

TATLER TRAVEL GUIDE

2022

“Pioneer spirit- The ultimate luxury of our times, the socially and environmentally conscious hotels with a sense of adventure”



101 HOTELS

Luxuriously furnished tents at Suján Jawai are immersed in nature. Left, the pool is the perfect place to relax after a safari

SUJÁN JAWAI

Jaisai Bandh, India

The majestic mountains of the Aravalli range surround the wild, unadulterated luxury of this glorious, tented wildlife camp sitting between Rajasthan's opulent cities of Jodhpur and Udaipur. Ten lavish tents – spacious and elegantly designed, with 1930s-inspired furniture and private sit-outs – are perfect for relaxing with a sundowner and feasting under the stars on the most memorable vegetarian thalis (most of the produce is taken from the kitchen garden). The terrain of billion-year-old granite peaks and caves, grasslands and winding, sandy riverbeds is at the heart of Suján Jawai. The camp is dedicated to supporting the habitat and people with rewilding programmes, education initiatives, free healthcare, food parcels and an ongoing partnership with the Village Wildlife Volunteers, a local conservation group at the frontline of protecting the region's wilderness. Go on safari by foot, on horseback or in an open-topped Jeep to see wild leopards (which are considered sacred here) and immerse yourself in the magic of this ancient land. The camp can also arrange for guests to meet the charismatic herders of the semi-nomadic Rabari community, hike to a temple at dawn, or visit Kumbhalgarh Fort, a Unesco world heritage site. The biggest luxury, though, isn't the delicious food or rain showers; it's sharing quality time with the herders in this remote retreat. *Doubles from £880, full board and safaris (thesujanlife.com).*

MENLA

Phoenix, US

It's only two hours drive from Manhattan but, with its pine-canopied hikes through shrine-studded hills, this place makes you feel like you've stepped into another dimension. The slopes of Panther Mountain – its home in New York's Catskill range, long venerated by Native American tribes – are surrounded by bubbling springs that erupt around an ancient meteor crater. And in 1972, Eva Pierrakos, a Viennese psychic, moved here to create a spiritual retreat focused on self-transformation. At the beginning of the millennium, the centre was left to Tibet House – an organisation that seeks to preserve Tibetan traditions – and Robert Thurman, one of America's foremost scholars of Tibetan Buddhism (and the father of actress Uma), set about transforming the 325 acres of rolling hills and wooden cottages into a Buddhist retreat. Thurman's team has renovated the original dwellings on the property – chief among them Pierrakos's one-storey bungalow, where a Jacuzzi has been added – and now offers retreats focused on such pursuits as yoga, acupuncture, and psychedelic and indigenous medicine. The accommodation is comfortable, and there's a huge gym and swimming pool set amid the gardens. In the evenings, pilgrims to Menla might wallow in a sound bath or take part in fire ceremonies to please a serpent spirit known as a *naga*. When the Dalai Lama visited Menla, he divined the existence of such a spirit running all the way back along one of the streams to its source on the mountain; and guests – even ones unaware of the story – have reported dreams in which the semi-divinity approaches them in their quests for enlightenment. *Doubles from £540 for two nights, including breakfast (menla.org).*



Sound-gong baths at Menla promise long-lasting relaxation

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