



EMERALD ISLE
Kanjoparambil-Manimalathara, Chathurthyakary p.o,
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Emerald Isle

Alleppey, Kerala

A dug-out canoe ferries you across the Pamba river to the historic wooden bungalow that hides on a little island in the backwaters; all is birdsong and bountiful nature. A sprawling veranda dotted with wicker chairs hugs the contours of this idyllic heritage home, so settle in with a book and cup of sweet milky *chai*: this is a place to just 'be'. Furniture is dark and heavy and much of it original. Proprietor Vinod Job's great-grandfather renovated the place years ago and property deeds etched into 250-year-old palm leaves hang in the cool living room. Shower rooms are open to the sky and the food is delicious. Vinod is gentle and friendly, keen to share the history of the place. He can organise cookery classes, ayurvedic massages, and an overnight trip on the backwaters (on his cousin's boat) or suggest ambles through a maze of canals to the estate's paddy and coconut fields. Hammocks have been strategically placed en route. A delightfully soporific way to spend your time in India.

Details From £65 per room per night, full board. (00 91 4772 703 899; emeraldislekerala.com)