

The Suite Life



Rambagh Suite - Signature

The new hotel suites are an ecosystem in themselves, even as they seek to offer convenience and comfort with a touch of luxury

By Bindu Gopal Rao

The luxury hotel suite has stopped simply being a larger room and has, in fact, started functioning as a destination. Hoteliers weigh in on these self-contained spaces.

Redefining What Luxury Means

The suite evolution began gradually over the last decade but accelerated significantly after the pandemic, when travellers reassessed what luxury truly means. Today, a suite is no longer viewed merely as premium accommodation; it is a highly personalised environment that offers exclusivity, comfort and flexibility.

Wajeed Bagwan, General Manager, Marriott Executive Apartments Bengaluru UB City, explains, “Modern luxury travellers are seeking experiences that are curated around their lifestyles rather than adapting themselves to the hotel’s offering. They want spaces where they can relax, work, entertain, celebrate, rejuvenate and spend quality time

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without leaving the privacy of their suite. As a result, suites have transformed from larger rooms into holistic living environments that deliver convenience, personalisation and a heightened sense of wellbeing.”

Privacy has become one of the defining pillars of luxury hospitality today. Affluent travellers increasingly value the ability to customise their stay, control their environment and enjoy experiences on their own terms. Five years ago, luxury was often associated with grandeur and access. Today, it is equally about discretion, personalisation and flexibility.

“Guests expect seamless experiences that allow them to work, dine, conduct meetings, entertain guests or simply unwind within the comfort of their suite. While social spaces remain important, many high-net-worth travellers increasingly value the option of having restaurant-quality dining, wellness experiences and concierge services delivered privately. The emphasis is less about avoiding

shared spaces and more about having the freedom to choose how they engage with the hotel ecosystem,” adds Bagwan.

Cohesive Units

Hotel suites are being designed as complete ecosystems with dining, wellness, work, entertainment and outdoor spaces becoming essential.

Manmeet Singh, General Manager, Ran Baas, The Palace, avers, “I would look at this less as an ecosystem contained within the four walls of a suite and more as an ecosystem created around it. At Ran Baas, The Palace, each of our 35 suites, Pearl, Topaz, Sapphire and Coral, embodies the lustrous, vibrant qualities of gemstones, interpreted through a unique vocabulary of textures, colours and objects. Guests can move from their suite into courtyards and gardens; dine at Neel; experience The Patiala bar; spend time at Lassikhana, which includes Aqua and Aura Spa; use the gym, steam and sauna; or retreat to the library and recreation areas.”

Again, it is important to note that these are not merely landscaping around the hotel. They are living spaces that allow guests to dine, relax, socialise or retreat, and they bring the palace’s architecture into the everyday guest experience.

“The Mousari Garden, for instance, allows for al fresco dining beneath a 200-year-old tree, while the upper terraces can be used for intimate private dinners and sunset experiences. So, I wouldn’t say there is one fixed formula that every luxury suite must have. I’d say choice, connectivity and ease are critical. With us, the suite is therefore the private anchor, while the palace becomes the larger living environment around it. That is what transforms a large suite from accommodation into an experience in itself,” adds Singh.



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Marriott Executive Apartments
Bengaluru UB City



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“Everything within a suite or villa should have a reason to be and contribute meaningfully to how a guest wishes to experience their stay.”

- Anuraag Bhatnagar



Today, a suite is a highly personalised environment that offers exclusivity, comfort, and flexibility.

Photo Courtesy: Marriott Executive Apartments.



Photo Courtesy: by Marriott Mahabaleshwar.

There is a growing desire to celebrate without necessarily having to leave the privacy of the suite.



Photo Courtesy: The Leela Coorg Forest Sanctuary.

The focus is increasingly shifting from the quantity of amenities to the quality and relevance of the experience they enable.

Space Cues

The role of a hotel has evolved significantly. Earlier, guests often viewed their accommodation primarily as a place to eat, sleep and recharge between sightseeing activities. Today, particularly among affluent and experience-driven travellers, there is a stronger desire to have control over how they spend their time.

Rahul Janve, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott Mahabaleshwar, says, “We are certainly living in an era where aesthetics, ambience and personalisation play a significant role in how guests experience and remember a stay. This becomes particularly evident during birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions, when guests are looking for experiences that feel both intimate and memorable.”

There is a growing desire to celebrate without necessarily having to leave the privacy of the suite. Guests appreciate being able to wake up to a beautiful view, enjoy breakfast in their room, or have a special celebration set up within their private space.

“Something as simple as entering a suite to find a thoughtfully arranged cake, flowers and a celebratory amenity can immediately set the tone for the stay. Ultimately, guests are

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looking for a balance between the familiarity and comfort of a private residence and the personalised luxury of a hotel. The experience should feel effortless, personal and elevated, rather than overly formal or gimmicky,” adds Janve.

Discerning Experiences

Today’s luxury traveller is more discerning and increasingly values experiences over extravagance. Luxury is gradually moving away from how much a suite can offer to how thoughtfully everything within it is considered. A long list of amenities may create an impression, but it is the relevance and quality of those experiences that ultimately create value for the guest. Guests today are prioritising depth over scale, with factors such as well-designed workspaces, intimate dining, wellness and ease of access increasingly shaping their hotel choices.

“At Taj Mahal, New Delhi, this is reflected across our dining, wellness and suite offerings. From personalised culinary journeys and culturally rooted menus to J Wellness Circle and our thematic suites, the focus is on creating experiences that add real value to the stay. Ultimately, abundance may attract attention, but relevance drives satisfaction. The details that understand the purpose of a stay and make it more comfortable, engaging or memorable are the ones that stay with the guest,” opines Dr Anmol Ahluwalia, Area Director - Operations and General Manager, Taj Mahal, New Delhi.

Living Large

Suites have evolved from simply offering a larger room to creating a private world with its own rhythm, one that gives guests the freedom to experience a destination entirely on their own terms.

“This is reflected in Arq by The Leela, Villas at Pichola, where expansive private villas bring together generous living spaces, private decks, pools and Jacuzzis, alongside dedicated palace service and curated experiences that connect guests with the heritage of Udaipur. At The Leela Coorg Forest Sanctuary,



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Officer and Whole Time Director, The
Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts

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Photo Courtesy Ram Baas, The Palace.

an all-villa retreat, this idea takes on a different expression – one shaped by the forest itself, where privacy and space are complemented by the sights, sounds and stillness of the natural surroundings. The Sunbeam Presidential Villa, for instance, creates a world of its own with four bedrooms, a private pool, a wellness suite and a gym, alongside dedicated butler and chef services,” says Anuraag Bhatnagar, Chief Executive Officer and Whole Time Director, The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts.

Likewise, even when a suite incorporates a private gym, treatment space or pool, the intention is not to create a wellness centre within the room. The luxury lies in making well-being feel effortless, intuitive and deeply personal, an extension of the stay, rather than another item on an amenities list.

“A private pool, for instance, creates the freedom to spend time together in complete privacy. A dedicated dining space can make a meal more intimate, while wellness facilities allow guests to incorporate rest and rejuvenation into their stay at their own pace. The value lies not in the amenity itself, but in the possibilities it creates. This is where thoughtful design makes the difference. Everything within a suite or villa should have a reason to be and contribute meaningfully to how a guest wishes to experience their stay and the destination,” adds Bhatnagar.

The focus is increasingly shifting from the quantity of amenities to the quality and relevance of the experience they enable. Ultimately, the most successful private spaces are those that offer enough possibilities for guests to make the experience entirely their own. 