

# *MAh*out

REAL INDIA REVEALED

2017/18

**W**elcome to the latest edition of the MAhout portfolio which I hope you will find an inspiring and informative read. MAhout is a small, highly personal representation company which provides a face and a voice in the UK for India's finest, private, independent hotels; and suggests ideas for travel in this great and varied land. We are all about seeking out those delicious hotels which have something different to say.



OUR properties together form what is possibly the finest collection of intimate hotels in India. Hand-picked for their excellence and uniqueness and visited regularly, MAhout is able to consistently provide honest and up to date information on each of them. Whichever MAhout hotel you choose to stay in, you can be assured of a personal welcome and an intimacy that is rarely found in India these days.

These enchanting hotels are in a league of their own and are scattered all over India - in mainstream cities, in gorgeous, off the beaten track countryside, on beautiful beaches, or in heavenly hills - and they link superbly together to form the perfect itinerary. **MAhout Routes** is an informative section giving details on how to link these special hotels (often combined with other cities) to form the perfect itinerary.



**MAhout Select Hotels** are truly special – gloriously sophisticated, sleek and comfortable. **MAhout Kindred Hotels** are deliciously homely and intimate. All can be described as 'boutique' and have locations and views to die for, or boast a fascinating history and/or architectural grandeur .

With people now clamouring for evermore glamorous 'venues' to celebrate a special date or event, many are willing to travel far and wide to find that perfect venue. The ultimate choice is often dictated by cost, size, location or access and that is where MAhout hotels come into their own. With each of them being unique and so extraordinarily varied and special, with their very own 'ID' and character, many of the MAhout Hotels provide the perfect place for a party, a wedding or a grand celebration. Look for PP (Perfect for Parties)!



India, with its intoxicating and beguiling sights, sounds, smells, cuisine, customs, festivals and wonderful people, has been like a spiritual home to me for many a year. I strongly urge everyone to go there at least once in their lives. As you glance through these enticing pages I hope you will find a special place which either lures you back to this extraordinary country or which tempts you out here for the first time.

Please do contact us for brochures or further information (detailed fact sheets on each property can be found on our website [www.mahoutuk.com](http://www.mahoutuk.com)) on any of these dreamy destinations, and we would be delighted to send them to you.

Mary-Anne Denison-Pender  
Managing Director

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**VISAS**  
It is essential to obtain a visa prior to travelling

**TIME ZONE:**  
5.5 hours ahead of GMT

**IMMUNISATION**  
No inoculations are compulsory but it is wise to consult your doctor or visit a travel clinic to take further advice prior to travelling

**TIPPING**  
Is a way of life in India and one tip everybody everywhere.

**CURRENCY**  
Indian rupee  
(approx. £1 = 80INR at the time of going to print)

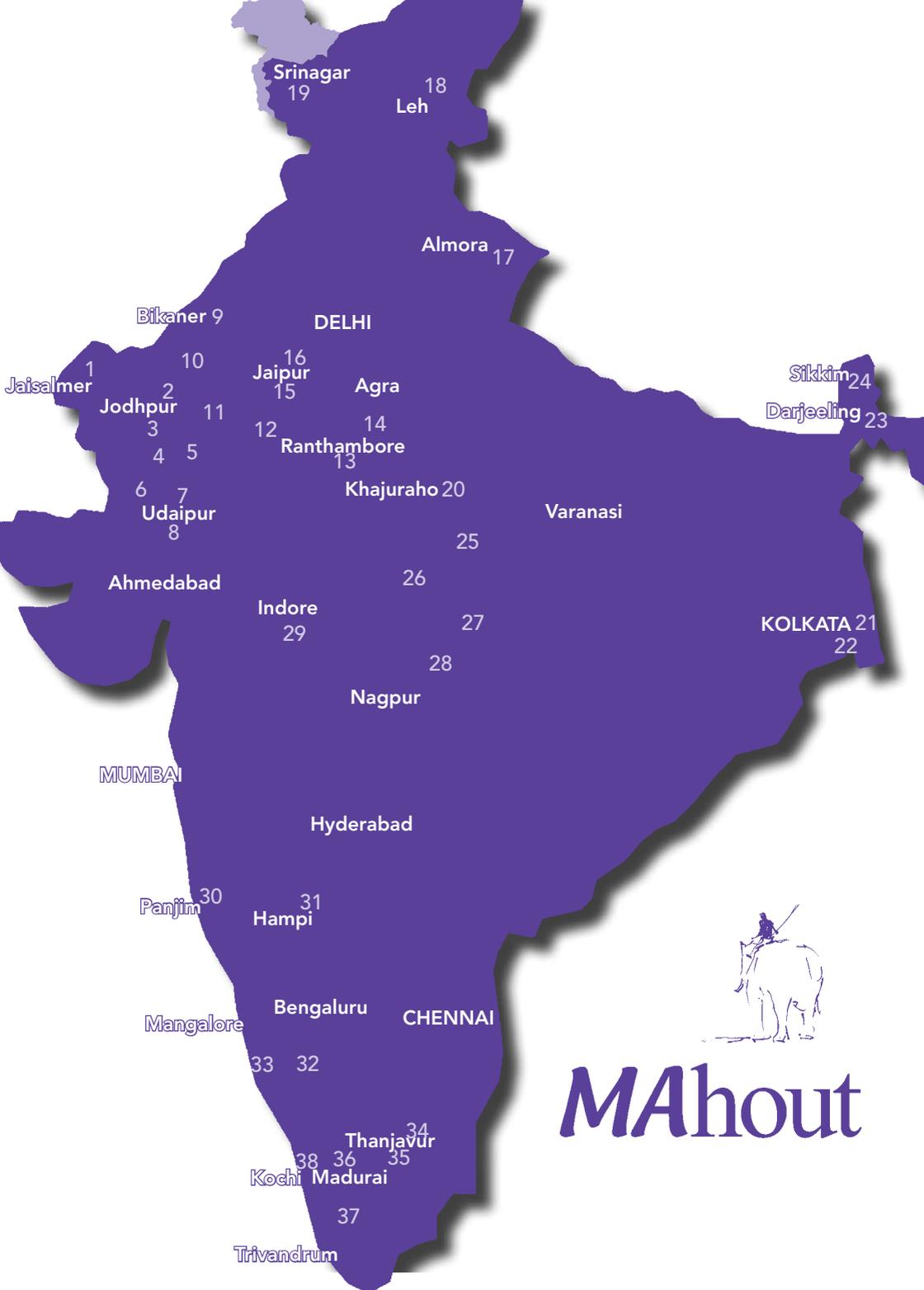
**MONEY**  
Credit cards are widely accepted and cashpoints are in most cities.



**MAHOUT LIFESTYLE**

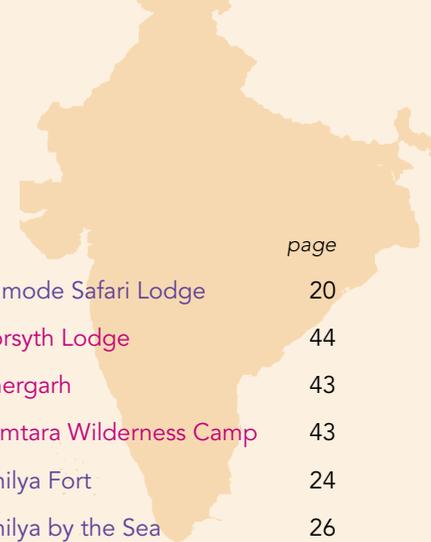
The ultimate source for Indian dhurries (rugs) and jenkins (gilets). Browse online or visit our Banbury premises OX17 1QT. [www.mahoutlifestyle.com](http://www.mahoutlifestyle.com)





MAhout Select Hotel  
MAhout Kindred Hotel

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**KEY TO FACILITIES**

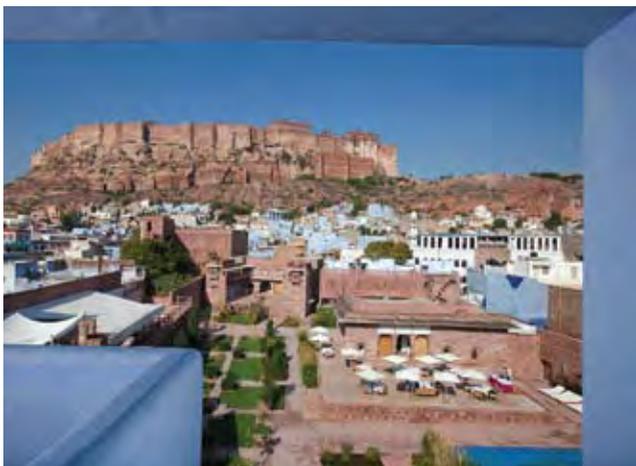
EP	Room only
CP	Room & breakfast
MAP	Half board
AP	Full board
JP	Full board & game drives
(H)	Heated pool
WI-FI	Wireless connection
PP	Perfect for parties

# RAAS JODHPUR

Makrana Mohalla, Tunwarji Ka Jhalara,, Jodhpur 342001, Rajasthan  
 +91 291 263 6455 /958 702 2952 reservations@raasjodhpur.com www.raasjodhpur.com



Rooms & suites	40
Swimming pool	Yes (H)
A/C	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Jodhpur 30mins
Station	Jodhpur 20mins
Family in residence	No
Golf	Yes – Jodhpur
Baby sitting service	RQ
WI-FI : PP	



## ACTIVITIES

Exploring Jodhpur, Meherangarh Fort, desert jeep safaris, guided walks around the old town. Picnics. Cooking demonstrations. Zip-wiring around the fort. Rao Jodha Desert Park.

## STYLE

Fresh, modern, chic, intimate, sophisticated, city hotel within the framework of old, restored buildings.

## WHEN TO GO

September - April

## ACCESS

By road from Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Rohet, Chhatrasagar, Jawai, Nagaur, Deogarh, Narlai, Shahpura.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

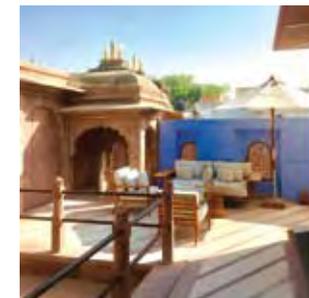
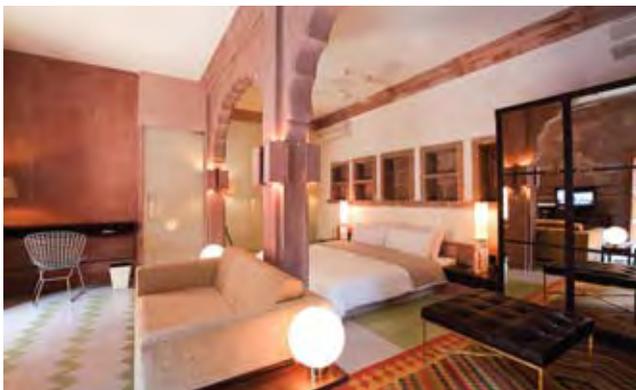
Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

## OTHER FACILITIES

Own vehicles, complimentary house rickshaw, shop, spa, steam room, easy access rooms, business centre, library/sitting room, yoga.

## DINING

Two restaurants both with al fresco and indoor seating, rooftop terrace bar, private dining.



## Reservations:

+91 291 263 6455  
958 702 2952

works extraordinarily well. It is young at heart and different and has leafy, central gardens and an inviting swimming pool, together with an enchanting spa run immaculately by the much loved brand, Ila Spa. Dining here is also a variable treat, either in the atmospheric dining room, on the al fresco terrace, or on the impossibly romantic rooftop bar. Or, just hop next door to the hip new Stepwell Café for a buzzy vibe. Almost all the rooms and suites have fort views, some have balconies and some have terraces. They are highly sophisticated and the décor is chic, contemporary and understated with earthy colours and the famous dusky pink Jodhpur stone. The bathrooms are state of the art and the subtle use of colour, combined with superb design and craftsmanship are really outstanding. The new Stepwell Suite

is truly exceptional with both the bedroom and private terrace gazing directly over the glorious stepwell which is as beautiful at night as it is busy by day!

Jodhpur has an almost 'frontier' feel to it and the fort is one of the best preserved and displayed in Rajasthan. Being able to walk up to it from your hotel is a unique and special experience, not to mention wandering around the hugely colourful nearby bazaar and clock tower square. This exquisite, intimate, hotel is Jodhpur's only boutique hotel and is THE place to stay in Jodhpur – it happily and regularly plays host to the great and the good! Leaving the excitement, hustle and bustle of the old town behind, and walking under RAAS Jodhpur's imposing gateway is like entering an oasis of calm.

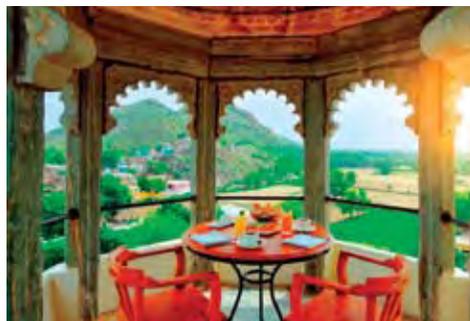


## RAAS DEVIGARH

Delwara, NH-8, Near Eklingji, Udaipur, Dist. Rajsamand, Rajasthan 313202  
+91 2953 304 211 reservations@raasdevigarh.com www.raasdevigarh.com



One of India's most sublime 'boutique' hotels, this glorious 18th century, hilltop fort/palace is a little gem, hidden away in the Aravalli Hills, just north of Udaipur. Having been painstakingly restored from ruin, it is a luxurious, all suite 'palace' hotel – but one with a difference! Recently taken over and brilliantly updated and upgraded by inimitable RAAS Hotels, RAAS Devigarh is now back to what it was in its heyday and is a joy to behold. The fort's entirely traditional, majestic façade, with its wings, balconies and turrets, belies the interior. This boasts clean lines and an almost minimalist yet warm and comfortable décor which gives it a fresh, exciting and contemporary look. The views from the rambling fort are magnificent - out over the village and distant, hazy hills. The suites in the verdant garden have lovely verandahs and those in the main palace are all different in shape and size but all are large, light-filled and want for nothing, with either sitting rooms or balconies. The bathrooms are exceptional - the sort you have hitherto only dreamt about - and many have views that tempt you never to get out of the bath! The emphasis throughout is on stylish simplicity with plenty of white marble interspersed with colourful, subtle spots of colour from the stonework and fabrics.



This place is all about comfort, style, personal space and sophistication. The chic romantic dining room and wonderful airy, vibrant, candlelit bar offer superb cuisine based on mouthwatering Indian dishes and recipes from all over the world. Much of the veg is sourced from its own, immaculate vegetable garden. The opportunities for intimate, dinners on your own terrace or jerokha are endless and something never to be forgotten. The tranquil and soothing Ila Spa offers excellent pampering massages whilst the glistening infinity pool looks out over the hills and village. With various carefully tailored, wellness programmes, the spa here allows



one to get healthy and rested, eating superbly nutritious food, whilst immersed in comfort and history.

Exploring the enchanting surrounding village on foot or by bicycle, taking long walks or horse rides in the hills with a sumptuous picnic, practicing rooftop yoga at sunrise, trying your hand at camel riding, or venturing out to nearby temples, will keep the active busy for days. Impeccable style and taste are the bywords here - you'll be tempted to stay on for weeks. RAAS Devigarh truly is a magical, place - the ultimate, impossibly romantic retreat and the perfect base for visiting Udaipur, or simply winding down for a while and indulging in a moment of personal health and wellbeing.



Reservations:

reservations@raasdevigarh.com

Suites	39
Swimming pool	Yes (H)
A/C	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Udaipur 1hr
Station	Udaipur 50mins
Family in residence	No
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	Yes
WI-FI : PP	

### ACTIVITIES

Excursions to Udaipur, the temples at Nathdwara, Eklingi, Nagda and Ranakpur, Kumbhalgarh Fort. Folk dances, puppet show, astrologer, jeep safari, village and hill walks. Picnics. Cooking demonstration. Horses on site.

### STYLE

Old palace which brilliantly merges traditional Rajput architecture with stylish modern minimalism and contemporary interior design.

### WHEN TO GO

September - April.

### ACCESS

By road from Shahpura, Deogarh, Jawai, Udaipur, Chhatrasagar, Rohet, Narlai and Jodhpur.

### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

### OTHER FACILITIES

Shop, spa, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym, bar, lift, rose petal baths, bicycles and pool table. Yoga. Mini golf, croquet, table tennis, vegetable garden, badminton, kids play area. Own vehicles, easy access rooms.

### DINING

Two restaurants, in-room dining. Poolside and private dining, parties around the palace.

# SUJÁN RAJMAHAL PALACE

C Scheme, Sardar Patel Marg, Jaipur 302001

0141 4143000 [reservations@sujanluxury.com](mailto:reservations@sujanluxury.com) [www.sujanluxury.com](http://www.sujanluxury.com)



Rooms & suites	13
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C tents	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Jaipur 30mins
Station	Jaipur 20mins
Family in residence	No
Golf	Yes - Jaipur
Baby sitting service	No
WI-FI : PP	



## ACTIVITIES

Exploring Jaipur. Excursions to Amber Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Sanganer, Ramgarh Lake, Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary, picnics. Polo can be arranged.

## STYLE

Small, city palace living at its best – contemporary tradition with impeccable taste and service.

## WHEN TO GO

September - April

## ACCESS

By road from Jodhpur, Bikaner, Rohet, Chhatrasagar, Ranthambore, Delhi, Agra, Samode, Shekhavati, Shahpura, Deogarh, Narlai, Bundi, Ramathra.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

## OTHER FACILITIES

Spa, shop, bar, drawing room, gardens, terraces. Bicycle. Easy access rooms, own vehicles.

## DINING

Four restaurants, al fresco terrace, poolside and garden dining. In room dining.



Now re-born and run by SUJÁN in their inimitable style, it has re-opened its majestic doors to guests and is replete with a stunning original marble staircase, intricate chandeliers and mirrored ceilings, not to mention walls adorned with some of the most beautiful wallpaper to be seen – almost like art in itself, it makes you want to stroke it! The combination of traditional royal motifs, classic architecture and the designer's modern sensibility has culminated in a colour palette of soft pastels and an eclectic sense of style. The drawing room demonstrates opulence at its best with rich, sensuous fabrics, family photographs and unique artefacts. The various dining rooms and bar contrast dramatically and have stunning, bright colour themes that simply make you smile. Sweet smelling flower arrangements greet you throughout and the gardens and pool are equally as pretty and easy on the eye, both by day and by night.

With just 13 spacious rooms and suites, including two gorgeous Royal Apartments which, just as they once were, really are fit for a king, it retains the intimacy and exclusivity for which it has always been known. The suites all vary in design and décor and each is beautiful in different ways, with either pastel colours, more 'male' colours or subtly fun and colourful. All are exquisite and there's a suite to suit all tastes. Nothing is left to chance here, with the eye for detail and the 'finish' of everything being exemplary.

Whether you stay here to explore Jaipur, to enjoy the excellent SUJÁN Spa, to dine on superb cuisine (Relais & Chateaux excellence and deliciousness abound here) at any of the stunning and varied restaurants or in your private tented pavilion in the gardens, you will come away with memories of excellence and perfection. SUJÁN Rajmahal Palace offers a level of sophistication and style rarely found.



## Reservations:

+91 11 46172700

[reservations@sujanluxury.com](mailto:reservations@sujanluxury.com)



## SHER BAGH

Sherpur Khiljipur, Ranthambore National Park, Distt. Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan 322 001  
+91 7462 252 120 reservations@sujanluxury.com www.sujanluxury.com



### ACTIVITIES

Game viewing in Ranthambore National Park, visits to Ranthambore Fort. Picnics, camel rides. Village walks. Cookery classes.

### STYLE

Divine, authentic, shikar-style tents with an influence from 'campaign' style, African safari camps. Stylish whilst retaining a rustic atmosphere.

### OPEN

October - May

### ACCESS

By road from Jaipur, Agra, Ramathra, Bundi, Gwalior, Shahpura, Kota. By train from Bharatpur, Jaipur or Delhi.

### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

### OTHER FACILITIES

Library/sitting room, shop, camp fire, bar, own jeeps, resident naturalist. Easy access tents. Jungle Spa. Daybeds around premises. Organic vegetable garden.

### DINING

Tented restaurant. Club /bar. Camp fire & poolside dining. Private dining.

Sher Bagh by SUJÁN really is the perfect jungle camp and is a hugely justified member of Relais & Chateaux. The deliciously comfortable tents are arranged in a semi-circle and each has its own verandah with hand crafted seats. The interiors are stunningly decorated with elegant 'campaign' furniture and are entirely in keeping with their jungle surroundings – they manage to retain the authenticity of original 'shikar' tents, yet they ooze style and can be rated up there with some of the greatest African safari camps. The Royal Tent with its private pool and garden and large sitting room is truly exceptional, and the Luxury Tent with its outdoor Jacuzzi garden is equally special – both things that dreams are made of.

Woodland paths lead to the camp fire which is lit at night, along with flickering candles and tree lights – all hugely romantic. This spot and the moment inevitably leads to long evenings of merrymaking and chat whilst sipping a perfectly chilled cocktail. These pretty paths also lead to a secluded swimming pool which looks out over grassy fields; to hidden daybeds in pretty, isolated spots; and to a delightfully private and inviting jungle SUJÁN Spa tent. The



spacious main lodge has a library bar which is warm and welcoming on chilly winter nights, whilst the elegant lounge tent exudes calm and is, again, replete with beautiful 'campaign' items. The dining tent is cosy yet airy and here one feasts on glorious cuisine, much of it sourced from their own, organic vegetable garden.

SUJÁN, is all about service, style and sophistication and these elements are perfectly showcased at Sher Bagh - spectacular and beyond compare in Ranthambore. It's the little touches and surprises that make it such a special place to stay at. Being all about nature, wildlife and the hunt for the elusive tiger, many hours are spent out in the park with some of the best naturalists in the state. The SUJÁN team, all hugely passionate about the environment and conservation, have even adapted the jeeps' undercarriage to make them more comfortable; and where else do you get your own binoculars, blankets and even 'dust glasses' – they think of everything here!

When not out game viewing, explore Ranthambore Fort, relax by the pool, drink fine wine, feast on delectable food, enjoy a pampering massage, go on camel rides or bird walks; or lie back on a daybed, looking across the fields and woodland. The perfect place for dedicated wildlife lovers who are looking for a genuine but elegantly luxurious jungle camp, where the service and cuisine are unsurpassed.

Tents & tented suites	12
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C tents	Yes
Board basis	AP
Airport	Jaipur 2.5hrs
Station	Sawai Madhopur 20mins
Family in residence	No
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	No
WI-FI : PP	

### Reservations:

+91 11 4617 2700



# JAWAI

Bisalpur, District Pali, Marwar, Rajasthan 306126

+91 4617 2700 reservations@sujanluxury.com www.sujanluxury.com



## ACTIVITIES

Game drives, walking with the Rabari, village walks, excursions to local monuments and Ranakpur, Kumbhalgarh, Mt. Abu, birdwatching, picnics, hiking, Junior Ranger, Sunset Vintage Jeep Ride, Sundowner (additional charges).

## STYLE

Slick, hugely luxurious, contemporary but authentic safari camp in a setting sent from heaven.

## OPEN

Mid-September - May

## ACCESS

By road from Narlai, Mt. Abu, Kumbhalgarh, Ranakpur, Udaipur, Delwara, Shahpura, Deogarh, Chittorgarh, Jodhpur, Rohet.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

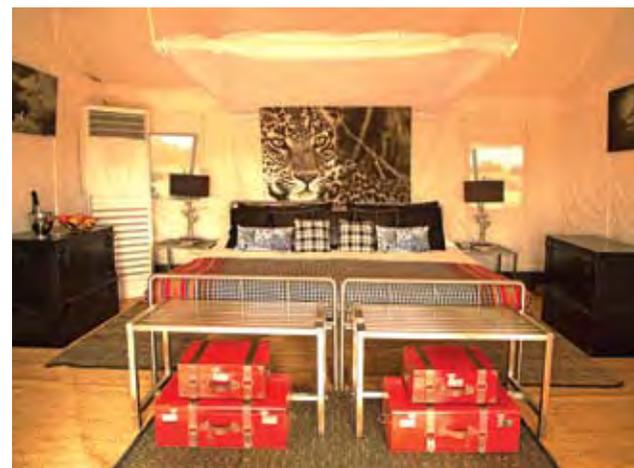
## OTHER FACILITIES

Spa, shop, open kitchen, resident naturalists, own jeeps, easy access rooms, yoga, organic vegetable garden.

## DINING

Dining tent and al fresco bush dining.

The heavenly JAWAI is situated in the heart of the Aravalli Hills in south-western Rajasthan. Created by the inspired SUJÁN team, it is their latest tented masterpiece and lies in an untrammelled wilderness where leopards roam wild and free – a stunning area of craggy granite formations, lakes and winding sand riverbeds. The gloriously luxurious tents have oodles of space and privacy and immaculate, attached bathrooms. They are designed with an elegant and sophisticated use of pale canvas, stainless steel and leather furnishings and each tent has a private verandah that looks out over the surrounding wilderness. The Royal Tent is a triumph and is set a little away from the others. With the sleeping area leading into a spacious sitting room, this in turn leads out to a lovely sundeck and good sized pool which is surrounded by swaying grasses. The ultimate tent for those who crave space and privacy.



Tents	10
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C	Yes
Board basis	AP
Airport	Udaipur 3hrs
Station	Jawai Bandh 25mins
Family in residence	No
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	No

WI-FI : PP

An inviting dining tent and a wonderfully relaxing lounge tent, replete with leather sofas, a plethora of books and vast bowls of liquid refreshments, lead off to a dreamy pool where delectable sundowners provide the perfect finish to a restful afternoon. The beautiful SUJÁN Spa tent is tucked discreetly away, ensuring no massage is disturbed. This in itself is a sanctuary of peace and quiet and will be sure to soothe tired bones returning from a safari.

The joy of JAWAI is that, not being in a national park, jeep safaris are not restricted to an area and one may freely roam around the countryside in state of the art jeeps, looking for leopard. Whether travelling through pretty fields by jeep, climbing rocks for the perfect lookout, or exploring the beautiful lake which teems with birds, there will always be an expert, affable naturalist with you. Being in the heart of 'leopard country', leopards are JAWAI's predominant attraction but they exist

alongside the vibrant and friendly Rabari herdsmen who inhabit the area and it is quite magical to go out walking with them in the early mornings – a rare opportunity. The staff here are also keen conservationists and have many projects in the area helping and educating the villagers – there's a harmony between the hotel and the locals.

JAWAI's beautifully remote location, combined with the unique flavour and customs of this area, provide an entirely different, rural wildlife experience from other parts of Rajasthan, yet there is an abundance of heritage around for those also keen on the cultural side of things. Staying at this delectable camp is a spoiling, visual, gastronomic (it's a deserved member of Relais & Chateaux), exciting, romantic treat - unparalleled.

## Reservations:

+91 4617 2700  
reservations@sujanluxury.com



## THE SERAI

Bherwa Chandan, Jaisalmer 345 001, Rajasthan  
+91 11 461 72700 reservations@sujanluxury.com www.sujanluxury.com

THE SERAI  
JAISALMER



Tents & tented suites	21
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C tents	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Jodhpur 4.5hrs
Station	Jaisalmer 1hr
Family in residence	No
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	No
WI-FI : PP	

This outrageously luxurious camp, owned by brilliant hoteliers SUJÁN, is situated outside Jaisalmer, in desert scrubland. Fittingly a member of Relais & Chateaux, it takes accommodation, service and cuisine in this area to an unequalled high. The huge, sun dappled tents are magnificently and opulently furnished with a calm, desert theme. The finest linen, 'campaign' style furniture, Jaisalmer stone floors and beds, soft colours, and local artefacts all blend to create a classic, understated elegance. The tents all have a large sitting area inside, a sofa-clad verandah outside, and immaculate, roomy bathrooms with double showers. The Luxury Tents also have a private plunge pool in a small, walled garden. The Royal Tent takes space, privacy and luxury to even higher levels, boasting its own pool, spa tent and dining tent, in a large, walled garden at one end of the tented enclave.



No expense has been spared and the dining tent has well-spaced out rosewood furniture whilst the lounge and lobby tents are home to equally inviting seating - all looking out over the pool and countryside. Wide, beautifully paved sandstone terraces play host to fun get togethers around a camp fire and romantic candlelit dinners, whilst immaculate pathways lead through the bush to the tents and impossibly lovely SUJÁN Spa. Be it a private breakfast in the bountiful vegetable garden or a memorable bush dinner in a secret venue under the stars, dining here is perfection in every way and each meal is something to look forward to. The smiling staff ensure one's every need is catered to and the magnificent, raised pool provides glorious views of the camp and desert surrounds.

Here, one feels ultimately remote and serenely distant from the hustle and bustle of the city. A stay here is an experience in itself and allows one an eye-opening visit to the nearby 'golden city' of Jaisalmer with its majestic 'living' fort and incredible architecture; a rare glimpse into desert life; and the chance of a leisurely camel ride and peaceful sundowner in iconic dunes with camel herders wandering past. Return to a pampering, restorative spa treatment or be welcomed at the pool with a fruity sorbet and an iced beer, before ending the evening with a memorable dinner under a star-clad sky. With its own vegetable garden and farm, The Serai is almost self-sufficient and prides itself on its exceptional cuisine. This camp has a magical, almost fairytale feel to it as it rises out of the desert sands - the epitome of glamorous desert luxury and glamping at its very best.

### ACTIVITIES

Camel rides, jeep safaris, village visits, dune visits/sundowners on sand dunes, desert picnics, exploring Jaisalmer.

### STYLE

Desert camping at its most stylish, sophisticated and luxurious. Impeccable taste.

### OPEN

October - March

### ACCESS

By road from Jodhpur, Bikaner, Rohet, Chhatrasagar, Osian, Nagaur, Barmer.

### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

### OTHER FACILITIES

Spa, shop, bar, yoga, library/sitting room with games tables, drinks terrace, camels, organic vegetable garden. Camp fires. Own vehicles, easy access tents.

### DINING

Dining tent, al fresco terrace, poolside, bush and dune dining, private dining and dinner at the Waterchannel.



Reservations:

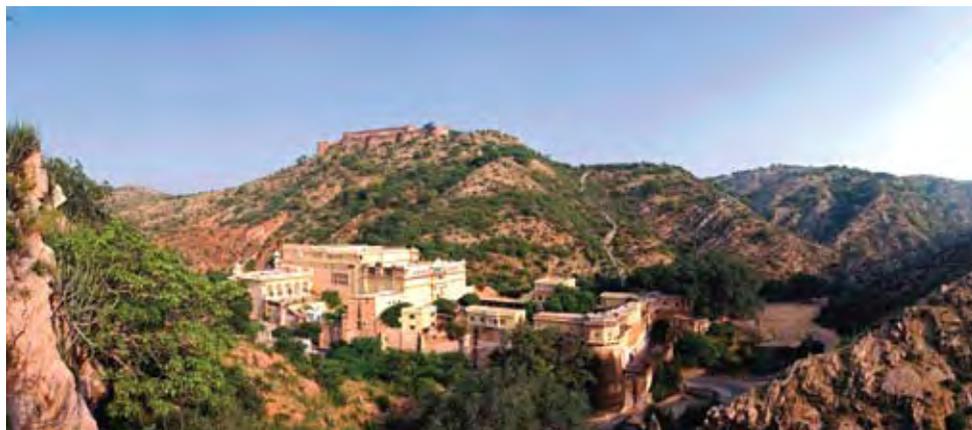
+91 11 461 72700



# SAMODE PALACE

Samode Village 303806, Dist. Jaipur, Rajasthan

+91 1423 240 013 /014 reservations@samode.com www.samode.com



## ACTIVITIES

Horse riding, camel and jeep safaris, balloon rides. Excursions to Jaipur, Amber Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Samode Fort, Sanganer, Ramgarh Lake, Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary. Walking in the hills, picnics.

## STYLE

Grand, rambling, stately, traditional, country palace. Superb taste and style.

## WHEN TO GO

September - April

## ACCESS

By road from Jaipur, Shekhavati, Delhi, Agra, Ajmer, Chhatrasagar, Narlai, Deogarh, Ranthambore, Ramathra, Rohet, Bundi, Kota, Shahpura.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

## OTHER FACILITIES

Spa/massage centre, Jacuzzis and steam room, health club, business centre, shop, bar. Library/sitting room. Own vehicles. Tennis court (Samode Bagh). Yoga (RQ).

## DINING

Two restaurants, poolside, terrace and courtyard dining. Bush and farm dinners. Private dining and parties.

Lying nestled in the Aravalli Hills, just north of Jaipur, Samode Palace is a magnificent example of Rajput-Mughal architecture and is undoubtedly one of Rajasthan's finest palace hotels. Formerly the regal home of the Samode Family, the palace was in a tragic state of repair before the inspired Samode brothers decided to put their life, heart and soul into restoring it and bringing it back to life.

One of the first palaces to be restored and converted into an hotel, Samode Palace has been re-born and is now an outstanding boutique hotel. History is everywhere here and part of the hotel is open for exploration and taking a wander through the extraordinarily beautifully painted, arched rooms. With exquisite frescoes and mirror-work throughout the property, the traditional yet modern bedrooms and suites are fabulous. A large, sprawling palace with endless different wings, terraces, courtyards and levels, the dreamy rooms are scattered all over the building and each is gorgeous, colourful, Rajasthani and unique. The ingenious



bathrooms are equally fun, well-equipped and stylish. The vast Royal Suites, with their balconies and Jacuzzis, are more like 'homes' than rooms, and the sort of place you simply don't want to move out of.

The cuisine is an important part of life at Samode Palace and is superb. It comprises constantly changing Indian and international menus, whilst the wine list is similarly extensive. Choose to dine in the airy dining room, in the courtyard or on your very own, candlelit terrace. Alternatively, venture out into the countryside for a gorgeously romantic picnic or bush dinner – something never to be forgotten. The magnificent main pool is the perfect place for a snack in the sun or an outrageously romantic dinner, whilst the

roof terrace pool is beautifully discreet and sits above the sophisticated a la carte dining room.

A walk in the hills or a stroll around the village is an excellent way to discover the more rural side of Rajasthan. Alternatively, a camel ride in the countryside, followed by sundowners in the dunes under the stars, will leave you with similarly wonderful memories. For garden lovers, a stroll down to the superb Mughal-style gardens at Samode Bagh, replete with fountains and lawns and an array of flowers, is magical. Whatever they do at Samode Palace, they excel at it and do it with style, romance and panache, in true Rajasthani tradition. This is Rajput hospitality at its best and an ideal base for anyone wanting to visit Jaipur and the environs but not keen on staying in the city.



Rooms & suites	43
Swimming pool	2
A/C rooms	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Jaipur 1hr
Station	Jaipur 1hr
Family in residence	No
Golf	30mins
Baby sitting service	Yes
WI-FI : PP	

Reservations:

+91 141 2632 370 /407

# SAMODE HAVELI

Gangapole, Jaipur 302002, Rajasthan

+91 141 263 2370 /407 reservations@samode.com www.samode.com



## ACTIVITIES

Exploring Jaipur.  
Excursions to Amber Fort,  
Jaigarh Fort, Samode Palace,  
Samode Fort, Sanganer,  
Rangarh Lake, Sariska Wildlife  
Sanctuary. Picnics.

## STYLE

Peaceful palace in the heart  
of the city. Superbly decorated  
in modern, colourful,  
Rajasthani style.

## WHEN TO GO

September - April

## ACCESS

By road from Jaipur, Shekhavati,  
Delhi, Agra, Ajmer, Chhatrasagar,  
Ranthambore, Ramathra,  
Bundi, Rohet, Narlai,  
Deogarh, Shahpura.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

## OTHER FACILITIES

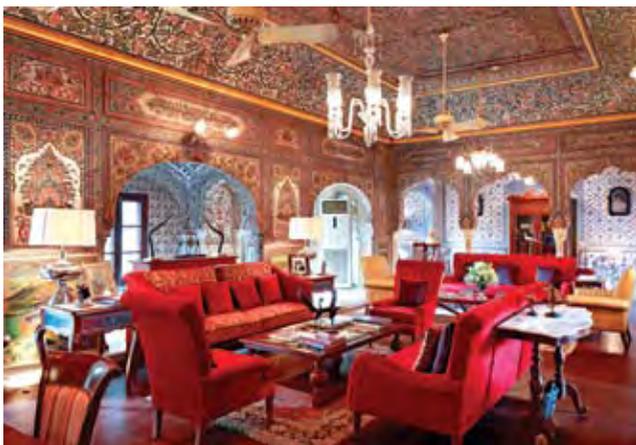
Spa/massage centre,  
Jacuzzi/steam room, health club,  
business centre, shop,  
bar, library/sitting room.  
Yoga (RO). Easy access rooms.

## DINING

Dining room. Poolside and lawn  
dining. Private dining and parties.



Samode Haveli is a little gem, lying in the heart of Jaipur, amongst a maze of busy streets. Oozing charm and character, it is home to some fabulous frescoes and, with its pretty courtyards and leafy garden, it is difficult to believe that from this sanctuary you can stroll out into the bustling city streets. Formerly the townhouse of the eminent Samode Family, it still breathes history and the owners have been careful to retain the tradition and authenticity of the place – one really does feel like you are stepping back in time here and family memorabilia adorns the walls. Hidden staircases, surprise courtyards and terraces make this lovely hotel a treat to explore in itself. The bedrooms, some ingeniously created out of hidden parts of the palace, lie all over the rambling building and, given the nature of the building, vary in shape and size. They are



Rooms & suites	39
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Jaipur 20mins
Station	Jaipur 20mins
Family in residence	Yes
Golf	Yes - Jaipur
Baby sitting service	Yes

WI-FI : PP



superbly decorated, according to the owners' impeccable taste – modern Rajasthani colour meets contemporary chic at its best. Two of the suites are covered almost entirely in mirror-work from ceiling to floor and wall to wall, whilst the lofty Haveli Suites in the recently restored garden buildings are fit for a king and boast oodles of space and private courtyards! The exquisite swimming pool, with a beautiful poolside bar and supremely comfortable 'salas', is one of Jaipur's finest and is a draw in itself.

Perfectionists to the end, the family are constantly thinking up mouth-watering new menus and the gloriously grand dining room, bar and al fresco dining courtyard are a triumph – any gourmet would be satisfied here. Choose to dine in warm grandeur, under the stars, or enjoy a private dinner by the stepwell, exquisitely

lit with hundreds of flickering candles. The inner courtyards and shady verandahs are replete with soft, elegant furniture and provide perfect places to relax in after an exhausting shopping or sightseeing trip, if not tempted to head to the small but excellent spa for a reviving massage. On chillier nights, spend the evening in the sumptuous, ornate comfort of the marvellous drawing room, covered with floor to ceiling intricate frescoes, and indulge in a bygone age of the royal life of the Samode Family. The gentle and caring staff do their utmost to look after your every whim and, since the hotel does not allow groups, each guest receives constant, homely attention. Waiting to welcome you, Samode Haveli is a relaxed, friendly place and is a great option for anyone wanting a delicious, traditional little boutique hotel in the middle of the old city.



## Reservations:

+91 141 263 2370  
407 263 1068 /263 0943



## SAMODE SAFARI LODGE

Village Mardari, Bandhavgarh National Park, Distt Umaria 484661, Madhya Pradesh  
+91 7653 280 579 reservations@samode.com www.samode.com



When Samode Safari Lodge opened it took Indian wildlife accommodation to an all new high and has expert, experienced guides who will have become your trusted friend by the time you say a sad farewell. This exceptional lodge, with its gloriously pretty and secluded location, is the perfect base for visiting Bandhavgarh National Park and has been developed with the impeccably good taste and expertise of the Samode Family. The lodge sits in incredibly pretty grasslands, close to the jungle and a delightful village. It is a joy to walk or bicycle around, seeing the myriad bird species and a way of local life in an unhassled, friendly way. The main lodge looks out over the large swimming pool and gorgeous, surrounding countryside and it oozes warmth and sophistication. With the timber-clad main sitting room, bar and dining room raised high on stilts, and linked by wooden walkways, it is a feat of engineering. These rooms are



### ACTIVITIES

Jungle Safaris, escorted village walk, spa, fitness centre, bicycling, picnics.

### STYLE

Chic, supremely comfortable jungle lodge where one wants for nothing and yet you are on the edge of the jungle.

### WHEN TO GO

Mid-October - May

### ACCESS

By road from Khajuraho, Panna and Kanha. By train from Delhi, Agra, Gwalior, Indore, Bhopal.

### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

### OTHER FACILITIES

Spa/massage centre, Jacuzzi/steam room, camp fire, business centre, shop, bar, library/sitting room. Yoga (RQ). Own vehicles, vehicles, resident naturalists, waterhole, vegetable garden. Easy access rooms.

### DINING

Dining room.  
Poolside and bush dining.  
Private dining and parties.

Villas	12
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C	Yes
Board basis	JP*
Airport	Jabalpur 3hrs
Station	Umaria 30mins Katni 1hr
Family in residence	No
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	Yes

\* including alcohol  
WI-FI : PP



wonderfully spacious, predominantly made of wood and furnished with rich, earthy colours that fit perfectly with the environment. There's a blazing log fire to curl up by on chilly days and a lovely al fresco dining terrace leading off the dining room - ideal for a long, fun lunch in the sun. Being a deserved member of Relais & Chateaux, dining here is an indulgent treat and a daily surprise - different menu, different venue - either indoors or alfresco. A private bush dinner here is an experience like no other!

Samode Safari Lodge comprises twelve outrageously comfortable, state of the art, stylish villas - no other lodge offers such huge amounts of personal and very private space! Each villa has both open-air and closed bathrooms as well as a private terrace looking over the fields, a large bedroom with four-poster beds, a sitting

room, and a sundeck. Every 'mod con' is there for those who want them but they are discreetly hidden away for those who don't. There is a wonderful spa to ease muscles strained from trundling around in the jungle and the staff here places a strong emphasis on sustainability and the environment. The lodge is very close to one entrance to the park (currently closed) and the resident naturalists are amongst the best to be found, all highly knowledgeable and loving topography and nature as much as wildlife. Then there are the incredible, specially designed jeeps that leave you wanting for nothing - not many lodges have jeeps that convert into tables to enjoy a perfect picnic mid game drive! Everything here is comfortable and inviting and immaculate. A truly sublime jungle lodge where one should spend weeks rather than days.



### Reservations:

+91 141 2632 370 /407



# MIHIR GARH

Khandi, Tehsil, Rohet, Nr. Jodhpur, Distt. Pali, 306401, Rajasthan  
+91 9001 82000 reservation@mihirgarh.com www.mihirgarh.com



## ACTIVITIES

Horse riding and 1-5 day riding safaris, village safaris, walking and jeep safaris, Royal picnics, camel safaris, stargazing, cooking lessons. Excursions to Jodhpur, Osian and Nagaur. Bush dinners. Guided walks.

## STYLE

Unique, opulent but rustically chic, desert mud fort. A cross between Moroccan Kasbah and Rajput fortress.

## WHEN TO GO

September - April

## ACCESS

By road from Jodhpur, Deogarh, Jawai, Narlai, Chattrasagar, Nagaur, Osian, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Shahpura.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard.

## OTHER FACILITIES

Spa, yoga, horses on site, bar, business centre, library/sitting area, bicycles, shop, spacious gardens and roof terraces. Walking trails. Own vehicles, easy access rooms.

## DINING

Dining room, BBQ terrace, poolside, rooftop and private dining.

This extraordinary small fort is perched on a sand mound, surrounded by scrub desert, just south of Jodhpur. It makes the perfect base for visiting Jodhpur for those who are not keen on cities/feel they've had their fill of them! Come here to experience a little desert, village and country life and stay in the height of sophistication, style and comfort that you simply wouldn't imagine existed 'in the middle of nowhere'. "Mihir Garh" aptly means 'Sun Fortress' and it stands majestically, basking in the desert sun with 360° views, surrounded by swaying grasses, sandy paddocks and colourful bougainvillea. This little gem provides a haven of great comfort with glorious, giant suites - each stunningly decorated in soft, earthy colour themes and with a Moroccan /African /Rajsthani influence. Each has its own terrace, with either a heated plunge pool or Jacuzzi. It boasts endless inner courtyards and spacious roof terraces for peaceful yoga sessions or romantic dinners under the stars. Or collapse onto an inviting daybed, lie back and have a snooze, or watch the wandering



shepherds and desert life unfolding around you. A gorgeous infinity pool, shady sitting areas and a barbeque area all open out from the dining room which is wonderfully airy in summer and warm and cosy in winter. Grassy lawns fanning out from the lovely sitting room also provide a wonderful contrast to the dry desert vegetation, both visually and underfoot.

The idea at Mihir Garh is to give people an authentic desert or equine experience whilst being luxurious and different. The brains and inspiration behind this magical hotel, built of mud, wattle and wood, are the Rohet Family who are brilliant horsemen and who own some of the country's finest horses. Come here to ride, explore

the wonders of Jodhpur, wallow in acres of private space, go on a camel or village safari, or pamper yourself in the small spa. For keen riders they also run excellent day and longer (staying in tents or small hotels) riding safaris. Dining here is also an experience and a veritable feast of Indian cuisine and western delicacies – they are proud to be a member of Relais & Chateaux. Not to be missed, however, is the experience of one of their grand, canopied desert picnics or a fabulously romantic bush dinner out in the desert. Privacy, space, romance and intimacy are the bywords here. A unique place where the outdoors comes indoors and guests have time to experience a bit of rural life and Marwari hospitality at its best!



Suites	9
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C rooms	Yes
Board basis	AP & CP
Airport	Jodhpur 1hr
Station	Jodhpur 1hr
Family in residence	Part time
Golf	Yes - Jodhpur
Baby sitting service	RQ
WI-FI : PP	

## Reservations:

+91 291 243 1161



## AHILYA FORT

Ahilya Wada, Maheshwar, 451224, Madhya Pradesh  
+91 777 1004 838 info@ahilyafort.com www.ahilyafort.com



Rooms, suites & tents	14
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C	Yes
Board basis	AI*
Airport	Indore 2hrs
Station	Indore 2hrs
Family in residence	Part time
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	RQ

\*excluding imported alcohol  
WI-FI : PP



### ACTIVITIES

Excursions to Mandu, Dhar, Baneshwar, Bakawa, Omkareshwar. Picnics, walks around the town and along the riverbank, visits to weavers, boat trips, birdwatching and swimming in the river. Cooking lessons (RQ), handloom weaving tours, local school visits, temple visits, Rehwa Society (Maheshwari textiles) visits.

### STYLE

A timeless, rustic yet majestic fort hotel with a dramatic setting, good food and magnificent views.

### WHEN TO GO

September - April

### ACCESS

By road from Indore, Bhopal, Satpura, Dhar and Ujain.

### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

### OTHER FACILITIES

Swimming pool, shop, traditional massage, conference hall, sitting room with TV, business centre and a bio vegetable garden. Bicycles. Tailoring available. Yoga.

### DINING

Various locations. Table d'hôte. Communal and private dining.



the rooms are scattered around the rambling premises and each is different and cosy. The architecture is outstanding and a stroll down through the town, via the exemplary school, to the ghats is a must; not to mention a walk along the riverbank which is pulsating with colourful life. Also visit the renowned workshops of the Rehwa Society, whose lady handloom weavers produce some of the finest saris and cloth in all India.

Being a gourmet himself, your host (should he be in residence at the time), Prince Shivaji Rao Holkar, has the highest standards and the food here is delicious and principally organic, sourced from the fort's enviable vegetable garden. Meals are taken in different areas of the fort at different times and guests tend to dine together at night but may choose to eat on their own if they wish. It

is all inclusive so, once here, you pay for nothing – be it food, alcohol (excluding imported), massages or local excursions

The pool is lovely; sunny terraces and shady verandahs abound; a cosy library exudes peace and quiet; a small massage room soothes tired, over-travelled bones; and the charming rooms and suites have superb views, balconies or gardens. The exquisite picnics they arrange are moments to marvel at! A boat trip at sundown is something you will never forget. Sit back whilst being rowed past temples and offered refreshing drinks and a delicious dinner. Watch the reflections become moon-shadows on the river as the moon emerges – an extraordinary experience. Truly a memorable place where you are transported back in time and where one could spend days or weeks!



### Reservations:

+91 11 4155 1575 /1055



## AHILYA BY THE SEA

787 Coco Maia, Danda Dee, Nerul Bardez, Goa 403114  
+91 832 6513 077 info@ahilyabythesea.com www.ahilyabythesea.com



This fabulous boutique 'villa' hotel is a hugely welcome addition to the Goan hotel scene. Situated at the end of a beach, with waves from the Arabian Sea/Indian ocean tumbling into the sea wall that separates the hotel from the beach (not a swimming beach), Ahilya by the Sea has a unique and glorious setting. It has emerged as a result of two families merging in marriage with one providing the idyllic location (The Trindade family) and the other providing years of built up hoteliering expertise (The Holkars of Ahilya Fort). As a result of this union, various family members have got together and created Ahilya by the Sea, therein bringing the intimacy, sophistication and family experience so well refined at Ahilya Fort to this unique family home. The Trindade family is famous for its connections to the arts and the idea behind the hotel is to recreate the glorious styles of Old Goa but with a nod



Rooms	9
Swimming pool	2
A/C	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Vasco da Gama 1hr
Station Vasco da Gama	45mins
Family in residence	Part time
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	No

WI-FI : PP

### ACTIVITIES

Exploring Old Goa, sampling the many restaurants in the area, shopping, beach excursions, visiting historic sites, dolphin watching, sunset cruises, guided walks, cookery classes.

### STYLE

Stunningly sited, rustic chic, traditional Portuguese style villa with fabulous Goan flair and atmosphere.

### WHEN TO GO

October - April

### ACCESS

By road from Vasco da Gama airport or Vasco de Gama station and other areas of Goa and neighbouring states.

### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

### OTHER FACILITIES

Sitting room with TV, musical evenings, cookery demonstrations, bicycles, massages, yoga.

### DINING

Indoor and alfresco dining. Private dining and parties.



to more modern, comfortable amenities. It is a place where guests will experience an authentic, artistic, rich Goan connection and feel like pampered, integrated locals rather than harried tourists. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly with a strong emphasis on the arts, music and cuisine – the owning family's passions!

There are 8 spacious rooms in 3 separate Portuguese style villas (perfect for renting separately, in their entirety) made from hand hewn local red laterite rock, and 1 tower room. The interiors are relaxed and inviting and home to a fascinating collection of personal antiques and Goan art. Outside comprises lush gardens with 2 lap pools and shady verandahs for resting on admiring the view, with the sea breezes wafting over you, and there's a small massage room.

Meals are taken in different places according to the weather and time of day but, suffice it to say, whether you eat in the cool dining area inside or alfresco, listening to the ocean, dining here will always be an event to savour!

All this, together with Goa's rich tradition of hospitality, culture, cuisine and history, is on your doorstep so you never have to travel far (if at all), nor tear yourself away from precious time resting and feasting in the sun, to have what will undoubtedly be a magical, genuine Goan experience - a world away from the madness with which Goa is often associated today. Ahilya by the Sea is the perfect place to end a holiday (2 night minimum stay), providing a warm, intimate, authentic base from which to explore this fascinating state. This is Goa at its best!



### Reservations:

+ 91 11 4155 1575 /4155 1055



# NEELESHWAR HERMITAGE



Neeleshwar, Distt. Kasaragod, Kerala 671314 +91 467 2287 510 / 2288 876-8  
reservations@neeshwarhermitage.com www.neeshwarhermitage.com

## ACTIVITIES

Swimming, cycling, backwater cruises, cookery classes, lectures, village tours, dance performances, birdwatching, walking, yoga, meditation, turtle watching, picnics.

## STYLE

Traditional and spiritual yet supremely comfortable and stylishly contemporary. A private, eco-aware beach and spa hotel.

## OPEN

October - March

## ACCESS

By road from Tellicherry, Mysore, Coorg, Wynad, Cannanore, Calicut, Mangalore, Nagarhole, Cochin.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard.

## OTHER FACILITIES

Shop, bar, sitting area, spa, library, on site tailor, Ayurvedic massages, bicycles, I-pod docks. Easy access rooms.

## DINING

Main restaurant and open air seafood restaurant. No red meat is served.



Neeleshwar Hermitage is a dreamy beach and spa hotel in North Kerala. One of a kind and undoubtedly one of the best beach hotels in India, this delightful place is set in a palm grove, just back from an unspoiled and safe swimming beach. Created almost entirely by local craftsmen and using local materials, it is inspirational and a very special place. Neeleshwar has an immensely calm and peaceful atmosphere and has been constructed according to the architectural principles of Kerala Vastu. The traditional, thatched cottages house wonderfully inviting, spacious, lofty rooms. Some are single units and others are double – ideal for families. Each has a verandah and either overlooks the pool, is set back privately in the verdant gardens, or looks out to sea. One cottage is immensely private and boasts its own pool in a walled garden. They have all been beautifully designed and decorated with polished wood

Cottages	18
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C tents	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Mangalore 2.5hrs
Station	Neeleshwar 15 mins
Family in residence	No
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	No

WI-FI : PP



and carved stone, bright colours, and they have partially open-air bathrooms. Feeling fresh, spacious, uncluttered and contemporary, they have an almost 'Balinese' style to them. Deep mattresses and fine linen ensure a good night's sleep after spending time in the peaceful spa and Ayurvedic centre.

Along with practicing yoga in the airy beachside pavilion or relaxing by the beachfront pool, days can be filled with long walks down the pristine beach and visits to local temples, forts and villages. A stay here also allows one to gain an insight into local culture by way of attending evening lectures, traditional dance and martial arts performances, and cookery classes, or why not get your favourite clothes copied at the tailor's? For the more active, a hike in the nearby hills is a wonderful way to spend a

day. Needless to say, the fresh seafood and mouth-watering local and international cuisine will have you longing for the next meal! After a sharpener in the bar, sipping a drink on deep sofas, try out the chic, teak, open sided dining area in the gardens, the relaxed seafood beachside restaurant – there's nothing better than dining with your bare feet in the sand – or have a snack at the pool bar, the choice is yours!

After travelling around the hills and jungles of South India, here is a haven where one can be pampered, relax in style, explore locally and enjoy beach life at its best. The dedicated, gentle, smiling staff will do all they can to make your stay a joy and nothing is too much for them. An exemplary beach hotel in a league of its own in India.



## Reservations:

+91 124 4010 072



# SVATMA

No 4/1116, Blake Higher Secondary School Road, M.Chavadi, Thanjavur 61300, Tamil Nadu  
+91 4362 273 222 /272 444 info@svatma.in /res@svatma.in www.svatma.in



Svatma is a hotel with a difference in that it aims to immerse its guests into Tamil customs and a stay here will take you on a rich, cultural and culinary journey, aiming to reveal the hidden secrets, arts and crafts of the extraordinary city of Thanjavur (formerly Tanjore) – all the while, immersed in comfort and peace. Part 100 year old, painstakingly restored family home, and part new-build, the design and furnishings are influenced heavily by Tamilian building styles and materials.

There are contemporary, understated rooms in the 'new wing' which have state of the art fittings and various colour themes running through them. The old wing comprises more traditional rooms and suites which have been restored entirely in keeping with local culture and tradition. These spacious rooms have fresh, cream



## ACTIVITIES

Excursions to Swamimalai and Trichy. Exploring Thanjavur. Music and dance performances. Themed craft and cultural classes. Temple visits.

## STYLE

Part heritage/part modern building, a stylish, intimate hotel with a soul, and a desire to educate guests about local culture.

## WHEN TO GO

September - April

## ACCESS

By road from Karaikudi, Trichy, Rajakkad, Madurai, Thekkady, Pondicherry.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard, Amex.

## OTHER FACILITIES

Sitting room, bar, library, verandah, spa /massage, yoga, Jacuzzi, shop, gym, easy access rooms.

## DINING

Dining room, verandah, poolside and al fresco dining. Vegetarian cuisine.

Rooms & suites	34
Swimming pool	Yes
A/C	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Trichy 45mins
Station	Tanjore 10mins
Family in residence	No
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	RQ

WI-FI



washed walls, polished floor boards, wooden pillars and beams and fun spots of bright colour – all of which give them a warm glow. Some have balconies or sitting rooms and they sit above a beautifully furnished, elegant sitting room which also houses some extraordinary artefacts – like a museum in itself.

Dining here is a veritable feast with delectable and hugely varied vegetarian delights on offer, either in the cosy dining room or under the stars on the chic rooftop terrace. Deep verandahs, a pretty garden, an interesting, enclosed pool and a superb spa all add to the atmosphere of relaxation, 'slow life' and physical restoration, after the rigours of exploring the city. Svatma is tucked away on a quiet lane and a stroll out from this peaceful sanctuary is a wonderful experience. Encounter the contrast of plunging into the

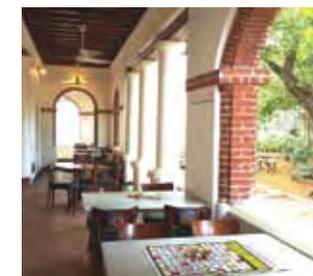
bustling streets of the city, whilst knowing you have somewhere special and serene to return to. When at 'home' try your hand at learning the art of classical dance, mat making, garland making, or cooking 'pure veg' food – you name it, you can do it here. This is one of the great plus points of the hotel, making it ideal for those wanting to immerse themselves in Tamil culture or perhaps teach a new skill to themselves or their children.

Perfectly positioned in the heart of Tamil Nadu, with easy links to other 'must see' places in this part of India, it's a must for anyone visiting the state – at last a boutique hotel in Thanjavur! This really is a fascinating hotel with a solid foundation of spiritual classicism, connecting seamlessly with Tamil traditions, literature, art and architecture, but with all the modern comfort and style one could wish for!



## Reservations:

+91 4362 273 222  
4362 272 444  
+91 4424 343 734



# SHAKTI HIMALAYA

Inner journeys ... outdoors



Shakti Himalaya is, perhaps, the most visionary, innovative, luxurious and exclusive Himalayan product in existence. For those who seek space, peace and natural beauty, Shakti offers a rare opportunity to discover compellingly beautiful and remote regions of India. There is nowhere more beautiful to walk than in India's varied hill country and Shakti offers you the chance to enjoy an unforgettable wilderness experience in both the high and the low Himalaya. In three irresistibly beautiful corners of the mountains,



one now has the chance to really get off the beaten track, away from the 'madding crowds' of the city and to immerse yourself in enthralling mountain surroundings. For those not inclined towards arduous treks but who love the great outdoors, nature and big skies, Shakti provides an ideal way in which to explore India's incredible natural scenery, without involving strenuous effort.

Where else in the Himalaya, or indeed any mountain region in the world, can you be entirely on your own, not see another tourist for days,



wander along carefully chosen and graded paths in the trusted hands of a charming, well-spoken guide? (Each walk is privately guided and the guides are highly experienced at looking after guests of a wide variety of fitness levels and of all ages.) After such a remote walk where else can you return each night to the delicious comfort of a cosy village house replete with fine linen, deep mattresses, soft pillows, hot-water bottles, a feast of a dinner, a warming log fire, a glass of chilled wine or beer, and the company of fascinating mountain people? All this finery is entirely understated and natural and has been put together by a company with a keen eye on encouraging low impact and sustainable tourism but which has extremely high standards as regards comfort and hygiene levels. Locals are involved in all aspects of the houses' 'development', along with local materials having been sourced and used. Little food is brought in – as much as possible is provided locally. Numbers are strictly limited – no more than four at a time may undertake these journeys. The timing of these journeys is dictated by nothing other than the climate – hence one walks when the time is right!

What makes Shakti stand out, given the remote wilderness regions in which it operates, is the exceptional staff and service; the overriding comfort, style and sophistication that runs throughout their product range; the character and atmosphere of the houses; the staff's charm, passion, knowledge and experience, along with their subtle understanding of the area; the



ingenuity and creativity of their hand-picked walks – each is tailored to suit an individual's fitness, age, wants and wishes; the company's superb and mutually respectful relationships with the people they work with.

This isn't refuge walking with hordes of other ramblers; it isn't trekking from basic hut to hut on a well-trodden, often litter-strewn trail. It is Himalayan exploration in the lap of sophisticated yet understated, rustic, homely luxury and it is unparalleled in terms of comfort, fun and adventure. With almost a sense of 'being a pioneer', it allows one to really get 'under the skin' of an area and to 'live' it, like no other Himalayan product does! In these environments of intense beauty, vivid colour and soothing serenity, the traveller can slow down for a bit and simply 'be'.

Having spent years perfecting and bettering their product, Shakti now has 4 unique Himalayan walking and wilderness experiences.



Further information/reservations:

[info@shaktihimalaya.com](mailto:info@shaktihimalaya.com)

+91 124 4563899

[www.shaktihimalaya.com](http://www.shaktihimalaya.com)



## SHAKTI 360° UTTARAKHAND

Perched on an imposing promontory in the glorious hills of northern Kumaon, Shakti 360° is a hotel with a difference. Set in a breathtakingly romantic mountain wilderness area at 8,000ft, it is a place where you can take time to reflect, and allow the space, peace and astonishing landscape to work its magic on you. Shakti 360° combines age-old building techniques and local materials with innovative contemporary design – ensuring only the

lightest footprint on its surroundings. Reached either by foot or by jeep, four spacious, stone, wood and glass ‘villas’ each look out over a different view and each is the height of comfort and sophistication. A vast bed, replete with pashmina blankets and sumptuous fluffy duvets tempt you never to ‘surface’ and each is very private with its own verandah. Rugs and wood-burners keep them warm and cosy and the bathrooms are predominantly clad in wood and brass. An inviting central lodge is then home to a wonderfully comfortable sitting room and dining room. With an onsite, organic vegetable garden and an innovative Tibetan chef who’s food is sublime, dining here is always a treat. Spend your days out on mountain walks with private guides and enjoying scrumptious picnics and fabulous views; or relax, admire the views, doze and read in a planter’s chair in the sun or in a deep armchair by a fire. It’s all perfect.

### Further information and reservations all four properties

info@shaktihimalaya.com  
+91 124 4563899  
www.shaktihimalaya.com

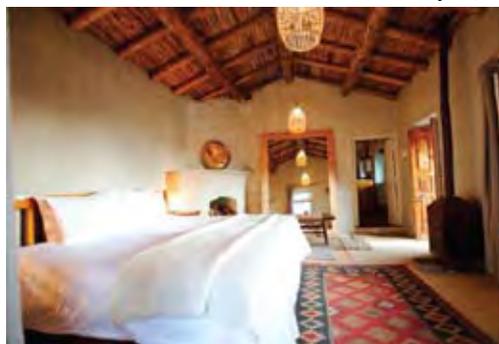
#### OPEN

October - mid-May

March to May is when the flowers are in bloom but the views of the Himalaya can be hazy after early morning. September to March offers the best clarity but November to February can be chilly at night.

#### ACCESS

By train to Kathgodam followed by a 3 hr drive to the village houses or a 7 hour drive to Shakti 360°. Or by air to Pantnagar followed by a 3 hr drive to the village houses or a 6 hour drive to Shakti 360°



## SHAKTI KUMAON, UTTARAKHAND

Situated at the western end of the Himalayan foothills, almost due north of Delhi, Kumaon is an intensely pretty area of rich, green open valleys, high hills and rambling hill stations which is often left off the tourist trail and remains wonderfully unexploited. The people are also friendly and inviting which makes it an ideal area to wander through. Shakti Kumaon comprises 3 – 5 days of relaxed walking through glorious, rolling Himalayan foothills, from village to village, accompanied by a private, knowledgeable and affable guide. He /she will share his /her deep knowledge of the area with you, allowing you to absorb and discover the region’s people, culture, flora and fauna at your own pace. Nights are spent in delightful, snug village houses which are authentic but quietly sophisticated and immaculately maintained. Their chef will create delicious Kumaoni delicacies in the evenings, as well as hearty breakfasts to send you on your way. Lunch tends to be sumptuous picnics set up in impossibly pretty areas and vehicles are never far away in case you tire of walking. Where else can you just get up and go, knowing your luggage will be there waiting for you as you stroll into your next house each evening?

## SHAKTI SIKKIM

Situated at the eastern of the Himalayan foothills, the distant former kingdom of Sikkim is a truly stunning area. With more jagged, steep foothills than Kumaon, its valleys are deep and impressive and Buddhist and Lepcha villages cling to the hillsides like a colony of limpets. The walking is a little more vigorous than in Kumaon but no less beautiful, exciting nor rewarding. Here one may step out of the modern world for 3 – 6 days, again walking from village to village, joining ceremonies in village temples and partaking in traditional Sikkimese life that would otherwise be impossible. This walk allows you glimpses of a lifestyle and the warm hospitality of the Sikkimese that others rarely get to see. The village houses have been brilliantly spruced up to provide proper comfort without compromising their authenticity. Some have balconies with views over fields and valleys, whilst others are deep in the forest, but all are perfectly hosted and catered with a roving chef who will introduce you to the delicious intricacies of Sikkimese cuisine. Seeing and listening to young Buddhist monks chanting away in a monastery, as it slowly emerges from the early morning mist is an extraordinary humbling experience.



#### OPEN

October - mid-May

The rhododendrons bloom from March to May but the mountains tend to be hazy. December and January are cold and the mountains can be misty on occasion.

#### ACCESS

By air to Bagdogra followed by a 4-5 hour drive to the village house. By road (3-4 hours) from Glenburn Tea Estate and Darjeeling.

## SHAKTI LADAKH

Situated in the far north of the Indian Subcontinent at over 3500m (11,500ft), high on the western end of the Tibetan plateau, Ladakh is often referred to as ‘Little Tibet’. With a high altitude desert, dominated by rugged, snow-capped peaks, colourful oases, deep turquoise lakes, and studded with thriving Buddhist monasteries, it is one of the most picturesque places on earth. The strong Buddhist culture prevails and makes it a wonderfully warm and welcoming place to explore. Shakti Ladakh has seven (soon to be more) spacious and beautifully done up houses scattered around the valleys and a visit to each of them will make for a hugely rewarding journey. Some are close to more mainstream and important monasteries and others are situated in stunningly beautiful, distant valleys. Combine rafting, bicycling, walking, picnics fit for kings, archery, village exploration, monastery visits, hours of relaxation time on a hot, sunny rooftop with a good book, a drink and a view from heaven; and you can’t want for much more out of a holiday. With much of Ladakh really being the preserve of the backpacker until recently, Shakti Ladakh has changed all that and a 10 day holiday to Ladakh makes the perfect summer holiday for friends and families – relaxing, beautifully cared for, yet exhilarating!



#### OPEN

May - end September.

May and September are chilly at night but gently warm and sunny by day. Warm, sunny days persist from June to August and it’s cool at night.

#### ACCESS

By air to Leh followed by a drive of 1 – 2 hours to your village house. By road from Kashmir.

# GLENBURN TEA ESTATE

PO & Distt. Darjeeling, West Bengal 734 101

+91 98 300 70213 info@glenburnteaestate.com www.glenburnteaestate.com



## ACTIVITIES

Private tours of the tea estate, walking, birdwatching, fishing, swimming in river, picnics, stargazing. Excursions to Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Local massages. Yoga (RQ).

## STYLE

Traditional, colonial planter's bungalow with great charm, style and character. Cosy, warm and welcoming.

## WHEN TO GO

October - May

## ACCESS

By road from Bagdogra, Bhutan, Gangtok, Darjeeling, Shakti Sikkim, Kalimpong or Pemayangtse.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard.

## OTHER FACILITIES

Board games, library, shop, massages on request, Electric blankets. Own vehicles, easy access rooms.

## DINING

Private dining and barbecues. Table d'hôte in the central dining room, surrounding gardens, terrace and verandah.

This heavenly little plantation retreat lies above the banks of the River Rungeet, deep in the foothills of the Himalaya and is overlooked by the mighty Mount Kanchenjunga. Just an hour from Darjeeling and across the river from Sikkim, it has the most idyllic location in the heart of a thriving tea estate. Home to generations of tea planters, it remains today a working tea estate and is replete with a school, a hospital and a lovely village scrambling its way down the hill. The bungalow has been lovingly and exquisitely restored with devotion, care and commitment, whilst retaining the style and atmosphere of a colonial planter's bungalow.

The 4 bedrooms in the original bungalow, which has a leafy verandah, snug sitting room and stylish dining room, have been charmingly decorated with different themes. They are spacious, time-honoured, warm and cosy with a sitting room or ante-room. The 4 bedrooms in the Water Lily Bungalow, which has terraces, an elegant



Rooms	10
Swimming pool	No
A/C rooms	No (fans)
Board basis	AI*
Airport	Bagdogra 3.5hrs
Station	Jalpaiguri 3.5hrs
Family in residence	Part time
Golf	No
Baby sitting service	Yes

\* Excluding alcohol  
Wi-Fi

sitting room and a massage room, have views from heaven and are stunning – fresh, light, large and beautifully furnished with local floral themes. They are traditional yet have contemporary twists and are deliciously comfortable and private. Various terraces and gorgeous gardens provide lovely spaces for dining al fresco, chatting around a camp fire and relaxing in a glorious mountain environment.

Apart from being a walker's dream and with a perfect climate, Glenburn is the ideal base for visiting Darjeeling or resting up in style after a walk in Sikkim. Sitting on the lovely, flower filled verandah, gazing across the gardens to Kanchenjunga is a special, timeless experience. There is plenty to do by way of private tours of the tea estate and an abundance of mountain activities – walking down

to the river, fishing, enjoying unparalleled picnics (a treat in store as they do them like nowhere else here), or visiting the village and school. Where else in the Himalaya can you walk on different routes each day and return to such luxury at night? The staff is divine – local and catering to one's every need. Meals take place in different places, often al fresco, and one feasts on the most delicious, fresh food – a perfect balance of Indian, Oriental and Western. Dinner tends to be eaten together, creating a lovely, 'houseparty' atmosphere but guests may choose to dine on their own if they wish. This blissfully peaceful Himalayan gem offers a superb mountain, wilderness and tea experience and is also a perfect start or end to a beautiful overland journey to/from Bhutan!



## Reservations:

+91 33 2288 5630



# THE PENTHOUSE

Kanak Towers, 7A Russell Street, Kolkata 700071, West Bengal  
+91 33 2288 5630 info@GlenburnPenthouse.com www.GlenburnPenthouse.com



## ACTIVITIES

Guided walks in the city, architectural and historical tours, shopping, river cruises.

## STYLE

Calcutta's only boutique hotel – a fabulously chic, very central, contemporary hotel with a colonial theme and huge views.

## WHEN TO GO

October - April

## ACCESS

By air or train to Kolkata.  
By road from the Sunderbans and Rajbari Bawali.

## CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Visa, Mastercard.

## OTHER FACILITIES

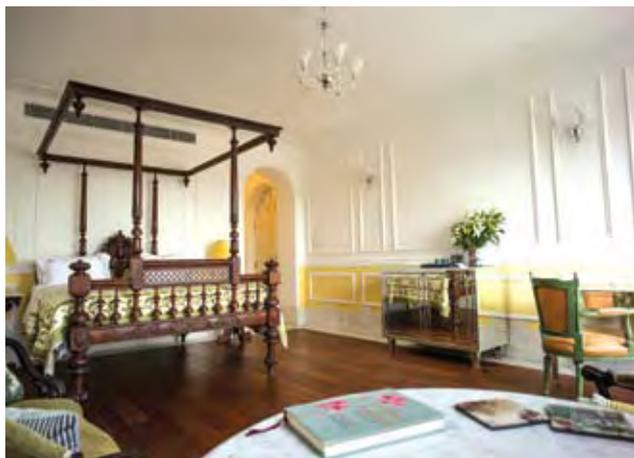
Sitting room /library, shop, spa, rooftop bar /tea room, personal concierge, private lift access.

## DINING

Dining room, rooftop al fresco dining.

Having set a benchmark for excellence and elegance in the hills around Darjeeling with the lovely Glenburn Tea Estate, the inspired owners have now raised the bar in Kolkata with the advent of The Glenburn Penthouse. The epitome of style, glamour and sophistication, this is the city's first boutique hotel and has a fabulously central location, in the heart of historic Kolkata and just a short stroll from some of the city's most famous sights and shopping streets. Being located at the top of a sleek new office building, the 360° views of almost every landmark in the city have to be seen to be believed.

Conceptualised and executed over a number of years, the owners have carefully amassed an exquisite collection of antique Bengali colonial furniture and artworks to create a haven of quiet



## Reservations:

+91 33 2288 5630



Rooms & suites	9
Swimming pool	Yes (H)
A/C tents	Yes
Board basis	CP
Airport	Kolkata 1hr
Station	Howrah 30mins
Family in residence	Part time
Golf	Yes
Baby sitting service	Yes
WI-FI : PP	

luxury above the bustling streets of the city. The style, furniture and décor is traditional colonial yet understated and contemporary. Space and light are the bywords here with each grand bedroom suite having a different view. All have four-poster beds and some have balconies, large sitting rooms, or outdoor terraces and verandahs. Original, elegant furniture has been painstakingly sought out and collections of art that reflect the historical theme of the hotel fill the walls with interesting stories, and map out journeys taken by early travellers. Fine carpets adorn the wooden floors to add a touch of warmth, while the cool marble floors of the soothing hallways, dressing rooms and bathrooms provide a welcome respite from the heat. The large 'white-marble' bathrooms are equipped with bathtubs and walk-in showers, with plenty of natural light and Glenburn Therapy Darjeeling Green Tea bath accessories.

The welcoming library, leading onto a pretty courtyard and covered verandah, provides a lovely, peaceful area to relax in after a shopping spree or a historical and cultural walk having taken you to unique places in the city based on any special interest you may have. Then enjoy a soothing spa treatment prior to feasting on delicious culinary delicacies either al fresco or in the graceful dining room. The cuisine combines a curated blend of Colonial, Bengali, Anglo-Indian and Kolkata street food with a contemporary twist, using fresh local ingredients. The rooftop terrace boasts a fabulous infinity pool that looks on to Victoria Memorial and all the panoramic sights of the city. The Penthouse beckons - come and discover an extraordinary city with a history like no other; replete with intrigue, colonists, trade, extravagance, revolution, education, gastronomy, art and culture.



## ROHET GARH



### Reservations:

+91 291 2431 161



Nr.Jodhpur, Rajasthan

[www.rohetgarh.com](http://www.rohetgarh.com)

Situated on the edge of the Great Thar Desert, in a charming village just south of Jodhpur, this lovely family run fort is ideal for those wanting to stay outside the city, in a rural environment. Very much a family concern, it is an extremely friendly place with 32 enchanting rooms scattered around the premises. The rooms all vary in shape and size and have been prettily decorated with traditional Rajasthani fabrics. A glistening swimming pool is overlooked by the dining room and gorgeous upstairs, tented dining terrace. Throughout the premises there are peaceful roof terraces, gazebos and courtyards together with chic, traditional sitting rooms, a cosy bar, and a delightful al fresco restaurant by the flower filled garden. The family are keen horsemen and Rohet offers some of the best riding (day rides or longer, tented safaris) in Rajasthan, along with jeep safaris to desert villages and farming communities, cooking demonstrations, grand picnics and beautiful bush dinners. *Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP. PP.* [info@rohetgarh.com](mailto:info@rohetgarh.com)

## RANVAS



### Reservations:

+91 291 257 2321-7



Nagaur, Rajasthan

[www.ranvasnagaur.com](http://www.ranvasnagaur.com)

This stunning hotel lies within the ramparts of Nagaur's magnificent Ahichatragarh Fort, on the edge of the Thar Desert, 2 1/2 hours north of Jodhpur. An exquisitely beautiful fort, it has been painstakingly and brilliantly restored to its former glory. Ranvas comprises 27 rooms in 10 havelis surrounding a large courtyard and pool area, within a palace complex inside the fort walls. Each haveli is different, understated and comprises rooms, inner courtyards, covered verandahs and upstairs terraces. They have been decorated in chic, soft colours in keeping with their origins and traditional designs, with modern bathrooms and comforts. Enjoy an evening stroll around the ramparts, followed by dinner under the stars and, by day, wander through a gate and explore your very own fort, visit the bazaar, or go on a camel safari. Playing host to the World Sufi Festival each February it transforms into a bustling tented village and comes alive with music, song and dance - truly inspirational. *Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP. PP.* [reservations@jodhanaheritage.com](mailto:reservations@jodhanaheritage.com)

## NARENDRA BHAWAN



### Reservations:

+91 7827 151 151

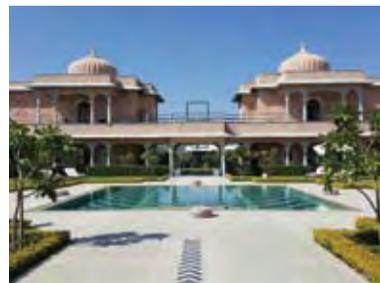


Bikaner, Rajasthan

[www.narendrabhawan.com](http://www.narendrabhawan.com)

Part old and part new, lying in the heart of Bikaner, Narendra Bhawan is a stunning, eclectic, fascinating hotel. Formerly owned by the Maharaja of Bikaner, the hotel's interiors play on his journey through life with different rooms and areas reflecting different stages. More of a 'design' hotel, it is replete with carefully sourced antiques and artefacts from around the world. The craftsmanship is superb and Art Deco furniture contrasts brilliantly with Rajput and European touches. Built of soft pink sandstone, the tall building surrounds a pretty inner courtyard, overlooked by airy corridors, and boasts a lovely rooftop pool. The 82 bedrooms are themed with some being contemporary and others more traditional and others more avant garde - there's one to suit all tastes! The stunning restaurant serves mouth-wateringly good food whilst the cosy bar and billiards room provide perfect after dinner spaces. Narendra Bhawan is perfectly placed for journeys taking in Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Nagaur. It's fun and it's different. *Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP.* [reservation@narendrabhawan.com](mailto:reservation@narendrabhawan.com)

## BUJERA FORT



### Reservations:

+91 800 369 9042



Udaipur, Rajasthan

[www.bujerafort.com](http://www.bujerafort.com)

Situated in a rural village Bujera Fort is 15 minutes from Udaipur. With a backdrop of the Aravalli Hills, this marvellous fort-palace style hotel comprises the main 'fort', with two adjoining 'houses'. The brainchild of English Indo-philes, it has been exquisitely furnished, with the lofty library and drawing room having a distinct 'English Country House' feel. The 14 bedrooms are superbly decorated and everything here has an unparalleled level of taste and sophistication. The hotel is built around a stunning, verdant, cloistered courtyard garden and beautiful pool. Designed so that it can be split into separate 'villas', for private rentals, Bujera Fort is replete with airy verandahs, roof terraces and quiet corners. The cuisine here is fresh and delicious, and there are no end of gloriously romantic dining venues. Walk in the hills and village, enjoy a spa treatment or rooftop yoga - the idea here is that it is a 'home' rather than a hotel and they've got it just right! *Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP. PP.* [info@bujerafort.com](mailto:info@bujerafort.com)

## RAWLA NARLAI



### Reservations:

+91 291 2510410  
2513333



Narlai, Rajasthan

[www.rawlanarlai.com](http://www.rawlanarlai.com)

This gorgeous little hotel, with 32 rooms, lies in an unspoilt village in the heart of the Aravalli Hills, at the foot of a huge, granite rock. Surrounded by rocky outcrops, the area is truly beautiful and, being close to Ranakpur and Kumbhalgarh, it is the perfect break between Jodhpur and Udaipur. Rawla Narlai is a delightful 17th century property which remains owned by the Jodhpur Royal Family. Over the years it has transformed into a delightful boutique hotel. Family history adorns the walls and many of the staff are loyal, local family retainers. There are characterful, traditional rooms in the original property and stylish, more contemporary rooms in the new, adjoining garden wing which overlooks the pretty pool and garden. There are flower filled gardens and courtyards, roof terraces and a cosy bar. The surrounding village is a delight to explore, along with visits to nearby lakes, horse rides in the hills, jeep/leopard safaris, a climb up the rock at sundown, or a candlelit dinner at the beautiful stepwell! *Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP. PP.* [crs@rawlanarlai.com](mailto:crs@rawlanarlai.com)

## DEV SHREE



### Reservations:

+91 992 917 2000



Deogarh, Rajasthan

[www.devshreedeogarh.com](http://www.devshreedeogarh.com)

Dev Shree lies on the edge of the lovely village of Deogarh, in the Aravalli Hills. It has a glorious position and is almost equidistant between Jodhpur, Jaipur and Udaipur so it makes the most ideal 'village' break in a hectic, city based itinerary. Surrounded by granite hills, lakes and woodland, the utterly charming owners have created an incredibly warm, inviting, 7 bedroom 'home' with immense character. Built in traditional 'haveli' style, with deep verandahs, green lawns and pretty courtyards, the interiors are a delight with lofty ceilings, and the décor is Rajasthani with a contemporary twist. The surrounding area is heaven for walking, picnicking, taking jeep trips or local train rides. Kumbhalgarh Fort and the Ranakpur temples are a short distance away, and a walk through Deogarh village is a must. With delicious home cooking, this is very much a place to come and be a part of one of Rajasthan's most affable families. Shatrunjai and Bhavna are experienced hoteliers and greatly enjoy spending time entertaining their guests in this lovely 'home from home'. *Pool. Wifi. A/C. AP. PP.* [info@devshreedeogarh.com](mailto:info@devshreedeogarh.com)

## CHHATRASAGAR



### Reservations:

+91 94 1412 3118

*Chhatra Sagar*

Chhatrasagar provides the perfect rural escape in Rajasthan just 2 hours east of Jodhpur. It comprises 11 beautifully designed, spacious tents sitting on a dam (9) and a hillock (2), overlooking a lake teeming with birds (seasonal) and surrounded by grasslands replete with wildlife. The charming owning family are personally involved in looking after guests and the cuisine boasts some of the finest, most interesting home cooking in Rajasthan - family recipes passed down over generations. The pretty tents have granite bathrooms, a small sitting area and a dressing room, with a verandah affording glorious lake views. Accompanied by one of your hosts, explore the farm, local temples and meet the villagers. Take a drive or a stroll through the grasslands, spying myriad bird species, and other animals. In the evening enjoy a surprise sundowner, a while relaxing in the open tented sitting room, and cosy chats around a blazing campfire under an incredible canopy of stars. No pool. Wifi. Fans. AP.

[www.chhatrasagar.com](http://www.chhatrasagar.com)  
[reservations@chhatrasagar.com](mailto:reservations@chhatrasagar.com)

## SHAH PURA BAGH



### Reservations:

+ 91 998 2226 606  
91 958 7004 999



This wonderful, garden estate remains the home of the Shahpura Family and is surrounded by glistening lakes, teeming with birds (seasonally). 6 gorgeous, light, airy suites are housed in a beautifully restored residence which leads out to the magnificent pool and gardens. 2 further rooms are in the main house, 1 other delightful room is hidden away in the pretty walled garden, and there's a stunning, new 2 bedroom villa by the pool. The main house is home to a welcoming verandah, drawing room and dining room which opens onto a pretty al fresco dining patio, shaded by fruit trees. The style and décor is very much Rajasthani meets colonial, with a quiet, understated, elegant air. The family resides here and enjoys chatting with guests. Cycling round the lakes, birdwatching, jeep safaris, picnicking and visiting the village are perfect precursors to a romantic sundowner atop the old fort. Shahpura Bagh provides the perfect, peaceful break between visits to Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur. Pool. Wifi. A/C. AP. PP.

Shahpura, Rajasthan  
[www.shahpurabagh.com](http://www.shahpurabagh.com)  
[res@shahpurabagh.com](mailto:res@shahpurabagh.com)

## RAMATHRA FORT



### Reservations:

+91 9983 347 057



This dreamy little hotel lies in a beautifully unspoiled and pretty area of eastern Rajasthan, just north of Ranthambore. The beautifully restored, 350 year old Ramathra Fort is run by highly affable, energetic and involved owning hosts, Ravi and Gitanjali Rajpal. It sits on a mound, surrounded by farmland, wilderness, lakes, gorges, plateaus and hillocks. The views are spectacular and even during the driest months, the area remains green and the lake retains its water. The 6 en-suite, spacious, prettily decorated, comfortable tents are scattered around the leafy garden. The remaining 6 rooms and suites in the main fort are large, light and airy - the 2 suites boasting a sitting room, balcony, fireplace and an outdoor tub and shower looking out over the plains. A stay at Ramathra offers one a chance to experience the great outdoors and rural India at its best, along with jeep safaris, village walks, lakeside picnics, birdwatching and boating - all topped off with delicious Rajasthani home cooking. Jacuzzi. Wifi. A/C. AP. PP.

Sapotra, Rajasthan  
[www.ramathrafort.com](http://www.ramathrafort.com)  
[reservations@ramathrafort.com](mailto:reservations@ramathrafort.com)

## JAMTARA WILDERNESS CAMP



### Reservations:

+91 11 2652 3021  
2651 6770



Situated in a gloriously remote and rural setting in the buffer zone of Pench National Park, which boasts a plethora of wildlife, Jamtara is 3 hours from Nagpur and has private access to its 'own' gate. It is genuine, intimate, comfortable and relaxed, keeping true to its rustic, jungle environment. The camp is run by experienced wildlife people and has a magnificent Banyan tree which provides the perfect place for chatting around a camp fire. The 10 spacious, sophisticatedly simple tents, with excellent bathrooms, have a peaceful verandah looking over the jungle or riverbed. A unique experience is sleeping out in the open on a starbed, gazing at the stars and listening to the sounds of the jungle. Dining here is a treat - different menu, different venue - not to mention the impossibly romantic bush dinners! By day enjoy exclusive game drives with knowledgeable naturalists, village and bird walks, or relax by the pool, in the cosy sitting room or bar. Pool. No Wifi. A/C. JP.

Pench, Madhya Pradesh  
[www.jamtarawilderness.com](http://www.jamtarawilderness.com)  
[info@jamtarawilderness.com](mailto:info@jamtarawilderness.com)

## SHERGARH



### Reservations:

+91 7637 296215  
9098 187346



Shergarh is a highly personal, exclusive small camp at Kanha National Park. Surrounded by grasslands and sitting by a very pretty spring-fed lake, it is the creation of naturalist Jehan and Katie Bhujwala, whose aim is to ensure a genuine, personal wildlife experience for all. It is a really lovely camp and epitomizes what a wildlife camp should be - peaceful, understated, close to the park entrance, run by truly dedicated wildlife people, and with a warm, friendly and relaxed atmosphere. 6 delightfully comfortable, roomy, private tents, with great bathrooms and verandahs, are spread out in a small wooded area. Additional to venturing into the park each day, explore the local village and tribal communities either on foot or by bicycle, and go on bird walks. Evenings are spent in The Main House, dining on delicious home cooking, their own vegetables and locally caught fish. A home away from home in a very beautiful, unspoilt part of central India. No pool. Wifi. Fans. JP.

Kanha, Madhya Pradesh  
[www.shergarh.com](http://www.shergarh.com)  
[enquiries@shergarh.com](mailto:enquiries@shergarh.com)

## THE SARAI AT TORIA



### Reservations:

+91 124  
4062 480/481  
2356 004



This delicious little lodge is hosted by two brilliant wildlife conservationists and lies in the most beautiful setting, on the banks of the Ken River. It is ideally situated close to the famous temples at Khajuraho and to Panna Tiger Reserve. The 8 spacious and elegant cottages lie amid lovely grassland, and pretty pathways lead to a welcoming sitting room and dining room. Sipping a sundowner on the enchanting terrace watching the river, or dining al fresco on delicious home grown produce served by friendly, local staff, all add to The Sarai's natural charm. With an intimate, relaxed feel, there is huge emphasis placed on the lodge's sustainability, and its minimal impact and 'footprint' - it blends culturally and gracefully with its rural location. A dawn or sunset boat ride, a stroll or bike ride to unspoilt villages or along the river looking for birds are special treats. A magical place exuding style, peace and beauty; perfect for activity filled days or just to unwind. For those wanting to combine culture and wildlife in a wonderfully unexploited area of India, this is the place to go. Wifi. Fans. AP.

Panna/Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh  
[www.saraiattoria.com](http://www.saraiattoria.com)  
[saraiattoria@gmail.com](mailto:saraiattoria@gmail.com)

## FORSYTH LODGE



### Reservations:

+91 12 4490 8615  
98 1009 3312



This wonderfully welcoming and atmospheric lodge lies close to the beautiful Tewa Reservoir and the entrance to Satpura National Park. With a backdrop of plateaus and hills, Forsyth Lodge has an earthy authenticity combined with contemporary flair. The staff is local, with wildlife being their passion. Despite being in prime tiger habitat, the focus here is on the environment and one of the key highlights is the variety of ways to view game – on foot, kayak, jeep, boat and on elephant back, as well as night drives. Scattered around the central lodge and swimming pool, in pretty grasslands, the 12 cottages are made primarily of mud and brick, according to local village design. With roof terraces and private verandahs, they are spacious and well decorated. The main lodge is home to a cosy sitting room, dining room, bar and roof terraces. Forsyth Lodge fits perfectly with other wildlife parks or tacks onto a journey around Bundelkhand. *Pool. No wifi. A/C. JP.*

Satpura, Madhya Pradesh  
[www.forsythlodge.com](http://www.forsythlodge.com)

[bookings@forsythlodge.com](mailto:bookings@forsythlodge.com)

## THE BISON



### Reservations:

+91 80 4127 8708  
4112 5163  
6559 0271



The Bison Camp boasts an idyllic waterside location, on the edge of Nagarhole National Park, with a backdrop of hills and views over the water and farmland. The approach is through rural villages or by a stunning boat ride, and it is only a short drive to the park entrance. Due to seasonal flooding, the camp is raised on stilts and the 11 tents are reached by wooden walkways. They are simple, spacious, with excellent bathrooms and have incredible views from their private verandahs – you may even see elephant strolling by! The two 'machan' tents are more basic, raised 20ft off the ground, and have masses of private space. There's a pretty, waterside swimming pool and, constructed almost entirely of local wood, a cosy dining room, along with a sitting room and 'viewing' verandah bar. Late night chats around the camp fire and a private bush dinner are things you will never forget - a rustic yet truly authentic experience. *Pool. Wifi. Fans. JP.*

Nagarhole, Karnataka  
[www.thebisonresort.com](http://www.thebisonresort.com)

[info@thebisonresort.com](mailto:info@thebisonresort.com)

## KAMLAPURA PALACE



### Reservations:

+91 97 3122 6956



After a long wait, The Deccan finally has a fabulous new hotel in Hampi, making this an area that should now be high on everyone's 'India hit list'. Evolve Back Kamlapura Palace is a lovely, newly built hotel in classic Vijayanagar style, with oodles of space both inside and out. 46 huge rooms and suites are in the main building which is home to beautiful courtyards, a dining room and poolside terrace. Additionally, superb villas with private pools and gardens are more like houses than hotel rooms! The décor is simple, classic and similar throughout, with rich colours and wood offset against whitewashed walls. The cuisine here is wonderfully varied and the staff aim to cater to your every need. A further dining room, sitting room, excellent spa and shop are all in another building – there's plenty to do here for long stay guests, not to mention exploring the wonders of Hampi or pottering around the incredibly pretty countryside and villages by bicycle. *Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP.*

Hampi, Karnataka  
[www.orangecounty.in](http://www.orangecounty.in)

[hampi@orangecounty.in](mailto:hampi@orangecounty.in)

## RAJAKKAD



### Reservations:

+91 9487 444 333  
8973 444 555



Rajakkad Estate is a wonderful 7 bedroom, 250 year old former Travancore palace with a huge sense of history and an incredibly warm and inviting atmosphere. Surrounded by jungle and a working coffee and pepper estate, it lies at 1000m in the hills above Dindigul and 2 hours from Madurai. The views are superb; the walking is second to none; private estate tours are enlightening; and the place exudes charm and sophistication. It is a destination for nature lovers, walkers, readers and people who like to take it easy. The building comprises courtyards and pools with elegantly simple en suite bedrooms, each with private access to the verdant gardens. There is a library, a sitting room, a dining room, an airy 'rain pavilion' and a stunning yoga platform which glistens in the dripping jungle! Whilst Rajakkad provides contemporary comfort, it remains authentic and is the perfect, restful, wilderness 'home' with high importance placed on its sustainability. *No pool. Fans. Wifi. AP.*

Dindigul, Tamil Nadu  
[www.rajakkadestate.com](http://www.rajakkadestate.com)

[reservations@rajakkadestate.com](mailto:reservations@rajakkadestate.com)

## WINDERMERE ESTATE



### Reservations:

+91 484 242 5237  
242 7575



High in the Palni Hills, just outside Munnar, Windermere Estate lies in the heart of the tea country, and is easily accessed from Cochin and Madurai. Surrounded by a cardamom estate, it has awe-inspiring 360° views looking down over the Western Ghats. Scattered around the hilltop are delightful, large cottages and a farmhouse which, together, house 18 charming, simply decorated rooms. The wooden, 'chalet-style' dining room sits below a cosy sitting room which boasts a blazing log fire, and both look over a pretty garden and pool. The owning family live in the old planters bungalow (part time) and their friendly staff take guests on walks in the hills or private cardamom estate. Famous for its 'alpine' ambience and charm, Windermere Estate is an enchanting, understated place which appeals to those wanting to escape from the city, who have a love for the great outdoors and who are in search of a low-key, wilderness atmosphere. *Pool. Wifi. Fans. CP.*

Munnar, Kerala  
[www.windermere-retreats.com](http://www.windermere-retreats.com)

[info@windermere-munnar.com](mailto:info@windermere-munnar.com)

## SHALIMAR SPICE GARDEN



### Reservations:

+91 11 666 17 837  
838



Nestling in the heart of the spice area, in the low hills of the Southern Ghats and surrounded by tropical jungle, this rustic retreat is ideal for visiting nearby Periyar National Park. It is the only really comfortable small hotel in the area and comprises a main lodge with an airy verandah, a dining room, a snug sitting room and hall. Sprawling up the hill behind are 22 rooms and cottages which are decorated simply but comfortably in contemporary yet local style. Most have verandahs or a small garden sitout and a couple are traditional Kerala style (wooden). At the top of the hill is a pretty swimming pool and an Ayurvedic massage centre. The property abounds with exotic trees and myriad different spices – fun to explore if not out jungle walking, bamboo rafting or spying elephant at Periyar. Shalimar is renowned for its delicious local food and is a secluded, peaceful jungle retreat - the perfect entry or departure point for Kerala. *Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP.*

Thekkady, Kerala  
[www.shalimarspicegarden.com](http://www.shalimarspicegarden.com)

[reservations@amritara.co.in](mailto:reservations@amritara.co.in)

## TRINITY



Reservations:  
+91 484 221 6666



Cochin, Kerala  
[www.malabarhouse.com](http://www.malabarhouse.com)

Situated on Fort Cochin, itself replete with colonial architecture and a joy to explore, Trinity is a delightful 8 bedroom boutique hotel. Overlooking the parade ground, it boasts modern interior design and showcases stunning antique furniture and objets d'art. It occupies part of an old building whilst the interiors shout new, challenging and contemporary – clean lines, bright blocks of colour, open spaces and almost minimalist décor, are combined with traditional wooden furniture and local Malayali design concepts. There is a large sitting room and a 'hanging' mezzanine floor full of deep cushions and daybeds. Renowned for its fabulous food, dining here is a treat - either in the buzzy Passage Malabar restaurant or in the garden - and the in house bakery is sorely tempting. The light-filled, modern bedrooms are on 2 floors and look over a pretty courtyard and small garden. The perfect chic retreat in a quiet corner of Cochin, exuding style, intimacy and sophistication. Pool at Malabar House. Wifi. PP [reservations@malabarhouse.com](mailto:reservations@malabarhouse.com)

## THE LOTUS



Reservations:  
+91 124 4010 072



Neeleshwar, Northern Kerala  
[www.reservations@neeleshwarhermitage.com](http://www.reservations@neeleshwarhermitage.com)

The Lotus is undoubtedly the most beautiful boat in the unexploited backwaters (a network of canals and rivers) of North Kerala. This glorious vessel has all the outward traditional looks of a ricebarge whilst the wooden interiors are bright, fresh, colourful and contemporary. Oozing space, privacy and light, there are 2 luxurious bedrooms with large windows, a small balcony and state of the art, granite bathrooms; and a comfortable light-filled sitting/dining room. Upstairs is home to a large, teak sundeck - a perfect vantage point for watching a way of life that has changed little over the years. Undisturbed by the sound of traffic, the birdlife is exceptional and dining under the stars feasting on delicious, freshly caught seafood whilst listening to fish jumping, is magical. The Lotus is 2½ hours from Mangalore/30 minutes from Neeleshwar and provides the most fabulous base for a 1 or 2 night cruise down these beautiful waterways, making shore excursions on foot or by bicycle. No pool. No wifi. A/C. AP. [reservations@neeleshwarhermitage.com](mailto:reservations@neeleshwarhermitage.com)

## SUKOON



Reservations:  
+91 124 401 072  
194 2500 450



Srinagar, Kashmir  
[www.sukoonkashmir.com](http://www.sukoonkashmir.com)

There is not a boat on Dal Lake in Srinagar to rival the comforts of Sukoon, nor its peaceful lake location. Originally built in 1979, Sukoon is a boat with a history and has been completely restored to its former glory with all the stunning, intricately carved cedar paneling now gleaming once again. 5 large, well-furnished bedrooms with superb bathrooms, a snug dining room and spacious sitting room are all wood paneled and decorated with refreshingly lively colours. The heavenly roof terrace is then perfect for enjoying a long lunch, a lie in the sun or a shady read, all against a backdrop of the mighty Himalaya! Spend time here exploring Old Srinagar, the Mughal gardens, walking in the hills, or gently cruising the waterways and floating markets on Shikaras (Kashmir's alternative to a gondola) – aka water trekking. With its exquisite mountain scenery, lakes, rivers and forests, Kashmir is lovely to visit for up to 9 months of the year and makes the most perfect long, lazy summer holiday. No pool. Wifi. A/C. AP. [sales@sukoonkashmir.com](mailto:sales@sukoonkashmir.com)

## RAJBARI BAWALI



Reservations:  
+91 33 2401 3464/5



Nr. Kolkota, West Bengal  
[www.therajbari.com](http://www.therajbari.com)

This glorious neo-classical palace lies in the village of Bawali, surrounded by unique brick temples and small lakes, south of Kolkata. Replete with Italian architectural motifs, what was once the resplendent home of the Mondal family was abandoned and fell into decay, but has been painstakingly restored to all its original glory – the lighting at night is pure 'fairytale'! They have kept the essence of the original building ingeniously intact, retaining the lime-rendered walls to great effect – what the owner calls 'inspired heritage'. The 30 lofty, unpolished bedrooms boast an eclectic mix of traditional, antique and rustic furniture, contrasted with all things modern. The public areas are equally diverse and remarkable, varying from deep, 'club like' seating in cosy sitting rooms and grand dining rooms, to angular, contemporary pieces. Outside is all turrets and columns, ornate courtyards, shady verandahs, a delightful spa, poolside bar, and verdant gardens. A stay here takes you on a magical journey into the past. Pool. Wifi. A/C. CP. PP. [stay@therajbari.com](mailto:stay@therajbari.com)

## INDIAN FESTIVALS



India is a country with many religious and regional variations which have given birth to a wealth of culture and beliefs. Throughout the year different regions have different holidays - times when India comes to life with song, dance, procession and colour as locals celebrate with colourful and exotic festivals. Celebrated uniquely in cities, or widely across the country, people travel from far and wide to attend a particular festival pertaining to their religion, and a joyful atmosphere pervades. Several festivals also take the form of fairs where locals come to buy and sell cattle, goats, camels and horses. Most festivals follow the Indian lunar calendar and dates therefore change from year to year. Aside from the major festivals listed here, there are others that are celebrated annually; unfortunately space does not permit us to mention them all. Should you require information on other festivals, please contact us. There's a MAhout Hotel to luxuriate in at every festival venue!

**Kolkata:** Durga Puja – Sep  
Stay at *The Penthouse or Rajbari Bawali*

**Khajuraho:** Dance Festival – Feb  
Stay at *The Sarai at Toria*

**Maheshwar:** Sacred River Festival – Feb  
Stay at *Ahilya Fort*

**Jodhpur area:** Krishna Janmashtami – 15 Aug;  
Osian Cattle Fair – Sep; RIFF – Oct;  
Marwar Festival – Oct; Kolayat Cattle Fair – Nov;  
Polo Season – Dec; Gangaur – Apr  
Stay at *Mihir Garh, Rohet Garh, RAAS Jodhpur*

**Jaisalmer:** Desert Festival – Jan  
Stay at *The Serai*

**Nagaur:** Sufi Festival – Feb; Cattle Fair – Feb  
Stay at *Ranvas*

**Bikaner:** Camel Festival – Jan  
Stay at *Narendra Bhawan*

**Udaipur:** Mewar Festival – Mar  
Stay at *Bujera Fort or RAAS Devigarh*

**Jaipur:** Literature Festival – Jan; Kite Festival – Jan;  
Elephant Festival – March  
Stay at *SUJAN Rajmahal Palace, Samode Haveli or Samode Palace*

**Thanjavur:** Pongal – Jan; Thiruvaiyaru Festival  
Stay at *Svatma*

**Kerala:** Onam – Sep  
Stay at *Neeleshwar Hermitage or Trinity*

**Goa:** Shantadurga – Jan; Wine Festival – Jan; Mardi Gras – Feb/Mar; Shigmo – Mar; Film Festival – Nov  
Stay at *Ahilya By The Sea*

**Ladakh:** Hemis Festival – Jul  
Stay at *Shakti Ladakh*

**India wide:** Independence Day – Aug; Diwali – Oct; Dussehra – Sep; Holi – Mar; Republic Day – Jan

## MAHOUT ROUTES



MAhout Hotels are truly special and unique. They cannot be given star ratings and a stay at any one of them will make you feel you are a friend of the family rather than a visitor; that it is your home rather than a temporary halt; that you are a part of the country and not 'looking in from the outside'. Our hotels give you an insight into aspects of Indian life that other hotels cannot hope to do. Whether in a historic family home, a magnificent boutique hotel in the heart of the city, or in a newly built hotel in a unique location, these hotels have a sense of peace, intimacy and exclusivity that is rare in India – you will always feel you are an honoured guest with an identity rather than just a room number!

With the country being so vast and with so much to offer, sometimes it can be difficult to work out what you want to do, where you want to go and then how best to link the hotels together. MAhout Routes reveal just how many ways in which it can be done, using MAhout Hotels and often combining other cities of interest where we do not represent a hotel, thus creating the perfect itinerary of varying lengths. We list a few ideas and hope that you come up with your perfect plan!

In **RAJASTHAN** we have a collection of hotels both in the major cities and spread around the countryside, all over the state. All can be linked into one lovely itinerary, but they also form their own 'satellite' itineraries around the major hubs. We believe that one can turn a visit to Rajasthan into a very leisurely, but no less exciting nor culturally less interesting journey, by visiting a small area fanning out around a major city, with longer, more relaxing stays, diverse hotels and road travel cut right down – 'slow travel' is what it's all about.

Our **SOUTH INDIAN** hotels link well across the area, combining Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Much of watery south Kerala is buzzy and fun, whilst north Kerala north Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu remain wonderfully untouched and unexploited and our hotels can be linked together to form a fabulous itinerary.

With India boasting some stunning **GAME PARKS**, MAhout is proud to represent the very best properties in a wide variety of them and they all combine well in different itineraries. The main wildlife 'hub' is Madhya Pradesh which is hugely pretty but involves quite a bit of travel and early starts, so it's important to end somewhere relaxing and comfortable

The **HIMALAYAS**, both in the east and the west of India, have to be amongst the most beautiful places on earth and our mountain journeys offer you a chance to explore some incredibly beautiful, remote wilderness areas either on foot or in exceptional, understated luxury in mountain-top lodges or exquisite tea estates.

Please contact us for ideas, advice or with any queries you may have.

## EASTERN RAJASTHAN

Concentrating on the area around Jaipur, this delightful tour combines all the highlights of 'The Golden Triangle' and so much more. Cities, wildlife, rural countryside, family life, lakes, palaces, The Taj Mahal, historic homes – and all with short drives in between. This Route can easily be linked with Western or Southern Rajasthan to form a longer journey.

- Day 1 Fly to Delhi
- 2 Train to Agra. Afternoon exploring.
- 3 Morning train to Gangapur and drive to the charming, family run Ramathra Fort 2 nights.
- 4 Exploring the village and countryside. Walking, boating, birdwatching, jeep safaris and picnicking.
- 5 Drive to Ranthambore for 2 nights at Sher Bagh, an exquisite tented camp. Afternoon game drive.
- 6 Morning and evening game drives, walk to the fort, relax by the pool.
- 7 Drive to Shahpura Bagh for 2 nights at this beautiful, family run, garden palace. Afternoon relaxing.
- 8 Exploring the village and countryside. Visiting local forts. Bicycling round the lake. Resting by the stunning pool.
- 9 Morning game drive. Drive to Jaipur for 2 nights at beautiful SUJÁN Rajmahal Palace or delightful Samode Haveli.
- 10 Exploring the renowned 'pink city' of Jaipur, the majestic Amber Fort and the environs.
- 11 Drive to Samode for 3 nights at exquisite Samode Palace
- 12/13 Relaxing, walking, exploring the village.
- 14 Drive or fly to Delhi to fly home.



## WESTERN RAJASTHAN

Concentrating on the Marwar region around Jodhpur, this tour reveals a wonderfully varied mix of cities, desert, hills, lakes, magnificent forts and architecture, rural countryside, horse riding opportunities and family life. Again, the drives are short and the architecture sublime. It can easily be linked with Eastern or Southern Rajasthan for a longer journey.

- Day 1 Fly to Delhi or Bombay
- 2 Fly to Jodhpur for 2 nights at fabulous RAAS Jodhpur. Afternoon enjoying the Ila Spa.
- 3 Exploring the famous 'blue city' of Jodhpur and the mighty fort.
- 4 Drive to Chhatrasagar for 2 nights at this unique, family run, lakeside tented camp.
- 5 Walking in the countryside, farmland and hills. Birdwatching, picnicking or boating.
- 6 Drive to Nagaur for 2 nights at Ranvas, a hotel within the ramparts of its own fort.
- 7 Exploring your 'very own fort' beautifully restored by the Getty Foundation and the Maharaja of Jodhpur.
- 8 Drive to Bikaner for 2 nights at eclectic Narendra Bhawan.
- 9 Exploring the grand sights of Bikaner.
- 10 Drive across the Great Thar Desert to Jaisalmer for 2 nights just outside at the glorious Serai. Sundowners in the dunes.
- 11 Exploring the fabled 'golden city' of Jaisalmer and jeep safaris in the desert.
- 12 Drive to Rohet for 2 nights at cosy, family run, Rohet Garh or sumptuous Mihir Garh.
- 13 Jeep safaris, village walks, country walks and relaxing in these lovely hotels. The horse riding here is exceptional.
- 14 Drive to Jodhpur. Fly to Delhi or Bombay for flights home.



## SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

Concentrating on the Mewar region around Udaipur and the beautiful Aravalli Hills, this short tour is relaxing and all encompassing. It includes a majestic city, glorious rural countryside, rolling hills, unspoilt villages, family life, horse riding opportunities, and wildlife. All the drives are deliciously short. It can easily be linked with Western or Eastern Rajasthan to form a longer journey.

**Day 1** Fly to Delhi or Bombay.

- 2 Fly to Udaipur for 2 nights at the lovely Bujera Fort. Afternoon free.
- 3 Exploring Udaipur and the environs, walking in the village.
- 4 Drive to Jawai for 2 nights at the exquisite JAWAI. Afternoon game drive.
- 5 Walking with the Rabari (shepherds) in this beautiful area, walking in the hills, jeep safaris, picnicking, birdwatching on the lake.
- 6 Drive to Narlai for 2 nights at historic Rawla Narlai. Evening climb up the rock to get your bearings.
- 7 Jeep safaris, walking in the village, dining at the stepwell, horse riding.
- 8 Drive to Deogarh for 2 nights at delightful, family run Dev Shree. Afternoon free.
- 9 Exploring the village, jeep or vintage car safaris, picnicking, birdwatching, relaxing by the pool and lake.
- 10 Drive to Delwara for 3 nights at the magnificent hilltop palace of RAAS Devigarh. Enjoy an Ila Spa treatment.
- 11/12 Walk in the hills and village, relax by the pool admiring the huge views.
- 13 Drive to Udaipur and fly to Delhi or Bombay and home.

## INDIAN WILDLIFE MADHYA PRADESH

A stunning tour taking in the key 'wild' highlights of this beautiful state in the heart of India. These diverse parks all offer something different and although distances are longer, each is worth a visit to see the full range of exceptional wildlife, accommodation and topography on offer. Then end with a restful few days at a glorious, riverside fort. Ideally nights would be added at the game parks.

**Day 1** Fly to Delhi

- 2 Fly to Kajuraho. Stay 2 nights at the idyllic Sarai at Toria.
- 3 Game drives in Panna Tiger Reserve and explore the temples of Khajuraho.
- 4 Drive to Bandhavgarh National Park for 2 nights at the sumptuous Samode Safari Lodge. Afternoon game drive.
- 5 Game drives.
- 6 Drive to Kanha National Park for 2 nights at charming Shergarh. Afternoon drive.
- 7 Game drives.
- 8 Drive to Pench National Park for 2 nights at the lovely Jamtara Wilderness Camp. Afternoon game drive.
- 9 Game drives.
- 10 Drive to Satpura National Park for 2 nights at excellent Forsyth's Lodge.
- 11 Game drives.
- 12 Drive to Maheshwar for 3 nights at the unique Ahilya Fort, high above the banks of the sacred Narmada River.
- 13/14 Relaxing at the fort, exploring the local temples and colourful town, visits to Mandu, picnics and river trips.
- 15 Drive to Indore. Fly to Bombay and home.



## EASTERN INDIA AND THE HIMALAYA

A truly special tour for lovers of the mountains, walking, the tea culture and vibrant cities. Beginning with an amazing few days wandering along untrodden paths in the Himalayan foothills in Sikkim, move on to a peaceful haven in the middle of 'your own' tea estate, before heading down to one of India's most fascinating cities. Then end with a few days at a unique and intriguing country mansion.

**Day 1** Fly to Delhi or Calcutta.

- 2 Fly to Bagdogra and drive to Rinchenpong to begin a 4 night Shakti Sikkim Village Walk, staying in lovely, local lodges serviced and staffed to the highest level, by the Shakti team.
  - 3-5 Walking in the hills, seeing Sikkimese life and traditions.
  - 6 Drive to Glenburn Tea Estate, via Darjeeling for 3 nights.
  - 7&8 Relaxing, walking and exploring the tea estate.
  - 9 Drive to Bagdogra and fly to Calcutta for 2 nights at The Penthouse.
  - 10 Exploring this complex, fascinating, historical city.
  - 11 Drive to Bawali for 3 nights at the amazing Rajbari Bawali.
  - 12/13 Time exploring the unique temples and village, explore this extraordinary building, relax in the spa or by the pool.
  - 14 Fly home, possibly via Delhi.
- or
- 9 Drive from Glenburn to Phuntsoling on the Bhutanese border and head over into Bhutan for a few days of further mountain exploration, having spent longer in Calcutta at the outset.

## NORTHERN INDIA AND THE HIMALAYA

Another fabulous tour for walkers, nature and mountain lovers. Head up into the glorious, unexploited, Himalayan foothills of Kumaon and spend time discovering its many secrets and observing the serene beauty of the area. Visit Gurkha towns and end in one of the most remote but luxurious mountain lodges in the world. The walk can be extended. A visit to Agra can easily be added on.

**Day 1** Fly to Delhi for a 2 night stay.

- 2 Exploring Delhi.
  - 3 Fly to Pantnagar or take the train to Kathgodam. Drive to the start of the Kumaon Village Walk and spend 4 nights rambling around the area staying in charming, beautifully managed, lodges.
  - 4-6 Drive to Leti for 3 nights at the impossibly lovely Shakti 360.
  - 7&8 Walking and relaxing. Overnight tented walks can be arranged.
  - 9 Drive to the Almora region for 1 night back in a Shakti Village House.
  - 10 Drive to Pantnagar and fly to Delhi or drive to Kathgodam and take the train to Delhi for 1 night.
  - 11 Fly home.
- or
- 10 Drive to Rishikesh for a couple of nights at the lovely Ananda-in-the-Himalayas Spa.





## LADAKH AND KASHMIR

Ladakh offers the perfect summer holiday as this area comes into its own when the rest of India is wet and soggy. Enjoy an unparalleled visit to the little visited state of Ladakh, seeing areas that others rarely get to, staying in deliciously comfortable, rustic lodges. End with a fabulous few days on a houseboat in Srinagar, taking leisurely Shikara trips on the glistening lake.

- Day 1** Fly to Delhi for a 2 night stay.
- 2** Exploring Delhi.
- 3** Fly to Leh for 8 nights in the exceptionally wonderful Shakti Ladakh houses.
- 4-10** Exploring the famous sights and monasteries of Ladakh, along with lesser known sights further afield. Rafting and bicycling can all be part of the fun. Hemis, Stock, Alchi, Likir, Nimoo, Egoo. Or spend nights out on the mountain in luxurious moveable camps.
- 11** Fly to Srinagar for 3 nights on sumptuous Sukoon – a houseboat like no other.
- 12/13** Exploring Srinagar and water-trekking, seeing the floating markets, walking in the hills.
- 14** Fly to Delhi for 1 night.
- 15** Fly home.

## SOUTHERN INDIA

Tamil Nadu and Kerala combined, make for the perfect, hugely varied but fairly long tour of The South. Ranging from grand cities to old, colonial seaside towns to stunning temple towns, pretty coffee and cardamom estates in the hills and dripping jungle, to busy port towns, to peaceful backwaters (canals) and glorious beaches – the itinerary suggested here has it all and will leave you with lasting memories and a deep insight into the area.

- Day 1** Fly to Chennai for 2 nights.
- 2** Exploring the city, famous during the Raj era.
- 3** Drive to Pondicherry for 2 nights at this lovely old French colonial seaside town.
- 4** Exploring Pondicherry.
- 5** Drive to Thanjavur for 2 nights at Svartma, with its exceptional 'themed' hospitality.
- 6** Exploring the temples that abound here.
- 7** Drive to Rajakkad, high in the hills, possibly via Madurai – 2 nights at this lovely place.
- 8** Walking in the hills and coffee estate or relaxing in a hammock!
- 9** Drive to Munnar for 2 nights at the charming Windermere Estate.
- 10** Walking in the hills and cardamom estate.
- 11** Drive to Periyar for 2 nights at cosy Shalimar Spice Garden, the only boutique hotel here.
- 12** Exploring the spice gardens, walking in the jungle, visiting Periyar National Park, famous for its elephant population.
- 13** Drive to chic Trinity at Cochin for 2 nights.
- 14** Exploring Cochin, a fascinating old Dutch colonial port town, comprising of islands.
- 15** Train to Neeleshwar for 2 nights gently cruising the backwaters on the Lotus boat.
- 16** Cruising and observing backwater life.
- 17** Disembark and drive to Neeleshwar for 3 nights at heavenly Neeleshwar Hermitage.
- 18/19** Relaxing on the beach, taking spa treatments, visiting local forts and temples and seeing local martial arts performances.
- 20** Drive Mangalore. Fly to Bombay and home.
- or
- D 9** Drive to Madurai and fly to Colombo for a fun week in Sri Lanka.



## THE DECCAN PLATEAU AND GOA

Perhaps one of the most intriguing yet least visited areas of India, the Deccan Plateau boasts some of the most majestic Islamic architecture, ancient forts, and grand monuments in India. Until recently there was a dearth of good hotels in the area but things have changed with the advent of a grand palace hotel in Hyderabad, a lovely boutique palace-style hotel in Hampi and a sophisticated boutique hotel in Goa. Thus, only a few nights in the middle need to be sub-standard and the sights you see more than make up for the lack of facilities.

- Day 1** Fly to Hyderabad for 2 nights.
- 2** Exploring Hyderabad.
- 3** Drive to Gulbarga, via Bidar for 1 night.
- 4** Drive to Bijapur for 2 nights.
- 5** Exploring Bijapur's exquisite monuments.
- 6** Drive to Badami via Aihole and Pattadakal, for 2 nights.
- 7** Exploring Badami.
- 8** Drive to Hampi for 3 nights at fabulous Evolve Back Kamlapura Palace.
- 9/10** Exploring Hampi.
- 11** Drive to Goa for 3 nights at glorious Ahilya by the Sea.
- 12/13** Exploring Goa's culture, beaches, restaurants and shops.
- 14** Fly to Bombay and home.
- or
- D 11** Drive to Hassan for 2 nights exploring Belur and Halebid. Continue on to Nagarhole National Park and spend time at the lovely Bison Camp, searching for wildlife in this idyllic setting.

## STAYING ON

Any of these trips can be mixed and matched to suit your wants and wishes. Extend a trip with a few days on the beach at either Neeleshwar Hermitage or Ahilya by the Sea; go up to the Himalaya for a few days at Glenburn or Shakti 360; or head to one of the fabulous fort/palace hotels, for a few days of grand living before flying home. It's always a good idea to end a holiday to India with at least 3 nights in one place so as to return home rested rather than over-travelled!



A Mahout is the carer and driver of an elephant in the 'East Indies'.  
A mahout is all-knowing, gentle and true to his undertakings.  
He might easily spend the whole of his adult life with the same elephant,  
developing an intimate relationship of trust, affection,  
progression, diligence and mutual protectiveness.



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[www.mahoutuk.com](http://www.mahoutuk.com)