

FOCUS



Historic Ilbert Manor becomes tourist resort

NESTLED AMIDST oak trees and semi wild forest, one will find a gothic building, which dates back to 1840.

Welcome to the Ilbert Manor, a unique heritage property that is now open for tourists visiting the Mussoorie hill resort.

In fact Queen of Hills - Mussoorie has many heritage buildings dating back to the British era. According to history pages a Major Brace had built the original structure of Ilbert Manor in 1840.

In fact after 50 years Courtney Ilbert visited Mussoorie and renovated the Ilbert Manor. Courtney Ilbert was also the legal member of the Governor-General of India's panel. It was Courtney Ilbert in whom the property was named.

Over the decades, Ilbert Manor heritage building became an up-market boarding house run by a descendant, Miss E. Rose in the 1900's.

The records suggest that in the post independence years, Rani Laxmi Kaur Sahiba of Shivgarh owned the estate.

"After years of restoring and renovating the property, the time has come to share it with our privileged guests," says Devyani who is now associated with Ilbert Manor property and now converted it into a hotel.

She says, "Their aim is to offer a lifetime experience to guests visiting hill resort."

However, it's a challenge for present owners to maintain equilibrium in terms of mingling Victorian age ambience with modern facilities.

"We have tried our level best to balance the charm of the old world along with modern facilities at the manor for tourists," Devyani adds.

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