

CHECKING IN

Where to Chill Out in the Cold

Reserve early for these popular ice hotels that provide heart-warming comforts in frigid climes. | **By DANIEL BORTZ**

Hôtel de Glace

QUEBEC, CANADA

Hôtel de Glace, the only ice hotel in North America, is made of 15,000 tons of snow and 500 tons of ice. It has 19-foot ceilings and furniture carved out of ice blocks. The hotel will likely attract 140,000 visitors this year with its 36 handcrafted, themed guest rooms. An ice candelabra lit by fiber optics hangs in the lobby. In the café, guests sit on ice chairs cushioned with fur and sip hot chocolate. From \$199.

Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel

ALTA, NORWAY

Built every year along the banks of the Alta River, this ice hotel offers a cold, crisp taste of Norway. The world's northernmost ice hotel boasts an ice chapel with frozen benches draped in animal skins, an ice bar that serves bright



Hôtel de Glace

blue vodka in ice glasses, and huskies for dogsledding. Beds in the 32 guest rooms are covered with reindeer hide. Glimpse the beauty of the fjords' icy waters aboard a snowmobile. From \$343.

Igloo Village

ENGELBERG, SWITZERLAND

Sweeping views of the Swiss Alps and of dark night skies glittering with stars are some of what make the Igloo Village special. Built by Iglu-Dorf, a company with similar villages across the country, a standard igloo can hold up to six guests. Dip bread into a pot of bubbling Gruyère cheese on the snow

terrace. The village rests peacefully in Engelberg, a popular mountain resort town in central Switzerland. From \$90.

Icehotel

LAPLAND, SWEDEN

First built nearly 20 years ago, the largest ice hotel in the world is constructed from 30,000 tons of "snis," a mixture of snow and ice, in Jukkasjärvi, Sweden, a small village outside Kiruna with around 900 inhabitants and a thousand dogs. Each year more than 50,000 guests flock to Icehotel to stay in one of the 60 rooms with elaborate interiors carved from Torne River ice. A nighttime dogsledding tour through the city may offer views of the northern lights. From \$375, including breakfast, thermal clothing, and morning sauna. Tours for nonguests run \$48; free for kids.



On the rocks: Bundled-up guests mingle during happy hour in the Icehotel's translucent bar.



Bright white digs at Hotel Amano.

[DEALS]

BERLIN HOTELS FOR UNDER \$225

AUGUSTRASSE > HOTEL AMANO

The white and slate gray rooms of this stone-and-glass hotel in the fashionable Mitte district might feel pocket-size, but they're outfitted with sleek platform beds and writing desks. Or book one of the bright apartment-style rooms furnished with parquet floors, bathtubs, and kitchenettes stocked with amenities like Bodum French coffee presses. Enjoy breakfast from the courtyard garden. View the city from the inviting rooftop terrace or venture out to walk along the café-and-boutique-lined Mulackstrasse and art gallery-filled Augustrasse. From \$116.

SPITTELMARKT > COSMO

Just a few U-Bahn subway stops from the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, and Potsdamer Platz, the design-forward Cosmo hotel features floor-to-ceiling windows; silvery, textured walls; black-and-white photographs; and dark wood furnishings in its 84 guest rooms. Dig into seasonal bites like goat cheese-topped lentil salad and watermelon-tomato gazpacho at the sleek Scent restaurant, which draws a local lunchtime crowd. From \$135.

WEINMEISTERSTRASSE > CASA CAMPER

Situated along a leafy side street, this buzzing newcomer wins over guests with its king-size beds and enormous bathrooms, not to mention the airy penthouse café where you can nosh on complimentary homemade sandwiches, seasonal salads, and strawberry smoothies throughout the day. Daily breakfast, bicycle rental, use of the fitness center, Wi-Fi, and bottled water are also included in your room rate. Warm red-painted walls and cheeky signs, such as "Take the stairs, it's healthier" next to the elevator, add a dose of personality, while the restaurant, *dos paillos*, serves Asian dishes, Spanish tapas style. From \$225. —*Tarvi Chheda*