

ESCAPE TO THE HILLS

As the road curves and twists up the hill into the hill town of Kodaikanal, there is an unmissable nip in the air. Loftily tree-covered mountains, majestic waterfalls and bright wild flowers form a perfect landscape that set the tone for a long-needed break. I am headed to The Tamara Kodai, launched just five months ago. Being in the luxury space, it has a great advantage. It also helps that the resort itself is located in the historical La Providence building that has been carefully and painstakingly restored over many years. The best part is that the original building's walls and wooden frames have been retained and strengthened using a thoughtful architectural process that has ensured that the ethos of the place is maintained.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE INVIGORATING THAN A HOLIDAY IN THE MOUNTAINS AND THE TAMARA KODAI IN KODAIKANAL IS THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO EXPERIENCE THIS FIRST HAND.
BY BINDU GOPAL RAO

In fact the stone sculptures of three monks outside the reception is a tribute to this place that was once a monastic retreat for Jesuit priests who lived and prayed here. The property's colonial style of architecture becomes evident in the reception itself. It is a newly designed area but has blended in so well with the existing structure that it never feels disconnected. Wood is the key element in the décor and a seating area, a beautiful piano and vintage artefacts set the tone for what to expect inside.

The all-suite property has 53 suites in French provincial design overlooking the valley of Kodaikanal. There are three categories of rooms: the Luxury Suite, Superior Suite (that has a few additional amenities like a better view) and the Neelakurinji Suite which happens to be the two bedroom presidential suite that



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