



TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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TRAVEL+
LEISURE

INDIA'S SECRET GETAWAYS

You have travelled to countries all over the world, some even obscure and unheard of, but have you witnessed all of India's marvels? To make the exploration easy, we map the country's fashionable hideaways and gorgeous A-list resorts that make our journeys here pleasurable and luxurious.

BY LATHA SRINIVASAN



PRIMROSE VILLAS

CHIKMAGLUR KARNATAKA

Tucked away in the Western Ghats and overlooking the mountains of the Mullayyanagiri range, charming Primrose Villas is perfect for a couple who are on their honeymoon or just want to spend some time together far from the madding crowd. As you drive up the Mullayyanagiri range to the boutique hotel, you can't help but marvel at the 700-acre plantation around and the Cannon's Nose which gazes at you.

Owners Sumitra and Ravi Ramu, who brought to life Primrose Villas on the Rudragiri mountain near Chikmagalur, say, "Primrose Villas was conceived as a unique home-away-from-home concept for the discerning luxury traveller. Tucked away on the mountain top in one of the most stunning spots on Earth, it is central to our theme. The character and charm of the property, set in serene surroundings, makes you want to never leave."

HIGHLIGHT The private villas in the coffee-growing region of Karnataka are an ode to luxury—quaint fireplaces, antique Victorian and Jacobean era furniture, hand-made natural soaps and cosmetics, and all glass walls that give you a magnificent view of the mountains and greenery.

You can simply do nothing, enjoy great food (every meal is customised), long walks and beautiful vistas. But, if you are into culture or want to take a peek into the region, there's plenty. Atop the Mullayyanagiri Mountain, there's an ancient Shiva temple (taking 300 steps to reach it) while the Belur and Halebid temples are just a 40-minute drive away, as is the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. If you want to enjoy a spot of golf here, the beautiful 18-hole Chikmagalur Golf Club is just a 15 minute drive away.

TIP Don't draw the curtains in your villa—the view is magical in the morning and night. Indulge in trekking. There are guides to take you to the peak of Rudragiri for a view that is priceless.

HOW TO REACH The nearest airports to Chikmagalur are Mangalore and Bengaluru. From Bengaluru it is a three-and-a-half hour drive while from Mangalore it is about three hours.