

Condé Nast Traveler January/February 2020 • The Gold List • Egypt • Alaska • Zimbabwe • Rome • Medellín • The Middle East • India • The Coral Triangle • Versailles

Condé Nast Traveler

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

THE GOLD LIST 2020

THE EDITORS' ALL-TIME FAVORITE PLACES TO STAY

EXCEPTIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES
EVERYTHING CLASSIC. EVERYTHING OUTSTANDING

cnntraveler.com

THE GOLD LIST 2020

THE LEELA PALACE UDAIPUR, INDIA

Domed *havelis* with delicately latticed *jharoka* balconies seem better suited to fairy tales than austere stone castles with imposing turrets. Udaipur, Rajasthan's City of Lakes, has all the ingredients for a romantic myth, and on the banks of Lake Pichola, the Leela Palace has made generous use of them to re-create the erstwhile era of maharajas.

After floating across from town by boat, consult with the palace astrologer about your forthcoming plans, swim laps in a pool flanked by stone peacocks, or while away the hours in museum-like hallways that are a tribute to Rajasthan's Mewar rulers. Each of the 80 rooms has views over the vast landscape, and there are brilliant Ayurvedic treatments in the spa. But the defining moment is spending twilight on one of the many terraces, when a dusky glow falls over the city from across the water, which proves that the greatest theatrics are all-natural.

Doubles from \$610. theleela.com



India: More Classics

No destination does high-low like India, from its regal palace hotels to its whimsical, windswept beach retreats. Jaipur's rose-tinted

Suján Rajmahal Palace, an Art Deco-inflected abode that was once home to the city's maharaja, is done up in a riot of color—with 46 gorgeous bespoke wallpapers, from fuchsia to mint green. ♦ In the kinetic megalopolis of Mumbai, the striking Indo-Saracenic silhouette of the **Taj Mahal Palace hotel** (above) is no less of a landmark than the neighboring Gateway of India. ♦ While it might not have quite the same royal pedigree, **The Oberoi**,

New Delhi, the capital's most beloved hotel, is fit for modern-day mughals and moguls alike. An extensive two-year refurb by Adam D. Tihany has left it thoroughly refreshed, but one thing is resolutely the same: Oberoi's signature fit-for-a-queen service. ♦ A dramatic pace change from much of India, the Andaman Islands are a world away, closer to Thailand or Burma. By far the loveliest place to stay here is **Jalakara**, a wild—and wildly beautiful—rain forest retreat. This is a place to disconnect and reset, properly off-the-grid and Wi-Fi-free.



THE LANGHAM CHICAGO

A highlight of any Chicago riverboat architecture tour is Mies van der Rohe's last skyscraper, 330 North Wabash, still commonly referred to as the IBM Building. It's a paragon of the late International Style: a 52-story rectangle of anodized aluminum and bronze glass that is the perfect distillation of corporate might and urban promise. To check into the Langham Chicago, which since 2013 has occupied the building's first 13 floors, is to step into the story the building tells about the American city. You feel like you could be a character in a spy thriller as you pass through the note-perfect midcentury lobby and take the elevator to the elegant second-floor reception area. (The hotel makes an appearance in the 2018 film *Widows*.) Everywhere you go, there are encounters to be had with the City of the Century: You'll ponder the curious curlicues of Marina City, the iconic "corn-cob" apartment towers next door, over a bowl of *cacio e pepe* in *Traveller*, the handsomely brassy New American restaurant, and admire the bold way North Wabash slices diagonally through the urban jungle from the cream-and-taupe comfort of your vast guest room. For the traveler, it's Chicago's finest address. *Doubles from \$340. langhamhotels.com*