



## Downloads

SOPHIE Lam, a travel writer with London's *The Independent* newspaper, has come up with a list of five hotels which supply rooms that can fit into even the tightest budget while still offering a bit of style and comfort.

Lam's first suggestion was a property in Thailand called the Shambara Boutique Hostel ([www.shambarabangkok.com](http://www.shambarabangkok.com)).

"In the midst of the madness that is Bangkok's Khao San Road, *pictured*, the Shambara offers nine simple, bright rooms for budget travellers," Lam suggested.

"Each is decorated with chunky wooden furniture and shuttered windows overlooking a courtyard garden."

Lam's second suggestion was the Bearded Monkey hostel ([www.thebeardedmonkey.com](http://www.thebeardedmonkey.com)) in Granada, Nicaragua, while her third property was the Gershwin Hotel ([www.gershwinhotel.com](http://www.gershwinhotel.com)) which is in the heart of America's busy New York City. The Gershwin, in Midtown

Manhattan, is described as half-hostel/half-hotel and a place where you can "slum it in style", while the Bearded Monkey is "a gem of a hostel in Central America's oldest and most beautiful colonial city".

Suggestion number four was in the notoriously expensive city of Copenhagen, the Danish capital, with the DanHostel ([www.danhostel.dk](http://www.danhostel.dk)) "proving that hostels don't have to mean primary colours and prehistoric bunk beds".

Lam's final choice was here in Australia with Base Backpackers in Melbourne ([www.basebackpackers.com](http://www.basebackpackers.com)) summed up as a place that "has come up with a solution for the budget traveller in need of creature comforts".

This hostel, which is in the heart of St Kilda, has the girls-only Sanctuary dorm which is stocked with free Aveda hair products and feather pillows.

**Sarah Nicholson**

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