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POST TRAVEL

Places You Never Thought You Could Afford in the Caribbean

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You: barefoot on an empty white-sand beach. You: rubbing shoulders with celebrities on vacation. You: sipping a cocktail on St. Barts, Anguilla, or Virgin Gorda. The Caribbean's most exclusive and expensive islands may seem beyond your reach, but where there's a will to go, there's a way to save.

Cheaphotels.org recently released a survey naming the Caribbean's most expensive destinations (based on the average price of the cheapest available double hotel room). And while such a designation might scare off some, these islands are simply too fabulous to pass up. And, it turns out, there are ways to significantly cut costs on every one of them. Here's how.

Anguilla

From the caress of the powdery white sand underfoot to the sea's constantly shifting kaleidoscope of azures, there's a delight for every sense on Anguilla. It's a place that shrugs off the high-rise beach-vacation vibe in favor of simple relaxed elegance. But that unpretentious polish can come with a high price tag. And while the average nightly rate of \$315 delivers some pretty special experiences—think watching the sun set over the ocean from your balcony's private plunge pool at the [Viceroy Anguilla](#) or savoring a towel-side delivery of sorbet on the beach at [Cap Juluca](#)—the rarefied pleasures of the island don't have to be expensive.

Dotting the island are smaller and locally owned properties, many of them on some of the island's best beaches—where you can expect to pay significantly less than you would at Anguilla's famed upscale resorts. Rooms are sometimes modest and amenities simple, but you'll still have perfect proximity to the real reason for being there: gorgeous stretches of beach; warm, clear water; and plenty of island charm. At the intimate [Anacaona Boutique Hotel](#), April rates start at \$160 per night. And a recent Expedia search uncovered April rates of around \$202 per night at the [Anguilla Great House](#), which offers rooms just steps from the beach on magnificent Rendezvous Bay. Browse the Anguilla Tourist Board's [list of small hotels](#) for more affordable inspiration.

Additional Savings Tip: Even if you don't stay at a fancy resort, you can still sample the high life. Book a spa treatment or go to dinner at a resort, and then make extra time to enjoy the vibe, the views, and the grounds.

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