



TRAVEL

Experience a soldier's life at this scenic, luxurious property

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Della Group's Jimmy Mistry on doing the unattempted; building a boot camp in a luxurious setting

Riddhi Doshi

The nine-year-old luxurious Della Resort, in Lonavala, was among the first luxury hotels to embrace 'experiential' luxury with its unique offerings of adventure sports and a luxurious stay.

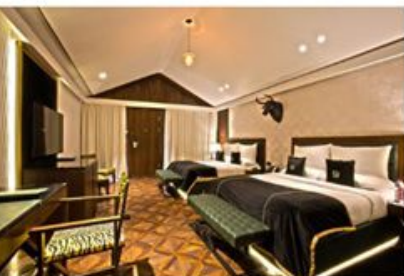
Jimmy Mistry, Chairman and Managing Director of Della Group, has done it yet again with the completion of Rs30 crore Della Adventure Training Academy, four months ago. The scenic property, a 40-minute drive and a ten-minute boat ride away from Della Resort, in Lonavala, doubles as a boot camp for civilians, which is conducted by ex-military personnel.



The property, surrounded by hills on three sides and a lake on the fourth, is a perfect destination for corporates wanting to hold leadership or training programmes and families and friends wishing to have a different, memorable holiday. The idea of a luxury destination, which runs a boot camp emerged from the simple idea of taking people on an outdoor trek, says Mistry. It was then extended to training. "I always want to do something different, something that has never been attempted earlier," says Mistry. "With this project we wanted people to understand or experience the military way of life, create a sense of patriotism and have a unique and memorable holiday."



So, after you sweat it out on an obstacle track, relax in your room's jacuzzi. After learning different knots and self-defence techniques, swim to blow off the heat. Also, for the night, take your super cute, well-trained dog buddy and go on a night trek. The instructor will teach you to create fire without a matchstick; determine the right directions by gazing at the sky and filter water without boiling it. "I think that this is a perfect place for corporate training," says Mistry. "Nevertheless, it's a challenge to find companies that want training sessions in a luxurious setting."



Though Mistry is confident that the MICE sector in India will grow in the coming years, that coupled with families make for DATA's main clientele currently. "Something of this sort has never been attempted in India and I know that people will love the concept as here you can get a lot more out of your holidays."