



Guest blogger Simon writes about hotels.

The world's best places to stay

Four of the world's quirkiest hotels

What do you want from a hotel? Something clean and comfortable for sure, but do you sometimes find your hotel room a little boring? Do you want your nights to be as much a part of your vacation adventure as your days? Here are four recommendations for a stay you'll never forget!

A Palacio de Sal

Most of us know about the ice hotels in countries like Sweden, where everything, even your bed, is made out of ice. But this hotel in Bolivia is even more unusual; it is made out of salt! About 350 km. south of the city of La Paz, this hotel is on the edge of the Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt plain. It was built using around a million blocks of salt. Visitors report that the food in the restaurant is excellent, especially their famous "salt chicken." There's even a swimming pool, filled with salt water, of course!



B Jules' Undersea Lodge

Usually you can get a taxi to your hotel, but not here! To stay in this hotel in Key Largo, you need to scuba dive to reach the entrance. Once you're there, you can watch fish through the windows of your room. Amazingly, there are hot showers, and you can even get pizza delivered! Because you have to dive to get to the lodge, you need to be in good shape. If you have heart problems, or are pregnant, this isn't the place for you!



C Dog Bark Park Inn

This has to be one of the strangest-looking hotels in the world. Owned by a husband and wife team in Idaho, U.S. the entire hotel looks like a large wooden dog! Four people can sleep inside the dog. There's even a room in its head. Rooms are filled with doggy decorations, and pets are, of course, welcome to stay with you!



D Chalkley's Treehouse

A safari is all about being outdoors, isn't it? It's all about the animals and the wide open spaces. So why go into a building or a tent at night when you could stay under the stars in this treehouse on the Lion Sands Game Reserve in South Africa? You can lie in bed and look up at the stars, watch the sun come up in the morning, and listen to the sound of animals and birds all around you. What could be more romantic?



1 Read the blog about four hotels. What do you think the word "quirkiest" in the heading means?

- a most expensive
- b most comfortable
- c most unusual
- d most famous

2 Match the descriptions to hotels A–D.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 It is a very unusual shape. | _____ |
| 2 It is difficult to get into. | _____ |
| 3 It has no walls or roof. | _____ |
| 4 It is made of a substance not normally used for buildings. | _____ |

3 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 The Palacio de Sal is in an area
 - a where salt is produced.
 - b where many tourists want to go.
 - c without normal building materials.
- 2 According to the blog, the restaurant at the Palacio de Sal
 - a makes the best food in Bolivia.
 - b makes food that is too salty.
 - c makes a popular dish with salt.
- 3 Jules' Undersea Lodge is
 - a in deep water.
 - b only reached by taxi.
 - c in shallow water.
- 4 People with heart problems can't stay at Jules' Undersea Lodge because
 - a doctors can't reach the hotel.
 - b it's not comfortable enough.
 - c it is not safe for them.

- 5 In Dog Bark Park Inn, the beds are
- a in rooms in the dog.
 - b shaped like dogs.
 - c all in one big room.
- 6 At Dog Bark Park Inn, real dogs
- a have to be kept inside always.
 - b are allowed to stay.
 - c are not welcome.
- 7 According to the blog, it is good to stay in a treehouse because
- a you can stay outside all night.
 - b you can see unusual animals.
 - c it is cheaper than a hotel.
- 8 According to the blog, sleeping outside means you can experience
- a being with other people.
 - b other aspects of nature.
 - c waking up very early.