



SaffronStays The Inner Temple

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

A specially curated compilation of unique homestays across India.

Text **Ananya Bahl**

The modern Indian traveller is like a child at a candy store—confused by the various options before him, yet wanting them all! Hidden in this fear of missing out—which has gripped everyone from millennials to middle-aged travellers—is an irony. A large number of these travellers are constantly seeking ways to slow down, to relax and unwind. However, they want to do so in the comfort of a homely place, far from the commercial and impersonal atmosphere of a hotel. Enter homestays—a novel concept wherein people open up their homes—either partly or wholly—to vacationers. Here's a look at six of these unique homestays that will indeed make you feel at home.



Gratitude Heritage

CREATIVE SOLACE AT GRATITUDE HERITAGE, PUDUCHERRY

This restored Franco-Tamil villa—named after one of the 12 attributes of The Mother—is a peaceful getaway located in the heart of Puducherry's French Quarter. The owners, in collaboration with Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage, have maintained its inherent French, Tamil and Creole elements—lime wash paint to keep it cool, Madras terrace roofing to shelter it from rain and tall French pillars to provide support. The home exudes a feeling of gratitude and offers privacy and solitude to the guests. It's a sanctuary for creative thinkers, artists and writers who flock here to complete works of art. They can choose to do so from the comfort of any of the eight luxuriously done-up rooms or in the open courtyard amidst green trees and under natural light. Its simple home-cooked meals provide much-needed creative fuel. The proverbial icing on the cake is their comprehensive 'writers in residence' programme for guests wishing to stay longer.



Come here for: Peace, inspiration and a taste of Puducherry's Franco-Tamil heritage | info@gratitudeheritage.in

Getting there: Jet Airways operates daily flights to Chennai from all major Indian cities. Puducherry is a 170 km drive from Chennai.