

JETSETTER

ISLANDS

America's Best Island Vacations (No Passport Required)

Island getaways are typically reserved for all-inclusive Caribbean idylls, but we've got plenty of sensational stays right in our backyard. From the New England summer colonies favored by socialites and celebs, to miles of tropical sugar-sand beaches off of Florida's west coast, here are the best island vacations in the US of A.





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San Juan Islands, Washington

The San Juan Islands off the northwest corner of Washington state comprise some 172 land masses and reef bodies, but it's Orcas, Lopez, Shaw and San Juan (singular) that hold all the goods. Hopping a quick ferry or flight from Seattle, Bellingham, or Vancouver, you'll be mesmerized by the archipelago's rugged Pacific Northwest landscape – subalpine forests, rocky beaches and reef-studded bays. Your trip calls for a stay at the [Friday Harbor House](#) in San Juan where after days of exploring the island's thriving art scene, covering the streets of the seaport inch by inch (it's only a mile) and visiting the [Pelindaba Lavender Farm](#) during the “peak of purpleness” (July and August), you'll lounge fireside in your own oversized tub, taking in the island's bluffs through your room's picture window. Dedicate a day to the [San Juan Islands Scenic Byway](#) which connects the beaches, alpaca farms, mountains, harbors and vineyards of the archipelago's many hamlets and fit in a whale watching excursion as the island's are famous for their three pods of killer whales. When hunger strikes, find a table at [Coho Restaurant](#) where seasonal Pacific-style meals are spun with a Mediterranean twist.

[Book Hotels in San Juan Islands, Washington](#)