

5 New Ways To Experience The Caribbean This Summer

by Mara Sofferin



Courtesy of Mara Sofferin

The Caribbean is beloved for its beaches and top-notch hotels, but experiencing the region solely from the seat of a chaise lounge is a big mistake. With [more than 7,000 islands](#)—many with their own distinct cuisines, cultures, and characteristics—there’s much more to see than just sun and sand.

From [music festivals](#) and food festivals to raucous street parties, the Caribbean has an unlikely richness not found in many other corners of the planet. Here are five fresh ideas for a Caribbean getaway, each of which guarantees a true taste of island life. And best of all, you can still stay somewhere that will guarantee pampering—such as these [Caribbean hotels that guarantee a crowd-free vacation](#).

1. TradeWinds

Chartering a [private yacht](#) is one of those catastrophically pricey vacation ideas that most of us don’t even bother putting on our bucket list. That is, until you come across [Tradewinds](#). The family-run fleet of so-called “floating hotels” has revolutionized sailing the Caribbean, allowing travelers to book a single berth on a luxury catamaran just as they would a hotel room on dry land, and for roughly the same price. Think of it as the Airbnb of yachting.

Tradewinds sails to just about anywhere in the Caribbean, and compared to the cool five figures it normally costs to charter a private boat, the average week-long Tradewinds sailing trip comes in at under \$6,000 per couple, and includes a captain, crew, private chef, all meals, booze, and activities such as scuba diving. Hotels with two hulls aren’t just for telecom tycoons anymore.