

Condé Nast Traveller

WIN A
STAY AT
COCO BODU
HITHI,
MALDIVES

SUBSCRIBER COPY

THE LAST WORD IN TRAVEL
AUG-SEPT 2017 | ₹150

INDIAN EDITION

THE BEST OF ASIA

Kerala's top
ayurveda resorts

Bali: party vs
spa holiday

Go vegetarian
in China

THE HOT LIST 2017

THE WORLD'S
COOLEST
NEW HOTELS

50
PEOPLE
CHANGING
THE WAY
INDIA EATS

Inside: Huma Qureshi
on her favourite beach

PLUS WHAT'S HIP & HAPPENING IN DUBAI



From left: **the view from the pool at Sanctum Inle Resort; the interiors of Santani**

HOSHINOYA TOKYO **Japan**

Noriyuki Hamada, the chef at the basement restaurant in this 84-room, modern ryokan, is changing the culinary game. He is pioneering Nippon cuisine, using traditional Japanese ingredients and classically French techniques. If food weren't enough reason to check in, the property offers an updated ryokan experience across its 17 storeys, complete with tatami matting and futon beds, but minus the floor level seating that the traditional inns provide. **Good to know:** Try Five Flavors of Delight, a series of seafood dishes that represents sour, sweet, bitter, salty and umami, in delicious succession. (www.hoshinoyatokyo.com)

JETWING LAKE **Sri Lanka**

The Buddhist cave temple in Dambulla, a UNESCO World Heritage site dating back to the 1st century BC, is a huge draw with both locals and international visitors. Faith has it that the area was a place of refuge for a Buddhist king. Today, this slickly designed resort, overlooking an ancient water tank, Siyambalaweva, offers shelter from the chaos of the city. Breakfast in your room with a view of the lake, lounge by the pool through the

afternoon and enjoy speciality Sri Lankan fare for dinner. Take a break in between and visit the spa. Reboot and repeat. **Good to know:** Located just off the Kandy-Jaffna highway, it's a good base to go on safari at the nearby Minneriya and Wasgamuwa national parks, both known for their elephant populations. (www.jetwinghotels.com)

MALDIVES PRIVATE ISLAND AT VOAVAH

With just seven bedrooms, this Four Seasons property on the UNESCO-listed Baa Atoll takes exclusivity to the next level. Guests can make use of the beach house, the 62ft yacht, the dive centre and all its activities, the spa and the infinity pool. Or just laze on the blankets of powdery sand and thank the stars above. **Good to know:** The sea around the atoll is home to large manta ray populations; the best time to swim with them is from August to November. (www.fourseasons.com)

SANCTUM INLE RESORT **Myanmar**

Located by scenic Inle Lake, the 94-key stay aims to make guests feel one with their gorgeous surroundings. While it offers several tours, our pick is the half-day Wheel and Wine cycling tour

of Red Mountain Estate, a nearby vineyard. You get a snapshot of life around the lake—lush sugar cane fields and sleepy villages with stilt houses jutting out onto the lake. And the bike ride ends with samples of some excellent local wine, obviously. **Good to know:** It's not just the wine that's a surprise here. Sample some of the locally brewed beer at the hotel's Cloister Bar. (www.sanctum-inle-resort.com)

SANTANI **Sri Lanka**

Located 140km from Colombo's airport, Sri Lanka's first wellness resort sits on 48 acres of tea plantation. At this wood-and-glass mountaintop retreat, there are no TVs, and wi-fi is only on request, so you can connect with yourself. Blending modern science and ayurveda, the wellness concierge will tailor a detox plan just for you. **Good to know:** Fans of ketogenic fare will find the resort's low-carb meal plan particularly appealing. (www.santani.lk)

SONEVA JANI **Maldives**

An overwater silent cinema, an observatory stocked with telescopes and a restaurant that serves up more than 50 flavours of ice cream—this is luxury with a quirky touch, and it works. Located on picturesque

Noonu Atoll, the 25-villa resort also offers diving and snorkelling sessions with a marine biologist, so you can learn about the wondrous creatures you see.

Good to know: Each of the water villas features its own 42ft private pool filled with filtered seawater. It's like having a bit of the sea all to yourself. (www.soneva.com)

MEGHAULI SERAI **Nepal**

The Taj group's first jungle lodge outside India overlooks Terai grassland and the Rapti River, in Nepal's Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The 30-key lodge has loads of local flavour, from the lobby chandelier made of 10,000 hand-painted Nepali beads to murals by a tribal artist in the rooms. Spot wildlife on elephant-back or in a canoe, and have your sundowners in a machan. The park is home to a key population of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, the Royal Bengal tiger and hundreds of other species of birds and animals.

Good to know: Sample cuisine influenced by the region's ethnic groups, like Sherpa lamb soup and a traditional Tharu thali. (www.taj.tajhotels.com)

THE ANAM **Vietnam**

Despite the 117 villas and 96 rooms and suites, this beach resort near Nha Trang, an hour's flight from Ho Chi Minh City, is designed for a peaceful, stress-free vacation. Between the 300m beachfront, three swimming pools, 3D movie theatre and range of dining options, there's enough to keep you entertained. But chances are you may choose never to leave your ocean-facing villa. Go ahead, we won't judge. **Good**

to know: The hotel's scale and multiple event venues makes it a great spot for saying "I do"—think a poolside pre-wedding party, a sangeet in the ballroom and a wedding by the beach. (www.theanam.com)