

TRAVEL

## I'm a Full-Time Travel Writer. These Are the Best Hotels in America to Book in 2026

From remote hideaways to luxury coastal resorts, here are the best hotels across the country for a perfectly appointed trip.

MAR 4, 2026 9:51 AM EST



BY AUSTA SOMVICHIAN-CLAUSEN Travel & Spirits Writer, Men's Journal



Peak House at Post Ranch Inn

Courtesy Image

When you book one of the [best vacations in the U.S.](#), you're not going to phone in your accommodations. The [best hotels](#) are destinations unto themselves, whether that means glamping just outside Yosemite, waking in a cliff-hugging suite above the Pacific in Big Sur, or teeing up at a [golf resort](#) that spares no expense. One thing is true for them all: A superb hotel experience is unforgettable.

While we have a laundry list of superlative roundups ([best hotels in Mexico](#), [best hotels in Manhattan](#), and [best hotels in Las Vegas](#)), we inventoried our favorite stateside haunts to bring you the 10 best hotels in America for the [2026 Men's Journal Travel Awards](#).

Ready to jet? Gather the [top travel accessories](#), [tech and gadgets](#), and [grooming essentials](#) in the perfect [best luggage](#) for your destination. And be sure to check out our favorite [tour operators](#), [airlines](#), and [travel insurance](#) before you fly—then relish your hard-earned PTO.

## Best Hotels in the U.S. at a Glance

- Best Hotel Overall: [Twin Farms](#)
- Best All-Inclusive Hotel: [Mii Amo](#)
- Best Golf Resort: [Sea Island](#)
- Best Adventure Hotel: [Yellowstone Peaks Hotel](#)
- Best Eco-Conscious Hotel: [Inn by the Sea](#)
- Best Urban Hotel: [Aman New York](#)
- Best Splurge Hotel: [Sensei Lanai](#)
- Best Design Hotel: [The Chloe](#)
- Best Historic Hotel: [The Waldorf Astoria New York](#)
- Best Ski-In, Ski-Out Hotel: [The Little Nell](#)
- Best Affordable Hotel: [Under Canvas](#)
- Best Beach Hotel: [Gurney's Montauk](#)
- Best Luxury Hotel: [Post Ranch Inn](#)

## Best Historic Hotel: [The Waldorf Astoria New York](#)

New York, NY



The Waldorf Astoria New York  
Courtesy Image

## Why I Chose It

The hotel that invented room service, the Waldorf salad, red velvet cake, and eggs Benedict is finally back and better than ever after eight years of shuttered doors.

[The Waldorf Astoria](#)'s origins date back to 1893, when William Waldorf Astor, reportedly motivated by a feud with his aunt, opened the original Waldorf Hotel on Fifth Avenue and 33rd Street on the site of his father's mansion. Four years later, his cousin John Jacob Astor IV opened the adjacent Astoria Hotel, and the two were eventually conjoined by a grand corridor. Both were demolished in 1929 to make way for the Empire State Building, and two years later the current tower rose, until its closure in 2017 for a multi-billion dollar restoration led by architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) and interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon—casually one of the largest preservation projects in New York City's history.

In the summer of 2025, the Waldorf Astoria New York reopened for business. Luckily, at the heart of the project was preservation, not pure modernization. SOM's approach was guided by the renderings and drawings uncovered in the original architect, Schultze & Weaver's, archive. Now, a restored Park Avenue lobby is anchored by the famous 1893 World's Fair clock, back in its original position. Three restaurants have also arrived: The historic Peacock Alley lounge has been transformed into a full-service dining destination, alongside Lex Yard, a modern American brasserie, and Yoshoku, an intimate Japanese restaurant. Guests can also indulge in wellness treatments at the Guerlain Wellness Spa, on an entire floor of its own with an outdoor terrace. Guest rooms are now some of the largest in Manhattan, after going from 1,400 keys to just 375 (there are also 372 residences). Inside, guests can find spacious seating areas, incredible Park Ave views, and walk-in closets, evoking the feel of classically elegant New York apartments.