

easyJet

A MAGAZINE FOR THE GET-UP-AND-GO GENERATION

# TRAVELLER

FREE TO TAKE HOME

FEBRUARY 2015



ways to make your friends  
and family jealous

This year's ultimate beach escapes revealed

Is there anything better than turning your loved ones green with travel envy? We thought not. That's why, this month, we've asked 15 local insiders to reveal their beach secrets – all tailor-made for holiday bragging this summer

# Wish you were here?



## 1. Party island secret

Cala San Vicente  
Ibiza



**Martina Grabmann**  
Organiser,  
Holi Garden  
Festival Ibiza

[holigardenfestivalibiza.com](http://holigardenfestivalibiza.com)

**The USP** "Apart from a few visiting families and locals, it's largely hidden away, which is no mean feat in Ibiza. Then there's the beach itself, which is idyllic with its golden sand and clear, shallow waters."

**Why I love it** "Space! It's a big beach and it's also in the north, so there's always plenty of room to spread out, even in the busiest summer months. It's also the perfect place to unwind

after a long night's partying."

**Insider tip** "After relaxing, check out Hidden Bar ([hidden-bar.com](http://hidden-bar.com)). It's got crazy golf, amazing cocktails and top tunes."

**Stay** "There are great views of the sun-kissed sands from the rooms and pool at the Hotel Cala San Vicente ([grupotel.com](http://grupotel.com); doubles from €61)."

## 2. The envy-inducing view

### Praia de Sta Bárbara Azores



**Bruno Sérgio**  
Marine biologist and instructor,

[bestspotazores.com](http://bestspotazores.com)

**The USP** "Praia de Sta Bárbara is a wonderful beach – and not only for its surf. Exceptionally long and spacious, it's a gorgeous spot for a stroll and the volcano is a unique backdrop."

**Why I love it** "The scenery is stunning: clear blue water and black sands. In winter, you'll see four- and five-metre waves rolling in to the shore, while in the

summer, there's sun until 8pm and the sunset is absolutely amazing."

**Insider tip** "Stop for a drink and a spot of wave watching in the café Tuká Tulá."

**Stay** "The Costa Norte Guest House ([hotels.easyjet.com](http://hotels.easyjet.com)); triples from €40) on Ribeira Grande, has salty seadog rooms that are just right for sandy surfer guests."



## 3. The serene oasis

### Carbis Bay beach Cornwall



**Kate Horrill**  
Co-owner,  
The Bean Inn  
[thebeaninn.co.uk](http://thebeaninn.co.uk)

**The USP** "Just 45-minutes' drive from Newquay, Carbis Bay has a mile-long stretch of sand famed for its clear waters, said to be some of the best in western Europe."

**Why I love it** "There's rarely any surf in the sheltered bay, so it's excellent for snorkelling. Seals and dolphins can often be seen swimming here too."

**Insider tip** "At low tide, a short walk around the headland on Carbis Bay's east side will take you to Porthkidney Sands. This beach is inaccessible by car so it's often deserted."

**Stay** "Not only is the sea-facing Coast B&B ([coastcornwall.co.uk](http://coastcornwall.co.uk)); doubles from £72 [€92]) lovely, but guests can also enjoy co-owner Katrina Slack's sculptures, created from fishing paraphernalia."

## 4. The local secret

### Benijo Beach Tenerife



**Pia Louw**  
Director of travel and promotion,  
Tenerife

Tourism Corporation

**The USP** "The joy of Tenerife is that it's very easy to travel around. Benijo, on the northern tip, epitomises the 'real' Tenerife for me, with

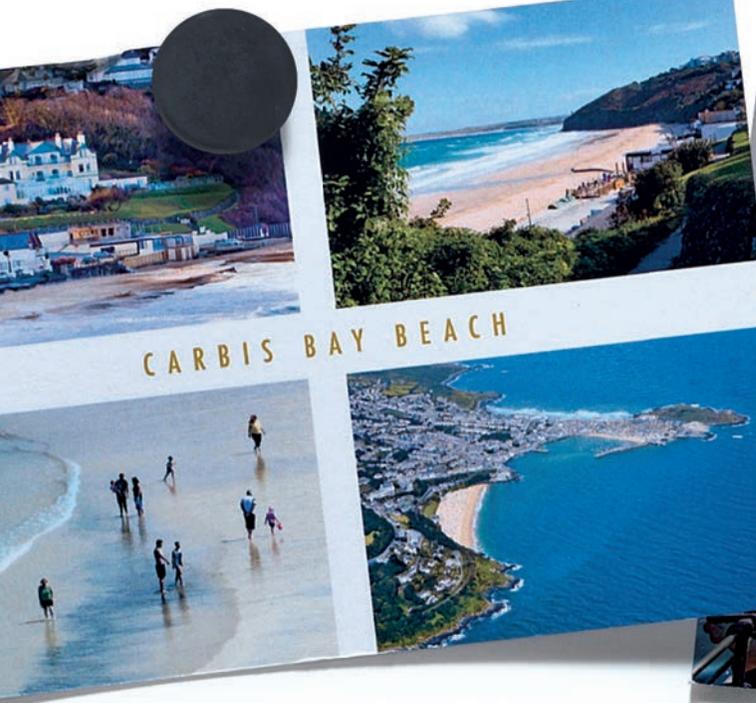
black, volcanic sand, and it's very popular with locals."

**Why I love it** "It's a great place to relax and watch the surfers catching waves. And Anaga Rural Park – one of Tenerife's most beautiful wildlife sanctuaries – is nearby."

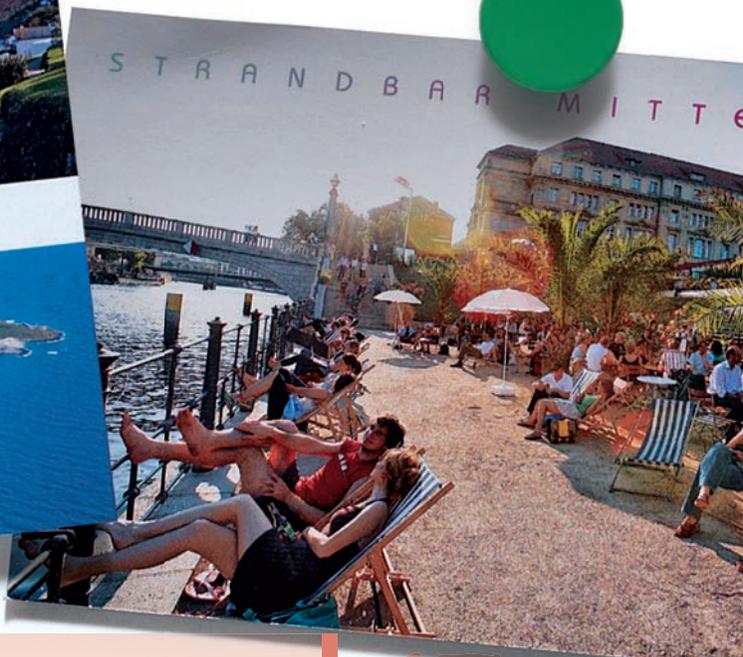
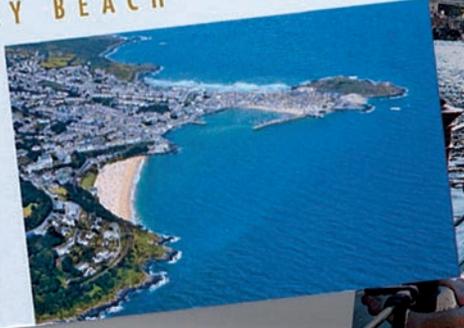
**Insider tip** "Hike among the ancient laurel forests of Anaga's untamed parkland, or stop at Quesería Tomasa (in Benijo de Anaga) to sample artisanal goat's cheese and superb local wines."

**Stay** "The simple B&B La Laguna ([bblalaguna.com](http://bblalaguna.com)), doubles from €38) has a sun-dappled communal patio and brightly coloured guestrooms."





CARBIS BAY BEACH



## 5. The to-die-for sunset

Swissotel Resort Bodrum



**Gizem Ofazoglu**  
 Founder, property investment consultancy [go-atelier.com](http://go-atelier.com)

**The USP** "In the stunning seafront town of Turgutreis, where the Aegean meets the Med, the beach in front of the new Swissotel offers the best of both."  
**Why I love it** "The beach gets sun throughout the day, which makes it one of the only places on the peninsula where you can take in sunrise and sunset. I love the feeling of infinity when I gaze out to sea here."

There are views out to the Greek islands of Kalymnos, Kos and Pserimos."  
**Insider tip** "Sipping a glass of chilled Champagne during a pink sunset here is one of life's unmissable activities."  
**Stay** "The brand-new Swissotel ([swissotel.com/hotels/bodrum-beach](http://swissotel.com/hotels/bodrum-beach)) will welcome guests from May 2015, although the beach is already open to visitors."

## 6. The urban hotspot

Strandbar Mitte, Berlin



**Paul Sullivan**  
 Writer, photographer, tour guide and editor of Slow Travel, [slowtravelberlin.com](http://slowtravelberlin.com)

**The USP** "Far from being a natural beach, this riverside spot has a buzzy, urban vibe with 'tropical' bars, deck chairs and imported sand."  
**Why I love it** There aren't many riverside spots in Berlin to simply kick back with an icy cocktail and watch the tourist boats chug upstream."  
**Insider tip** "Head to nearby Monbijou Bridge at sunset to snap a classic photo of the Bode Museum's grand dome and the Alexanderplatz TV tower behind it."  
**Stay** "Located on bustling Rosenthaler Platz, The Circus ([circus-berlin.de](http://circus-berlin.de), doubles from €75) offers a slice of reasonably priced Berlin cool."



## 7. The sealife haven

### Tabarca Island Beach Alicante



**Isabel González Nuevo**  
General manager,  
The Meliá  
Alicante Hotel

**The USP** "An hour's ferry ride from Alicante's port, Tabarca's pristine island beach was Spain's first protected marine reserve, designated in 1986, so it has a unique, natural vibe."

**Why I love it** "Even when the Alicante coastline is buzzing, Tabarca is a haven of peace and quiet, especially at night."

**Insider tip** "Be sure to sample the island's unique *caldero tabarquino* – a dish that combines the tastiest Mediterranean fish with rice – at a local restaurant."

**Stay** "Alicante's landmark hotel since 1973, Meliá Alicante Hotel ([melia.com](http://melia.com); doubles from €85) has recently renovated rooms overlooking Playa del Postiguët, so it's perfectly located."



## 8. The wild escape

### Nairn Beach Inverness



**Russell Zenthon**  
Owner,  
instructor  
and guide,

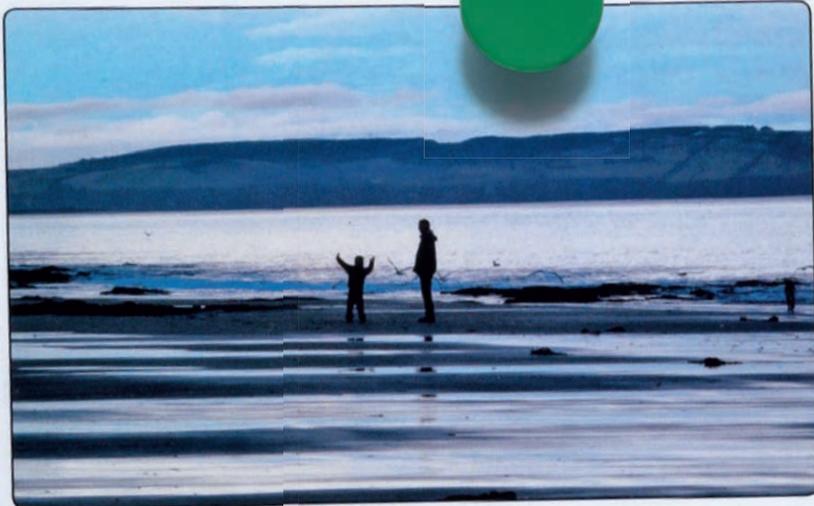
*Kushi Adventures*  
[kushiadventures.co.uk](http://kushiadventures.co.uk)

**The USP** "There may be bigger beaches if you drive across Scotland, but these golden sands – where the wild Highlands fringe the water, just a 30-minute drive east of Inverness – are a real gem."

**Why I love it** "My five-year-old twins adore this place. We often head here for a play in the rock pools or a walk along the wide dunes."

**Insider tip** "Nairn itself is lovely. Be sure to look around the old harbour or visit the town for a selection of cafés."

**Stay** "The Glen Mhor Hotel & Apartments ([theinvernesshotel.co.uk](http://theinvernesshotel.co.uk); doubles from £159 [€203]) nestles up to Inverness Castle on the banks of the mighty River Ness. It also serves a proper Scotch breakfast: kippers, black pudding and Ayrshire ham."



*Nairn beach*

## 9. The watersport mecca

Essaouira Beach  
Morocco



**Sara Jolly**  
Co-owner,  
kite and surf  
tour  
company

[exploramorocco.com](http://exploramorocco.com)

**The USP** "If you love surfing or kitesurfing, and you don't mind sharing the beach with the odd camel, then Essaouira is the only place to go. The beach is endless. If there are 20 kites on the water, it's busy!"

**Why I love it** "The space and freedom. I can be surfing in the morning,

kiting in the afternoon and enjoying the sunset with a Casablanca beer – all in the same location."

**Insider tip** "The deserted Jimi Hendrix Beach (just by the 'castle in the sand' ruin, a 10-minute walk away)

is a great spot for intermediate surfers."

**Stay** "Ten-room Riad Al Zahia ([riadzahia.com](http://riadzahia.com); doubles from €43) has a roof terrace looking out over the old medina and the Atlantic Ocean."



STRANDBAKKERNE

## 10. Family retreat

Strandbakkerne,  
Gilleleje Denmark



**Martin Selsøe Sørensen**  
Writer for  
*Politiken*

**The USP** "Strandbakkerne is a beautiful small beach within walking distance of Gilleleje's picturesque port, an hour's drive from Copenhagen. The water is shallow and clean, and there's a lifeguard, so it's perfect for little ones."

**Why I love it** "It's a quiet place with stunning views of

the Swedish coastline opposite, an old Danish lighthouse, and a meadow and green hills behind. Even when it's not great beach weather, it's an excellent place to fly kites."

**Insider tip** "There's no kiosk or other shopping, so bring everything you need! Alternatively, walk back to

Gilleleje for a *smørrebrød* [open sandwich] in one of the traditional port houses."

**Stay** "Beachfront Gilleleje Badehotel ([gillelejebadehotel.dk](http://gillelejebadehotel.dk); doubles from DKK1,490 [€200]) sits a 30-minute stroll away along the coast."



BURGUNCUK KOYU

## 11. The hard-to-reach spot

Burguncuk Koyu, Fethiye **Dalaman**



**Hasan Simsek**  
Yacht hire expert, *Budget Sailing Turkey*

**The USP** "Its name means Paradise Beach and it really is. About seven miles south of Ölüdeniz, Turkey's most famous strip of sand, it's unspoiled, remote and visited primarily by boating people as you need to sail here."

**Why I love it** "Burguncuk Koyu is set within beautiful surroundings, with a background of green hills. Being there on your own gives you the feeling of being Robinson Crusoe!"

**Insider tip** "If you can't sail there on your own yacht, hop aboard one of the daily tour boats from Ölüdeniz."

**Stay** "The super-serene Olive Garden ([olivegardenkabak.com](http://olivegardenkabak.com); doubles in high season from TRY210 [€76]) offers a Thai-style bungalow escape above a hidden Aegean cove."

## 12. For people watching

Torre Lapillo, near Porto Cesareo **Puglia**



**Nick Carlucci**  
Producer, award-winning *ZERO Extra Virgin Olive Oil*

[pugliashoponline.com](http://pugliashoponline.com)

**The USP** "White sands and shallow waters give this beach, an hour from Brindisi airport, mass appeal. There are volleyball courts, pedalos, jetskis and watersports for the crowd, which ranges from oldies to gorgeous young Italians."

**Why I love it** "We always feel like we're on holiday here. You can pop up to the bar and watch the sun set into the sea."

**Insider tip** "In July, there are volleyball competitions with free spectator stands and a great atmosphere."

**Stay** "The Hotel La Spiaggia ([hotelaspiaggia.it](http://hotelaspiaggia.it); doubles €50 TBC) is a simple whitewashed, two-storey casa right on the beach."

## 13. The romantic winner

Cap Taillat, St-Tropez, **Nice**



**Alexandre Fortabat**  
Naval architect/sailor,

[fortabatdesign.com](http://fortabatdesign.com)

**The USP** "Only a few miles from hip Plage de Pampelonne, secluded Cap Taillat is perfect for a romantic getaway. It's half an hour's walk from the nearest café and you can even strip naked if there's no one around."

**Why I love it** "In the summer, the sea is calm, with views reaching from nearby Porquerolles Island to Cannes' Lerins Islands

in the north. On the flipside, in wintertime enormous waves crash here, which makes sailing hell."

**Insider tip** "It's linked to the mainland by a tiny strip of sand, so you can always find a sheltered spot to sunbathe."

**Stay** "La Refuge ([lerefuge-cotedazur.fr](http://lerefuge-cotedazur.fr); doubles from €68), is the St Tropez peninsula's cutest accommodation."



## 14. The remote refuge

### Lara Beach, Akamas Peninsula Cyprus



**Joe Bindloss**  
Commissioning editor, Lonely Planet

**The USP** "Other than at weekends, when local families might make a day trip to this wild stretch of beach by 4WD from Paphos, it's gloriously deserted. Indeed, it might just be you and the sea turtles, which nest here from May to August."

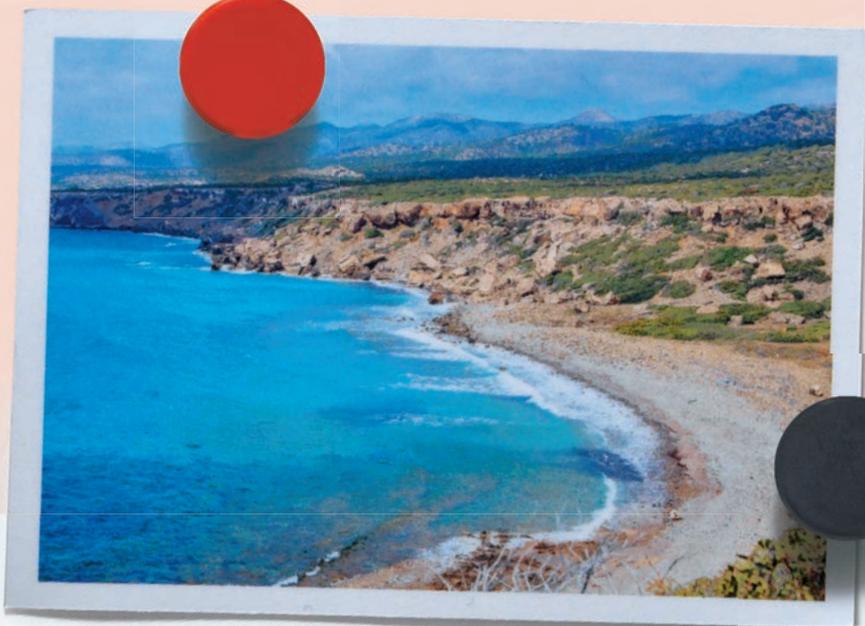
**Why I love it** "I used to picnic here when I was

growing up in pre-partition Cyprus, and I volunteered at the Lara Beach Turtle Conservation project as a teenager."

**Insider tip** "The Akamas Peninsula is a playground

for walkers. Try the Avakas Gorge, which rises dramatically from the coast, or circle the isthmus to Polis Chrysochous, passing some of the most unspoiled natural scenery in Cyprus."

**Stay** "Just outside of Paphos at Peyia, the Coral Beach Hotel & Resort ([coral.com.cy](http://coral.com.cy); doubles from €63) sits on its own 500m silvery strip of sand, and even has its own harbour."



## 15. The children's playground

### Kamari Beach Santorini



**Veronika Karacova**  
Manager, Caveland Hostel

[cave-land.com](http://cave-land.com)

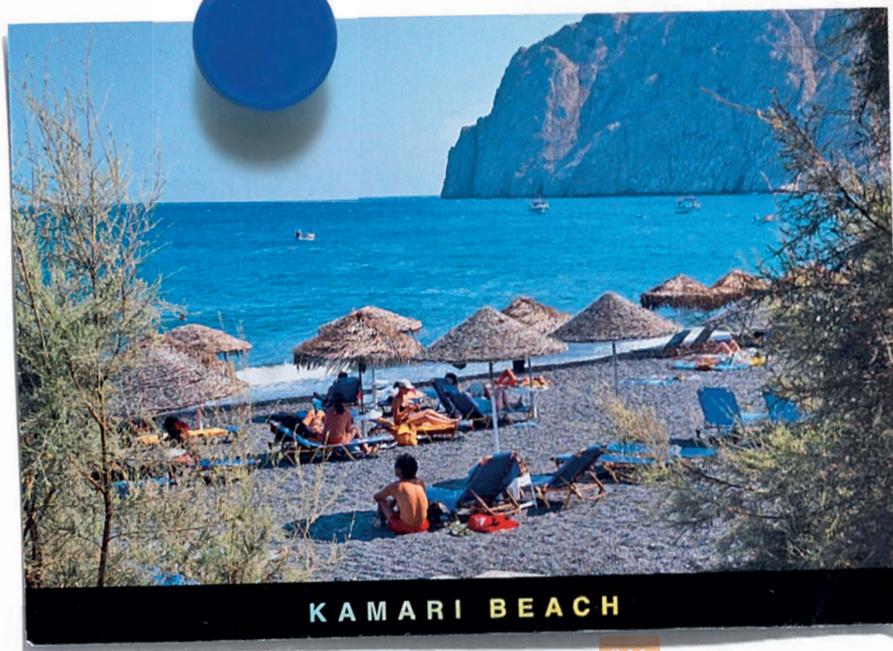
**The USP** "There aren't a huge number of beaches on Santorini so you appreciate the best ones. Kamari is volcanic and its fine black pebbles are ideal for young kids to play on.

Even better, it's sheltered, so there are rarely waves.

**Why I love it** "We love to hang out at Kamara Beach Bar where there are umbrellas for rent, a small canteen and plenty of other playmates. Kamara is laid-back, with a friendly atmosphere and reasonable prices. Plus, there's always good music playing from the canteen for the parents."

**Insider tip** "During high season – July and August – be sure to arrive before noon to ensure you get a sunbed."

**Stay** "At the opposite end of Kamari Beach to Kamara, whitewashed Oceanis Bay ([oceanisbay.com](http://oceanisbay.com); doubles from €65, open May-October) offers private terraces and stunning sea views."



KAMARI BEACH