



92 LUXOR HOTEL RESORT AND CASINO, LAS VEGAS

As you might expect from a hotel angled after the Great Pyramid of Giza, The Luxor has no common-or-garden, straight-up/down lifts. Rather, it boasts 'inclinators', which race guests up the sides of the structure at crazy 39° angles. As you also might expect of a hotel with a Sphinx guarding it, the decor is richly Egyptian-infused: **hieroglyphic motifs adorning the bedspreads**, animal-print flourishes as OTT as the spoils pulled out of Tutankhamun's tomb. It truly is a wonder of the world; agree awed tourists from Wisconsin, openly chuffed that the Egyptians built such a perfect copy in Cairo. (00 1 702 262 4000, www.luxor.com; doubles from £60, room only)

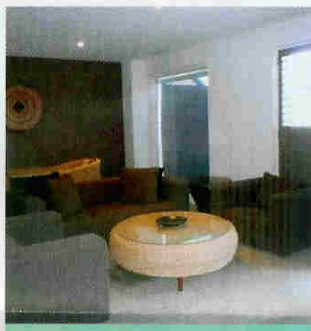


93 HARTINGTON HALL YOUTH HOSTEL, DERBYSHIRE

Log fires, oak paneling, mullioned windows: yep, this is a bona fide **English manor-house stay for less than £20 a night**. Hartington Hall dates from 1611 and looks the part – people even get married here. There are private en-suites and dorms, and it's close to Dovedale, Derbyshire's sylvan valley extraordinaire. Pair this with a night at even grander Ilam Hall hostel, at the other end of the dale, for the best-value walking weekend in the country. (0870 770 5848, www.yha.org.uk; from £17.50, room only)

94 THE BULL HOTEL, BRIDPORT, DORSET

High-camp, country-house decor meets rates to shame a Travelodge in the trendy country town of Bridport. The owners (ex-music industry executives) have given this Regency-style coaching inn a **sassy rock-and-roll attitude**, from the designer wallpaper patterns to the wham-bam modern art. It's the winning combination of urban styling and rural informality that seduces, so settle down in the fabulously clubby battered-leather bar and let yourself become part of the furniture. (01308 422878, www.thebullhotel.co.uk; doubles from £85, B&B)



95 RAVESI'S, SYDNEY

It's a steal of a deal: the second-most desirable view in Sydney – for under £100 (especially when you consider that the *most* popular view, the Harbour Bridge, permits hoteliers to charge at least £170). Here, instead, you get to look out over Bondi Beach (and enjoy Ravesi's lovely seaside-motel feel: Scandi-sexy with white-tiled bathrooms). Then there's the well-toned trade that drifts in, parking surfboards for breakfasts of ricotta pancakes with maple syrup. It also happens to be **Michael Caine's favourite hotel in the world** – and no, not a lot of people know that. (00 61 2 9365 4422, www.ravesis.com.au; doubles from £92, room only)

96 MIGRANTE GUEST HOUSE, BOA VISTA, CAPE VERDE

One of the most atmospheric places to stay in all the Cape Verde islands is this lovingly **restored old mansion overlooking the seafront** in sleepy Sal Rei on remote Boa Vista. There are only four rooms to choose from, and each has been artistically designed: ethnic antiques, Moorish lanterns and whitewashed walls. There's a shady courtyard for evening backgammon – and, lest we forget, the best bar in town. (00 238 251 1143, www.migrante-guesthouse.com; doubles from £41, B&B, including transfers)

97 CASA DONA CLARA, SANTIAGO, CUBA

Staying in *casas particulares* (private homes) is the best way to get a real feel for Cuba, and Dona Clara runs one of the prettiest. Her large, airy home is in Santiago's leafy Santa Barbara district. Book the apartment upstairs and you get a double room, living room/kitchen and huge roof terrace. A cooked breakfast is served in the garden: **a riot of plants, caged parrots and cult statues**. (00 53 22 642964; doubles from £18, B&B)

98 POUSSADA DOS ARTISTAS, PRAIA DO FORTE, BRAZIL

Beach resort Praia do Forte is littered with little pousadas – but only one has **fairy-light-strewn balconies with stable doors** that pull back until your room is entirely open on one side. As you doze on your hammock you inhale the perfume of the lovingly-tended gardens – they'll help you dream sweetly until breakfast, when the octogenarian chef serves platters of pastries and fresh fruit. (00 55 713 676 1147, www.pousadadosartistas.tur.br; doubles from £20, B&B)



99 THREADNEEDLES, LONDON

London doesn't have to be all about the West End: bag a weekend deal at Threadneedles (above). This **slick city joint** has the best turnout in the capital, with candles round the bath and classical music. Borough Market, the Tate Modern and Shoreditch are all within walking distance. (020 7657 8080, www.theetoncollection.com; weekend doubles from £99, B&B)

100 THE GERSHWIN, NEW YORK

The Gershwin couldn't be more central: between Madison and Fifth Avenues, just round the corner from the Empire State Building. And with shared rooms from £20 a night, it has to be the **best budget base in Manhattan**. It looks good (if a little wacky), too. The ruby-red facade has great illuminated flames sticking out of it – designed to look as if the place is on fire, apparently. Inside, the rooms have cool wooden floors and bare brick walls, with the odd Warhol print and moose head thrown in. The catch? There isn't one. Just ask one of the 'artists in residence' if you don't believe us. (00 1 212 545 8000, www.gerswhinhotel.com; doubles from £55, room only) ■

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