

RESORT FINDER



Adventure P. 74

P. 46

Quick and easy

All-inclusive P. 32

Family friendly P. 60

Meet Our Contributors



1

BROOKE MORTON

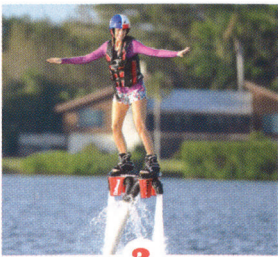
Brooke is the type to don chain mail to feed reef sharks while diving off Grand Bahama, rappel 300 feet into the Black Hole Drop in Belize and regularly check online for last-minute deals to the USVI, one of her favorite getaways. When home in Winter Park, Florida, she contributes regularly to *Sport Diver* and *Redbull.com*. Her secret aspiration is to compete on the TV show *Survivor*. Follow her on Instagram @neptunesbitch.



2

DAVID LAHUTA

“My life would not be what it is today if it wasn’t for the Caribbean,” says the Bermuda-based journalist, who met his wife in St. Croix and is now a proud stay-at-home dad of two boys. David covers the region extensively for *Islands, Travel + Leisure* and *The New York Times*, and although the world traveler has visited over 60 countries, his first love will always be the islands. “Just put me on a beach,” he says. “Any beach.”



3

SARAH SEKULA

Sarah enjoys turning any weekend into an adventure. When she’s not hunting lionfish in Cayman or carving up waves in Barbados, she’s writing about her excursions, the environment and extraordinary people. Sarah, who was born in Spain, likes soccer, snacking and pretty much anything that starts with “s.” She snowboards, salsa dances and is abnormally fond of sharks, particularly for a surfer. Follow her @wordzilla.

Royal West Indies Resort

Grace Bay • Turks and Caicos Islands



All suite, ocean front Royal West Indies Resort is nestled on beautiful Grace Bay beach. This amazing resort offers studio, 1 & 2 bedroom suites. With exciting activities and sights nearby to enjoy it’s the perfect place for a wonderful vacation!

Welcome to Royal West Indies Resort.

reservations@
royalwestindies.com

1-800-332-4203

www.royalwestindies.com

ST. JOHN, USVI



CATERED TO VACATION HOMES

Vacation villas of St. John, USVI. Your on-island experts since 1989. Whatever your holiday desires, we cater to you. cateredto.com



A **no-wallet getaway** is just a starting point for the ever-Butch Stewart opened his first **Sandals** in Montego Bay, varied as the islands they call home, from kitchens helmed

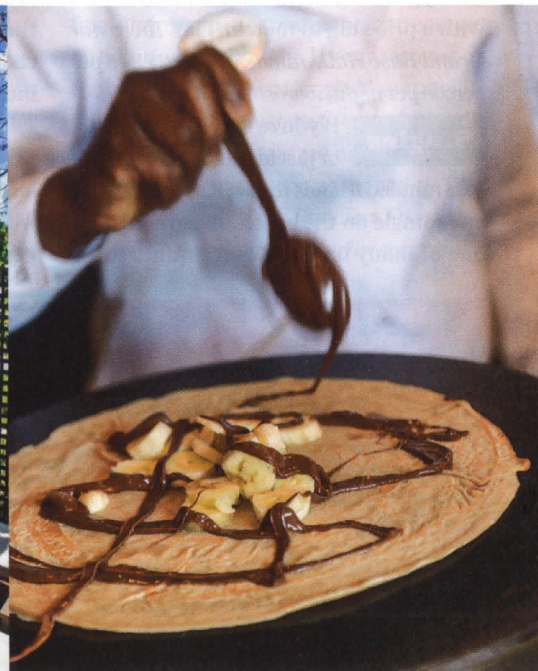
growing all-inclusive market, which took off with gusto when Jamaica, in 1981. Now the **resorts and amenities** are as by **celeb chefs** to top-shelf spirits and **private butlers**.

All-Inclusive

BY DAVID LAHUTA

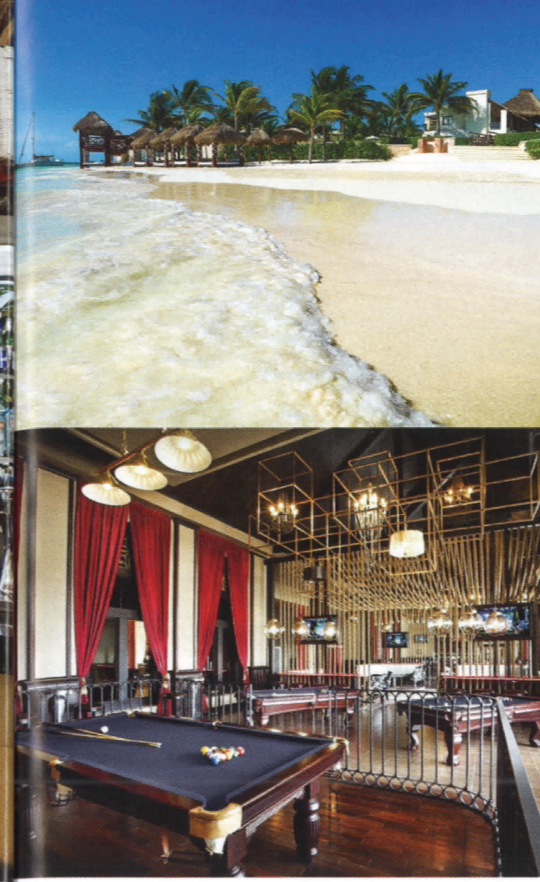
Clockwise from top left: Secrets Aura Cozumel's inviting pool. All-you-can-eat apps. Snorkel time in Saint Lucia. Pro butlers in Puerto Vallarta. Dinner à deux at Sandals Royal Plantation, Jamaica. Coffee and crepes (2). Infinity vistas at Hermitage Bay,

at Sandals Whitehouse Jamaica get extensive training. Nighttime R & R at Punta Cana's Melia Caribe Tropical. Frozen 'ritas Antigua. Tub with a view at Azul Sensori. Fresh spices at Grand Velas, Riviera Maya. Dreams Punta Cana. Red Stripes for all.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SECRETS RESORTS AND SPAS; KT MERRY. RENDEZVOUS RESORT SAINT LUCIA; AZUL SENSORI MEXICO. BY KARISM HOTELS & RESORTS; GRAND VELAS RIVIERA MAYA; DREAMS PUNTA CANA; VITALIC PHOTO

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FRANCISCO GUERRERO TANCOS; JULIAN MITCHELL SANDALS RESORTS; MATT DUTTILE (2) HERMITAGE BAY



Clockwise from far left: Wander past the bar at the Gourmet-Inclusive Azul Beach hotel (2) and find butler-serviced beach beds. Bikes are the only mode of transport at Antigua's Jumby Bay private-island resort (no cars allowed). Billiards and bling at the Hard Rock Punta Cana.

#NOFILTER

Have It All, All Day Long



1

#VIEWFORTWO

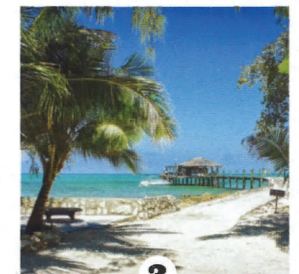
Book a pool suite at Hermitage Bay in Antigua, and this could be you and your better half.



2

#LOBSTERLOVE

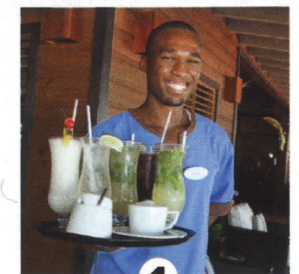
Gourmet eats like tagliatelle de langosta are included at Grand Velas, Riviera Maya.



3

#SMALLHOPEBAY

Small pleasures bring big smiles here at one of the Bahamas' most authentic outposts.



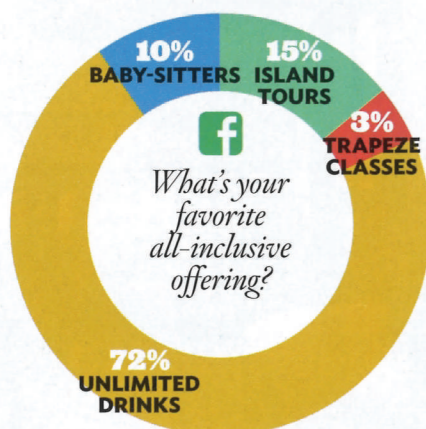
4

#ALLTHEDRINKS

You've found the perfect spot on the sand, the umbrella's just right, now here come the drinks.

All for the Taking

ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS AREN'T ONE SIZE FITS ALL. SEE WHICH ONE SUITS YOU BEST.



Adults-Only There's one reason why honeymooners, retirees and girlfriend groups flock to adults-only all-inclusives: Not only are the **kids nowhere in sight**, they're not allowed on the property, which for overloaded parents or romantics hoping to steal a few quiet moments is a dream vacation come true. Here it's champagne-at-sunset happy hours, **couples massages** on the beach and live jazz dinners. Adults-only all-incs can also be some of the more expensive resorts since this type of high-end service often comes with a price tag to match. **TRY** *Iberostar Grand Rose Hall, Jamaica. From \$245 per person per night, iberostarrosehall.com*

Singles If you're sick of Match.com or just feel like partying with like-minded friends in tow, it's time to meet and mingle on the beach, at the pool or at one of many bars and restaurants these

socially lubricated resorts typically boast. There are sexy infinity pools, **swim-up bars** and tanning butlers who will oil you on demand; 24-hour casinos; raucous nightclubs with live DJs; spas and salons; and most importantly, **bars of all kinds** — pool bars, beach bars, sports bars and dimly lit lounges for quiet canoodling. **TRY** *Hard Rock Punta Cana. From \$216 per person per night, hardrockhotelpuntacana.com*

Family-Friendly Whether you're packing for an army of tweens or lugging car seats, taking the family on vacation is hard work, but choosing your hotel doesn't need to be. All-inclusives that are geared toward families spoil them with over-the-top amenities like **water parks**, movie theaters and toy-lending libraries (some even feature meals with Disney or **Nickelodeon characters**). Best of all, the value adds up fast: Even picky

LESSONS LEARNED

Expert tips for your all-inclusive escape

KNOW YOUR BOOZE If you drink premium-brand alcohol, ask for it specifically. Select bars may carry the higher-end brands while the beach bar may not. Look for VIP areas. — *Tom Carr, CEO of All-Inclusive Outlet*

NO MIDDLEMAN Book directly through the resort rather than a third party. You'll likely get a better room (and deal) since the resort doesn't have to pay a commission on the sale. — *Jason Cochran, Frommers.com*

Luxury Think fine-dining, premium spirits and **private butlers**, and forget about paper wristbands, conga lines and all-you-can-drink booze fests. Encounter world-class service, a mature high-end clientele and preferential treatment from arrival to departure, like a fast-track line at customs and private airport transfers in a Mercedes sedan. Spacious rooms and suites feature posh amenities like **personal plunge pools** and outdoor showers, while some even ditch the minibar in favor of bottle service (your own selection of top-shelf spirits brought right to your

room). Restaurants are helmed by Michelin-starred chefs, beaches feel secluded and no whim goes unmet. **TRY** *Jumby Bay, A Rosewood Resort, Antigua. From \$1,075 a night, double occupancy, rosewoodhotels.com*

Affordable Defined by all-incs that cost around \$100 per person per night, affordable all-incs offer some of the **best vacation value** on the market, but it's important to find out exactly what you're paying for first. Much like a cruise ship, affordable resorts include room and basic food, but things like alcohol, fine-dining and spa treatments can come at an additional price. Tip: If your resort is on the beach, search it on Google Maps satellite view to see how close to the sand it really is; some budget hotels are billed as beachfront but are actually across the street. **TRY** *ClubHotel Riu Negril, Jamaica. From \$130 per person per night, riunegrilresort.com*

BEFORE YOU BOOK Ask in advance if there's a large group event. You don't want to feel like the odd ones out if a company has taken over the resort for a sales-incentive trip. — *George Hobica, Airfarewatchdog.com*

THINK BIG Choose an all-inc that offers activities that would be expensive elsewhere, like scuba. If you can dive every day with the resort, it might be cheaper than a dive resort. — *Wendy Perrin, TripAdvisor*

DEFINE "ALL" Find out what's really included. Some all-incs charge a resort fee and gratuity; others don't. Ask about Wi-Fi, spa treatments, even foods like lobster or steak, which are often not included. — *JC*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KARISMA HOTELS & RESORTS; JUMBY BAY, A ROSEWOOD RESORT; HERMITAGE BAY; GRAND VELAS RIVIERA MAYA; SMALL HOPE BAY LODGE; HERMITAGE BAY; HARD ROCK PUNTA CANA

KARISMA HOTELS & RESORTS



Grand Palladium, Jamaica

PALLADIUM HOTELS & RESORTS

ADVANTAGES

Top Five

REASONS TO CHOOSE AN ALL-INCLUSIVE

1 ONE COST You know what your vacation is going to cost beforehand. You never have to reach for your wallet while on vacation or worry about the bill when you get home.

2 VARIETY You're more likely to try activities that you wouldn't otherwise. This is your chance to try windsurfing, yoga or bird-watching if it's offered as an included activity.

3 FOOD You never have to go far for your next meal. Most all-inclusives have multiple dining options and diverse cuisine offerings, including room service. Another plus: open bar!

4 R&R It's a vacation, plain and simple. Forget about planes, trains and automobiles, which can be the most tiresome part of traveling. Travel this is not.

5 BROAD APPEAL All-inclusives are crowd-pleasers. Planning a family reunion? Or a trip with your 10 best friends? All-inclusives make decision-making easy for groups.

The Reef Resort

A PRIME BEACHFRONT ROOM IS A GUARANTEE AT THIS GRAND CAYMAN GO-TO.

152 Beachfront suites

2 Pools

1,600 Feet of beach



Grand Cayman

At this tranquil resort on the eastern tip of Grand Cayman is an endless view of the Caribbean Sea right from your room — all 152 suites, each with a kitchen or kitchenette and a private balcony or patio, are located directly on the resort's white-sand beach.

Snorkel the thriving coral reef just 30 feet from shore, practice Vinyasa yoga on your breezy outdoor patio or listen to live music five nights a week, including the infamous Barefoot Man dinner show featuring the island-inspired guitar music of local legend George Nowak. Visit from May through October and you might be able to spot yet another

Cayman Islands staple: green and loggerhead turtles, which lay their eggs and hatch on The Reef's beach at night. The resort protects the hatchlings by building fences around the nests and educates guests on the turtle-nesting process.

The resort boasts four on-site restaurants, some of which can pack you an on-the-go lunch (think tuna tartare and conch fritters with Scotch-bonnet aioli) — perfect for day trips to Stingray City, Grand Cayman's world-renowned sandbar that's home to more than 30 southern stingrays. Snorkel alongside the friendly creatures in just 3 feet of water, and you'll even get a chance to feed them. **From \$570 per night, double occupancy, thereef.com**

Small Hope Bay

GO OFF THE GRID AT THIS BOUTIQUE OUTPOST IN THE OUT ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS.

21 Beachfront cottages

60 Dive sites

3 Desserts offered at every meal

Bahamas

Tucked away on Andros Island — the largest of all the Bahamas and home to the world's third largest barrier reef — Small Hope Bay is an underwater enthusiast's dream come true, with unfettered access to more than 60 dive sites including coral gardens, shipwrecks and wall dives at the edge of the continental shelf, where the Tongue of the Ocean plunges to 6,000 feet.

Guests who prefer to stay above water explore thousands of miles of inland waterways and fishing flats in pursuit of tarpon and bonefish. And landlubbers take guided nature hikes through Blue Hole National Park — 40,000 protected

acres featuring the highest concentration of blue holes in the world. It's also one the finest places in the Caribbean for bird-watching — you can spot rare endemics like the great lizard cuckoo and the Bahamas oriole with binoculars provided by the resort.

Rustic cabins made from coral rock and Andros pine are outfitted with handmade batik fabric and purposefully omit televisions, phones and Internet connections — modern amenities you'll hardly miss since your room is right on the beach, with shady hammocks strung between palms trees just outside your door. **From \$520 per night, double occupancy, smallhope.com**



Cayo Espanto

THE QUIETER WESTERN CARIBBEAN PROMISES A VIP PRIVATE-ISLAND ESCAPE.

7 Villas

18 Maximum guests

5 Personal chefs

10 Minutes from barrier reef

Belize

A maximum of 18 guests stay in Cayo Espanto's seven villas at any one time, making it an ideal getaway for solace-seeking couples or small groups looking for luxury (rent the entire island for \$14,000 a night).

Your stay begins before you step foot on the plane because guests are required to complete a guest-preference survey prior to arrival, which outlines your favorite meals and how you like them prepared. The resort eschews set menus for customized, chef-created meals for the duration of your stay. You'll also be treated to your own personal butler or "houseman" who'll grant any wish. Want a lobster lunch under your favorite coconut tree or a fly-fishing

session within casting distance of your villa? Done and done.

There's a small beach for sunbathing if the endless Caribbean view from your private dock or personal plunge pool doesn't suffice, but the real prize at the resort is what's beneath the water and

Only Here

1 Jacques Cousteau called the nearby Great Blue Hole one of the world's top 10 dive sites.

2 Book Casa Ventanas and view fish swimming beneath your villa below the glass-bottom floors.

3 Rates include an all-day private boating excursion where you catch your own lunch.

just a quick boat ride away — the Belize Barrier Reef system, the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, which you can snorkel or scuba dive from the resort's private dive boats. Charles Darwin called the Belize reef system "the most remarkable reef in the West Indies," and it's estimated that only 10 percent of the species living here have been discovered. **From \$1,495 per night, double occupancy, aprivateisland.com**



OLI RUSU (3)

St. James's Club

THIS MIDSIZE ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORT HAS BROAD APPEAL ... AND A MASTER CHEF.

247 Rooms | **7 Nights of live entertainment** | **2 White-sand beaches**



Antigua Perched on a peninsula on Antigua's south-eastern coast, this Elite Island resort is ideal for families and couples — its restaurants, rooms and amenities are spread across 100 windswept acres. Handsome guest rooms feature terracotta floors, private balconies or terraces, in addition to plantation-style hardwood furniture. Spacious suites and villas boast extra details like marble-top wet bars, full kitchens, his-and-hers vanities, free-standing soaking tubs and pretty views of Mamora Bay.

There's plenty to keep you busy at St. James's Club Resort & Villas: four tennis courts, six pools and lots of beach fun,

including Hobie Cat sailing, pedal boating, stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking, all included in your stay. Little ones will love the resort's award-winning Kidz Club, where children ages 4 to 11 can stay for a pizza dinner while their parents enjoy a private meal at one of four restaurants helmed by executive chef Eric J. Sculler, a Master Chef of France (a designation given to just 250 people in the world).

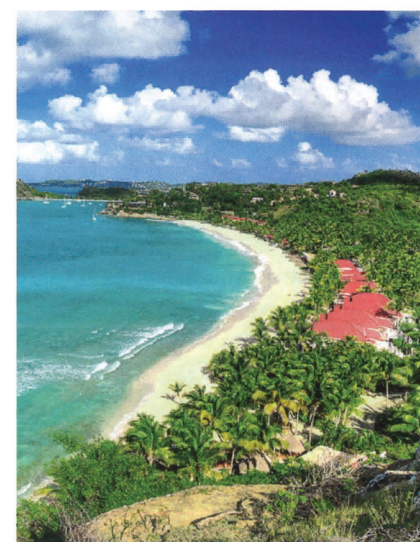
Keep the laid-back mood going with a treatment (or three) at the resort's signature spa where in addition to six private suites you can relax in an outdoor treatment pavilion overlooking the Caribbean Sea. **From \$650 per night, double occupancy, stjamesclubantigua.com**



Galley Bay

YOU'LL FEEL OK ABOUT YOUR LACK OF CARBON FOOTPRINT AT THIS GREEN RESORT.

98 Rooms | **2 Treetop massage huts** | **4 Bars**



Antigua Just a 20-minute drive from Antigua's new V.C. Bird International Airport, Galley Bay Resort & Spa sits on 56 manicured acres. Its stretch of sugar-white beach makes this adults-only retreat one of the very best places on the island to take long strolls or watch the sunset (all guests must be 16 years of age or older).

It's also among Antigua's greenest resorts, with eco-friendly initiatives like a reverse-osmosis water-purification plant, the use of recycled paper products and energy-efficient lighting, all of which have helped make it Green Globe Certified. Even the chefs have boarded the sustainability train, offering fruits,

vegetables and herbs grown in Galley Bay's private gardens and serving just-caught fish (try the local snapper with homegrown eggplant caponata and cherry-tomato confit). At the restaurant, men are required to wear long pants and shoes after 6:30 p.m.

Nature lovers will enjoy spotting pelicans, frigates and herons, many of which call the resort's adjacent bird sanctuary home, and solitude seekers should book a spa treatment — try the mango-passion-fruit yogurt exfoliation and wrap at one of the spa's open-air treetop massage huts (spa treatments are not included in the rate). **From \$940, double occupancy, galleybayresort.com**

Palm Island

GETTING HERE IS A TREK, BUT WHEN YOU DO, YOU'RE SO BLISSFULLY ALONE.

43 Rooms | **3 Nature trails** | **5 Private beaches** | **2,000 Coconut palm trees**

Grenadines If it's seclusion you're seeking or simply a ritzy retreat where kids under 12 are not permitted, look no further. This private-island resort sits on the southern tip of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a chain of 32 islands known for solitude and unspoiled beauty.

Accessible only by boat, Palm Island isn't your typical all-inclusive. Just arriving at this 135-acre hideaway is an adventure: First fly to Barbados, then hop on a 45-minute flight to Union Island, where you're whisked away by golf cart to Palm Island's private ferry for an eight-minute boat ride (inter-island airfare is complimentary for guests who

are staying seven nights or more). Once you've arrived at this oasis, the only other people you'll see are hotel staff and resort guests, some of whom will be enjoying Palm Island's complimentary bicycles, lush hiking trails and water sports, including kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, snorkeling and sailing aboard Hobie-style catamarans.

When you've had your fill of vitamin D, retreat to one of just 43 rooms, more than half of which are set directly on the beach (for a special stay, check out the Southern Cross villa, set high on the cliffs with its own infinity-edge pool). **From \$845 per night, double occupancy, palmislandresortgrenadines.com**



Jewel Resorts

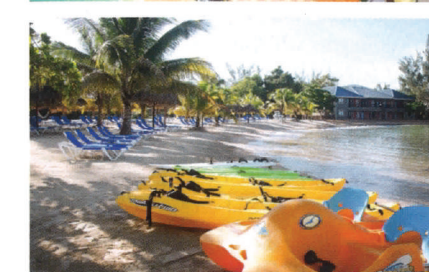
BOTH JEWEL PARADISE COVE AND JEWEL DUNN'S RIVER FALLS WILL HAVE YOU FEELING IRIE.

475 Rooms | **7 Types of massage** | **13 Restaurants** | **13 Bars**

Jamaica Two adults-only retreats couldn't be so different yet have so much in common. Both part of the Curio Collection by Hilton — a moniker reserved for unique leisure properties — Jewel Paradise Cove and Jewel Dunn's River Falls feature all the amenities you'd expect from a four-star all-inclusive (lots of restaurants, swim-up bars and a full-service spa) and many you wouldn't. Both resorts offer resort-wide Wi-Fi, complimentary green fees at nearby Runaway Bay Golf Club, free round-trip airport transfers and "dive-in movies" (jerk popcorn is the best) where films are shown on a floating pool screen.

The similarities, however, end there;

each resort offers two very different, although equally Jamaican, experiences. At Jewel Dunn's River Falls, you're minutes from a world-famous Ocho Rios waterfall that you can climb with the help of guides from the park (plus you're staying in an island-inspired guest room or splurging on a butler-serviced suite with hand-carved mahogany furniture). At Jewel Paradise Cove, it's a health and wellness atmosphere: run through a 10-station FitTrail or relax with sunset cruises, glass-bottom boat tours and a trip to Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, all included in the base rate for travel through mid-December. **From \$480 per night, double occupancy. Use promo code CTL5for4, jewelresorts.com**



Jewel Runaway Bay

WATER PARKS, CHAMPIONSHIP LINKS, GLASS-BOTTOM BOATS. AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS.

266 Rooms | 62 Connecting rooms | 850 Towels used daily | 6 Bars



Jamaica For couples hoping to swing their clubs at a PGA-quality 18-hole golf course or families longing for a hassle-free vacation, Jewel Runaway Bay Beach & Golf Resort is an easy choice.

Amenities typically not included in the base rate of many all-inclusives are here: All guests receive complimentary round-trip airport transfers from Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport, green fees at the championship Runaway Bay Golf Club and twice-daily glass-bottom boat rides. Top-shelf cocktails come with no extra charge, and daily activities keep the kids happy (don't miss the Red Ruby Ranch with horse grooming, laser tag and archery).

The resort's brand-new water park is also included in your stay, which is another value-added perk considering the resort sells day passes to non-guests who come to enjoy its 300-foot-long lazy river, winding waterslides and splash zone (non-guest adults pay \$50; non-guest kids ages 3-14 pay \$25). Rooms are decked out with private balconies and free Wi-Fi, and some even have plunge pools and personal butlers who'll unpack your bags and iron your clothes. No, you can't take the butler home. **Book a five-night stay by Sept. 30 for a stay through Dec. 23, and receive the fifth night free. From \$480 per night, double occupancy. Use promo code CTL5for4, jewelresorts.com**

Hilton Rose Hall

LITTLE ONES, TEENAGERS AND THE 'RENTS ALL FIND ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THEM HAPPY.

489 Rooms | 2 Hours for longest spa treatment | 15 Minutes from the airport

Jamaica Kids 12 and under stay free at this oceanfront Montego Bay resort located on what was once an 18th-century sugar plantation. With one of the largest water parks in Jamaica, three terraced pools, waterfalls, a lazy river and a 280-foot waterslide, "bored" will not be a word in your kids' vocabulary. Teenagers will love the Teen Zone, outfitted with comfy beanbags and popular video games, and even the littlest ones will be well taken care of in the day-care pavilion should mom and dad need a quiet escape (like 18 holes of golf at one of three nearby courses or an island-inspired treatment at Soothe Spa). Of course, everyone will

enjoy the resort's sprawling private beach where kayaking, windsurfing and other non-motorized water sports are included. Even picky palates will find a meal to savor since Rose Hall has five on-site restaurants serving local staples like jerk chicken and fresh fish, plus family-friendly favorites like burgers, pasta and pizza. Crack open a Red Stripe on your private balcony or terrace, and enjoy all the modern amenities you'd expect from a Hilton Hotel, including Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and iPod docking stations. **Book a five-night stay by Sept. 30 for a stay through Dec. 23, and receive the fifth night free. From \$298 per night, double occupancy. Use promo code CTL, rosehallresort.com**



The BodyHoliday

HEALTH AND WELLNESS DON'T NEED TO BE DOWNERS ON VACATION.

155 Rooms | 7,400 Wellness treatments a month | 310 Calories burned on WellFit trail

Saint Lucia This adults-only health and wellness resort on Saint Lucia's northern tip was founded on four key pillars of well-being: relaxation, restorative beauty, exercise and a healthy diet. Here, you'll enjoy a mind and body spa vacation where daily treatments are included in the rates.

Eager to try tai chi, meditation or aromatherapy for the first time? Care to enroll in a three-, five- or seven-day fitness camp to help lose a few pounds? Just want to relax in the sun and eat low-cal spa cuisine all week? At the BodyHoliday, you'll have dozens of figure-friendly options at your disposal, many of which are included in your stay. Even better, if you're the kind of person who prefers to get your

workout in a more natural environment, the resort also offers outdoor excursions like mountain biking, rappelling, kayaking, cave diving and swimming, so you can experience the best of the "Helen of the West Indies" while still burning those precious calories.

Only Here

1 Try spoga, a mix of spinning and yoga offered in the glassed-in tree-house spin studio.

2 The BodyScience program uncovers your genetic road map to live a longer, healthier life.

3 Pay for nine holes at the Saint Lucia Golf & Country Club, and the resort will pay for nine.

Predictably, the cuisine at the BodyHoliday is seasonal, farm fresh and sourced locally, whenever possible. It's also sought after by non-guests as well, since restaurants like TAO — an Asian-inspired eatery perched over Caribblue Beach — are consistently rated as some of the very best on Saint Lucia. The Chilean salmon topped with orange and beetroot puree is a signature. **From \$1,000 per night, double occupancy, thebodyholiday.com**



ANTIGUA

Hermitage Bay



1 | As if staying in one of 27 free-standing wooden cottages, some with personal plunge pools and all facing the Caribbean Sea, wasn't luxurious enough, guests of this west-coast retreat also get preferred treatment at the airport. Just step off the plane at V.C. Bird International and you'll be escorted to an expedited customs line available to a handful of high-end resort guests. **From \$843 per night, double occupancy, hermitagebay.com**

MEXICO

Grand Velas

2 | Awarded the prestigious Five Diamond Award by AAA, this Playa del Carmen resort has some of the swankiest digs on the Riviera Maya. It's also within striking distance of some of Mexico's most important historical attractions, including Uxmal, Tulum and Chichen Itza, where the Pyramid of Kukulcan was built to display the Maya calendar. **From \$786 per night, double occupancy, grandvelas.com**



f **FEEDBACK**
A butler-serviced suite, a party-size shower, a balcony whirlpool, dining on fresh shrimp sprinkled with gold-leaf flakes: It doesn't get better than this.
— SARAH LIU

JAMAICA

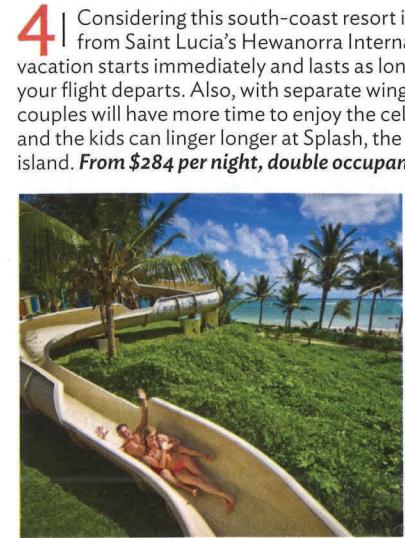
Couples San Souci



3 | Built right into the landscape on Ocho Rios' emerald coastline, Couples San Souci is ripe for exploration. Follow winding stone pathways throughout the property, take a dip in the healing natural mineral springs, then wander down to the cliff's edge for a spa treatment. Included in your stay is a trip to iconic Dunn's River Falls, daily glass-bottom boat rides and scuba diving. **From \$385 per night, double occupancy, couples.com**

SAINT LUCIA

Coconut Bay



4 | Considering this south-coast resort is located just five minutes from Saint Lucia's Hewanorra International Airport, your vacation starts immediately and lasts as long as you can push it till your flight departs. Also, with separate wings for adults and families, couples will have more time to enjoy the celebrated Kai Mer Spa and the kids can linger longer at Splash, the largest water park on the island. **From \$284 per night, double occupancy, cbayresort.com**

f **FEEDBACK**
Just returned from Coconut Bay with family and friends, and we all loved it. I am a travel agent, and it was the best food and service of any resort I have ever stayed at!
— TRAVELINGMEMES

Readers' Picks

FROM MEGARESORTS TO BOUTIQUE HIDEAWAYS, YOUR FAVORITES HIT ALL THE MARKS.

JAMAICA

Sandals Whitehouse

5 | Echoing three European-inspired villages, each with Italian, French and Dutch architectural designs, this sprawling resort set on a 2-mile-long stretch of sand is surrounded by a 500-acre nature preserve. It's likely the only other folks you'll see are hotel guests; Jamaica's sleepy southwest coast is blissfully tourist-free. All rooms are beachfront, and unlimited scuba diving is included. **From \$552 per night, double occupancy, sandals.com**



f **FEEDBACK**
This is my favorite Sandals so far. It looks exactly like the photos on the website and in the brochure. I spent every day in the pool with the swim-up bar.
— DEB JONES

ST. THOMAS

Bolongo Bay



6 | You don't have to be a guest of this family-run Beach Party-esque resort to grab a drink at Iggy's — St. Thomas' most beloved toes-in-the-sand bar — but you'll definitely need a room to participate in Bolongo's weekly snorkel booze hunt, when guests search for a bottle of Cruzan rum tossed into the bay. Spot it on the sea-floor and it's yours. **From \$429 per night, double occupancy, bolongobay.com**

JAMAICA

RIU Ocho Rios

7 | With a whopping 856 guest rooms overlooking a talcum-white crescent beach, this Ocho Rios resort is among the largest in Jamaica. It's so big, in fact, you could almost get lost, but finding your way back to your guest room shouldn't be too hard: Just look for the 13,000-square-foot swimming pool flanked by a horseshoe of tall white towers. **From \$220 per night, double occupancy, rioochoriosresort.com**



f **FEEDBACK**
Our check-in was hassle-free and our attendant, Olivia, surprised us with a complimentary upgrade to a beachside room right in front of the gazebo!
— MALAIKA L.

GRENADA

Sandals LaSource



8 | Whether you're a certified PADI diver eager to explore new waters or a scuba newbie hoping to take the plunge for the first time, your stay at Sandals LaSource, one of the resort brand's newest properties, includes unlimited diving — which means you'll be exploring some of the Caribbean's most stunning underwater dive sites without ever reaching for your wallet. **From \$680 per night, double occupancy, sandals.com**

PUNTA CANA

The all-inc mecca has 50 on tap. Our top three:

BARCELO BAVARO PALACE
In the headquarters of cramped beach chairs, this resort stands out. Relax on the sand with as much room as you need, and rest up for gourmet eats at one of 11 restaurants. Dominican specialties like *sancocho* are included.

SECRETS ROYAL BEACH
No wristbands and no kids: That's the secret to Secrets' understated luxury. If relaxing is what you want, it doesn't get better than a swim-up bar at a quiet pool — or a private outdoor bathtub.

PARADISUS PUNTA CANA
Go ahead and sleep in. Your personal butler has already saved a spot on the beach and taken note of your favorite cocktail. Don't be surprised if one of the mixologists adds a personal twist — drinks are serious business.