



THE LIST

Summer Highs

The season's nearly here and you better get going—20 holiday ideas to help you keep your cool

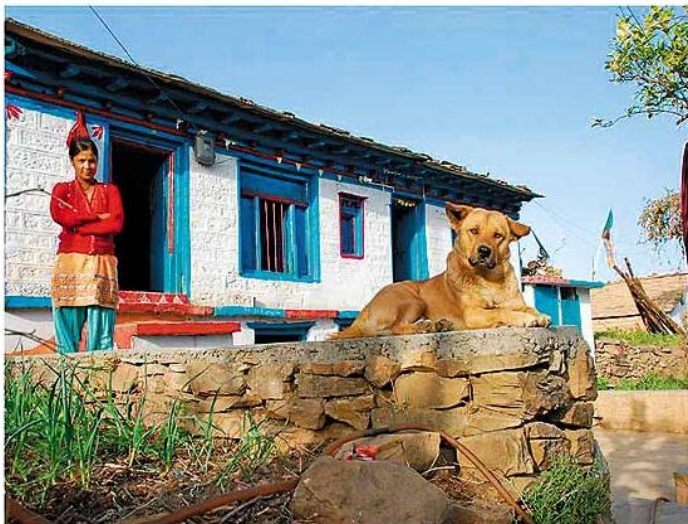
OUTLOOK TRAVELLER

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A new zealand birding holiday is, quite literally, as close as you can get to perfection

SUJATHA PADMANABHAN
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A lazy evening at a charming village near Almora

4. Itmenaan Village Walk, Kumaon

Hill stations are no longer the coolest cubbyholes they used to be. Sun-struck travellers who once fled the plains now flee the hill stations! Offering them refuge are remote rural idylls that live and breathe the true pahadi air. Kumaon has a few lovely trails. One such is a five-day trot across its north-eastern flanks, led by the good folks at Itmenaan Estate, near Almora. Winding its way upwards from Kathgodam, through the villages of Thikalna and Ganghet, where traditional homes have been spruced up to receive guests, the village walk arrives at its last pit stop, Itmenaan's 100-year-old stone house, coddled by ten acres of pine, oak and rhododendrons in bloom. COST Rs 4,000 per person on twin-sharing basis, inclusive of stay, meals and guide CONTACT 011-26122509, itmenaanlodges.com