

TRAVEL

SUITE DREAMS

From a cosy-chic home off the Coromandel Coast to a tropical paradise in the Andamans, a new book by COSMO BROCKWAY and HARRIET COMPSTON explores 40 design-minded properties across India to rise and shine



The Sky Room at Jalakara



The Long Room at Penthouse



The 101 Dining Hall at Taj Falaknuma Palace

Unwind at a boho island retreat in **ANDAMANS**

One of the hidden gems revealed in the book, Jalakara is a seven-room boutique bolthole set in the luscious rainforest of Havelock. The vision of duo Mark Hill and Atalanta Weller (she's also the shoe designer to Lady Gaga), the laidback glamour of this place is evident at first sight with its natural infinity pool, a scene of communal cocktails, Melissa Odabash kaftans and sunsets to long remember. Go for the private villa and don't miss their black lobster momos. Jalakara.info

Take a cultural city break in **KOLKATA**

The Penthouse is nothing if not a surprise. Perched on top of a modern glass building on Russel Street, its interiors offer an irreverent take on colonial style. Interior designer Bronwyn Latif worked with owner Husna-Tara Prakash to conjure up this eight-room boutique hotel where you can sip on Glenburn tea while taking in the view of Victoria Memorial. Must-see is its Long Room, where orientalist wall coverings by Iksel merge with jewel-hued sofas by Oliver Musker to bring in the style of the dazzling '20s. Glenburnpenthouse.com



Lesage holiday home near Puducherry

Peek into a designer den in **PUDUCHERRY**

Christian Louboutin covets this South Indian home of textile designer Jean Francois Lesage. Kandadu, an old yellow manor house near Puducherry, is a study in the sort of chaotic, electric elegance that only a Frenchman could create—engraved obelisks join pagoda-shaped hen houses and a thatched pool pavilion. Lesage, who is the famed embroiderer for brands such as Chanel, only opens his retreat on the Coromandel Coast to privileged guests.

Eat like a Nizam in **HYDERABAD**

The 19th-century dining table at the celebrated Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad is the world's longest dining table—seating 101 people. The acoustics allow for a whisper to be heard from one end of the vast room to the other. The story goes that it was designed so for the wily Nizam to eavesdrop on the intrigue and gossip of the court. Come here to celebrate in style or indulge in a bacchanalian feast. Taj.tajhotels.com



The bar at Raj Niwas Palace

Drink at the best bar in DHOLPUR

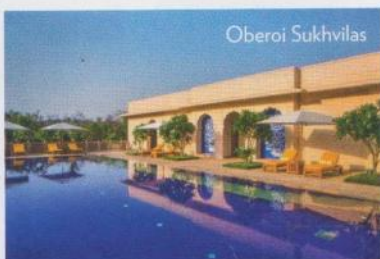
Who knew that the one-horse town of Dholpur in Rajasthan was hiding such a fabulously stylish bar? Behind the stately gates of Raj Niwas Palace lies this turquoise blue fantasy dining pavilion, designed by Adil Ahmad. If you ever wondered what a Gayatri Devi meets Marie Antoinette space would look like, it's this. Outfitted with a chandelier of upside-down trombones, oversized Sevres vases, plantation-style trellis walls and antique-mirrored walls, it's a colonial dream straight out of *Gone With The Wind*. Dholpurpalace.com



Narendra Bhawan

Indulge in a literary lunch at BIKANER

Reimagining a haveli, designer Ayush Kasliwal has brought to life the late bon vivant Maharaja of Bikaner, infusing the property with his playful and downright fabulous touch. The late royal was a voracious reader, so the haveli offers a unique literary lunch where each divine course is fashioned around a classic novel from *Ulysses* to *The Bell Jar*. Narendrabhawan.com



Oberoi Sukhvilas

Find spa serenity in CHANDIGARH

The word 'Sukh' that translates to happiness is easy to find at Oberoi's verdant Sukhvilas near Chandigarh. Spend time forest-or moon-bathing or sign up for their hammam treatments. Stargazing and superb advice from the resident Ayurvedic doctor are other rewards you will receive with a stay here. Oberoihotels.com



Camp site at Thiksey

Escape to a room with a view in LADAKH

Imagine waking up in a four-poster bed in a tent that opens to a valley of wildflowers and a 15th-century Buddhist monastery. The Chamba Camp Thiksey is a gift on the visual, physical and spiritual plane, where your senses come alive in a whole new way. Escape the summer swelter and soak the view or challenge yourself with a raft down the River Indus. Tut.com

Up your Insta-game in JAIPUR

A jaw-dropping kaleidoscope of patterns, colours and all-round visual delight awaits at the pale-pink Sujan Rajmahal Palace in the heart of Jaipur. From a Beverley Hills-esque pool to a bird of paradise painting-filled library and a suite named after Jacqueline Kennedy (the first lady is said to have stayed here for three months), decorator Adil Ahmad's eye has run riot, creating what may just be the most stunning hotel in India. Sujanluxury.com



Maharani suite at the Umaid Bhawan Palace

Sleep like a royal in JODHPUR

Once slept in, never forgotten—the Maharani Suite at Umaid Bhawan Palace is a favourite with the likes of Madonna, Sting and Prince Charles. Originally designed for Maharani Badan Khawan, the suite is an Art Deco symphony of pinks, chromes and mirrors, with a bath carved out of rose marble. Don't miss the white-gloved maverick, Swaroop—just let this star butler run your days and you'll fall in love with him just like Melinda Gates. Taj.tajhotels.com



The Colonnade at Sujan Rajmahal Palace