

Are These the Top Five Beaches in the World?



If there's one thing you're guaranteed to think of when someone says the word "holiday," it's likely to be a beach. We can't help it, we're just hard-wired to imagine beautiful white sands being gently lapped by brilliant azure blue tropical waters and the swaying of a palm tree or two. When you're in desperate need of a vacation, relaxing on a beach is likely to be the number one picture that springs to mind.

Our little planet is full of some outstanding beaches and seafronts all over the world, from the adventurous sands of Australia to the laid-back island coves of Thailand, to the party atmosphere of Brazil. There's a beach out there for everyone, but is it possible to pick a top five? With so many to choose from it might be a tall order, but here goes nothing.



Bondi Beach, Australia

One of the most iconic stretches of sand in the world, Aussies are quite rightly proud of their famous beach in Sydney, New South Wales. It's a very popular spot for more active beachgoers, with surfing being a big draw, as well as hiking routes surrounding the sands and golf close by. Surf schools cater for those who have never ridden a wave in their lives, and whale watching is also available. Beach sports are extremely popular and a lot goes on here considering it's only 0.62 miles long.



Waikiki Beach Hawaii

In an island state known for several outstanding beaches (many of which could easily warrant a list on their own) Waikiki is the most popular. Located in the capital of Honolulu, the beach actually has several different sections – 8 to be exact – so there’s something for everyone here. It's most famous for its beach-front promenade though, with world-class dining, shopping, and nightlife to indulge in. But if you scratch the surface you'll find some hidden gems here too.



Copacabana Beach, Brazil

A beach that needs little introduction, it's arguably the most famous inclusion on our list – and not just because of Barry Manilow. Situated in Rio de Janeiro, it's one of the premier party hot-spots in the world and plays host to the colorful Mardi Gras carnival each year. It's a people watching paradise, as you mingle with all walks of life, from prodigy soccer-playing street kids to sunbathing beauties with cover girl and boy looks – it's the place to see and be seen.



Maya Bay Beach, Thailand

Perhaps better known as the beach-beach. Maya Bay is where moviemaker Danny Boyle chose as the location to film Alex Garland's debut novel *The Beach*. As you might expect, such a place needed to be paradise on earth – and indeed it is, providing you get there before the crowds do. Its stunning white sands in a dramatic rocky inlet are closed off from the world and away from the rat race. Don't judge it based on the number of people that visit – it's still jaw-droppingly beautiful regardless.



Grace Bay, Turks and Caicos Islands

Not having a beach in the Caribbean Sea/Bahamas region would have been a travesty, but this one is actually in the Atlantic Ocean. The Turks and Caicos Islands is a British territory with some outstanding beaches, the jewel in the crown being Grace Bay. One of the largest coral formations in the world keeps this area sheltered, which makes for pristine white sands and incredible snorkeling. There's a reason it's often dubbed the best beach in the world.

Too Close to Call

Perhaps instead of the best beaches, they should be called the most famous ones instead. Choosing the best beaches in the world is an impossible task, as there are so many that offer different strokes for different folks. Have your say and tell us which beach you think should have a place on the list.

