INSIDEHOOK

10 Idyllic Lakefront Hotels Across the United States

By: Lindsay Cohn September 12, 2025

We all love salty sea breezes and crashing waves, but there's something so endearing about a lakeside vacation that channels the ease and analogue charm of simpler times — when crews sat around playing Scrabble after dinner instead of scrolling screens. In many ways, these types of trips feel like a throwback, which is right on trend, given that classic Americana hotels are making a comeback. And, in fact, some of the most beloved lakefront hotels in the United States date back to the late 1880s.

Travelers seeking somewhere a bit more mellow than a jam-packed shore destination will also appreciate the chill atmosphere and general lack of crowds that lakes tend to afford. Cozy lodgings with private porches are tailor-made for kicking back and soaking in the stunning scenery. Bonfires and lawn games reflect a sense of nostalgic fun and joy. Dockside dining (and drinking), swimming pools and outdoor activities — from kayaking to trekking — seal the deal.

And while summer is prime time for a waterfront escape full of jet skiing and boating, each season gives vacationers ample reasons to visit, from fall leaf peeping to winter ice skating to spring hiking. With so much for guests of all ages to do year-round, it's no wonder lakeside retreats are a favorite of multigenerational families. The prospect of cuddling by a crackling fire, relaxing spa treatments and secluded sundowners with waterfront views makes for a romantic couple's getaway. Pals can bond over sailing and s'mores. For all of that and more, these idyllic lakefront hotels and resorts deliver on comfortable accommodations, recreation and beautiful scenery.



Shore Lodge (McCall, Idaho)

Situated in the mountain town of McCall about two hours north of Boise, Shore Lodge is a family-friendly lakefront retreat. Established in 1948 and set on the glacier-fed Payette Lake, the property combines warm, rustic interiors and rugged nature. While the scenic setting is a major draw, its selling points don't start and end with sunrises over the water. For adrenaline junkies, there's cliff jumping, water trampolining and ATV tours around the wilds of Western Idaho. Foodies can feast on Snake River Farms Wagyu from Eastern Idaho and choose a vintage from the 2,000-bottle wine cellar at The Narrows Steakhouse. Kiddos will have a blast swimming in the lake and heated pool and playing classic board games, foosball and giant Connect Four in the rec room.