


# PORTER



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Amber  
Valletta

*Return of the 90s muse*

Photographed by Collier Schorr

The New  
Seduction



PRIVATE WORLD

# The Lotus, Kerala

The 21st century seems remote and the world drifts by when you board the LOTUS, a new teak-clad houseboat adapted from a traditional rice barge that plies the backwaters of the Malabar Coast

From your daybeds on the upper deck, watch egrets and fishermen haul in their catch and observe the compelling rituals of village life in the waterside settlements as you glide sedately by. Or stretch your legs through monkey forests studded with snake temples and stroll along palm-fringed islands. The *Lotus* is owned by the heavenly Neeleshwar Hermitage hotel nearby, and you are treated to the same charming service and healthy, delicious food that has become a hallmark of this beach resort; there are stunning fragrant soups such as beetroot with coconut, apple with almond or carrot with cumin, fresh local seafood and the traditional paratha bread that is as light as air and flakes into nothingness. For the best of both worlds, divide your time between the Neeleshwar beach cottages where you can indulge in yoga, Ayurvedic massages and meditation classes, and a night or two moored aboard the *Lotus*, on the silent backwaters.

It's a truly restorative and inspiring escape from the urban smoke.

*Greaves India creates bespoke trips to the subcontinent; a seven-night trip with four nights aboard the Lotus, two nights at Neeleshwar Hermitage and flights costs from £1,965 per person; greavesindia.com*





