

Dissolve into nature at Halli Berri

Nestled in the serene Kambihalli village of Chikmangalur region in Karnataka, Halli Berri cottages of Kambihali Estate provide an ideal escape for people surviving the hustle bustle of big cities day after day. The fourth generation, all women owned estate is a warm, cozy abode that magically transports you back in time. **Hospitality Biz** narrates more

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The land of rains, lush greenery and waterfalls, Chikmangalur is most known for its coffee plantations across India. Kambihalli Estate has been growing coffee in the Bababudan mountains since 1948. The estate features a coffee plantation, Halli Berri Cottages and Coffee Barn Café. 'Halli' in the local Kannada language means village and in essence, Halli Berri means village berry – full of heart and soul. Spread across 180 acres of land, the four-generation old coffee estate is entirely managed by the ladies of Karriappa family. The star of the lot, Nalima Karriappa who is in her late 60's, single-handedly manages the estate and the exclusive cottages where guests are hosted.

High country living

The cottages are a perfect amalgamation of a rustic country life featuring classic-modernist design and stylish contemporary interiors. Great home cooked food and efficient service are a cherry on the cake.

Halli Berri cottages were built to give guests a coffee country experience close to nature, different from a traditional resort getaway. Nalima Karriappa explained, "We want our guest to enjoy the serenity of the hills and cherish the oneness with their soul and that is the reason we have deliberately not kept television and internet connection."

Build to perfection the two cottages bring in the aura of tranquility and transport you to paradise. The cottages are very tastefully done up with colonial style and vintage furniture. The high-beamed ceiling, white brick-walls, designer tiled floors, large powder room leading to the outdoor shower space that opens up to the blue sky all make Halli Berri a hidden gem in the lush hills. The traditional fireplace and a private sit out facing the hills, located in the midst of a working coffee estate serve as an ideal spot for relaxation.

Nalima Kariappa reminisces, "Initially we built the two cottages to generate parallel revenue apart one we get from coffee plantation as coffee business was facing a major labour crisis. We have people coming here who have never walked bare foot on grass, I consider this to be an achievement in itself to give this league an opportunity to experience and feel nature so closely."

The on-site coffee shop, Cafe Barn as it's known, is a real treat. The food served comes from Kariappa's home and is made by her cook, an old man from the local village. Be it the local style flavorsome mutton curry done to perfection or the mixed aromatic veggies, one can never get enough of the home cooked fare.

A walk to remember

The highlight about staying in the estate is the walk down the coffee estate with Nalima Kariappa. As she takes you down the coffee estate she narrates the history of the estate, how her father-in-law expanded the coffee estate long back, the flora and fauna of the estate, the coffee making process and to top it all her fond memories. Along with coffee the estate also includes pepper plantation. One can also get a glimpse of the carefully nurtured nursery of plants with a varied variety of veggies and fruit like strawberry, ladies finger and more during the walk.

The best thing about Halli Berri is that once you set your foot into the estate, the world seems far away. The charm of Halli Berri is timeless and guests truly dissolve into nature.