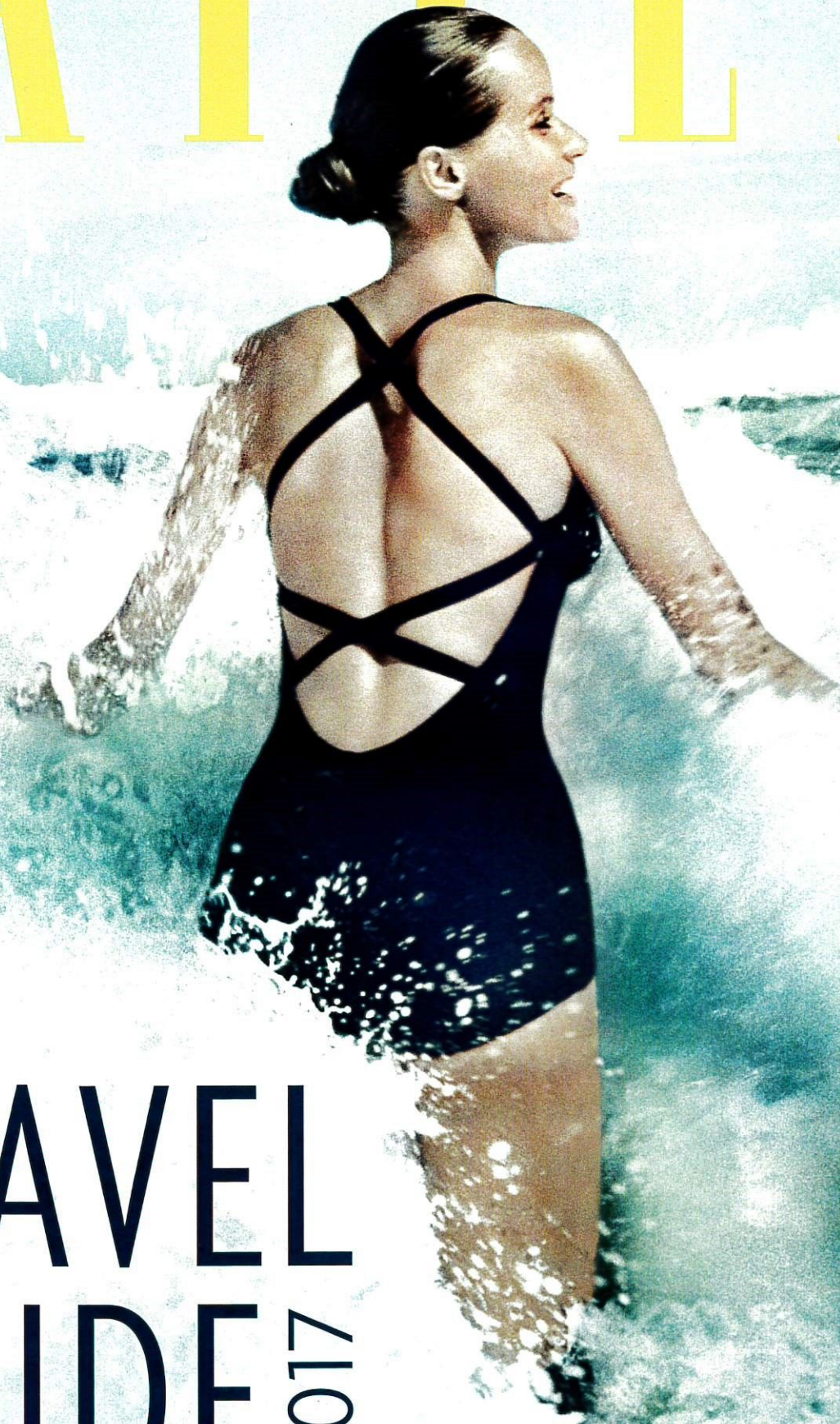


FAT TIE[®]



TRAVEL
GUIDE 2017

6 DAYS

7 DAYS

8 DAYS

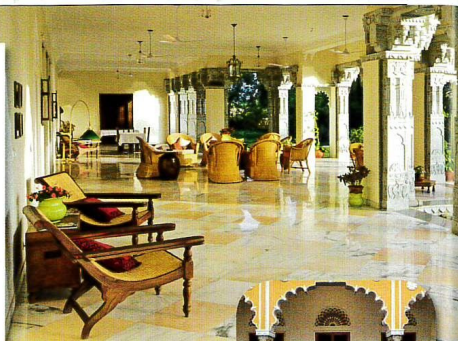
9 DAYS

10 DAYS

DEV SHREE RAJASTHAN, INDIA

When 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; 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.



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)

ANANTARA AL JABAL AL AKHDAR NIZWA, OMAN

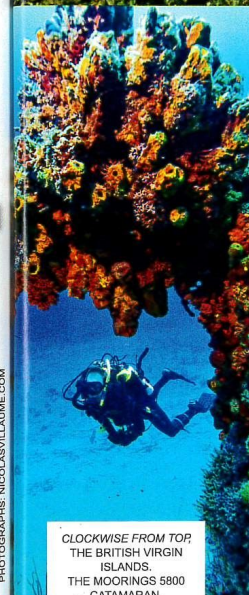
It's been five years in the making, and the buzz around this mountaintop five-star was so feverish that they had an Omani royal turn up unannounced on day one. Now you can explore this isolated, craggy wilderness, where goats scamper and wolves roam, without skipping on in-room massages or Amouage lotions. 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; 00 968 2521 8000). Oman Air (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.



PHOTOGRAPHS: NICOLAS VILLANUEVA.COM



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS.
THE MOORINGS 5800 CATAMARAN.
THE EXPANSIVE FLYBRIDGE OF THE MOORINGS 5800 CATAMARAN.
VALLEY TRUNK BAY, VIRGIN GORDA.
BITTER END YACHT CLUB, VIRGIN GORDA.
THE WRECK OF THE RMS RHONE

LIKE A VIRGIN ISLAND?

We bloody love one. Especially when we can explore all those tucked-away swimming coves and deserted beaches from the comfort of our own yacht. Discover a personal paradise in the British Virgin Islands with The Moorings Sailing Holidays

'No matter what your voyage, no matter what course you choose, a trip with The Moorings promises to be anything but boring'

If you haven't woken up to the sound of water gently lapping against the hull of a yacht, or tucked into fresh seafood on your own deck at sunset, then – we hate to break this to you – you haven't really lived. Chartering an all-inclusive, crewed yacht with The Moorings offers all the trappings of luxury you've come to expect from a hotel stay but with an added dose of freedom. Not to mention a heady dollop of adventure! This is your opportunity to give your holiday a fresh perspective. Where better to set sail than the magnificent British Virgin Islands? After all, this incredible, azure-hued haven inspired *Treasure Island*.

The British Virgin Islands is a sprawling archipelago that encompasses 60 islands and cays. The beaches are white and sandy, the vegetation is lush and tropical and the water is impossibly blue. Well protected from Atlantic swells, these islands also benefit from reliable trade winds and a year-round temperate climate. The perfect place, then, to test out your sea legs. Did we mention that only 15 of the islands are inhabited? Suddenly 'leaving it all behind' has new meaning.

The Moorings 5800 Master edition is the latest catamaran to join The Moorings fleet. And it is beautiful. With five en-suite cabins and a large saloon, it has everything you could possibly need for an invigorating sailing holiday. Think hydraulic swim platform for easy dipping access, an expansive fly bridge designed to soak up those views and stylish fittings at every turn. As well as a knowledgeable and friendly captain, you also get your very own chef – so all your dining (even snacks and drinks) is taken care of. At The Moorings, the aim is to create your dream getaway – so everything is completely tailored to you.

Perhaps you'll partake in a spot of paddle-boarding, fishing or kayaking. All kit is stocked on board and the watersports come at no extra charge. Or you could sail to the North Sound – the waters surrounding the famous islands of Necker, Prickly Pear and Eustatia. The on-shore parties here are legendary. The British Virgin Islands offers some of the most remarkable snorkelling in the world – the reefs are an explosion of vibrant, eye-popping colour. Your crew can guide you towards the top spots with the most exotic fish-life. No matter what your voyage, no matter what course you choose, a trip with The Moorings promises to be anything but boring.

For more information, visit moorings.co.uk or bvitourism.co.uk

