

private worlds

Experience the life of a true travel insider, staying in the world's most sensational RETREATS.

From a dreamy lakeside sanctuary and a fantasy island hideaway to a magical tropical tree house,

PORTER's global edit of the most beautiful places to call your own

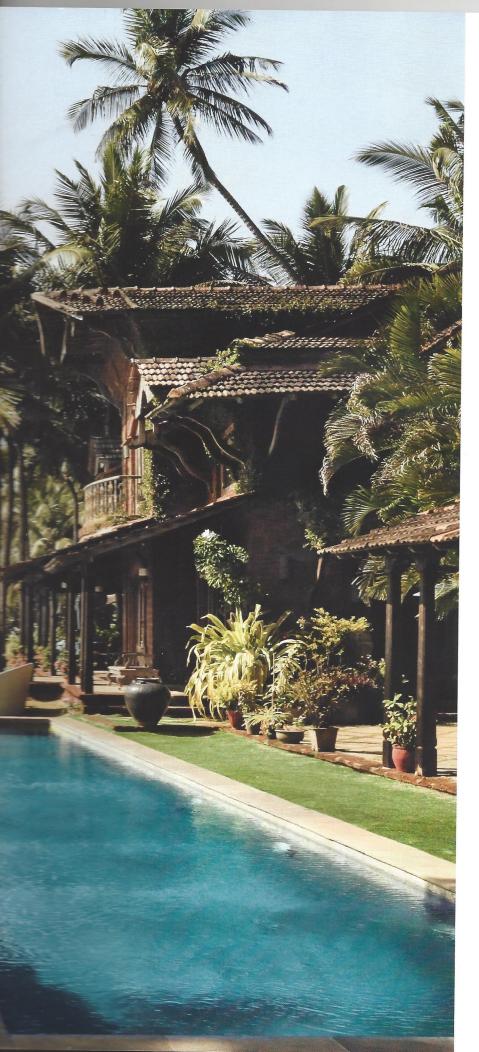
will transport you to EXOTIC UNIVERSES beyond your wildest dreams...

AHILYA BY THE SEA, GOA, INDIA

Shoreside Haven

The still beauty of Ahilya by the Sea is so complete that the stresses of life fall away like a shawl shrugged from your shoulders. From its high terraces - home to two suspended pools and lush gardens - you can look down on the wooden fishing boats of Coco Beach and imbibe the spirit of old Goa. The pleasures of staying here include historic wraparound views of the Mandovia and Nerul rivers as they meet the Arabian Sea, or the 17th-century ramparts of Fort Aguada, which for centuries guided sailors to this gateway of India. But also the exotic details - treasures from around the globe, and the sheer craftsmanship of the building, the sometimes home of Mrs Ellis, a lady of Goan-American descent who spent 10 years employing the best artisans to transform it from a row of custom houses into its current complex of nine bedrooms across three villas and a tree house. These can be booked as a whole, but also individually for the place also works quite sensationally as a hotel. Staff invite you treat the place as your own, bringing tea to a reading nook that catches the afternoon breeze. There is yoga on the tree house platform, followed by a massage to the sound of waves crashing on the shore and the ubiquitous cawing of crows. Breakfast on homemade breads, jams and mueslis, and dine on red snapper - steamed in a banana leaf, curried in mustard or simmered in coconut milk - soaking in the atmosphere of another age, while you gaze at the horizon where pods of dolphins play. Catherine Fairweather ahilyabythesea.com; Original Travel can organize a one-week stay at Ahilya by the Sea for up to 18 people, from £1,530 per person, including flights and transfers; original travel.com >





out of this world

eorter recommends
india
idylls



THE RIVER HOUSE, LADAKH
For space, peace and epic landscapes,
combined with feasts on its rooftop
terrace, this renovated traditional
village house on the INDUS is an
ideal base for HIMALAYAN adventures
or tracking a snow leopard.
Sleeps up to eight; a seven-night journey is
from £3,690 per person; shaktitravels.com



THE RAJBARI BAWALI, BENGAL
Near the spot where the **GANGES** turns
into the **HOOGHLY** RIVER, this grand
palace is hidden in a jungly area of lakes and
reservoirs, with a pool, daily yoga, massages,
and nightly folk music on the lawns.

Sleeps up to 22; a seven-night stay, including
flights, starts from £1,420 per person;
originaltravel.com



SUJÁN RAJMAHAL, JAIPUR
The sumptuous garden retreat of
JAIPUR's royal family was once an official
British residency where the Queen and
Jackie Kennedy were guests. The grandest
Maharaja and Maharani suites boast vast
gilded interiors, complete with private
entrances and terraces, plunge pools
and a butler and chauffeur service.
The 15 hotel rooms can be hired out entirely
from £8,499; greavesindia.com