

# VISITING A MIRAGE

Done with hectic partying? Start your New Year by forgetting about the chaos of the city and relaxing in the midst of the sights and sounds of nature, as **Rhea Dhanbhoora & Dev Goswami** tell you more about the **Water House Resort** in Jaipur

The pink city may be located in a desert state, but there's nothing dry about this resort, with a 40ft high waterfall nestling a Buddha in its cove.

The Water House resort is far from the main city, which is a hassle if you want to sightsee and are short on time. But honestly, once you've entered the sanctity of the place, we doubt you're going to want to leave. After you've picked up your dropped jaw and walked around the Nature Farms property (that houses the popular Tree Houses) and stopped to stare at the rabbits meandering down the path behind you, you can walk up the prettily tiled stairs, past another waterfall toward where the water houses are situated.

The nine suites are cottages suspended over the water and each cottage has a small gate, making it even more private, with a patio outside, shielded from the glaring Jaipur sun by an umbrella. It's the perfect place for an evening cup of tea while you watch the ducks waddle past.

We were put up in the Swan cottage overlooking the beautiful falls. The resort may be a nature farm but it's got every amenity under the sun to help make it a 5-star experience, right from a mini-fridge and big-screen TV to an air conditioner for the hot summer months and a much needed heater for the colder winter, during which we visited. Although the cottages have the cutest outdoor shower, we were confined to the one indoors because the temperature here drops several degrees lower than that of the main city. Our favourite part of the room was the area with the glass floor, through which you can watch fish play peek-a-boo beneath the pebbles on the water bed.

Each room comes complete with organic

products from Omved and the resort is swarming with rescued rabbits, wounded birds that they've taken under their wing and our favourite — sweet little ducks that will let you follow (only if you're in line behind them!) for a short stretch before they tire of your presence. We spent the time that we weren't gazing out at the water or looking for birds and animals on the infinity gazebo deck which overlooked the Syari valley. Lush verdant hues speckle the valley and if you look up at night, it's a blanket of sparkling stars — we've never seen so many clustered together!

If you're the sort who always wants activity, take a bike ride, play tennis or billiards, take a dip in the pool (you'll need nerves of steel to do that during the winter) or just walk around the property — you'll find something to exclaim about, take pictures of or experience at every turn. Also, book a massage at the spa, but remember to book early to get a spot.

Pop over to the other side of a quaint bridge for a drink at the 400-year-old Peacock bar after-hours — sit outside on white and blue wrought iron chairs and watch wildlife wander past. All three meals are spectacular, but when we heard that dinner would be served on the lawn we were a little skeptical because of the cold. However, they set it up really well with cosy bonfires for each table to cut out the chill and lots of hot soup to warm you up. Vegetarians have great options but non-vegetarians won't come away disappointed either. Don't skip the juice and the eggs at breakfast!

For a trip away from the hustle and bustle of the city, nestled comfortably in the midst of nature and truly worth the experience, there's nothing like The Water Resort.

>> The rooms are luxuriously furnished

>> The infinity gazebo overlooks a beautiful, lush-green valley

>> The rooms are located above tiny man-made water pools

>> The Buddha waterfall is, undoubtedly, the highlight of the resort

## BOOK A ROOM

**Luxury room** ₹18,150 + taxes

**Suite Room** ₹21,175 + taxes

All meals are included.

## VISIT

**Address:** Nature Farms, Opposite Amity University, 34KM Milestone, NH11 C, Jaipur (pick up from airport and railway station available at extra charge)

**Contact:** +919001797422, +919799490390