



The Piscinas das Marés are the work of Álvaro Siza Vieira, Portugal's most revered contemporary architect. —Getty Images

### Queen's Baths, Eleuthera, Bahamas

**C**limber up the rocky hillside on this laid-back Bahamian island to find the series of shallow, sun-warmed pools known locally as the "Queen's Baths" or (the slightly less fancy) "hot tubs." Visit at low or medium tide to spend an hour or two soaking, splashing and looking for shells as the navy-blue Atlantic churns below. Just a half-mile away is the famous Glass Window Bridge, where the island be-

comes so skinny you can stand on the cliff and see the startling contrast between the choppy Atlantic to your right and the peaceful aquamarine Caribbean to your left.

### Tunnels Beaches, Devon, UK

**T**iptoe through a series of dim cliff tunnels, hand-hewn by Welsh miners in the early 1800s, to reach these hidden beaches. At the "ladies beach" (though coed now for

more than 100 years), a tidal pool appears for three hours before and after low tide. The pool's retaining wall was man-made by the same miners using boulders and lime mortar. In the height of the Victorian era, ladies "took the waters" here in private horse-drawn wooden bathing machines that were rolled into the ocean to protect their modesty. Before that, the deeply furrowed sea cliffs were once used by smugglers and fugitives. Don't expect any sugar-white sands; these beaches are pure English pebble – slippery, chilly and delightful.

### To Sua Ocean Trench, 'Upolu Island, Samoa

**F**rom above, this gemstone-green swimming hole looks like a giant's eye blinking up from the lava landscape of Samoa's 'Upolu Island. The 30-metre-deep pool is accessible by a tall and slightly terrifying wooden ladder, though the brave (or foolhardy) simply jump. The water here is so clear you can see fish flitting far below. The trench is fed by an underwater lava tunnel that leads out to the South Pacific – skilled divers can swim through it, but all levels of swimmer should be aware of the undertow. The edge of the hole drips with jungle foliage, which opens into manicured seaside gardens with picnic areas and a small swimming beach beyond.

### Bondi Icebergs Pool, Sydney, Australia

**B**uilt into the cliffs just above the crashing Tasman Sea, the Bondi Baths at the edge of Sydney's most famous beach have been iconic for more than a century. Anyone is welcome to take a dip in the lap pool or the adjacent kiddie pool, but to become a member of the Bondi Icebergs winter swimming club you'll have to commit to swimming three Sundays out of four during the chilly months – for five years! Because the pools are concrete, the water here is actually colder than the sea, and in rougher weather you might get pummelled by a rogue wave. Nothing like a soothing dip, eh!?

An aerial view of the inlets off Brazil's Porto de Galinhas beach.— Getty Images

