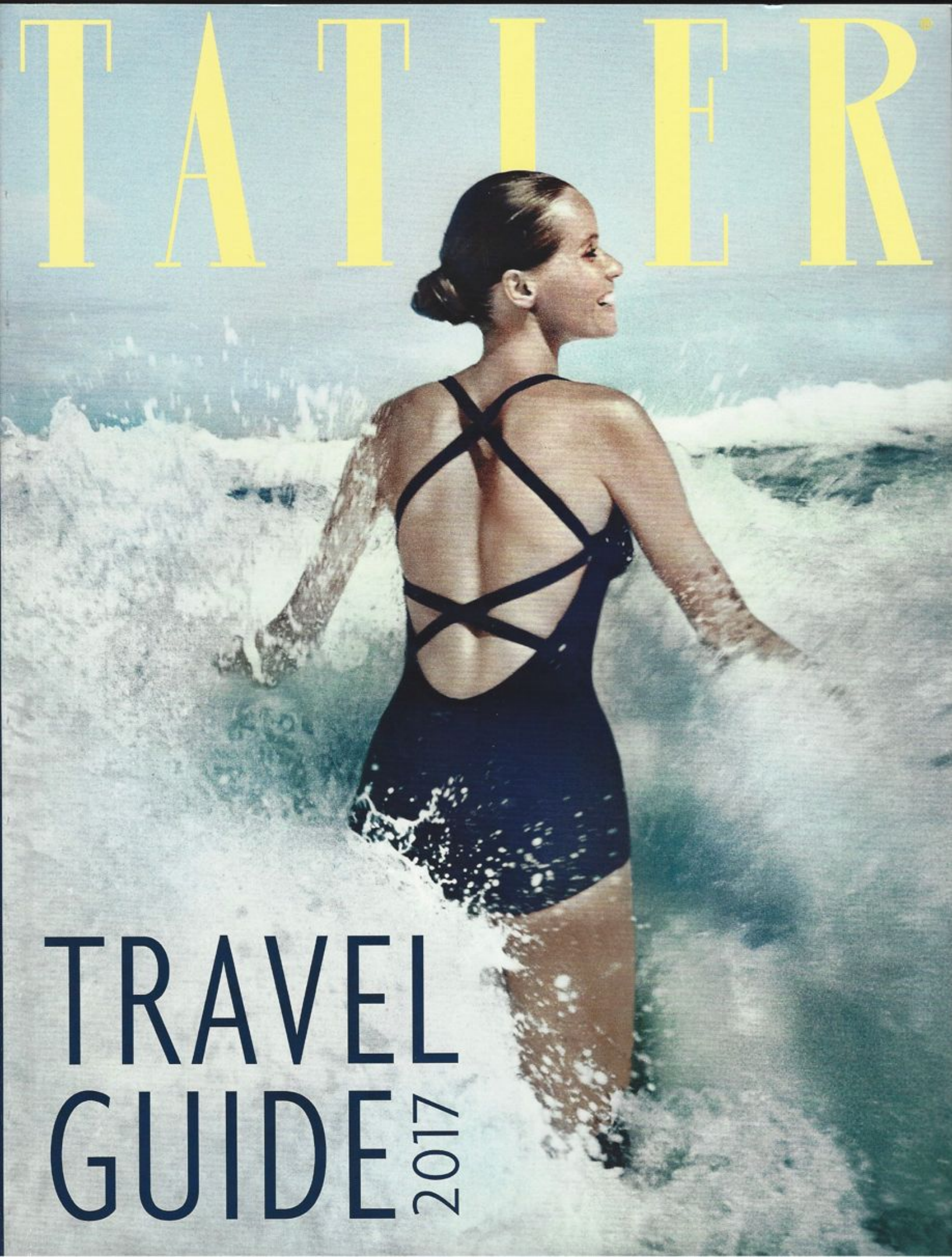


# TATLER



TRAVEL  
GUIDE 2017

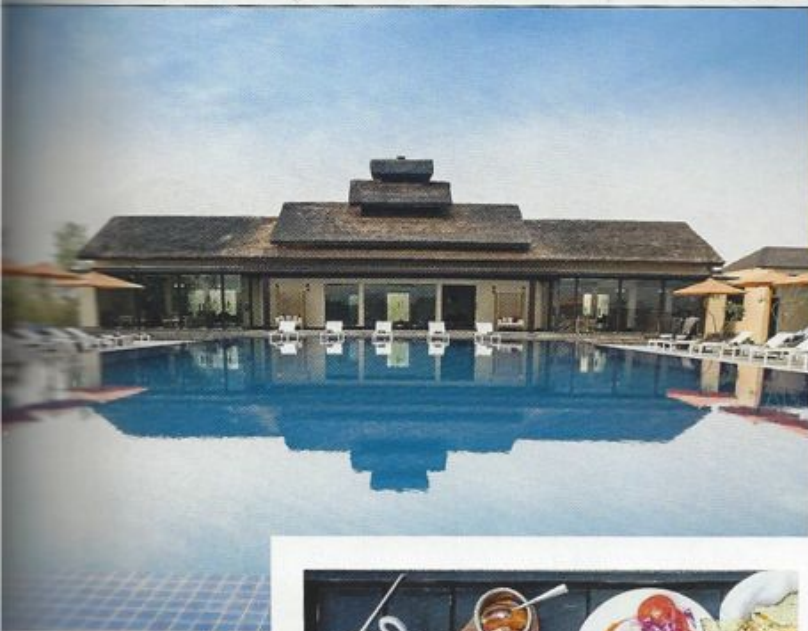
6 DAYS

7 DAYS

8 DAYS

9 DAYS

10 DAYS



## TAJ MEGHAULI SERAI

### CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL

Nepal, that magical land of high Himalayan peaks, has secrets lurking in its depths. Specifically, the vast tranches of green jungle at Chitwan National Park, where Bengal tigers stalk the shadows and one-horned rhinos lumber as ungainly as articulated lorries (but far rarer and more lovely). Who knew there were tigers in Nepal? Or rhinos? The place to see this animal spectacular is from the comfort of a liveried 4x4 as a guest of Taj's first safari lodge in Nepal, Meghauli Serai. Your room is a smart thatched villa overlooking the pretty Rapti River. There are cashmere throws in muddy hues and breezy bathrooms and, in the main lodge, a vast sparkling pool. Tigers are famously difficult to spot, but who cares when there are sloth bears, crocodiles and thousands of birds, from the tiniest, darting hummingbirds to fish eagles and enormous hooting hornbills, all in full carnival feather. **BOOK IT** Greaves India ([greavesindia.com](http://greavesindia.com); 020 7487 9111) offers three nights, full board, as part of a seven-night trip, from £2,850, including flights, transfers and excursions.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

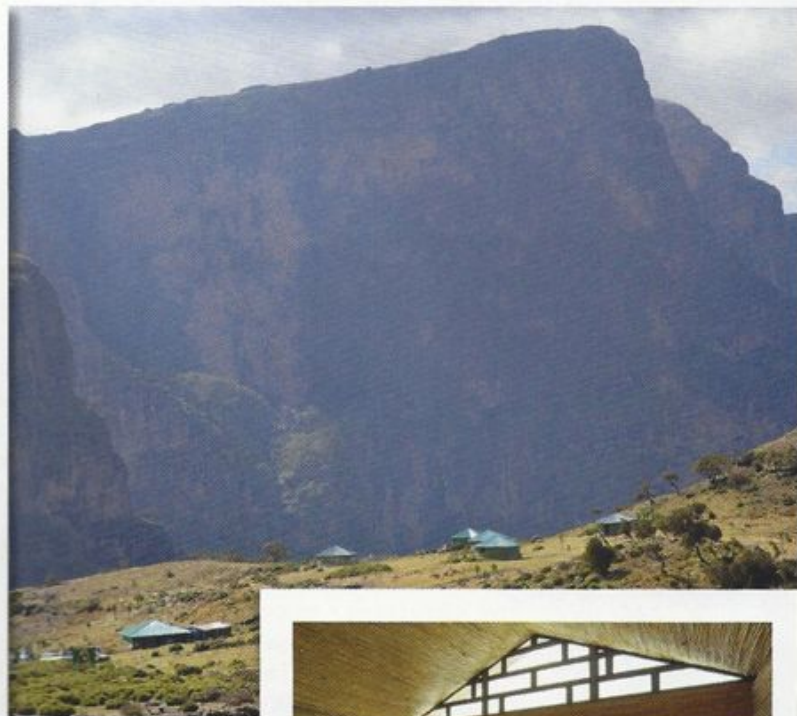
Remember to give the lodge's elephants a river bath. Expect to get very wet.



## LIMALIMO LODGE

### SIMIEN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, ETHIOPIA

Earthy is a term that gets thrown around a bit, but nothing else fits the new Limalimo Lodge, in the Ethiopian Highlands, quite so well. The 12 rooms of this boutique hotel, only the second in the wildlife-rich Simien Mountains National Park, have been constructed from local soil that's been compacted into a smart – but decidedly earthy – material, and all have big west-facing windows that look out to the forest. Set up by two Ethiopian guides and a British woman, Limalimo aims to be sustainable and part of the community, employing almost 100 per cent of its staff from the surrounding area. The cherry on the cake? The remarkable views of the Simien Mountains from the main terrace. At breakfast or with an evening glass of Rift Valley wine, you're likely to see geladas monkeys grazing and grooming on the escarpment, while dinner might be interrupted by news that there's a leopard bellowing outside as it passes through the grounds, just to let you know it's there. **BOOK IT** cazenove+loyd ([cazloyd.com](http://cazloyd.com), 020 7384 2332) offers four nights, full board, from £3,485, including flights with Ethiopian Airlines, transfers and private guides ([ethiopianairlines.com](http://ethiopianairlines.com)).



#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Take a trek into the Simien Mountains, through gorges filled with juniper, olive and acacia trees.



6 DAYS

7 DAYS

8 DAYS

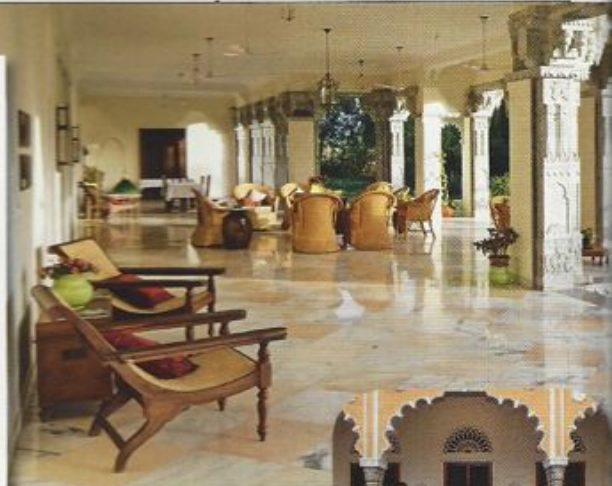
9 DAYS

10 DAYS

## DEV SHREE RAJASTHAN, INDIA

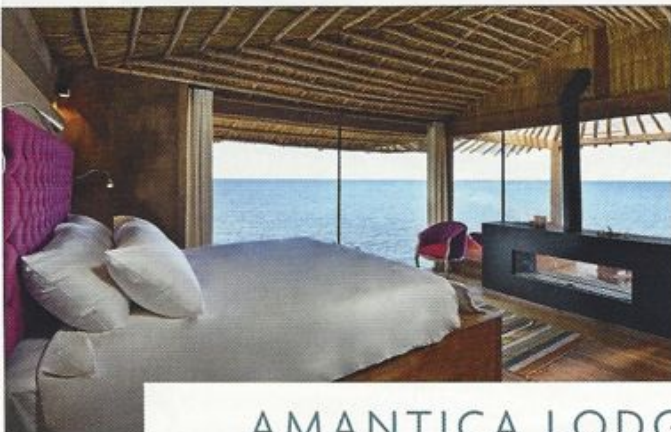
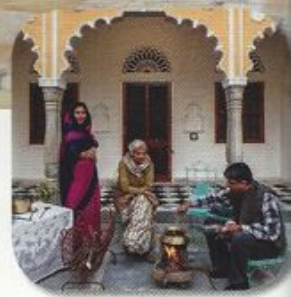
**W**hen we heard that Shatrunjay Singh and Bhavna Kumari, a couple of notable pedigree (the family is behind the fairytale fort Deogarh Mahal), had returned to their roots to build a dreamy haveli hugging the banks of Ragho Sagar Lake, bags were hastily packed. And we weren't disappointed. Dev Shree is a regal Rajput retreat with five courtly yet cosy bedrooms, awash with vivid fabrics and cool marble. This is a place to stay a while, to doze in a rattan chair under the arches of the deep verandas, to slip into the saltwater pool, to totter out onto the sunny lawn bordered by sweet-scented roses, to take afternoon tea of homemade samosas and squidgy Victoria sponge as flocks of parakeets swoop overhead. But this is a rare corner of unexplored Rajasthan, and explore you must – on thoughtfully curated forays with Shatrunjay into the glorious Aravalli Hills, or through time-frozen villages for a cup of chai with the local farmers, returning for sundowners and home-cooked suppers in the graceful courtyard as stars make a spectacle of themselves overhead.

**BOOK IT** Greaves India ([greavesindia.com](http://greavesindia.com); 020 7487 9111) offers five nights, full board, as part of a seven-night trip, from £1,840, including flights and transfers.



### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

*Shatrunjay will encourage you to sit, legs dangling, in the open doorway of an ancient train as you chug through the Aravalli Hills, feeding langur monkeys as you go.*



### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

*Have your coca leaves read by a local shaman before giving an offering to Pachamama, the Inca goddess of fertility.*

## AMANTICA LODGE LAKE TITICACA, PERU

**R**oosting on a rocky shoulder of land in the Hockney-blue water of Lake Titicaca, Amantica is properly, wildly remote (a flight, a drive and then a boat from Lima). Benefits: an unambiguously tourist-free experience of one of the world's loftiest lakes. The lodge is locally built, locally run and sustainable as anything – solar-powered and constructed from groovy adobe, totora reeds and island stone. There are only two glass-walled suites, run by the charming, fedora-clad Señor Osvaldo, who'll show you island life, and Adeli, who turns just-caught/plucked ingredients into delightful dishes like zesty trout ceviche. Life on the island is simple. Villagers rise with the sun, farm pre-Inca terraces and make offerings to the goddess Pachamama. You come here to disconnect from your devices and reconnect with the elements. The deck is the perfect spot for, well, not doing much. Sit and watch the sunlight sparkle on the water, while fishermen bob past in their wooden boats. Then rouse yourself, huff and puff your way up one of the island's peaks and catch one of the most glorious sunsets you've ever seen. **BOOK IT** Aracari ([aracari.com](http://aracari.com); 00 51 1 651 2424) offers two nights, all-inclusive, as part of an eight-night trip, from £4,280, including domestic flights, transfers and tours.



### NEWSFLASH

JUST-OPENED CHABLE, DEEP IN MEXICO'S MAYAN JUNGLE, HAS A SPA NEXT TO A SACRED SINKHOLE, AND THE WORLD'S LARGEST TEQUILA COLLECTION. OLÉ! ([CHABLERESORT.COM](http://chableresort.com))

## ANANTARA AL JABAL AL AKHDAR NIZWA, OMAN

**I**t's been five years in the making, and the buzz around this mountaintop five-star was so feverish that they had an Omani royal turn up unannounced on day one. Now you can explore this isolated, craggy wilderness, where goats scamper and wolves roam, without skimping on in-room massages or Amouage lotions. The hotel sits on the edge of a sheer canyon, 6,500 feet above the heat of the desert, and the best rooms have infinity pools and full-frontal views. You can get out and about for archery and abseiling, or hide away in the spa for a pomegranate scrub or punchy (not literally) hammam. There are six restaurants, one with a private jetty over the canyon, where Sicilian chef Francesco will cook the best funghi risotto imaginable, with the lights of Muscat twinkling far below. **BOOK IT** Double, from £370, including breakfast ([jabal-akhdar.anantara.com](http://jabal-akhdar.anantara.com); 00 968 2521 8000). Oman Air ([omanair.com](http://omanair.com)) flies to Muscat from £599.

### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

*Hike through a secret wadi (ravine) known only to local guide Tariq and lots of wild goats. Then cool off with a swim in a luminous natural pond.*

