

The Kohler City Guide Series

Delhi, India

A designer's guide to where to eat, sleep, drink, and explore

The 11 districts in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have two spirits: one embodied in the glittering malls and smart metros, and another in the centuries-old forts, temples, and bazaars. Steeped in history but with a refreshingly modern edge, New Delhi has a truly “glocal” soul.

By Vaishnavi Nayel Talawadekar



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- A-C Bougie was designed by Natasha Jain, cofounder of furniture and interior design firm Bent Chair. Images courtesy of Bent Chair
- D Contemporary art gallery Nature Morte shows the work of local artists such as Bharti Kher. Image courtesy of Nature Morte, New Delhi
- E Built in the early 13th century, the red sandstone tower of Qutb Minar is one of Delhi's key architectural hallmarks. Image by Azhar Khan/iStockphoto.com
- F New Delhi's streets are a feast of sights and sounds. Image by Nikada/iStockphoto.com

What to see and do

One of Delhi's most recognizable architectural hallmarks is the **Qutb Minar** in South Delhi, a historic minaret and UNESCO World Heritage Site in Delhi's oldest fortified city, Lal Kot, completed around 1220. Another crown jewel from Delhi's Muslim past that's also a UNESCO World Heritage Site is the **Red Fort** in Central Delhi, a sandstone marvel commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1638. If you're paying it a visit, be sure to pick up an audio guide to experience the monument in all its former glory.

If you prefer to be surrounded by nature, take an auto rickshaw to **Lodhi Garden** to see ancient ruins from the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties, or to picnic among the trees. Then consider taking a **Hop-On, Hop-Off (HOHO)** bus to see Delhi's biggest and brightest sights.

Delhi is also a wellspring of homegrown art. In New Delhi, **Nature Morte** is a contemporary art gallery that shows everything from abstract paintings to sociopolitical installations and attention-grabbing photographs. Some noted Indian artists represented by the gallery include Aditya Pande, Mrinalini Mukherjee, and Martand Khosla.



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Where to eat and drink

For an authentic taste of Delhi, consider a guided food tour through **Chandni Chowk**, a short walk from the Red Fort, one of the oldest markets in Old Delhi. Besides being known for its saris, spices, sweets, and jewelry, it's a legendary street food destination. Some spots to bookmark for your visit to the market include **Giani's Di Hatti**, famous for its decadent *chole bhature* and *rabri falooda*; **Paranthe Wali Gali**, for its ghee-soaked stuffed parathas; and **Shyam Sweets** in next-door **Chawri Bazaar** — a wholesale market for brass, copper, and paper — for its *bedmi puri* and *halwa nagori*.

There are plenty of fine-dining options at **Connaught Place** in New Delhi. A favorite is **Kwality**, one of Delhi's oldest family restaurants, where you can admire the British-era architecture while listening to live piano in the evening or jazz performances on the weekends. The city also boasts a kaleidoscope of lounges and bars. In South Delhi's Mehrauli neighborhood, visit the pan-Asian **MisoSexy** and Mediterranean-European **Bougie**, owned by restaurateur Priyank Sukhija and designed by his partner, cofounder of furniture and interior design firm Bent Chair.

- G-I Haveli Dharampura in Old Delhi offers the chance to stay in a restored traditional Indian mansion. Images courtesy of Haveli Dharampura
- J-K The interiors of AMPM boutique in Khan Market echo the effortless luxury of the clothing and accessories on sale. Image by Fabien Charuau



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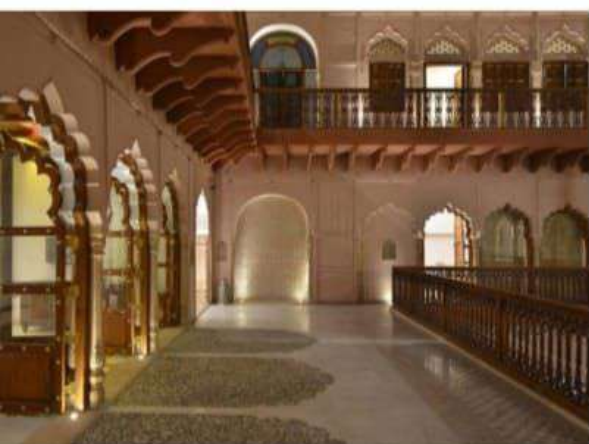
Where to shop

Delhi's legendary street markets have a life of their own, and a trip to the city is incomplete without a visit to **Janpath Market**, near Connaught Place, the city's most scintillating shopping area where you can find clothes, shoes, accessories, and souvenirs. For traditional handicrafts from all over India, make your way to **Dilli Haat**, a government-operated open-air market full of artisanal delights.

Alternatively, for a more elevated (and air-conditioned) experience, head over to **Khan Market** in New Delhi and make a beeline for fashion brands **ANOKHI**, **Fabindia**, **AMPM**, and **DLF Emporio**.



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Where to sleep

There are some places in Delhi that serve as golden windows into its past. **The Maidens Hotel**, established in 1903 and officially recognized as a Heritage Hotel, is one such time capsule, with old-world European architecture outside and a century-old tradition of hospitality within. Another delightful boutique property is **Haveli Dharampura** in Old Delhi, a lovingly restored haveli with charming rooms and luxurious amenities.

If you prefer a crisper B&B experience, **Bungalow 99** in New Delhi might be up your alley. Each suite has a terrace or balcony, a cozy lounge, and a well-appointed kitchenette. The breakfast spread is generous too, with both continental buffet and à la carte options.



KOHLER EXPERIENCE CENTERS NEW DELHI & MUMBAI, INDIA

The New Delhi KOHLER Experience Center was Kohler Co.'s first global flagship in India. Opened in 2017, the sprawling 10,000-square-foot space comprises four distinct areas spread over the center's two floors. Meetings and events are held in the Café, while in the Designer Gallery, architects, designers, and consumers can collaborate with the seven architects on hand to help create the perfect bathroom suites. At the basement level, the Lab brings KOHLER's product innovation alive through interactive displays, while the Warehouse displays some 350 products in color-coded zones that showcase KOHLER's myriad collections and finishes.

Mumbai's KOHLER Experience Center is in the Laxmi Mills neighborhood. Similar to its New Delhi counterpart, the 16,000-square-foot center features four zones, including an "inspiration zone" where several notable international and local designers have conceived thematic showcases of KOHLER products. Visitors can experience interactive and live product displays, a fully equipped coworking space, and sections dedicated to Artist Editions, the KOHLER Manchester United Collection, and high-end products from KALLISTA®.

KOHLER Magazine

A global discussion on design ⑥



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Since the last issue of *KOHLER Magazine*, most of the world has emerged from the pandemic and begun to rebuild and reconnect. One of the better outcomes of this time in history is a focus on the personal. Many of us were forced to turn inward (and indoors), and with drastic changes to our ways of life, we began to examine our personal desires, needs, and values. Words like “hybrid”, “flexi,” and “balance” have taken on new significance and become inextricably linked to ideas of wellness and well-being as we embrace our diverse needs. To this end, the ability to personalize our lives and surroundings is both empowering and exciting, and developments in design, architecture, and the built environment reflect this movement.

This optimistic and innovative aspect of personalization is our focus in the sixth issue of *KOHLER Magazine*. Personalization in design and architecture considers the complexity of the human experience and offers thoughtful ways to create a human-centric environment. In this issue, we bring you projects, people, and places that champion personalization, human-scale approaches, and individual stories. From the micro (artist Jaiprakash Lakhiwal's miniature paintings for KOHLER Artist Editions sinks) to the macro (Green Tower, the tallest building in Bolivia), the stories in this issue explore the many facets of personalization in design.

As always, we hope you find this edition of *KOHLER Magazine* uplifting and enriching.

Sincerely,

Larry Yuen
Group President — Kohler Kitchen & Bath

On the cover

Dubai's Museum of the Future, designed by architect Shaun Killa. Image courtesy of Museum of the Future