

## Dhole's Den, Bandipur

### A Happy Marriage of Contemporary Architecture and Eco Design



*Large windows, sliding doors and wide eaves maximise the use of natural light and ventilation.*

Dhole's Den is a shining example of a safari homestay built in a contemporary, minimalist style to high eco standards. The main building and guest accommodation with five spacious guest rooms has been designed to maximise natural light and ventilation with large windows and sliding glass doors giving panoramic views of the Nilgiri Hills. High ceilings combined with tree planting and wide eaves enable rooms to be kept cool without fans or air-conditioning. Local materials have been used where possible. Rooms incorporate traditional stonework, a technique which had been disappearing from the locality replaced by high carbon materials such as concrete. Ramps have been installed to accommodate guests with disabilities.



*Traditional stonework is incorporated into the exterior.*



*Interiors maximise natural light and ventilation. There is no air conditioning or fans.*



*High ceilings, tree planting and wide eaves keep rooms cool.*



*Local, traditional stonework, a design feature of interiors.*

A 10 kwh micro wind and solar power hybrid generator produces sufficient power to meet all the lodge's energy needs apart from the water pump. Separate decentralised rooftop solar panels have been installed for use in the kitchen bungalow and other areas. Guest rooms have a one-key system to turn off electricity.



*Micro wind and solar power hybrid generator.*



*Decentralised solar rooftop panels.*



*Biogas unit.*

The buildings occupy only about 5% of the site. The natural landscape has been retained and rejuvenated with indigenous shrubs, grass and trees. Rainwater is harvested from rooftops and captured in a water body. Natural pathways and the landscape allow rainwater to percolate back into the ground. Wastewater is treated with an eco-friendly sewage treatment plant using root zone technology and recycled for irrigation. Fixtures in the lodge include aerated taps and dual flush toilets to conserve water. A biogas unit using kitchen waste provides fuel for cooking.



*Grounds feature a water body for rainwater harvesting, root zone water treatment, indigenous planting and an organic vegetable garden.*