

NEELESHWAR HERMITAGE, KERALA

TAKE A TROPICAL BREAK

The sight of the green coconut palms, brown sand and blue water makes for a picture-perfect vista. Add a beautiful stretch of backwaters and the visual becomes even more stunning. And this is exactly what I saw while heading into Neeleshwar Hermitage in North Kerala. This property co-exists beautifully with its surroundings. Spread over 12 acres of lush greenery with frangipani and banana trees, coconut groves and native flowering plants, the 18 thatched cottages are designed according to the traditional architectural principles of

Kerala Vaastu. The cottages redefine luxury with a teak verandah, large windows that let the outdoors merge seamlessly with the interiors, huge wooden beds, tables and planter-style chairs, writing desks and cavernous wardrobes. The huge bathrooms are partly open to the sky with powerful solar showers and locally-sourced toiletries and also have eco-friendly plugs to conserve water.

While you are here, you must experience the famed Ayurvedic treatments at Priya Ayurvedic Spa that has five treatment rooms set around

a central courtyard. The treatments use 100 percent natural products, organically produced by the Sahyadri Foundation. Also sample local delicacies at Annapurna (named after the goddess of nourishment) that offers a range of international flavours. For a memorable dining experience, head to the Meenakshi restaurant close to the beach. But the star of this holiday is a cruise on *The Lotus*, the resort's luxury houseboat that has two bedrooms, a bar and modern kitchen, indoor and al fresco dining areas and a personal chef!

Cruise amidst the

brehtaking beauty of the backwaters that unfolds amazing landscapes, beautiful sunsets and a place where time stands still. It is a memory for a lifetime.

—Bindu Gopal Rao

NAVIGATOR

Go there for A tranquil holiday far removed from urban chaos

Address Kasargod District—671314, Northern Kerala

Reservations (0467) 2287510, 2288876, 2288877, 2288878

Email reservations@neeleshwarhermitage.com

Website www.neeleshwarhermitage.com

Tariff ₹8,400 to ₹18,970 (single bed) plus taxes; ₹10,140 to ₹19,950 (double bed) plus taxes. Rates are valid up to October 15.

