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Beach porn: 40 photos to wash the winter chill away

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Soaking up the sun with a frozen fruity cocktail in one hand, a good book in the other and feet firmly submerged in powder soft sand is the quintessential day of bliss for many travelers.

In the United States alone, an estimated 42 percent of Americans 16 and older visit a beach each year, according to a paper titled “The Latest on Trends in Nature-based Outdoor Recreation,” based on the proceedings of the **National Academy of Sciences** (<http://www.nasonline.org/>).

There are tens of thousands of beaches in all colors (from white to pink to black sand and azure, turquoise and emerald water), sizes (from a few yards to many miles) and shapes (the beach’s shape depends on how the waves move) worldwide. So, we’ve compiled 40 phenomenal photos of beautiful beaches from around the world to wash away the wintertime blues.

Whether your beach activities of choice are jet-skiing, kayaking, snorkeling, swimming or sunbathing, or all of the above, these beautiful beaches will please even the most discerning beach bum.

Life’s a beach, and we can’t wait to swap our next snow day for a beach day.

Grace Bay, Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



Turquoise waters await in the Turks & Caicos Islands. (Image: John Sawicki)

Providenciales, the most developed island on the **Turks & Caicos Islands** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-turks-and-caicos-islands/>) features pristine white beaches and panoramic views of its famous turquoise water. The north shore of “Provo” has the best beaches including the 12-mile Grace Bay beach.

Little Dix Bay, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands



Virgin Gorda offers a secluded seascape. (Image: **The British Virgin Islands Tourist Board** (<http://www.bviturism.com>))

Little Dix Bay is a long, crescent-shaped beach; a secluded paradise dotted with sea grape trees. Accessible only by boat, Virgin Gorda is a welcome respite for yachters who began arriving to the sparsely populated island in the 1960s.

Smith Cove, Grand Cayman



Smith Cove, Grand Caymen is a cozy coastal escape. (Image: Dave Taylor/[Cayman Islands Department of Tourism](http://www.caymanislands.ky/))

Located in South Sound near Georgetown, [Grand Cayman](http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-grand-cayman), Smith Cove's turquoise waters are known for excellent snorkeling. The white sand beach, which is protected by limestone formations and coral, is the perfect spot for soaking up the sun.

Île-à-Vache, Haiti



Take a solitary sojourn to Île-à-Vache, Haiti. (Image: Rafaella Castera/[Haiti Office of Tourism](http://www.haititourisme.gouv.ht/) (<http://www.haititourisme.gouv.ht/>))

An island 6.5 miles off the southwestern coast of [Haiti](http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-haiti/) (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-haiti/>), Île-à-Vache offers some of the Caribbean's most stunning views. The small island, roughly 20-square miles, has only two tourist resorts, Port Morgan and Abaka Bay.

Belize



Belize's beaches are 'un-belize-able.' (Image: Demian Solano/**Belize Tourist Board** (<https://www.travelbelize.org/>))

Belize (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-belize/>)'s beaches are "un-belize-ably" beautiful. Hugging the Caribbean Sea, many of Belize's golden sand beaches are often quiet and desolate. With more than 200 offshore islands – called cays – you might be the only person on the beach!

St. Maarten



Both the French and Dutch parts of Sint Maartin/Saint Martin have bountiful beaches. (Image: **Sint Maarten Tourist Bureau** (<http://www.vacationstmaarten.com/>))

Since 1648, the 34-square-mile island has been divided between France in the north (**Saint Martin** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-st-martin/>)) and the Netherlands in the south (Sint Maarten). Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, St. Maarten has 37 beaches – all with enviable views.

Mismaloya Beach, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



Don't miss Mismaloya Beach. (Image: **Puerto Vallarta Tourism Bureau** (<http://www.visitpuertovallarta.com/>))

What was once a sleepy fishing village, Puerto Vallarta has been transformed into one of **Mexico** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-mexico>)'s top beaches after its starring role in "The Night of the Iguana," a 1964 John Huston movie starring Richard Burton, Ava Gardner and Deborah Kerr.

Cannes, France



Cruising the coastal Croisette is a must. (Image: ©SEMEC-Perreard/**Office du Tourisme de Cannes** (<http://www.cannes-destination.com/>))

The **Cannes Film Festival** (<http://www.festival-cannes.com/en.html>) isn't the only popular pastime in Cannes, **France** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-france>). The Croisette is a 1.2-mile-long promenade that affords majestic views of the Mediterranean Sea.

Platges de Comte, Ibiza, Spain



Platges de Comte's sunset is stunning. (Image: Xescu Prats/[Consell d'Elvissa-Ibiza Travel](http://www.ibiza.travel/en/))

This cluster of coves in northwest Ibiza, an island off eastern [Spain](http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-spain), is the perfect spot for gazing at the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean Sea that ebb and flow on the dark brown sand.

Anse Intendance, Mahé, Seychelles



© Gerard Larose / STB

The Seychelles offer spectacular seaside views. (Image: Gerard-Larose/[Seychelles Tourism Bureau](http://www.seychelles.travel/) (<http://www.seychelles.travel/>))

The largest island of the archipelago in the Indian Ocean, Mahé, is home to stunning beaches including Anse Intendance. Located on the southern coast, the half-mile beach features swaying palm trees and is a surfer's paradise.

Mu Ko Hong, Krabi, Thailand



Fun in the sun awaits in Krabi, Thailand. (Image: **Tourism Authority of Thailand** (<http://www.tourismthailand.org/>))

Hong Archipelago (Mu Ko Hong) has 12 islets in the Krabi Sea, near Phang Nga province in southern **Thailand** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-thailand>). These impressive rock formations feature a few beaches worthy of day trips (overnight stays are not permitted).

Sabah, Borneo



Sabah offers sensational South China Sea views. (Image: David Kirkland/**Sabah Tourism Bureau** (<http://www.sabahtourism.com>))

Idyllic beach options abound in Sabah in northern Borneo, the largest island in Asia and the third largest island in the world. The azure waters of the South China Sea beckon sun worshippers from all around the world.

Qamea, Fiji



Fiji is full of fun in the sun spots. (Image: **Tourism Fiji** (<http://www.fiji.travel/>))

The archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean comprises 322 islands, many uninhabited. The beach at **Qamea Resort and Spa** (<http://www.qamea.com/>) is one of the best stretches of beach in **Fiji** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-fiji>). Located on the northern island of Qamea, the white sand beach is the ultimate in secluded sunbathing.

Makena Beach State Park, Oahu, Hawaii, United States



Surf's up at Makena State Beach Park. (Image: Tor Johnson/[Hawaii Tourism Authority](http://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org) (<http://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org>))

South of Wailea, [Hawaii](http://www.cheapflights.com/news/flights-to-hawaii-from-428/) (<http://www.cheapflights.com/news/flights-to-hawaii-from-428/>), [Makena Beach State Park](http://www.hawaii.stateparks.org/parks/maui/index.cfm%3Fpark_id=38) (http://www.hawaii.stateparks.org/parks/maui/index.cfm%3Fpark_id=38) is a sanctuary for surfers. The 164-acre park includes golden sand beaches and azure waters.

Mauritius



Multiple beaches populate Mauritius. (Image: **Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority** (<http://www.tourism-mauritius.mu/>))

Located 1,200 miles southeast of the African continent, **Mauritius** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-mauritius>) has nearly 100 miles of beaches – all public. From small coves shaded by casuarina trees in the north to secluded surfing spots in the south, there's a beach for everyone.

Holywell Bay, Cornwall, England



Holywell Bay in Northern Cornwall is a haven for beach-goers. (Image: John Such/[Visit Cornwall](http://https://www.visitcornwall.com) (<http://https://www.visitcornwall.com>))

The peninsula of [Cornwall](http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-cornwall) (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-cornwall>) in Southern England has more than 400 beaches. The northern coast's deep blue waters of the Celtic Sea have mesmerized beach bums for years while the southern coast's secluded coves and cobalt blue waters of the English Channel are home to fishing harbors and estuaries.

Coast Guard Beach, Eastham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, United States



Escape to the cape's beautiful beaches. (Image: Margo Tabb/[Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce](http://www.capecodchamber.org/) (<http://www.capecodchamber.org/>))

One of six protected Cape Cod National Seashore beaches, [Coast Guard Beach](http://www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit/coast-guard-beach-eastham.htm) (<http://www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit/coast-guard-beach-eastham.htm>) is arguably the best beach on the Cape. The dune-backed beach is perfect for boogie boarding and is less crowded than other beaches.

Cannon Beach, Key Largo, Florida, United States



Besides being the nation's first underwater preserve, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park features two beaches, a campground and a land-based visitors center. (Image: Bob Care/[Florida Keys News Bureau \(http://www.fla-keys.com\)](http://www.fla-keys.com))

Nestled inside [John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park \(http://pennekamppark.com/\)](http://pennekamppark.com/), Cannon Beach is one of two beaches within the park. There's a 17th century cannon on the beach and a replica of a Spanish shipwreck 100 feet offshore. It's a popular beach in The Keys for snorkeling, too.

Baby Beach, Aruba



Aruba's Baby Beach is popular with babies and adults alike. (Image: **Aruba Tourism Bureau** (<http://www.aruba.com>))

Families flock to this gorgeous half-moon lagoon on the southeastern end of **Aruba** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-aruba>). The water remains shallow for a long distance and snorkelers appreciate the designated snorkeling area.

Honeymoon Bay, Toucheng, Taiwan



Honeymoon Bay is a beautiful black sand beach that is perfect for couples. (Image: **Lauren Mack** (<http://www.laurenmack.com>))

The crescent-shaped bay on **Taiwan** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-taiwan>)'s northern coast is a quiet spot for surfers and lovers. The black sand beach faces the Pacific Ocean and is near Guishan Island (Turtle Island), a popular tourist attraction.

Eilat Bay, Israel



Cool off in Eilat Bay, Israel. (Image: **Israel Ministry of Tourism** (<http://www.goisrael.com/>))

Fronting the Red Sea along the Jordanian border on the northeast and Egyptian border on the southwest are some of **Israel** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-israel/>)'s – and the world's – best beaches. Even in the summer when temperatures surpass 100 degrees, the water in Eilat Bay remains in the cool 70s. The picturesque Eilat Mountains and desert add to the awesome ambiance.

Monte Carlo, Monaco



Fantastic beaches abound on the French Riviera. (Image: Monaco Press Centre Photos/[Visit Monaco](http://www.visitmonaco.com/en) (<http://www.visitmonaco.com/en>))

The French Riviera has an abundance of pebbled beaches and [Monte Carlo](http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-monte-carlo) (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-monte-carlo>) is no exception.

Ghajn Tuffieha Bay, Malta



Malta's red sand beach is one of three beautiful bays. (Image: **Viewing Malta** (<http://www.viewingmalta.com/>))

A trio of bays in Ghajn Tuffieha awaits visitors. Of these, Ghajn Tuffieha Bay, a red sand beach, is the best. Accessible from a hillside staircase, the picture postcard views make it worth the trek.

Playa Kenepa, Curaçao



A kaleidoscope of colorful marine life await at Playa Kenepa, Curaçao (Image: **Curacao Tourism Bureau** (<http://www.curacao.com/>))

Located on the western side of **Curaçao** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-curacao>), Playa Kenepa is a small beach flanked by rocks. It is the perfect spot for snorkeling and spotting sea turtles and manta rays.

Boquerón Beach, Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico



Boquerón Beach is one of Puerto Rico's best beaches. (Image: **Puerto Rico Tourism Company** (<http://www.seepuertorico.com>))

Located in southwestern **Puerto Rico** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-puerto-rico>), the government-run, public Boquerón Beach is one of the best beaches on the main island.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Punta Cana, Dominican Republic has 10 beautiful beaches. (Image: **Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism** (<http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/>))

Punta Cana, the easternmost province of the **Dominican Republic** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-dominican-republic>), has 10 beautiful white sand beaches and crystal clear water – pure bliss.

Awaroa Inlet, Abel Tasman National Park, New Zealand



Golden beaches beckon beach bums to New Zealand's South Island (Image: **Tourism New Zealand** (<http://www.newzealand.com/us>))

Located within **Abel Tasman National Park** (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/national-parks/abel-tasman/>) on **New Zealand** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/news/flights-to-new-zealand-with-free-stopover-for-798/>)'s South Island, Awaroa Inlet, is a fantastic spot for a dip. Established in 1942, the park is known for its granite cliffs and golden beaches.

Bahamas



Beautiful beach in the Bahamas (Image: [21078769@N00](https://www.flickr.com/photos/21078769@N00/8222670396) (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/21078769@N00/8222670396>))

With more than 2,000 islands and cays, there are plenty of beach options in the **Bahamas** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-bahamas/>). Pink and white sand beaches line the shores making picking where to sunbathe the toughest decision travelers have to make during their visits here.

Pointe du Marin, Martinique



Marvelous Martinique beaches are a must for beach-lovers. (Image: Luc Olivier/[Martinique Tourist Board](http://en.tourismefdf.com/) (<http://en.tourismefdf.com/>))

On the southeast coast of [Martinique](http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-Martinique) (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-Martinique>) is Pointe du Marin, a small beach on the Bay of Marin. Though the beach is better suited to sunbathers rather than swimmers due to the rough surf, kayakers also find this to be a fun spot.

Barbuda, Antigua



Barbuda has beautiful coral sand beaches. (Image: Geoff Howes/**Antigua & Barbuda Tourist Office** (<http://www.antigua-barbuda.org/Aghome01.htm>))

Antigua (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-antigua>) has 365 strands of beaches, making it difficult to choose which ones to visit. Barbuda, a flat, coral island 30 miles north of Antigua in the Leeward Islands, has a plethora of remote and secluded options.

Grand Anse, Grenada



Grenada has 45 beautiful beaches. (Image: **Grenada Board of Tourism** (<http://www.grenadagrenadines.com>))

Grand Anse is the best of **Grenada** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-grenada>)'s 45 beaches. The two-mile, white sand beach and azure Caribbean Sea is on the southwestern coast of this Caribbean island known as the "island of spice."

Anguilla



Soft sand and sun await in Anguilla. (Image: **Anguilla Tourist Board** (<http://ivisitanguilla.com/>))

Anguilla (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-anguilla>), a British territory in the Caribbean, is the most northerly of the Leeward Islands. Around 16 miles long and three miles wide, the powder fine sand of the public beaches seems endless.

Whale Bay, St. David's, Bermuda



Whale watching, wave running, and fun are part of the Whale Bay experience. (Image: **The Bermuda Department of Tourism** (<http://www.gotobermuda.com/>))

Once a separate island from **Bermuda** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-bermuda>), St. David's is now part of the British territory's island mainland. It's not uncommon for beach-goers to spot whales in aptly titled Whale Bay.

Cuba



There are more than 300 beaches in Cuba, (Image: **Cuba Tourist Board** (<http://gocuba.ca>))

Miles of beaches stretch along the Atlantic Ocean in northern **Cuba** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-cuba>) and the Caribbean Sea in southern Cuba. With 300 beaches and subtropical weather, nearly every day is the perfect day for a beach outing.

Raisins Clairs, Saint-François, Guadeloupe



Pretty Saint-François, Guadeloupe is a must-visit vista. (Image: Philippe Giraud/**The Guadeloupe Island Tourist Board** (<http://www.guadeloupe-islands.com/>))

The seaside resort town of Saint-François, **Guadeloupe** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-guadeloupe>) offers a variety of picturesque vistas including Raisins Clairs. Shallow water, shade and stunning scenery beckon sun-seekers worldwide.

Rendezvous Bay, Montserrat



Have a rendezvous in Rendezvous Bay, Montserrat (Image: David Mac Gillivray/**Montserrat Tourist Board** (<http://www.visitmontserrat.com>))

Looking for a sparsely populated, crowd-free Caribbean island? There are mountains, a volcano, a small island population and a pristine beach waiting for you in **Montserrat** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-Montserrat>). Rendezvous Bay is the only white sand beach on the island and is only accessible via a short hike or boat.

St. Eustatius



A trio of beaches populate St. Eustatius. (Image: Cees Timmers)

The northeastern Caribbean Dutch island has three beaches: the barren Oranje Bay; the black- and tan-sand Zeelandis Beach, whose heavy surf makes this a better option for sunbathing; and beige sand Lynch Beach, with shallow water ideal for wading and swimming.

Los Roques, Venezuela



Endless miles of powdery white sand beaches are the allure of Los Roques, Venezuela. (Image: **MINTUR – El Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Turismo de Venezuela** (<http://www.mintur.gob.ve/>))

On the archipelago of Los Roques, a cluster of 50 islands north of **Venezuela** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-venezuela>), there are endless miles of powdery white sand beaches and crystal clear blue waters of every hue, from nearly clear to cobalt. No matter which patch of sand you pitch your beach umbrella on, you're almost guaranteed a picture-perfect beach day.

Barbados



The coral island features beaches from coast to coast. (Image: **Barbados Tourism Authority – UK** (<http://www.visitbarbados.org/>))

From the windswept east coast beaches perfect for surfers along the Atlantic Ocean to serene seascapes with gently swaying palm trees on the west coast (ideal for swimmers and sunbathers) to sandy beaches and coves in between, **Barbados** (<http://www.cheapflights.com/flights-to-barbados>) has an abundance of beautiful beaches.

Emerald Beach, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

<http://www.cheapflights.com/news/authors/laurenmack/>

Lauren Mack has traveled to 40 countries on five continents, including Cuba, New Zealand, Peru and Tanzania. For many years, she called China, and then Taiwan, home. Countries at the beginning of the alphabet, particularly Antarctica, Argentina and Australia are on her travel bucket list. Lauren is a multimedia travel and food journalist and explorer based in New York City.

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