



Flowers float at Design Suites.

\$180; www.designsuits.com) and **Buenos Aires cE Design Hotel** (from \$140, with breakfast; www.designce.com)—that would look at home in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, with their decorative pools, meant for being seen beside, not for swimming. Designed by the same architect, Argentinean Ernesto Goransky, the hotels are situated side by side and have airy, loft-inspired guest rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows.

Las Cañitas, a neighborhood filled with hipsters frequenting trendy restaurants until the wee hours, now has a hotel to call its own. **248 Finisterra** (from \$115, with breakfast; www.248finisterra.com) is a family-owned, 11-room boutique property on Calle Báez, one of the neighborhood's most popular streets.

Esplendor Buenos Aires (from \$171; www.esplendorbuenosaires.com) is in the heart of the city center, one block from a bustling pedestrian thoroughfare, Avenida Florida, where savvy salesmen push leather goods. The facade is neoclassical, but inside, the lobby and 51 guest rooms are modern with decorative touches, including shag rugs, leather headboards, and chaise lounges. Larger-than-life portraits of Argentine icons like Evita and Che Guevara, made of avant-garde materials like bullets, nails, and cookies, lend a modern art museum vibe to the entire hotel.

For a romantic Argentine experience, book a room at the **Mansion Dandi Royal** (\$100; www.mansiondandiroyal.com). This tango academy and hotel are in bohemian San Telmo, the home of tango, which today teems with street performers, musicians, and vendors peddling antiques. Highlights of the hotel are the three ballrooms, reserved for daily tango shows and lessons.

CHECKING IN

Stairways to Heaven

Lofty lodgings take your vacation out on a limb.

There are many ways to spend the night in a forest, but only a tree house can get you eye-to-eye with nature and reacquaint you with your inner child. From bare-bones to five-star, the growing treetop options offer something for everyone. The single yurt-style tree house at **Sky Riverhaven**, just east of Gold Bar, Wash. (www.skyriverhaven.com), has a feather bed, views of the Skykomish River, and a heart of gold—\$100 of your room rate will be donated to a charity of your choice. The **Cedar Creek Treehouse** in Ashford, Wash. (www.cedarcreektreehouse.com), near Mount Rainier National Park, is one of the highest out there at 50 feet above ground, and is accessed via an 80-foot-long suspension bridge. Guests of the luxury duplex tree house at **Winvian** in Litchfield Hills, Conn. (www.winvian.com), can indulge in the on-site spa, ride horses, or try fly-fishing. Decorated in Crayola colors, the tree house has a whimsical clubhouse feel. —KAREN CATCHPOLE



Cedar Creek's observatory looks out on Sawtooth Ridge.

STAYS UNDER \$150

Peking, China, and Tapachula, Mexico

1 Peking International Youth Hostel, China Just steps from the Forbidden City, down one of the narrow alleys of the one- and two-story courtyard houses that form the heart of old Beijing, the Peking International Youth Hostel opened its doors last March. Beautifully restored by the young couple that runs it, Fei Fei and her partner Gao Gao, a professional interior decorator, the traditional Si-He style building gives visitors a chance to stay in one of the city's re-

maining historic *hutong* districts, where life continues much as it has for centuries. Simple, elegant rooms with private baths open onto or over the house's peaceful center courtyard, where modern Beijing feels a lifetime away. From \$55; +86-10-6526-8855. —Sally McGrane

2 Argovia Finca Resort, Tapachula, Mexico Located on a traditional Mexican coffee plantation that took root in 1880, this lazy jungle resort is a bird-watcher's delight

(152 species) and the first stop on the local Coffee Route, based out of the town of Tapachula 25 miles southwest on the Guatemala border. Guests choose among six lodgings that include one-room wooden cabins and cabanas with private terraces; all options afford panoramic views of the Sierra Madre de Chiapas's endless green mountains, valleys, and shady coffee fields. Amble the finca's manicured gardens on your own, or follow a tour guide to learn about the region's natural bounty of sustainable coffee and flowers, wildlife, 172 native tree species, and the neighboring 13,320-foot Tacaná volcano. Recharge with papaya juice or java on the bar's tropical-flower-bedecked floating terrace. The gift shop stocks home-grown souvenirs like Argovia coffee beans, chiles, and star fruit jam, plus embroidered purses from nearby Chiapas pueblos. From \$110 for two, with breakfast; www.argovia.com.mx. —Katie Knorovsky



After sightseeing, relax indoors or out at Peking's youth hostel.