

The Spice Village - Thekkady, Kerala



The Spice Village Hotel

Deluxe Nature Resort



Rated No 2 Hotel In Thekkady

About The Spice Village

The **Spice Village** is located in the **Periyar** wilderness, high in the **Western Ghats** of **Kerala**. For centuries, the area attracted voyagers and adventurers, mercenaries and empire builders, kings and merchant princes. Men and women drawn not only by the lure of spices, but by the romance and wild beauty of the land.

The ground-breaking **Spice Village** property put plantation hotels on the map and showed others how sensitivity to social and environmental issues benefits everyone. It is indeed a world renowned resort that's consistently won acclaim for its service, cuisine and the unique experiences it offers.

The philosophy of the hotel is based on the 'less is more concept' so rooms are non A/C to let heady spice-scents that fill the air and the architecture is inspired by the jungle dwellings of the native hill country tribes of the area using the same materials in construction.

Rooms

The resort consists of 52 cottages, set in eight acres of respectfully tamed forest. Simple pine furniture greets you when you enter your room and beneath your feet is nothing more than plain terracotta floor. The rooms are large, peaceful and comfortable and consist of either **Spice Garden Cottages** or **Private Garden Cottages**. All have attached bathrooms with hot and cold water.

The original inhabitants of these hills are the **Mannans** and the **Ooralie** tribes who still carry on their age old practices of herding and bee-keeping in perfect harmony with nature. They live in tree houses, or huts with a distinctive grey thatch. This is reflected in each cottage, with its brick, split bamboo and elephant-grass design.



Cottage At The Spice Village



Spice Village Restaurant

Fine Dining

A multi cuisine restaurant serves delicious **Keralan** feasts flavoured with spices and herbs from the neighbouring fields. The **Woodhouse Bar** is named after the residence of **A.W. Woodhouse**, forest ranger and woodsman extraordinary who had originally built a house at this location. Old framed prints cluster on the bar's smoky timbers along with a large collection of books on the shelves.

Facilities

There is a lovely refreshing swimming pool, badminton and tennis courts, an excellent **Ayurveda Centre**, and a yoga and meditation pavilion.

You can go for a boat ride in **Periyar Lake**, go trekking in **Periyar Forest**, visit spice plantations, take a bullock cart ride or 'learn to cook with spices' at the hotel.

The **Tiger Room**, behind the long verandah, features a slide show every evening on the area's wildlife and nature.

The highlight of the hotel is the garden itself, bursting with a rich array of spice trees. Each plant is carefully marked, and there is a botanist at hand to answer any questions. The design of each cottage was inspired by the native tribesmen of **Periyar**, the **Oorali** and **Mannan**, who lived in similar dwellings.



Swimming Pool



Meadow Inside Periyar National Park



The Library

Thekkady is enchanting as the road from the backwaters winds through tranquil countryside, rich plantations and into thick jungles.

Among the 62 species of mammals, many are rare, endemic and endangered. **Periyar** is prime **Elephant** country and large herds are often sighted at the lake fringes. There is an estimated population of 900-1000 animals which is likely to overlap with the population in the adjoining forest areas.

Sambar, the largest deer in India, are extensively distributed and constitute the principal prey base of **Tiger** and **Wild Dog**. **Wild Boar** has wide distribution throughout the park. Small relict populations of the highly endangered **Nilgiri Tahr** are found in the high altitude grasslands of **Mangaladevi**. Four of the five primate species found in the **Western Ghats** are well represented in **Periyar**. While the **Nilgiri Langur** enjoys a wide distribution in the moist forests, the highly endangered **Lion Tailed Macaque** are confined to the dense evergreen canopies. **Malabar Giant Squirrel** is common in the area. Though the presence of the endangered species, **Small Travancore Flying Squirrel**, is recorded from **Periyar**, the **Large Flying Squirrel** is more frequently seen.

Salim Ali's Fruit Bat has also been reported at **Periyar**. It is an endemic and endangered species, considered to be among the rarest of bats.

The **Tiger** is found in all types of habitats though their density is much less in the evergreen forests. Though sighting one is difficult because of the thick vegetation, evidences like pugmarks, clawings, and scats are located throughout the reserve. The population is estimated to be between 35-40.



The Woodhouse Bar

Hotel Website: <http://cghearth.com>