



THE ULTIMATE
CHEESEBURGER p 55

SURVIVE ON
ONE SALARY p 104

CAMPING FOR
COUPLES p 92



[the nest]

from the knot

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what's
your
decorating
style?
(yep, you have one)

save money/
still have fun

94 cheap summer thrills

- > the Caribbean for \$120
- > wines under \$15
- > dinner for less than \$5

party on a dime
like Marie and
John, p. 46

are you
sexually
in sync?

SUMMER 2009

LOVE
LIVING

LOVE
LIVING
LIFE

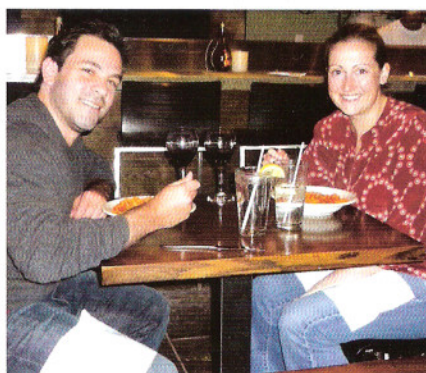
SUMMER 2009

contributors

Writer **CEMILE KAVOUNTZIS** is a self-professed beach bum—she's also a New York City-based freelance scribe who's written about film, food and travel for *Entertainment Weekly*, *Maxim* and *FrontDesk*. She penned "The Caribbean: Summer Travel Steals," page 84, and can tell you firsthand that "sitting in traffic to get to the Oistins fish fry is really worth the wait; the grilled marlin at Uncle Georges is amazing!"



PETER ARKLE grew up in Scotland but now lives in New York City, where he's a freelance illustrator of books, magazines and ads. The mastermind behind our comic strip "Me and My Bromance," page 120, Peter's pulled some clever moves to escape the doghouse after a crazy bros' night out. "I cleaned my girlfriend's bathroom and it worked!" he laughs. "Even if she was mad at me for being drunk, she couldn't help but be happy about her sparkling tub."

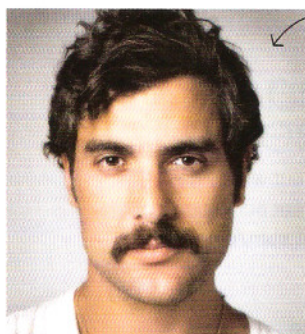


ADAM C. DUB, our intrepid road tester for this issue, finally got to indulge his inner kid (and sweet tooth!) by challenging himself to order only off of restaurant kiddie menus for a week. Along with Carolyn, his foodie partner in crime, Adam had some funny adventures that you can read about in "Road Test: The Kiddie Menu" on page 30. When he's not snacking on Happy Meals, Adam loves traveling with Carolyn to fun, cool places, like Costa Rica, and keeping up with his day job as Account Director at *Esquire*.

TOBATRON (yep, that's what he goes by!) is a London-based illustrator who created the fun images for "The Couple's Camping Guide" on page 92. "My girlfriend isn't a big fan of camping," he says. "But if we did go, we'd bring a compass just to look like pros to the other campers." What if a bear attacked? "My girlfriend would deal with it," he says. "Like a bear, she's very cute, but if provoked, very scary!" Tobatron's past clients include *Toyota*, *Vodafone*, *PlayStation* and *Volkswagen*.



Staff writer **CAITLIN MOSCATELLO** lives in New York City with her guy, Joe. You'll usually find this duo throwing softballs in Central Park, running over the Brooklyn Bridge or typing away on their laptops. "Joe's a writer too, so we're constantly editing each other," says Cait, who wrote "Work Hazards" on page 28. So we had to ask: Does working in the same field ever get stressful? "I can't complain," she says. "We met at work. Shhh!"



winner of the sexiest 'stache award

Photographer **DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN**, who shot our décor feature "Dominique + Dan's NYC Loft," page 34, just moved into an old penthouse apartment in Hollywood with his partner and has taken a DIY approach to decorating. "It was tempting to hit all the big box stores and put the place together fast, but we decided to search for one-of-a-kind pieces that need work," he says. "For us, the work is the fun part!" Friedman's photography has appeared in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle Decor* and *Wallpaper*.

our users

10YEARS TOGETHER, ALIGATER, ANNIEKINS214, ARCADIAN DREAMS, AUBURN GIRL672, AUTUMN_LOVERS, BABYGRJLRP, BALBACM, BAMFMR58, BIRDYCHRYL, CARL85, CASMGN, CLO33, COASTIEWIFE08, COMBATBARBIE, DECEMBERWEDDING07, DORKLYNE, ELMAR462, GEORGIA_PEACHY, GIAM28, GINGER01604, ICTOANA, IHEARTMATTY, JAY19654, JBAUGH619, JCNVC31, JESS295, JMO7RR, INSTEWART, JODI21HARBUR, JOLENE22, JUNE08.CAN'T WAIT, KARMA1969, KATE.BURGO, KATIEBRIDE06, KAYLENELANAE, KEL84, KIMBERD, KLINGLE33, KMSLWSMRS, LAINE123, LENABALLERNA586, LILCINDELLA, LINZ124, LOUELLA65, LTHRGIRL03, LUNDGRENJL, MARJO03, MELANIE_N_ALAN, MGOOMOONEY, MIKESGTO, MIKECHITOWN, MISSDANIELLESZ, MNOFZINGER4, MOONEY34, MRS_P2007, MRS.AMY86, MRSIVYDUBS, MRSSISCO, NYCGIRL31, PISTOLPETE72, RAEPAL08, RAHRAH78, READY4THEPARTY, RICONY197, RYANTHEGIRL, SIMMONSLOVER, SOON28MRSGERMAN, STELLA28E, SUPERANNOYINDOS, SWIMMRDAWG, TWINKZ, UCONNGAL42



Life



the caribbean

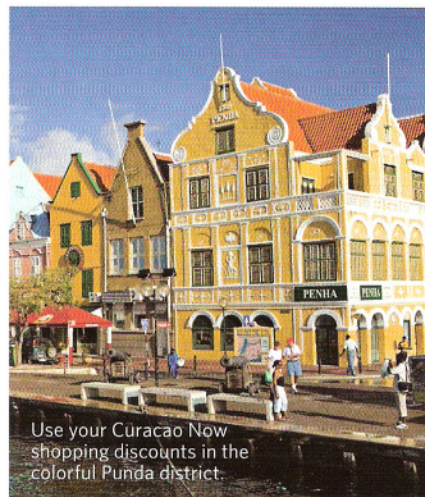
Dying to get away?
Well, the Caribbean is the
sweetest deal right now
because summertime means
slashed prices everywhere.
Read on and start packing!
By Cemile Kavountizis



Check out our discount
hotel vouchers and special
Nestle deals on page 90.



FROM LEFT: STEVE BLV/GETTY IMAGES; RICHARD CUMMINS/GETTY IMAGES



Use your Curacao Now shopping discounts in the colorful Punda district.

curacao

Does the name Curacao make you think of that pretty blue liquor? Well, the aqua water here is prime for underwater adventures that give you a different kind of buzz. If you're jonesing for diving or snorkeling, or just discovering a hot spot before all the crowds do, Curacao's the place. After diving offshore, you'll find one-of-a-kind restaurants and shops in its candy-colored capital, Willemstad.

where to stay

- **Avila Hotel's** rooms range from oceanfront in the Blue Wing to modern in the Octagon Wing (AvilaHotel.com; 800-747-8162).
- Perched on cliffs overlooking a secluded beach with a natural coral reef, **Lodge Kura Hulanda & Beach Club** boasts spacious rooms with balconies or patios (KuraHulanda.com; 877-264-3106).

what to do

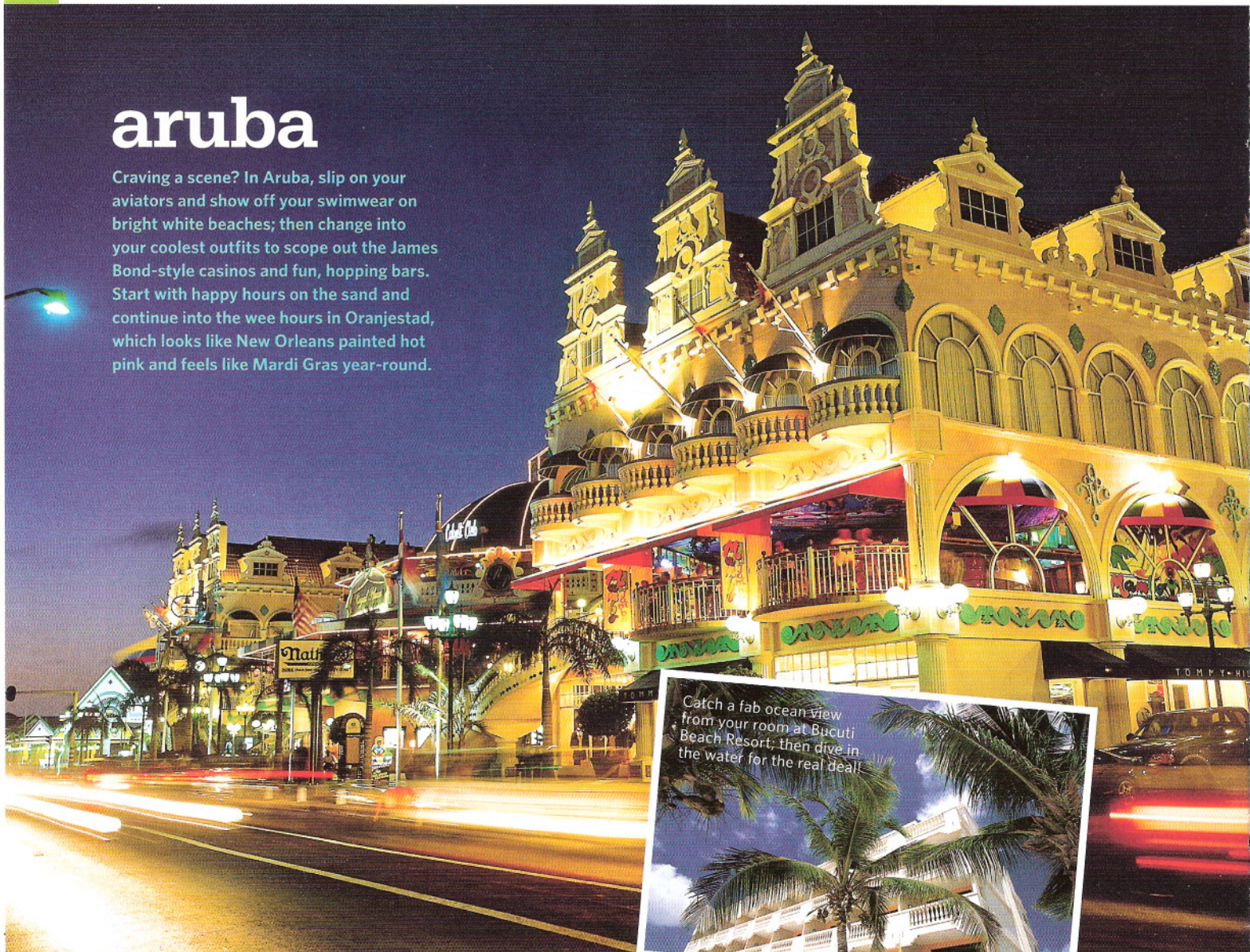
- You finally have an excuse to use that underwater camera! Curacao has some of the best diving and snorkeling spots in the world. Highlights include a sunken tugboat and mushroom-shaped coral formations. For local dive operators, go to Curacao.com.
- Stroll around the **Punda** district, a configuration of pedestrian-only streets and alleys filled with brightly colored, quaint shops (between the Waterfort and Fort Amsterdam in Willemstad).
- Take an anthropology tour à deux at the **Museum Kurá Hulanda**. You can check out historic artifacts from Curacao and beyond (entrance ticket \$9; Klipstraat 9, Willemstad; 5999-434-7765).

drinking and dining

- Brave enough to try iguana soup at **Jaanchies Restaurant**? They say it's an aphrodisiac (from \$10; Westpunt; 5999-864-0126).
- Locals head to **Awa Di Playa** for some fresh fare (\$20 for dinner; Piscadera Bay; 5999-462-6939) and get a hearty lunch for \$8 a plate at **Marsche Bieuw** in Willemstad (aka the Old Market).
- On Sundays at **Zanzibar Beach and Restaurant**, DJs spin funk and R&B. Then grab yourself the ice-cold cocktail-of-the-day for just \$5 (Zanzibar-Curacao.com/eng; 5999-747-0633). >

aruba

Craving a scene? In Aruba, slip on your aviators and show off your swimwear on bright white beaches; then change into your coolest outfits to scope out the James Bond-style casinos and fun, hopping bars. Start with happy hours on the sand and continue into the wee hours in Oranjestad, which looks like New Orleans painted hot pink and feels like Mardi Gras year-round.



Catch a fab ocean view from your room at Bucuti Beach Resort; then dive in the water for the real deal!

where to stay

- After spending a couple of days relaxing in **Bucuti Beach Resort's** modern, airy rooms and beachfront (and kid-free!) pool, you'll be addicted. Cool fact: The resort fosters sea turtle preservation right on its grounds (Bucuti.com; 297-583-1100).
- One of the island's best-kept secrets, **Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort's** charming Dutch colonial-style architecture wraps around a spotless pool and the gorgeous beach is just a quick stroll away (AmsterdamManor.com; 800-969-2310).

what to do

- On **Red Sail Sport's Antilla Snorkel Sail**, see the famous shipwreck and Catalina Bay; for \$49 per person, you'll get drinks, snacks, instruction and equipment (RedSailAruba.com; 877-733-7245).
- Hike, walk or bike through divi-divi trees, cactus gardens, sand dunes and even caves for free at **Arikok National Park**.

- Craving some culture? Check out the folklore dancing on Tuesday night at the **Bon Bini Festival**, where local Aruban dancers strut their stuff in traditional costumes from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in downtown Oranjestad (\$3 entry fee; Fort Zoutman inner courtyard).

drinking and dining

- At **Pinchos Grill & Bar** on the Surfside Marina, every table is on the water's edge, making it a hot spot for sunset dinner (entrées from \$19; Interreps.nl/pinchos.htm; 297-583-2666).
- Go to **Charlie's Bar & Restaurant** for a tasty lunch and collection of tchotchkes left behind by people from around the world. Try the spicy honeymoon sauce and, for a laugh, ask what the "hoere hap" seafood special is (from \$7; San Nicolas; 297-584-5086).
- Hunt for souvenirs in town; then kick back with a locally brewed Balashi beer for \$3.50 at **Salt & Pepper**. Bring a set of shakers and they'll swap you a free glass of wine (SaltandPepperAruba.com)!



barbados

If you really love the beach but crave too much action to simply sit around sunbathing, try Barbados. You can head to the island's wild east coast for under-the-radar surf spots, zip around on exciting off-road Jeep safaris or cruise through the pretty sugarcane fields to visit stately plantation homes. After all that activity, kick back on the sand with your fill of ever-flowing rum punch.

where to stay

- On Barbados' beautiful west coast, head to the **Almond Beach Club & Spa**, an adults-only, all-inclusive hotel. Make sure to dive into their freshwater swimming pool and book a spa treatment (your credit's on page 90!; AlmondResorts.com; 800-425-6663).
- Overlooking a gully, the hilltop boutique resort **Sugar Cane Club Hotel and Spa** has a cool Mediterranean vibe with drop-dead ocean views and free hourly shuttles to the beach.

what to do

- At historic **St. Nicholas Abbey**, finish your \$15 tour of this historic Barbados home with a free glass of spiked punch in the afternoon (StNicholasAbbey.com; 246-422-5357).
- Surf the **Soup Bowl**, frequented by professionals like Kelly Slater. Learn the basics of riding the waves with Zed Layson, a fifth-generation Barbadian and competitive surfer. Show Zed this article and get a two-hour lesson for \$60 each, which is regularly \$80 per person (ZedsSurfTravel.com; 246-428-7873)!

Bottom Bay on the south coast is a prime picnic spot.

- Go behind the scenes on the island's dramatic east coast on an off-road Jeep safari—with a requisite rum-punch stop (half-day tours from \$50 per person; IslandSafari.bb; 246-429-5337).

drinking and dining

- Spend Friday or Saturday night in **Oistins**, a fish fry that bustles with specialties like grilled fish and macaroni pie that cost around \$10 for a huge plate. Among the open-air stalls that line the main street, ask for Uncle Georges and be sure to eat there—you have to try the grilled marlin (Christ Church Parish).
- For a classic summer drink made just right, head to **John Moore Bar** for one of the island's most authentic rum-guzzling destinations. Order up a couple of their refreshing rum 'n' Cokes for just \$2.50 each (Weston, St. James Parish; 246-422-2258).
- Cool down with a couple of beers for just \$2 a pop at **Fisherman's Pub & Beach Bar** in Speightstown, but for real island flavor and Calypso music, head there on Wednesdays for dinner and dancing at \$18 per person (St. Peter; 246-422-2703). >

The Hermitage Plantation Inn's cottages have private porches that are perfect for afternoon lounging.



nevis

Hilly Nevis is a great escape for hikers and outdoor sports buffs—or anyone looking for quiet and nature. Hike through rainforests, bike or take a mountaintop horseback ride. Nevis has a laid-back vibe, but locals still like to have fun. You can experience the island's spirit at unpretentious beach bars and its lively annual Culturama Festival.

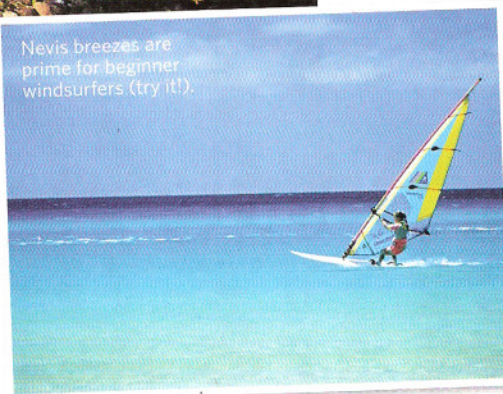
where to stay

- Set high on a hilltop, **The Hermitage Plantation Inn** is a historic hotel built around one of the oldest houses in the Caribbean. The rooms capture this feel with heirloom four-poster canopy beds and antiques (HermitageNevis.com; 800-682-4025).
- A former eighteenth-century sugar estate turned flower-draped hotel with pretty pastel cottages in the Nevis hills, **Golden Rock Inn** is a favorite stomping ground for savvy travelers. Don't miss their afternoon tea on the porch (Golden-Rock.com; 869-469-3346).

what to do

- Get down at the annual **Culturama Festival** (July 24 through August 4). It packs in 12 days of Nevisian food, music, performances and parades (special events from \$5; NevisCulturama.net).
- **The Hermitage Plantation Inn's** equestrian center offers guided horseback rides through local villages and Saddle Hill for \$40 each for readers of *The Nest* (regularly \$55). Enjoy the island's clearest views (HermitageNevis.com; 800-682-4025).

Nevis breezes are prime for beginner windsurfers (try it!).



- Burn off a leisurely lunch together by renting a couple of mountain bikes for \$25 a day per person at **Windsurf'N'Mountainbike Nevis**. Bonus: You'll get 15 percent off advanced bookings by mentioning *The Nest* (BikeNevis.com; 869-469-9682)!

drinking and dining

- Bring your appetites to **The Water Department Barbecue** from 4 to 9 p.m. on Fridays. This spot is known for barbecue specialties and chicken that people always line up for. This stick-to-your-ribs meal will only set you back \$3 to \$10 (Pump Road, Charlestown).
- In the bright dining room of **Rodney's Cuisine**, owner Rodney Elliott serves up homemade West Indian dishes that all cost about 15 bucks or less, like their famous "cook-up," which is a mix of peas and rice, chicken and salt fish. Be sure to order a Mauby, a local drink (near Charlestown; 869-663-1644).
- Get "stung" by **Sunshine's** signature rum punch called Killer Bee for \$5—the spot is a local legend for barbecue and dancing by the beach (Pinney's Beach; SunshineNevis.com; 869-469-5817).

trinidad&tobago

Sneak kisses on the sand and don't bother getting dressed up for dinner on Tobago, the prettier of the two islands. Prized for its secluded beaches (one is even called Lovers' Beach!), the island's quiet vibe sets the mood for romance.

where to stay

- You'll feel like a VIP at the **Bacolet Beach Club**, a small and sexy Tobago boutique hotel. Rooms have canopy beds with white gauze drapes, and the infinity pool is a perfect spot to enjoy the view of their bar (BacoletBeachClub.com; 868-639-2357).
- Surrounded by palms, bamboo and bougainvillea, **Half Moon Blue Hotel** has open verandas and chaise lounges that set the mood for chillin'. Its loft-like interiors have luxurious linens in crisp blues and whites. At the pool, romantic midnight swims are encouraged (HalfMoonBlue.com; 868-639-3551).

what to do

- Get access to tons of bright and beautiful fish in **Speyside**, a small fishing village with access to great snorkeling for \$25 per person (TobagoDiveExperience.com; 868-660-4888).
- Go on an adventure in **Tobago's Little Amazon**, the oldest protected rainforest in the Western Hemisphere (\$65 per person—Nesties will score 10 percent off; TobagoNow.com; 868-639-1476).

- Tee off at the award-winning 18-hole **Mount Irvine Bay Golf Course**. The course is known for its standout views of the Caribbean Sea from every hole (green fees from \$30; Mtlrvine.com).

drinking and dining

- Belly up to a table at the **Kariwak Village Restaurant**, where the thatch roofs, clay-tiled floors and rattan furniture are rustic-chic and the super-tasty Caribbean and Creole fare is the real deal (\$33 prix fixe per person; Kariwak.com; 868-639-8442).
- Six huts with no-nonsense names like **Alma's Local Food** and **Sylvia's Food Shop** are located on the main dining strip in Crown Point, selling delicious Tobagonian dishes, like crab and dumplings, for about \$7. For cheap beers, head to **Bonkers** (Alma's: Store Bay Beach Facilities, 868-639-7573; Bonkers: Store Bay Local Road, 868-639-7173).
- **Café Coco** serves up local dishes and flavors from around the islands, including Cuba, Martinique and Jamaica. If you're up for partying, then stick around because it also turns into a nightclub (entrees from \$15; CocoReef.com/cafecoco; 868-639-0996)! [n]

click

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Pigeon Point Beach is Tobago's prettiest public stretch of white sand and the entrance fee is just \$3.

tip [Curacao, Aruba and Trinidad & Tobago are all on the fringes of the hurricane belt—they rarely see major storms.]