

\$PLURGE

From indulgent extravagance to affordable and down on how to live it up in four of the world's

PARIS

SLEEP

\$\$\$ HAVEN IN PARIS

Fancy the full Parisian experience? Rent one of HiP's beautifully decorated apartments and enjoy the City of Light in style; if you need help organising your apartments and enjoy the City of Light in style; if you need help organising your vacation, the team will make arrangements for cooking lessons, a private driver, walking tours or even an aromatherapy massage for you. Choices range from a petite studio apartment to a grand penthouse, but we love Penthievre near the Élysée Palace: a two-bedroom apartment with antique furnishings, elegant enough to turn any native Parisian green with envy.

\$ HOTEL DU CHAMP DE MARS

Situated at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, this charming hotel has some of the prettiest rooms in Paris. Despite being within walking distance of the Invalides, the Place de la Concorde, the Rodin Museum and the cobblestoned banks of the Seine, all 25 rooms are exceptionally quiet and calm – and staying there won't burn a hole in your pocket, either.

SCOFF

\$\$\$ RESTAURANT HÉLÈNE DARROZE

Head to the *salle à manger* of one of France's most respected female chefs and go all out on the four-tapas and six-dish tasting menu, after which you'll be treated to two desserts—fruit and chocolate—and macarons in seasonal flavours to leave you satiated at the very end of your meal. If that isn't luxe enough for you, opt for the pricier white truffle menu and ask to see their trolley of mature and fine cheeses specially selected from the south-west of France.

SIP

\$\$\$ L'ARC

A favourite venue of the Paris fashion crowd, there's a good reason why the L'Arc Bar is topped with an enormous mirrored ceiling. But it's surprisingly cosy—you can look louche on a Joseph Hoffmann 'Egg' cowhide sofa while sipping a Jack Sparrow (that's a cocktail with Jack Daniels, purée of Williams pear and apple juice, by the way), nodding your head to the beats of hip-hop sound designer Jérémie Khlai.

\$ LE PISTON PÉLICAN

A curious name, cooked eggs (!) at the counter and artsy clientele all make for an entertaining time, as do the Pelican's caramel vodka shots and one-litre mojito jugs. There's usually a good gig lineup in the evenings, but if the music's not to your taste, you can always rock up to the nearby indie haven, Flèche d'Or.

\$ AU PASSAGE

Avoid the usual tourist traps and join the line of real Parisians waiting for one of the best examples of excellent cooking at a reasonable price in the city, especially when it comes to their daily lunch menu. You can have a sustaining starter, *plat du jour*, a dessert and a glass of well-selected wine for around 20 euros, and still leave with enough change for your Metro fare back to the more central arrondissements.

VS \$SAVE

economical options, we've got the low-most beloved cities **TEXT RICH WILLIAMS**

SCOFF

\$\$\$ PER SE

Look out for Chef Thomas Keller's famous 'Oysters and Pearls' entrée, a sabayon of pearl tapioca with Island Creek oysters and sterling white sturgeon caviar. The opulence of the name is a gentle indicator of how much dinner will set you back, but it's well worth it.

\$ PAPAYA KING

Ordinarily, a hot dog on its own might not a meal make, but here, you can certainly make an exception – especially at the place that, according to Julia Child herself, serves "The best hot dog in New York." Pair a C&C (chilli and cheese) specialty frank with curly fries and a cup of their famous tropical juices (try the banana daiquiri) or a fresh Papaya Pride smoothie.



SLEEP

\$\$\$ SOHO HOUSE NEW YORK

A private members' club in Manhattan's Meatpacking District (you might remember it from *Sex and the City*, where Samantha sneaks in to use their rooftop pool), it also runs a hotel with 24 spacious (a luxury in itself in New York), bespoke-designed bedrooms with large beds, walk-in rainforest showers and a full range of Cowshed products in the bathrooms. Chill out on the Sixth Floor in the Club Bar, then unwind further in a private eucalyptus steam room at the in-house Cowshed Spa just a few floors below.

\$ THE POD

Budget travelling in the Big Apple now seems so much more appealing thanks to The Pod on 51st St. It's hip, bright, modern and the Pod rooms – ranging from Bunk to a Townhouse Studio – all have stylish furniture, mp3 docking stations and LCD TVs. You won't have a private bathroom if you're staying in a smaller Pod, but worry not: even the shared bathrooms feature luxurious rain-head showers, designer sinks, streaming music, and marble and granite interiors.

SIP

\$\$\$ THE WORLD BAR

For a chance to literally put your money where your mouth is, hotfoot it to the ground floor of the exclusive Trump World Tower condominium and ask for the World Cocktail. Lavish ingredients including Remy XO, Pineau des Charentes and Veuve Clicquot will be mixed at your table and finished with a dram of 23-karat liquid gold – the world in your hand for just \$50.

\$ MAISON PREMIERE

Boasting a grand selection of oysters, proper absinthe drips and intriguingly-named cocktails (one example: the Obituary, with Beefeater gin, Dolin dry and absinthe), this Brooklyn oyster house and cocktail den channels the old world charm of Paris and New Orleans cafés. Think vintage vibes at excellent prices.

NEW YORK