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EUROPE**



**NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC**

# TRAVELER

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# BEST LIST

## 21 LAKE RESORTS



► Soak up these water-lapped retreats for birders, anglers, and absinthe-sippers



Oceans crash and rivers run wild, but lakes somehow, even when they bluster, evoke a sense of serenity. In northern climes synonymous with summer, lakes combine wonder (cold or warm? deep or shallow?) with the certainty that those shores make a full circle.

Lake resorts let us drift away—both literally on a boat and figuratively from life's everyday stressors and demands. These top 21 combine lodging and lakes in a dialectic of indoor and out that betters them both.

—Elaine Glusac

Ring a special bell in the island church near Slovenia's Vila Bled is said to make wishes come true.



# BEST LIST LAKE RESORTS



Taj Lake Palace reflects India's storied past.

## Argentina

### WILD STYLE

Between two lakes, the **Llao Llao Hotel & Resort** in Patagonia dates back to the 1930s, when the surrounding national park was first protected. After a day windsurfing, indulge at one of six dining options or the serious spa.

## Canada

### VIEW FROM A CANOE

Fronting glacier-blue water so stunning it once starred on the Canadian \$20 bill, **Moraine Lake Lodge** guarantees a paddler's Rocky Mountain high. The log and stone decor echo the Banff National Park locale.

## Chile

### GLACIER GAZING

Blending in with the Patagonian Pampas on the shore of Sarmiento Lake, which forms the border of Torres del Paine National Park, **Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa** operates like a plush base camp for wilderness explorers. At this National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, daily excursions such as trekking in the mountains or riding with *baqueanos* (local cowboys) are followed by sumptuous meals paired with Chilean wines. All 40 rooms, the indoor pool, and the telescope-outfitted lounge frame views of the lake and the glaciers beyond.

## England

### CHANNELING BEATRIX

The gracious 36-room **Linthwaite House**, on 14 acres of woods and Peter Rabbit-esque gardens, overlooks Windermere, England's largest lake. A recent renovation installed a conservatory for tea sipping with water views.

## India

### A LITTLE ROMANCE

Built in 1746 for royal trysting, **Taj Lake Palace** is its own island of columned courtyards and arched walkways in Udaipur's Lake Pichola. Arrive to a shower of rose petals, then enjoy a massage on the spa boat.

## Italy

### CAMPARI & CLOONEY

Just a stone's skip from the A-lister's estate on Lake Como, the former home of 19th-century opera star Giuditta Pasta now hosts **CastaDiva Resort & Spa** with a dramatic bar and a heated swimming pool built into the lake.

## Malawi

### THE LIFE AQUATIC

In Lake Malawi National Park, Robin Pope Safaris' **Pumulani Lodge** offers wildlife tours of the lake, where guests snorkel with schools of colorful fish. Cap the day with a sunset sail on a traditional dhow.

## Michigan

### TIME TRAVELING

Life moving too fast? Claim a rocker on the world's longest porch, at the seasonal **Grand Hotel** on Mackinac Island, and survey the strait between Lakes Huron and Michigan. It's eternally 1887 here, with dress-code dinners and carriage tours.

## Missouri

### LAKE LESSONS

Cast a line for bass, then learn to cook your catch at **Big Cedar Lodge**, from the owner of Bass Pro Shops in the Ozarks. To see more of the 43,000-acre Table Rock Lake, go to ski school or rent a pontoon boat.



## Myanmar

### KEEPING IT LOCAL

Guests of the **Inle Princess** set out by traditional skiff to visit stilt villages built over Inle Lake and the ingenious fishermen who row with their legs. In the resort's teak-frame "houses," find Inthar weavings and Shan paper lanterns.

## New York

### LISTENING TO LOONS

Set amid 12,000 acres on Elk Lake in the Adirondacks, rustic 1904-vintage **Elk Lake Lodge** is a nature immersion. Connect the dots of 28 islands via kayak or canoe while spotting moose, bears, and loons.

## New Zealand

### INSTAGRAM READY

No matter where you are at **Matakauri Lodge**—in the glass-walled restaurant or suites with window-side day beds—Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables mountains are on view.

## Oregon

### FRESH AIR FARE

In the Deschutes National Forest, **Suttle Lodge & Boathouse** keeps the vibe rustic-chic with log-beamed cabins and pillowy chairs around the lodge's stone fireplace. Top guest chefs whip up wine-paired dinners on the dock.

## Peru

### CATCH YOUR BREATH

At 12,500 feet, **Titilaka** lodge has views of Lake Titicaca from most of its 18 rooms. Boat to the islands of the world's highest navigable body of water, raft through its reeds, or visit local village markets.

## Philippines

### LOVE ACTUALLY

There's a reason why so many weddings take place at the island of Luzon's **Lake Hotel Tagaytay**: Taal Lake makes a magnificent backdrop, with Taal Volcano Island at its center. Come for the view, stay for the adobo.

## Portugal

### COLOR THERAPY

On the Azores' São Miguel, **7 Cidades Lake Lodge** sits alongside the blue half of dual-lake Lagoa das Sete Cidades (its neighbor is green). Stay in a modernist bungalow to birdwatch or soak in nearby hot springs.

## Scotland

### NESSIE WATCHING

From **Loch Ness Lodge**, you can spend hours scanning the mesmerizing lake for the namesake monster. The hilltop Highlands escape also offers lake cruises through its larger sibling hotel next door, the Loch Ness Clansman.

## Slovenia

### POLITICAL ASYLUM

The former summer home of Yugoslav president Tito, **Vila Bled** overlooks a 17th-century island church in Lake Bled. Reach it via traditional *pletna* boats from the resort pier or rent your own rowboat.

## Switzerland

### WALKING ON WATER

Plenty of tropical resorts offer overwater bungalows, but rarely do lakes, which makes **Hôtel Palafitte** on Lake Neuchâtel categorically exotic. Built for the Swiss National Expo in 2002 on the theme of surprise, the hotel comprises 26 wood-clad bungalows above the lake and 14 more on land. Guests can paddleboard directly from porches equipped with swimming ladders. At sunset, search for the green flash with help from the "green fairy," or absinthe, created in the canton of Neuchâtel.

## Tanzania

### SAFARIS & SUNDOWNERS

A National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, **Rubondo Island Camp** is the only accommodation in the namesake national park. Join boat safaris on Lake Victoria and toast sunset from the water.

## Wyoming

### GOING OFF-GRID

Forget cell service at **Brooks Lake Lodge & Spa**, deep in the Shoshone National Forest. Instead opt for riding, canoeing, or hiking at the retreat built in 1922 as a stopover on the way to Yellowstone.

