



Travel



Gansevoort Turks and Caicos (2)

This sleek hotel is set on a snow-white sand beach on the north shore of Providenciales. The hotel was minorly affected by hurricanes Irma and Maria in September and reopened in early October (from \$695/night, GansevoortHotelGroup.com).

First opened in NYC's Meatpacking District, the Gansevoort reinvented its signature urban cool aesthetic to appeal to couples looking for a swanky seaside escape. This winter, guests will also be able to rent their new four- and five-bedroom villas (above) on the island's southern shore.

Opened in 2009, singer John Legend, actor Miles Teller and actress Nina Dobrev are just a few of the resort's famous guests. Meanwhile, stylish couples — mostly from the from the East Coast and frequently spotted canoodling — make up most of its clientele.

Guests wake up early to catch the sunrise, lounge on cabanas that surround the 7,000-square-foot infinity pool. Simply put, it's a swanky island oasis.

The resort's 91 ocean-view rooms (which range from studios to three-bedroom pent-houses) have a South Beach feel, decked out with glass banisters, contemporary furniture and a rainwater shower.

Charter a boat tour through the hotel concierge (from \$90 per person for a group trip to \$1,100 for a boat that fits 12) that takes you to Turks and Caicos' barrier reef, which is the third largest barrier reef in the world. You can swim alongside yellowtail snappers, sea turtles and groupers.



If you're looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life but crave the same sophistication as back home, this Gansevoort makes for an idyllic (albeit pricey) retreat.

HOTEL FACE-OFF: The Gansevoort, Turks and Caicos vs. Thompson Beach House, Mexico

Two boutique hotel brands based in New York put down roots in the Caribbean with wildly different beachfront resorts. Which one is right for you?



John Legend



Whitney Port

THE LOCATION

THE LURE

THE GUESTS

THE VIBE

THE LOOK

MUST DO

THE BOTTOM LINE



Thompson Playa del Carmen (2)

A two-year-old hotel just 45 minutes by car from the Cancun airport, the Thompson is a luxe reprieve from beach town Playa Del Carmen's tourist-friendly shops and restaurants just a few blocks away (from \$259/night, ThompsonHotels.com).

Because the Thompson offers pristine accommodations — just 27 rooms — at a higher price point than nearby hotels (which are mostly all-inclusive), it's perfect for travelers who want to experience the town's buzzy nightlife scene without being overwhelmed by party animals back at the hotel, too.

From "The Hills" alum Whitney Port to Instagram influencers like Canadian blogger Filipa Jackson (with 50,000 followers @FilipaJackson), the Thompson attracts a well-heeled crowd of urbanites hailing from Toronto to Dallas.

Beautiful people roam about a slender pool that leads to modern cabanas overlooking the beach. On some weekends, DJs and bands play Top 40 hits poolside.

The Thompson brand, which includes the Beekman hotel in the Financial District, brings its signature swagger to the Playa Del Carmen guest rooms. Each suite comes with an oceanfront terrace, floor-to-ceiling windows and midcentury furniture.

Walk a few blocks to Catch restaurant — located on the top floor of the Beach House's sister hotel, Thompson Playa Del Carmen — for some seafood fare. Later in the evening, the eatery morphs into a dance club and becomes one of the hottest nightlife haunts in town.

In this popular Yucatan spot already rife with trendy hotels, the Thompson's accessible-yet-stylish property is a welcome addition.

— Christian Gollayan (The author was a guest of both hotels.)



Sean Pavone/Alamy

ISLE BE THERE



Taking a trip to lush Antigua (above) can help benefit its sister island,

Three Caribbean destinations ready to welcome visitors this winter

By CHRISTIAN GOLLAYAN

THIS fall, the Caribbean weathered a series of hurricanes that left some areas in shambles. But thanks to locals' resilient spirit and various forms of international assistance, most islands are steadily recovering. The lucky, less hard-hit ones want to remind travelers they're open for business. Here are three to know.

St. Kitts

Prime Minister Timothy Harris says the island was "spared the full brunt" of

Irma and has made a significant recovery. In November, Park Hyatt opened its ultra-luxe resort on Christopher Harbour, offering 128 rooms with seaside views (from \$500/night; StKitts.Park.Hyatt.com).

Dominican Republic

Though this island nation was heavily battered by Hurricane Maria in September, most of its infrastructure is still intact. The Punta Cana airport, which has direct flights to New York City and is the closest to a stretch of beachfront resorts, is operating as usual.

Antigua

Though its sister island, Barbuda, suffered severe

damage, Antigua came out of hurricane season with minimal setbacks; hotels and shops are back in business. Antigua officials emphasize that patronizing its businesses means aid money will pour into Barbuda. A rep for the country's tourism board, Christopher Nelson, adds, "In the middle of October, you wouldn't have been able to tell [Antigua] even had a close brush." Meanwhile Galley Bay, an all-inclusive adults-only boutique resort, is reopening on Dec. 23 after a massive renovation that was in progress before the storm hit (from \$548/night; GalleyBayResort.com).