



The newly relaunched Belmont Cap Juluca resort in Anguilla

# SAFETY—THE NEW LUXURY

THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT WE ALL WANT TO TRAVEL. **BUT IS IT SAFE?**

**T**ravel has never felt as elusive, yet as essential, as it does now. Parts of the globe are temporarily off-limits—and then they're not. We're told flying is safe. Oh, wait, no it's not. Navigating the ever-changing quarantine rules seems impossible. The confusion has kept many of us grounded, cold and pasty white. How can we travel safely and responsibly? We've got a few tips and two sunny, sandy, Covid-safe destinations.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Misty Ewing-Belles, managing director at Virtuoso, a premier network of luxury travel advisors, says the company has never seen this much pent-up demand for travel and travel advice. Everyone wants to know: **Will the restaurants be open? Is it safe? Will there be anything to do when we get there?** Misty offers some guidance.

### LOOK FOR DESTINATIONS WITH STRONG INFRASTRUCTURES.

Now may not be the time to head to a rustic island with only one restaurant. **Local government support of tourism is critical.**

### ARE YOU MISSING FAMILY OR FRIENDS?

Try a travel pod. **Everyone follows the same protocol prior to travel and reunites at a safe destination.** Preferably with a beach and cocktails. You can co-create your travel plans on Virtuoso's new website [virtuoso.com/wanderlist](https://www.virtuoso.com/wanderlist).

### DON'T GET ON YOUR FLIGHT

only to find that someone has been seated right next to you due to aircraft changes. During Covid, airlines are shuffling planes to fit the passenger load. **They'll switch your seat, and it might not be the one you want.** A good travel advisor will be on top of all of those changes for you so there are no unpleasant, and unhealthy, surprises.



above: If the Four Seasons resort in Anguilla isn't one of the best places to relax and truly get away from it all, we don't know what is.

## BERMUDA BOUND

A little easier to reach are the pink sands of Bermuda. Though the island doesn't have a bubble, its strict protocol makes it a perfect and safe getaway. **All visitors must provide proof of a negative PCR test taken within five days of travel.** Bermuda then tests guests on arrival and again on the fourth, eighth and fourteenth days of their stay. If this seems needlessly complicated, we assure you they've made it simple. Bermuda has partnered with Costco to easily allow non-members to purchase at home saliva tests with guaranteed turnaround time. **For anyone close to Manhattan, OpenClear does testing exclusively for Bermuda-bound travelers one day a week.** Another good reason to visit Bermuda? The St. Regis opens next month on the sands of St. Catherine's beach.

## ANGUILLA'S BUBBLE

Jack Ezon, founder and managing partner of travel company Embark Beyond, says currently his clients' number one choice of destinations is the Caribbean island of Anguilla. **And they aren't alone. Readers of Travel and Leisure awarded Anguilla No. 1 Island in the Caribbean for the past three years.** The island calls its tourism plan "the bubble," and it's working. You can't just buy a plane ticket and pack a bikini. The entry requirements are stringent. Visitors pay an entry fee based on length of stay. They must pre-register and provide proof of insurance covering Covid-19 medical tests and hospitalization, doctor's visits, prescriptions and air ambulance service. They must also provide a negative PCR test taken within five days of arrival. If just reading this exhausted you, we get it. So does Ezon.



His team handles every detail. They connect clients with concierge doctors who administer in-home PCR tests and guarantee the turnaround time. As many clients fly private, Embark also ensures the crew has been tested. Once on the island and tucked into a villa or hotel room (our favorites: the recently relaunched Belmont Cap Juluca and the Four Seasons), it's almost like pre-Covid life. **"Guests enjoy pretty much every activity they would**

**have in prior years, except hanging out at a local dive bar," says Ezon.** How is this possible? Every visitor is tested upon arrival and doesn't leave their hotel until they get a negative result. (Usually within twenty-four hours.) After that, visitors can book activities from scuba and snorkeling to golf and dining out. Activity providers work hard to meet rigorous safety standards. Thanks to strict adherence, the island has seen a nominal number of Covid cases since it reopened to travelers.