

The bath is the star in these amazing hotels around the world, so splash out, sit back and... soak up the view

- At the Jade Mountain Resort in St Lucia circular whirlpool baths look out towards the blue Caribbean
- Head to the Hotel Crillon Le Brave in Provence for a romantic soak, with two tubs positioned side by side
- Get a bird's eye view of the Japanese capital from your bath at the high-rise Aman Tokyo Hotel

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The bathroom is unlikely to top anyone's priority list when planning a holiday. But the best offer a whole lot more than just a place to freshen up. Some are so special you'll want to soak in them all day. Here's our guide to the world's most terrific tubs and their glorious views.

At the **Jade Mountain Resort** in St Lucia, your lair is set high in the hills and not even a window lies between you and a stunning view across the blue Caribbean.

Most of the rooms leave at least one wall entirely absent, and warm winds flow through the hotel's huge bedrooms, living areas and bathrooms – where you can wallow in a circular whirlpool bath that's easily big enough for two.



The view from one of the whirlpools at the Jade Mountain Resort in St Lucia. Most of the rooms leave at least one wall entirely absent so you can soak up the views

Better still, most are mounted on pedestals to ensure you don't miss any of the land and seascape stretching out ahead of you. By day, gaze at St Lucia's most famous sights, the Piton Mountains that rise vertically from the sea. By night, watch the lights of yachts crossing the bay – or switch on coloured underwater lamps in your tub for a touch of surreal luxury.

When you do leave the bathroom, you can explore the major sites of the southern part of the island, including the rainforest, botanical gardens, unique 'drive-in' volcano, and sulphur springs, which are all within easy reach.

There are also deep-sea fishing excursions and if you fancy a challenge, hike up Gros Piton to see if you can spot your room (and your bath) in the distance.

The best time to visit St Lucia is between November and April, when rainfall is low and the temperatures are at their balmiest. But with luxury and views guaranteed it's hard to find a bad time to be there. Rooms – called sanctuaries – start at £937 a night for two while British Airways flies direct to St Lucia from £428 (jademountain.com).

Only one thing can beat a perfectly positioned bathtub with a view, and that's a second tub right next to it for the ultimate romantic soak.

That's what the owners of **Hotel Crillon Le Brave** in Provence thought when they transformed a series of ancient buildings into a five-star hotel.



At the Hotel Crillon Le Brave in Provence guests can hold hands while having a bath and admiring the quintessentially French landscape before them

Lucky guests can hold hands while balancing a drinks tray or a chessboard between their tubs. Look away from your other half to take in rolling hills, a pretty Provencal village and a quintessentially French landscape.

Hotel staff can bring the surroundings alive by booking unique tours.

A favourite is to rent a vintage Citroen 2CV and follow a route that highlights all the best viewpoints, a series of gourmet and antique markets and a string of historic villages.

Alternatively, visit the vast, Gothic Palais des Papes in nearby Avignon. Fly to Marseilles or Nice, then book B&B from about £320 (crillonlebrave.com).

Urban landscapes look just as enticing from a hot bath and few places do urban as well as Tokyo. Better still, at the high-rise **Aman Tokyo Hotel** in Japan you're right up amid the tallest skyscrapers when you sink into a traditional furo soaking bath made specifically for the hotel. Basalt walls and granite floor bring a calm, Zen-like feel while light timber partitions anchor you firmly in Japan.



Extraordinary views from one of the baths at the high-rise Aman Tokyo Hotel in Japan. The traditional furo soaking baths were made specifically for the hotel