

A FIVE-DAY RETREAT

The Forest, Decoded

Thekkady, beside Periyar Tiger Reserve · 4 nights



WHY THIS RETREAT

A rest-well retreat for entrepreneurs who rarely get to stop

Five days beside Periyar Tiger Reserve with every detail handled. Early mornings in the forest, slow afternoons, and evenings with scientists, naturalists and chefs.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Rest, built in

Ayurveda, pool time and free hours are part of the programme.

Experts in the field

Sessions led by conservationists, scientists and a National Geographic Explorer.

In good company

Fellow entrepreneurs, brought together over shared dinners and evenings.

Time with peers

A private room for business conversations, open through the retreat.

THE SETTING

Spice Village is the base camp, the forest is the retreat

Adventure, wildlife, food, science and culture: access to people and places a luxury-hotel itinerary never reaches.

4 nights, 5
days

Thekkady, for
50–100 guests.

52 cottages

Modelled on
Mannan village
aesthetic, beside
Periyar Tiger
Reserve.

Five themes

Arrive, read,
explore, look up,
depart.





DAY 1 · ARRIVE INTO THE WILD

Spice, sunset and a story-led dinner

16:00

The Spice Genome

Blind tasting of pepper, cardamom, cinnamon and vanilla; pods of 10–20.

Why: a shared first activity that gets guests talking.

18:00

Western Ghats Sunset

Botanical bar as installation, with Ravi Maurya, Liquid Stage.

Why: an easy first evening outdoors after the journey.

20:00

Welcome dinner

Every course built on an ingredient from the afternoon; Chef Suresh Pillai (to be confirmed).

Why: the afternoon's spices return at the table.

DAY 2 DAWN · 05:15 · READ THE FOREST

Learn to track an animal without being shown one

3 hours in Periyar, led by Sethu Parvathy and Alby J M Mattathil of PTCF, with tribal guides.

Why: guests learn to slow down, read small signs and wait.

Pugmarks

Scat

Feeding marks

Alarm calls

Small field teams of 8–10. Sightings are never guaranteed.





DAY 2 EVENING

Wildlife intelligence, then the forest's soundtrack

11:00–15:00

The Quiet Hours

Ayurveda, pool, downtime.

Why: rest after the dawn walk.

18:00

The Forest Has a Soundtrack

Bioacoustics researcher Chiti Arvind, headphones and listening pods.

Why: learn species by sound.

16:00

Wildlife Intelligence

Dr Anish Andheria on predators, corridors and camera traps.

Why: explains the dawn tracks.

20:30

Dinner by firelight

Why: time to talk over the day.

DAY 3 · THE LIVING WESTERN GHATS

Rafting the lake, then the science of spice

09:00

Water & Wilderness

Bamboo rafting and nature experiences in pods of up to 10, with PTCF naturalists.

Why: the reserve from the lake.

17:30

Living Knowledge

A curated conversation on forest, food and traditional knowledge, not a staged performance.

Why: local voices, first-hand.

16:00

Spice Science Salon

Five blind tastings, then why pepper burns; Dr R. Dinesh, ICAR-IISR (subject to confirmation).

Why: explains Day 1's tastings.

20:00

The Secret Menu

No printed menu.

Why: one evening with no decisions to make.





THROUGHOUT THE RETREAT · THE FOUNDERS' ROOM

A private room for business conversations between guests

Why: when this many entrepreneurs meet, business comes up. A dedicated room gives those conversations a place and keeps the rest of the programme restful.

Founder roundtables

Small groups on one theme, such as growth, capital or succession.

One-to-one meetings

Guests book the room for a private conversation with another guest.

Open hours

Drop in between sessions to pick up a conversation from earlier.



DAY 4 · EARTH TO THE UNIVERSE

A free morning, then photographing an ecosystem

MORNING

Free morning

Spa, Ayurveda, pool.

Why: a full morning to rest before the late night.

11:00

The Photographer's Eye

Prasenjeet Yadav, National Geographic Explorer; groups of 25–30.

Why: guests learn how a field photographer sees a place.

17:30

Botanicals After Dark

Botanical infusions, fire, smoke and ice.

Why: an easy gathering before every light goes out.

DAY 4 NIGHT

Every light goes out

20:15

Dinner under an unbroken sky

Minimal lighting, no stage.

Why: eyes adjust to the dark.

21:00

The Cosmic Hour

Dr Smriti Mahajan on stars, black holes, exoplanets, life elsewhere.

Why: context for what guests will see.

21:35

Private Observatory

Telescope pods of 10–15.

Why: time at the eyepiece for all.

22:15

Capture the Night

Each guest makes an astrophotograph.

Why: a photo each guest made.

22:45

The Question

One card, one message to another civilisation.

Why: a reflective close to the night.

DAY 5 · BEFORE THE WORLD WAKES

Dawn birds, a field journal, departure

05:45

Dawn Birds

A quiet walk, pods of 6–10, PTCF naturalists and tribal guides.

Why: one last forest morning, at the best hour for birds.

08:00

The Field Journal

Forest observations, star map, astrophotograph, spice profile, final field note.

Why: a record of the retreat that guests made themselves.

10:30 ON

Departure





GOOD TO KNOW

How the days are run

Parallel pods

Pods keep Periyar's trail caps: 6 on nature walks, 12 on border hikes.

Weather contingencies

In place for the sunset, lake and dark-sky evenings.

Commissioning

Speakers and chefs marked "to be confirmed" are subject to commissioning.

See you in the forest.