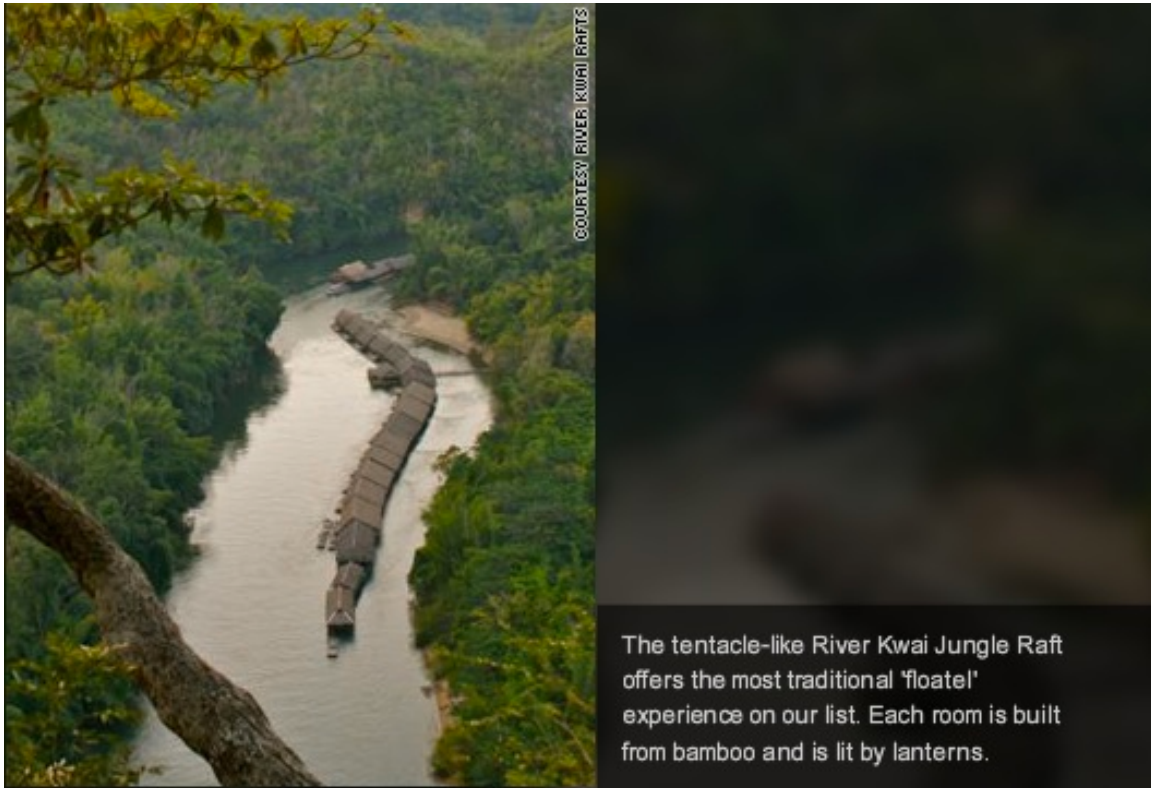


Fantastic floating hotels for every traveler

By **George Webster** for CNN



(CNN) -- It's one thing to hear waves lap the shore of a nearby beach, quite another to hear them rumbling beneath you while you sleep.

Welcome to the world of the "floating hotel" -- encompassing all manner of lodgings built on floats, boats, rafts or even stilts.

Often only accessible from the sea, these so-called "floatels" are the sailing equivalent of a roadside inn, only much cooler.



Best for: Tradition

River Kwai Jungle Raft, Thailand While the "King Pacific" offers wildlife with luxury finishes, the "River Kwai Jungle Raft," in Thailand, is a back-to-basics affair.

Built in the local Mon style in the bosom of a tropical forest, the accommodation is set across two floating wings, with 55 bamboo twin-rooms perched on each.

The "floatel," which opened in 1978, has no electricity -- so the rooms are all "romantically" lit with traditional oil lamps and cooled by the river flowing beneath.

Highlight: Trekking through the jungle on elephant-back. *Drawback:* The thick ensuite mosquito nets are there for a good reason.

Source: http://us.cnn.com/2011/TRAVEL/06/17/top.floating.hotels/index.html?hpt=tr_c2