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## Travel INSIDERS



...expert advice & money-saving tips

WITH TRAVEL EDITOR **NIGEL THOMPSON**  
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# Tech a break in a cutting edge hotel

BY **NIGEL THOMPSON**

Hotel guests used to be happy if a room had half-decent air-con and a shower with controls that don't require a degree in engineering. These days it's all about throbbing wi-fi and smartphone keys. So we asked global accommodation finder HotelsCombined.co.uk to name the world's hottest hi-tech properties:

### 1 YOTEL, MANHATTAN

Arriving in a Starship Enterprise-style lobby, guests check in by touchscreen and are greeted by Yobot - the hyper-energetic robot porter. Rooms come with techno walls that have built in LCD HD TVs and audio-streaming, action-sensing air-con and mega-strength wi-fi. From £162 a night.

### 2 BLOW UP HALL 5050, POZNAN, POLAND

Technology and art combine with a huge digital art installation that projects images of guests entering. Instead of a room key you get an iPhone that leads you to the correct room and unlocks the door. From £88 a night.

### 3 W TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Boasting state-of-the-art technology,

this W Hotel has some rooms with video projectors, and wall installations containing an interactive grid of OLED lights that changes based on guests' movements. From £234 a night.

### 4 HOTEL 1000, SEATTLE

Ever been "caught out" by house-keeping? It won't happen here - built-in infrared detectors alert staff if a room is occupied. There's also a virtual golf club where you can play more than 50 of the world's best courses without leaving the premises. From £192 a night.

### 5 ECCLESTON SQUARE, LONDON

While the exterior exudes history, technology is at its heart. Touch sensi-

tive keypads control music and lighting, an iPad acts as your personal concierge, shower walls turn from clear to frosted at the touch of a button and flatscreen TVs hide in bathroom mirrors. From £160 a night.

### 6 PENINSULA HOTEL, TOKYO

Unsurprisingly, gadgets abound in the Japanese entry. Guests can enjoy a nail polish dryer, unlimited internet radio with more than 3,000 stations, a mood lighting pad and wireless phones with Skype capability. From £398 a night.

■ All room rates based on two adults sharing and bookable via [HotelsCombined.co.uk](http://HotelsCombined.co.uk)



**TO BEDLY GO** Enterprise-style Yotel and the iPad concierge at Eccleston Square