



## Hotels that witnessed history

Hotels are not only a place to stay while on vacation or on business. Many witnessed important events that shaped history or saw 'lighter' yet significant moments that sometimes had a lasting impact on society. I picked a few of the most interesting for you 😊.

### Historical Events<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Many political or historical events that define the world as we know it took place in hotels. Some legendary moments include:

- In 1918, following the Russian Revolution, the first Soviet government met at the *Hotel National* in Moscow. Lenin stayed in room 107 and Trotsky was a guest. The hotel overlooks the legendary Red Square, with the Kremlin and Bolshoi Theatre being just a few steps away.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-6196319/The-10-best-history-making-hotel-rooms.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/luxury-hotels-famous-historical-events-took-place>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nationalmoscow.com/>

- In 1943 and 1944, World War II Allies met twice at the *Château Frontenac* (Quebec City, Canada) to discuss strategy. US President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King all attended the conferences.
- On August 28, 1963, in Washington DC, Martin Luther King was finalizing his 'I Have a Dream' speech in a room at the *Willard Hotel*. The speech would become one of the most iconic talks given in the US history.
- In 1972, the Democratic National Committee was robbed of secret papers, leading to President Nixon's downfall. The theft was organized from room 214 of the *Watergate Hotel* in Washington (which gave its name to the crisis). The Watergate Scandal Room comes with a 1970s typewriter and a key card reading 'No Need To Break In' 😊.

## Interesting events<sup>4,5,6,7,8</sup>

Among more 'mundane' events that took place in hotels we find:

- In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the very first telephone call in London from the *Brown's*. He stayed at the hotel during his visit to London to tell the British government about his revolutionary invention, the telephone.
- In 1893, Bertha Palmer tasked the *Palmer House* chef to create a dessert suitable for ladies attending the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition. Her request was simple, a cake-like dessert that could easily be brought to the fair in a box. The result was the Palmer House Brownie. This year, the hotel will be celebrating the brownie's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Yummy 😊!
- In 1958, filmed at *Hotel del Coronado*, 'Some Like It Hot' starred Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon. Named the #1 comedy of all time by the American Film Institute, the movie has an honored place in film and Del history.
- In 1997, Princess Diana and Dodi al-Fayed had their last meal at *The Ritz* hotel (in Paris) before that ill-fated crash in the tunnel at Place de l'Alma.
- In 1964, the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show electrifying young Americans and changing rock music forever. The band stayed in the Presidential Suites of the *Plaza Hotel* while girls screamed from the sidewalks.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thecaterer.com/news/hotel/historic-events-at-hotels>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/on-this-day/October-1>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.palmerhousehiltonhotel.com/about-our-hotel/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://hoteldel.com/history/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/brown-s-hotel/story/>

Hotels where those events happened had one thing in common: dedicated staff that took care of guests. Nowadays, hotel staff is still there, standing strong, making sure that our stay is as comfortable as possible 😊. While there used to be paper envelopes where we could leave tips to show our appreciation, nowadays almost no one carries cash. This is why offering an electronic tipping solution like **Tip&Go** is a win-win for the Hotel Industry!

**Francis Léonard CEO**



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