



the beaten track, revisited

Step away from the tourist trail and discover a hidden side to these established *holiday hotspots*

Call them the tick-the-box destinations: places that are so well-known or such easy travel options, you've probably already been. Maybe even twice.

That doesn't mean they're not worth the journey. Even the most popular holiday destination has its hidden treasures. We've discovered the other side of five well-worn locales, from finding peace on the party island of Mykonos, to five-star luxury in family favourite Fiji. Dodge the many tourist traps and indulge in the secret side of obvious.



MYKONOS

IT'S KNOWN FOR... hedonistic pleasures and all-night dance parties on crowded beaches.

BUT TRY IT FOR... the chance to rebalance your body, mind and soul.

WHICH YOU CAN FIND AT... the Myconian Imperial Resort, a five-star hotel with its own private beach. You're a long way from Mykonos' infamous party scene. There's no seaside dancing here, just a sandy spot where you can chill out. For maximum impact, top up the beachside holiday with some yoga at one of the regular six-day retreats that take place at the hotel.

This is not the type of programme where you rise before dawn and chow down on brown rice several times a day; the first energising yoga session starts at a respectable 8.30am. After that, the day is your own – you can explore the island or have your Thalasso-therapy treatment in the hotel's spa before another relaxing yoga session in the evening.

The small group sizes (usually six to eight participants) mean you get plenty of personal attention and it's a great option for solo travellers.

Looking to inject some history into your holiday? Take a day trip to the nearby island of Delos, one of the most magically preserved sites of ancient Greece. The sacred island – birthplace of the gods Apollo and Artemis – is in superb condition, offering a chance to step back in time. If that sounds a little too floaty and tranquil, take a quick trip into town for some shopping – the hotel shuttle runs until 1am.



DIVINE INTERVENTION
Day trip to the sacred ruins of Delos when you stay at the Myconian Imperial Resort in Mykonos (above)

THE FACTS Six-night yoga retreats start at around \$1,740 (twin-share). The price includes luxury accommodation, a daily gourmet buffet breakfast and Thalasso therapy treatment, twice-daily yoga classes and wi-fi. yoga-escapes.com

into the lagoon. Otherwise, a beachside bure offers spectacular views from the bed, the freestanding bath or the loungers on your spacious deck, as well as your own plunge pool. The food is delicious, the spa is superb and if you want to do anything else, you're probably in the wrong place.

If you're looking to add some action to the indulgence, head for the Royal Davui Island Resort. With just 16 suites (all with their own private plunge pools), this adults-only resort also has a dive shop for those who like to stay active. Take a guided snorkelling tour or head out for some serious diving.

Looking for a holiday from your holiday? Day trip to the brand-new Karma Beach Club on Denarau Island, which brings a touch of Ibiza ⇨

FIJI

IT'S KNOWN FOR... budget-conscious family vacations.

BUT TRY IT FOR... five-star spoiling.

WHICH YOU CAN FIND AT... Likuliku Lagoon Resort, which has the only over-water bures – traditional thatched cottages – in Fiji. While Likuliku has a variety of luxe lodging



options to choose from, the over-water bures offer maximum bang for your holiday buck. You can watch the underwater action on the coral reef through the glass floor or climb down your private ladder

“Watch the coral reef through the glass floor or climb down your private ladder into the lagoon”



PERSONAL SPACE
Choose from beachfront or over-water bures at Fiji's super-exclusive Likuliku

