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TRAVEL



Head for the hills



A truly rural retreat in India

The new Hilton Shillim Estate Retreat and Spa opens in time for the cooler monsoon season in Maharashtra, among 3,500 acres of lush forest, rice fields and bamboo plantations.

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Head for the hills: the new Hilton Shillim Estate is set among lush forest and rice fields (invest)

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The hill ranges of the Western Ghats are a biogeographically unique hotspot of flora and fauna. Now they include the new Hilton Shillim Estate Retreat and Spa, near Pune in Maharashtra, opening in time for the cooler monsoon season, among 3,500 acres of lush forest, rice fields and bamboo plantations.

Each of the 99 large villas, in natural tones and textures with private decks or balconies, comes with a dedicated butler service. Food will be largely Asian and Mediterranean dishes prepared from locally sourced organic produce.

Central to the resort is the 70-acre spa with a yoga pavilion, meditation cave and 17 treatment rooms for 150 treatments ranging from reiki, acupressure, aromatherapy and naturopathy.

Opening rate of £270 B&B. For more information, visit shillimretreatandspa.hilton.com (British Airways flies to Mumbai, two-and-a-half hours' drive away)

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WEATHER FRIENDLY

iso-Syote Hotel, Suola, Finland
 The eco-chic Iso-Syote Hotel sits 150km south of the Arctic Circle in one of Finland's snowiest, most picturesque pockets. Combining the dramatic Suola National Park, the area is mostly flat, with a grassy meadow, but some summer deep dark forests and special trees appear. See it all from the hotel's new digital view suite, two panoramic floors featuring fireplaces, a private sauna, jacuzzi, and a bike growing up the middle. Weekly Travel offers a week-long itinerary of The Iso-Syote Hotel from £1,050pp includes return flights, transfers, breakfast and a night in the digital view suite. Visit www.iso-syote.com

Hilton Shillim Estate Retreat and Spa, Western Chats, India
 This exquisite new five-star property, set on the 350-acre Shillim Estate in the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot, features plantations of virgin forests. It features a 10,000 sqm zone of being best 13,000sqm hotel, as well as a spa, five dining and one of India's best stocked wine cellar. The only problem will be leaving. Rooms start from £119 a night. Visit www.hilton.com

Birkbeck, Langdon Valley, Cambodia
 This ultra-lux hotel, set in a former gunpowder factory in the glorious Lake District, is simply divine. Yet nature? No problem when there's a lush and green landscape, everything from laying your feet and napping your bath is waiting for you. Birkbeck is weather gear. Then there's the spa, huge pool and reading room, where you can relax with complimentary coffee, wine and the finest copy of Grazia. Rooms start from £225. Visit www.birkbeck.com

THE ECO-CHIC ISO-SYOTE HOTEL SITS 150KM SOUTH OF THE ARCTIC IN ONE OF FINLAND'S SNOWIEST, MOST PICTURESQUE ROCKETS.



DOG FRIENDLY

Old Swan & Winter Hill, Coleridge
 As if 40 acres of private gardens, wildflower meadows and walks were enough, the Coleridge is a dog-friendly hotel. The hotel also offers a dog-friendly package. It includes a dog basket, a luxury picnic, hot water in hot dog, a craft beer evening, beer and a glass of wine could be done for you. Rooms cost £20 a night. Visit www.oldswanandwinterhill.com

The Barkham, Coleridge
 A contemporary local style hotel tucked away in a quiet corner of Coleridge is called The Barkham. The Barkham is an elegant, low-rise that offers a stylish welcome to dogs too. The Doggy Dreams package includes a welcome to and treat, dog bed, luxury in-room doggy dining and a package to introduce your canine companion to the owners of local parks and grooming parlours. From £75 a night. Visit www.barkhamhotel.com

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