

## Rainy Day Retreats

The heat wave is driving us towards the hills in hordes. But there are still only a few places where you can escape the 'touristy' crowd and truly experience nature, says Anisa Nariman

ANISA NARIMAN 15th Jul 2012

### Itmenaan

This 100-year-old Kumaoni stone house is what 21st Century hospitality is all about. Restored using only sustainable and local materials, this 10 acre-property has a three-bedroom house, sit-out areas, a natural spring, and vegetable, fruit and herb gardens from which most of your meals are made. This beautiful, secluded house sits with a panoramic view of the grand Nanda Devi all to itself. It's a perfect marriage of tradition, style and comfort. The bedrooms give you little to complain about but wait till you see the chic stone bathrooms. Itmenaan

encourages their guests to explore and understand their locality and its people through village walks and stays where authenticity won't compromise comfort. Despite being in the middle of nowhere, you will not be deprived of an excellent meal. Their chef also bakes his own breads, cakes and cookies in a wonderful rustic stone oven – sustainable tourism at its best. Not advisable for toddlers, the old or disabled though, as it is a decent walk from your car to the house.

**Rates:** April to September Rs 10,000 per room, October to March, Rs 12,000 per room. Includes all meals, guide for walks and taxes.

**Reservations:** (0)9818705508

**Things to do:** Walks to nearby villages and temples. Help with the gardening of the fruits and vegetables.



Wake up to a panoramic view of the grand Nanda Devi and enjoy a cuppa

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