

SAFFRONSTAYS INNER TEMPLE, GOA

THE SUSEGADO LIFE

It's easy to get lost among the tree-lined pathways of the North Goan suburb of Moira. Each lane boasts quaint villas; some ornate, others dilapidated and forlorn. Not far from Baga and Calangute, this sleepy neighbourhood seems to use an inherent old-world charm to shield itself from the slightest glimpse of modern revelry. As I navigate my way around its curves and bends, a sense of quiet introspection overtakes me. Testament to this feeling is The Inner Temple by SaffronStays—a luxurious homestay set in a restored Portuguese villa. Sunita, the cook and caretaker of the property, told me to

look out for the white picket fences that surround it, and sure enough, there they were, insisting that I enter. Held within them is a lush garden abounding with lemon, basil, pomegranate, pineapple and banana, and a welcoming pool. One look at the white-washed front façade of the villa and it becomes apparent that the home is a labour of love with painstaking attention to detail.

It houses three luxurious thematic bedrooms—Akash (done up in different shades of blue) and Prithvi (an earthy twist with shades of white and yellow) on the ground floor, and Agni (done up in warmer hues like red, orange

and coral along with a walk-in closet) on the upper floor which has a gorgeous balcony where I sip my morning cuppa, watching its white drapes billow in the breeze. Common to all three are mesmerising mosaic flooring and window-seat enclosures. The property exudes a meditative and soulful atmosphere with paintings and sculptures of *yogis* as well as two bookshelves stacked with tomes on spirituality. The living room is large enough, and designed to host yoga classes for eight-10 people. The property also has a masseuse who comes on appointment. Sunita is a fabulous cook who can

rustle up anything—from an English breakfast to Goan fish curry, *rawa* fried prawns and even *sattvik* food—with equal élan. The property is designed to evoke calmness and is recommended for anyone wanting to experience a different take on traditional Goan susegado.

—Ananya Bahl

NAVIGATOR

Go there for A relaxed and meditative vibe.

Address House No. 851, near Moira Club, Moira, Goa

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Website www.saffronstays.com

Tariff ₹5,000 to ₹11,000 per room, ₹15,000 to ₹45,000 for the entire villa

