

Svasara Jungle Lodge, Tadoba Safeguarding and Celebrating Local Culture and Cuisine

A Note on Local Art

svasara jungle lodge

Art is central to many communities in India. For Svasara, we have hand-picked the ones in which nature plays a dominant theme, often illustrated through decorative patterns, symbols and figures. If you wish to take these local crafts home please visit our nature shop.

- Arts & Crafts of India**
 - Gond Art at The Indoor Dining**
The most striking thing about Gond art, is that each artist has his/her own distinct "signature", in the form of a pattern that they use in their painting. We have featured Gond artist Rajendra Kumar Shyam's paintings in our indoor dining. This form of art originated from indigenous tribes of Central India.
 - Bhil Art at The Indoor Dining**
After Gonds, the second largest tribe of Central India is that of the Bhils. Traditionally their colourful paintings were done on the walls of their homes. Today, Bhil artists paint traditional nature and mythological themes but on modern mediums such as paper and canvas.
 - Mirmira Pottery at The Teakhouse**
The art of rural pottery is being kept alive with initiatives like the Gramodaya Sangh also known as Mirmira Pottery, located at Bhadravati, Chandrapur, Maharashtra. About 30 families in the village here pursue pottery as a means to livelihood. They specialize in techniques of glazed as well as terracotta pottery.
 - Madhubani Art at The Indoor Dining**
Madhubani paintings were traditionally done by women in villages belonging to the Mithila region of Bihar. Colours were derived from natural sources like plants and charcoal soot. These paintings are believed to have originated at the time of the Ramayana, when King Janak commissioned artists to do paintings at the time of marriage of his daughter, Sita, to Hindu god, Lord Ram. Hence, paintings mostly depict Hindu deities as well as natural objects like the sun, moon, flowers, animals and birds.
 - Sujani Embroidery in Our Rooms**
The stitching tradition of Bihar is called Sujani. This art has been preserved by women in remote villages. Using cotton thread and two types of chain stitch and the Sujani stitch (similar to running stitch), vibrant narratives are created each telling a distinctive tale. Our room folders have been created using this beautiful art.

Did you know? Svasara means a nest – a place of comfort and belonging that exists in harmony with nature.



Svasara Jungle Lodge offers an immersive learning experience for guests not only in nature but also local culture. The in-room folder includes a briefing on local tribes and their art in addition to a biodiversity checklist, jungle etiquette and the lodge's eco practices. The library includes a wide range of wildlife and cultural books. Art on display showcases local art forms – Gond, Madhubani and Bhil art in the dining room, Mirmira pottery in the Teakhouse, and Sujani embroidery in guest rooms – all profiled in briefing literature and on sale in their shop along with local bamboo handicrafts.

While regional recipes elsewhere are being lost, Svasara is documenting recipes from local villages and tribal hamlets and these form the core of their culinary experience for guests with produce sourced locally. Villagers are invited to the lodge on a weekly basis as part of the Vidharha Culinary Experience giving guests an opportunity to interact with them while the dishes are prepared. Dinner tables have a one-page description of the history and unique features of the cuisine served.



Regional recipes made with local ingredients.

Briefing on local art in guest literature.

Visitors are encouraged to explore local villages on bicycles. Guided trips are also organised to local bamboo and pottery crafts centres and to local historical cultural sites such as the Markanda temples.



Providing opportunities to explore local village life.



Encouraging visits to local handicraft outlets.