

QUICK GETAWAYS FROM BANGALORE

BENGALURU

Bangalore's creation is attributed to the Magadi Chieftain, Kempe Gowda, who laid its foundations in 1537. Often called a 'garden city', Bangalore's climate has been the attraction that has brought people from all over India to make their home here. One of the highly developed cities of southern India, it is the capital of the state of Karnataka. Bangalore is also the seventh largest city in India.

Bangalore has the distinction of being the Silicon Valley of India, as it is home to some of the biggest software and InfoTech companies.

Sights to be seen include the Vidhan Soudha, Cubbon Park, Ulsoor lake, Bangalore Palace, Tipu Sultans Palace and Lal Bagh Gardens. The city offers itself as an ideal base to explore the fascinating and culturally rich state of Karnataka. Visitors will find the ruins of the once powerful Vijayanagar empire, the sculpted wonders of Belur and Halebid, the awesome mausoleum of Bijapur and much more within easy reach. The city by itself offers extensive shopping opportunities, a rich fanfare of cuisine, hotels to suit all pockets and much cultural and other entertainment.



LAL BAGH GARDENS



BANGALORE PALACE



ULSOOR LAKE

A FEW DESTINATIONS CLOSE TO BANGALORE THAT PROVIDE FOR A LOVELY QUICK GETAWAY INCLUDE:

BANDIPUR

Bandipur National Park is regarded as one of the most beautiful national parks of India. Located amidst the picturesque Western Ghats Mountains on the Mysore-Ooty highway in Karnataka, Bandipur National Park covers an area of about 874.2 sq. km. Together with Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala and Nagarhole National Park in the North, it creates the India's biggest biosphere reserve popularly known as the 'Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve'. The Bandipur National Park occupies a special place in India's efforts towards Eco-conservation.

BANDIPUR SIGHTSEEING

Bandipur is home to a sizable number of Tigers. Other natural inhabitants of this lovely forest are gaur (a type of bull), sambhar, chital, mouse deer, four-horned antelope, wild dogs, wild boar, jackal, sloth bear, panther, Malabar squirrel, porcupines and the black-knapped hare. Birds like jungle fowl and green pigeon are also found here.



BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK

CHIKMAGALUR



SHARADAMBA TEMPLE

Nestled at 3,400ft in the Sahyadri mountains of the Western Ghats, Chikmagalur is situated in the south-western part of Karnataka. Barely 250km from state capital Bangalore, it lies at the foothills of the Baba Budan range and offers an ideal getaway for those looking at a quiet weekend. The town offers unending vistas of mountains, streams, and coffee and pepper plantations.

CHIKMAGALUR SIGHTSEEING

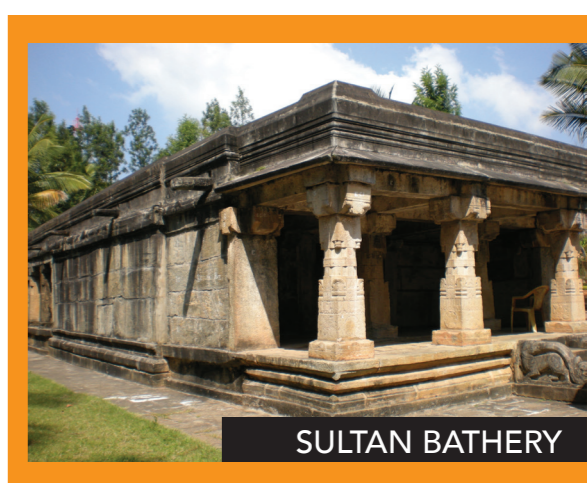
Chikmagalur is a trekker's delight, with its scenic and rugged mountain trails. A number of rivers, such as Bhadra, Hemavathi, Tunga, Netravathi and Vedavathi, originate in the hills surrounding the town. It was here that coffee was first cultivated in India in 1670 by Baba Budan, a Muslim saint who brought coffee seeds from Yemen. Today, the area is known for the quality of its coffee. One can visit the Bhadra wildlife sanctuary, and the Sharadamba and Vidyashankara Temples. Mullayanagiri Peak, one of the best attractions in Chikmagalur, stands tall at 2000 meters. Kalhatti falls, water cascading from a height of 400 feet above is a pretty sight.

WAYANAD

Located amidst the mesmerising jungles of Western Ghats in Kerala, Wayanad attracts tourists from all over the country. Located around 250 km from Bangalore, Wayanad offers some stunning locales to visit. The culture of this area is mainly tribal in nature, and Wayanad is a prolific producer of cash crops like pepper, cardamom, coffee, tea, spices and other condiments.

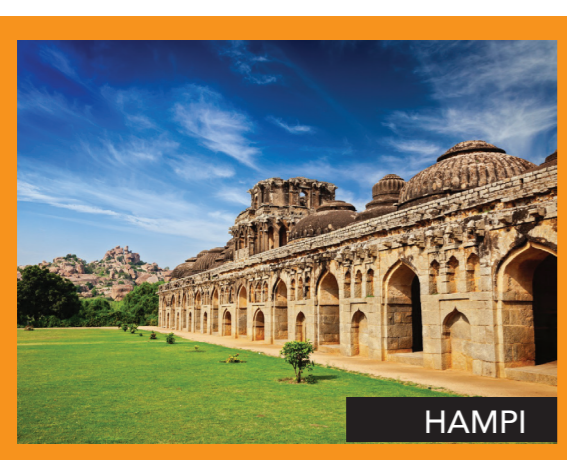
WAYANAD SIGHTSEEING

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary hosts a number of bird species, with peafowl being a very common sight. Animals such as the Indian bison, elephant, deer and tiger can be sighted here. The Sanctuary is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The area is being considered as a World Heritage site and it is fully worth exploring the glorious biodiversity of this region. Edakkal Caves are two natural caves where you can observe prehistoric carvings dating back 8000 years on the walls. Lakkidi View Point is one of the highest peaks in Wayanad and receives the 2nd highest rainfall in the world. The scenic Banasura Sagar Dam is the largest dam in India and is set against the mountains as its backdrop. Other spots to visit include the Meenmutty waterfall and the Jain Temple which was named Sulthan Bathery after it was taken over by Tipu Sultan. With a carving of Mahavir Jain in the inner chamber, the temple is an exquisite example of Jain Architecture.



SULTAN BATHERY

HAMPI



HAMPI

A UNESCO world heritage site, Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire. It is situated on the banks of river Tungabhadra in Karnataka. The ruins of Hampi stand testimony to the wealth and grandeur of the Vijayanagar Emperors. Among them are beautiful temples, ruins of palaces, remains of aquatic structures, ancient market streets, royal pavilions, bastions, royal platforms, treasury buildings, the list is practically endless. Hampi is a backpacker's paradise, the same way a pilgrim's delight.

HAMPI SIGHTSEEING

The Virupaksha temple is the most prominent building in Hampi. It is believed that Lord Shiva married Parvati in this temple. Other attractions of Hampi are the Lotus Palace, Hazara Rama temple and Lakshmi Narasimha temple built in the Vijayanagar style of architecture. The Dasara Dibba is one of the most impressive structures in Hampi. It is a beautiful stone platform that is located within the Royal Enclosure of Hampi. The Hampi Utsav, also known as Vijaya Utsav, is a cultural event organized by the Karnataka government in January each year. The festival of Purandaradasa Aradhana conducted at the Vithala temple is also famous. It is celebrated to honor the poet-composer Purandaradasa.

MYSORE

An ancient city with more than 600 glorious years of legacy, Mysore is one of the most culturally rich places in India. Known for its glittering royal heritage, bustling markets, magnificent monuments, cosmopolitan culture and a friendly populace, it is also a thriving center for the production of premium silk, sandalwood and incense.

MYSORE SIGHTSEEING

A tour of Mysore, known as the 'City Of Palaces' showcases a number of exquisite examples of Dravidian architecture that display the lavish lifestyle of the erstwhile rulers of the state. The Brindavan Gardens, spread over 150 acres, are laid out below the Krishnaraja Sagar dam built across the river Cauvery. The gardens are famous for the illuminated dancing fountains that come to life after sunset. The Mysore Palace is built in the Indo-Saracenic style with domes, turrets, arches and colonnades, and is a treasure house of exquisite carvings and works of art from all over the world. One of the most unforgettable images of the city is that of the illuminated Mysore Palace against the dark sky. Chamundi Hill houses Nandi, Lord Shiva's Bull- a majestic 4.8 metre monolith sitting halfway up the hill. At the top is the 12th century temple of Chamundeshwari, the patron goddess of the Wodeyars. Close to the temple is the gigantic statue of the demon Mahishasura. The summit offers a panoramic view of Mysore's lakes, parks and palaces.



MYSORE PALACE

OOTY



VIEW FROM DODDABETTA PEAK

Ooty is situated at an altitude of 2240mtrs above sea level, and is the capital of the Nilgiri district. It is a honeymooner's paradise and popular filming location. Known as the 'Queen of Hill Stations', Udagamandalam or Ooty is a feast for the eyes, with its lofty, eucalyptus covered mountains, dense forests, and acres and acres of tea estates.

OOTY SIGHTSEEING

Enjoy a stroll around the Botanical Gardens, covering an area of 22 acres. A fossil tree trunk supposedly 20 million years old is preserved here. The garden comprises varieties of tree species, grass carpet, ferns, multi-coloured flowering plants, orchids, nurseries and flowerbeds laid out in Italian style. Visit Doddabetta Peak, the highest point (2623 meters) in the Nilgiris, at the junction of the Western and Eastern Ghats. The top of the peak offers beautiful vistas of the Nilgiri Hills. To conclude your tour, explore Raj Bhavan. Built in 1877 by the Duke of Buckingham, Government House or Raj Bhavan is a sprawling, cream-coloured mansion, overlooking the Botanical Gardens...it stands as a silent reminder of the pomp and grandeur of days of the Raj. Portraits of Queen Victoria, George V, and the Duke of Buckingham adorn the walls of the house.

COORG

This land of coffee and spices is at the distance of just 120 kms from Mysore and 260 Kms from Bangalore. Set amidst the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, Coorg offers the tranquillity of hills and deep valleys. Known for its extensive coffee plantations, orange orchards and paddy fields, Coorg is a naturalist's delight!

COORG SIGHTSEEING

Visit the Abbey Falls, located among coffee plantations and spice estates. Here, the Kaveri river cascades down a rockface into beautiful calm pools. Proceed to Raja's Seat, a small pavilion with a garden surrounding it, offering a view of the spectacular blue mountains around. Visit the Omkareshwara Temple, dedicated to Shiva, which is almost 200 years old and is a surprising blend of Islamic and Gothic styles. Proceed to Bylakuppe, a settlement for refugees from Tibet. There are richly painted and intricately decorated Tibetan Temples to be seen here. Later, visit the Dubare Elephant Camp, where elephants are trained. A naturalist is at hand to explain the various aspects of Elephant history, ecology and biology. Madikeri Fort is also worth a visit.



COORG

KABINI



NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK

Kabini is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and known for the Nagarhole National Park and Project Tiger Reserve. Apart from enjoying wildlife safaris, you can also choose to take a cruise down the Kabini River by boat. Kabini is home to Asia's largest herd of elephants.

KABINI SIGHTSEEING

Nagarhole National Park has park has rich forest cover, small streams, hills, valleys and waterfalls, and provides an opportunity to see some of the southern population of gaur (jungle bison). Also, this park in Karnataka is a good place to see elephants in the luxuriant forests and bamboo thickets which they most enjoy. Their total population in southern India is now about 6500, nearly all living in the area where Karnataka. You can also see the Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, sloth bear and striped hyena.



TAMARIND
GLOBAL

* For customizations please feel free to get in touch with us at info@tamarindglobal.com

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