

Best Places to Visit in December

by MARK ELLWOOD



St. Barths

Tiny, tony St. Barths was one of many Caribbean islands devastated by **Hurricanes Irma and Maria** last winter. A year later, it's rebounded impressively: all 17 of its beaches are now open and many of the upscale hotels are back after major refits. **Le Toiny** has added eight new freestanding villa suites and a beachfront pool, while the two-year old **Le Barthélemy** has also added two oceanfront villas; though the iconic **Eden Rock**, which was slated to welcome visitors this season, has sadly had to postpone for another year, since it suffered such major damage. December, of course, is the island's peak season, packed with celebrities on boats and in villas, prepping to celebrate New Year's Eve at clubs like **Nikki Beach** (there's a regatta every year on December 31 to help showcase those mega yachts). Come on the weekends before Christmas, however, and you can shop the 10th edition of the **Magic of Christmas village** on the quai in capital Gustavia: expect crafts, snacks and a visit from a sunburnt Santa.