

MAhout



Fact Sheet

Resort Address

The Windermere Estate
P.O. Box 21
Poathamedu
Munnar 685 612
Kerala
India

Tel: +91 486 5230 512/978

Email: info@windermeremunnar.com

Web: www.windermeremunnar.com

Location

Situated in the Idukki district on the high ranges of the Western Ghats of Kerala, 1600m above sea level. Perched on a hilltop, this little gem has some of the most spectacular views to be found anywhere in Kerala. With a backdrop of hills and surrounded by cardamom fields which fall away into the valley below, you often find yourself looking out, above the clouds. The winding road up to the estate clings to the hillside and takes you ever higher, about 15 minutes outside the town of Munnar. The ideal place for nature and mountain lovers, walkers and those wanting an escape. An early morning visit to the viewing platform is a must as you watch the sun rise about the clouds below and those then slowly scatter to reveal a fabulous landscape far below and as far as the eye can see. It's like being in an eerie.

Accessibility

By air: To Cochin from Delhi, Bombay, Goa, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Trivandrum and London (on Emirates Airlines, via Dubai, Kuwait airways via Kuwait, from March 03 on Qatar airways via Doha and Air Lanka via Colombo). Followed by a 3 hour road journey.

By road: An easy drive from Cochin, the 'backwaters', Thekkady, Palghat, Kanam, Rajakkad and Madurai. A longer drive from, Thrissur, Calicut, Ooty.

By rail: To Cochin followed by a 3 hour road journey

Transfers: The resort can arrange transfers and onward transport for an extra charge.

Accommodation

18 charming, rustic, simple but comfortable rooms. Accommodation comprises cottages and villas and farmhouse rooms. These are all spread around the premises and each is very different. The Cottage rooms and Farmhouse rooms are

large and airy and have huge windows. Some have balconies, others have inner sitting areas. The Planters Villa rooms and suites are staggered up the hill and have lovely canopy views. They are bright and fresh and contemporary but maintain the rustic, 'chalet' style of the property. The suites have a nice sitting area inside and the rooms are a little smaller, situated below the suites. The lower Planters Villa rooms and ground floor rooms of the Farmhouse are Garden Rooms and all have been beautifully upgraded and are charming and represent good value. They either have views of the tea plantation and a small balcony, or are off the garden and with a small garden themselves.

Coffee Cottage (A & B) – A two bedroom, single storey unit

Vanilla Cottage – A four bedroom, two storey unit with 2 upstairs rooms (A & B) with balconies and 2 downstairs rooms (a & b) which are a little smaller but have private gardens

Cardamom cottage (A & B, a & b) – As above but the ground floor rooms are inter-connected.

All the rooms have fans and attached bathrooms (showers not tubs). Hairdryers are provided in all rooms. All cottages and Garden Facing rooms have a telephone. All cottages also have a television and DVD's are provided in the cottages, with a refrigerator. Rooms with wheelchair access are available but it must be noted that there are steps to be negotiated to get to these rooms and the whole property is on different levels. Plentiful hot water is provided by geyser. Heaters and hot water bottles are provided during the cold, winter months.

Dining

'The Barn' is a cosy dining room which is all wood and has an 'alpine chalet' feel. There is also a small adjacent dining room which can be used for private parties / dining, together with a lovely verandah for al fresco dining. There is also a tea-shop, 'The Hut', in traditional Kerala style serving tea, coffee and snacks. There is also a bbq cavern which makes a fun change on some evenings. The cuisine is traditional Malayali, together with Oriental and Continental dishes and family recipes. Table d'hote menus and a buffet are available.

Above the dining room is a cosy sitting room with card tables, a house computer, wi-fi for guests, plenty of comfortable seating and a fire place which is invaluable on colder nights.

Alcohol is not served here but guests may bring their own.

Breakfast is included in the daily room rate.

Room Service – 07:00 am to 09.30 pm

Meal Times

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| Breakfast | 07.30am to 09.30am |
| Lunch | 12.30pm to 02.30pm |

Dinner 19.30pm to 21.30pm
(Meal-times are set.)

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| 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. Babysitting services are NOT available. Inter-connecting rooms available. |
| Dress code | There is no official dress code at the Windermere Estate and it is extremely relaxed. Please bear in mind, however, that due to its elevated position, it can be a little chilly in the early mornings and evenings throughout the year and is very cold at these times or day during the months of Dec, Jan and Feb. Warm clothing is essential in the winter months. |
| 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. Payment in Euros, Sterling Pounds and US Dollars can be facilitated in arrangement with a local Bank. Travellers cheques are also accepted. |
| Mobile telephones | All mobile telephones work here, on the local network. |
| When to go / Climate | Although there are no particular seasonal weather changes in most of Kerala which benefits from a tropical climate, being warm and humid all year round, since this property is situated in the high hills, it does get cold in winter. The middle of the day, however, is sunny and warm with clear skies. It tends to rain from May –early August when the monsoon sets in. There can be sporadic showers in October. The best time to visit is from September to April. |
| Opening and closing | The hotel remains open 365 days per year. |
| Pests | The hotel does not suffer from any mosquito problems. It is not advisable to leave windows open that do not have mesh insect protection, when your lights are on as bugs will tend to fly in. |
| Hotel facilities | Email facilities for hotel residents (complimentary use) Small conference Hall Wifi Library TV lounge and recreation room Stargazing from the elevated platform, with a telescope Private cardamom estate |
| Hotel services | The hotel has a 4WD jeep which can be hired for local excursions. Sightseeing excursions can be arranged on site by contacting the hotel reception. Picnics can be arranged. |

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| Possible excursions | <p>Excursions to Munnar</p> <p>Tours of a local tea or cardamom estate</p> <p>Guided walks around the area, into the valley below, to natural caves, or up into the surrounding hills</p> <p>Golf at Top Station, one of the world's highest golf courses</p> <p>Sailing on a local lake</p> <p>Visits to the Tea Museum</p> <p>Birdwatching</p> |
| Average length of stay | Two or three nights. It's fun to allow time here to walk, switch off and enjoy the cool climate of the high hills of Kerala. |
| Payment / cancellation | <p>Pre-payment is compulsory if requiring a confirmed, advanced reservation. Non-refundable deposits are required at the time of booking.</p> <p>For cancellations which fall within 21 – 8 days prior to check-in, 25% of the full, reserved stay will be forfeit. Cancellations which fall within 7 – 4 days prior to check-in, 50% of the full, reserved stay will be forfeit. Cancellations which fall within the 3 days prior to check-in, 80% of the full, reserved stay will be forfeit.</p> |
| Reservations | <p>By telephone +91 484 242 5237 / 242 7575, via email info:windermeremunnar.com or via the website www.windermeeremunnar.com.</p> <p>There is no minimum stay requirement.</p> |
| Packages | There is a 25% discount on published tariff in the months of June and July and August. |
| Seasonal surcharges | Not applicable |
| Government Taxes | 10% on room & Tax on Food and Beverage is borne by the management. |
| Ownership | Dr Simon John who is in residence part time. |
| Manager | General Manager |