

# Condé Nast Traveller

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MALDIVES

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INDIAN EDITION

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THE HOT LIST 2017

THE WORLD'S  
COOLEST  
NEW HOTELS

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PEOPLE  
CHANGING  
THE WAY  
INDIA EATS

Inside: Huma Qureshi  
on her favourite beach

PLUS WHAT'S HIP & HAPPENING IN DUBAI

# WHERE TO STAY

MELBOURNE **ZIMBABWE** BARCELONA **NEW YORK CITY** RAJASTHAN

# HOT LIST 2017



PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID WOOLLEY @ LIMITLESS PICTURES

## HOT LIST 2017

**E**conomic uncertainty, political upheaval and travel restrictions have dominated the past year's headlines. Thankfully, the hospitality industry responded by opening more doors in further corners of the world—farms in Iceland and New Zealand, nature reserves in Nicaragua and Zimbabwe and mountaintop escapes in Oman and India. Speaking of India, it's also been a year of firsts here—we got our first Andaz, Conrad and W hotels. Given the embarrassment of riches, our trusted band of reporters and editors have scoured the world to separate fact from 'alternative fact', and wheat from chaff, to produce this year's stellar list of places worthy of your attention. Where you stay next is right here in these pages. Read and book.

### INDIA

#### NARENDRA BHAWAN

##### Bikaner

With varied architectural and design elements, from Mumbai Art Deco motifs to jaali work railings, this former home of the last king of Bikaner offers a taste of the royal life—each floor has a staffer who takes care of your every need, from unpacking to tea service. Breakfast by a natural pool, have sundowners on the dunes and take tonga rides around the old havelis of Bikaner. **Good to know:** Don't miss the on-call Café Royal trolley's English high tea in the lobby while chilling with Nahla, the golden retriever, and Goofy, the St Bernard. ([www.narendrabhawan.com](http://www.narendrabhawan.com))

#### ATMANTAN Pune

Nestled in the Sahyadri mountains, overlooking the Mulshi Lake, this 106-room wellness destination offers a range of specialists to prod you into feeling better: pranik healers, ayurveda doctors, fitness trainers, yoga instructors, acupressurists, expert chefs and more. There's also a colonic room, hammam, swimming pool, Vichy shower, gym, spinning studio and an extensive spa. No wonder Mumbai's celebs, from Masaba Gupta to Sridevi, are flocking here. **Good to know:** Kids (8–14 years old) can sign up for a wellness camp that includes forest yoga, brain gym, Zumba and storytelling by a bonfire. ([www.atmantan.com](http://www.atmantan.com))

#### ANDAZ DELHI

Every element of the country's first Andaz (a Hyatt hotel) is an ode to Delhi. The golden bottle of its own gin brew, Delhi Sapphire, features detailing inspired by the iconic Agrasen ki Baoli stepwell, and the original artworks in all 401 rooms and suites showcase various aspects of the city. Guests can sign up for curated experiences such as parkour and calligraphy. **Good to know:** If you want to make a statement while in the capital, book the hotel's Jaguar. ([www.delhi.andaz.hyatt.com](http://www.delhi.andaz.hyatt.com))

#### AYANA FORT KOCHI

Just off Bazaar Road, this 16-room boutique stay is housed in a 200-year-old building that

served as a courthouse during the Portuguese era. It features both Athangudi tiles and Art Deco elements that sit well with its old-world structure. The rooftop pool is a great spot to start or end your day in this buzzing part of Fort Kochi. **Good to know:** While the hotel doesn't serve alcohol, you can buy your own from government-run shops and bring it here. ([www.ayanahospitality.com](http://www.ayanahospitality.com))

#### THE OBEROI SUKHVILAS RESORT & SPA Chandigarh

The 60-key property is the Oberoi group's first destination spa and resort. The soon-to-open 12,000sq ft spa will be the main draw, with hydrotherapy, an infrared sauna, a Turkish hammam and a Roman tepidarium as well as customised programmes for stress/weight management, detox and rejuvenation. **Good to know:** The hotel is right by the Siswan Forest Range; guests can go birding and trekking. ([www.oberoihotels.com](http://www.oberoihotels.com))

#### LEBUA LUCKNOW

Easily the most charming hotel in the City of Nawabs, this heritage bungalow has been lovingly and intelligently restored. It's got a courtyard (with a gramophone, no less) and airy terraces overlooking the garden; the 41 rooms and suites feature high ceilings and stained-glass windows; everywhere are local accents highlighting →

From left: **Narendra Bhawan; The Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa.** Previous pages from left: **a mural in the library at 28 Kothi, Jaipur; a room at the hotel**



# INDIA