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12 Best Caribbean Islands to Visit for the Perfect Vacation



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Looking for warmer weather and white sand beaches? These are the best Caribbean islands to visit for some fun in the sun.

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The best islands to visit in the Caribbean

Sit back and daydream for a moment. Let's pretend you have a weeklong vacation coming up, and you can go anywhere you'd like. Some people would choose to head straight to the mountains, while others might flock to busy cities filled with endless attractions. But if [all-inclusive resorts](#) and the [best beaches in the world](#) are calling your name, then your next step is to decide which of the best Caribbean islands to visit.

How we chose the best Caribbean islands to visit

I've been to nearly 20 Caribbean islands over the past few decades—including [weekend getaways](#), luxurious couples escapes and [affordable family vacations](#)—and have stayed at some of the [best Caribbean resorts](#). The one key takeaway from my adventures is that even though they all have palm trees and sandy beaches, each Caribbean island has a totally unique vibe, culture and scene. That's why it's so important to choose the island that best matches your vacation style, whether you are foodie-focused, looking for wildlife, yearning for adrenaline-pumping thrills or just want to kick back on a secluded beach. Read on for your guide to the best islands to visit in the Caribbean based on your interests.

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Turks and Caicos

Best for: Secluded white sand beaches

A British Overseas Territory, Turks and Caicos is an archipelago of 40 islands in the Atlantic Ocean, and it is famed for its stunning shores—but none more so than Grace Bay Beach. Located on the northeast coast of Providenciales and renowned for its pristine white sand and turquoise waters, it's consistently ranked among the most beautiful beaches in the world (these are the [top beach spots in the United States](#)) and is the crown jewel of the island. Other notable spots to catch some rays and enjoy the sea are Bright Beach, Smith's Reef and Turtle Cove.

What to do: Ever heard of Seven Mile Beach? It's a reference to the uninterrupted stretch that runs from Leeward Beach (across from Grace Bay Beach, Bright Beach and Smith's Reef) to Turtle Cove and the very reason so many people choose to vacation in Turks and Caicos. Those who love diving will be excited to learn that Turks and Caicos is home to one of the largest barrier reefs in the world (roughly 340 miles of barrier reef surround the islands).

Where to stay: Another major selling point of Turks and Caicos? The resorts. [Wymara Resort & Villas](#) sits on the pristine Grace Bay Beach and offers such family-friendly activities as snorkeling excursions, jet skiing and wind surfing, as well as kayaking through the mangrove channels. Indulge in spa treatments at the on-site spa or Caribbean cuisine prepared by award-winning Australian chef Andrew Mirosch. Aside from a luxurious bathrooms and 400 thread count sheets, each room comes with daily breakfast.

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