

Top Tier Travel: The Top 5 Black-Owned Hotels by Jeanette Ponder

Not to add pressure to the planning process, but the choice of hotel is a vital part of any vacation or trip. A good choice elevates the overall experience to the next level, while a bad pick can sour the entire thing.

That being said, don't overlook Black-owned hotels. Whether it's a luxury stay or a cozy weekend, these stays cover all the bases, offering classy appointments, comfort, high quality service, and respectful treatment. Best of all, every dollar supports and grows the Black community and supports Black innovation throughout the diaspora.

According to a 2018 [study](#) on African-American travel by travel and tourism research firm Mandala Research, Black American travel spending grew to \$63 billion dollars from \$48 billion in 2010. The Black travel dollar is vibrant, discerning, and growing by leaps and bounds.

Why Choose a Black-Owned Hotel?

Simply put, Black owned hotels and resorts mean safety and inclusion for Black travelers. In a sad and understandable throwback to earlier times (never forget the Jim Crow era [Negro Motorist's Green Book](#)), many Black travelers like to stick together for safety's sake. With the eternal specter of institutional racism and micro-aggressions hanging over so many parts of Black life, it's a relief to know there are places where the melanin-rich can relax in peace. Check out these top tier American options and bliss out in style.

Top Black-Owned Hotel Picks

1. [Akwaaba Mansion – Brooklyn, NY](#)

A lovely estate nestled in Stuyvesant Heights, this intimate Brooklyn bed-and-breakfast is a quiet hideaway at the edge of New York City's hustle and bustle. The mansion's four unique, African-American named rooms include perks like private Jacuzzi baths, custom bath products, fuzzy soft bathrobes, and free wireless Internet. Located only fifteen minutes from downtown Manhattan, Akwaaba Brooklyn is perfectly placed for quick jaunts to the city proper, as well as local exploration. Brooklyn not quite your style? Check out other Akwaaba properties in southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, Washington DC, and the Pennsylvania Poconos.

2. [La Maison in Midtown – Houston, TX](#)

Who doesn't adore a bed-and-breakfast that offers beloved recipes on its website? Houston's award-winning, Black woman owned hotel boasts seven guest rooms, as well as a deluxe suite complete with a wrap-around porch. The décor is a stylish mix of antiques and sophisticated features set in a modern-looking structure with liberal outdoor space and hidden little nooks perfect for couples. Special occasion packages are available for weddings, birthdays, and intimate getaways.

3. [Oak Bluffs Inn, Martha's Vineyard, MA](#)

Rhonda and Eric Albert's award-winning, ten-room bed-and-breakfast is a magnet to celebrities and comfort seekers alike. The property, which includes a quaint third floor attic suite and a carriage house, also features a modern addition – a lighthouse tower. Visitors to this scion of The Vineyard can relax at the beach nearby, wander into the town proper, or enjoy an afternoon of leisure on the well-manicured grounds.

4. [Salamander Resort and Spa – Middleburg, Virginia](#)

BET co-founder Sheila Jackson flexes her hotelier prowess with her Salamander chain of luxury resorts. Located in the historically rich city of Middleburg, the Salamander embraces both its civil rights and equestrian pasts. A popular destination for the jet set, the Salamander boasts multiple dining options, residences, equestrian training programs, and multiple physical activities like zip-lining and fitness classes. Visit at the right time, and Cupcake, the Salamander's mini horse mascot, may greet you at the gate.

5. [Roberts Riverwalk Urban Resort Hotel - Detroit, MI](#)

At 106 rooms, the Roberts Riverwalk is a medium-sized waterfront find with high ceilings, a swimming pool, and leisure area with views of the Canadian coast. The property now includes a brand new dedicated event facility, Windows on the Waterfront, with full service event staff, VIP service, and plenty of pool and Detroit River vistas. Roberts Riverwalk is part of downtown Detroit's revitalization effort, and is close to important African-American landmarks including the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Motown Museum.

Sources:

[Conde Nast Traveler: Black-Owned Hotels Throughout The World](#)

[Travel Noire: The 10 Most Beautiful Black-Owned Hotels in the World](#)