

“This is the first tented camp to be set up in the bathed-in-honey no man’s-land of Jaisalmer...
The Serai is dramatically elemental but with a glamorous kick...”



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Built on an 8,000-foot Himalayan plateau close to Nepal, this is thrills delivered right up at the tippy-top. One day the air is so crystal-clear you can see the drops of dew on the grass from your window, the next, mist pushes in like a slab of stone. This is a modern eco-eyrie conceived by a Parsee psychoanalyst for committed travellers (Ian McEwan has stayed) – because, boy, it’s a sweat to get here. Four glassy cottages are kept warm by wood-burning stoves and the food from the Tibetan chef is exquisite – Welsh cakes slathered in butter. There are long walks, dipping into the glacial waters if you can hack it, and guides with informed chat about everything from local micro-societies to fungi facts. A searing experience to charge the synapses. Website shaktihimalaya.com. UK reservations Cazenove + Loyd (tel: 020 7384 2332). Rates Double, from £680, full board.



The Serai

Jaisalmer, India

Frontier decadence. This is the first tented camp to set up in the bathed-in-honey no-man’s-land of Jaisalmer, the last town – and high-security zone – before you arrive in Pakistan. The Serai is dramatically elemental but with a glamorous kick. The 21 crisply cream tents are tall and airy, with campaign-style furniture, colourful durries and vintage suitcases. Seven of the tents come with their own plunge pools – and the main infinity pool is a dreamy mirage. Come here to depressurise and reconnect – just you and the stars and the ground beneath your feet. And a pretty little spa thrown in. Your luggage is swept to your room on a camel-drawn cart, you can order warm foie gras for lunch and chilli-spiked curry for supper. At night the whole place is ablaze with candles and lanterns. Hot-water bottles keep you toasty. And all against a backdrop of those spectacular all-to-yourself sand-dunes – so wonderfully nomadic. Website the-serai.com. UK reservations Greaves Travel (tel: 020 7487 9111). Rates Double, from £350, including breakfast.