

WorldMark
BY Trendwest

Destinations

A Magazine Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

November 2005

Have a blast in

Baja Mexico

Doing
Rosarito Beach

What to see, do, eat...and how
to pop the question

Win a Seven-day Ski Vacation for Four

in spectacular Mont Tremblant, Quebec



PHOTO COURTESY OF STATION MONT TREMBLANT

Enter the **Friends First Ski Vacation Sweepstakes** for your chance to win a week with three friends in Mont Tremblant, *Ski* magazine's #1-rated ski resort in eastern North America. With 94 downhill runs in the spectacular Laurentian Mountains, this European-inspired resort caters to skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels. Other activities include horse-drawn sleigh riding, ice climbing, tubing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and dogsled riding.

Get one entry for each qualified referral you submit by **December 31, 2005** (See official rules below; estimated odds of winning: 1:100,000, depending on number of eligible entries received.)

THE INCREDIBLE PRIZE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- **Roundtrip airfare** for four to Mont Tremblant, Quebec
- **Seven nights ski-in/ski-out accommodations** at Les Suites Tremblant
- **Car rental**
- **Lift tickets** for four for the entire length of your stay
- **\$1,500 USD** spending money
- **An \$8,200 USD retail value!**

FRIENDS *first*
— by WorldMark

**Enter today! Call 1-877-77-FRIEND (1-877-773-7436)
or e-mail friendsfirst@worldmarktheclub.com**

Official Ski Vacation Sweepstakes Rules. NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS SWEEPSTAKES.

CONSUMER DISCLOSURE:

Sweepstakes is open only to WorldMark, The Club owners who submit qualified referral names and are U.S. residents in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Utah or Washington or the Canadian province of British Columbia. WorldMark® owners are eligible to one entry for each qualified referral submitted to Trendwest® between October 1, 2005 at midnight PST and December 31, 2005 at midnight PST. Qualified referrals must be between the ages of 25-75 with a combined annual income of \$35,000 or more. You may send in additional referrals and receive additional entries by writing to Attn: Friends First Sweepstakes, 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052. If you wish to enter the sweepstakes but do not wish to provide referrals, you may do so by mailing a 3"x5" card with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to Attn: Friends First Sweepstakes, 9805 Willows Road NE, Redmond, WA 98052. Owners' referrals must be received by December 31, 2005 at midnight PST to be entered into drawing. Prize is guaranteed to be given away by random drawing. Drawing to be conducted by the Major Prize Coordinator and will be held on January 20, 2006 at Trendwest Resorts' Redmond, WA, corporate headquarters. Grand Prize: One winner will receive coach airfare for four to Montreal, Canada; seven-nights' accommodation for four at Les Suites Tremblant resorts in Tremblant, Quebec, Canada; four seven-day ski lift tickets; \$1,500 (U.S. funds) in spending money; and a rental car for the entire vacation period. Total estimated retail value \$8,200 (U.S. funds). Air travel and accommodations are subject to availability and must be booked through Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511. All ticketing is final. Transportation to and from airports of departure and arrival, applicable departure taxes and expenses not covered in this disclosure are the responsibility of the prize winner. Vacation must be taken within one year of prize acceptance. Winner may also choose \$5,000 (U.S. funds) in cash instead of the Mont Tremblant ski vacation prize. Prize is non-transferable. Estimated odds of winning are 1:100,000, depending on number of eligible entries received. Winner will be notified by certified mail. Prize must be claimed within 45 days of notification. Winner must agree to the use of pictures, name and/or statements for future promotional purposes without further payment or consideration. Sponsor(s) is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury of any kind resulting from acceptance of this prize or participation in this promotion. Trendwest Resorts and Cendant Corporation employees and/or associates are not eligible to claim prize. A list of prize winners may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Winners List, c/o TRI, PO Box 97054, Redmond, WA 98073-9754. Sponsor: Trendwest Resorts, Inc., 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052. You may decline future sweepstakes mailings by writing to us at: Trendwest Resorts c/o Sweepstakes Opt-Out, 9805 Willows Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052.

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PHOTO COURTESY ROSARITO TOURIST BUREAU



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PHOTO BY PAULA MCDONALD



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Down to the Essentials

AUTUMN HAS BEEN a sobering season so far. With the onslaught of Hurricane Katrina before Labor Day weekend—very much affecting our WorldMark resort and extended Cendant family—and the general state of unrest in the world, it's been a daunting task to find silver linings anywhere. Times like these, however, tend to whittle life down to what is truly essential. And the lesson seems to be this: All we really have is each other. Family and friends are what matter. It behooves us to hold tight to our loved ones, and to take time, share time, and spend time together.

That's what WorldMark by Trendwest has always been about—wonderful

destinations and experiences that allow you to take a break from the workaday world, relax, and get back in touch with who and what actually matter. Your letters tell us, over and over, that your WorldMark ownership has enabled you to spend time, share experiences, and create memories that otherwise would not have been possible.



Sometimes it eased the way during a major transition in life: birth, death, illness, matrimony, reunion, renewal. And sometimes it made a dream come true or made the trip of a lifetime possible.

Whatever your WorldMark ownership means to you on any given day, it is an incredible privilege for us to provide, maintain, and improve the resource. The mandate of responsibility for your ownership experience is a tremendous one. We don't take it lightly. Every day we vow to do better and see if we can bring something new, enhanced, or value-added to the table.

November brings Thanksgiving, and here at WorldMark we know what we're thankful for: you. Thank you for placing your trust in us and for letting us play such an important role in your lives. We value every one of you and are honored that you've chosen to be a part of our family. We'll continue to do our best to help you spend more joyful, cherished time with your own.

Beáta Jachulski Baker
Senior Editor

COMING NEXT MONTH: Winning entries in 2005 *Destinations* Photo and Essay Contest; 2006 WorldMark budget; Footloose in Thailand; Palm Springs Follies; cruises.

Destinations

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Comments are appreciated

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INVENTORY SPECIALS: AN AMAZING, ONGOING OFFER



WORLD MARK ESTES PARK, COLORADO



Inventory Specials is a plain name for a terrific deal.

Instead of sitting empty, selected unreserved WorldMark units can be booked for just four cents per credit, up to 60 days in advance. That means you've got time to plan a super-cheap getaway.

For years, savvy owners have been squirreling away their credits and snapping up stays at their favorite resorts—or discovering new ones—for a song. Interested? Here are December's specials.

DECEMBER—MIDWEEK AND LIMITED WEEKENDS

Angels Camp, CA
Bison Ranch, AZ
Branson, MO
Clear Lake, CA
Estes Park, CO
Galena, IL
Grand Lake, OK
Lake of the Ozarks, MO
Pinetop, AZ
Running Y, OR
Windsor, CA

DECEMBER—MIDWEEK ONLY

Arrow Point, ID
Bass Lake, CA
Bear Lake, UT
Birch Bay, WA
Eagle Crest, OR
Lake Chelan, WA
Ocean Walk, FL
Rancho Vistoso, AZ
Reno, NV
Seaside, OR
St. George, UT
Surfside, WA
Victoria, BC
Wolf Creek, UT

WHAT'S THE COST?

You can find a resort's credit values in your *Daily Vacation Credit Values* booklet or through the Resort Gallery on the WorldMark Web site (www.worldmarktheclub.com). The Resort Gallery link is on the homepage, left column. Simply multiply the resort's credit values by .04 to find out its midweek and weekend rates.

GUIDELINES

- Inventory Specials are typically offered for midweek-only stays (Sunday–Thursday), but sometimes they include weekends (Friday and Saturday).
- For yourself or a guest, you may book units up to 60 days in advance. You may book more than one unit, and for five or more consecutive nights.
- You may have more than one reservation at a time.
- Holidays are excluded. Next month's exclusions are **Dec. 23, 24, 25, 30, and 31.**
- Charge is four cents per credit value (\$20 minimum) for nights booked.
- Inventory Specials cannot be waitlisted.
- Regular credit reservations guidelines apply to cancellations.
- Specials are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, based on availability.
- Occupancy and/or sales tax may apply.
- Units must be booked by the Vacation Planning Center, and cannot be booked online.
- Guidelines for Inventory Specials are subject to change.

To make reservations and for more information, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103. **Availability changes constantly!** Keep abreast of the latest Inventory Specials in this monthly magazine (excluding January) or—for the latest updates—go to www.worldmarktheclub.com and click on “Owner Specials.”

your club

Dear WorldMark Owner:

I, ALONG WITH all the Trendwest employees, watched the human tragedy that ensued on the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. As part of the Cendant Timeshare Resort Group (CTRG) team we immediately developed ways to help owners and employees whose lives had been affected by the storm.

CTRG put forth an extraordinary effort to contact and assist their owners and employees in the hurricane's brutal aftermath. Efforts to locate them included advertising a special toll-free hotline (1-866-827-2347). Many of the displaced were moved into Cendant hotels, resorts, and other temporary housing.

A special fundraising campaign was immediately established on behalf of the American Red Cross Hurricane 2005 Relief Fund. Through this fund, the Cendant Charitable Foundation is matching employee donations up to an aggregate \$500,000. Cendant groups are also working with key agencies, providing access to housing and rental vehicles for emergency response personnel moving into the area to coordinate relief efforts.

WorldMark New Orleans at Avenue Plaza was not badly damaged, but it will be closed for an undetermined period of time. While we intend to open the doors of this resort as soon as possible, our first priority is providing shelter and comfort to those individuals who need our best efforts right now.

I encourage you to visit the New Orleans resort page on the WorldMark Web site—www.worldmarktheclub.com—for the timeliest information about its progress. I appreciate your patience while we ready this resort for your arrival. In the meantime, our vacation planning counselors will be happy to suggest alternate locations for your next vacation.

Thank you for being part of the Trendwest and WorldMark family.

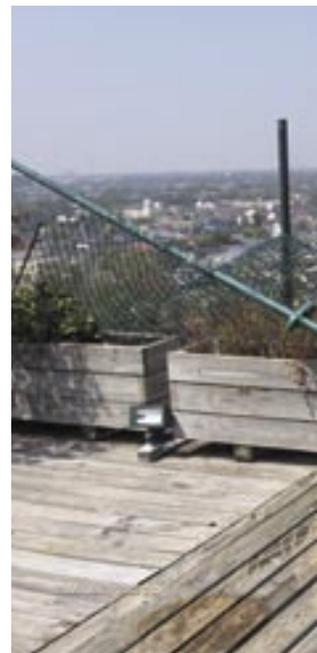


DAVID HERRICK, Senior Vice President
Trendwest Resort Management & WorldMark Resort Operations



Above: Restoration at WorldMark New Orleans begins with awning replacement. Right: Katrina took a mighty swat at the resort's rooftop deck. Photos by Karla Kross. Far right: Members of the evacuated Washington and Holland families in a new apartment in California. Photo by Nadine Luke.

Orlando-based project manager for CTRG, Karla Kross, was relieved to discover relatively minimal destruction to WorldMark New Orleans at Avenue Plaza. Damage primarily consisted of broken windows, peeling paint, shredded furniture, and soggy carpeting. After her inspection—which took place September 20, three weeks after Katrina hit—cleanup immediately commenced and a repair schedule was devised.



Finding Shelter with WorldMark

WorldMark's aid to owners affected by Hurricane Katrina did not end with the evacuation of the WorldMark New Orleans resort, which was successfully accomplished as soon as the threatening path of the storm had been determined. Once the tempest had wreaked its havoc, requests for aid—and offers to help—began to emerge from within the WorldMark family.

It started with one owner from California asking if it was possible to donate credits to help hurricane victims. Then it was brought up on the WorldMark Vacation Forum. By September 30, WorldMark owners had donated 100,000 credits to support those displaced by hurricane destruction.



Among those receiving assistance were California owners Nadine and Gerald Luke, whose relatives—the Lewis, Washington, Holland and Dobard families—had 11 members needing to leave New Orleans. The Lukes made reservations for all at WorldMark Grand Lake in Oklahoma, 800 miles away. “I told my family that I understood they had been through a very trying time

and I knew they were tired and the children were restless,” says Nadine. “But if they could make it to Oklahoma, my husband and I could pay for them to stay at our resort for one week.”

Upon learning of the situation, Trendwest management sprang into action. “I received the call when I was in a meeting at work, informing me that Trendwest management had agreed to help my family for an additional two weeks, free of charge,” Nadine recalls. “My team thought I had lost my mind because I started praising God and crying.”

She adds: “I am so impressed with WorldMark. The staff at Grand Lake embraced my family and made an everlasting impression on their lives. The community as a whole demonstrated the kindness of the human spirit.”

Grand Lake resort manager Randyl Kriner also noted the whole town's good will toward the guests. “They had all arrived in two family cars from New Orleans, which of course had Louisiana plates. One day they drove to the drugstore to get prescriptions filled. Several people saw the plates and rolled down their car windows to ask them if they were okay and was there anything they could do to help.”

After their weeks at WorldMark Grand Lake, the Lewis and Dobard families drove to El Paso, Texas, where they have settled into new apartments. When the time came for the Washingtons and Hollands to leave, Grand Lake restaurateurs Joyce and Larry Duke from The Shebang restaurant provided a stretch limo for their 82-mile ride to the Tulsa airport. “Everyone treated them like royalty!” Nadine says. The two families flew to Lancaster, California, to camp out with the Lukes. All are now established in their own residences. ❖



your club

A Quick Guide to the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM

Earning **1,000 permanent vacation credits** for your real estate transactions is simple! Here are a few answers to the most common questions about the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM:

- ❖ The WorldMark Vacation Credits awarded are regular **permanent premier vacation credits**—just like the credits you originally purchased.
- ❖ You can earn a block of 1,000 credits for the purchase of a home or a block of 1,000 credits for the sale of a home. If you are buying **and** selling, you could earn a total of 2,000 permanent credits!
- ❖ Credits are placed into your WorldMark account approximately two to three weeks after the close of escrow. These credits will be renewed annually on your original anniversary date.
- ❖ The credits are paid for by the real estate broker(s) to whom we refer you. This is their—and our—way of thanking you for your business.
- ❖ The process is simple: Fill out a real estate referral form online at <http://www.worldmarktheclub.com/owners/realestate.shtml>, or call us toll free at **1-877-869-9672**. We'll pass your information to a participating local broker servicing the area you are selling from, or buying into. The broker will assign a pre-qualified agent to contact you directly, usually within 24 hours.
- ❖ If you proceed to the close of escrow with that agent, the broker will contact us; we, in turn, send final paperwork to you for your signature. Your credits are added to your account when your signed papers are received.

Call the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM toll free at **1-877-869-9672** today!

Transaction must be initiated through Trendwest's Real Estate Referral Office to qualify. Vacation credits will be available only to WorldMark members who register first with Trendwest and have been referred to the participating local broker by the Trendwest Real Estate Referral ProgramSM. Owners going directly to the individual real estate brokers without referral will not be eligible to partake in this offer. Some transactions may not be eligible. Program may not be available in all areas.

SOLD

WINNERS

Hal and Deb Crisco of McRae, AZ, won a three-night WorldMark stay when we selected their completed resort comment card in our drawing for September. In our online booking incentive drawing, our latest winners are **Donald and Michelle Hall of Hillsboro, OR**. They will receive a seven-night stay at the WorldMark resort of their choice.

Want more vacation? Make your reservations online and fill out those resort comment cards—your name could be drawn next!

SEASONAL POOL CLOSINGS



Some of your club's outdoor pools situated in colder climates will be closed from November through March. These closures—a result of minimal use by owners during the inclement weather season—help conserve energy and reduce operating costs.

Outdoor pools will be closed for the season at Bass Lake, Bear Lake (indoor pool remains open), Big Bear, Birch Bay (indoor pool remains open), Bison Ranch, Branson, Grand Lake, Lake of the Ozarks, Lake Tahoe, Mariner Village, Park Village, Pinetop, Reno, South Shore, Steamboat Springs (indoor pool remains open) and Wolf Creek.



Your first **\$89**
year is only **\$106 CAD*** USD

\$1[†]
and your
second year
is only

RCI Vacation News
November 2005

Vacation. It's a magical word.

And RCI can help you find the perfect retreat.

Okay, is it going to be the mountains or the beach? A fall getaway or a spring fling? Do you like to go someplace completely different from one vacation to the next, or are you the tried-and-true type who prefers the familiar? Anyway you like it, RCI strives to accommodate your vacation wishes.

You like sun and sand? We've got sun and sand – in lots of different places. Your WorldMark/RCI Guide can suggest some great locales you might not know about. If you're looking for something a little cooler, weather-wise, think mountain states. Or plan to travel at a time of year when warm destinations catch a break from the heat.

Vacations are a great time to indulge in activities you usually don't have time for. You might want to take a golf lesson to perfect your swing. Or do some serious antiquing. Maybe you'd like to try out something new. If you find out you don't

like cross-country as much as downhill skiing, for instance – well, now you know.

Do you crave a vacation that allows different members of your party to do different things? We'll help you find that too. Your teenager wants to sleep till noon? Your mom is up at the crack of dawn combing the beach for the perfect seashell? And all *you* want to do is take advantage of the fresh air and read a good book? Call. We'll help you find nirvana.

At RCI, we think your vacation should be as unique as you are. We also think you should have the great resort amenities that let you relax in total comfort. As the world's largest resort exchange network, our roster includes everything from exotic international destinations to places you can drive to in just a few hours. So whatever experience you desire, you can be sure that RCI has it – and can help you get it.

This Month's Featured Destinations:



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



Surfside Beach, South Carolina



Breezy Point, Minnesota



Brechin, Ontario, Canada

**Let RCI guide you to the vacation
you've been wanting. Join now!**

Call 1-800-585-4833.



*Prices may vary based on exchange rate.
†Current RCI and Interval International, Inc. customers are not eligible.

Here are some exciting destinations to put on your vacation short list.

With so many RCI-affiliated resorts available around the globe, it's hard to imagine all the places you can vacation. Following are just a few of the thousands of great choices. For more, visit RCI.com – and enjoy!



↑ Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

1

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Pure magic! "PV" is set on Mexico's Pacific Coast, where the beaches are golden, the weather gorgeous. There are mountains and rainforests. Fabulous shopping and dining. Lively outdoor markets. Great nighttime entertainment. It's enough to make you want to stay forever! And better yet, Puerto Vallarta has many all-inclusive resorts that make vacationing even more laid back.

- > Head straight to the beach – **Playa Los Muertos** is a favorite. Get a temporary tattoo or hair braids. Dine on the beach. Enjoy a strolling guitar.
- > Stroll through the **Zona Romantica**, the "Old Town" where you'll find a charming mix of shops, galleries and restaurants.
- > Get a bird's-eye view of the jungle. Take a **canopy tour** and ride on a network of zip lines from treetop to treetop.
- > Take a **bike trip** up the Rio Cuale canyon.
- > Catch a water taxi to **Yelapa**, a primitive village accessible only by boat. Hike up to the waterfalls or go on horseback.
- > Head south of town to **Playa Mismaloya**, a serene cove that's perfect for snorkeling.
- > Spend a few hours at **Chico's Paradise**, a restaurant/bar hidden away in the jungle with awesome mountain views.
- > For a spectacular, romantic meal, the **Café des Artistes** is worth a trip in itself.
- > Stroll the historic waterfront boulevard known as the **Malecón**.
- > Grab your **snorkeling** gear and head to Quimixto, a beach just south of the city.
- > Play **golf** on one of Puerto Vallarta's seven championship courses.
- > Go snorkeling, diving, or boating at **Los Arcos**.
- > Take a **thrilling horseback ride** along the shore or into the mountains.



2 Surfside Beach, South Carolina

2

Surfside Beach, SC

A fabulous home base for beachcombing along the "Grand Strand"! Now

that the crowds are gone, explore this 60-mile stretch of white sand that includes everything you could hope for in a vacation – nature, history, great food, and fascinating things to do.

- > Surfside Beach is lovely and serene. Take a **quiet stroll**, look for shells, and listen to the surf.
- > Ready for some bodacious fun? Head to lively **Myrtle Beach**, just up the road.
- > Nearby points of interest: **Murrells Inlet**, once a hideout for pirates; **Pawleys Island**; and **Georgetown**, founded in 1729.
- > **Golf, anyone?** There are more than 100 championship courses in the vicinity.
- > Catch your dinner! The **fishing** is great for red snapper, grouper, sea bass, and king mackerel.
- > Visit nearby **Beaufort** to see its graceful antebellum mansions.
- > This coastal area is home to the **Gullah**, of African ancestry. Take time to learn about their amazing culture, language, and music that survives even today. Be sure to sample Gullah cuisine, especially if you love seafood. And take home a hand-made sweetgrass basket.

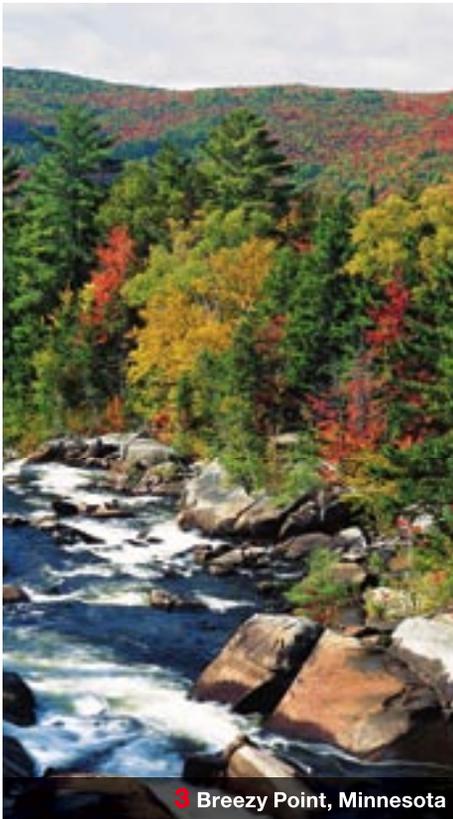
3

Breezy Point, MN

Think of Paul Bunyan and his faithful blue Ox, Babe. North-central

Minnesota is the stuff of legends – rugged, strong, and beautiful.

- > The topography is unbeatable for **winter sports**, including cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing.
- > **Big Pelican Lake** and **Whitefish Lake** are nearby. Spend your days island hopping or boating on the clear blue water.
- > Take a drive along an old logging road or **scenic byways**. While you're out and about, check out Frank Lloyd Wright's gas station (The R. W. Lindholm Service Station) in nearby Cloquet. Don't miss a drive to Split Rock Lighthouse, resting on a cliff over Lake Superior.
- > Ride a snowmobile along the 100-mile-long **Paul Bunyan Trail**, which follows a 19th century rail line. You'll meander past lakes, wetlands, rivers, streams, and scenic towns.
- > Treat yourself to some **home-style cooking** at the diners that dot the landscape.



3 Breezy Point, Minnesota

4

Brechin, Ontario, Canada

You say you want to get away from it all? To a place where nature is in full glory? We have

just the place for you. Just 80 miles north of Toronto, Brechin sits on the sandy, unspoiled shores of Lake Simcoe.



4 Brechin, Ontario, Canada

- > Brechin is in the heart of Ontario's **ski country** – and the season starts around mid-November! You'll find everything from downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling.
- > Make time for a visit to **Georgian Bay Islands National Park**. This tiny park stretches along the eastern shoreline of Georgian Bay and is one of the most picturesque places in the world.
- > **Casino Rama** is a popular hot spot for entertainment and gambling.
- > For upscale dining and nightlife, head to nearby **Barrie**. Dance the night away, take in a sporting event, or try your luck with live harness racing and slots.
- > Ready for an urban break? Take a day-trip to sophisticated **Toronto**, just 80 miles away.

You need an Extra Vacation? We've got just the thing!

One vacation a year just isn't enough. So take an Extra Vacation and get out of town as often as you want. You can find Extra Vacations at RCI.com or by calling an RCI Guide.

- **Save your WorldMark credits for your next Exchange Vacation.** You don't need them to get an Extra Vacation!
- Extra Vacations are available in all kinds of **wonderful places**. Some are probably close enough for you to drive to.
- And they're really **easy on your wallet**. An Extra Vacation usually costs far less than a hotel room. Plus you get more space and great resort amenities.
- Some resorts offer **nightly and mid-week stays**, so it's easy to slip out of town for a short break or long weekend. And here's an idea: Add an Extra Vacation to your next Exchange Vacation and stay a little longer.

Extra Vacations are one more benefit of an RCI Subscribing Membership. They're so easy and affordable, you can take them often. It's a habit your whole family will love!

Where do Extra Vacations come from?

We get them many ways. When members decide to trade their week for a cruise instead of vacationing at their resort. When we can get additional inventory from resorts in highly popular locations. When resorts offer special promotions. And when we make special deals at the places our members frequently ask for. All these are opportunities for us to offer you Extra Vacations. And they're just another way we provide for all your vacation needs!

**Plan a great getaway today!
Call 1-800-585-4833.**



Your first year is only
\$89 USD/\$106 CAD* **\$1⁺**
 and your second year is only



Our 'Confirm First' feature makes all the difference

No credits are deducted until your destination is confirmed.

Planning an RCI Exchange Vacation is such a simple process with Confirm First. Because you don't have to exchange your WorldMark credits until you've settled on your destination and the week you want to go. Then and only then will we deduct the credits from your WorldMark account. Not to mention that RCI offers thousands of terrific resort choices.‡ Call a helpful RCI Guide for help deciding on the ideal destination for your family. Then book it.

An RCI Exchange Vacation is as easy as one, two, three.

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have to find a great match. If your plans change, you can update your request without penalty prior to confirmation.

Please have the following information handy when you call: your RCI Subscribing Member ID number, desired travel dates, activities and areas that interest you, and the number of people in your travel party.

2. Confirm. Often, WorldMark members are able to confirm the exact Exchange Vacation they want right away. If it isn't available, feel free to request an ongoing search. We'll stay on top of your request and notify you if it does become available.

3. Exchange. Once we confirm that the vacation you want is available and you confirm the reservation, we'll deduct your WorldMark credits. This is definitely the stress-free way to exchange your credits.

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 Plan your next RCI vacation today.
Call 1-800-585-4833.

RCI Vacation News
 November 2005

*Prices may vary based on exchange rate.

†Current RCI and Interval International, Inc. customers are not eligible.

‡Subject to availability based on value-for-value vacation exchange principles.

Endless Vacation® magazine is the official publication of Resort Condominiums International, LLC. RCI benefits are obtained only via a subscription to the *Endless Vacation* magazine. Use of the term "Membership" is intended to denote subscription to the *Endless Vacation* magazine.

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Owner Education

SCHEDULED NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CLASSES

Owner Education—a fun and free way to learn all about your ownership. Classes are held at Trendwest sales locations unless otherwise indicated. **Reservations are required.** For reservations, please call **1-800-397-5968**, Mon–Fri, 6 am–9 pm; Sat–Sun, 6 am–5 pm. Class times and locations are also listed online at www.worldmarktheclub.com/education.

Refer a friend when you attend and enter to win a fabulous ski vacation! See page 2 for details.

NORTHWEST

Birch Bay, WA

Tue, Nov 1, 6 pm
Thu, Dec 15, 6 pm

Bothell, WA

Wed, Nov 2, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 22, 6 pm
Tue, Dec 6, 6 pm
Sat, Dec 17, 10 am

Coeur d'Alene, ID

At Coeur d'Alene Inn
414 W. Appleway
Tue, Nov 15, 7 pm
Thu, Dec 8, 7 pm

Depoe Bay, OR

At resort
Sat, Dec 3, noon

Discovery Bay, WA

Wed, Nov 30, 6 pm

Eugene, OR

At Red Lion Hotel
205 Coburg Rd.
Fri, Dec 2, 6 pm

Federal Way, WA

Thu, Nov 3, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 19, noon
Tue, Nov 29, 6 pm
Tue, Dec 13, 6 pm

Leavenworth, WA

At Icicle Inn Best Western
Thu, Nov 17, 6 pm

Medford, OR

At Red Lion Hotel
200 N. Riverside Ave.
Thu, Nov 10, 6 pm

Salem, OR

At Red Lion Hotel
3301 Market St. NE
Wed, Nov 9, 6 pm

Seaside, OR

Fri, Nov 11, 6 pm

Seattle, WA

The Camlin
Sun, Nov 11, noon
No free on-site parking.

Tri-Cities, WA

At Clover Island, Kennewick
435 Clover Island Dr.
Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm
Wed, Dec 7, 6 pm

Vancouver, WA, USA

Tue, Nov 8, 6 pm
Thu, Dec 1, 6 pm
Wed, Dec 14, 6 pm

N. CALIFORNIA

Angels Camp, CA

Thu, Nov 17, 6 pm

Modesto, CA

Doubletree Hotel
1150 9th St.
Sat, Dec 3, 11 am

Roseville, CA

Sat, Nov 5, 10 am, 2 pm
Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm
Sat, Dec 10, noon, 2 pm

San Francisco, CA

145 Jefferson St.
Call 1-888-805-5863
for parking info.
Thu, Nov 10, 6 pm
Wed, Nov 30, 6 pm
Thu, Dec 8, 6 pm

San Jose, CA

(Near Santanna Row)
2880 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Mon, Nov 7, 6 pm
Mon, Nov 21, 6 pm
Mon, Dec 5, 6 pm

Walnut Creek, CA

Wed, Nov 9, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 19, 10 am, 2 pm
Thu, Dec 1, 6 pm

Windsor, CA

Tue, Nov 15, 6 pm
Tue, Dec 6, 6 pm

S. CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield, CA

Sun, Nov 6, 2 pm
Sun, Dec 4, 2 pm

Big Bear, CA

Mon, Nov 7, 6 pm

Las Vegas, NV

At resort on Las Vegas Blvd.
Sun, Nov 13, noon
Sun, Dec 11, noon

Oceanside, CA

At resort
Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm
Mon, Dec 5, 6 pm

Palm Springs, CA

Tue, Nov 29, 6 pm

San Diego, CA

Thu, Nov 3, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 22, 6 pm
Wed, Dec 7, 6 pm

San Dimas, CA

Wed, Nov 2, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 19, 10 am
Sat, Dec 3, 10 am

Torrance, CA

Mon, Nov 21, 6 pm
Mon, Dec 5, 6 pm

Westlake Village, CA

Sat, Nov 5, noon
Thu, Dec 1, 6 pm

MOUNTAIN

Boise, ID

At 800 S. Industry Way in Meridian
Thu, Nov 3, 6 pm
Fri, Nov 4, 6 pm
Thu, Dec 8, 6 pm

Broomfield, CO

Sat, Nov 12, 2 pm
Wed, Dec 14, 6 pm

Englewood, CO

Fri, Nov 11, 6 pm
Sat, Nov 12, 10 am
Thu, Dec 15, 6 pm

Idaho Falls, ID

Fri, Nov 18, 6 pm
Wed, Dec 7, 6 pm

Overland Park, KS

Thu, Nov 17, 6 pm
Tue, Dec 13, 6 pm

Rancho Vistoso, AZ

Tue, Nov 8, 6 pm
Fri, Dec 2, 6 pm

Salt Lake City, UT

Wed, Nov 2, 6 pm
Tue, Nov 15, 6 pm
Tue, Dec 6, 6 pm

St. George, UT

Tue, Nov 29, 6 pm

Tulsa, OK

Wed, Nov 16, 6 pm

Wolf Creek, UT

Thu, Nov 10, 6 pm
Thu, Dec 1, 6 pm

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Gone Fishing

Celebrating dads with
175 pounds of salmon and
our Adventure Club

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ALYSSA MOORE
WorldMark Tour Host

LAST JUNE in sunny Seattle, a group of 46 owners—including six pairs of fathers and sons—climbed aboard a fleet of Kenmore Air float-planes. Destination: Campbell River in northern British Columbia. The occasion: “Fishing for Father’s Day,” an outing through WorldMark’s Adventure Club.

Campbell River was wet and cool, but the group—also including many couples and friends—was in high spirits and ready to start the adventure. Those who didn’t immediately head for the fishing boats decided to explore the fabulous Painter’s Lodge and grounds. They found their rooms spacious, complete with panoramic views and private decks. Meanwhile, down at the fishing dock, other Adventure Clubbers met the resident seal and checked out the day’s catch.

The next morning, Father’s Day, everyone gathered at the dock at 6 a.m. to start some serious fishing. Decked out in bright yellow slickers and rain pants, they were greeted by their fishing guides (one per pair of passengers) operating 23 boats, all



Campbell River is about 165 miles north of Victoria on Vancouver Island.



Clockwise from top: Minh and Quang Nguyen and the one that got away; a tip of the hat from Jerry Bolser; WorldMark host Alyssa Moore with one of Kenmore Air’s fleet; Anthony Asch’s 19-pounder.

18-foot Boston Whalers.

Some boats ventured north through Discovery Passage, while others headed south toward the Cape Mudge Lighthouse where rumor had it the salmon (and seals) were abundant. Southbounders learned quickly why fishermen take issue with seals: Several fish were stolen right off their lines! Seals would surface—showing off the fish

in their mouths—and then quickly dive down.

Comparing notes back on shore hours later, a few celebrated their good fortune, but many came back empty-handed. Over the weekend, a total of 15 fish were caught and brought in, while many more were swiped by the seals. Anthony Asch brought in the largest Chinook—a whopping 19-pounder. 

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

PHOTO BY SCOTT MATTHEWS



PHOTO BY STEVE BEHRENS



PHOTO BY SCOTT BEVAN



ONGOING PROJECTS

LAS VEGAS, NV PHASE II, III

No. Units: 192
 Est. Completion: December 2005
 Status: Construction completed; final loading underway.
 Note the new owner putting green!

SOLVANG, CA

No. Units: 76
 Est. Completion: December 2005
 Status: Furniture, fixtures and equipment loading started mid-October.

ST. GEORGE, UT PHASE II

No. Units: 71
 Est. Completion: Summer 2006
 Status: Roofing

Information as of September 30, 2005



Closed for Thanksgiving

THIS MONTH, in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Vacation Planning Center, Owner Services, the Adventure Club, and Trendwest Travel will be on the schedule at right:

	Thursday Nov. 24	Friday Nov. 25	Saturday Nov. 26	Sunday Nov. 27
Vacation Planning Center (Reservations) 1-800-457-0103	Closed	6 am–2 pm	6 am–5 pm	6 am–5 pm
Owner Services 1-888-648-7363	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Adventure Club 1-800-457-0103	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Trendwest Travel 1-800-953-5511	Closed	Closed	9 am–4 pm	Closed



WorldMark La Paloma

A journey to your resort in northern Baja, Mexico

by Romy Jacobson Lawyer

The light turns green at the U.S./Baja border—signaling the go-ahead to enter that relaxed yet vibrant entity, Mexico. From there, set your trip odometer to zero and start counting the miles—22 of them—to **WorldMark La Paloma** in Rosarito Beach, just south of the border but a world away.

La Paloma is a gated 14-acre resort overlooking the Pacific Ocean that's less than a five-minute drive south of downtown Rosarito Beach. WorldMark owns 37 two-bedroom units in this resort community composed of 289 timeshare units and whole ownership condominiums.

Each WorldMark unit has a kitchen sans oven, private deck with gas barbecue, cable TV with DVD/VCR player, stereo system with CD player, and a telephone. A washer and dryer are located in a closet across the walkway from each unit. Other WorldMark touches include spices, coffee, creamer, sugar, toilet tissue, paper towels, and dishwasher and laundry soap.

There is a main clubhouse with two pool tables and saunas. The property also has an on-site restaurant, three outdoor swimming pools, two spas, three tennis courts, an exercise room, children's play area, and a sunbathing deck. Pool cues and balls, as well as tennis equipment, may be checked out at the WorldMark front desk.

The resort grounds are lush—adorned with tropical gardens and palm trees, and cobblestone paths leading to all of the resort's amenities. And a sandy beach for use by La Paloma guests and owners is just a five-minute walk away.



Hit Picks From Your Vacation Pros

A friendly and knowledgeable front-desk staff, on duty 24 hours a day, is WorldMark La Paloma's greatest resource. Resort manager **Ramon Geraldo**, as well as staff members **Omar Guerra**, **Daniel Suazo**, **Alberto Barraza**, and others can help you get the most out of your stay at Rosarito Beach.

Whether you're looking for directions to an area attraction, a restaurant recommendation, or safety tips, they're ready with information. And if you're short on ideas for fun, they have great suggestions about where to go and what to do. Here are the staff's top tips.

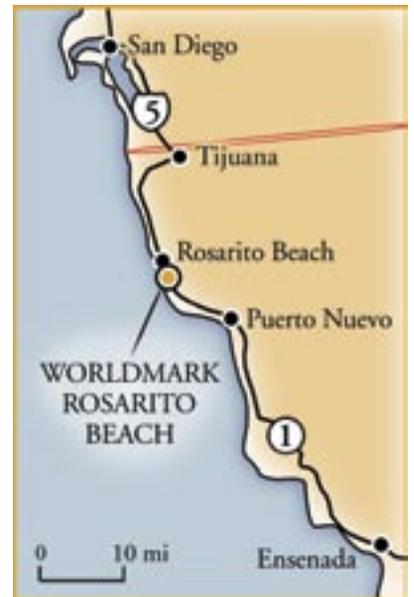


PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS



PHOTO BY ROMY JACOBSON LAWYER



PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS

Top right: (Right to left) WorldMark La Paloma manager Ramon Geraldo and front-desk supervisor Omar Guerra make owners feel at home. Top left: Spacious kitchens and dining areas are ideal for preparing and enjoying a home-cooked meal. Bottom: Each comfortably appointed unit features ceramic-tile floors and tropical-themed furniture.

Dining Out

El Nido

Located one block north of Festival Plaza at Boulevard Benito Juarez 67, El Nido offers a rustic atmosphere and some of the finest steaks in the area. Daniel Suazo says he sends everyone here.

Mama Mia

La Paloma's on-site restaurant—located behind the WorldMark front desk—serves up a tasty assortment of Mexican dishes and offers room service. Mama Mia is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. six days a week (closed Wednesdays).

Dining In

Many owners opt for grocery service, which is available for a \$5 delivery fee. Order forms may be picked up at the front desk upon your arrival, and need to be returned before noon for same-day delivery.

Local markets

For those forgoing delivery service, the staff recommends several downtown markets. The closest is Comercial Mexicana located about one-and-a-half miles north of the resort on Boulevard Benito Juarez, the main thoroughfare. Along this boulevard you'll also find two Cali Max grocery stores as well as the warehouse store Smart and Final.

The border town of Tijuana—about 20 miles north—is home to two Costco warehouses located at Ave. Calle de la Rocas 8351 and Blvd. Rodolfo Sanchez Taboada 8943. Your U.S. Costco card is accepted.

Right: Sport-fishing charters offer half- and full-day excursions. Depending on the season, anglers can reel in albacore tuna, yellowtail, calico bass, mahi-mahi, or halibut. Below: El Nido's diverse menu includes venison, quail, seafood, and a full bar.



PHOTO BY ANDY LAWYER

Below: Reenact one of the most famous scenes from the movie "Titanic" at Foxploration.

Worth Seeing

Foxploration

Housed in Fox Studios Baja, Foxploration is about three miles south of town. Here you can see where some of Hollywood's biggest seafaring flicks were filmed, including "Titanic" and "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World."

Exhibits include the Titanic Expo, which features the props, sets, and costumes from the blockbuster hit. The staff agrees that this is an attraction not to be missed. Take the Las Rocas exit off the toll road (Mexico 1). www.foxploration.com/ingles/index.html.

El Mirador (The Viewpoint)

About 40 minutes south of the resort at km 84 on the toll road, El Mirador offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and parts of Ensenada. This scenic spot has some picnic tables and a children's play area, but no food or beverage service. Omar Guerra says this is a must-see for anyone heading to Ensenada.



PHOTO COURTESY TIPS MARKETING

Playtime

Bajamar Golf Resort

Alberto Barraza recommends this course to owners looking to challenge themselves with a round or two. Known as one of the best golf resorts in northwest Mexico, Bajamar features 27 holes on Scottish-style links. The course is located south of WorldMark La Paloma at km 77.5 on the toll road near Ensenada. www.golfbajamar.com.

Fishing Charters

The port town of Ensenada is home to numerous sport-fishing charters. Manager Ramon Geraldo, an avid fisherman, says the waters of Ensenada offer some of the best tuna, marlin, and mahi-mahi in the area. www.ensenada-tourism.com.

Iggy's Son of the Beach Bar

Alberto Barraza says this is one of the most fun places in town. Iggy's features a South Pacific theme and offers a mechanical bull, beach volleyball, and a 200-foot bungee jump—the only one in town. Avenue Coronado 11337.

A Word About Water

The WorldMark staff provides a supply of bottled water for consumption as a precaution while the resort assesses its purification process. ❄️ ❄️



PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS



PHOTO BY PAULLA MCDONALD

Roaming Rosarito

One couple's day and night around a lively Baja beach town

by Romy Jacobson Lawyer

There's just something so deliciously festive about Rosarito Beach—its hole-in-the-wall taquerias, peddlers pushing their wares at every corner, lively nightclubs offering two-for-one specials on cerveza and margaritas, mariachis strolling from restaurant to restaurant.

Bustling and laid-back

On weekends, Rosarito Beach graciously hosts loads of tourists who rent horses to ride along its beaches,

bargain feverishly with its merchants for mementos, and pack its discos to near capacity. During the week, however, Rosarito Beach has a more relaxed, somewhat romantic demeanor, which is exactly what my husband, Andy, and I are looking for.

Breakfast at a landmark

First on our agenda is a late breakfast at the **Azteca Restaurant and Bar** in the **Rosarito Beach Hotel**. Originally opened in 1926, the hotel helped turn this once-humble seaside village into a thriving tourist destination. Boasting Spanish Colonial-style architecture, the landmark grew popular during Prohibition in the United States, and became a hangout for celebrities within driving distance of Tinseltown. Some of the famous who have passed through its doors include **Orson Welles**, **Lana Turner**, **Rita Hayworth**, **Gregory Peck**, **Rock Hudson**, and, more recently, the alternative rock band, the **Red Hot Chili Peppers**.

The hotel is proud of its history steeped in celebrities. In fact, small plaques telling stories of stars who've enjoyed meals at the various tables adorn the restaurant's walls. Actress **Zsa Zsa Gabor** is said to have dined with two of her husbands at the very table we're seated at, and supposedly introduced actress **Kim Novak** to the son of the late Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. The two were later rumored to have had a torrid affair in the hotel. The place definitely casts a romantic spell with its wood-beam ceilings and original murals, tiles and paintings from the 1920s.

Strolling the streets

Leaving the hotel, Andy and I walk along Boulevard Benito Juarez, the main drag named after one of Mexico's most honored former presidents. We pass other notable landmarks, such as **Los Argos** restaurant, known for its authentic gorditas and

Opposite page:
 (Left) Great deals on colorful pottery are easy to find. (Right) Decorative art-work depicting the many facets of Mexican culture adorns the Rosarito Beach Hotel.



PHOTO BY PAULINA MCDONALD



PHOTO COURTESY ROSARITO TOURIST BUREAU

enchiladas, and **Rock & Roll Taco**, a nightclub and former mortuary and radio station, which we hear is a fun place for drinks and dancing. We continue past the **Festival Plaza**—a large hotel-and-entertainment complex in the heart of downtown that's home to a collection of cantinas.

We find **El Pueblo Plaza**, an outdoor marketplace where each of its booths explodes in a kaleidoscope of colorful keepsakes—woven blankets, silver jewelry, wooden puppets, beach clothes, leather, chess sets, sombreros, paintings.

Braids like Bo's

As I try my hand at wheeling and dealing for a hematite necklace, Andy, knowing I've always wanted my hair done in island braids, surprises me by arranging an appointment at a neighboring kiosk. Island braids—similar to Bo Derek's coif in the 1979 movie "10," are popular in Rosarito Beach, with prices averaging about \$12 for half the head and \$20 for a complete do. I opt to have all of my hair done up in these playful little plaits.

Trying the tequila

Later Andy and I stroll hand-in-hand back to Festival Plaza and into **El Museo Cantina**, a tequila bar, to sample a bit of the agave plant. The bar has more than 150 tequilas on hand and more than 300 on display. We learn from our bartender that the agave plant is not a member of the cactus family, but is more closely related to aloe or amaryllis. He also tells us that even though there are more than 300 types of agave plants, real tequila can only be made from blue agave, which is primarily grown in the Mexican state of Jalisco.

Steak and shrimp

By now we're definitely ready for dinner, and we make our way over to **El Nido**. Originally established in 1971, the dimly lit restaurant—adorned



Top left: Taquerias fire up traditional fare, such as tacos al pastor—pork tacos. Top right: Piñatas, nuts, and sweets highlight mercados. Left: Known as Agave Azul, the blue agave used to make tequila takes up to 12 years to mature.

with wagon wheels and wood-beam ceilings—offers the intimate atmosphere we're looking for. **El Nido**, which only accepts cash, doesn't disappoint. Andy's steak is excellent and my shrimp is absolutely scrumptious.

Hip hop and daydreams

A trip to Rosarito Beach wouldn't be complete without experiencing some of its vibrant nightlife. We forgo the larger nightspots—**Club Iggy's**, **Senior Frogs** and **Papas and Beer**—and head over to the smaller but still lively **Macho Taco** located across from Festival Plaza. After an evening of hip hop music and dancing, we find a late-night snack at **El Norteño**, a neighboring taco joint. As we enjoy some of the best beef tacos we've had in a long time, I daydream about how delightful it would be to just stay in this festive little town. It would be so easy to forget about the real world and become expatriates, content to live on cheap tacos and cerveza.

Instead we simply head back to WorldMark La Paloma and our comfortable unit. We sit out on our balcony under the starlit sky, with the gentle tumble of Pacific waves reverberating in the distance. ❧



Loving La Paloma

Owners share stories about their “home” resort



PHOTO BY ROMY JACOBSON LAWYER

by Romy Jacobson Lawyer

La Paloma, the dove, has been a symbol of love and peace throughout history. For WorldMark owners, the white stucco walls and tile rooftops of **WorldMark La Paloma** in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, symbolize peace of mind and comfort—a home away from home in a foreign land. For some, the resort also holds a wealth of loving memories that will last a lifetime.

“WE GOT ENGAGED AT THE RESORT DURING THE BUTTERFLY MIGRATION.”

Shortly after becoming an owner, **Roy “Dean” Ward** took his then-girlfriend **Claudia** to WorldMark La Paloma for a weekend getaway in early April. From a deck, the couple was enjoying breathtaking views of the glorious Mexican coastline and Pacific Ocean when Dean decided to propose.

“It was my first WorldMark trip,” Dean says. “We got engaged at the resort during the butterfly migration. There were butterflies everywhere.”

Meeting the parents

During Labor Day weekend, WorldMark La Paloma once again became the backdrop for an important event for the couple who wed a few months ago. It was the scene of a touching family reunion. Claudia’s parents—who live in Bogota, Colombia—made the journey north to meet their new son-in-law for the first time. The occasion also marked the first time Claudia had seen her parents in almost seven years.

“For me, when we first got here it was very emotional—just being held by my mother—we cried,” says Claudia. “We went down to the beach and sang songs together. That was the most healing part of the weekend.”

Free parking is available along the main and side streets of Puerto Nuevo.

Enjoying one another

Dean, Claudia and her parents spent most of the weekend at the resort—flying kites on the beach, having barbecues and enjoying one another’s company. They also drove 10 minutes south to **Puerto Nuevo**—the lobster village—for a hearty meal.

According to Claudia, when she and Dean went to the Trendwest Resorts sales presentation, they were skeptical. And they definitely were not planning to buy. “But we were wowed by the resorts,” she says. “I’m really proud of him for making the decision to follow through with this.”

So far, Dean and Claudia have only been to La Paloma, about an hour away from their home in San Diego, but they’ve only been owners since last spring. They’re looking forward to planning visits to other WorldMark properties, including the resort in Fiji.

Two couples do Ensenada

WorldMark owner **Diana Autrey** also spent Labor Day weekend at La Paloma—with her boyfriend, **Carlos Corso**, and her friends **Scott Border** and **Ruby Hernandez**. The two couples spent most of the holiday weekend in Ensenada. Diana enjoys the many shops and nightclubs in the lively port town, which is located about 45 minutes south of Rosarito Beach via the toll road (Mexico 1).

Like a second home

Since becoming a WorldMark owner in 2001, Diana has been to numerous WorldMark resorts, including Big Bear and Oceanside in California, and Depoe Bay in Oregon, which is one of her favorites. But to her, WorldMark La Paloma—which is about a three-hour drive from her Los Angeles residence—is like a second home. “The beach is private. It’s very peaceful and relaxing. I like being able to visit my heritage without driving too far,” says Diana, who is Latin American. “Even though I’m not too far from home I feel like I’m in another world.” ❖

Opposite page: Dean Ward and his wife, Claudia, on the clubhouse deck where they were engaged. Right: (Clockwise from bottom-left) Diana Autrey, Carlos Corso, Scott Border, and Ruby Hernandez get ready for an evening excursion to Ensenada.



PHOTO BY ROMY JACOBSON LAWYER



PHOTO COURTESY ROSARITO TOURIST BUREAU

Best Eats: Puerto Nuevo

Known as “The Lobster Village” for its excellent lobster, Puerto Nuevo is a small town about 10 miles south of Rosarito Beach that offers terrific shopping and more than 30 restaurants. When in Baja, WorldMark owners Diana Autrey, and Dean Ward and his wife Claudia von Halle always carve out time to head down for the fantastic meals. Lobster (with rice, beans, tortillas, chips, and salsa), is available for about \$14. Diana names Chela’s as her favorite restaurant, saying it offers quality food at great prices. It’s located on Avenue Arpor (phone 011 52 661 614 1058). From October through March, Puerto Nuevo celebrates lobster season with its annual Beer & Lobster Festival and Steak & Lobster Fest. For more information, visit <http://puertonuevo.baja.com>.

Best View: La Bufadora

La Bufadora (“The Snorter” or “The Blow Hole”) was named after the sound created during incoming tides as water rushes into an underground cavern and then spumes up through a hole, going as high as 100 feet. Diana and Dean both recommend La Bufadora as an amazing sight. It’s located 17 miles south of Ensenada and reached by taking the toll road (Mexico 1) to Maneadero. From there follow the scenic, clearly marked road that goes west and delivers you to La Bufadora.

Best Rosarito Club: Papas and Beer

Dean says Papas and Beer is a great place to take in Rosarito Beach’s exciting nightlife. Situated along the beach near Festival Plaza, this famous, 47,000-square-foot nightclub features a mechanical bull, a 30-foot climbing wall, and beach volleyball. For more information, visit www.rosarito.papasandbeer.com.

Coastal Cuisine

For seafood lovers,
Baja is a series of feast days



The regional cooking of Baja begins and ends with seafood. Shrimp (*camarones*), lobster (*langosta*), crab (*cangrejo*), clams (*almejas*), scallops (*callos*), octopus (*pulpo*), squid (*calamar*), along with many varieties of fish (*pescado*) are ubiquitous ingredients all over Baja.

Baja tacos are wrapped in corn tortillas, but that is the extent of their resemblance to the familiar taco found in the United States. The Baja version will contain strips of stir-fried fish, crab or other seafood, salsa, guacamole and a cabbage marinade similar to cole slaw. Tacos are served at beachfront stands, open-air fast-food eateries called *comedores*, and inexpensive restaurants in all coastal areas of Baja.

Shrimp, crab and octopus are often served as cocktails (*cokteles*)—uncooked, marinated in lime juice, vinegar, oil, cilantro and spices, and served in a tall glass. Similarly, fish is chopped or grated and marinated to make *ceviche*.

Shrimp is commonly served in garlic sauce (*al mojo de ajo*) or breaded (*empanizados*). Prawns (*gambas*), like shrimp but larger, may be sliced in half lengthwise with a big, sharp knife and grilled with butter, garlic and spices. This way of preparing lobster, called *estilo Puerto Nuevo* after the major lobster-fishing port south of Rosarito, is favored throughout Baja.

Clams of different varieties are among the most common foods along the Sea of Cortez coast. Chocolate clams (pronounced “*cho-co-LAH-tay*”) are not to be missed. These fat clams in dark brown shells are almost the size of hamburgers; order a half-dozen and you may need a doggie bag. They are steamed and sliced in half inside the shell before serving.

Menus often say just “*pescado*” and serve whatever white-fleshed fish the sea provides that day—typically snapper (*huachinango*), yellowtail (*jurel*), mackerel (*sierra*), tarpon (*sabolo*) or halibut (*lenguado*). These are prepared in many ways—in garlic sauce (*al mojo de ajo*), in a salsa of chopped tomatoes, onions, olives, cilantro and spices

Top: Shrimp (*camarones*) are usually sold by count; the smaller the count per pound, the larger the shrimp. Look for shrimp that are pink or green in color, and firm in texture. Right: The fish taco was invented in Ensenada.



**RESTAURANTS SERVE
WHATEVER WHITE-
FLESHED FISH THE SEA
PROVIDES THAT DAY.**



(*veracruzano*), in a savory fish stew (*guisado*), or cleaned, breaded and fried whole (*empanizado entero*). Order one of these and you'll often get red snapper big enough to feed a whole family. Better restaurants feature steaks from large fish such as tuna (*atun*), swordfish (*pez espado*), shark (*tiburón*) and the most delicious of all fish in Baja waters, mahi-mahi (*dorado*).

The Mexican food served in restaurants is much the same as you would expect in a typical “Mexican” restaurant in the United States. Since many more gringo tourists than locals eat in restaurants, the menus focus on the dishes that are most familiar north of the border—tacos, enchiladas, tamales and burritos. *Chiles rellenos*, a popular dish in Baja restaurants, are different from their U.S. counterparts. Poblanos—large, mild, dark green chilis shaped like bell peppers—are filled with cheese or seafood, breaded and fried.

The Mexican food served in most restaurants is not as *picante* as elsewhere in Mexico. The *salsa fresca* that comes with tortilla chips is fresh, as the name implies, but usually not very hot. If you request *salsa picante*, you will invariably get Tabasco sauce bottled in Louisiana. Another concession to gringo tastes? No: imported Tabasco is the kind of hot sauce most often found in Baja grocery stores. ❖

Excerpted from *Hidden Baja, Third Edition* by permission of Ulysses Press.



Top: Fresh fish is sold by the kilogram in Mexico. Middle: Lobster Puerto Nuevo traditionally is served family style. Bottom: Salsa fresca is available in different varieties. Red, or *roja*, is made with tomatoes, onion, and cilantro. Green, or *verde*, is made with tomatillos and chile peppers.

PHOTO COURTESY ROSARIO TOURIST BUREAU

Gentle Giants Off the Baja Coast

Whale-watching season
(bring binoculars) is
January through March



Gray whales spend the spring and summer months in the Bering Sea off the coast of Alaska, where they feast on huge quantities of tiny organisms called lobster krill and plankton. In November, the female whales migrate southward in small groups, hugging the Pacific coast of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, Baja California and Baja California Sur to reach Laguna Ojo de Liebre (Scammon's Lagoon), Laguna San Ignacio and Bahía Magdalena—salty, protected lagoons where the water's buoyancy makes birthing whale calves easier.



Rendezvous in the lagoons

The calving takes place in January and February. At the same time, the males are making their way down the coast. Arriving at the calving lagoons, they breed with females who are not nursing newborn calves. The males' subtropical vacation is brief. They begin their northward migration on the first day of spring, and all are gone from the lagoons by April 1.

On the rebound

The gray-whale calving grounds were discovered in 1857 by American whaling captain Charles Melville Scammon, and within two years the whales were completely annihilated in Laguna Ojo de Liebre, which forever after would be known as Scammon's Lagoon. By 1900, no whales could be found along the entire Pacific coast, and by 1937, after a generation without whaling in the lagoons, they still numbered fewer than 100. Their numbers began to recover quickly only after 1972, when an international treaty abolished whaling in the open Pacific Ocean. In 1996, the whale population reached 20,000, the estimated number before Scammon's arrival.

WHALES SWIM PAST
AT AN AVERAGE RATE
OF ONE EVERY TWO
MINUTES DURING PEAK
MIGRATION TIMES.

Whale-spotting

Migrating whales can be seen all along Baja's Pacific coast, traveling about four knots per hour and swimming past at an average rate of one every two minutes during peak migration times. They usually travel in small family groups called pods. Male gray whales sometimes venture into the southern part of the Sea of Cortez, joining other whale species that frequent those waters. Binoculars are better than telescopes for spotting whales. Watch for a cloud of spray above the water. One of these spouts is made when a whale exhales air through its blowhole. ❖

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Footloose in Bavaria

Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna



September 10-17, 2006

28,000 credits per person*

Cash 'n' Credits option available†

Experience the dramatic Bavarian Alps, fantastic fairy-tale castles, and the scenic Danube River. Tour Munich's Olympic Stadium, and the exquisite Amalienburg hunting lodge within Nymphenburg Park. Visit Mad King Ludwig's fanciful Neuschwanstein Castle, and take a walking tour through Innsbruck. Salzburg is the famed birthplace of Mozart, as well as home to Mirabell Gardens, Great Festival Hall, and St. Peter's Churchyard. On the banks of the Danube River, Vienna offers the State Opera House, Hofburg Palace, and St. Stephen's Cathedral. Enjoy a leisurely scenic cruise along the Danube before you head back to Munich—just in time for the beginning of Oktoberfest.

Package includes seven nights' accommodation in Munich (3), Salzburg (2), and Vienna (2); daily breakfast; welcome and farewell dinners; five guided tours; deluxe motor coach transportation while touring; cruise along the Danube River.

**Tour a symphony of cities next
September—call 1-800-457-0103**

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*Footloose events cater to solo travelers; owners will be paired up to meet double occupancy requirements. †Any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Single occupancy rooms available for additional 6,020 credits per person. Package includes several walking tours that could include stairs, cobblestone streets, and hills. \$129 USD exchange fee, airfare, and transfers not included. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307. WA UBI 601190827.

FOOTLOOSE in Utah POWDER



January 11-15, 2006

9,500 credits per person*

Cash 'n' Credits option available

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Package includes four nights' accommodation at WorldMark Wolf Creek (two-bedroom, two-bathroom units); welcome drink and reception at Wolf Creek Grill; two all-day lift tickets; roundtrip shuttle service to ski areas; complimentary Powder Mountain groomed run/resort tour; admission to WiseGuy's Comedy Club with roundtrip shuttle service to Ogden.

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New Year with a shoosh!**

*Footloose tours cater to solo travelers. Owners will be paired up to meet double occupancy requirements. Additional 2,700 credits-only option is available for single occupancy in one-bedroom unit. Airfare and \$69 USD exchange fee not included. Subject to change and availability. CSR 2067820-50. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307. WA UBI 601190827.

There's Still Time



Footloose Gone Wild in Cancun

May 6-13, 2006
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Call 1-800-457-0103 today for details!

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Ace Fest in Leavenworth

Celebrate the invigorating days of winter at the annual Ice Fest held in the charming alpine village of Leavenworth, WA. Spend the day in brisk mountain air as you enjoy your choice of optional activities. Root for your favorite canine in the Northwest Regional Dog Sled Pulling Competition, or enjoy dog sled rides, horse-drawn sleigh rides, and cross-country skiing. Additional events include a snow sculpture contest, an ice-cube hunt for kids, snowshoe race, and the "Great Leavenworth Smooshing Race"—team skiing on wooden 2 by 4s!

Package includes roundtrip travel from Bellevue, WA, via deluxe Gray Line motor coach; coffee and Danish pastries served en route.

**Any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Lunch and dinner not included. Optional events and activities available for additional costs. All activities subject to change, availability, and weather conditions. CSR 2067820-50. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307. WA UBI 601190827.*

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lasting impression



Rosarito Beach Boys

Photo submitted by owner Virginia Lee

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THREE- AND FOUR-NIGHT BAJA, MEXICO, CRUISE

Carnival Cruise Line's *Paradise* sails roundtrip for three nights from Long Beach Pier in Los Angeles to Ensenada, Mexico.
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Inside cabin: 18,500 credits
Outside cabin: 21,000 credits

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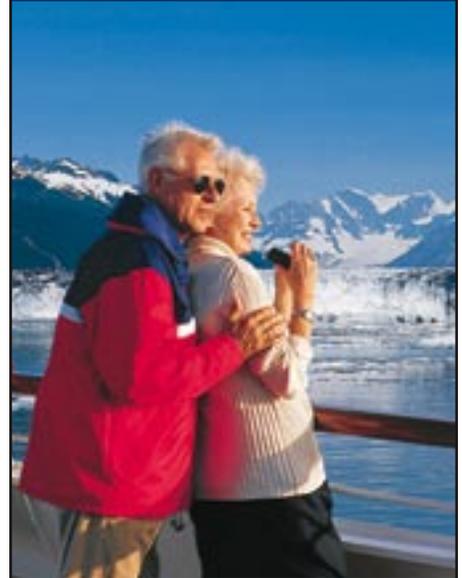


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based on double occupancy
Call 1-800-457-0103 to
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Subject to change and availability. All rates based on double occupancy and include port charges and government taxes. Airfare and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Cash 'n' Credits option available; any combination of cash and credits may be applied. Carnival Cruise Line ships' registry: Panama and The Bahamas. CSR 2067820-50. Nevada Seller of Travel 2003-0307. WA UBI 601190827.

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SEVEN-NIGHT ALASKA GLACIER BAY CRUISES

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Spirit* sails roundtrip for seven nights from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Juneau, Skagway, and Ketchikan, Alaska. Includes cruising of the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay.

September 6–13, 2006

September 13–20, 2006

Inside cabin: Starting at 35,000 credits
Outside cabin: Starting at 45,000 credits
Balcony cabin: Starting at 52,500 credits

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Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Star* sails roundtrip from Seattle, Washington, for Juneau, Skagway, and Ketchikan, Alaska; and Victoria, British Columbia. Includes cruising of the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay.

June 11–18, 2006

June 25–July 2, 2006

August 6–13, 2006

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Outside cabin: Starting at 54,000 credits
Balcony cabin: Starting at 68,000 credits



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