



KARNATAKA ITINERARY - 6 Nights / 7 Days

SCENT OF SANDALWOOD

The plateau of the Karnataka province is situated at the angle where two mountain ranges converge into the beautiful Nilgiri Hills. The climate is pleasant and warm - in places bracing - and the rains are quick showers followed by blue skies. Sparkling beaches, breathtaking waterfalls, verdant forests teeming with a variety of wildlife and also valuable wood like teak, ebony and sandalwood, and flowers everywhere: flaming gulmohur, deep blue jacaranda, pink and white acacias and many other blooms.

Thousand-year-old Hindu temples decorated with carvings of amazing virtuosity, grandiose Moslem monuments, remains of lost civilisations, and some excellent modern cities are home to a warm, friendly people, the Kannadigas.

The state's history is intimately woven into that great epic, the Ramayana. The Cholas and the Gangas ruled parts of Karnataka over the early centuries. The Hoysala dynasty was the first to control all of what is now modern Karnataka from the 11th to the 14th centuries. They were great builders and it is to them that we owe the magnificent temples at Somnathpur, Belur and Halebid. The Muslim hordes came sweeping in Karnataka as elsewhere and the Hoysala capital Dorasumdudra (modern Halebid) was sacked by Mohammed-bin-Tughlaq in 1327. In the following centuries, power alternated between the Hindus and Muslims: Vijaynagar, whose ruins are at Hampi was Hindu while Bijapur remained resolutely Muslim. In the general chaos came Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan followed by the British in 1799 who eventually returned sovereignty to the old Hindu dynasty - Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar II, ancestor of the present Maharaja.

The scenes of village life long remain in the visitor's memory; sinewy, robust men at work in the fields walking slowly behind buffaloes dragging plows which have not changed in 3,000 years and colourfully dressed women waiting patiently to fill their jugs with water at the village fountain which is also their social centre.



In contrast with the happy simplicity of the country are the grand palaces and formal gardens, the splendour of festivals and the relics of centuries of royal living - Hindu or Muslim. Some of the best monuments in India are found here.

That's Karnataka, a sparkling gem of South India.

Travel Corporation (India) Pvt. Limited

Chander Mukhi, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400 021. Tel: 91-22-22021881 / 7120 Fax: 2202 9424

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Day	Place	Time	Details
September 2006			
17 th Sun	Goa	Morning	Depart by road to Badami (282 kms, 8hrs)
			 <p>Badami - Once known as Vatapi. Badami lies between two hills and is dominated by a fort, the walls of which rise up from the cliffs. The natural gorge embellished with temples and gateways, leading to this hill city, is one of the attractions of Badami. The cave temples of Badami were hewn out of solid rock some as early as 550 AD. One of the masterpieces in these temples is the well-known 18-armed Nataraja (Shiva).</p>
	Badami	Afternoon	Arrive & transfer to hotel. Overnight: Hotel
18 th Mon	Badami	Full day	Breakfast at hotel Visit Aihole & Pattadhakal caves.
			 <p>Aihole - Founded around 450 AD, the ancient capital of the Chalukyas has more than seventy temples dedicated to various deities of the Hindu pantheon. It was the cradle of architecture of the Dravidian era. The prominent temples of Aihole are the Lad Khan, the Meguti, the Konti Gudi, the Durga and the Huchimalli.</p> <p>Overnight: Hotel</p>
19 th Tue	Badami	Morning	Breakfast at hotel
	Hospet	Afternoon	Depart by surface to Hospet (187kms,5 hrs) Arrive & proceed to the hotel. Overnight: Hotel
20 th Wed	Hospet	Full day	Breakfast at hotel Visit the Hampi ruins.

Day	Place	Time	Details
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Hampi - The ruins of Hampi spread over 26 sq. km. include temples, palaces, baths and pavilions. The sculptured Hazara Rama once the King's private place of worship, the great hall, elephant stables, the Queen's bath, a huge and mutilated Narasimha image and a sculptured stone chariot are some sights in this ghostly capital of departed glory. The slender columns of the Vithala Temple echo with music when struck and a crumbling watchtower lies near the women's enclosure of the Lotus Mahal.

Overnight: Hotel

21 st Thur	Hospet		
	Hassan	Morning Afternoon	

Breakfast at hotel
Depart by road to Hassan (340 kms, 9 hrs)
Arrive & transfer to the hotel

Overnight: Hotel

22 nd Fri	Hassan	Morning	
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Breakfast at hotel
Visit Belur & Halebid & later depart by road to Mysore (115 kms, 3 hrs)



Belur - flourished under the Hoysala Kings 800 years ago and the sole reminder of this grandeur is the Chennakesava Temple. The temple stands in perfect state of preservation and is an outstanding testament to the skill of Hoysala craftsmen. Its polished black stone exterior is profusely carved with scenes from the epics, each figure sculpted with fine detail.



Halebid - a short distance away is a sister temple, the Hoysaleswara, dedicated to Shiva. Here too, the sculptor's art is remarkable with endless and exquisite details and frieze upon frieze of gods, goddesses, animals and humans.

Day	Place	Time	Details
	Mysore	Afternoon	Arrive & transfer to the hotel City tour of Mysore
			 <p>Mysore - Visit Maharajas's Palace, a synthesis of Hindu and Muslim styles. Gateways, domes, arches, turrets, colonnades, sculpture all are here in magnificent profusion. Continue on to Chamundi Hill named after the Royal Family's patron goddess and the site of summer palace, an ancient temple and the 16-foot Nandi (Siva's bull) carved out of a single huge boulder. Overnight: Hotel</p>
23 rd Sat	Mysore Bangalore	Morning Morning	Depart by road to Bangalore (139kms,4 hrs) Arrive & transfer to airport for onward destination.



END OF OUR SERVICES

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➤ **HOTELS USED:**

<u>City</u>	<u>Hotels</u>	<u>No of Nights</u>
Badami	Badami court	2
Hospet	Malligi Tourist Home	2
Hassan	Hoysala Village	1
Mysore	Sandesh The Prince	1
Total No. of nights		6

Check-in/Check-out 12 noon unless otherwise specified

If original quoted hotels are not available, alternate similar category hotel will be booked.

➤ **QUOTATIONS (All rates are in US Dollars ON PER PERSON TWIN SHARING BASIS)**

PER PERSON	USD 830
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT	USD 140

➤ **QUOTATION INCLUDES:**

- **6 night's** accommodation on **twin sharing basis in standard category of rooms** unless otherwise specified in hotels mentioned or similar.
- Meal plan **on bed & breakfast basis**
- Transfer & sightseeing excursions by **air-conditioned** vehicle.
- **Local English speaking guide.**
- Meet & Greet services of a TCI representative in each city.
- All government taxes at hotels as on date including the recently introduced service tax of 4.08%. Any future levies will be charged extra.
- Services of a TCI English speaking representative to assist at airports & hotels.

➤ **QUOTATIONS EXCLUDE:**

- Items of a personal nature like laundry, tips & gratuities, telephone bills, mini bar, still/video camera fees at monuments or any items not specified above.
- Visa charges for India & neighbouring countries.
- Any other services not mentioned in the itinerary.

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