

Honeymoon guide

Deep retreats



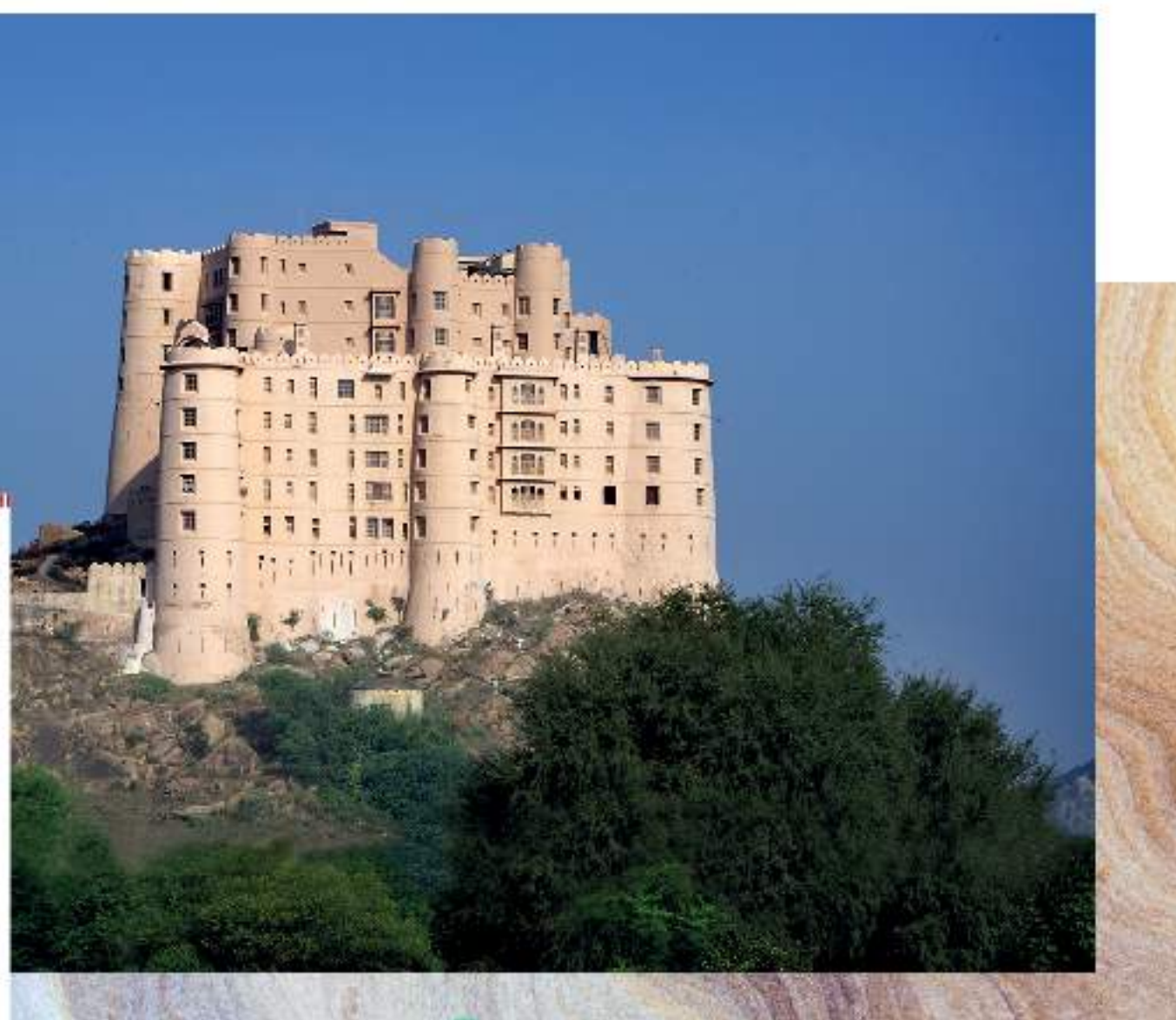
NEW

Alila Fort Bishangarh RAJASTHAN, INDIA

If you're lucky, once in your life you find a hotel that is so special, you want to keep it a closely guarded secret. Alila Fort Bishangarh is such a place. While Rajasthan isn't short of heritage hotels, we can think of at least two reasons to choose this one. First, the fact that it's said to be the only warrior fort that has been converted into a resort. Second, its location – an hour and a half from the pink capital of Jaipur, but in a remote, untouched slice of the countryside off the well-trodden Golden Triangle circuit. **Perched on a hilltop overlooking the rolling Aravalli Range, this 230-year-old pile has been rescued, restored and revived by Alila** and its crack team of architects and artisans, and turned into a knockout: 59 suites that unfold over quirky nooks and crannies, with ornamental latticed *jaalis* and scalloped arches. Heritage rooms, where romantic *jharokha*-style windows frame the temple-speckled landscape, are most special. There are four restaurants and bars, including Nazaara, which serves Rajput fare cooked in a fire pit, but all you'll want to do is head to the pool to sip Champagne while admiring the fort in all its glory, under the sunset's pink and orange hues.

WINNING STREAK The hotel's stylish subterranean spa which, carved out of the fort's foundations, showcases the original – now artfully lit – stone walls.

GO Audley Travel (audleytravel.com) offers seven nights, with three nights in Alila Fort Bishangarh, from £2,945 per person, B&B, including flights and a private car with a driver and a guide.



NEW

Awasi Iguazú ARGENTINA

Love's course doesn't always run smooth. Legend tells that an ancient god created the Iguazú Falls – which thunder down at 10,000 cubic metres a second – to eternally disrupt the path of a beautiful young maiden who spurned him for another lover. Flash forward to 2018 and you can enjoy the thrill of the Falls first-hand without any drama – thanks to Argentinian jungle retreat Awasi Iguazú. This boutique bolthole from adventure-luxe gurus Awasi, located just 15 minutes from the Falls, is so new, you can still smell the freshly cut pine. Aromatic wood has been used almost everywhere, giving the place – and its 14 stilted villas – a robust safari-lodge grandeur. **The restaurant is a classy affair with an imposing bar forged from one gigantic hunk of guayubira wood.** Pull up a stool, listen to tropical rain clattering on the tin roof and enjoy Pinot Noir and succulent steak, followed by crème caramel with a pineapple and ginger syrup. You'll need to keep your strength up for hiking and kayaking in the Alto Paraná Atlantic forests, home to alligators, tapirs and toucans (or, each room comes with its own 4WD and guide, so load the car with snacks and head off on a four-wheeled adventure instead). Back at base, walk back through steamy copses of guava and bamboo to your villa and plunge pool. Sup something cold, dive in, and while away hours watching butterflies flit overhead.

WINNING STREAK Awasi Iguazú has just secured exclusive access to the Iguazú Falls, thrice-weekly, before they officially open, meaning you can enjoy one of the seven natural wonders of the world – without the crowds. **GO** Double Villas cost from £1,486 pp for two nights, all inclusive with private guide and 4WD, all excursions and airport transfers; awasiguazu.com. TAP Air Portugal (flytap.com) offers return flights from London to São Paulo via Lisbon, from £557.

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