

6 Easy, Affordable Warm-Weather Escapes

Whether you're knee-deep in snow or looking for a post-holidays pick-me-up, consider heading south to chill out, thaw out, and soak up some much-needed Vitamin D. No more than a quick flight (or drive) away, these destinations make for an ideal long weekend for the 9-5 crowd. Read on for the island getaways, poolside party scenes, and lively coastal towns that know how to bring the heat.



Ambergris Caye, Belize

A long, thin wisp of an island, Ambergris is party central for some, a scuba destination for others, and a do-nothing-but-relax getaway for everyone else. Pick your poison. Most hotels line the island's eastern edge, while the sandy-streeted main town of San Pedro sits in the south. It's an easy trip by boat-taxi though, which, along with golf carts, is the go-to mode of transportation around here. Restaurants are typically casual affairs with plastic chairs around off-kilter tables, but their down-home charm only serves to make their jerk chicken and fresh fish taste all the better. And nightlife comes in the form of beach bars, hotel bars, and dance clubs.

Where to stay: When the porter shows you to your casita at [Matachica](#) (above), you'll be elbowing your travel buddy like 'this can't possibly be ours.' But it is. The beach is behind you, the bar's around the corner, and San Pedro is just a quick boat ride away. Paradise found.