

Yesterday

GUIDES





<u>Melanie Lieberman</u>

It's a new year, but the <u>coronavirus pandemic</u> continues to worsen around the globe. In the U.S. alone, more than 4,000 people died in a single day on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021. Many countries are again tightening their borders and enforcing <u>strict lockdowns</u>.

To put it lightly: It's not a good time to travel.

Still, it's impossible to ignore that people *are* flying right now (over the holidays, <u>millions of people</u> <u>took to the skies</u>), even if it's just to relocate for the season. For those who are traveling, here are our picks for January. But let us repeat: We are not suggesting this is the right time to travel.

Many people will stay put until the situation improves, and instead use this time to book trips for next winter while taking advantage of discounted rates, value-added incentives and flexible cancellation policies. After all, January would usually be one of the best times to hit the road (and the skies), thanks to <u>off-season deals</u> and noticeably thinner crowds.

So, whether you're looking for trips to take this time next year, are still hoping to visit a nearby destination this winter or you're simply seeking ways to satisfy your armchair wanderlust, these are the destination we're most excited about for January.

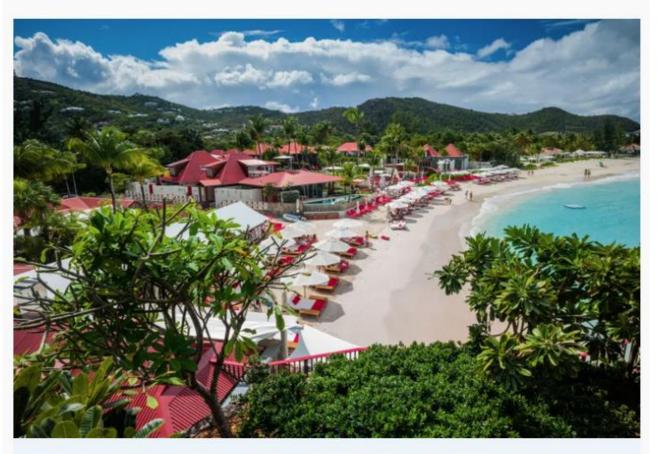
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The Points Guy



St. Barts



St-Jean Beach in St. Barts. (Photo by Walter Bibikow/Getty Images)

Beachcombers can jet off to the incredibly chic French island of St. Barts for a glamorous stay at one of the many iconic and refreshed hotels.

The <u>Hotel Christopher St. Barth</u> has new four-bedroom villas with private pools, perfect for travelers who want to secure additional privacy and space during their stay. And if you're waiting until next January to make the trip, the Rosewood Le Guanahani is set to open this summer from an extensive renovation following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Travelers considering a <u>St. Barts vacation</u> in the near future should remember visitors 10 and older must show a negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 or 72 hours (depending on the type of test) of arrival. If you're staying longer than seven days, an additional test will be required at a local facility.

TPG tip: To get there, you can normally fly nonstop on JetBlue or Delta from New York-JFK, as well as United from Newark Airport (EWR), to the gateway island of St. Martin (SXM). American also flies nonstop from its hubs in Charlotte, North Carolina, (CLT) Philadelphia (PHL) and Miami (MIA).