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WHERE TRAVEL CAN TAKE YOU

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Escape Artist

The secret to mastering the minibreak is all about where you decide to check in.

by JENNIFER FLOWERS

I was swaddled

in my robe, swaying in my in-room hammock at the newly opened 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge, facing my unobstructed view of the Manhattan skyline, when it struck me: I had no idea what time it was.

I was in the middle of New York City—the place I call home—but I felt worlds away. I had wiled away the afternoon reading fiction for the first time in months, eating a chocolate chip cookie the size of my face in the café downstairs, taking an obscenely long bath in my slate-clad bathroom, and test-driving the custom-built furnishings (including the fabulous hammock) that I dreamed of having in my own home. When I was ready to go in search of city life, the hip DUMBO (Down Under

the Manhattan Bridge Overpass) neighborhood was at my doorstep. The best part? Within 24 hours, a refreshed version of me was back in the saddle before anyone even knew I was away.

The 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge is the ideal minibreak: an easy-to-reach retreat that simultaneously offers insider access to a destination and to a host of hedonistic pleasures and gorgeous spaces to indulge in before reality comes crashing back. As the demands of modern life intensify (half of Americans leave paid vacation

CONNECT STAY

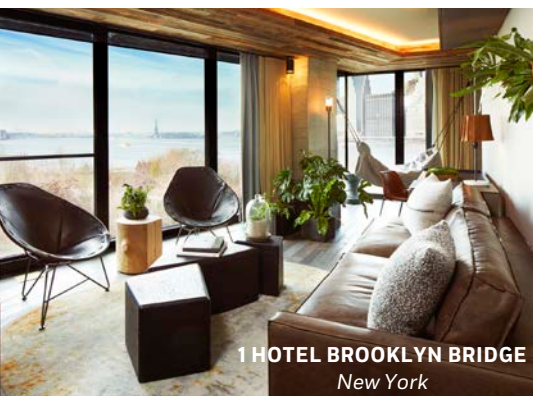
days on the table each year), it's good to have places like these in our back pockets—all only a short drive or non-stop flight away—for those much needed breaks from the daily grind.

My own list of quick getaway hotels is growing. I checked into the St. Regis Mexico City over a recent long weekend. Yes, the hotel is a cocoon of luxury with round-the-clock butler service—but the hotel doesn't want guests to just stay inside its walls. My passing inquiry about local markets turned into an eye-opening tour of the bustling Mercado de San Juan with the hotel's chef de cuisine, Olivier Deboise Méndez. He led me to my first-ever taste of *escamol* (ant egg) tacos and introduced me to his favorite mole vendor.

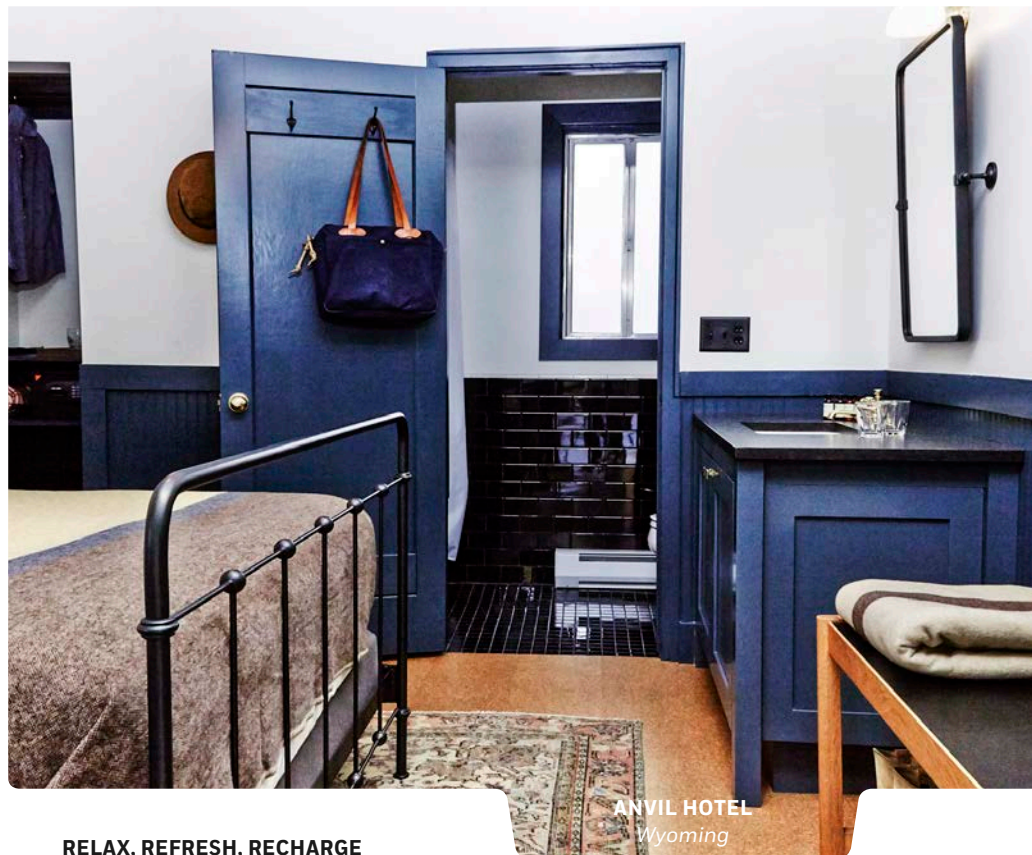
On a weekend trip last summer after the Bonna-roo music festival, I checked into Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tennessee, where I spent my idle hours in an enormous four-poster bed and on

my private veranda. I also hiked on trails across the 4,200-acre property and ate an unforgettable farm-to-table dinner at the Barn restaurant. And I have reason to return, now that the resort has upped the ante with the recent debut of Bramble Hall, a concert venue accessible only to guests, where musical artists-in-residence (Kacey Musgraves and Luke Bryan among them) perform in an intimate setting.

Next on my list: the iconic Claridge's in London, not only because I want to spend quality time in their Sisley-stocked spa, but also because guests have access to impossible-to-score tickets for exhibits at the V&A, among other art museums, thanks to Claridge's partnerships—no small perk when you want to maximize your precious minibreak hours. *1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge*, from \$315. *St. Regis Mexico City*, from \$605. *Blackberry Farm*, from \$845. *Claridge's*, from \$673.



1 HOTEL BROOKLYN BRIDGE
New York



ANVIL HOTEL
Wyoming

RELAX, REFRESH, RECHARGE

More Weekend Getaways

Five more easy-to-reach retreats that offer exclusive experiences and sybaritic indulgences.

1 Farmhouse Inn SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

A labor of love from brother-and-sister owners Joe and Catherine Bartolomei, this farmhouse-style resort in the Russian River Valley recently underwent an \$8 million renovation. Nine new, light-filled rooms feature four-poster beds and fireplaces, while the new Spa at Farmhouse echoes a vintage stable. Thoughtful details include wine at check-in, attentive staff at the Michelin-starred restaurant, and

fresh-baked cookies at turndown. *From \$545.*

2 Collective Vail COLORADO

Launched in 2015, Collective Vail sits on 1,000 acres of working ranchland in the Central Rockies, about 25 miles from Vail village. Six spacious tents, outfitted with antler chandeliers and wood-burning stoves, surround a low-impact lodge serving local game and seasonal produce. If you don't care to join a horseback ride or a cat-

tle drive, the on-site winery can arrange small-lot tastings. *From \$500.*

3 Anvil Hotel WYOMING

New York design firm Studio Tack transformed a Jackson motor lodge into this 49-room, Shaker-inspired hotel, complete with iron bed frames and Woolrich blankets. Shop for Western gear at the general store or sip a cocktail at the zinc-topped bar. *From \$195.*

4 The Resort at Paws Up MONTANA

This summer, the 37,000-acre Montana resort unveils North Bank Camp, a new site

along the serene Blackfoot River featuring six two- and three-bedroom tents with furnished decks and en-suite bathrooms. After a day of horseback riding or canoeing, guests can share supper and stories by the fireplace in the glass-walled dining pavilion. *From \$703.*

5 Hotel San Cristóbal BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

Situated on quiet Punta Lobos, an hour north of Cabo, this 32-room beachfront retreat features Guatemalan furnishings and fabrics. Work on your tan by the 2,200-square-foot pool or forage for herbs, volunteer to help sea turtles, or learn to surf. *From \$258. —J.F.*