



ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

# 12 Boutique Hotels Outside Major U.S. Cities That Make the Case for a Road Trip

There's something restorative about spending a weekend at a historical mansion in a small town

One of the many benefits of a luxury resort is the myriad of amenities. From multi-story spas complete with plunge pools, treatment suites, and impeccably decorated lounge spaces to renowned resident restaurants that even the locals are dying to try, resorts can grant just about any whim its thousands of guests may have. That said, the one comfort sprawling resorts can't offer is a sense of charm that comes with a bed-and-breakfast or a quaint hotel.

For those travelers looking to swap plastic keycards for brass skeleton keys, take a short road trip outside just about any major city. The old—sometimes antique—cabins, manors, and villas tucked in the charismatic nooks of towns you've probably heard of but never visited are worth the drive. Plus, there's no shortage of charming lodgings available: A luxurious take on the classic 1920s American motor lodge in the Berkshires; a 19th-century historic mansion turned bed-and-breakfast in Galveston, Texas; and a European-inspired chateau in Oakhurst, California, to name a few. No matter where you book a reservation, you'll surely make it your new go-to for a sweet escape.



## Highlander Mountain House

Less than three hours outside Atlanta, Highlander Mountain House is where Victorian elegance meets contemporary style. Tucked within the Highlands, North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, the 18-room hotel is a design-centric Anglophile's dream: The walls are adorned with original Cherokee, Joseph Albers, and Sally Mann art; the interiors are equal parts rugged Appalachian lodge and refined English estate; and there are countless plush textures and colorful patterns at play. As for the aesthetic, owner Jason Reeves explains, "Hospitality is storytelling, so once I found the right historic property in Highlands, I knew I needed to immerse myself in the context of the area and pull on some threads that would help define the space and the experience."

Whether you book your stay in the effortlessly elegant 150-year-old main house or in the cabin-inspired bunkhouse, you'll hardly want to leave—except, maybe, to lounge by the wood-burning stone-surrounded fireplaces in the lobby or dig into the wildboar ragu at The Ruffed Grouse, the hotel's seasonally inspired eatery.