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20 hotel rooms with the world's greatest views



Crater Lake Lodge, Oregon, USA

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Published at 12:01AM, December 24 2011

From vistas over the Bay of Naples to watching the sun set on Kilimanjaro, we find rooms that put you in the picture

Prices are per night for a double room unless stated

1 Crater Lake Lodge, Oregon, USA Crater Lake, America's deepest and bluest, is six miles wide with sheer cliffs plunging 2,000ft into the caldera. The lodge was built on the edge of the lake in 1915 and, though it was renovated in 1995, when you enter the great hall with its huge fireplace, it is like stepping back into the 1920s. Use it as a base for hiking in the national park, for boat trips on the lake or drive the 33-mile crater circuit to stop and admire the scenery from 20 viewpoints.

Which room? 401 has a view across the lake to the mountains turning inky black as the sun sinks. Room 301 has a similar view. Double rooms are from £147 with America As You Like It (020-8742 8299, americaasyoulikeit.co.uk).

2 Satao Elerai Camp, Amboseli, Kenya Breathtaking views of Kilimanjaro as you wake up in the morning are a bonus on a safari. The private wildlife conservancy, Satao Elerai, a chic eco-camp, has five lodge suites and nine luxury tents all set in a tranquil environment. The tents have many unexpected luxuries such as solar-heated showers, raised wood floors with massive beds and large decks. Even the loos have views.

Which room? Tent 3 is perfectly angled to frame the mighty mountain from your bed. From US\$295pp, including full board through the Zambezi Safari and Travel Company (01548 830059, zambezi.com).

3 Relais Blu, Bay of Naples, Italy There are just 11 rooms in this white sugar-cube villa hotel tucked away in Termini, a hamlet on the Sorrento Peninsula. All the rooms have beautiful views over to the Bay of Naples and you can often see Mount Vesuvius. The hotel is a romantic hideaway, in cliff-top gardens with birds singing in the olive trees — you can dine on contemporary Italian cuisine on the terrace.

Which room? Junior suite 101, with a plate-glass wall and sliding doors to a balcony with glass-only balustrade, has an uninterrupted view to Capri. From £665pp for five nights' B&B in suite 101, including breakfast, with Experto Italy (020-7520 3100, expertoitaly.com).

4 The Sydney Harbour YHA, Sydney, Australia One of the best-located city Youth Hostels in the world, and one of the smartest, right in the historic Rocks area on the harbourside. The sweeping view of Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge from the terrace rival those from neighbouring five-star hotels.

Which room? You can book a double Room with a View with en suite bathroom and an unobstructed view of the opera house from £52.30pp a night. Book through hostelbookers.com.

5 Cavos Inn, Cephalonia, Greece This charming family-run inn in the sleepy fishing village of Assos has spectacular views of the Cephalonia coastline. Facing west, in a quiet location on a narrow isthmus, it has restful views towards the Lixouri peninsula. There are nine simple rooms and the atmosphere of calm is enhanced by the inn being adults-only. It is only three minutes' walk to restaurants and the beach.

Which room? Room 5's pretty wooden balcony has a clear view of the sea and gently rolling coast. Rooms 1, 2 and 6 have similar views. From £809pp for seven nights' B&B in a sea-view room, including flights, transfers and car hire when booked through Ionian & Aegean Island Holidays (020-8459 0777, ionianislandholidays.com).

6 Ladakh Gompa Homestay, India Stay in the home of Mr Tundup Wangtak in the village of Ulle and you will be surrounded by the beautiful snow-capped peaks of the Zaskar and Trans Karakoram ranges, some rising to 6,000m. The weather is best from mid-May to October, but if you go between December and March you might see a snow leopard seeking prey in the valley.

Which room? There is only one guest room at the front of the house, costing about £32 a night including full board and guiding for two people. Book through Mahindra Homestays (020-3140 8422, mahindrahomestays.com).

7 Alila Ubud, Bali, Indonesia In the lush heart of Bali, a couple of miles from the arty village of Ubud, this 56-room hotel high in the hills has panoramic views of the Ayung River and the island's volcanoes. There is a variety of room types and the ones to splash out on are the Valley Villas, with walk-around decks and big windows. The villas have cool, dark, teak interiors and huge windows. There is an infinity pool to plunge into after a day of trekking or sightseeing.

Which room? Villas 303, 302 and 304 face west for uninterrupted views across the rainforest to the mountains and glorious sunsets. Villa 301 faces south and has a delightful view of a temple across the valley. Valley Villas are from \$400 (£255) per night (alilahotels.com/ubud).

8 Palazzo Niccolini, Florence, Italy Stay here and you will be a few steps from the Duomo. The Palazzo Niccolini is in the northeast corner of the Piazza del Duomo that was created in the 14th century when the new cathedral was built. Now a hotel, some of the ten rooms are opulently decorated, with rich fabrics, high painted ceilings and frescos.

Which room? The Dome suite on the top floor, with its wood rafters, simple cream decor and cosy bedroom with reach-out-and-touch-it view, is perfect for romance. From £360, including breakfast, through Essential Italy (01223 460100, essentialitaly.co.uk).

9 Basecamp Isfjord Radio, Kapp Linné, Spitsbergen The radio station and lighthouse were constructed in 1933 to connect Spitsbergen, Norway's territory way above the Arctic Circle, with the rest of the world. Now it is a wilderness lodge, situated on the far side of the Isfjord and framed by the Svalbard Mountains. In this remote setting guests have views across the Arctic tundra. It is the ideal spot to observe polar bears, Arctic foxes and reindeer.

Which room? Cabin 2's King-size bed is the perfect viewing platform to keep an eye out for polar bears, with a big window at its foot. From about £1,795pp including three nights' full board, guided activities and flights. Book through Abercrombie & Kent (0845 6182213, abercrombiekent.co.uk).

10 Ocean Eleven Guest House, Hermanus, South Africa Hermanus, a 90-minute drive from Cape Town, is the whale-spotting capital of South Africa. From July to November, calving southern right whales come so close, in Walker Bay, that you can see them from this luxury guest house. The white decor and colonial architecture set off the sparkling blue sea beautifully.

Which room? Choose number 8 to whale-watch from your balcony, bed or even the bath. The double room is from £220, including breakfast, with Visions of Africa (0845 3450065, visionsof africa.co.uk).

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11 Plaza Athénée, Paris, France Nothing sums up the thrill of a break in Paris more than the Eiffel Tower light show, performed every night. But hotel rooms with a good view of the tower are surprisingly rare. The Plaza Athénée is the choice for fashionistas and never goes out of style — Christian Dior opened his flagship boutique on Avenue Montaigne in 1946 to be close to the hotel. The best view of the lot is from the pink and grey Eiffel suite. A 3m-high plate-glass window captures the tower from top to bottom.

Which room? If not the Eiffel suite, at €8,000 a night, then room 611, at €795, has a great view of the tower (00 33 1 53 67 66 67, plaza-athenee-paris.com).

12 Strawberry Hill, Jamaica Near the peak of one of the Blue Mountains is Strawberry Hill, a plantation house and 12 clapboard, Georgian-colonial style cottages scattered on the hillside, supported on stilts. At 3,100ft, the views are stupendous, reaching 40 miles over Kingston, golden beaches and the Caribbean sea. The curved infinity pool is literally above the clouds. Rooms have high four-poster beds draped with delicate muslin.

Which room? Cedar studio, one of three secluded, detached cottages on the far side of the property, facing the coffee plantation, has the most breathtaking mountain views. From £180, including breakfast, with Black Tomato (020-7426 9888, blacktomato.com).

13 Grand Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden Possibly the most luxurious hotel in Scandinavia, the Grand Hotel was opened by King Oscar II of Sweden in 1874. Occupying a prime spot, it is still the place to stay in Stockholm and has two Michelin-starred restaurants. Almost unmatched is the view across the harbour to the Royal Palace from the vast two-bedroom, one-cinema, Art Deco Princess Lillian Suite on the eighth floor.

Which room? On the fifth floor, number 534 is a Harbour View Deluxe room with an exceptionally good view, equal to other much more expensive suites. Room 534 is from about £504 including breakfast. The Princess Lillian suite is from £6,526 (00 46 8 679 35 60, grandhotel.se).

14 Hotel Crillon le Brave, Provence, France At the top of a sunny Provençal village, seven medieval houses have been cleverly merged into one 32-room boutique hotel. From every side there are views of vineyards, olive groves, lavender fields and mountains. Within its walls there is a turquoise pool and a boules piste.

Which room? In Number 33, the master suite, you can sip the local rosé while lolling in twin roll-top baths and enjoying the view of Mont Ventoux through the French windows.

From €700 a night in the master suite (00 33 4 90 65 61 61, crillonlebrave.com).

15 Radisson Blu, Frankfurt, Germany Known as a centre of finance, Frankfurt is also a manageable little city for a short break, with a small historic centre, good museums and a wooden tram trundling past the main sites. Called “the most American city in Europe” for its skyscraper-dominated skyline, its best views are from this more-glass-than-wall hotel.

Which room? 1709, a “Fresh” corner room on the 17th floor, has floor-to-ceiling glass on two sides and the best view of the Commerzbank and Deutsche Bank towers. Another corner room, 1729, has views all the way to the Taunus Hills. Fresh rooms are from €129 excluding breakfast (00 49 69 770 1550, radissonblu.com/hotel-frankfurt).

16 Kozantei Ubuya, Fujigoko, Japan Mount Fuji is so vast that it can be glimpsed from Tokyo on a fine day, but for all-encompassing views of its sweeping slopes and cone, head to the Fujigoko (Fuji Five Lakes) area and stay at the base of the volcano. This ryokan combines Japanese and Western styles, with tatami flooring and raised futon beds.

Which room? Rooms 313, 314 and 315 each have their own private, open-air hot spring bath with views across the lake to Fuji-san. The cost is about £292pp, including dinner and breakfast, with Inside Japan Tours (0117 370 9730, insidejapantours.com).

17 F.X. Mayr & More, Lake Wörthsee, Austria A week on starvation rations of tea and dry bread is easier to stomach in a beautiful setting. The famous Mayr clinic on the edge of the calm, blue Lake Wörthsee, surrounded by lawns, is the place to detox and lose weight without tempting distractions.

Which room? Room 308 at the front of the clinic faces northwest and has two windows and a balcony to catch the sunset over the lake. Room 208, just below it, also has a fine view. From €144 a night per person, plus Mayr cure programme starting at €1,329 per week. (00 43 4273 25110, mayrandmore.at).

18 Banyan Tree Al Wadi, Ras al Khaimah, UAE All the rooms at this luxury resort, only 45 minutes from Dubai airport, have clear views of the desert. It is in a nature reserve where camels, Arabian gazelles and oryxes wander between squat trees on parched ground. Tented pool villas have canopied ceilings and hi-tech amenities.

Which room? Villas 407 and 408, with a wide-angle view of the nature reserve and grandstand views of the sunset, cost from £528 for two, including breakfast (banyantree.com).

19 Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra, India The Taj Mahal really is as beautiful as all the travel brochures say, and the Oberoi Amarvilas is a top choice for honeymooners. The hotel is only 600m from the monument to love, and all 112 rooms, lobby, bar and lounge have views of it from dawn to dusk. The very best are from the Kohinoor suite in the centre of the top floor. And so it should – from £6,000 a night for two people.

Which room? Stay in room 305 for the best view among all the standard rooms, at £252pp including breakfast when booked through TransIndus (020-8566 2729, transindus.com).

20 Peninsula Gardens Hotel, Kas, Turkey There are 18 rooms and suites in this new retreat hotel, built into the craggy cliff, with views of the sea, the foothills of the Taurus Mountains and the tiny Greek island of Meis. The hotel has a spa, infinity pool and sea bathing platforms. There are eight private seaside cabanas to hire. It is a pleasant 20-minute stroll into the village of Kas, or there is a free shuttle service if you prefer.

Which room? The ground-floor Platinum suite, with terrace and plunge pool, has a double day bed and the best sea views. The Pearl suite also has excellent views. From £240, including breakfast for two, in the Platinum or Pearl suites (020-7722 2288, elixirholidays.com).

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Lady Truly Barking Madstock

January 07, 2012 10:55

Bay of Naples, Hotel Conca Park, any sea view balcony on floor 3,4,5, though end rooms (right facing) are the best as you get the same view from the loo!

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