

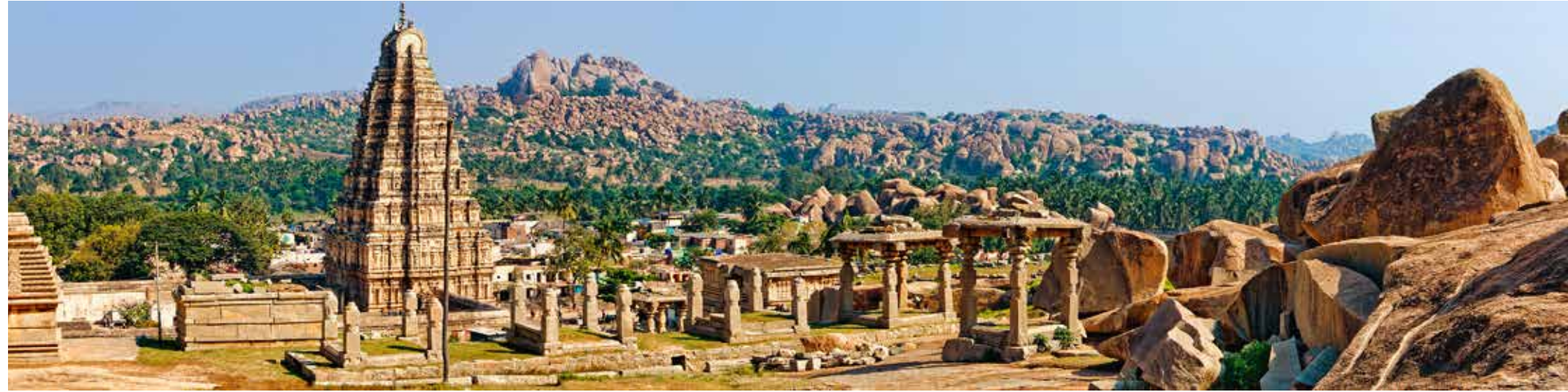
Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.

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SCRIPT YOUR ADVENTURE

HISTORIC KARNATAKA



TAKE A TRIP DOWN THE BYLANES OF HISTORY WHERE LEGENDS COME ALIVE AT EVERY TURN. EXPERIENCE A LAND WHERE MONOLITHS IN STONE, SPECTACULAR TEMPLES AND EXPANSIVE PALACES TELL TALES OF WONDER FROM A BYGONE ERA. DISCOVER THE GRANDEUR OF THE VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE AND THE CHALUKYAS, THE ELEGANCE OF THE HOYSALAS AND THE RASHTRAKUTAS, AND MANY MANY MORE. LET KARNATAKA GIVE LIFE TO THE STORIES OF YORE IN A WAY THAT NO OTHER LAND CAN.

HAMPI



The capital city of the powerful Vijayanagara empire, Hampi was founded by Harihara and Bukka in the year 1336. It fell to the Muslim rulers of the North after the Battle of Talikota in 1565, and subsequently fell into decline and abandonment. It has survived the ravages of nature and humans to be a testament to the grandeur of the bygone eras. A 15th century Persian ambassador once remarked, “The city is such that the pupil of the eye has never seen a place like it. And the ear of intelligence has never been informed that there existed anything to equal it in the world”.

Hampi is set in an spectacular rocky landscape on the banks of River Tungabhadra. It is located 12 kilometres away from the sedate town of Hospet in the district of Ballari. The city was once adorned with massive palaces, marvelous temples, fortifications, baths, markets, aqueducts, pavilions, stables for royal elephants and elegantly carved pillars. Hampi was the sort of city that offered diamonds, pearls, fine silks, brocades, horses, and according to one Portuguese traveller, “every sort of thing on earth.”

Hampi is a travellers ticket to the past. It offers the best in a world heritage site and a leisurely stroll through the exquisite ruins will evoke feelings of grandeur. The majority of the ruins are located in two areas called the Royal Centre and the Sacred Centre. The Royal Centre is located in the south west part of the site and is known for the ruins of palaces, baths, pavilions, royal stables and temples. The Sacred Centre is located on the banks of River Tungabhadra, in the northern edge of the city. The ruins in Hampi are of such extensive proportions that it will surprise you with something new on each visit. A day or two would suffice for a quick visit to all the major exhibits and important structures. It is a haven for photography and archaeology buffs.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT BALLARI

BY ROAD
Hospet - 12 km
Bengaluru - 315 km
Hubballi - 210 km

BY RAIL
Hospet - 12 km
Dabolim (Goa) - 300 km

BY AIR
Ballari - 74 km
Bengaluru - 360 km

ATTRACTIONS

KING'S PALACE
MAHANAVAMI DIBBA
QUEEN'S BATH
LOTUS MAHAL
ELEPHANT STABLES
PUSHKARNI
HAZARA RAMA TEMPLE
VIJAYA VITTALA TEMPLE
VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE
LAKSHMI NARASIMHA
BADAVILINGA
KADALE KALU AND
SASAVE KALU GANESHAS



SURROUNDING HAMPPI

ANEGUNDI
SANGANAKALLU
BALLARI FORT

BADAMI



Occupying an important space in history and the heritage of Karnataka, Badami is picturesquely nestled at the mouth of a ravine between two rocky hills. The exquisite sculptures and sandstone cliffs of Badami brings forth many a tale from the yesteryears. Four rock-cut caves adorned with ancient carved pillars and bracket figures cut out of red sandstone is just a flight of steps away. The largest among the caves is the third one which is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The first cave features an 18-armed Nataraja sculpture striking 81 dance poses. The caves overlook the Agastya Theertha Tank, its banks dotted with a group of Bhoothanatha temples.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT **BAGALKOT**

BY ROAD
Hubballi: 110 km
Bengaluru: 480 km

BY RAIL
Badami

BY AIR
Hubballi: 110 km
Dabolim (Goa): 290 km

ATTRACTIONS

NORTH FORT

On the northern banks of Agastya Theertha Lake and the other side of the Cave Temples, a series of elegant temples and carvings await those who complete an arduous climb through a stony chasm and fortified gateways. The Upper Shivalaya Temple still has some friezes and sculptures depicting legends relating to Lord Krishna. Perched on a rock, the Malegatti Shivalaya is an example of the ancient southern style of architecture.



SURROUNDING BADAMI

MAHAKUTA
BANASHANKARI

PATTADAKAL



Situated on the banks of Malaprabha River, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is a testament to the richness of Chalukyan architecture. With its beautifully chiselled temples, Pattadakal reached the pinnacle of its glory during the reign of the Chalukyan kings. It was even used as the ceremonial centre where kings were crowned and commemorated. It has a cluster of 10 major temples, each displaying interesting Chalukyan architectural styles. At the entrance of the site, you can see the 8th century temples of Jambulinga, Kadasiddeshvara and Galaganatha with their curvilinear shikaras or spires. The biggest temple in the area is dedicated to Lord Virupaksha. It is covered with beautifully crafted friezes and has a huge gateway. Facing the temple is a huge Nandi. The Mallikarjuna Temple is similar in design to the Virupaksha Temple although it is smaller in size. A 16 pillared main hall and intricately chiselled ceiling adorns another masterpiece in architecture - the Papanatha Temple. The earliest temple of the lot is the Sangameshwara Temple which dates back to the era of King Vijayaditya (696 - 733 AD).

HOW TO GET THERE DISTRICT BAGALKOT

BY ROAD
Aihole: 22 km
Badami: 22 km
Bengaluru: 495 km

BY RAIL
Badami: 22 km

BY AIR
Hubballi: 122 km
Dabolim (Goa): 290 km

AIHOLE



Even though heralded as the cradle of Hindu temple architecture, Aihole is a tranquil village on the banks of Malaprabha River. Hundreds of temples pepper the villages and fields nearby. The most noteworthy among them is the Durga Temple composed of a semicircular apse, an elevated plinth and a gallery encircling the sanctum. The Lad Khan Temple is one of the earliest temples in the region and was initially a royal assembly hall and marriage mantapa. It was the chosen abode of the Muslim chief Lad Khan. Other major attractions in the area are the Huchimalli Temple with a sculpture of Lord Vishnu sitting atop a cobra, the Ravalphadi Cave Temple which celebrates the various incarnations of Lord Shiva, the Konti Temple Complex, the Umamaheswari Temple, the Jain Meguti Temple, and the two storied Buddhist temple.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT **BAGALKOT**

BY ROAD
Badami: 44 km
Bengaluru: 495 km

BY RAIL
Badami: 44 km

BY AIR
Hubballi: 132 km
Dabolim (Goa): 320 km

LAKKUNDI



Lakkundi is a modest village situated 12 km southeast of Gadag. This sedate village is peppered with 55 stunning temples and 29 inscriptions dating back to the Kalyana Chalukya period. The Kashi Vishwanatha Temple is the most intricately designed and poses a spectacular structure. The Jain Temple dedicated to Mahavira is one of the Largest and oldest shrines in the area. Lakkundi is known for its steep wells constructed with artistically placed canopied niches on its walls that enshrine Lingas. A sculpture gallery maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India is also a major attraction here.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT **GADAG**

BY ROAD
Gadag: 12 km
Bengaluru: 400 km

BY RAIL
Gadag: 12 km

BY AIR
Dabolim (Goa): 240 km

CHITRADURGA FORT



The Kallina Kote (literally translated as fort of stone) is a military architectural marvel. It is one of the major attractions at Chitradurga and is located on the highway linking Bengaluru with Hospet. Built by the Nayak Palegars, it has a total of 19 gateways, 38 posterior entrances, a palace, a mosque, granaries, oil pits, four secret entrances and many water tanks. The Ekanatha Temple and the Chandravalli Caves nearby, inside the fort complex are worth visiting. The Hidimbeshwara Temple is the oldest temple in the area. Other attractions nearby that are worth visiting are Brahmagiri, Vanivilas Sagar, Nayakanakatte, Jogimatti, and Jatinga Rameswara.

HOW TO GET THERE

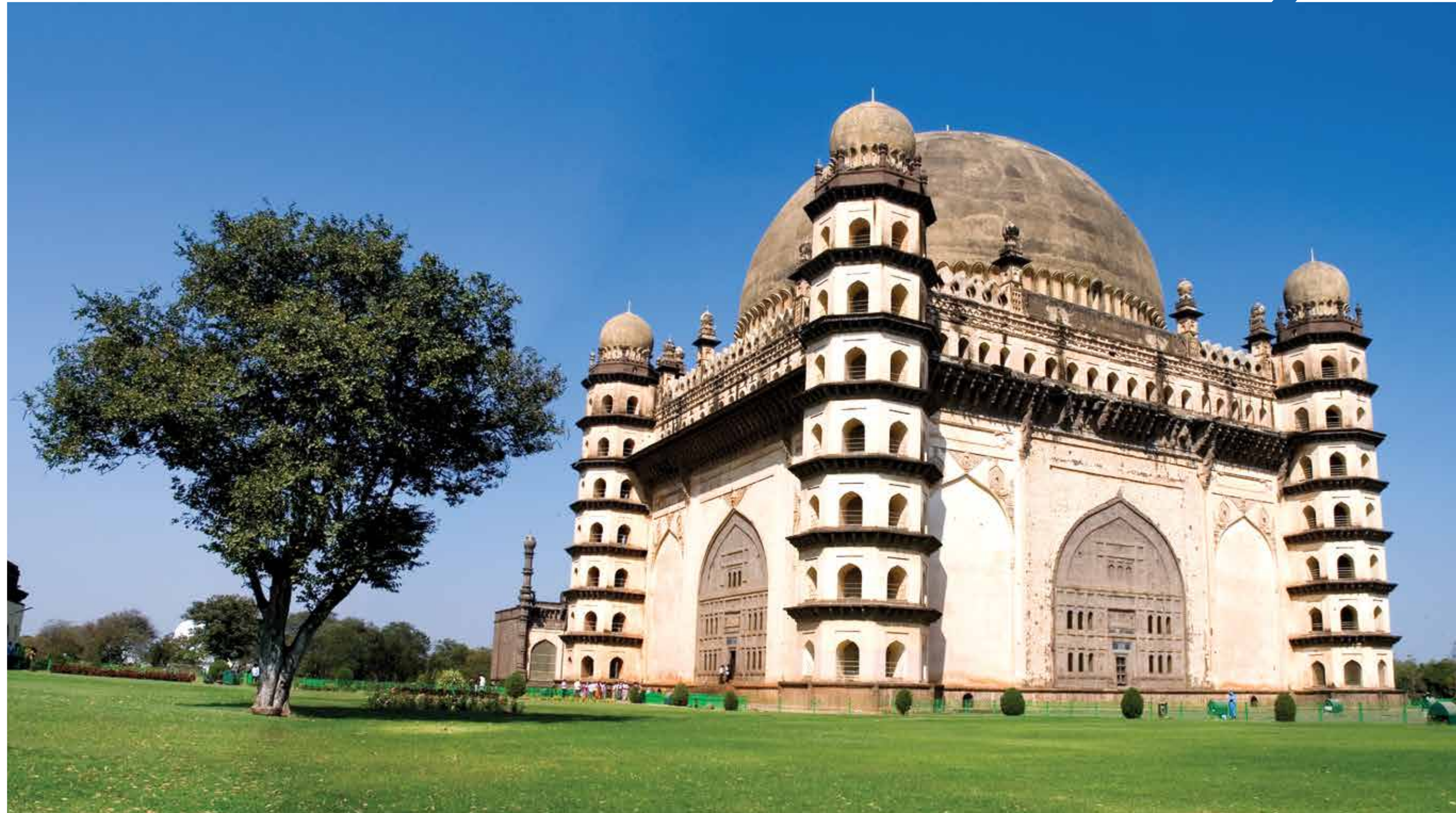
DISTRICT CHITRADURGA

BY ROAD
Bengaluru: 200 km

BY RAIL
Chitradurga
Davanagere: 60 km

BY AIR
Bengaluru: 200 km

VIJAYAPURA



The capital of the Adil Shahi Kings (1489 - 1686 AD), Vijayapura is located in the heritage rich Deccan region. The area is peppered with mosques, mausoleums, palaces, fortifications, watch towers and strong gateways with the Gol Gumbaz forming a dominating structure grabbing attention from miles about.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT VIJAYAPURA

BY ROAD
Badami: 138 km
Bengaluru: 570 km

BY RAIL
Bijapur

BY AIR
Hyderabad: 375 km

ATTRACTIONS

GOL GUMBAZ
JAMIA MASJID
IBRAHIM ROZA
MALIK-E-MAIDAN
MEHTAR MAHAL



JALA MANZIL
GAGAN MAHAL
BARA KAMAN
UPLI BURUJ
TAJ BAWDI

KALABURAGI



Kalaburagi is the largest district in Karnataka. It is a land where the splendour of yesteryears blend seamlessly with modern sensibilities. This heritage rich region of the Deccan has seen the rise and fall of many a dynasty such as the Chalukyas, the Rashtrakutas, Adil Sahis and Nizam Shahis. Kalaburagi was the capital city of the first Muslim dynasty in South India, the Bahamanis. An exemplary display of architectural proficiency, Gulbarga's monuments that display Indo-Saracenic styles have earned worldwide renown. It is a destination that promises to take the discerning traveller on a trip down the lanes of history.

HOW TO GET THERE DISTRICT KALABURAGI

BY ROAD
Bidar: 120 km
Vijayapura: 160 km
Bengaluru: 600 km

BY RAIL
Kalaburagi
Basavakalyan: 80 km

BY AIR
Hyderabad: 220 km

ATTRACTIONS

JUMMA MASJID

CHOR GUMBAZ

GULBARGA FORT

SHAH BAZAR MOSQUE

DARGAH OF KHWAJA
BANDA NAWAZ

SHARANA BASAVESHWARA
TEMPLE



SATH GUMBAZ

AIWAN-E-SHAHI

FIROZABAD

SANNATI

MALKHED

TOMB OF MUHAMMAD SHAH

BUDDHA VIHARA

BIDAR



Situated right in the heart of the Deccan Plateau, Bidar has always been a melting pot of various cultures and their influences. This amalgam of different and often contrasting cultures have rendered Bidar with a wealth of architectural marvels. It has played host to the Kakatiyas, Tughlaqs, Bahamanis, Barid Shahis, Adil Shahis, Mughals and Nizams, each bringing their own influences. Bidar has an architectural style that shows very apparent intermingling of Hindu, Turkish and Persian styles. Medieval Bidar is known not only as a capital city, but a centre for culture and a seat for learning.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT BIDAR

BY ROAD
Kalaburagi: 120 km
Bengaluru: 720 km

BY RAIL
Bidar

BY AIR
Hyderabad: 136 km

ATTRACTIONS

BIDAR FORT
TAKHAT MAHAL
GAGAN MAHAL
TARKASH MAHAL
RANGIN MAHAL
SHAHI MALBAKH
BAHAMANI TOMBS



JHARANI NARASIMHA
CAVE TEMPLE
SHAHI HAMAM
MADARASA OF
MAHMUD GAWAN
CHAUBARA
NANAK JHIRA SAHIB
BASAVA KALYAN

MYSURU PALACE



All the roads in Mysuru lead to the Mysuru Palace quite literally, thanks to ingenious town planning. The palace is constructed in an Indo-Saracenic style composed of domes, turrets, arches and colonnades. The palace itself is a treasure trove of artworks and exquisite carvings from across the globe. Intricately carved doors lead to opulently furnished rooms, and the Durbar Hall is a spectacle in itself with an ornate ceiling and many sculpted pillars. The Marriage Pavilion is adorned with glazed tile flooring, stained glass windows and domed ceilings. The Residential Museum and several temples and shrines, including the Shwetha Varahaswamy Temple is housed by the walled palace complex. In the month of September/October during the Dasara festival, the magnificent jewel studded golden throne which is the pride of the Wadiyars and the symbol of their sovereignty, is displayed in its full glory. The entirely lit up palace on sundays and public holidays is a magnificent spectacle.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT MYSURU

BY ROAD
Bengaluru: 140km

BY RAIL
Mysuru

BY AIR
Mysuru
Bengaluru: 140km

SRIRANGAPATNA



This was the island fortress of Tipu Sultan and the early capital of the Mysuru Wadiyars and is just 16 km from Mysuru city. Tipu's mosque with its twin minarets, the celebrated Ranganatha Swamy Temple, the Wellesley Bridge and the dungeons where British officers were once imprisoned are the main attractions here. The white domed Gumbaz forms an imposing structure with doors of ebony inlaid with ivory and lacquered with Tipu's tiger striped emblem. About 1 km to the east of the fort is Tipu's Summer Palace, also known as Daria Daulat Bagh which is nestled amidst a beautiful garden.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT MANDYA

BY ROAD
Mysuru: 16 km
Bengaluru: 122 km

BY RAIL
Srirangapatna
Mysuru: 16 km

BY AIR
Bengaluru: 122 km

SOMNATHPUR



Situated in the village of Somnathpur about 35 km away from Mysuru, the star shaped temple which is exquisitely carved with triple towers is a perfect example of Hoysala architecture. The spellbinding friezes that adorn the outer walls feature intricately carved rows of caparisoned elephants, charging horsemen, and mythological beasts and birds.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT MYSURU

BY ROAD
T Narasipur: 10 km
Mysuru: 35 km
Bengaluru: 120 km

BY RAIL
Mysuru: 35 km
Maddur: 60 km

BY AIR
Bengaluru: 120 km

BELUR



Renowned for its magnificent Hoysala temple complex, Belur was one of the capitals of the Hoysala Empire. The Chennakesava Temple built by Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas is a major attraction here. This star shaped temple, believed to have taken 102 years to built with its magnificent 3.7 m tall image of Lord Vijaya Narayana, hand lathe-turned filigreed pillars and sculptures makes for a fine spectacle. It is the only Hoysala temple still in active use for worship. The temple stands on a platform and has exquisite artwork on its outer walls adorned with bracket figures of dancing girls in various poses, carved to perfection. At the entrance facing the temple is a magnificent sculpture of Garuda, Lord Vishnu's carrier, palms touching in pious homage. In front of the shrine is a smooth circular platform that exhibits a fine sculpture of Shanthala Devi, King Vishnuvardhana's queen. Other attractions are the temples of Chennigaraya, Viranarayana, Sridevi and Bhoodevi.

Just outside is the Gravity pillar, a unique 42 feet high pillar carved out of a single rock and stands in its own weight.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT HASSAN

BY ROAD

Hassan: 38 km
Bengaluru: 220 km

BY RAIL

Hassan: 38 km

BY AIR

Mangaluru: 154 km
Bengaluru: 245 km

HALEBEEDU



Halebeedu is the ancient capital of the Hoysalas just 17 km away from Belur. The Hoysaleswara Temple poised on a star shaped base on the lawn is an architectural marvel. Its walls are adorned with intricately carved Hindu deities, sages, stylised animals, birds and friezes depicting the life of Hoysala kings. The Nandimantapa is positioned right in front of the temple and behind it is a shrine dedicated to Surya with a 2 m tall image. Imagery from epics like the Ramayana, Mahabharatha and Bhagavadgeetha adorn the outer walls with highly ornate temple doorways. The Parshwanatha Basadi is a peculiar attraction with highly polished pillars that reflects weird images of the beholder. The temple complex has a museum which houses the idols, statues and sculptures excavated from the ruins.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT HASSAN

BY ROAD
Belur: 17km
Hassan: 27km
Bengaluru: 215km

BY RAIL
Hassan: 27 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru: 168 km
Bengaluru: 245 km



Bengaluru: International Connectivity

| City | Airlines | Duration |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| Abu Dhabi | Etihad Airways | 2 hr 15 min |
| Bangkok | Thai Airways | 3 hr 55 min |
| Colombo | Sri Lankan Airways | 1 hr 25 min |
| Doha | Qatar Airways | 4 hr 05 min |
| Dubai | Emirates | 3 hr 40 min |
| Frankfurt | Lufthansa | 8 hr 30 min |
| Hong Kong | Dragon Air | 5 hr 50 min |
| Jeddah | Saudi Arabian Airlines | 7 hr 40 min |
| Kuala Lumpur | Malaysia Airlines/ Air Asia | 4 hr 00 min |
| London | British Airways | 9 hr 30 min |
| Maldives | Air India | 2 hr 10 min |
| Mauritius | Air Mauritius | 5 hr 50 min |
| Muscat | Oman Air | 3 hr 40 min |
| Paris | Air France | 9 hr 20 min |
| Riyadh | Saudi Arabian Airlines | 5 hr 05 min |
| Sharjah | Air Arabia | 3 hr 35 min |
| Singapore | Singapore Airlines/ Tiger Airways/Silk Air | 4 hr 15 min |

Karnataka Fact File

- Capital : Bengaluru
- Districts : 30
- Languages : Kannada, Tulu, Konkani, Kodava and Hindi. English is also widely spoken
- Religion : Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Jainism and Buddhism
- Currency : Indian Rupee
- Area : 1,91,791 sq. km.
- Population : 61.09 Million (2011 census)
- Time : GMT + 5.30
- Latitude and Longitude : 11° to 18° North, 74° to 78° East
- Temperature : 10° - 40°C (dependent on location and season)
- Rainy season : June - September
- Airports : Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Mysuru and Ballari

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