

"Once a Paan a time, there lived a man called Pandey, who made the best paan on the planet and called it Madhuri."

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# travel secrets

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# THE GOLDEN TUSK RESORT

Just a few hours away from Delhi, this lap-of-nature resort is a perfect long-weekend getaway for the entire family. Listen to the music of birdsong, take a dip in the pool, and soak in the deep serenity.

An easy six-hour drive from Delhi, there lies a calm, quiet world that feels like it is 6000 miles away! Here, birds chirp amid dense forests, and if you lean in close enough, you can probably hear the sun rising up the sky.

We spent two blissful days at The Golden Tusk, located in a small village called Dhela. The resort is spread over six acres of land, designed to let you soak in the immense beauty of nature.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Birdsong! The kind of lobby music we city-weary folks love. We're told that some exotic species call this region home. Common Kingfisher, White-Breasted Kingfisher, Green Bee-Eater, Spotted Dove etc. Of course we don't know one from the other, and don't even get to see them up close, but oh it is

such bliss to simply listen to their cheery tweets!

A smiling staffer leads us to our rooms, and our eyes take in the water lilies and other colorful flowers sprinkled along the path. The fatigue of driving is quickly melting away, and it's only been a few minutes in here.

## ROOMS

There are six styles of accommodation, and each one offers you a lot of privacy.

We are welcomed into the Tiger Suite, the most luxurious of the villas at the property. Beautiful French doors lead to the balcony and oh! what a view it is from there. You get a panoramic view of the whole property, with the Corbett hills silhouetted in the distance. If you are lucky enough,

one of those exotic birds might even show up at your balcony. Most of the rooms have a separate sitting area to enjoy evening coffee or snacks with friends or family.

Each of the villas and suites is decorated around a natural theme, so you have lampshades with bird motifs, tiger paintings, and cheerful pastel linen. We peek into the luxury tents, and fall in love with their cool, comfortable camp-tent-like feel with all the modern amenities. Note to self: try a tent next time!

## THINGS TO DO

Apart from the usual pool, the resort offers Water Dining. What is water dining, you ask? You and your partner can have a special brunch in the pool, where you can enjoy the food on the floating furniture while a butler serves you, making you feel like royalty.



The family-friendly resort offers some fun and adventurous activities for kids including wall climbing, trampoline, basketball, badminton, cycling, etc.

If the unaccustomed peace starts to make you restless, head to the indoor activity area where you can play pool, table tennis or board games.

## SAFARI

Instead of specially going to Rampur for the jungle safari, you can make bookings at the reception and the resort will provide you with its own jeep and guide, according to the time slot you choose.

Apart from the mandatory safari, you can experience the village walk and observe villagers milking cows, feeding goats and cooking

their food on earthen chulhas. The simplicity of their lifestyle offers a sharp contrast to our urban-jungle world.

## FOOD

The Gin Tree bar and lounge has a chic look with pastel colours. You can enjoy light music while sipping refreshing drinks.

At sundown, you can have candle light dinner on the deck and enjoy multiple cuisines and authentic Kumaoni delicacies while enjoying the mild breeze brushing your face.

You can also enjoy family barbeque and lunch with your friends and family while enjoying the view of the river flowing nearby.

## VERDICT

For those who don't want to be found for a few days and just want

to spend some time with friends, family or even just themselves without any interruption, this is the place to be.

Also, the resort likes to keep things interesting by entertaining their guests with various special evening programs like acoustic singing or a tea and cookie stall or competitions for kids.

**My Tip:** Keep your sunscreen handy. The property has a lot of open spaces, therefore there is always a lot of sunlight even when going to the restaurant.

## THE GOLDEN TUSK RESORT

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Photos: Harshit Nagdev

