

Come Home to a Homestay



As the name suggests, a homestay is a form of tourism where a family home is opened to tourists. Homestays are a great option for those looking to immerse themselves in the local culture and lifestyle. The atmosphere is cosy and friendly, with personal interactions with the owner, as opposed to the impersonal ambience of a hotel. Here are some enchanting homestays in India that offer you a great cultural experience.

Places to Visit

Coffee Trails

(Coorg, Karnataka)

Escape from the city into a lush green forest. Located 30km from Madikeri, this quiet homestay offers a number of activities. A guided tour of the coffee estate will leave you feeling refreshed, and if you wish to explore the area, there are multiple temples, waterfalls and even a Tibetan monastery nearby to capture your interest.

Address: Coffee Trails Coorg, Adjacent to Coorg Institute of Dental Sciences, Maggula Village, Virajpet, Kodagu
Tariff: INR 3500 per night for two adults, inclusive of breakfast

Contact: coffeetrailscoorg@gmail.com
www.coffeetrailscoorg.com/Coffee_trails_coorg/index.html

Georgia Sunshine Village

(Shivanasamudram, Karnataka)

Georgia Sunshine is located at Shivanasamudram, about 120km from Bangalore and 60km from Mysore. The surrounding area is teeming with wildlife and the rocky terrain is perfect for trekking. Local food is served in this homestay and the owners go all out to make you feel like a part of their family. You can choose from a number of indoor and outdoor games, or simply read and relax in the roomy lounge. The Gaganchukki Falls are not far away, and you can take a dip in the lagoon or ride a coracle at the nearby Barrachukki Falls. Tariff: Standard room: INR 3000 per person, Family room: INR 3375 per person, Deluxe room: INR 3500 per person, Deluxe suite: INR 4000 per person

Contact: georgiasunshine@gmail.com
Tel: 08231-247646/247783
www.georgiasunshine.com/index.html

La Petite Maison

(Lonavala, Maharashtra)

La Petite Maison is a beautifully redone bungalow, about an hour and a half's drive from both Mumbai and Pune. It has four rooms with balconies that open to a panoramic view of the valley below. This home also has a pretty little garden, which is perfect for a night-time stroll. Worth noting is the Glass Room, a part of the

house with walls made entirely of glass. The villa itself has an indoor library and offers several board games. In the vicinity of La Petite Maison are many lakes, a couple of gardens and the Tiger's Leap — a cliff-top with a sheer drop of over 650m. Address: New Tungalri, Frichelly Hill, Next To Giri Kutir, Lonavala
Tariff: Varies from INR 2600 to INR 3800 for a single person per night. The full bungalow can be rented for INR 15,600 to INR 18,700 per day
Contact: info@highontravel.com
www.lapetitemaisonlonavala.com

Adiem Homestay

(Nasik, Maharashtra)

The Adiem villa in Nasik, located close to the river Godavari, has a charming veranda and architecture that is inspired by Indian mythology. You can work on the organic farm here, feed the villa's koi fish, listen to the owners' extensive music collection and read books. There is also a coin museum and a vineyard located close to the house. Famous places around Adiem homestay include Panchavati, Sula, Trimbhak road and Trimbakeshwar.

Address: 27 Bhavanjali Nagar, Near Shankar Nagar, Gangapur road, Nasik
Tariff: Standard room: INR 2500 per night, Executive room: INR 2100 per night. The full bungalow can be rented for INR 6000 per day
Contact: Madhu on 9225139433

Tea Nest

(Coonoor, Tamil Nadu)

Tea Nest is a mansion which, up till the 1800s, was the home of many rich Britons and later, housed an international tea school. At a two-hour drive from Coimbatore, Tea Nest offers you experiences around 'tea' — tea tasting, a walk through the tea plantations, and an organic tea shop. It even has a one of a kind 'Tea Menu,' which features tea in every one of its dishes. Within driving distance are the Coonoor and Ooty botanical gardens, and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway — the steepest mountain railway in Asia.

Address: Tea Nest, Singara Estate, Coonoor, Nilgiris
Tariff: Varies from INR 2750 to INR 3750 per night
Contact: teanest@natureresorts.in
www.natureresorts.in/teanest

Cardamom House

(near Madurai, Tamil Nadu)

This eco-farm is suited for eco-warriors and people who strive to reduce their carbon footprint. Cardamom House follows strict ecological practices. The house has rock-thickened walls which cool the house, and the house itself is designed in a way to let air circulate freely. The villa uses solar heaters, recycles vegetable waste and follows vermicomposting. The solitude that



surrounds this farm is best enjoyed by walking through the fields, bird-watching, sitting by the lake and watching for wildlife. If you would like to visit places close by, Kodaikanal is a three hour drive away.

Address: Cardamom House, Athoor Village, Dindigul District

Tariff: Varies from INR 3500 to INR 6700

per day depending on single or double occupancy and on high or low season

Contact: chrislucas@cardamomhouse.com

www.cardamomhouse.com

Tathagatha Farm (near Darjeeling, West Bengal)

This farmstay is located about 18km from Darjeeling, but it usually takes around 70 minutes to reach it as the road is rather rough and bumpy, so be warned! Tathagatha Farm is situated in the village of Mineral Spring. One of the main activities is the guided village tour, through which you can interact with the farmers and learn about the local traditions. If your stamina is good, you can take the 7-hour trek through tea estates, farms and across rivers. You can also visit Tiger Hill, Ghum monastery and the Botanical Garden, and take a joy ride in the UNESCO World Heritage Toy Train.

Address: Aanp Botay, Mineral Spring, Darjeeling

Tariff: Varies from INR 4800 to INR 6900 depending on a double/twin hut or tent

Contact: Navin Tamang, navin@tathagatajourneys.com

Tel : 9932021569

www.tathagatafarm.com

Kewzing Homestay (Gangtok, Sikkim)

Kewzing Homestay is located in the village of the same name. The farm overlooks the alluring Gangtok valley, which can be viewed through the floor-to-ceiling windows in each guestroom. Guests can participate in the daily routine of the farm or visit the village's monastery. Places to go to outside Kewzing village include the Do-drul Chorten Stupa, and the Enchey Monastery.

Address: Kewzing Homestay, C-139, Development Area, Gangtok

Tariff: European Plan: INR 1000,

Continental Plan: NR 1200,

Modified American Plan: INR 1500

Contact: homestay@kewzing.com,

Tel: 03592-203702/9434382090

www.kewzing.com/location.htm

Indian Homestay (Agra, near Delhi)

From its rooftop, Indian Homestay offers you a glorious view of the Taj Mahal. It is located on Shamshabad Road, only 2km away from the Taj. Interestingly, at Indian homestay, lectures are given on Indian history, philosophy and tradition. Indian homestay is a good base from which to visit the Taj Mahal, Akbar's Tomb, the Agra Fort, Bharatpur and Fatehpur Sikri.

Address: Indian Home Stay,

71 Gulmohar enclave, near Rajeshwar

Temple, Shamshabad Road Agra

Tariff: Varies from INR 1500 to INR 1800 depending on single or double bedrooms,

inclusive of breakfast

Contact: Mr. Mahatim Singh, Owner,

on 9319100644

www.agra-indianhomestay.com

Pride Homestay (Jaipur, Rajasthan)

Pride Homestay comprises a group of families who have opened up their homes across Jaipur to host visitors to the Pink City. Places to visit include the Amber Fort, City Palace, Hawa Mahal, Jal Maghal, Nahargarh Fort, Jaigarh Fort, and Anokhi Museum.

Tariff: There is no fixed tariff for this homestay as the different families price their rooms differently. Tourists will be directly connected to the owner of the particular house that they will be staying at.

Contact: info@jaipurpride.com

Tel: 141-5127770/9351353858/

09310672616

www.pridehomestay.com

Oyster Habitat (Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh)

Oyster Habitat consists of three independent villas located at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad. Jubilee Hills is to Hyderabad what Hollywood is to Los Angeles. It has many film studios, such as the Ramanaidu Studios, Padmalaya Studios and Annapurna Studios. More historic places to visit are the Golconda Fort and the Char Minar, as well as other notable sights such as Shilparamam (The Arts & Crafts Village), Hitec City, Hussainsagar Lake, and the Nizam's Silver Jubilee Museum.

Address: Lot No 818, Road No. 41, Behind Barrista coffee shop, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

Tariff: Single occupancy: INR 2700,

Entire villa: INR 12,000

Contact: info@oystergroup.in

Tel : 040-44353535

www.oystergroup.in/oysterhabitat.html

Gokulam Inn (Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh)

Gokulam Inn is located at Hyderabad's business and prime shopping centre. This homestay is located about 1.5km away from the Begumpet railway station and 30km from the airport.

Tariff: A/C room with single occupancy:

INR 1300, A/C Room with double

occupancy: INR 1500,

A/C Room with triple cot: INR.1800

Address: # 1-10-72/4/1, Street No. 1,

Cheekoti Garden, Begumpet, Hyderabad

Contact: gokulamhyd@gmail.com,

Vikram on 9949952009 / 93953366990

www.gokulaminn.com/home.html

**Information provided and prices listed are correct as at the time of publication.*

**- Ramya Ramalingam,
14 years, Bangalore**

