

# 6 Remote Private Islands Where You Can Vacation Like a Royal

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Photographed by Patrick Demarchelier, *Vogue*, December 2004

When even the most remote overwater bungalow just won't do, true solitude-seekers chart a course for private islands. The earliest rumblings of the island craze began in 1938 when wealthy aviator Charles Lindbergh purchased Illiec, off France's Brittany coast. Next up, in the '60s, parts of the Maldives were sold off to affluent people in search of a "Treasure Island" fantasy. Then, in 1978, Sir Richard Branson acquired the now-famous Necker Island. And most recently, there's Leonardo DiCaprio's forthcoming eco-resort in Belize: Blackadore Caye, a Restorative Island, which is slated to open in 2018.

These days, the idea of owning a private island doesn't seem quite as far-fetched as it used to. Even HGTV has a show—*Island Hunters*—dedicated to the topic. And if you're not finding any islands to your liking, you can always make one. Amillarah Private Islands offers the opportunity to completely customize a man-made "island" that you can then locate anywhere in the world.

But if owning an island is a bit too much commitment, why not give a private-island stay a whirl? Here, six getaways where you'll have the run of the island all to yourself, or where there are so few people, you may as well be totally solo.



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### North Island, Seychelles

This small Indian Ocean island off the coast of Kenya recently hosted both George and Amal Clooney and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. While there is a world-class spa, gourmet food, and all manner of activities—diving with conservationists, cycling, astronomy lessons, and hiking miles of trails—it's the privacy that is the biggest draw. There are only 11 villas on the expansive island, and for true solitude-seekers, it's possible to rent the whole property for a private event.