



**OF THE BEST...
HOTELS ON THE RIVER**

SANDS RIVER SELOUS TANZANIA

This classic safari lodge (above) occupies a rocky outcrop overlooking the Rufiji River in the largest game reserve in Africa. There are just five open-fronted stone and thatch cottages with loo-with-views – all bathrooms face the river. Instead of joining wallowing hippo and crocodile, cool off in the pool shaded by an ancient baobab tree. From £403pppn all inclusive. Aardvark Safaris offers a 25 per cent discount*. aardvarksafaris.co.uk

PLAZA ON THE RIVER LONDON

Staff stories about a guest casting off from a third-floor balcony are probably apocryphal, but you couldn't get any closer to the river unless you were staying on a houseboat. This 65-suite hotel offers a Thames-side location minutes from the South Bank. Ask for – what else? – a river-view suite. Doubles from £169. plazaontheriver.co.uk

GRESHAM PALACE BUDAPEST

This restored Art Nouveau gem sits at the foot of the famous Chain Bridge overlooking the Danube. It has floor-to-ceiling wrought-iron

staircases, stained-glass windows, and crystal chandeliers sprinkled with the work of prominent 20th-century Hungarian artists.

Doubles from £356. fourseasons.com/budapest

RADISSON BLU AQUA HOTEL CHICAGO

Radisson Blu's first North American hotel is located in a rippled skyscraper in the up-and-coming Lakeshore East neighbourhood. The hotel is a couple of blocks west of Lake Michigan and there are two pools. The lobby has a shimmering copper disc screen and a metres-long real fire.

BA offers three nights from £799pp with flights**.

Visit ba.com/chicago or call +44(0)844 493 0758.

GERBERMUEHLE FRANKFURT

Located on the banks of the River Main, this former flour mill dates back to 1520 and combines ancient and new to dizzying effect. Exposed beams and stone walls are the backdrop to a curvaceous white leather check-in desk. Thirteen rooms and five suites are simply decorated, and there's a 500-seat riverside garden. Doubles from £246.

designhotels.com/gerbermuehle



**HOTEL THOUGHTS
RAINY CHAN
THE PENINSULA**

What makes a good hotel?

When you step into a hotel it should smell clean and crisp. Guests should feel excited, but also have the comfort of being at a home away from home. And staff should emotionally bond with guests.

What's your hotel's star turn?

With 84 years of history, the heritage here is strongly felt, and we have the latest in-room technology and trendsetting restaurants. We're able to offer luxury that few can come close to with our fleet of 14 extended wheelbase Phantom Rolls-Royces, helicopter and rooftop helipad, and transportation fleet of Mini Coopers.

What's your best party night?

New Year's Eve is always special. Our celebrations represent glamour and luxury at its best.

What's your favourite thing about Hong Kong?

Its energy and can-do attitude. The friendly locals and safety of the city make it an attractive destination.

Rainy Chan is general manager at The Peninsula Hong Kong. peninsula.com

Check in...

MALAYSIAN BORNEO

Just off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, on the shores of Pulau Gaya, the newly opened Gaya Island resort offers 121 luxurious hill and seafront villas with views of Mount Kinabalu. Properties blend traditional Sabahan architecture with modern design. ytlhotels.com

SYDNEY

Located near Sydney's historical Rocks district, The Observatory Hotel, now part of the Langham Hospitality Group, is a great luxury base for exploring the city. It's housed in a Georgian building with classical elegance and 21st-century service. langhamhotels.com

ISTANBUL

Set in the heart of Taksim, the Marti Istanbul opens its doors this summer. Designed by Zeynep Fadilloğlu, its 270 rooms and suites have been designed with Ottoman touches and artistic flair. Four bar and restaurant areas offer Turkish and worldwide cuisine. martiistanbulhotel.com

DUBAI

Enjoy sparkling views of the Dubai Creek at the 292 rooms and suites of the Jumeirah Creekside Hotel in Al Garhoud or 'Old' Dubai. The vibe is charming country club meets modern city with lush grounds, a spa, tennis, squash and beach volleyball courts. jumeirah.com

FIT CLUB: FIND OUR PICK OF SPORTY HOTELS AND BRACING BOOT CAMPS AT BAHIGHLIFE.COM