

HOTELS

Ayana Hospitality to open their first branded hotel in Fort Kochi in Kerala in April, 2016

[Plans to create a circuit of wildlife lodges in Central India](#)

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HBI Staff | New Delhi

Ayana Hospitality, a joint venture company formed by Mumbai-based ICS Realty and Mantis Group of South Africa, which has been providing consulting and pre-opening management services to hotel developers since its inception in 2012, will now foray into management of hotels with their first boutique property scheduled for opening in Fort Kochi in Kerala in April. The 16-room boutique luxury property is currently in the final stages of re-development. "It's a 200-year-old heritage building which is being converted into a hotel. Besides 16 rooms, the hotel will have a roof top café and swimming pool," said Akhil Behl, CEO, Ayana Hospitality.

"Ayana's first branded property in Fort Kochi is based on the art decor concept and located in proximity to the Biennale Art Exhibition. The property will celebrate the local heritage and culture of Fort Kochi which has over the centuries influenced by the various trader communities," said Behl.

Talking further on their future plans, Behl said that Ayana Hospitality is keen on developing a circuit of wildlife lodges connecting famous national parks. These parks include Tadoba, Pench and Kanha. "These lodges will have room inventory ranging from 5 to 15 keys providing our guest a highly customised and personalised holistic nature experience. The audience for our projects is discerning travellers who are looking for an experiential getaway," he said.

The company has set a target of adding two to three properties on a annual basis for the next three years in India.

Explaining the journey so far for Ayana Hospitality in India, Behl said that the Ayana has been received well in the market and has worked with several hoteliers in providing consulting, pre-opening and management services. Recently Ayana has also added a sales and marketing vertical which is focused on assisting boutique luxury properties with their sales initiatives. "Our journey has been a steep learning curve but we foresee Ayana well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that this segment of hospitality offers," he added.