

Top 100 holiday beach houses: the Caribbean

Is there a more idyllic part of the world to relax in a beach house? From Havana to Grenada, here are six of the best

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At La Casa de Sarah in Havana this jetty from the end of the garden terminates in a thatch-topped platform.
Photograph: markreadphotography.co.uk

La, Casa de Sarah, Havana, Cuba

Good for a vintage house party

Sleeps 4-6

Cost €1,050 a week

In the 1930s, Santa Fe, nine miles west of Old Havana, was a fishing village and holiday spot for wealthy Habaneros. One family erected this simple wooden cottage here, with a wide veranda and a long garden overlooking the sea. Eighteen years ago when the current owner, Sarah, acquired it, it was in a state of near ruin. She painted it cream with racing green and added a jetty from the end of the garden that terminates in a thatch-topped platform with oversized bamboo furniture and hung with hammocks. It's within swimming distance of the restaurants at Marina Hemingway across the way.

The house is furnished with family heirlooms: vast bulbous wardrobes, ornate iron beds and antique dressing tables – but this is Cuba, so the house is run down. Don't expect Egyptian cotton, fancy toiletries and towels. The paint is chipped and fading; the garden paths are deteriorating from the lashing of hurricanes and the salty air. For the third bedroom, a curtain takes the place of a door, so the house may better suit two couples.