

## The 10 Most Beautiful Lakeside Hotels in the World

From an Alaskan lodge only accessible by float plane to a hotel with a swimming pool that rests upon Lake Como, these spaces offer a peaceful respite inspired by calm, clear waters

By Anne Roderique-Jones / May 1, 2019

When it comes to vacation, lakes sometimes get the short end of the stick. Often eschewed for sandy beaches, these bodies of waters can offer a truly resplendent getaway. Perhaps it's because there's a sort of old-school luxury about the whole idea. Fortuitously, these sorts of places still exist—properties where days are filled with leisurely boat rides, lawn games, or perhaps sunning on the dock. Evenings are meant for dress-code dinner and cocktails in Adirondack chairs—all while gazing upon the lake, of course.

From an adventure lodge in Alaska that's accessible only by a ski plane that lands directly on the lake, to a Southern spa retreat with water-inspired treatments, to an Italian property with a swimming pool that floats upon Lake Como, these hotels offer a peaceful respite inspired by calm, clear waters.

Herewith, *AD* covers the 10 of the most beautifully designed lakeside hotels.



Photo: Courtesy of Oberoi Udaivilas

### **Oberoi Udaivilas (India)**

Arriving to this property in Udaipur, India, the city of lakes, proves to be utterly grand. Imagine this: You're greeted by the staff and whisked away upon a private boat. Guests are ferried across Lake Pichola while taking in the palaces that punctuate the lake. Premier rooms with semi-private pools feel as if you're staying in the home of a

moneyed artist, with traditional Indian patterns bursting with color. There's a two-poster bed, a charming window seat, and Victorian-style tubs. Slip onto the private courtyard and sip sundowners while gazing upon the lake—best done in chic loungers during one of those gorgeous pink-hued Indian sunsets. Rates start at \$1,080 per night.



Photo: Scott Dickerson

## Winterlake Lodge (Alaska)

The only way to access Winterlake Lodge is by float plane—or ski plane during the winter months—and it's an exhilarating entrance, to be certain. Guests fly into the property and land upon the frozen lake, where they're scooped up in a snowmobile (luggage rides behind in the sled) and taken to the main lodge to warm by a roaring fire. Just six knotty pine cabins dot the property, all of which were hand-built by owners Carl and Kirsten Dixon (imagine heating stoves, artisan log beds, Frette linens, and porches with lake views). Activities are abundant and center around Winterlake, be it kayaking, canoeing, snowmobiling, sledding, and fat-tire biking on the solid waters. Rates start at \$6,215 and include three nights with all meals, wine, yoga, massage, and round-trip float/ski plane.



Photo: Courtesy of Lake Austin Spa Resort/Terry Vine Photography

## Lake Austin Spa Resort (Texas)

Everything at this resort was designed around nature. Situated on 21 miles of shore, Lake Austin Spa Resort was constructed to marry the elements of the Texas Hill Country with the details of a European dressmaker. Here, interiors, in mellow greens

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and blues, mimic the colors found outdoors; carefully selected art and antiques swell every guest space. The Lady Bird Presidential Suite has a stone fireplace and the most charming private garden with an outdoor hot tub. A Pool Barn contains a lap pool, and the 25,000-square-foot LakeHouse Spa is crafted with Austin stone and offers lake breeze massages. The Ripple Effect, a series that focuses on wellness meeting water, features a Sunset Glow paddle class, DriftAway floating meditation, boat cruise, waterfall hike excursion, hydro-biking (think pontoon bikes on water), and the Olympic sport of sculling. Rates start at \$595 per night.



Photo: Courtesy of Rubondo Island Camp

## Rubondo Island Camp (Tanzania)

Surrounded by the shores of Lake Victoria, Rubondo Island Camp in Tanzania is a lakeside wilderness escape—and the only lodging on the island. Each of the eight cottages were hand-built using local materials, and offer views not only of the lake but also of wild roaming elephants, colorful birds, and hippos. The main draw is a chimpanzee habituation experience, but drives, fishing, nature walks, and wetland excursions are on offer—as is simply relaxing by the swimming pool. Rates start at \$676 per night and include room, house drinks, game drives, multiple excursions, and airport transportation.



Photo: Courtesy of The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds/Don Riddle

## The Ritz-Carlton Reynolds (Georgia)

A stately Southern resort if there ever was one, this hotel in Greensboro, Georgia, sits upon Lake Oconee, with 30 acres of shoreline that's hugged by Georgia Pine. There are even resident resort Labrador retrievers, often found cooling off in the water. A stunning

infinity swimming pool overlooks the lake—and, come wintertime, lakeside ice skating (with canned cocktails and hot chocolate) are to be had. The rooms and suites are perfectly lovely, but the cottages have stone verandas and wrap-around porches, and the three-story lake house is stacked with a chef's kitchen, fireplace, and private pool overlooking the waters. Rates start at \$389 per night; \$5,500 in The Lake House.



Photo: Courtesy of Big Cedar Lodge

## Big Cedar Lodge (Missouri)

Situated in the Ozark Mountains, Big Cedar Lodge is a wilderness retreat that surrounds the blue-green waters of Table Rock Lake. Guests can whittle away the day on a pontoon boat, or water ski, or fish for local bass. Guest cabins are built of rough-hewn logs and would best be described as lumberjack luxury, if there was such a thing—think limestone fireplaces and soaking tubs. New this May is Camp Long Creek, which includes lakeside glamping units with a king canopy bed, crowned with a chandelier. There's a sitting area, an indoor wood stove, and outdoor living space with a stone floor, fire pit, outdoor shower, and galvanized tub to bathe beneath the stars. Rates start at \$229.



Photo: Courtesy of The Grand Hotel

## The Grand Hotel (Michigan)

If there ever was a classic lake retreat, it's the Grand Hotel on Michigan's Mackinac Island. This 19th-century summer resort has been welcoming well-heeled travelers since 1887. Its front porch—stretching 660 feet—is the longest in the world, and can be spotted as you approach the island by ferry—outfitted with plenty of rocking chairs that

overlook the Straits of Mackinac. This is the kind of property where lawn games are played in the day, tea is taken in the afternoon, and dinner requires a proper dress code and concludes with nightly dancing. Each guest room is uniquely decorated by interior designer Carleton Varney of Dorothy Draper & Co. with punchy plaids, pops of pink, and patterned wallpaper. The Laura Bush Suite and Lady Bird Johnson Suite are exceptionally pretty. Rates start at \$144 per night in the early season and include three meals daily.



Photo: Courtesy of The Point

## The Point (New York)

Occupying 75 acres of a private Adirondacks estate along the shorelines of the Upper Saranac Lake, The Point was once the homestead of William Avery Rockefeller II—built as a Great Camp (those big-beamed lodges erected by the likes of the Vanderbilts as early as the 19th century) of the North Woods. It was the last of this architectural style to be constructed by William G. Distin, using native timber, granite, and stones pulled from the river beds. Each of the 11 guest rooms boasts a towering wood-burning fireplace and outdoor access to the forest. The Boathouse, particularly fanciful, is a stand-alone structure positioned directly upon the lake. It seems that here, time harkens back to the golden age of travel when tony guests gather for a black-tie dinner on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Rates start at \$1,750 to \$3,700 per night for two adults and include sports equipment and facilities, gourmet meals, afternoon tea, wines, and spirits.



Photo: Courtesy of the Beau-Rivage Palace

## Beau-Rivage Palace (Switzerland)

Perched upon the bright blue waters of Lake Geneva, Beau-Rivage Palace is situated on its own 10-acre park in Lausanne. With the structure dating back to 1861, architects Achille de la Harpe and Jean-Baptiste Bertholini produced the original Belle Époque design, and the wooden pier that once accommodated the arrival of passengers is still intact. Today, it remains one of the finest hotels in Switzerland—the rotunda restaurant's fresco was completed by Otto Haberer, and P. Chiara created the stained glass windowed surrounding the hotel's dramatic staircase. The gardens, indoor-outdoor swimming pool, and creamy calm rooms feel as if you're staying in a European spa retreat. Rates start at \$443 per night.



Photo: Courtesy of the Grand Hotel Tremezzo/Giangiacomo Feriozzi

## Grand Hotel Tremezzo (Italy)

Built in 1910 as a retreat that catered to elite foreign travelers, the Grand Hotel Tremezzo is exactly what you imagine a chic Lake Como vacation to be. The Italian Art Nouveau structure feels like a livable art museum with a labyrinth of common spaces for guests to roam. A music room features antique silk scarves that hang upon the wall, with bright fuchsia and lime sofas for pre-dinner cocktails. There's a handsome cocktail bar, and the gardens have been designed by George Clooney's landscape architect. Fresh roses and the hotel's signature scent, Acqua del lago di Como, permeate every corner—as do views of the lake (which can be found from nearly every perch; even the spa's peek-a-boo sauna). Rooms are as opulent as the public spaces, with velvet seating alcoves, full marble bathrooms, and antique interiors; many have balconies that stretch over the water, which boasts a big, blue swimming pool that floats directly on Lake Como—complete with a man-made beach and lake bar. Rates start at \$525 per night.