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# VISTARA

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## Travel therapy

India is fast emerging as a wellness destination and Port Blair is the place to be

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# Experience Solitude

The quaint old ways of telling time are no longer in use, but in quiet nooks like Rokeby Manor at Landour time does take a break and stand still...

If you want to spend a few days of quietude, then the best place to head to is Landour. A quaint little cantonment town near Mussoorie in the foothills of the Himalayas, Landour is also called the Hamlet in the Hills. With the Shivalik hills on one side and lofty Himalayan peaks on the other, the dramatic landscape and serene atmosphere make Landour the perfect getaway. To pamper yourself, you may head for a full-body massage or facial and other treatments to the fully equipped The Little Salon & Spa Shed.

## SPLENDID STAYS

Restored to original 19th century décor, Rokeby Manor has retained cozy fireplaces, traditional wooden beams and quiet nooks where old world charm meets modern comforts.

Away from the clamour of town, Rokeby is a welcome patch of serenity. The lovingly renovated rooms with stone walls, quaint

arches and parquet floors open out to a Tea Garden and The Highlands, an elevated outdoor venue that boasts of a temperature controlled jacuzzi and is ideal for barbecues.

Strewn across the hillside are a cluster of 19th century colonial cottages called Rokeby Residences, each offering stand-alone experiences. Bothwell Bank House is a three-bedroom mountain home that provides historical charm with original fireplaces and wooden beams, equipped with a kitchen, barbecue and an outdoor jacuzzi. Set on a quiet sunny elevated slope overlooking the breathtaking views of the Himalayan range, is a charming small two-bedroom apartment house called Bothwell Bank Cottage, an authentic stone clad mountain log cabin with a knotty pine wood decor which has all the comforts of a home. Another two storied bungalow Pine Tree Lodge is inspired by Scandinavian architecture, with colourful patchwork stools, vintage lamps and traditional Finnish artwork.

## SCRUMPTIOUS SAVOURS

The promise of delicious Continental and Indian cuisine in the hills lures tourists and locals alike who drive or hike up for signature dishes like mustard chicken at Rokeby's restaurant, Emily's. Its sister establishment Clock Tower Café in Landour Bazaar, with funky decor and music posters, is a great place for pizzas, pastas, burgers and Chinese fare. You may also try out The Stray Dog Café & Bar which includes Stübli Café serving Swiss and European cuisine and Ale House, an Olde English Pub.

The Landour Bakehouse is the latest attraction at Landour. Many of the bakery, desserts, and pudding recipes here are derived from the Landour Cookbook which is over a century old! One can sip on a traditional steaming pot of tea and ponder about the history of this quaint little town, while enjoying the views overlooking the majestic peaks of the great Himalayan Range through the whispering pines that stand tall.