

Stellar sands

With pristine beaches, world-class cuisine and luxury wellness treatments, these six opulent havens are destinations fit for any globe-trotting a-lister looking to unwind

HVAR

Hvar in Croatia is a destination bursting with incredible beaches, such as Malo Zerce Beach, Dubovica Beach, Pokonji Dol Beach and the Pakleni Islands Archipelago. Between sailing through the archipelago, hiring a pasara boat for snorkelling and boating, or going exploring through the area in a VW Beetle, there are plenty of fun things to do in Hvar.

Staying in Hvar can be a luxury experience at Heraclea House or Adriana Hvar Spa Hotel. For more permanent or comfortable accommodations, History Hvar Design Apartments are a good

option, as well as Villa Varda Latina and Gordana Apartments.

Meal options in Hvar are also abundant, with luxury food experiences to be found at places like Zlatna Skoljka, Divino, Giaxa and the very popular Beach Hvar, which is perhaps where celebs are most often spotted. These include big names like Tom Cruise, Prince Harry and Beyoncé, while Jackie Kennedy very famously visited in the 60s. Giorgio Armani is also a common resident of the area.

Below: Hvar Town on the Croatian Med where Tom Cruise (right) holidays, while Jennifer Lopez is often spotted in Mexico

BORA BORA

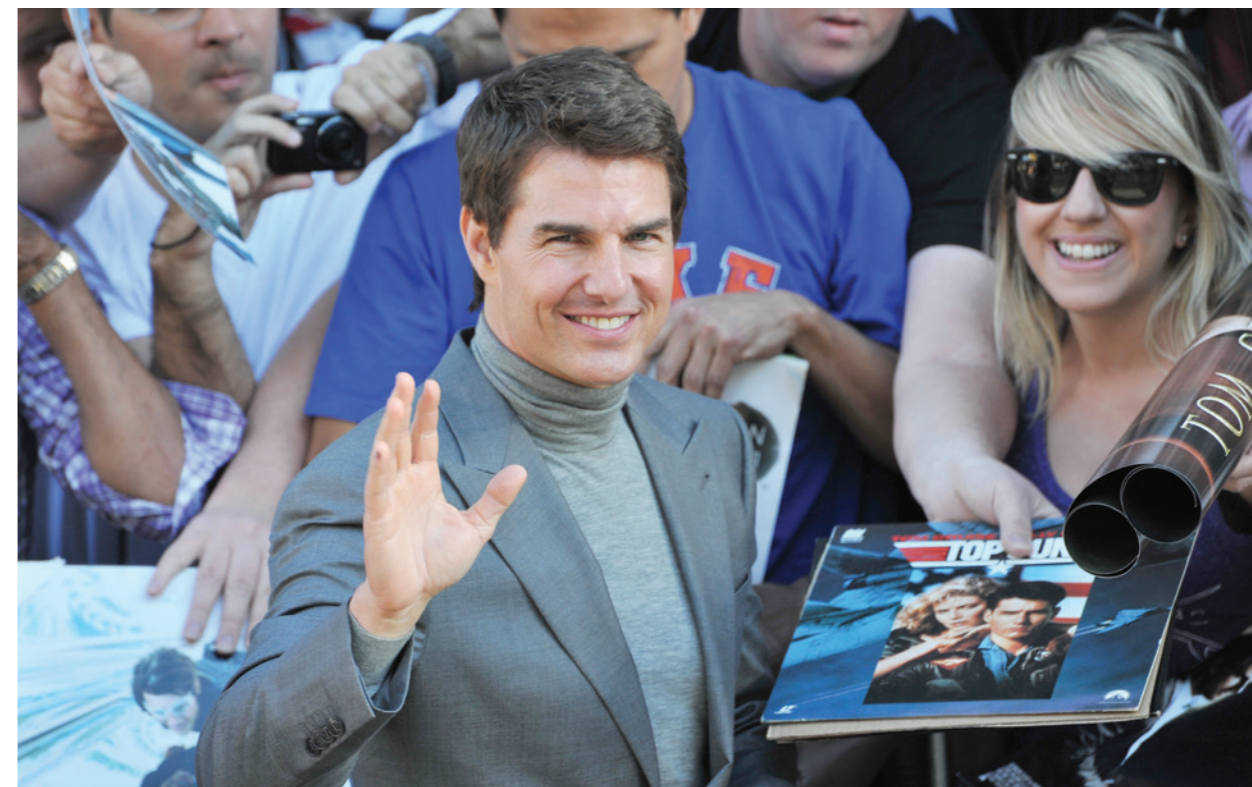
Bora Bora may be the most obvious location on this list when it comes to places that celebrities love to vacation, and there's certainly a reason for that. The activities on offer include some pretty iconic snorkelling opportunities in the clear ocean water, lagoon tours, sunset cruises and even jet skiing. Marine safaris and even jet skiing. Marine safaris can be booked for those wanting more of an immersive experience, and many tropical paradise relaxation packages are available at resorts in the area.

The St Regis Resort seems to be the most popular spot for celebrities, with the likes of Nicole

Kidman, Eva Longoria and Carrie Underwood all staying here at one time or another. The famous stilted bungalows over the clear ocean water are an iconic symbol of what holidaying in Bora Bora can look like. The local Four Seasons Resort has views of the nearby Mont Otemanu, and Conrad Hotel also offers great accommodations.

Good eats can be found at St James Restaurant, and the Bora Bora Yacht Club is a popular venue for the glitterati. The Lagoon Restaurant by Jean-Georges at the St Regis Resort is also a great option for resort dining.

While Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux famously honeymooned in Bora Bora in 2015, they also brought along famous friends Courtney Cox, Jason Bateman and Chelsea Handler. Paris Hilton and Justin Bieber have also been seen in the area in recent years.



CABO SAN LUCAS

A favourite spot for those visiting Mexico for vacation, Cabo San Lucas is also a hot spot for spotting celebrities out and about. The famous Lover's Beach is, naturally, one of the more popular spots, as it's close by El Arco de Cabo Asian Lucas. Medano Beach is another key place to visit in the area, as well as Playa del Amor. Whale and dolphin watching are popular activities for the area, and some other great places to visit include the Church of Saint Luke, La Coyota Market and Mount Solmar.

There are lots of great places to stay in the area, such as the Grand Solmar Land's End Resort and Spa, The Cape or Hotel Riu Palace. Esperanza Auberge Resorts is one of the more popular venues for celebrities staying in the area, as well as Hacienda Beach Club and Residences.



Places to eat are not scarce in Cabo, with high-end restaurants like the Sand Bar on the beach serving fresh seafood cooked with Mexican flavours. Los Tres Gallos, MANTA and El Squid Roe are common places to spot celebrities in the area. Jennifer Lopez is often spotted relaxing in Cabo, as well as Justin Bieber and Justin Timberlake respectively. Oprah

enjoys the area from time to time, and Drew Barrymore has been seen enjoying the comforts of a stay here.

NECKER ISLAND

Right in the middle of the British Virgin Islands, this cosy vacation destination is owned by Richard Branson and is set up to be a total private paradise, perfect

for birthday trips, destination weddings and special nights away. The 74 acres of land include incredible coral reefs, white sand beaches and numerous hiking trails through the jungles.

There's plenty to do on the island, such as paddle boarding or simply relaxing on the beaches. Spa treatments are available as part of the facilities, in addition to activities for the whole family. On top of the hikes and clear seawater, kids who are along for the trip can also enjoy pirate parties, treasure hunts around the island, and even lemur feeding.

In terms of food, the island has its own team of chefs who focus on creating fresh dishes with locally sourced ingredients, including an incredible floating sushi bar poolside. The accommodations include space for 48 adults and 6 kids in the Balinese-styled guest rooms, and while the island ➤



SAINT TROPEZ

Located on the French Riviera, Saint Tropez is a lovely area in the South of France that's beautiful year-round, which is probably why it's such a popular destination for European vacations. With ferries down the river and private boat tours available, as well as several great museums to visit, there is plenty to do during a stay here. The Place des Lices Market is a particularly interesting local attraction, but celebs tend to be spotted more often at the VIP Room nightclub or Le Club 55 Beach Club.

For places to stay, there are options such as Villa Cosy Hotel and Spa or Airelles Saint-Tropez Pan Deis Palais. Le Pre de la Mer and the Bastide de Ramatuelle are also popular places to stay. For food and hospitality, La Vague d'Or is an iconic local spot, while Chez Clovis Saint Tropez and La Verdoyante are also kept busy.

The film *And God Created Woman* was famously filmed in Saint Tropez, and other celebrities seen here include Bill Gates, Steven Spielberg and the Kardashians. Naomi Campbell visits each year and Bono lives in the picturesque town. ■

is available primarily for private events, Branson hosts celebration weeks at special times in the year when the public can book individual rooms for a stay.

Celebrities who have visited Brandon's paradise include Kate Moss, who hosted friends for a 40th birthday bash, and Larry Page, one of Google's co-founders, who held his wedding in the picturesque location. During celebration weeks, guests can rent one room for around US\$5,000 a night, or the whole island for US\$80,000 a night.

LAKE COMO

Lake Como, Italy, is known for being the perfect European destination for a summer holiday.

While the other locations on this list are centred around beaches and ocean activities, Lake Como favours a different kind of leisure. With the title of Most Beautiful Lake from 2014, the hillside villages, the foothills of the Alps and the many historic villas, not to mention the lake itself, make for a unique and interesting getaway.

The most popular activities on the lake seem to be boating, exploring nature trails and visiting the nearby villas, as well as golfing, private boat tours, and even some unique lakeside

beaches. Close by to Northern Italy's Lombardy, Lake Como is the perfect spot to stay at an exclusive resort while touring the Italian countryside for day trips.

Some of the nearby villas to tour include Villa Melzi in Bellagio, Villa Monasteri in Varenna, and Villa Carlotta, one of the more popular historic buildings to visit. At Carlotta, tours of the gardens and interiors are available and classical music events are often held on the premises.

While George Clooney and his wife Amal are perhaps the most famous residents of Lake Como, alongside Sting and Sir Richard Branson; other celebrities often

visit the area. The Grand Hotel Tremezzo is a Belle Époque palace with a swimming pool inside the lake, located not far away from Laglio. Each summer, the hotel hosts celebrities, including Jon Bon Jovi, who is also a regular customer of the restaurant "Bilacus", in Bellagio.

Having tied the knot in Saint Tropez, John Legend and Chrissy Teigen are often spotted in the area, as well as Emily Blunt and John Krasinski who were also married in the area.

Above: Menaggio old town on Lake Como Below: Saint-Tropez, Provence, Cote d'Azur

