

Condé Nast Traveller

Best Places to Visit in February

Don't worry - it's not all about Valentine's Day

There are ample reasons to plan a trip in February: shucking off the doldrums of a January detox perhaps, or taking a romantic Valentine's Day-inspired break. It's also the month in which Mardi Gras most often falls, but don't limit yourself to New Orleans—towns around the world celebrate Carnival in their own distinctive, travel-worthy ways. Here are our picks for the six best places for a vacation in February, whether you're looking for a dose of winter sun or the chance to eat your way through Tuscany.



Mustique

In the latest season of *The Crown*, Helena Bonham-Carter's Princess Margaret jets off to a sun-soaked locale that she would later become synonymous with: Mustique. Her friend Colin Tennant, 3rd Baron Glenconner, had bought the island in 1958, and Margaret had stopped off there during her honeymoon cruise. As her marriage fell apart, she took refuge there, and it was Margaret's royal patronage that helped turn this island in St. Vincent & the Grenadines into one of the Caribbean's toniest getaways. Basil Charles has owned and operated its best drinking den, Basil's, since the princess's heyday, and this month, his just-refurbished joint will host the 25th anniversary of its Blues Festival (past performers have included Jon Bon Jovi and Mick Jagger). There's only one hotel here, **the Cotton House**, so the best way to stay is by renting one of the 75 private villas that are offered via the **Mustique Company** (where, incidentally, you'll also find Basil's). Don't forget to bring some juicy poolside reading, too: Anne Glenconner, Tennant's wife and another character in *The Crown*, has just published her delicious autobiography, *Lady in Waiting*, with countless stories of Mustique's fabulous heyday.