

# Abhishek and Anna Magnolia Mist

A view from Magnolia  
Mist Cottage.

Abhishek and Anna are the owners of a beautiful plantation and homestead located in Galibeedu, Coorg known as Magnolia Mist. It is a certified organic farm which covers 25 acres of land with secondary tropical evergreen forest and vast coffee plantations.

The land is very rich in biodiversity with reports of almost 50 different species of epiphytes and approximately 70 different species of Orchids. Besides its floral biodiversity, the place also houses 79 different species of butterflies, Asian Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*, Spiny-backed Tree Mouse *Platacanthomys lasiurus*, Malabar Slender Loris *Loris lydekkerianus malabaricus*, and Indian Crested Porcupine *Hystrix indica*.

Abhishek was born and raised in Bangalore. He is a wildlife





enthusiast/ photographer and has a degree in zoology. He has also worked with various nature conservation NGOs and botanical sanctuaries like Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary where he worked on orchids for a project and then got fascinated by them.



**A hut inside Magnolia Mist.**

Now he conserves varieties of orchids in his estate, Magnolia Mist in Coorg, Karnataka including bulbophyllums and leafless orchids. He also has a small coffee processing plant set up there, where he produces organic coffee powder using slow roast.



**Abhishek briefing the RHATC team on the biodiversity found in Magnolia Mist.**

He also produces various other organic farm products like green tea, black tea, kachampulli liquid, kachampulli dry fruit, black pepper, red rice, and costus tea. One wonderful product which works as a substitute for maida is raw banana chips powder which is produced by sun drying the sliced



**Sun dried Banana chips.**

**Abhishek, Anna and Aria**



raw bananas and then grinding it. It is rich in fibre and is much healthier and can be used for making rotis and cakes. Bee keeping is also practiced.

Abhishek and Anna became friends when they were in school (Jiddu Krishnamurti School). They are now married and have a 2-year old daughter named Aria. Anna did her master's in child psychology and had worked with various communities and schools like Azim Premji University for helping people with disabilities. After 8–10 years of thorough searching for a suitable place to live they found a land in Galibeedu and bought it in partnership with four other people, which is now

known as Magnolia Mist. They cultivate Coffee, Tea, Rice, Cardamom, Pepper, and vegetables in the estate. They completely follow a self sustaining lifestyle, although they have to buy some vegetables during wet season because of the inability to grow them due to heavy rains.

Abhishek and Anna strongly believe in conserving and protecting the wildlife and biodiversity around them and don't overweigh profits or money against it. They are truly inspiring!

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