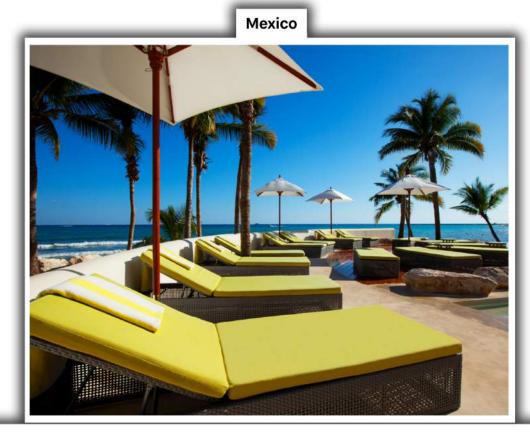
OCEAN DRIVE

5 Luxe Caribbean Getaways to Escape the Heat This Summer

Looking to swap the sticky weather for something a bit more luxurious? Ahead are some spots to take a bite, an adventure, and most importantly, a break this summer in the Caribbean.



Where to Stay: Hand-laid hidden pathways, luxurious palapa-style bungalows, and the clear, Caribbean Sea: nothing says paradise quite like Mahekal Beach Resort. This serene oasis includes four luxe pools, three restaurants, and four bars on-site, and Vida Aquática, a dive center that lets you go under the sea after the sun comes down.

Where to Eat: Take a half-hour cab ride to Tulum's tucked-away jungle road and get in line at Hartwood. All cuisine is prepared on open fire, but be sure to act quickly as dinner reservations are totally booked moments after the wait list opens. Pro tip: Be in line by 2:30 p.m. (the wait list opens at 3 p.m.) to make a day out of Tulum, and treat yourself to the toasty papaya empanadas afterward.

Where to Play: <u>Mamita's Beach Club</u> hosts events ranging from music and fashion festivals to beach soccer competitions. No matter the occasion, there's guaranteed day drinking and bottle service.

What to Do: Most tourist excursions and hotels will suggest the Tulum Ruins, but if you want to forego the predictable for the road-less-traveled, venture to Coba Ruins to climb pyramids. Check out three nearby and often unpopulated cenotes (caves) for even more exciting experiences: Choo-Ha, Tamcach-Ha, and Multun-Ha.

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