

THE WORLD'S BEST
**SWIMMING
POOLS**

Stefanie Waldek







**SINGITA
PAMUSHANA
LODGE**

Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve

ZIMBABWE



Right as you enter Singita Pamushana Lodge in Zimbabwe's Malilangwe Wildlife Reserve, you're greeted by a cliff-top infinity pool above the glittering waters of the Malilangwe Dam. Beyond are rolling green hills as far as the eye can see. It's a pretty spectacular vista, but the pool action doesn't end there. Each of the eight suites, as well as the exclusive-use Singita Malilangwe House next door, has its own infinity pool, too, with equally stunning views. Game drives are multifaceted, incorporating much more than just wildlife—your guide will also take you to ancient rock art sites.



**THE OBEROI
UDAIVILAS**

Badi-Gorela-Mulla Talai
Road, Haridas Ji Ki Magri,
Udaipur, Rajasthan, 313001

INDIA

The Oberoi Udaivilas in Udaipur, India, is effectively a contemporary palace—it's certainly designed to look like one, and guests are treated like royalty. The property even has a faux moat, which in actuality is a semi-private swimming pool accessible only by guests who book specific rooms. Yes, it's worth the splurge, as the 240-foot-

long pool has uninterrupted views of Lake Pichola. Or for something more private, you could book a luxury suite with a private pool. Speaking of private, while the resort might be in a bustling city, it feels delightfully remote thanks to more than 30 acres of gardened grounds.





**FOUR SEASONS
RESORT KOH
SAMUI**

219 Moo 5, Anghong, Koh
Samui, Surat Thani, 84140

THAILAND



Everyone gets their own pool at the Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui, whether you're in a "modest" 1,108-square-foot Serenity Pool Villa or the grand five-bedroom residence, and each one of them has views of the sea. The whole resort is built on a hillside, so villas at the top have more of a jungle feel in a canopy of palms while villas at the bottom are right on the pristine beach. And don't worry, there's a communal infinity pool at the beach, too, alongside a restaurant and bar.









EUROPE

Budapest's Széchenyi Baths make most of the "must-visit" lists written about the city, and that's not too much of a surprise. The spa baths are part of an ancient tradition of soaking in the natural waters here—the Romans, who built the city of Aquincum on these lands, had thermal baths. Today, it's not just about the waters, which can be enjoyed in both smaller indoor pools and three giant outdoor ones. It's also about the ornate yellow building by Győző Czigler, erected in the early 20th century. Be forewarned that it can get crowded here, especially during the spa parties on summer nights.



SZÉCHENYI BATHS

Állatkerti körút 9-11,
Budapest, 1146

HUNGARY





**MANDARIN
ORIENTAL,
BARCELONA**

Passeig de Gràcia, 38-40,
08007 Barcelona

SPAIN



The two pools at the elegant Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona, couldn't be more different. On the rooftop, a hedge-lined pool accents a terrace with views of the city skyline; in the same space is the Terrat restaurant and bar, which serves Peruvian bites and cocktails. Here, you can take a personalized yoga lesson or guided meditation session. Then in the subterranean spa, you'll find a moody, emerald space with an inky pool—it's certainly one of the more unique swimming experiences out there. Even if you don't want to take a dip, it's worth going for the photo alone.



**CASA SAN
AGUSTIN**

Calle de la Universidad
No. 36-44, Centro,
Cartagena de Indias,
Bolívar

COLOMBIA

Hidden among three historic buildings in Cartagena's Centro are the remains of a 300-year-old aqueduct, which have been transformed into a sanctuary-like L-shaped pool. It's the watering hole of the Casa San Agustín, a 31-room boutique hotel known for its restaurant, Alma, which serves a

seasonally changing menu of local seafood dishes. For its small size, the hotel has an impressive list of amenities, including a spa, a library that hosts afternoon tea, and, perhaps most unique for a city hotel, a private beach on Isla Barú, a peninsula about an hour away.

