

## The Escape guide

---

# 20 best deserted beaches

It is travel's Holy Grail - powder-white sand, a turquoise blue sea and not another soul in sight. But unspoilt, secret beaches do still exist, and, as Gemma Bowes reveals, you don't always have to go to the ends of the earth to find one

---

**Gemma Bowes**

The Observer, Sunday 7 May 2006

---

[Previous page](#) · [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) · [Next page](#)

---



Fakistra's turquoise lagoon on Greece's Pelion Peninsula. Photograph: Sakis Papadopoulos/Getty

## 8 Kaupoa Beach

Molokai Island, Hawaii

About 2,400 miles from the nearest continent, the Hawaiian Islands are the most isolated on the globe, the sensation of which can be heightened by visiting their hidden beaches. Once a closely guarded local secret, Kaupoa Beach on Molokai, one of Hawaii's least visited islands - has had a small increase in visitors since Molokai Ranch (00 1 808 552 2824; [www.molokairanch.com](http://www.molokairanch.com)) opened its 'tentalows', or luxury tent cabins, there, but it is still deathly quiet. Kaupoa beach has toothpaste-white coves and the surrounding landscape resembles an African savannah with its red soil. Nearby

Kahalepohaku and Kapukuwahine beaches on the southwest shore are also deserted, though the sea can be too dangerous for swimming when it's rough and there are strong currents, especially in winter. Tentals for two cost from £200 a night. Flights to Hawaii and on to Molokai cost around £750 with Continental Airlines (00 1 800 231 0856; [www.continentalairlines.com](http://www.continentalairlines.com)).

### **9 Playon de Mismaloya**

Mexico

The only way to the private Playón de Mismaloya beach, 60 miles south of Puerto Vallarta, is on the rowing boat used to cross the estuary from Hotelito Desconocido. The pristine beach extends for 40 miles in front of the hotel's stilt houses, and it is one of the country's, and indeed the world's, most important sanctuaries for turtles, which hatch between June and January. Visitors can spot birds nesting in the wetland lagoon's wild vegetation all year round. There is no electricity, so at sundown candles are lit throughout the hotel.

Doubles from £166 a night from travel intelligence.net. Flights to Puerto Vallarta cost around £700 with First Choice (0870 850 3999; [www.firstchoice.co.uk](http://www.firstchoice.co.uk)).

### **10 Chacocente Wildlife Refuge**

Nicaragua

Apart from the occasional gap-year student tagging turtles for a conservation project, you are unlikely to see anyone else on this protected spot of beach on the Pacific coast to the east of Managua, which is only accessible by horse or in a four-wheel drive. The beach is a small part of the wildlife reserve, which is dominated by the largest tract of unspoilt dry tropical forest ecosystem in Nicaragua and runs along the Río Escalante. Rare Paslama turtles lay their eggs here between July and January. There is a campsite there, but little else, see [www.jinotepenicaragua.com](http://www.jinotepenicaragua.com) and [www.intur.gob.ni](http://www.intur.gob.ni).

[Read full article](#)

[Previous page](#) · [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) · [Next page](#)

## **Ads by Google**

### **Around The World Ticket**

Your experts In RTW Airfares Since 1987. Price Your Custom Trip Now!

[www.airtreks.com](http://www.airtreks.com)

### **Santorini - Senor Zorba**

Senor Zorba Restaurant&Bar Santorini's dining destination

[www.senor-zorba.gr](http://www.senor-zorba.gr)

### **Expat? £100K UK Pension?**

Download Free Definitive Guide to QROPS and Speak to Expert Adviser.

[www.QropsGuide.Com/DownloadNow](http://www.QropsGuide.Com/DownloadNow)

guardian.co.uk © Guardian News and Media Limited 2010