TRAVEL beyond the beach

Belize  Barbados  Mexico  Panama

Beach Bar None
CONTRIBUTORS

Danielle Krause
Contributor
Exploring the fascinating variety of this exquisitely beautiful blue planet nourishes and fulfills my spirit. Being able to delight and inspire you, by sharing some of these travel gems is an even greater gift. Enjoy!

Robin Subar
Contributor
I'm a photojournalist in the Chicago area and a regular contributor to many luxury lifestyle magazines. I've lived in Madrid and Sydney and traveled extensively throughout Europe, Central America, Mexico, Caribbean, Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and Southeast and Northeast Asia.

I live my life by a Susan Sontag quote: "I haven't been everywhere, but its on my list!"

Amy Sedeno
Contributor
As a self-proclaimed @hotelista I do quite a bit of traveling, and from holding a tarantula in an ancient site in Guatemala to drinking high tea in Dubai, and petting grey whales in Baja, you bet I’ve got stories to tell.

Andrew Innerarity
Director of Photography
It's all about triggering emotion via imagery. When I convey the very essence of a situation with a single photograph, then I am complete, because the viewer understands more than the moment, they know the situation.

Ava Rosales
Features Editor
The Caribbean life is the life for me.

Sergio Olivares
Creative Direction
I'm my best on this island. My flight left last night, but I know I'm not going back home.

Robin Subar
Contributor
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BARBADOS, ALWAYS "ON"

BY Amy Sedeño
While many Caribbean islands are limping towards recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria, Barbados’ tourism is having a moment. With an increased visitor rate, new flight routes, hotel expansion and a packed calendar of festivals and events, the eastern Caribbean island is definitely “on.”

Barbados is characterized by over 60 public beaches that range from pristine and calm west coast and south coast waters, to rugged surf spots in the East of the island, but more so by its fly fish, Mt. Gay rum, luxury accommodations and, of course, Rihanna. What many don’t know is that the island, although petite in size, packs a punch when it comes to events, festivals and tourist attractions that seamlessly blend culture, heritage, adventure and gastronomy.
This year, Barbados is also celebrating the Year of Culinary Experiences which reflects the breath of gastronomic fare available on the island. Kicking off with the Barbados Sugar and Rum Season, honoring the island’s rich history of sugar production, the year will delight visitors with a myriad of food-centric activities such as mixology road shows, dinners and educational lectures. The Oistins Fish Festival (held over Easter weekend) and the acclaimed the Barbados Food and Rum Festival in the fall, which brings together some of the top local, regional and international Chef and mixology talent are also highlights of what the island has to offer for foodies from all over the world. Also in the culinary front, Barbados will celebrate the second installment of the Barbados Beach and Wellness Festival, a program catering foodies looking for health conscious offerings.

Crop Over Festival, a six-week celebration from June to August, is yet another event worth traveling for. During the 200-year old tradition, the island wears its best costumes and is filled with Caribbean energy, soca sounds, artisan markets, masquerade bands and laughter.
The island is also an active destination with several sports event popping up throughout the year including 5K races and marathons, the open water festival for swimmers, rugby and cricket tournaments and polo matches.

Whether you are set on discovering the colorful historic center of Bridgetown, dubbed a UNESCO site in 2011, basking in the sunshine of the island’s sky-blue beaches, enjoying a Land a Sea safari through some of Barbados’ most Instagrammable spots or eating your way through the bustling fishing village of Oistins, leave some room in your itinerary to participate in one of the country’s events and festivals. The best part is getting to mingle with the locals, who, as my taxi driver would say in the most charming British Caribbean accent always “live life to the fullest.”

Amy Sedeño