



Beachside bungalows at Cocoperle Lodge, in French Polynesia, open the door to local culture.

CHECKING IN

The Guesthouse Alternative

Go small at these three hot spots known for big resorts.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Cocoperle, Ahe Atoll, Tuamotu Islands

Honeymooners head to French Polynesia's all-inclusive resorts, but a growing number of pensions are offering traditional lodgings and a chance to learn about local life. Cocoperle and 19 other pensions have even partnered with Air Tahiti Nui to offer packages that include airfare. Go fishing, visit a pearl farm, and then retire to one of Cocoperle's four bungalows fragrant with flowers. From \$153 per person per night. www.cocoperlelodge.com

RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO

Hotel La Semilla, Playa del Carmen In the midst of the Riviera Maya's busy tourist scene, this nine-room inn feels like a private hacienda. The sandy Caribbean beach is just two blocks away. Owners Alexis Schärer and Angie Rodriguez hope guests will feel at home—if only home came with warm Mexican sunshine, a garden hammock swinging under copal trees, an outdoor terrace with panoramic ocean and jungle views, and chocolates on your pillow. From \$200. www.hotellasequilla.com

MALDIVES

TME Guesthouses, Dhigurah Island, South Ari Atoll Famed for fabulous beaches and glamorous resorts that cater to the likes of Kate and Will, the Indian Ocean nation recently legalized village-based lodging, including this 17-room inn with its simple rooms and open-air dining. Spend the day watching whale sharks or swimming with manta rays, then relax on a *jolie* (the ubiquitous Maldivian version of a park bench) to socialize with the locals at sunset. From \$50. www.tme.mv —DIANE SELKIRK