



World's Best Beach Hotels

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World's Best Beach Hotels

Travel+Leisure readers ranked the best hotels around the globe for sea-breeze bliss—whether they sit on powdery white sand, rocky bluffs, or bustling waterfronts.

by Katrina Brown Hunt December 23, 2015

Feeling an ocean breeze is lovely. Enjoying it while also listening to live music and nibbling on a bowl of warm chips—that might be paradise.

Kelley Kitley used to live a few blocks from [Shutters on the Beach](#) in Santa Monica, and admits she often played tourist at the beachfront hotel. “They make the best mojitos and serve warm chips on the cocktail tables while a piano plays and a fire roars year round,” says the [psychotherapist](#). “The entire hotel is airy and light, with great people-watching, and it’s just steps away from the beach. It’s perfect.”

Travel+Leisure readers concurred, placing the L.A. hotel in the top 10 among the world's best beachy hotels. As part of the annual readers' survey, the World's Best Awards, readers ranked hotels, islands, cities, and even airports on their charms—including service, dining, and aesthetics. Within the hotel category, we looked at the properties around the globe that ranked the highest for their locations—and then focused on the winners that sit right near the ocean—or the sea, or even on a bustling city waterfront.

Indeed, not every great coastal hotel sits right on the sand. Some of the top 20 winners are perched on cliffs above the surf, or spread out against a harbor. But they all share the visceral joys of being in the path of those sea breezes, and many winners, not surprisingly, also ranked highly for their fresh-caught cuisine and their intangible romantic appeal.



No. 2: Inn Above Tide, Sausalito *19 of 21*

The silver-medal winner offers proof that you don't need sand right outside the door to be a winning coastal hotel. As its name indicates, this [31-room hotel](#) sits right over the water (in this case, San Francisco Bay), and its rooms come with fireplaces and great views of the city skyline, Marin and Alcatraz. From the hotel's entrance, you can bicycle or drive to [Marin Headlands](#), part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where beaches are pebbly and the waves can be big enough to surf. Given the free bicycles and complimentary wine-and-cheese receptions each evening, the hotel scored well with readers for value—and achieved a perfect score in the romance category.