



MEDIA RELEASE

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SAND CULTURE ON SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST URBAN BEACHES

Sun lovers who dread winter's chill can flee to another continent to embrace the culture of an urban beach in Europe, America, or Asia at this time of the year.

Below is Flight Centre's list of the best city beaches across the globe, from those that are man-made to coastlines with creative bars.

Paris

Every year during July and August the banks of France's famous River Seine are transformed into a beach, complete with white sand, palm trees, sun beds and parasols. The annual event has been drawing a local crowd and international visitors since 2002. The river water, however, is not suitable for swimming, but the sunshine and floral scenery sets a slower pace that is a pleasant contrast to the typical bustle of Parisian life in the metropolis.

GETTING THERE: Flights to Paris start from \$1,915* departing Auckland, \$2,139* departing Wellington or \$2,135* departing Christchurch.

Berlin

Beach bars along the River Spree in Berlin, also spring to life during the summer months. A combination of vibrant music and a list of specially crafted cocktails provide the perfect hangout for watching the sun set. Some of the bars have a pool and host volleyball games if you fancy being a bit more energetic, otherwise simply sink your feet into the soft sand and have a drink with the friendly locals.

GETTING THERE: Flights to Berlin start from \$2,345* departing Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch.

New York

Lucky tourists and residents are now able to surf legally in New York, since the city opened its first official surfing beach. The activity was outlawed in 1850, although today Rockaway Beach allows surfing and is the largest urban beach in the United States or America.

GETTING THERE: Flights to New York start from start from \$1,899* departing Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch.

Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro has two of the world's most famous beaches, Copacabana and Ipanema, which have been immortalised in song lyrics. Copacabana is more than three kilometres long and has a fantastic walkway. Ipanema is the quieter and less crowded option, but both offer visitors a dramatic stretch of coastline and are great for travellers who love to party.

GETTING THERE: Flights to Rio de Janeiro start from start from \$1,415* departing Auckland, \$1,615* departing Wellington and Christchurch.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong's sun bathing culture goes under the radar. The vibrant city has around 40 beaches, with some of the best on Hong Kong's islands. These can be accessed by ferry and are a welcome relief from the heat and humidity in the city during the summer months.

GETTING THERE: Flights to Hong Kong start from \$1,155* departing Auckland and \$1,299* departing Wellington and Christchurch.

Miami

The most recognised beach in Miami is South Beach, which backs onto Ocean Drive. The area thrives with energy and activity all day and night, and is popular for watching people as they pass by. Visitors will experience a mix of local flavour in trendy cafes and restaurants, as well as an array of international influences.

GETTING THERE: Flights to Miami start from \$1,999* departing Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Dubai

For those planning a getaway early next year, the Arabian Gulf is a good option. The soft sands and shallow water are at their most pleasant in January and February, when the temperatures are not as high. Dubai's main beaches run along Jumeira Road and are divided up by hotels and private clubs, although there are a few public access beaches.

GETTING THERE: Flights to Dubai start from \$1,725* departing Auckland, \$2,025* departing Wellington and \$2,099* departing Christchurch.

*Price subject to availability and are valid for travel on various dates in 2009 and 2010. For details and bookings, contact Flight Centre on 0800 427 555 or visit www.flightcentre.co.nz

About Flight Centre

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The company has won the JRA "Best Places to Work" Large Workplace category award for seven consecutive years.

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