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The Finest Estate
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Revealed







FINE DESTINATION: Experiencing Exclusive Resorts

More than just a luxury destination club, Exclusive Resorts Offers vacation experiences tailored to your distinct desires.

Correspondent **JOSEPH REANEY** went to experience their latest property in Costa Rica.

The orange sun stutters and sinks across the bay. I am soaking up the scene from my private infinity pool, a consummately-chilled cocktail perched just within reach, when I hear a rustling overhead. Tentatively, I look up into the shadowy tree canopy overhanging the cliff edge, to discover a wrinkled pink face looking back at me, A Capuchin monkey. It opens its jaws wide – more the gap-toothed grin of an old man than the sharp-toothed menace of a young one – then turns on its toes and skips off into the fallen darkness.

It is the latest in a long line of first-time experiences during this vacation. World-leading destination club Exclusive Resorts prides itself on offering memorable moments, and my four days in Peninsula Papagayo – their custom-designed Costa Rican resort – have provided these moments in abundance. I've zip-lined through the thick forest and jet-skied along the sandy bay; sipped sumptuous cocktails on a luxury yacht and gorged on yellow fin tuna grilled by a chef in-residence. And all without having to count the dimes, as everything – in and out of the resort – is fully covered by my one-time membership fee and annual dues.



As a destination club, Exclusive Resorts offers its members access to a wide range of ultra-luxury vacation properties around the world, without any of the headaches traditionally associated with owning a home. “Membership to Exclusive Resorts provides members with so much more than just a vacation property,” explains Ricardo Lopez Recabarren, General Manager at Exclusive Resorts Peninsula Papagayo. “Beyond an amazing residential portfolio in desirable, jet-set destinations around the globe, members can enjoy seamless ‘door-to-door’ vacation planning assistance, through our expert Ambassadors and Concierges.”

This is an invaluable service. On joining Exclusive Resorts, members (and their families) are paired with a dedicated Exclusive Ambassador, who learns their distinct needs, preferences and priorities, then works with an on-site Exclusive Concierge to ensure every aspect of the vacation is perfectly personalized: from the particular selection of chauffeured excursions right down to the types of wine stocked in the cellars. “We provide choice, flexibility and convenience,” says Ricardo, “by providing travel experiences that are tailored and offer a remarkable personal touch.” They don’t design their vacations; they design yours.

Exclusive Resorts properties comprise a wealth of features and activities to suit all tastes. Take Peninsula Papagayo: its 19 Atlantic Ocean-facing villas each cover 4,000 square feet with four bedrooms, outdoor showers and a private infinity pool – and offer access to amenities ranging from an 18-hole golf course to a wide array of in-room spa treatments. Yet this is merely one of the more than 350 decadent properties around the globe that make up their portfolio. Exclusive Resorts boast luxury holiday properties spread all across North America and in a dozen other countries worldwide, with more to come, so whether you desire an expansive city residence in New York, a breathtaking beachside villa in the Cayman Islands, or a lovingly-restored farmhouse in the Tuscan countryside, they are sure to have the perfect property to suit.

In addition, the destination club boasts access to a number of additional luxurious residences worldwide, in magnificent locations across Europe, Asia and North Africa. That is thanks to their alliances with other leading high-end accommodation providers such as The Eden Club, Banyan Tree and the Hideaways Club.

What particularly stands out from my vacation in Costa Rica is the wealth of activities on offer. Exclusive Resorts always endeavors to provide its members with luxurious and genuinely regional experiences, so as well as offering access to resort amenities, spas and fitness centers, they will also arrange entry into local attractions ranging from museums and cultural institutions to theme parks and safari excursions. It isn't only permanent attractions either – Exclusive Resorts also offer impressive access to international events including the Super Bowl, Kentucky Derby, Milan Fashion Week and the Masters Golf Tournament, which may incorporate exclusives ranging from VIP seating to meets and greets with the athletes and designers.

If you are so inclined, Exclusive Resorts can actually craft your entire vacation from start to finish. Their Exclusive Journeys program involves them hand-selecting and custom-designing travels to some of the world's most famous attractions, while 'Exclusive Immersions' comprises a series of off-the-beaten path experiences that allow

members to really get under the skin of a culture, from its food to its cityscapes.

Naturally, this quality of vacation comes at a price. Standard club membership fees start from \$170,000 a year, while annual dues are \$1,097 per day. Membership plans range from 10 to 60 vacation days a year. There are also exclusive extras available, from members being able to send extended family on their own membership vacations, to allowing the simultaneous use of two adjacent residences for large gatherings.

But as I sink back into the pool, thinking about the last four days of vacation perfection, I can't help but conclude it is worth it. Now all that remains is to decide where to spend my remaining vacation days...

Exclusive Resorts was founded in 2002 and is now the leading destination club in the world. Find out more about their exceptional range of properties around the world by visiting exclusiveresorts.com.

