



▲ Swimming with squirrelfish in the British Virgin Islands.

Dive in to the BVIs

Did you know? These islands have some of the best scuba spots in the region. Kay Van Leuven, an instructor at **Sunchaser Scuba** (sunchaserscuba.com), loves **Seal Dog Rock**, off her home of Virgin Gorda. The site, ideal for all levels, teems with rays, barracuda, and sharks. She also recognizes Beyond the Reef, which designs artificial reefs to boost marine life. The nonprofit created a new "wreck" last year when it submerged the **Willy T**, a beloved barge bar damaged by Hurricane Irma, off Peter Island. And Van Leuven says the best wreck in the Caribbean is the **RMS Rhone**, a 310-foot U.K. Royal Mail ship that sank off Salt Island in 1867. **Louisa Fisher** (louisa@originaldiving.com), the dive specialist on the T+L A-List, can help plan a trip.

— REBECCA ASCHER-WALSH

BOUTIQUE BAHAMAS

While Grand Bahama and the Abacos face years of rebuilding after Hurricane Dorian, the storm left most of the archipelago's 700 islands untouched. It's an exciting time to visit, thanks to a group of recently arrived and renovated indie hotels that channel the pride of their owners. **BY HANNAH WALHOUT**

1. NEW PROVIDENCE

With a Zen aesthetic and an art-house cinema, the 30-room **Island House** is an alternative to Nassau's larger resorts. Guests have access to a private beach club nearby. the-island-house.com; doubles from \$395.

2. ELEUTHERA

You'll find the **Other Side** on one of the country's least developed islands. Less beach resort and more solar-powered safari camp, the luxe tented suites and hilltop cottages will soon be joined by three villas with

floor-to-ceiling windows facing the sea. ontheos.com; doubles from \$600.

3. SOUTH ANDROS

HGTV Canada stars Bryan and Sarah Baumlner purchased an abandoned 1960s resort and transformed it into the 24-room **Caerula Mar**, which opens this month. It's the first new hotel in nearly 20 years, and has inspired other businesses, like conch shacks and fishing charters. caerulamar.com; doubles from \$375.

4. NORTH ANDROS

After Dorian, the team behind family-run **Kamalame Cay** raised more than \$30,000 for the residents of the affected islands. And the storm didn't keep owners David and Michael King-Hew from adding two new villas in 2019, with 10 more in the works for later this year. kamalame.com; doubles from \$475.



T+L A-LIST INTEL

"St. Vincent is definitely on my radar. There are new nonstop routes from Toronto and New York, with more to come. Buccament Bay Resort, which shuttered in 2016, has fresh investment, and other luxury properties are in the works."

— CARIBBEAN SPECIALIST LOUISA GEHRING (LOUISA@GEHRINGTRAVEL.COM)



▲
Swimming with squirrelfish in the British Virgin Islands.

Dive in to the BVIs

Did you know? These islands have some of the best scuba spots in the region. Kay Van Leuven, an instructor at **Sunchaser Scuba** (sunchaserscuba.com), loves **Seal Dog Rock**, off her home of Virgin Gorda. The site, ideal for all levels, teems with rays, barracuda, and sharks. She also recognizes Beyond the Reef, which designs artificial reefs to boost marine life. The nonprofit created a new “wreck” last year when it submerged the **Willy T**, a beloved barge bar damaged by Hurricane Irma, off Peter Island. And Van Leuven says the best wreck in the Caribbean is the **RMS Rhone**, a 310-foot U.K. Royal Mail ship that sank off Salt Island in 1867. **Louisa Fisher** (louisa@originaldiving.com), the dive specialist on the T+L A-List, can help plan a trip.

— REBECCA ASCHER-WALSH

BOUTIQUE BAHAMAS

While Grand Bahama and the Abacos face years of rebuilding after Hurricane Dorian, the storm left most of the archipelago's 700 islands untouched. It's an exciting time to visit, thanks to a group of recently arrived and renovated indie hotels that channel the pride of their owners. **BY HANNAH WALHOUT**

1. NEW PROVIDENCE

With a Zen aesthetic and an art-house cinema, the 30-room **Island House** is an alternative to Nassau's larger resorts. Guests have access to a private beach club nearby. the-island-house.com; doubles from \$395.

2. ELEUTHERA

You'll find the **Other Side** on one of the country's least developed islands. Less beach resort and more solar-powered safari camp, the luxe tented suites and hilltop cottages will soon be joined by three villas with

floor-to-ceiling windows facing the sea. ontheos.com; doubles from \$600.

3. SOUTH ANDROS

HGTV Canada stars Bryan and Sarah Baumlmer purchased an abandoned 1960s resort and transformed it into the 24-room **Caerula Mar**, which opens this month. It's the first new hotel in nearly 20 years, and has inspired other businesses, like conch shacks and fishing charters. caerulamar.com; doubles from \$375.

4. NORTH ANDROS

After Dorian, the team behind family-run **Kamalame Cay** raised more than \$30,000 for the residents of the affected islands. And the storm didn't keep owners David and Michael King-Hew from adding two new villas in 2019, with 10 more in the works for later this year. kamalame.com; doubles from \$475.



T+L A-LIST INTEL

“St. Vincent is definitely on my radar. There are new nonstop routes from Toronto and New York, with more to come. Buccament Bay Resort, which shuttered in 2016, has fresh investment, and other luxury properties are in the works.”

— CARIBBEAN SPECIALIST LOUISA GEHRING (LOUISA@GEHRINGTRAVEL.COM)