

LUXURY PALACE HOTELS

The palace hotels in India are majestic. These hotels were actually once home to India's royalty, and in some cases still are, but have been converted into accommodations in recent years as a way of sustaining their existence.

The end result is that India now has some exquisite palace hotels where guests can stay and experience how royalty once lived. The range is huge from aspiring Savoy's to plainer, cheaper places. Here we sort the beautiful from the basic.

Neemrana Palace and Fort, Rajasthan

Set high up in the Aravalli Hills with breathtaking views from the rampart gardens, a magical maze of rooms, corridors and turrets over 10 levels and only two hours from Delhi on the national highway, this is the perfect place to begin or finish your 'royal' visit.



Fateh Prakash, Udaipur

The Fateh Prakash is a palace in which the Maharajah still chooses to live, while renting the rest of it out to the HRH hotels group, a chain of luxury palace hotels in India. The Palace, in two separate wings, faces the lake Pichola, and then backs onto the piazza with the more ancient Fort and its City Palace. The rooms, like many others in this category of heritage hotel, are time-capsules dedicated to the last Maharajas' taste.



Amanbagh, Alwar

Two hours outside Jaipur, the luxury hotel is a stunning modern palace of the palest pink sandstone. Every part of the luxury hotel emits tranquility. The 40 rooms are both cavernous and cosy, with private terraces designed for watching the monkeys cavort in the eucalyptus trees.



Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur

Set amidst 18 acres of beautifully landscaped Moghul gardens, this incomparable Palace dates back to 1745 A.D. A masterpiece in the Indo Saracenic style of architecture, it blends spotlight-grabbing opulence with tantalizing comforts that transport guests to a world of Rajasthan magnificence.



Rambagh Palace, Jaipur

Built in 1835, the Rambagh, is managed by the Taj hotel group, but ownership of the property is retained by the family. The palace is a veritable feast of styles. In some rooms, art deco bathrooms will rival any you have seen. Staying here is a voyeuristic expedition into the life of an Indian Prince.



Gajner Palace Hotel, Bikaner

The red sandstone palace is distinguished for its architectural grandeur and luxuriously appointed suites and rooms. The greenery at Gajner Palace, lawns and the chirping of birds and peacocks make it a truly memorable destination for leisure and corporate travellers.



Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur

Built 1929-45 to provide work for his people by Maharaja Umed Singh, Umaid Bhawan was to become India's last of the great palaces and the biggest private residence in the world. Perched high above the desert capital of Jodhpur, Umaid Bhawan Palace is set amidst 26 acres of lush gardens.



Devi Garh, Udaipur

This glorious 18th-century; hilltop fort-palace has been completely restored from ruin and is now a luxurious, all suite 'palace' hotel – but one with a difference! The outside of the building is entirely traditional and is the very essence of a true Rajput fort with endless wings, balconies, turrets and towers; whilst clean lines and an almost minimalist approach to the interiors give it a fresh, up to date feel.



Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur

Set amid awe-inspiring fairytale gardens, this 250-year old palace is one of the most romantic hotels in the world. The palace is unapologetically lavish with a timeless grandeur. The rooms are overflowing with extravagantly carved antiques and the courtyards with lotus-filled ponds and mango trees. The atmosphere is of regal splendour and romance.



Usha Kiran Palace, Gwalior

This 120-year-old palace played host to the King of England was the residence of the late Maharaja Jiwajirao Scindia. Artistic stone carvings and delicate filigree work embrace this regal palace. Light, airy and modern, the rooms offer gorgeous views and décor befitting royalty. Designed in a minimalist style with luxurious touches and reflecting the elements of nature, the 'Jiva Spa'.

