



Tree of Life Grand Oak Manor, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

Calm – Serene – Tranquil are just some words which come to mind for the Tree of Life Grand Oak Manor. With just 9 quaint rooms in 40 acres of private estate surrounded by forest greens and snow clad mountains an arms-distance away, this 'hideaway' gives you time to do all that you have always wanted to – just be with yourself; read that book which has remained unfinished ever since; loosen the body with a bit of yoga and meditation.

For those looking for a more active lifestyle, we offer you nature walks and treks in the mountains. You choose your lifestyle – we make it happen.

A Brief History:

British Commissioner, Lt. General Sir Henry Ramsay, cousin to Lord Dalhousie, the Viceroy of India, was charmed and mesmerized by the beauty of the Binsar Estate. He made this Manor his home in 1857. The property was subsequently sold to three British colonels consecutively, until it was purchased by Rai Bahadur Harkishan Lal Sah Gangola in 1931, and has stayed in the family since. In the midst of the Binsar Estate, the Tree of Life Grand Oak Manor stands out like a jewel in the crown, which has not only been home to Sir Ramsay, but also played host to a succession of luminaries such as His Excellency, Governor of the United Provinces, Mr. Hallet, the renowned Indian classical dancer Uday Shankar, and many more.



The Accommodation

*6 Valley View Hideaway Rooms
4 Mountain View Hideaway Rooms
1 Writers Room*

Done in an old-style charm, the 9 Hideaway Rooms are 350 sq.ft each, laid along high ceiling corridors. Teak wood furniture, bright bedspreads and rugs, and cosy fire-side armchairs - all reminiscent of a genteel age. The accommodation is simple, yet comfortable. Set on ground and first floor, each room comes with a balcony or porch for that morning 'cuppa', with an amazing view of the mountain ranges. The attached bathrooms have running hot and cold water. Being in a forest reserve, electricity runs on solar power which could be kept off for certain parts of the day. The individual heating system and the hot water bottle in the bed ensure that you are warm during the nights. We do not provide for televisions at the Manor.

Dining:

We do not do buffets as we believe in food which is fresh and serving it to you with warmth and care at Acorn, our all day dining restaurant on the first floor. We offer Indian and Continental options, not to forget the 'pahaari' cuisine. Our menus change everyday. Breakfast is served from 0730 to 1000 hrs; lunch from 1200 to 1430 hrs and dinner from 1900 to 2200 hrs. We have very limited room service options at an additional charge.

The Grand Oak Terrace on the second floor, overlooks the 300 years old tree from where we got our name. It would be fair to say that you probably would never have had a meal with the view which you get from here ! We also encourage you to take a walk to where we grow our own fresh salads and vegetables. The garden is part of our organic foods initiative, a project that ensures that our offerings are as fresh as possible. We also get milk from our cows which are kept here.



Facilities:

The General's Lounge: This large room on the first floor was the Ballroom in the Victorian heydays, where guests were entertained by General Sir Ramsay. Warm wooden flooring; sofas for you to sink in; a huge collection of books; black & white photographs of those days adorn the walls along with antiques on the fire place. Indoor games are available to pass some time. A large verandah runs along the room with a view of the calm & serene

mountains - all meant to let you unwind at any time of the day.

The Library: Overlooking the lawns, this cozy room with its fire place is just so ideal to curl up with that book which has remained unfinished for so long.

By The Barn: Built 175 years ago for storing grains, it is your ideal out-door spot to either soak in the morning sun or then warm yourself around the log-fire later in the evening. Sip a warm ginger and honey concoction provided with our compliments, or then choose something else.

Wild Life:

Being the only wildlife sanctuary in India where walking is allowed on 62 km of designated walking trails, Binsar is a haven for those who love to explore a forest on foot. It is one of the few places where one gets a chance to truly get up, close and personal with nature. While the most popular route here is the trail that leads up to Zero Point for a view of India's second highest peak Nanda Devi, we have marked other distinct trails that gives guests a chance to not only enjoy Himalayan views but have a good chance of spotting wildlife. You could walk past a barking deer, be in close proximity of wild boar, or wait patiently while martens cross your path. An early morning hike to Hunting Rock can reward birdwatchers with sightings of rare pheasants such as cheer and koklass, and other numerous birds of which there are over 200 species.

Activities: (please see our Special Events attachment)

- Call Of The Mountains • A Day With The Gods • Kumaoni Cultural Show • Yoga & Meditation • Lunch With The Locals
- Village Walk

Location:

New Delhi is 380 kms (9 hours) via Hapur on NH 24 (take bypass) - Gajraula - Moradabad (take bypass) - Rampur - turn left towards Bilaspur NH 87 - Udham Singh Nagar - Haldwani - Kathgodam - Bhimtal - Bhowali - Garampani - Almora - take the upper Kasardevi road towards Binsar (Wildlife Sanctuary), reach the sanctuary gate (19 kms). You could also take the morning Shatabdi from Delhi to Kathgodam and then a convenient four hours drive through scenic landscape to the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary. NOTE : You would be required to register your entry into the Sanctuary and pay an entry fee of Rs. 150/- per person (Indian national) and Rs. 600/- per person (foreign national) plus Rs. 250/- for the vehicle. This pass is valid for 3 days only. *The Manor is closed from 7 July to 15 September.*

Getting There:

By Road: Delhi - 380 kms (9 hours)

Kathgodam - 125 kms (4 hours)

Almora - 25 kms (50 minutes)

By Train: Kathgodam Railway Station

By Air: Pant Nagar Airport - 150 kms (4.30 hrs)

Address:

Binsar Estate, PO Ayarpani, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Distt. Almora, Uttarakhand / 05962-213066/09412909518

Reservations:

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