



Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.
Department of Tourism

Incredible
charm,
timeless
splendour





A fascinating melange of cultures, unique flavours and beautiful landscapes, Karnataka opens up a world full of surprises! Steeped in rich history, art and culture, the state is home to three World Heritage Sites, over 740 unique protected monuments, temples and palaces, five National Parks and 27 Wildlife Sanctuaries. The Western Ghats in Karnataka is one among the 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity in the world. With 320 kilometres of unspoilt beaches, 17 hill stations and 40 waterfalls, Karnataka is a land of unparalleled scenic beauty. And what's more, it boasts of India's most cosmopolitan city, Bengaluru. So, get ready to explore Karnataka, the land of natural and historical wonders!



Hampi: Relive the splendour of a lost world.

**WORLD'S LARGEST
OPEN-AIR MUSEUM**

Hampi is a grand, mesmerizing spectacle. Spanning over an area of 26 sq.km., Hampi comprises the remnants of the capital city of the powerful Vijayanagara Empire (14th – 16th century CE) of South India. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hampi is a remarkable specimen of Vijayanagara architecture, with over 1600 remnants that mainly include forts, temples, shrines, pillared halls, Mandapas, memorial structures, gateways, defence check posts, stables and water structures. Explore Hampi and rediscover the glory of a bygone era.



Getting There
District: **Ballari**

By road:	By rail:	By air:
Hospet - 12 km	Hospet - 12 km	Ballari - 74 km
Hubballi - 210 km	Dabolim (Goa) - 300 km	Bengaluru - 360 km
Bengaluru - 315 km		



Pattadakal: A splendid architectural marvel

**THE ERSTWHILE
CORONATION CENTRE OF
THE CHALUKYAN KINGS**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, located on the banks of the Malaprabha River, Pattadakal is renowned for its intricately chiselled temples. The temples bear testimony to the richness and timeless splendour of the Chalukyan architecture. It has a cluster of 10 major temples, which showcase some striking architectural features. 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, dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, has a huge gateway, several inscriptions, and a profusion of friezes from the epics. The Sangameshwara Temple, built during the reign of King Vijayaditya (696-733 AD), is the earliest temple.

Getting There
District: **Bagalkot**

By road:
Aihole: 22 km
Badami: 22 km
Bengaluru: 495 km

By rail:
Badami: 22 km

By air:
Hubbali: 122 km
Dabolim (Goa): 290 km



Badami: Magnificence unparalleled

**FAMOUS FOR ITS
ROCK-CUT TEMPLES
BUILT IN RED SANDSTONE**

Situated at the mouth of a ravine between two rocky hills, Badami is known for its four ancient rock-cut caves replete with intricately carved pillars and exquisite sculptures, all hewn out of red sandstone. The largest of the caves, the third one, is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Feast your eyes on the stunning sculpture of the 18-armed Nataraja, portrayed in 81 distinct dance poses, in the first cave. The Badami caves overlook the Agastya Theertha Tank, its banks dotted with a cluster of Bhoothanatha temples.

Getting There
District: **Bagalkot**

By road:
Hubbali: 110 km
Bengaluru: 480 km

By rail:
Badami

By air:
Hubbali: 110 km
Dabolim (Goa): 290 km





Aihole: A Remarkable Chalukyan Architecture

**THE CRADLE OF
HINDU TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE**

Once the capital of the Chalukya Dynasty, Aihole is an absolute delight for archaeology lovers. Aihole's landscape is dotted with over 125 temples; needless to say, the temples are an exemplary specimen of rock-cut architecture. Discover the splendid heritage and architectural brilliance of Aihole.



Getting There
District: **Bagalkot**

By road:
Badami: 44 km
Bengaluru: 495 km

By rail:
Badami: 44 km

By air:
Hubbali: 132 km
Dabolim (Goa): 320 km



Hassan: Hoysala architecture at its best

**SOME OF THE WORLD'S
BEST STONE FRIEZES**

The twin temple towns of Belur and Halebeedu in Hassan are renowned for their unique Hoysala style of temple architecture. The massive, intricately carved temples, famous for their architectural grandeur, attract admirers from across the world.

Getting There
District: **Hassan**

By road:
Hassan – 38 km
Bengaluru – 220 km

By rail:
Hassan – 38 km

By air:
Mangaluru – 154 km
Bengaluru – 245 km



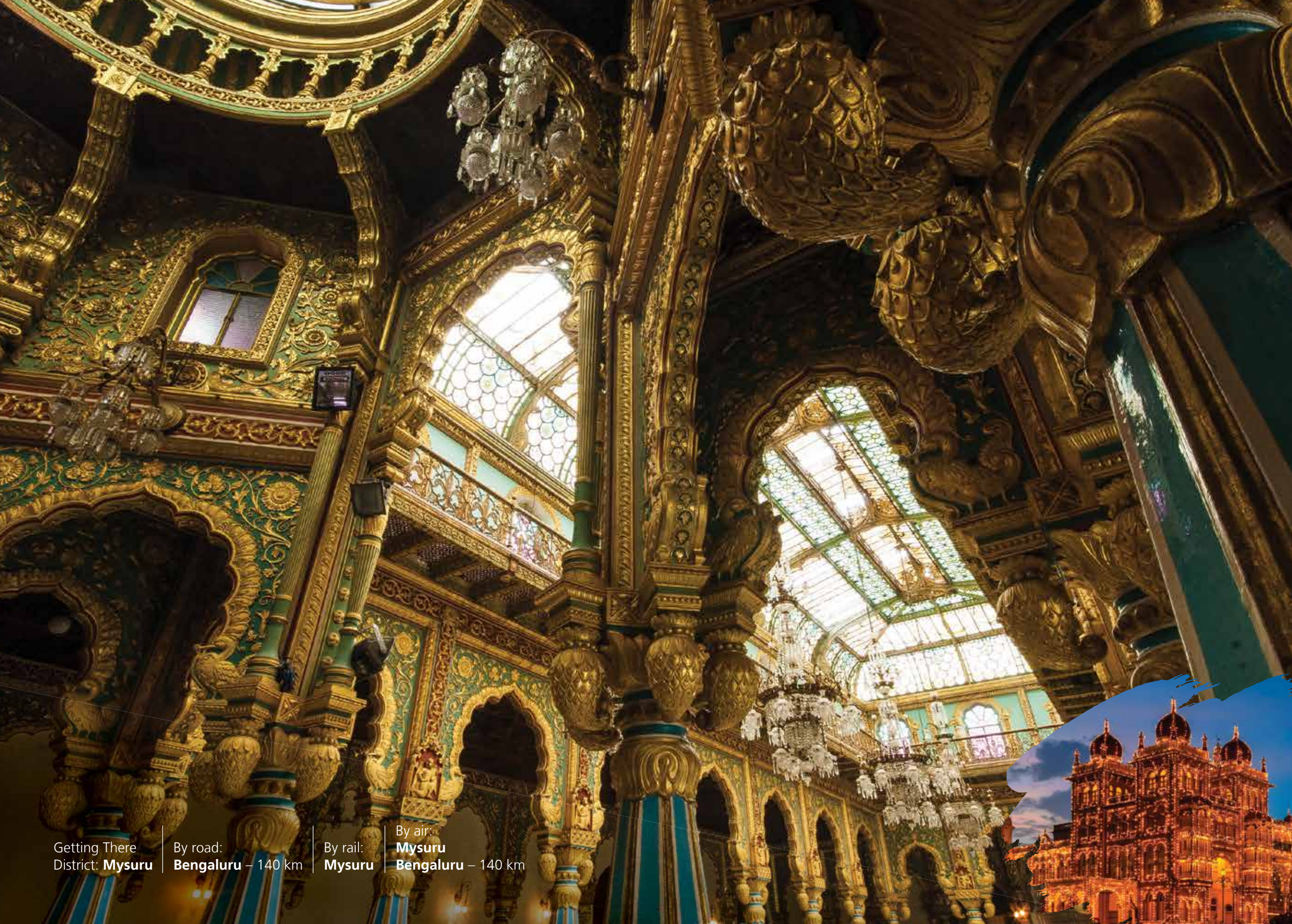


Getting There
District: **Hassan**

By road:
Belur: 17 km
Hassan: 27 km
Bengaluru: 215 km

By rail:
Hassan – 27 km

By air:
Mangaluru – 168 km
Bengaluru – 245 km



Mysuru Palace: An Ode to Royalty and Grandeur

**INDIA'S MOST VISITED
PALACE**

The Mysuru Palace is an epitome of royalty and magnificence. Constructed in 1912 in the Indo-Saracenic style of architecture, the Mysuru Palace is composed of domes, turrets, arches and colonnades and is the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty. The Palace now hosts the world-renowned Dasara festival. 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. The entirely lit up palace on sundays and public holidays is nothing short of a magnificent spectacle.

Getting There
District: **Mysuru**

By road:
Bengaluru – 140 km

By rail:
Mysuru

By air:
Mysuru
Bengaluru – 140 km





Lord Gomateshwara: Colossal magic

**ASIA'S LARGEST
MONOLITHIC STATUE**

Constructed in 980 AD, the massive monolithic statue of Lord Gomateshwara at Shravanabelagola would leave you in awe. The 57 ft tall statue, carved out of a single block of granite, stands atop a hill and is visible up to 30 km away. During the Mahamastakabhisheka Festival, held once in 12 years, the gigantic statue is anointed with milk, curd, ghee, saffron and gold coins.

By road:

Hassan – 52 km

Halebeedu – 82 km

Belur – 93 km

Bengaluru – 148 km

By rail:

Shravanabelagola

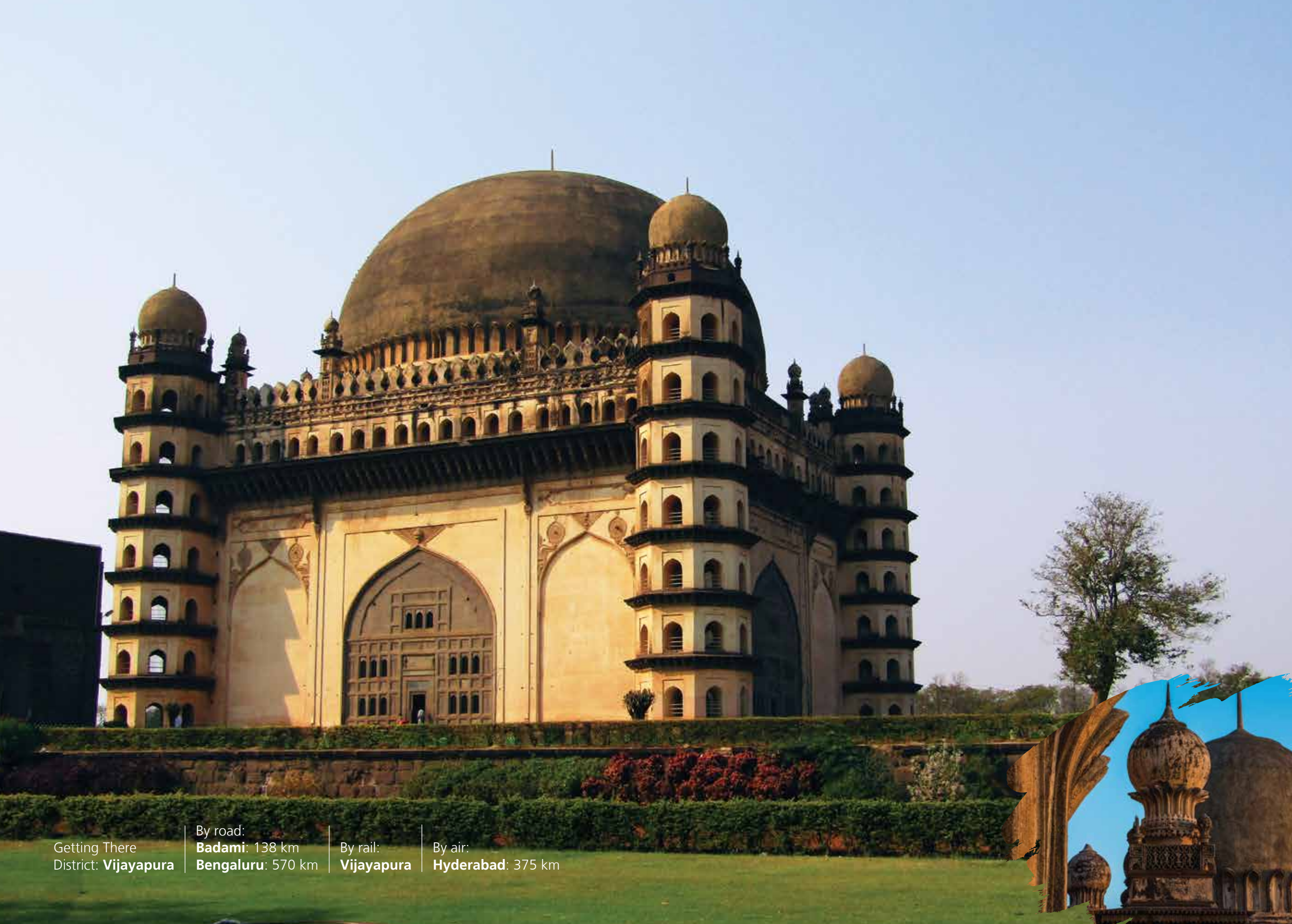
Channarayapatna – 12 km

Hassan – 52 km

By air:

Bengaluru – 190 km

Getting There
District: **Hassan**



Gol Gumbaz: An Indo-Islamic architectural wonder

**THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST
UNSUPPORTED DOME**

The magnificent Gol Gumbaz captivates you with its architectural brilliance; the structure is reminiscent of the art of the erstwhile Adil Shahi kings who ruled the region. A prominent feature of the monument is the majestic dome; it is the world's second largest dome unsupported by pillars. Yet another highlight is the Whispering Gallery, where even the smallest whisper gets amplified and heard from side to side. Even a single loud clap is distinctly echoed over ten times.

Getting There
District: **Vijayapura**

By road:
Badami: 138 km
Bengaluru: 570 km

By rail:
Vijayapura

By air:
Hyderabad: 375 km

Malik-e-Maidan: Meet the Lord of the Battlefield

ONE OF THE LARGEST CANNONS
OF THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

Malik-e-Maidan is one of the largest surviving bell metal cannons in the world. The 4.5 m long cannon, mounted in Vijayapura (Bijapur) by Muhammad Adil Shah, weighs about 5,500 kg. The head of the cannon is designed in the shape of a lion whose jaws are trying to devour an elephant. According to legends, it is believed that if you touch the gun and make a wish, it will come true.

Getting There
District: **Vijayapura**

By road:
Badami: 138 km
Bengaluru: 570 km

By rail:
Vijayapura

By air:
Hyderabad: 375 km





Ibrahim Roza: An Inspiration for the Taj Mahal

**ONE OF THE SUPREME ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE ADIL SHAHI DYNASTY**

The mausoleum of Ibrahim Adil Shah II, a massive mosque and tomb in Vijayapura is truly impressive. It has two buildings standing on a common platform and is supported by intricately carved arches and enclosed by gardens on three sides.

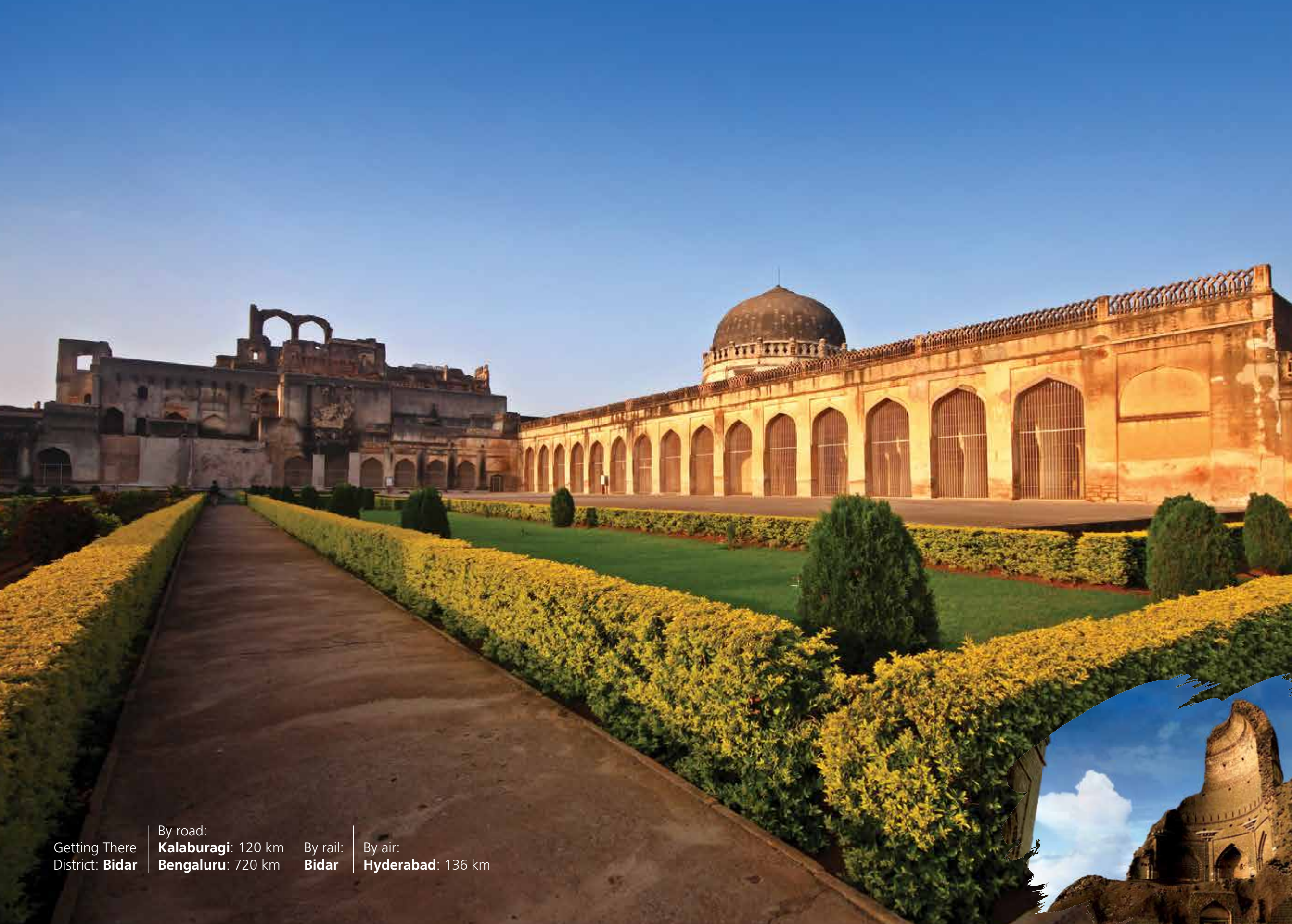
Getting There
District: **Vijayapura**

By road:
Badami: 138 km
Bengaluru: 570 km

By rail:
Vijayapura

By air:
Hyderabad: 375 km





Bidar Fort: A journey into a glorious past.

**AN EXEMPLARY SPECIMEN OF
PERSIAN ARCHITECTURE**

Regarded as one of the most formidable forts in the country, Bidar Fort comprises two forts - one protecting the city and the other, a citadel fort defending the royal palaces. The city fort has five large entrances. Of these, the Gumbaz Darwaza rises to 45 feet and has 22 ft thick walls; needless to say, it's truly awe-inspiring! Bastions, cannons and secret passages enhance the charm of this medieval fort.

Getting There
District: **Bidar**

By road:	Kalaburagi: 120 km	By rail:	By air:
	Bengaluru: 720 km	Bidar	Hyderabad: 136 km



Western Ghats: The Green Gold of India

**ONE OF THE 34 BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS
FOR CONSERVATION IN THE PLANET**

Recognized as one of the world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the forests of the Western Ghats include some of the best representatives of non-equatorial tropical evergreen forests anywhere and are home to over 325 globally threatened species of flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish. The Western Ghats traverses approximately 1,600 km through the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Around 45% of the protected habitats, the largest proportion within the Western Ghats, are located in Karnataka. As per the estimates, over 38% of flowering plants and around 54% of tree species in the Western Ghats are endemic. Among the various species of fauna, 78% amphibians, 62% reptiles, 53% fish, 12% mammals and 4% birds found here are endemic.

Major tourist attractions along the western ghats and getting there

District: **Chamarajnar**

By road:
Bengaluru - 180 km

By rail:
Mysuru - 65 km

By air:
Bengaluru - 220 km

District: **Chikkamagaluru**

By road:
Bengaluru - 235 km

By rail:
Mangaluru - 150 km

By air:
Mangaluru - 150 km
Bengaluru - 275 km

District: **Coorg**

By road:
Mysuru - 120 km
Mangaluru - 136 km
Bengaluru - 260 km

By rail:
Mangaluru - 136 km

By air:
Mangaluru - 136 km
Bengaluru - 300 km

District: **Shivamogga**

By road:
Hubbali - 210 km
Bengaluru - 300 km

By rail:
Shivamogga

By air:
Hubbali - 210 km
Bengaluru - 330 km





Nagarahole Gear up for a Rendezvous with the Wild!

**HOME TO THE LARGEST HERD OF
ASIATIC ELEPHANTS IN THE WORLD**

It's time for a wild encounter! Situated between the Mysuru plateau in Karnataka and the Nilgiri Mountains of Tamil Nadu, Nagarahole is a 643.39 sq km. sanctuary that is home to an abundant variety of wildlife. A major hub of conservation under Project Tiger and Project Elephant, the sanctuary is host to the largest herd of Asiatic elephants and innumerable species of birds, flora and fauna including large predators, reptiles, gaur, deer, bears and smaller animals.

Getting There
District: **Mysuru**

By road:
Mysuru – 94 km
Bengaluru – 234 km

By rail:
Mysuru – 94 km

By air:
Calicut (Kerala) – 150 km
Bengaluru – 270 km

Bandipur National Park: Gear up for a Wild Encounter!

**ONCE THE MYSORE MAHARAJA'S
PRIVATE HUNTING GROUND**

Spanning an area of about 872.24 sq km, the Bandipur National Park is located about 90 km south of Mysuru on the Mysuru-Ooty Road. Together with Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala and Nagarhole National Park in the North, it creates the 'Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India's biggest biosphere reserve. Surrounded by deciduous and evergreen forests, and scrubland vegetation, Bandipur is home to a sizeable population of tigers and various species of animals including the gaur, sambar deer, chital, mouse deer, four-horned antelope, wild dogs, wild boar, jackal, sloth bear, panther, malabar squirrel and porcupines. So, while you are here, take a few stunning snapshots of the wild and be prepared for an unforgettable experience.



Getting There
District: **Chamarajanagar**

By road:
Mysuru – 90 km
Ooty – 90 km
Bengaluru – 220 km

By rail:
Mysuru – 90 km

By air:
Bengaluru – 265 km

Dandeli: For the Adventurer and Nature Lover in You!

**INDIA'S BEST WHITE-WATER RAFTING SPOT
SOUTH OF THE HIMALAYAS**

Situated along the banks of the Kali River, Dandeli is one of the richest wildlife habitats in the world. The Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary is home to various species of animals including black panthers, monkeys, elephants, and birds. If you are the adventurous type, do go for water-rafting in the Virnoli Rapids. Have an exciting and memorable holiday!



By road:
Goa - 145 km
Dharwad - 170 km
Belagavi - 220 km
Bengaluru - 480 km

By rail:
Londa - 25 km

By air:
Goa - 145 km
Belagavi - 200 km

Getting There
District: **Uttara Kannada**



Jog Falls: Nature in all its Glory and Splendour!

**INDIA'S HIGHEST UNTIERED
WATERFALL**

One among the highest falls in Asia and the highest untiered waterfall in India, Jog Falls is born when the Sharavati River spectacularly plunges into a 830 ft. drop forming four distinct cascades - Raja, Rani, Roarer and Rocket. The best time to visit the falls is the monsoon season.

Getting There
District: **Shivamogga**

By road:
Sagara – 45 km
Honnavar – 56 km
Shivamogga – 105 km
Bengaluru – 378 km

By rail:
Shivamogga – 105 km

By air:
Mangaluru – 180 km





Shivanasamudra Falls: Behold Nature's magic!

RANKED AMONG THE TOP 50 OF THE WORLD'S BEST WATERFALLS

The spectacular Shivanasamudra falls are regarded as one of the '50 best waterfalls in the world.' As the turbulent waters of the mighty Cauvery plunge 75m into a gorge at Shivanasamudra, it forms the Shivanasamudra Falls. The river further bifurcates into two cascades, known as Barachukki and Gaganachukki. Shivanasamudra is home to India's first hydroelectric plant set up in 1902.

Getting There
District: **Mandya**

By road:	By rail:	By air:
Mandya – 60 km	Maddur – 40 km	Bengaluru – 165 km
Mysuru – 65 km		
Bengaluru – 120 km		



Karwar: Unwind, Recharge, Refresh

**PLAY WITH THE WAVES,
RELAX ON THE SUN-KISSED SHORES,
AND STAY REJUVENATED!**

Karwar is the perfect destination for a relaxed holiday. With gentle waves, stretches of golden sands, a serene ambience, and acres of lush foliage, Karwar refreshes your spirit the moment you step on this paradise. The beautiful landscape is ringed with hill ranges, thick forests and deep valleys. It is the picturesque charm of this land that inspired the great Indian muse, Rabindranath Tagore, to pen his first play. Devbagh is the most fascinating of the five islands along the Karwar coast.



Getting There
District: **Uttara Kannada**

By road:
Panaji (Goa) – 105km

By rail:
Karwar -7km

By air:
Dabolim (Goa) – 90km
Hubballi – 170 km
Bengaluru – 537 km

Gokarna: Sun, Sand and Sea

A QUIANT, UNEXPLORED BEACH TOWN

A quaint pilgrimage town, Gokarna woos travellers with its beautiful beaches, narrow streets, traditional houses and temples. A favourite destination of Hindu pilgrims, Sanskrit scholars, and beach lovers, Gokarna is formed by the ear-shaped confluence of two rivers, Gangavati and Aghanashini. Om Beach, one of Gokarna's five most popular beaches, resembles the shape of an "Om", a Hindu spiritual symbol. Wedged between massive cliffs are the other beaches - Gokarna, Kudle, Half Moon and Paradise. Explore Gokarna, relax on its sun-kissed beaches, and rejuvenate your body and mind.

Getting There
District: **Uttara Kannada**

By road:
Karwar – 60 km
Bengaluru – 480 km

By rail:
Ankola – 20 km
Kumta – 32 km

By air:
Dabolim (Goa) – 150 km
Hubballi – 168 km
Bengaluru – 500 km





Coorg: A Green Paradise

TAKE A MESMERIZING JOURNEY
TO THE 'SCOTLAND OF INDIA'

Coorg or Kodagu is the land of coffee, cardamom and the Cauvery. Nestled on the slopes of the Western Ghats, Coorg entices you with its undulating hills, lush green forests and a mind-blowing landscape dotted with coffee plantations, vast tea gardens and orange groves. Madikeri is the capital of Coorg district. Coorg offers a spectacular visual treat with its mist-covered peaks, chirping birds and sparkling streams, not to mention the unique, delicious flavours of Kodagu cuisine. Experience Coorg, discover nature in all its splendour!

Getting There
District: **Kodagu**

By road:	By rail:	By air:
Mysuru – 120 km	Mysuru – 120 km	Mangaluru – 136 km
Mangaluru – 136 km	Mangaluru – 136 km	
Bangalore – 260 km		

Chikkamagaluru: The Land of Coffee

**PACK YOUR BAGS TO THE LAND OF HILLS,
LAKES AND COFFEE**

Nestled in the Baba Budan Hills, Chikkamagaluru is a quaint town that surprises you with its natural beauty. With cloud-kissed hills, valleys, gurgling streams and lush coffee plantations, Chikkamagaluru is an ideal retreat for nature lovers. Chikkamagaluru is a trekker's paradise due to its rugged mountain trails, hills, valleys and freshwater streams. Here, you have plenty of things to see and do; visit the wildlife sanctuary, ancient temples and forts, take a leisurely stroll through the coffee plantations or watch a magnificent sunset. If you are a coffee lover, then do visit the Coffee Museum to learn more about the history and production of coffee.

Getting There
District: **Chikkamagaluru**

By road:
Bengaluru – 235 km

By rail:
Tarikere – 40 km
Kadur – 85 km
Mangaluru – 150 km

By air:
Mangaluru – 150 km
Bengaluru – 280 km





Bengaluru: , One of India's Fastest Growing Cities

**FALL IN LOVE WITH BENGALURU,
THE CITY OF THE FUTURE**

Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka, is a heady mix of the old and new, an exciting blend of the past, present and future. With a booming economy, a racy lifestyle and the largest expatriate population, Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka, has metamorphosed from a sleepy Garden City into one of India's fastest growing cities. Situated 949 m above sea level, on the Deccan Plateau, Bengaluru enjoys a salubrious climate throughout the year. The city boasts spacious gardens, parks, tree-lined avenues, a profusion of flowering trees, lakes and parks, which has truly earned it the sobriquet of "Garden City". Get ready to be lured by Bengaluru.

Distances from Bengaluru to:

Chennai - 334 km | **Goa (Panaji)** - 570 km | **Hyderabad** - 566 km
Mumbai - 1033 km | **Puducherry** - 320 km | **Thiruvananthapuram** - 761 km





The Golden Chariot: Travel like royalty, Discover Karnataka

**SOUTH INDIA'S FIRST AND
ONLY LUXURY TOURIST TRAIN**

Discover Karnataka and South India in absolute royalty and luxury aboard The Golden Chariot. A wonderful blend of traditional Indian hospitality and cosmopolitan refinement, the Golden Chariot has been adjudged as 'one of the seven best luxury rail journeys in the world' by the Vanity Fair magazine. Explore Karnataka and South India in two itineraries:

Pride of the South Itinerary

Southern Splendour Itinerary

For more information, log on to
www.goldenchariot.org or call 080-4334 4334



Jungle Lodges & Resorts

GET UP-CLOSE WITH NATURE!

Karnataka has pristine jungles and outback destinations to give you a memorable and extraordinary holiday in the soothing lap of Nature. In 1980, Kabini River Lodge was established by Jungle Lodges & Resorts (JLR). Regarded as the pioneers of eco tourism in India, today, JLR is India's largest network of jungles and eco-lodges with 18 Jungle Resorts and 5 Jungle Camps spread across Karnataka. The location of every JLR property has been chosen with utmost care so as to ensure guests are truly in the midst of nature. Guests are encouraged not just to visit nature but actually experience life in harmony with nature.

For more information, log on to www.junglelodges.com or call 080-4055 4055





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

Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.
Department of Tourism

For more information contact:
Department of Tourism

49, Khaniya Bhavan, Second Floor, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Tel: +91 80 2235 2828, www.karnatakaturism.org

————— For hotels and package tours, contact: —————

Karnataka State Tourism
Development Corporation
Tel: 080-4334 4334 www.kstdc.co



Jungle Lodges & Resorts
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www.junglulodges.com