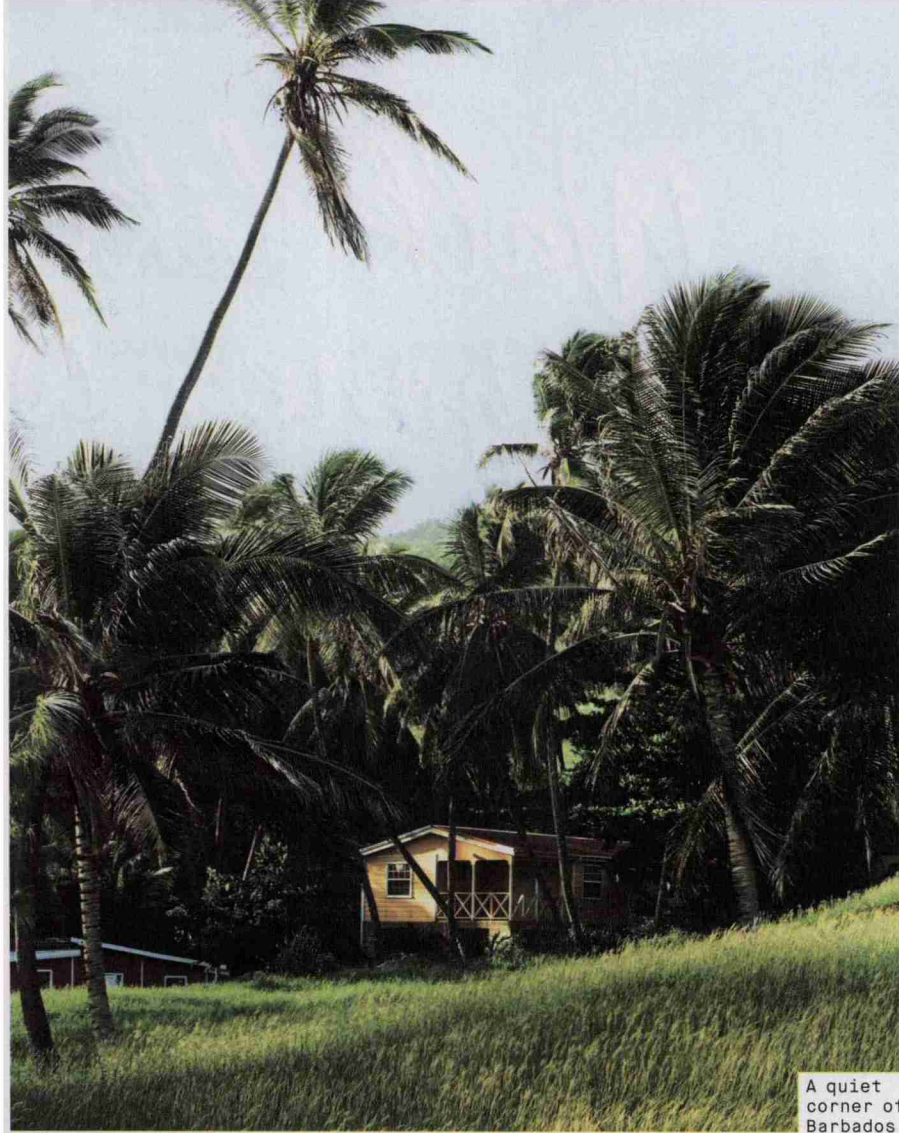


The Office Is Where You Make It

The Monday blues have a different meaning for Lamin Ngobeh, a Wilmington, Delaware-based teacher who traded his commute for the Caribbean and now works remotely from Barbados. He's part of a growing sector of the workforce that, no longer tethered to an office or even a home city, is seizing the opportunity to live and work outside the United States—an option made possible by new long-stay visa programs. Ngobeh says he chose the Caribbean island because of its affordability, safety, and reliable internet. But the appeal of swapping his faux-tropical Zoom background for the real deal—Windex-blue water and rustling palm trees—is hard to overstate. Little wonder that the government of Barbados received more than a thousand applications within days of the August launch of its new visa, which allows visitors to live and work there for up to a year. Other countries, including [Bermuda](#), Georgia, and Estonia, are hoping to entice long-stay visitors and remote workers as a means of bolstering revenues shrunk by declining tourism during the pandemic. While regulations differ by destination, prospective residents should expect to pay an application fee (they range from \$94 to \$2,000 per person, depending on the country) and provide proof of health insurance, negative coronavirus results from a test taken no more than 72 hours prior to departure, and income or self-employment. All that is a relatively low lift for the chance to surf Bermuda's Horseshoe Bay on your lunch break or check out Tblisi's wine scene without taking vacation days. For those who can't swing extended time out of the country, hotels across the U.S. are introducing packages that are redefining out-of-office. In Miami, for example, the Kimpton Surfcomber Hotel in South Beach is betting on housebound workers eager to answer emails from a poolside cabana where, through the Work From Hotel offer, they'll have access to high-speed Wi-Fi, office supplies, and unlimited morning coffee. SARAH GREAVES-GABBADON



A quiet
corner of
Barbados