



Hospitality

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Ayana Hospitality to open wildlife lodge near Pench next month

By TBM Staff | Mumbai

Ayana Hospitality, a joint venture company formed by Mumbai-based ICS Realty and Mantis Group of South Africa, which has been providing consulting and pre-opening management services to hotel developers since its inception in 2012, will soon launch a lodge in May 2016 – Vanraj by Ayana, which is a short drive to the Turia entry gate of Pench National Park. The wildlife lodge will be operated by Ayana Hospitality.

It has a combination of 3 room cottages - Machaan, Traditional cottage and Presidential suite. The property has an interactive kitchen offering regional cuisine, and also boasts of a large pool with a deck area and a sunken bar. Ayana Hospitality is also keen on developing similar wildlife lodges connecting other famous national parks such as Tadoba and Kanha.

“These lodges will have room inventory ranging from 5 to 15 keys providing our guest a highly customised and personalised holistic nature experience. The audience for our projects is discerning travellers who are looking for an experiential getaway,” said Akhil Behl, CEO, Ayana Hospitality.

Ayana Hospitality is also scheduled to foray into management of hotels with their first boutique property scheduled for opening in Fort Kochi in Kerala later this year. The 16-room boutique luxury property is currently in the final stages of re-development. “It’s a 200-year-old heritage building which is being converted into a hotel. Besides 16 rooms, the hotel will have a roof top café and swimming pool,” said Behl.

“Ayana’s first branded property in Fort Kochi is based on the art decor concept and located in proximity to the Biennale Art Exhibition. The property will celebrate the local heritage and culture of Fort Kochi which has over the centuries influenced by the various trader communities,” said Behl.

The company has set a target of adding two to three properties on an annual basis for the next three years in India. Explaining the journey so far for Ayana Hospitality in India, Behl said that the Ayana has been received well in the market and has worked with several hoteliers in providing consulting, pre-opening and management services.

Recently Ayana has also added a sales and marketing vertical which is focused on assisting boutique luxury properties with their sales initiatives. “Our journey has been a steep learning curve but we foresee Ayana well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that this segment of hospitality offers,” he added.

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