

Hide-away Kerala homestay



Highlights

Get away from it all and experience tranquility at this charming hide-Kerala homestay. Sample the local cuisine, explore the region's sights or simply sit back, relax and enjoy the panoramic views of tea plantations and the Western Ghats mountains.

Take time out from the hustle and bustle of the large cities of India and experience a tranquil homestay in this charming hide-away Kerala homestay. Here you can have a taste of authentic Kerala food, learn about the local traditions and explore the beautiful surroundings of the southwestern Indian forest, or simply lie back, relax and listen to the sounds of the birds singing. Located up in the hills of Wayanad in northern Kerala, with the Western Ghats mountain range as a back drop, Annapara is just 15 minutes by car from the nearby hill-station town of Vythiri, a popular stop on the Bangalore – Calicut route.

Most guests come for a three-night stay so they have enough time to enjoy the serenity of the accommodation and also have a chance to explore the local area. There are several fantastic treks around, suiting all abilities, including a hike to a stunning waterfall where you can watch the sun setting over the Western Ghats mountain range. There are several great hiking trails around Annapara and if you're feeling particularly adventurous, you can go on a guided night walk where your guide will help you look out for wildlife by torchlight.

Your hosts at Annapara can arrange day trips out to some of the stunning sights to be seen in the area. One such excursion is a trip out to Kuruwa Island situated on the vast Kabini river. It is totally uninhabited, so provides a chance to explore the pristine evergreen forests in peace. When your feet need a rest, you can enjoy a picnic provided by your hosts and then a relaxing ride on a bamboo raft. The other must see destination on your list is a visit to the famed Edakkal Caves. The naturally formed caves have provided shelter for many traders along this ancient trading route in the mountains and the stone carvings here are estimated to date back more than 3000 years.

In between trekking and exploring, you can take the time to enjoy a relaxing lunch of local food and then have a cup of tea taking in the views of Chembra Peak. If you are feeling fit and energetic, then you might decide to tackle the peak, which at 2,100m is the highest in the Waynard region. You can either hike there and back in a day, or you can decide to camp overnight – tents and sleeping bags will be provided.

Is it for me?

If the idea of being in a remote and quiet location without a phone, hairdryer or electricity after 10pm throws you into a panic, Annapara is probably not the place for you. But if you already have a smile on your face just thinking about it and you'd like to experience an Indian homestay in a clean, but basic house eating local food and exploring the rainforests of Kerala, then Annapara might be the hide-away you've been searching for.

Most of the treks are 'soft' and suitable for people with a basic level of fitness. Being based at an altitude of 700m means that temperatures are generally comfortable –perhaps bring a light sweater for the evenings – although the camp fire and friendly Kerala welcome should leave you feeling warm all over.

Accommodation

The guesthouse itself has just five spacious rooms, so you will be well and truly away from the crowds here, making it an ideal venue for for reunion with family & friends, a romantic hide-away for couples, an open spa for

Prices from

65 GBP (1 night) per couple

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stressed urbanites and a retreat for the nature lover, bird watcher & outdoor adventurer. The rooms are spacious with king-size beds and clean white linen. Bathrooms have modern fittings and 24 hours running hot water. The verandah has easy chairs to relax. Local cuisine is served in an Alfresco Dining area. If you fancy curling up with a good book in the gazebo, pausing every now and then to enjoy the views across the rainforest and to count the stars in the clear sky, then this will be like heaven. There are no TVs, newspapers or phones in the house, so you will have a real chance to switch off from your life at home. You will dine in the alfresco dining area where you will be served traditional Kerala cuisine prepared by local people - coconut oil and Kerala raw rice can be sampled by special request - and you'll sup on tea from a nearby plantation.

Details

Getting there

Guests usually drive to Annapara, near Vythiri, in their own vehicle or in a taxi. On request Zafar can arrange to pick-up the guests from Vythiri Bus stand (3.5km away), Calicut Railway Station (65km away), Calicut Airport (80km away)

When is best

November to April is best

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

2 days - 6 days

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

Not relevant