

29<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

# Discover India

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017 ₹100



## 29 YEARS / 29 STATES / 29 WONDERS

From Mesmerising Konark To The Verdant Beauty Of The Valley Of Flowers, India Will Hold You Spellbound

### DESERT ROSE

Live Like Kings In  
Golden City Jaisalmer

### ASSAM IN FOCUS

Experience The Best  
of Nature & Wildlife

### RETROSPECTIVE

The Best Of DI Photo  
Essays Over The Years

### CASHLESS TRAVEL

Get Smart On Your  
Journey Across India

ISSN 0950-0417



1 777455

## ORANGE COUNTY RESORT, HAMPI

# TRIBUTE TO VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE

A massive fort-like entrance gateway and stone-paved boulevard herald a welcome into the sprawling 28-acre modern-day palace which stands in isolated splendour. The pink façade is a striking contrast to the boulder-stricken landscape of Hampi. This imposing palace resort charms and awes with the opulence and grandeur of the bygone Vijayanagara Empire era.

The Indo-Islamic architecture takes design cues from the historic site of Hampi. The bay windows, arches and domes are inspired by the Chandragiri Palace. Public spaces are packed with marble, domes and arches.

Original stucco paintings of village and market scenes embellish the walls. The lotus motif permeates the resort.

Accommodation comes in different categories such as Jal Mahal, Nivasa and Nilaya. The *piece de resistance* is the Jal Mahal or pool villas. The interiors here are blindingly contemporary and minimalistic. The friendly and gracious staff ensure that staying here is like staying with a family. I could sense the regal elegance as I strolled down the hallways with dainty floral arches. I was transported to the princely era marked by royal luxury and hospitality. While all modern amenities are available, it is

the perceptible influence of the past that fascinated me the most.

For a truly local experience, five resident historians curate archaeological walks and trails to the UNESCO World Heritage monuments and temples in Hampi and nearby areas. The two restaurants, Tuluva and Badami, are named after the two erstwhile dynasties of the region. I lingered over the scrumptious food with local tangy flavours at the Tuluva restaurant overlooking a luxurious pool. At the Badami restaurant, I enjoyed a candle-lit dinner, and later took a dip in the infinity pool,

which is reminiscent of the aquaduct-fed temple tanks of the Vijayanagara Empire. At the Ayurvedic spa, I was pampered with a languorous massage. The deft hands of the therapist lulled me to sleep as they employed traditional restoratives, herbs, oils, spices and flowers.

—Susheela Nair

### NAVIGATOR

**Go there for** History and luxury

**Address** Orange County, Hampi, Kamalapura-P.K. Halli Road, Kamalapura, Hospet Taluk, Bellary, Karnataka-583101

**Reservations** (0) 83942 94700

**Website** [www.orangecounty.in](http://www.orangecounty.in)

**Email** [hampi@orangecounty.in/info@orangecounty.in](mailto:hampi@orangecounty.in/info@orangecounty.in)

**Tarif** ₹24,000 to ₹56,000

