



Hampi – a UNESCO World Heritage Site

# TREASURES OF KARNATAKA

A 14 DAY CULTURAL TOUR VISITING:  
BANGALORE, HAMPI, HASSAN, COORG AND MYSORE  
ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS ARE SUPERIOR AND STANDARD

Karnataka is India's 8<sup>th</sup> largest State by area [75,000 square miles] and 9<sup>th</sup> largest by population [60 million]. It is in south India and is bordered by Goa and Maharashtra to the north, Andhra Pradesh to the east and Tamil Nadu and Kerala to the south and west.

The history of Karnataka can be traced to the Palaeolithic period but in relatively recent times the Hoysalas came to power around the turn of the first millennium and their legacy is the magnificent temples at Belur and Halebidu, near Hassan. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Karnataka was ruled by the Nizam of Hyderabad in the north and by Tipu Sultan in the south. Tipu fought many successful battles against the British, but Karnataka was finally absorbed into the Raj.

Karnataka has a rich diversity of flora and fauna. It has a large forested area of almost 15,000 square miles. It also has 25 wildlife sanctuaries of which seven are bird sanctuaries. Many of these are in the mountainous spice growing region known as Coorg.

## TREASURES OF KARNATAKA ITINERARY

Day 1 – you will be met at Bangalore airport by your Ellison Roberts guide who will have a paging board with your name on it. Transfer by A/C car to your hotel [the superior option is The Paul – standard is The Laika]. The rest of your day is at leisure.

Day 2 – today, after breakfast, you will begin your cultural tour of Bangalore. Now officially known as Bengaluru, it is the capital of the State of Karnataka and, with an estimated population of 5.4 million, it is the third most populous city in India. Among the attractions on your guided tour of the city are: Lal Bagh, the botanical garden; Bangalore Palace and Tipu Sultan’s summer palace.

Day 3 – today after breakfast you will be driven by A/C car to Hampi. This is a 6 hour drive on reasonable roads. Lunch will be taken en-route and stops for tea taken as and when you wish. Hampi is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is an important religious centre housing the Virupaksha Temple. There are no hotels in Hampi and accommodation is located 8 km away in Hospet. Here the only decent hotel is The Malligi. It is rated by us as standard. You will arrive in the mid afternoon and the rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 4 - today you will visit Hampi and your guide will explain the rich history and archeology of the site and the many artefacts that remain, including the many larger than life size stone carvings of gods. You will also visit Hampi Bazaar. Lunch will be taken and in the afternoon you will visit the Vijayavithala temple and see the famous stone chariot. Later, return to your hotel in Hospet.

The stone chariot



Day 5 - today after breakfast you will be driven by A/C car to Hassan and your hotel is the Hoysala Village Resort. The drive is approximately 5 hours and the roads are of variable quality. You will arrive in the mid afternoon and the rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 6 – today you will visit the architectural marvels of the Hoysala temples at Belur and Halebid. First the Chennakesava Temple which remains in active worship and later the Hoysaleswara Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Completed in the 10<sup>th</sup> century it is one of the largest in south India and it is justly famous for its sculptures and carved stone friezes. Your guide will explain the history of the temples and the Hoysala dynasty. Later return to your hotel.

Day 7 - today after an early breakfast you will be driven for 1 hours by A/C car to Svrnabegola. This small temple town is famous for the massive statue of the Jain Saint Gommateshwara. The reason for the early start that to see the statue, which stands over 50ft tall, you must ascend 600 steps and it is better to do this in the cool of the morning rather than the heat of the day. It is quite a stiff climb, to be taken slowly, but well worth it.



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Carved from a single block of stone it is the largest monolith in India

After Svrnabegola you will drive on to Coorg. This area in the Western Ghats is known as 'the Scotland of India' and the lakes and misty mountains make this quite apt. Coorg is the spice growing region and here you will pass through plantations of coffee, pepper, vanilla and cardamom and through many small villages where traditional agricultural methods prevail.

Your hotel is the Orange County and here the superior option is a private pool villa. The standard option is a County Cottage.

Days 8, 9, 10 – at leisure at Orange County. Here there is as much or as little to do as you please. The hotel is very well equipped with swimming pool, restaurants and shop. Activities from the hotel include: plantation walks, nature walks, bird watching and river rafting.



Day 11 - today after breakfast you will be driven for 3 hours by A/C car to Mysore and the Windflower Spa Hotel.

Mysore was, until 1947, the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore and the seat of the Wodeyar dynasty. The Wodeyars were patrons of the arts and your two days in the city will be filled with evidence of their rich patronage.

Day 12 - Your guide will explain the history of Mysore and your visits will include Mysore Palace, the Brindavan gardens, the Museum of Natural History and Srirangapatna where Tipu Sultan had his palaces.



Mysore Palace

Day 13 – today you will return [3 hours] to Bangalore. You can take the opportunity to go shopping on MG Road and visit one or more of the Malls for which Bangalore is famous.

Day 14 – at the appropriate time you will be taken to the airport for your return flight to the UK.



Hoysaleswara Temple

#### TREASURES OF KARNATAKA PRICES:

Using Option 1 – superior rooms throughout	£1,685 per person [when two share]
Single supplement	£ 615
Using Option 2 – standard rooms throughout	£1,435 per person [when two share]
Single supplement	£ 475
Peak season supplement* Opt 1	£ 665
Peak season supplement* Opt 2	£ 470

[15 December – 25 February]\*

Web links to the accommodation used in this itinerary:

<http://www.thepaul.in/thepaul/index1.html?gclid=CISpitKy5ZYCFQeO1QodvV5VPg>

<http://www.anantara.in/laikarestaurants.htm>

<http://www.malligihotels.com/home.html>

[http://www.trailsindia.com/cottage.asp?cottage\\_ID=13](http://www.trailsindia.com/cottage.asp?cottage_ID=13)

<http://www.orangecounty.in/coorg/home.php?gclid=C12jsKaz5ZYCFRMvHgod9yqnPQ>

<http://www.thewindflower.com/>

For more information or to discuss booking this itinerary please contact us:

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