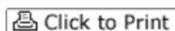




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10 great places to see through a novelist's eyes

Did you ever want to step into the rich scenery of a novel? "Many of my favorite places have inspired great authors, and their stories illuminate the destination," says **Melissa Biggs Bradley**, CEO of [Indagare.com](#), a travel website whose destination reports include reading lists. She shares her list of favorite hotels for book lovers with **Kathy Baruffi** for USA TODAY.

GOOGLE MAP: [Zoom in on these storied hotels](#)

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The Resort at Paws Up

Greenough, Mont.

"The Blackfoot River, which runs through this 37,000-acre ranch, is the river referred to in **Norman Maclean's** wonderful *A River Runs Through It*," Biggs Bradley says. "The great open plains that lured the crew in **Larry McMurtry's** *Lonesome Dove* to the wilds of Montana still seem to go on forever. Accommodations here range from luxury tents to three-bedroom vacation homes, and activities include roping, riding, rafting and fly-fishing." The resort's lending library has [Montana-based books](#). 800-473-0601; [pawsup.com](#)

Blantyre

Lenox, Mass.

"Edith Wharton wrote *The House of Mirth* at her grand estate, The Mount, in this tiny town. Down the road, Herman Melville penned *Moby-Dick*," Biggs Bradley says. "Today, visitors can tour the gardens at The Mount and Melville's home, Arrowhead. The perfect base is Blantyre, an exquisite country house hotel where every guest room has at least one Edith Wharton book, a children's classic and two volumes of poetry." Blantyre was once owned by film director **D.W. Griffith**. 413-637-3556; [blantyre.com](#)

Twin Farms

Barnard, Vt.

"This special country estate in Vermont was once the home of Sinclair Lewis (the first American writer to win the Nobel Prize) and his wife, journalist Dorothy Thompson," Biggs Bradley says. "Though their farmhouse now boasts museum-quality art and there are ten sumptuously decorated cottages on the 300-acre property, the bucolic New England setting that drew Lewis in the first place remains the main draw." Guests can canoe on the lake or visit nearby [Woodstock](#). 800-894-6327; [twinfarms.com](#)

The Algonquin Hotel

New York

"Since it opened in 1902, this hotel has drawn a slew of literary giants, including **Gertrude Stein**, Simone de Beauvoir and, most famously, the Algonquin Round Table," Biggs Bradley says. "Dorothy Parker and *The New Yorker* founder Harold Ross were among the Round Table community of writers, critics and tastemakers that lunched here for years." This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Round Table at this Midtown hotel and designated literary landmark. 212-840-6800; [algonquinhotel.com](#)

Kehoe House

Savannah, Ga.

"This restored mansion, now a premier historic inn, is less than a mile from Flannery O'Connor's childhood home," which is open to the public, Biggs Bradley says. "Each guest room is named after a historic Savannah figure, including singer Emma Kelly, a prominent character in **John Berendt's** *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Stillreferred to only as 'The Book,' Berendt's award-winning novel put Savannah on the literary map in 1994." 800-820-1020; [kehoehouse.com](#)

The Study at Yale

New Haven, Conn.

"Surrounded by [Yale University's](#) great literary tradition, this new hotel is located in the heart of Yale, which has graduated the likes of Tom Wolfe and Ann Packer," Biggs Bradley says. "The hotel has a football field's length of titles from New York City's legendary Strand bookstore." Visit Yale's Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library down the block and see the first separate book edition of **Joseph Conrad's** *Heart of Darkness* as well as a Gutenberg Bible and other exhibits. 203-503-3900; [www.studyhotels.com](#)

L'Hotel

Paris

"Oscar Wilde famously expired in this Left Bank property while complaining about the mortally ugly (now banished) wallpaper," Biggs Bradley says. "A makeover has re-enlivened the romance of Paris' literary quarter inside this memorabilia-filled 19th-century townhouse hotel. Outside, a stone's throw away are some of the world's best literary haunts: Les Deux Magots and Café de Flore, favorites of **Simone de Beauvoir**, Camus and **Jean-Paul Sartre**, and **Ernest Hemingway**." [l-hotel.com](#)

The Gardens

Key West

"Hemingway had a lifelong love affair with this island. 'It's the best place I've ever been anytime, anywhere,' he noted. Later he bought a grand Spanish Colonial home where he penned *A Farewell to Arms*," Biggs Bradley says. "For proximity to his house (now a museum), stay at The Gardens a few blocks away." Peter Matthiessen and Billy Collins are among the writers who have stayed at this quaint luxury property. 800-526-2664; [gardenshotel.com](#)

Canoe Bay

Chetek, Wis.

"You can retreat to your own lakeside hideaway in the woods with a book from Canoe Bay's library of more than 2,000 hardcover titles," Biggs Bradley says of the Midwest's only Relais & Chateaux property. This upscale resort with three private lakes is in the tranquil Big Woods of the upper Chippewa Valley, a region made famous by **Laura Ingalls Wilder**. Other notable Wisconsin wordsmiths include John Muir and **Thornton Wilder**. 715-924-4594; [canobay.com](#)

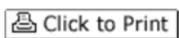
Hotel Rex

San Francisco

"This hotel pays homage to the city's literary influences," Biggs Bradley says. "The hotel, named for poet Kenneth Rexroth, has clubby interiors that are lined with antique typewriters, globes and books. Readings and book signings are regularly hosted at its roundtable salon." An optional \$1 per night contribution to the hotel's philanthropic program, Joie de Vivre Gives, is donated to partners such as 826 Valencia — a non-profit writing workshop and tutoring program co-founded by novelist **Dave Eggers**. 415-433-4434; [jdvhotels.com](#)

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