

a lifestyle magazine for a heightened culture

TALLTM magazine

august 2004

JENNIE FINCH

LOOKS TO GREECE FOR GOLD

TOP HOTELS FOR TALL PEOPLE JUST IN TIME FOR VACATION!

CANDICE OLSEN AND HER DIVINE DESIGN

HIS & HERS FASHIONS STAR WARS' CHEWBACCA POKER PRO EVELYN NG & more!

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A special report

We compiled a list of some of the top national and international hotels that cater to tall guests like you.

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Divine inspiration

She is just shy of 6', but one thing she isn't shy of is dispensing some good design advice. Need help with your bachelor pad or the new mansion on the hill you just bought? Ask Candice. We did!

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The belle of the ball

The 6'1" fastpitch softball player is a good, all-American girl: She's happily in love, is tight with her family, adores her dogs, and can pitch a softball past you faster than you can say, "What was that?"

TALL magazine catches up with her for an exclusive interview before she heads over to Greece and vies for an Olympic gold medal.

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No matter how intently Jennie stares at page 5, it continues to ignore her.

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top hotels for tall travelers

An essential guide of top U.S. and international hotels that welcome and cater to their taller guests.

by Shannon Hurst Lane and TALL magazine

Have you ever had to sleep in a fetal position because there was a footboard on the hotel bed? Have you ever bruised your forehead or busted your nose in the shower? What about ducking under the doorframe or having to bend over to reach your toiletries? These are some of the trials and travails of being a tall traveler. Fortunately, the hotel industry is becoming sensitive to the tall traveler, with more and more hotels offering higher accommodations without the higher prices. We have gathered a list of the top hotels that knowingly cater to the taller crowd.

For a hotel to be considered tall-friendly, *TALL* magazine put together a list of conditions and items that should be included with the room:

- Longer beds. A minimum of a king-size bed is a must-have for any room that declares itself a "tall room."
- Taller doorframes. Now we realize that most hotels are not going to retrofit the architecture of the hotel and resize individual doorframes for their tall rooms. But some hotels, as part of their basic floor plan, have taller than average door frames.
- Higher showerheads. This feature should be a no-brainer for any hotel trying to figure out how to accommodate tall travelers. Easy to install, it's that extra touch that makes the difference between an ordinary stay and a pleasurable stay.
- Higher bathroom ceilings. Some hotels actually have you step up into the bathroom, and anybody over 6'4" can't stand up straight inside them. Not a very pleasurable experience. Note: this also goes for bathrooms where there's a raised tub, so once you step into it, the 7' ceiling now becomes a 6'5" ceiling.
- Higher toilets. If you are spending your hard-earned money at a hotel that touts having "tall rooms," a raised toilet should be part of the plan. It's not a necessity, but it's a nice luxury.
- Higher counters. This is an often overlooked detail when remodeling hotel rooms for taller guests. When a guest has to kneel on the floor to use the sink and mirror, something's not right.
- Longer bathrobes. This again separates an ordinary stay from a pleasant stay. Customers will come back for pleasant stays.
- Taller furniture. A room might have the long bed, the showerheads, and even the bathrobes. Now the hotel should go all out and bring in some oversized mirrors, a taller desk, and some taller chairs, all of which can be had for very little investment at the local IKEA or most discount furniture stores.

Not every hotel we mention is going to have each one of the above listed items and conditions, but each participant will have several of these in their favor. Also, please note that hotels can change their arrangements at any time, and just because they have tall rooms, they are not necessarily setting those aside only for tall

travelers who happen to walk through their doors. In other words, call first.

And now, without further ado, onto the list!

Argonaut Hotel

495 Jefferson Street at Hyde
Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, CA 94109
www.argonauthotel.com
Reservations: 800 790 1415

This little-known hotel is situated right on San Francisco's famous Fisherman's Wharf, so you're within walking distance to all of the excitement and gastronomical delights that have made the city a tourist mecca. The Argonaut, a converted factory, offers a tasteful nautical theme throughout its tall rooms. Rates run from \$149-\$359 per night. This newly opened boutique hotel is sure to become a favorite once the word gets out.

Cypress Hotel

10050 S. DeAnza Blvd.
Cupertino, CA, 95014
www.thecypresshotel.com
Reservations: 800 499 1408

Built in 2002, this Silicon Valley hotel is reminiscent of a Mediterranean villa with its exotic, warm, and inviting colors. These tall rooms are a dream for the savvy business traveler who happens to be tall. The dot-com craze may be over, but there are still plenty of things to do in and around Silicon Valley. If you are a self-professed computer geek, you have to check out San Jose's Tech Museum. Hockey fans can enjoy an evening with the Sharks, and water lovers can head to Half Moon Bay for a day at the beach.

Hotel Monaco - Chicago

225 North Wabash
Chicago, IL 60601
www.monaco-chicago.com
Reservations: 866 610 0081

Built in 1812, this eclectic French-deco inspired hotel is near the center of downtown Chicago. Citysearch.com has dubbed it the most romantic hotel in Chicago. These pet-friendly accommodations even offer treats for Fido or Fifi in the room's mini-bar. If you have to leave Fido behind, a complimentary goldfish can be provided as a companion during your stay. You can't leave Chicago without walking down the Magnificent Mile. If you happen to be in town on a Sunday morning, go down to the House of Blues for an inspirational breakfast buffet complete with live gospel singing.



The Palm Hotel's spacious NBA suites offer extra-long beds.

Hotel Monaco - Denver

1717 Champa Street at 17th
Denver, CO 80202

www.monaco-denver.com

Reservations: 800 990 1303

Located in downtown Denver, this hotel is as Bohemian as the rest of the Monaco hotels, with the welcoming lobby decorated in elegant trappings. If you're a ski nut, take note: the hotel offers a Colorado Ski Package in winter that includes accommodations, tickets for the ski train to Winter Park, \$20 in "snow dough," and a welcome basket complete with water bottles, energy bars, Chap stick, and sunscreen. (A ski tip from the pros here at *TALL magazine*: go down the hill, and when you see a tree, turn.)

Hotel Monaco - New Orleans

333 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70130

www.monaco-neworleans.com

Reservations: 866 685 8359

If you don't know why New Orleans is called the Big Easy ... you haven't been to New Orleans. Located on St. Charles Street, with easy access to the French Quarter, tall rooms are available at the standard room rate at this height-friendly hotel. Voodoo dolls in the room's mini-bar add a special touch. After sticking the doll full of pins (provided in the sewing kit), enjoy the evening wine tasting in the hotel lobby along with a complimentary chair mas-

sage. During Mardi Gras, a \$25 parade pass offers you bleacher access right in front of the hotel. Catch some beads (and very little Zzzzsss) on the main parade route. Off-the-rack room rates run from \$138-\$324 per night, depending on current events.

Hotel Monaco - Salt Lake City

15 West 200 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

www.monaco-saltlakecity.com

Reservations: 800 805 1801

Frequent travelers rave about this boutique hotel, calling it the hippest hotel in Salt Lake City. Plush, French-inspired eclectic décor greets you in the main lobby, seducing you to linger just a little bit longer. Leopard-print bathrobes that are long enough to fall below the Tall Traveler's knees can be found in the closets of these tall rooms. The faux fur bed throws make for extra comfort on the extra long beds. Located within walking distance of Temple Square, the Monaco Salt Lake City is a trendsetter in this traditional-style city. Room rates run from \$99-\$199. If you have the time, take a stroll through the Hogle Zoo, home to over 1,100 animals from around the world.

Hotel Monaco - Washington DC

700 F Street NW
Washington DC, 20004

www.monaco-dc.com

Reservations: 800 649 1202

on the road

The hotel's Monte Carlo Tall Rooms are heaven for the tall traveler, with the ceilings in this historic 1939 Tariff Building measuring 15' high. The neoclassic furnishings make for an elegant stay while in the Capitol city. Although the showerheads may be high, the water pressure is low. Room rates run from \$269-\$899. If you have a few minutes to spare, walk on down to the newly installed WWII memorial for some quiet introspection.

The Mayfair House Hotel

3000 Florida Avenue
Coconut Grove (Miami), FL 33133
www.mayfairhousehotel.com
Reservations: 305 441 0000

Visiting NBA players often call the Mayfair House Hotel home during their stay in Miami, and none of them have complained so far. To better serve these and other tall travelers, the Mayfair Hotel has begun renovations and will offer designated Tall Rooms. The hotel will also continue to offer hot tubs on the balconies of all rooms. If you've never been to Coconut Grove, with its world-famous beaches, nightclubs, golf courses, and shopping centers, start planning your next trip for that destination.

The Palms Casino Resort

4321 W. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89103
www.palms.com
Reservations: 1-866-942-7770

The Palms Casino is owned by the Maloof family, who also own the Sacramento Kings basketball team, so it would make sense that their hotel would cater to basketball players. The Palms offers 22 NBA Suites to accommodate the tall traveler. These rooms offer extra long beds, oversized furnishings, higher showerheads, and oversized tubs. The doorframes are higher also, so there will be no "ducking" at this hot spot in Sin City. NBA Junior Suites can be had starting at \$179 per night on weekdays. While you're there, visit Rain in the Desert, and Ghostbar, two of the most popular nightspots in town, or catch the breakfast buffet for \$5.99.

Walt Disney World Resorts

<http://disneyworld.disney.go.com>

The Walt Disney Company doesn't have "Tall Rooms" per se, but they do work to accommodate their tall guests. A Disney representative told TALL magazine that if a tall traveler would like an extra long bed in his or her room, Disney would absorb the cost of renting the longer bed and have it set up in the room by your arrival time. Disney hotel tip: the newer resorts offer higher doorframes.

cont'd on page 14

TALL WOMEN'S CLOTHING...

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The front lobby in the Pacific Palisades Hotel welcomes guests.

CANADA

Pacific Palisades Hotel and Spa

1277 Robson Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6E 1C4
www.pacificpalisadeshotel.com
Reservations: 604 688 0461

Located on popular Robson Street, this former apartment building has been converted into an affordable hip hotel. Don't let the lime green walls scare you away; tall travelers can rest easy in the extra long beds with down comforters and pillows.

If you've never been to Vancouver, British Columbia, be warned: surrounded by snow-capped mountains on one end and the clear blue sea on the other, it has been called one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Don't leave without visiting Victoria Island.

INTERNATIONAL

Art Deco Hotel Montana

Adligenswilerstrasse 22
6002 Luzern, Switzerland
www.hotel-montana.ch

According to a recent press release, the hotel has made available several rooms with 7'2" beds and other amenities geared toward taller travelers. The hotel is located on a hill overlooking the beautiful Lake Lucerne and the surrounding city.

Haus Am See Hotel and Restaurant

South road 14
02785 Olbersdorf, Germany
www.haus-am-see.com

A picturesque little hotel on the edge of the Zittauer lake and mountains. They have a couple of "apartments" with bigger and longer beds.

Hotel Paba

Via Cavour 266
Rome, Italy
www.hotelpaba.com

According to their site, "All Paba Hotel rooms are equipped with oversized beds, a private shower box, air conditioning, direct telephone line, TV set, radio, minibar, kettle, safe, hairdryer, and more." All roads lead to Rome, and all the roads in Rome lead to the very small, but very luxurious, Hotel Paba.

Hotel Quintessence Dresden

High Shrubs Market 1
01108 Dresden, Germany
www.hotel-quintessenz.de

Three separate levels of room comfort to choose from. Upon request, they will replace the normal bed with a special 7'2" long bed (for any level room you reserve).

La Bergere

Stationsstraat 420
6221 BR,
Maastricht, Netherlands
www.la-bergere.com

Home of the tallest population in the world, Holland is also one of the quirkiest countries, where old country meets the avant garde head-on. The famous La Bergere accommodates both of these conventions, with rooms that are tall friendly but very chic as well. They boast a bedroom designed by Italian maestro Minotti, choices of water beds or double beds, and even a pet goldfish for the duration of your stay. They will also pump pure oxygen into your room. (How's that for room service?)

The Lighthouse Reef Resort

The Lighthouse Reef
Belize
www.scubabelize.com

Their suites feature extra-long full beds and a vanity bath. This resort is literally a splash away from the world famous Barrier Reef, the Atolls, and the Great Blue Hole. To the owners of the Lighthouse Reef Resort: We really really really like your resort and promise that if you put us up for a night or two we will write the most glorious review your resort has ever seen. Swear it!

TALL TRAVELING TIPS

1. When booking an airline ticket, request (nicely) an exit row or bulkhead seat.
2. If you're on a long cross-country or overseas trip, take a walk up and down the aisles every half hour.
3. When booking a hotel room, ask first for a tall room, then a California King bed. As a last resort, make sure the bed does not have a footboard.
4. A lot of hotel chains carry extra-long bed (these usually measure around 6'8" to 7', but you HAVE to request them in advance.
5. Send us postcards!

TALL magazine
360 Grand Ave.
#474
Oakland CA 94610



Omayad Hotel

1 Brazil Av.,
Damascus, Syria
www.omayad-hotel.com

Soundproof, large dorsopedic and special extra-long beds, trouser press, minibar, smoke detector, fitness equipment (in room on request), connecting rooms, private balcony (most rooms), and more.

The Schloss Hotel

August - Böckstiegel - Straße 10
01326 Dresden, Germany
www.schlosshotel-pillnitz.de

The hotel, privately owned and run by the Zepp family, is located in the castle grounds of Pillnitz Castle, the picturesque former residence of the kings of Saxony, in Saxony's capital, Dresden. The hotel has two rooms with 7'2" long beds. This hotel is very popular with many tall Europeans.

The Shaftesbury Hotel

65-73 Shaftesbury Avenue
Piccadilly, London, W1D 6EX
www.shaftesburyhotel.co.uk

The bedrooms are climate-controlled and have King Size beds. The suites all benefit from mood-lit 4-poster beds (wink wink), and the restaurant buffets are constantly flowing.

Did we miss one?

This list is neither final nor finite. If we left out your favorite tall-friendly lodging, contact us at editor@tallmagazine.com (write "tall hotels" in the subject line) and give us the name and location and why they should be included in our next list. Happy travels!

Jungle Babies

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www.jungle-babies.com

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www.designelevations.com

