

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

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Intel

OUR TRAVEL
TIPS, TRICKS, AND
MISCELLANY

A GUIDE
TO TRAVELING
BETTER

LOVE IT

The low-cost airline Norwegian just continues to add flights to Europe from the U.S., helping keep transatlantic airfares down and giving us another option for getting to Amsterdam, London, Madrid, Milan, and Paris, all of which are seeing more flights from the States in the first half of 2018. They've stepped up service to the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique too.

HATE IT

Resort fees are getting worse. These sneaky charges were once only seen in spots like Las Vegas and Orlando, where you'd have to fork over an extra \$25 a night just to use the pool. Now, hotels in New York City are hitting guests with surcharges so they can advertise superlow rates online but pad the bottom line at checkout. A good reminder to always read the fine print.

CAN'T BELIEVE IT

Spring Break in Saudi Arabia? Maybe, now that Prince Sultan bin Salman, the country's tourism minister, said the kingdom would start issuing tourist visas for the first time this year. Mecca will remain off-limits to non-Muslims, but seaside Jeddah and the Petra-esque Mada'in Saleh could soon be in play. An expert like Rami Girgis at Abercrombie & Kent can help you organize it.

Six Islands You Gotta See to Believe

These blips were once the sort of places you'd dream about but never visit. Now, thanks to better air links and new openings, they're completely doable.



1. St. Helena

The long-delayed opening of its first airport, in 2016, has made this ultra-remote island way more accessible. Getting there used to take five days aboard the spartan *RMS St. Helena* cargo ship; now you can get there in about six hours on an Airlink flight from Johannesburg. The Mantis St. Helena opened in November in the capital city of Jamestown (population: 629) with 30 basic-but-cozy rooms set in a trio of restored Georgian buildings.

2. Príncipe

São Tome's sister island is home to some of Africa's best beaches, yet they're practically unheard of here in the U.S., in part because it takes at least two

layovers to get there. But a duo of just-opened hotels are bound to lure the intrepid: Roça Sundy is a pair of refurbished villas on a former cocoa plantation, and Sundy Praia is a 15-tent resort set beneath banana and almond trees.

3. Fuerteventura

Everyone knows Tenerife, the biggest of Spain's Canary Islands, but this lesser-known isle will be trending after the May release of *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, which was filmed in part on its gorgeous golden sands. Getting there is easiest if you're already in Europe, thanks to budget-airline nonstops, like Easyjet's from Gatwick or Condor's from Frankfurt, but Iberia has one-stop flights from the U.S.

4. Rubondo

Tanzania's Lake Victoria is home to the continent's

largest national park on an island, one filled with elephants, giraffes, sitatungas, and terrapins. Stay at Asilia Africa's Rubondo Island Camp, where guides can show you a population of now-wild chimpanzees that were relocated here from European zoos in the 1960s.

5. Likoma

Crystal-clear Lake Malawi is the third-largest in Africa and a hush-hush favorite of adventurous honeymooners, divers, and kayakers, who

find the lack of stuff to do an asset, not a liability. Most inns on Likoma Island, in the middle of the lake, are seriously bare-bones, but the stone-and-thatch Kaya Mawa, with 11 beachside rooms, is a step up.

6. Mogundula

Mozambique's Quirimbas Archipelago feels like an abandoned outpost at the edge of the world, filled with haunting, derelict Portuguese colonial buildings. There's new life, though, at this private island retreat, with five recently finished teak-and-coral villas and plenty of diving, snorkeling, and castaway vibes.