

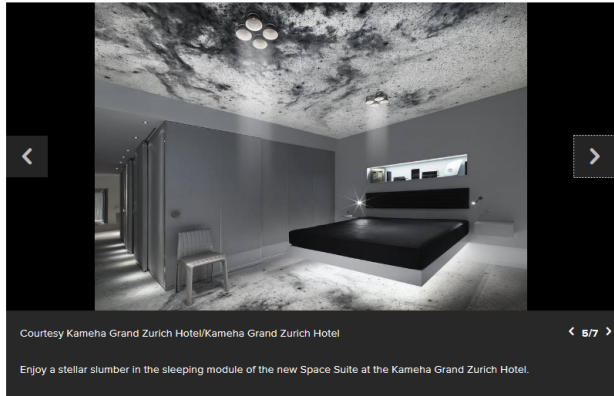


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International Travel

4 of the hippest places to sleep in Europe

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Courtesy Kameha Grand Zurich Hotel/Kameha Grand Zurich Hotel

Enjoy a stellar slumber in the sleeping module of the new Space Suite at the Kameha Grand Zurich Hotel.

By **AMY LAUGHINGHOUSE**

Special Contributor

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Whether you're a diesel head, a musical romantic or a sucker for the City of Light, lodgings can be as integral to your vacation experience as a destination's "must-see" sights. We've compiled a quartet of some of the coolest accommodations in Europe, themed to suit a variety of interests.

V8 Hotel (Böblingen, Germany)

Situated within southwestern Germany's Motorworld Region Stuttgart, a sprawling former airport complex showcasing rare and vintage cars, the 34-room V8 Hotel may be the only place in the world where you're encouraged to fall asleep behind the wheel.

Of the hotel's 11 automotive-themed accommodations, six offer beds constructed from vintage cars. Cruise into the Land of Nod in a Volkswagen Beetle in the Gas Station room or a gleaming silver Mercedes in the Mercedes Suite, which has a kitchen, sauna and terrace overlooking the erstwhile airfield.

Other hotel highlights include the Car Wash room, with red and white washer-rollers in place of a headboard, and the Route 66 room, where you can sleep on a bed beneath a ceiling painted with a cloud-strewn sky.

Fine-tune your muscles and joints in the hotel's sauna, fitness area or massage room. For a gastronomic gas up, visit the cafe, brewery, Italian restaurant or steakhouse.

If that's not enough to rev your engine, head to the adjacent Motorworld's trading hall to gawk at those mean machines, or motor over to the Mercedes-Benz and Porsche museums in Stuttgart. So what are you waiting for? The checkered flag?

Info: Doubles from \$178. Graf-Zeppelin-Platz 1, Böblingen, Germany, [v8hotel.de/en](#).

Aria Hotel Budapest (Budapest, Hungary)

Budapest straddles not only the Danube River, but also a world of musical genres. In the Hungarian capital, you can experience Jewish klezmer, traditional folk tunes, opera and classical piano concertos by Hungarian homeboy, Franz Liszt.

The Aria Hotel Budapest, next to the green-domed spires of St. István Basilica, is perfectly attuned to the city's musical heritage. The 49-room hotel, which opened last year in a dazzlingly renovated 19th-century bank, encompasses four wings, each devoted to a specific category: classical, contemporary, opera and jazz.

An ebony-and-ivory tiled walkway leads from the entrance to a glass-covered courtyard, where complimentary wine and cheese are served each evening as a pianist serenades you. A lushly appointed theater behind this lounge features nightly filmed performances, including concerts, ballet, operas and musicals.

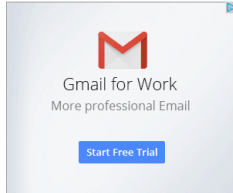
Every room and suite spotlights caricatures commemorating legends, from Maria Callas to Count Basie, Bob Dylan and James Brown. In-room iPads and free Wi-Fi will have techies singing the hallelujah chorus.

For chart-topping views of the city, head to the seventh-floor High Note Sky Bar, Budapest's only year-round rooftop bar. You can also sip a cocktail in Satchmo's Bar and Lounge and dine in Stradivari Restaurant, where a musical score unfurls across the wall. Finally, treat yourself to a relaxing rhapsody in blue in the subterranean spa, kitted out with a pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, saunas and fitness area.

Info: Opening rates from \$273, including breakfast. Hercegprimás utca 5, Budapest, Hungary, [ariahotelbudapest.com](#).

Hotel Design Secret de Paris (Paris)

Have you ever dreamed of spending the night atop the Eiffel Tower, with the Paris



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skyline unfurling just beyond your bed? Or perhaps you prefer to marvel at the Moulin Rouge. Then again, maybe it's about time you experienced the Musée d'Orsay from a uniquely nocturnal perspective, sleeping beneath its giant clock.

At the Hotel Design Secret de Paris, you can indulge in a different French fantasy every night. The hotel offers six types of accommodation, each of which evoke iconic Parisian scenes.

In addition to the Eiffel Tower, Moulin Rouge and Musée d'Orsay-themed rooms, guests can opt for the Trocadero's art deco glamour, get a ballerina's backstage glimpse of the Opera Garnier, with a ballet barre for a headboard and a mirror to monitor the progress of your pliés, or nest in a cozy atelier d'artiste beneath the slanting rafters of the rooftop.

Tucked in the Trinité quarter in Paris' 9th Arrondissement, the hotel is about a five-minute stroll from the real Moulin Rouge and a 20-minute walk to Sacré-Coeur.

After a long day of sightseeing, relax in the lounge or the sauna, or simply retire to your room to revel in your own private Paris.

Info: Rooms from \$168. 2 rue de Parme, Paris, hotel-design-secret-de-paris.com/en.

Kameha Grand Zurich Hotel (Zurich)

If you're a Renaissance type with too many passions to pigeonhole, then the Kameha Grand Zurich — part of the Autograph Collection — may be the perfect property for you. The 245-room hotel opened last year in Zurich's Glattpark, devoting 11 suites to different desires.

Relax in your quantum of solace in the James Bond-style Gentleman Suite, with a roulette table, "gun" lamp and globe-shaped whiskey trolley. Enjoy a naughty night in the Burlesque Suite, which is decked out in velvet and satin. Or, for a truly out-of-this-world experience, book the newest Space Suite, with a bed that appears to float above the floor and walls covered in a semitransparent foil, an Apple TV loaded with more than 20 space-themed films and interstellar artwork throughout.

Food and beverage offerings are equally eclectic, featuring both gourmet Italian and Japanese sushi restaurants. After dinner, play King Midas in the Puregold Bar, select from a range of Cuban and Dominican stogies in the Cigar Lounge, or puff on a hookah in the Arabian-themed Shisha Lounge.

You'll find balm for the soul in the Kameha Spa and while exploring the lake, forests and meadows surrounding the hotel. You'd never guess this wild wonderland is just 3 miles from Zurich Airport.

Info: Rooms from \$184. Dufaux-Strasse 1, Zurich, Switzerland, autographhotels.com, kamehagrandzuerich.com

