

# Private Islands Of The Rich & Famous

If you've ever dreamed of owning a private island (who hasn't?), then feast your eyes on this collection of beauties. We've also included some cheeky tips to bagging an invite to these exclusive destinations and some more realistic Airbnb alternatives for those of you desperate to have an island to yourselves.

## The world's most expensive island!

**Lanai Island**  
Location: Hawaii

**Price tag: £469M**

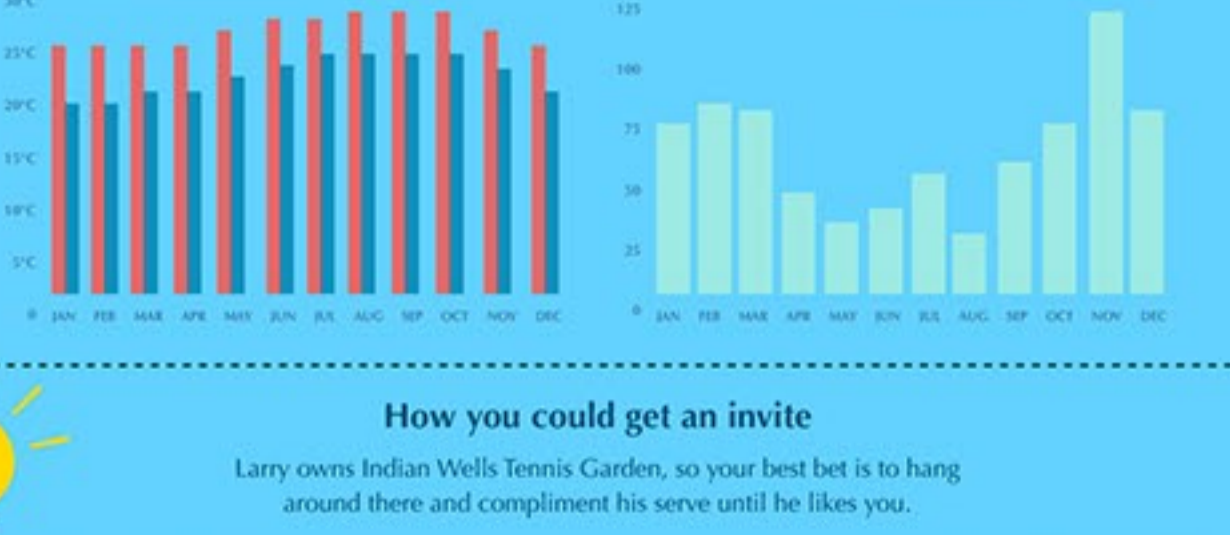
How many square feet that would buy you in Mayfair, London:  
**450,000**

**Size**  
90,000 acres  $\approx$  68,000 American football fields

**Owner:** Larry Ellison *CEO of Oracle Corporation*

Larry is the 5th richest person in the world and owns 98% of the island, which technically means it's not completely private. He plans to invest £384m to develop the island's infrastructure.

It's 17% bigger than the County of London



**How you could get an invite**  
Larry owns Indian Wells Tennis Garden, so your best bet is to hang around there and compliment his serve until he likes you.

**Blackadore Caye**  
Location: Belize

**Price tag: £1.35M**

**Size**  
104 acres  $\approx$  76 American football fields

**Owner:** Leonardo DiCaprio

Very close to Belize's famous barrier reef, DiCaprio has plans to turn the island into an ecofriendly resort. It will include private villas, spas, restaurants and swimming pools. It's due to be completed in 2018.



**How you could get an invite**  
Leo is a big environmentalist, so try offering to count indigenous species on the island while you're there.

**Necker Island**  
Location: British Virgin Islands

**Price tag: £207M**

**Size**  
74 acres  $\approx$  31 American football fields

**Owner:** Richard Branson

The entrepreneur bought this island in 1979, just six years after starting the Virgin group. Although it suffered damage after a fire in 2011 it is still a private, luxurious getaway that he regularly rents out to celeb pals.



**How you could get an invite**  
Sir Richard Branson loves supporting people doing impressive feats, so try saying you could do with a week's peace before your 'round the world rowing'.

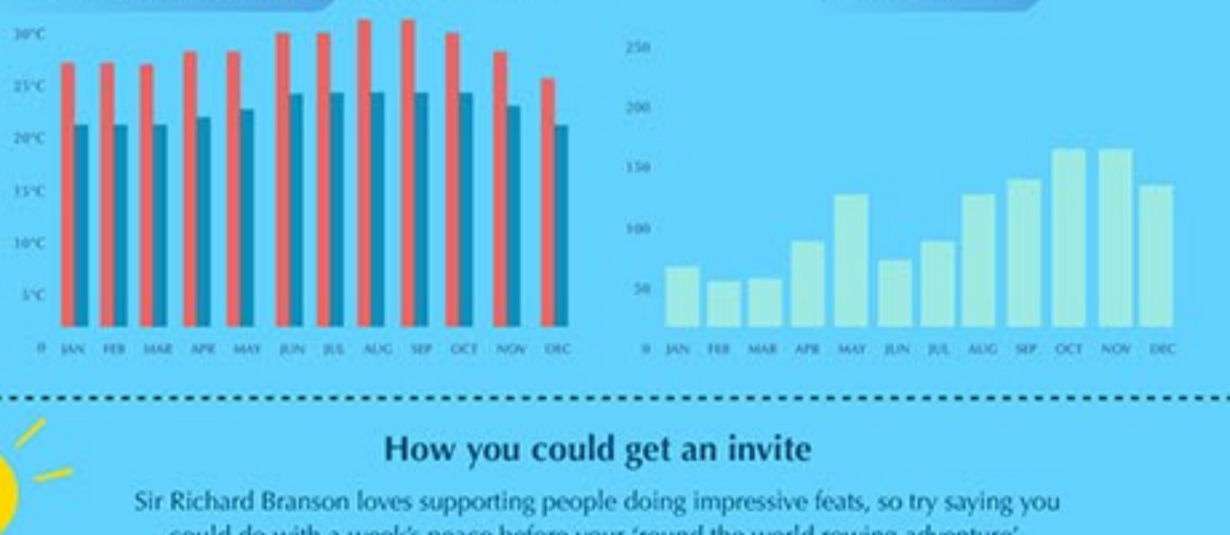
**Skorpios Island**  
Location: Greece

**Price tag: £146M**

**Size**  
74 acres  $\approx$  31 American football fields

**Owner:** Ekaterina Rybolovlev

Ekaterina is the daughter of Russian billionaire Dmitry. She acquired the island in 2013, fighting off stiff competition from Bill Gates, Giorgio Armani and Madonna. But you could say that this is the island that started the celeb fascination for owning private islands. It once belonged to Aristotle Onassis, who wed former United States First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy there in 1968. In fact, the pink house built there especially for Jackie remains largely untouched.



**How you could get an invite**  
Bit of a long shot, but as she's a keen equestrian brush up your riding skills, enter some competitions and see if you can make a connection that way.

**Mago Island**  
Location: Fiji

**Price tag: £12M**

**Size**  
5436.32 acres  $\approx$  4118 American football fields

**Owner:** Mel Gibson

The controversial film star purchased Mago Island in 2005. This was much to the displeasure of descendants of the original inhabitants, who had been displaced in the 19th Century. There is no port on the island and the only way to get there is to land on a dirt airstrip.



**How you could get an invite**  
Tell him he'll always be the best Mad Max.

## Can't afford to buy? Give Airbnb a try!

Three private islands you could have all to yourself, for a while at least.

**Bird Island**  
Placencia, Belize

Bird Island is actually situated inside a coral reef, and is a popular choice for honeymooners and those who love to snorkel.

**Cost** From **£312** per night per guest  
**Accommodates** 4 guests

**Private island in Hvaler**  
Hvaler

An island for those of you who want adventure rather than time to sun worship. This house has no running water and is completely off grid, but does come with its own boat.

**Cost** From **£183** per night per guest  
**Accommodates** 4 guests

**Urraca Private Island Eco-Lodge**  
Panama

This mangrove island paradise redefines eco-tourism. You and your guests will be joined by the twelve cheeky monkeys that live on the island. There is no actual land on the island, so be prepared to spend a lot of time snorkelling.

**Cost** From **£125** per night per guest  
**Accommodates** 14 guests

**Sources**  
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