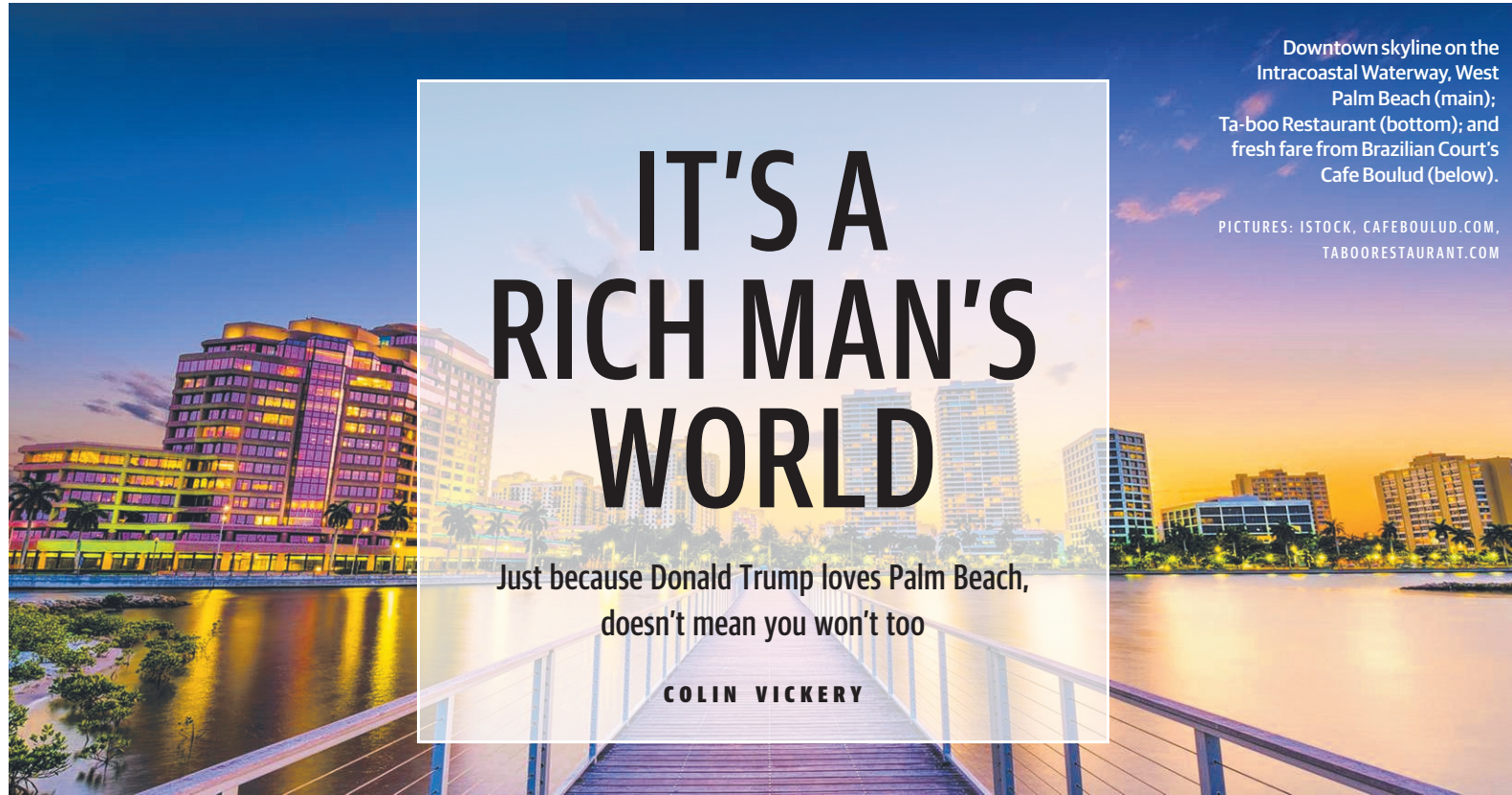


DESTINATION ♦ UNITED STATES



IT'S A RICH MAN'S WORLD

Just because Donald Trump loves Palm Beach, doesn't mean you won't too

COLIN VICKERY

Downtown skyline on the Intracoastal Waterway, West Palm Beach (main); Ta-boo Restaurant (bottom); and fresh fare from Brazilian Court's Cafe Boulud (below).

PICTURES: ISTOCK, CAFEBOULUD.COM, TABOORESTAURANT.COM

ESCAPE ROUTE

PALM BEACH

GETTING THERE

Palm Beach is 120km – about 1½ hrs' drive – north of Miami, or about 300km southwest of Orlando and Walt Disney World.

STAYING THERE

The Chesterfield (363 Coconut Row) chesterfieldpb.com Venetian-style architecture, reasonable rates and the buzzing Leopard Lounge bar. But the clincher is that the hotel has its own Rolls-Royce. You can be chauffeur-driven anywhere on the island for \$25 a trip. Sweet.

MORE

thepalmbeaches.com

Money, money, money. Those are the first three words that enter my mind as I cross the Intracoastal Waterway to Palm Beach, Florida.

To the right is a private dock stacked with mega-yachts whose size would make James Packer blush. Ahead, down Royal Palm Way, is a 25km-long island that is a holiday haven for many of the world's richest people.

It is hard to believe this area used to be an alligator-infested wasteland before oil tycoon Henry Flagler built the Florida East Coast Railway from Jacksonville to Key West in the early 1900s.

American President Donald Trump, shock-jock Howard Stern, novelist James Patterson, talk radio's Rush Limbaugh, golfers Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and singers Jimmy Buffett and Rod Stewart all own multimillion-dollar homes here.

Palm Beach is *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* on steroids but despite a steady stream of Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Maseratis and Ferraris, it feels classy and understated. The best news for tourists is the town is also surprisingly friendly and affordable.

EAT LIKE A MILLIONAIRE

The Breakers (1S County Rd), a massive 57ha oceanside resort originally built by Flagler in 1896, is a destination of choice for the world's elite. A walk through the sumptuous lobby is a must. There is a fine steak house and Italian restaurant but my pick is the trendy HMF cocktail bar and eatery. Tapas treats such as duck bao buns can be washed down with martinis with evocative names like The Redhead and Flapper's Delight. THEBREAKERS.COM

AMAZING WINDOW SHOPPING

Worth Ave is Palm Beach's answer to Rodeo Drive – four blocks of upscale shops including Chanel, Gucci, Emilio Pucci, Louis Vuitton as well as Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue. A huge plus is the fantastic array of small boutiques. Be prepared to see plenty of women stroll the avenue with little white dogs. WORTH-AVENUE.COM

IT'S RICH IN HISTORY

Oil and railroad baron Henry Flagler built Whitehall, a 75-room Beaux Arts estate, as a wedding present for new wife Mary Lily Kenan Flagler and it quickly became a Gilded Age landmark. *The New York Herald*

dubbed it "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world". The sumptuous rooms are influenced by Louis V, Louis XIV and the Italian Renaissance. 1WHITEHALLWAY.FLAGLERMUSEUM.US

THE PEOPLE ARE WORTH WATCHING

And Ta-boo (221 Worth Ave) is the place. This surprisingly affordable bistro, with super friendly staff, is crammed with locals every night. Try to book a table near the door so you can see the passing parade or grab a seat at the bar. Main courses will set you back about \$30 and pizzas a mere \$20. Remarkable value. TABOORESTAURANT.COM

GLAMOROUS GOLF COURSES

The Al Fresco restaurant (2345 S Ocean Boulevard) has one of the most beautiful settings on the island – right on the beach at the Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course. It is a haven for locals out to enjoy dinner on a warm summer's night. Book a table on the outdoor deck to watch the sun go down. ALFRESCOPB.COM

YOU CAN GET THE GOSS

Leslie Diver knows where the celebrity mansions are but, best of all, she knows the juicy gossip. One of Diver's tours is a great way to peek behind the fences of the island's exotic homes. But you also get the dirt on the scandal – affairs and even murders – that have rocked this staid

town over the years. Diver will also take you past Trump's Mar-A-Lago estate, which is now a private club, and tell you that the best place to spot stars is at the local Starbucks. ISLANDLIVINGPB.COM

TAKE IN THE COCKTAIL HOUR

The Colony (155 Hammon Ave) and the Brazilian Court Hotel (301 Australian Ave) are pricey places to stay but great for a meal or a drink. The Colony's Polo bar and eatery is next to the hotel's unique Florida-shaped swimming pool. The Brazilian Court's Cafe Boulud, overlooking lushly landscaped courtyards, has just had a complete remodel. THECOLONYPALMBEACH.COM, THEBRAZILIANCOURT.COM

IT'S SO EASY TO EXPLORE

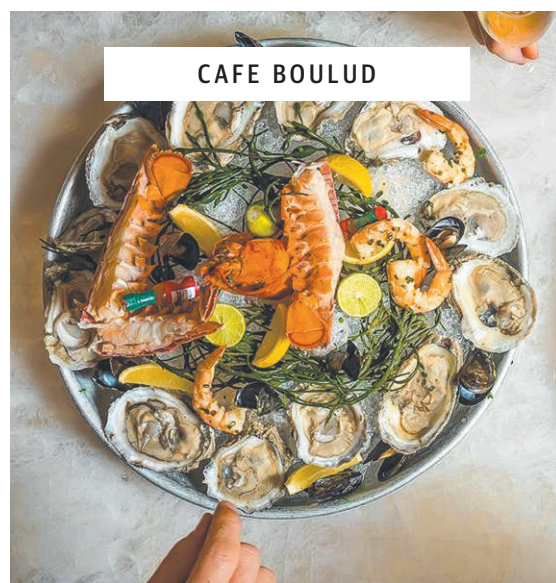
The best way to see Palm Beach is by bicycle or walking.

Hire a bike from the Palm Beach Bicycle Trail Shop (223 Sunrise Ave), download a map from the Palm Beach Preservation Foundation (311 Peruvian Ave) and then hit the pavement.

The North Lake Trail passes some of the magnificent homes adjoining the Intracoastal Waterway.

A trek along beachside North Ocean Boulevard is also a must.

The beautiful Gothic-style Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal church (141 S County Rd) is the town's oldest house of worship. PALMBEACHBICYCLE.COM, PALMBEACHPRESERVATION.ORG, BBTS.ORG



NORFOLK ISLAND

SALE ENDS 22 MARCH!

360°

of WONDER

AIR NEW ZEALAND SALE

Your Holiday Includes:

- Return airfares to Norfolk Island
- 7 nights accommodation
- 8 days car hire incl full insurance
- VIP on Island Concierge
- Return airport transfers
- Two course welcome buffet dinner
- Entry to the World of Norfolk Exhibit
- Wonderland by Night Show
- Half day Orientation Tour
- Life as a Convict Tour
- Pitcairn Pioneers Tour
- Norfolk Language Class

CREST APARTMENTS

Self-contained one bedroom apartments only minutes from World Heritage - Kingston. **\$1399** SAVE \$680

SOUTH PACIFIC RESORT HOTEL

Centrally located hotel only a brief walk from the main township. **\$1499** SAVE \$680 **BONUS:** Includes breakfast.

ALOHA APARTMENTS

Self-contained one bedroom apartments located in the heart of town. **\$1549** SAVE \$700

TINTOELA OF NORFOLK

An unrivalled location overlooking the South Pacific Ocean. **\$2249** SAVE \$800 **BONUS:** Includes a Hilli's dinner.

There's more to **NORFOLK ISLAND**

OMNISCHE

AIR NEW ZEALAND

SPACIFICA TRAVEL

1800 800 722

Special holidays to especial places

sales@spacificatravel.com
www.spacificatravel.com

Prices are departing Melbourne per person, twin share, inclusive of pre-payable taxes and for new bookings only. Valid for sale until 22MAR17 or until sold out. Please consult our website for travel dates and for full terms and conditions. Spacifica Travel is a division of Wave Hospitality Group Pty Ltd, an accredited travel agency and member of the International Air Transport Association. (IATA). Images courtesy of Norfolk Island Tourism.