



● W Retreat & Spa, Vieques has a chilled-out 'living room', not a lobby

flown in a small, propeller-driven plane before could be forgiven for thinking they had stepped into a Caribbean Bond movie.

Vieques is a small island (population: around 10,000; traffic lights: zero) and development is restricted which means its beaches really are unspoilt. Wild horses roam the roads and visitors will occasionally encounter a dog or cat warming itself on the ground, adding to the languorous pace of island life.

A must-see attraction on Vieques is Mosquito Bay, or "Bio-Bay" where the waters are filled with micro-organisms that glow when disturbed. Fish leave glowing trails and the propellers of the tourist boat cause the water to light up. With a clear, starlit sky overhead, it makes for a truly memorable experience.

Where to stay

If you're going to enjoy all this you'll need somewhere stylish to rest your head.

Weary travellers looking for somewhere convenient after a long flight might want to make for the Sheraton Puerto Rico. It's handy for the airport and old town, has fabulous views and there are plenty of dining options.

the facts

- Ed Harris was a guest of the Puerto Rico Tourist Board and flew with British Airways, which offers return flights into San Juan, ex-Gatwick from £477 (www.ba.com).
- Operators providing packages include Kenwood Travel,

Other travellers after a bit of boho luxury might fancy the W Retreat & Spa, which sits on the northern, Atlantic coast. The vibe here is truly mellow and the villas are a real treat, with cool tiled floors and acres of space.

For a touch of style, head to the Caribe Hilton, the first Hilton hotel to be built outside mainland US.

Built in 1949, the Caribe retains some of the glamour of that era. It is also said the Pina Colada was invented here and the lobby bar is a fine spot to try one of these rum and coconut creations.

Families looking for an all-in-one resort, with everything from a water park to golf course, might want to look at the El Conquistador which has 980 rooms, covers 500 acres and has its own island which is accessible by ferry.

You can even advance your education at the classes and seminars the hotel lays on. Thanks to a tasting, I'm now an authority on white, dark and sipping rums.

"That one? That's 12 years old and is like a good Scotch whisky. Delicious!" says my tutor. He's not wrong.

And yes, officer, that is a litre of three-star Ron del Barralito in my luggage.

which offers a seven-night, two-centre stay including three nights in Caribe Hilton and four in W Vieques, both on room-only basis and including return BA flights ex-Gatwick and internal flights to Vieques Island, from £1,599. Visit www.kenwoodtravel.com.

- For more destination information, visit www.seepuertorico.co.uk.

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