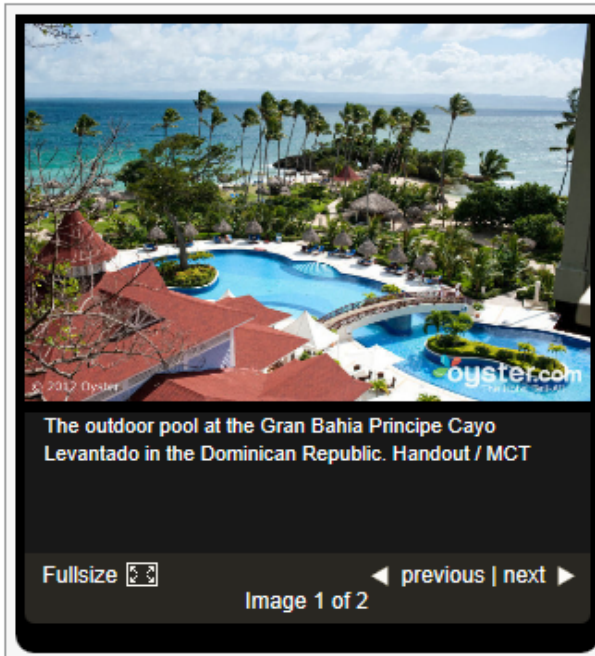


## Six gorgeous private island retreats

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Owning a private island is overrated and it's actually a lot of work — or so we've heard from our many island-owning friends. You have to deal with the astronomical taxes, the development, the upkeep — it's a full-time job (that island owners simply pay other people to do, of course). But visiting a private island? It's as great as everyone says — and we know from experience. We've stayed on some gorgeous private islands in our travels, in equally gorgeous hotels and resorts. Here are six of our favorites:

- **Gran Bahia Principe Cayo Levantado, Dominican Republic.** The pool at Cayo Levantado features a swim-up bar as well as poolside drink service.

The details: The D.R.'s only luxury resort set on its own island, the Gran Bahia Cayo Levantado offers a relaxing atmosphere for couples and families.

There are scenic beaches and beautiful pools, and we love the details in the rooms: Four-poster beds, private Jacuzzi tubs, and island-inspired artwork give them a romantic vibe.

How to get there: From the Samana airport, it's a 45-minute cab ride to the Bahia ferry station. From there, it's a 10- to 15-minute ferry ride to Cayo Levantado. In lieu of the ferry, you can also hire a private panga boat to take you from Samana. We never said getting to a private island is easy, but it's certainly worth the flight — and the drive and the boat ride. [www.bahia-principe.com/BP/Resorts/Resort/CayoLevantado](http://www.bahia-principe.com/BP/Resorts/Resort/CayoLevantado).

- **Paradise Point Resort and Spa, San Diego.** Quaint, Balinese-inspired gazebos dot the resort's 44 acres.

The details: This 462-room property near Sea World has sprawling grounds, activities — such as tennis, a putting green, water sports, and basketball — galore, five pools, a spa and bonfire pits for roasting s'mores after dark. But perhaps the highlight of this private island retreat is that it sits on a tranquil, mile-long beach.

How to get there: In Mission Bay, Paradise Point is connected to the mainland by Ingraham Street so reaching the resort is easy enough, and takes just about a 15-minute car ride from downtown San Diego.

Information: [www.paradisepoint.com](http://www.paradisepoint.com).