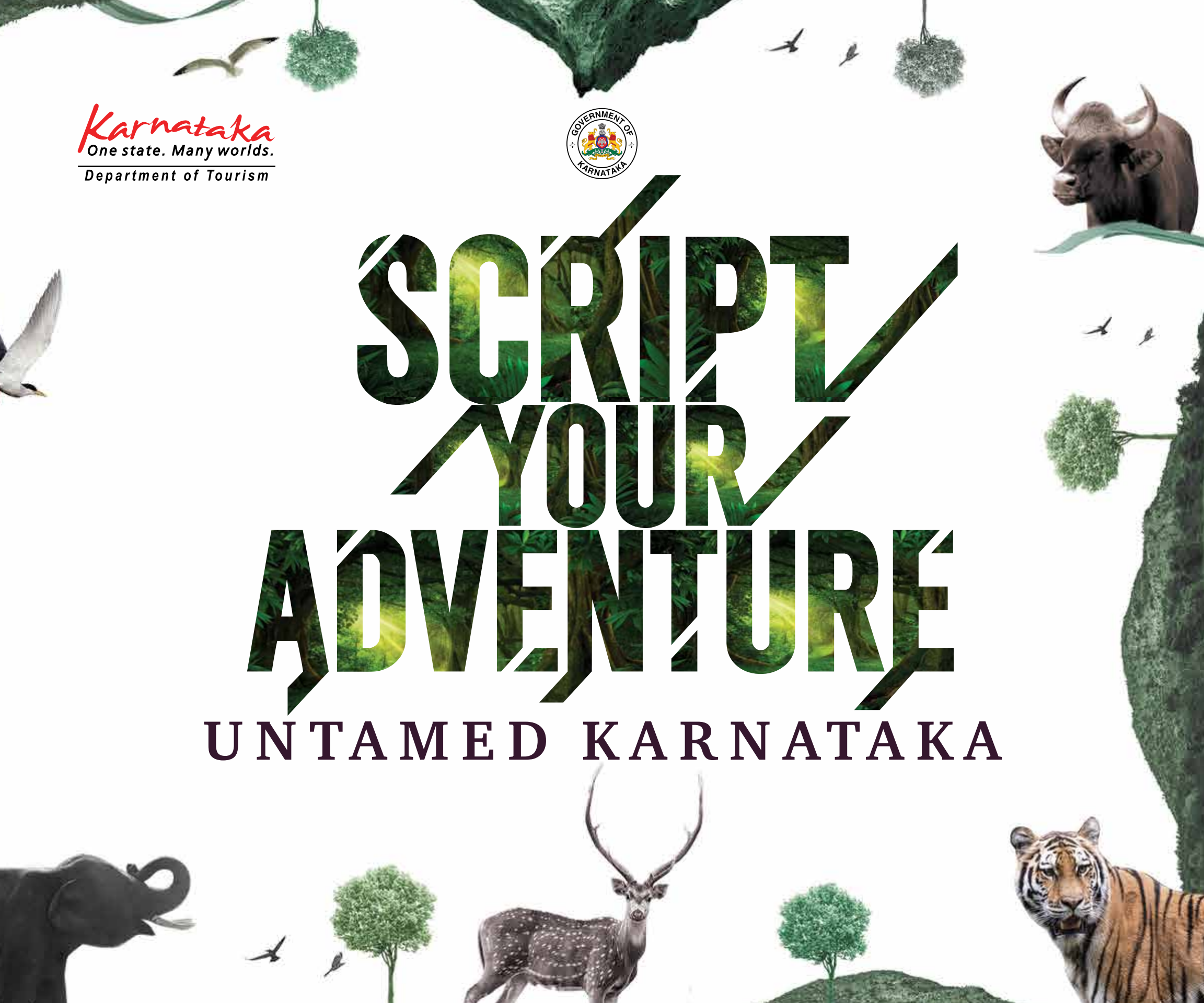


Karnataka
One state. Many worlds.
Department of Tourism



SCRIPT YOUR ADVENTURE

UNTAMED KARNATAKA





WITH OVER 27 WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES AND 5 NATIONAL PARKS THAT SHELTER SOME RARE SPECIES, KARNATAKA IS NATURE'S GIFT TO MANKIND. ABOUT 45% OF THE WESTERN GHATS, PASSES THROUGH KARNATAKA, WHICH IS RECOGNIZED AS A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT AND IS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE. THE STATE HAS A RECORDED FOREST AREA OF OVER 10,238 SQUARE KILOMETRES THAT SUPPORT 25% OF THE ELEPHANT POPULATION AND 20% OF THE TIGER POPULATION OF INDIA. COME AND SURRENDER TO THE UNTAMED SOUL OF KARNATAKA.



FAUNÁ

Karnataka is a land of diverse flora and fauna with a wide variety of habitats that abound with different species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fishes and insects. It is one of the richest states in India in terms of wildlife. A good majority of the fauna found in the state has been recognized as endangered species. The state also hosts a rich diversity of beautiful butterflies and unique varieties of insects.



MAMMALS

The mountain ranges of Western Ghats are home to unique animal species such as the Malabar large spotted civet, the lion-tailed macaque, the Indian flying fox and the Indian giant squirrel. These ecosystems are regarded as one of the 34 biodiversity hotspots in the world.

Other species of mammals includes the sloth bear, Asiatic elephant, tiger, wild boars, gaurs, black panthers, Asiatic wild dogs, Indian leopard, striped hyena, Malabar giant squirrel, slender loris, Indian crested porcupine, common palm civet, chital and sambar.



BIRDS



Karnataka hosts several natural habitats and bird sanctuaries where numerous species of birds can be spotted. The state is a safe haven for feathered friends and large number of spectacular migratory birds come here every year.

The colourful and exotic species of birds found in Karnataka include the grey francolin, little grebe, Malabar grey horn bill, black kite, brown crane, Indian roller, great indian bustard, malabar parakeet, storm petrels, ruddy breasted crane, painted stork, yellow wattled lapwing, red necked falcon, spot billed pelican, cattle egrets and many other species.

REPTILES, FISHES AND AMPHIBIANS

The remarkable diversity of reptiles found in the forests of Karnataka overwhelms nature enthusiasts and scientists alike. The common Indian monitor lizard, the Malabar flying lizard, the dwarf gecko, the striped lizard, southern green Colette and the Indian chameleon are the highlights of the region. Various species of snakes like the Indian python, the king cobra, the trinket snake, the Indian cobra, the common krait, the large-eyed bronze back and the common rat snake are also found here. The marsh crocodile and other crocodile species inhabit the wetlands of Karnataka.

Beneath the flowing streams and rivers lies a world unexplored and untamed, abundant with an impressive variety of fishes. Some of the common freshwater fishes of Karnataka are the eels, carps, barbs, minnows, danios, mahseers, barils, osteobramas, chelas, garras and catfish. The endangered purple frog, Malabar flying frog, the Malabar gliding frog, the golden frog and the Indian bullfrog are among the diverse species of amphibians existing in the state.





NATIONÁL PARKS



The Anshi National Park is an evergreen tropical rainforest located in an eco-sensitive part of the Western Ghats. Anshi is rich in rare species of flora and fauna with about 197 species of birds. The topography of the park is such that it has deep valleys, steep hill slopes and dense forests. A wide variety of trees such as teak, silver oaks, eucalyptus, weeds, and bamboos are found here.

Spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, mouse deer, common langur, sloth bear, gaur (Indian bison), wild boars, fox, bonnet macaque, slender loris, mongoose, tiger, jungle cat, jackal, pangolin, elephants, Malabar giant squirrel and the porcupine can be seen in the park. Trekking facility is available from the Anshi nature camp located 3 kms off the park.

ANSHI

LOCATION AND AREA

UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT ADJOINING THE STATE OF GOA; 417.34 sq km.



Bandipur National Park is regarded as one of the most beautiful and the better-managed national parks of India. Located amidst the picturesque surroundings of the towering Western Ghats on the Mysore-Ooty highway in Karnataka, it is an important part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve that constitutes Karnataka's Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarahole) to its Northwest, Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary to its South, and Kerala's Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary to its Southwest.

A number of endangered species such as tigers, Indian elephants, sloth bears, gaurs, Indian rock pythons, jackals, muggers and four-horned antelopes can be spotted in this national park. Bandipur also shelters sambar, mouse deer, chital, sloth bear and the rare flying lizard. Over 200 species of birds and a diversity of flora add to its attraction.

BANDIPÚR

LOCATION AND AREA

CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT; 872.24 sq km.



For a walk on the wild side, look no further than the southern outskirts of Bengaluru City, where you can find everything from avifauna to leopards in the Bannerghatta National Park. The park is home to lions, tigers, and a large variety of birds. The zoo boasts an amazing reptile collection. A snake park lets you get up, close and personal with scaly, slithery creatures. The tourist area in the park has a lion and tiger safari, a herbivore safari, a mini zoo, a reptile park, a mini aviary, a butterfly park and a museum.

BANNERGHATTA

LOCATION AND AREA

25KM SOUTH OF BENGALURU; 260.51 sq km.



Recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, the Kudremukh, or Horse Face Range, gets its name from the unique shape of its main peak. The broad hills overlook the Arabian Sea and are chained to one another with deep valleys and steep precipices. The park is covered with thick hilly forests, mostly evergreen and semi-evergreen, near the coastal plains on the west.

The Kudremukh National Park houses a variety of wildlife such as the leopard, Malabar giant squirrel, sloth bear, gaur, sambar, jackal, mongoose, tiger, wild dog, common langur, porcupine, spotted deer, barking deer and giant flying squirrel. The park is home to a variety of birds such as the Malabar trogon, Malabar whistling thrush and the imperial pigeon.

KUDREMUKH

LOCATION AND AREA

DAKSHINA KANNADA AND CHIKKAMAGALURU DISTRICTS; 600.57 sq km.



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. Spread over an area of 643.39 sq km in the districts of Coorg and Mysuru, the Nagarahole sanctuary is flanked by Karnataka's Bandipur National Park and Kerala's Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. These three parks, together with Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Forest constitute the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Counted as one of the well-kept national parks of India, Nagarahole is a delight for lovers of Indian Tigers and Asiatic Elephants. Sloth Bears, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Wild Boars, Leopards, Wild Dogs, Four- Horned Antelopes, Barking Deer are some of the easily spotted animals of this park.

NAGARAHOLE

LOCATION AND AREA

KODAGU AND MYSURU DISTRICTS; 643.39 sq km.



WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES



Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the midst of Western Ghats in Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga districts of Karnataka. The sanctuary takes its name from the Bhadra River, its lifeline. Popularly known as Muthodi Wildlife Sanctuary, after the village on its periphery, it is a great place to sight a tiger, observe an Indian bison, hear the strange calls of the striped hyena, and spot the rare flying lizard.

The lush green vegetation of the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary consists of mostly moist and dry deciduous forests. More than 250 species of birds including the munia bee eaters, grey junglefowl, red spurfowl, painted bush quail, emerald dove, southern green imperial pigeon, and great black woodpecker are found here. In addition, the sanctuary is also home to exotic butterflies which include the yam fly, southern birdwing, tailed jay, great orange tip and bamboo treebrown.

BHADRA

LOCATION AND AREA

CHIKKAMAGALURU AND SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICTS; 500.16 sq km.



BILIGIRI RANGANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE

LOCATION AND AREA

CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT; 539.52 sq km.

Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple (BRT) Wildlife Sanctuary takes its name from the ancient Ranganatha Swamy Temple that sits at the edge of a 1000 ft precipice. It is considered to be the wildlife corridor that connects the Eastern Ghats to the Western Ghats which in turn facilitates the gene flow between the population species inhabiting both the mountain ranges.

The hills are covered with more than 800 species of plant life, including scrub, dry deciduous, moist deciduous, shola forests and montane grasslands. It provides shelter to more than 372 species of birds, 22 species of reptiles and an amazing 116 species of butterflies. Another attraction of the Biligiri Ranganatha Hills is the famous Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple. There are many trekking trails here, including one that leads up to Honnamati, the highest point of the range.



Sprawled over an area of 886.41 sq km in the Uttara Karnataka district, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary is a birdwatcher's paradise, housing nearly 200 species of birds. Undulating streams, diverse wildlife, and innumerable trekking trails make Dandeli a dream destination. Crocodiles are a major wildlife attraction in this sanctuary. It is also one of the two places in Karnataka to report frequent sightings of the elusive black panther.

There are a variety of reptilian and amphibian species in and around the wildlife sanctuary. A variety of species such as the barking deer, sambhar, flying squirrel, Malabar giant squirrel, bison and tiger are found in the sanctuary. The Dandeli Forests also play host to the graceful Virnoli Rapids, the magnificent Supa Dam, the sinister Syntheri Rocks, Nagajhari View Point, the Kulgi Nature Education Camp and the Kavla Caves.

DANDELI

LOCATION AND AREA

UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT; 886.41 sq km.



DAROJI SLOTH BEAR SANCTUARY

LOCATION AND AREA

BALLARI DISTRICT; 82.72 sq km.

Located near the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi, the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary is devoted to the protection of the Indian sloth bear. It is the only place in India where one can spot these honey-lovers in their natural habitat. The sanctuary has a rough terrain and hosts hyenas, wild boars, pangolins, porcupines, jackals and leopards.

Other denizens include star tortoise, monitor lizard and rock agama. A drive through the scrub jungle also provides opportunities to sight endemic species of birds such as the painted spurfowl, yellow throated bulbul, sandgrouse and stone curlew, besides peafowl.

Gudavi Bird Sanctuary

Gudavi Bird Sanctuary is surrounded by agricultural fields on the West and North, and by moist deciduous forest on the East and South. The bird sanctuary spans over an area of 0.74 sq. kms and contains about 191 varieties of birds with the beautiful Gudavi Lake surrounding the area. The tree-lined banks of the Gudavi Lake becomes a brilliant mosaic of colours, with branches buried under bright plumage.

The wide variety of birds include little cormorant, night heron, grey heron, waterfowl, indian shag, bittern, white headed crane, junglefowl, white ibis, Indian pond hero, black-headed crane, pariah kite, little grebe, darter, brahmny kite and many more. A special platform is built for the bird watchers to get a closer look at the birds.



Dubare is the training camp of the famous Mysuru Dasara elephants and is located in the Kodagu district in Karnataka, on the banks of the River Cauvery. Trained naturalists are available to explain the various aspects of elephant behavior and life. Spend hours simply observing elephants in action, or learn about their habits and participate in various daily activities of the camp such as feeding and bathing the elephants. The Camp has been developed by Jungle Lodges & Resorts with the aim of protecting these gentle giants. Tourists can opt to reside inside the camp which contain many cottages.

DUBARE ELEPHANT CAMP

LOCATION AND AREA

KODAGU DISTRICT; 0.74 sq km.



KOKREBELLUR PELIÇANRY

LOCATION AND AREA

MANDYA DISTRICT; 3.12 sq km.

Every year, hundreds of winged visitors come together to create a unique orchestra at Kokrebellur with their shrill cries and cacophonous calls. A quiet village comes alive with the arrival of spot-billed pelicans and painted storks. Bird watchers and nature enthusiasts from around the world make a beeline to this tiny hamlet to witness the spectacle every year. The villagers use these bird droppings as manure for their cultivation.

Apart from the pelicans, the other birds found nestling and breeding in the village trees are little cormorant, black ibis, grey heron, black-crowned night heron and Indian pond heron. It is fascinating to observe the birds living in perfect harmony with the villagers and enjoying their protection.



RANĀNATHITṬU BIRD SANCTUARY

LOCATION AND AREA

MANDYA DISTRICT 0.670 sq km.

Located in the Mandya district of Karnataka, Ranganathittu is regarded as one of Asia's most significant nesting and breeding ground for birds. Declared a sanctuary in 1940 at the behest of famed ornithologist Dr. Salim Ali, the sanctuary is home to animals like the flying fox, bonnet macaque, Indian mongoose and mugger crocodiles.

Go boating on the river, get a fascinating view of the various species of birds, and catch a glimpse of the marsh crocodiles in the water. The birds that can be spotted include the white ibis, lesser whistling duck, and wolly-necked stork, Asian open bill stork, common spoonbill and the painted stork.



JUNGLE LODGES & RESORTS

Long before it became fashionable to go green, the Government of Karnataka embraced the natural world in 1980 when the Kabini River Lodge, India's first ecotourism destination, was established by Jungle Lodges & Resorts (JLR).

Regarded as the pioneers of ecotourism in India, today, JLR is India's largest network of jungle and eco-lodges with 17 Jungle Resorts and 5 Jungle Camps spread across Karnataka. The location of every JLR property has been chosen with care so as to ensure that guests are truly in the midst of nature. Guests are encouraged not just to visit nature but actually experience life in harmony with nature.



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

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Department of Tourism

For more information contact:

Department of Tourism

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