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Craving a Sweet Suite?

Spring Villa at
Nayara Springs
Resort in Costa Rica

Carta Hunt

Latin America offers show-stopping suites to urban-loving guests and excels in the sweetest of suite accommodations in mountain and jungle lodges. So, we asked a handful of travel industry friends to share their favorite suite accommodations throughout the region.

Latin America expert Conor Frantsen at **Natural Habitat Adventures** has no doubt that Peru-bound clients will find it "totally worth a detour to stay at **Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa**, located in the Sacred Valley outside Cusco. The *Deluxe Casitas* are heaven, and this hotel is probably one of my top five [favorites] in the world." *Premium Suites* feature living room and bedrooms decorated with folk art and offer grand views of lush gardens and distant mountains from a terrace sporting its own Jacuzzis. Guests booked on the company's new 10-day *Discover Amazon and Machu Picchu* program (priced from \$6,995 pp dbl) will, in addition to Sol y Luna, stay at **Hotel Libertador Palacio del Inca** in Cusco and the **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel**; plus take an Amazon cruise aboard the luxurious, 14-suite *Delfin II*.

Aaron Daker, managing director of **Costa Rica Experts**, seems to find all his favorite luxury suites in the company's 11-day *Ultimate Holiday* itinerary (priced from \$7,275 pp dbl), which he points out features "the best of the best in lodging and resorts." Guests stay in the *Master Suite* at **Finca Rosa Blanca Coffee Plantation and Inn** in the Central Valley; in a *Spring Villa* with private pool at **Nayara Springs Resort** at the Arenal Volcano; in an oceanview bungalow at **Lapa Rios Ecolodge**, which Daker calls "the very best nature lodge in Costa Rica"; at **Kura Design Villas** in

an *Infinity Villa* whose vast views of the Osa Peninsula embrace the rainforest, ocean and a whale tail or two in season.

Veronica Villegas admits that a main perk of her job as a spokesperson for **InterContinental Hotels Group** is that she occasionally gets to tuck into a *Presidential Suite*. Among her favorites is the one at the *Club Tower* of the **Real InterContinental Costa Rica**. "At 820 sq. ft., it's one of the largest *Presidential Suites* in the region, sharing the tower with a 16,000-sq.-ft. spa." Of course, Villegas says, "you have to love the *Presidential Suites* at the 1930s-style **InterContinental Buenos Aires**; each comes with a suite-length balcony looking out over the historic San Telmo district."

Avanti Destinations draws on a huge inventory of super-luxe hotels when customizing itineraries, and company president Harry Dalgaard didn't miss a beat in coming up with a luscious sweet-suite list. "There are no ordinary rooms at **Awasi Patagonia**, overlooking Chile's Torres del Paine National Park," he says, "but each magnificent villa—designed for guests to feel completely connected to nature—comes with a hot tub, a private guide and 4WD vehicle." Another pick is the **Belmond Palacio Nazarenas** in Cusco where, says Dalgaard, "my favorite is the *Nazarenas Suite* with its original colonial ceiling and a wonderful outlook over the charming landmarked plaza from its corner terrace." Other things to love are the 24-hour butler service, a free rum/pisco station, marble bathrooms with under-floor heating, and oxygen to pipe in when adjusting to the high altitude.

Latin America

Book clients on **Alexander+Roberts'** luxury 7-night *Three Jewels: Buenos Aires + Iguassu Falls + Rio* journey (priced \$4,299 pp dbl), and they will sleep in some of South America's finest hotels: **Sofitel Buenos Aires**, the **Belmond Hotel das Cataratas** on the Brazilian side of Iguassu Falls, and the grande dame of Rio hotels, the **Belmond Copacabana Palace**. However, for private groups, Beth Karlicek, director of operations for Alexander+Roberts, says that one of her choices for an even more luxury hotel upgrade could be her favorite *La Mansion Suites* at the **Four Seasons Buenos Aires**. "I love the balcony overlooking the gardens and the impeccable 24-hour butler service." At the same time, the sweetest of all in suite accommodations in Karlicek's book are "the just plain spectacular villas at **Ponta dos Ganchos Exclusive Resort**, set on a private island peninsula near Florianopolis, Brazil." While huge bungalow villas come with king beds and hammocks on the wood deck verandahs with ocean views, an *Emerald Villa* permits guests to pick up wines from their own cellar and do laps in their infinity pool.

Suites Go Airborne

A corner suite with views of the river and city, spacious living room and bedroom, plus 24-hour butler service at the **Park Tower Hotel**, a **Luxury Collection Hotel**, in Buenos Aires is the top pick for Argentine-born Roberto Girotti, who often gets to drop into his hometown for his position as executive consultant for Latin America and the Caribbean at **Delta Air Lines**.

Nowadays, other suites are on his mind, as Delta prepares for the debut of its *Delta One Suite*—the industry's first all-suites (32) business class cabin, aboard its first Airbus A350 plane in September 2017. Besides a fully flatbed seat, which the airline introduced eight years ago in *Delta One* business class, each suite will have a seat-high door that slides shut for privacy. All-suites business class will operate primarily on long-haul flights of more than 12 hours. ■

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