

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER

India, June - July 2019

“Dinner under the stars in Rajasthan.”



ALILA DIWA GOA

For those looking to retreat in style, book a room at The Diwa Club by Alila, a resort within the resort. Over the course of your stay, you can enjoy the sunken pool, specially-curated four-course dinner and your own Diwa host. For those travelling with little ones, keep them engaged with activities especially planned to introduce them to Goa's beauty. (alilahotels.com)

ANDAZ DELHI

Take the time to learn the fading ancient art of lettering from Qamar Dagar, a calligrapher who writes in both Hindi and Urdu. It is one of the 401 things featured in Andaz Delhi's book of must-try experiences in the capital. It is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture, while learning how to better your penmanship. (andaz.com)

CHITTOOR KOTTARAM

You can book out this heritage property built by the Raja of Cochin in its entirety. There are spacious verandas, lush lawns and a location that's idyllic. A short boat ride from Kochi, it really is the perfect getaway from the city

for a much needed break to recharge your batteries. Live like a royal, and enjoy having the entire restored bungalow to yourself. Plus there's authentic Malayali cuisine on offer. (cghearth.com)

FAIRMONT JAIPUR

In Rajasthan, where tradition is still alive and the royal lifestyle never really went out of style, it's a series of small touches that takes a stay from great to exceptional. At the Fairmont Jaipur, this means a shower of rose petals and beats of the nagada when checking into the property. Once unpacked and ready to relax, enjoy a leisurely meal with a specially-curated menu served against the backdrop of the Aravalis at Asmaa, the rooftop restaurant. (fairmont.com)

HILTON JAIPUR

In this glass and stone-fronted property, guests will find a mix of modern and traditional amenities that appeal to all kinds of travellers. But it's the food that leaves the guests spellbound. Chaandi serves up contemporary Indian fare and the menu includes takes on local specialities like laal

maas as well as more innovative dishes like paan-flavoured ice cream. (hilton.com)

HILTON SHILLIM ESTATE RETREAT & SPA

For those seeking total relaxation, look no further than this all-villa resort near Mumbai. Bringing together holistic treatment options like Ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, there are special packages that look at each guest's individual requirements and tailor everything from diet to exercise accordingly. Personalised treatments with round-the-clock monitoring makes this the perfect holiday retreat for me time. (hilton.com)

HYATT REGENCY PUNE

This property has a little something in store to appeal to everyone. From board games and Zumba evenings to complimentary shuttle drops to some of the city's most popular sights and shopping destinations, it is the perfect way to experience the best Pune has to offer. Between the choice of activities and stay options—hotel room or serviced apartment—you can tailor your time here to suit your very particular set of needs. (hyattregencypune.com)

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WHERE TO STAY



Clockwise from left: indoor pool at Khyber Himalayan Resort & Spa; Kaya Kalp, the spa at ITC Maratha; dining setup at The Grand Dragon

PULLMAN AND NOVOTEL NEW DELHI AEROCITY

In the midst of the country's chaotic capital, making time for oneself is the ultimate luxury. The Indian Ayurvedic Poulthi Massage here is a 90-minute treatment that uses herbs to relax muscles, increase blood flow and rejuvenate the body. Using nature's bounty—think lemon grass, turmeric, camphor oil, kaffir lime, patchouli and orange skin among other ingredients—this property has relaxation and wellness down to a science. (pulumandehiaerocity.com)

RAMBAGH PALACE, JAIPUR

If you're looking to host a luxurious dinner in the Rajasthani capital, make sure to do so at this centrally-located palace. The Hawa Mahal-themed dinner features a luxurious marquee set up on the lawns where guests are welcomed with Champagne. Dinner itself

can be customised, but it's the bazaar tents where local vendors sell their handicrafts that will wow those who've never visited the state before. The evening is capped off with a traditional Rajasthani musical performance. All in all, your guest won't be forgetting this evening any time soon. (tajhotels.com)

SUJÁN RAJMAHAL PALACE, JAIPUR

Stay in Ram Niwas, the Maharaja's Apartment here. It once served as the personal residence of two successive regents. The suite has a private dining space, a living area and a bar that opens onto a private terrace. The Maharaja's Apartment guests can also make use of the services of a dedicated butler, available around the clock to ensure every need is met. An added bonus is the Palace Ambassador car, which will shuttle you between the airport and the hotel

and take you anywhere else within the city you might wish to visit. (sujanluxury.com)

SUJÁN THE SERAI, JAISALMER

Book a stay at the Royal Tented Suite and ensure you take advantage of your private pool, spa and even separate dining and lounging tents. Spend an evening within the enclosure to catch the Manganiars, who have been singing local folk songs for centuries, put on a private performance just for you. And you can experience all this without once stepping out of your plush little cocoon. (sujanluxury.com)

THE GRAND DRAGON LADAKH

Surrounded by the stunning craggy landscape of the Himalayas, this Ladakhi property combines the traditional with the modern. Spend an evening sampling a delicious Ladakhi meal of chang (a fermented millet drink), naamtuk, gyurma, skyu, shapta and more. Discover the history behind the dishes and how the locals have honed their culinary traditions over generations. (thegranddragonladakh.com)

THE IMPERIAL NEW DELHI

The royal imperial suite here is a 3,000 sq ft apartment filled with everything you need to live the good life—linen from French linen maker Porthault, Bvlgari bath amenities, a Bang & Olufsen TV and kitchen decked out with Gaggenau kit. The fact that there is a butler on call and the suite has hosted everyone from Prince Albert of Monaco to Kate Winslet are just added bonuses. If you're looking for luxury in the capital, this is the suite to beat all other suites. (theimperialindia.com)