Hotel Hop

Bona fide trailblazer? Be among the first to bunk at these new homes away from home.

By Becca Hensley





The Gwen

Chicago, Ill.

Be blown away in the Windy City at The Gwen. With interiors enlivened by panels created by sculptress Gwen Lux in 1929, the 300-room hotel rises above River North on the Magnificent Mile. Dramatic and glamorous, The Gwen connects with Chicago's pre-Depression, Gatsby-like glory. A stone's throw from the storied attractions of The Loop, it may lure you away from the city's award-winning restaurants to dine at The Gwen's three exceptional venues. Overnight rates from \$190, thegwenchicago.com, @thegwenchicago

The Hoxton

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

In the city of tulips, canals, bikes and brown cafes, The Hoxton brand has opened its first hotel outside of London. On Herengracht Canal, comprising five antique canal houses, the 111-room hotel has three whimsical room categories—the smallest dubbed "shoebox." All en suite, some with canal views, some wedged into attics, rooms come with one hour of free international calls, Wi-Fi, breakfast and a stocked minibar. Overnight rates from \$98, thehoxton.com, @thehoxtonams



SLS Las Vegas, A Tribute Portfolio Resort

Las Vegas, Nev.

We expect surreal and largesse in Sin City-that's part of the enchantment. With SLS Las Vegas, A Tribute Portfolio Resort, surreal gets a dose of supercool. On the North Strip, composed of three towers that encompass 1,613 rooms and suites, SLS embraces edgy with playful, smile-provoking art-think images of hands pointing toward toilets and flying people painted on hall walls. Just downstairs, eight restaurants and three nightclubs keep the Vegas vibe alive. Overnight rates from \$55, slshotels.com/lasvegas, @slslasvegas

The Press Hotel

Portland, Maine

Wordsmiths, this one is for you. Sit down at your circa 1920s writing desk at The Press, Portland's first boutique hotel, set within a former newspaper building. Inspired by journalism's heyday, even the color scheme seems drawn from a newspaper. Part of Marriott's Autograph Collection, the 110-room wunderkind evokes the seriously on-trend vibe of Maine's famous port city while never underestimating the past. Overnight rates from \$299, the presshotel.com, @the presshotel





The Cotton House Hotel

Barcelona, Spain

Homeboy Gaudí would stay here-if not just for the views of his Sagrada Familia from the hotel's rooftop pool. But, the postmodern master would no doubt also relish the fearless decorative pizzazz that comes to play in this neoclassical structure, once home to the Cotton Textile Foundation. An Autograph Collection standout, the hotel boasts 83-rooms and a mesmerizing 1957-built six-story spiral staircase, suspended only by metal cables. Not a fan of heights? Leave the staircase behind and walk the popular Passeig de Gràcia. Overnight rates from \$297, hotelcottonhouse.com. @cottonhousebcn

The Element Boston Seaport

Boston, Mass.

Even the Puritans wouldn't have been able to resist the cachet of Boston's hottest neighborhood, Seaport, reborn from a parcel of barren waterside warehouses and parking lots. Adding to its allure, eco-conscious The Element puts guests in the center of the action, just across from the Convention Center. The extended-stay style hotel has 180 commodious rooms, each with a kitchenette. Lightfilled interiors take advantage of the vistas and an indoor pool. complimentary breakfast and gym keeps you fit no matter how many lobster rolls you devour. Overnight rates from \$192, elementbostonseaport.com, @elementseaport

Mama Shelter

Los Angeles, Calif.

Ooh la la! It's not the Eiffel Tower, but Paris comes to Los Angeles with Mama Shelter, the 70-room outpost of a canny French chain. Burrowed between Sunset and Hollywood boulevards in a 1930s-era building, the affordable retreat sports mismatched retro furniture, marble baths and seriously sumptuous bedding. Exuding the Beverly Hills bungalow of a bygone film star, rooms have stacks of movie scripts to peruse and custom-made beauty products from Absolution. Overnight rates from \$159, mamashelter.com, @mama_shelter

South Congress Hotel

Austin, Texas

There's a party in SoCo and you're invited. Austin's coolest neighborhood got buzzier when South Congress Hotel opened its doors. With 83 rooms, a rooftop pool and plenty of open spaces, the midstory stay draws locals thanks to NYC-based Tenoverten nail salon; a vintage moto shop; and Otoko, a 12-seat restaurant by Paul Qui. Expect sleek rooms boasting denim and polka-dot robes and minibars stocked with local fare. Overnight rates from \$289, southcongresshotel.com, @socohotel

The Riviera Palm Springs, A Tribute Portfolio Resort

Palm Springs, Calif.

It's not a real oasis, but The Riviera Palm Springs has the glitzy Starlite Lounge, Sidecar (helmed by a hip mixologist); and two poolside bars-because you get thirsty in the desert, right? Attracting locals for its be-seen heartbeat, the 398room Riviera embodies an escape from routine. Three outdoor pools and an 11,000-square-foot spa dilutes daily life's harsh realities, as does the resort's signature Palm Springs, an eco-forward, landto-plate restaurant that gets its produce from adjacent Coachella Valley. Overnight rates from \$139, rivierapalmsprings.com, @rivieraps

Hotel Emma

San Antonio, Texas

Shack up with the ghosts of beers past at Hotel Emma. In the Alamo City's former Lone Star Brewery, near the River Walk's hum, surrounded by a restaurant- and a boutique-abundant commercial sector, this 146-room hotel plays up its brewmaking past with industrial artifacts woven into the interiors. Lavish textiles, leather-sheathed chairs and a grand piano in the namesake Emma Koehler Suite ensure regal coddling. In the library, turn the pages of some 4,000 books; then nosh at Supper, An American Eatery. Overnight rates from \$350, hotelemma com @thehotelemma



