



## CURTAIN BLUFF

*Antigua, Leeward Islands*

It is possible that, as you float in the sapphire sea, gazing back at the lush green hills rising above a pristine beach, you'll wonder why you ever went on holiday anywhere other than Curtain Bluff. The all-inclusive resort has reopened after a facelift and is more fabulous than ever. Turquoise-and-white rooms have wicker furniture, enormous baths and absolutely no TV. If you want something even sexier, the four deluxe suites have infinity pools on the balcony for sunset canoodling. The charming staff spoil you rotten, bringing you treats of homemade cookies and banana bread. Their mission is to keep you in a state of utmost relaxation (in the dreamy spa) or hysterical excitement (at a moonlit banquet on the beach, with fire-dancing Adonises). Then you'll drift away each night with a belly full of gourmet Caribbean food – mahi-mahi with gnocchi, black pineapple soup – listening to the sea's gentle roar. *Abercrombie & Kent* ([abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://abercrombiekent.co.uk); 01242 386500) offers three nights from £1,495, including flights and transfers.



## MANDARIN ORIENTAL, CANOUAN

*Saint Vincent, Windward Islands*

Trust Mandarin to get it right. Its first foray into the Caribbean ticks all our super-luxe beachside boxes. White-sand beaches, tick. Dreamy colonial furnishings, tick. Spot-on service, including on-tap butlers, tick. Rooms are typically spacious, with lots of marble, leather-lined walk-in wardrobes that you want to move into and heartbreaking views of the big blue outside – all just a few steps from the beach. And then there's the food. Break-

fast is an American-style sensation (fluffy buttermilk pancakes and tropical fruit smoothies), but there are five restaurants to choose from. Lagoon Café for grilled mahi-mahi with asparagus risotto, fine European dining at Juliet (steamed black cod, banana soufflé) and Pan-Asian at Romeo. Our favourite: the Hamptons-style Turtles Bar, overlooking Godahl beach. But do drag yourself away from the food; there's also tennis, golf, hikes and catamaran trips to swim with turtles. And of course, the spa, in all its Mandarin perfection. *Inspiring Travel Company* ([inspiringtravelcompany.co.uk](http://inspiringtravelcompany.co.uk); 01244 355527) offers seven nights, full board, from £3,900, including flights and transfers.



## THE OTHER SIDE

*Eleuthera, The Bahamas*

This diminutive beach camp is the perfect antidote to preppy Harbour Island. Kids go free range, combing for conches and gnawing on pineapples, while parents plunder the honesty bar and weave their way through pumpkin vines en route to dinner. A handful of cabins line the hillside but it's the three jumbo-sized tents that are the real prize. Crafted from hardwood and canvas, they're backstage Glasto meets tropical languor (potted palms, lazy wooden ceiling fans and vintage record players) with open-air bathrooms out back. Four further tents serve as dining room, bar, games room and library, furnished with pirate finds and cast-iron chandeliers. The whole kit and caboodle is disassembled for hurricane season then put back together again. And the entire camp is solar powered. Kudos. If you can drag yourselves from the sexy saltwater pool, the pink sands and posh restaurants of Harbour Island are just seven minutes by boat, or if you want to see more of Eleuthera you'll be handed the keys to the camp's Moke buggy for a spot of open-air exploration. *Double, from £500 including breakfast* ([ontheos.com](http://ontheos.com); +1 242 808 1336).

caribbean

*Lie back, chill out, live life on island time*