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Introduction

You know that old adage 'it's about the journey not the destination'? Well, that just doesn't apply here. Each and every one of these spectacular places to stay is a destination in its own right, and each place is totally worth the journey. From glass igloos in Finnish Lapland to wooden spheres suspended in the treetops in Canada; geodesic domes in the Patagonian wilderness to old-school opulence at New York's Plaza Hotel; these are the ultimate in overnight experiences. Not every place is a budget buster; sometimes it's about the

spectacular locations, like the gravity-defying Bivacco Gervasutti on Mont Blanc in Italy (page 50). There are places that literally disappear into their surroundings like the Mirrorcube in Harads, Sweden (page 42), and others that stand tall and command attention like the Frank Gehry-designed Hotel Marques de Riscal in Spain (page 92). We've only included a place if it gives us a thrill, opens our eyes, makes us catch our breath and inspires us to see the world through different eyes. We hope they make you smile, make you marvel, and that they motivate you to go on a journey to a new destination.



Attrap Rêves, Various Locations, France

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'VARIOUS LOCATIONS'?

The concept of this place revolves around creating an at-one-with-nature experience that is outside the box. Or should we say outside the bubble. Attrap Rêves provides its guests with their very own bubble to sleep in across six different locations throughout France.

EXCUSE ME, DID YOU SAY 'BUBBLE'?

We did indeed. The accommodation is a see-through bubble (well, it's kind of igloo shaped, but let's not quibble) furnished with a bed and small seating area. Each bubble

is decorated differently, but every one is entirely exposed, giving guests a hard-to-beat view of the surrounding bush and, more spectacularly, the expansive night sky.

AGAIN, COMPLETELY SEE-THROUGH?

Don't go all shy on us now. It's nothing the local woodland creatures haven't seen before. The remoteness of the locations in which the bubbles are set up guarantees the privacy of anyone worried about indecent exposure. Instead it's about being as close to nature as possible without the stings, scratches, bites and itches. Sounds like a bright idea, right?

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN FRANCE

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