



The World's Best Hidden Beaches



Alicia Rivas

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Majagual

The jumping-off point: San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua

How to get there: There are no public buses to this unspoiled stretch where there are two bays, open for freestyle snorkel and surfing. Your best shot of reaching it is by renting a 4x4 from town or hiring a private driver for \$25. Once you're with wheels, you'll see wooden arrows just before the Pali supermarket in town pointing toward the right, says Alicia Rivas, a PR exec who discovered the beach on a New Year's trip back in 2006. Turn down this short paved path, which will lead you to the private (and super-fancy) "Pepesca" homes. From there you'll continue on the unpaved road for about 15 minutes before you come across wooden signs pointing left toward the pacific beaches of Majagual, Maderas, and Marsella. Once you turn left, you'll see the signs again. Don't let them confuse you, Rivas warns. To reach Majagual, turn right toward Morgan's Rock Hotel. Keep going until you hit the beach.

Tip: "Drive slow on the unpaved roads," warns Rivas. "You don't want to get a flat!"

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Sara Lieberman
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When Leonardo DiCaprio stood on "The Beach" he'd discovered in the film version of Alex Garland's novel of the same name, his blue eyes glistened against the turquoise Thai sea. Travelers and beach bums alike were taken by Leo's big baby blues, but also by the unspoiled piece of heaven he'd happened upon after following a hand-drawn map over a cliff and through some unmarked brush.

Now, 15 years after that film's release, that beach — on Ko Phi Phi Island off Thailand's west coast — is as big a tourist trap as any, leaving many who visit struggling to relax in peace without someone shoving a selfie stick in their sightline. Thankfully, there are plenty of other unspoiled sandy shores ripe for toe-tingling. Here are 10 worth the trek:



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