

# traveller

in its 15<sup>th</sup> year now  
November 2015 • ₹100

## BEST OF WINTER

- RAJASTHAN THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED
- GOA THE NEW BUCKET LIST
- COORG PLANTATION BUNGALOWS
- HIMALAYAN PHOTO TOUR



AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN ■ PRIYA PAUL ■ SHANGRI-LA, BENGALURU

WIN A TRIP TO CANADA  
DETAILS INSIDE

On the road in Rajasthan

SOMEWHERE ELSE?  
COPENHAGEN  
+ CHINA  
THE NEW CIRCUIT



### TEE OFF THE SEA

Two-bedroom *casas* and 24 stand-alone *casitas* stand at the top of 60-foot cliffs at the edge of the Playa Grande. They are backed by a Trent Jones golf course with 10 ocean-front holes! Beyond that lie 2,000 acres of Caribbean jungle, bordering the golden beach and jewel-blue waters. The *casitas'* bio-roofing and private gardens blend right into the verdure, each 32-foot swimming pool mimics the big water while the terraces showcase the ocean view. Cited on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, Amanresorts' latest, Amanera opens on November 23rd.

There do seem to be plenty of activities on offer, to offset the sheer luxuriousness. Horseback riding on the beach; deep-sea fishing and kite surfing; merengue dancing. At the Beach Club are hammocks, drinks—and free snorkelling gear, kayaks, surfboards and paddleboards for younger 'uns. And, of course, feasting, at the restaurant set atop a three-tier water feature, in the Casa Grande. The curved main infinity pool cascades down to meet it. Somewhere there is a bar-lounge and a cigar bar.

It is rumoured starting rates are \$1,400 for the *casitas*; for more details, enquire at [aman.com](http://aman.com).

### BIGNESS BY THE BAY

India's second luxury-level InterContinental property brings you closer to heritage destination Mahabalipuram, yet is only 30km from the airport. Bang on the East Coast Road and the Bay of Bengal, the InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram is also the brand's first Resort in this country.

Its 105 rooms will be served by an outdoor pool outdone by the gorgeous lily pool on the other side, an ayurvedic spa and gym with yoga facilities, and three dining venues. One of the latter is a 3-in-1, so you might get to eat five kitchens' worth of cooking—European, South Asian and Peninsular Indian from the trio of live stations at The Melting Pot, Chinese at the Tao of Peng, and small plates at the Gatsby lounge bar up top.

Room images reveal a Modern-Indian aesthetic: cushions the colour of curry powder, day beds and benches cocooned with warm wood, *urlis* with a pink lotus afloat, dramatic black stone basins and bathtubs, and miniature handicrafts shine among the clean but luxurious outlines. Opening rates start at ₹9,900 per night, inclusive of breakfast and a dine-in credit of ₹2,000 per day; [intercontinental.com/chennai](http://intercontinental.com/chennai)



### [WE LIKE] ZOSTEL, AGRA



THEY'VE GOT PLUM ANGEL FUNDING and Zostels are popping up at iconic destinations across India—Agra, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Varanasi, Delhi and Goa (plus there's one in Da Lat, Vietnam). Over to Zostel Agra. It's at a walking distance from the Taj at Shilpgram on East Gate Road. It's bright, funky, smart and clean. There are private rooms and dorms (four or six beds, female-only or mixed), and breakfast is included in the tariff. There's free parking and wifi, a nice lawn, and a lounge. Zostel appears to have listed out exactly what we might want when we expect to be out exploring most of the time but need a tidy, safe and welcoming place to which we can return. **TARIFF** There's a 2-night minimum stay rule. Private doubles with-out AC from ₹1,600, with AC from ₹3,200; dorms for ₹700-800 per person **CONTACT** 9911256486, [zostel.com](http://zostel.com)

WATCH THIS SPACE



The 4N/5D festive package at the Grand Dragon Hotel, Ladakh at ₹44,999 includes taxes, airport transfers, breakfast, tea and dinner, free wifi, 10% off F&B, and one excursion. Valid till November 15. **CONTACT** 9906986782, [thegranddragonladakh.com](http://thegranddragonladakh.com)

Ananda in the Himalayas offers a 4N Detox Starter package from ₹32,000/N (doubles), with Morning Wake Up tea and fresh fruit bowl, Ananda Detox Spa Cuisine breakfasts, lunches and dinners, daily use of hydrotherapy facilities, scheduled spa activities and a range of treatments. Valid till December 31. **CONTACT** 1800-102-5333, [anandaspa.com](http://anandaspa.com)

From ₹10,250/N, the Full Board Experience at the new Le Meridien Mahabaleshwar Resort and Spa includes buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Latest Recipe restaurant, with Eye Opener shots served at the entrance in the morning. **CONTACT** 02168-262222, [starwoodhotels.com](http://starwoodhotels.com)

The Lagoon Winter Weekend Spa Package at Mayfair Lagoon Bhubaneswar, starts at ₹22,999++ for 2N/3D, including breakfast, airport/railway transfers and 1-hour couple spa treatment. Valid till March 31, only weekends and festive holidays. **CONTACT** 0674-6660101, [mayfairhotels.com](http://mayfairhotels.com)

Introductory rates at the Crystal Sarovar Premiere, Agra, start at ₹4,500/N, taxes extra. **CONTACT** 0562-7110711, [sarovarhotels.com](http://sarovarhotels.com)