

Diwali can be a noisy time, with the city bustling with activity.

Rhea Dhanbhoora tells you why Hide-Out is the perfect place to run away to



Get away this Diwali

If the hustle and bustle of the city isn't what you're looking for this Diwali, there is something you can do about it. For those who have kids, it can get harder to get away to a peaceful destination. This Diwali however, make your way down to a rustic setting in the midst of nature. And don't worry, your kids won't jump up in arms against the idea since Hide-Out's kid's camps is just the place to be.

Hemant Chhabra, owner of the farm in Thane where the kid's camps are held says, "The concept behind this endeavour is to rekindle their bond with nature. The experience of staying at the farm is enriching to their lives as it helps them bond with their roots creating an opportunity for them to understand their heritage, culture and history better."

You can be sure that you're going to be pampered while your kids have a great time, and not just by the verdant surroundings. Hide-Out offers complimentary massages by trained masseuses for parents while your children are engrossed in the wonders of nature. "For the grown-ups, it is the perfect opportunity to unwind. There is no better way to get to know oneself than in an atmosphere enveloped by serenity. Apart from the free massage sessions by trained masseuses, it is the apt chance for them to rediscover nature. The rest, as they say, is a surprise," Hemant says.

Kids can learn warli (tribal) painting, visit a potter, brick maker and goater, swim in the river, go on nature walks, indulge in some star gazing and a host of other treats.

But bonding with nature isn't all that



>> (top) There are number of activities children can take part in, including cycling

>> (middle) Hide-Out is the perfect place to relax and enjoy nature

>> (left) There are a number of attractions on offer, including a mini waterfall

you'll come away with. According to Hemant, "Most visitors return home with a newfound understanding and respect for healthy food."

It also offers children and parents a chance to get in touch with themselves through deep relaxation with free workshops with resident counselor Nityatara. For those who are interested, you can also consult her for a one on one session, which is also free. Hemant adds, "A combination of the time spent with our resident professional yoga psychologist Nityatara, the beauty and peace of the surrounding nature and off-beat activities such as discovering nature in an interactive session with Anand Pendharkar (from NGO, Sprouts) and stargazing makes it a completely enjoyable experience and also a lot of fun."

Talking about why people keep coming back for more, Hemant explains, "It is a unique experience to live amidst an expanse of nature. I believe that this is something everybody must experience at least once in a lifetime. That said, it is important to understand that the experience of staying at the farm cannot be expressed in volume, but simply in quality."

He adds, "There have been innumerable fans of the farm who have visited from time to time, most of whom have built a comfort zone with the farm and accept it like a home away from home."

The camp is a package of goodies for anyone who wants a peaceful Diwali break. It's for 3 nights and 4 days and will cost ₹5,000, inclusive of pick-up and drop services. As Hemant appropriately adds, "Don't miss it!"

« TOP 5: BEST PLANT NURSERIES

GREEN GROVER

This place is a plant lover's paradise. This nursery has been around since 1998 and it has been a hot favourite of most people. Since it provides garden tools and accessories, it makes it even better. They also have a branch in Versova.

WHERE Mahatma Gandhi Sewa Mandir, Opp. Bandra Talao, S.V.Road, Bandra (West)

CONTACT 26415985 / 26427094

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EVERGREEN GARDEN AND NURSERY

With a huge range of different plants, this nursery is quite liked. Besides, it's convenient for people living in the far away suburbs such as Powai, since it's situated right there. No more traveling for plant shopping as there is a beautiful nursery right there for all those who love plants!

WHERE Panch Kutir Building, Near lit, Powai

CONTACT 25604917

THE GREEN THUMB

The name says it all and this nursery will give you a variety of products. Besides, when you have so much to choose from, it gets difficult as to what to pick. The nursery is pretty decent and very well stocked.

WHERE Opposite Building No 31, Tagore Nagar

CONTACT 25772289

BAGEECHA

Different types of flowers and plants are offered give you a chance to pick the best for your home. Along with that, you are given good ideas about how take care of them and which plants are best suited for you.

WHERE Balraj Sahani Marg, Hotel Novotel, Mumbai Juhu Beach

CONTACT 23677008

ANBRIDGE NURSERY

In the busy streets of Dadar, it's refreshing to have something like this. The beauty of the plants attracts you and it's great to have something on the other side of the city as well.

WHERE 45, Bhavani Sankar Road, Dadar West

CONTACT 24228065

WHEN October 30 to November 2

WHERE Sangeeta & Hemant Chhabra's farm, Thappar pada road, Jhadpoli village, Vikramgarh taluka, Thane district

PICK-UP POINTS 6am, Sion Station/ 6.20am, Dadar TT, 6.45am, Andheri (E)/ 7.15am, Borivli (E)

CONTACT Hemant: 9820149022