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11/05/2008 18:42 by Sharareh

Akyarlar Beach Bodrum, Turkey

The Bodrum peninsula, located across the Aegean Sea from Greece, still has a thriving native population, as well as European vacationers and even some American ex-pats. Bodrum has plenty to recommend it, including a yacht harbor and ferry port which serve as launching points for expeditions to nearby Greek islands. Bodrum nightlife, comprised of several large discotheques, goes until dawn, and the fishing villages of Türkbükü und Gölköy are popular with local artists and actors. The best beach on the peninsula is Akyarlar, where good camping and wind-surfing is available. The powdery sand makes it popular with families and beach connoisseurs of all ages. Milas/Bodrum International airport is only 45 minutes from Istanbul by air.

Nearest Airport: Milas/Bodrum International Airport (for charter flights), Atatürk International Airport, Istanbul

Nearest Resort:

The Marmara Bodrum
Suluhasan Cad
Yokusbasi Mevkii
Bodrum PK 199, 48400
Turkey
www.slh.com

Trancoso, Brazil

Bahia Beach

Trancoso has started to garner international press lately thanks to its serene location and wide array of options for visitors. The town itself is small, and the descendants of the original inhabitants, the Pataxos Indians, still live there today. The historic central square is home to the São João Batista church, the second oldest church in Brazil, and the square comes alive at night when locals and tourists mingle. The first nine holes of Trancoso's new golf facilities are located in the Brazilian rain forest, while the final nine are located along the stunning cliffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, which actually looks green from that vantage point. Bahia Beach's rugged beauty has been enchanting Brazilians for years; now the rest of the world is starting to catch on.

Nearest Airport: Porto Seguro International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Club Med Trancoso
Fazenda Itaipe, Sn/Estrada Municipal KM 18
Trancoso, Porto Seguro
BACP 458 10-000
Brazil
www.clubmed.com

Sydney, Australia

Bondi Beach

Located on Australia's east coast, Bondi Beach's proximity to Sydney makes it one of the most popular beaches

on the continent. A series of annual activities keeps Bondi Beach hopping year-round, including Flickerfest, a short film festival in January, World Environment Day in June, and the City to Surf Race in August, a marathon that drew over 60,000 runners last year. The beach itself offers great surfing and coastal hikes, while some of Sydney's poshest hotels are a stone's throw away.

Nearest Airport: Sydney International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Swiss-Grand Resort & Spa
Cnr Campbell Parade & Beach Rd.
Bondi Beach, NSW 2026
Australia
www.swissgrand.com.au

Castelo

Albufeira, Portugal

The Albufeira coastline of the Algarve in southern Portugal is among the most picturesque in Europe, where brightly colored fishing boats manned by local fisherman make day trips from the region's many cliff-sheltered beaches. Hidden alcoves and swimming areas abound among the sandy-colored cliffs; just don't get caught when the tide comes in. Castelo beach features some of the most dramatic rock formations in Albufeira, and the cove provides a natural haven from the wind and swirling sand which can ruin other, more exposed, Portuguese beaches.

Nearest Airport: Faro International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Grand Real Santa Eulalia Resort & Hotel Spa
Praia de Santa Eulália
Albufeira, Algarve
Portugal
www.ghotw.com

Sheraton Algarve Hotel
Praia da Falesia, Apartado
P.O. Box 644
Albufeira 8200, Algarve
Portugal
www.starwoodhotels.com

China Beach

Danang, Vietnam

Located close to the Furama Resort Danang, Vietnam's first luxury resort, China Beach is enjoying a resurgence in tourist travel. Once upon a time, the beach was used by the Viet Cong as a base for military action; they practically hollowed out the nearby Marble Mountains with secret hideaways and underground tunnels. The Danang People's Committee has launched a concerted effort to rid the area of panhandlers, and today the beach is one of Asia's prettiest--and most historic. The yellow sand stretches for almost 20 miles, and the traditional round Vietnamese surf boats are one of the best ways to ride the waves.

Nearest Airport: Danang International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Furama Resort Danang
68 Ho Xuan Huong Street
China Beach, Danang
Vietnam
www.furamavietnam.com

Grace Bay Beach

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

Turks and Caicos, a collection of 40 mostly uninhabited islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, enjoys the same clear water, white sand and ever-present sun that most people associate with the Caribbean--without the perpetual tourist traffic. Although airlines are beginning to introduce direct flights from all over the world to the main island, Providenciales, there are enough options that you can spread out and feel totally alone. Grace Bay Beach gives you one reason not to leave Providenciales. Fishing, diving and sailing are all possible on this pristine stretch of white sand, and the nearby Grace Bay Club has hosted everyone from Julia Roberts to Demi Moore.

Nearest Airport: Providenciales International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Grace Bay Club
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands
British West Indies
www.gracebayclub.com

Las Minitas Beach

Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic

The resort of Casa de Campo features some of the most seriously swanky beachcombing, golfing and horseback riding around. Non-stop flights from New York on U.S. Airways or American Airlines make it very accessible, if you're willing to pay the price. But devotees say it's worth it for access to some of the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches. White sand Las Minitas Beach is no exception. La Palapa, a supervised children's area, has games and sports available, so you can take advantage of the private massage rooms.

Nearest Airport: La Romana International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Casa de Campo, La Romana
Dominican Republic
www.casadecampo.com

Main Beach

East Hampton, N.Y., United States

Here to celebrity-watch, surf, swim or sunbathe? Main Beach has something for everyone, no matter your age, sex or inclination towards water sports. If you work in Manhattan and use the word "summer" as a verb, you already know that there are many reasons to make the Hamptons your summer destination of choice--and Main Beach is one of them. Parking on weekdays is \$15, but on weekends and holidays you must have an East Hampton town parking permit. The Fourth of July is one of the best times to visit, as the East Hampton Fire Department puts on an amazing

Iran On Air :: Ø§ÙƒØ±Ø§Ù† ØœÙ† Ø§ÙƒØ±

<http://www.iranonair.com>

fireworks display.

Nearest Airport: MacArthur Airport, Long Island (for domestic flights); JFK International Airport and LaGuardia International Airport, both New York; Newark International Airport, New Jersey

Nearest Resort:

1770 House
143 Main St
East Hampton, N.Y. 11937
United States
www.1770house.com

Baker House 1650
181 Main Street
East Hampton, N.Y. 11937
United States
www.bakerhouse1650.com

Myrtos Beach

Kefalonia, Greece

The sand on this rural oasis of a beach is made of limestone pebbles of all sizes--but they're not too big for a fluffy beach towel to tame. You have to take a long, steep road (only recently paved) to access Myrtos Beach, which is a detour from the main road and might involve navigating between herds of goats. But the view once you arrive, with lush cliffs plunging into the ocean, is worth it. Keep in mind that the sun reflects off the limestone, which makes for a very hot, bright beach-going experience, and aside from a few sun beds and the public toilets, the only shelter is the clear blue water.

Nearest Airport: Kefalonia Airport (domestic flights), Athens International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Emelisse Art Hotel
Kefalonia Island
Emblissi Bay 80 84, Fiskardo
Greece
www.arthotel.gr

Haritos Villas
Lassi, 281 00 Kefalonia
Ionian Islands
Greece
www.kefaloniam.net

Nueva Andalucia

Puerto Banus, Spain

Just west of Marbella, Southern Spain's stomping ground for the best-heeled Europeans, is Puerto Banus, a small port town swamped with luxury yachts every summer and boasting more than its fair share of open-air bars, restaurants, night clubs, piano bars and discos. Luxury shopping abounds, as does people watching, if you can take your eyes off the distant mountain vistas. Nueva Andalucia is comprised of four small bays with calm water and enough space on the sand so that you never feel crowded. Lifeguards, toilets and showers are all available.

Nearest Airport: Málaga International Airport, Gibraltar Airport (U.K. charter flights only)

Nearest Resort:

Hotel Pyr
Avenida Rotary Internacional, s/n
Puerto Banús 29660, Marbella
Costa del Sol, Spain
www.hotelpyr.com

Marbella Club Hotel Golf Resort & Spa
Bulevar Principe Alfonso von Hohenlohe, s/n
29600 Marbella
Málaga, Spain
www.marbellaclub.com

Pink Sands Beach

Harbour Island, The Bahamas

A three-mile beach with truly pink sand is the most famous feature of Harbour Island in The Bahamas. The second-most famous is Pink Sands, a luxury resort comprised of 25 pastel-colored cottages dotted along the coast. Incorporating Moroccan, Indian and Balinese architecture, the cottages are located in an official bird sanctuary and have teak furniture and private baths overlooking the ocean. Repeat beach-goers include Robin Williams, Susan Sarandon and Keith Richards.

Nearest Airport: Nassau International Airport

Nearest Resort:

Pink Sands
Harbour Island
The Bahamas
www.islandoutpost.com

Plage de Pampelonne

St. Tropez, France

Plage de Pampelonne is one of the most celebrated beaches in Southern France, and for good reason. Traditionally a nude beach, it's fringed with bustling bars, cafes, hotels and clubs, including the long-running Club 55, founded in 1955 when Bridget Bardot arrived to film *And God Created Woman*. While bikinis have crept back onto about 50% of the beach's population in recent years, the northern-most tip of the beach, Plage de Tahiti, is still famous for attracting celebrities and inveterate topless tanners.

Nearest Airport: Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport

Nearest Resort:

La Tartane
Route des Salins
83990 Saint-Tropez
France
www.latartane.com

South Beach

Miami, Fla., United States

South Beach is almost 64 miles long, and this tropical den of debauchery offers spectacular scenery, with parasailing, yacht touring and scuba-diving running a close second to the activities available back on dry land. First-class luxury accommodations, designer shopping, food from all over the world and nightlife that goes until morning all offer plenty of opportunities for conspicuous consumption. Welcome to Miami!

Nearest Airport: Miami International Airport

Nearest Resort:

The Ritz Carlton, South Beach
1 Lincoln Road
Miami Beach, Fla. 33139
United States
www.ritzcarlton.com

The Shore Club
1901 Collins Avenue
South Beach, Miami, Fla. 33139
United States
www.shoreclub.com

St. Restitute

Corsica, France

With over 600 miles of coastline, the French island of Corsica is home to some of the Mediterranean's best beaches; many visitors remark that the climate feels Italian, while the cuisine is definitively French. July and August, with the summer weather at its peak, are the best months to visit. And because it's comparatively harder to get to, Corsica is less crowded with Americans and more crowded with vacationing Europeans. You'll have a hard time finding a bad beach, but for a break from the crowds try St. Restitute, a secluded and quiet cove on the northwest coast, where pine trees border the sand.

Nearest Airport: Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport, via Figari Corsica Airport

Nearest Resort:

Grand Hôtel Miramar
Route de la Corniche
20110 Propiano, Corsica
France
www.slh.com

Wailea Beach

Maui, Hawaii, United States

Huge black lava formations flank the fine golden sand of Wailea Beach on Maui Island in Hawaii, making it the perfect place for serene swimming or sunbathing. The waves are clear and big enough for experienced surfers without being intimidating for beginners, and the sunsets here are famous. Best of all, several luxurious properties have direct access to the beach, including The Four Seasons Resort and The Grand Wailea.

Nearest Airport: Honolulu International Airport, via Kahului Airport or Kapalua Airport

Nearest Resort:

The Fairmont Kea Lani Maui
4100 Wailea Alanui

Wailea, Maui, Hawaii 96753
United States
www.fairmont.com

The Four Seasons Resort Maui
3900 Wailea Alanui
Wailea, Maui, Hawaii 96753
United States
www.fourseasons.com

The Grand Wailea
3850 Wailea Alanui
Wailea, Maui, Hawaii 96753
United States
www.grandwailea.com