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## World's Top Airport Lounges



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Find the ultimate in preflight comfort at these 12 airport lounges that beg you to stay awhile.

Travel is meant to be a rich experience, a means of engaging with culture, cuisine, and pleasure. It's a shame, then, that often the greatest trials of the experience often occur in the earliest hours of the journey. The process should be simple, really: show up at the airport, flash a passport, drop bags, and board the plane—preferably with a glass of Champagne in hand. But this hasn't been the case for years, and both the voyager and travel institutions like the airport have suffered as a result.

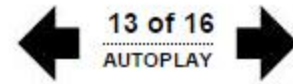
In the last decade, cities around the world have launched a new age of luxury travel, starting with new, exceptionally designed, well-functioning airports: Consider the brightly painted struts and wood ceilings of Madrid-Barajas, or the soaring, glass-roofed spaces of Incheon International in South Korea ([for more high-design terminals, see our slideshow](#)). Along with these stunning structures, of course, have come equally thoughtful airport lounges tucked away inside.

Here, we scoured the world's most important international hubs for the top 12 lounges offering first-rate amenities, privacy, and calm, all catering to global travelers who want the journey to be as memorable (and stress-free) as the destination. It's all so good, in fact, that next time you book a flight, you might even consider extending your layover—or at least arriving at the airport a few hours earlier.



Courtesy of Finnair

excellent views, the elegant Finnish and Nordic furniture designs provide their own simple pleasure. Travelers in need of a break and shower can find refuge in their traditional Finnish sauna and private shower suites. *Terminal T2 between Gates 36 and 37; finnair.com. —MD*



## Finnair Lounge, Helsinki Airport

From felt walls that swallow outside noise to Marimekko tableware to the wireless, mobile phone-charging system PowerKiss, the simplicity and thoughtfulness of the Finnair Lounge makes it exceptional. A buffet is always on (the midnight smorgasbord is particularly elaborate), and in addition to the