

The Hotels Reimagining Their Rooms as Stylish Work Spaces

Throughout the pandemic, the hospitality industry has found new ways to attract and serve guests — including providing them with a desk for the day.

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For some people fortunate enough to be working from home during the pandemic, forgoing a commute and sending emails from the living room has been a surprisingly welcome adjustment. For others — especially those sharing small spaces with loved ones — not so much. Where can you take a call when every room in your home is occupied by another family member, when a pipe bursts or when deafening jackhammering begins outside your window? Hotels, which have been hit hard during this time of social distancing and travel restrictions, have in recent months begun offering a possible solution, repositioning their rooms — in some instances by actually swapping out beds for luxurious desks and comfortable chairs — as picturesque offices in which to work in peace for a reduced day rate.

Some properties are also treating their day guests to additional perks. In New York and Los Angeles, many are including a complimentary in-room meal and, in at least one case, soothing, specially curated Spotify playlists, while in London, others are repurposing their gardens as open-air offices and assigning staff members to assist with everything from printing to tech difficulties. In Milan and Tokyo, bonuses might include unlimited coffee or even free yoga classes. Of course, not every hotel has been able to adapt in this way (in Paris, for instance, lockdowns

have made this sort of operation largely impossible) but it allows those that can to get people into their rooms — while allowing guests to get out of theirs, if only for a day. Here, a roundup of some of the most work-friendly hotels in a handful of major cities around the world.

Milan

Located in the magnificent 19th-century Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II shopping arcade, the [Galleria Vik Milano](#) has created a special working retreat package: for a special rate (starting at \$220), you can spend the day in one of the hotel's 89 opulent rooms and suites appointed, in some cases, with site-specific artworks, including original frescoes. Printing and an in-room coffee station are part of the deal, and lunch can be ordered through room service for an additional fee. Nearby, adjacent to the Scala Theater, the elegant [Mandarin Oriental](#) is providing guests with half-price rates (starting at \$490) that include the use of rooms as private offices, as well as a dining credit for the Mandarin Bar & Bistrot, and access to the property's fitness center. Not far from there, another dose of daytime glamour can be found at the grand neo-Classical-style [Principe di Savoia](#), where guests will find a fresh bouquet of flowers and fine stationery waiting atop the antique desk in their room — along with a minibar and pantry stocked with croissants and cakes prepared by the in-house pastry chefs. For a more formal lunch, there is Il Salotto, the lobby restaurant, which serves cold-pressed juices, pizzas and housemade pastas (day rates start at \$720).