

30 pages of  
inspiration to  
help plan your  
next getaway

# ULTIMATE ISLAND TRAVEL GUIDE

Discover where to stay, eat,  
drink, and explore on 10 of the  
world's best islands.





# WELCOME

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# 1. ISCHIA



**ITALY'S  
THERMAL  
SPA HAVEN**

Ischia, a volcanic island in the Gulf of Naples, is a laid-back, less glitzy version of its sister island Capri. That's not to say it's any less exquisite or glamorous. It's been the 'best-kept secret' holiday spot for Europeans for decades. Situated in the Tyrrhenian Sea and roughly an hour away from Naples by ferry (or 40 minutes by hydrofoil), it spans 18 square miles of mostly mountainous terrain.

Due to its volcanic nature, it's home to a wealth of thermal spas and hot springs whose healing benefits have been enjoyed since Roman times. (If you plan to enjoy the springs don't forget to bring an old swimsuit or two as the sulfur in the water can be damaging.) With affordable food and drink, accommodation options to fit every budget, and stunning scenery at every turn, Ischia is a true traveler's dream.





## WHERE TO STAY

Perched on top of Monte Vico overlooking Naples Bay, [San Montano Resort & Spa](#) is an ethereal 5-star retreat with 10 pools, stunning views, and superb service.

[The Mezzatorre Hotel](#), located on the north-west tip of Ischia and set in an ancient watchtower, offers world-class dining, a seawater pool, and a private bay with sunloungers exclusive to hotel guests.

[Albergo il Monastero](#) is an affordable yet striking option set in an old monastery within Castello Aragonese. It sits atop a private island that's attached to the mainland by a causeway and houses a museum, an old cemetery, and an art gallery. Food for their restaurant is sourced straight from the castle's own organic garden.

## FOOD & DRINK

For an exquisite dining experience book a table in the kitchen at 2-Michelin star-rated [Daní Maison](#) and watch the chefs work their magic firsthand. Sip an aperitivo in the eclectic Mediterranean-style garden before indulging in beautiful courses that look more like works of art than food.

[Pazziella Beach Bar](#) is a lovely choice for great seafood with a view. For some of the best pizza on the island, head to [La Bella Napoli](#). Delicious craft cocktails and gastropub fare can be found at [Porto 51](#), a trendy family-run establishment on the harbor with good music and friendly service.

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### NITRODI NYMPH PARK

[Nitrodi](#) is 'the oldest spa in the world' and worth a visit while in Ischia. Although it's more simplistic than luxurious, the therapeutic healing properties of its rich mineral waters have been considered sacred for centuries.

Meander through the stone pathways, rejuvenate in the thermal showers, and stop to sunbathe on the terraces. Book a facial treatment or massage and don't forget to take some of the water home -it's drinkable!





**"With affordable food and drink, accommodation options to fit every budget, and stunning scenery at every turn, Ischia is a true traveler's dream."**

### **...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED**

Trattoria Il Focolare, a unique rustic village restaurant in a farmhouse setting on top of the hills, has welcoming staff and scrumptious authentic food.

Giardino Eden and Umberto a Mare are both beautiful seaside restaurants with panoramic views and impressive menus. For a special occasion, book 'Scoglio Dinner' at Giardino Eden where you'll enjoy a secluded dinner overlooking the ocean.

Sip on some of Ischia's best wines and take a vineyard tour at Casa D'Ambra, a winery that dates back to 1888. Make a stop in their museum to view the original tools used to create their first wines.

### **THINGS TO DO**

Spa-goers have plenty to choose from due to the abundance of thermal springs around the island. Some popular thermal parks to check out include Aphrodite Apollon, Nitrodi Park, Poseidon, and Negombo.

Only accessible by foot, Sant'Angelo is a quaint seaside village with colorful houses and charming restaurants and cafes. Stroll through the main piazza or park up at Il Ristorante di Casa Celestino for the afternoon and take in glorious views of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Castello Aragonese is a medieval castle overlooking the Gulf of Naples and connected to mainland Ischia by a causeway. The castle still buzzes with life through its hosting of cultural events and art installations and it's open to visitors 365 days a year.

When you're in the mood for a beach day, check out Spiaggia dei Maronti. This is Ischia's longest stretch of uninterrupted beach and is located near Nitrodi Park. You can access it by foot, bus, or water taxi from Sant'Angelo.



## 2. SANTORINI



**THE GEM  
OF THE  
AEGEAN**

Santorini, with its cavernous luxury hotels nestled into its famous cliffside and striking panoramas of the azure Aegean below, has long been captivating travelers looking to experience its unmatched charm and exceptional beauty. Officially named 'Thira', it sits roughly 120 miles southeast of mainland Greece and is the largest of the Cyclades islands. Its crescent shape is due to a massive volcanic eruption (known as the Minoan eruption) that occurred around 1650 BC, leaving parts of its now-famous caldera submerged underwater.

Its volcano's still active (but currently dormant) and you can swim around hot springs near Nia Kameni island at the center of the caldera. Although a quintessential destination for honeymooners and couples seeking a romantic holiday, there's something for everyone on this magical little island. From its iconic whitewashed villages and blue-topped churches to amazing wineries, restaurants, and world-class hotels, Santorini is the crème de la crème of the Mediterranean.



## WHERE TO STAY

Katikies, an award-winning boutique hotel in Oia, offers the ultimate experience in luxury, romance, and charm paired with impeccable service and enchanting accommodations. Andronis Arcadia, a posh new Oia hotel, is the epitome of understated sophistication and highly rated for its outstanding hospitality.

Cavotagoo in Imerovigli is the place to be and be seen with its infamous infinity pool and stunning panoramic views. Splurge on their Diamond Suite and bask in your private pool overlooking the caldera.

If you want to be immersed in the action of Fira Town (Santorini's capital) Cosmopolitan Suites is a lovely 10-room luxury hotel situated close to all the nightlife and attractions.

## FOOD & DRINK

Agaze, an eclectic bistro in Pyrgos, has a homey atmosphere and fresh, local comfort food. It's so good you'll want to return again and again (don't forget to try the tomato fritters).

For traditional fare using hand-picked ingredients sourced daily from Santorini island, check out Aktaion, a third-generation family restaurant in operation since 1922. For an elevated, sophisticated take on Greek cuisine try Alios Ilios, a stunning Oia restaurant with gorgeous sunset views and an exquisite wine list.

The Athenian House, renowned for its unrivaled views and expansive vintage wine list, is great for those seeking a fine-dining experience.

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### AMMOUDI BAY SUNSET DINNER

You simply can't visit Santorini without experiencing a spectacular sunset in Oia. For a lovely dinner right on the water with a front-row seat of the horizon, reserve a table at Ammoudi Fish Tavern.

If you're able, you can descend the 300 steps from northern Oia down into the old port of Ammoudi Bay. Make sure to wear comfy footwear as the steps can be steep and you'll need to yield to the donkeys!





**"Although a quintessential destination for couples seeking a romantic holiday, there's something for everyone on this magical little island..."**

### **...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED**

For outstanding seafood, [To Psaraki](#) comes highly recommended by locals and visitors alike.

At [Opson](#), located in the Andronis Arcadia, head chef Stefanos Kolimadis has created an exceptional tasting menu inspired by the flavors of ancient Greece.

[PK Cocktail Bar](#), spanning 3 floors and nestled into the cliffs of Fira, has an extensive craft cocktail menu with breathtaking caldera views. Friendly staff and delicious libations make this place truly unforgettable. If you're in the mood to let your hair down, get wild and crazy at [Two Brothers Bar](#), a crowded and rowdy late-night spot.

### **THINGS TO DO**

A relaxing (and very enjoyable) way to spend a day is by taking a [Catamaran cruise](#). With plenty of options to choose from including a full or half-day, private or semi-private, daytime or sunset booking, and which parts of the island you want to see, you can completely customize your trip to your liking. Most come with a tasty meal cooked by the skippers and an open bar. You can find a list of the top Catamaran cruises and pricing [here](#).

[Akrotiri](#), also known as 'Santorini's Pompeii', is the archaeological site of an ancient city ruined by the eruption of the volcano Thera c. 1600 BC. Much of the town and artifacts had been preserved for thousands of years under volcanic ash and weren't discovered until the late 1800s. It's said that Akrotiri could have been the inspiration behind Plato's Lost City of Atlantis and is definitely worth visiting.

Book a wine tasting experience at [Domaine Sigalas](#), one of the most acclaimed wineries in all of Greece. Opt for their [Wine & Vineyard Lunch](#) where you'll take a tour of the grounds followed by a delectable wine and food pairing.

## 3. IRELAND



### THE EMERALD ISLE

Rolling patchwork farms, cozy pubs, friendly people, and dazzling scenery around every corner are just a few of the things that make Ireland such a special place. From the towering cliffs of Moher in Clare to the wild beauty of the Skelligs in Kerry, the allure of this majestic island is enthralling. It spans nearly 33,000 square miles in the North Atlantic with over 4,000 miles of coastline and is home to 32 counties, each with its own distinct personality and landscape.

Dublin, the country's capital, is a historic and charming city with an exciting culinary scene and lots of new places opening up. In recent years it's also become a hub for tech giants headquarters such as Google and Facebook. While the cities are more modern, as you travel out to the countryside it can feel a bit like stepping back in time. Travel to Ireland and experience the land of a thousand welcomes-you'll never want to leave!





## WHERE TO STAY

The Marker Hotel (Co. Dublin) boasts an award-winning spa and sleek accommodations with a stylish and modern feel. Grab a cocktail at the rooftop bar and take in views of surrounding Dublin.

The Europe Hotel & Resort (Co. Kerry) is a luxury resort and spa located at the edge of Killarney's largest lake with stunning views of the nearby McGuillicuddy's Reeks Mountain Range. Make sure to book a treatment at ESPA and carve out a full day to enjoy the spa's gorgeous amenities including an infinity pool overlooking the lake.

Ashford Castle (Co. Galway) is an exquisite 800-year old castle set on a lake amongst 350 acres of pristinely landscaped grounds. With a fabulous spa and 6 restaurants run by renowned chefs, this hotel certainly makes for an extraordinary stay.

## FOOD & DRINK

**DUBLIN** - Michelin starred Variety Jones is a tiny restaurant in the liberties (the oldest district in Dublin) with a fabulous tasting menu and knowledgeable staff. For small plates and French-Italian cuisine with a brilliant wine list, head to Etto where the mascarpone prunes are the star of the show.

Pi was voted 10th best pizza in the world last year-need we say more? For Italian fare using Irish produce and wine on tap from the guys at WineLab, try Sprezzatura. Their menu changes weekly and they're committed to sourcing local and producing as little waste as possible.

Michaels has the best seafood and steak in town with fun staff and a beautiful wine list. Stop for a pint at Grogans, known for its colorful artwork and toasted sandwiches!

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

The Wild Atlantic Way is a breathtaking 1,500-mile route along Ireland's west coast from Cork to Donegal. You can explore this scenic route (which is the longest coastal route in the world!) by planning out your journey any way you'd like.

Make stops in local villages, visit national parks, and take in the stunning scenery. Discover sweeping beaches with great surfing, tiny islands, old monasteries, castle ruins, and much more as you experience the culture and pristine beauty of the west of Ireland.





**"From the towering cliffs of Moher in Clare to the wild beauty of the Skelligs in Kerry, the allure of this majestic island is enthralling..."**

## ...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED

**GALWAY-** Ard Bia has been around for a long time for good reason. The food is to die for and the location looking out at where the Corrib river flows into the Galway Bay is unbeatable. For the freshest seafood straight off the boats make your way to Hooked and give the Steamed Killary Harbour Mussels a try.

**KERRY-** Sip a perfect pint and enjoy a trad seisún (traditional Irish music) as you're transported to the days of old at Dick Mack's, a historical Irish pub in Dingle.

**LIMERICK-** For an unforgettable experience, make a reservation for afternoon tea at the astonishing Adare Manor. Indulge in whimsical sandwiches and savories and sip their signature blend, 1832, as you take in the magnificence of your grandiose surroundings.

## THINGS TO DO

The Cliffs of Moher in County Clare are one of Ireland's most famous landmarks. Spanning 8 kilometers and towering over the ocean, these mighty cliffs are situated along the Wild Atlantic Way and part of a UNESCO Global Geopark. Take in staggering views of the rugged coastline, observe a variety of seabirds, and even spot some rare fauna as you walk along the trails of this majestic place.

The Ring of Kerry is a gorgeous scenic route that tours through the county known as "The Kingdom". Drive the winding roads during the day stopping as you please to explore, and spend a night at one of the many charming B&B's along the way. Don't miss Killarney National Park- a nature lover's oasis.

If you're visiting Dublin, there's plenty to see and do in this lovely city. Stroll through Saint Stephen's Green Park, take a tour at The Little Museum of Dublin and do some shopping on Grafton Street. Walk the beautiful grounds at Trinity College where you can see The Book of Kells and marvel at the architecture of its famous Old Library. Take a stroll along the pier at Dún Laoghaire on the outskirts of the city, and don't forget the obligatory visit to the Guinness Storehouse and Jameson Distillery.



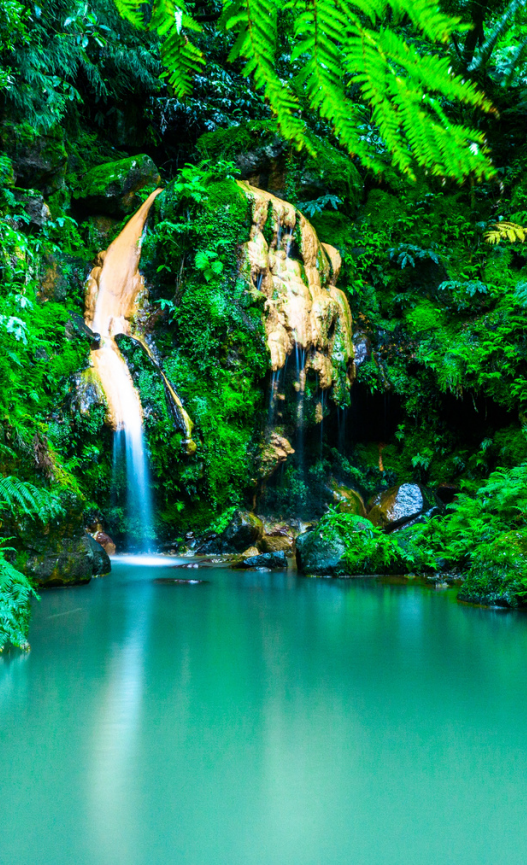
## 4. AZORES



**WILD & RAW  
BEAUTY**

The Azores are comprised of 9 volcanic islands of Portuguese territory located about 900 miles west of Lisbon. These incredibly lush North Atlantic islands laden with natural beauty are still relatively uncharted territory for many travelers. There's much to be experienced if you're looking for outdoor adventure, but the Azores can also be the perfect setting for a relaxing wellness retreat due to its abundance of thermal pools and volcanic hot springs.

The climate here is subtropical and it's generally mild, wet, and cloudy, but with bountiful flora (blue hydrangeas are dotted in every direction), lush emerald landscapes, and oodles of mesmerizing waterfalls, there isn't much room for complaining. Each island is different and stunning in its own way, but for this guide we've focused on São Miguel, the largest of the islands and home to the capital city, Ponta Delgada.



## WHERE TO STAY

Santa Barbara Eco-Beach Resort is a stunning 30-villa and studio property offering chic, luxurious amenities in harmony with nature. The Azor Hotel, located 1 km from Ponta Delgada has everything from an upscale restaurant to an impressive spa and even its own wine and cheese market.

If you're seeking a true wellness experience you'll want to stay in the town of Furnas at the center of the spa action. Furnas Boutique Hotel is the perfect choice for ultimate relaxation with its own indoor and outdoor thermal pools that guests can access 24/7. Another option is the Terra Nostra Garden Hotel, located within Terra Nostra Garden Park and home to one of the most famous thermal pools in the Azores.

For blissful tranquility, Sensi Azores Nature & Spa is an off-the-beaten-path treasure with a beautiful outdoor pool overlooking the ocean and dazzling sunset views.

## FOOD & DRINK

Visit Queijadas da Vila do Morgado in the morning and watch the chefs bake local pastries. Make sure to try a queijadas, a traditional sweet Portuguese treat.

The Azor Hotel is home to A Terra Azor where regional flavors are highlighted through the use of local ingredients. After dinner, make a stop up to the 7th floor and enjoy a cocktail at The Whalewatching Bar.

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### DOLPHIN & WHALEWATCHING TOUR

The Azores are home to over 28 species of dolphins and whales as well as being situated along a whale migration route, so the chances of seeing these mesmerizing creatures are in your favor!

Book a full or half-day tour through Eturismo and you won't be disappointed. March-June is the best time to spot giant whales, but they offer tours year-round and guarantee you will see at least one whale or dolphin on your trip!





**"These 9 remote islands in the North Atlantic are an eden of untouched beauty with some of the most raw and pristine nature you'll ever see..."**

### **...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED**

Carefully selected ingredients come together to form mouthwatering dishes at [Tasquinha Viera](#) where the service is attentive and the atmosphere intimate. [Rotas da Ilha Verde](#) offers delicious vegetarian and vegan-friendly options in a cozy setting with killer desserts.

[A Tasca](#), frequently rated as a top restaurant in Ponta Delgada serves a mix of authentic Azorean cuisine and modern dishes with an extensive wine list and local beer on tap.

Make sure to stop at [Gorreana Tea Factory](#) to sip some of their world-class teas which have been produced without pesticides for 130 years. Sip on Portuguese wine at [Reserva Bar](#) per recommendations from the passionate and knowledgeable owner Bruno at this hidden gem in Ponta Delgada.

### **THINGS TO DO**

Do some sightseeing at [Lagoa das Sete Cidades](#) and catch the spectacular view of Lagoa Azul and Lagoa Verde. These blue and green twin lakes were formed in a volcanic crater and supply fresh water to most of the Azores.

Hiking trails are sprinkled everywhere throughout São Miguel and you can even take a guided tour through cavernous lava tunnels at [Gruta do Carvão](#) if you're daring! Experienced hikers can climb the dormant volcano of [Mount Pico](#) (on Pico Island) the highest peak in Portugal. It's recommended you take on this hike with a guide for safety reasons and to get the most out of your journey.

The Azores have plenty of thermal hot springs for you to enjoy. Furnas, the town at the center of the volcanic activity in São Miguel, is home to [Terra Nostra Park](#), famous for its mineral-rich pools and historical gardens. Some other popular springs include [Poça da Dona Beija](#) and [Caldeira Velha](#) among many more.

## 5. SEYCHELLES



**EARTH'S  
OLDEST  
ISLANDS**

The Seychelles are an archipelago of 115 islands in the Western Indian Ocean about 300 miles off the east coast of Africa. These remote islands are home to two UNESCO world heritage sights, stretches of white sand beaches, crystal clear waters, and are infused with a myriad of cultural influences. People of African, European, and Asian descent have all landed here contributing to its diverse culture. Some of the islands are made from granite, and the others are coralline. The inner islands of the

archipelago are the only oceanic islands in the world made from granite and are also Earth's oldest islands! The majority are very small and unpopulated, with most of the action taking place on the principal islands of Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue. Although there can be affordable ways to experience the Seychelles, a trip here can come with a high price tag so be prepared to drop a pretty penny. If you're seeking a splurge-worthy once-in-a-lifetime experience, the Seychelles is your tropical playground.





## WHERE TO STAY

Bask in paradise at the all-inclusive [Anantara Maia Seychelles Villas](#) where your "villa host" is at your service 24/7. Take a private Qi Gong class or a dip in the infinity pool in your Bill Bensley-designed abode before heading to the spa for a [Harmony Four-Hand Massage](#).

[Six Senses Zil Payson](#) is a spectacular sustainability-focused resort located on the private island of Felicite. Aside from exquisite amenities, warm hospitality, and sublime scenery, their eco-efforts are noteworthy. They grow their own organic fruits, veggies, and herbs, harvest and transplant coral fragments, and plant indigenous species to promote reforestation, just to name a few.

You'll feel genuinely cared for at [Constance Ephelia](#) on Mahé island where the staff goes above and beyond to spoil guests and accommodate their every need. The beaches are pristine, the food comes highly rated, and there's plenty to do and see on the 120 hectares of breathtaking grounds.

If you're looking for something more in the mid-priced range, [Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort and Spa](#) and the [Dhevatar Beach Hotel](#) are both beautiful options.

## FOOD & DRINK

For a relaxed meal and good cocktails right on the beach, [Windsong](#) in the Kempinski Resort is a delightful spot with great views and friendly service.

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### VALLÉE DE MAI NATURE RESERVE

[Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve](#) on the island of Praslin is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to rare species of plants and wildlife including the Seychelles Black Parrot and the endemic Coco de Mer Palm. This palm has the largest seeds out of any in the plant kingdom, and is the subject of legends and folklore due to its unique shape and mysterious origin.

Make sure to take a tour through the forest with a guide to get the most out of its untouched beauty.





**"...the inner islands of the archipelago are the only oceanic islands in the world made from granite and are also Earth's oldest islands."**

### **...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED**

Takamaka Beach Bar is a great venue for lunch with a nice selection of fresh sushi and sashimi. Beach Shak is the perfect place to grab some cocktails and dip your toes in the sand as the sun sets over Beau Vallon Bay.

Eden, located on the beach at the Story Seychelles Resort, is a small, cozy restaurant with a calm and romantic ambiance. Enjoy Creole cuisine by candlelight under the canopy of the palm trees in its chic and intimate setting.

Yet another restaurant with a beautiful beachside location is Cafe des Artes in Praslin, where you can dine upon fresh seafood and artistic desserts in a stylish oceanfront setting.

### **THINGS TO DO**

The Seychelles are dripping with gorgeous white sand beaches that are some of the most picturesque on Earth. Anse Lazio Beach on Praslin Island is frequently listed as one of the world's most beautiful beaches and has crystal-clear waters great for snorkeling. Beau Vallon, a popular beach on Mahe, has plenty of restaurants, hotels, and water sports if you're looking for a little more activity. Other top beaches include Anse Source d'Argent and Grande Anse on La Digue, and Anse Georgette on Praslin among many others.

Spend a day exploring Victoria, the capital city of the Seychelles located on Mahé island. Head to the Botanical Gardens where you'll see colorful flora and native wildlife including giant Aldabra tortoises over 150 years old. Make a stop at the Arul Mihu Navasakthi Temple before heading to the Victoria Market for fresh fruit and souvenirs.



## 6. ZAKYNTHOS



**FLOWER  
OF  
THE EAST**

Zakynthos, known by the Venetians as the "flower of the east" is a verdant Greek island in the Ionian Sea just south of Kefalonia. Secluded cove beaches nestled between towering cliffs give way to open azure seas with some of the most mesmerizing waters on the planet. Its lush landscape is home to a wide array of flower species as well as flourishing fruit trees, herbs, and olive groves.

Zante Town, the capital city, is rich with culture and history even though most of its buildings and churches were destroyed in an earthquake in the 1950s. Areas in the southern part of the island such as Laganas cater towards a party crowd with bustling clubs and nightlife, but there are also many charming and quieter places to stay for a more relaxed and secluded getaway.



## WHERE TO STAY

Lesante Blu, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, is a tantalizing luxury resort with a gorgeous infinity pool, award-winning restaurant, and excellent hospitality. Beautiful grounds, pristine rooms, delicious food, and nightly live music make it an ideal choice for couples looking for a romantic getaway.

Olea All Suite Hotel, a remarkably serene 5-star resort set on a hill, offers 93 suites each with their own outdoor area overlooking the surrounding landscape. Book a room with a swim-up or private pool for ultimate bliss.

Porto Zante, named one of the world's best hotels on Conde Nast's famed 'Gold List', is a prestigious splurge-worthy boutique hotel located on a private beach. Each stunning villa has its own private pool, is decadently stocked with BVGLARI amenities, and tastefully furnished with Armani Casa and Gervasoni.

## FOOD & DRINK

Melia, situated overlooking the ocean at Lesante Blu, was named 'best fine dining luxury unique experience in southern Europe.' Chef Nikos Ispiroudis's superb tasting menu coupled with wine pairings by the head sommelier will delight even the most refined palettes.

Al Nur, another culinary marvel at the edge of the sea, has a scrumptious a la carte menu incorporating local ingredients and serving delectable fare for brunch, lunch, and dinner.

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### NAVAGIO BEACH

Navagio Beach, also known as 'Shipwreck Beach', is understandably one of the most photographed places in Greece. Set in an alcove between staggering cliffs, it's the scene of a 1980's shipwreck and is one of Zakynthos's main attractions.

It can be viewed from above via a hike to the clifftops (please pay attention to the signs and do not go close to the edge), but if you want to go swimming and explore the shipwreck or sunbathe on the beach, you must access it by boat.





**"Secluded cove  
beaches nestled  
between towering  
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## ...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED

If you're planning to venture to Porto Limnionas for a day of swimming, [Taverna Porto Limnionas](#) is a convenient spot to rent sunloungers and grab a bite to eat overlooking the crystal clear waters of the bay. Later, head to [Keri Lighthouse](#) at sunset for marvelous views of the sea from up above.

For a lazy day of sun-lounging and sipping cocktails, there's lots of fun beach bars around the island. Pack your beach bag and head to [Porto Azzuro](#), [Buca Beach Lounge Bar](#), [Infinity Beach Club](#), or [Banaya Baya](#) then head to [Minima](#) night club to dance the night away.

## THINGS TO DO

The easiest way to see the natural wonders of the island (some of which are only accessible by sea) is to [hire a boat](#) with a captain or rent one yourself if you're comfortable doing so. Either way, you'll be able to do some prime exploring and sightseeing without being tied to an organized tour schedule.

[The Blue Caves](#) (only accessible by sea) are limestone arches created by erosion and owe their names to the striking blue waters that surround them. They're a popular spot for both divers and tourists and are most spectacular in the morning or late afternoon when the sun reflects on the water creating a tantalizing blue affect. [The Keri Caves](#) in the southwestern part of the island are also very beautiful with clear turquoise waters and a 'secret beach'. Swim in and out of the caves and admire the interesting rock formations. (These caves are also only accessible by sea.)

[Cameo Island](#) is a tiny island connected to the mainland by a small bridge where you can enjoy some cocktails at the beach bar accompanied by a dip in the sea. Go at night for a fun party atmosphere.

## 7. BALI



### ISLAND OF THE GODS

Bali, a province of Indonesia, is understandably one of the most photographed places in the world with its sweeping beaches, verdant rice paddies, cascading waterfalls, and enchanting landscape. Rich with culture and spirituality, its home to over 20,000 Hindu temples and nearly 90% of its population adheres to Balinese Hinduism. It's a popular destination for yoga retreats and wellness getaways and is the perfect place to recharge and disconnect from the chaos of everyday life.

It belongs to the Coral Triangle (also known as "The Amazon of the Ocean") which is a robust area of marine biodiversity and home to over 500 reef-building coral species. The surfing here is unrivaled, there are plenty of outstanding restaurants, and you can even enjoy an hour-long massage for as little as \$6! There's also some amazing Airbnbs with private pools and stellar views if you prefer that over a hotel. For an escape that's sure to nourish your body and soul, pack your bags for Bali.





## WHERE TO STAY

Coming in at #1 on Travel and Leisure's '[World's Best Awards](#)' for top resorts in Indonesia, [Capella Ubud](#) is another Bill Bensley masterpiece that's truly one of a kind. Twenty-two imaginatively designed villa "tents" are set in the lush forest each with its own saltwater plunge pool, indoor and outdoor showers, and captivating views. Pricey but worth it, this place is pure magic.

For those seeking a luxury eco-escape, [Bambu Indah](#) is a sustainability-focused tropical oasis. You'll feel as if you've been transported to another world as you explore the wonders of the property including its natural swimming holes, Balinese architecture, and captivating landscape.

[Soori Bali](#), set alongside a black-sand volcanic beach, boasts 48 contemporary villas each with a private infinity pool. Elegantly designed accommodations, sweeping views of the Indian Ocean, and welcoming staff make for a memorable experience.

## FOOD & DRINK

Try the organic coffee at [Satu Satu](#), which has been made by the Sudana family using traditional Balinese methods since the '80s. Veggie-friendly [Watercress Cafe](#) serves up some delicious photo-worthy dishes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

For a unique meal in a trendy and playful setting, head to [Bikini](#) where a neon sign above the entrance reads "U look hot in a bikini"-our kinda place.

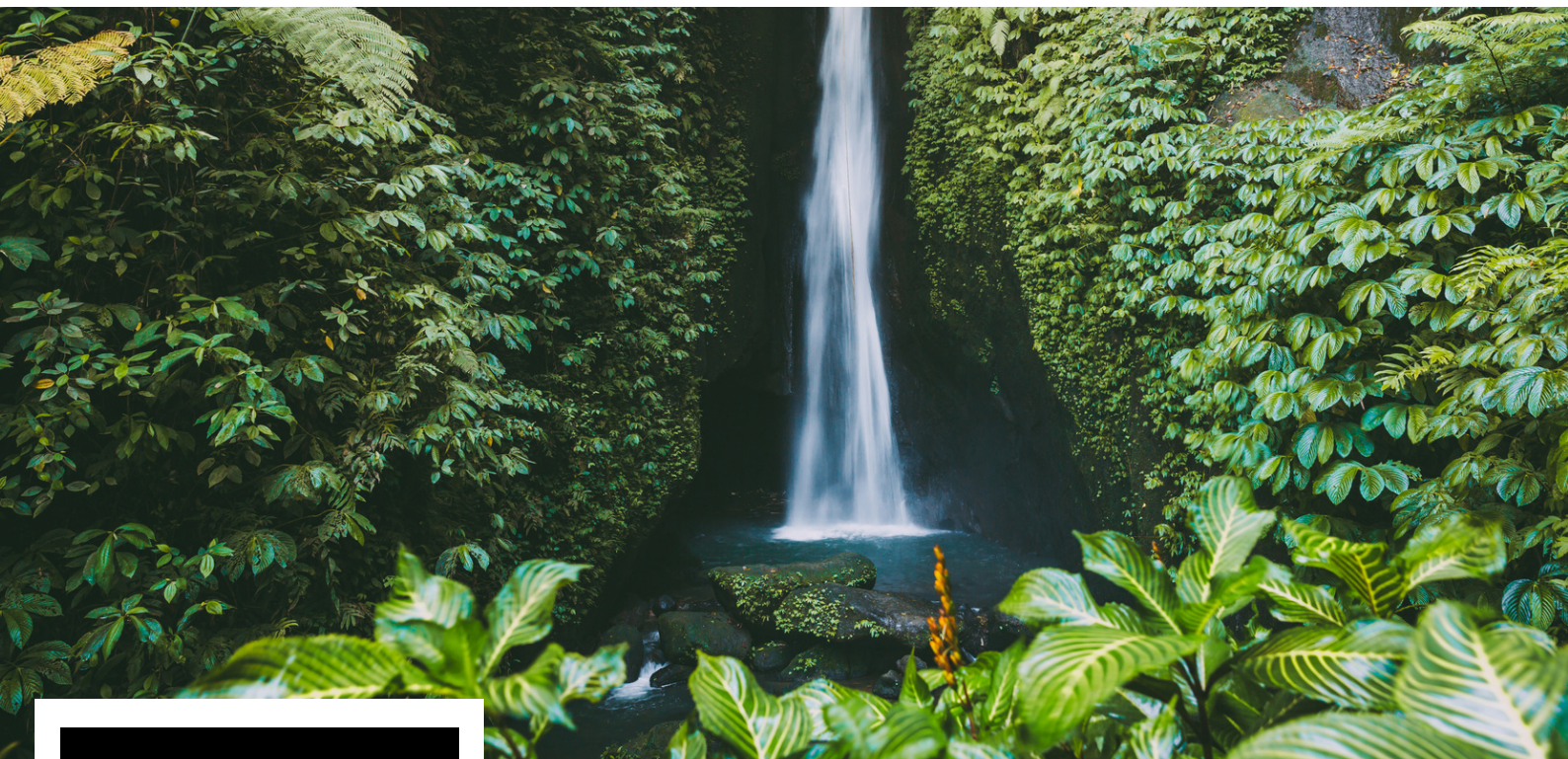
## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### TEGALALANG RICE TERRACE

[Tegalalang Rice Terrace](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site just north of Ubud, is a verdant valley of rice paddies that depends on an ancient irrigation system and makes for one of Bali's most striking landscapes. You can walk around the fields, enjoy a swing for a small fee, and take plenty of photos of the stunning terraces and the 'Love Bali' signs.

It's heavily frequented by tourists so it's best to arrive in the morning when it's a little less crowded. You can even go at sunrise for the most spectacular views as the sun comes up over the fields.





**"With sweeping beaches, verdant rice paddies, cascading waterfalls, and an enchanting landscape, Bali is the perfect place to reset and recharge... "**

## **...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED**

Mama San Bali is an Asian-Fusion delight. Try their Sunday Dim-Sum or head up to the second floor to sip on some fancy cocktails made with local ingredients. Grab a seat at the 'food bar' at Cuca and order some tapas while watching the chefs cook up a storm in the open kitchen.

Stop at Naughty Nuri's Seminyak for one of their famous martinis which Anthony Bourdain dubbed as 'the best outside New York'. It's a dive, but worth the fun!

Make a reservation well in advance for a table at Room 4 Dessert and opt for Chef Goldfarb's provocative tasting menu-you won't be disappointed!

## **THINGS TO DO**

If you're thinking of heading to Bali for a retreat, there's plenty to choose from. Fivelements offers a unique Culinary Retreat in which you'll learn the benefits of a plant-based lifestyle as you study under their team of gourmet chefs. They also offer a Signature Fivelements Retreat and Holistic Detox Retreat. Decide between a surf or yoga package at Pelan Pelan or go for their 'Get it all Package' where you'll spend your mornings surfing and afternoons practicing yoga and meditating. Bookreatreats.com is also a great resource to find a retreat that suits your fancy.

The beauty of Bali's waterfalls is not to be missed. Some to check out are Nungnung, Aling-Aling, Niagara Munduk, or Sekumpul among many others. To fully explore the falls it can be beneficial to get a guide and some spots even require them to be able to get full-access and go swimming.

To experience some of Bali's rich culture, take a trip to visit a Hindu temple. Tirta Empul Temple is famous for its holy water and purification rituals. Pura Ulun Danu Bratan, the recognizable "floating temple" in Bala lake, has beautiful gardens and is most picturesque at sunset. Pura Besakih is the largest pura (Balinese Hindu Temple) complex in the country-with 23 temples on Mount Agung.



## 8. MAUI



### THE VALLEY ISLE

Also known as the 'valley island', Maui is the second largest of the Hawaiian islands after Big Island and spans over 700 square miles in the North Pacific Ocean. It consists of 2 volcanoes-dormant Haleakala towering 10,000 feet above sea level in the east, and the extinct West Maui Mountains. It was first inhabited by Polynesians from Tahiti around 450 AD.

Lush tropical rainforests, cascading waterfalls, stunning verdant peaks and valleys, and sprawling turquoise waters

make Maui a nature lover's paradise, but it doesn't stop there. The food scene is bustling with an abundance of farm-to-table restaurants, the locals are friendly, and the rich traditional Hawaiian culture is certainly something to be experienced and immerse yourself in. For those seeking the true spirit of "aloha" (compassion, love, peace, and respect) this island's a little slice of heaven.





## WHERE TO STAY

Admire the views from your private lanai or relax at one of 4 infinity pools at [The Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort](#) where the rooms are immaculate and the staff gracious.

Named by Travel and Leisure as [one of the top 20 hotels in Hawaii](#), [Hotel Wailea](#) is an adults-only resort spread out over 15 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds. Suites are large with ocean views and the intimate setting is perfect for those seeking a romantic trip.

[The Four Seasons at Wailea](#) has all the touches you've come to expect from the brand with the added perk of being in the center of tropical paradise. Dine at [Wolfgang Puck's Spago](#) or splurge and book their 'Serenity Pool After Hours' to enjoy a personalized moonlit meal and private access to the infinity pool.

If a boutique hotel's more your cup of tea, the [Paia Inn](#) is the perfect place to unwind in Maui's hippest surf town of Paia. Chic digs, a great restaurant, and its central location make for a great stay.

## FOOD & DRINK

Start your day with a "cup from the end of the rainbow" from [Grandma's Coffee House](#), a 4th-generation family-run business serving up organic coffee and delicious comfort food.

Voted '[Best Breakfast in Maui](#)' by Hawaii Magazine, [Kihei Caffe](#) serves local fare in a diner-like setting beginning at 5 am daily.

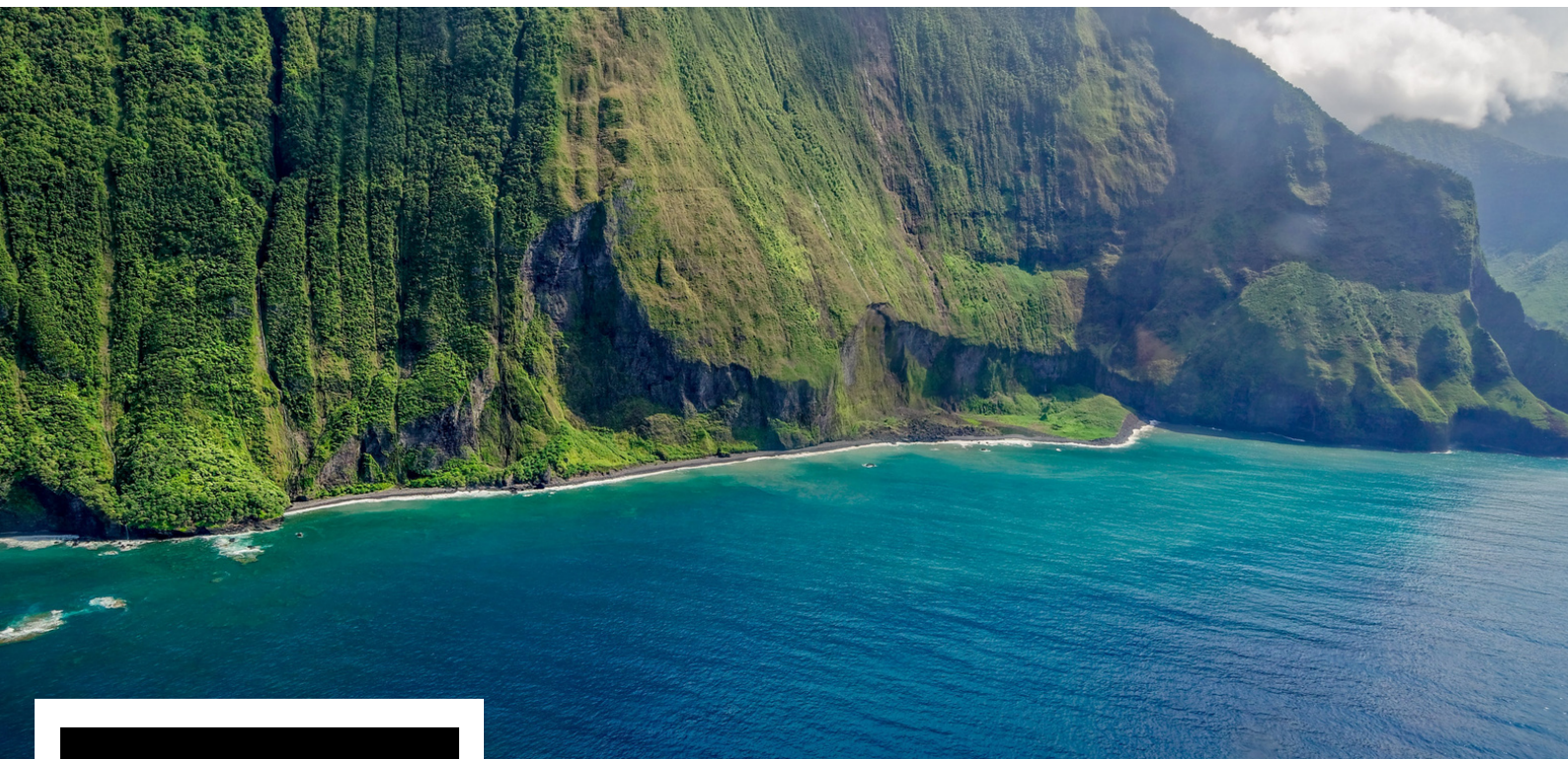
## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### ROAD TO HANA

Take a drive or [guided tour](#) along the famous 'Road to Hana'- a scenic 64-mile long highway that spans from Kahului to Hana. The roadway has 59 bridges and over 600 winding curves with views of some of Maui's most dramatic and spectacular natural wonders.

Map out your route and make plenty of stops along the way making sure not to miss: the [Garden of Eden Arboretum](#), [Kahanu Garden](#), [Wai'anapanapa State Park](#), [Wailua Falls](#), [Coconut Glen's](#) for vegan ice cream, and [Aunty Sandy's](#) for banana bread!





**"Maui's food scene is bustling with farm-to-table restaurants, the locals are friendly, and the rich traditional Hawaiian culture is certainly something to be experienced and immerse yourself in..."**

### **...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED**

Lahaina Grill, a contemporary bistro voted the island's best restaurant 27 years in a row, is a must-visit while in Maui (make sure to make reservations in advance). For the freshest Hawaiian daily catch snag a table at Mama's Fish House, a landmark restaurant with a gorgeous interior reminiscent of old Polynesia. Sip on Mai Tai Roa Ae ("the very best") while delving into an unforgettable meal.

Pacific'O is a farm-to-table restaurant with panoramic ocean views serving up the best in locally sourced grub. Their drink menu includes "farm-to-bar" libations made with ingredients from O'o Farm where organic produce for the restaurant is grown.

Milagros, known for its extensive tequila selection, was voted best happy hour in Maui. Monkeypod has 3 locations around the island with live music, cold beer, delicious cocktails, and great food.

### **THINGS TO DO**

Experience a spectacular sunrise from Maui's highest peak, Haleakala, with a Sunrise Tour. Don't forget to bundle up-the summit can be frigid but the breathtaking views are worth it! Or you could choose to take a Sunset and Stargazing Tour to view the cosmos through a telescope from above the clouds.

For a beach day filled with snorkeling, swimming, kayaking, and watersports galore visit Ka'anapali Beach. If you're adventurous you can cliff dive at Black Rock or opt to watch the nightly cliff diving ceremony hosted by the Sheraton, a tradition honoring the last chief of Maui.

Hike the Piipiwai Trail in Haleakala National Park to see some magnificent waterfalls, bamboo forests, and a giant banyan tree. And of course, a trip to Maui would be incomplete without experiencing a luau. There are plenty to choose from including The Feast at Lele, Drums of the Pacific Luau and the Old Lahaina Luau.

## 9. NANTUCKET



**NEW  
ENGLAND  
CHARM**

Nantucket, located 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is a designated National Historic Landmark District taking its name from the Wampanoag word meaning "far away island". It was once home to a major whaling industry which (thankfully) came to an end when most of its whaling vessels were destroyed by the Confederates in the Civil War.

This tiny island is defined by the elements and is nicknamed "The Grey Lady of The Sea" due to its appearance from the ocean when it's encompassed by fog. It's home to beautiful sandy beaches, stylish restaurants and shops, and plenty of chic inns and hotels with quintessential New England charm. For foodies, beach lovers, and everyone in between, Nantucket's the perfect spot for a seaside summer getaway.





## WHERE TO STAY

The Greydon House is a chic 20-room boutique hotel from the designers of The Standard High Line in New York. Located close to the ferry terminal and with a great restaurant and cocktail bar to boot, it's definitely a top pick.

Located in the heart of town right on Main Street, 76 Main is a stylishly designed boutique hotel with plush accommodations and helpful staff. Cozy up by one of the fire pits in their outdoor courtyard and mix your own cocktail at the BYOB bar (they provide the mixers, you bring the booze!).

Set on the edge of Nantucket Harbor, The White Elephant is a luxury landmark resort with exceptional service and beautifully furnished rooms. It's also home to one of the best restaurants on the island, Brant Point Grill.

Voted 'best Nantucket boutique hotel' by Boston Magazine, the award-winning Union Street Inn is another fabulous choice. Each of its 12 suites has its own unique charm, breakfast is incredible, and so is afternoon tea!

## FOOD & DRINK

Stop for a morning pastry and cappuccino at Handlebar Cafe, a quaint and cozy spot with an outdoor garden and friendly baristas.

Leave your beach chairs where they are and walk up to The Sandbar at Jetties Beach to grab a frosé and some oysters in between swims.

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### SCONSET BLUFF WALK

Take an obligatory afternoon stroll along the Sconset Bluff Walk where you'll meander along a public walkway that passes through private property (you won't be trespassing though if you're on the path!).

You'll score beautiful views of the bluff and get to see some of Nantucket's historic homes up close and personal. Make sure to ask your hotel's concierge for directions to the entrance as it isn't well marked.





**"Nantucket's home to beautiful sandy beaches, stylish restaurants and shops, and plenty of chic inns and hotels with quintessential New England charm..."**

### ...FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED

Enjoy a signature cocktail (we have our eye on the 'tequila mockingbird') and Asian-inspired tapas at [The Nautilus](#). The aforementioned Greydon House is home to an 'Italian-ish' restaurant [Via Mare](#) which has a cool ambiance and delectable small plates.

Creatively prepared dishes are complimented with a top-notch wine list at [The Proprietor Bar & Table](#). Known for its seafood, [Cru](#) is set on a wharf overlooking the harbor with good drinks, fresh oysters, and lovely views. Dine alfresco at [Straight Wharf](#), a must-visit while on the island in its 45th year of service.

For the best ice cream grab a waffle cone at [The Juice Bar](#). Afterward, head to [Cisco Brewers](#), Nantucket's first and only craft brewery, and sip on some ice-cold local brews in the sunshine.

### THINGS TO DO

With 82 miles of shoreline, it's obvious that you'll be spending some time on the beach while in Nantucket. [Surfside Beach](#) is great for bodysurfing and boogie boarding. [Children's Beach](#) is great for those with little ones, [Cisco](#) is where the surfers go, and [Madaket](#) is where you'll catch a gorgeous sunset.

For an enjoyable way to experience the island, take a tour with [Nantucket Bike Tours](#). Knowledgeable guides made for an educational and fun-filled day. Another option is to take a wilderness hike with [Nantucket Walkabout](#) where you'll explore off the beaten path and learn about the history and geology of Nantucket.



## 10. BORA BORA



### THE ROMANTIC ISLAND

Bora Bora, a small island group in French Polynesia whose land area measures a mere 12-square miles, is like something out of a dream. Blissfully located northwest of Tahiti in the middle of the South Pacific, its idyllic beauty is otherworldly and its tantalizing aura is nothing short of intoxicating. The main island is surrounded by a barrier reef and a calm lagoon enveloped in the most beautiful turquoise waters you've ever seen.

Mount Otemanu at its center is one of two peaks of a dormant volcano and although you can't hike to the summit, its majesty can still be enjoyed from around the island. Many resorts are uniquely located on motus (or tiny islets) which are perfect for a secluded and tranquil escape. For a trip you'll carry in your memory for a lifetime, make the journey to Bora Bora-there's nothing like it under the sun.



## WHERE TO STAY

The Conrad Bora Bora Nui makes for an incredible stay with welcoming staff and magnificent grounds. Luxurious but unpretentious, you won't have to lift a finger during your visit here. Book an overwater bungalow and go snorkeling right outside your villa and enjoy the many activities, adventures, and water sports that come included in your stay.

Unwind and recharge in pure bliss at the Four Seasons Bora Bora. Sprawl out in a newly updated bungalow, wade in the aquamarine lagoon, and enjoy delicious food and drink as you revel in the tropical playground that surrounds you.

Live like royalty during your stay at The St. Regis where 24-hour butler service is available to accommodate your every whim. Ask for a 'Bora Mary', the St. Regis version of a Bloody Mary made with refreshing watermelon.

Receive warm greetings with a lei, ukulele music, and a coconut drink at Sofitel Bora Bora Private Island Resort. It's a tad more affordable than other hotels around the island while still stylish and luxurious.

## FOOD & DRINK

It's usually a good idea to purchase a meal plan package when you book your accommodations. Eating out tends to be pricey (a lot of Bora Bora's food is imported) but if you're staying on the main island or just want to venture out, there are still some options for a tasty meal...

## NOT TO BE MISSED:

### SNORKEL IN THE LAGOONARIUM

There's stellar snorkeling in plenty of places around Bora Bora, but the Lagoonarium is the pinnacle of them all. It's part of the lagoon that's a 'natural aquarium' for marine life and is where you can spot some incredible sea creatures.

For the best experience, take a guided day tour where you'll swim alongside stingrays, sea turtles, manta rays, eagle sharks, pufferfish, and more (and you'll be provided with a fun guide and delicious lunch!).





**"...the main island is surrounded by a barrier reef and a calm lagoon enveloped in the most beautiful turquoise waters you've ever seen..."**

## FOOD & DRINK CONTINUED...

You can't forgo trying a Bloody Mary at [Bloody Mary's](#) so stop for lunch and some beverages and chill with your toes in the sand. For great sushi overlooking the beach, head to [Matira Beach Restaurant](#). It's run by a friendly couple who will go so far as to personally pick you up from your resort and drive you to the restaurant.

[La Villa Mahana](#) is a tiny 8-table gourmet restaurant perfect for a romantic meal (make sure to choose the wine pairing option). Guests rate it 'beyond compare' but be prepared to drop some dough. Catch the sunset at [Bora Bora Yacht Club](#) where you'll enjoy a delicious meal and cocktails with unreal views of the horizon.

\*Don't forget to try Poisson Cru and Tahitian Vanilla ice cream if you see them on a menu!

## THINGS TO DO

Take a [4x4 Cultural Island Tour](#) and explore the island with an expert guide, making stops along the way to see WWII cannons, an ancient temple, scenic vistas, and stop in local villages (there's also the option to do a [Sunset Tour](#)).

Help rehabilitate sea turtles for the day at [Le Méridien Bora Bora's Ecological Center](#). Daily visits to feed the turtles are free for hotel guests, but the 'Live my life Package' is open to outside guests where you can spend the full day caring for the majestic creatures.

Stroll the sandy shoreline or snorkel in the shallow crystalline waters of [Matira Beach](#) which is considered one of the best beaches in the world. There's plenty of resorts, boutiques, restaurants, and snack bars around but it never seems to get too crowded.