Let’s reconnect with nature

DC CORRESPONDENT

It’s only obvious that people, who lead a busy urban lifestyle, would fancy a break every now and then, for a much-needed rejuvenation. Old Kent Estates & Spa, at Coorg, offers the very same, but with uniqueness. The 200-acre property which is nestled amidst coffee-bushes and pepper vines, and surrounded by scenic hills, is not just another resort which you see in an urban setting — in fact, you won’t be able to find a fancy bar or a swimming pool like in other resorts. But once you visit the property, it’s easy to forget about all this and just enjoy being one with the nature.

With a blend of rich history distinctive experiences and adventurous activities in the offing, Old Kent Estates, not only transforms the way you enjoy a travel/holiday but also gives you a chance to look at life from a different perspective.

History
The story of how Heroor Estate (as it was formerly known) became Old Kent Estates & Spa is itself an interesting one. Zarook Shah, a third generation owner, fondly recollects, “This estate has been with our family for over 50 years. During our childhood, it was almost an annual ritual for all our families to get together and spend a couple of weeks with our grandparents at the lodge. This colonial bungalow, which is perched at a vantage point within the estate, was originally built by Lt. Col. Wright in 1864.”

He adds, “But after our education, most of us moved to various parts of the globe, and for the past 20 years, we hardly visited the estate. Since all of us were busy in our daily lives, the lodge and the garden around didn’t get the care and attention that was required. However, my cousins and I would reminisce about our estate days whenever we got together. On one such occasion, we decided to restore the lodge to its former glory, and to revive the surrounding garden, so that we can visit the property more often and relive our childhood. In doing so, we decided to welcome guests, history enthusiasts and nature lovers, who share same passion.”

Accommodation & ambience
The lodge has its strong sense of nostalgia, coupled with present-day amenities — it has a reception, a dining area, a recreation area and a home theatre. The verandah in the lodge itself offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding mountains and the valley. To maintain exclusivity and offer serene atmosphere, the number of cottages (each of them named after an English forest) has been limited to just eight. Every cottage has a cozy suite with separate living and bedroom areas, a spacious bathroom with a sky roof, and a beautiful private garden.

The adventure
“Trekking along the plantation is one of the highlights because the resort itself is situated inside an active coffee plantation place. In fact, renowned mountaineer, Lorenzo Gariano, has set various different trails for the guests to explore. While undergoing this adventurous expedition, you can witness Arauka and Robusta bushes (coffee varieties) growing under rosewoods, silver oaks and cluster-fig trees. Since it is situated in the Western Ghats, you’ll also get to see a variety of flora and fauna, apart from getting a chance to witness almost 42 different endemic species of birds identified within the estate! You will also get a glimpse of the life of a coffee planter — right from seeing the workers pruning the bushes and picking the berries to taking a tour to the pulper house, where several processes are done.

Cuisine
Having the opportunity to enjoy food with the freshest of ingredients sourced from within and close to the estate is an experience in itself, right? Old Kent offers the very same and has home-made dishes of varied cuisine including Anglo-Indian, Coorgi, regional and several other special delicacies.

And for coffee lovers, it would be an absolute bliss as you will get to taste the coffee recognised by the International Institute of Coffee Tasters (IICS) in Italy, with the Gold Medal in the Espresso category.

Ideal time to visit Coorg
Unlike other destinations, Coorg doesn’t confine itself to offering the best experience during a certain time of the year instead, you are treated with a different experience every season, based on the coffee cultivation and processing.

WHERE ART MEETS MUSIC
Considered as one of the biggest live music events in South Korea, Pentaport Rock Festival is held annually in Incheon, South Korea. The festival, to be held from August 11 to 13, covers various genres of music, but mainly rock and electronic music. You can also see a mix of local and international bands performing for three days. Pentaport as a festival is a link of five meanings that express festival spirit and philosophy. The five focuses are music, passion, the environment, DIY and friendship!