

Top 10

Looking for more than just a roof over your head? These 10 spots make the hotel room seem like boring snoring

UNIQUE SLEEPS



FALL CITY, WA

SLEEP IN A ... TREEHOUSE

So. *This* is what it feels like to be a tree. A branch sways. A bird flaps by. It's just before sunrise, and I'm cuddled beneath a canopy of green needles and drooping pinecones. If the windowpanes next to my pillow could open, I'd palm the peeling panels of bark. Instead, I just look: up (through the skylight), around (through walls of windows), and down, at the river rushing 35 feet below. I'm suspended partway up a 300-year-old, 160-foot-tall Sitka spruce, surrounded by a stillness unlike any I've ever felt before. I'm one with the forest. And, well, it's pretty freaking cool.

Julia Butterfly Hill certainly didn't have it this good: built-in cedar beds, leather reading chairs, hand-made quilts. At **TreeHouse Point**, 10 minutes from Snoqualmie Falls, Pete Nelson has created a two-treehouse utopia, with more under way—plus giant hammocks hung 18 feet high, trails leading to a rocky riverfront beach, and a night sky filled with stars that you feel just a smidge closer to. **DOWNRIGHT COOL** The Temple of the Blue Moon (pictured) is accessed by a swaying bridge that shakes the house when someone walks the planks. *From \$195, including breakfast; treehousepoint.com* —RACHEL LEVIN

LEFT: ANDREA M. GÓMEZ

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TELLURIDE, CO

SLEEP IN AN ... IGLOO

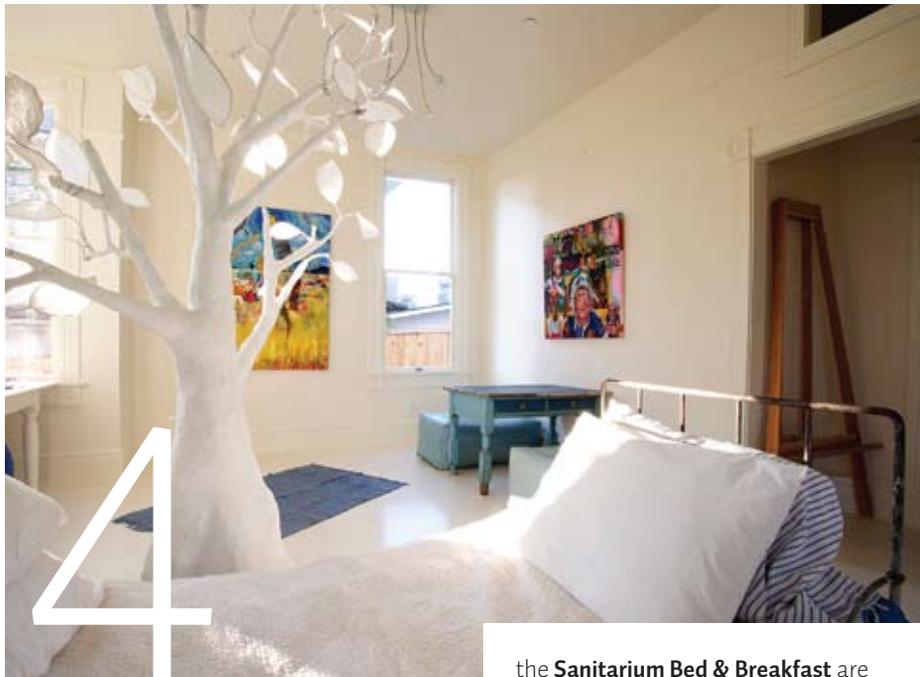
After a day of guided snowshoeing or skiing in the rugged backcountry of Colorado's San Juan Mountains, cozy up in a snow palace hand-built for two. No, not by you—by Joshua Butson, owner of **Telluride Alpinism**, who learned to build igloos from a guide who lived with Inuits in Quebec. Sturdy and wind-proof, the igloos are a surprisingly toasty 32°, warmed by natural insulation and body heat. *From \$300 per person, including guide, gear, and three gourmet meals per day; tellurideadventures.com or 970/728-4101.* —JAYME OTTO



MAZAMA, WA

SLEEP IN A ... HUT ON WHEELS

Edged by a river, with views of the Cascades, are six glass-and-steel cottages that let you commune with nature, in comfort. Parked in the Methow Valley, each of the **Rolling Huts** is just 210 square feet, but picture windows and sunny decks make the mod space feel spacious. Sorry, you can't really roll around; the wheels were a nifty design solution, allowing the huts to be built on land zoned for RVs. **DOWNRIGHT COOL** The modular living room furniture hides a secret: Separately, they're a bench, table, and stools; pushed together, they form an extra bed. *From \$80; two-night minimum; rollinghuts.com or 509/996-4442.* —JAIME GROSS



SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

SLEEP IN A ... PADDED ROOM

From the whitewashed walls and glass-doored cabinets, it's easy to imagine the 1800s, when rattled patients checked into this sprawling Victorian for peace and quiet. But these days, stays at what's now

the **Sanitarium Bed & Breakfast** are enhanced by in-room massages, organic eggs, and claw-foot metal tubs that could fit a family of four.

DOWNRIGHT COOL With spare simplicity and works by local artists, the rooms create a calm not found in a typical hotel. *From \$190; two-night minimum; thesanitariumspa.com or 805/544-4124.* —SAMANTHA SCHOECH

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MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST, OR

SLEEP IN A ... FIRE LOOKOUT



One of the world's cheapest rooms with a (killer) view comes with a price: a four-hour uphill kick-and-glide over a groomed snowmobile trail. Destination? The historic **fire lookout** on Oregon's Clear Lake Butte, one of dozens of U.S. Forest Service fire lookouts around the West. It has a full-size bed (BYO bedding for additional guests) plus a gas range for fixing dinner, a potbelly stove for staying warm—and a 360° panorama that'll keep you mesmerized till it's time to turn in. \$50; www.fs.fed.us/r6/recreation/rentals; book at recreation.gov **TIP** For a list of fire lookouts around the West, check out firelookout.org/lookout-rentals.htm

—TED KATAUSKAS

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QUALICUM BEACH, B. C.

SLEEP IN A ... SPHERE

Meet Eryn (pictured) and Eve, two oversize orbs made from Sitka spruce and yellow cedar that dangle from conifer trees like spiders from a web in a Vancouver Island rain forest. **Free Spirit Spheres'** treehouses sway ever so slightly in a breeze, and were built for guests of the curious and ecologically minded sort. An outdoor composting toilet is a fair trade for the utter bird-singing peace that comes with hanging in a grove of cedar, fir, and maple.

DOWNRIGHT COOL If you really love the orbs, you can buy one for your own backyard. *Overnight stay from \$118 U.S.; freespiritspheres.com or 250/757-9445.* —FAITH DURAND



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FARMINGTON, NM

SLEEP IN A ... CAVE

Carved into the side of a sandstone cliff, **Kokopelli's Cave Bed & Breakfast** is a fully furnished grotto, 70 feet underground. A narrow trail winds down from the mesa top to the 1,650-square-foot cave, which geologist-owner Bruce Black blasted out in the 1980s and opened a decade later. The decor is nothing fancy (think college dorm room meets the Flintstones) until you realize you're in a subterranean guesthouse, where anything that couldn't be carried in—hello, fridge!—had to be winched over the cliff face. **DOWNRIGHT COOL** The waterfall shower is a nice touch, but the biggest draw is the view of the La Plata River, 300 feet below, and the craggy spires of Shiprock on the horizon. *Mar–Nov; from \$260, including breakfast; bbonline.com/nm/kokopelli or 505/326-2461.* —KATIE ARNOLD

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NEAR QUEMADO, NM

SLEEP IN A ... WORK OF ART

You may have heard of the **Lightning Field**, an art installation spread across a Southwestern plain, but did you know you can book a front-row seat? At the edge of this desert scrub that's stuck with 400 electricity-attracting poles sits a lone log cabin. Linger on your porch and watch the lightning dance. *May–Oct; from \$150 per person; diaart.org or 505/898-3335.* —K.A.



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YELAPA, MEXICO

SLEEP IN A ... STILT CABIN

High above the Pacific and surrounded by leafy palms is V House, the newest lodging option at eco-swank **Verana**. While couples commandeer the pricier rooms, you and five friends can take over these secluded open-air trapezoids that stand on stilts on a hillside. The shared bathroom is a small price to pay for fresh-caught fish, views, and a spa. **DOWNRIGHT COOL** Access this paradise by boat—and a mule ride uphill if you're too lazy to walk. *Nov 1–Jun 7; V House \$250, suites from \$320; five-night minimum; verana.com or 866/687-9358.* —THOMAS J. STORY

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: THOMAS J. STORY, GUY SOULLIERE, DAVID FENTON

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BISBEE, AZ

SLEEP IN A ...
SILVER BULLET

Think of Lucille Ball in *The Long, Long Trailer*, and you'll get the picture of the **Shady Dell**—a vintage aluminum-trailer park revamped into an inn, within the equally throwback town of Bisbee. Choose among nine fully furnished trailers, including a polished shiny 1949 Airstream dubbed the Bridal Suite because it displays black-

and-white wedding albums; the 1959 Boles Aero (pictured), with a gold-flecked starburst pattern on its walls; and a tiki bus decked out in Polynesian fantasy. Happy hour here is like a tailgate party, with new friends and croquet on the artificial-turf patio. **DOWNRIGHT COOL** The Dell's itty-bitty Dot's Diner (§; closed Wed–Thu) is itself worth a trip for burgers, milkshakes, and house-made cherry pie. From \$45; theshadydell.com or 520/432-3567. —JENNIE NUNN

