

Word of mouth

What's hot around the world ★ Bengaluru ★ Kassel ★ London

3 WAYS TO SEE... BARCELONA

SPAIN Experience the Catalan capital afresh with our pick of the city's finest specialist tours

BICYCLE TOURS

Barcelona has fantastic cycle routes and many of the streets in its historical quarters are closed to traffic, making a bike tour a uniquely stress-free way to see the city. Book one of **Green Bikes'** private tours and get a one-on-one history of the atmospheric Gothic Quarter, the chic El Born district, Barceloneta Beach and some of Antoni Gaudi's finest architectural masterpieces, including the iconic Sagrada Familia cathedral and Casa Batlló. Green Bikes is based in the centrally-located Gothic Quarter, and their guides are a mine of information on everything from museums to beach parties (ask for Steve Morris if you can—he's particularly entertaining). Bike helmets and child-seats are included in the cost of the tour, and trips can be customised according to specific itineraries. (<http://greenbikesbarcelona.com>) From €18 (₹1,250) per person for a three-and-a-half-hour tour

Cycling around Barcelona's Port Olímpic area, with Frank Gehry's Golden Fish sculpture in the background



SHOPPING TOURS

British fashion designers Lisa Richardson and Niki Robinson launched **Antiques and Boutiques** three years ago, after the informal tours they arranged for visiting friends were an instant hit. The duo's fashion know-how means they're perfectly placed to pick

out the red-hot boutiques, little-known vintage stores and fabulously eclectic flea markets that most tourists miss. From Paris Vintage, where labels like YSL and Alaïa are sold from the owner's chic Eixample apartment, to Zaoum, a treasure trove of quirky retro fashion and home accessories (above), you're guaranteed to come away with some killer one-off buys. Each tour is tailor-made and when it's over, Lisa and Niki will drop you off at one of their favourite restaurants for lunch or dinner, where you can compare purchases over an ice-cold glass of cava. (<http://antiquesandboutiques.com>) From €240 (₹16,640) per person for a four-hour tour



FOOD TOURS

Catalonia's rich culinary heritage is well celebrated, but going beyond the overpriced tourist restaurants on Barcelona's Las Ramblas can be daunting. **Hi. This Is Barcelona...**'s Tapas Tour is the perfect way to track down speciality snacks like fuet, a tangy

cured ham, and pan con tomate, or bread with olive oil and crushed tomatoes. Their tapas-evening tours take you to three local, hole-in-the-wall-style establishments where you'll be told about the history of each dish before digging in. For those wanting to explore the cuisine further, the Delectable Catalan Feast experience includes a shopping session at La Boqueria market (above) and a cookery class topped off with—what else?—a Catalonian feast. (www.hithisbarcelona.com) From €219 (₹15,190) per person for a three-hour tour

FLORA STUBBS



Inspired by Delhi

Q&A British photographer **David Bailey** on the inspiration behind his new book—and where in India he's travelling next



From top: A rooftop in Delhi, captured by David Bailey; a portrait of the photographer

Did you prefer capturing modern Delhi, or its more traditional elements in your book, *Delhi Dilemma*?

I like to shoot as soon as I get off the plane, before I become accustomed to a place. I wanted to capture Delhi before the impact of the Commonwealth Games, and the photographs in the book show a city where the traditional aspects never fully recede, no matter how many changes are made.

What makes Delhi unique to photograph?

I wanted to capture the people of Delhi, and the things they make, own and create. Everyone talks about the colour, of course, but the people that live in Delhi make for great subjects because of the diversity of the culture.

You usually shoot on film. What made you decide to shoot on digital for this book?

The black-and-white images were shot on film and the colour ones on digital. I don't mind shooting with digital for street photography. In fact, this is the second book I shot mainly on digital—the first is *British Heroes in Afghanistan*.

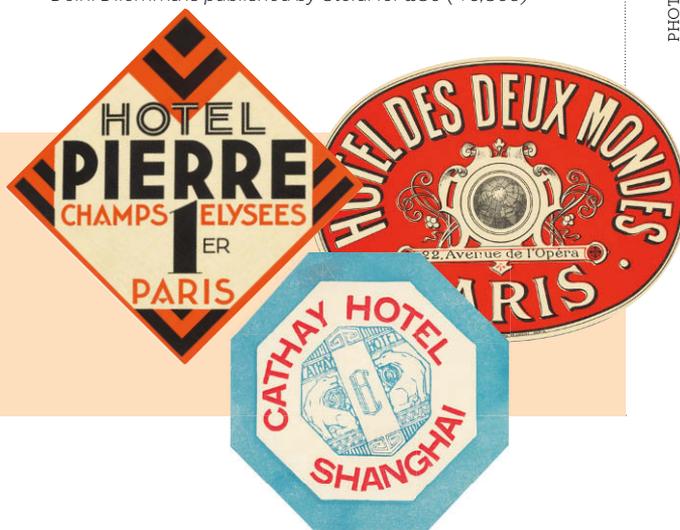
Where in India would you like to photograph next?

I'm going to Nagaland next month. I like the fact that it hasn't been photographed much.

SUNAYANA KUMARI

Delhi Dilemma is published by Steidl for £80 (₹6,805)

Love hotel labels? Francisca Matteoli's new book, *World Tour*, is a collection of over 1,000 vintage labels from 21 cities around the globe, from Paris and Shanghai to Buenos Aires and Mumbai. (www.louisvuitton.com)



PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY; RACING PIGEONS, DELHI, 2009 © DAVID BAILEY