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# New sleeps

We take a look at the some of the most exciting new stays, from a converted prison to a Vancouver first

**1** In Japan, the **Capella Kyoto** has recently opened in Kyoto's Higashiyama district, an area known for its narrow streets, geishas and Edo-era *machiya* houses. Designed by Kengo Kuma (the architect behind the V&A Dundee), it has been built in the style of a traditional townhouse and lies just steps from Kyoto's oldest Zen temple. It also shines a welcome spotlight on the area's artisans, with workshops in *geta* sandal-making, lacquerware and other crafts. **Rooms from around £1,110pn; capellahotels.com**

**2** Another new high-end Japanese hotel in a remarkable setting is the **HOSHINOYA Nara Prison**, which has been transformed from a penitentiary in Nara City into a unique stay. Set to open on 25 June, its 48 suites were created by combining several prison cells. The building itself is a work of art, and the only surviving structure of the 'Five Great Prisons' completed during the Meiji era (1868–1912). It was even designated an Important Cultural Property in 2017, and overnight stays here promise to be quite

unlike anything else in the city. **Rooms from around £152pn; hoshinoresorts.com**

**3** Gastown is the birthplace of Vancouver, Canada, dating back to the opening of the city's first saloon in 1867. For decades, it was little more than a slum; now it's one of the city's rising stars, with art galleries, shops and fashion studios nestled within Victorian buildings. It also now has its first hotel, **Block House by Kalido House Hotels**, a boutique stay with 19 apartment-style suites – think exposed brick and mid-century furnishings – all within easy walking distance of the city's waterfront and Chinatown. **Rooms from around £278pn; kalidohotels.com**

**4** If you're driving South Africa's Garden Route, there's a brand-new coastal stay to consider. Encircled by the lush slopes of the Tsitsikamma mountain range, the new **Tamodi Estate & Polo Reserve** has opened in Plettenberg Bay. It comprises a library and reading room, tranquil terraces, a polo field and huge suites spanning more than

100 sqm. But best of all, one of the world's great whale-watching areas lies on your doorstep. **Rooms from around £450pn (minimum two-night stay); tamodi.com**

**5** Blending Vietnamese heritage and modern design, **Fairmont Hanoi** is the latest addition to Hanoi's Old Quarter, and its 241 rooms and suites lie a short walk from Hoan Kiem Lake. Among the highlights are a Mediterranean restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Nicolas Isnard, a sprawling wellness facility and Hanoi's largest pillarless ballroom (a whopping 1,100 sqm). But the greatest attraction lies in its location, nuzzled in the city's historic heart. **Rooms from around £207pn; fairmont.com**

**6** Set in the shadow of South Africa's Table Mountain, in a century-old Cape Dutch manor, the **Claremont Boutique Hotel** opened its doors in Cape Town's leafy Claremont neighbourhood in late 2025. Its 15 rooms lie scattered between the main house, gardens and pool, and the in-house Veld & Vine Bistro keeps things defiantly local with an impressive farm-to-fork Mediterranean-influenced menu. The craft bar also has a fine collection of regional wines. **Rooms from around £380pn; claremontboutiquehotel.com** **W**

Discover the top 50 stays for 2026, as voted for by Wanderlust readers, on page 133.

