

## **Have a romantic weekend in a portugese mansion**

### **Travel Getaway**

#### **Have a romantic weekend in a portugese mansion**

With a resort that comes straight to the beach, heritage suites that allow you to stay in a Portugese style mansion and luxury spa treatments, the Lemon Tree resort in North Goa does its best to provide you with the perfect romantic weekend break this spring. And with the special rates this March, you can also feel that you've got a great deal, Go Now tells you more

It's not the peak time but Goa can be a great quiet getaway this March. And the visit for you can be enhanced by two things' - the accommodation and the location. In this I was lucky. Traveling with my family we booked in to The Lemon Tree Amarante Beach Resort and located as it was right on Candolim Beach in North Goa, it ensured that life was bliss. The resort stretches all the way from the main road right up to the beach front. On the property's side though there are many options that can choose from in North Goa - the Taj and The Leela being the most prominent among them this hotel is stunning. Designed to evoke the poetry and romance of 15th century Portugal, it has medieval oil paintings, artifacts, tile work and stained glass set amidst a lush green environment and calm water bodies. There are 60 beautiful rooms and suites, but you must book into the Heritage Suites.

#### **Suite offerings**

So what do you get by booking in the Heritage Suites? Well, the first thing it is expensive but the prices are slashed off season. The advantage to staying here is it that it gives you a feeling of history housed as it is, in a century Old Portuguese mansion. These suites have been restored to their original glory and spruced up with all the modern amenities. Designed for sheer relaxation, all rooms have large windows with cozy seating arrangements, adding to the old world charm of the resort. Here you get a king-size bed (which if you're traveling with kids, is a blessing) and an attached private swimming pool. The service is prompt and friendly so you can enjoy your privacy and have a great time.

#### **Spa treatment**

As so the case with most resorts, this resort too has an in-house spa called Snip Spa & Salon. What you must opt for is the Thai treatment. Though the spa offers the standard treatment, this spot is influenced by Thai traditions - with their Thai ambience, staff and treatments. Also a must try are the spa's signature manicures and pedicures. Here, you get essential oils in the footbath, fresh fruits and vegetables, soy polish remover, and nontoxic nail polishes. Botanical facials to massages and bikini waxes are also popular with those who are looking for an all-natural spa experience. My daughter went in for a hand and foot massage while I indulged myself in the luxury of the Firming & Shaping Luxury Wrap. This is considered to be one of the most luxurious spa treatments that you can get. What does it do? Well, first you are wrapped in a seaweed body wrap, and after this you are given absolute relaxation through special massage techniques. The idea is to firm up your skin and provide absolute relaxation. The therapist also recommends steam and sauna for 15 minutes before you take the special Thai massage. After the massage may sure you ask for their special tea.

#### **Spice Plantation at Ponda**

For those you interested in food, this is a good option during your weekend or three day stay. Take a day tour to the Spice Plantation, there are two of them in Ponda - a city in North Goa. At the spice plantation you will be greeted with garlands, herbal tea, and one of Goa's best known exports: cashewnuts! A guide will take you around the plantation, where you get to see spice plants like black pepper, vanilla pod, cashew etc. You will also witness men climbing the betel nut trees, which are over a hundred feet from the ground! Here, they sway from tree to tree and collect

ingredients which will go into mixes and spices.

After finishing your visit to the plantation, you can opt for lunch. Lunch is served in an open-air restaurant by the riverside, and is a delicious local meal served on banana leaf, supported by a sweet dish and a tipple of cashew Feni. After lunch go to the nearby Margao local bazaar for shopping and some insight into Goan culture.

### **Citrus Cafe**

But if you are really not prepared to step out of the resort, that's no problem. You can rely on 24-hour service or dine at the Citrus Cafe, which has an option of indoor and alfresco dining section. The coffee shop is conceptualized as an open and airy place with a lot of natural lighting. The alfresco is an ideal place for a romantic meal with floating candles laid on the table out under the sky. There are T-Shirts along with jokes nicely framed on the walls. There is also a blend of good paintings which adorn the walls. Indoors, the dining section also provides an informal dining experience. Here you have a lavish buffet spread out during breakfast which also has a live egg counter. For lunch and dinner you get Indian, European, American and pan-Asian cuisines along with a live pasta counter. What I would recommend however is the signature Lemon Dish, in the true spirit of Lemon Tree dining. Also go in for the Chicken Escalope, served with pesto sauce, Sali boti and Pomfret chutneywali.

### **Republic of Noodles**

For more formal dining, there is the hotel's Oriental restaurant called Republic of Noodles. This restaurant is one of the few in the country which serves authentic South East Asian streetfood in a fine dining setting. The other thing to note here is Chef Yuh Ing is constantly creating and reinventing gourmet South East Asian street delights. Some of which you might want to sample are Malaysian Popiah, Indonesian Bamee Goreng and fiery Sri Lankan fish curry. If however you want to get out and have a drink, hop across to Shalom at Soul Vacation, Colva. Most of you in Delhi will be familiar with Shalom and here too the Mediterranean bar will evoke a feeling of light-headedness and lazy lounging. I recommend sitting outdoors in the white outdoor bar. It's a visual delight that stands against the pool and can be seen from most rooms in the hotel. Exotic cocktails, and several non-spirited delights, I really can't tell you what to opt for as the staff here will do that for you. They will ask you for your base preference - vodka, gin, rum and then they will go away and make you experimental cocktails which can ensure that one drink can lead to many more! Have fun!

### **Factfile**

#### **Getting there**

Lemontree Amarante Beach Resort is located 15 km away from Panjim. The resort is 45 km away from Dabolim Airport. The nearest railhead is Madgaon Railway Station, which is 60 km away.

#### **Address**

Lemon Tree Amarante Beach Resort Vadi, Candolim, Bardez 403515, Goa

Tel No: +91 1332 3988188

E-mail: [hi.go@lemontreehotels.com](mailto:hi.go@lemontreehotels.com)

### **Rooms**

Lemontree Amarante Beach Resort has 65 rooms, which include Plaza rooms, Pavilion rooms, Garden rooms, Terrace Studio rooms, Heritage rooms, Heritage Studio rooms and Heritage Suites. The resort has an in-house multi cuisine restaurant. The resort also provides sightseeing packages to the tourists.

**Special package for February & March 2010**

**Plaza Room** RS.19,499 for 3 nights/4 days

**Pavilion Room** RS.20,999 for 3 nights/4 days

**Garden Room** RS.23,999 for 3 nights/4 days

**Plaza Room** RS.13,999 for 2 nights/3 days

**Pavilion Room** RS.14,999 for 2 nights/3 days

**Garden Room** RS.16,999 for 2 nights/3 days

**The offer is inclusive of the following**

- Accommodation for two for 3 nights/4 days OR 2 nights/3 days (as stated above)
- Air-conditioned transfers to and from Dabolim Airport
- Buffet breakfast for two (at Citrus Cafe)
- Open bar from 6-8 pm daily by the Poolside
- Free usage of swimming pool and fitness center
- 2 bottles of mineral water replenished daily
- Bottle of wine in room (on arrival)
- All government taxes as applicable

**All rooms have**

- Tea/coffee maker
- Flat screen television with a DVD player
- Safe deposit locker
- Wi-Fi net access

**March 16, 2010**