

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

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**A-TO-Z  
GUIDE**

**HOW TO  
GET THE  
BEST**

**TREATMENT  
AROUND  
THE GLOBE**

**EIGHT NEW  
PLACES  
TO DINE IN  
MUMBAI**

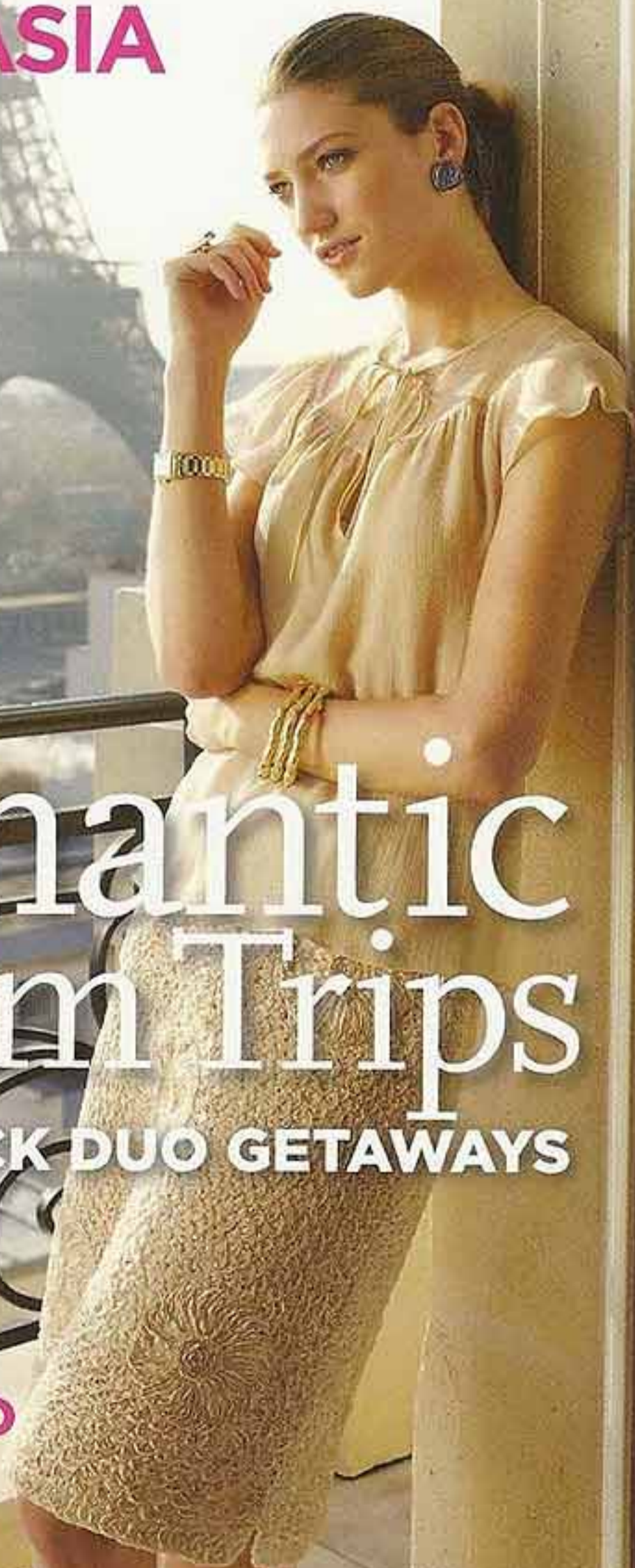
**PHILIPPE  
STARCK'S  
NEW TAKE  
ON PARIS**

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**Romantic  
Dream Trips**

**PLUS 12 QUICK DUO GETAWAYS**

**JAIPUR  
PUERTO RICO  
VIENNA  
SHANGHAI**





**SECLUDED ESTATES** The sprawling veranda at Zurrantee, Dooars, in West Bengal. Below: The swimming pool at Ranvas, Nagaur, in Jodhpur.

# TWOSOME GETAWAYS

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO GO ON A ROMANTIC VACATION THAN NOW. T+L LISTS 12 INTIMATE STAY OPTIONS THAT ARE A COMFORTABLE DRIVE OR SHORT FLIGHT AWAY.



### ...FROM DELHI

#### Neeralaya, Kullu

**WHY** It's intimate and secluded—with the soaring mountains and lush greenery as backdrops, the Beas River running alongside, and apple orchards everywhere you look. Neeralaya is one of those precious retreats you'll cherish forever. The three villas in the property have been developed from old, recycled timber, stone and slate collected from two traditional houses that were being demolished and represent the quaint Western-Himalayan style of architecture. Replete with every modern comfort, each accommodation features a separate sitting and dining room, kitchenette, and veranda with your own private garden. **T+L TIP** Bond

over adventurous pursuits courtesy Neeralaya like mountain biking, river rafting or trekking. And keep a day aside for a romantic picnic by the river. *Suri Orchards, Raison, Kullu; 91/98160-45725; neeralaya.com; doubles from Rs 5,000.*

#### Rokeby Manor, Landour

**WHY** The milieu is peaceful in this charming cantonment town that borrows its name from a Welsh village, and English-style Rokeby Manor is just the kind of place that fits in. Full of character, this heritage haven truly gives you that up-in-the-clouds feeling at 7,500 feet. Book their Rhododendron Suite that's complete with a fireplace and lovely valley views; and enjoy your meals in their inviting

dining space called Emily's, with chai and cake at The Tea Garden, followed by a romantic alfresco dinner at The Highlands. **T+L TIP** When you do manage some time away from the hotel's cosy confines, go rambling in this Raj-era hill station dotted with old Indo-Gothic churches or pop in to say a quick hello to its most famous resident, Ruskin Bond. *Landour Cantt., Mussoorie; 91-135/263-5604; rokebymanor.com; doubles from Rs 8,000.*

#### Ranvas, Nagaur

**WHY** Located within the magnificent Nagaur Fort, do you need a reason to stay in one of the 10 havelis that served as royal residences to the ranis of Maharaja Bakht Singh of Jodhpur? Meticulously restored into elegant accommodations, each haveli comprises three bedrooms along with a private courtyard and open living area. Two restaurants, a swimming pool, spa and hammam, and library are some of the other luxuries on offer. **T+L TIP** Nagaur Fort serves as the backdrop to The Nagaur Sufi Music Festival (*nagaursuffestival.org; Feb 17-19*), so extend your stay to include this musical spectacle. *Nagaur, Jodhpur; 91-11/4174-0341; jodhanaheritage.com; doubles from Rs 7,500, including breakfast and guided museum tour.*

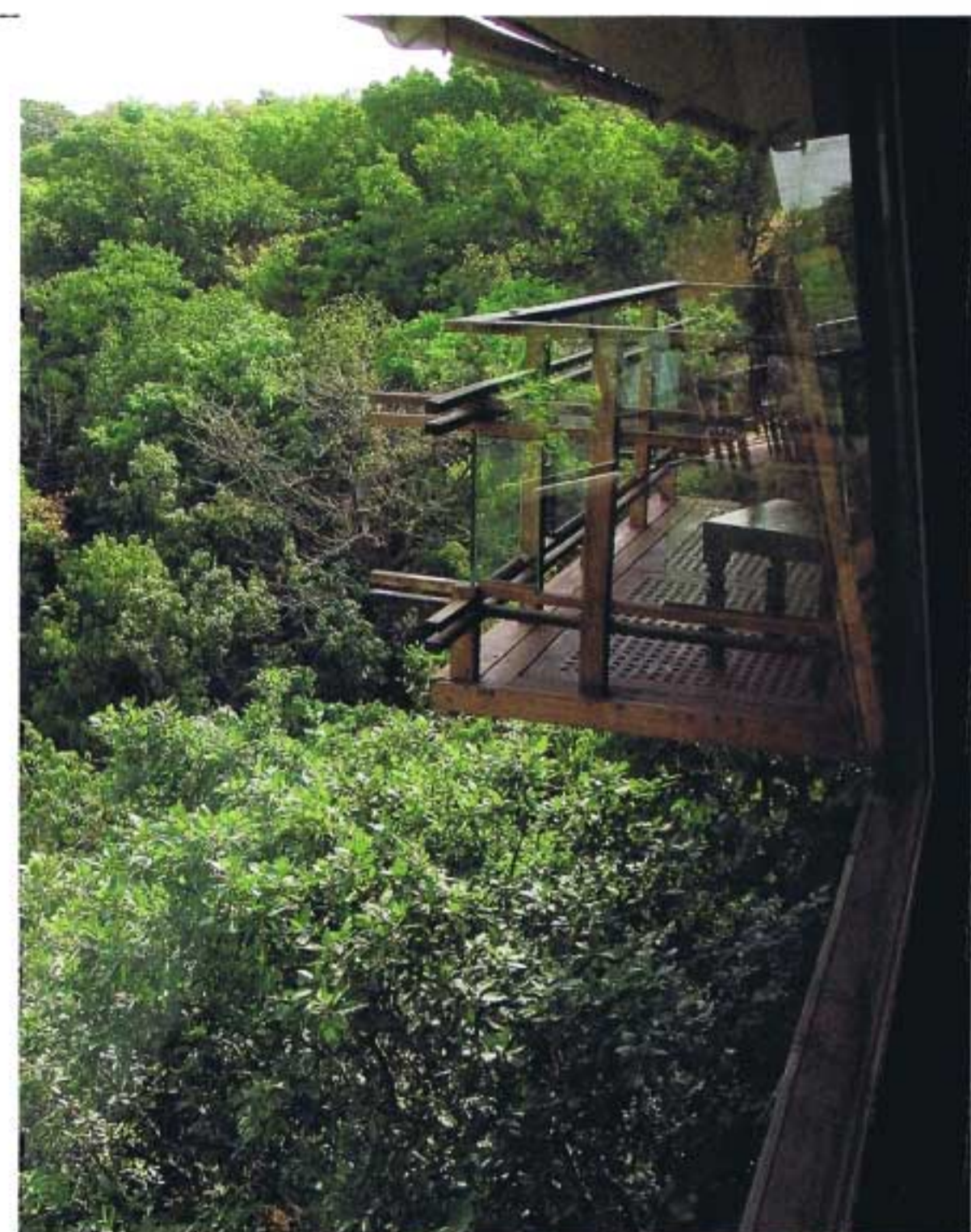
### ...FROM MUMBAI

#### Fort Jadhavgarh, Jadhavwadi

**WHY** Romance, vintage style, at only 22 kilometres short of Pune. Ensnared in the hills of Saswad, this Kamath Group-owned property unravels languorously across 25 kilometres and offers a slice of beatific comfort, far from the maddening crowd. Stretch your limbs in regal, splendid confines strapped with every possible contemporary comfort. Dine cosily in the flickering candle light of the open-air Payatha and Chajjha restaurants, walk through their treasured museum and delight in a spectacular view of the Diva Ghat. **T+L TIP** The rather modish Butic Spa located inside the Fort offers an unbeatable menu of classic massages, exotic scrubs, and treatments. Try their Romeo Juliet Spa package. *Jadhavwadi, Dist. Pune; 91/99875-73819; fortjadhavgad.com; Valentine package from Rs 12,000.*

#### The Machan, Jambulne

**WHY** Live a fantastic dream in a sturdy tree house cast completely in wood and glass, located along the Sahyadri Hills in the Western Ghats. Carefully cocooned from the main roads, The Machan is let out only as a single unit and styled as a personal



**SPLENDOUR IN THE FOREST** From top: The lookout at The Machan, Jambulne; a view of their rustic tree house; at Ganga Kutir Resort and Spa, Raichak.



FROM TOP: COURTESY OF ZURRANTEE; COURTESY OF RANVAS

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF THE MACHAN (2); COURTESY OF GANGA KUTIR RESORT AND SPA

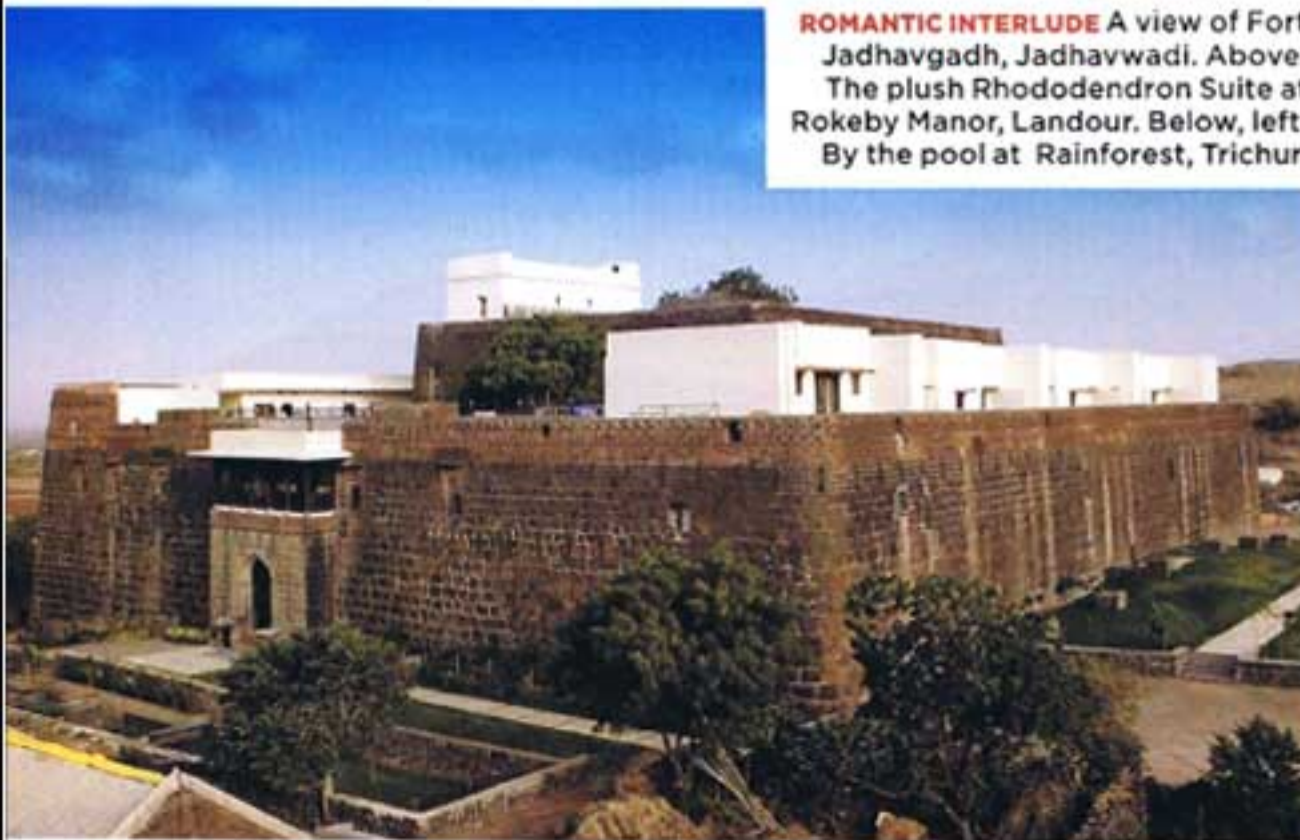
retreat. While a master bed-bath area is sectioned by a trellis from the lounge and dining sections, the second "hanging" room stands suspended amidst rich foliage, accessible via a spiral wooden staircase and the third "loft" room is positioned à la an attic. Wake up when the sun kisses your lashes, through the full-length glass walls. **T+L TIP** Clamber atop the peak of the venue to the Crow's Nest, and experience a 360-degree view of Jambulne and its fringe areas. 91-22/3066-8011; themachan.com; from Rs 25,000 for up to six guests.

**The Dina Hotel, Mahabaleshwar**

**WHY** Fresh, luscious strawberries, the elusive birdsong, rich foliage, fresh home-cooked meals. Come to "Mabi" when your soul needs the liven-up tonic. Stay at The Dina Hotel to make your visit unforgettable. Run by an old Parsi couple, this quaint heritage hotel offers a picturesque view of the lake and the verdant carpeted hills around. Old



**ROMANTIC INTERLUDE** A view of Fort Jadhavgad, Jadhavwadi. Above: The plush Rhododendron Suite at Rokeby Manor, Landour. Below, left: By the pool at Rainforest, Trichur.



world charm in its confines, meticulously served four-course meals with Parsi delicacies, great service and proximity to the market make this a worthy contender. **T+L TIP** Go to the lake: chomp on hot, sizzling *makai* (corn on the cob) laced with golden butter, or the *makai* pakoras, and make time for the horse ride. Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani Rd.; 91-2168/260-246; doubles from Rs 7,000.

**...FROM KOLKATA**

**Ganga Kutir Resort and Spa, Raichak**

**WHY** The babbling Ganga and rustling breeze will happily do the serenading for you at this pastoral hamlet just over 50 kilometres from Kolkata. A lot can happen over a walk along the tree-canopied lover's lane that stretches from the main entrance of this Bengal Ambuja property to the main block of the resort. Let the bar overlooking the river with the magnificent acreage behind it be the location for a memorable evening. **T+L TIP** Book yourselves a treatment for two at the Anaya Spa and let your masseur's supple hands work their magic on you. Sarisa, 24 Parganas; 91-3174/275-444; gangakutir.com; doubles from Rs 12,500.

**Zurrantee, Dooars**

**WHY** You can lose yourselves amidst the lush green tea gardens that ensconce within their folds a gorgeous early 20th-century bungalow. A director's home converted into a luxe resort, Zurrantee is a quaint little heritage property complete with a cosy fireplace and a vintage gramophone in the charming Piano Room so you can court in true retro style. If both of you share a love for adventure, lose yourselves in the dense picturesque rainforests of the Dooars. **T+L TIP** Here's where you can get lazy with your love. Stroll the paths within the sprawling property while majestic snow-crowned peaks sculpt gorgeous patterns against the brilliant blue skies. Zurrantee Tea Estate, Matelli, Dooars, Dist: Jalpaiguri; 91/98308-22937; zurrantee.com; doubles from Rs 7,200.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF ROKEBY MANOR; COURTESY OF RAINFOREST; COURTESY OF FORT JADHAVGADH