

# Choosing your Hotels

## TAJ GROUP OF HOTELS

The Taj Group began in 1903 when J N Tata opened his first hotel, the Taj Mahal Palace & Tower in Mumbai. Architecturally superb and unashamedly luxurious it set standards of comfort and service that have been the Taj Group philosophy ever since. With 60 hotels in 45 locations across India, plus a further 15 properties worldwide, Taj Hotels have won international acclaim, and have become a byword for excellence in dining, business facilities, interior design and world-class, personalized, service.

## OBEROI GROUP OF HOTELS

Since 1934 the Oberoi Group has been synonymous with prestigious hotels, providing service, luxury and quiet efficiency that is second to none. Under the "Oberoi Hotels and Resorts" and "Trident" brands the Group is recognized internationally for all round excellence, with 27 hotels and 3 luxury cruisers in five countries. New properties in Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Shimla and Ranthambhore have redefined the meaning of luxury and excellence.

## CGH EARTH

For five decades CGH Earth hotels in Kerala and India's south have provided luxurious accommodation and fine service without compromising the environment or local communities. Each property has a very individual ambience in harmony with its surroundings and nature. CGH Earth properties in Cochin, Kumarakom, Periyar, Marari Beach, Palakkad, Gokarna and Bangaram Island provide an ideal hotel network for touring.

## HRH HOTELS RESORTS & PALACES

HRH Hotels Resorts & Palaces are some of the finest examples of heritage hotels. Their nine superb properties are spread through western Rajasthan, in Udaipur, Gajner (Bikaner), Kumbhalgarh, Ranakpur and Jaisalmer. With beautiful traditional decor and ambience reflecting their regal past, HRH pride themselves in providing great comfort, attentive personal service and fine cuisine. Experience the warmth of Rajasthani hospitality in royal surroundings.

## TRIDENT HOTELS

Part of the Oberoi Group, Trident Hotels have established a reputation for excellence, quality and value. These five star hotels combine state of the art facilities with warm, friendly service and relaxed environment, making them an ideal choice for leisure travellers. Trident's eight hotels are located in Mumbai, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Cochin, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur and Gurgaon (Greater Delhi).



Deogarh Mahal



Le Colonial

## Heritage Hotels

A Heritage Hotel's history, style and ambience will greatly add to your India experience. Here we highlight a few of the many fine heritage properties that are recommended in this brochure.



Samode Palace

transporting you back to a time of Rajput splendour. The Durbar Hall and Hall of Mirrors are perhaps Rajasthan's finest. It is a place to escape the outside world, where the tranquil gardens, courtyards and swimming pools help you relax.

## Samode Palace

For five years voted the best Heritage hotel in India, the Samode Palace is the quintessential palace hotel. Meticulously restored, its beautiful decoration and furnishings provide regal comfort,

## Fort Chanwa

Fort Chanwa is an exceptional example of elegant, symmetrical Indian architecture, with ornately carved latticework, friezes and intricate Jharokas. Built in the 1800's it reflects a turbulent past, but is now a superb stopover between Jodhpur and Udaipur. Its facilities include 45 elegant rooms, swimming pool, jacuzzi, croquet lawn, sauna, health club and fine multi-cuisine restaurant.

## Le Colonial

Le Colonial, near to St Francis Church in Fort Cochin, dates from 1506. Vasco de Gama stayed here and it was the Dutch Governor's residence for 150 years before the British took it over. Five centuries have been superbly restored in a veritable museum of artifacts from the colonial past, reflected in the decoration and furnishings.

## Ahilya Fort

Situated high above the banks of the sacred Narmada River, a stay at Ahilya Fort is an experience straight out of the 18th century. Built in 1766, it was the home of Ahilya Bai Holkar one of India's celebrated women rulers. Sympathetic renovation has combined its original atmosphere and charm with modern comfort and convenience. Hospitable, friendly service and fine cuisine ensure a memorable stay.

## Deogarh Mahal

The exquisite Deogarh Mahal was converted into a hotel by the present owner, Rawat Nahar Singh. Its 50 rooms are individually decorated using stained glass, colourful fabrics and antiques. Furnished in traditional style they are complimented by modern facilities. The cuisine is exceptional, with most ingredients being grown and produced locally. The seasonal fruit juices and jams are renowned. The imposing regal splendour of Deogarh is offset by the family's welcoming friendly hospitality.

## Shahpura Bagh

Midway between Jaipur and Udaipur, Shahpura Bagh is a 30-acre estate of verdant green tranquility built in 1630. A summer residence of the rulers of Shahpura, it is now a fine Heritage Hotel. Five beautiful suites and four double rooms with en-suite bathrooms are complemented by beautifully appointed public areas and enhanced by authentic Rajasthani cuisine. Surrounded by lakes in a green landscape it is ideal for those seeking relaxation and escape.



Fort Chanwa

## Historic Clubs

When the British ruled India, far from home they found themselves in need of recreational facilities. Within the confines of strict etiquette and selective membership, clubs were established across India for the military garrisons and civil service. Some have survived and now offer accommodation for non-members to experience the atmosphere and ambience of The British Raj.

We have chosen five notable examples that you may wish to include in your itinerary. Do request details.

**Gymkhana Club – Chennai (Madras), Wellington Gymkhana Club – Ooty, High Range Club – Munnar, Cochin Club – Cochin, Tollygunge Club – Kolkata (Calcutta)**



Taj Green Cove Resort - Kovalam

# Choosing your Hotels



The accommodation you choose will make a real difference to your experience and enjoyment of India. Hotel standards and styles vary considerably. The choice is large, especially in big cities, ranging from basic to super-deluxe. In smaller locations the choice can be limited.

The hotels specified for all itineraries have been chosen to provide varied examples of what is possible in terms of standard and ambience. Hotels constitute the major element of a tour cost and the category of the hotels you choose will reflect this.

**Note:** Houseboats in the backwaters (Kerala) have been categorized as Standard in the accommodation chart. All are air-conditioned and comfortable. Standards may vary a little from boat to boat.



Kadavu Resort

Historic palaces, manor houses, royal guesthouses and other historic properties that have been converted into hotels are referred to as "Heritage Hotels". Each is unique and they vary in terms of quality, prices, standards, service and facilities. We strongly recommend that Heritage properties be considered for inclusion in your itinerary.

In wildlife parks accommodation will be in jungle lodges and tented camps. Some are run by private companies, others by the government.

We have designed the accompanying chart for easy reference and to aid you in selecting your hotels. It lists properties specified in the itineraries in this brochure. Many of the hotels belong to well known groups like the Taj and Oberoi, plus many independent properties. Should you be interested in specific hotels not listed here, we will be happy to discuss them with you.

Hotels in the chart have been broadly classified into 5 categories, mainly based on price and standard of rooms, facilities, hygiene and service. Heritage Hotel classification is based on these qualities and their history. They are also noted by an asterisk in the chart. Standards can vary within each category and also with the passage of time. We are happy to offer advice on hotels when planning your holiday.

INDIA	S Deluxe	Deluxe	First	Standard
<b>AGRA</b>				
The Oberoi Amarvilas	•			
Trident Agra			•	
The Gateway Hotel			•	
<b>AMRITSAR</b>				
Hotel Ista			•	
<b>AURANGABAD</b>				
Taj Residency			•	
<b>BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK</b>				
Mahua Kothi		•		
King's Lodge			•	
<b>BHARATPUR</b>				
The Bagh			•	
<b>BANGALORE</b>				
Taj West End		•		
<b>BHOPAL</b>				
*Noor-Us-Sabah			•	
<b>BIKANER</b>				
*Laxmi Niwas Palace			•	
<b>CHAMBAL</b>				
*Mela Kothi			•	
<b>CHENNAI</b>				
Taj Fisherman's Cove		•		
<b>COCHIN</b>				
Brunton Boat Yard		•		
Taj Malabar		•		
*Le Colonial			•	
Malabar House			•	
<b>DARJEELING</b>				
*Windamere			•	
Glenburn Tea Estate			•	
<b>DELHI</b>				
Taj Palace		•		
The Imperial		•		
The Oberoi		•		
*The Claridges		•		
*Oberoi Maidens			•	
<b>DEOGARH</b>				
*Deogarh Mahal			•	
<b>DEVIGARH</b>				
*Devigarh Palace		•		
<b>DHARAMSALA</b>				
Chonor House			•	
<b>GANGTOK</b>				
Royal Plaza			•	
Nork Hill			•	
<b>GUWAHATI</b>				
Dynasty			•	
<b>GWAILOR</b>				
*Usha Kiran Palace			•	
<b>IDUKKI</b>				
Mayapott			•	
<b>INDORE</b>				
Fortune Landmark			•	
<b>JAIPUR</b>				
The Oberoi Rajvilas		•		
*Rambagh Palace		•		
*Jai Mahal Palace		•		
Trident Jaipur		•		
K Country Villa		•		
*Samode Haveli		•		
<b>JAISALMER</b>				
Fort Rajwada			•	
<b>JODHPUR</b>				
*Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace		•		
Taj Hari Mahal		•		
*Bal Samand Lake Palace		•		
<b>KALIMPONG</b>				
Silver Oaks			•	

INDIA	S Deluxe	Deluxe	First	Standard
<b>KANHA NATIONAL PARK</b>				
Banjaar Tola		•		
Chit van Jungle Lodge		•		
<b>KANNANKARA (Vembanad Lake)</b>				
Taamara			•	
<b>KARAIKUDI</b>				
The Bangala			•	
<b>KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK</b>				
Diphlu River Lodge			•	
Wild Grass Resort			•	
<b>KHAJURAHO</b>				
Taj Chandela			•	
<b>KOLKATA</b>				
*Oberoi Grand		•		
Taj Bengal		•		
<b>KORTA</b>				
Korta Escape			•	
<b>KOVALAM</b>				
Taj Green Cove		•		
The Leela Kempinski		•		
<b>KOZIKODE (Calicut)</b>				
Kadavu Resort			•	
<b>KUMARAKOM</b>				
Coconut Lagoon			•	
Taj Garden Retreat			•	
<b>KURUMBADI</b>				
Kurumba Village Resort			•	
<b>LEH</b>				
Kangla Chenn			•	
<b>LUNI</b>				
*Fort Chanwa			•	
<b>MADURAI</b>				
The Gateway Hotel			•	
<b>MAHESHWAR</b>				
*Ahilya Fort			•	
<b>MANALI</b>				
Manali Resort			•	
<b>MANAS NATIONAL PARK</b>				
Bansbari Lodge			•	
<b>MANDAWA</b>				
*Castle Mandawa			•	
<b>MARARIKULAM</b>				
Marari Beach Resort			•	
<b>MUMBAI</b>				
Taj Mahal Palace & Towers		•		
The Oberoi		•		
<b>MUNNAR</b>				
Windermere Estate			•	
Casa Del Fauno			•	
Ambady Estate			•	
<b>MYSORE</b>				
Windflower Spa Resort			•	
<b>NAGARHOLE</b>				
Cicada Kabini			•	
Orange County			•	
<b>NALAGARH</b>				
*Fort Nalagarh			•	
<b>NEEMRANA</b>				
*Neemrana Fort Palace			•	
<b>NIMAJ</b>				
Chhatrasagar		•		
*Nimaj Fort		•		
<b>OLAVIPE</b>				
*Thekkanatt Parayil			•	
<b>ORCHA</b>				
Amar Mahal			•	
<b>PALAMPUR</b>				
*Taragarh Palace			•	
<b>PANNA</b>				
Ken River Lodge			•	
<b>PELLING</b>				
Norbu Ghang Resort			•	

INDIA	S Deluxe	Deluxe	First	Standard
<b>PERIYAR</b>				
Spice Village			•	
<b>POLLACHI</b>				
Shenbaga Vilasam			•	
<b>PONDICHERRY</b>				
*The Promenade			•	
*Maison Perumal			•	
<b>POSHINA</b>				
*Darbargarh			•	
<b>PUSHKAR</b>				
The Orchard			•	
Pushkar Bagh			•	
<b>RAMATHRA</b>				
*Ramathra Fort			•	
<b>RANTHAMBHORE</b>				
The Oberoi Vanyavilas		•		
*Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge			•	
Tiger Den			•	
<b>THANJAVUR (Tanjore)</b>				
Ideal River View Resort			•	
<b>SAMODE</b>				
*Samode Palace			•	
<b>SHAHPURA</b>				
*Shahpura Bagh			•	
<b>SHIMLA</b>				
*Wildflower Hall (Mashobra)			•	
*Oberoi Cecil			•	
<b>THALASSERY</b>				
*Ayesha Manzil			•	
<b>UDAIPUR</b>				
*Taj Lake Palace			•	
The Oberoi Udaivilas		•		
*Fateh Prakash Palace			•	
Trident Udaipur			•	
Devra			•	
<b>VARANASI</b>				
The Gateway Hotel			•	
<b>WAYANAD</b>				
Tranquil Resort			•	

NEPAL	S Deluxe	Deluxe	First	Standard
<b>KATHMANDU</b>				
Yak & Yeti			•	
<b>CHITWAN</b>				
Machan Paradise View Resort			•	
<b>NAGARKOT</b>				
Club Himalaya Resort			•	
<b>POKHARA</b>				
Fishtail Lodge			•	

SRI LANKA	S Deluxe	Deluxe	First	Standard
<b>COLOMBO</b>				
Cinnamon Grand			•	
<b>BENTOTA</b>				
Taj Exotica			•	
<b>DAMBULLA</b>				
Heritance Kandalama			•	
<b>KANDY</b>				
Earl's Regency			•	
<b>MOUNT LAVINIA</b>				
*Mount Lavinia			•	
<b>NUWARA ELIYA</b>				
Tea Factory			•	

MALDIVES	S Deluxe	Deluxe	First	Standard
Vivanta by Taj - Coral Reef			•	
Taj Exotica & Spa			•	

**Deluxe & Super Deluxe**  
5-star Deluxe hotels offer excellent accommodation and amenities, which will include central air-conditioning, swimming pool and a choice of restaurants/cuisine. Service will be personal and attentive, and all facilities normally associated with this category can be expected. Includes some Heritage Hotels. Super Deluxe hotels provide even higher standards of refinement and luxury, reflected in their tariff.

**First Class**  
4/5-star hotels provide good, air-conditioned accommodation with choice of restaurants. Most will have a swimming pool. Includes some Heritage Hotels. Although classified as First Class, some lodges and camps in or near national parks are not strictly comparable to 4/5 star properties.

**Heritage (Marked with an \* in the chart)**  
Heritage Hotels are former forts, palaces, royal town houses, guesthouses and other historical properties. Each has a unique character. Furnishings are often family heirlooms, and together with distinctive architecture, reflect their noble past. They provide excellent personal service in superb surroundings. Most Heritage Hotels are in Rajasthan, but some have now opened in other areas including South India. Standards and facilities vary.

**Standard**  
3/4-star hotels provide adequate air-conditioned accommodation and modestly good food. Comfortable accommodation at reasonable prices.

**Basic (Not listed in the chart)**  
1/2-star properties provide basic accommodation and food. These hotels are suited to one-night stops where nothing else is available. Includes some lodges and camps in national parks with basic facilities. Probably not air-conditioned, they may have fans. Hot water may not be available all the time.

**Boutique Hotels & Home Stays**  
Very individual, Boutique hotels, sometimes overlapping with Heritage Hotels or Home Stays, are increasingly interesting options. Often privately owned and run, emphasis can be on hospitality and local knowledge, gastronomic experience or distinctive décor. A fascinating and enjoyable alternative to a larger hotel. We are happy to advise you.

**Higher Grade Rooms and Suites**  
Many hotels offer higher-grade rooms or suites. The tours in this brochure are based on using standard rooms in each hotel category. We will be pleased to advise on room up-grade options and supplemental cost. The suites in many heritage properties reflect their royal past.