



INDIA

FEBRUARY 2018 ₹150

TRAVEL GOALS

Where To Stay In 2018

FASHION NIGHTS

GUESS WHO PARTIED WITH US

UPGRADE YOUR STYLE

Get Ahead Of The Pack

FITNESS FOCUS

GAIN MUSCLE
LOSE FAT

KING OF COMEDY

HASAN MINHAJ

AMERICA'S SHARPEST VOICE



EDITED BY MEGHA SHAH

THE

GoodLife

• FOOD • DRINK • TRAVEL • NIGHTLIFE

TRAVEL
SPECIAL

WHERE TO STAY IN 2018

The chicest, most relevant properties
across the country that are quietly
transforming the norms of hospitality



ALEX
MOSER
Chef

ANDAZ

DELHI

Inside the youthful Andaz, where clean-shaven men in denims and polka-dot shirts welcome you at the entrance, **The Hong Kong Club**, one of the country's most important new restaurants, stands like a giant installation. The evening-only restaurant exudes atmosphere: modern, comfortable seating, adventurous bartenders (who'll whip up Chinese zodiac-inspired cocktails) and peppy music. It's Cantonese fare with subtle twists, and no sign of fiery Sichuan food or staples of Indian-Chinese – corn flour and Manchurian sauce. The chef even incorporates local produce into traditional recipes, like an asparagus appetiser tossed in local mustard oil. Try the pork belly with cucumber, ginger and sesame seeds; and the duck salad with pomelo. Or, just stop by for drinks. This is the place to see and be seen.



WORDS: MEGHA SHAH



ALILA FORT BISHANGARH

JAIPUR

▶ WHAT'S SO GREAT?

It's a painstakingly restored 230-year-old fortress that's a great lesson in responsible conservation. Brimming with expansive lawns, stone walls and extensive history, the warrior fort retains its original structure of towering turrets and arched windows. It offers up 59 luxury suites, all supplied with daybeds, Wi-Fi and large bathrooms with standalone tubs.

▶ SO, JUST ANOTHER ROYAL RAJASTHAN HOTEL?

Not quite. Defying the rule of prolific opulence in Indian heritage hotels, this one boasts a minimalist aesthetic, with lots of clean lines, smooth marbles and dark woods. The organic kitchen garden supports Indian-based food with international influences – think sous-vide watermelon sashimi, duck vindaloo, artichoke ravioli and more. There's also a spa in the dungeons.

▶ IS THERE STUFF TO DO?

You could spend the day riding horses in the hinterland or visiting artisans working with marble and carpet-weavers in nearby villages. Or you could do nothing – park yourself in a turret at Madhuveni, a bar with an elevated cigar lounge that also offers cognac, and be waited on hand and foot.



THE
CULTURE
CONNOISSEUR
MAGNET

AYANA | FORT KOCHI

This design-led boutique property is housed in a 200-year-old building and caters to the Kochi Biennale and other art- and design-loving crowds. Once a courthouse during the Portuguese reign, it's got Athangudi tilework merged seamlessly with Art Deco feels and one of the largest collections of contemporary Indian art. There are morning rooftop yoga classes and immersive experiences in the local acrobatic martial art form of Kalari, or curated tours of Kochi's sleek cafés and contemporary art galleries.

WHERE TO STAY IN 2018

HOTEL OF THE FUTURE



THE OBEROI | DELHI

The ₹600 crore revamp of one of India's grandest old hotels isn't instantly evident. The Oberoi's foray into a truly 21st-century hotel means there isn't any added opulence – instead, it's an intuitive reimagining of the space to provide luxury in the most modern sense. Walls have been torn down, spaces are more fluid, yet the wood and warmth remain. The old, heavy rooms are gone. There are fewer of them now too: 220 in all, including 34 suites, with a standard room sitting at 350sqft and the massive Kohinoor Suite at 3,500sqft. And in the most genius move, the air in this hotel might be the purest you can breathe in this congested city, thanks to a hi-tech air purification system. The new aesthetic is bold: bright colours with graphic corridors and art mounted on red frames. The F&B also sees an upgrade with Omya, headed by chef Alfred Prasad, the youngest Indian chef to receive a Michelin star.



JAAGIR LODGE | DUDHWA

A safari in India inadvertently involves being bumped around on dusty roads before reaching the forest, then braving the sun or extreme cold for hours in a Jeep, for a chance to glimpse a majestic striped beast. As thrilling as this all might be, a little luxury is a welcome respite. Which is why The Ultimate Travelling Camp's (TUTC) newest spot, a converted Forties lodge with large, luxurious rooms and a beautiful, sinuous swimming pool, is the perfect hideaway for when you want to foray into the Dudhwa jungle. To take things up a notch, charter an aircraft from Delhi to Ballia airstrip just 12km from the lodge. It's a whole new way of experiencing luxury.