

EXPERT ADVICE



Courtesy Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort

The 10 Best Water Villas In the World

In the blustering cold, any vacation that involves warm weather becomes intensely appealing, but nothing compares to an overwater hotel. Water villas pair the best part of a glass-bottomed boat with the luxury of a high-end resort, creating perfect little oases of calm.

We spoke with Roger Wade, editor of [Overwater Bungalows](#), to determine the most remarkable water villas the world over. "The majority of the world's overwater bungalows are perched above a crystal-clear lagoon, and many have a glass floor section so you can observe the sea life directly below your bungalow, day or night," Roger says. "There's just something incredibly romantic about that setting, especially since most of them are designed with privacy features."

Many of the hotels that offer overwater accommodations also have more standard suites for a lower rate, but Roger believes the extra expense is worth it. "Overwater bungalows may appear to be very expensive at first glance, but keep in mind that nearly all of them are suite-sized, and are more private than you probably think. So while the room rate may be a splurge, you actually get quite a bit for the price," Roger says.

The water villas we selected offer truly remarkable experiences that make them stand out from the pack. "An incredible overwater villa should be completely out over a clear lagoon, with a glass floor section," Roger tells us. "There should be a large, luxurious bathtub, hopefully with an outdoor view, and it should be built so that you can't see your neighbors on either side from your private deck. A private splash pool is ideal."

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— JESS NOVAK

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The Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort and Spa, French Polynesia



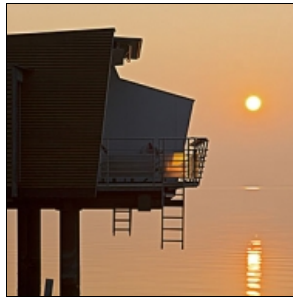
Gili Lankanfushi, Maldives



Cayo Espanto, Belize



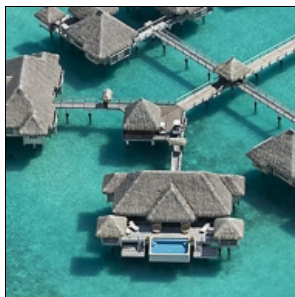
Four Seasons Bora Bora, French Polynesia



Hotel Palafitte, Switzerland



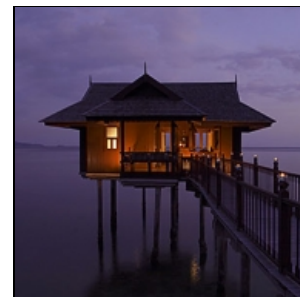
Ayada, Maldives



St. Regis, Bora Bora



Song Saa Private Island, Cambodia



Pangkor Laut Resort, Malaysia



Liku Liku Lagoon Resort, Fiji

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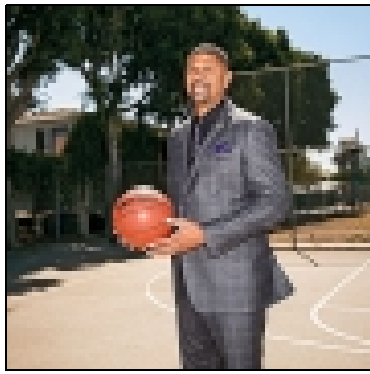
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