

# Infinity and

*There are few things in life more pleasurable than dipping into a tranquil pool, gliding over to the edge and encountering some simply staggering views. With so many hotel resorts upping the ante when it comes to pool vistas, a walled-in rectangle of water will no longer suffice.*

*Whether you're looking out onto a shimmering jungle scene, deserted beach or dazzling cityscape here are five top pools with views that really make a splash. **by Harriet Whiting***



# beyond

## Playa Vik, Uruguay

The sensational swimming pool at this high-design hotel is a modernist sliver of black granite that meets the Atlantic Ocean head on. It juts starkly out over a wind-swept beach facing the glinting sea, where you'll be able to see stunning sunsets.

The cantilevered pool almost defies logic — try swimming to the other end and you may feel you're hovering over the beach. Playa Vik stands out from the crowd with plenty of clever architectural quirks, such as the green roofs topping the titanium and glass structure. Join the jet set at this glamorous cutting-edge hotel.







## Alila Ubud, Bali

At Alila Ubud, you'll find green at every turn: in the electric-green of the rice paddy fields, the deep emerald of the flitting forest and the sensational jade infinity pool that dramatically floats above the plunging valley.

Perched on a forest-clad hill, Alila Ubud's pool affords mesmerizing views over the mist-swirled panorama. It's a peaceful place, where the only sounds are calls of monkeys and the chorus of geckos at sunset. Have a lemon basil martini and kick back to sounds of nature. As dusk approaches, see the pool come to life with twinkling floating lanterns.









## Pikaia Lodge, Galapagos

From the comfort of Pikaia Lodge's sky-blue infinity pool you can soak up the absorbing panoramas of the Galapagos Islands. On this Jurassic Park-like island, prehistoric-looking creatures roam the craggy, volcanic landscape. From your lounge, you'll spy gargantuan tortoises slowly working their way across the mangroves or a spiky iguana basking on the beach.





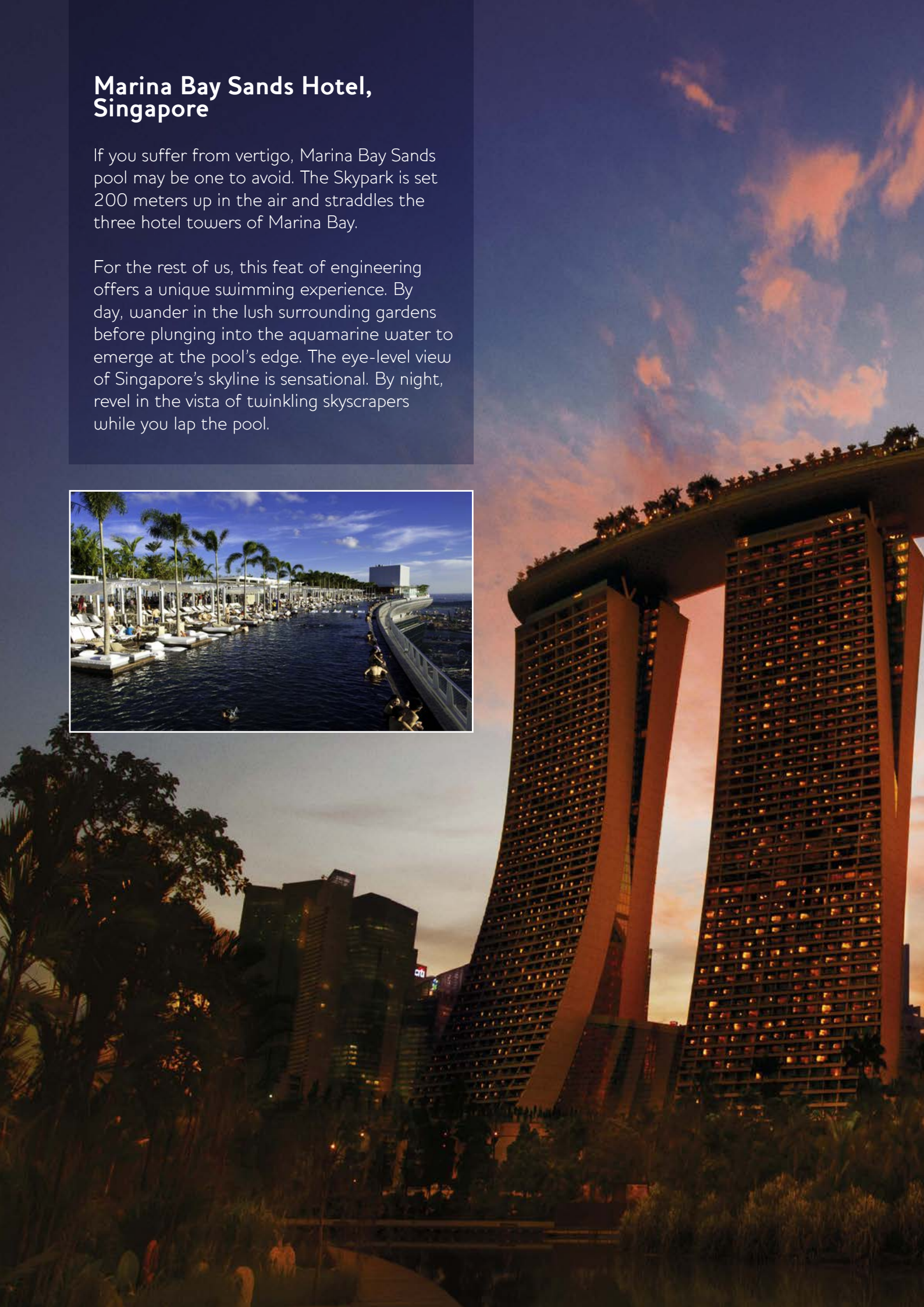




## Marina Bay Sands Hotel, Singapore

If you suffer from vertigo, Marina Bay Sands pool may be one to avoid. The Skypark is set 200 meters up in the air and straddles the three hotel towers of Marina Bay.

For the rest of us, this feat of engineering offers a unique swimming experience. By day, wander in the lush surrounding gardens before plunging into the aquamarine water to emerge at the pool's edge. The eye-level view of Singapore's skyline is sensational. By night, revel in the vista of twinkling skyscrapers while you lap the pool.









## Hacienda Uayamon, Campeche, Mexico

This wild and remote hacienda has an atmospheric, romantic charm. At every turn you'll discover crumbling ruins fused with luxurious mod cons, with the ever-present jungle only just kept at bay.

Enclosed by the ruin of a centuries-old building lies the sparkling swimming pool. Fronds creep around doorframes whilst sun loungers, plump with pillows, line the pool's edge. In keeping with the ruinous character are two isolated ionic pillars, placed enchantingly in the centre of the water. Swim around these and head for the hammock, strung over one corner of the pool. When you return to your lounge, expect a foot massage by the on-site therapists.





