

Europe's Best New Restaurants + Mexico's Colonial Towns

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

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## Island Escapes

**Great Barrier Reef** Hawaii  
Affordable Caribbean

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# Caribbean for Less

Keep the island flavor high and the prices low at these 20 chic hotels in the greater Caribbean, from the Bahamas to St. Bart's. PLUS Tips on how to get there without breaking the bank



Taking a dip at the Hotel Básico, on Mexico's Playa del Carmen.



cabanas are set in banana fields that slope to the sea. Although its rooms vary in size—those in the Beach Houses tend to be the smallest—most have hardwood floors, a white-canopied four-poster bed, an outdoor shower, and a porch with a hammock. Radios and TV's aren't to be found, but there's a small massage cabana where guests can unwind with coconut- and nutmeg-oil rubs. *Westerhall*; 473/443-2902 or 44-1794/323-227; [www.petitbacaye.com](http://www.petitbacaye.com).

**HONDURAS**

**\$236** A short boat ride across a translucent stretch of the Caribbean Sea brings guests onto **Anthony's Key Resort**: a 40-acre property including a private island, with a swimming pool, a cliff-top restaurant and bar, a sunset viewing deck—even a school of playful resident dolphins. The 56 wooden cabanas keep it basic with huge windows and ceiling fans. The real action, though, is beneath the water's surface. More than 100 dive sites encircle the resort, allowing divers easy access to the shoals of tropical fish that call the 80-degree waters home. *Sandy Bay, Roatán Island*; 800/227-3483 or 954/929-0090; [www.anthonyskey.com](http://www.anthonyskey.com); all-inclusive, seven-night minimum during high season.

**JAMAICA**

**\$160** Hidden among the all-inclusives crowding Negril's Seven-Mile Beach is the **Country, Country** hotel. The 14 gingerbread cottages—refreshed by Ann Hodges, the Jamaican architect best known for designing the island's ultra-posh resorts Goldeneye and Strawberry Hill—are decorated in colonial style and



The Dominican Republic's Sofitel Nicolas de Ovando.

have wraparound balconies. Everything from jerk shacks to live reggae to Negril's famed Norma's on the Beach restaurant are located within walking distance, though the hotel's beachfront grill with Jamaican dishes will tempt you to stay in for the night. *Norman Manley Blvd., Negril*; 888/790-5264 or 876/957-4341; [www.countrynegril.com](http://www.countrynegril.com); breakfast included.

**\$125** The **Rockhouse** may not be a new discovery, but it's hard to ignore this bohemian favorite immersed in tropical gardens two miles from the center of Negril. Its 34 island-flavored rooms, studios, and villas are clustered around jagged, rocky cliffs and grottoes, and there's no shortage of things to do on the property: a 60-foot infinity pool takes the place of a formal beach; yoga classes are held every morning in a newly built pavilion; and snorkelers climb down stepladders to the blue-green sea eight feet below. Trade up to one of seven stone-walled premium villas, which have outdoor »



Stone-walled paths leading to the thatched villas at Jamaica's Rockhouse, above. Right: One of the Rockhouse's sunbathing nooks, on a cliff overlooking the Caribbean.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NIK WHEELER; NOE DEWITT (2)