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Travel

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Heading South

Exploring the quiet pleasures of the Caribbean and Latin America

Bungalows by the Beach, and Maybe a Jaguar or 2

The sheer effort of flying to destinations with few direct flights or enduring bumpy overland routes just a few clicks beyond standard tolerance often rewards the traveling faithful with fewer crowds, unpressured surfing breaks and habitats more frequented by beast than man. Expanding the tropical map in the Caribbean and Latin America, the following group of new or newly improved resorts returns the investment of time — and in some cases considerable money — with privacy, beauty and a sense of discovery. *ELAINE GLUSAC*



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PATRICK CLINE

Dominican Republic

Playa Grande Beach Club

▲ With sprawling resort developments like Casa de Campo and Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic is hardly off the radar. But the relatively sizable country sequesters pockets appealing to explorers, including the broad, beachcomber-beckoning north coast destination Playa Grande. There, the new Playa Grande Beach Club, opening in November, will offer just nine bungalows on 2,000 acres fronting a mile-long beach (management is mum on future development). The designer Celerie Kemble modeled the cottages, filled with vintage and custom furnishings, on the vernacular wood houses of the island. Each includes a full kitchen, though the central beach club has a restaurant as well as a library and outdoor pool flanked by lattice-framed cabanas. Rates from \$800. Information: playagrandebeachclub.com