

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Total Guide

The 36. best swims in the world!

We've picked our most delicious dips. Dive in...

Poster: perfect plunge

Grace Hotel, Santorini

There are infinity pools, and then there are infinity pools. This perfect slab of turquoise is the Santorini splash you've dreamt of—all smooth white edges meeting endless Mediterranean shimmer and honeymooners chain-ordering Champagne. Plan a walk for later (the bell-shaped Skaros Rock is in view, as is the coastal trail to the postcard town Oia), but for now, accept that the Grace's pool scene is all about soaking up rays, grazing on sea bass corpecchio in the shaded nooks behind it, and people-watching from behind your shades. Rise early to nab the loungers to the far right of the pool as you face it: they're the evening sunrises.

Swim and stay: Grace Hotel (gracehotels.com) has doubles from £525, B&B.

the world's 36 best swims



Hotel pool heaven

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como

Outside, you have the glittering expanse of Lake Como and a 'secret' garden pool—all visible from your room. Inside, there's a velvet-red staircase to sweep down as you head for dinner in your best holiday togs. But, floating in the lake, as snugly as George Clooney on his holidays is this special swim spot. It'll get in the way of your Como sightseeing—lizard-still on the hotel's loungers. Prosecco in hand and the gelato-cool pool right by you, you'll watch the tourist ferry pass by with no urge to move. Belly-flop into Como's waters at least once, for comparison. Swim and stay: The Grand Hotel Tremezzo (grandhoteltremezzo.com) has doubles from £371, B&B.



Secret splash

Elbow Beach, Bermuda

Swimming here is like gliding across a glassy-smag cover: gentle breakers at the shore, the still waters beyond calmed by an offshore reef. Stroll east from the resort-owned private stretch of Elbow beach to the public bit—a glorious swathe of sand known only by locals and a few tourists on mopeds. Its pink-tinged sand, made up of millions of crushed shells, gives the sea an extra-luminous aquamarine hue. Perfect for romance. Get me there: Purely Bermuda (purelybermuda.co.uk) has a week at three-star Coco Reef Resort, within walking distance of Elbow Beach, from £1,427pp, room only, including flights and transfer.