

Orange County®

luxury resorts
Kabini, India

Pages from the diary of Tejas – Orange County, Kabini, June 2010

Tejas visits our resorts in Coorg and Kabini and shares with you some of his uplifting experiences. Join him as he immerses himself in the activities at our two resorts, and enjoy them with him, virtually!

Tejas Joseph resides in Auroville near Pondicherry and is part of a consulting group engaged in creating viable models of decentralised lighting (using solar energy) for off-grid Indian villages. Tejas travels a lot in the course of his work and feels a deep connection with the history and ethos of the places he visits. He is a keen observer of the winds of change that are now blowing across the physical, cultural and social landscapes of India and seeks to capture its effects in his articles, ever believing that the journey is as important as the destination, the travel as rewarding as the arrival! Feel free to write to him at pjtejas@gmail.com if your interests or work coincide with his.



Activity Name	Elephant Interaction
Duration	1 ½ Hours
Timing: Interaction	9.00 AM to 11.00 AM
Ride	9.00 AM to 11 AM & 4.00 PM to 6.00 PM
Guided	Yes
Prior Booking Required	No

An Elephant Tale

Meenakshi is the resident Pachyderm at the Orange County resort in Kabini. She is gentle and compliant, making her a big hit with both children and adults. You can see her strolling with her mahout on Kabini's shore close to the resort with gleeful children atop her in the mornings and afternoons on most days. She is 47 years old, weighs roughly 3.5 tons and stands 8.5 ft. tall.

Taking a ride on Meenakshi will give you a hint of the enormous power concealed in this creature, while her gentleness will become evident when frolicking with her in the waters taking part in washing and bathing her with her mahout.





tropical hardwood trees from the Malabar forests that were used to build mansions and ships at home and railway tracks in faraway England.

Meenakshi is at the resort in Kabini to provide more than just joy rides and pose for exotic pictures. She is here to remind us of the wonders evolution has worked upon this singular creature symbolized by its phenomenal size, strength, memory and other impressive attributes that includes swimming in oceans. The Kabini backwaters are where we can find the largest concentration of the Asiatic Elephant in the dry season. Hence it is only fitting that this animal has a worthy representative in Meenakshi for contemplation, kinship and bonding.

Meenakshi and her mahout, Sashi, have been in the resort at Kabini for about 2 years now. Sashi thinks she was born in captivity though her mother was wild before being captured. Elephants in captivity tend to have a longer life span as they are fed regularly and taken care of, unlike the ones in the wild that have to face constant challenges to their food supplies and habitats every day.

We forget that elephants were so much a part of the Indian social landscape not very long ago. They graced palace and temple festivities and lent their might to kings and emperors in their wars and battles. And, long before the power saw and four-wheel drive trucks were invented, elephants were used to transporting the felled

