



# LUXURY SEEKERS: SAY HOLA TO SPAIN, KONICHIWA TO KYOTO AND ACTION IN HOLLYWOOD

March 20, 2018

*When in need of a dollop of luxury without the #pricetag, Hotels.com Luxe for Less finds will have all the answers*

**HOLIDAY LUXE FOR LESS**  
The best bang-for-your-buck 5-star destinations from Hotels.com

Seriously... did you know you could book a posh 5-star place to stay in Chicago for the same price as 14 Deep Dish Pizzas?

<p><b>MELBOURNE</b> \$196 average per night</p> <p>or 9 portions of avocado on toast</p>	<p><b>MEXICO CITY</b> \$309 average per night</p> <p>or 7 bottles of Tequila</p>	<p><b>CHICAGO</b> \$305 average per night</p> <p>or 14 deep dish pizzas</p>
<p><b>OSAKA</b> \$427 average per night</p> <p>or 10 sushi platters</p>	<p><b>BARCELONA</b> \$346 average per night</p> <p>or 8 dishes of paella</p>	<p><b>MONTREAL</b> \$348 average per night</p> <p>or 13 large bottles of maple syrup</p>
<p><b>BERLIN</b> \$220 average per night</p> <p>or 6 rounds of beer</p>	<p><b>RIO DE JANEIRO</b> \$343 average per night</p> <p>or 9 meals in a Brazilian steakhouse</p>	<p>Hotels.com</p>

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**TORONTO - MARCH 20, 2018:** Each year, the Hotel Price Index™ (HPI™) from Hotels.com™ reveals tons of interesting facts and trends about the cost of overnight stays around the world.

This year, Hotels.com is giving away the secrets of where to go for the most luxe holiday stays on the planet for a seriously good price. Whether you want to nibble on caviar by your own private pool or relax on your 1,000 thread count Egyptian cotton sheets, Hotels.com has the key to the best affordable luxury holidays out there. All hail, the **Luxe for Less** hot list.

“One of the top themes we see in social media #travelbrags is luxury. Travel really is the new social currency, as people love to share more and more of the great things and places they experience, whether it’s through a selfie or an Instagram story. And who doesn’t love living the life of luxury – especially when it’s a great value,” commented Johan Svanstrom President, for the Hotels.com brand.

Sit back, sip some Champagne and get your planner out as Hotels.com guides you through the top tips for luxury travel in 2018.

### **Luxe for Less Top 5: Where to go for the best value luxury holiday that money *can* buy**

The HPI has uncovered the Top 5 most popular destinations for low cost 5-star accommodation – from resorts and high-end chains to villas and luxury boutiques – for travellers around the world in 2017, and they were:

1. **Bangkok**, Thailand: 5-star properties averaged\* \$186 for Canadian travellers

*Best for: Boat rides on the Chao Phraya River, vibrant street life and ornate shrines*

2. **Kuala Lumpur**, Malaysia: 5-star properties averaged \$146 for Canadian travellers

*Best for: High-flying city glam in the heart of Southeast Asia*

Check out the top things to do on the [Hotels.com Travel Brag blog](#).

3. **Istanbul**, Turkey: 5-star properties averaged \$164 for Canadian travellers

*Best for: Where East meets West and history unfolds before you*

4. **Riga**, Latvia: 5-star properties averaged \$161 for Canadian travellers

*Best for: Discovering it before your mates do. A striking city rich in Eastern European culture*

5. **Bogota**, Colombia: 5-star properties averaged \$185 for Canadian travellers

*Best for: One of the best music and night life scenes in Latin America*

### **Viva España**

The World Tourism Organisation revealed in 2017 that Spain officially overtook the USA to become the second most-visited country in the world (after France), welcoming an estimated 82 million visitors, up from 75 million the previous year<sup>[1]</sup>. When there are tapas at every corner, beaches galore and an accent that makes you weak at the knees, it isn’t surprising Spain has seen such a growth in popularity. As increased demand is likely to push up prices, it’s important to know where to go for affordable luxury while still being on-trend of course.

1. **Cordoba:** Canadian travellers enjoyed a 19 per cent decrease in prices paid at 5-star hotels in Cordoba down to an average of \$185 a night.

*Best for: epic Instagrams of the mesmerising Mezquita and an eclectic mix of Moorish architecture*

2. **Granada:** Offered Canadian travellers 5-star rooms for less than \$185 a night.

*Best for: The unmissable Alhambra and equally unmissable churros with chocolate sauce (divine!)*

## **Have your sushi and eat it too**

If you just want to eat sushi for breakfast, ramen for lunch and a mixture of both for dinner, Japan is the place for you- and spoiler alert, it's affordable! Thanks to the rising strength of various global currencies including the Canadian Dollar against the Yen, Japan is currently a better value luxury destination for travellers from Canada - but where to go for the best of the best?

1. **Kyoto:** The average price paid per night at a 5-star luxury accommodation was down 36 per cent for Canadian travellers in 2017, compared to 2016.

*Best for: Kyo-wagashi (scrumptious local sweets) and tofu*

Check out the top things to do in Kyoto on the [Hotels.com Travel Brag blog](#).

2. **Osaka:** Average price decrease of 12 per cent for travellers from Canada at 4-star accommodations.

*Best for: Becoming a samurai at the Osaka Castle*

3. **Tokyo:** At 5 and 4-star properties, Canadians travellers saw an average price decrease of 5 per cent.

*Best for: Mindboggling skyscrapers and stunning views from the Tokyo Skytree*

Check out the top things to do in Tokyo on the [Hotels.com Travel Brag blog](#).

4. **Okinawa:** Canadians enjoyed an average price decrease of 42 per cent for 5-star properties.

*Best for: Cuisine you can't get anywhere else in the world - not even the rest of Japan!*

## **America is still (one of) the greatest**

Whether it is Hollywood, Mickey Mouse, or the White House you want to visit, the USA has seen some incredible price drops across the country in notoriously expensive cities, making them more accessible for everyone.

Top destinations where prices paid for stays in 4 and 5-star properties dropped, include:

1. **New Orleans:** Average price decrease of 9 per cent for travellers from Canada.

*Best for: round-the-clock nightlife, live-music and spicy cuisine*

2. **Orlando:** Average price decrease of 9 per cent for travellers from Canada.

*Best for: unleashing your inner kid and drinking Butter Beer*

3. **Los Angeles:** Average price decrease of 9 per cent for travellers from Canada.

*Best for: surfing and being a laid-back beach bum*

4. **Washington DC:** Average price decrease of 12 per cent for travellers from Canada.

*Best for: the spectacular blossom in spring, a bustling food scene*

## **ENDS**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

\*This press release utilizes data from the latest Hotel Price Index (HPI), which shows what people actually paid per room, per night based on double occupancy, including taxes & fees in 2017 as compared to 2016.

Full HPI data is available at [hpi.hotels.com](http://hpi.hotels.com) for 13 major nationalities and is presented in local currency; data for additional countries' travellers is available by contacting the Hotels.com press office.

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[1] United Nations World Tourism Organization rankings, as reported in BBC News, 15 January 2018: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-42692641>.