



Splurge

KHWABGAH, NOOR MAHAL PALACE HOTEL, KARNAL

An art destination like few other, the Noor Mahal Palace Hotel in Karnal is a treasure trove of heritage, antique art, dying traditions and commendable art conservation. The best of all of that is exemplified by the special royal sleeping chamber, the Khwabgah. Spread across 2,000 sq. ft., the suite includes two bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, separate bar, office chambers, decadent bathrooms and a gigantic private terrace. Painstakingly built over two years, the chawaras (railing) have been purchased from different parts of Amritsar, while the royal chamber has original windows dating back to Mughal constructions. The bar area is adorned by restored pieces from the debris of the Golden Temple vicinities after Operation Blue Star. The chambers flaunt ivory details, restored furniture and the pride of place is the main antique door of the suite. Various furniture and paintings have been sourced from museums and collectors from around the region to lend Noor Mahal an authentic art and architectural experience. Serviced with a personal butler, mixologist on call, private high tea and in-room spa pampering, the Khwabgah can be yours for 1.5L a night. The terrace alone makes it worth it.

A quick drive from Delhi, the hotel exudes winning standards of hospitality. With exquisite detail paid to its authenticity, the hotel has two courtyards – the Diwan-e-Aam and the Diwan-e-Khaas – 122 heritage-imbued rooms, suites and presidential suites, multiple themed banquet halls, lawns and pool and three excellent restaurants serving delectable north Indian *khaana*. My favourite is the Frontier Mahal – a railway club-themed restaurant with an actual old-timey train compartment which you can dine in. Be it a wedding destination or a luxurious weekend getaway, Noor Mahal is definitely a must-check-out this season.

