



# CHEAP SLEEPS

**T**his fall, there are many steals and deals to be had for the savvy travel planner. Some of the biggest discounts involve renting other people’s condos or apartments in the most perfect of locations – from the bustling centre of a city to a remote beach. At first glance, I spotted the following offerings at [vacationrentals.com](http://vacationrentals.com).

- ✦ Smack in the middle of Athens’ Plaka, or central market, is Zoe’s two-bedroom condo for \$75 a night. For a small fee, the owners will even stock the larder with items from your grocery list before you arrive. Fancy a Shirley Valentine moment? At Iason Studios’ one-bedroom in Chania, Crete, you can dream of fishermen filling your ouzo glass for \$70 a night (30892).
- ✦ Christine & Michel’s *piéd-à-terre* in Montreal’s Little Italy can be had for \$100 a night or \$500 for a week. Throw in 10-foot

- ceilings and hardwood floors on the second floor of a stylish 1920s duplex (7288).
  - ✦ On the Island of Goa, India, in a tropical garden near the Arabian Sea’s silver sand beaches, “Little Paradise” is Anjila’s two-bedroom cottage where you never need to close the windows. Weekly rental works out to \$100 a night (9733).
- If you want to do a little more digging, check out other home rental companies such as [vrbo.com](http://vrbo.com), [ownerdirect.com](http://ownerdirect.com) or [vacationsfrbo.com](http://vacationsfrbo.com).



## NIGHT ZIPPER

If it’s not the impending Olympics, a romping Bachelorette or the arrival of temperamental titan Chef Ramsay, British Columbia is invariably a backdrop to something else *à la minute* — such as night zip-lining. Only a couple of months old, adrenalin seekers head out before sunset into the depths of a West Coast forest and continue zipping into the dark, sometimes reaching speeds of 60 kilometres per hour. The 3,200-foot line is situated 150 feet up on acres of ecologically diverse land near Sooke. Talk about getting high on the rainforest! [adrenalinezip.com](http://adrenalinezip.com)

## PARIS REVEALED

On bookstands this month: *Paris Times Eight*, a memoir about discovering oneself in the City of Lights, by Canadian journalist Deirdre Kelly, who says she wrote the book as a “love song to the city that has long inspired me.”

From someone who knows Paris intimately come a few insider tips....

**BEST VIEW** Atop La Grande Roue de Paris, the giant Ferris wheel at Place de la Concorde. “The ride offers a bird’s-eye view of Paris in every direction. Just hold tight to your camera — the turns at the top are killer!”

**BEST EATERY** L’Epi d’Or, a tiny restaurant located just behind the Louvre. “Thanks to the long communal tables, it’s common to find politicians and fashion victims sitting elbow to elbow enjoying the delicious pan-fried miniature scallops on a bed of chicory and the *gigot d’agneau à la cuillère* (leg of lamb slow cooked in wine).”

**BEST FIND** The Natural History Museum’s Grande Galerie de l’Évolution in the Jardin des Plantes. “It is filled with beasts — mostly stuffed, if not plucked down to the bone. The building is a fantastic example of 19th century architecture, using steel girders and glass to create a centre of intellectual discovery that feels as lofty as the ideas stored in it.”

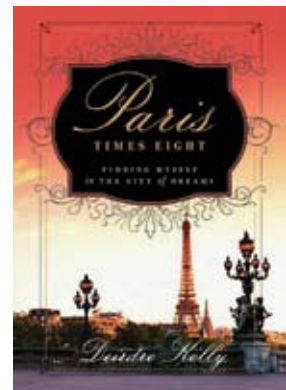


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