

PHOTO: PROOIP GUHA

Pizza and tea



restaurant review Nice ambience, but it's too costly for what you get

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You wouldn't even suspect there's a café hidden behind Nature's Basket on Hill Road unless you stepped into the store or a friend told you about it.

The first impression is that it's a bistro. The wooden furniture and cute lamps on the table look warm and inviting. When you sit back and enjoy a soft drink, it makes you feel as if you are in a friend's house in Goa.

We settled for Masala Tea and Earl Grey, which was very refreshing.

The menu indicated sandwiches, pizzas, burgers, Garlic Bread, French Fries, Potato Wedges and five to six varieties of desserts.

WHAT: Rays Café And Pizzeria
WHERE: Gazebo House, Behind Godrej Nature's Basket, 133 Hill Road, Bandra (W)
CALL: 26451414, 26451616
WHAT'S ON THE MENU: Pizzas, burgers, sandwiches and coffees
DRINKING: No
SMOKING: Yes



WHAT WE LIKE

- The ambience created by the fancy diyas on the tables
- The smoking seated area outside
- Friendly and polite service staff

We started with the Pepperoni Pizza. It sounded quite steep at Rs 325 for a 9" pizza. When it arrived, as a thin crust with four slices of pepperoni, it felt even steeper. The café also gives you the choice of ordering by the slice (at Rs 110).

Next, we ordered a grilled sandwich. The menu indicated a choice of turkey, ham or chicken filling.

We ordered Rays The Works, which has a turkey filling. But we were disappointed when we were told there was no turkey.

Our next choice was one with ham filling.

One expects to be served a piping hot grilled sandwich, especially when it costs Rs 325. So, we were surprised to find the sandwich cold. But it had a generous filling of ham, spiced pepper, tomato and cheese.

We ordered Potato Wedges

(Rs 90) as a side dish. They were excellent, being crisp on the outside and soft inside, giving us a lot to chew on.

But the soft and creamy Blueberry Cheesecake made up for everything, though we felt it was steep at Rs 150. After our meal, we hopped into Nature's Basket next door and found similar Blueberry Cheesecake for Rs 130.

This café could have scored full marks for its ambience. It could have been the perfect romantic setting, had it been lit up only with lanterns and candles and we didn't have a view of Nature's Basket through the glass wall.

That invaded our privacy, so we were a little disappointed.

HT Café reviews anonymously and pays for it.

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- It's not very pocket-friendly. On average, a meal for two costs Rs 1,100
- They don't accept credit cards
- Service is a little slow. It could do with more staff
- The glass wall allows us a view of Nature's Basket, which intrudes into our privacy