

MAhout



Fact Sheet

Resort Address

Shalimar Spice Garden
Murikkady
PO Kumily
Idukki
Kerala 685535
India

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Location

Situated in the rolling hills of the Southern Ghats, close to Periyar National Park and Thekkady, and surrounded by a spice plantation and tropical greenery, in Eastern Kerala. Altitude 1000m. It is reached by a series of steps and a wooden walkway which takes you across to this secret hideaway, hidden away in the jungle and spice plantations. It is the ideal base for visiting Periyar and shopping for spices in Kumily. It is the area's only true boutique hotel and has a quiet, understated charm and elegance which is unexpected in this area, right on the border with Tamil Nadu. The rustic main lodge is made of local stone and wood and has an airy lobby with some beautiful artefacts. This leads into a small, cosy sitting room which has a blazing log fire on colder nights. The other end is home to the dining room and the swimming pool and massage centre and guest lounge are to be found at the top of the resort.

Accessibility

By air: from Delhi, Bombay, Goa, Madras, Bangalore, Trivandrum to Cochin or Madurai, followed by a 4-5 hour drive.

By train: Not really accessible by train due to its hill location. However, Kottayam station is 110kms away (2 ½ hour drive).

By road: An easy drive from Alleppey, Kottayam, Munnar and Kanam. A longer drive from Madurai, Cochin, Quilon and Trivandrum.

Transfers: The resort is happy to arrange chauffeur-driven transfers from your previous destination or to your onward destination (at extra cost).

Accommodation

Accommodation comprises 20 rooms, made up of 10 Elegant Cottages and 8 Elegant Rooms. The cottages are larger and freestanding and the rooms are in clusters of 2 or 4. There are 6

twin rooms and 9 double rooms and they are all scattered around the gardens, rising in tiers up the hill. There is one traditional Malayali house, constructed almost entirely of wood, which has a bedroom and separate sitting room and is very private. The rooms at the very top of the resort involve a short uphill walk through the jungle and tend to be more contemporary and secluded.

The rooms are not air-conditioned as this is unnecessary with the given climate here which is cool at night throughout the year. All rooms have heaters. They have attached bathrooms and hairdryers. The rooms have a small garden and a hammock. The rooms are simple but stylish with minimalist, contemporary furnishings, tiled floors and rugs. All rooms have hanging space, telephones and a small verandah. No smoking rooms are available. Hot water bottles are provided when nights are cold. The Elegant Cottages have a sitting area inside and a larger verandah outside. Hot water is plentiful and provided by geyser. Tea and coffee making facilities and a safe are available in all rooms. Due to the rambling, jungle nature of the hotel, this is not suitable for wheelchairs. Due to the humid climate and jungle setting in the hills, the rooms can feel a little damp before and after rain showers – the heaters usually sort this out.

Room 201 is a particularly private cottage, surrounded by the gardens and below the main lodge, down by the pond. Ideal for honeymooners.

Dining

A charming small dining room is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is also a dining area outside for those who like to eat in the open air. Both have a welcoming, rustic feel and have been well decorated. It offers superb Italian food, along with Oriental, Indian and local cuisine. Either Table d’hote or a la carte menus are available. Smoking is allowed.

Breakfast is included in the daily room rate.

Room Service – During the day only

Garden dining – snacks and drinks can be served in the garden by the swimming pool.

Meal Times

Breakfast	07.30am to 09.30am
Lunch	12.00pm to 15.00pm
Dinner	19.00pm to 21.30pm

(Guideline only as meal times are not strictly imposed)

Children

The resort accepts children of all ages. Children may be accommodated in their parent’s bedroom for an extra charge. Only one additional child per room is permitted. A baby-sitting service is available upon request.

Dress code	There is no official dress code at Shalimar Spice Garden – it is all very informal. However, many feel more comfortable changing into something marginally tidier for dinner.
Check-in / out time	Midday. Extended check-out is subject to negotiation/availability.
Electricity	220 volts. The standard two round pin adaptors work.
Credit cards / currency	The resort accepts Visa and Mastercard. If paying in foreign currency, the resort accepts US dollars, Sterling Pounds and Euros. Travellers cheques are also accepted.
Mobile telephones	Mobile telephones work but only on the local network (BSNL)
When to go / Climate	There are no particular seasonal weather changes in Kerala as it benefits from a tropical climate and is warm and humid all year round. However, due to its elevation, it tends to cool down at night and a jacket or shawl is required at night and in the early mornings. It tends to rain in June and July and there can be sporadic showers in October. The best time to visit is from November to March. April is getting hot and May, August and September are very humid.
Opening and closing	The hotel remains open 365 days per year.
Pests	Due to its height and cool night temperatures, there are not many mosquitoes about. However, the hotel takes precautions and both mosquito repellents for the bedrooms and mosquito coils are available for added protection when dining outside. It is not advisable to leave windows open that do not have mesh insect protection, when your lights on as bugs will tend to fly in. This is a hot, humid environment which is prone to bugs.
Hotel facilities	<p>Money changing facility</p> <p>A medium-sized, unheated swimming pool (approx. 5m x 12m)</p> <p>Email facilities for hotel residents (payment extra)</p> <p>Internet and WI-FI available in designated areas</p> <p>Small conference hall</p> <p>Surrounding spice garden</p> <p>Cosy sitting area with a log fire for the cooler nights</p> <p>Small shop selling jewellery, clothes and artefacts</p> <p>Small spa with two treatment rooms, offering all traditional Ayurvedic treatments and massage.</p> <p>Sitting room with TV and board games.</p>
Hotel services	<p>Sightseeing excursions can be arranged on site by contacting the hotel reception.</p> <p>Onward transport to other destinations</p> <p>Spice walks</p>

Possible excursions	Excursions to nearby Periyar National Park where you view game by boat Trekking / walking with a guide in the surrounding spice plantations Shopping for spices in Kumily Visits to a tea factory Bamboo rafting Night walks Visit to tribal villages Elephant and bullock cart rides
Average length of stay	Two or three nights. A peaceful place to break a journey between Cochin and Madurai
Payment / cancellation	Pre-payment is compulsory if requiring a confirmed, advanced reservation. Non-refundable deposits are required at the time of booking. For cancellations which fall within 3 days prior to check-in, 50% of the full, reserved stay will be forfeit.
Reservations	By telephone +91 11 2506 6241, fax +91 4869 223 022, email Shalimar@amritara.co.in . There is no minimum stay requirement
Packages	Special, reduced price packages are available on the website.
Seasonal surcharges	A supplement applies to all bookings which fall between 20 December and 6 January (inclusive).
Government Taxes	All prices are exempt of taxes
Ownership	S.S.H.R. Pvt Ltd.
Management	General Manager