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The 5 Coolest Places to Go in 2014 (PHOTOS)

Posted: 01/06/2014 3:28 pm

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A new year is upon us, and you know what that means -- time to plan your 2014 vacation, of course! And you, being the trendsetter that you are, are planning to go to somewhere on the cutting edge. Well, we're here to help. This year is an especially good time to visit these five destinations, which have new growth, new tourism offerings, or special events happening only in 2014. Check 'em out!

- Kelsey Blodget, Oyster.com

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Nicaragua

Why Now: Nicaragua, beloved by backpackers and surfer bums, offers many of the same splendors that draw travelers to its neighbor to the south, Costa Rica — lush rainforest, beautiful white-sand beaches, volcanoes, and rich wildlife — but it is far less developed. That is starting to change, however; 2013 saw the opening of the super-exclusive luxury property Mukul, and it's possible that this diamond in the rough will be getting a lot more polish in the coming years. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but if you like off-the-beaten path adventure travel — and discovering destinations before they fully "arrive" — now is the time to go.

Where to Stay: [Aqua Wellness Resort](#)

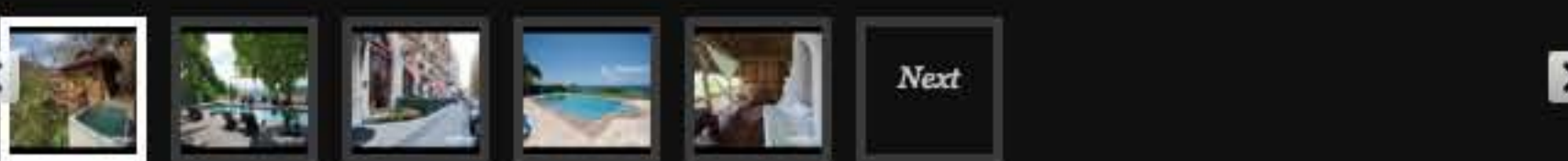
Aqua Wellness Resort is a rustic-luxe retreat set into a hillside overlooking Redondo Bay on Nicaragua's Pacific coast. The resort has eco-friendly design, lush vegetation (expect to spot wildlife such as howler monkeys and iguanas), and rooms adorned with lots of natural wood; some units include plunge pools and stunning ocean views.

[See more photos of Aqua Wellness Resort, Nicaragua >>](#)



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