Last-Minute Presidents’ Day Getaways

Memorial Day and Labor Day get all the good marketing. How else do you explain the fact that Presidents’ Day weekend sneaks up on us every year before we’ve made solid plans? To break this vicious cycle, we brainstormed a handful of destinations (whether you’re coming from the West Coast, the Midwest, or the East Coast) that don’t require much in the way of strategy or a long-haul flight to get there. Can we get an amen?

FROM THE EAST COAST

Faena Miami Beach

TRAVEL TIME:
A three-and-a-half-hour flight from New York or Boston.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
A spin-off of Alan Faena’s beloved, eccentric Buenos Aires hotel, Faena Hotel Miami Beach is a reimagining of the 1947 Saxony building, which was an early lavish Miami hotel (Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra, and the like performed there). It blends old-school glam with a vibrant South American vibe, richly decorated in ruby red and cool teal and turquoise blues, with Art Deco touches and serious animal-print accents throughout. Alan Faena collaborated with film director and producer Baz Luhrmann and his wife, Academy Award-winning costume designer Catherine Martin, on the design. The expansive hall lobby (“the cathedral”) is lined with gold-leaf columns and floor-to-ceiling murals by Argentinian artist Juan Gatti. (Faena’s collaborator list reads like a who’s who of the arts and entertainment world, and the result is not unlike a Baz Luhrmann movie set.) The rooms, which begin around $700 a night, are generously sized, with the suites bordering on enormous. And the spa is outstanding, as is Francis Mallmann’s Los Fuegos restaurant.