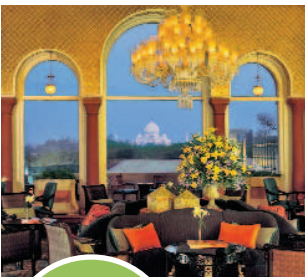


## The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra

Mounumentscape

**Why Go:** Can there be a better place to pucker up than someplace affording a private view of the Taj Mahal? We thought not. The best bit is that you won't have to strain your eyes – the hotel is located just 600



ASK FOR Room No. 303

meters away from the monument. The reason Room 303 stands out in a hotel where all rooms and public areas boast large windows promising a glimpse of Shah Jahan's ode to love is its balcony, approximately 60 sq m in size, with a private terrace.

**Damage to the Wallet**

₹39,000 (taxes extra) for a couple for a two-night package with breakfast, complimentary airport/railway station transfers and 15% spa discount

## Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom



**Why Go:** While most places in Kumarakom, of the Kerala backwaters fame, seduce visitors with breathtaking views, this CGH Earth resort offers a luxurious way of soaking it all in. The pool villas come with private

Naturescape

plunge pools and are located on their own secluded stretch of lake-front, so if its privacy you need, you know where to go. The lake in question, incidentally, is the Vembanad, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes. One can also enjoy the views of acres of endless paddy from the recommended villa. Bird-watching treats are guaranteed.

**Damage to the Wallet**

₹12,000 per couple per night, including breakfast & taxes

## Ahilya Fort, Maheshwar

Riverscape



**Why Go:** The 250-year-old fort, perched on a cliff, offers spell-binding views of the sacred Narmada river, its ghats and temples from its various nooks, crannies and rooms. But the tent does one better. Tucked away in a

ASK FOR The Royal Tent

private garden with its own heated plunge pool, it will have you feeling the like the master of all you survey. And the views are the best – and most exclusive – to be had on the property.

Located about 80 km away from Indore, the closest airport, this place also makes for a neat off-the-beaten-track journey.

**Damage to the Wallet**

₹21,000 (all inclusive)



ASK FOR The Heritage Machan

## The Machan, Jambulne

Forestscape

**Why Go:** Staying in a treehouse is a recurring childhood fantasy, getting away from the madness of daily life a recurring adult requirement. The Machan, an eco-haven about 1.5-hour drive from Pune, is where both wishes and needs are met. The fact that it is located in one of the 25 biological hotspots of the world is an added bonus. Here's what makes the Heritage Machan, a three-bedroom unit, exemplary in this already fantabulous place: It's been built around a wild fig tree, 45 ft above the forest floor, and hangs over the edge of a precipice. Our favourite room has to be the Crow's Nest, affording a 360° view of the forests all around. It's also a great place for star-gazing at night.

**Damage to the Wallet**

₹25,000 a night, with breakfast and dinner (excluding taxes)

## Four Seasons, Mumbai

Cityscape

**Why Go:** According to the latest Hotel Price Index report by hotels.com, Mumbai is on the third spot on the most-preferred destination list for Indian travellers. So chances are you will be heading there for the first time or the nth time, some time or the other. While hotel rooms with a view are dime a dozen in the city, The Four Seasons stands out, literally, since it is among the tallest buildings in the city. The recommended room, the corner room on the 32nd floor, not only gives an enviable view of the sun dipping down into the Arabian Sea, but also the twinkling city lights, slums included, far below. And a bird's-eye view of Mumbai by night is beyond breathtaking.



ASK FOR Room No. 3201

**Damage to the Wallet**

₹12,000 per couple per night (excluding taxes)

## Dolphin Resort, Havelock Island



**Why go:** While the Andamans boast several words-fail-me islands, Havelock is one of the most developed tourist-wise. Yet, it's located in a suitably hard-to-reach area to ensure it does not go the Phuket, Hawaii or Mediterranean coastline way. So you get miles of deserted white sand beaches, azure waters, and accommodation to suit every budget. This particular government-owned resort is the best place to stay on a tight budget, while the VIP cottage offers very comfortable surroundings. Imagine whiling away the hours just lying in bed, watching the sea change colours. And if you watch out for low tide, there is a tiny beach, just steps away.

ASK FOR The VIP Cottage

Seascape

Damage to the Wallet ₹2,000 (excluding taxes)