

Rwanda REVEALED

Gorillas, Wildlife and Natural Beauty

In the heart of Africa lies a gem waiting to be explored - Rwanda, a land of remarkable beauty, rich history, and warm hospitality. But why Rwanda? Let's embark on a journey through this captivating country to uncover the myriad reasons why it stands out as a must-visit destination.

Rwanda's reputation precedes itself as the 1st safest country in Africa and the 6th safest globally, offering travellers peace and security during their adventures. But it's not just safety that sets Rwanda apart; it's also the 2nd easiest place to do business in Africa. This favourable environment for investment and economic growth beckons entrepreneurs and investors alike, promising prosperity and opportunity on Rwandan soil. From the nationwide ban on plastic bags to the regular Umuganda cleaning efforts and conservation programmes, Rwanda celebrates unparalleled pride in the natural world.



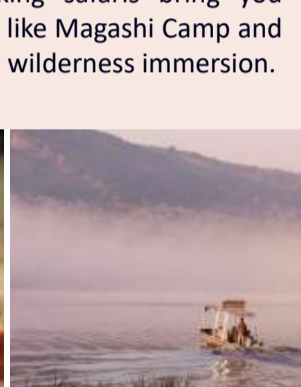
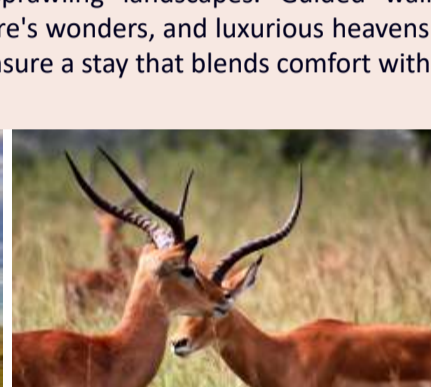
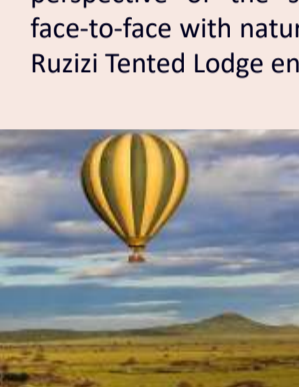
Kigali: A Modern Heart with a Beating Pulse

Your Rwandan adventure begins in Kigali, the country's vibrant capital city. Immerse yourself in the city's cosmopolitan energy, where delectable international cuisine mingles with traditional Rwandan flavours. Lively nightlife and cultural events paint the town red, while history buffs can delve into the poignant story of resilience at the Kigali Genocide Memorial. For the sporty soul, Kigali pulsates with the thrill of the Tour du Rwanda cycling race, while modern conference facilities cater to business travellers. Planning a dream wedding? Kigali offers customized packages to make your special day truly unforgettable. Don't miss iconic landmarks like the Kimironko Market, a bustling hub of local life, and the Nyamirambo Women's Center, a testament to Rwandan women's strength and empowerment.



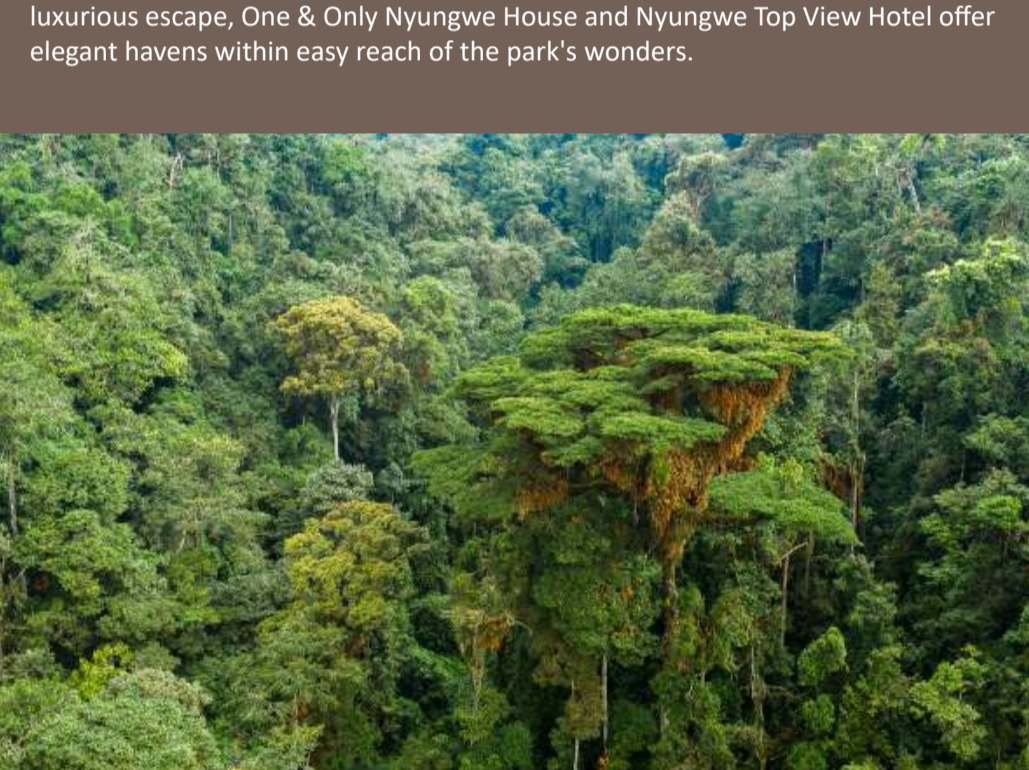
Akagera: Unveiling the Big Five in Breathtaking Landscapes

Venture east to Akagera National Park, a heaven for diverse wildlife and mesmerizing scenery. Embark on thrilling game drives in search of the Big Five - lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo. Glide across serene waterways on a boat tour, or join park rangers for a behind-the-scenes glimpse into conservation efforts. Birders will find a paradise here, while hot air balloon rides offer a unique perspective of the sprawling landscapes. Guided walking safaris bring you face-to-face with nature's wonders, and luxurious heavens like Magashi Camp and Ruzizi Tented Lodge ensure a stay that blends comfort with wilderness immersion.



Nyungwe: A Realm of Emerald Forests and Gentle Giants

Journey southwest to Nyungwe Forest National Park, a pristine wilderness teeming with life. Trek through the emerald canopy in search of playful primates, from chimpanzees and colobus monkeys to rare golden monkeys. Birdwatching enthusiasts will delight in the park's rich avian diversity, while canopy walks offer a unique perspective on the forest's canopy. Delve deeper into Rwanda's rich tapestry at the nearby King's Palace and Ethnographic Museum in Nyanza. For a luxurious escape, One & Only Nyungwe House and Nyungwe Top View Hotel offer elegant havens within easy reach of the park's wonders.



Lake Kivu & Gishwati-Mukura: Serenity by the Lakeside and Untamed Wilderness

Rwanda's largest lakeside destination, Lake Kivu, offers a tranquil retreat amidst lush surroundings. Travellers find a variety of activities, including stand-up paddleboarding, and guided nature hikes. Nearby Gishwati-Mukura National Park, Rwanda's newest park, boasts opportunities for primate trekking, birdwatching, and community tree planting.

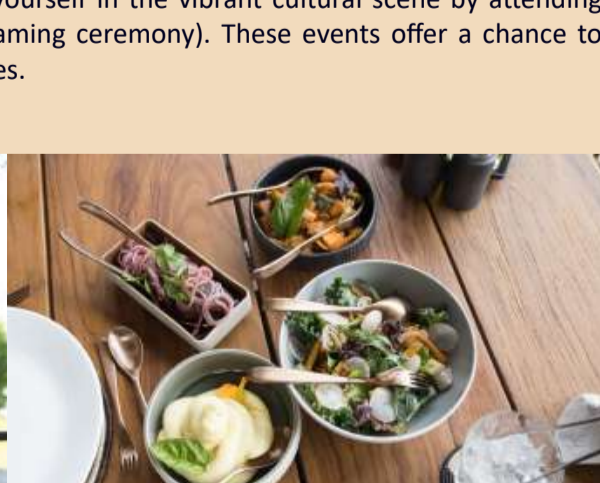
Volcanoes: Where Giants Roam

Volcanoes National Park is the crown jewel of Rwanda, home to the magnificent mountain gorillas. Volcanoes National Park invites visitors to embark on unforgettable gorilla trekking adventures. In addition to gorilla encounters, travelers can explore the Ellen DeGeneres campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and Musanze Caves, gaining insights into Rwanda's conservation efforts and cultural heritage. For an unparalleled experience, luxurious lodges like Singita Kwitonda Lodge and Bisate Lodge offer jaw-dropping views and unparalleled access to the park's wonders.



Culture and Cuisine: A Feast for the Senses

Rwanda's culinary scene showcases a diverse array of flavors. Savour the nation's renowned tea and coffee, or sample unique local specialties like banana beer and the fiery "Akabanga" chili sauce. Immerse yourself in the vibrant cultural scene by attending festivals like the Tour du Rwanda (cycling race) or the Kwita Izina (gorilla naming ceremony). These events offer a chance to celebrate Rwanda's rich culture and foster connections with local communities.



Essential Guide: Getting in and around Rwanda

Reaching Rwanda typically involves air travel, as it is a landlocked country in East Africa.

- By Air:** Fly into Kigali International Airport (KGL) from various international destinations using airlines like RwandAir, Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airlines and Turkish Airlines.
- Visa Requirements:** Visa on arrival. Cost per person - Approx USD 50.
- Land Borders:** Rwanda shares borders with Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and DRC. Entry by land is possible, but ensure you're aware of visa rules and border regulations beforehand.
- Internal Travel:** Move within Rwanda via domestic flights, buses, mini busses ("matatus"), taxis, or rental cars. Kigali serves as a transportation hub with good road connections.
- Currency:** Rwandan franc (RWF) is the official currency. Carry some local cash for smaller purchases, though major credit cards are accepted in larger establishments. 1 US = 1200 Rwandan Franc Approx.
- Weather:** Feels like Spring all year round. Remember to check for any travel advisories or entry requirements specific to your country of origin or residency before planning your trip to Rwanda.

Contact your Tamarind Global representative for bookings.

Rwanda's Luxe Retreats

1. BISATE LODGE



[EXPLORE](#)

Is a lavish sanctuary, with six forest villas in a secluded location, just outside the southern border of Volcanoes National Park.

2. ONE & ONLY GORILLA'S NEST



[EXPLORE](#)

Set against the historic volcanic mountains of Volcanoes National Park. This bucket-list bolthole gives guests a chance to get up close and personal with the gorillas next door, for a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't be forgetting in a hurry.

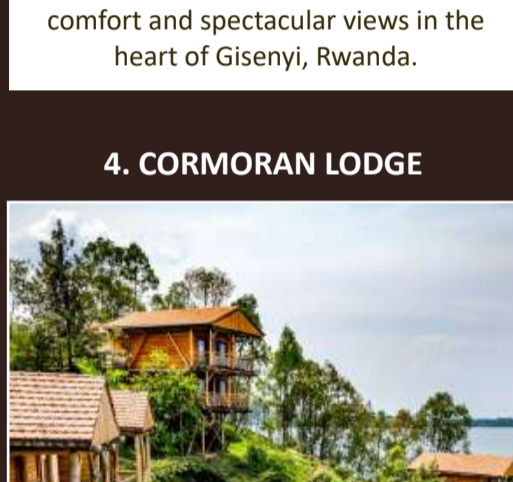
3. LAKE KIVU SERENA HOTEL



[EXPLORE](#)

Overlooking the serene Lake Kivu, this luxurious hotel offers a blend of comfort and spectacular views in the heart of Gisenyi, Rwanda.

4. CORMORAN LODGE



[EXPLORE](#)

Perched on the shores of Lake Kivu, Cormoran Lodge provides a tranquil retreat with panoramic vistas and deluxe amenities.

5. NYUNGWE HOUSE



[EXPLORE](#)

Set within the lush greenery of Nyungwe Forest National Park, Nyungwe House offers a lavish escape surrounded by Rwanda's natural beauty.

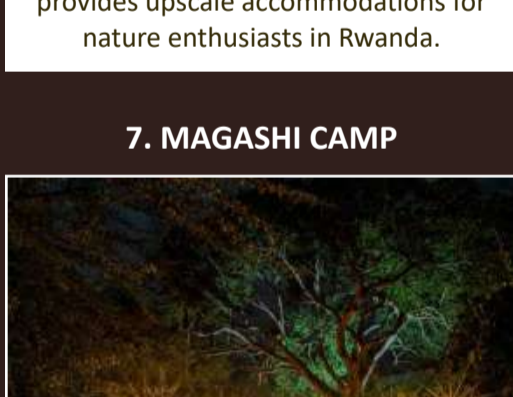
6. NYUNGWE TOP VIEW HOTEL



[EXPLORE](#)

Offering sweeping vistas of Nyungwe Forest, Nyungwe Top View Hotel provides upscale accommodations for nature enthusiasts in Rwanda.

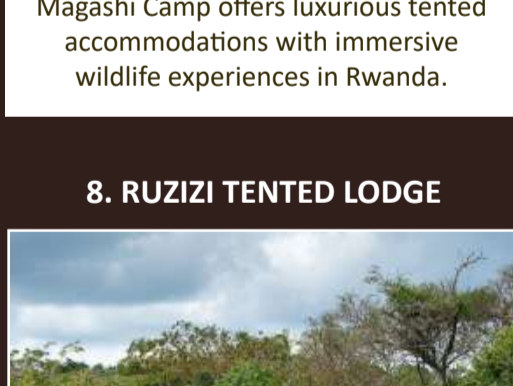
7. MAGASHI CAMP



[EXPLORE](#)

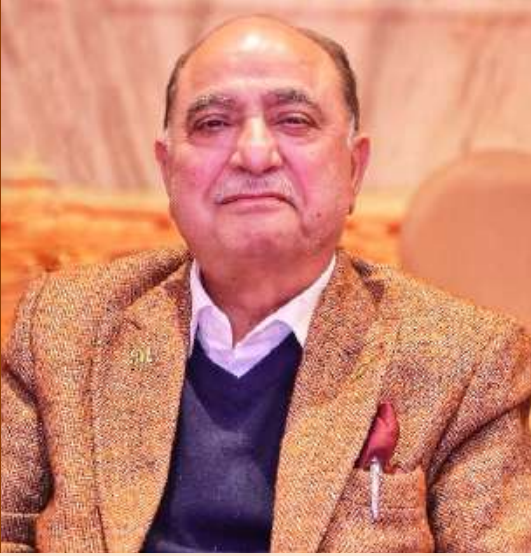
Situated within Akagera National Park, Magashi Camp offers luxurious tented accommodations with immersive wildlife experiences in Rwanda.

8. RUZIZI TENTED LODGE



[EXPLORE](#)

Located along the shores of Lake Ihema in Akagera National Park, Ruzizi Tented Lodge provides a luxurious safari experience amidst Rwanda's wilderness.



Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Chaya

Meet Mushtaq Ahmed Chaya, a Kashmiri entrepreneur who kept his cool and expanded his hotel network even when Kashmir wasn't considered an attractive destination. Today, both his optimism and risk-taking spirit have been rewarded as Kashmir emerges as India's most preferred destination for individual travelers and corporate groups a like.

1. **From the one hotel in Gulmarg in 1988 / 1984 to over 14 hotels and more than 450 rooms in J&K and Delhi, you have come a long way Mushtaqji. What was the vision that drove an expert at forest leasing into being a powerhouse in Hospitality?**

Love for Kashmir and its people, affection for tourism & hospitality and support of friends and fraternity, all these things paved way for my success. The grace of Almighty comes in different forms. Forest lease was the business of the past that worked well at that time, though it was a big task and my family business, somehow, I was not made for it as Almighty had made my destiny in hospitality sector. Starting with first hotel in Gulmarg as Grand Mumtaz turned to be most productive and showed us the way to outfit to the tourism infrastructure. This led to our introduction in the industry and creating robust relations with the tourism players across the country.



2. **Even at times when the valley was disturbed by conflicts and business was down, what gave you to confidence to continue investing in creating hotels across multiple locations in Kashmir?**

Potential of Tourism and assurance given by the travellers across India who continued to travel to Kashmir in every situation, all friends and tourism players who supported my business / hotels and brought tourists to Kashmir in great numbers. This has been a key force behind our confidence and success, without this faith among travellers in Kashmir we would not have prospered in our mission. Expansion of business is must irrespective of conditions, in some way we got the right team to look after each property which is a must in service industry, that made it conceivable for us to focus on other innovative projects/properties.

3. **Having built and run the Grand Mumtaz chain of hotels, what was the main reason for aligning with hotel chains like Radisson, LTH and Bloom?**

Improving the quality of product and services and aligning with international standards to boost the high-end Tourism in J&K state and offer various price range for travellers. The brand association in service industry helps to maximize the customer loyalties and membership. Industry today is all about larger customer base and existence across the world. While we focus on expanding the hotels the chain/brand safeguards the management and embedding of accurate service standards.



Country Inn & Suites by Radisson Jammu



Country Inn & Suites by Radisson Sonamarg



Radisson Golf Resort Pahalgam

4. **What are the plans that the Mushtaq group of hotels has for new projects in the years to come?**

New projects are there as the tourism is thriving in Kashmir, more hotels of international standards would reinforce the industry, we are keeping our fingers crossed for this. In next 3 to 6 years, we will be able to showcase more properties, you will have to wait for that for few more years. At present we are converging on the training and development of the manpower in the group, we need to create professional atmosphere in every hotel in every department. The fundamentals of service industry and polishing the service standards is equally important for setting up any top end hotel to meet the guest expectations.

[Read more...](#)

**BONUS
FEATURE**

Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront, Srinagar



Where? Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

What is Unique? Tucked amidst the breath-taking Himalayan landscape, Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront, Srinagar offers a serene retreat like no other. Its distinctive charm lies in the seamless blend of modern luxury with the timeless warmth of Kashmiri hospitality. The hotel's architecture echoes the rich cultural heritage of the region, with intricate woodwork and elegant decor that transports you to a bygone era. Nestled in the picturesque Rajbagh area, overlooking the Jhelum River and Zabarwan range, the hotel's design captures the vibrant colours and traditions of the valley. One standout feature is the enchanting views of the iconic Jhelum River view from many of the rooms, where you can witness the sunrise painting the mountains in hues of gold.

Why? Choosing Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront, Srinagar means experiencing the best of Kashmiri hospitality in a prime locale. Conveniently located just a stone's throw away from Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport and close to must-see attractions like Mughal Gardens, Dal Lake, Tulip Gardens, and ancient temples, the hotel offers both, accessibility and tranquillity. Whether you're visiting for business or leisure, you'll find comfort and relaxation in the meticulously appointed rooms, rejuvenating spa by Loccitane, and inviting pool (Indoor & Outdoor). You can immerse yourself in the local culture through the hotel's thoughtful design and authentic dining experiences, spotlighting the flavours of Kashmir through Wazwan the Kashmiri Cuisine at the specialty restaurant Firdaus. An exclusive open terrace Zoon has mesmerizing features perfect for social events and private dining during summers.

Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront Srinagar is the first Radisson Collection, a premium line of luxury hotels of Radisson Hotel Group, in India having the largest room inventory in Jammu & Kashmir with the largest Banquet Hall "Mumtaz" and other conference outlets like Zewar, Jhelum, Sindh and a boardroom. With a focus on personalized service and a commitment to excellence, Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront, Srinagar ensures a memorable stay amidst the timeless charm of Srinagar.

New Hotel Openings

Baikunth Resorts, Kasauli



Where? Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh

What is Unique? Set across 5 acres of pine forests, the resort offers a serene escape, where the only sounds are the gentle rustle of the wind and distant bird calls. Imagine cool mountain air, the gentle rustle of leaves, and breath-taking Himalayan views – a true haven for relaxation. Nature lovers will find paradise at Baikunth. Explore the lush surroundings on nature trails, unwind in hammocks or a treehouse, or simply soak in the beauty of the valley from your private balcony.

Why? The resort boasts 35 well-equipped rooms and cottages, each with a private balcony or courtyard showcasing panoramic views of the valley or Kasauli hills. Guests can unwind by the fireplace in every cottage, breathing in the refreshing pine-scented air. Indulge in spa therapies, embark on treks, or partake in light sports amidst nature's embrace. After a day of exploration, savor sumptuous local and continental delicacies at the on-site restaurant, followed by a drink at the glass house bar overlooking the picturesque hills. With facilities ranging from steam and sauna to outdoor sports and leisure activities, Baikunth ensures a perfect blend of comfort and adventure. Its versatile event spaces, coupled with a stunning backdrop for weddings, make it an ideal venue for unforgettable celebrations and corporate gatherings alike. Whether you seek solitude among the mountains or a memorable corporate retreat, Baikunth Resort offers an idyllic setting.

Grand Vijayawada by GRT Hotels



Where? Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

What is Unique? The allure of Grand Vijayawada extends beyond its physical offerings; it encapsulates the spirit of Vijayawada itself – a city teeming with historical significance and rapid urban growth. With a focus on interactive dining at the vibrant Bazaar and award-winning rejuvenation at Bodhi Spa offering rejuvenating treatments and therapies designed to revive your mind, body, and soul, including the exclusive Shirodhara ayurvedic procedure. Strike a balance between work and workouts at our state-of-the-art fitness studio, equipped with the latest gear and overseen by qualified trainers, ensuring a holistic approach to wellness. Grand Vijayawada promises a stay that engages all senses, offering a respite from the ordinary amidst the vibrant pulse of the city.

Why? Nestled in the heart of Vijayawada, Grand Vijayawada by GRT Hotels offers a unique blend of modern luxury and cultural immersion. Strategically located, the hotel offers unparalleled access to Vijayawada's bustling business districts and renowned landmarks such as the Kanaka Durga Temple and Undavalli Caves. Experience luxury redefined with swanky interiors that exude style and sophistication, setting the stage for an unforgettable stay. From the modern amenities to the seamless blend of business and leisure facilities, the hotel offers an oasis for both corporate travellers and leisure explorers. Enjoy personalized services such as express check-in & check-out, concierge assistance, and complimentary Wi-Fi access, ensuring a hassle-free and memorable stay from start to finish. Its thoughtfully designed rooms cater to diverse preferences, ensuring each guest finds a sanctuary tailored to their needs. With its warm hospitality and dedication to creating memorable experiences, Grand Vijayawada invites guests to discover the true essence of luxury in the heart of the "City of Victory."

Ira By Orchid, Ayodhya



Where? Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh

What is Unique? IRA By Orchid, Ayodhya, offers a distinctive blend of comfort and cultural immersion. Nestled in the heart of Ayodhya, it provides easy access to the city's historical and spiritual landmarks, allowing guests to delve into the rich heritage of the region. As an upcoming destination, IRA By Orchid promises a unique travel experience for those seeking a peaceful retreat infused with cultural richness.

Why? Choosing IRA By Orchid means experiencing Ayodhya in its true essence. With its range of accommodation options, from deluxe rooms to temple-view royal suites, guests can enjoy luxurious comfort with a touch of local flavour. Moreover, the in-house pure vegetarian restaurant, Café Vindhya, tantalizes the taste buds with its delectable offerings. With banqueting facilities set to open in May 2024, the hotel caters to both leisure and corporate travellers, ensuring a memorable stay for every guest. Whether you're here to explore Ayodhya's historical significance or simply unwind in a serene environment, IRA By Orchid, Ayodhya, welcomes you to indulge in luxury amidst cultural authenticity.

Scenic, Munnar - IHCL SeleQtions



Where? Munnar, Kerala

What is Unique? Nestled in the mist-kissed paradise of Munnar, Scenic, Munnar – IHCL SeleQtions emerges as the pioneering luxury hotel in Idukki district, offering an unparalleled retreat amidst nature's embrace. Surrounded by verdant hills, tranquil waterfalls, and expansive tea plantations, this sanctuary of serenity boasts 55 accommodations thoughtfully designed to blend privacy with finesse. From secluded villas with private plunge pools to elegantly adorned suites inspired by nature's hues, each room exudes a unique charm, promising an unforgettable stay in the lap of luxury. Plus, with its pet-friendly policy and unique SeleQtions Pawcations Room, even your furry companions can revel in the peace of this enchanting retreat. Indulge in culinary delights curated by award-winning chefs, dine under the stars, or revel in the charm of nature from your private balcony.

Why? Scenic, Munnar – IHCL SeleQtions elevates your experience with a plethora of offerings designed to enchant and rejuvenate. Immerse yourself in a culinary journey curated by their award-winning chefs, whether under the stars or in the privacy of your villa. Indulge in moments of relaxation at the spa, take a refreshing dip in the Olympic-sized outdoor pool, or embark on guided tea trails revealing Munnar's living legacy. With personalized concierge services catering to your every whim, intimate candlelit dinners, and bespoke excursions into the heart of Kerala's natural wonders, every aspect of your stay at Scenic, Munnar – IHCL SeleQtions is meticulously crafted to create cherished memories against the backdrop of mesmerizing beauty. Experience the allure of Munnar like never before, where every moment becomes a celebration of nature's splendour and the art of hospitality.

Marli Hill Bungalow, Ooty



Where? Ooty, Tamil Nadu

What is Unique? Ooty, once known as Ootacamund, has a storied past, steeped in indigenous culture and colonial history. Walk among the verdant tea estates, pausing to admire panoramic vistas. Dive into the history of British explorers on a Heritage Walk, unraveling tales of colonial heritage. Tee off at Ooty Gymkhana Club, indulging in golfing serenity amidst the Nilgiris' tranquility. Under starlit skies, relish grilled treats amidst the picturesque beauty of the region. Experience high tea at Villa Lawns, savoring exquisite blends amidst serene landscapes. Embark on a UNESCO Heritage Train journey, capturing breathtaking views en route. Delve into the traditional charm of Toda Hills, or explore Ooty's myriad delights, from Doddabetta Peak's panoramic vistas to the traditional wonders and historical marvels scattered across the region.

Why? From the tranquil beauty of the Todas' traditional way of life to the bustling charm of the British settlement, every corner of Ooty whispers tales of bygone eras. The bungalow itself stands as a testament to this legacy, with its colonial architecture echoing the footsteps of those who sought refuge in these hills. With its six elegantly appointed rooms and sprawling dining area, Marli Hill Bungalow offers a sanctuary where time slows down and memories are made. The culinary journey here is equally enticing, with a fusion of local Tamilian flavours and Raj-inspired delicacies crafted by master chefs. Beyond the bungalow's walls lie endless opportunities for adventure. Surrounded by lush greenery and the ethereal beauty of the Western Ghats, Marli Hill Bungalow is more than just a place to stay—it's a gateway to a world where time stands still and nature reigns supreme.

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