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The 'Sher' of Ranthambore

Pamper yourself amidst the serene, natural beauty of Ranthambore at the wonderful Sher Bagh.

TEXT RASHIDA S. ARSIWALA

Arriving at a place with a splitting headache is never a good sign. But before getting into the jeep that was to be my carrier from Sawai Madhopur station in Rajasthan to the Sher Bagh camp, I was welcomed with a glass of fresh *nimbu pani* (lemonade). While it didn't help the headache, it certainly was a sign of better things to come.

Sher Bagh is an intimate, 1920s' Raj-style luxury tented camp. A cosy setup that includes 12 rooms, which can accommodate 24 guests. The tents themselves are simple yet comfortable. Continuing with the au naturel theme, indoors you will find no televisions in the tents, but there are modern amenities such as an air-conditioner and heaters, which one can use.

Sher Bagh's USP lies primarily in its simplicity. While one may think there's not much to do in Ranthambore besides trying to spot a tiger in the wild, the whole idea behind being there is to have some peace and quiet. But that doesn't limit one's options of things to do. For starters, the Jungle Spa at Sher Bagh is worth a visit. There are a limited number of treatments to choose from, but they

are performed well by the gracious staff. Another great thing about the place is their effort to keep everything as natural as possible. This is showcased very well in the mud decks that have been built around the site. The pool, hammocks and day-beds are added pleasures. Breakfast is traditional Indian fare, lunch is a light meal of Italian cuisine and dinner is a traditional

Rajasthani *thali*, which is enjoyed around a campfire.

To sum it up, the experience at Sher Bagh is a relaxing way to enjoy the outdoors and take a step closer to nature. ■

Images courtesy Sher Bagh, Ranthambore



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