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OFF DUTY TRAVEL

Hard-to-Reach Hotels

These accommodations can only be reached on bike or horse or by foot, but they reward guests with tasty cuisine, plush beds and even better views



Monte Rosa Hütte *CHRISTOF SONDER*

By **BRIGID MANDER**

Oct. 29, 2014 12:49 p.m. ET

HOTELS GENERALLY aim to be as accessible as possible, touting their convenient locations and offering transportation to their doors. But some aren't quite so accommodating—and that's the point. To reach these remote outposts, guests must pedal bikes, trek mountain trails or ride horseback through the bush. But the effort might make the plush beds, scenic settings and indulgent food seem all that more appealing on arrival.

Scale the Alps in Switzerland

You may puff, sweat and even shed a tear or two on your way to the **Monte Rosa Hütte**: It's a four-hour climb from the Rotenboden train station via hiking trails in summer, snowshoes or alpine touring skis in winter. (A guide is recommended for the less experienced.) For some, this high-alpine architectural landmark is a launching point for treks along the Monte Rosa massif—one of Switzerland's most spectacular mountain

groups—but for others, it’s the destination. Opened in 2009, the 120-bed, energy-independent refuge was a collaboration between the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and the Swiss Alpine Club. Inside, you’ll find relatively basic rooms and hearty Swiss mountain food. Monte Rosa’s singular luxury is its setting among glaciers, with views of the Matterhorn. *From about \$90 a night, section-monte-rosa.ch*



Canvas Hotel

MORE ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

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- In Buenos Aires, the Best Restaurants Are Now a Bargain
- A Self-Guided Rafting Trip Through the Grand Canyon
- A Saddle-Up Safari in Kenya

canvashotel.no

Hoof It in South Africa

The 2,500-acre **Triple B Ranch**—a working ranch in the northern part of the country—offers a luxurious take on pioneering with its adventure to isolated Camp Davidson. Guests ride the ranch’s sturdy Boerperd horses across protected big-game habitat to four spacious tents set on eucalyptus decks, likely spotting giraffes, zebras and hippos along the way. (All levels of riders are welcome.) The two-year-old camp is appointed with hot bucket showers and a solar-heated pool, and serves civilized campfire dishes, such as springbok carpaccio and venison stew. *From about \$290 a night, including meals, ridinginafrica.com*

Bike to Bed in Norway

The road to the **Canvas Hotel** is, in fact, not a road. The lodge can only be accessed via a mountain-bike trail that winds through the sylvan hills of southern Norway’s Telemark county to the shores of a misty lake, where nine Mongolian-style yurts perch. Cushier than their traditional counterparts, these structures have thick canvas walls,

Norwegian rugs, Hästens beds and linens, and wood-burning fireplaces. After days exploring the 60 miles of surrounding bike trails—with terrain for beginner to expert riders—pedal back to the hot tubs on a lakeside deck, followed by cocktail service, wine and locally sourced Scandinavian cuisine. *From about \$750 for two nights,*



Triple B Ranch



Salkantay Lodge

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luggage transport, mountainlodgesofperu.com

Walk the Mile in California

Pick a Different Path in Peru

Intrepid travelers can skip the crowded, touristy Inca Trail and access Macchu Pichu via an ancient, scenic and far less popular footpath that twists through the Andes for 30 miles. The Salkantay Trail —“savage mountain” in Peru’s native Quechua—is challenging, hence the lack of crowds. The six-day journey to Macchu Pichu includes stops at four new **Salkantay Lodge** outposts, accessible only by foot. The stone-and-adobe establishments feature décor that references Incan art and local traditions; while you may arrive each night weary and dusty after several hours of braving the Andean elements, you will be rewarded with hot towels and drinks at the door. Peruvian nouvelle cuisine, massages,

beds with fluffy comforters, scented herbal pillows and hot water bottles prep guests for the next day’s adventures. *From \$2,990 a person, including lodging, meals, guides and*



High Sierra Camp

Two million acres of wilderness lie behind **High Sierra Camp**, where Giant Sequoia National Monument meets Sequoia and King’s Canyon National Parks. Despite the vast open space, it’s only a one-mile hike from the nearest road to these accommodations. Thirty-six canvas-and-wood bungalows—stocked with Pendleton wool blankets, down pillows and hand-wrought metal furniture—are scattered in the red-fir and pine forest. The main lodge features an enclosed great room and al fresco dining area. You can spend your days exploring the mountainous terrain, or admire nature through the lodge’s 12-foot glass windows. High Sierra’s five-course dinners are made from locally sourced ingredients and served in the open-air dining pavilion; the wine list was created by James Beard Award-winning retailer Kermit Lynch, and highlights French wines as well as selections from Napa. For lunch, you can make your own picnic from a selection of meats, cheeses and beverages. *\$250 a person per night, including meals, sequoiahighsierracamp.com*

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