


Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.
Department of Tourism




SCRIPT YOUR ADVENTURE

EVERGREEN KARNATAKA





KARNATAKA HAS A STUNNING DIVERSITY OF WILD PLANTS, ANIMALS AND LANDSCAPES, MANY UNIQUE TO THE REGION. KARNATAKA HAS MANY CAPTIVATING HILL STATIONS SUCH AS COORG, NANDI HILLS AND CHIKKAMAGALURU. THE GREEN HILLS, SPARKLING RIVERS AND WATERFALLS MAKE A MESMERIZING SIGHT. WHILE MANY OF THE WATERFALLS ARE IN FULLFLOW THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THESE ARE A FEW SEASONAL SPLENDOURS. 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 BEACHES IN COASTAL KARNATAKA SPELL THE ULTIMATE IN RELAXATION AND SCENIC BEAUTY.





Queen of the Hills

Madikeri



Madikeri is a quaint hill town in Karnataka with vast coffee plantations, lush forests and misty hills, all culminating in a breathtaking view. Located in a beautiful hilly setting surrounded by the forested slopes of the Western Ghats, Madikeri is the charming capital of Kodagu. Known for its awe-inspiring scenery and splendid views, made up of abundant and beautiful vegetation, the town is situated at an elevation of 1525 m and has a charming old-world look. Part of this comes from the bustling bazaar and a cluster of red-roofed dwellings that have withstood the invasions of time. This hill station is a perfect weekend getaway for those looking for a picturesque and relaxing holiday. With its picture-postcard scenery and misty mountains, Kodagu reminds us of an exotic place somewhere in England and is aptly called “Scotland of India”. The chief source of the area’s revenue is coffee plantations which were planted during the British rule.

HOW TO GET THERE DISTRICT KODAGU

BY ROAD
Mysuru – 120 km
Mangaluru – 136 km
Bengaluru – 260 km

BY RAIL
Mysuru – 120 km
Mangaluru – 136 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru – 136 km

Chikkamagaluru



Chikkamagaluru is a calm, serene town nestled in the Baba Budangiri Hills. Thousands of tourists throng to the town owing to its picturesque landscape, gushing falls, wildlife sanctuary, pilgrim centers and attractive coffee plantations. This quaint city is blessed with a very soothing climate round the year due to its geographical location in the Western Ghats. Chikkamagaluru is a trekker's delight due to its rugged mountain trails, numerous hills, valleys and fresh water streams. Coffee was planted here for the first time in India. The coffee museum here, surrounded by lush coffee plantations, displays the interesting history, processes and varieties of coffee.

HOW TO GET 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

Agumbe



Known as “The Cherrapunji of the South”, Agumbe is a tiny village in Shivamogga district of the Malnad region in Karnataka which receives some of the heaviest rainfall in South India. The area is blessed with many rivers, streams and waterfalls. Agumbe is the perfect place to experience spectacular sunsets, sparkling streams and verdant village vistas. Situated at an elevation of 826 m, Agumbe provides the perfect setting for the cinematic version of RK Narayan’s novel *Malgudi Days*. Forested trails lead from here to a jungle pond called Emkal Kere, a hillock called Nishani Gudda and to Barkana Falls. Agumbe is also home to the King Cobra - the world’s largest venomous serpent. Romulus Whitaker, the famous herpetologist, chose Agumbe to establish the Agumbe Rainforest Research Station as a centre to study the fierce and slimy reptile. The lush green rainforests and spectacular cascades are sure to leave you enchanted.

HOW TO GET THERE DISTRICT SHIVAMOGGA

BY ROAD
Sringeri - 23 km
Manipal - 55 km
Kollur - 60 km
Shivamogga - 90 km
Bengaluru - 365 km

BY RAIL
Udupi - 60 km
Shivamogga - 90 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru - 135 km

Kudremukh



The word “Kudremukh” means “horse face”, as the side of the mountain resembles the face of a horse. The broad hills located 95 km South-west of Chikkamagaluru town, overlook the Arabian Sea and are chained to one another by deep valleys and steep precipices. The mountain peak is the third highest peak in Karnataka and a trekker’s paradise. The hill station also has a national park that is known for its rich biodiversity. This wonderland of lush green forests interspersed with rivers, grassy slopes, and captivating cascades enchant visitors year after year. The hill station is also a popular pilgrim center, with many sacred ponds located in the nearby areas. Ganga Moola is a scenic place located in the Bhagawathi Forest where the three rivers Tunga, Bhadra and Netravati originate. A shrine to Goddess Bhagavathi and a 1.8 m high Varaha image inside a cave are the chief attractions here.

HOW TO GET THERE DISTRICT CHIKKAMAGALURU

BY ROAD
Bikalasa – 20 km
Karkala – 50 km
Mudigere – 75 km
Mangaluru – 130 km
Bengaluru – 350 km

BY RAIL
Mangaluru – 130 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru – 130 km

Kemmanagundi



The picturesque hill station of Kemmanagundi is located at a height of 1434 m above sea level. This was the summer retreat of Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV. It lies on the fringes of the Baba Budan Giri Range and offers a spectacular sunset view from the Raj Bhavan. Waterfalls, dams and lovely flora adorn the entire stretch of the Kemmanagundi Trek. Jeep trips, safari tours, walking trips and waterfall picnics are some of the key highlights, if you wish to spend a few days in and around the range.

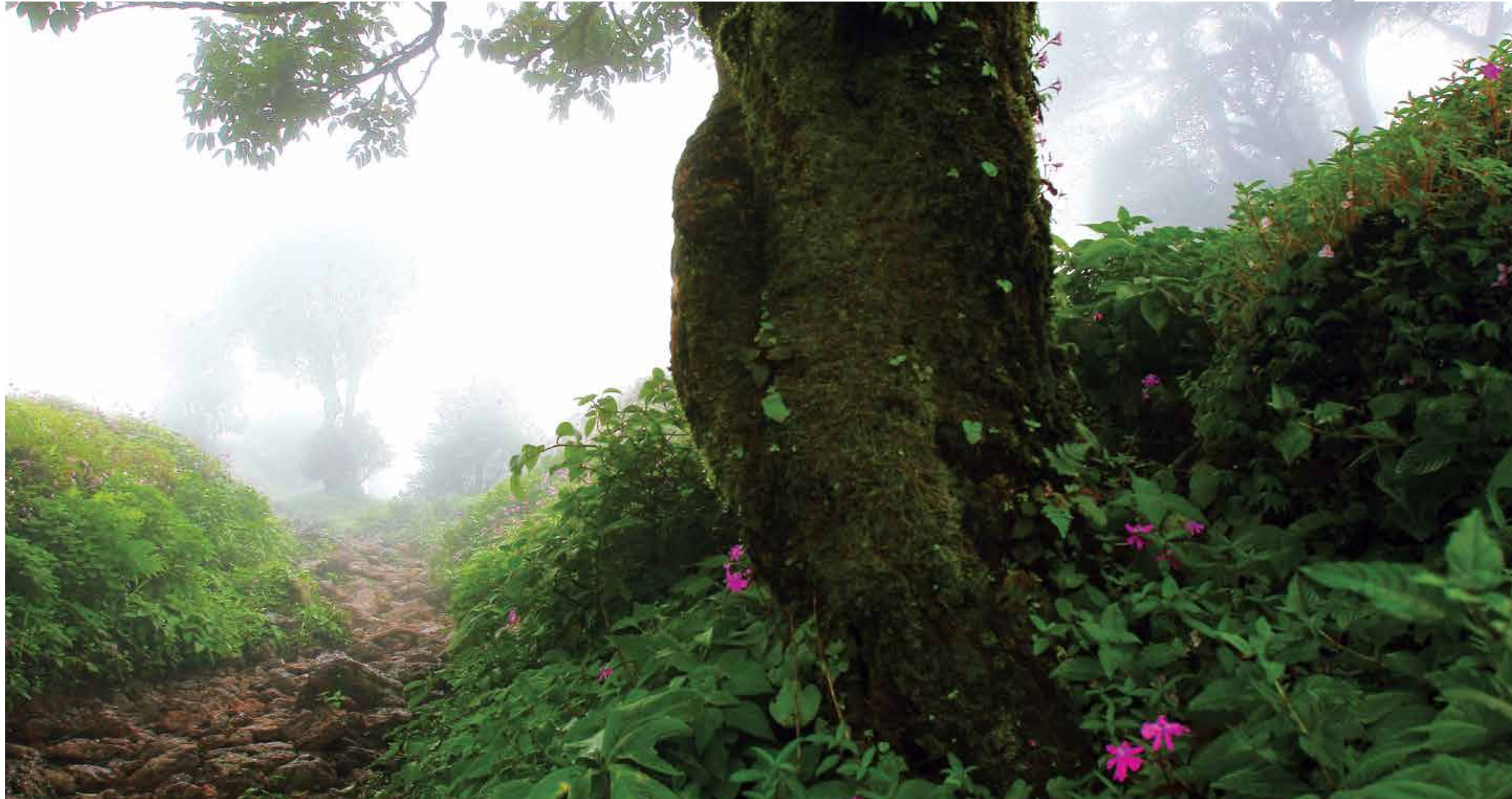
HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT CHIKKAMAGALURU

BY ROAD
Chikkamagaluru – 53 km
Bengaluru – 245 km

BY RAIL
Tarikere – 35 km
Kadur – 80 km
Mangaluru – 180 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru – 180 km

Kodachádrí



The Kodachadri hill is a part of the Western Ghats and forms a lovely backdrop to the famous Kollur Mookambika Temple. Famed for its glorious sunrises and sunsets, this hill range is part of the Mookambika Temple Nature Reserve. The peak of Kodachadri (at an altitude of 1343 m above sea level) can be reached by a five-hour trek. Trekking in Kodachadri can be an adventurous and spiritual experience. On the western side, the hill descends steeply for about 1220 m, meeting the forests of Udupi district. The trek up to the ancient temple from this point involves a climb of 4 km through thick jungle trails. Kollur is an ideal base from which to explore the hills.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT SHIVAMOGGA

BY ROAD
Kollur – 12 km
Hosanagara – 36 km
Shivamogga – 100 km
Bengaluru – 365 km

BY RAIL
Baindur – 40 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru – 152 km

Nandi Hills



Nandi Hills, also known as Nandidurg or Nandi Betta is an ancient hill fortress situated in the Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka. The bracing air and serene environs of Nandi Hills, perched at a height of 1445 m above sea level makes it a popular weekend getaway. It was the favourite summer retreat of Tipu Sultan and the British. The best time to enjoy the beauty of this scenic place is early morning.

Nandi Hills shot in prominence during the visits of Queen Elizabeth II in the 1960s and the leaders of the SAARC countries in the 1980s.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT CHIKKABALLAPUR

BY ROAD
Chikkaballapur – 15 km
Bengaluru – 60 km

BY RAIL
Chikkaballapur – 15 km

BY AIR
Bengaluru – 35 km



Mystical Waters

Jog Falls



Located in Shivamogga district, the Sharavati River makes a spectacular drop of 830 ft in four distinct cascades – known locally as Raja, Rani, Roarer and Rocket – to create the highest untiered waterfall in India and one among the highest falls in Asia. The effect is greatly heightened by the wild and beautiful region around the falls, which is covered with a wealth of luxuriant vegetation. The falls are at their best during the monsoon, with arching rainbows colouring the mist.

HOW TO GET 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

Shivanasamúdra Falls



Discover nature's handiwork in this tiny island-town, 65 km east of Mysuru. Forested hills and lush green valleys cradle a small hamlet and two fine temples. Together, they provide a startlingly calm setting for the Cauvery River as it plummets from a height of 75 m into a deep, rocky gorge with a deafening roar, to form two picturesque falls, Barachukki and Gaganachukki. When the Cauvery is in spate, watching the river crash into a cloud of foaming spray can be an exhilarating experience. During the monsoon, the falls are at their impressive best. Downstream from the falls is Asia's first hydroelectric project, established in 1902.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT MANDYA

BY ROAD
Mandya – 60 km
Mysuru – 65 km
Bengaluru – 120 km

BY RAIL
Maddur – 40 km

BY AIR
Bengaluru – 165 km

Hebbe Falls



Amidst the exotic hill stations at Kemmangundi are the beautiful Hebbe falls. A steep and narrow path leads to these sprightly falls and is an excellent visual treat for tourists. Surrounded by dense forests and coffee plantations, Hebbe Falls gushes down a height of 250 ft in two stages, to form Dodda Hebbe (Big Falls) and Chikka Hebbe (Small Falls).

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT **CHIKKAMAGALURU**

BY ROAD
Kemmangundi – 8 km
Bengaluru – 238 km

BY RAIL
Tarikere – 35 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru – 180 km

Abbey Falls



The spectacle of monsoon is best experienced amidst the lush green environs of the scenic Abbey Falls. Tucked away between private coffee and spice estates, Abbey Falls stands surrounded by a blanket of greenery. To reach the waterfall, you need to make your way past stocky coffee bushes and tall trees. Enjoy the roar of the water as it cascades its way down in steps into clear pools to join the River Cauvery. A trek through the greenery can leave you refreshed.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT KODAGU

BY ROAD
Madikeri – 9 km
Mysuru – 129 km
Mangaluru – 136 km
Bengaluru – 270 km

BY RAIL
Mysuru – 129 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru – 136 km

Iruppu Falls



Originating from the Brahmagiri Range, the river Lakshmana Theertha plunges down from a height of 170 ft., forming the Iruppu Waterfalls. Set amidst vibrant greenery, Iruppu Falls presents a stunning sight during the monsoon. This is a great picnic spot with the never-ending music of the falls.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT KODAGU

BY ROAD
Virajpet – 48 km
Bengaluru – 260 km

BY RAIL
Mysuru – 120 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru – 190 km

Sathodi Falls



Sathodi Falls is a picturesque rectangular shaped waterfall about 32 km away from Yellapur. Several unknown streams converge near Kallaramane Ghat and plunge from a height of about 15 m to create a picturesque picnic spot. In between the bushes and the rocky terrain, there are small pathways leading to the waterfalls. Sathodi Falls is locally known as the “Mini-Niagara of Uttara Kannada District”.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT UTTARA KANNADA

BY ROAD
Kumta – 72 km

BY RAIL
Yellapur – 32 km
Bengaluru – 535 km

BY AIR
Dabolim (Goa) – 225 km



High tides. Good vibes.

Gokarṇā



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.

One of the five acclaimed beaches in Gokarna, Om Beach takes the shape of an 'Om', a Hindu spiritual symbol. 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.

Other prominent beaches nearby include Kudle Beach, Paradise Beach and Half Moon Beach.

HOW TO GET 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

Karwar



Karwar has all the characteristics of a perfect seaside holiday destination. Studded with miles of golden sand and captivating landscapes fringed with rugged hill ranges and mysterious valleys Karwar is a breeze to navigate. Inspired by the rich variety of expressions, the great Indian writer and Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore penned his first play, Prakritir Prathishodha (Nature's Revenge), at this paradise, marking the beginning of a glorious literary journey.

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. There are five mesmerising islands off the coast of Karwar, and Devbagh is the most charming among them.

Prominent beaches here include Rabindranath Tagore Beach, Devbagh Beach, Majali Beach, Binaga Beach and Koodi Bagh Beach.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT **UTTARA KANNADA**

BY ROAD
Panaji (Goa) – 105 km

BY RAIL
Karwar – 7 km

BY AIR
Dabolim (Goa) – 90 km
Hubballi – 170 km
Bengaluru – 537 km

Udupi



Udupi greets its visitors with its rustic charm, cool 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 the ceremonies with 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 such as Malpe, Marvanthe, Kaup, Padubidri and St. Marys Island.

HOW TO GET THERE
DISTRICT **UDUPI**

BY ROAD
Mangaluru - 60 km
Bengaluru - 400 km

BY RAIL
Udupi
Mangaluru - 60 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru - 60 km

Mangaluru



A gateway for the Konkan coast and inland Kodagu region, Mangaluru is a maritime city dating back to the 14th century. With its spellbinding 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.

The ancient 10th-century Mangala Devi Temple, 11th-century Kadri Manjunatha Temple and Someshwar Temple are some of the major attractions that coexists peacefully with the various mosques and churches. Some of the remarkable mosques in the country can be witnessed here such as the Jumma Masjid in Bunder and the Idgah Mosque at Lighthouse Hill constructed under the supervision of Tipu Sultan. The St. Aloysius college chapel with its magnificent biblical frescoes and the Shreemanthi Bai Memorial Government Museum with a collection of antiques are the other attractions in Mangaluru, that transport visitors back in time.

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

Prominent beaches here include Panambur Beach, Someshwara Beach, Tannirbhavi Beach, Ullal Beach, Surathkal Beach and Sasihithlu Beach.

HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT DAKSHINA KANNADA

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

Murudeshwara



A popular pilgrimage town, Murudeshwara is a paradise for lovers of solitude. The beachside hillocks offer perfect views of silver waves crashing on the rocks and shower moments of inspired introspection upon visitors. Murudeshwara is another name of the Hindu god Shiva and has one of the tallest statues of Lord Shiva. With silvery sand and the Western Ghats as a backdrop, it is a sight to behold.

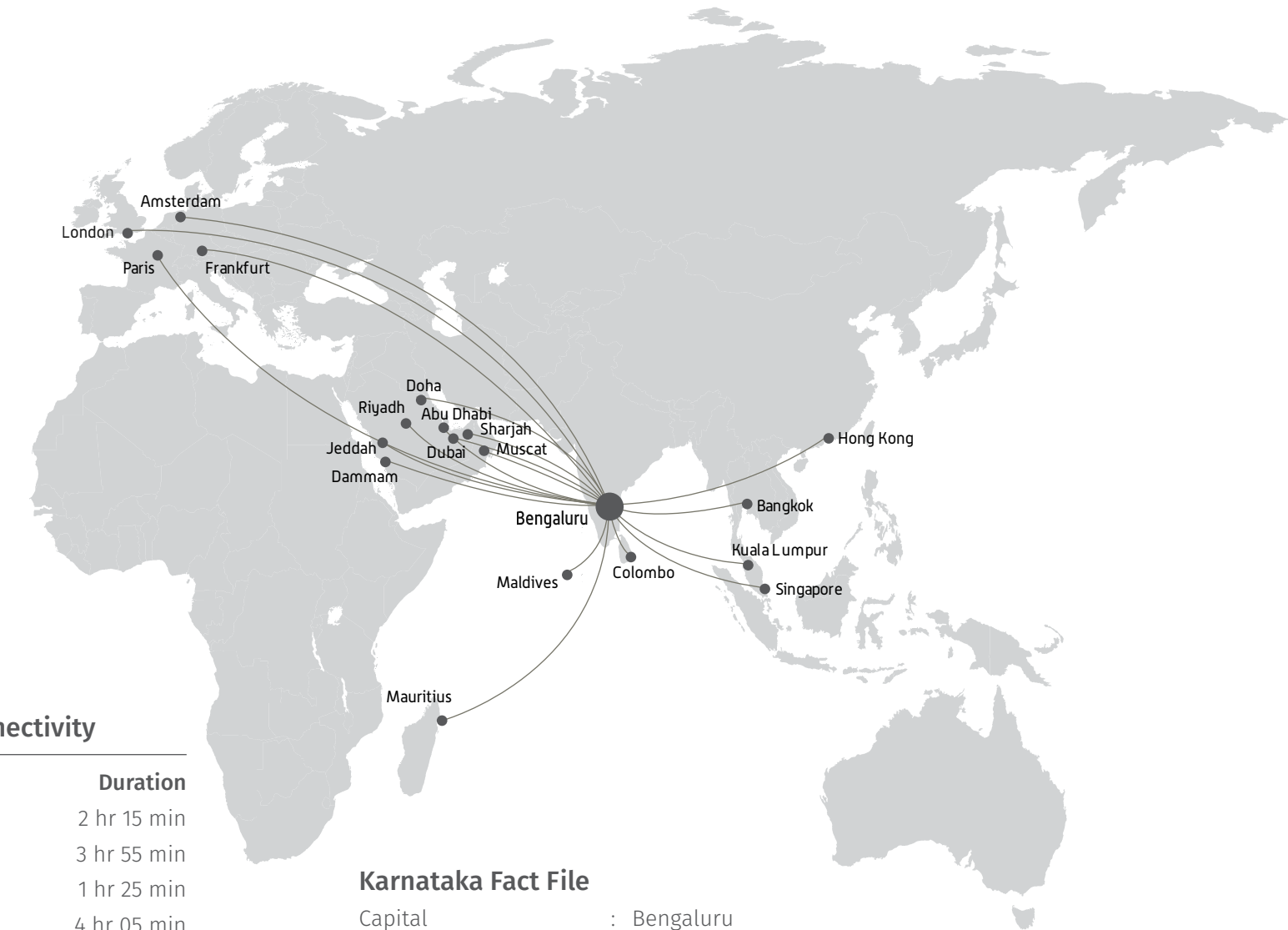
HOW TO GET THERE

DISTRICT **UTTARA KANNADA**

BY ROAD
Bhatkal - 16 km

BY RAIL
Bhatkal - 16 km
Mangaluru - 156 km

BY AIR
Mangaluru - 137 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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Department of Tourism

For more information contact:

Department of Tourism

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