

JUNGLE DIARIES

Leave the charms of city life behind and taste a slice of heaven at The Golden Tusk

BY CHARU SHARMA

It's five in the evening and we are in the middle of the jungle on a safari. We come to a stop and our guide tells us, "a tiger was spotted here last night." And just as he's telling us more, we hear a hissing sound in the trees behind us, and turn around to catch the action. The air is fragrant with anticipation and even though something wild does emerge from the bushes, it's a herd of deer!

Our wild adventure had begun two days ago when we – my husband, our one-year-old daughter and I – were picked up in an open-air off-roader from Ramnagar Railway Station at midnight. As we had zipped down the empty roads, three shallow streams and some parts of the forest that makes up Jim Corbett National Park, we had breathed in lung-fulls of fresh air; the 30-minute ride had the makings of the perfect preface to a book.

As soon as we had entered The Golden Tusk, we had been happy to see the ubiquitous greenery that led us to our suite and the smiling faces that greeted us and made sure we were comfortable even at that time of the night. Our first day had begun with a late breakfast at the restaurant; the setting and views of the surrounding forest had instantly made it our favourite spot at the resort. We had spent the rest of the day at the property, taking in the sun and nature. The wide variety of local and exotic plants, trees, flowers and shrubs that lined the pathway had soothed our city-weary eyes.

With all the positive energy we had absorbed, the next day had dawned to buoyant spirits. I had booked an early morning session at the Golden Flower Spa and chosen the 'Spa Ecstasy' package. It had begun with the 'Almond Body Polish', the after-effect of which was a silky smooth skin. Then, I had experienced the 60-minute 'Swedish Relaxation Massage'. The relaxing

massage had been done to perfection by my therapist, more so because it had been to the lilting music of nature, predominantly birdsong. Then, I had indulged in the 'Signature Gold Facial' and my relaxing journey had come to an end with a long steam and shower. A short safari was planned for later that day, but I had to get my fill of sleep after that spa experience.

Back in the present, we spot some more furry friends before it's time for us to head back to the resort with exciting stories and beautiful photographs in tow.

As we bid goodbye to the trees, the bees and the staff the next morning, we realise we don't want to leave... 🌿



The suites have been done up in shades of brown



SPA REVIEW

The property is spread over seven acres on the banks of River Dhela



THE GOLDEN TUSK

📍 Jim Corbett National Park, Village Dhela
Ramnagar, Uttarakhand - 244715

☎ +91 89 37 00 07 70

🌐 thegoldentusk.com

✉ reservations@thegoldentusk.com.in