

The beach is a barefoot stroll from your room at the Inn at Mama's Fish House on Maui.

# Dream trips to match your mood

Whether you're itching for a kick-back weekend on the beach or big thrills in the snow, one of these **20 places under \$200** will feel just right

## What are you in the mood for?

### OCEAN VIEWS

**The Inn at Mama's Fish House**

Maui, HI

**Venice Breeze Suites** L.A.

**Playa Viva**

Near Zihuatanejo, Mexico

**Hotel Maya** Long Beach, CA

### PAMPERING

**Sedona Rouge Hotel** AZ

**The Horizon Hotel** Palm Springs

**The Cottages of Napa Valley**

Near Yountville, CA

**Hotel Lānaʻi** Lanai, HI

**Solitude** Near Salt Lake City

**Rancho Pescadero**

Near Todos Santos, Mexico

### A LAID-BACK ESCAPE

**Grand Targhee Resort** WY

**Glendeven Inn**

Near Mendocino, CA

**Greer Lodge** Greer, AZ

**Tamarack Lodge**

Mammoth Lakes, CA

**Hawaii Island Retreat**

Big Island, HI

### AN OFFBEAT ADVENTURE

**The Inn at Manzanillo Bay**

Troncones, Mexico

**Yellowstone National Park**

**Summit Meadow** Mt. Hood, OR

**Lake Quinault Lodge**

Olympic National Park

**Chena Hot Springs Resort**

Near Fairbanks



PAIA, HI

## A hideaway on Maui's quiet shore

For a breath of fresh ocean air—and a welcome alternative to Maui's high-rise resorts—check into a quiet, beachfront cottage at the **Inn at Mama's Fish House**, on the island's North Shore. In the evening, dine on just-caught ono in the open-air dining room, done in a classic Polynesian style that is, somehow, anything but kitsch.

From \$175; [mamasfishhouse.com](http://mamasfishhouse.com) or 800/860-4852. —RACHEL LEVIN

VENICE, CA

## Your stylish beach pad

**Deal!** So comfortable are the oceanfront studios at **Venice Breeze Suites** that you might feel like you're coming home after a night out, rather than returning to a hotel. The high-design 1930s building of 27 mod units is right on the beach. Kitchens are fully loaded, the rooftop deck—with barbecue, wet bar, and ocean views—is a primo spot for a sunset soiree, and you're steps from the sand. Free parking (at a premium in this hood) is an added bonus. And considering that the Santa Monica hotels within walking distance are about three times the price, this place is a steal. From \$135 (from \$155 for ocean view); two-night minimum; [venicebreesesuites.com](http://venicebreesesuites.com) or 310/566-2222. —MACKENZIE GEIDT

NEAR ZIHUATANEJO, MEXICO

## Another day in eco paradise

The Swiss Family Robinson would have loved **Playa Viva**, which just opened on an endless, empty beach an hour south of the Zihuatanejo and Ixtapa tourist-plex. Two thatched casitas, set on stilts to catch the ocean breezes, house a total of five barely enclosed rooms, with a third open-air casita serving as pool and clubhouse. Pretty much everything is reclaimed, sustainable, organic, or solar-powered, adding up to a major dose of peace and quiet. From \$295 U.S., including room, all meals, airport transfers, yoga classes, and unlimited beer and organic tequila; [playaviva.com](http://playaviva.com) or 650/292-0432. —CHRISTINE RYAN



LONG BEACH, CA

## Mod waterfront resort

To the stylishly revamped **Hotel Maya**, we say: Yes, please. Bring on the dumbwaiter that delivers drinks to you in the lobby, the jungle of palm trees, the nightly sangria tastings. An afternoon in a cabana floating above an elevated dipping pool transports us to the tropics. From \$169; [hotelmayalongbeach.com](http://hotelmayalongbeach.com) or 562/435-7676. —JENNIE NUNN

IN THE MOOD FOR  
**Pampering**



SEDONA, AZ

**Refresh in red rock country**

The only thing better than a gorgeous desert hike is the massage that follows, and the **Sedona Rouge Hotel & Spa** is your ticket to both. A 3-mile lung burner to Chimney Rock is less than a mile from the hotel. The payoff is a heavenly massage at the spa, where therapists go easy on the spiritual stuff but still make you feel like you're on another planet. *From \$199; [sedonarouge.com](http://sedonarouge.com) or 866/312-4111.*

—ANNA NORDBERG

PALM SPRINGS

**Retro-cool find in the desert**

Celebs flocked to the **Horizon Hotel** back in the 1950s, when it was the sprawling residence for a big-wig TV producer. And that Hollywood hideaway glamour lives on. Camp out Marilyn-style by the palm-dotted poolside to soak up the 80° temps and postcard views of the mountains. Each of the 22 minimalist rooms has a patio—and for an extra splurge, you can book a room with a private outdoor shower.

» *Sunset readers get a special rate of \$199 during February; two-night minimum on weekends; breakfast included; [thehorizonhotel.com](http://thehorizonhotel.com) or 760/323-1858.* —M.G.

LANAI, HI

**A (nearly) private island**

The pineapple plantation-era **Hotel Lānaʻi** is a closely held secret to those who know this is the way for non-moguls to stay on the island of Lanai, otherwise monopolized by two Four Seasons resorts. The hotel's 10 rooms are known for a simple charm—but also paper-thin walls and creaky floors. Now, though, there's been a complete redo of a cottage out back that shares walls with no one and has a hammock slung in a pretty, private garden. You'll still hear the restaurant's live music weekend nights, but chances are you'll be dancing with the locals anyway. *Cottage from \$179, including breakfast; [hotel.lanai.com](http://hotel.lanai.com) or 808/565-7211.*

—JEANNE COOPER



NEAR YOUNTVILLE, CA

**Your wine country cottage**

The Cottages of Napa Valley, *two rows of cheery suites facing a shaded lawn and garden dotted with fountains, outdo Napa's famed luxury hotels on hospitality, throwing in complimentary wine, snacks, and a breakfast basket of Bouchon Bakery pastries delivered to your porch. In high season, nightly rates start at \$375, but through February, a special package gets you two nights, plus dinner at Thomas Keller's Ad Hoc and a private wine tasting, for \$495 all told—a pretty sweet deal in these parts. [napacottages.com](http://napacottages.com) or 707/252-7810.* —LISA TROTTIER

NEAR SALT LAKE CITY

**Ski to an indulgent meal in the woods**

Winter evenings, a small group straps on headlamps at **Solitude Mountain Resort** before cross-country skiing or snowshoeing into the woods with a guide. The destination? A yurt  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile away, where a chef prepares five decadent courses. An easy trip back means some well-deserved rest before waking up to breakfast in bed. *Gourmet Escape package: \$198 for a room for two at the Inn at Solitude, including breakfast, plus \$100 per person for the yurt dinner; [skisolitude.com](http://skisolitude.com) or 877/517-7717.* —VANESSA CHANG

NEAR TODOS SANTOS, BAJA, MEXICO

## Secret Mexican retreat

Leave Cabo to the spring break crowds. The real paradise is 45 miles north at the dreamy, brand-new **Rancho Pescadero**. A dozen super-chic Bali-meets-Baja rooms are steps from a deserted beach where baby sea turtles make their way to the waves. The bohemian town of Todos Santos is only 6 miles away, but it's hard to leave when fresh lime margaritas and just-caught fish are so close to the pool. Go now, while it's still both a secret and a steal. *From \$185 U.S., including breakfast; [ranchopescadero.com](http://ranchopescadero.com) or 650/823-0815.* —M.G.



IN THE MOOD FOR A  
**Laid-back  
escape**

ALTA, WY

### **Skiing like you remember it**

Mountains like **Grand Targhee** are a dying breed: No parking lot hassles, no mile-long schlep to the ticket window, no \$20 hamburgers. Instead, drive right up to the ski lift, put on your boots, and drop into 2,500 acres of steeps, cruisers, and glades. The timbered Teewinot Lodge makes a homey slopeside basecamp. Bonus: Targhee's 40th anniversary means \$40 lift tickets and deep discounts on multi-night stays. *From \$129; [grandtarghee.com](http://grandtarghee.com) or 800/827-4433.* —KATIE ARNOLD



FROM LEFT: AUDREY HALL, THOMAS J. STORY (2)



NEAR MENDOCINO, CA  
**Off the grid  
on the coast**

At Glendeven Inn, just south of Mendocino in Little River, your cell signal obligingly vanishes when you pull in the drive, and there's not a remote control in sight. Which means you'll have all the time in the world to hike along the headlands of surrounding Van Damme State Park, scatter some corn for the inn's chickens (it's only fair—you'll be eating their eggs come morning), and introduce yourself to the resident llamas. If you just want to hide out in your room—for decor, think Down East meets Sea Ranch—that's fine too. Your breakfast basket will be delivered to your door, along with a newspaper ... which we encourage you to ignore. *From \$139, including breakfast; glendeven.com or 707/937-0083. —C.R.*



GREER, AZ

**A yesteryear lodge in the woods**

**Deal!** Along the Little Colorado River in Arizona's White Mountains, tiny Greer is the kind of community where elk and deer outnumber human residents—the perfect place to hide out. **Greer Lodge's** 11 rooms, all knotty pine and log walls, have luxe touches and fluffy beds that make you want to curl up and get cozy, but they're blissfully free of TVs and phones. Pry yourself out of your room to borrow the resort's complimentary cross-country skis or snowshoes for treks through the snowy meadows and forest. *From \$89; two-night minimum on weekends; greerlodgeaz.com or 928/735-7216. —NORA BURBA TRULSSON*

BIG ISLAND, HI  
**Hidden Hawaii**

Way up at the northern point of the Big Island, past the fancy resorts everyone has heard of, there's a lush and little-known area of former sugar towns. About a year ago, the **Hawaii Island Retreat** opened nine rooms in a green valley here. Now, its just-finished, solar-powered "yurt village" has put the hidden retreat firmly within reach for any budget. Seven sturdy tent bungalows stand next to a saltwater swimming pool, spa, shower house, and organic garden. The famed beaches of the Kohala Coast are a half-hour away, but what almost no one seems to know (yet) is that there are enough waterfalls, breezy beaches, and seafood joints to keep a person content right here. *Yurts from \$175; hawaiiislandretreat.com or 808/889-6336. —J.C.*

MAMMOTH LAKES, CA  
**Warm up in a snowy mountain cabin**

Reclaim winter's quiet at **Tamarack Lodge**, where charming cabins with fireplaces and patchwork quilts hide out among the trees just outside Mammoth's resort core. By day, share 19 miles of groomed cross-country trails with just a few solitude-loving skiers. By night, return to the 1924 lodge for warm drinks and dessert in front of the massive river-rock fireplace. *Lodge rooms from \$79, fireplace cabins from \$169; tamaracklodge.com or 760/934-2442. —CAMERON WALKER*

IN THE MOOD FOR AN  
**Offbeat  
adventure**



TRONCONES, MEXICO  
**Try surfing**

Even beginners can tackle the swell at the Inn at Manzanillo Bay, a secluded spot a half-hour from the Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo airport. You can also find water calm enough to test your balance on one of the inn's stand-up paddleboards. The laid-back hideout has eight ocean-view thatched-roof bungalows and two suites. And, because the owner is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy, the trip's worth it simply for the food, like the roasted poblano-chile soup and tequila-glazed yellow-fin tuna. Also, a hand-crafted *reposado* tequila is made just for guests. *From \$138 U.S.; manzanillobay.com or +52-755-553-2884.*

—DAVID LAHUTA

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
**Track wolves**

**Deal!** Winter is wolf time in **Yellowstone**. Packs of a dozen or more of the animals often stalk elk within full view of the plowed road between Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, and the park's northeast entrance. Their howls sound especially chilling in the snowy, uncrowded landscape. You can go on a three-day wolf-watching tour with experts from the Yellowstone Association or drive the road

unguided. Keep your binoculars handy. You'll feel a burst of adrenaline when a pack lopes into view: long legs, full coats, intense stares, all business. Elk Horn Lodge, in Cooke City, Montana, is comfortably close. *Rooms from \$89; elkhornlodgemt.com or 406/838-2332. Tours from \$635; through Feb 28; yellowstoneassociation.org or 866/439-7375. \$25 park entrance fee.*

—CHRIS WOOLSTON

MT. HOOD, OR  
**Leave the  
road behind**

The only way to reach the five secluded **Summit Meadow Cabins** near the frozen shore of Trillium Lake is to snowshoe or ski. The coziest is the Falls Creek A-Frame, where a fire blazes in the potbelly stove and the snow's usually so deep that you have to go up to the loft to see the namesake cascade. *From \$165; two-night minimum; summitmeadow.com or 503/272-3494.* —TED KATAUSKAS



OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

**Sleep in a rain forest**

Washington's **Lake Quinault Lodge** gets 12 feet of rain per year. And that's a good thing, believe it or not. Learn the secrets of the rain forest along the startlingly green Rainforest Nature Trail, then plop down in front of the lobby's massive fireplace, where you'll have dripping views of lawn, lake, and forest. *From \$89; visitlakequinault.com or 866/297-7367.* —JIM MCCAUSLAND



MORE GETAWAYS TO TAKE NOW:



FROM LEFT: AUDREY HALL, TOMAS KASPAR/ALAMY, BROWN CANNON III

NEAR FAIRBANKS

## Soak under the northern lights

You could trek to the Arctic Circle to see the aurora borealis. But **Chena Hot Springs Resort**—on 440 wooded acres about 60 miles northeast of Fairbanks—is so much closer. Plus, the heated, glass-walled viewing room lets you watch the world's greatest light show without freezing your rump. Warm up in the resort's 105° natural hot springs, then grab

a cocktail amid the frozen life-size sculptures at the ice bar, built with 1,000 tons of snow and ice and kept at 20° year-round. In a place like this, even an appletini, served in a hand-carved ice martini glass, becomes an adventure. Z

↳ —D.L.