

Miami Herald

TRAVEL

A Professional Travel Writer Dishes On Her Top Five Places To Go in 2026

By **Angela Caraway-Carlton**

Updated December 22, 2025 3:54 PM |  Gift Article



Aerial view of O2 Beach Club & Spa in Barbados, where rooftop pools, oceanfront views and an award-winning spa make it a standout Caribbean escape for 2026. *O2 Beach Club & Spa*

At the end of each year, I skip resolutions and instead make a list of places I aspire to visit. In 2026, my sights are set on checking off all 50 U.S. states — I have six more to go — and adding to my roster of more than 50 countries visited.

The upcoming year is a big year for America, as we celebrate the most important milestone in our country's history — 250 years of American Independence on July 4, 2026. FIFA World Cup mania will also sweep through the U.S., Canada and Mexico from June to July, so I'd love to be part of the soccer excitement. There are also new hotels and a super-luxe hotel branded yacht that I'm excited about, and under-the-radar destinations to discover.

Find Tropical Bliss In Barbados

Living in South Florida, I'm blessed to be a quick hop away from some of the best Caribbean islands. The one that always seems to escape me is Barbados, but I've designated 2026 as the year to go (especially with direct flights from the U.S. — including a nonstop from Miami to Bridgetown). American Airlines currently offers direct service between Miami and Grantley Adams International Airport, making it easier than ever to reach the island. There are also direct flights between Barbados and New York and Charlotte. As of May 2025, there are new non-stop Delta flights from Atlanta to Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport. When it comes to choosing a stay, I have my eye on [O2 Beach Club & Spa](#), a luxury boutique all-inclusive resort with rooftop infinity pools, killer ocean views, and award-winning [Acqua Spa](#).



A serene treatment room at Acqua Spa inside O2 Beach Club & Spa, where ocean views set the tone for relaxation. *O2 Beach Club & Spa*

And if “noctourism” is on your 2026 radar, the resort’s resident cosmologist leads evening programs where he schools guests on the night sky and offers a closer look through his telescope. Plan a visit around main events like the celebrated regatta, Barbados Sailing Week (BSW) from January 15-22, 2026, and the Barbados Food & Rum Festival in the fall.



A modern guest room at O2 Beach Club & Spa, designed with clean lines and a coastal color palette inspired by Barbados. *O2 Beach Club & Spa*