Front facade of the Observatory

LUXUNLOCK
private villa experiences

THE OBSERVATORY

Aravenu, nr Kotagiri, The Nilgiris

6-8 GUESTS
3 BEDROOMS
3.5 BATHS

With sweeping views of lush green tea estates and surrounded by high peaks of the Eastern Nilgiris, the beautiful 3-bedroom Observatory is an inspiring example of sustainable luxury. Upcycled antique decor combines uniquely with a raw finish, and a soaring glass conservatory fill-up open-plan communal spaces with the warmth of mountain sunshine. Come and experience this one-of-a-kind private luxury home with family and friends - its everything you deserve.

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THE OBSERVATORY

nr KOTAGIRI, NILGIRIS, TAMIL NADU | 6-8 GUESTS | 3 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHS

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OVERVIEW

Celebrate slow living in the Eastern Nilgiris with The Observatory, a unique 3-bedroom private luxury home, choreographed to keep you spellbound by the sweeping carpets of lush green tea and craggy tree-topped peaks.

The Observatory redefines the meaning of sustainable luxury through design. Located close to the hill town of Kotagiri, the villa was conceptualised and built with over 80% of upcycled woodwork and furniture that contrasts boldly with unplastered surfaces to create a look that is truly magical.

On its lower level is the expansive open plan living and dining space with a conservatory, fireplace, one bedroom and a compact kitchen. The expansive floor to ceiling glass panes in the dining area opens up the landscape into the home and fills up the interiors with the warmth of natural light. A beautiful wrought-iron staircase leads to the mezzanine with a daybed and book nook. Two bedrooms lead off from here, each with its own outdoor balcony. Vintage aside, expect all the trappings from a luxury mountain home, wrapped in hardwood floors & timber roof beams.

Around your villa abound leopards, bear, and bird-life aplenty. Make time for expert-led nature walks, discovering the indigenous communities and their culture, and making forays to Coonoor and Ooty. More importantly, take a moment for yourself and observe your own sensory responses to this beautiful luxury home and your surroundings. Happiness as they say is a DIY project.

Best seats in the house at the dining area

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Upper master bedroom and balcony

Upper floor mezzanine & daybed

Front lawn & evening bonfire

Main entrance & living room

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Spiral staircase & bar area

LOCATION & DESIGN

The Observatory is located in the hamlet of Aravenu, off the Catherine Falls Road, about 15 minutes from the hill town of Kotagiri, about 45 & 60 minutes from Coonoor and Ootacamund respectively. Coimbatore Airport is just 2 hours away.

Conceptualised by designer Preetha Chandrasekaran of Dhakshini Antiques, the villa is made from over 80% of up-cycled content - say hello to 150-year old metal structural elements, equally old hardwood floors and ceiling panels, and vintage woodwork and furniture. This contrasts beautifully with unplastered brickwork (still carrying the makers stamp) and exposed concrete beams and slabs. Specially commissioned art work, gorgeous carpets, white linen curtains, and premium linen lend a luxurious softness to the space. The entire house is bathed in sunshine and daylight with large doors and windows in almost every room,

This is a house that not just warms the heart, but nourishes the soul. This is a villa that opens-up the mind and is ideal for artists, writers and creators.

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Dining area & lookout

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SLEEPING SPACES

Three beautiful and luxurious bedrooms sleep 6 guests. One bedroom, ideal for seniors, is on the ground floor with a four-poster king bed, ensuite bathroom, and a private sit-out overlooking tea & mountains.

A spiral staircase leads up to the first floor with two bedrooms. One is a twin-bedded room with a large bathroom and the other is the master bedroom with its own four poster queen bed, writing desk and the best views in the house.

The mezzanine has a day bed and an extra roll-away to accommodate 2 more guests. If needed, they have access to the powder room on the ground floor.

VILLA CHECKLIST

- ☑ 3 bedrooms
- ☑ 3.5 bathrooms
- ☑ 1 day bed & 1 rollaway bed
- ☑ Daily house keeping
- ☑ Electricity & UPS backup
- ☑ High-speed Wi-Fi
- ☑ Gas & UV water
- ☑ Fireplace & heat
- ☑ Breakfast included
- ☑ Cook available
- ☑ Full kitchen
- ☑ BYO Staff permitted
- ☑ Washer & dryer
- ☑ Dedicated LUX Host
- ☑ Advance provisioning
- ☑ Daily shopping service
- ☑ Curated tours

Master bedroom

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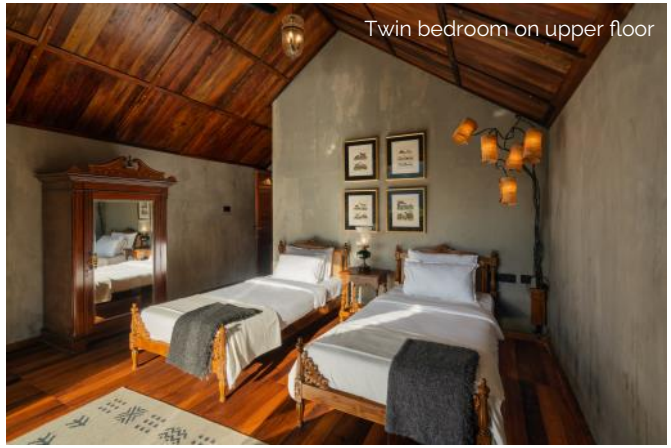
Study in the Master bedroom

Master bathroom



Twin bedroom on upper floor

Ground floor bedroom

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SHARED SPACES

5000 SQ FEET INDOORS 1 ACRE OUTDOORS

The main entrance leads to a single large communal space. On your left is the living area set around a working fireplace. Large French doors lead onto a small deck and the front lawns. Further inwards lies a pantry station with appliances and a door leading to a compact kitchen. More double glass doors lead onto a long running outdoor deck with a day bed. The highlight of the lower level is the glass walled and ceilinged conservatory that frames the mountainscape and tea estates. Set against this is the beautiful antique dining table that is the hub of daytime activity. On the opposing side is a chaise lounge and a plant-filled indoor garden. A powder room sits adjacent to the entrance.

A beautiful wrought iron spiral staircase leads to the mezzanine floor overlooking the dining area. Here is a large day bed and low seating for games and reading. Outside is the laundry room and a staff bathroom.

Living room with fireplace

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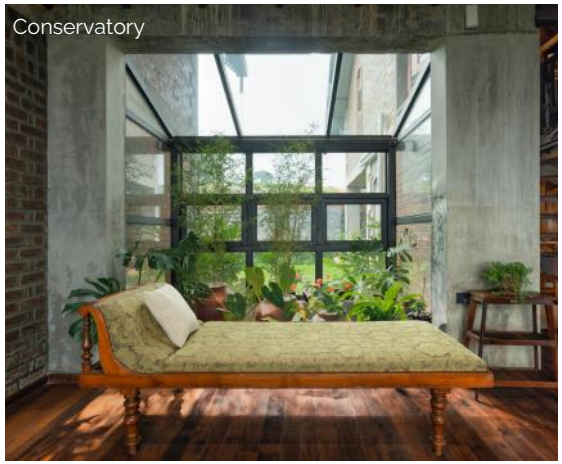
Bar area


Conservatory

Pantry area

Breakfast at the Observatory

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The Observatory at sunset

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VILLA INSIGHTS

- Villa staff are available only during the day at specified timings. No staff permanently on-site.
- Breakfast is included in the villa rental. Cooking services are offered - homestyle Tamil cuisine.
- A daybed and an extra rollaway bed is available for 2 additional guests.
- Power back-up is for all lights, fans, Wi-Fi using UPS and battery. Geysers, refrigerators & high power utilities not connected to back-up power.
- The spiral staircase may pose a safety hazard for elderly guests and very young children. Please accommodate in the ground floor room.
- Self-service **ironing** board and iron available.
- Staff accommodation available at the villa, on the mezzanine level. Staff bathroom onsite.
- Watch out for wild animals while walking or driving, especially bison, and monkeys. Don't leave food out-doors. Shut external doors.
- No televisions in the villa. Footwear-free house indoors.
- Two houses are being constructed adjacent to the villa . There may be noise during the day.

HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME

- The Kotagiri region offers incredible opportunities to for wildlife and nature walks. This region is especially known for its rich and endemic bird life. It has one of the highest densities of leopard and sloth bear in India.
- Immersive anthropological experiences with the Todas and Irulas led by experts in their field.
- A 45 minute drive will lead you to the more material delights of Coonoor and Ooty. Its really all about soaking it in and enjoying the elements of nature around the villa.
- Kotagiri (nearest town, local cuisine, natural and cultural heritage, walks and hikes, birdwatching. shopping essentials), 15 mins
- Coonoor (tea tasting, cheese making, army museums, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway) 45 mins
- Ootacamund (heritage walks, e-bike tours, colonial-era clubs & golf, fine dining) 50 mins
- Closest Major Railhead: Mettupalayam 50 min
- Closest Airport : Coimbatore 2 hr; Mysore 4 hr
- Bangalore: 8 hours by road;
  Chennai: 10 hours by road

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PLATFORM

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