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Royal residence in the land of kings

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Colourful retreat: the Rajmahal Palace hotel has striking interiors

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As gateway to Rajasthan, India’s largest and possibly most colourful state, Jaipur holds its own for historical buildings — the hilltop Amber Fort and the Palace of the Winds among them. Built in 1729 for the Maharaja of Jaipur, another is the Rajmahal Palace hotel, which re-opens this month as a 15-room luxury hotel under the Suján group.

Close to the Rambagh Palace, another former residence of the Maharajah and also a hotel, the Rajmahal was once home to British officers and local and British royalty, with guests including Princess Diana. Photographs reveal striking interiors by Adil Ahmad, whose designs reflect the hotel’s colourful past with rooms decorated with blue and soft green wall-coverings, traditional Mutual art and Art Deco features, sweeping marble staircases, mirrored ceilings and cut-glass chandeliers.

Two restaurants and in-room spa treatments will keep guests in the regal luxury they are accustomed to — during their stay, at least.

Steppes Travel has six nights in Rajasthan including three at the Suján Rajmahal Palace and all internal and international flights from £2,495 per person, steppestravel.com