SUSTAINABLE BUILDING
GOOD PRACTICE CASE STUDY

Spice Village Thekkady, Periyar
A Multiple Award Winning Eco Resort

Spice Village, one of the oldest resorts in Thekkady near Periyar, is modelled on the native Manan tribe of the region. A pioneer in sensitive eco design, the lodge offers 52 spacious cottages set in a natural landscape with indigenous trees, plants and naturally grown wild grasses.

Buildings are thatched annually with local elephant grass using traditional skills and local labour. Wide eaves provide natural cooling; the cottages have no air conditioning. Furniture is made from upcycled pine cases sourced 25 years ago from the nearest ports. Floors are made of stone with natural coir mats.

One cottage is set aside to cater for special needs.

A sewage treatment plant combined with an effluent treatment plant enable 45 kl of water to be recycled daily, 40% of their usage. The swimming pool has a water recycling unit. Aerated water taps combined with dual flush toilets help to conserve water further. The grounds have a rainwater harvesting system to enable ground water to be recharged during monsoon rains.

A 65 kw solar power plant has been installed making a substantial contribution to the resort’s energy consumption and reducing its carbon footprint. Water is heated through solar power. All guest rooms have a key one switch system to turn off electricity when guests exit their rooms. Lighting is LED, the most energy efficient, throughout the property. Guest refrigerators are CFC free. A biogas plant converts kitchen organic waste into methane for cooking.