



jetBlue YOU ABOVE ALL NEW YORK CITY TO LIBERIA, COSTA RICA FROM \$199 one-way AdChoices Book now Restrictions apply.

## TRAVEL

# 5 Beautiful Eco-Friendly Lodges for a Refreshing Escape

For your next vacation, take a trip to one of these environmentally friendly hotels around the world

Posted December 23, 2015



TEXT BY [AYESHA KHAN](#)

With rapid real-estate development occurring across the globe, many new hotels are mindful of the damaging effects hospitality can have not only on their ecosystems but also on the societies that surround them. All too often hotel projects lead to deforestation (especially where golf courses are involved) and the importation of foreign materials and finishes, which expands a project's carbon footprint. What's more, entire communities are often displaced and never invited back to work for—or even visit—the walled-off fortresses created in their hometowns. From a completely self-sufficient lodge with a nearly nonexistent carbon footprint to a full-fledged resort that helps support local economies and builds schools and health-care facilities, these five eco-friendly hotels stand at the forefront of environmental responsibility both in their design and in their operation.



Photo: Courtesy of Pikaia Lodge



**Pikaia Lodge, the Galápagos, Ecuador** One decade in the making, this carefully considered eco-lodge on the island of Santa Cruz was created by Ecuadorian father-and-daughter team Herbert Frei and María Elena Frei de Grunauer and specially trained Galapagueño workers. The property's rooms and common areas were constructed using insulating materials such as polyurethane sandwich panels, and their design includes natural ventilation and shade provided by overhanging roofs to maximize cooling. Power comes from photovoltaic panels, wind generators, and biodiesel, and a complex system of cisterns collects rain from the property's pitched roofs to feed a state-of-the-art water-treatment plant that provides irrigation and plumbing.