

Eco-Tripping | The Dream Team

Travel

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A few years ago, it was enough not to wash the towels every day. But it takes much more for hotels to earn their green stripes these days: those towels are now organic cotton, for starters, and the water to wash them is filtered and reused. Toilets are low flow, cleaning products are sulfate-free, hybrid cars meet guests at the airport, gardens are organic, and everything is recycled. Of course, it's the rare hotel that actually does it all. But what if one did? Herewith, the hypothetically perfect eco-hotel.

- A **green roof** like the one at the [Hilton Baltimore](#) reduces storm water runoff and keeps the building cool. Looks good, too.
- With its own **solar and wind power**, the [Three Camel Lodge](#) in the Gobi Desert is fully off-grid.
- A **water purification system** like the one at the LEED-gold-certified [Ritz-Carlton](#) in Charlotte, N.C., means you can drink from the tap instead of from plastic bottles.
- The **refillable natural and organic products** at [Hotel Terra Jackson Hole](#) in Teton Village, Wyo., keep suspect chemicals off your skin and out of streams and lakes.
- For hybrid- and electric-car owners, there's a **charging station** at the [Charles Hotel](#) in Cambridge, Mass.
- Even greener than a hybrid? The **bicycle valet** at the [Park Hyatt](#) in Washington, D.C.
- The **green wall** at the [Distrikt Hotel](#) in New York filters the air — a natural way to reduce pollution.
- More and more hotels are getting involved in **community preservation efforts**; the [InterContinental Resort and Spa](#) on Moorea, in French Polynesia, runs a dolphin center and sea turtle rehabilitation clinic.
- The research on chlorine's effect on your health isn't pretty. Dunk the whole family — worry-free — in the **saline pool** at the [Viceroy Snowmass](#) in Snowmass Village, Colo.
- **Repurposing an old building** is often greener than building from scratch; witness the [Pappersbruket](#) hotel, a former paper mill in Ostana, Sweden.
- For children on an organic diet, the [Ritz Paris](#) will whip up **made-to-order organic baby food** — just the way it does for Stella McCartney and Katie Holmes's little ones.
- Even a 100-mile-radius diet is going too far afield for hotels with **on-site organic gardens**, like [Natirar](#) in Peapack-Gladstone, N.J., which features the Ninety Acres restaurant and a Viking cooking school.
- [Soneva Fushi](#) in the Maldives converts and reuses almost 80 percent of the waste it generates through its **integrated waste management system**.
- [Wyndham Hotel](#) **staff uniforms** are now made with washable fabrics derived from recycled materials.