

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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Southern California: Low morning clouds and fog along the coast. Otherwise, mostly sunny. Highs 60s and 70s at the beaches, near 110 southeast. Weather map, Page 16.

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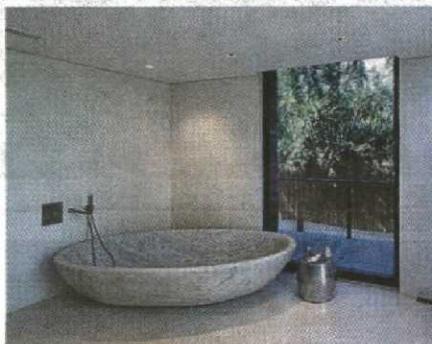
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## Travel The New York Times

# In Transit

TRAVEL NEWS, DEALS AND TIPS



TRENDING

## Sudsing Up, Memorably

Instead of treating showers as utilitarian afterthoughts or relying on the old trend of rain-forest showerheads, some hotels are getting creative when it comes to getting wet.

At the recently renovated Rancho Valencia Resort in Southern California, for example, the showers in 49 casita rooms, above right, are more than 20 square feet, turn into a steam room with the press of a button and are positioned to provide views of the flat-screen televisions in the bathrooms.

The Goring in London has a Royal Suite with a shower that features a life-size portrait of Queen Victoria behind a glass screen in one of its baths and a framed oil painting from the 1800s displayed in a wall of the glass shower in its master bath.

The bathrooms in the 61 cottages at the L'Auberge de Sedona in Arizona, top, have steam showers with oversize windows that overlook the mountain horizon, and the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale has outdoor garden showers in 19 suites that are

reached through the regular showers and are surrounded by desert vegetation and rocks.

Playa Vik in Uruguay, above left, has sliding doors in the bathrooms in six of its suites that retreat into the wall and give guests the option of a semi-outdoor shower overlooking a private garden. In the one- and two-bedroom suites at the 72-room Regent Palms Turks & Caicos, the showers have two heads with different degrees of pressure and massage.

Adam Weissenberg, head of travel, hospitality and leisure at Deloitte & Touche, said that fancier showers are a natural evolution for upscale hotels.

"Most luxury properties have the high-thread-count sheets, flat-screen TVs and the usual expected amenities, and the showers are the next point of differentiation," he said. "And, it's something guests appreciate because they're used every day so they add to the overall hotel experience."

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