

Ri Kynjai Fact Sheet



Ri Kynjai

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Ownership	Centre Point Hotels
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Introduction

Ri Kynjai translates from Khasi as 'land of serene environs'. This resort presiding over the picturesque Umiam Lake, 20 kilometres from Shillong is aptly named as 'Ri Kynjai – Serenity by the Lake'.

The architecture is inspired and derived from the original Khasi thatch huts. Legend has it that millennia ago the sea caressed the southern slopes of the eastern Himalayas and the ancient Khasi tribe may have been a sea faring community. They readily adopted the upturned boat roof form which is inherently capable of withstanding the harsh monsoon winds and incessant rainfall. The resort reflects the warmth of Khasi hospitality, their eco-centric culture and captivating architecture combined with modern convenience and luxury. Set against the backdrop of the enchanting Khasi hills, Ri Kynjai is spread over 45 acres.

As you drive up to the resort through groves of majestic pine trees, lush paddy fields, small organic tea and vegetable gardens your first view is a traditional Khasi cottages and the distinctive hybrid cottages.

It offers something for everyone. The resort emporium showcases textiles and crafts from around the Northeast. The holistic spa offers traditional Khasi massage and herbal treatments.

Location

Ri Kynjai is located 25 km from Shillong.

Transportation

By Air

To Guwahati Airport from Delhi, Calcutta, Imphal, Bagdogra, Jaipur (en-route stop at Calcutta, Chennai/Bangalore (via Delhi), and Dibrugarh followed by a 2 hour car journey or 25 minutes by helicopter and onward 25 km by a car journey.

By Train

75 km from Guwahati railway station.

By Road

17 km from Umroi airport in Shillong, 105 km from Guwahati airport (3 hours), 25 km from Shillong city centre, Kaziranga National Park 5 hours drive away

Transfers

The hotel can arrange transfers (packaged or at an extra cost) from Guwahati Airport or other destinations.

Arrival Information

Check-In and Check-out

Check-in: 1200 Noon. Check-out: 1000 hrs

Parking

Complimentary Parking is available for guests.

Hotel Details

Accommodation

17 rooms in total. 5 cottages and 12 superior rooms. Maximum occupancy per cottage or room 3 adults or 2 adults and 1 child aged 8 to 12 years.

5 Cottages

Supported on tall circular stilts, these hybrid cottages with spacious balconies which overlook the serene Umiam Lake are derived from Khasi architecture and portray the transition from tradition to modernity with an unusual interpretation of the upturned boat roof in the metallic thatch fused to modern gables.

Designed with an eye for detail, the intricately framed ceiling is set off by red pine walls and flooring. The fireplace in the living-bedroom area adds a cosy intimacy to cool nights. Wooden steps lead up to the loft which serves as an auxiliary space. The cottages also have a separate dressing area and bathroom features both a shower and a Jacuzzi bath-tub.

12 Superior Rooms

Situated in the main block, overlooking the azure waters of Umiam Lake, the elegant 80 sq. ft. red pine panelled rooms

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are spacious and meticulously planned. Each room includes a sleeping and living area, bathroom, dressing room and opens out to a balcony where one can relax and enjoy the spectacular view.

General Room Amenities

- Hot water from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Satellite TV
- Private balcony

Amenities on Request

The following amenities may be available in selected guest rooms.

- Hair dryer
- Rollaway (extra charge)

Restaurants & Lounges

Saw Aion Bar & Restaurant

Saw Aiom translates 'four seasons' in Khasi – the ground level restaurant and bar overlooking the tranquil waters of Umiam Lake serves India and continental cuisine as well as North-eastern specialities.

Hours of Operation:

- Breakfast- 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Lunch - 12:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Dinner - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Bar

The bar is part of the Saw Aiom restaurant.

Hours of Operation:

- Monday - Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to Midnight

Guest Services

- Concierge/Travel Service
- Currency Exchange
- Laundry & Dry Cleaning
- International telephone and fax facilities at reception
- Conference facilities
- Rental car services
- Baby Sitter
- Physician on call

Recreation Facilities

- **Trekking** – In the nearby nature reserve
- **Holistic Spa** offering Khasi herbal treatments
- **Golf facilities** – Ri Kynjai has a tie-up with Shillong Golf Club, a 18-hole natural golf course built in 1889 which is the second oldest in Asia
- **Water sports** - On Umiam Lake
- Picnic - At **nearby villages**
- **Forest walks**

Trekking

Ri Kynjai offers something for everyone. For trekkers the legendary peaks of 'Lumsohpetbheng' and 'Lumdiengiei' are just a few kilometres away, while the resorts meandering walks provide for more relaxed exploration.

Local attractions /possible excursions

Shillong City attractions:

- **The Butterfly museum** at Riatsamthiah comes as an unexpected treat for the entomology enthusiast or simply any nature lover.
- **The Don Bosco Centre** for indigenous cultures – a landmark, state-of-the-art museum located at Mawlai.
- **Weaving Centre** - Where women in need of care and protection are imparted vocational skills for self-employment proves to be an interesting pit stop within the city for those wanting to see women at work on traditional looms. Products include shawls, pillowslips, cushion-covers, etc.
- **Elephant Falls** - A mere 15 minutes drive from Shillong lies the historic and popular Elephant Falls. The Elephant Falls cascades through two successive waterfalls which are smaller-the Wei Iaplam Falls and the Wir Phang Falls. Stalls selling handicraft goods and other curios crowd the entrance to the Falls.
- **The Shillong Golf Course** - The 18-hole Shillong Golf Course has the distinction of being one of the oldest golf courses in the world, and the second oldest in Asia. Comparisons have been often drawn between the Shillong Golf Course and the Gleneagles of Scotland. In fact, it is often referred to as the "Gleneagle of the East" at the United States Golf Association Library and Museum. First developed in 1898 as a 9-hole course, it was later expanded to an 18-hole course in 1924.
- **Iewduh** - one of the busiest shopping areas of Shillong with a recorded heritage that can be traced back to the 19th century. Bara Bazaar or Iewduh has expanded and grown over the years to be a Pandora's Box for the visitor who wants to stock up on local products.
- **Laitumkhrhah** - Throughout Laitumkhrhah is apparent evidence of the Roman Catholic influence in Shillong, manifested in beautiful and stately churches, cathedrals, and sculptures. The most noted of all these is probably the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians which dates back to 1895 and nestled just below this, the Grotto Church.
- An absolute pit stop at Laitumkhrhah is the '**What's in Store**'-an emporium with a lounge-like ambience that stocks up on exclusive handicrafts and handmade products from the North-east and other parts of India. Guaranteed to have a little something for everyone, from pottery and shawls to junk jewellery and beautiful original artwork.
- **Police Bazar** - the commercial hub of Shillong that offers a complete shopping experience.
- **Shillong Peak** - About 5 km south of Shillong lies the Shillong Peak, which legend asserts is the abode of the deity Shyllong, from whose name Shillong is derived. Located at a staggering 6,433 feet above sea level, almost forming the roof of Shillong in the clouds, Shillong Peak is known for the spectacular bird's eye view it offers of Shillong. To see the city of Shillong laid out before one's vision like a replica of the real thing is undoubtedly an experience your Shillong sojourn won't be complete without.

European Representation & Marketing

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- **Teer** - One of the most unique features of Shillong, something that the perspective onlooker will spot right away is the presence of betting shops on almost every street. It goes to mention that the ancient tradition and art of archery has been combined with the betting system in the state. The outcome is a gambling wager locally known as 'Teer', and aptly so for it derives its existence from archery.
- Everyday, between 3:15 and 4:15 p.m. three archery clubs come together to display their dexterity in hitting the bull's eye, which in this case is a pillar-like structure made of reeds. The archers are given a few minutes to hit the target with as many arrows as possible. It is fascinating to watch almost all the arrows whizzing past and sink into the target with unflinching preciseness. The arrows are removed and then counted. The last two digits are announced as the winning number. Those who bet on that number go home richer. Teer is an example of how Shillong has managed to keep tradition and ancient arts alive amidst changes brought on by modernity.
- **The State Museum** - This museum offers a glimpse into the heritage and culture of the ethnic people of Meghalaya. Opposite to the State Central Library lies the All Saints' Church, a historic structure built in Tudor style.

Cherrapunji – A day trip 54 km from Shillong, Cherrapunjee, the old capital of the British till 1874 affords an astounding perspective on the essence of Meghalaya, 'The Abode of Clouds'.

Viewpoints like Mawdok, halfway between Shillong and Cherrapunjee are an excellent vantage point where within the range of one's vision, the green hills and plateaus of Cherrapunjee drop to give way to the rolling plains and paddy fields of Bangladesh. This stark metamorphosis of the topography is a sheer delight for the senses.

Riat Mawiew, the Grand Canyon of Cherrapunjee is the ultimate treat for the nature lover.

At **Nongsawlia**, stands the church that was built shortly after the first church in the Northeast was destroyed in the great earthquake of 1897.

The **Rama Krishna Mission** also has an establishment in Cherrapunjee, and houses a museum on its premises.

At **Saitsohen**, a detour leads to **The Green Rock Ranch**, an interesting conglomeration of a horse-riding corral, an archery range, acres of green pasture land, a coffee-shop, a lounge amidst old ruins, a grove and a nature trail that leads to a view-point from where is visible an endless panorama of awe-inspiring ranges of blue hills and deep gorges.

Mawsmai Cave or Krem Mawsmai.

Khoh Ramhah or the Pillar Rock is another must-visit destination in Cherrapunjee. It presents an incredible spectacle: that of a massive rock-formation in the shape of a giant cone.

Book the correct length of stay at Ri Kynjai

Flights to Guwahati tend to arrive at mid-morning to lunchtime, and so you only get to Ri Kynjai by mid afternoon. Flights from Guwahati leave in the morning or mid afternoon, so you have to leave Ri Kynjai after breakfast or lunch if

travelling by rad. So a 2 night's stay will only give you 1 full day at Ri Kynjai.

This is simply not enough to explore the area.

A 3 or 4 night's package is recommended which includes all transportation, accommodation, and sightseeing. The packages may be tailor-made and also be extended to include 2 nights at Kaziranga.

03 Nights 04 Days Package

- Day 01: After 3 hours of drive, check in at "Ri Kynjai-Serenity by the Lake" overlooking the beautiful Umiam Lake – the magnificent landscape justifies the analogy "The Scotland of the East" as Shillong is popularly called. Option of cultural evening for groups can be arranged. Dinner and overnight stay at "Ri Kynjai- Serenity by the Lake"
- Day 02: After breakfast, take a drive to Cherrapunjee, 56 km away from Shillong. Cherrapunjee or Sohra, as it is locally known, is the wettest place on earth. Late afternoon proceed to "Ri Kynjai-Serenity by the Lake". Dinner and overnight stay at the resort.
- Day 03: After early breakfast proceed to Smit the traditional seats of power of the kingdom of Khyrim. This is where the famous Nongkrem dance takes place every November (45 min drive from Shillong). Next stop is Nongkynrih village, which is dedicated in preserving workshops in the art of making traditional bows and arrows. Archery is the traditional sport of the Khasi's. Lunch at Mawlynnong (1 hr further drive) "declared as the cleanest village in India". Its other attractions are the living root bridges, which are unique to this region. Dinner and Overnight stay at Ri Kynjai-Serenity by the Lake.
- Alternatively: After breakfast catch a bird's eye view from the Shillong peak (1961 msl). It's a ½ hour drive from Shillong. On a clear day one can also see the Eastern Himalayan range. Next head out towards Elephant falls followed by a visit to the Shillong City and its surrounding areas. Over Night stay at Ri Kynjai- Serenity by the Lake.

Day 04 Early breakfast and depart for Guwahati Airport

4 nights – 5 day includes the above itinerary spanning the stay to 4 nights.

Conference facilities

Ri Kynjai offers well equipped conference facilities for up to 30 persons.

Payment/Cancellation Policy

Pre-payment is compulsory for confirmed advance reservations. Deposits are not required. Cancellation charges apply if cancelled within 7 days of check-in.

Packages/Surcharges

There are no surcharges for stays over peak periods.

Taxes

Government taxes are applicable on room and food & beverage.

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