



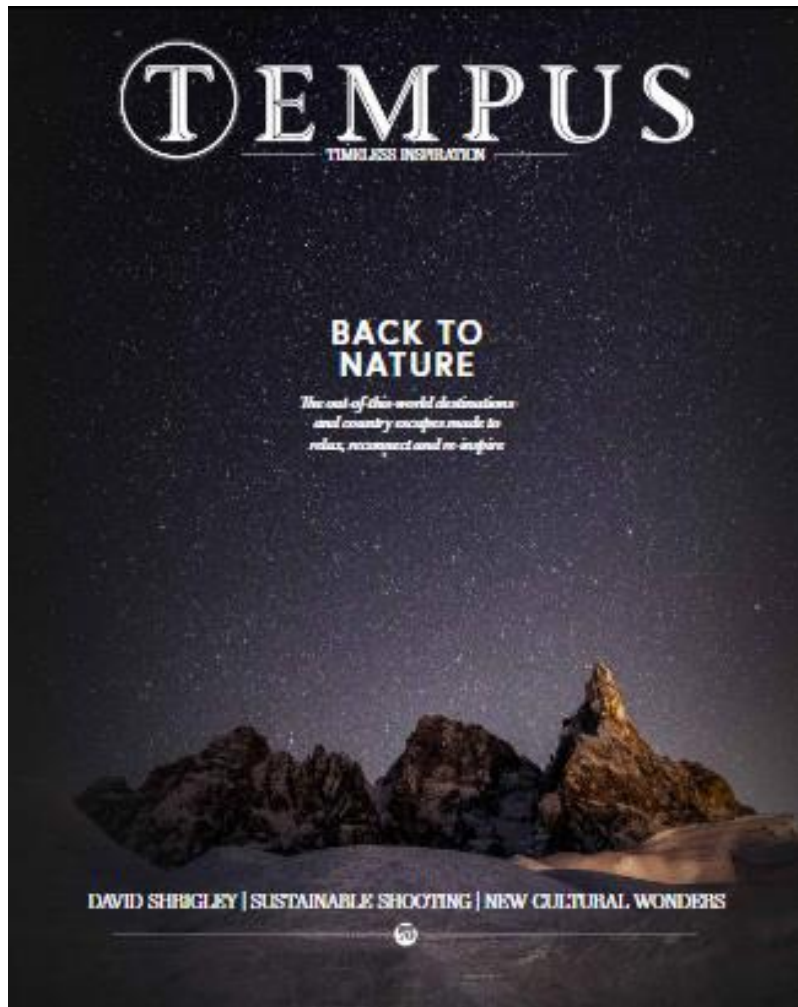
DISCOVER
Puerto Rico

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CLIPPINGS REPORT

October, 2020

OUTLET	KEY MESSAGING	MARKET	DATE	UMV CIRCULATION	AD VALUE/ EAV (USD)
Tempus Online	Stargazing in Vieques	UK	01/10	10,000	1,219
Seen In the City	Stargazing in Vieques	UK	05/11	36,000	1,945
Maddyness.com	Stargazing in Vieques	UK	9/10	700,000	4,141
Travel Bulletin	Recovery	UK	13/10	13,027	2,140
Travel Weekly	WTTC Safe Travel Stamp	UK	13/10	169,000	3,890
Tempus Magazine	Stargazing in Vieques	UK	14/10	12,493	1,219

OUTLET	KEY MESSAGING	MARKET	DATE	UMV CIRCULATION	AD VALUE/ EAV (USD)
Lonely Planet	Caribbean Islands	UK	16/10	17,000,000	12,975
Mail Online	Covid restrictions	UK	16/10	92,360,000	60,397
Lonely Planet	Sustainable agriculture	UK	22/10	17,000,000	12,975
Viestra	Stargazing in Vieques	UK	23/10	59,000	914
The Daily Telegraph	Plantation hotels	UK	31/10	317,817	9,691
TOTAL CLIPS: 11				TOTAL UMV: 127,677,337	TOTAL EAV: \$111,506



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

The ability to switch off, disconnect and refocus our energies has never been more desirable – or necessary. Tempus explores the travel trend designed to help us do just that. Welcome to the out-of-this-world realm of astrotourism.

Words: Ross Forbes

The stars have always been a source of inspiration to humanity and, as remote and digital working methods become the norm, our ability to disconnect from the world has never been more desirable – or necessary.

While, for many, the convenience of being connected has become an addiction, for the certainly had its perks over the advent of lockdown. Many workers of necessity have also started an online workspace and over digital communication to prevent a return to their local offices.

While the ability to switch off and give our attentional energy and focus a much-needed break is paramount in these times, constant travel and dining restrictions can make it difficult to plan the usual relaxing holidays or possible island trips.

There are, however, a few ways to get away from it all.

At its heart, astrotourism is a very often underrated form of travel. It's not just about stargazing, but about the experience of being in a remote location. From finding the darkest skies, choosing where to watch for those shooting stars, there are many destinations around the world that exist mainly to allow those who want to see the stars to do so.

There's a growing number of destinations that offer astrotourism, but some are more popular than others. In the UK, the most popular destinations are the Dark Sky Places, which are designated as such by the International Dark Sky Association. These are places where the sky is so dark that you can see the stars.

CHILDREN OF THE STARS

The night sky constantly changes depending on where you are in the world and the time of year. With constellations, meteor showers and planets, it's worth noting that there are some of the best ways to see them – if you know where to look.

To get to the best of the best, many from the light pollution of cities and the noise of the modern world, it's best to go to a remote location. In fact, by heading to remote destinations and low-light stargazing can be a lot more enjoyable than you think. In fact, by heading to remote destinations and low-light stargazing can be a lot more enjoyable than you think.

To find some of the world's darkest skies, head to Namibia. With the recent coronation moon, the 100th anniversary of the Dark Sky Reserve status by the International Dark Sky Association in 2012, its remote location allows for clear views of the spectacular Southern Cross and other constellations, among others. Don't miss nearby Namibia's Sossolous Desert, part of the NamibRand Nature Reserve, which offers guests a two-night stargazing trip and chance to sleep under the stars.

For schoolhouses, observatories, and other night sky observatories, such as the Sossolous Desert, part of the NamibRand Nature Reserve, which offers guests a two-night stargazing trip and chance to sleep under the stars.

A final tip for stargazing is to go to a remote location. In fact, by heading to remote destinations and low-light stargazing can be a lot more enjoyable than you think.

OVER THE MOON

Though the stars themselves may seem out of reach, the best places to see the night sky in total detail might be closer to home than you think. For a romantic, stargazing experience, the mountains of Tuscany host the most beautiful skies in Italy. In fact, the location is one of the best places on earth to witness the full moon of the Milky Way. Head to the Val di Sole valley, where you can gaze at the heavens surrounded by fresh air and alpine scenery.

Some of the UK also offer exceptional views of the constellations – from the National Park, the Yorkshire Dales, Scotland's Dark Sky Park, and the Cairngorms National Park.

The richest astronomical experience is perhaps closest to home, on the Isle of Wight. A designated Dark Sky Reserve, with some of the darkest skies in the UK, this small island off the south coast is easily accessible via Wightlink ferry. The best stargazing location is along the Military Road on the north west coast of the island, where astronomical can view the Milky Way, Cassiopeia, Orion, the Pleiades and more. Furthermore, should also head to the Island Planetarium and Planetarium to learn more about the stargazing experience.

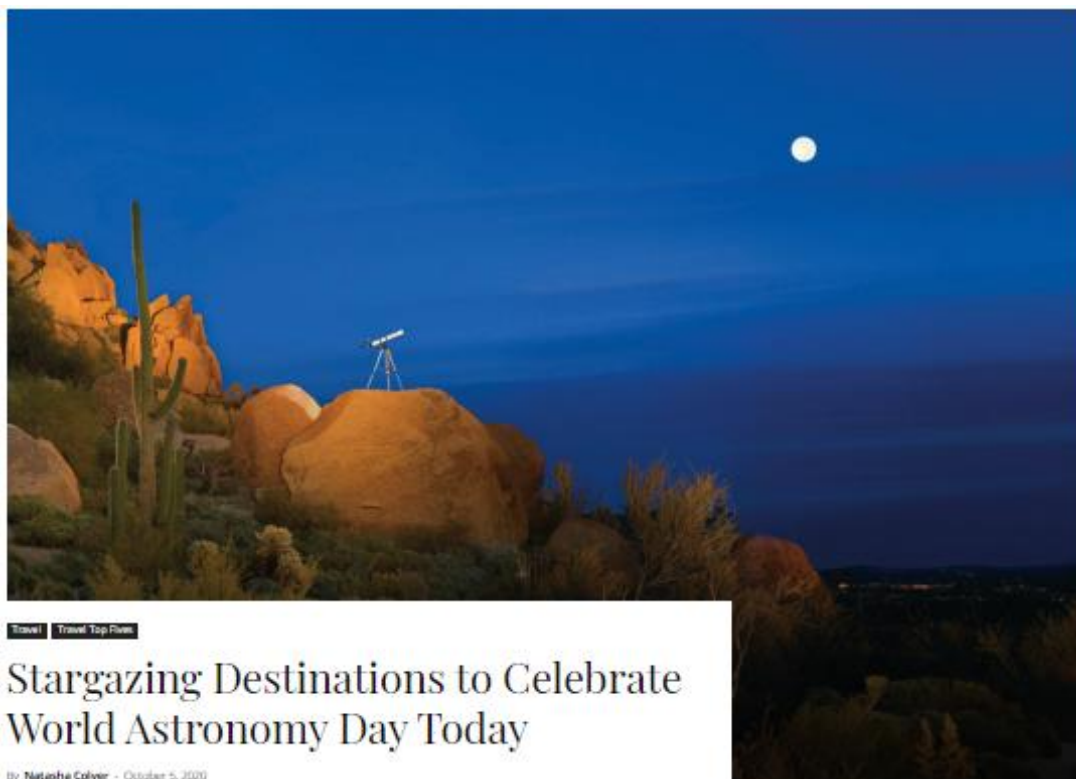
Whenever one chooses to head to see the stars, it's a scientific adventure or a romantic, romantic trip. The key to remembering how to embrace the silence, serenity and vastness of space is to take a break from the world and discover, we can remember what it's like to be a child of the stars.

“ WHEN WE LOOK INTO SPACE, WE ARE LOOKING INTO OUR OWN ORIGINS... WE ARE TRULY CHILDREN OF THE STARS ”

— BRIAN COPE

Checklist from top left: The Bay View, Puerto Rico; Stargazing in Namibia, Namibia; Sossolous Desert, Namibia; Moon views in Tuscany, Italy





Travel | Travel Top Five

Stargazing Destinations to Celebrate World Astronomy Day Today

By [Natasha Colyer](#) - October 5, 2020

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Today is World Astronomy Day, so to celebrate we have put together some awe-inspiring celestial experiences on the Isle of Wight, Namibia, Trentino, Idaho, Mauritius, Arizona, and Puerto Rico...

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LATEST NEWS

In celebration of World Astronomy Day on 5 October 2020, below is a selection of stellar experiences that will leave travelers starstruck; from award-winning night skies in Namibia and northern Italy, to bright bioluminescent bays in Puerto Rico or sleeping under the stars in a bubble lodge in Mauritius.

See the stars reflected in one of the world's five bioluminescent bays in Puerto Rico

The island of Vieques in Puerto Rico is fast becoming an astrotourism hotspot. With two-thirds of the island designated as a protected nature reserve, the low light pollution makes Vieques perfect for stargazing. Visitors to Vieques can take a Bio Bay Tour of Mosquito Bay, one of the world's five bioluminescent bays, where guides will highlight the constellations and planets. Three of the world's five bioluminescent bays are located in Puerto Rico and of these, Mosquito Bay was officially declared the brightest bioluminescent bay in the world by Guinness Book of World Records in 2006. The mesmerizing brightness of the bay is due to the remote location and abundant concentration of dinoflagellates. Night tours take place when the Moon isn't full to ensure the best conditions for seeing both the stars and waters glow as the night sky is reflected in the bioluminescent waters of the bay creating a truly spectacular natural light show. www.discoverpuertorico.com



BUSINESS **#ESCAPE**

Stargazing at its best...Don't forget to look up!

120 - TRENDING |

BY CLEO MCGEE - 09 OCTOBER 2020 / 07H00 - UPDATED 07 OCTOBER 2020

With all the craziness of late it might seem silly to remind ourselves that we actually live on a planet called Earth, which is in turn part of our solar system and galaxy, which is in turn one of many galaxies in the universe! In celebrating both National Astronomy Day (5th October) and National Mental Health Day (October 10th) we are reminded to 'look up' from our screens, from our lives and from our own 'worlds'.

See the stars reflected in one of the world's five bioluminescent bays in Puerto Rico

The island of Vieques in Puerto Rico is fast becoming an 'astrotourism' hotspot. With two-thirds of the island designated as a protected nature reserve, the low light pollution makes Vieques perfect for stargazing. Visitors to Vieques can take a Bio Bay Tour of Mosquito Bay, one of the world's five bioluminescent bays, where guides will highlight the constellations and planets. Three of the world's five bioluminescent bays are located in Puerto Rico and of these, Mosquito Bay was officially declared the brightest bioluminescent bay in the world by Guinness Book of World Records in 2006. The mesmerizing brightness of the bay is due to the remote location and abundant concentration of dinoflagellates. Night tours take place when the Moon isn't full to ensure the best conditions for seeing both the stars and waters glow as the night sky is reflected in the bioluminescent waters of the bay creating a truly spectacular natural light show.



DISCOVER PUERTO RICO



Storming back: Costa Rica and Puerto Rico weather the COVID-19 crisis



13 October 2020

On day two of the virtual LATA Expo conference, tourism chiefs from Costa Rica and Puerto Rico shared lessons learned after having recovered from natural disasters and also what their priorities are going forward including safety, sustainability and the strategy of promoting the whole destination rather than individual regions.

Brad Dean, CEO of Discover Puerto Rico said, "What we have seen in Puerto Rico, time and time again, whether it was hurricanes devastating the island, tropical storms creating massive flooding, the Zika virus, now a pandemic and before this earthquakes, every single time we have realised that tourism is a transformative power of good, not only for the economy but for our communities and our island."

"After Hurricane Maria, which was one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States, we were able to rebound and recover tourism and get back above pre-Maria levels in just two years. We focused on promoting the rural areas - outside of those areas with extensive damage - and we promoted the whole island and what it did was disperse visitors. We used the antidote to overtourism to strength the brand. We promoted the art, the history, the culture of the island. That became a competitive strength that we were able to build upon," Mr Dean added.

Mauricio Ventura-Aragón, former minister of tourism of Costa Rica said, "Sustainability for us in Costa Rica is the most important issue. Sustainability for Costa Ricans is part of our DNA. Tourism is a fantastic tool to support sustainability. But more than support sustainability in the old way, which is sustainability equals green, in Costa Rica we move forward from that. We say it's not only green but it has a human face. That's the most important part of it."

"We have been promoting Costa Rica - not any particular destination but the whole country - and that's why in a small country we have a 12-night stay average. For such a small country that is fantastic. Touristic dollars are spread across the country - this is what we believe in terms of tourism," he added.

Image credit: Lucy Toner/PublicDomainPictures

Peru, Bahamas and Puerto Rico sign up to WTTC's global safety and hygiene stamp

Peru, Bahamas and Puerto Rico are the latest destinations to adopt the world's first global safety and hygiene stamp.

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) launched its Safe Travels stamp earlier this year to help to restore confidence in travellers and revive the travel and tourism sector.

More than 120 destinations are now using the stamp, which was taken up by 100 destinations within three months of launch, including the Gambia, Zambia, and El Salvador. The stamp allows travellers to recognise destinations which have adopted standardised global health and hygiene protocols.

Gloria Guevara, WTTC president and chief executive, said: "Our Safe Travels stamp continues to go from strength to strength and we are delighted with its success so far.

"As the stamp continues to grow in popularity, travellers will more easily be able to recognise the destinations worldwide which have adopted these important global protocols, encouraging the return of 'Safe Travels' around the world."

Carla Campos, Puerto Rico Tourism Company's executive director said: "Puerto Rico was one of the first destinations in the Western Hemisphere to design and implement an industry-specific safety and health program for the entire destination with the creation of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company Gold Star Health and Safety Seal Certification back on May 4.



"We are proud to join WTTC's Safe Travels global protocols and stamp program."

The protocols follow guidelines set out by the World Health Organisation and the Centre of Disease Control and Prevention and best practices from WTTC members.

WTTC's Crisis Readiness report, which looked at 90 different types of crises in the last 20 years, highlighted the importance of public-private cooperation and the implementation of standardised protocols.

According to WTTC's 2020 Economic Impact Report, during 2019, travel and tourism was responsible for one in 10 jobs (330 million total), and made a 10.3% contribution to global GDP, generating one in four of all new jobs.

Meanwhile, Dominica has launched its own [Safe in Nature programme](#) to provide a safe experience to visitors from major tourism markets to the island during the Covid-19 pandemic. It includes limiting the number of people in swimming pools, sanitising transfer vehicles, and checking holidaymakers' temperatures.

This represents a collaborative effort between the ministry of tourism, International Transport and Maritime Initiatives, Discover Dominica Authority, Dominica Hotel and Tourism Association and other tourism stakeholders, in a bid to revive the tourism industry.



TEMPUS

TIMELSS INSPIRATION

BACK TO NATURE

The out-of-this-world destinations and country escapes made to relax, reconnect and re-inspire

DAVID SHIBIGLEY | SUSTAINABLE SHOOTING | NEW CULTURAL WONDERS

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

The ability to switch off, disconnect and refocus our energies has never been more desirable – or necessary. Tempus explores the travel trend designed to help us do just that. Welcome to the out-of-this-world realm of astrotourism.

Words: Ross Forbes

There are perhaps better ways to experience the beauty of the night sky. While, for many, the convenience of being indoors has whatever its virtues to be, the certainly had its perks over the advent of lockdown. Many lovers of nature have also started to embrace the beauty of the night sky. While the ability to switch off and give our minds a rest and create a much needed break in our lives, constant travel and dining restrictions can make it difficult to plan the usual of going to hotels or possible island trips.

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CHILDREN OF THE STARS

The night sky constantly changes depending on where you are in the world and the time of year, with constellations, meteors and planets all worth watching. But there are some the way to see more – if you know where to look.

To get to the best view of astrotourism, in local off-grid, away from the light pollution of cities and the noise of the night sky, you need to go to a remote area. In addition to this, you need to go to a location that is not too crowded and has low light pollution. In fact, help yourself to a location that is not too crowded and has low light pollution. In fact, help yourself to a location that is not too crowded and has low light pollution.

To find some of the world's darkest skies head to Namibia. With the recent coronation moon, the 100th anniversary of the 1911 Antarctic expedition, and the International Dark Sky Association in 2012, its remote location allows for clear views of the spectacular Southern Cross and Scorpion constellations, among others. Just two months before the Solent Camp, part of the Wilderness Collection, which offers guests a two-night trip to the island, where astrotourism can see the Milky Way, Comstock, Orion, the Pleiades and more. The island is also home to the Island Plantation and has a variety of other activities.

Wherever you choose to head to, it's not just about the night sky, but also about the location. It's not just about the night sky, but also about the location. It's not just about the night sky, but also about the location.



“ WHEN WE LOOK INTO SPACE, WE ARE LOOKING INTO OUR OWN ORIGINS... WE ARE TRULY CHILDREN OF THE STARS ”

— BRIAN COX

Checklist from top left: The Bay Tree, Puerto Rico; Stargazing in Namibia, Wildlife Lodge, Namibia; Peveril Castle, Derbyshire, UK; Peveril Castle, Derbyshire, UK

Which Caribbean island is best for you

RYAN VER BERKMOES *Lonely Planet Writer* 16 OCTOBER 2020



Escaping the cold just got a little easier with our Caribbean Island breakdown © Anna Jedynak/ Shutterstock

The dozens of islands scattered across the [Caribbean](#) are a remarkably diverse lot. Pulsing Jamaica has little in common with low-key Aruba, and even islands in plain sight of each other like St Kitts and Nevis are vastly different not just in appearance but in what they offer visitors.

So for the Caribbean-bound visitor, which island among the many do you choose? Big or little, near or far, urban or rural are among the many considerations that can turn picking a carefree holiday into a perplexing chore.

Happily, our Caribbean islands primer can take the pain out of choosing what's right for you. We've got the low-down on all the most-visited islands, complete with what's best about each one, and we've categorized them by their ease of access, so if your time is short you can prioritize beach time over airport time.

Editor's note: Please check the latest travel restrictions before planning any trip and always follow government advice.

Puerto Rico

Old [San Juan](#) is one of the great highlights of the region, a sprawling throw-back that buzzes with a lively vibe. Big beach resorts, casinos, tangible history and rich Hispanic culture are the highlights.

- *Best for:* Explorations beyond sun, sand and sea, not leaving the US
- *Highlight:* El Yunque National Forest

How sustainable tourism is thriving in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico to relax COVID-19 restrictions, extend curfew

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUBLISHED: 20:26, 16 October 2020 | UPDATED: 20:46, 16 October 2020



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Puerto Rico's governor on Friday announced that more people will be able to visit restaurants, gyms, theaters and casinos as the U.S. territory relaxes some pandemic-related restrictions.

In addition, public transportation including buses and trains will resume service next week, and ferries will be allowed to only take tourists to the popular nearby island of Culebra.

A 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew remains in place, and face masks continue to be mandatory.

"We cannot lower our guard," said Gov. Wanda Vázquez.

Starting Saturday, capacity at restaurants will increase from 50% to 55%, while capacity at theaters, gyms and casinos will increase from 25% to 30%. Business owners had been demanding that capacity increase by at least 60% given an economic crisis that the pandemic has worsened.

The island of 3.2 million people has reported more than 28,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, more than 28,000 suspected ones and more than 750 deaths from COVID-19.

How these Caribbean islands are supporting sustainable agriculture

LEIGH KUNKEL *Lonely Planet Writer* 21 OCTOBER 2020



Restaurant owners in the Caribbean are taking positive steps towards sustainability © Courtesy of Kimpton Seafire

“Eating local” has become a popular dining ethos over the last decade, but in some locations, it’s not as simple as it sounds. Islands in the Caribbean in particular have struggled with sustainability due to a multitude of factors, including inhospitable farming conditions, the increasingly extreme effects of climate change and damage from tropical storms.

Many of the fresh ingredients on the islands are imported from overseas, creating both a large carbon footprint and huge amounts of packaging waste. Recently, growers and restaurant owners in the Caribbean have been rethinking their approach to sustainability. Here’s how three islands are doing it.

Editor’s note: Please check the latest travel restrictions before planning any trip and always follow government advice.



Three-quarters of the menu at 1919 is created using local produce © Courtesy of 1919 restaurant

Puerto Rico

Climate change and the resulting extreme weather events have affected much of the Caribbean, and few places have been as hard-hit as [Puerto Rico](#). Now, two years after Hurricane Maria devastated the island, Puerto Rico has mostly faded from the news cycle.

But local chef Juan José Cuevas knows that the rebuilding isn't done yet. At his restaurant [1919](#) in the [Condado Vanderbilt](#) hotel, Cuevas has committed to working with local growers and producers to continue the island's recovery process; many recently harvested their first round of post-Maria crops.

"We make a point to support these recovering farms by buying from them as often as possible," Cuevas explains. Across the property, farm-fresh eggs and fruit are the rule. "At 1919 in particular, we maintain our social consciousness by having a menu that consists of 75% local products." In the future, Cuevas says, they're hoping to increase that number to 85%.



Juan José Cuevas, chef at 1919, is committed to working with local growers © Courtesy of 1919 restaurant

By putting money back into local agriculture, 1919 and other restaurants on the island help farmers with additional sustainability efforts, including installing solar panels, which have the dual impact of diversifying revenue streams and providing renewable energy.

How sustainable tourism is thriving in Puerto Rico

Co-ops are common in all industries across Puerto Rico, and farmers in particular have seen success with the model, which provides a cheaper, more efficient way to sell their product. These co-ops can be found all across the island and depend on the support of both locals and visitors to carry out their mission.

“Travelers should visit places where local farm-fresh ingredients are used in order to immerse themselves not only in the local culture but the complex economic meaning behind each ingredient,” Cuevas says. “The Caribbean thrives on tourism and supporting local culinary initiatives draws agrotourism to our islands.”



AMAZING PLACES FOR STARGAZING

See the stars reflected in one of the world's five bioluminescent bays in Puerto Rico

The island of Vieques in Puerto Rico is fast becoming an astrotourism hotspot. With two-thirds of the island designated as a protected nature reserve, the low light pollution makes Vieques perfect for stargazing. Visitors to Vieques can take a Bio Bay Tour of Mosquito Bay, one of the world's five bioluminescent bays, where guides will highlight the constellations and planets. Three of the world's five bioluminescent bays are located in Puerto Rico and of these, Mosquito Bay was officially declared the brightest bioluminescent bay in the world by Guinness Book of World Records in 2006. The mesmerizing brightness of the bay is due to the remote location and abundant concentration of dinoflagellates. Night tours take place when the Moon isn't full to ensure the best conditions for seeing both the stars and waters glow as the night sky is reflected in the bioluminescent waters of the bay creating a truly spectacular natural light show. www.discoverpuertorico.com



Celestial experiences on the Isle of Wight, Namibia, Trentino, Idaho, Mauritius, Arizona, and Puerto Rico

Below is a selection of stellar experiences that will leave travellers starstruck; from award-winning night skies in Namibia and northern Italy, to bright bioluminescent bays in Puerto Rico or sleeping under the stars in a bubble lodge in Mauritius.

FIVE PLANTATION HOUSE HOTELS

MONTPELIER PLANTATION & BEACH
Nevis

A Relais & Chateaux hotel ranged in grounds around an old estate and windmill. There are 19 rooms and suites decorated in contemporary style and a beach club on Pinneys Beach. Horatio Nelson married Nevisian widow Fanny Nisbet on Montpelier estate in 1787. [\(001 869 469 3462\)](tel:0018694693462), montpeliernevis.com)



Hacienda Juanita

STRAWBERRY HILL
Blue Mountains, Jamaica

Encircling a hilltop high above Kingston, Strawberry Hill has a modern take on Jamaican plantation style - steeply pitched shingle roofs on white wooden walls, funky gingerbread trim and verandas with a stupendous view. The hotel is owned by music producer Chris Blackwell, and gold discs and photographs of musicians adorn its walls. [\(001 876 944 8400\)](tel:0018769448400), strawberryhillhotel.com)

LA HAUT RESORT
St Lucia

A cocoa plantation (still working) with modern and traditional-style cottages hidden in gardens around a 100-year-old estate house, and a view of St Lucia's spectacular conical mountains, the Pitons. [\(001 866 773 4321\)](tel:0018667734321), lahaut.com)

THE HERMITAGE
Nevis

A col... of brightly



coloured gingerbread cottages with red tin roofs set around explosive gardens above a lovely house from the mid-1700s (one of the oldest wooden houses in the Caribbean). Fantastic views, and a very



friendly, informal air. [\(001 869 469 3477\)](tel:0018694693477), hermitagenevis.com)

HACIENDA JUANITA
Maricao, Puerto Rico

A former coffee estate high in the mountains of western Puerto Rico, Hacienda Juanita uses traditional Puerto Rican style in its green criss-cross balustrades, terracotta tiles and shallow-pitched red tin roofs. Can be lively at the weekends. [\(001 787 903 0307\)](tel:0017879030307), haciendajuanitapr.com)