EDGE OF THE WORLD

IT’S TIME TO GO BIG
WE’RE IN A BIT OF A PICKLE
Take a swing at this fast-growing sport on your next vacation.

With its convivial energy, shallow learning curve, and fast pace, pickleball – a combination of tennis, badminton, and Ping-Pong that’s played with wooden paddles and a plastic, Wiffle Ball-like ball – has emerged as the hottest sport in the U.S. Former tennis pro Matthew Manasse loved it so much, he left his job as a women’s pro circuit coach to pursue it full-time. Now he’s nationally ranked and known as “the pickleball coach to the stars,” training everyone from Matthew Perry to Larry David. “The switch was a no-brainer for me, as tennis skills get harder to sustain as one ages,” says Manasse. “But anyone can get into pickleball, even without a tennis background – it’s very rewarding because you improve and learn concepts quickly.” Here’s where to paddle up.

- Players at the 181-room Carmel Valley Ranch serve it up on four new pickleball courts and enjoy a full roster of programs, ranging from beginner clinics to specialty shot drills and bimonthly mixers.
- Hawaii’s 213-room Four Seasons Resort Lanai recently introduced pickleball to racquet-sports clinics in its Tennis Garden to help guests perfect dinks, volleys, and match strategies. Resort pro Andres Durandegui also holds complimentary clinics for local Lanai kids to introduce them to the sport.
- Home to 86 casitas set on 4,000 acres in Tecate, Mexico, Rancho La Puerta hosts a series of immersive specialty pickleball weeks on its six courts, with visiting pros to coach drills and techniques.
- Guests at the British Virgin Islands’ 81-room Rosewood Little Dix Bay can work on their technique under a canopy of palms five days a week with the resort’s two private instructors.
- Southeastern Florida’s iconic 901-room Boca Raton recently underwent a $200 million transformation and now offers pickleball clinics five days a week, along with organized evening socials.

Pickleball paddles from $48 to $74, recesspickleball.com.