

# A HOTEL LIFE



## NOW HOTEL

CALI

by: Karen Catchpole | [www.trans-americas.com](http://www.trans-americas.com) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

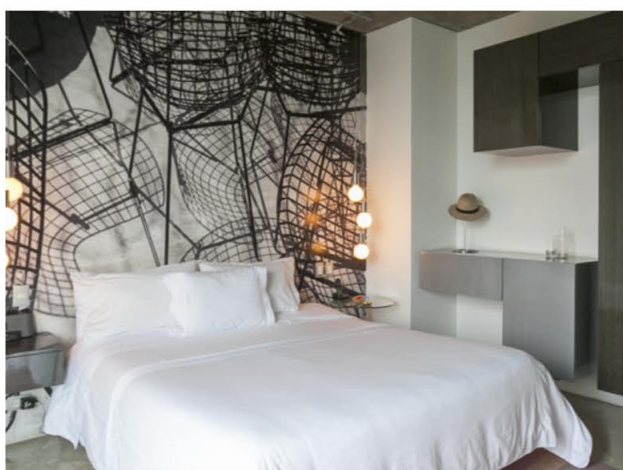
**WHY** *My birthday.*

**WHEN** *March 2014*

**WHO** *My husband and I.*



*I can have your breakfast.*



*Cooliest Wallpaper: Ever. That's a massive black & white print of a photo of lawn chairs behind my bed.*



*You can bet all of these D*

## HIGHS + LOWS

👍 The three options for breakfast, included in room rates, are varied (from healthy to indulgent), huge and served with fresh tropical fruit juice and a basket of pastries.

👍 Four (4!) shower heads.

👍 The retractable lobby roof, polished concrete floors, wall-sized black & white prints in rooms and mood lighting under the beds.

👎 Yes, I'm a luddite, but the remote control for the in-room lights was utterly confounding.

👎 The small and shallow rooftop pool is really for show, not for swimming.

## A HOTEL LIFE RATING: 42/50

🛏️ DESIGN

★★★★★

🛏️ NIGHT'S SLEEP

★★★★★

💻 WEBSITE

★★★★☆

👛 SERVICE

★★★★☆

💓 LIFE CHANGING

★★★★☆

🧴 AMENITIES

★★★★★

💧 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS

★★★★☆

🔍 STEALABLE STUFF

★★★★★

💰 OVERALL VALUE

★★★★☆

➡️ REFER A FRIEND

★★★★☆

## IMPORTANT BITS

### TYPE

Boutique hotel.

### VIBE

Urban, industrial, creative.

### LOCATION

In the Granada neighborhood of Cali, which is quickly filling with new boutiques, restaurants and bars.

### ROOMS

19

### MUSIC

Electronic, chill out and house.

### YEAR OPENED

2009

### DESIGNED BY

Sandra Freiye, the multi-talented GM of the hotel.

### POOL/GYM

No gym but there's a small and shallow pool.

### RESTAURANT

Yes, including popular sushi bar Iro.

### BAR

Two, including one in the lobby and one on the roof.

### MINIBAR

The standard selection of chips, nuts and soda.

### WIFI

Yes and free

### CHILDREN

Don't pack 'em

### PRICE

A hip splurge starting at US\$160 per person, including breakfast.

## MUST DOS



### SANTA TERESA ARTESANAL CHOCOLATE SHOP

Just a few blocks away from the hotel, this tiny but welcoming chocolate shop is the place to pick up lovely handmade treats made with 100% Colombian cacao.



### PUBLIC HOUSE BAR

The owner, Jorge, has created a rare neighborhood pub with cheap cold beer, a full bar, food and an awesome soundtrack (Rolling Stones, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nirvana, etc).



### NEARBY PACIFICO RESTAURANT

Opened by Claudia Ruiz in 2002 this restaurant celebrates the traditional cuisine of her home town of Buenaventura on the Pacific coast. Don't miss her take on coconut flan (even if you don't like flan, trust me on this).

## MUST HAVES



### URBAN DECAY ALL-NIGHTER MAKEUP SETTING SPRAY

Cali is a city steeped in salsa which means you're going to be steeped in sweat after a night at a salsa club.



### HYDROFLASK WATER BOTTLE

Tap water is safe to drink in Colombian cities so there's no need to waste money and contribute to landfills by buying bottled water.



### EOS LEMON DROP LIP BALM

Protect your lips from sun damage while you're sight-seeing with gluten, PABA and paraben free EOS lip balm.

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TO SHARE YOUR STORIES, OR FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES contact: [hello@ahotellife.com](mailto:hello@ahotellife.com)

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