

7 LIFE-CHANGING TRIPS

(START IN SAINT LUCIA, P. 34)

Islands[®]

Enthusiast Travel Since 1981

FIJI

WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE
ALWAYS SMILING?

P. 36

JAPAN

EAT, DRINK, SLEEP AND LIVE
(A LOT) LONGER

P. 48

GRENADA

WALK WITH THE HEALTHIEST
MAN WE'VE EVER MET

P. 55



OR
JUST DISAPPEAR HERE

P. 67



Stay a week or for good:
emeraldislerealty.com



CAPT. GEORGE ASWAD
YEARS ON ISLAND
10
MOVED FROM
Brooklyn, NY

MY TAKES

1. I made better money up North, but my wife and I wanted a safer and cleaner environment to raise our daughter. Moving here is the smartest thing we've done, by far.
2. It sounds strange, but this is like any remote island where it takes time to blend in. Still, these are the friendliest people I've ever met.
3. Look at the shells on the beach (points out perfect conchs and sand dollars). That's how you know it's still quiet here. Nobody's picked through them.

TO BUY OR TRY

A SAND CASTLE (GIANT HOME ON THE BEACH) IS \$1.8 MILLION TO BUY, \$3,600+ A MONTH TO RENT. HOMES OFF WATER ARE \$350,000+ OR \$700 WEEKLY.

LIVE ON

THE SOUTHERN OUTER BANKS

BEST FOR: BEACH-LOVING FAMILIES WITHOUT MAUI-TYPE CASH

Our family found this faraway escape in a place known as *North Car-o-li-na*. We knew about Asheville, but nothing about Emerald Isle, a sandy dot across a 1-mile bridge from the Carolina coast. **DAILY SNAPSHOT:** The coffeepot has been emptied by 7 a.m. Two deer graze in the front yard. A dog rides a paddle board in the ocean. Wild horses gallop on a neighboring island. And three kids trot to the water with surfboards. "We're seeing a pattern of younger families moving here," says Mike Crews, owner of Hot Wax Surf Shop. "They're looking for fresh air, no traffic and good schools that you don't need to pay tuition for." Also, apparently, a place where no one sleeps in. **MOVER BEWARE:** What makes "the Crystal Coast" appealing is also its biggest challenge — only a few mom-and-pop businesses interrupt the forests and dunes. It's nothing like the touristy northern Outer Banks (nearly 200 miles by car), and most jobs are outside the island cocoon, meaning back over the bridge. Which actually points to an advantage, because when we need gas or groceries, we drive 10 minutes to the mainland and save a bundle. Can't do that on Maui.

LESSONS LEARNED BEST ISLANDS FOR ORGANIC FARMING: HAWAII, NEW ZEALAND, SAN JUAN ISLANDS