

## *Royal Heritage Tripura Castle*



Built in the early 1920s by Maharaja Bir Bikram, who came to Shillong at the age of 16 for his military training and fell in love with the place, Tripura Castle is the symbol of the Maharaja's romance with Shillong. Though the Castle does not resemble a 'castle' in the British or European sense of the term, it does reflect the regality of a royal home – from its tiered gardens and marvelous collection of orchids, including an underground bomb shelter and tunnel opening out into the rose gardens dating back to World War II, to its splendid interiors, one is immediately struck by the quiet grace of a by-gone era.

Within the Castle's walls are a wonderful collection of artwork and antiques collected over the ages. Centuries old Chinese furniture, art deco and Victorian objets d'art, blend in with paintings and photographs by members of the royal family. The large private library has several rare manuscripts and valuable first editions.

A serpentine road lined with pine trees, bamboo groves and cherry blossoms leads up to the Royal Heritage - Tripura Castle, summer retreat of the Maharajas of the Manikya dynasty of Tripura. The first "heritage" hotel in the north-east, it was opened in 2003 in the Castle's Annexe. The horse-shoe shaped gate, symbolic of good luck and a royal tradition for entrances to residences invites you in.

An air of regal elegance coupled with an old world charm reflects the ambience of the Hotel. The warm tones of wood, cane and brass are the architectural refrain. The blend of European and Oriental influences that is the hallmark of the Castle, has been subtly worked into the Hotel.

In remodelling the Annexe and guest rooms, local materials have been used to great advantage. Pinus Khasiana, indigenous to Meghalaya, for the woodwork is

complemented by the paving in the courtyard, white Cherra Stone from nearby Cherrapunji (once known to have the highest rainfall in the world).



*The Tea Lounge* is a connoisseur's delight and a favourite relaxing area. On offer is a wide array of fine teas – from full-bodied, strong Assam to light, fragrant Darjeeling and a whole range of herbal teas.



The place to adjourn to in the evenings is the wood-panelled bar. Aptly called *Mezzanine*, and well-stocked, it has a casual atmosphere.



At *The Rice Court* the standard menu is Chinese with a wide choice of vegetarian and non-vegetarian fare. But if you are a guest, a special treat awaits you – authentic Khasi cuisine – ‘jadoh’ (a rice dish), ‘dohkhlieh’ (a spicy pork salad), ‘tungtap’ (dried fish chutney) among other exotic preparations. The décor includes interesting lithographs, some dating back to 1857, and an 18th century Chinese bed.



Each of the 10 spacious and tastefully appointed *Guest Rooms* retains its old world ‘heritage’ character – carefully selected pieces of furniture from the Castle, a gleaming brass fire-place, coupled with all the modern amenities – attached bath with running hot and cold water, cable TV and video. On clear, crispy winter mornings, the view of snow-

capped peaks is spectacular, while after dark, the lights of Shillong make for a pretty backdrop. *The Maharaja Suite* strikes a special chord. The ornately carved mahogany bed is the very same one used by India's first Noble Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore – who shared a long and close association with four generations of the Manikya dynasty.



Among the other facilities available are a 30-seater Conference Room – *Manikya Hall*, a Holistic Therapy Centre, laundry services, doctor on call and car parking facilities within the grounds.

*Details for customized holiday packages, excursions and cultural shows, available on request.*

### **Reservation & Enquiry:**

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website: [www.royalheritagetripuracastle.com](http://www.royalheritagetripuracastle.com)

### **Accessibility**

City Centre: 3 Km

Airport: 33 Kms (Umroi Airport) / 133 Kms (Guwahati Airport)

Railways: 104 Kms from Guwahati Railway Station

## TARIFF

	Single CP	Double CP	Single MAP	Double MAP	Single AP	Double AP
Deluxe Room	2640	3000	3040	3800	3440	4600
Supreme Room	3360	4080	3760	4880	4160	5680
Superior Room	4080	4560	4480	5360	4880	6160
Maharaja Suite	4800	5400	5200	6200	5600	7000
Extra bed/person	1080		1480		1880	

(All rates are inclusive Govt. taxes )

(All rates are in Indian Rupees)