

Forbes

Here They Are: This Summer's Hottest International Destinations

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Christopher Elliott Senior Contributor

Travel

I'm a consumer advocate. I write about customer service.



A pool at Le Barthélemy, St Barts

LAUREN BENOIT

This summer's hottest international destinations are *really* hot.

An exclusive new customer survey by travel agency Embark Beyond finds travelers plan to flock to destinations known for warm summer temperatures — and more relaxed COVID-19 travel restrictions.

"This year's hot list is very different from most years," says Jack Ezon, managing partner of [Embark Beyond](#). "It reflects both our clients' burning desire to explore outside our borders this year and shifting destinations based on which borders seem to be open to Americans this summer."

Note: Between now and the start of summer, things can — and probably will — change.

In fact, shortly after Embark finished this list, the U.S. State Department [tightened the list of "Level 4" countries](#) it recommended avoiding. It's all the more reason to work with a knowledgeable travel advisor and buy an industrial-strength [travel insurance policy](#). And if you still need help, you can always ask [my nonprofit organization for a hand](#).

Still, we can dream this summer, can't we? Here are the top 10 places to vacation in the summer of 2021:

[...]

St. Barths

It seems St. Barthélemy is the closest most Americans will get to the French Riviera this summer. Though closed now, the island indicates it will open to vaccinated Americans by May. "Jetsetters love the authentic French flavor, stunning coastline and hip vibrant boutique hotels and great beach clubs," says Dawn Oliver of WellXplored, a wellness affiliate of Embark Beyond. "Bookings for this July feel like the peak season of March since it is the closest thing to St. Tropez most Americans will get this summer."

[...]

"I also love [Le Barthélemy](#), another boutique hotel with a great vibe in the center of everything [...]"