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# SILVERKRIS

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF SWITZERLAND, APRIL 2016

Discover how  
the Swiss  
have taken  
the world  
by storm



AMSTERDAM

ROTTERDAM

The birth of the  
"Netherlands"  
capital of cool

APR 2016



**L** Enjoy views of the city from Le Hidesign cafe.

**M** Quirky paintings are found throughout boutique hotel Villa Shanti.

Clearly, the mixed retail and dining concept is big in Pondicherry. One of the trendiest cafe-cum-boutiques is Le Hidesign ([hidesign.com](http://hidesign.com)), a local brand that has gone global. Its flagship store distracts with a dizzying array of leather products as visitors make their way to the cafe on the top floor. With a beer or hot chocolate in hand, it's possible to admire the twinkling lights of the shopping streets below from this lovely spot.

A particularly cheerful place to sip on a cocktail is the courtyard cafe-bar at Villa Shanti ([lavillashanti.com](http://lavillashanti.com)). With its soothing white decor, punctuated by graphic art, this 19th-century building restored by two French architects is also one of the best places to stay.

In recent times, Pondy has become a popular hub for surfing and diving. It's one of the few places in India with pristine coral reefs and stunning marine life. The Kallialay Surf School ([surfschoolindia.com](http://surfschoolindia.com)), set up by Spanish brothers Juan and Samai Reboul, trains both beginners and advanced surfers. Its surfing competition has attracted more than 60 surfers from across the world each year, you could say it's creating waves, much like today's Pondicherry itself. ■



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### Fast Facts

**CURRENCY**  
Indian Rupee  
US\$1 = 67.22INR

**VISA**  
Requirements vary. Visit [indianvisaonline.gov.in](http://indianvisaonline.gov.in) for details.

**BEST TIME TO VISIT**  
Pondicherry is an all-weather destination, but avoid the period between April and July.

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