

Written by Michael Bagnulo

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Focus Question

Why are some hotels incredible places to stay?



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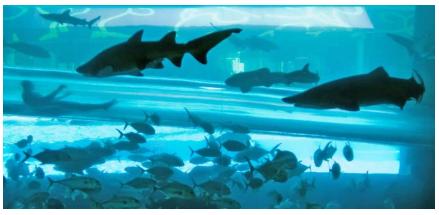
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Introduction

Get ready to go on a **tour** of some of the world's most unusual and amazing **hotels**. You'll spend nights on three **continents**. You'll swim to the bottom of the sea, sleep in a cave, and meet **endangered** animals. As different as these hotels are, they all share one thing: each offers you an **incredible** experience.

Pack your bags and let's go!



A visitor slides through a shark tank at the Golden Nugget.

Sliding with Sharks

The first stop on your tour is the Golden Nugget, a hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. A **unique** 30-foot (9 m) waterslide winds its way through a 200,000-gallon (757,082 L) water tank filled with sharks!

During your quick minute-long ride, you'll shoot past the sharks and splash into a giant pool. After your ride, you can take a tour of the shark tank. A guide will show you how the different types of sharks that live in the tank are cared for and fed. At the end of the tour, you will receive a real shark's tooth to help you remember your adventure.



An artist made a picture on the ice wall.

A Cool Place to Stay

From Las Vegas, you'll travel to the Hôtel de Glace (O-tel DEH GLAHS). It is a cool hotel located just a few minutes outside of Quebec City, Canada. How cool is it? It's a work of art made of ice! The rooms, halls, and most of the furniture are carved out of ice. Artists and workers spend about forty days every winter building the hotel because it all melts away in warm weather.

You'll need to wear your heavy winter clothes during your stay. The temperature in the hotel is only 23° to 27°F (-5° to -3°C). It's as cold as a freezer in there! You'll sleep in a special extrawarm sleeping bag because the beds are made out of thick **slabs** of ice.



Take a ride on the indoor ice slide.



Three giraffes stop by Giraffe Manor for breakfast.

Breakfast with Giraffes

The next stop on your tour is Nairobi, Kenya. There, at Giraffe Manor, you will share breakfast with some very special guests. The forests around Giraffe Manor are home to Rothschild's giraffes. These giraffes are some of the tallest in the world. Adults can measure up to 20 feet (6 m) from their hooves to the tops of their heads.



A hungry giraffe eats pellets from a woman's plate.

Every morning, the giraffes leave the forest and visit the hotel. They stick their heads through open windows and doors. Guests feed them pellets made from dry grass, corn, and molasses. Giraffe Manor is more than a nice hotel. **Profits** from the hotel go to a local wildlife **conservation** center.



Can you spot the Mirrorcube among the treetops?

In the Trees

From Kenya, you'll travel to Harads, in northern Sweden. There you'll find the Treehotel—a hotel made up of strange tree houses. During your visit, you will stay in one of six separate tree-house rooms. The rooms hang 14 to 20 feet (4 to 6 m) off the ground. Each of the tree-house rooms is unique, but three of them are extra special. The outside of one of these rooms, the Mirrorcube, is covered with glass that reflects the woods around it. The glass makes the room nearly invisible.



A visitor climbs a ladder to enter the UFO tree house.

The Bird's Nest tree house is completely covered in a tangle of tree branches. It looks like the home of an enormous bird. The UFO is a strange room built to look like a flying saucer. The UFO has outside landing lights and a ladder that you can bring inside at night. It looks as though an alien has come to Earth for a vacation.



Candles light up the dark, stone underground room.

A Room Without a View

While you're in Sweden, you can stop in the town of Sala. There you'll find the deepest hotel room in the world. The Sala Silvermine Hotel sits on top of a closed silver mine. The mine's tunnels are more than 12 miles (19 km) long and 980 feet (300 m) deep. That's as deep as the Eiffel Tower is tall! Most of the rooms in the hotel are near the mine's opening. However, if you want a really special experience, you can spend a night hundreds of feet underground.

The Mine Suite is located more than 500 feet (152 m) beneath the surface. A special guide will lead you down to a room with a bed and chairs, a bathroom, and snacks. Dress in warm clothes. The temperature in the mine itself is only about 28°F (-2°C), but the room is warmed to 64°F (18°C).



Wowser!

Take a dip in the world's largest rooftop swimming pool at the Marina Bay Sands Hotel in Singapore. While swimming in a pool that is almost 500 feet (152 m) long, visitors can admire city views from 650 feet (198 m) aboveground!



Visitors can watch for fish through a porthole window.

Sleeping with Fish

The last stop on your tour is Jules' Undersea Lodge in Key Largo, Florida. Be prepared to get wet! The lodge is 21 feet (6 m) underwater, resting at the bottom of the Largo Sound lagoon. You'll need scuba gear to get to your room. The lodge includes two bedrooms and a common room. You can find snacks and breakfast in the common room. For dinner, you can even order pizza. A staff member from the hotel will happily swim it down to you in a watertight box!

Conclusion

From the forests of Africa to the bottom of the sea, amazing hotels are everywhere. These incredible places to stay offer you far more than just a bed for the night. They offer you experiences that you'll never forget!



Polar Bear Fun

Tundra Lodge in Manitoba, Canada, looks like a train on huge wheels. The entire hotel moves over snow so that guests can get very close to polar bears.

Glossary

the protection of wild lands conservation (n.)and the living things found there (p. 9) **continents** (*n*.) the main divisions of land on Earth (p. 4) in danger of dying out endangered (adj.) completely (p. 4) hotels (n.)places where people rent rooms night by night (p. 4) incredible so unusual as to be impossible (adj.) or hard to believe; amazing (p. 4)profits (n.) money earned from a business after all costs are paid (p. 9) slabs (n.) large, thick, flat pieces or slices of something (p. 7) tour(n.)a trip through a place to learn more about it (p. 4) unique (adj.) one of a kind; unlike others (p. 5)

Words to Know

conservation profits

continents slabs

endangered tour

hotels unique incredible

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Correlation

LEVEL P	
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Reading Recovery	28
DRA	28



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Connections

Writing and Art

Draw your own one-of-a-kind hotel. Write a paragraph that tells where in the world your hotel is located and what guests can do when they visit.

Social Studies

Choose one hotel in this book and look up information about the hotel, the country that the hotel is in, and what people can do in that area. Make a poster about these things.

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