



Dinning Room

The Conservatory, where we relaxed for sometime, sipping on a G&T and munching on some small bites. The main dining room at the property featured a generous 12-seater table, ideal for communal meals and fostering a sense of togetherness among guests. We made ourselves comfortable and were treated to some delicious *pahadi* dishes like *Aloo Ke Gutke* (sautéed potatoes seasoned with regional spices and garnished with coriander), *Gahat Ki Dal* (a hearty lentil preparation made from horse gram), *Mandua Ki Roti* (flatbreads made from finger millet flour) and *Jhangora Ki Kheer* (a sweet pudding made from barnyard millet, cooked with milk and flavoured with cardamom). After such a hearty meal, only proper sleep was missing. Our comfy bed was still calling and this time, we accepted the invitation.

The following day, we were greeted with a serene and soul-soothing morning. Imagine the first light of dawn breaking over the Himalayas, painting the sky with hues of orange and pink and the city below gently basking in the glow. We just couldn't have asked for a better

from our balcony. After a cup of coffee and snacks at The Conservatory, it was time for a much-needed adventure — The Kunjapuri Temple Trek. The highlight of the trek is reaching the Kunjapuri Devi Temple, perched at an elevation of 1,645 metres. This ancient temple is dedicated to Goddess Durga and holds significant spiritual importance in the region and is one of the 52 *shakti peethas* in India. According to Hindu mythology, the temple marks the spot where the upper body part of Goddess Sati fell when Lord Shiva carried her burning body across the universe. After a walk of around an hour (which also included almost stepping on a snake), we reached the temple which offered breathtaking views of the Himalayas and on the other side, you can see Rishikesh, Haridwar and the Doon Valley.

By the time we finished our prayers at the temple, we were too hungry. Making our way down from the temple, we came across a small tea shop, where we ordered coffee and a plate of Maggi. Sipping on the hot beverage in that winter fog was magical. We then made our way back to the hotel, where breakfast was already ready. From *paranths* to sought-after south-Indian fare like *idlis* and *vadas*, we were treated to some mouth-

watering delicacies. Following a quick nap, it was pool time! This temperature-controlled pool, with a view of the city below, was just out of a dream. Sipping on chilled beer and relaxing in the pool was exactly what the doctor had ordered. One could spend hours and hours there with no care of the world outside. But as evening approached, the cold came in and how, forcing us to finally get out of the water.

For our last dinner at the property, we savoured more traditional dishes like *Phaanu* (lentil-based curry made with soaked and ground pulses like *gahat*), *Chha Gosht* (lamb cooked in a spicy yoghurt-based gravy, flavoured with cardamom and coriander), *Babru* (Himachali version of *kachori*, stuffed with black gram paste) and rounded it off with a scoop of chocolate ice cream.

It was past our bedtime but we decided to stay up for some more time to admire the city from our balcony. Picture this, you are sitting on a comfy chair in your balcony, the whole city is below you and the only thing you see is the shimmering lights far away and the occasional sound of a car passing by. With a cup of coffee in one hand and our legs resting at a height, we just hoped that time would stand still.

The next day, as we bid adieu to Kinwani House, we made a promise to ourselves that if we have a vacation in Rishikesh again, this property would definitely be right at the top of our list.

Direct flights are available from Bengaluru to Dehradun. ₹23,400 onwards.

At Narendra Nagar:

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Living Room



Outdoor Dining Area



The Conservatory



Private Balcony



A section of the property