

LIVING >

TRAVEL

7 Great Island Vacations—No Passport Required

APRIL 4, 2016 1:56 PM
by VICTORIA LEWIS



Absolutely no disrespect to the Caribbean and its dreamy white-sand beaches, but from time to time we all need a vacation that's a little closer to home. Fortunately, the U.S. coasts are dotted with stunning island retreats perfect for a quick, off-the-mainland getaway. So from the warm, sunny Florida Keys to the naturally striking San Juan Islands in Washington State, here are a few inspiring spots to check into on your next holiday. No passport required.



5 / 7



San Juan Islands

Just off the coast of Washington, at the very northwestern tip of the United States, sit the striking San Juan Islands. Here, instead of water sports and sunny beaches, you'll find cozy cabins and plenty of campfires. In other words, plan on packing your boots and flannels because hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, and whale watching will be on the agenda. From late May through mid-October, whale-watching tours regularly spot pods of migrating orcas alongside seals, sea lions, sea otters, bald eagles, and a host of other wildlife. The main town, where you'll want to make your home base, is Friday Harbor. There, check into the modern [Island Inn at 123 West](#) or [Friday Harbor House](#), or head across the island to the [Snug Harbor Resort](#) cabins for something a bit more remote. Grab prepared foods and picnic provisions for lunch at [Market Chef](#) or [San Juan Island Cheese](#), and for dinner try the inventive [Duck Soup Inn](#) or sophisticated [Bluff](#) at Friday Harbor House.

Photo: Alamy