

## Spring Break 2021: This Might Actually Happen

Cautiously optimistic travel plans to get you to the Caribbean.



BY KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA —◇— JAN 26, 2021



**D**oes spring break by the sea—swimming, sand, sundowners—seem to you more a right than a privilege? Aghast at the prospect of being denied it this year? No need for guilt: The desire to get to water—be it ocean, lake, or pool—is in your genes, baby, an urge born of a primordial survival instinct. “All our senses respond positively to water,” says marine biologist Wallace J. Nichols, author of *Blue Mind*, because it’s an evolutionary trigger “telling your brain you’re in the right place.”

The Caribbean, of course, has long been that place. It has been opening slowly to Americans over the last few months, but there is a thicket of Covid-era regulations to consider—not because cases are high but because they’re low, and the islands want to keep it that way. And there are many different governments involved. “Every island is responsible for creating its own reopening plan,” says Lindsey Epperly of [Epperly Travel](#), who specializes in beach destinations worldwide, “and we’re seeing those plans vary pretty dramatically.”

If you want to avoid searching the tourism website of every country/island you’re interested in, one excellent place to look is this beast of an article by Brook Wilkinson, editor at [WendyPerrin.com](#): “[The Countries That Have Reopened to U.S. Travelers With No 14-Day Quarantine and What You’ll Find There](#).” It is arranged regionally, and Wilkinson updates the information.

And yes, there's a new wrinkle (in case you missed it): A CDC mandate, effective January 26, requires all international travelers coming *into* the United States to show proof of a negative Covid-19 test administered within three days prior to their arrival on U.S. soil. Don't despair—it doesn't mean you'll need to ruin your last days on the beach searching for a testing site: Many hotels and resorts in the Caribbean have already started providing on-property testing. Some properties provide this as a complimentary service, others at a cost. "The kinds of tests available at each resort, as well as pricing, is evolving every day," says Epperly. An excellent single source for updated information is [this article in Travel Weekly](#), specifically covering the properties in the Caribbean and Mexico.

That said, here is a sampler of islands we like and places to stay we recommend—all worth the extra steps. Here comes then sun....



Jumby Bay Antigua

STEFANO CANDITO

## Antigua

This island, Epperly says, “has been reopening carefully, and some people feel more comfortable with its preflight testing requirement”—not the more usual 72 hours prior to departure from the U.S., but seven days, so there’s less last minute uncertainty about your test results. And there’s big hotel news on Antigua: **Jumby Bay Resort**, the Caribbean’s most exclusive all-inclusive, has just reopened as part of the Oetker Collection (which includes the Riviera’s Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc). It’s located on its own 300-acre island with 22 staffed residences available for rent (plus the resort’s 28 suites and villas), and it has a farm, a turtle sanctuary, and a dreamy meadow with grazing sheep, which you’re guaranteed to pass often on your golf cart or bike: In true private enclave style, Jumby Bay is carless and keyless.