dim sum establishments. Alternatively, make your way to Xi'an Famous Foods for a steamy, spicy plate of hand-pulled noodles slathered in a fiery sauce. If all you want is the perfect New York slice, then a visit to Scarr's Pizza should be in the cards.

### 7 P.M.

Stay in Williamsburg and end your day with a sumptuous Peruvian meal at the Michelin Bib Gourmand-rated Llama Inn. The colorful restaurant dishes up contemporary takes on classic flavors, such as octopus ceviche with togarashi (Japanese spice blend) and crispy squid, and lomo saltado (stir-fried beef) with scallion pancake, avocado and pickled chilis. Wash everything down with Chimpin' Ain't Easy, a potent cocktail made with Amontillado sherry, mezcal and Oaxacan rum.

### 4 P.M.

Take a post-lunch subway ride across the river to <u>Brooklyn</u>
<u>Brewery</u> in Williamsburg. Sign up for a tour to get a closer
look at the brewing process and to sample limited
releases and experimental beers. If you want to indulge in
some retail therapy, many of Brooklyn's best boutiques —
such as <u>Line & Label</u>, <u>Awoke Vintage</u> and <u>ID Menswear</u> —
are a stone's throw from the brewery.





Looking to inject some adventure into your next vacation? Use your ClubPoints to book an action-packed excursion with our ClubPartner O.A.R.S., which is one of the world's most respected outfitting companies. With trips spanning from the Arctic to the Amazon, the possibilities are boundless. Here are three ideas to get you started.

# Whitewater Rafting in California

For a classic Californian whitewater experience, O.A.R.S. organizes kid-friendly rafting trips on the <u>South Fork</u> of the American River near Sacramento. Navigate a series of spectacular granite rocks and boulders as you speed along the river. For a more high-octane experience, head to the <u>Middle Fork</u> of the river instead, where you'll find the legendary Tunnel Chute — a steep chasm of frothy, churning water that segues into a 90-foot rock tunnel.



O.A.R.S. organizes adrenaline-pumping whitewater rafting adventures

# Hiking in Arizona

Explore the Grand Canyon from rim to river on a <u>guided hiking trip</u> with O.A.R.S. During the 4-day excursion, you'll get to visit landmarks like Walnut Canyon and Sunset Crater, before lacing up your hiking boots for the headline activity: A 17-mile adventure to and from the Colorado River via the South Kaibab and Bright Angel Trails. After all that exertion, you'll get to celebrate your accomplishments with a much-deserved five-star dinner on the canyon's South Rim.



Hike the dramatic landscapes of the Grand Canyon with O.A.R.S. Image by Galyna Andrushko/Shutterstock

# Fly Fishing in Idaho

As the name suggests, Salmon River in Idaho offers some of the best fly fishing in the United States. If you're lucky, you can catch up to 40 cutthroat trout per day, with some fish measuring up to 18 inches in length. The river is also replete with other species — including native rainbow trout, mountain whitefish and bull trout — making for a hugely rewarding fishing experience. Sign up for a 6-day trip with O.A.R.S., whose experienced guides promise to create the fishing trip of a lifetime.



With O.A.R.S., you can cast your line at some of the best fly fishing spots in the United States Image by Jay Miller/Unsplash

# **Booking Tips**

Current-year, Saved or Borrowed ClubPoints and/or Bonus Points may be exchanged for O.A.R.S. travel certificates, which are valid for two years. The current value per \$100 travel certificate is 1,000 Points. In addition, Club Members receive a 10% discount on published rates for most O.A.R.S. adventures (except Grand Canyon itineraries).



With a world of travel possibilities to explore, where do you even start? With these tips from your RCI Travel Guides, it's easy to plan your dream trip and embark on a brandnew adventure.

# Be an Early Bird

RCI members can book up to two years in advance for 7-night vacations, and up to 10 months in advance for nightly stays. If you're traveling during the holidays or school breaks, be sure to plan early.'

### Stay Flexible

Instead of focusing on a specific resort, widen your search to include the surrounding region. Chances are there'll be other attractive resorts that fit your needs.

### Keep the Search Going

When you set up an Ongoing Search, RCI will do all the hard work for you. We'll search 24/7 for your dream vacation based on the criteria you've specified. If your plans change, you may alter your search at any time without losing your spot in the queue.

### **Explore Gift Options**

Give your loved ones the gift of travel with a Guest Certificate, which lets them plan their own trip. The individual named on the certificate will get to check in at an RCI-affiliated resort booked through your RCI account.<sup>3</sup>

# **Protect Your ClubPoints**

Skip the cancellation worries and add Points Protection to your RCI exchange.<sup>4</sup> You'll get a full refund on your ClubPoints if you need to cancel your trip for any reason.

Traveling with RCI is easier than ever when you're a Hilton Grand Vacations Club Member. Whether you're looking for a quick city break or planning to visit a winter wonderland, RCI Travel Guides are ready to help you map out your next vacation. Just follow these simple steps:

# **Get Started:**

- Log on to your <u>Club Member Dashboard</u>.
- Under Club Member Benefits, locate RCI and click <u>Explore your vacation options with RCI</u> to link to your RCI subscribing member account.
- Alternatively, call 800-932-4482 to speak directly with an RCI Travel Guide.

