

HOTELS

The most beautiful hotels in India

From dilapidated palaces in the pink city of Jaipur to toes-in-the-sand beach shacks in Goa, 'Glorious Hotels of India' is a new book that explores the most beautiful places to stay across this joyfully colourful continent

Travels to India used to be full of similar stories: over-optimistic promises, chaotic service, ramshackle buildings, creaky plumbing and broken air-conditioning. For those who appreciate unique charm, many of these shortfalls could be overlooked, but for others it was a place to be approached with trepidation. However, India today is an emerging global superpower and is leading the world in a variety of fields, including hospitality. The hotel industry has matured. Standards have risen beyond all recognition, and there is a break away from the cookie-cutter approach to hotel design, with a growing appreciation for individuality and beautifully restored heritage properties. Indian hoteliers are increasingly well-travelled. They have witnessed the best the world has to offer, and are able and eager to match or exceed what they have seen. Another development is an increasing pride in Indian culture and the confidence to create genuinely Indian hotels. India can now rightly claim to be home to some of the most breathtaking hotels in the world. Some are so excellent that they are as near to heaven as can be found.

Extract by James Jayasundera (founder of Ampersand Travel), taken from the introduction of 'Glorious Hotels of India' by Cosmo Samuel Brockway and Harriet Compston. Available to buy at cmjkbookstore.com.



Suján Rajmahal Palace, Jaipur

KARAM PURI



Suján Sher Bagh, Ranthambore National Park

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