



LUXUNLOCK 
private villa experiences

MAISON TWENTY SIX

Pondicherry

8-10 GUESTS | 4 BEDROOMS

4.5 BATHS

Maison Twenty Six is a 120-year old fully restored private garden villa in the heart of the French Quarter of Pondicherry. This one-of-a-kind home was built by a prosperous Franco-Tamil family who made their name in Indo-China. You too can enjoy the same exclusive experience in this beautiful home for a celebration with friends, a large family reunion, or to just get away for a long weekend. Chill-out in one of the many lounging spaces with music, refreshments and lunch or have a chef whip up a meal served right in your villa. Use our expertise to plan a myriad of exclusively curated experiences in Pondicherry & Auroville.

TOP 50 VILLAS IN INDIA

Condé Nast India
Traveller



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OVERVIEW

Hidden away on a quiet street in the French Quarter of Pondicherry, Maison Twenty Six is a gorgeous 120-year old historic garden house that was lovingly restored by its current owner to win the prestigious Vieilles Maisons Francaises (VMF) award for preservation of French architectural heritage, a rare honour for houses outside of France.

Originally constructed in the early 20th century by a rich Franco-Tamil merchant named Xavier Condappa, who made his fortune in Vietnam (there is a road in Saigon named after him!), the house was bequeathed to his sons, and subsequently found its way to the current owner who with the help of restoration architects, lovingly transformed this once neglected home into a beautiful expression of decadence, romance and rustic luxury set in a magical garden of greenery.

Built on two levels, Maison Twenty Six is set around a lush foliage filled courtyard with a central pillar of green trees, climbing tendrils, and tropical plants symbolising the Tree of Life, a theme that recurs in all of the house's four bedrooms. Winding slate pathways lead to, arguably, the central gathering point of the villa – the courtyard verandah.

Covered by a Madras Terrace roof and bolstered by two enormous Franco-Tamil columns and a series of teak pillars, a large carved pink mirror surrounded by five exquisite giant carved Kerala bull heads greets you. Tropical summer furniture makes for a lovely setting for drinks and meals, and you will find yourself inevitably spending most of your time here.

Behind the verandah is the grand old living room, with an 18-feet high raftered ceiling, elegant period furniture and décor and original Belgian floor tiles. Leading off from the courtyard are two inviting bedrooms—the red themed Indo-Chine Room and the indigo-themed Bengal Room. A small air-conditioned lounge gives respite from humid days. The kitchen, laundry and staff accommodation are in a separate block. And a powder room is conveniently tucked away close by.

Spiral stairs lead to the upper floor housing the Bombay and Madras Suites, each with its own private air-conditioned lounges and small balconies. Both connect to each other at the Upper Verandah, a large covered sit-out for lazy days spent with a book or a coffee.

Maison Twenty Six is the first private villa rental in Pondicherry, and a long time coming. Pondicherry's French Quarter with its tree-lined rues, pastel shaded colonial homes, and cafes and shops is the ideal setting to have a private space like this to stay, a place to getaway to, when you want to retreat from the tourists, in the privacy of your own French villa. The garden courtyard, verandahs and multitude of lounges are naturally inviting spaces to celebrate togetherness with family and friends.

With so many services available to you like a bartender on call, gourmet meals delivered or served in your villa, and expert concierge service from LuxUnlock, we bring all of Pondicherry and Auroville to your doorstep with a myriad choice of exclusively curated experiences. We recommend a minimum two night stay to enjoy the house and indulge in all of the pleasures of Pondicherry and Auroville.

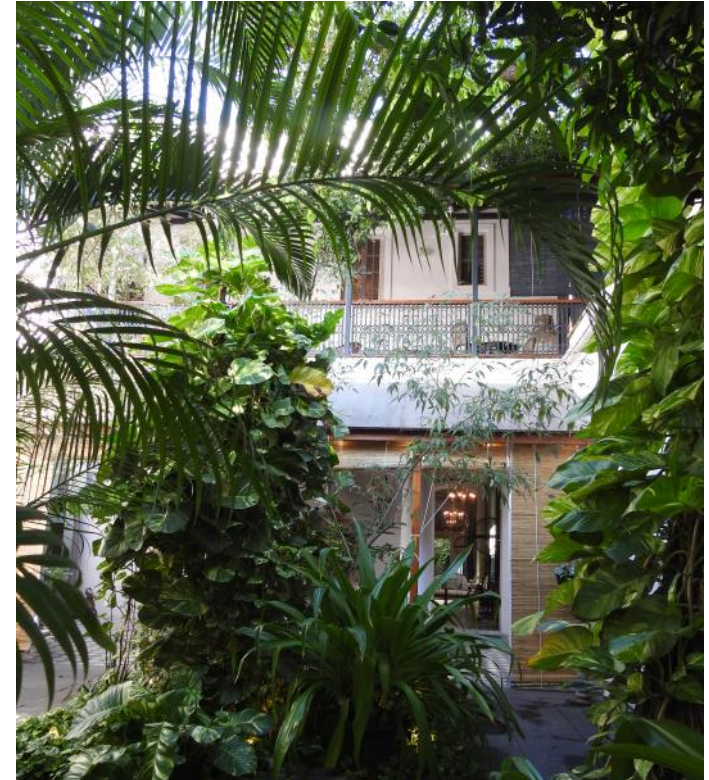




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Enjoy this stunning 120-year old garden villa in the heart of Pondicherry's French Quarter.



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GROUNDS

- **Maison Twenty Six** is located in the heart of the French Quarter of Pondicherry, less than a 5-minute walk from the promenade, popular shops and restaurants. An innocuous set of unmarked brown doors lined with greenery leads you into a magical garden courtyard. Plenty of parking space available in the **municipal car park** located right opposite the house.

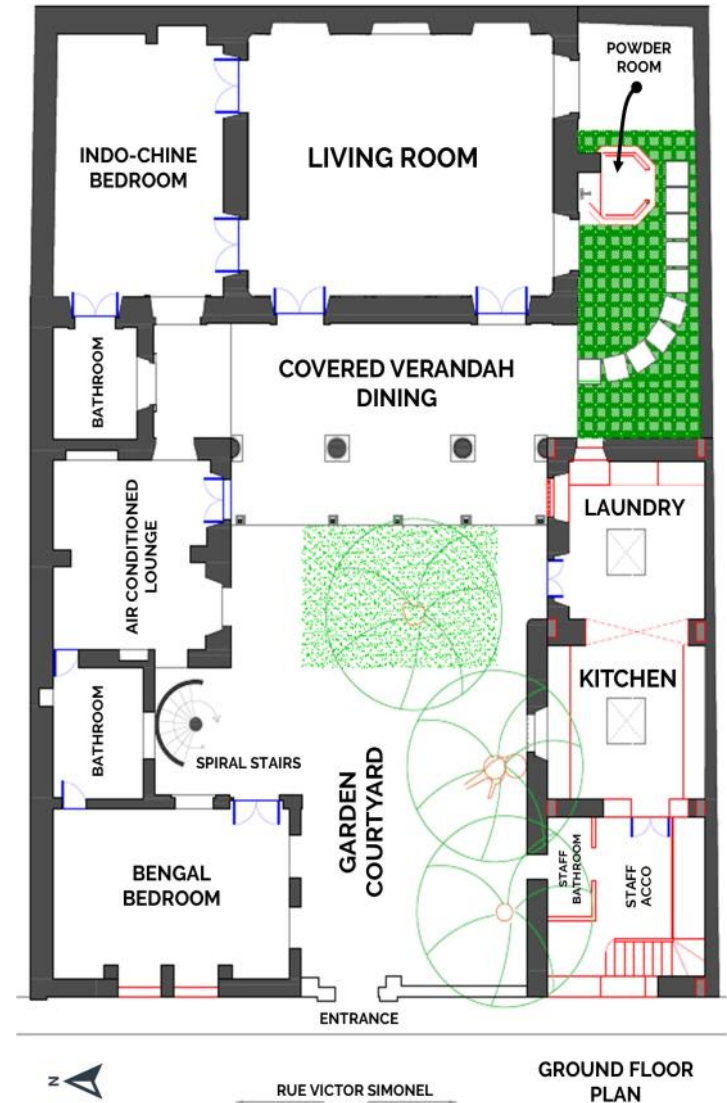
GROUND FLOOR

- Entrance takes you into a small foliage-filled **Garden Courtyard** enveloped on three sides by a bedroom, air-conditioned lounge, kitchen and the covered verandah. The centre of the courtyard is a pillar of foliage symbolising the tree-of-life.
- On the east side of the courtyard, flanked by giant white plastered columns on one side and the formal living room on the other side is a **Covered Verandah** that is the **alfresco dining space**. A striking black and white cement tiled floor complements a seven-seater cane and metal dining table, that can be extended to seat more people.
- **The Living Room** is an enormous 18-feet high room with raftered ceilings, and flooring set in early 20th century Belgian tiles imported from Vietnam. Careful restoration of the walls has revealed the original lime green and red plaster. Sit at a quaint 3-seater

marble topped table under a magnificent chandelier or relax in any of the multitude of corner sofa arrangements. A beautiful and original Pondicherry buffet sideboard doubling up as a bar counter, is topped by an exquisite artwork by UK-born, Indian contemporary artist, Desmond Lazaro

- The **Indo-Chine Bedroom** themed in shades of Shanghai Red and decorated in all things oriental, leads off from the northern side of the Living Room. A romantic high four poster Queen Bed is accessed by step-stools. Flanked on both sides are Chinese side consoles topped with oriental lamps and the walls are decorated with fragments of original headboards from a daybed of an opium parlour. There is a decadent maroon-themed bathroom with a decorative chandelier hovering over a cement smoothed bathtub.
- The **Bengal Bedroom** accessed from the north of the garden courtyard is themed in Indigo Blue and is filled with art and textiles of East India. A small Queen four poster bed is framed by a blue tree-of-life themed Chintz tapestry. Bedside tables have Kalighat paintings above them and art deco mirrors expand the visual space. A large reprint of a Bourne and Shepherd photo of colonial Calcutta adorns one wall. The room has its own ensuite bathroom with contemporary fittings.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN





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The elegant living room—18 feet high with a raftered ceiling, long slatted windows and patterned floor tiles from Vietnam





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The romantic Indo-Chine Bedroom represents the true heritage of its original owners and their fortunes made and lost in Vietnam





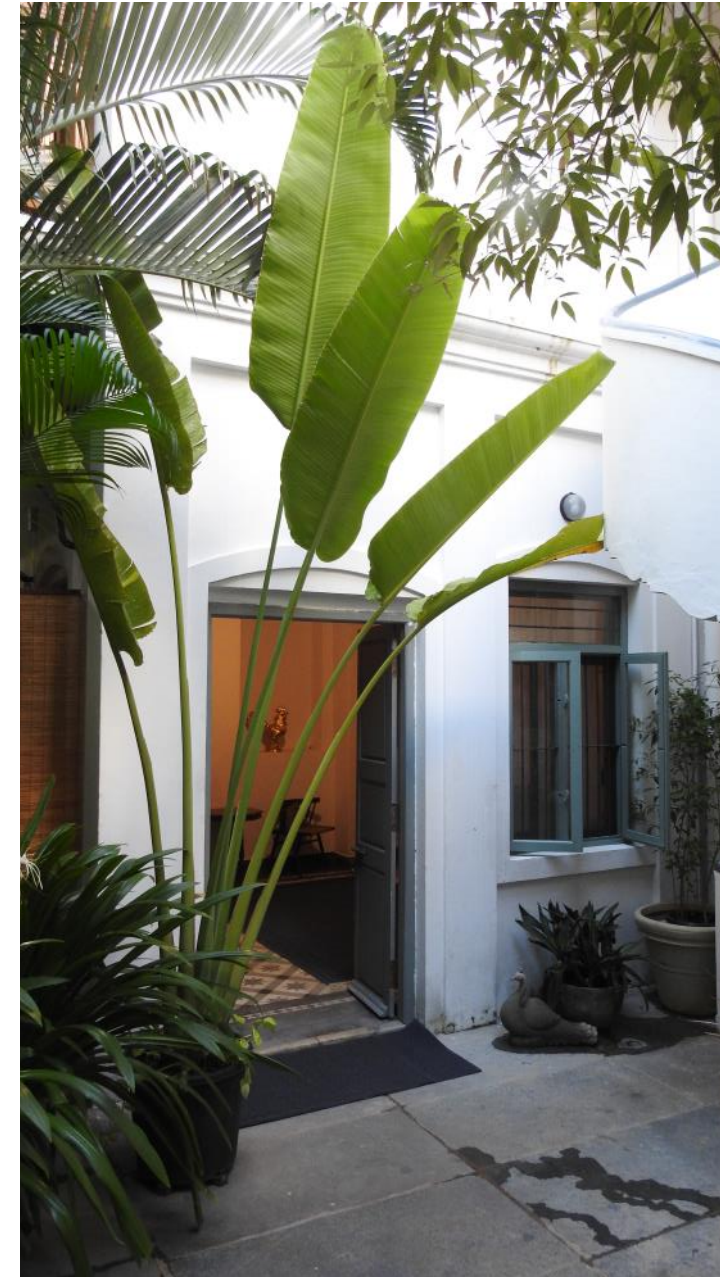
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The Bengal Bedroom with its four-poster Queen bed is a rich tapestry of the art and textiles of East India





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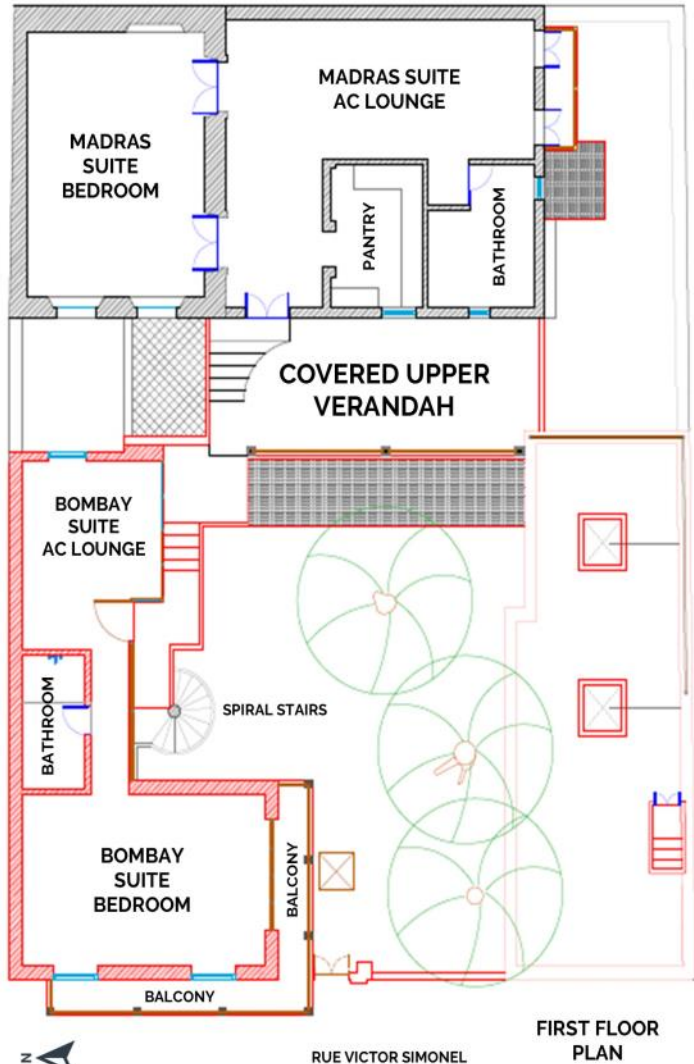
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4300 SQ FEET INDOORS 450 SQM OUTDOORS

GROUND FLOOR



- A small **Air-Conditioned Indoor Lounge** is located adjacent to the courtyard. It has comfortable seating and doubles-up as a cool respite from warm summers for drinks or even a meal.
- The **Laundry, Kitchen and Staff Accommodation** are on the south side of the courtyard. The contiguous laundry room cum kitchen is equipped with a washing machine and ironing facilities. A large refrigerator is perfect for chilling your favourite beverages and storing perishables. The kitchen is fully equipped with gas burners, an oven and microwave and plenty of space to cook-up a meal of your own.
- In the south east a gazebo houses a **Powder Room**.

- The **Bombay Suite's air-conditioned lounge** has a flat television with OTT PLATFORMS Amazon Firestick (BYO Accounts) A beautiful Bourne and Shepherd photo of colonial Bombay with Flora Fountain harks back to an earlier era. A sofa-cub-double bed accommodates one adult or two small children.
- A covered passageway leads to the **Madras Suite**. This suite comprises a large bedroom, a spacious lounge, balcony, ensuite bathroom and a small pantry. The bedroom of the Madras Suite is luxurious with two sets of double French slatted doors that open into the lounge. A beautiful tree-of-life tapestry adorns the eastern wall. Sitting beside it is an exquisite period Rosewood dresser. A romantic canopy bed forms the centrepiece of the room. A charming Dutch-East Indian study desk with a restored lithograph of Fort St George looks down upon it.

FIRST FLOOR

- External spiral stairs lead to the first floor with 2 suites and a covered verandah
- The **Bombay Suite** comprises a bedroom, bathroom and an air-conditioned lounge. Themed with hints of Bombay and Gujarat, the bedroom has a canopy Queen bed with a large pichwai painting as backdrop. An Anglo-Indian carved sofa from Gujarat sits in one corner. Tall French doors lead onto a wraparound balcony overlooking the courtyard and road. A set of metal chairs and small table make it ideal for a morning cup of coffee.

- The **AC lounge of the Madras Suite** has a sitting area with flat television and cable TV. An old photo print of the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai fills one wall. A painting by Rekha Rodwittiya adds mirth to the room.
- The **Upper Verandah** has two comfortable seating clusters with lovely views over the railing into the courtyard. Ideal for morning get-togethers!



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The Bombay Suite has a comfortable bedroom, air conditioned lounge, and a beautiful wrap-around balcony overlooking courtyard and road





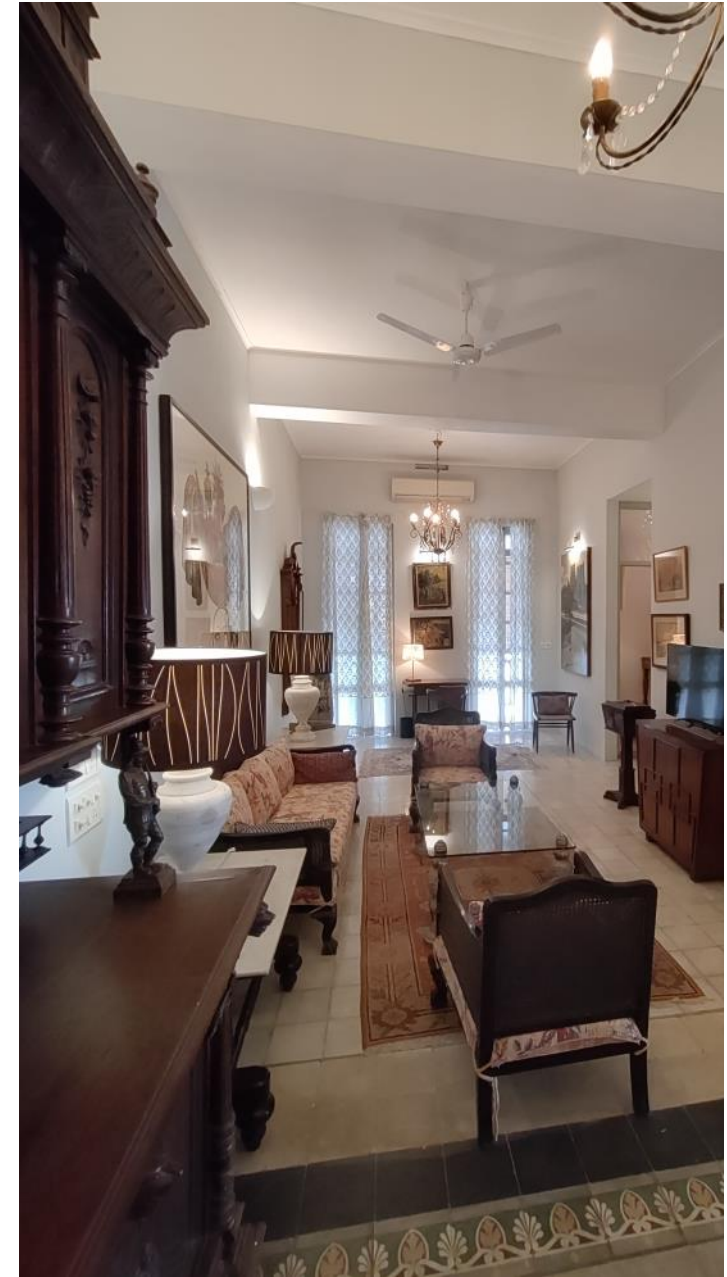
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The Madras Suite has a large bedroom, well appointed private air-conditioned lounge, a balcony and ensuite bathroom





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The Upper and Lower Verandahs are ideal for drinks and food; a place of gathering for celebration, or for reading and reflection





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NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Auroville (commune for universal living, visitors centre, artisans, restaurants, surfing) 20-30 minutes
- Marakkanam (salt pans, birdwatching, beach forts) 45-60 minutes
- Chidambaram and Pichavaram (ancient Shiva Temple and mangrove forests of the Cauvery Delta) 2 hours
- Gingee (magnificent hilltop forts and palaces that rival Hampi) 2.5 hours
- Mamallapuram (UNESCO rock sculpture, street food, and beaches) 1.5 hours
- Closest Railhead: Pondicherry Station 20 mins
- Closest Airport: Pondicherry 30 mins; Chennai 3 hrs

TRAVELLING WITH LUXUNLOCK

Each LuxUnlock Villa Experience includes the professional Travel Planning of over 25-years of collective experience and supported by our LUL Concierge. We work closely with you to develop a Trip Itinerary that reflects your personal interests. From the moment you book a LUL Villa until you return home, you have continuous access to our curated circle of tour guides and domain experts and a host of wonderful, authentic, and unique experiences.

HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME

- Guided architecture and historical walks with restoration architects and urban planners; food and slice of life walks with local insiders
- Cycling and motorcycling tours of Pondicherry's French Quarter, Auroville and beyond
- Nature walks, and birdwatching tours with research scientists and conservation experts in Auroville and surrounding wetlands and scrub forest
- Auroville tours and immersions with local experts and insiders, to understand the commune, their artisanal units, and exciting organic food culture
- Explore ancient Chola Temples like Indiana Jones and climb a boulder strewn hillock for a beautiful sunset experience
- Creole cooking workshops, visits to embroidery centres, pottery workshops, paper making
- Day trips to Gingee, Chidambaram, Mamallapuram
- Walk the streets of Pondicherry's French, Tamil and Muslim Quarters and uncover hidden restaurants, shops and little bars
- Learn to surf in Auroville and enjoy the latest catch of the day at one of the many beach restaurants
- Enjoy a morning or evening walk along the Beach Promenade
- Meditate and reflect in the Aurobindo Ashram and make your own perfume in their laboratory





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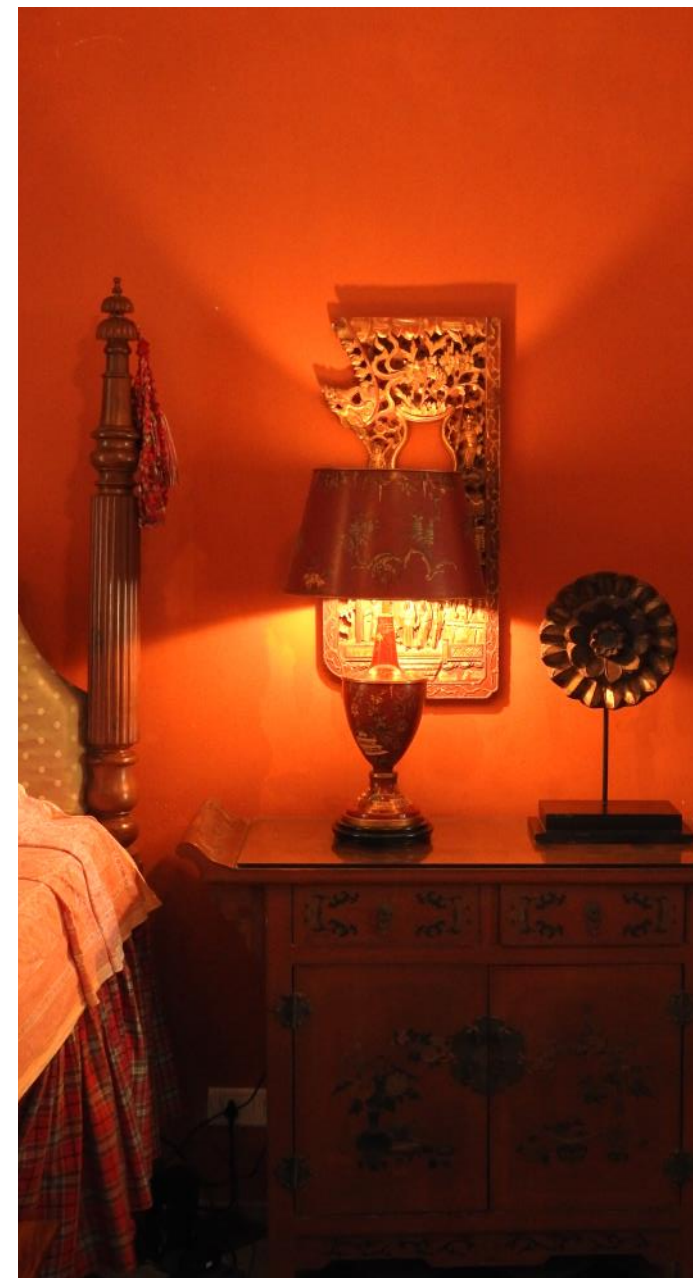
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VILLA INSIGHTS

- Electricity supply by the government is both reliable and of good quality throughout the year in Pondicherry and in the French Quarter. Do expect the occasional precautionary power cut in stormy weather. The house has a full genset power back up.
- Water is a scarce commodity in Pondicherry and the house does have a municipal water connection. A pressure pump system is in place. The caretaker will ensure that water is available at all times. Please use water prudently.
- Complimentary WiFi is available throughout the house. OTT PLATFORMS Amazon Firestick (BYO Accounts). TV only in Bombay Suite and Madras Suite.
- Air-conditioning is available in all bedrooms, the lower indoor lounge and the two upper lounges of the suites. All bathrooms have hot water from individual hot water geysers. Switches are marked.
- Self-service ironing board and steam iron available
- Pondicherry like elsewhere in tropical South India does have mosquitoes. Please use the repellent placed in your room during the day and especially in the evenings. Try and keep your room windows and doors closed from 4 PM onwards.
- The house is over 120-years old. Careful restoration combined with constraints on what can and cannot be done, means that walls and floors are uneven in

places. Original doors and windows may squeak or not shut smoothly or evenly. Damp patches on walls are par for the course for an old house like this.

- Most ceiling lights and chandeliers have switches and rotary dimmers. Please adjust the dimmer to your convenience. Power strips are available in all rooms to use for charging your devices.
- Meals include complimentary breakfast and complimentary tea & coffee service throughout the day. Other meals and chefs on call are also available at extra charge. 24 hours' notice is needed
- Staff comprise a villa caretaker, two daytime housekeepers, a night time assistant, and day and night security.



INCLUDED IN THE VILLA

AIRCONDITIONING all 4 bedrooms, 03 lounges;

ELECTRICITY 24x7 from government supply. Full gen-set back-up power available;

COOKING GAS; in the kitchen;

WATER main water supply and drinking water from RO supply;

INTERNET complimentary WiFi broadband access in all spaces;

DAILY CLEANING daily room cleaning, bathroom cleaning, bed making; light cleaning of house;

FINAL CLEANING; LINEN CHANGE weekly bed and bath linen changing;

BASIC SUPPLIES basic supplies are available free such as drinking water, toilet paper, hand and bath soaps;

STARTER FOOD SUPPLIES such as sugar, salt, basic Indian spices, tea, coffee, cooking oil;

AVAILABLE AT THE VILLA

STAFF ACCOMMODATION external staff accommodation available near property at your own cost;

BREAKFAST; LUNCH; DINNER; MEALS Breakfast is included. South Indian breakfast available at Rs 250-300 per guest; 24 hours notice needed; other meals and chef on call also available at extra charge;

LUX CONCIERGE SERVICE such as Advance Provisioning of the kitchen or bar for a small fee; shopping for basic provisions during your stay; arranging trips and experiences available at an extra charge

