

## themes

Beaches Family Budget Adventure Couples Luxury Food Short Breaks

## 25 budget hotels in amazing locations

Last updated 15:11, July 27 2017



Casa das Penhas Douradas, Manteigas, Portugal.

There's no need to compromise on location when planning a budget holiday.

From sodium chloride palaces overlooking Bolivian salt flats to tree house hotels buried deep within a Thai rainforest, here are 25 of the best budget hotels in the world's most spectacular locations.

## HI Youth Hostel, Lake Tekapo



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This may look like an unassuming no-frills backpackers hostel, but its killer position on the shores of Lake Tekapo ensures magnificent views across the vast expanse of clear blue water, towards the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps.

The panorama from the glass-walled lounge with crackling fireplace is particularly stirring. Dorms from A\$33 (NZ\$35). [yha.co.nz](http://yha.co.nz)

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### Desert Breeze Lodge in Swakopmund, Namibia



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This Namibian Desert retreat sits in isolation above the Swakop River, massaged by sand dunes and hedged in by ancient hills.

Beds in the luxury bungalows overlook the sand-rippled desert; huge balconies offer stargazing opportunities and more vistas of the endlessly unfolding, rust-hued dune sea. Doubles from \$90 per person, including breakfast. [desertbreezeswakopmund.com](http://desertbreezeswakopmund.com)



**Peninsula Petit Hotel, San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina**



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This lodge-style hotel deep in Patagonia is set on the edge of Lake Nahuel Huapi. Vistas from its glass-walled rooms are extraordinary.

Think trouts jumping for food across the water, snow-dipped mountains and magnificent sunsets streaked across the Cerro Lopez alpine peak. Doubles from \$164, including breakfast. [peninsulapetithotel.com.ar](http://peninsulapetithotel.com.ar)

## Palacio de Sal, Uyuni, Bolivia



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The Palacio de Sal - 'Salt Palace' - is located deep in the desolate salt flats of Uyuni - and yes, it's completely constructed from salt, including most of the furniture.

Plump for a suite or VIP room for igloo-style salt roofs and viewing windows that overlook bright white rock formations bristling with cactuses. PS - salt chicken is the speciality here, naturally. Doubles from \$169.  
[palaciodesal.com.bo](http://palaciodesal.com.bo)

Rifugio Bella Vista, South Tyrol, Italy



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A cosy wood-clad Italian mountain lodge amid the high peaks of the Val Senales. Even the bathrooms have glacier views.

Every year, igloo rooms are built, with a Finnish sauna and outdoor hot tub - a dramatic vantage point from which to admire the sloping snow. Dorm rooms from \$74. [schoeneaussicht.it/en](http://schoeneaussicht.it/en)



## The Scent Hotel, Koh Samui, Thailand



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This frangipani-clad boutique sits on Bangrak Beach. Plump for a seaview suite with wall-to-wall views of palm-tree-strewn sand.

Mosaic bathrooms have curvaceous roll-top baths with antique taps that eyeball the ocean. The sprawling terrace that tumbles down to the beach is the ideal place for a G&T and spot of sunbathing. Doubles from \$135.

[thescenthotel.com](http://thescenthotel.com)

## Hotel Briol, South Tyrol, Italy



Hotel Briol, South Tyrol, Italy.

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Imagine starting the day by launching yourself into an ice-cold infinity pool that peers down on the Dolomites.

If this doesn't appeal then the sauna on a slope leading down to forests or the pool that oggles the mist-glazed Isarco Valley may instead. Doubles from \$120, half-board. [briol.it/en](http://briol.it/en)



Caveland Hostel, Santorini, Greece



Caveland Hostel, Santorini, Greece.

This Santorini hostel is located in a dramatic complex of caves and an 18th-century winery. Think mouthwash-green sea views from cave houses shaded by pomegranate and pistachio trees.

Yoga by the outdoor pool that lords over the blazing white city is unmissable. Bunks from \$28. [cave-land.com](http://cave-land.com)

### The Inn above Oak Creek, Sedona, Arizona



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The Inn Above Oak Creek is carved into the red rock of the Oak Green Canyon, the Grand Canyon's smaller but equally splendid little sister.

Verandas and stream-side terraces command arresting views over the evergreen oaks and jagged, gaping river gorge. Doubles from \$123, including breakfast. [innaboveoakcreek.com](http://innaboveoakcreek.com)



### Native Village Inn, Banaue, Philippines



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This mountain lodge looks directly down on the the 2,000-year-old World Heritage rice terraces in Banaue; imagine opening the curtains in the morning to rows of rice fields that resemble contour lines on a map - deep green and dramatically undulating.

Hot showers and hearty Philippino curries complete the value-for-money offering. Cottages from \$58, including breakfast. [nativevillage-inn.com](http://nativevillage-inn.com)



## Il Monastero, Ischia, Italy



Il Monastero, Ischia, Italy.

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This boutique hotel, housed in an erstwhile 16th-century convent postures dramatically on an island off the coast of Ischia.

Opt for a room on the first or second floor with a vista of the endless sea, punctuated only by the odd fishing boat; a bougainvillea-clad terrace overlooks the water too. Doubles from \$146, including breakfast.

[albergoilmonastero.it](http://albergoilmonastero.it)

## Gringo Bill's Hotel, Aguas Calientes, Peru



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Gringo Bill's Hotel, Aguas Calientes, Peru.

This fun, hip budget option lies deep in a gorge directly below the Machu Picchu ruins in the Sacred Valley. It's a rare opportunity to sleep within spitting distance of the Seventh Wonder of the World; although Machu Picchu gets coach-loads of visitors every day, good accommodation is scant and few stay overnight.

The Pisco organic restaurant and whirlpool tub add to the allure. Doubles from \$77, including breakfast.  
[gringobills.com](http://gringobills.com)

## Hotel Odisej, Croatia



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You'll find Hotel Odisej Mljet inside Croatia's Mljet National Park on the most southerly of the Dalmatian islands. Bedrooms overlook climbing vineyards and olive groves.

Guests can sip on a cocktail while drinking in the surrounding knotted pine forests and saltwater lakes. There's also a spa, and the pool juts out into the sea. Doubles from \$63, including breakfast. [themarmarahotels.com](http://themarmarahotels.com)



### Our Jungle House, Khao Son, Thailand



Our Jungle House, Khao Son, Thailand

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The only treehouse resort in Thailand's Khao Sok rainforest. Wake up to gibbons calling from the mountains, social macaque monkeys stalking the balconies and pied hornbills with one-metre wingspans looping through the air.

Bedrooms are on the river, with cracking views of Khao Sok's famed limestone cliffs. Doubles from \$82.  
[khaosokaccommodation.com](http://khaosokaccommodation.com)

## The Good Hotel, London



The Good Hotel, London.

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An erstwhile Dutch detention centre has docked in London's Victoria Dock, which is transforming from a heap of abandoned warehouses to a paragon of post-industrial East End boom.

Grab a table by the window of the lounge, order an okra and chips and watch the gliding gondolas of the Emirates Cable Car and the Thames stretching for miles. Doubles from \$132, room-only. [goodhotellondon.com](http://goodhotellondon.com)

## Devra Homestay, Udaipur, India



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With a location this unique, overlooking the luscious Udaipur countryside in western India, Devra Homestay wants for little more.

Landmarks such as The City Palace, Lake Pichola and Lake Palace can be seen from the hotel. The building's stone facade fits seamlessly into the natural environment. Doubles from \$109. [devraudaipur.com](http://devraudaipur.com)



Lazy Beach, Koh Rong Sanloem, Cambodia



Lazy Beach, Koh Rong Sanloem, Cambodia.

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This collection of wood and thatch bungalows are set on a particularly fetching tropical beach along the coast of Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

Think sipping a cocktail on a rattan egg chair, admiring a sea clear as mineral water - or lying in a hammock on the sand and daydreaming in front of mossy coastal hills. Doubles from \$58. <http://lazybeachcambodia.com>

## Gaia Oasis, Bali



Gaia Oasis, Bali.

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We're talking the far far north of Bali that sees few tourists - but the long drive is worth every minute when you lay eyes on the velvety green Abasan mountains tumbling down onto charcoal-black beaches and the sapphire blue Sea of Java.

## Herkuleshof Austria



Herkuleshof Austria.

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This peaceful retreat is in unblemished Danielsberg - an area of national conservation famous for its conical hills and tranquil walks.

Cosy rooms decked in pine have balconies suspended over lakes or mountain-facing terraces. Doubles from \$58, including breakfast. [herkuleshof.com](http://herkuleshof.com)



## Boutique Hostel Forum Zadar, Croatia



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Hostels with an incredible view in every single room are pretty rare, but guests at this chic hostel in the culturally-rich Croatian city of Zadar are blessed with just that.

Big windows overlook the ocean and the austere red dome of medieval St Donatus' Church next door. It's bang in the centre of town, a short stroll to St Anastasia's Cathedral and the remains of the Roman Forum. Doubles from \$23, including breakfast. [hostelforumzadar.com/en](http://hostelforumzadar.com/en)

## Terra Khaya Eco Lodge, East Cape, South Africa



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A remote eco-lodge high in the Eastern Cape's Hogsback hills. Think forested escarpments, flaxen hills hedged with stinkwood trees, and golden sunsets across the Amathole Mountain Range.

It's a real off-the-grid experience: no TVs and no electricity. Dorms from \$15, including breakfast. [terrakhaya.co.za](http://terrakhaya.co.za)

## YMCA Salisbury Road, Hong Kong



YMCA Salisbury Road, Hong Kong.

Even Hong Kong's snazziest five-star hotels would struggle to beat the views from the rooms at this surprisingly stylish YMCA. Curving windows capture the hustle and bustle of Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Island beyond.

Guests in Harbour View rooms and suites are also in a prime position for watching 'A Symphony of Lights', the nightly light and sound show which has been recorded by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest of its kind. Doubles from \$199. [ymcahk.org.hk](http://ymcahk.org.hk)



### **Rua Reidh Lighthouse, Loch Ewe, Wester Ross, Scotland**



Rua Reidh Lighthouse, Loch Ewe, Wester Ross, Scotland.

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The Grade B-listed lighthouse sits in total isolation at the entrance to Loch Ewe in Scotland, at the end of a three-mile private track. Think lake views hugged by rugged terrain and scattered crofting villages.

The historic building also has sea views; you may spot eagles, dolphins or even whales. Doubles from \$62 per person, including breakfast. [stayatalighthouse.co.uk](http://stayatalighthouse.co.uk)

### **Casa das Penhas Douradas, Manteigas, Portugal**

Welcome to the first mountain retreat in Portugal. Views of the pristine, ice-sheathed Estrela Mountains come at you from the huge windows at this stylish budget spa hotel.

The indoor pool looks down on snow-slicked pines. Admiring the alpine vistas by the crackling fire in the lounge is a favourite guest pastime. Doubles from \$181, including breakfast. [casadaspenhasdouradas.pt](http://casadaspenhasdouradas.pt)

[Traveller.com.au](http://Traveller.com.au)