Namaskara
Greetings
Step into Karnataka and you step into a land that inspires wonder at every turn. Almost lyrical in its natural beauty, Karnataka is an amazing mix of hills, plains, rivers, waterfalls, beaches and forests teeming with wildlife. With different dynasties leaving their imprint on the land, it is also a treasure house of historic, religious and heritage monuments. Karnataka’s culture has been moulded by diverse influences over centuries and is a unique mosaic of colours, sounds, tastes and more.

In Karnataka, there’s something for everyone.
KARNATAKA MIND MAP

Capital city – Bengaluru / Bangalore
Emblem – Gandaberunda, the Royal insignia of erstwhile Mysuru Kingdom
State Language – Kannada
Widely spoken languages – Kannada, English, Hindi
State Dance – Yakshagana
State Animal – Asian Elephant
State Bird – Indian Roller
State Flower – Lotus
State Tree – Sandalwood

LEGENDS

- Bengaluru / Bangalore
- Media Acclaimed Destination
- Media Acclaimed Destination
- Shivaratri
- Shivaratri
- Wildlife
- Wildlife
- World Heritage Site
- Bengaluru / Bangalore
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Hampi | Pattadakal | Mysuru | Aihole | Badami | Vijayapura | Basavakalyana | Srirangapatna | Bidar | Belur | Halebeedu | Chitradurga Fort | Kittur Chennamma Fort | Kalaburagi | Ballari Fort
Set amidst an awesome boulder-strewn landscape, Hampi was the magnificent capital of the mighty Vijayanagara Empire. It was described as “A city with opulent palaces, marvellous temples, massive fortifications, baths, markets, aqueducts, pavilions and elegantly carved pillars”. A city where merchants traded diamonds, pearls, fine silks, brocades and horses. A visit to Hampi is a sojourn into the past. Though it lies in ruins today, one can experience rich architecture at this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Bengaluru to Hampi
350kms
With its beautifully chiseled temples, this UNESCO World Heritage Site lies on the banks of the Malaprabha River and bears testimony to the richness of Chalukyan architecture. Worth visiting are the 8th century temples of Jambulinga, Kadashiavadra and Galaganatha with their curvilinear shikaras or spires. The ornate Papanatha Temple is yet another impressive piece of architecture, with delicately chiseled ceilings and a 16-pillared main hall.
Badami - 22 km
Aihole - 11 km
Badami - 22 km
Bengaluru - 465 km
Hubli - 128 km
Belagavi - 172 km
Known for its magnificent palaces, majestic buildings, sprawling gardens and tree-lined boulevards, shimmering silks and sandalwood, this ‘City Royale’ always figures in the tourist’s itinerary. It conjures up visions and memories of the resplendent glory of the illustrious Wadiyar kings. This former state capital is a seamless blend of old-world charm and modernity. It retains its tradition in music and dance, art and literature, and time-honored crafts.
Mysuru (Coorg) - 120 km
Mysuru - 173 km
Bengaluru - 255 km

GETTING THERE

Mysuru
Bengaluru - 140 km
Mangaluru - 255 km
A peaceful village on the banks of the Malaprabha River, Aihole is acclaimed as the cradle of Hindu temple architecture. Among hundreds of temples, the most impressive one is the Durga Temple with its semicircular apse, elevated plinth and the gallery encircling the sanctum.

AIHOLE

Bengaluru to Aihole
446kms
GETTING THERE

Badami - 35 km
Hubli - 139 km
Bengaluru - 467 km

Patadakal - 11 km
Badami - 35 km
Hubli - 139 km

Belagavi - 183 km
Goa - 351 km

Coorg - 371 km
Picturesquely situated at the mouth of a ravine between two rocky hills, the exquisite sculptures and the rust red sandstone cliffs of Badami tell many a tale of yore. Climb a flight of steps to reach the four ancient rock-cut caves replete with the 18-armed Nataraja striking 81 dance poses in the first cave. The largest of these caves is the third cave, dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Below the caves is the Agastya Theertha Tank. Its banks dotted with a cluster of Bhoothanatha temples.
The one-time capital of the Adil Shahi kings (1489-1686) is dotted with mosques, mausoleums, palaces, fortifications, watchtowers and strong gateways. Among these stands the Gol Gumbaz, which houses the world’s second-largest dome, unsupported by pillars. This unique structure even houses the amazing Whispering Gallery, which distinctly echoes even the faintest of whispers eleven times.
Located about 80km from Bidar, Basava Kalyan is known as the Karmabhoomi of Basavanna, the revered 12th century religious reformer. It was also the capital of the Chalukyas of Kalyan. A fort, museum, and palaces connected with the Sharana movement are the major attractions here.
Island fortresses of the legendary warrior king Tipu Sultan, Srirangapatna has Tipu’s mosque with its twin minarets, the celebrated Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Tipu’s Summer Palace, the Wellesley Bridge and the dungeons where British officers were once imprisoned.
Catch a glimpse of Karnataka’s richly textured history in the rugged 15th century Bidar Fort. Surrounded by a triple-moated wall hewn out of red rock, with intricate battlements and an imposing gateway, take a walk through the ruins, which were once royal baths, kitchens, audience halls and pleasure pavilions. Experience the Rang Mahal with its elaborately carved wooden pillars, Persian couplets engraved in tiles and exquisite mother-of-pearl inlay work.
The twin temple towns of Belur and Halebeedu in Hassan are world famous for their unique Hoysala style of temple architecture. The massive temples, which survived the ravages of time, attract admirers from around the world for their architectural grandeur.

Belur

Bengaluru to Belur

220kms
GETTING THERE

- Hassan - 38 km
- Mangaluru - 154 km
- Bengaluru - 222 km
Ancient capitals of the Hoysalas, Belur and Halebidu are home to magnificent temples built by the dynasty. The star-shaped Chennakesava Temple, with its 3.7m image of Lord Vijaya Narayana, and other temples in the complex are brilliant examples of the sculptors’ art. The Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebeedu is richly carved with intricate figures.
GETTING THERE

- Hassan - 30 km
- Belur - 16 km
- Mangaluru - 198 km
- Bengaluru - 218 km
- Arasikere - 45 km

Mangaluru - 198 km

Bengaluru - 218 km

Hassan - 30 km

Belur - 16 km

Arasikere - 45 km

Mangaluru - 198 km

Bengaluru - 218 km

Hassan - 30 km

Belur - 16 km

Arasikere - 45 km

Mangaluru - 198 km

Bengaluru - 218 km
Chitradurga is famed for its massive kallina kote (Stone Fort), a marvel of military architecture made impregnable by the Nayak Palegars. It boasts of 19 gateways, 38 posterior entrances, a palace, a mosque, granaries, oil pits, four secret entrances and water tanks. The Ekanatha Temple and Chadravalli Caves are definitely worth visiting.
Located on the Pune – Bengaluru highway, this fort is about 50km from Belagavi and 32km from Dharwad. The tiny town of Kittur with its dilapidated palace, monuments, statues and horse tongas (rickshaws) evoke the glories of bygone era. The fort stands as testimony to the great freedom struggle led by Rani Chennamma.
Originally built by Raja Gulchand, the Kalaburagi Fort encompasses large buildings, mosques, temples, stables, ammunition dumps, carriages, 15 towers, 26 guns and several beautiful courtyards. The 38,000 sq. ft. Juma Masjid with its elegant domes and arched columns, reminiscent of the great Spanish mosque of Cordoba is yet another piece-de-resistance.
Bengaluru to Kalaburagi
634 kms
Built atop the Ballari Gudda or Fort Hill, during Vijayanagara times by Hanumappa Nayaka. Hyder Ali took possession of it from the Nayakas in 1769. He got the fort renovated and modified with the help of a French engineer. Legend has it that the engineer was hanged, for overlooking the fact that the neighbouring Kumbara Gudda was taller than Ballari Gudda. Thus compromising the secrecy and command of the fort. His grave is believed to be located near East Gate of the fort, though some locals believe it to be the grave of a Muslim holy man.
Yakshagana
Dollu Kunitha
Veeragaase
Dasara
Bengaluru Karaga
The ‘celestial song’ or ‘Yakshagana’ is the most enchanting amalgamation of dance, music and literature. This traditional theatre from with a history of over 400 years is known for its extemporaneous dialogue delivery, hued costumes and dynamic dance forms. Bhagavathi, the main storyteller, accompanies a group of musicians – ‘chande’ and ‘mavdale’, as they weave mythological stories.

The Dollu Kunitha is a powerful drum dance accompanied by acrobatic movements, synchronised group formations and occasional screams. The shepherd community of ‘Kurubas’ performs the dance to honour their deity, Beeseshwara, a form of the Hindu God, Shiva.
Veeragaase gets its name from the Hindu legendary warrior, Veerabhadra, where dancers narrate the story of Daksha Yajna. Dressed in colourful garb and traditional headgear, the dancers carry a wooden plaque of Veerabhadra in their left hand and a sword in their right. The dance sometimes involves a ritualistic piercing of a needle across the tongue.

Dasara

The town of Mysuru transforms dramatically into a city of lights and celebration during the Dasara festival, held annually to commemorate the victory of Goddess Chamundi over the demon Mahishasura. The ten-day festival culminates in a magnificent display of horsemanship and the ever-mesmerising torchlight parade.
The nine-day long festival is conducted by the Thigalar community, in the heart of Bengaluru city. The festival is dedicated to Shakthi Devi, Draupathi is her godly form. The main priest is dressed in female attire, complete with a large pyramid of flowers on the head to symbolise her. He leads a spectacular procession of Thigalars who, with swords in hand, play the mythical roles of the fearless soldiers of the Goddess, once more.

OTHER ART FORMS:
Chowdike Mela,
Puja Kunita, Jaggahalige Kunita,
Suggi Kunita,
Beevu Kamsale,
Ummaattaattu & Krishna Parijatha.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Kambala Vairamudi,
Tula Sankramana,
Huthri &
Kadalekayi Parishe.
Experience
Grandeur

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Udupi was the sanctum of the great Sanskrit philosopher Madhavacharya, who established the Krishna Temple in the 13th century. A major attraction is the Paryaya festival conducted every two years, where officiating priests hand over their responsibilities to another pontiff.

That the Mastakabhisheka, the sacred head anointing ceremony of Lord Gomateshwara, is held only once in 12 years, speaks of the importance tied to the event. One of the major Jain pilgrimages of the nation, the city of Sharavanabelagola sees thousands of devotees making their visit to the 57ft. tall statue of the Lord every year.
Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV laid the foundation for this imposing Roman Catholic Church in 1933. The stained glass windows of the Gothic structure depict biblical scenes. It is believed that a piece of bone and drapery of St. Philomena from Rome is preserved here.
The tomb of the great Sufi saint Khwaja Bande Nawaz is a magnificent building in Indo-Saracenic style. It is the venue of an annual urus (festival) attended by nearly 100,000 people, both Muslims and Hindus.

ALSO VISIT: ISKON Temple, Nanjangud, Moodabidri, Dharmasthala, Talacauvery, Shivaganga, Basavakalyan, Kukal Sangamma & Mudani Dargah.

Legend has it that Guru Nanak halted in Bidar, at a time when the area was suffering a severe drought, the Muslim saints requested him to invoke the blessings of the divine in order to obtain water. The crystal clear stream that still flows out of a rock near the Gurudwara is believed to be God’s answer to the Guru’s prayers. Every year, thousands of Sikhs from across the country visit the Nanak Jhira Gurudwara.
Experience Modernity
Vidhana Soudha
An imposing edifice housing the State Legislature and the Secretariat of Karnataka, this is one of the best known landmarks of Bengaluru.

Attara Kacheri
Overlooking Vidhana Soudha is this red brick and stone building in the Graeco-Roman style of architecture. It houses the state High Court.

Tipu’s Palace
Built in 1791, Tipu Sultan’s summer retreat is a two-storeyed, ornate wooden structure with fluted pillars, cusped arches and balconies. It now houses a museum that contains artefacts relating to the Hyder Ali-Tipu regime.

Bengaluru Palace
Modelled on the lines of the Windsor Castle in England, the Bengaluru Palace flaunts turreted parapets, battlements, fortified towers, and arches.

Lalbagh Garden
Take a stroll in this 240-acre park, which is home to India’s largest collection of rare tropical and subtropical plants, as well as many centuries-old trees. It contains one of Kempegowda’s watchtowers, a surreal lawn surrounded by Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs, an ornamental clock, a beautiful lake, a toipary park, a charming wooden bandstand and a glasshouse modelled on London’s Crystal Palace.

Cubbon Park
Cubbon Park provides Bengaluruans with over 300 acres of spreading greenery, in the heart of the city. The park houses the State Library – an impressive red Gothic structure, and is dotted with fountains, statues and flowering trees.

Ulsoor Lake
Enjoy an idyllic afternoon at this lake, which is dotted with picturesque islets. Boating facilities also are available.

Sankey Boat Club
The ideal place for lazy boat rides and leisurely walks on breezy evenings.
INDIRA GANDHI MUSICAL FOUNTAIN
View the colourful swirling fountains dancing in tune to music.

VISVESWARAYA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM
This museum is dedicated to the memory of Sir M Visveswaraya, the architect of modern Karnataka. It provides a brief history of technological development in the country and houses many technical inventions.

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM
Acclaimed as one of the oldest museums in the country, it houses an amazing collection of archaeological items such as stone carvings, pottery, paintings, coins and inscriptions.

HAL HERITAGE CENTRE AND AEROSPACE MUSEUM
Marvel at India’s first and only aviation museum which has a large collection of aircraft models, photographs, fighter planes, and helicopters. There are also aircraft simulators, a mock air traffic control tower and an aero modeling club, besides a reference library, at this centre established by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

KARNATAKA CHITRAKALA PARISHATH
This is one of the premier fine arts institutions in the country. Its activities extend to dance performances, folk theatre, photography exhibitions, puppet shows and musical recitals. Chitrakala Parishath is a goldmine of paintings by famous artists including Roerich and houses fine art galleries which are hired out to artists who wish to display their work. It houses the Chitrakala Vidyalaya, a college of fine arts offering courses in painting, sculpture, graphic art, applied art etc.

VENKATAPPA ART GALLERY
Houses the paintings and art materials of the eminent artist Venkatappa, as well as that of other renowned artists.

BULL TEMPLE
Built by Kempegowda in Basavanagudi, it is reminiscent of 16th century Dravidian style architecture. It has a huge granite monolith of Nandi.

JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU PLANETARIUM
The planetarium is perfect for star gazing. Watch “The Sky Theatre Show” unfold the marvels of the universe, planets and the solar system.
**DODDA GANESHA TEMPLE**
Just below the Bull Temple is the Ganesha Temple, with a huge monolithic Ganesha idol 18ft. high and 16ft. wide.

**ISKCON TEMPLE**
*(INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS)*
Built in an ornate architectural style, the Krishna Temple is a blend of modern technology and spiritual harmony.

**SHIVA TEMPLE**
This temple has a 6ft. Shiva statue, an artificial pond resembling the Manasa Sarovar Lake, and caves. The replicas of Jyothirlingas are a major tourist attraction.

**GAVI GANGADHARESHWARA TEMPLE**
Built during Kempegowda's reign, this unique cave temple contains a granite moon, sun-disc monoliths, a stone umbrella, a Shivalinga, and three cave passages. During Makara Sankranthi a ray of light passes precisely between the horns of the stone bull outside the temple, and illuminates the deity inside the cave.

**INFANT JESUS CHURCH**
Established in the year 1979 by Rev. Dr. Lourduswamy, the then Archbishop of Bengaluru, the church draws huge crowds on Thursday, the day dedicated to Infant Jesus.

**NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART**
The museum houses paintings, sculptures and drawings from the late 18th century. It displays works by famous Indian artists like Raja Ravi Varma, Amrita Shergil, Ravi Varma, R. Nandalal Bose, Jamini Roy and also works of other international artists.

**RAGI GUDDA SRI PRASANNA ANJENAYA SWAMI TEMPLE**
Located on a hillock known as Ragi Gudda (Maize Mountain), the Hanuman Temple attracts large numbers of devotees. Three huge rocks representing Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are the added attractions here.

**SHESHADRI IYER MEMORIAL HALL**
This houses the State Central Library. One can find here a rich collection of reference books.

**JAMIA MASJID**
A majestic 5-storey mosque located in the heart of Bengaluru’s City Market area, the Jamia Masjid is the largest mosque in the city. Its sprawling interiors, with pure white marble from Rajasthan, can accommodate a staggering 10,000 worshippers at a time.
Bear witness to nature’s headlong tumble as the Sharavati River takes a spectacular drop of 956ft in four distinct cascades to create the highest unferred waterfall in India.
Discover nature’s handiwork in the form of this tiny island-town, 65km south-east of Mysore. Here the Cauvery River plummets from a height of 75m into a rocky gorge with a deafening roar. It is also home to Asia’s first hydro-electric project.

**Shivanasamudra Falls**

Nestling beside the Nagarahole National Park, Irrupu Falls presents a stunning sight during the monsoons. The falls plunge 170ft. in two distinct stages. The ceaseless music of the falls and the hush of the densely wooded forest make this a great picnic spot.

**Irrupu Falls**
A 5km trek from Heggarne, a dreamy hamlet in Uttara Kannada District, through dense forests brings you to the picturesque Unchalli Falls. The sound of the cataract hurtling down the hilly tract shatters the silence of the forests, making it an unforgettable sight.

**UNCHALLI FALLS**

69km from Belagavi, the Ghataprabha takes a 170ft leap over a rocky bed. The falls gets its name from the Goki trees that abound here.

**GOKAK FALLS**

**ALSO VISIT:**
- Hebbe Falls
- Abbey Falls
- Kalhatti Falls
- Magod Falls
- Sathodi Falls
- Lalguli Falls
With gentle waves, miles of golden sand, rugged hill ranges, thick woods and acres of emerald foliage, Karwar has all the makings of a perfect holiday destination. It also inspired the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore to pen his first play.
This coastal town draws Hindu Pilgrims, Sanskrit scholars and beach buffs alike. Visit Om beach, which is in the shape of ‘Om’, a spiritual symbol. The other beaches, wedged between gigantic cliffs protrude like delicate fingers into the sea.
Situated 12km south of Udupi, on the coastal belt that passes through the West Coast national Highway, Kaup has a lovely beach, a ruined fort and an old 100ft. high lighthouse. The two temples of Goddess Mariamma and the Jain Basadis here, though in ruins, are worth visiting.

KAUP

KAUP

6km from Maple, the 300m long and 100m wide palm-fringed St. Mary’s Island bears the cross placed by Vasco de Gama when he landed in 1498. Famous for its unique slat rock formations and geological importance, it has been declared a National Geological Monument.

ST. MARY’S ISLAND

St. Mary’s Island

ALSO VISIT:
Murudeshwara, Maravanthe, Ullal Beach, Suratkal Beach & Bhatkal.
Bandipur National Park | Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary | Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarahole) | Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary | BRT Wildlife Sanctuary | Coorg | Chikmagalur | Kemmanagundi | Kudremukh

Experience Wild

Jungle & Nature
This was once the private hunting ground of the Mysore Maharaja. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the enchanting Nilgiris, with its mist-covered peaks, this reserve is playground for wildlife, with elephants taking the lead role. Also found are tigers and other rare wild animals. It is one of the best game sanctuaries in India to observe and photograph wildlife in close proximity.
It's a great place to sight the tiger, observe the Indian gaur, hear the strange calls of the striped hyena and see the rare flying lizard glide amidst the huge trees. The southern part of the sanctuary is rich in birds, butterflies and reptiles. More than 250 species of birds can be spotted here.

Explore the environs of Nagarahole, which means ‘Snake River’ in Kannada. The park derives its name from the winding course of the River Kabini that flows through the forests. Nagarahole has an astonishing abundance of wildlife, especially the Asiatic Elephant. The backdrop of the distant misty blue Brahmagiri Mountains, the natural sounds of the Jungle, the gurgling of streams and rivers make your visit a memorable experience.
River Cauvery, near Mysuru, meanders around a string of tiny islets to form a splendid nesting site for waterfowl. Experience the excitement of a boat ride that takes you close to birds as well as crocodiles. Also spot flying foxes hanging from the highest branches.
Discover a unique blend of a hill resort and wildlife sanctuary. Don’t miss the coffee estates, tribal hamlets and the Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, which displays preserved tribal information and the biodiversity of the region. There are many trekking trails here including the one that leads up to Honnamadi, the highest point of the range.

**BRT Tiger Reserve**

**ALSO VISIT:**
- Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kali Tiger Reserve
- Bannerghatta National Park
- Daroji Bear Sanctuary
- Kokkrebellur Pelicanry & Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary
Coorg (also called Kodagu) is the land of coffee, cardamom and colonels, located in beautiful hilly settings, surrounded by the forested slopes of the Western Ghats. With its misty mountains, wooded hill slopes and picture-postcard scenery, Kodagu seems like a little corner of England. It is also the place where River Cauvery originates.
Nestled in the Baba Budan Giri Hills, where India’s first coffee seeds were planted is a calm, serene town full of scenic surprises with hills, valleys, streams and coffee plantations. Situated 235km from Bangalore, Chikmagalur is a trekker’s delight due to its rugged mountain trails.

**CHIKMAGALUR**

The picturesque hill station was the summer retreat of the King of Mysore. Ringed by the Baba Budan Giri Range, it is blessed with silver cascades, mountain streams and lush vegetation. The spectacular sunset view from the Raj Bhavan is a photographer’s delight. Kemmanagundi also offers many peaks to scale and intricate jungle paths to explore.

**KEMMANAGUNDI**

Kudremukha or Horse Face Range gets its name from the unique shape of its peak. Kudremukha is a trekker’s paradise. This wonderland of lush green forests interspersed with rivers, grassy slopes, captivating cascades, rare orchids, caves ruins and traces of old civilizations amaze you as you trek your way through it.

**KUDRENUKHA**

**ALSO VISIT:**
Agumbe, Kundadri, Nandi Hills, BR Hills & Kodachadri.
Indulge in the thrills of white water rafting on some unpredictable stretches of the Kali River at Dandeli, an experience so far unavailable this side of the Ganga. Kemphole, Sitanadi and Netravati are other popular destinations for rafting enthusiasts. The azure waters of the Cauvery also provide for some great river rafting.

Karnataka is a haven for all kinds of water sports. If you are looking for activities like coracling, canoeing, kayaking and windsurfing, visit Honnemaradu. For scuba diving, power sailing, water skiing, sailing and water sledging, Devbagh is the ultimate destination.
With the vast Western Ghats stretching hundreds of kilometers, Karnataka is a trekker’s paradise. Die-hard trekkers can explore the coastline on foot via the enchanting Golden Trek from Karwar to Gokarna.

If you want to view distant Arabian Sea, trek to Tadiyendamol, the tallest peak in Kodagu.

When it comes to rock climbing, Ramanagara, close to Bengaluru, and areas like Savanadurga, Tumakuru, Kanakapura and Yana are where you should head to. Hampi, in North Karnataka, also presents some fine spots rock climbing.
Karnataka is popular for its rich heritage. No other state has such a profusion of monuments as in Karnataka. Two magnificent UNESCO world Heritage Sites at Hampi and Pattadakal, and many more that are reflections of the glorious past. The Many dynasties that ruled the Deccan left their imprints on unrivaled wonders – the cave temples at Badami, the impressive Mysore Palace, the musical pillars at Vijaya Vittala Temple in Hampi, the stunning examples of Hoysala architecture at Belur & Halebeedu, and the many shrines, forts, arches, palaces among others.

The Durga Temple at Aihole earned it the sobriquet, ‘the cradle of Hindu Temple architecture’. While the Gol Gombaz, with its stately dome is not only impressive but is also the second largest dome in the world unsupported by pillars. The Gumbaz also has the whispering gallery that echoes even the faintest sound. Eleven ruled by the Kakatiyas, Tughlaqs, Bahamanis, Barid shahis, Adil shahis, Mughals, and Nizams at different times.

WOW IS AN OPEN AIR MUSEUM.
Wow is 3D Dance Drama.

A State this diverse is bound to have art forms equally enthralling. Artistic Karnataka is a kaleidoscope of sorrs. With rich colours, ornate costumers, graceful, yet powerful movements, animated music, all held together by fables from the epics; the art forms of the State are a spectacle in every way. The vibrant culture of Karnataka is evident in their many art forms such as the popular dance drama, Yakshagana, Dollu Kunita and other Kunithas, Nagamandala as well as the Bharatanatyam. Apart from the dance forms, Karnataka also has unique folk forms like the Gombe Attta, Krishna Parijatha, Bhootha Aradhane, Chowdike Mela, and so on.
Karnataka is a State where artisans bring out the magic in their art. Here, a canvas is found in every medium. For brush strokes to carved wood, they release figments of mythology and resplendent expressions of art for the world, to see. It finds expression in rich colours, labyrinths of needlework, meticulous chiselling, etching and elaborate illustrations. Needless to say, these time-honoured crafts still manage to capture every heart.

Most noteworthy of them all are the sandalwood carvings. Elegantly carved and scented figurines, tables, boxes, caskets, stationary and even furniture has found devotees around the world.

The lacquerware toys and products of Channapatna, the exquisite metal work of Bidriware, the rare carpet work of Navalgundu, the delicate gold weaving on the Mysore silk sarees are striking examples of sheer artistry.

The National Flag of India is manufactured exclusively by Garag Khatriya Seva Sangh and Karnataka Khadi Grama Udyog Samyukta Sanga located in Dharwad district, and done as per the Indian Flag Code.
The clothing of Karnataka is an enchanting harmony of tradition and modernity. The State shares the distinctiveness and elegance of the other South Indian states. They bespeak grace, convenience and decorum integral to the cultural ethos. While the contemporary society clearly reflects a taste and changing sense of style in the modern parts of Karnataka, the conventional garb has chosen to be rooted in tradition.

The Kodavas have a unique style of dressing where the men wear their native costume of black robes or tunics with pride, the women look no less stunning in their Sari draped in reverse and decorative headscarves. Sari is the commonly used attire for women, and men wear lungi with Shirts or Kurtas. However, men have headgears specific to the region, such as the ‘mande thuni’ and the gold rimmed turbans.

Vijayapura and Mysuru also have turbans that are commonly worn by the menfolk.
A rich culinary heritage is something Karnataka can always boast of. Flavours, textures and tastes as distinct as the State itself, the sumptuous fare differ depending on the region. The cuisines take inspiration from locally available ingredients and traditional techniques of preparation. The State’s vast culinary repertoire encompasses the earthy flavours of North Karnataka, the traditional fare of South Karnataka, the spicy dishes of the coastal region, and the distinctive Kodava cuisine. The final result—a medley of the most exotic culinary experiences.

The spicy fish curry, sannas, akki roties are signature dishes in the Mangalorean cuisine. The world famous Masala Dosa has its origin in the temple town of Udupi. The Pandi Curry (pork curry) of Coorg is a perennial favourite of the Kodavas. The jowar rotties of North Karnataka, the Bijapur Biryani, the Dharwad Peda and Mysore Paak (both sweets), Maddur Vada are an epicurean delight.
The fascinating mix of history and spirituality has made the State an instant hit among tourists and pilgrims alike. Festive Karnataka is a palette of colour, culture, gaiety, dance, music and many more wonders to the eye. Most famous among them are the extravagant Dasara celebrations of Mysore. Tourists gather in large numbers to the pomp of the festival. Caparisoned elephants, cavalry of soldiers, a fully lit Mysore Palace, pageants, parades, and the list goes on. The Mahamastakabhisheka of Lord Gomateshwara in Shravanabelagola, which only takes place once in 12 years is equally iconic.
While the Tula Sankrama and Huthri of Goorg, the Vairamudi festival, the Kanabula (buffalo race) has icons of traditions associated, the Hampi Utsav and Bengaluru Habba are recent additions to the festivity.
In a land known for its illustrious royalty, it is quite unlikely that luxury would be kept alive only in the pages of history. Over the years, luxury has embraced many forms. Most prominent among them is The Golden Chariot, South India’s only luxury train – bringing to life the bygone eras of the glorious kingdoms that ruled the lands. The train has been rated as “One of the 7 Best Luxury Trains in the World” by Vanity Fair. It was awarded ‘The Best Luxury Train in India’ by the CNBC-AWAZ Travel Awards in 2012.

ITINERARIES
(The Train runs from October to March):

- **Pride of the South (8 days / 7 nights)**
  Bangalore – Kabini – Srirangapatna
  – Mysore – Shravanabelagola – Belur
  – Halebeedu – Hampi – Badami
  – Pattadakal – Goa

- **Southern Splendour (7 nights/8 days)**
  Bangalore – Chennai – Pondicherry
  – Tanjavour – Madurai
  – Trivandrum / Kanyakumari / Kovalam
  – Alleppey – Kochi

WOW IS TRAVELLING LIKE ROYALTY.
Karnataka’s forests and wildlife are her priceless natural heritage. From the majestic evergreen forests of the Western Ghats to the scrub jungles of the plains, a wide variety of habitats teem with diverse flora and fauna, some of them endemic to the region. Some of these jungles were once private preserves of former rulers. Thanks to dedicated conservation efforts, these jungles have survived, and today, are great examples of eco-tourism and responsible tourism.

Karnataka is also credited for having the largest population of Tigers in India. Not to mention the banks of River Kabini, where one can spot the largest congregation of Asiatic Elephants.

Wildlife enthusiasts can thank their stars for the sighting of not just tigers or Asiatic Elephants, but the painted storks near the banks of Cauvery, the sloth bears, crocodiles, deer, sambar, and other members that thrive in these dense forests.

The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary is a haven for the winged visitors and a must-visit for bird watchers. The Kokrebelur Pelicanry is another unique attraction.

Jungle Lodges & Resorts has evolved to become one of India’s biggest eco-tourism ventures. 16 properties spread across Karnataka offer cottages and log huts to experience nature in the midst of teeming wildlife.
One look at the jagged terrains of Karnataka would assure any adventure enthusiast of the action that is in store. Karnataka has been a crowd puller for adventure seekers and environmentalists alike for its unique geographical features. Thanks to the Western Ghats, expanse of majestic mountains dotted with mighty drops, leaves one spoilt for choice. Trekking trails, white-water river rafting on the roaring River Kali, rock climbing, aerosports, and many other outdoor activities let you indulge in adventure. Karnataka is probably the only place in the country where one is treated to extreme adventure through air, land and water.
When it comes to the bounties bestowed by nature, Karnataka is a brilliant mix of evergreen deciduous forests, cascading falls, verdant landscapes, deep valleys, teeming wildlife, and pristine beaches lining its 320 km coastline. Hemmed by the majestic western Ghats, the diverse flora and fauna endemic to the region are the pride of these jungles. The thick green cover gives way to the West-flowing rivers as they surge past as undulating streams over the rugged terrain—finally forming torrents of spectacular waterfalls.

Over the years, Coorg has topped the charts for quiet, romantic getaways, and Chikmaglur is an upcoming summer destination.

Kodachadri, Kalahasti Falls, Kemmanagundi, Agumbe, St. Mary’s Island, Udupi, Mangalore Ullal, Chikmagalur, Nandi Hills, Bangalore, Abbey Falls, Shivanasamudra Falls, Madikeri, Irpu Falls, BR Hills.

The beauty of the green carpet in Coorg lies unmatched. So is the tranquility of unspoilt beaches of Gokarna and Karwar, some still waiting to be explored. Job Fall in Shimoga, at a height of 965 ft, has its share of fame not only for its dramatic plunge but also for being Asia’s fifth highest waterfall. So does the Shivanasamudra Falls Abbey Falls and Irpu Falls Known for their stunning tumble during the monsoons.

* Jog and Shivanasamudra have been included in the Top 50 Waterfalls in the World, according to the World Waterfall database.

Gokak Falls, Latulim Falls, Sathodi Falls, Magod Falls, Devbagh, Gokarna, Jogfalls, Murudeshwara, Marawante,
Wellness transcends borders, and in Karnataka, all systems of medicine. With expertise in over five schools of alternate therapy and a salubrious climate to boot, it’s no surprise that Karnataka is a preferred wellness destination. State-of-the-art facilities in every system of healing in the world have made Bangalore the wellness capital. From several thousand feet above sea level to the warm, glowing beach sands, and to the comfortable environs of Mysore, the locales are as exotic and charming as the types of treatments offered.

Apart from Holistic healing, Naturopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Yoga, Bangalore has come to be known as the destination for healing – with its top notch hospitals and wellness centres. Mysuru is an established destination today when it comes to Yoga, with its reputed centres and their celebrity guests. The other wellness centres are Gokarna, Coorg and Mangaluru.
Over the years, Bengaluru has become the epitome of high living. The fast-paced lifestyle of this fast-growing City has made available just about everything in terms of opulence. With the finest national and international brands, shopping malls making its debut every now and then, mushrooming watering holes, cafes in every nook and corner, Bangalore has created a league of its own. The City has had a list of popular sobriquets – ‘Garden City’, ‘Pensioner’s Paradise’, and, most recently, ‘the Silicon Valley of India’.

The exotic setting and the natural surroundings of Karnataka has made it one of the sought out destinations for golfing. A tradition that dates back to 1820s, the State reverberates the flamboyance and reverence associated with the sport. Taking a pick from the many contours to play golf may be unheard of – but not in Karnataka.
BENGALURU
DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL
CONNECTIVITY
HIT THE ROAD... HAVE A TRYST WITH NATURE. EXPERIENCE A MYSTIC AURA CREATED BY NATURE UNDER A VERDANT SKY. LISTEN TO THE SYMPHONY OF THE FORESTS. ENJOY YOUR RETREAT AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF DAILY LIFE AMIDST THE ENIGMATIC MILIEU. EXPLORE THE WILDERNESS. SAVOUR THE EXCITING MOMENTS. HAVE A RENDEZVOUS WITH THE WILD.

JUNGLE LODGES AND RESORTS – A KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING – OFFERS VARIED ECO-TOURISM DESTINATIONS IN THE STATE, INCLUDING ISOLATED BEACHES, DENSE TROPICAL FORESTS, MAJESTIC HILL STATIONS, MAGNIFICENT RIVERS AND AWESOME WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES. LIKE NATURE ITSELF, THE EXPERIENCES ARE DIVERSE, REFRESHING AND INVIGORATING. WALK. RUN. SLEEP. LOVE. THINK. DREAM. OR DO NOTHING IN THE LAP OF NATURE, WHO WILL BLESS YOU WITH HER MYRIAD MANIFESTATIONS.
BANDIPUR SAFARI LODGE

Located off the Mysuru – Ooty Highway, adjacent to the renowned Bandipur National Park, and on the foothills of the Nilgiri Hills, the lodge is elegantly built in contemporary architectural style. Embrace the cool breeze wafting down hillsides. Go on a jeep safari to meet the jungle denizens. Visit Gopalaswamy Betta to enjoy the vistas. It’s exciting. Watch birds. Get acquainted with the wildlife. Watch the amazing night sky. Relax by the campfire. It’s bewitching.

BANNERGHATTA NATURE CAMP

Bannerghatta – verdant jungles sprawling over 25,000 acres on the outskirts of Bangalore – offers a rich variety of flora and fauna. In the Bannerghatta Bio-Park, lions, tigers, and bears live in kraals that recreate their natural habitat. It’s unforgettable. Go on a safari into the kraals. Walk along the many wooded trails in the protected part. It’s spectacular. This camp is also an ideal venue for small meetings of up to 30 people, with special packages available on request.
BHEEMESHWARI NATURE & ADVENTURE CAMP

SITUATED AT BHEEMESHWARI ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER CAUVERY, THE TENTED COTTAGES AND LOG HUTS DRAWS MULTITUDE OF NATURE LOVERS. SURRENDER TO THE BECKONING OF THE CAUVERY. WATCH BIRDS, SPOTTURTLES, CROCODILES OR THE OTTERS. IT IS AMAZING. FLOAT ON A CORACLE. TREAK THE TRAILS. TAKE IN THE SUNSET. IT’S ENCHANTING.

DEVBAGH BEACH RESORT

LOCATED 22KM FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF GOA AND JUST A SHORT BOAT RIDE FROM KARWAR, THE ELEGANTLY FURNISHED LOG CABINS AND COTTAGES ARE SURROUNDED BY GROVES OF SWAYING CASUARINAS WITH THE AZURE ARABIAN SEA AS A STUNNING BACKDROP. RELAX ON THE PRISTINE BEACH, WADE INTO THE SEA, WATCH THE AWESOME SEA EAGLES, WATCH DOLPHINS. GO BOATING OR WALK TO THE NEARBY VILLAGE TO BEFRIEND THE FISHER-FOLK. IT’S ENRICHING. EXPERIENCE PARA-SAILING, SNORKEL IN THE CLEAR WATERS. IT’S SPELLBINDING. THIS RESORT IS ALSO AN IDEAL VENUE FOR SMALL MEETINGS OF UPTO 50 PEOPLE, WITH SPECIAL PACKAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.
DUBARE ELEPHANT CAMP

DUBARE ELEPHANT CAMP SITUATED ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER CAUVERY IN COORG, OFFERS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD OF THE LARGEST TERRESTRIAL MAMMAL. JOIN THE MAHOUTS AND GIVE THE PACHYDERMS A SPECIAL SCRUB-BATH. OR YOU COULD GROOM THEM, WATCH THEM BEING FED, AND LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF THE MAHOUTS. IT’S ASTONISHING. GO ON AN ELEPHANT RIDE, SPY ON OUR COLOURFUL AVIAN FRIENDS, OR RAFT DOWN THE RIVER CAUVERY DURING THE MONSOONS. IT’S EXHILARATING.

HAMPI HERITAGE & WILDERNESS RESORT

JUST 15KM FROM HAMPI IS THE DAROJI SLOTH BEAR SANCTUARY THAT BOASTS OF A HEALTHY POPULATION OF SLOTH BEARS. THE RUGGED TERRAIN IS IDEAL FOR WILD FRUITS, TERMITES AND HONEY AND TAKE REFUGE IN CAVES AND CREVICES. THE HAMPI HERITAGE & WILDERNESS RESORT SET IN RUSTIC NATURAL ENVIRONS ADJOINING THE SANCTUARY STRIKES A CHORD WITH NATURE. AT HAMPI, ONE CAN TASTE A HEAVY CONCOCTION OF ADVENTURE AND AWE INSPIRING CREATIONS GARNISHED WITH HERITAGE TRAILS AND NATURE WALKS.
KABINI RIVER LODGE

NESTLED ON THE SOUTHERN FRINGES OF NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK, THE COLONIAL-STYLE LODGES IN THE LUSH GREEN SURROUNDINGS GIVE YOU A UNIQUE HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE. RATED BY TATLER’S TRAVEL GUIDE, AS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE WILDLIFE RESORTS IN THE WORLD, WATCH EXOTIC WILDLIFE IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT, ASIATIC ELEPHANTS, GAURS, CHITALS, SAMBARS, LANGURS, CROCODILES, AND, OVER 250 AVIAN SPECIES. IT’S AWE-INSPIRING, PERFECT SILENCE, BROKEN ONLY BY THE GENTLE WAVES LAPPING AGAINST LAND, AND THE BIRD CALLS. IT’S REFRESHING. THIS LODGE IS ALSO AN IDEAL VENUE FOR SMALL MEETINGS OF UP TO 30 PEOPLE, WITH SPECIAL PACKAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

KALI ADVENTURE CAMP

SET ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER KALLI, THE CAMP’S TENTED COTTAGES AND ROOMS OFFER AN UNFETTERED EXPERIENCE OF NATURE’S BOUNTY. EMBARK ON A NATURE DRIVE INTO THE THICKLY WOODED AND HILLY FORESTS OF THE UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT. RAFT DOWN THE RAPID’S OF THE BEAUTIFUL YET POWERFUL RIVER KALLI, KAYAK ON ITS WATERS, WATCH CROCODILES ON ITS BANKS. IT’S THRILLING. FLOAT DOWN ON A CORACLE, GO TREKKING, IT’S PURE ADRENALINE.
RIVER TERN LODGE


SHARAVATHI ADVENTURE CAMP

LOCATED JUST 8KM AWAY FROM THE JOG FALLS, THIS IS AN IDEAL LOCATION TO EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THE MONSOONS AND WATCH THE JOG FALLS DANCE TO THE TUNE OF THE RAIN. AT THE SHARAVATHI ADVENTURE CAMP, YOU ARE CRADLED IN NATURE’S LAP WHILE YOU ENJOY THE ETHEREAL BEAUTY OF THE SAHYADRIS. TUCKED SNUGLY ON THE SLOPES OF A HILLOCK SKIRTING THE TALAKALALE RESERVOIR, THIS IS A GREAT PLACE TO REVERE THE INVIGORATING MELANGE OF SUNSHINE AND RAIN AND INDULGE IN AQUATIC ADVENTURES.
COME. BE BORN
AGAIN...

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## KARNATAKA STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KSTDC)

**Location of KSTDC Properties List**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA VALLEY VIEW</strong></td>
<td>Near Raja’s Seat, Stuart Hill, Madikeri, Karnataka 571201</td>
<td>Ph: 0827-2228387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA BHUVANESHWARI</strong></td>
<td>Kamalapur, Karnataka 583121</td>
<td>Ph: 0839-4245774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA GERUSOPPA</strong></td>
<td>Jog Falls, Shivamogga 577 435</td>
<td>Ph: 0838-2443732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA CAUVERY KRS</strong></td>
<td>Krishna Raja Saagar, Mandya, Karnataka 721607</td>
<td>Ph: 8076090022</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA VIJAYANAGARA TB DAM</strong></td>
<td>Ballari 583 227</td>
<td>Ph: 0839-4239720</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA PINETOP</strong></td>
<td>Nandi Hills, Chikballapur, Karnataka 562101</td>
<td>Ph: 0830-423009</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA SANGAMESHWARI</strong></td>
<td>KM7, Sriangapatna, Karnataka 771424</td>
<td>Ph: 0827-2243814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA HOYSALA</strong></td>
<td>JLT Road, Davaraja Mathana, Mysuru, Karnataka 721005</td>
<td>Ph: 0827-2226660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA SUDARSHAN</strong></td>
<td>Fern Hill, West Mere, Ooty, Tamil Nadu 643004</td>
<td>Ph: 0823-2441828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA ADILSHAHI</strong></td>
<td>Station Road, VVijayapura – 58301</td>
<td>Ph: 0835-2230401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA SANGAMA MEKEDATU</strong></td>
<td>Ramanagar – 563 117</td>
<td>Ph: 080 2976 0100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA CHALUVA</strong></td>
<td>Ramdurg Road, Badami, Karnataka 58201</td>
<td>Ph: 0837-220406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA VARATI NIVAS</strong></td>
<td>Near Fort, Chippete, Chitradurga, Karnataka 57701</td>
<td>Ph: 0839 2234162</td>
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### Hotel Mayura Properties List (cont’d)

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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA KAUVERY</strong></td>
<td>Vinaypet – Talakaveri Rd, Bhagamandala, Karnataka 771427</td>
<td>Ph: 0827-2243141</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA GAGANACHUKKI</strong></td>
<td>Mandya, Karnataka 771401</td>
<td>Ph: 0831-247538</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA VELAPURI</strong></td>
<td>State Highway 110, Belur, Karnataka 73113</td>
<td>Ph: 0817-2222009</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL MAYURA VATTINUVAS</strong></td>
<td>2, Jhansi Laxmi Bai Road, Mysore 570 005</td>
<td>Ph: 0821-2243402</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KSTDC BOAT CLUB</strong></td>
<td>Ulsoor Lake Boat Club KRS Boat Club</td>
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<td><strong>KSTDC AIRPORT TAXI</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.kstdcairporttaxi.com">www.kstdcairporttaxi.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>KSTDC SAFARI COUNTER</strong></td>
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<td><strong>KSTDC PROPERTIES LIST</strong></td>
<td>Hotel Mayura Gerusoppa Jagfall</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Information

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Email: info@karnatakatourism.org
Website: www.karnatakatourism.org
Dhanyavada

Thank you