



A WORLD OF WATERFALLS

The southern districts of Karnataka are peppered with majestic cascades as the rivers plunge over scenic hill sides in their rush to reach the Arabian Sea. Some of the most dramatic falls include Jog Falls (830 ft), Magod Falls (650 ft), Hebbe Falls (250 ft) and the mighty Unchalli Falls (381 ft).

MUST SEE
 Jog Falls, Shivamogga | Shivanasamudra Falls, Mandya | Abbey Falls, Coorg | Iruppu Falls, Coorg | Hebbe Falls, Chikkamagaluru | Kalhatti Falls, Chikkamagaluru | Magod Falls, Uttara Kannada | Unchalli Falls, Uttara Kannada | Lalguli Falls, Uttara Kannada | and Sathodi Falls, Uttara Kannada.

A WORLD OF DIVINITY

Karnataka, as we have already seen, is famous for its architectural heritage and a massive portion of this space is occupied by its many shrines, temples, mosques, churches and Jain temples. At these wonders, legend blends freely into history and vice versa - giving them an evocative ambience and cultural significance. Karnataka's divine sensibilities entrances pilgrims and tourists alike as they experience the enigmatic Indian philosophies in all its architectural, religious, cultural and historical glory.

MUST SEE
 Dharmasthala, Murudeshwar, Udupi, Shravanabelagola, Sringeri, Melkote, Venur, Inam Dattatreya Peetha, Talacauvery.

A WORLD OF FESTIVITIES

Karnataka outshines it's contemporaries in its exuberance in celebrating life in all its infinite varieties. There are numerous carnivals and festivals exclusive to the state, all of which resonate with colour and merriment. Every major hamlet, town and city has its own calendar of events to be celebrated.

MUST SEE
 Dasara, Hampi Festival, Pattadakal Dance Festival, Tula Sankramana, Vairamudi Festival, Kambala, Karaga, Kadalekayi Parishe, Huthri, Vasantha Habba, Chalukya Utsav, Banashankari Fair, Maha Mastakabhisheka of Lord Bahubali.



Karnataka
 One state. Many worlds.
 Department of Tourism



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-  Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation
 Tel: 080-4334 4334 www.kstddc.co
-  Jungle Lodges & Resorts
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STARK.BIR



KARNATAKA
 EXPLORE THE MANY
 WORLDS WITHIN

Karnataka

A vibrant wildlife mingles with magnificent history, which again merges with a vivid culture and blend them together with majestic architecture - you just begin to get an idea of what Karnataka has to offer a discerning visitor. With a repertoire fit to satiate the wanderlust of any kind of traveller, be it a thirst for adventure or an appetite for nature or even a longing for romance, Karnataka will fill the heart of all those who venture into its welcoming arms.



EXPERIENCE BENGALURU

The 'Garden City' of India is situated at an altitude of 949 m above sea level on the Deccan Plateau, giving it a salubrious climate all year round. Together with numerous public parks, greenery filled avenues and a generous helping of flowering trees, Bengaluru promises a jovial time for all those who visit. The bustling cosmopolitan city hides behind it a sedate past as a British cantonment and its transformation through the years is extraordinary. A rich cultural heritage, historic monuments, handicrafts sales, antique and silk stores, wildlife safaris, amusement parks, golf courses, resorts, discotheques and perfect weekend getaways are some of the luxuries that Bengaluru can offer to its visitors. Bengaluru also has the distinction of being the largest exporter of flowers to cities across the world.



A WORLD OF HERITAGE

Karnataka is often referred to as the 'Cradle of Stone Architecture' in India owing to its immense wealth of heritage sites and monuments. The exquisite World Heritage Sites at Hampi, and Pattadakal, the magnificent temples of Badami and Aihole, the imposing forts, domes and minarets of Bijapur are all testament to the exemplary culture and history of the state.

MUST SEE

Hampi - World Heritage Site, Pattadakal - World Heritage Site, Aihole, Badami, Bijapur, Chitradurga fort, Belur, Halebeedu, Kittur Chennamma Fort, Gulbarga Fort, Bidar Fort, Bellary Fort, Srirangapatna, Mysuru and Bengaluru.

A WORLD OF WILDLIFE

Karnataka is home to some of the largest and most diverse areas of unspoiled ecosystems south of the Vindhyas. The state has been blessed with a wide variety of flora and fauna such as the tropical rainforests of the Western Ghats to the scrub forests of the plains. Some of these jungles belonged to various rulers of the region and have been protected from encroachment as a result, while others have been preserved for their importance to the native populace.

MUST SEE

Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, B R Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Kokkerebellur Pelicanry, Kaggaladu Heronry, Bannerghatta National Park, Anshi National Park, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Gudavi Bird Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary, Kudremukh National Park, Dubare Elephant Camp.

A WORLD OF ADVENTURE

A long and largely pristine coastline, lofty peaks of the Western Ghats, expansive water bodies, multitudes of rivers, Karnataka offers all kinds of terrain for the thrill seekers to indulge in a host of outdoor activities on land, air and water.

MUST EXPERIENCE

White Water Rafting - Dandeli, Coorg | Other Water Sports - Honnermaradu, Gokarna, Karwar, Marawanthe, Devbagh | Aero Sports - Nandi Hills, Bengaluru's Hebbal Lake, Chikkamagaluru | Trekking - Chikkamagaluru, Coorg, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, Hassan | Rock Climbing - Yana, Ramnagar, Hampi, Badami



A WORLD OF ROMANCE

A unique topography owing to the Western Ghats and the Deccan plateau has presented Karnataka with several lesser known hill stations. Blessed with breathtaking views overlooking dense forests, deep valleys and heavenly sunsets, each of these hill stations offer ideal settings for many a love story.

MUST SEE

Coorg, Chikkamagaluru, Agumbe, Kundadri, B R Hills and the Nandi Hills.

A WORLD OF FLAVOURS

Karnataka's culinary range encompasses the earthy flavours of Northern Karnataka, sumptuous spreads of the South, spicy seafood delicacies of the coastal region, the truly distinct Kodava cuisine, and the famous 'Bijapur Biryani' - a rice dish made from a mixture of spices, saffron, Basmati rice, meat and yogurt. The all encompassing favourite of rural Karnataka is the Ragi (steam-cooked finger millet) rolled into large balls and served with either mutton or vegetable curry.

STYLE OF CUISINES

Kodagu, Malnad, North Karnataka, Mangaluru, Udupi and Traditional Fare.

A WORLD OF COASTLINES

Karnataka boasts a 320 km long coastline composed of pristine beaches and scores of antiquated temples. The expansive coastline is flanked on the west by the imposing Western Ghats and nuzzled by the massive Arabian Sea.

MUST SEE

Karwar, Gokarna, Murudeshwar, Kaup, Malpe, Mangaluru and St. Mary's Island.



A WORLD OF ART FORMS

Dance and song is a staple in the Karnataka lifestyle. First and foremost, Karnataka is a land of vibrant culture, stirring music and vivid colours. Mostly revolving around mythology, hunting, harvesting and burial rites, the state's collective tastefulness is reflected in its many art forms such as Yakshagana, Bombe Aata (Puppetry), Bootha Aradhane, Krishna Parijatha, Nagamandala and the various Kunithas.

MUST SEE

Yakshagana, Togalu Bombe Aata, Bhootha Aradhane, Nagamandala, Mysuru Bharatanatyam, Kamsale, Krishna Parijatha, Dollu Kunitha, Puja Kunitha, Devare Thatte Kunitha, Yellamma Kunitha and Suggi Kunitha.

A WORLD OF PALACES - MYSURU

Although Mysuru is the former capital city of the state, it still retains its stature as the leading centre of traditional arts and crafts, music, dance, and literature. A beautiful blend of old-world charm and modern sensibilities, Mysuru is known for its magnificent palaces, imposing architectural structures, alluring gardens, and tree lined avenues. It also retains its reputation as the best place to shop for the finest quality silk, sandalwood artifacts and antiques.