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## BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD

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# THE WORLD'S 100 BEST HOTELS

We went, we saw, we bounced on the beds – and we compared. Now, after long months of exhaustive research, our team has returned with the cream. Definitely

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
**travel**  
magazine

# UK & Ireland

## 1 CRAB & LOBSTER, WEST SUSSEX

  This snug pub is loyal to its locals – on the menu you'll find **honey from Mr Jerry Fry, and bread by Selsey village bakery.** It makes for lip-smacking fare with a seafood slant (C&L overlooks the tidal flats of Pagham Harbour). Fill up, then take an amble around the wetlands, eyes peeled for sandpipers and herons. Later, sink into a plump bed in one of its country-chic rooms. *Doubles from £130, B&B (01243 641233, www.crab-lobster.co.uk).*


## 2 LIME WOOD, HAMPSHIRE

 In a classic country-house shell lurks this designer mansion, urban right down to the pink fashion wellies for guests. Town meets country in style: **clawfoot tubs in cosy cottages overlook forest foliage** and the white-on-white Scullery is a cool corner for casual dining. Or try The Dining Room for more formal fare, repairing to the bar for cocktails that really are another country. *Doubles from £190, room only (023 8028 7177, www.limewoodhotel.co.uk).*

## 3 SOUTH SANDS HOTEL, DEVON

   This beach-house bolthole is all grey clapboard, distressed wood and boaty stripes hinting at the panorama beyond. With its enviable setting on Salcombe's South Sands Bay, its sea-facing restaurant **makes the most of its natural larder, rustling up crab sarnies and local mussels.** Splash out on a 'J-Class' suite with romantic twin rolltop tubs. *Doubles from £120, B&B (01548 859000, www.southsandshotel.co.uk).*

## 4 BYFORDS, NORFOLK

 On a Dickensian street in Holt, this flint building glows with warmth, and smells of just-baked Earl Grey loaf cake. Folk stop by the caff for tea, Norfolk Dapple cheese and flapjacks; overnight guests get to stay in cosy suites with

oak panelling and exposed brick walls. Sign up for Baking @ Byfords – day-long **classes, where you'll learn the secrets of perfect sponges and puddings.** *Doubles from £175, B&B (01263 711400, www.byfords.org.uk).*

## 5 2 CAMBRIDGE STREET, EDINBURGH

  Classy, cosy and a bit loopy (a tuba on the wall and military caps in the wardrobe), this is the best-value sleep in town. Rooms at this B&B share a floor with the owner's apartment, so you feel like you're staying with pals. **Breakfast is best: eggs, asparagus and parmesan.** *Doubles from £95, B&B (013 478 0005, www.wonderful.net).*

## 6 HELL BAY, BRYHER, ISLES OF SCILLY

  Its chic coastal vibe doesn't stop Hell Bay being a splendid hotel for all the family – with large suites, relaxed staff and safe swimming at nearby Rushy Bay. Your little ones will **collect the breakfast eggs from cute, colour-coded chicken coops,** and telescopes are available so they can play at astronomy as well. The New England decor, art collection and good tuck is pleasant for grown-ups, too, so everyone's happy. *Doubles from £270, half board (01720 422947, www.hellbay.co.uk; open Apr–Oct).*

## 7 CLARIDGE'S, LONDON W1

  Grand dames are always in favour with businessmen and oligarchs, but they're rarely cool. This Art Deco beauty, by contrast, is enjoying a second coming. Celebs such as Russell Brand are ditching plastic-fantastic bedrooms for **cream teas, butler service and the new disco-bright Diane Von Fürstenberg suites.** Stellar service and Golden Age glamour. *Doubles from £299, room only (020 7629 8860, www.claridges.co.uk).*

## 8 DROMOLAND CASTLE, IRELAND

   Once home to the High King of Ireland, and dating back to the 11th century, Dromoland, in Co Clare, has all the

historical cred you could want, and its mist-strewn lake and golf course continue to attract illustrious guests – Mandela and Clinton to name-drop but two. Rooms are period classics; the lounge is suitably decked out in velvet and drapes; then there's **the fairy-spotting Pony & Trap tour...** (See – you really are away with the fairies.) *Doubles from £196, room only (00 353 61 368144, www.dromoland.ie).*

## 9 THE WENSLEYDALE HEIFER, NORTH YORKSHIRE

  A cosy village pub in the Dales; a sophisticated seafood restaurant where the Whitby lobster comes with black truffle; and **a quirky boutique hotel with each room uniquely themed** (chocolate, whisky, movies, cows) – this place is schizophrenia gone very, very right. There are two lovely walks just beyond the front door, too, so that's your whole weekend sorted. *Doubles from £120, B&B (01969 622322, www.wensleydaleheifer.co.uk).*

## 10 DEAN STREET TOWNHOUSE, LONDON W1

   If the walls of this elegant house could talk, they'd tell a tale or two. Over 300 years in Soho, they've seen it all – **aristos, radicals, dissolute movie stars.** It's now a sharp-as-a-pin hotel, with heritage patterns and velvet upholstery as a nod to its sybaritic past. The nicest throwback is the price – comfy beds and a great location, for under £100. *Doubles from £95, room only (020 7434 1775, www.deanstreettownhouse.com).*

## 11 PEAR TREE FARM, HEREFORDSHIRE

  For a proper weekend retreat, book a Gothic-style suite in this stone farmhouse near Ludlow. Owners Jill and Steve prepare dishes of local beef and buttery crumbles – served with a helping of local history. **Bring boots for ambling, or books if you prefer the log fire.** *Doubles from £105, B&B (01568 770140, www.peartree-farm.co.uk).*

