

**THE  TIMES**

## The top 20 mountain hotels



Aufberg 1113, near Kaprun, Austria Johannes Felsch

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## From Tanzania to Tibet, sleep close to the stars in some of the world's highest hotels, situated above 1,000m

### **Pic du Midi de Bigorre, Hautes-Pyrénées, France**

Astronomers have been using the observatory on top of the 2,877m Pic Du Midi mountain since the late 19th century — construction began in 1878 — but more important for us, people have been able to stay the night since 2006. Guests ride up on a cable car until 5pm, visit the museum, have dinner and then get access to the main observatory and its 400mm telescope. Stay the night in a basic single room before daredevils cycle back down

the mountain after breakfast ... the rest of us get back in the cable car.

**Details** From €229pp, half board (00 33 825 00 287, [picdumidi.com](http://picdumidi.com))

### **Aufberg 1113 nr Kaprun, Austria**

Look to the mountains in the Austrian Alps, between Zel Am See and Kaprun, and you may just spot this outlandishly modern home, its large, square wooden frontage dominating the landscape as the sun reflects from its floor-to-ceiling windows. Owned by the Hunterberger family and located on the family farm, it consists of two holiday apartments, the 47m Sparrow's Nest, which sleeps two, or the Swallow's Nest, which can accommodate four. Both have natural stone floors, exposed concrete walls, welcoming fireplaces and gorgeous views over the valley to the Kaprun glacier. The Hunterberger's Taxhof restaurant is near by.

**Details** From €170 a night for two, self-catering (00 49 176 641 150 16, [welcomebeyond.com](http://welcomebeyond.com))

### **Tschuggen, Grand Arosa, Switzerland**

While this grand hotel has been open for more than 80 years, it has been operational for only half that time thanks to its closing throughout the warmer, summer months. After a refurbishment of the lobby, bar and restaurants, the five-star hotel's doors are now open year-round, allowing guests to take in Arosa's summer activities, such as the 200km of walking paths or the highest golf course in Europe. Those looking for a spa break will also love the Tschuggen Bergoase Spa, which has huge glass sails that reach out of the mountain and channel light into the underground pools and treatment areas.

**Details** Doubles from £165, B&B (00 41 81 378 99 99, [tschuggen.ch](http://tschuggen.ch))

### **Parador de las Cañadas del Teide, Tenerife**

Think of altitude and the Canaries may not be the first place to spring to mind, but volcanic Mount Teide, on Tenerife, is the highest point in Spain and the third largest volcano in the world from its base. Just short of the cable car that leads to the summit, the Parador is the only hotel within the surrounding national park and is a million miles from the Anglified resorts by the beach. A lack of light pollution makes for excellent stargazing. The hotel telescope is available to guests every Friday night.

**Details** Doubles from £150, B&B (00 34 902 54 79 79, [parador.es](http://parador.es))

### **St Regis Lhasa, Tibet**

Stays at the "Roof of the World" just got a little bit more luxurious thanks to the opening of the St Regis in April. In the heart of Lhasa's old town, with Jokhang Temple, Barkhor Street and Potala Palace — the spiritual centre of Tibetan buddhists — all a short walk away. The hotel sets all kinds of new standards for Lhasa: the city's first fine dining