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.

p.100

also ➔ THE UNEXPECTED CARIBBEAN 12 Myths Debunked p.91
Go for Good

Giving back has never been so easy. Book a stay at any of these hotels and you can support great causes, including local health clinics and coral reef conservation.

By JEN MURPHY
**GOLDEN EYE HOTEL**
Oracabessa Bay, Jamaica
GoldenEye has 360ft views of the Caribbean and is a centerpiece for the island's nightlife.

**RITZ-CARLTON**
San Francisco
In renovating the interior of this landmark hotel, designers drew inspiration from both the city's rich history and its modern-day allure.

**SIX SENSES**
Deer Valley, Utah
The Six Senses brand itself is known for its commitment to quality and service, with each property offering unique experiences tailored to the needs of its guests.

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For more ways to change the world through travel, go to afar.com/giveback

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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.)
OR TRAVELERS whose reggae experience begins and ends with Bob Marley's Legend, Jamaica's music landscape may be the island's biggest surprise. "It's never really been a place to hear live bands," says Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records, the label that launched Marley and others. "Most of the music on albums was created in studios, with session players. If you want to be around music, you go to the sound systems." Imagine a gathering of multiple DJs spinning everything from reggae and ska to dancehall, music booming from an improvised wall of speakers in a borrowed church hall or parking lot. "Young Jamaicans dance, twenty Red Stripes in hand, and at any moment, a sound clash—the DJ equivalent of a dance-off—could erupt. To find one in touristy Montego Bay, watch for Bbers in Trebey and St. James or ask your local bartender. Or head to Kingston. "Moody is the big night there," says Jamaican music aficionado Jesse Serwer of Largeup.com. "Mighty Monday at Sixty's Fishery—a café by day—very poppulite."—STEVE BRONFMT

MYTH #8
IT'S A CULTURAL DESERT
Across these 7000 islands, you'll find deep pockets of art, music, and more authors than you can shake a seaweed at.

1. THE READ

EUGINE DANTICAT
Bread, Eyes, Memory. Danticat's gripping first novel, traces Haiti's legacy of violence, genocide, and beauty. It is as relevant today as it was when it was published in 1994.

2. THE SCULPTURE

LAURENT VALERE
If you only see one of the Valere sculptures that dot Martinique, make it the Année Cafard Slave Memorial, the region's most poignant expression of the Caribbean slave era.

3. THE ALBUM

ETTENNE CHARLES
On Creole Soul, jazz trumpeter Etienne Charles merges his Caribbean roots with his love for New Orleans jazz, creating a bright, breezy sound that's perfect for a beach getaway.

4. THE COMEDY

PAUL KENES-DOUGLAS
For 40 years, Kones- Douglas, a Trinidad native, has found humor in the everyday. He still draws crowds to his annual Talk Tent show at Queen's Hall in Trinidad's Port of Spain.

MYTH #9
ISLAND-HOPPING IS ONLY FOR THE 1 PERCENT.
WINAIR OFFERS FREQUENT SERVICE FROM ST. MARTIN TO NINE ISLANDS, INCLUDING ST. BART'S AND NEVIS (FROM $200 ROUND-Trip), BASED IN SAN JUAN. TRADEWIND AVIATION OPERATES FIRST-CLASS FLIGHTS TO ST. BART'S, ANGUILLA, AND NEVIS, PLUS A FEW FROM ST. THOMAS AND ANTIGUA (FROM $250 ONE-WAY).

MYTH #10
HAITI IS ONLY FOR DO-GOODERS
There's more to the country than its shocking headlines.

A
S HAITI CONTINUES its post-2010 earthquake reconstruction efforts, it's witnessing a small tourism boon. Leading the way are companies like Marriott, which opened a hotel in Port au Prince in March, and G Adventures, which rolled out a 10-day tour this year. Jeff Russell, the outfit's vice president of innovation, recently spent 10 days exploring the country's potential as an adventure travel destination. He visited Giselle Lafavore, a UNESCO-designated master antiquities fortress, and met kids at the grassroots Art Creation Foundation for Children, which teaches at-risk youth traditional arts. "With a job like mine, you can get jaded," he says, "but after a few days in Haiti, it dawned on me that it was the best travel experience I'd had in years."—KATHLEEN KELLAM

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