

# Going south? Try these warm spots

**FACE IT**, a white Christmas in Michigan just doesn't appeal to everyone. Some people would rather not shiver through the holidays. They'd rather just hum Bing Crosby's song while soaking up soothing sunshine somewhere south of here.

If that sounds like your style, take a look at the following roundup of warm Christmas getaways.

**IF YOU WANT** to stay close to home, consider the values of Mexico and Hawaii.

Just south of the U.S. southern border sits Mexico, a tropical land with stretches of warm beaches, gentle breakers and blue waters, and ancient Mayan ruins.

Big game fish and exotic fish abound in the water of Guaymas, the water sports capital of Mexico. And water skiers and skin divers will find plenty of places to explore in the secluded, calm bays that surround Guaymas.

The richness of the Mayan lore and culture is most evident in Merida, the starting point for visits to and exploration of ruins such as Uxmal and Chichen-Itza.

**IF YOU CHOSE ONE** word to describe the Big Island of Hawaii, it would have to be "contrast."

Highlights range from sandy beaches to lava wastelands, from cattle ranches to fields of flowers, from peaceful bays to volcanic craters.

On any of the islands that make up the state of Hawaii, you'll find beauty to capture your imagination — rugged mountains with twisted hiking and riding trails and verdant valleys, gently sloping hills covered with wild flowers, mile after mile of beaches, either bustling with activity like Waikiki or peaceful, un-

spoiled and unhurried like those on Kauai.

**IF YOU ARE** willing to travel quite a bit further in your search for sun, try the South Pacific.

On Tahiti, the main island of French Polynesia, life is centered around the picturesque waterfront city of Papeete, one of the most romantic and legendary ports in the South Pacific. Away from Papeete, Tahiti's scenery turns to lush and

colorful countryside, dramatic cloud-capped peaks and blue lagoons with activities such as big game fishing, water sports, and cruises.

But no island in the world compares with the South Pacific's Bora Bora for snorkeling. The verdant volcanic island is surrounded by a calm lagoon full of brilliant coral gardens and colorful tropical fish. People seeking relaxation or solitude will find ribbons of beaches on which to bask in the sun.

## Hints on addressing cards

**TODAY'S CHANGING** lifestyles and role relationships raise some questions about greeting card etiquette, from actual card selection to the addressing of envelopes.

Here are some hints from the American Greetings card company:

- When addressing a card to a widow, use her husband's first name: Mrs. John A. Jones. If they have children, and they are still living with her, you can address the card: Mrs. John A. Jones and Children.

- In addressing a card to friends living together, one solution is to address the card with their full names, one on each line. Or, you might want

to send a separate card to each friend.

- When sending a card to a divorced woman, you may retain the "Mrs.," but you should follow it with her first name: Mrs. Joan A. Jones. It also would be correct to dispense with the Mrs. and address the card to "Joan Jones."

In deciding whether or not to use "Ms.," you might want to consider the preference of the recipient. Some women prefer to be addressed as Ms. — and some are quite proud of the Miss or Mrs. preceding their name. If you're not sure, you may want to avoid its use.

**AND WHILE YOU'RE** thinking about that region of the world, how about Australia. The Land Down Under is a land of both warm beaches, such as the Gold Coast, and sophisticated cities, such as Sydney, where you can attend the opera or ballet, dine in fine restaurants and enjoy a variety of entertainment.

Australia also is a land of wilderness and bush ideal for safaris, hiking and camping; mountains for climbing; and lakes, oceans and streams suitable for all sorts of water activities. It's home to the Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef on earth.

**FOR A TRULY** adventurous and less common holiday vacation, think about South America.



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