

A FAR

WHERE TRAVEL CAN TAKE YOU AFAR.COM #TRAVELDESPER



The
Guidelines
You've
Never Seen
2018

Italy!

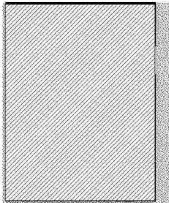
There's still
a secret spot
where the pace
is slow, the food
is delicious,
and life is simple.
The best part?
You can have
it all to yourself.

the AFAR Guide to

THE REAL CARIBBEAN 12 ISLAND MYTHS, DEBUNKED

INDIE FILMS. TASTEFUL RESORTS. GAY-FRIENDLY ISLANDS. A FOOD CULTURE THAT WOULD MAKE ALICE WATERS PROUD. PLUS, HOW TO EXPLORE WAY, WAY BEYOND THE BEACH. (YES, EVEN DURING HURRICANE SEASON.)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015 AFAR 91



THE REAL CARIBBEAN

MYTH #1

It's All Beach, All the Time

Contrary to every photo you've ever seen, the islands offer more than just an endless string of beach days. Electric-green hills, untouched dive spots, and rideable waves will lure you off your towel.

1

PETIT ST. VINCENT



DIVE LIKE JACQUES COUSTEAU

The **Jean-Michel Cousteau Caribbean Diving center**—run by Jacques Cousteau's son—opened last November as part of the remote Petit St. Vincent resort. The island offers access to some of the Caribbean's least trafficked dive sites—and you never know when Jean-Michel might drop in to offer an impromptu ecology lesson. \$170. petitstvincent.com

2

BARBADOS



CATCH A CARIBBEAN WAVE

Barbados sits farther out in the Atlantic than the rest of the islands, which means experienced surfers can catch barreling waves fresh off an ocean journey at Soup Bowl, on the island's east coast. Newbies can find their footing at **Boosy's Surf School**, which offers classes and rentals in a protected cove in Freights Bay. \$50. boosysurfschool.com

3

SABA



TAKE A (VERY SCENIC) HIKE

A long-dormant volcano, Mount Scenery consumes most of Saba's five square miles. Several trails lead to its summit, but the eponymous **Mount Scenery Trail** is the true butt kicker. From the trailhead in Windwardside, a path of 1,064 stairs leads from groves of white cedar to rain forest before ending in the Elfin Forest, where wild orchids give way to views of the Caribbean beyond. sabatourism.com

4

ANTIGUA



RAISE A SAIL, RACE A BOAT

Think sailboat racing is only for the skilled? Not according to Antigua-based **Ondeck Sailing**, which draws beginners into the sport by adding them to a pro racing team. Ondeck enters regattas during the winter season (from early January to late April) and sells individual spots to sailors of all levels. The expert crew is patient and promotes fun above winning. From \$650, all inclusive. ondecksailing.com