

RELAXING RETREATS

With the go-go-go pace of summer in the city, it can be difficult to stop and take a moment for yourself. That's why this year, it's time to tell your boss you're finally using up some of that vacation time and heading elsewhere for a little "R&R."

Whether you choose to travel somewhere exotic or stick closer to home, Chicago Collection has you covered: Check out one of these two swanky resorts for the ultimate luxury retreat experience both near and far.—Nicole Briese



PICTURED ABOVE: GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT & SPA EXTERIOR, LOBBY AND POOL. PICTURED BELOW: HUALALAI RESORT ARIAL VIEW.



insider TRAVEL

If you're looking to head somewhere more exotic, there's no locale in the United States more desirable than Hawaii. Situated on 865 acres of North Kona Kohala coast on the Big Island, **Hualalai Resort** in Kailua Kona is a vacationer's dream. This picturesque, oceanside community has everything you could ever ask for. Golf, water sports, sunny skies and breathtaking views are all in abundance at Hualalai. Visitors will stay in one of the resort's 243 bungalow-style suites, where amenities such as pro-caliber golfing, four-star dining and award-winning spa facilities abound.

Originally built around the 18-hole, Jack Nicklaus Hualalai Course, the resort was the first to become an official PGA Tour Resort and hosts the annual PGA Champions Tour Mitsubishi Electric at Hualalai. With, cooling stations, course snacks and GPS-equipped golf carts, even the most seasoned sportsman will be impressed. The course is also outfitted with a practice area that includes a 320-yard driving range, four target greens, a putting green and short-game space.

If you're not a golfer, you might be more interested in the Hualalai Sports Club, where a wide range of water-based activities await. Led by one of the resort's *alaka'i nalu* (respected watermen and women of the ocean) such as Daniel Perez, a plethora of pastimes includes canoeing, snorkeling, stand-up paddling, wind surfing, scuba diving, boogie boarding, sailing, kayaking and deep-sea fishing. Active types will love the alternative workout, while naturalists will be bowled over by a tranquil ambience: On a calm day, you might find yourself looking out upon a school of dolphins, lazily gliding through the water with ease. Amidst a sea of intensely blue water, it's easy to forget your worries and lose yourself in the serenity.

From there, it's a smooth transition to poolside pampering. With four pools (three adult, one kiddie) and a pond where 3,000 tropical fish and a spotted eagle ray reside, you can kick back and relax with a cocktail and a cold towel while you soak up the sun.

Hualalai Spa takes relaxation to a whole other level. It doesn't get much more zen than the *Waiea* (Water of Life) outdoor garden, where you can wade through a pool pre- or posttreatment, then lie back beneath the tropical foliage that hides the spa from onlookers. While you're immersed in nature, small lizards dart up and down the trees, and colorful little birds flit about. From there, you'll be led to one of the private indoor or outdoor treatment rooms for a Lomi Lomi or Swedish massage, aromatherapy, hot-rock treatment or body wrap, just to name a few.

One week here, and you won't ever want to leave. And you don't have to! The resort's residences have become vacation, second or permanent homes to many of its former visitors. World-class villas, spec-homes and custom lot spaces go for up to \$26 million: These aren't your average digs. An initial entry fee of \$225,000 and \$30,000 annually thereafter gains you membership to all of the resort's private amenities such as the separate, members-only Tom Weiskopf-designed 18-hole Ke'olu Course boasting an ocean view from every hole. Members are also privy to their own clubhouse with a 25-meter pool, stunning fitness pavilion, residential concierge and exclusive dining options. If you want the opulence but can't quite commit, a rental program allows you to live the luxe life on your own terms.

**Hualalai Resort, Kailua Kona, HI, 808.325.8000,
hualalairesort.com**



PICTURED ABOVE: HUALALAI RESORT RESIDENTIAL HOME, RESORT LOBBY AND KUIKAWA POOL.

You don't have to travel across the country to find your center—**Grand Traverse Resort & Spa** in Acme, Michigan, just six miles outside of Traverse City, offers the luxury of a jet-setting getaway with none of the inconvenience. A scenic six-hour drive from Chicago takes you to this peaceful resort offering some of the Midwest's finest golf, spa and top-notch accommodations.

Not one, not two, but three distinguished golf courses can be found here, designed by Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and William Newcomb. The resort even has its own Golf Academy, where you can get private instruction from the likes of Scott Herbert, six-time Michigan Open champion (hosted by the resort from 1981 to 2008). With one-, two- and three-day schools available from April to September and lessons and practice sessions running year-round, you'll be swinging like a pro in no time.

Warmer months will also see you on the courts and in the water. Grand Traverse Resort & Spa guests can practice their serves on four outdoor and five indoor tennis courts. They can also hit the lake via personal watercraft (Jet Skis, pedal boats and kayaks are all on hand) or relax at the private beach club on the sandy shores of Lake Michigan. Families might prefer the 15,000-square-foot, year-round indoor water playground. A waterslide, waterwalk obstacle course and water basketball nets provide hours of entertainment, and the pool's zero-depth sprayground lets even the littlest family members dip



GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT & SPA GOLF COURSE.

their toes in.

Once you've dried off, you'll want to grab a bite to eat—and the resort offers no shortage of options. At least eight on-site restaurants present fresh, local ingredients as well as children's menus that satisfy even the pickiest eaters.

Just outside of Traverse City, there are plenty of off-site choices, as well. Take the 24-hour, complimentary shuttle to the Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel or drive to one of the other surrounding attractions such as Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore or even Mackinac Bridge, all within a two-hour stretch.

Or, if you prefer, stick around and enjoy your room: The resort offers many amenities in its 238 hotel and 186 tower rooms, complete with Jacuzzi whirlpool tubs, wet bars and WiFi. With extra touches such as in-room babysitting, licensed day care and 24-hour dog care, you'll feel completely at ease taking a moment for yourself.

End an action-packed day at Spa Grand Traverse, with two floors dedicated to massage, hydrotherapy soaks, facials, nail care and even hair services. Giving a nod to the region's signature cherry crops, body treatments such as the Cherry Infused Massage and Cherry Honey Glow will delight your senses. Special services for both men and teens ensure that no one is excluded, and overnight and day packages let you unwind as long as you wish. Aaaaahhh.

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, Acme, MI, 231.534.6000, grandtraverseresort.com



time to discover



At Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, your vacation comes to life with a backdrop of 900 acres of rolling greens, woodlands, and beach, surrounded by orchards, vineyards, and the beautiful blue waters of Lake Michigan. It's the surprising destination that has it all: exceptional golf, beach club, soothing spa and delicious food and drink.

grandtraverseresort.com | 800-748-0303 | Traverse City, MI

Owned & Operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians



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