

Luxury Hotel Insider

Insights to global luxury travel

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Taj Lake Palace was formerly a royal summer palace

You used to be what? Jails. Post Offices. Bullfighting arenas. You never know what type of building will magically (okay, usually its millions of dollars) transform into luxury hotels. These are just a few choices, see additional reincarnated resorts on [Pinterest](#), [Facebook](#), and [Google+](#).



HOTELS WITH A PAST



Hotel Quinta Real - Zacatecas, Mexico

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What a Hotel!



Psychological phenomenon "Stockholm Syndrome"

Toreadors no more! The luxury hotel's restaurant looks out over the 19th century bullfighting arena, and the bar used to be the bullpens.



Hotel El Convento - San Juan, Puerto Rico

350 years ago, Carmelite nuns called this luxury hotel home. A monument to the Conquistador Age, it now features 58 elegant rooms in the heart of Old San Juan.

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originated at this bank turned luxury hotel.

[Guess the Hotel!](#)

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GRANDE COLONIAL
1913 CENTENNIAL 2013



The Four Seasons at Sultanahmet - Istanbul, Turkey

Checking in isn't a life sentence like it was for the guests of this former jail. A prime example of Turkish neoclassical architecture, the landscaped courtyard used to be the prison's exercise yard. King-size beds now stand in for the stone slab beds, and the cuisine is a far cry from bread and water.

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Hotel Sofitel Legend Metropole - Hanoi, Vietnam

This 1901 building was a hideout during the Vietnam War. It was also the first place in Indo-China to show motion pictures. Guests who tire of their room at this French colonial-style hotel can visit the re-opened bomb shelter. In addition, the Path of History tour provides guests with an opportunity to learn more about the hotel's history.

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Hotel Monaco - Washington, DC, USA

Don't expect any mail at the front desk. This historic building, which was constructed in 1839, was home to Washington DC's original General Post Office and Tariff Building. Designed by Robert Mills, the architect of the US Capitol and the Washington Monument and opened its doors as Hotel Monaco in 2002.

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Liberty Hotel - Boston, MA, USA

After a \$150 million renovation, the Charles Street Jail is now a luxury hotel. The restaurants and bars are named CLINK, Alibi, and Catwalk. The jail's central atrium forms the core of the hotel and features the building's

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trademark windows and catwalks. There are jail cells in the restaurant and the exercise yard is now a private courtyard.



The College Hotel - Amsterdam, The Netherlands

No entrance exam required. The College Hotel is housed in a stylish 19th-century building, which began life in 1895 as a school. It's now a hip 40-room boutique hotel in Amsterdam's fashionable Zuid (South) area, right in the centre of the city's Fashion & Museum District.

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The Palace - San Francisco, CA, USA

Originally built in 1875 the Palace was San Francisco's first luxury hotel. Following an extensive 2015 renovation, the Palace remains San Francisco's premier luxury hotel. The Palace offers timeless warmth and elegance beautifully married with chic, contemporary elements. The 556 room hotel is a jewel that pays homage to yesterday with historic architecture and its signature offerings.

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