

TRAVEL TIPS 2011 + FREQUENT-FLIER SECRETS: MILEAGE UPGRADES

TRAVEL + LEISURE

500 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

Display until January 21, 2011
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T+L 500

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

Each year, *Travel + Leisure* asks readers to vote on their favorite hotels around the globe. What makes this, our ninth annual compendium of the top-ranked hotels from the World's Best Awards survey, stand out? Almost half of the winners are located in the U.S. and Canada, and another 20 percent are in Europe. Meanwhile, some of the most iconic destinations—California, Florida, Italy, France, and China—have 135 properties among them, and 62 hotels offer rates of less than \$250 a night. Also at your fingertips: our picks of the best farm-to-table restaurants, pools, tech amenities, and more. Plus, you'll find extended listings at TravelandLeisure.com, and—drumroll, please—the T+L 500 iPad edition, complete with interactive bonus features, will be on the App Store in January. So you can pinpoint your next hotel even if you're on the road.

HO CHI MINH CITY

NEW Caravelle Hotel (88.40)
As central as it gets: 2 Art Deco buildings with 335 rooms on Lam Son Square, 19 Lam Son Square, District 1; 800/223-5652; caravellehotel.com; doubles from \$280.

Park Hyatt Saigon (87.72)
Colonial-style contemporary on the main square, with 2 good restaurants and the city's only nonsmoking bar, 2 Lam Son Square, District 1; 877/875-4658; parkhyatt.com; doubles from \$290.

Africa and the Middle East

BOTSWANA

CHOBENATIONAL PARK Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero (86.53)
15 cottages and Botswana's only full spa, adjacent to a national park that's home to Africa's largest elephant population, 27-11/438-4650; sanctuaryretreats.com; doubles from \$1,990, all-inclusive.

MOREMI GAME RESERVE Sanctuary Chief's Camp (90.40)
Bush pavilions furnished with canopy beds on an Okavango Delta island teeming with the Big Five, 27-11/438-4650; sanctuaryretreats.com; doubles from \$3,320, all-inclusive.

EGYPT

ALEXANDRIA Four Seasons Hotel at San Stefano (90.25)
118 rooms in a crescent-shaped building on the Corniche, 399 El Geish Rd.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$500.

CAIRO Four Seasons Hotel at Nile Plaza (89.95)
A 30-story high-rise with an award-winning spa and new Palace Suite by Pierre-Yves Rochon, 1089 Corniche El Nil; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$460.

Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at the First Residence (93.27)
269-room glass tower, on the Nile opposite downtown Cairo, 35 Giza St.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$440.

JW Marriott (86.44)
Resort-style property (golf course; water park) on 400 acres in upscale Heliopolis, Ring Rd.; 800/228-9290; marriott.com; doubles from \$250.

Mena House Oberoi (86.87)
19th-century lodge with just-renovated modern wings on 40 acres abutting the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

6 Pyramids Rd.; 800/562-3764; oberoihotels.com; doubles from \$274.

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM King David Hotel (87.02)
1930's property redone by Adam Tihany; close to the Old City, 23 King David St.; 800/223-7773; davidhotels.com; doubles from \$490.

JORDAN

AMMAN Four Seasons Hotel (86.72)
A 15-story stone-and-glass structure between Al Sweifyah residential area and the financial district, 5th Circle, Al-Kindi St.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$350, including breakfast.

KENYA

AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK Tortilis Camp (94.12)
The park's only luxe property, facing Mount Kilimanjaro, 254-20/603-090; kilimanjaro.com; doubles from \$1,020, all-inclusive.

MASAI MARA andBeyond Khichwa Tembo (93.71)
2 camps managed by the outfitter andBeyond, recently lauded for its conservation efforts, 888/882-3742; andbeyondafrica.com; doubles from \$980, all-inclusive.

1 Fairmont Mara Safari Club (96.31)
50 renovated tents on a Mara River oxbow (prime for hippo-viewing) known for activities including balloon safaris, 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$1,058.

NAIROBI Fairmont the Norfolk (86.76)
Tudor-style hotel and tropical gardens—a frequent jumping-off point for safari travelers, Harry Thuku Rd., 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$279.

NANYUKI Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club (92.29)
Updated 1950's-era hunting lodge, with croquet fields and stables, 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$598.

MOROCCO

FEZ Sofitel Fès Palais Jamaï (86.56)
Moorish- and Arabic-inspired 19th-century palace overlooking the Fes medina—a UNESCO World Heritage site—with 142 refurbished rooms and an authentic caïdale tent, Bab Guissa; 800/763-4835; softel.com; doubles from \$270.

MARRAKESH La Mamounia (86.74)
Legendary 1923 hotel, gleaming after a 3-year, \$180 million renovation by designer Jacques Garcia. Ave. Bab Jdid; 800/223-6800; mamounia.com; doubles from \$700.

SOUTH AFRICA

CAPE TOWN Cape Grace (92.52)
Refurbished hotel with 120 rooms, a spa, and a luxury yacht, on a private Victoria & Alfred Waterfront quay, W. Quay Rd.; 800/223-6800; capegrace.com; doubles from \$550.

Mount Nelson Hotel (87.64)
209-room 1899 property on 9 leafy acres, convenient to beaches and Table Mountain, 76 Orange St.; 800/237-1236; mountnelson.co.za; doubles from \$390, including breakfast.

Table Bay Hotel (87.17)
Maritime-themed hotel featuring a 246-foot driveway lined with palm trees, Quay 6, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront; 27-2/406-5000; suninternational.com; doubles from \$635, including breakfast.

Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa (93.62)
Exclusive Cape Dutch-style hideaway, tucked between mountains and sea, Victoria Rd.; 800/223-6800; 12apostleshotel.com; doubles from \$1,024, including breakfast.

JOHANNESBURG Michelangelo Hotel (87.11)
Italian Renaissance-inspired hotel with 242 refurbished suites on Nelson Mandela Square, 135 West St.; 800/223-6800; michelangelo.com; doubles from \$585, including breakfast.

Saxon Boutique Hotel, Villas, & Spa (90.86)
All-suite estate where Nelson Mandela was an extended guest in the 1990's; 3 new villas have added 29 rooms, 36 Saxon Rd.; 877/354-2213; saxon.co.za; doubles from \$177, including breakfast.

The Westcliff (89.22)
Nine palatial, coral-pink structures overlooking a courtyard and the city center, 67 Jan Smuts Ave.; 800/237-1236; westcliff.co.za; doubles from \$399, including breakfast.

RUOGER NATIONAL PARK AREA Londolozi Private Game Reserve (94.18)
Five family-run camps (Pioneer was built this year) in an area known for leopard sightings, 800/735-2478; londolozi.com; doubles from \$1,650, all-inclusive.

MalaMala Game Reserve (93.07)
Trio of renowned lodges

(plus a wine cellar and infinity pool) on South Africa's largest private Big Five preserve, 27-11/442-2267; malamala.com; doubles from \$1,350, all-inclusive.

Royal Malewane (94.67)
20-room bush camp with throwback activities (rides in antique biplanes; horseback safaris), 27-15/793-0150; royalmalewane.com; doubles from \$3,054, all-inclusive.

Singita Kruger National Park (94.25)
Two raised lodges with fashionable interiors by up-and-coming African designers, 800/735-2478; singita.com; doubles from \$3,340, all-inclusive.

Singita Sabi Sand (94.67)
Pair of lodges—Boulders is high-design rustic, Ebony has a vintage safari feel—along the Sand River, 800/735-2478; singita.com; doubles from \$3,340, all-inclusive.

TANZANIA

NGORONGORO CRATER Ngorongoro Crater Lodge (89.90)
Masai-inspired huts with Victorian touches (Persian carpets; red roses) along a volcanic rim, 888/882-3742; andbeyondafrica.com; doubles from \$1,370, all-inclusive.

Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (88.55)
Rooftops with floor-to-ceiling windows that look down into the crater, which is frequented by black rhinos, 800/806-9565; sopalodges.com; doubles from \$450, including meals.

SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK Serengeti Sopa Lodge (92.57)
Secluded hotel with African interiors (griffwood furnishings; batik), set in an acacia grove overlooking the plains, 800/806-9565; sopalodges.com; doubles from \$450, including meals.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI Burj Al Arab (91.57)
Sail-shaped icon, on its own island off Jumeirah Beach. The 202 suites are all serviced by butlers, Jumeirah Beach Rd.; 877/854-8051; jumeirah.com; doubles from \$2,722, including breakfast.

ZAMBIA

LIVINGSTONE Royal Livingstone (92.59)
173 colonial rooms—all with private verandas and featuring wildlife sketches—next to Victoria Falls, 260-21/332-1122; suninternational.com; doubles from \$934, including breakfast.