

EDEN GEOGRAPHIC

Magazine



TWIN SETS & PEARLS

A fresh take on a classic combo. Three pairs of sister resorts. Three standalone originals. One very good reason to start packing.

TERRA INCOGNITA

Terra incognita. Unknown territory. The world may have filled in its maps, but it hasn't exhausted its mysteries.

REASONS, SEASONS & LIFETIMES

Some holidays have a reason. Some belong to a season. Some you never quite leave behind.

SEA, STONE & SKY

Disappear onto a Rhodian peninsula, or wake above one of the globe's great harbours. The Mediterranean, at both extremes.

INDIA, BY OBEROI

Delhi, Agra and Jaipur – then east into tiger country and temple landscapes, where two new Oberoi addresses lead the way.



It's a Funny Old World.

The more you see of it, the more interesting it gets.

Being well-travelled does not mean you're done looking. If anything, it makes our planet feel even larger. There's always another island, another route through a country you thought you knew and another reason to return to an old favourite at different points in your life. A tiger's stripes dissolving into grass the second you're sure you've missed it. The hush of Valletta's harbour just after the last ferry has left. Ice cracking somewhere out of sight in Antarctica, felt before it's heard.

It's that curiosity that runs throughout this issue of EDEN Geographic. In Twin Sets and Pearls, nine Maldivian resorts become a study in personality: three sets of sister resorts with contrasting ideas about island life, and three standalone originals whose longevity owes far more to identity than fashion. The question of staying power continues in Reasons, Seasons and Lifetimes, which explores the places that suit one particular moment in life and give you all sorts of reasons to return years later.

Sometimes the difference is geographical. Sea, Stone and Sky moves between two versions of the Mediterranean: room to disappear on a peninsula in Rhodes, or townhouse life in Malta's fortified capital. India, by Oberoi follows a familiar route and opens up fresh ground within it, turning east from the Golden Triangle into the tiger forests, temple country and palace landscapes of Madhya Pradesh, where two new Oberoi addresses lead the way.

Then there are the ideas that required the world to catch up with them. Terra Incognita spans Antarctica, Monaco and the extraordinary engineering of Jumeirah's Maltese Falcon, with three seafaring stories that each began well ahead of their time.

Perhaps that's the pleasure of travel today. Not collecting more places for the sake of it, but discovering how much of the familiar remains unseen.

Wherever your thoughts are heading next, you may need a longer list. And when you're ready to turn one of those thoughts into plans, we're here.



A tropical beach scene with lounge chairs, umbrellas, and a swimming pool. The image is split vertically. The left side shows a sandy beach with a white umbrella and wooden lounge chairs. The right side shows a swimming pool with a thatched roof structure over it. The text is overlaid on the right side.

TWIN SETS & PEARLS

A fresh take on a classic combo.

Twin Sets

Twin sets may come as a pair, but nobody would mistake one for the other. Certain resorts work in much the same way. They share a parentage, a philosophy and sometimes even an island group, yet their personalities can be strikingly different. One half may be playful where the other is restorative. One may favour space and solitude where the other thrives on energy and interaction.

And it's that distinction that makes all the difference. When two resorts sit under the same brand umbrella, the temptation is to focus on their common ground. In reality, the contrasts are where the choice lies. Here, we place three sets of sister resorts side by side – not to decide which is better, but to see each one on its own terms.

Pearls

A pearl isn't valuable because it's new. If anything, the opposite is true. It takes time to form, time to acquire its character and time to become something distinctive enough that imitation no longer matters.

The same can be said of luxury resorts. Baros, HuvaFen Fushi and Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi all arrived at their identities by very different routes. One traces its story back to the earliest days of Maldivian tourism. One made its name through innovation. One began with three partly man-made islands and a blank sheet of paper. Yet all three have one quality in common: a confidence that comes from knowing exactly who they are.

*Three pairs of sister resorts. Three standalone originals.
One very good reason to start packing.*

- 1 JOALI MALDIVES
- 2 JOALI BEING
- 3 FOUR SEASONS RESORT MALDIVES AT LANDAA GIRAAVARU
- 4 FOUR SEASONS RESORT MALDIVES AT KUDA HURAA
- 5 .HERE BAA ATOLL, MALDIVES
- 6 FINOLHU, A SEASIDE COLLECTION RESORT
- 7 HUVAFEN FUSHI MALDIVES
- 8 BAROS MALDIVES
- 9 WALDORF ASTORIA MALDIVES ITHAAFUSHI



JOALI MALDIVES

RAA ATOLL

At JOALI Maldives, art is woven into the very fabric of the island. Commissioned sculptures and interactive installations rise naturally throughout the landscape, though none too solemnly, while original artworks extend into its 73 villas and residences and distinctive dining spaces.

Yet creativity isn't confined to the art collection. At Muramas Kids Club, youngsters can enjoy art-themed activities, treasure hunts and hands-on workshops. The Art Studio welcomes all ages for creative classes. Add watersports, snorkelling and other adventures across the island for the whole family and the message is clear. This is the playful one: glamorous, imaginative and full of personality. The Joy of Creative Living, quite literally.





JOALI BEING

RAA ATOLL

Fifteen minutes away by boat from JOALI Maldives, joy comes in a different form. Cross the sculptural Gate of Zero, surrender the outside world and begin your transformative JOALI journey.

Arrive with luggage. Leave feeling lighter, more energised and, perhaps, with a better understanding of yourself. An Integrative Lifestyle Assessment helps uncover individual needs and informs a personalised programme based on the resort's four pillars – Mind, Skin, Microbiome and Energy – each approaching wellbeing from a slightly different direction across 37 transformational spaces. Behind it all is some serious expertise, but JOALI BEING's cleverest trick is making it feel more like pleasure than prescription.



TWIN SETS

FOUR SEASONS RESORT MALDIVES AT LANDAA GIRAAVARU

BAA ATOLL

Nature has a habit of interrupting your plans at Four Seasons Resort Landaa Giraavaru. Your Manta-on-Call phone rings, you drop everything and dash to the dive centre. Mantas have been sighted at nearby Hanifaru Bay where, from June to November, the plankton-rich waters can draw dozens, sometimes over 100, reef mantas and the odd whale shark. Or the tide retreats and a long, meandering sandbank appears, ideal for barefoot strolls and castaway picnics.

Baa Atoll is unusually lush, with dense tropical vegetation and sand so fine it has an almost milk-like consistency. Even wellbeing goes deeper here, with AyurMa's dosha consultations, multi-day Panchakarma programmes and AntiGravity Yoga in place of a conventional spa menu. Landaa Giraavaru makes room for the unexpected. Four Seasons Resort Kuda Huraa makes room for the whole family.



FOUR SEASONS RESORT MALDIVES AT KUDA HURAA

NORTH MALÉ ATOLL

Getting away from it all usually involves leaving everything behind. But Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa is always better with your favourite people along for the ride.

This easy-going, characterful Four Seasons resort works for multiple generations all at the same time. Children rehabilitate turtles at the Marine Discovery Centre and find plenty more to keep them busy at the kids' club. Parents can learn to surf with Tropicsurf pros, then head off to the Maldives' only island spa by dhoni to ease their surf-weary muscles. And grandparents can join in, opt out or do something else entirely. The 25-minute speedboat from Malé runs any hour, day or night, so getting here is a breeze. But the real gift is making everyone equally glad they came.





.HERE BAA ATOLL, MALDIVES

BAA ATOLL

The Maldives is full of choices. Beach or overwater. Sunrise or sunset. Seclusion or somewhere with a pulse. .Here was built on the rather more appealing premise that you shouldn't have to choose.

One of the smallest ultra-luxury resorts in the Maldives, .Here has just nine residences split between two islands, Somewhere and Nowhere, at the end of Finolhu's sandbank. On Somewhere, each 1115- to 1300-square-metre residence stretches from beach to lagoon, with terraces on both sides, a Big Green Egg barbecue and a 47-metre sky pool suspended between them, shading from forest green to ocean blue. Nowhere pushes the idea further: two residences, one eight-acre island, exclusive use only.

The dualities keep coming. Contemplation and energy. Togetherness and retreat. Your own world, with another waiting next door. A Roohu (butler) – meaning 'soul' in Dhivehi – sees to all the finer details; at Safar, the resident chef brings experience from Badrutt's Palace and Raffles Dubai; and Finolhu – a short, complimentary boat ride away – supplies the restaurants, parties and life whenever the nine residences start to feel a tad too peaceful.

Privacy is the easy part. What .Here really gives you is the choice of how much of the world to let in on any given day. At Finolhu, meanwhile, the party comes with an escape route.



TWIN SETS



FINOLHU, A SEASIDE COLLECTION RESORT

BAA ATOLL

A short boat ride is all it takes to dial the volume up. Finolhu is the lively, stylish counterpoint to the hush of .Here: a comet-shaped island with an Ibiza-meets-Mykonos vibe and a 1.2-mile sandbank trailing behind it.

Muza Lab's Inge Moore – who also designed .Here – gave the resort its kaleidoscope of colour: yellow for sand, blue for water, pink for sunset, with everything kept box-fresh by in-house seamstresses, always on hand to mend and remake.

A converted VW camper doubles as a DJ booth at the Crab Shack, where guests dine on fresh seafood. Vintage-style Marshall amps provide your in-villa sound system; retro telephones summon champagne; and, in the flagship Rock Star Villas, a giant disco ball hangs above the cocktail bar. At the weekly White Party, the Crab Shack shifts gear as the sun goes down, with live DJs, fire dancers, LED shows and fruit bats wheeling between the palms. Subtle, it isn't. Fun, it absolutely is.

Yet Finolhu still knows when to leave you in peace. At the far end of the sandbank, the Beach Bubble stands alone: a transparent dome reserved for private overnight stays, with a dedicated Bubble Butler, a barbecue, the Milky Way as your canopy and breakfast at sunrise.







Beyond the Headline

HUVAFEN FUSHI MALDIVES NORTH MALÉ ATOLL

Not every resort needs 20 years to work out what it is. Huvafen Fushi's defining move came early – on opening in 2004, it was the Maldives' first resort to put a plunge pool in every villa, and it's still the only one on earth with an underwater spa, eight metres down in a coral garden. For a while, that was all anyone talked about. It's not any more.

What guests talk about now, unprompted, isn't solely the spa. It's the intimacy of just 46 villas, refreshed in 2023 without disturbing the atmosphere its regulars return for. The marine biologist-led night-time snorkelling excursions. The treasure trove of 600 labels at Vinum, the Maldives' first underground wine cellar. The thriving, technicolour house reef directly off the restaurant terrace. The fibre-optic-lit infinity pool, tiled to match the exact blue of the lagoon. And the sense that, by day two, Huvafen Fushi is all yours.

The underwater spa, of course, still does what no other spa on earth can. But today it's the extra flourishes, like the SpaQuarium Night Life Discovery, that stop conversations mid-sentence. After dark, the reef turns hunting ground: nocturnal predators on the move, bioluminescent plankton sparking fire in the ocean, corals fluorescing under UV torches and yellow filter visors, the marine biologist narrating all the drama as you sip champagne.

The scale hasn't changed. The focus has. And Huvafen Fushi has had time to become more than its most famous feature. A cultured pearl, in every sense.



Strong Roots

BAROS MALDIVES NORTH MALÉ ATOLL

If Huvafen Fushi is a story of evolution, Baros is one of near-total consistency.

At the time Baros opened on a former coconut plantation in 1973, it was one of just three resorts in the entire Maldives. Guests arrived by dhoni, waded ashore through the surf and slept in rooms with palm-leaf walls and ships' bunks. Freshwater came in buckets. The sea breeze provided the air-con. Fast-forward over 50 years, and many resorts now come with underwater restaurants, glass floors and enough architectural embellishments to make Robinson Crusoe feel distinctly under-equipped. And Baros? Baros has a house reef.

It also has 75 immaculate villas, a floating grand-piano-shaped Piano Deck – famous for proposals – and a marine biologist who invites you to help plant coral fragments. There's a private sandbank for sunrise yoga, staff that regulars ask for by name and, at the Maldives' first true fine-dining restaurant, The Lighthouse, barman Lucky, who sets the signature Lighthouse Blazer cocktail alight before sending it smoking down the bar.

What Baros doesn't have is a rebrand. The island feels settled, confident and lovingly maintained. Not because nothing has changed, but because every change connects to the same idea. Longevity may have earned Baros its place in Maldivian history, but – much like a pearl – clarity of identity is what has kept it there. Timelessness outlasting fashion.









Grand Designs

WALDORF ASTORIA MALDIVES ITHAAFUSHI SOUTH MALÉ ATOLL

Baros never needed to think big. Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi thought bigger than anyone else dared. And the astonishing thing is that, 20 years ago, none of it existed. The resort was built from scratch across three partly man-made islands stretching just over two miles, then landscaped until a forest grew dense enough to dine in.

The arrival is an event in itself. A two-bedroom private yacht, available day or night, equipped with five staff, Nicolas Maillart Champagne and snacks. What follows is unapologetically abundant: 117 villas, a roster of diversions that means you'll never need to repeat a day (unless you want to), and an ambition that would feel excessive almost anywhere else. That ambition extends to the 11 restaurants, where every setting is architectural theatre, from The Rock – a cave hollowed from Jordanian limestone with a single 200-year-old jarrah-wood table – to Terra's seven bamboo dining pods suspended within the jungle canopy. And just offshore, three minutes away by boat, lies Ithaafushi – The Private Island: an eight-acre exclusive-use retreat with its own villas, chefs and overwater spa and its own version of seclusion in a resort that already has plenty.

An American institution, the Waldorf Astoria name comes with certain expectations attached. Bigger. Louder. More. The resort keeps two of those and leaves the third behind. Warm rather than formal. Generous without the swagger. In Dhivehi, the local language of the Maldives, Ithaafushi means Pearl Island. A pearl made, not found – and every bit at home alongside Huva Fen Fushi and Baros.



TERRA INCOGNITA

The old cartographers wrote it at the edges of their maps. Terra incognita. Unknown territory. The place beyond the boundary of what had been charted, explored or explained.

The phrase fell out of use as the world filled in. Mountains named, oceans mapped, continents claimed. By the 20th century, there was nowhere left to write it. Or so the thinking went.

Because there is a version of the world that remains largely uncharted – not geographically, but experientially. The pit lane at Monaco from the deck of a superyacht. The silence of Antarctica from the bow of an expedition ship. The open Mediterranean under full sail on one of the world's great private yachts. These are experiences that don't appear on any map that most people will ever follow. Terra incognita still exists. It just requires a different kind of expedition to find it.

EXPLORA JOURNEYS

The best seats at the Monaco Grand Prix aren't on land at all.

Monaco has been mapped, photographed and televised more than almost anywhere else on earth. Every corner of its harbour, every bend of its famous street circuit and every balcony overlooking the race is instantly recognisable. Yet there's still a version that's beyond the reach of most.

For a few days each year, its streets become Formula 1's tightest, loudest circuit – cars threading the barriers feet from the water, the whole place vibrating for the length of a lap. Getting close is the hardest part. Grandstands sell out well in advance, so EXPLORA I offers another way in. The only ship of its kind moored in Port Hercule throughout race weekend, it becomes one of the Principality's most coveted addresses, 150 metres from the paddock, and a quick stroll to the circuit and the Formula 1 Paddock Club. Official race tickets and VIP hospitality can be booked in advance for an even closer connection to the action, and, between qualifying sessions and race-day drama, the ship keeps its own programme running: exclusive parties, appearances by Formula 1 legends and racing simulators serious enough to break a sweat over.

While the crowds jostle for a glimpse of the action, you can move effortlessly between the pulse of the race ashore and the space, privacy and leisurely pace of life on board. Here, the soundtrack shifts from the thunder of Formula 1 engines to the gentle wash of the harbour against the hull, with time for long lunches, an afternoon in the spa or simply watching Monaco's most glamorous weekend unfold from your terrace.







SILVERSEA ANTARCTICA

In Antarctica, weather and wildlife write the itinerary as you go.

With access deliberately limited, Antarctica draws fewer visitors in a year than a mid-sized European city receives in a weekend.

But Silversea has been running expeditions here for decades; their ships – Silver Cloud, Silver Endeavour and Silver Wind – are small enough and ice-strengthened enough that everyone actually gets ashore. Landings are capped at 100 people at a time, which means the larger liners sail past as you step onto the ice. A 20-strong expedition team of marine biologists, ornithologists and polar historians scouts each day's landing sites, with twice-daily Zodiac outings reaching corners of the peninsula larger vessels can't.

The wildlife takes it from there. Gentoo, chinstrap and Adélie penguins go about their business without fences or feeding times. Leopard and crabeater seals stretch out on ice floes. Glaciers calve with a crack like thunder. Humpback and minke whales surface beside the boat; back on board, champagne appears on deck whenever they do. Two ways south mean you can cross the Drake Passage the old way – two days of open sea – a rite of passage in itself, or opt for the business-class charter flight that clears it in under two hours, sea legs intact.

Either way, the unknown starts on arrival. Your expedition kit may be waiting and the team may be reading the weather. But Antarctica answers to neither. And that's all part of the thrill.

TERRA INCOGNITA



JUMEIRAH MALTESE FALCON

Some ideas are so far ahead of their time that the world has to catch up with them.

When the late Silicon Valley venture capitalist Tom Perkins commissioned the 88-metre Maltese Falcon, he wasn't trying to build just another luxury yacht. He was trying to prove a 19th-century sailing concept could finally be made to work.

What started as a dare to maritime engineering becomes something altogether more romantic once the sails catch the wind. The Maltese Falcon's revolutionary DynaRig recalls an 1860s square-rig silhouette that nobody could build at scale until carbon fibre arrived: three freestanding, independently rotating masts, each housing sails that, when unfurled at the touch of a button in around six minutes, reveal a giant falcon emblem spanning 2400 square metres of canvas.

Constructed by Italian shipyard Perini Navi, with interiors by Ken Freivokh, her showpieces include the lower sail, which doubles as the largest outdoor cinema screen at sea, and a three-deck atrium wrapped around the main mast. Today, as part of Jumeirah's Privé collection, she sails the Caribbean between December and April and the Mediterranean from May to November – the only private charter of her kind and a rare opportunity to experience a yacht that rewrote the rules of modern sailing.

The open ocean has always been terra incognita. You set sail not entirely knowing where the wind will take you. The joy of the unknown is why you go.





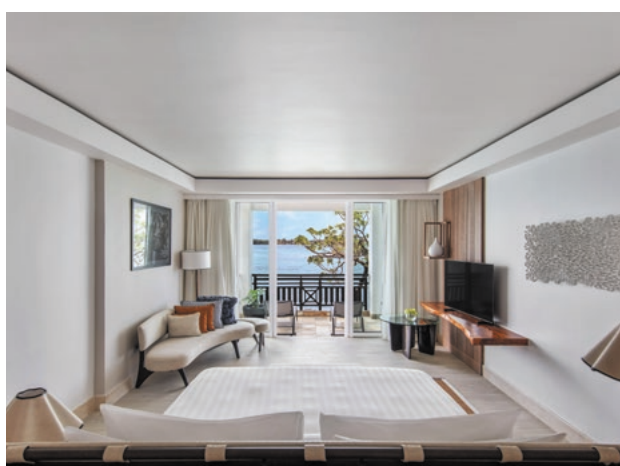


REASONS, SEASONS & LIFETIMES

The first visit is easy. It's the second, fifth and 15th visits that are harder to earn.

Some holidays have a reason – a honeymoon, a milestone, a celebration that demands somewhere extraordinary. Some belong to a season – the family years, when the same pool and the same beach and the same familiar faces become the rhythm of summer. And some last a lifetime, with hotels you find once and never quite leave behind. Not hotels you stay in. Hotels that stay with you.

Across Mauritius and Barbados, four very different resorts show how that relationship begins – and why it lasts.



SHANGRI-LA LE TOUESSROK TROU D'EAU DOUCE, MAURITIUS

There are easier ways to reach the first tee of a golf course. None quite as memorable though as taking a boat.

But your reason to visit Le Touessrok needn't involve a scorecard. With six beaches stretching out over 84 acres on Trou d'Eau Douce Bay on Mauritius' east coast, it's been giving people numerous excuses to stay – and return – since 1978, through new chapters and new owners. Two neighbouring islands across the lagoon explain some of the loyalty. The Bernhard Langer-designed championship golf course claims its own corner of Île aux Cerfs, with a shuttle boat running every 20 minutes. Ilot Mangénie is guests-only, a 10-minute crossing away, with a beachside restaurant and butler-serviced cabanas.

Three resident giant tortoises wander the gardens. Coco's pours Ti Punch sundowners from a Mauritian beach house filled with playful dodo motifs. And the 182 rooms and suites (all with uninterrupted ocean views) are divided between three coastal wings – Coral, Hibiscus and Frangipani, the latter on a small islet reached by footbridge – with three standalone beach villas set apart from the rest. This is exactly how the resort has continued to thrive. Your reason for coming may change; your desire to return does not.

ONE&ONLY LE SAINT GÉRAN

POSTE DE FLACQ, MAURITIUS

A lot can happen between one stay at One&Only Le Saint Géran and the next. Newlyweds come back for an anniversary. Children arrive, grow up and eventually return with children of their own. What's remarkable is how much the hotel remains part of their family portrait throughout.

It's been that way since 1975, when Sol Kerzner opened this, his first hotel outside South Africa, on a private peninsula between the Indian Ocean and a calm lagoon. There was no established blueprint for the Indian Ocean luxury beach resort then; Le Saint Géran helped create one. Half a century later, around a mile of beach still wraps around two coastlines, meeting at a sandbank at the tip.

The hotel itself has never stood still. Guests can arrive by helicopter before being welcomed with a glass of Mauritius' own Pink Pigeon rum. Guerlain has moved into the spa. And dinner at Japanese-Nikkei overwater restaurant Tapasake has become one of the island's most talked-about experiences. The true continuity here, though, is human. For a hotel that's spent its entire life moving with the times, One&Only Le Saint Géran has become astonishingly adept at remembering what really matters: long-serving staff who recognise familiar faces, recall their preferences and greet the families they've watched grow over the years.

Its name comes from a French ship wrecked off this coast in 1744, whose story inspired the romantic novel *Paul et Virginie* – one that every Mauritian knows by heart. Today, the stories attached to Le Saint Géran are much happier ones: honeymoons, anniversaries and family holidays repeated from one generation to the next.





COLONY CLUB

A LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT

SAINT JAMES, BARBADOS

Family holidays rarely follow the same beat. First come the children in the shallow end. Then the teenagers disappear onto paddle boards and water skis. Eventually, they're the ones ordering from the Rum Vault.

Colony Club keeps up with it all. Four lagoon-style pools wind through seven acres of tropical gardens, two feeding the rare swim-up rooms. The calm waters off the west-coast beach – one many rank second only to Sandy Lane – are made for first attempts at water-skiing, sailing and snorkelling. Holetown lies less than a mile away for the years when no one wants to spend every evening with their parents. And unusually, the resort remains room-only, so there's not even any financial guilt attached to venturing out for dinner.

Then, one year, somebody arrives with a partner for the first time. The children who once needed watching in the pool begin booking their own rooms. Colony Club has seen plenty of that since 1941, and a 2025 renovation – followed by its arrival in Marriott's Luxury Collection – has given another generation something new to return to. The gardens grow taller. The families grow larger. And somehow, the same week next summer starts sounding like a most excellent idea.





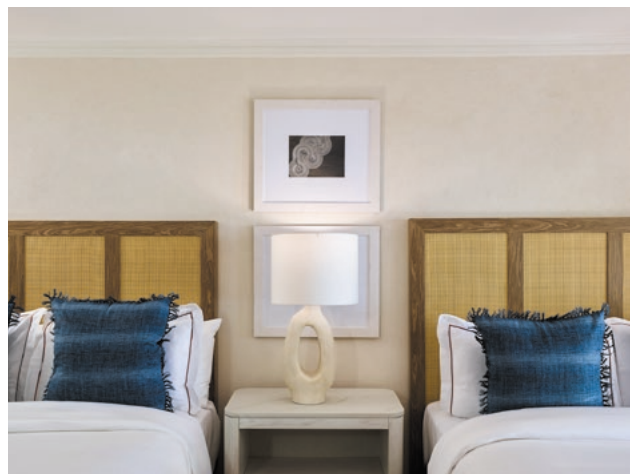
THE HOUSE AN AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORT

SAINT JAMES, BARBADOS

There are holidays before children, with no one else's bedtime, appetite or attention span to consider. And there are holidays after them, when the kids are grown, the family holidays have become holidays with partners, and suddenly there are only two passports on your booking once more.

The House was made for both. Set back from a west-facing beach at Paynes Bay, there's no front desk, no check-in ritual and no under-18s. A personal Ambassador walks you straight to one of 39 rooms and suites and unpacks your suitcase, and champagne and a complimentary jet-lag massage handle what the flight left behind. Now an all-inclusive Autograph Collection resort, The House keeps decisions to a minimum. Breakfast comes with more champagne. The Living Room moves from afternoon tea to dinner beneath the stars and live music after dark. The new Beach House will replace the former flagship dining venue, Positano, when it opens later this year, while a dine-around programme opens up sister west coast hotels by water taxi. And in between, watersports at neighbouring Tamarind are included, so you can venture out without ever seeing a bill.

Perhaps that's the real luxury of these two bookends. At one end, you have nowhere else you need to be yet. At the other, you've spent years being needed everywhere. Either way, for a little while, there are just two of you.



SEA, STONE & SKY

One hotel hands you a whole peninsula to play with: two beaches, the Aegean on three sides and plenty of space to disappear. The other drops you into a fortified capital, in a 17th-century townhouse with a Caravaggio a few streets away and a harbour right beneath your windows.

AMOH and Iniala Harbour House sit at opposite ends of that spectrum. One is for when you want the world to recede; the other for when you want to be in the thick of it all. Neither apologises for what it isn't. Both make a valid case for picking a side.

INIALA HARBOUR HOUSE & RESIDENCES

VALLETTA, MALTA

Valletta begins before you've even left the building.

Four restored 17th-century townhouses sit directly on St Barbara Bastion, with Valletta at their backs and the Grand Harbour below. Over the water lie the Three Cities. A few streets away, Caravaggio hangs in St John's Co-Cathedral. And parked out front is Iniala's own 44-foot Riva yacht, should the view tempt you to join in.

Inside, just 23 rooms and suites have been handed to three different design studios – Autoban, A-cero and DAAA Haus – so the look is maximalist heritage: wall-sized murals over preserved stone vaults, painted cupolas and traditional Maltese balconies meeting contemporary art without any attempt at uniformity.

The rooftop belongs to ION Harbour by Simon Rogan, Malta's only two-Michelin-starred restaurant, so hyper-local, in fact, that even its internationally inspired dishes are rebuilt from Maltese produce. The spa occupies the subterranean stone vaults. And beyond the lobby, there's an entire UNESCO-listed capital to explore – although Iniala's vintage blue London cab tour forms an undeniable argument against walking it all.





AMOH, A LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT, RHODES

PEFKOS, RHODES

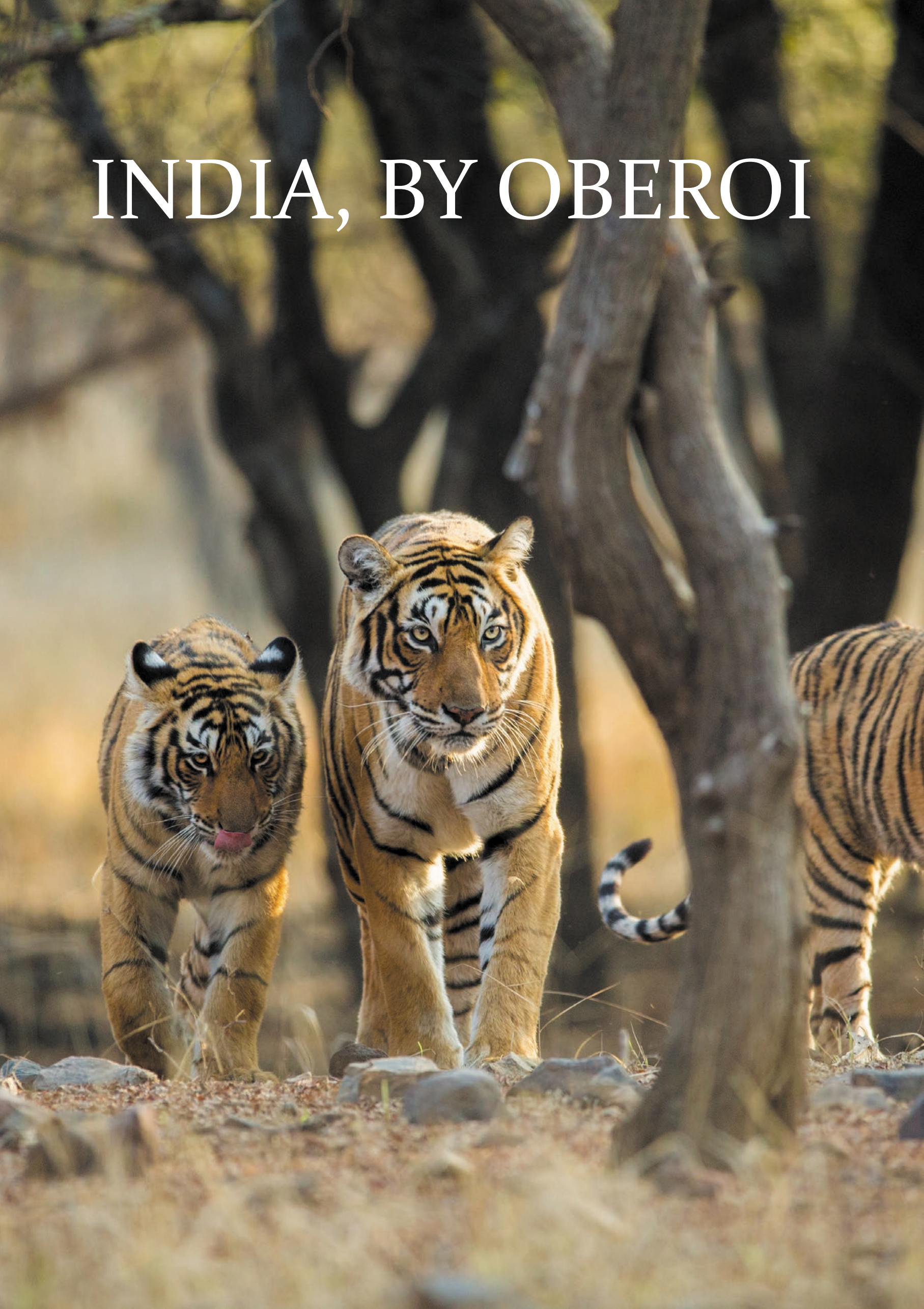
Close enough to explore, far enough to feel exclusive.

AMOH Rhodes opened in April on a secluded peninsula at Kavos Beach near Lindos, with the Aegean on three sides and two beaches of its own. The most interesting thing about the island's newest resort, however, is what was there long before the first foundations went in.

Archaeologists discovered a Hellenistic-Roman quarry on-site, once a source of limestone used to build ancient Lindos. The excavated ruins remain open to the sky beside the Italian restaurant, and the same local stone runs through a resort whose names keep returning to the ground underfoot: Lithos, Cava di Pietra and AMOHNITE Beach Bar.

There are 197 rooms and suites, many with private pools, eight places to eat and drink, and the ELISPA Wellness Retreat – influenced by the four elements and Greek ingredients including olive oil, orange, Cretan raki and mountain herbs. But it's the smaller rituals that give AMOH Rhodes its character: six infused olive oils tasted in the shade; Greek plates passed around a firepit as the sun goes down. And if ever you feel like you need a change of pace, Lindos lies just around the headland.

INDIA, BY OBEROI





From an imperial capital and Mughal monuments to tiger forest and temple country, Oberoi's Indian portfolio connects places that could scarcely be more different – and makes each one feel completely personal.

India cannot be understood from a single address. Since Rai Bahadur Mohan Singh Oberoi founded the hotel group in 1934, Oberoi Hotels and Resorts has grown with the country and beyond, from contemporary Delhi and Mughal Agra to Rajasthan's palace cities and the forests of central India.

The geography would be enough on its own. The continuity across it is the greater feat. At each hotel, an old Oberoi conviction – that the guest comes first – shows itself in instinctive gestures: a preference remembered, a need anticipated, the right person appearing before you ask.

Now that map reaches further into Madhya Pradesh. The Oberoi Vindhya Vilas places 19 tents and two villas beside Bandhavgarh's tiger country; The Oberoi Rajgarh Palace inhabits a restored 350-year-old Bundela residence near Khajuraho's temples and Panna National Park. Together they create a new passage through central India, linking forest, palace and sacred stone with Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. Twelve days, six Oberoi addresses and a country that looks different at every turn.



TIGERS TO TAJ

DELHI | BANDHAVGARH | KHAJURAHO | AGRA | JAIPUR | GURGAON
11 NIGHTS

Twelve days through five of India's most storied destinations, with two new Oberoi addresses extending the route into central India.

India rarely does anything by halves, and this 12-day journey is no exception. The great set pieces of the Golden Triangle – Delhi, Agra and Jaipur – anchor an itinerary that turns east into Madhya Pradesh, where tiger forests give way to the sculpted spires of Khajuraho and a palace that's watched over its lake for 350 years. Tigers one day, temples the next.

Days 1-3 | Delhi pulls you between centuries. New Delhi deals in ceremonial avenues, sandstone monuments and the ordered sweep of Kartavya Path; Old Delhi packs mosques, spice traders and market stalls into Chandni Chowk's tangle of narrow lanes. Cross between the two by tuk-tuk, Metro and cycle rickshaw, ending underneath Jama Masjid's minarets before returning to The Oberoi with views over the golf course and Humayun's Tomb.

Stay: The Oberoi, New Delhi.

Days 3-6 | Bandhavgarh. Sal forest closes in, then breaks into open, sun-baked grassland once Delhi is behind you. Royal Bengal tigers share this reserve with leopards, sloth bears, gaur and sambar deer, and the morning and afternoon safaris, threading between Tala, Magadhi and Khitauli, follow paw prints and alarm calls through the trees, with breakfast served straight off the bonnet in the middle of the park.

Stay: The Oberoi Vindhyavilas Wildlife Resort.

Days 6-8 | Khajuraho. The tiger trail continues through Panna National Park, where teak forest thins into open plateau and gharials hold almost motionless in the Ken River. Khajuraho's real pull, however, lies further on: 1000-year-old UNESCO-listed temples, their sandstone spires carved floor to finial with gods, dancers, musicians, animals – and scenes of human desire with a candour that has outlasted centuries of visitors trying to look away.

Stay: The Oberoi Rajgarh Palace.

Days 8-9 | Agra. You know its outline long before you arrive, but the first view of the Taj Mahal through the great arched gateway still catches you. Visit at sunrise, when the gardens draw you towards marble domes warming in the soft light and floral pietra dura emerges at close quarters. Agra Fort continues the Mughal story: 20-metre-high sandstone walls, public halls, palaces and the white-marble tower where Shah Jahan spent eight years imprisoned by his son.

Stay: The Oberoi Amarvilas.

Days 9-11 | Jaipur. The city's famous pink is just the start. Climb by jeep to Amber Fort above Maota Lake, where mirrored ceilings scatter the light around halls built for maharajas and their courts. Back in the old city, Hawa Mahal looks onto the street through 953 windows, Jantar Mantar measures the heavens in giant stone instruments and City Palace holds two five-foot silver jars once filled with Ganges water for a royal voyage to England. A cycle rickshaw keeps the bazaars – jewellery, fabric and food stalls – at eye level.

Stay: The Oberoi Rajvilas.

Days 11-12 | Gurgaon. Your final night asks very little of you. The airport is close and there's no sightseeing left to fit in – just time for last-minute shopping, one more dinner or an early night before your flight home.

Stay: The Oberoi, Gurgaon.



THE OBEROI VINDHYAVILAS WILDLIFE RESORT

BANDHAVGARH

Vindhyavilas extends Oberoi's celebrated Vilas collection into tiger country, where space matters as much outside as in. Just 21 keys share a forested estate minutes from Bandhavgarh National Park: 19 luxury 60-square-metre tents, each with its own garden, and two 105-square-metre private pool villas, with indoor and outdoor showers and room to dine in complete seclusion.

Central India appears in all the right details. A monumental entrance door, hand-chiselled by local artisans with tribal motifs, leads to a lounge lined in pale Katni stone, with vivid artworks, embroidered canopies and carved timber paying tribute to the region's Gond and Baiga heritage. The tents open onto decks among the trees; the villas place their pools against views of the forest.

The lake is the property's social centre. The 18-metre infinity pool traces its edge, barbecues are prepared beside the water at The Bush Kitchen, and The Deck serves dinner beneath the open sky. Between game drives, Asmi by Oberoi has two garden-view treatment rooms and a relaxation pavilion overlooking the pond, while resident naturalists lead birding walks, share Tiger Tales in the library and read the calls and tracks of the wider reserve.





THE OBEROI RAJGARH PALACE KHAJURAHO

Built by Maharaja Hindu Pat of the Bundela Dynasty, this 350-year-old residence rises from the Maniyagarh Hills on a 76-acre estate ringed by sal and palash forest, its hand-painted frescoes, sandstone courtyards and vaulted ceilings all preserved through restoration. Sixty-five rooms, suites and villas range from the Royal Villa's private pool and courtyard to Palace Suites lit by clerestory windows, several opening onto their own private gardens or plunge pools.

The natural lake is more than a view; it's also the journey through. A boat glides across it to the tented treatment suites at Asmi by Oberoi. One temperature-controlled pool sits by the water; another inside the palace. And, at Neerangan, Indian and international dishes are served at the lake's edge, accompanied by evening performances. After dark, Maanya returns to recipes from Bundela royal kitchens, and Amrava pairs inventive cocktails with artisanal small plates.

At dawn, the palace historian leads Footsteps of the Chandela through Khajuraho's temples before the day's visitors arrive, and ends with breakfast by the lake. Panna National Park adds a wilder direction: jeep safaris through teak forest and open plateau in search of tigers, leopards, sloth bears and gharials along the Ken River. At Raneh Falls, that same river cuts through a three-mile canyon of crystalline granite in sublime shades of pink, red and grey.



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