

WorldMark®

# Destinations

Published Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

November 2002

## GOING NATIVE IN FIJI

# STILL Hot

## Adventure Club

### Footloose in Italy

Rome and Venice

March 23 – 30

25,500 credits per person

*All rates based on double occupancy.*

## Cruise for Credits

### Baja Cruise

February 17 – 21

Carnival's *Ecstasy* departs Los Angeles for Catalina and Ensenada

Inside cabin: 11,500 credits for two

Outside cabin: 13,000 credits for two

Outside quad cabin: 23,000 credits for four

### Baja Cruise

April 11 – 14

Carnival's *Ecstasy* departs Los Angeles for Ensenada

Inside cabin: 13,000 credits for two

Outside cabin: 14,500 credits for two

Outside quad cabin: 25,500 credits for four

### Mexican Riviera Cruise

February 16 – 23

Royal Caribbean's *Vision of the Seas* departs Los Angeles for Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta

Inside cabin: 24,500 credits for two

Outside cabin: 28,500 credits for two

Balcony cabin: 39,500 credits for two

Outside quad cabin: 42,000 credits for four

### Mexican Riviera Cruise

March 16 – 23

Royal Caribbean's *Vision of the Seas* departs Los Angeles for Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta

Inside cabin: 27,000 credits for two

Outside cabin: 35,000 credits for two

Balcony cabin: 41,000 credits for two

Inside quad cabin: 43,000 credits for four

### Eastern Caribbean Cruise

February 23 – March 2

Carnival's *Victory* departs Miami for San Juan, St. Maarten and St. Thomas

Inside cabin: 22,000 credits for two

Outside cabin: 26,500 credits for two

Balcony cabin: 31,500 credits for two

**Call 1-800-457-0103 for reservations.**

VENICE, ITALY

## Destinations

### VICE PRESIDENT OF RESORT OPERATIONS

Dave Herrick

### EDITOR

Christine Rorabeck Koester

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leah Clark

### LEAD WRITER

Doug Hampton

### DESIGNERS

Jill House, Terry Journey

### CONTRIBUTORS

Maggie Kolter, Amie Anderson, Beáta Jachulski Baker, Rich Monson, Heather Hart, Emma Croston, Shawn McGehee, Peggy Fry, Rosie Gray, Maranda Maberry

### COMMENTS ARE APPRECIATED

*Destinations* Editor  
9805 Willows Road  
Redmond, WA 98052  
(425) 498-2500

### RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT

1-800-457-0103  
Mon. – Fri., 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. PT  
Sat. & Sun., 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT  
(Closed Tues., 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. PT)

### OWNER SERVICES

1-888-648-7363  
ownersupport@worldmarktheclub.com  
Mon. – Fri., 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. PT  
(Closed Tues., 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. PT)

### TRENDWEST TRAVEL

1-800-953-5511  
Mon. – Fri., 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. PT  
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Flexchange recording: 1-800-722-1747

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1-800-585-4833

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## South-Pacific Color

**T**his issue showcases my favorite WorldMark destination—Fiji. In 1999, I was treated to an orientation tour of this fair country, during which her warm, joyful people and nearly deserted beaches completely won me over. For five glorious days, my co-workers and I ate, shopped, swam and lazed on the beach. We toured the interior of Viti Levu Island, a Fijian village, the lovely Mamanuca Chain and, of course, WorldMark Denarau Island (which was under construction at the time). We took a head-spinning jetboat ride, snorkeled translucent waters and windsurfed gentle Nadi Bay. And then I waved goodbye to my peers and stayed on for another week to vacation with my husband, who quickly joined me in my adoration of this newfound paradise.

Writer Doug Hampton's feature will lead you to the Fiji beyond the stunning postcard scenes. After reading his article, you'll want to journey to this gracious country to taste the exotic spices and fresh produce, feel the breeze on your skin in the Nausori Highlands and hear the melodious voices and driving drums of a lovo feast. For me, his writing brought the memories flooding back in vivid South-Pacific color.

So enjoy your mental tour of one of the world's most fascinating locales, and I'll see you on the beach!

*Christie R. Koester*



DENARAU GOLF COURSE / PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS



DESTINATIONS / November 2002

8

### Going Native in Fiji

This island country's centuries-old traditions, authentic handcrafts, colorful ceremonies, welcoming people and unspoiled beauty make a trip to Fiji so much more than another tropical vacation.

- 4 **Winter activity discounts**
- 7 **WorldMark reservations now online!**
- 12 **Footloose in New Orleans**
- 13 **Swim with dolphins**

cover **photo**



Plying toward a secluded  
Fijian island.

## White Sale

### save on winter fun

The days are growing shorter, there's a nip in the air ... It's time to get out in the snow and play. Here's a look at what your WorldMark resorts have to offer in the way of frosty fun for less. For discounts and more information, contact your resort's front desk.

#### **WorldMark Big Bear**

909-878-4227

Owners and guests receive \$5 USD off Snow Summit and Bear Mountain lift tickets.

#### **WorldMark Cascade Lodge**

604-905-5600

#### **WorldMark Sundance**

604-938-0338

Discounts of 10% available on snowshoeing, snowmobiling, glacier flightseeing, mountain gear rentals and even dogsledding.

#### **WorldMark Steamboat Springs**

970-879-2931

Save \$5 USD on snowmobile tours and 20% on ski and snowboard rentals.

*Information as of October 7, 2002.*

*Discounts subject to change and availability—call ahead to confirm.*

*Additional discounts may be available for Winter 2002/2003. Check with your WorldMark resorts.*



#### **WorldMark The Canadian**

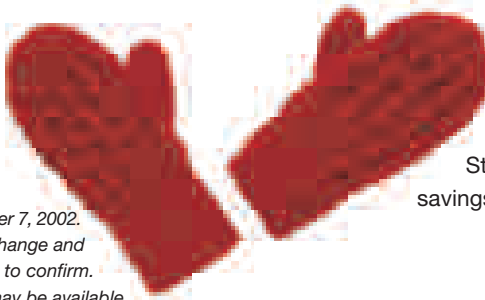
604-684-3500

Take in a Vancouver Canucks hockey game for 10% off the regular rate.

#### **WorldMark Leavenworth**

509-548-1419

Discounted lift tickets to both Mission Ridge and Stevens Pass available at a savings of 10%.



## Make Your Vote Count

For your Club to do business continuously, it is essential that all owners make sure their votes are put into action. The best way to do this is to submit a three-year proxy, which authorizes WorldMark's Board of Directors to cast your vote at its discretion in the event that you do not vote on an issue.

Proxies are critical to obtaining enough votes to constitute a quorum as required by The Club's bylaws. A proxy authorization does not sign away your right to vote, however. It will not override any vote that you have already cast. When you do vote on current or future issues, your vote will supersede the proxy. You can revoke your proxy at any time.

You can authorize proxies by mailing in the proxy form that you should have received in the mail. You can also submit a proxy authorization online at [www.proxyvoting.com/worldmark](http://www.proxyvoting.com/worldmark). To do that, you'll need to enter the 11-digit control number located on your proxy form.

Proxies and votes must be submitted by December 16 to count in this year's Board of Directors election. Put your vote in action today.

## We Have a Winner!

### comment card drawing

Susan Cook of Seattle, Washington, has won a three-night WorldMark stay through our monthly drawing. All she had to do was fill out and submit her comment card—Lady Luck did the rest!

## New Manager at Marina Dunes

**Teri Hilton** is the new resort manager of WorldMark Marina Dunes. She was most recently the assistant manager at St. George. Teri first came to The Club in 2001, after working five years at Schooner Landing, WorldMark's resort in Newport, Oregon.

## Seasonal Pool Closings

You can float the WorldMark Las Vegas lazy river all winter long, but some of The Club's outdoor pools in colder climates will be closed from November through March, due to lack of demand. The closures will conserve energy and reduce maintenance costs, resulting in considerable savings to your Club.

Outdoor pools will close for the season at Bass Lake, Big Bear, Birch Bay (one of two pools), Bison Ranch, Branson, Lake of the Ozarks, Leavenworth, Mariner Village, Pinetop, Reno, South Shore, Tahoe (opens week before Memorial Day) and Wolf Creek.

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
For Select International Members Only

This Month's Featured  
**Getaway**

One Week Accommodations

**Waikiki, Hawaii**

One-bedroom \$569  
Two-bedrooms \$699

**INTERNATIONAL**  
888-353-3021  
Outside U.S. America: (303) 663-1284, ext. 7728

## inventory specials

## Now's the Time

This December, get away to the following resorts for just four cents per credit. Call your vacation planning counselor at 1-800-457-0103.

### MIDWEEK AND LIMITED WEEKENDS:

Arrow Point, ID  
Bear Lake, UT  
Birch Bay, WA  
Bison Ranch, AZ  
Branson, MO  
La Paloma, Mexico  
Lake of the Ozarks, MO  
McCall, ID  
Pinetop, AZ  
Rancho Vistoso, AZ  
Running Y, OR  
St. George, UT

**EXTRA SPECIAL**  
**Denarau Island, Fiji**  
Midweek and limited weekend stays available through January 31!



*Midweek stays must take place Sunday through Thursday. Reservations at the above resorts are not subject to the 14-day booking window, and you may book multiple units. Holidays are excluded.*

## New Regional Directors

**Bob Coffin** is the new director of the Mountain Region, responsible for overseeing our resorts in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri and Utah. Bob graduated from California State University at Fresno with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He later obtained an MBA from Michigan State University with an emphasis in hotel, restaurant and institutional management. Bob has more than 20 years' experience with condominiums, timeshare and homeowner associations. He entered the hospitality business as a waiter at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite, and later held controller positions at Amfac Hotels & Resorts and Fred Harvey, Inc. At Village Resorts, Inc., he served as Corporate Controller and Vice President for Mainland Operations. Most recently, Bob managed a large timeshare project on the north shore of Kauai.

**Mike Elson** is the director of the newly created Canadian Region. Many of you already know Mike, as he has been with WorldMark for five-plus years now. After 18 years in the cruise and ferry industry, Mike became the resort manager at Sundance in Whistler. He later managed The Club's first urban location,

The Canadian, in Vancouver, B.C. Mike received our Manager of the Year Award in '98, '00 and '01. As regional director, he will oversee your three Canadian resorts and four of your Washington properties.

Congratulations, Mike, and welcome, Bob!

## what's new

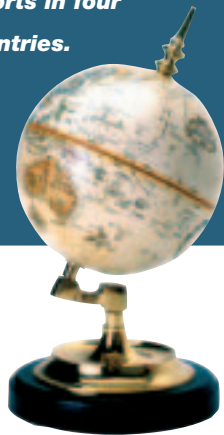
### Bookin' Online

*We are excited and gratified by owners' response to the rollout of WorldMark's online reservations system. Over 2,600 reservations were booked on the WorldMark Web site during September, the first month the program was available to all owners. Visit [www.worldmarktheclub.com](http://www.worldmarktheclub.com) to give this new feature a try.*

## in brief

### **A World of Comfort**

*WorldMark, The Club, now includes 45 resorts in four countries.*



WORLDMARK DISCOVERY BAY / PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS

## in your own words

BY SCOTT A. COMSTOCK, OWNER

## Kudos to Leavenworth and Discovery Bay

My wife, Wendy, my daughter, Courtney, and I live in Spokane, Washington. We've now taken our first WorldMark vacation and had an absolute blast!

First we stayed one night in Leavenworth to meet up with my sister, her husband and my two-year-old nephew. Leavenworth introduced us to what we've been missing all our previous years. My favorite part of this WorldMark resort, besides good service and an excellent unit, was taking an evening dip in the pool, gazing out at the mountains that dwarf the Bavarian-village town. I also appreciated the shallow wading pool—my daughter and nephew had a great time in it.

Next was six days at Discovery Bay. When I first booked, I was a bit hesitant. For some reason, every shot in the Resort Guide pictures the resort from far away. Why? Well, the resort was fabulous. In fact, the unit was a two-plus bedroom (five-level split) and impressed

us very much. We did have some adventure our first night because the stove elements were damaged. The resort staff kindly let us use the stove in the clubhouse while repairs were made. While waiting, my daughter happily chased after a staff member who had some sort of bubble-making gun. There we were, watching my two-year-old girl giggling and trying to catch bubbles while the lasagna was cooking. We even shared some with the staff!

We used the trip to watch the Washington State University Cougars trounce Nevada in Seattle, and even managed to see the Mariners win a game. We visited the Woodland Park Zoo, ate at a great restaurant in Port Townsend called the Public House (go there if you can) and visited the Olympic Game Farm (probably the most memorable of events).

Needless to say, we had a great WorldMark vacation and hope our next one to Long Beach is as much fun.



BY  
PEGGY FRY,  
DIRECTOR OF  
OWNER SERVICES

# Online Reservations are Clicking

WorldMark is very pleased to announce that its online reservation system has successfully completed all testing and is now available to North American owners who register at The Club's Web site. The system allows WorldMark owners to conveniently book resort stays on the Internet. Get on the Web and check it out! You can start using the new system by

registering at [www.worldmarktheclub.com](http://www.worldmarktheclub.com). Just click "Owners Only," go to the registration form and enter your owner information. (All owner information on the WorldMark Web site is stored on secure servers, so you don't have to worry about unauthorized people getting access to it.) You'll have to enter a valid e-mail address so that we can send you the Personal Identification Number (PIN) that gives you access to the system.

Want to give this new feature a try? If your owner account is current on dues and contract payments, you're ready!

You can use the online system to book both vacation credit and Bonus Time resort stays. The Web site's help section gives you tips on how to use the system, and the "Resorts" area offers information on resort amenities and area activities. You can even download resort confirmation brochures to help you plan your trip.

Be sure to keep your e-mail address updated to guarantee that you will receive confirmation e-mails when you book your vacations on the WorldMark Web site.

See you online.

## c o n s t r u c t i o n

### Victoria, BC

Construction is moving along nicely on this beautiful Vancouver Island resort. Framing of the building's west tower and rough utility work are now complete, and sheetrock is proceeding on floors 6 and 7. Concrete framing on the east tower is done, and rough utility work and sheetrock are continuing on floors 1 through 4. The 92-condo project is scheduled for completion this winter, which means WorldMark owners can be vacationing on the Victoria waterfront in Spring 2003.



### Sonoma County, CA

With most of Phase I's 150 units slated to open next summer, this Northern California construction site is hopping. Off-site work, site utilities and infrastructure are 95% complete; rough plumbing and elevator pits have been placed on buildings 2 through 6; the concrete slabs for buildings 1, 1A and 2 through 5 are finished and framing is now underway on these structures. Get ready to sip the award-winning vintages of California's "other Wine Country."

### Ongoing Projects

Destination	No. Units	Estimated Completion	Status
Seaside, OR	283	Summer 2003	Framing to finishing
South Shore, NV—Phase II	8	Summer 2003	Foundations to framing
Solvang, CA	90	Spring 2004	Planning approvals
Angels Camp, CA—Phase II	88	Summer 2003	Grading to mechanical, electrical, plumbing rough-in

Information as of September 27, 2002.

## Thanksgiving Closures

**In honor of Thanksgiving, the Reservations Department will be closed all day November 28. Reservations will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., November 29 through December 1.**

**Owner Services will be closed November 28 through December 1 for the holiday. Trendwest Travel will be closed November 28 and 29, open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 30, and closed December 1.**

GOING



BY DOUG HAMPTON

NATIVE IN

FIJI



ou swim up to the WorldMark Denarau Island bar in the largest pool in the South Pacific, order an orange juice and lie back to let your jet lag float away. You're in verdant, tropical Fiji, watching tufted white clouds under deep blue skies on the main island of Viti Levu. Kids laugh in the children's pool. You smell meat grilling in the resort's central barbecue area. Tonight, you'll attend a pit-oven *lovo* feast and classical *meke* dance, or maybe just cook something simple from the resort store, listen to a little music and drift off to sleep in air-conditioned comfort.

With WorldMark's private balconies and direct beach access, the Denarau Golf and Racquet Club next door and a wealth of entertainment within walking distance, you might be content never straying from Denarau. But perhaps the local marina will tempt you out for a desert isle excursion or a cruise to colorful coral reefs to snorkel amid strange and brilliant fish. Luscious fruits, fragrant Indian spices, ancient crafts and bustling restaurants might draw you to the shops and outdoor market in nearby Nadi (pronounced Nan-dee). The open-faced kindness, simple happiness and curiosity of the English-speaking locals could stimulate the same qualities in yourself, drawing you into the land and its people. You'll learn to say "*bula*" for "hello" and "*vinaka*" for "thank you," and will be warmed by the smiles returned. Maybe you'll ask the resort tour desk to help you visit a traditional village in the steep, green mountains. Or you'll put on a flower print *sulu*, mingle with locals on the bus, or join a song-filled *kava* ceremony or church service. Fiji will find you. Sooner or later, you're bound to go native.

## GETTING INTO THE ISLANDS

Fiji is a newly independent nation of about 300 islands and 540 islets some 1,300 miles north of New Zealand. About 100 islands are inhabited, the



rest being left as alluringly pristine nature reserves.

Seafaring Polynesians settled Fiji about 3,500 years ago, and Melanesians pushed into the area 2,000 years later. British explorer James Cook found warlike cannibals here in the late 1700s. But a century later, capitalism had replaced cannibalism as the British assumed control and missionaries converted the population to Christianity. The colonial government imported indentured laborers from India to maintain the village system and protect native Fijians from exploitation. Today, Indian Fijians make up nearly half the country's population of 800,000 and generally run the shops and cut the sugar cane, while the ethnic Fijians own most of the land. This has made for some difficult politics since independence was granted in 1970. But at street level, courtesy and respect characterize relations between the peoples. And for visitors, the mosques and Hindu temples of Indian Fijian settlements give interest to the landscape much like the indigenous Fijian thatched *bure* buildings do, while Indian curries, breads and soups add variety to rich, meaty and mellow Fijian home cooking and continental restaurant fare.

Beautiful diversity is found in many aspects of the archipelago. From the Denarau shore, you can spot a few of the Mamanucas, a scenic cluster of 20 volcanic, limestone or coral-sand islands of varying sizes and shapes with incredible beaches and offshore reefs. Small, sandy isles support coconut palms, others have grasslands and dry forest. Most have a Fijian village or resort community offering a variety of activities, from windsurfing and kayaking to deep-

sea diving. Underwater, the sheer variety of life around the reefs is a major attraction. Divers and snorkelers commune with millions of fish, turtles, giant clams and soft corals with shapes like mushrooms, fingers and honeycombs.

There are numerous ways to access the islands—ferries, seaplanes, cruises, even helicopters operate out of Nadi. If sailing is your passion, drive north from the resort past cane fields fronting the Sabeto Mountains to the lively seaport sugar town of Laukota, where you can board a 140-foot-long, three-masted schooner bound for Tai Island. You'll enjoy a picnic lunch and snorkel in the coral reef waters, and can link up with cruises to other isles.

## LOCAL CRAFTS AND CULTURE

Nadi, with its international airport, great bus system, numerous taxis and tour operators, is the tourism hub of western Viti Levu and the third-largest community on the island. It's a hot, relatively dry town of 20,000 people strung along the Queen's Highway, the main route around the western perimeter of the island. Nadi may not have much in the way of aboriginal or colonial charm, but it's a great place to shop for traditional crafts, arrange boating and snorkeling excursions, and join trips to the spectacular mountains and villages of the Nausori Highlands. Its large Indian population also makes Nadi a great place to sample Fiji Indian food, while supermarkets supplement the traditional open-air market for



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIJI VISITORS BUREAU

**ABOVE:** One of Fiji's many photogenic bays. **LEFT:** Serving the ceremonial kava. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Preparing for the evening's festivities.

home-cooked meals at your WorldMark resort.

Venture into Nadi's market and shops to buy fine folk crafts made by methods that date back many centuries. Look for wall hangings, handbags and placemats of *tapa* or *masi*, an inexpensive, felt-soft cloth made from pounded and sun-dried paper mulberry bark and stained with red clay and black burned candlenuts in rhythmic geometric designs. Also seek out the hand-molded clay-and-sand pottery that is still made in a few villages by methods thousands of years old: pots are heated over an open fire and varnished with tree gum to bring out the color and improve the pot's ability to hold water. The cooking vessels are fragile, but sturdier items like animal

figurines are made for visitors.

Fijian woodcarving is in a bit of decline since there isn't much call for war clubs or cannibal forks these days, but those items—as well as carved bowls—are still made. You'll find drinking bowls in the section of the market where *yaqona* is sold. This pepper plant root is used for making Fiji's mildly sedative national drink, *kava*, which seems to be a part of any and all festivities.

A fun yet practical purchase would be a *sulu*, a lightweight wraparound sarong worn by both men and women that can double as a towel or dressing gown. Wear it over shorts or beachwear whenever the occasion calls for modesty, such as during village visits. You'll feel very Fijian.

# FIJI FACTS

## CLIMATE

Temperatures are pleasant year-round on the coast, with daytime highs in the 80s and evenings in the 70s. June to October is the dry season; December to April is the rainy season, though sunshine often follows rain, and is not usually a nuisance. Hurricane season is November to April.

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

To enter Fiji, you will need a ticket for your departure and a passport valid for at least three months beyond your intended stay. Visas are not necessary for stays up to four months.

## CLOTHING

In Fiji, it's considered offensive to show too much skin. Bathing suits should only be worn around the pool—not into town.

Men should always wear a shirt, and women's dresses or shorts should adequately cover their legs while seated.

## TRANSPORTATION

Trendwest Travel can book your airfare to Fiji. Airtime from Los Angeles is 10 hours, 40 minutes. Taxis will be lined up outside the Nadi International Airport concourse. Be sure to settle on your fare before setting out. (To WorldMark Denarau Island, \$8 USD is a fair charge.)

In Fiji, there are two types of buses: express (with limited stops) and local "stage" (with unlimited stops). Though renting a car is not recommended, valid drivers licenses are honored. Driving is on the left side of the road.

## ELECTRICITY

Electrical current in Fiji is 240 volts, 50 cycles. Be sure to bring converters and adapters for personal appliances. (WorldMark Denarau Island includes blow dryers in each bathroom.)

## TIME ZONE

Fiji is 12 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time from March to October. It's 13 hours ahead November to February, when daylight savings time is in effect. In other words, Fiji is currently 20 hours ahead of the West Coast.

## TIPPING

American-style tipping is discouraged.

## MONEY MATTERS

The currency is the Fiji dollar. The current exchange rate is about \$1 USD to \$2 FJD.

The 24-hour ANZ Bank branch at Nadi International Airport charges a fee for each transaction. Other banks and other ANZ branches in Fiji do not.

Credit cards are accepted at most resorts, travel and tour companies, duty-free shops and some restaurants, but you will want to have cash on hand when exploring rural areas. Remember that you'll need to pay an airport departure tax of \$20 FJD per person in Fiji currency.

## VISITORS BUREAU

The Fiji Visitors Bureau's Web site is [www.bulafiji.com](http://www.bulafiji.com). They can be reached at [infodesk@fijifvb.gov.fj](mailto:infodesk@fijifvb.gov.fj) or 1-800-932-3454.

## GETTING INTO THE COUNTRY

You have two basic options for seeing the villages of Fiji: Join a formal tour, or pass through on roads or trails. (Never walk into a Fijian village uninvited—it's rude.) Tours can give you an intimate look at village life, with dinners cooked in a *lovo* pit oven, river swimming, waterfall visits, songfests over the *kava* bowl and maybe even nuanced *meke* story dances, in which the village chief takes part. They often involve overnight stays and may be more expensive than independent travel.

You can rent a car in Fiji for your own explorations, but you'll have to watch out for roaming livestock, unwary pedestrians and speeding sugar trains while negotiating speed bumps and remembering to drive on the left side of the road, so it's really not recommended. Public transportation—buses, ferries, airplanes and taxis—is widely available, reasonably priced, entertaining and a great way to mingle with the people.

It's especially cheap and engaging to join Indian and Fijian locals aboard the ancient, noisy, smoke-belching buses that serve all parts of Viti Levu. Help your fellow passengers roll tarps over the open-air windows if it rains. Buses can be caught at numerous roadside stands, and you can even flag them down in the country. Several companies also offer express, air-conditioned bus service to the major





PHOTO COURTESY OF FIJI VISITORS BUREAU

**LEFT:** Snorkelers drift above the islands' renowned collection of sea life.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** WorldMark Denarau Island glows in the early evening light. (photo by Rich Monson)

cities—less interesting, perhaps, but also more comfortable. Minibus and return taxi service also are available around Nadi.

## THE CORAL COAST

A delightful self-directed excursion is a day-long bus tour of the Coral Coast, 50 miles of barrier reef beaches and pristine waters on the sheltered southern side of Viti Levu. Large stretches of uninhabited rain forest surround resorts and fishing villages scattered along beaches, bays and rocky outcroppings that rise steeply into the volcanic mountains. Head out of Nadi past the great multicolored pile of Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami Temple on the left, then roll through sugar cane fields and pine plantations. A few miles south of Nadi, some buses will take an 18-mile detour to Momi Bay through farmland, cane fields and pine plantations, past small temples and mosques.

About 30 miles southeast of your WorldMark resort, you'll catch a magnificent hilltop view of the Fijian Resort, one of the islands' original vacation retreats, surrounded by sandy beaches and colorful coral reefs on a 109-acre island in a private bay. On the highway near the resort, the Coral Coast Railway offers scenic trips to the beach on an old sugar train through villages, plantations and undeveloped land to Natadola—the best beach on the island, which most tourists never see. Body surf the big waves if you're a strong swimmer, hunt for shells in the gorgeous white sand, snorkel in the tide pools and buy a green coconut for a refreshing drink. At the Ka Levu Centre, you can see a reconstructed pre-European Fijian village.

Another nine miles along Queen's Road is Sigatoka, a plain little farming town with a gorgeous mosque, an abundant municipal market, and access to some of Fiji's most picturesque landscapes and traditional villages. Hop on an open-air bus for a four-hour trip to Keiyasi and back through the spectacular volcanic hills of the Sigatoka Valley. You'll wind past Fijian villages, Indian settlements, grassy scrub hillsides, and a colorful patchwork of small farms growing peanuts, corn, taro root, peppers and passion fruit. Handmade bamboo rafts and small boats filled with cabbages, corn, tomatoes and tobacco float down the muddy Sigatoka River to market. At the villages of Nakabuta or Lawaia, hop off the bus and ask about the local pottery. You'll be taken to a *bure* showing the smooth, low-fired cooking pots traditional in the lower Sigatoka Valley.

South of town, Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park is one of Fiji's most exquisite sights. Walk along three miles of undulating hillocks of soft, powdery gray-brown sand, grass and vines for vistas of green mountains and blue ocean. Archaeological digs and the wind continue to reveal skeletons and pottery artifacts dating back 2,000 years. (Don't remove any bones or shards—it's illegal.)

Surfing and windsurfing along this stretch of coastline can be excellent, but the seas are dangerous for swimmers.

## IT'S THE PEOPLE

The joy of vacationing in Fiji involves mingling with its gentle people as much as sightseeing, relaxing or playing in the water. Getting to know the locals is easy to do because our shared British colonial history gives us a common language that reaches across our civilizations, helping us appreciate each other more fully. The islands' landscapes, produce and lifestyles are wonderfully exotic, but the people make it seem like home. *Vinaka*, Fiji!

# NADI NOTABLES

## DINING

**Continental Cakes & Pizza** (Main Street, opposite Mobil Station) has delicious coffee, rolls and cakes, and three sizes of pizza. At **Cardo's Steakhouse & Bar** (Port Denarau Marina), dine on succulent char grilled steaks and fish—with a view. Make reservations at **Chefs The Restaurant** (Sangayam Road) for a romantic, candlelit dinner. Extremely spicy Indo-Fijian fare can be found at **Mid-Town Curry Restaurant** (Clay Street). South Indian dishes are the specialty of **Hot Snax Shop** (Naviti Street) in nearby Lautoka.

## SHOPPING

Just north of your resort, you can browse the upscale boutiques at the Sheraton Fiji Resort. **Sogo Fiji** (Queen's Road) has tropical clothing and beachwear. **Nad's Handicrafts** (north end of town) sells nice pottery. **Jack's Handicrafts** (off Main Street, opposite Morris Hedstrom) offers a wide selection of reasonably priced handicrafts, clothing, jewelry and paintings by local artists. Fine woven baskets can be bought directly from the women who make them at the **Nadi Handicraft Market** (south end of town).

## EXPLORATION

The elaborate **Sri Siva Subramaniya Temple** (south end of town) was built by craftspeople flown in from India, and is the largest Hindu shrine in the South Pacific. It's open daily, with free admission. Acres of orchids and other flowering plants can be viewed Monday through Saturday at **The Garden of the Sleeping Giant** (Wailoko Road off Queen's Road, between Nadi and Lautoka). A guided tour and fruit drink is included in the admission fee (\$9.90 FJD for adults; \$4.90 FJD for children). Several tour operators will take you from Nadi along bumpy roads into the spectacular **Nausori Highlands**. During your journey, you'll pass sugarcane fields, farmhouses and mosques, through lovely rolling hills into deeply clefted mountains overlooking the sea. It is also possible to visit or, for a truly unique experience, spend the night at **Navala**, one of the last fully thatched villages on Viti Levu. Inquire at WorldMark Denarau Island for more information about such excursions.

“It is good to have an end to  
journey toward, but it is the  
journey that matters in the end.”  
—Ursula K. LeGuin



NEW ORLEANS' FRENCH QUARTER

# Let the Good Times Roll

## Footloose in New Orleans

**May 12 – 16**  
**12,490 credits per person,**  
**double occupancy**

Laissez les bons temps rouler—Let the good times roll. Travel to New Orleans with fellow WorldMark solos, and you'll hear this phrase often. Experience the flair of one of the country's favorite cities on a five-day getaway packed with history, charm and excitement. New Orleans' vibrant atmosphere springs from its many peoples and cultures; here, diversity is not only recognized, it is celebrated. Out of this eclectic blend of French, Spanish, African and Caribbean influences came jazz, delicious cooking and an infectious joy for life. The sights, sounds and tastes of the Big Easy include mule-drawn carriages, trumpets echoing through cast-iron porticos and fresh seafood-laden gumbo and muffuletta sandwiches.

Footloose tour participants will visit many of the city's most famous landmarks, including the stately St. Louis Cathedral and lively Bourbon Street. Creole and Cajun chefs will teach us the basics of Louisiana cooking as we dine at the esteemed New Orleans School of Cooking.

This package includes four nights' accommodation, a city tour, a walking tour of the French Quarter, daily breakfast, two dinners and airport transfers. Call your Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103 to experience the Old World charm of New Orleans next spring.

*Subject to change and availability. Cash 'n' Credits options available. Air not included. Call Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511 for airfare to New Orleans.*

## It's Showtime

### Premium Cinema Super Savers

Now you can buy movie tickets with your WorldMark credits and see first-run films at any Regal Cinema, United Artists Theatre and Edwards Theatre in the United States.

### 150 credits per ticket

These Premium Super Savers are valid until September 30, 2003, are unrestricted, and include a special concession offer (good for \$1 USD off a combined purchase of one medium or large popcorn and one medium or large drink). Contact the Vacation Planning Center to purchase your tickets today.

To find the nearest Regal Entertainment Group Theatre, log on to [www.regalcinemas.com](http://www.regalcinemas.com). All sales are final. Tickets not valid on IMAX films.



# France Made Easy

## Travel With the Adventure Club to Paris and Nice

Experience France the way you want it with two week-long excursions to Paris and the French Riviera in March.

It's your choice how to explore the unceasing variety of Paris. Walk the quai or cruise the Seine. Window-shop the fashion houses at Places des Victoires, or buy French kitchen hardware in a department store basement. End—or begin—the evening by snacking at a casual wine bar or dressing up for the revitalized Ritz Hotel dining room. To make sure you don't miss any highlights, you'll receive a flexible two-day voucher for Les Cars Rouges sightseeing tours on double-

deck, open-top buses that take you to Notre Dame, the Orsay Museum, Trocadero and other top attractions. Also included is a full-day Loire Castle Excursion with entrance to King Francois I's Château de Chambord and Catherine de Medici's elegant Château de Chenonceau.

Then it's a week on the French Riviera, based in the regional capital of Nice, where the sun shines 320 days a year. Laze on the beaches of the unbelievably blue Mediterranean. Explore the Baroque churches, open-air markets and the Italianate turn-of-the-century buildings that made Nice one of Europe's most fashionable

winter retreats. A full-day tour of lively, celebrity-packed St. Tropez and a half-day excursion to the mythic principality of Monaco complete the package.

Choose one city, or visit them both. How do you want to see France?

**Option 1: Paris**  
**March 9 – 16**  
**41,500 credits for two**

**Option 2: Nice**  
**March 15 – 22**  
**43,000 credits for two**

**Option 3: Paris and Nice**  
**March 9 – 22**  
**68,000 credits for two**

Packages include round-trip airfare from Seattle, San Francisco or Los Angeles (air options available from other U.S. gateways); hotel accommodations and tours listed at left; and daily continental breakfast. Option 3 includes a one-way rail ticket from Paris to Nice. Call 1-800-457-0103 to sign up.

*Tours subject to change and availability. Rates are for two people and based on double occupancy. \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Cash 'n' Credits options available.*



## Timeless Entertainment

### Golden Escapes in Branson

**April 26 – May 3**

Nestled in the scenic Ozark Mountains, Branson offers a unique variety of recreation and memorable shows. Famed as "America's Live Entertainment Capital," the town's evening sky sparkles with the glitz and glitter of performances by such legends as Andy Williams, Glen Campbell and Bobby Vinton. A week of fun has been arranged especially for our adventurous seniors (55 years and up), with classic entertainment at discounted prices.

During the day, lose yourself among the forests, pristine lakes and trout streams of this scenic region, or relax "back home" at WorldMark Branson, located in the heart of the Thousand Hills Golf Resort. Downtown will treat you to old-fashioned five-and-dimes, quilt shops and an entire block of artisans' crafts and demonstrations.

#### **Entertainment package: 2,950 credits per person**

Includes: city tour, The Andy Williams Show, The Jim Stafford Show and Dinner, The Shoji Tabuchi Show and resort reception with entertainment.

#### **One-bedroom WorldMark condo: 8,000 credits**

#### **Two-bedroom WorldMark condo: 10,000 credits**

Call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103.

*Subject to change and availability. Air not included. Cash 'n' Credits options available. To receive the best rates on car rental and airfare, book early by calling Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511.*

**MUST BOOK BY DECEMBER 5**

## Swim With Dolphins

### Key Largo, Florida

**May 17 – 23**

In magical Key Largo, experience the wonder and pure joy of swimming with dolphins. Their cheerfulness, intelligence, playfulness and gentleness have won these enchanting creatures a special place in our hearts. This ultimate adventure is enjoyed at Dolphins Plus, Florida's first and finest dolphin education and research facility. The structured swim guarantees interaction with trained dolphins based on the animals' pace.

Paradise awaits at The Westin Beach Resort Key Largo, surrounded by lush foliage, white sandy beaches and sparkling water. Resort features include upscale hotel rooms, three restaurants, two outdoor pools with cascading waterfalls, sauna, fitness center, sun deck, nature trails, tennis courts, marina and a full range of water sports at one of the Key's largest private beaches. Snorkeling, diving, deep-sea fishing, eco tours, cruising and golfing are nearby activities that can be arranged through the hotel.

**17,000 credits per package**  
**(2,100 credits for each additional dolphin swim)**

Package includes six nights' accommodation at The Westin Beach Resort Key Largo (unit sleeps up to four), swimming with dolphins (for two people) and a one-time-use underwater camera. Dial 1-800-457-0103 by December 5 to make your reservations.

*Subject to change and availability. Air and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Cash 'n' Credits options available. Call Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511 for airfare and car rental.*



## words to travel by

### Dining on the Go

One of the best—and hardest—parts of traveling can be finding the perfect restaurant on the road. Fortunately, researching eateries is fun, and can excite more than just your taste buds for the journey ahead. Following are some suggestions for how to do that. And remember, when you're tired of eating out and a home-cooked meal seems like the true luxury, you can always retire to your WorldMark kitchen and cook up a storm.

—LPC

#### Recommendations and Reservations

- If you're going where no friend or family member has gone before, check the WorldMark Web site's Vacation Forum to see what restaurants other owners have enjoyed. Try searching the forum for messages containing "food" or "restaurants" and a resort name like "Oceanside," and you'll find enthusiastic recommendations for everything from Greek and Thai eats to steakhouses and delis.

- The front desks at WorldMark resorts have lists of nearby restaurants and menus

to browse. But the best suggestions usually come out of chance encounters with food-loving locals. My husband and I still talk about the fabulous guacamole and spicy quesadillas we had at La Salsa Fresh Mexican Grill while staying at Rancho Vistoso. We might never have discovered this restaurant if it weren't for a waiter's tip.

- In urban areas and eateries where dining is divine, planning is key. Reserve your table at premier restaurants months in advance at OpenTable.com. You also can make reservations at one of 165,000-plus restaurants in over 13,000 cities on RestaurantRow.com.

#### Still Haven't Found What You're Looking For?

- There is a mind-boggling number of Web sites catering to all things gastronomical. DineSite.com offers detailed restaurant information and visitor reviews. Fodors.com also has restaurant listings sortable by name, price, location, cuisine and score.

- At subscription-based Zagat.com, you can search on a number of criteria, such as

cuisine, popularity, cost, special features (like "Young Children" or "Romantic Spots") and quality of food, decor and service.

- More comprehensive than any of the above sites, Dine.com proclaims itself the largest online restaurant review site, with over 150,000 restaurants and 120,000 reviews.

#### A Tall Order

- It isn't enough to end up at a good restaurant; you must also order well. Be sure to ask the waiter if he has any personal recommendations. Choosing a regional specialty, such as lobster while in Rosarito Beach, is always a wise idea.

- If you have a young child in your family, I suggest boycotting the children's menu and asking for an extra plate, instead. By sharing your meal with your toddler, you not only save money, but the quality of her food will be better and your child can try new things.

- For those with distinct dietary needs (you're on a low-cholesterol diet, for example), eating out can be difficult or simply monotonous. Don't be afraid to order "off" the menu if you don't see anything appropriate or appetizing listed. For instance, ask for an item to be specially prepared (no salt) or see if the chef can put together an entrée consisting of side dishes (say, garlic mashed potatoes and grilled vegetables). Bon appetit!

## exchange direct here and there

Capistrano, California  
 Carlsbad, California  
 Grand Cayman Island, Caribbean  
 Kauai, Hawaii  
 Maui, Hawaii  
 Mazatlan, Mexico  
 Newport, Oregon  
 Oahu, Hawaii  
 Puerto Vallarta, Mexico  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico  
 Scottsdale, Arizona  
 Sun Valley, Idaho

*Exchange fees apply. For more information on these popular exchange destinations, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103.*



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*Wrap Up*

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\*FAX credits are owner credits and do not count as Advance Club points (such as Cruise for Credits, Fantasy rent and Golden Escapes), counting as additional funds on WorldMark inventory. FAX credits are limited and this program is based on availability. Additional information is available by calling Guest Services at 1-888-648-7363.

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*Orders must be received by December 15 for Christmas delivery.*



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