

# The Hotels



There are countless outstanding hotels in London and the choice can be a little overwhelming, so to help you on your way we've selected a range of boltholes that marries the best of the big names with boutique and lesser-known gems

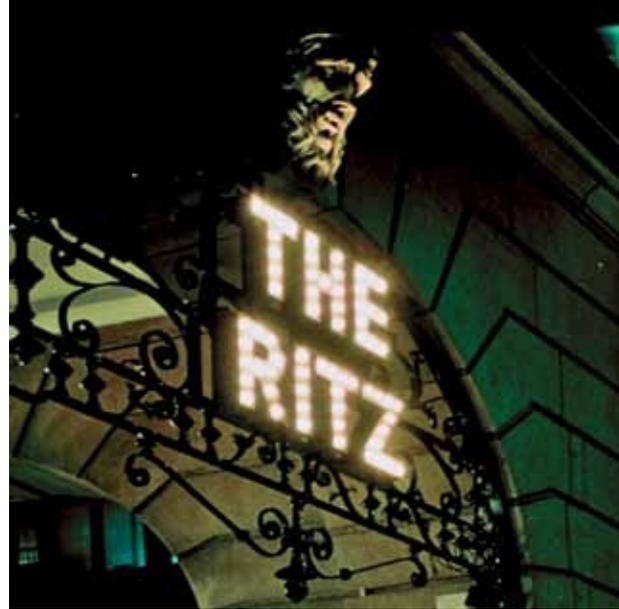


**Corinthia Hotel London** ([corinthia.com](http://corinthia.com)) is one of the city's newest, must-stay five-star hotels. Not only does it boast the best choice of impeccably-stylish suites in the whole of London – including seven tastefully-themed Penthouses which have proved a big celebrity draw – but also one of the best locations for anyone keen to see the famous sights of Nelson's Column, 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, each of which is the shortest of walks away. This elegant hotel serves up the best breakfast in the city, and a beautifully-designed, top-notch restaurant called Massimo, while it's also incredibly accommodating to children.

Hotel names you'll be instantly familiar with include **The Savoy** ([fairmont.com/savoy](http://fairmont.com/savoy)), which has been welcoming guests since 1889. It's not long emerged

from a multi-million dollar restoration, which mixed the gorgeous Edwardian interiors with modern trimmings. This is another hotel with a stunning selection of suites – there are nine of them in total – and equally impressive views over the Thames. Gordon Ramsey heads up the hotel's famous – it was a favourite of Sir Winston Churchill – Savoy Grill restaurant.

**The Ritz London** ([theritzlondon.com](http://theritzlondon.com)) is another hotel that needs few words of introduction. Like its Parisian counterpart, the Ritz prides itself on providing its guests with beautiful experiences. The decor is ostentatious, vibrant and utterly gorgeous (you will feel like a 19th-century aristocrat as you stride along the gilded halls), and there is a dedicated valet service on hand to meet your every need.



'Grosvenor House Apartments by Jumeirah Living combines the exclusivity of a private Mayfair home with the sophistication and convenience of a five-star hotel'

Another famous name is that of **The Dorchester** ([thedorchester.com](http://thedorchester.com)), a grand spot which has been one of the favourite hangouts of the great and good for over 80 years. Book one of the 'roof suites' here and you'll be privy to outstanding, unbroken views over Hyde Park – best experienced at dawn. What's more, the most decorated French chef of all, Alain Ducasse, has a restaurant here, so don't leave without trying his celebrated food.

A name you'll know well from the GCC is Jumeirah, and it boasts three excellent options in London. First up there's **Jumeirah Lowndes** ([jumeirah.com](http://jumeirah.com)) – so named because it overlooks leafy Lowndes Square. It's a chic, comfortable boutique hotel that stands a short stroll from Knightsbridge on the cobbled streets of Belgravia. Stay here with kids and they'll be given a Jumeirah Passport, a booklet packed full of games, challenges and vouchers for free goodies like cookies and cupcakes.

In the heart of Knightsbridge itself is **Jumeirah Carlton Tower**, a luxury five-star property which affords its guests spectacular vistas over the London skyline. That's even the case at the hotel's impressive spa, undoubtedly one of the finest in the city, while in-house restaurant The Rib Room has a rich history – it's over 50 years old.

Lastly from Jumeirah is **Grosvenor House Apartments by Jumeirah Living**. It combines the exclusivity of a

private Mayfair home with the sophistication and convenience of a five-star hotel, and offers a choice of beautifully-designed modern apartments which range in size from a Studio to the stunning five-bedroom Royal Penthouse – it has its own lift, a team of butlers and, best of all, grants its occupants use of an Aston Martin Rapide over the course of their stay.

Immaculate apartments are also the name of the game at **Cheval Residences** ([chevalresidences.com](http://chevalresidences.com)), which has properties across London, including Hyde Park Gate in Knightsbridge and Gloucester Park. All are decorated in a smart and welcoming style, designed to make you feel immediately at home, and all are kitted out with absolutely everything you could ever need to hit the ground running.

If you like to follow in the footsteps of celebrities then you may choose to head to **Blakes** ([blakeshotels.com](http://blakeshotels.com)). Each room here is individually created by famed designer Anouska Hempel and all are impossibly stylish, though our favourite is the Library Suite. Rich mahogany, smell-me leathers and bookcases dense with antique reads make this one of the city's finest rooms. Man-about-town Mickey Rourke described Blakes as his 'London home', while Gwyneth Paltrow has said that it's 'the perfect place for romance'.



Opening page: Corinthia Hotel London. Previous page: Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London; The Ritz London. These pages, clockwise from left: Blakes; The Spa InterContinental London; The Olde Bell; Brown's.

Over on Park Lane you'll find fantastic abodes galore, headed by the superb **InterContinental Park Lane** (ichotelsgroup.com). This flagship hotel is just across the road from Apsley house, the former home of the Duke of Wellington, which is blessed with the coolest address in the city - 'Number One, London.' The interiors are immaculately modern and the facilities are second to none. As with all InterContinental properties, there is an emphasis on outstanding food and drink, and here the signature restaurant, Theo Randall at the InterContinental, is a must-try.

**The Hilton Park Lane** (hilton.co.uk) is located directly opposite Hyde Park, with its grand gardens, boating lake and kilometres of cycling, jogging and strolling paths. This lovely modern hotel has more to offer than its central location, however - starting with the Michelin-starred Galvin at Windows restaurant, which offers panoramic views over the city. There is a first-class health club and spa too - don't miss out on their trademark four hand massage - and of course beautiful rooms. It is also the only hotel in London where every room affords a view of the city.

Nearby is the **Four Seasons Park Lane** (fourseasons.com). Its decor is outrageously lavish and even hanging out for a coffee in the lobby area - with its sink-in art deco seating and its live pianist - is a treat. There are some particularly exciting touches here, including a glass-walled rooftop spa where you can get incredible views with your expert rubdown. For a truly charming stay book a garden suite, which comes with a landscaped terrace overlooking a private garden, as well as a lounge fit for a king.

This area is also home to another of the city's new luxury - and much-hyped - hotels, **45 Park Lane** (45parklane.com). It's designed to give the feel of a private residence, and the walls are liberally scattered with ever-changing works of contemporary art, while the rooms and suites are beautifully done. Book one of the Park Lane suites and you'll be inside a marvellously large, open space from which you can look out to both Park Lane and Hyde Park.

Hollywood's finest through the ages have lodged at **The Olde Bell** (theoldebell.co.uk), a wonderful, history-rich hotel just 20 minutes outside the city. Here, a cluster of timber-framed buildings creak - literally, in the case of the floorboards - with tradition, with parts dating to 1135. Stay here and you'll check in where the likes of Cary Grant, Elizabeth Taylor, and US presidents FDR Roosevelt and Dwight D Eisenhower have done so previously.

For somewhere with royal approval, it has to be **The Goring Hotel** (thegoring.com), which has remained family-owned since its opening in 1910. This is where Catherine Middleton spent her last night as a commoner, and it's somewhere that's arguably the most quintessentially English hotel in London. It also has a wonderful history, being the first hotel in the world to offer en-suite facilities.

Another intimate hotel with tons of personality is **Dukes Hotel** (dukeshotel.com). This boutique spot in St James has over 100 years of experience, and it shows. Rooms are sleek, modern and comfortable, with some fabulous old-fashioned twists in the furniture. We're also big fans of the **Stafford London by Kempinski** (kempinski.com). It has all the charm, style and elegance a discerning traveller could want, plus imaginative ideas that make it stand out from the crowd. For something unique, book into the hotel's Carriage House, which dates to the 18th century and where beautifully-designed rooms and suites overlook a quaint cobbled courtyard. You'll feel like you're a million miles away from the hustle and bustle outside.



For a more historic abode, try **Brown's** (brownshotel.com). It lies in the heart of Mayfair and offers individually decorated suites, a lovely spa, and an excellent restaurant, HIX. The hotel hosted the world's first ever phone call - Alexander Graham Bell made it - and author Rudyard Kipling, who finished writing his famous novel *The Jungle Book* here.

Meanwhile, for slick modern style and impeccable service, there are few better choices than the **Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London** (mandarinoriental.com/london). Not only is it home to London's hottest table, Dinner by Heston Blumenthal (see the restaurants section for details), but it also specialises in the art of relaxation, with one of the best spas in the city.

Situated in a grand old building, **The Langham** (london.langhamhotels.co.uk) is located in the West End, mere minutes from the joys of Regent, Oxford and Bond Streets. They don't have butlers here - they have 'Langham service stylists', who perform the same role and are also incredibly clued-up on the best things to do in the capital. Your first port of call must be Roux at the Landau, the hotel restaurant, which brings together Albert and Michel Roux, those two legends of French cuisine.



## BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways' best of... **London's spas Gold...** The Spa InterContinental London was revealed in 2007, the cherry on top of the hotel's multi-million dollar refurbishment. It offers treatments aplenty - best enjoyed in the spa's VIP suite, which includes chauffeur service to wherever you're staying in London, if not in the hotel. **Silver...** Spa at Mandarin Oriental is unquestionably excellent and a genuine oasis of calm in the city. The best feature here is the wonderful vitality pool. **Bronze...** Opulence reigns at the Dorchester Spa: a chandelier crafted from 75,000 South Pacific pearls, deep-blue velvet daybeds, and heated treatment beds that float beneath a ceiling of coloured glass.