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How to Rent Out Four of the Most Exclusive Private Islands on Earth

From Richard Branson's Necker to the literal Kokomo, these five-star isles are happy to let you annex the entire property



Guana

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Picture this: you're laid out on a totally secluded white sand beach with an unobstructed view of the Caribbean and a drink in hand. It's quiet, with the exception of a few of your closest friends conversing nearby or your kids splashing in the waves. There's no one else around for miles, save for the employees at the resort you're staying at. In fact, there are no other guests on the entire island — just you and the company you've chosen to keep. Later, you'll go back to the resort to share a meal prepared especially for you, comprised of all the freshest ingredients the island has to offer, no reservation required. There are no lines, no crowds, no wait times and virtually no rules.

Sound like a pipe dream? Turns out it's really not ... so long as you've got the means to do it.

Private island stays were once reserved almost exclusively for the glitterati who either owned them or knew the folks who did — and to be fair, most still are. That said, because it ticks all of the post-pandemic travel boxes (Distance! Isolation! Outdoors!), island buyouts as a trend are on the rise. And why wouldn't they be? At a time when people are seeking meaningful, once-in-a-lifetime travel and, for reasons that don't require much by way of an explanation, renting an entire island in Fiji or the BVIs definitely fits that bill.

“Following a year in isolation, there has been an uptick in interest as many are in search of off-the-beaten-path destinations rooted in nature, seeing how Mother Nature — in all her resplendent glory — has the power to move and inspire, encouraging people to travel to far-flung secluded luxury destinations now more than ever,” a rep for Kokomo Island says, affirming an increase in interest for opulent yet private travel.

There’s also been a reported increase in island buyouts among people specifically wanting to travel with their close friends, family or isolation pod. And if your pod is somewhere in the vicinity of 30 people, it’s probably exponentially more convenient — and perhaps just as affordable — to just rent an island, as opposed to reserving X amount of rooms at an already-busy resort or hotel.

To help decide which island most tickles your fancy, we talked to the folks who run a few of the most exclusive options in the world — all of which are, at present, open to both standard travelers and full-site buyouts.



Kokomo

Kokomo Private Island

Kokomo *Fiji*

Located in the Fijian Islands (and not in South Florida, contradictory to what the Beach Boys may have you believe), Kokomo has recently been approved to welcome small groups of travelers to its shores by way of Fiji Airways exclusive business class or private jet company — and it’s one of the only ways to visit Fiji at present.

Kokomo Island is a 140-acre private destination with 21 standalone luxury villas and five residences, all of which amount to one resort capable of hosting up to 30 guests for a full island buyout. Generally that is how it works — guests reserve the entire island — though it is possible for a few groups to reserve multiple rooms each and stay at the same time.

On top of attracting the anticipated honeymooners and wayfaring romantics, Kokomo has also become an incredibly popular destination for extended multi-generational family stays, with the average length of stay generally around two weeks.

Right now, as a result of the pandemic, groups are capped at 12, though larger groups may be accommodated subject to the approval of Fiji's Ministry of Health and Medical Services. Bookings require a 12-night minimum stay from \$36,000 per night, and given the recent travel surge, it is suggested that travelers start making plans and reservations up to two months in advance.

For availability and to book a private island buyout, travelers can email reservations@kokomoislandfiji.com.

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