



VAYAL
SAKKOTTAI | CHETTINAD





LUXUNLOCK
private villa experiences

Unlock and gain privileged access to the most beautiful, unique private homes in South India & Sri Lanka for an exclusive & luxurious holiday with family & friends

PRESENTING

VAYAL

SAKKOTTAI | CHETTINAD



Vayal nestled inside a mango orchard

6 GUESTS | 2 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHS | PET FRIENDLY | POOL

Savour the slow life at Vayal, a stunning 2-bedroom countryside villa, set in a mango orchard deep in the heart of sultry Chettinad. Blending simple tropical aesthetic with modern luxury, Vayal is a young architect's earthy interpretation of the fabulous 19th century mansions of the region.

Wake up to the sounds of farm life and experience the untouched Chettinad countryside. The Vayal is a serene relaxed and intimate space, offering two self-sufficient living spaces, a common courtyard with outdoor and indoor dining, and a rooftop plunge pool with dramatic sunset views.

With our experts, discover Chettinadu's extravagant heritage in its beautiful mansions, its energetic village markets, and glorious art & craft traditions. Most importantly, come home to Vayal, to relish the lip-smacking cuisine that makes Chettinad world famous, as our all-women team, turn out delicious banana leaf spreads sourced from the farm and surroundings. Then it is time to find one of several day beds and slip into a stupor lulled by the sounds of nature.

Main entrance to the house from the south





THE STORY OF VAYAL

Vayal as the name symbolises, is set in a 3.5 acre organic farm that is part paddy field and part mango orchard. In the summer of 2019, the house was built as a family retreat, to escape the chaos of the urban cityscape, as well as to have a separate contemporary home when they congregated at the ancestral family mansion in their village of Sakkottai for festivals and special occasions.

Chettinad has a rich history of architecture, filled with mansions that have south Indian vernacular to art deco influences. The attempt was to create a space that took inspiration from their ancestral design but changed it to the needs of a modern family. A house that would fit right into the farm, something that feels like it had always been a part of the surrounding.

As the architects and their family used the house infrequently, they thought it would be fun to open out the space to discerning travellers with a passion for architecture and design, to enjoy this unique home, and be able to experience the sheer delight of slow life.



The design incorporated every single tree on the land



Sustainability and heritage inspired the design of Vayal

THE DESIGN ETHOS

The design goal for Vayal was to craft a building rather than building one. A walk through the mango orchard of Vayal's 3.5 acre farm was enough to identify a patch of land for the house to nest amidst the trees and designing the spaces to envelope them.

Although inspired by the mansions of Chettinad, the design of Vayal was straightforward. It consists of four blocks - bedroom chambers, kitchen and study and a semi basement with a plunge pool on top, all placed around a large central courtyard. The approach to the house from the main gate was purposefully made lengthy so that one could get into slow life mode. The bedrooms have their own private sit outs and study which give guests the option of secluding themselves. The indoor dining lounge was kept in the north east corner, visually away from the central courtyard so that one could retreat there in peace. The plunge tank has been raised from the ground to provide the swimmer a view of the surrounding tree line.

The decision to make an exposed brick house was inspired by the soil of the site, and the architects wanted the house to feel like a part of the visual landscape rather than standing out from it. Doors and windows were made of steel which helped create large spans of openings with thinner sections. The walls and floors had pigmented IPS floors, cuddapah inlays, mosaic and stone, all inspired by the myriad of colours used in the regional Athangudi tiles and the handloom industry.

SPACES



North Chambers Bedroom



South Chambers Bedroom

SPACES AT VAYAL

Vayal can be booked on an individual room basis or as a whole house for small groups

- The house sleeps a total of 6 guests
- Two bedroom wings with ensuite baths
 - **North Chambers** - 1 Extra Large King mattress raised on a cement platform with an integrated study, private sit-out, and separate indoor lounge
 - **South Chambers** - 1 Extra Large King mattress raised on a cement platform with an extra built-in Single Mattress, an integrated study, private sit-out, and lounge
- Courtyard Dining Area
- Air-Conditioned Indoor Lounge & Dining
- Amphitheatre
- Rooftop Plunge Pool
- Separate vegetarian & non-vegetarian kitchens
- Accommodation for accompanying staff



Extra bed & integrated study of the South Chambers



North Chambers bathroom



South Chambers bathroom

The all-women team at Vayal put together a Chettinad feast

SERVICES





Outdoor dining area

SERVICES AT VAYAL

- Breakfast, dinner, tea & coffee service included in your stay. Lunch available too.
- Delicious Chettinad Tamil cuisine from our chef
- Vegetarian & non-vegetarian cooked in separate kitchens
- Complimentary local snacks in each room
- Use of rooftop pool included
- Daily housekeeping services
- High quality bed & bath linen
- Luxury bath amenities
- Individual air conditioners in the bedrooms and in the indoor lounge
- Broadband Wi-Fi throughout the house
- 100% automatic power back with voltage stabilisation
- Laundry (wash & fold) & Ironing Board available
- Guests' staff accommodation
- Curated experiences and itinerary design services for Chettinad
- LUX Concierge Service
- Guest Relations Team

EXPERIENCES



A romantic evening on the rooftop



HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME AT VAYAL

- Delight yourself with our curated Chettinad lunch feast, cooked by our team, served on banana leaf with love.
- Have an intimate evening of drinks or dinner by the rooftop pool with our curated candlelight experience.
- Go on a guided visit of Karaikudi & Kanadukathan, visiting some of the palatial homes and mansions of Chettiar families with our local LUX host.
- Use the Vayal villa app to download our favourite offbeat eateries in Chettinad and plan out a food trail for you.
- Browse for antiques and collectibles in Karaikudi.
- Go shopping for the famous Chettinad sari, a striking combination of checks and stripes in bold colours. Stop at a famous weavers cooperative.
- At Athangudi, learn to make your own tiles and designs, and custom order your own handmade terracotta tiles.
- Explore Karaikudi on a half-day visit. Visit a wood carving workshop, the studio of a renowned Tanjore artist, and the snack kitchens of a woman entrepreneur.
- Take a guided visit to see ancient Iyyanar temples famous for its terracotta horses, then visit the artisan village where these and other terracotta images are created.
- Explore one of the local weekly markets called a santhai. Shop for hand spun cotton fabrics, palmyra leaf baskets, and locally grown food produce that comes from village farms.
- Go on a full-day tour of the ancient Tondaiman kingdom, visiting cave temples and ancient Jain sites.
- Enjoy some time-out with your family and pet. Explore the farm, read, talk and eat together.
- Stay a while. Catch up on reading, sleep at will, write your story.



- Karaikudi & Kanadukathan: 20-30 mins
- Tiruchirappalli: 2 hrs
- Madurai, Thanjavur, Rameswaram: 2.5 hrs
- Pondicherry: 5.5 hrs
- Chennai: 7 hrs
- Bangalore: 8 hrs
- **Tiruchirappalli Airport & Station: 2 hrs**
- **Madurai Airport & Station: 2.5 hrs**
- LUX Mangala Heritage, Thirupugalur - 4 hrs
- LUX Salt, Gulf of Mannar - 3 hrs



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VILLA PORTFOLIO

The Palmyrah, Mamallapuram
En Vilaasam, Marakkanam
Maison Twenty Six, Pondicherry
Mangala Heritage, Thirupugalur
Vayal, Chettinad
Salt, Gulf of Mannar
Gramercy House, Kodaikanal
Skyfall, Kodaikanal
Chloe Cottage, Nilgiris
Hideaway, Nilgiris
House of Joy, Nilgiris
The Observatory, Nilgiris
Nakshathra Mana, Kerala Backwaters
Deja View, Wayanad



The Indoor Lounge



Vayal can be booked
as individual rooms or as a whole house

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