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STARK BIR

HAMPI

And how to envy a kite.



Hampi, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, has been extensively captured by both amateur and professional photographers alike. What has not been captured, was a completely new perspective. Not from land, but from the skies. Not up-close, but aerial. As a project of tourism, world-renowned Kite Photographer Nicolas Chorier walked Hampi, flew a kite with a camera attached, and took some splendid shots. The kite created some stunning frames, all captured by Nicolas and his camera. This booklet features fourteen such images shot from the skies. Amazing views. Breathtaking angles. Never before, Hampi's true magnificence was captured, and drama unveiled. The Photographer and his camera deserves immense praise. And his kite, deserves envy.



Most temples in Hampi are adorned with painstakingly brilliant sculptures, chiselled to perfection. The craftsmanship, which brings to light the Vijayanagara style of architecture, is inspiring, to say the least. For once, God is in the details.



The Elephant Stables. Built much later, the stables are situated in an area that comprises of structures that look vastly different from the Vijayanagara style. The stables reflect the grandeur of the rulers, who were used to such extravagance when it comes to architecture.



The Tungabhadra river, which has seen the rise and fall of the Empire. Even today, the only object of human advancement seen in these serene waters, is the coracle.





The Lotus Mahal. This structure is as beautiful from the inside, as it is from outside. Seen from the skies, the patterns formed by the rocks and the landscape add to the drama – sometimes, with shapes resembling birds and animals. Some of the tourist guides available here are fabulous storytellers.



On the one hand, you see the uniquely shaped rocks formed by natural causes. And on the other hand, are those stunningly sculpted monuments on stone. It's sheer artistic fusion, played by man and nature.





The Achyutaraya Temple, tucked behind the imposing Matanga Hill. The trek to the top of the hill gives an unobtrusive view of the area, extending to the river. Perhaps, the only place where the kite cannot beat you for a better view.



As you walk to discover Hampi, you pass by umpteen little temples and structures – each, one better than the other. The finesse makes you wonder how such artistry was accomplished at such a period, when most of the construction techniques were manual.



The Vittala Temple complex, featuring the famous Stone Chariot. People hate to leave, as they hang around the fifty-six musical pillars that can play all seven Notes. Usually crowded during the day, this Photographer had to start a little too early, to capture this shot.