



### St. Mary's Island

A quaint island just off the coast of Karnataka, St. Mary's Island is an island of white sand beaches, rock monoliths and great wildlife. A 30-minute boat ride away from Malpe Harbour, St. Mary's Island is a geological treasure and hosts some of the most beautiful beaches in the country. Watching the sunset standing on the crystalline rocks is one of the most alluring experiences on the island. St. Mary's Island still bears the cross that was placed by Vasco Da Gama in 1498. It is also a National Geological Monument.

### Padubidri Beach

Let the cool shade of the rows of coconut trees unwind your nerves as you sit and enjoy the breeze from the sea at Padubidri Beach. With its calmness, serenity, cleanliness and security, Padubidri beach is your one-stop destination to relax and have fun. The beach is long and sandy with palm trees lining it. Even if you want a little adventure, Padubidri beach has you covered with numerous activities that include water scooter and banana boat rides. Padubidri end point is another interesting place, where the river meets the sea.

### Maravanthe

Maravanthe wears the look of a fairyland with the picturesque Kodachadri Hills forming a backdrop to the Sauparnika river on one side and miles of unspoilt white sand on the other. The golden sand, clear blue sky, swaying palm trees, and the endless shore make Maravanthe an undoubtedly attractive tourist

destination. Some major tourist attractions in and around the beach are Baindur, a hamlet 45 km from Maravanthe with a lovely beach, Ottinane with its overhanging cliffs and the Belaka Theertha Falls. Water sports at Maravanthe Beach are famous and one of the favorite activities among visitors.

## MANGALURU

### GETTING THERE

By Road: Hassan – 170 km, Karwar – 270 km, Bengaluru – 360 km

By Rail: Mangaluru, Udupi – 60 km

By Air: Mangaluru – 20 km, Calicut (Kerala)– 255 km

Best Season: August to April

The gateway to the Konkan coast and inland Kodagu region, Mangaluru is a maritime city. With its spell-binding beaches, historic temples and churches and the vintage winding streets fringed with coconut palms, Mangaluru is the perfect blend of a relaxed coastal town and a modern metropolis. Mangaluru is virtually a 'melting pot' of cultures and is presently a business and commercial hub.

The ancient 10th Century Mangala Devi Temple, 11th Century Kadri Manjunatha Temple and Someshwara Temple are some of the major attractions that co-exist peacefully with the various mosques and churches. Some of the remarkable mosques in the country such as the Jumma Masjid in Bunder and the Idgah Mosque at Lighthouse hill add to the charm of Mangaluru. The St. Aloysius college chapel with its magnificent biblical frescoes adorning the walls and ceilings and the

Shreemanthi Bai Memorial Government Museum with a collection of antiques are other attractions transport visitors back in time.

Spread over an area of 370 acres comprising of a tropical forest and the enchanting Pilikula Lake, the Pilikula Nisargadhama is a safe haven for nature enthusiasts with boat rides, a zoo and a science center.

Some of the prominent beaches in Mangaluru include Ullal Beach, Surathkal Beach, Panambur Beach, Tannirbhavi Beach, Sasihithlu Beach and Someshwara Beach.

### Panambur Beach

Panambur Beach is located at a distance of 10 Kms from the city of Mangaluru, on the shores of the Arabian Sea. Known to be one of the safest and well-maintained beaches, it is also famous for its dramatic sunset. The beach aura warms up during the carnivals, organized by the district authorities. The festivities include boat races, beach sports and sand sculpture contests. Panambur beach has jet ski rides, boating, dolphin viewing, food stalls, besides trained beach lifeguards and patrol vehicles to ensure the safety of the visitors to the beach.

### Someshwara Beach

Someshwara beach is located in Ullal at the confluence of the Netravati River and the Arabian Sea. The sunset view in Someshwara beach is an unforgettable feast for the eyes and a favourite among photo lovers. The place is dotted with several large rocks with the presence of beautiful hills and lush greenery in its vicinity. These rocks at Someshwar Beach are called Rudra Shile. The spectacular views of the hills and beautiful trees at the time of dawn and dusk are definitely worth watching.

### Tannirbhavi Beach

Tannirbhavi Beach is located around 9 km away from Mangaluru. It is one of those beaches that have trees on them and offers a picturesque landscape. Tannirbhavi beach has some basic facilities like life guards, proper toilets, a parking lot, a couple of small eateries and concrete benches. One can sit under the green trees and lose track of time while enjoying the scenic beauty of the place.

### Ullal Beach

Stretched out in a hue of blue and green, Ullal Beach is one of the most serene and calm beach in Karnataka. Set in about 14 acres of casuarinas groves, the beach offers a breathtaking view during sunset. Primarily a fishing village, Ullal tells tales of a courageous Queen, Abbakka, who repulsed a Portuguese attack near the city, killing two naval commanders and 200 Portuguese seamen in the early 1600s.

### Surathkal Beach

Located 15 km north of Ullal, Surathkal Beach, on the shores of Arabian Sea, is a clean beach with tremendous scenic beauty. The beach has a curving shoreline and a lighthouse at the end of the beach. A steep path connects the lighthouse to the historic Sadashiva Temple.

### Sasihithlu Beach

Veer to the left on NH 66 at Mukka and take the less-trodden road for about 6 km to reach Sasihithlu Beach. The beach has stunning white sand adding to the beauty of it and is indeed a picturesque location to admire. The cool breeze and the silent waves are truly splendid and relaxing. Sasihithlu Beach marks the confluence of Arabian sea and two rivers which are Nandini and Shambhavi. The virgin beach is hidden away from the crowd, making it an idyllic place to enjoy and rekindle the joy of being a kid again.

### Mulki

Mulki is located around 30 km from Mangaluru. This quaint beach is famous for water sports, especially surfing. It is home to one of the few surfing training centres in India. Mulki is a safe haven for international and domestic tourists interested in surfing and other water activities like wakeboarding, stand-up paddle boards, kayaking, snorkeling, and Yoga lessons.



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**COASTAL  
KARNATAKA**

AN OCEAN OF PLEASURE

## Coastal Karnataka

Travelling along the Karnataka coastline is a soul-stirring journey with its share of tan and konkan fish fries. The 320 km long coastline of Karnataka is dotted with pristine beaches and scores of antiquated temples. Caressed by the mighty Arabian Sea on the west and flanked by the soaring Western Ghats on the east, the inviting beaches in coastal Karnataka spell the ultimate in relaxation and scenic beauty. Besides the alluring beaches, coastal Karnataka is also popular for its range of ancient temples with a long-standing history.

### KARWAR

#### GETTING THERE

By road: Panaji (Goa) – 105 km

By rail: Karwar – 7 km

By air: Dabolim (Goa) – 90 km

Hubballi – 170 km; Bengaluru – 537 km

Best season: September to mid-May

Karwar has all the characteristics of a perfect seaside holiday destination. With gentle silver waves and miles of golden sand, Karwar is a breeze to navigate through, with captivating landscapes ringed with rugged hill ranges and mysterious valleys. Inspired by the rich variety of expressions, the great Indian writer and Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore penned his first play, Prakritir Pratishodh (Nature's Revenge), at this paradise, marking the beginning of a glorious literary journey. Other major historic attractions include the unique Octagonal Church, the Sadashivgad Hill Fort with a Durga Temple, a 300-year-old Venkatrama Temple with ochre paintings and the Naganatha Temple, where an ant hill is worshipped.



### Kurumgad

Kurumgad is 4 km from the mainland. Every year in early January, this tortoise-shaped island attracts thousands of devotees during the annual jatra held on Pushya Purnima. Renowned for the hilltop Narasimha Temple, Kurumgad is steeped in history with remnants of forts and ports for cannons. There are palm trees along the coastline and the sight of the grey sea is simply soothing for the eyes. Famous for water sports, this is a renowned snorkeling site with a host of other activities such as trekking, diving, fishing, dolphin- and seal-spotting and guided tours. The island offers a breathtaking view of the seas and the neighboring islands.

There are five mesmerising islands off the coast of Karwar, and Devbagh is the most charming among them. Apart from Devbagh beach, other prominent beaches include Rabindranath Tagore Beach, Majali Beach, Binaga Beach and Koodi Bagh Beach.

### Rabindranath Tagore Beach

Surrounded by rocky hills and lined with innumerable trees, the beach is an ideal place to unwind. Located in the heart of the city, one can spend the evening on the beach witnessing the beautiful sunset which is a great way to relax. The beach is also the venue for a number of cultural activities, including the famous Karavali Utsav, which is held every year in the month of October. A paramooring experience awaits those who want to roam the skies and get a bird's eye view of the coastal town,

### Devbagh Beach

Devbagh beach is really a perfect getaway for tourists searching for privacy as well as calm. It is famous for the golden sands and cool breeze, and provides adventure sports enthusiasts with a variety of water sports such as snorkeling and kayaking. Once can enjoy the vastness of the Arabian Sea and the beauty of the dense forests of Western Ghats at the same time. It is also famous for the delicious seafood and other local cuisines.

### Majali Beach

Majali Beach is located at Majali Village, which is a small coastal town that lies on the northern tip of coastal Karnataka. Apart from its scenic beauty, this beach is popular for its delicious local coastal cuisine. There is a lake situated close by, where activities like kayaking, fishing, and rowing can be enjoyed. This beach also provides magnificent views of the setting sun.

### Binaga Beach

Known for its exquisite beauty and widespread seashore, Binaga Beach is about 5 km from Karwar. The beach is covered by green hilltops on three sides and offers clean and calm atmosphere for the visitors. The famous



'Our Lady of St Anne's Church' lies on the Binaga Beach, which was built by the Portuguese. It is a mile away from Anjidiv Island near the Goa-Karnataka border.

### Koodi Bagh Beach

Koodi Bagh Beach is located at the confluence of the Kali River and the Arabian Sea, at a distance of 4.5 km from Karwar. This beach is very clean and is a perfect destination for adventure lovers. For thrill-seekers, the beach affords water sports like canoeing, kayaking and banana boat ride. Adding to the beautiful beach, its shoreline, the river, the rocks and the lush coconut trees, Koodi Bagh also has a small forest behind it. This beach boasts of the most gorgeous shoreline in the entire state.

### GOKARNA

#### GETTING THERE

By Road: Karwar – 60km; Bengaluru – 480km

By Rail: Ankola – 20km; Kumta – 32km

By Air: Dabolim (Goa) – 150km; Hubballi – 168km

Bengaluru – 500km

Best Season: Throughout the year

With its several stretches of blissful coast, Gokarna is a regular nominee among travellers' favourite beaches in India. With its narrow streets and undisturbed culture, this unassuming town has grown into a paradise for Hindu pilgrims, beach buffs and Sanskrit scholars alike. Loosely translated as 'cow's ear', the village is formed by the ear shaped confluence of two rivers. Adjacent to the beaches is the sacred Hindu pilgrim town of Gokarna, teeming with ancient temples that come to life during important festivals such as Shivaratri and Ganesh Chaturthi.

Apart from its famed beaches and the Centre for Sanskrit Learning, it is home to the ancient temple of Mahabaleshwara with its Atmalinga, the Venkatramana Temple, the Ganapati Temple, and the Koti Theertha,

a large temple tank where pilgrims perform their ablutions.

The prominent beaches of Gokarna include Om Beach, Gokarna Beach, Kudle Beach, Half Moon beach and Paradise Beach.

### Om Beach

One of the five acclaimed beaches in Gokarna, Om Beach takes the shape of an 'Om', a Hindu spiritual symbol. In the shape of two crescents joined together to form an Om, the beach offers a breathtaking view of the sunset. The long stretch of white sandy beach adjoining the rocky terrain appeals to travellers from around the world.

### Kudle Beach

One of the most popular beaches in Gokarna, Kudle Beach lies between the main beach of Gokarna and Om beach. With a wonderful spread of greenery, the long stretches of sand looks quite lovely during the season. Filled with beach bums, volleyball lovers, musicians playing by the sea and backpackers lazing around, the beach is a perfect getaway for a relaxing vacation.

### Half Moon Beach

Half Moon beach is the third beach on the Gokarna town coastline. It can only be accessed by hiking or by motor boats that ply from Om beach. The hiking trail along the coast is narrow with hills on the left and deep blue sea to the right. The beach has plenty of rocks and a small patch of sparkling clean sand. The view of the sea coast from the hill is just breathtaking.



### Paradise Beach

Paradise beach is also known as full moon beach. There is no road connectivity to paradise beach and the easiest way is to board a motor boat from Om Beach or Half Moon Beach. A 20 minute hike from Half Moon beach is another great option. Almost 70% of the beach is covered in rocks and the remaining section has clean white sand. This beach is completely cut off from civilization and is an ideal place for camping.

### MURUDESHWARA

#### GETTING THERE

By Road: Bhatkal – 16 km

By Rail: Bhatkal – 16 km, Mangaluru – 156 km

By Air: Mangaluru – 137 km

Best Season: October to May

A popular pilgrimage town, Murudeshwara is a paradise for the lovers of solitude. The beachside hillocks offer perfect views of silver waves crashing on the rocks and inspire moments of introspection in visitors. Murudeshwara is another name of the Hindu God Shiva and the temple here has one of the tallest statues of him.

The Murudeshwara beach that stretches for a few kilometers north of the temple is a popular picnic spot. With silvery sands and the Western Ghats as a backdrop, it is a sight to look at.



### UDUPI

#### GETTING THERE

By Road: Mangaluru- 60km, Bengaluru – 400km

By Rail: Udupi, Mangaluru – 60km

By Air: Mangaluru – 60km

Best Season: August to March

Udupi greets its visitors with its rustic charm, breeze and a whiff of the ever popular Udupi cuisine. But this town is at its best during the Hindu festivals when pilgrims from all over the country gather to celebrate them with ceremonies, fireworks, and chariot and elephant processions. Udupi is renowned for the famous Sri Krishna Temple, which houses the most exquisite idol of Lord Krishna. Udupi is home to many seaside wonders like Malpe, Marvanthe, Kaup, Padubidri Beach and St Marys Island, Malpe

The Malpe Beach is a virgin beach, located at a distance of 66 kms from Mangaluru and about 6 kms from Udupi. It is an important port and a fishing harbor in the state of Karnataka. The beach has a never-ending coastline, which is surrounded by three rocky islands on the western side. The clean white sand and pleasant weather makes it ideal for a variety of water sports activities. This beautiful beach is lined with palm trees and covered with a blue sky that paints a perfect picture for nature lovers.

### Kaup

Situated 12 km south of Udupi, Kaup's long sandy beaches offer a panoramic view of the Arabian Sea. With its tropical climate and a bevy of attractions that beckon tourists from across the country, Kaup is predominantly known for its greenery that surrounds the beach. One of the main attractions of the Kaup beach is the old 100 ft. lighthouse. Other must-see spots in Kaup include the two temples of Goddess Mariamma and the Jain Basadis.