

GO ESCAPE

SUMMER 2021

Discover

- EXPERIENCE PRIVATE ISLAND CAMPING
- RESORT SPAS OFFER MORE THAN MASSAGES
- ENJOY A GOLF GETAWAY AT CABO SAN LUCAS
- REMOTE WORKING SPURS NEW TRAVEL TRENDS



CLIFFSIDE ACCOMMODATIONS



Oil Nut Bay

ENJOY STUNNING VIEWS AT THESE MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN RESORTS

BY JENNIFER BRADLEY FRANKLIN

Many travelers hunt for the perfect beach-side room, but travel connoisseurs realize that sometimes the best view — and with it, relaxation and privacy — can be found from above. “Being in or near the mountains just calms me in a way no other landscape can. It’s also easy to be alone in the woods or mountains, which is really hard to do on a beach if you’re not wealthy,” says Emily Farris, a lifestyle content creator based in Kansas City, Mo. “I’ll take a cabin over a cabana any day.”

Farris and her husband stayed in a yurt in Cape Lookout State Park on the Oregon coast as part of their Pacific Northwest honeymoon. “It’s technically on the beach, which is actually part of what made it so magical,” she says. “From our yurt at night, we could see the stars and hear the ocean.”

Farris isn’t alone in her preference for peaks. “Many (of my clients who request mountain trips) are city dwellers, and they want to be in wide-open places, taking in the majesty of mountain peaks, towering trees, rivers, lakes and wildlife,” says Cristina Buaas, Houston-based owner of CSB Travel. She notes that having space to distance within nature became a particular draw during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While mountains draw snow-seekers in the winter, these high-elevation destinations are popular year-round. “For example, Jackson Hole’s peak season is summer, not winter,” says Buaas of the popular Wyoming destination. “Activities like hiking, biking, rafting, fly fishing and horseback riding are very popular.”

Whether you’re looking for a vacation destination that combines elevation with the coastline or a land-locked property surrounded by mountain peaks, here are some prime spots to consider:

OIL NUT BAY

Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands

If you can’t bring yourself to choose between the mountains and the sea, Oil Nut Bay on Virgin Gorda’s North Sound gives you the best of both worlds, showcasing the cobalt water and rugged coastline. Accessible only by boat or helicopter, the exclusive property’s 26 accommodation offerings range from cliffside one-bedroom suites to six-bedroom villas, some as high as 700 feet above sea level. The 400-acre landscape offers five hiking trails for sweeping views of the Caribbean Sea, tennis and pickleball courts and an on-site barn for rescued animals including retired racehorses, an emu and flamingos. Venture into the water for snorkeling, reef diving, sea kayaking and sailing and refuel with an alfresco meal and a cocktail at Nova, the resort’s new overwater restaurant and bar.

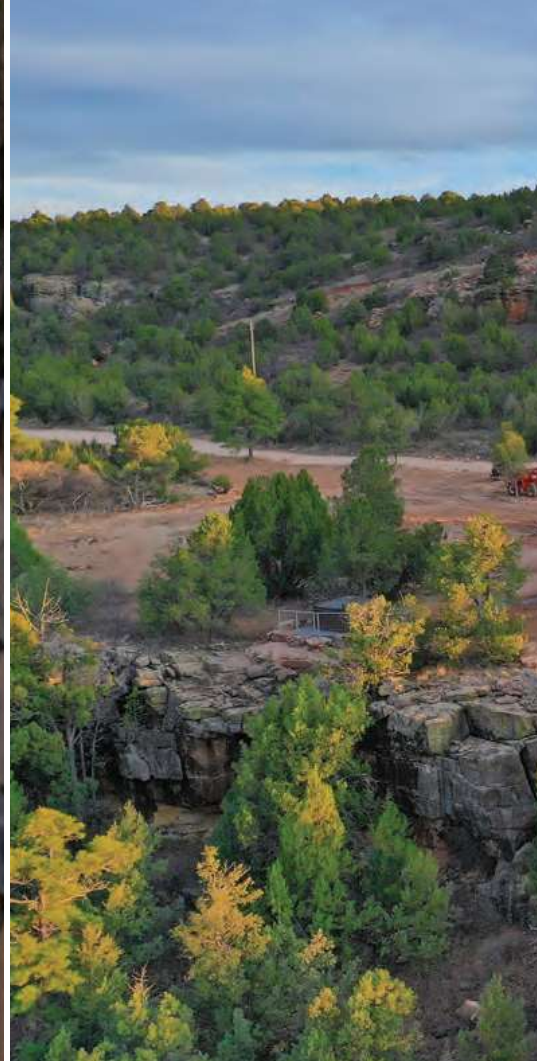


Post Ranch Inn

POST RANCH INN

Big Sur, Calif.

Unplug and disconnect at Post Ranch Inn, perched 1,200 feet above the Pacific Ocean in the Santa Lucia Mountains. Choose from 40 guest rooms and suites, spread across 100 acres, according to your preferences. Tree House rooms tower on 9-foot stilts among massive redwood trees; Mountain House rooms offer striking views of the surrounding peaks, and the Ocean Houses showcase the waves crashing on the rocks below. All come without alarm clocks or televisions for optimum relaxation and are powered by a 990-panel solar array, the largest such project in California. Take part in free meditation classes, guided nature hikes and nightly stargazing through the inn’s 12-inch Meade telescope. On a clear night, you might see the rings of Saturn.



AMANGANI

Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Natural beauty is a top draw at Amangani, where all 40 luxury suites have floor-to-ceiling windows, perfect for taking in the spectacular Grand Tetons and the Snake River Valley. The resort sits at 7,000 feet above sea level within the largest contiguous forest in the United States. Since Jackson Hole is less than 60 miles to Yellowstone National Park and only 5 miles to Grand Teton National Park, guests can take advantage of hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails and nature safaris to spot elk, white-tailed deer, moose, black and grizzly bears, as well 300 species of local birds, including bald eagles. The Snake River offers opportunities for fly-fishing to reel in trophy-sized cutthroat trout and exciting whitewater rafting through the canyon. Horseback riding through wildflower-covered trails, yoga sessions with panoramic views, spa services and swimming in the 377-foot long pool round out the experience.

CANYON MADNESS RANCH

Roy, N.M.

For relaxation with a side of adventure, take a trip to Canyon Madness Ranch, a new sport-forward property that opened in April. The main house, Teepee Lodge, was designed by architect Alejandro Uribe. It features twin teepee-shaped peaks over 18,000 square feet of indoor space with two levels of metal-alloy decks that overlook the rushing Canadian River. The remote and intimate all-inclusive experience accommodates 16 guests across eight rooms. Pick your activity level and take part in an extensive sport shooting program (including a military-style firearms experience), river kayaking, archery and hiking. Equestrians of all levels can saddle up for rides on pristine wilderness trails, while history buffs can explore the remnants of homesteads and search for Native American artifacts.

HOTEL WAILEA

Wailea, Hawaii

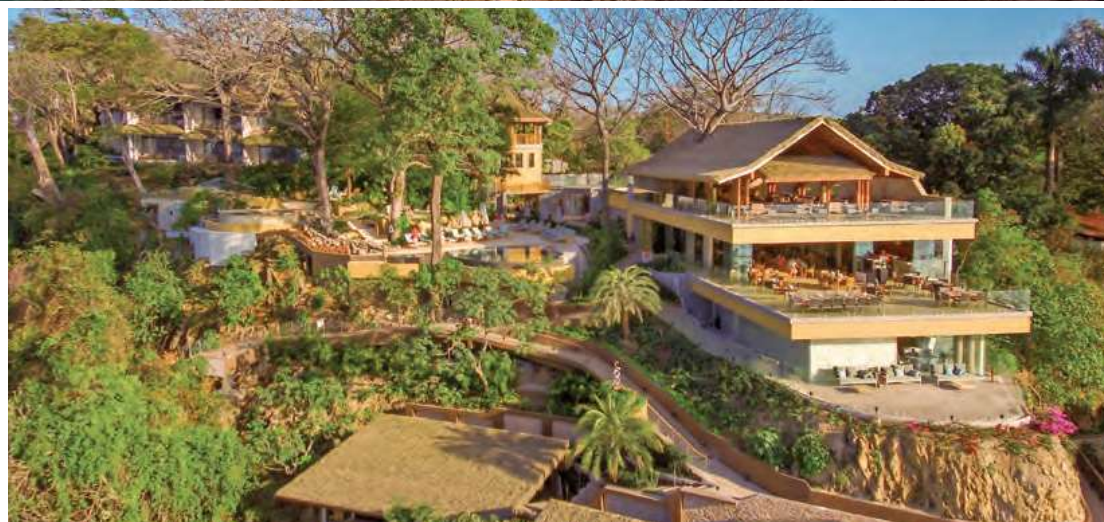
Hawaii's first and only Relais & Châteaux property, the adults-only Hotel Wailea is designed for romance and exclusivity. Seventy-two spacious suites are spread across 15 acres, perfect for easy social distancing. Borrow one of the resort's three vintage 1957 Porsche 356 Speedster replicas to explore Maui's upcountry peaks, some of which top out at more than 10,000 feet above sea level; try your hand at Hawaiian outrigger canoeing to see the sunrise over the Haleakalā volcano; or join the Surf Safari tour to hang 10 on some of the island's best breaks. Spring for the seven-course tasting menu in a private treehouse set among the mango trees to cap off the unforgettable experience. No matter where you are, adjacent mountain islands set a jaw-dropping scene.



THE CAVES

Negril, Jamaica

You're not far from the water at The Caves, and the elevated position is perfect for thrill-seekers to jump from the limestone cliffs 30 feet into the turquoise waves below (shorter jumps are available for less-bold visitors). Settle into one of 12 pastel-hued suites and cottages, and kick your vacation into high gear with a cocktail at the Blackwell Rum Bar, named for resort owner Chris Blackwell, the Rock & Roll Hall-of-Famer and legendary record producer. Snorkel in search of the colorful parrotfish and squirrelfish that make their home among the volcanic limestone, or take a trip to nearby Bloody Bay for some of the island's most vibrant coral reefs. Don't miss the sunset views before tucking into a private candlelit dinner in the caves.



LAGARTA LODGE

Nosara, Costa Rica

Situated on a bluff on Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula, Lagarta Lodge sits above verdant mangroves and rainforest bordering the Pacific Ocean. The boutique eco-lodge consists of 26 junior suites, designed with teak furniture crafted by local artisans and adorned with a global art collection. Guests have access to the property's 90-acre nature reserve, home to tropical birds, iguanas, rainbow-hued butterflies and howler monkeys. Take an aerial yoga class and kayak the Rio Nosara through the primeval forest or venture off-property to Playa Ostional, one of the world's largest nesting grounds for olive ridley sea turtles. Finish the day with dinner set with a backdrop of panoramic ocean views as the sun sinks below the horizon.



HIGHLANDER MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Highlands, N.C.

Settle into the Highlander Mountain House in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, originally built in 1885 and reopened as an inn in 2020 by hotelier Jason Reeves. Designed to evoke visions of an English country house, no two of the 18 rooms are alike; each is adorned with an eclectic mix of custom and vintage furnishings, bold wallpaper, Victorian-era taxidermy and collected art. At more than 4,100 feet above sea level, Highlands is the highest incorporated town east of the Rockies and boasts rich cultural exploration opportunities like the Appalachian-inspired folk art at The Bascom arts center and lectures, music and theater at the Highlands Performing Arts Center. Visitors of all ages will enjoy outdoor activities including rock climbing, hiking, lake sports, biking and more. After you've worked up an appetite, head back to the inn for locally sourced dishes at the on-site restaurant, The Ruffed Grouse.



CLIFF HOUSE MAINE

Cape Neddick, Maine

You're never far from the sound of breaking waves at Cliff House Maine, the hotel set on the dramatic Bald Head Cliff, 70 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. The historic 226-room property with views of the Nubble Lighthouse has been serving guests since 1872. Visitors can indulge 70 acres of cliff-top walking paths and wooded trails, explore an on-site art gallery or work out the kinks in an oceanside yoga session. Rent a bike to explore the rugged shoreline, play the links at the adjacent 18-hole course or take to the water on a lobstering cruise, a classic Maine adventure. Craving a dip? Nearby Ogunquit Beach has 3.5 miles of sandy shoreline.