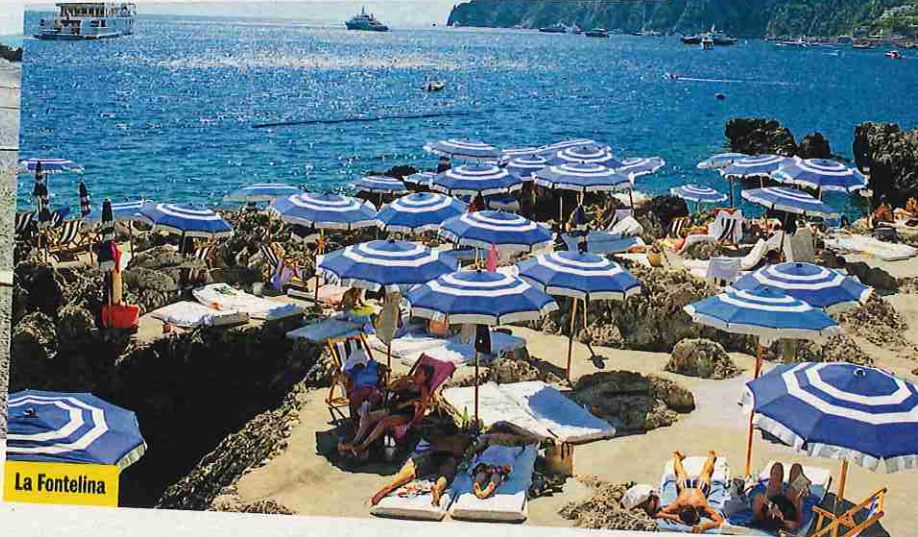


# THE 20 BEST BEACH CLUBS



Maxx Royal Kemer Resort



La Fontelina

## 1. PuroBeach Illetas, Mallorca

Spain's glitziest beach-club chain has posts in Barcelona, Marbella and two on Mallorca: Palma and now Illetas. A standard sunbed costs £53 per day, but the real status symbol is one of the five "Balinese daybeds", wooden four-posters on the beach, which have a minimum spend of £106 and come with a tray of fruit, smoothie shots and aftersun products. For £283, it also comes with a bottle of bubbly on ice. A masseuse is available.

## 2. Le Club 55, St Tropez

Sir Elton John might pop in for lunch. Sir Philip Green may turn up in his yacht. Club 55 on St Tropez's Pampelonne beach

has for decades been one of the most star-studded spots on the French Riviera. The most popular order is a glass of Provençal rosé and a £26 plate of raw vegetables. A beach chair costs £35 a day with no towel.

## 3. Chambao Talamanca, Ibiza

Chambao is the beach *chiringuito* of the Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay. A poolside daybed costs £266 and includes a bottle of Dom Pérignon or rosé, Fiji water and a fresh fruit platter.

## 4. Zero Gravity, Dubai

A legendary party destination among the coastal skyscrapers. The beds are packed with wealthy Emiratis and expats.

Service includes pool boys handing out free ice creams and a personal cooling-mist service. DJs play all day.

## 5. La Fontelina, Capri

Not the most expensive, but possibly the chicest on the list. Blue and white striped umbrellas slope down the rocks to the swimming spot, considered one of Capri's finest. It's £34 for entry, with a sunlounger and towel.

## 6. Maxx Royal Kemer Resort, Turkey

Near Antalya, the modern wooden cabanas on Long Beach have sofas, a butler service and two sunbeds on a private deck. They are bookable for £168 a day.

## 7. Assaona, Mallorca

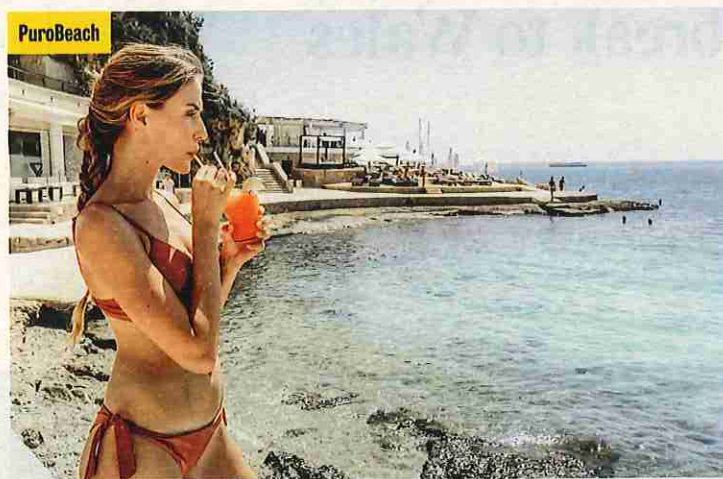
Less flashy than other beach clubs on the island, Assaona wants to be as bohemian as it is exclusive. The name comes from the Spanish verb *assaonar* – to season something to make it just right. Anchovy fillets with bread cost £14. They call it "gastrobeach food".

## 8. Gecko Beach Club, Formentera

To book a sunbed at Gecko, you have to buy a full wellness experience. There are three-day passes on offer, ranging from £137 to £235, each with a combination of private yoga lessons, kayaking and massages. The actual bed will cost you another £150.



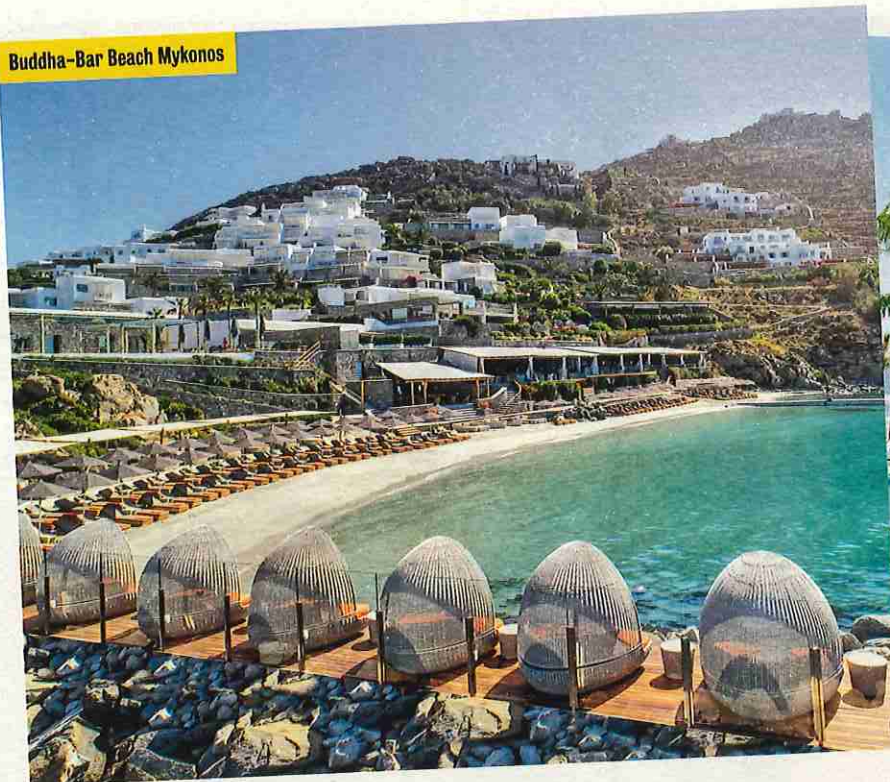
Chambao Talamanca



PuroBeach



**Buddha-Bar Beach Mykonos**



#### 9. Buddha-Bar Beach Mykonos

One for the really big spenders. Anyone can rent a big bed by the swimming pool at Santa Marina Hotel if they spend £1,000. Cold mineral water, towels and fresh-cut fruit are included.

#### 10. Coco, Tulum, Mexico

White decking, hammocks and a DJ playing Café del Mar-esque chill-out beats. It's the daytime hangout to see and be seen among Tulum's luxury-loving yogis.

#### 11. Hotel Il Pellicano, Tuscany

You may recognise the beachside pool at Hotel Il Pellicano from a Seventies Slim Aarons photo. It still has that old glamour feel: yellow and white striped sunbeds and white parasols surround the cliff-top pool.

#### 12. Carpe Diem Beach, Marinkovac, Croatia

This notorious nightspot, a water-taxi ride from the big party island of Hvar, is by day a chilled-out beach club with cabanas. There's also a pool bar, sea bar, lounge bar, VIP terrace, wellness area and volleyball court.

#### 13. Nammos, Mykonos

Possibly the place in the world where the quality of sunbed is taken most seriously. They're made from mahogany and have

cashmere-covered mattresses. This is resort-chic heaven: the look and feel is supposed to evoke life aboard a luxury yacht. By night, house music takes over and the party is champagne-fuelled.

#### 14. Ftelia, Mykonos

All white stone walls and burnt orange Sixties furniture, Ftelia is a place for design lovers. Big-name techno DJs are booked for late-night dancing in the sand. A bed costs £35 for a day.

#### 15. Mistura at Esencia Hotel, Tulum

Under a giant palm-frond canopy on the riviera's Xpu-Ha beach, day-trippers eat Peruvian-Japanese fusion cooking by

El Bulli graduate Dimitris Katriveis. Gwen Stefani and Dita Von Teese are fans.

#### 16. Basil's Bar, Mustique

The fabled thatch-roofed Basil's Bar on the Caribbean Sea has recently been refurbished by Philippe Starck and has a Gordon Ramsay disciple in the kitchen. It's where billionaires, Hollywood and Caribbean fishermen meet. The kind of place the rich call "charming". Mick Jagger and Kate Moss love it.

#### 17. The Peligoni Club, Zakynthos

This cliff-top club overlooking the Ionian Sea is members only and costs £315 for a week during

the summer. There are water sports, free yoga and Pilates sessions and, in September, the annual House Party music festival.

#### 18. Nikki Beach, Marbella

Nikki Beach, possibly the most famous beach club in the world, has become the mark of a billionaire's holiday destination. It has outposts in 14 locations including Monaco, Monte Carlo, St Tropez and St Barts. The clubs specialise in exorbitant sashimi platters, overpriced cocktails and tabletop dancing.

#### 19. Shellona, St Barts

The sunbeds at Shellona are so coveted that people arrive for lunch at 10am. It's £44 for a sunlounger, whence you can order a £27 green salad from the Greek restaurant. Includes a beach-boy service, umbrella and towels.

#### 20. Dream Beach Club, Phuket

On the otherwise tranquil west coast of the island, Dream Beach is a beacon of bling: there are crisp white beds, neon lights, DJs and – most importantly – varying levels of exclusivity. The cheapest option is a bed by the pool for £260 a day and the most expensive a £440 VIP cabana. Pad thai will set you back £36.

MONIQUE RIVALLAND AND SIDONIE WILSON

**Nikki Beach**



**Hotel Il Pellicano**

