

Mysore



The Royal & Heritage City!!!



Mysore - The Royal & Heritage City

Mysore or Mysuru the Royal & Heritage City of Karnataka, located at the southern part of the Karnataka State. Mysore located at the foot hills of Chamundi Hill and just 140 KM from the silicon city Bangalore.

The Myth says the name Mahishapura came from the demon Mahishasura, in which goddesses Chamundeshwari killed the demon. Later during the rule of British the name has changed into Mysore.

Mysore Fact Sheet

Area	: 124 sq. km.
Population	: 12,10,000
Climate	: Tropical
Temperature	: 18° C to 32° C
Clothing	: Light Cotton
Tourism Season	: 365 days
Nearest Airport	: Mysore
Nearest Railway Station	: Mysore
International Dialling Code	: +91-821
Languages	: Kannada, Hindi, English, Kodava

How to reach Mysore

Air : Mysore Airport is the nearest air connectivity to Mysore by Air. Daily flights are operating to Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Goa.

Bangalore International Airport (BIAL) is 180 Kms from Mysore which connects all major cities in the world.

Rail : There are direct train services to Mysore from Bangalore, Mangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Jaipur etc.

Road : Regular bus services are available from all major towns and cities in South India.

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History of Mysore

Mysore gets its name from the buffalo-headed demon ruler Mahishasura. According to the mythological story in Devi Bhagavata. Mysore was ruled by Mahishasura who created havoc for Gods. Hearing their plea to save them from the monster, Goddess Parvati, wife of Lord Shiva, took birth as Chamundeshwari and killed the demon King. After killing Mahishasura, the Goddess resided atop the Chamundi Hill where she is worshipped by devotees with reverence even today.

From the time of history, the culture of Mysore was enriched by illustrious dynasties like the Gangas (Talakadu), Chalukyas (Badami), Hoysalas (Belur), Vijayanagara (Hamapi), Sultanates like Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultana (Srirangapatana). In the medieval period, two brothers from Gujarat, Yadu and Krishna came to Mysore and started Wodeyar Dynasty.



Mysore Dasara

Dasara is celebrated across the length and breadth of India, nowhere it is celebrated on the same grand scale as it is in Mysore. The festival has its origins in Hindu mythology with the legendary Pandava Kings in the great epic. Mahabharata celebrating the festival as the triumph of good over evil. However, in Mysore, it has evolved into a cultural spectacle, a confluence of art, dance, music and drama. It attracts tourists from all over the world who are drawn by its sights, sounds and colorful history. The festival has been traced to the rulers of the glorious Vijayanagara Empire. This tradition has been safeguarded by the rulers of Mysore (the Wodeyar dynasty) who have

kept it alive to this day. After independence the Government of Karnataka is celebrating it as NaadaHabba (State Festival).

In the nine days comprising the festival of Dasara, Mysore City becomes a cultural hub, with striking performances in music, dance and drama performed by artists of national and international repute. The grand finale of the festival comes on the day of Vijayadashami when the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari is taken on a golden howdah atop an elephant on a mile-long procession.



Sightseeing Places in Mysore

Mysore has a variety of sightseeing places. The famous Maharaja Palace, Brindavan Garden(KRS dam)Chamundi Hill, Mysore Zoo, Karanji Lake, St Philomena's Church,Ranganatittu Bird Sanctury, Srirangapatana, Nanjangud, Somnathpur Temple and many more around Mysore.

Mysore Palace

Built in Indo-Saracenic style with domes, turrets, arches and colonnades, the palace is a treasure house of exquisite carvings and works of art from all over the world. Known as Amba Vilas Palace, it was designed by Henry Irwin, the British Consultant architect of Madras State, and completed in 1912 on the site of the old wooden palace that was destroyed fire in 1897.



The Majestic Durbar Hall with its ornate ceiling and sculpted pillars, chandeliers, cast-iron pillars and Belgian stained glass arranged in peacock designs is the main attraction. Make sure you see the magnificent jewel studded golden throne, the pride of the Wodeyars and the symbol of their sovereignty, displayed there during the Dasara festival in September/October every year. The palace illuminated on all days during Dasara, Sundays and Public holidays, presents a spectacle of breathtaking beauty.

Jaganmohan Palace

The Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery in the Jaganmohan Palace houses an excellent collection of ceramics, sandalwood, ivory, stone and antique furniture and ancient musical instruments. You can also gaze at paintings by reputed artists like Raja Ravi Varma and Russian painter Svetoslav Roerich, as well as traditional Mysore gold leaf paintings.



Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden (Mysore Zoo)

The Chamarajendra Zoological Garden was established with royal patronage in the 19th Century. The zoo's collection of fauna includes rare and exotic species housed in lush green environs. The Mysore Zoo has been responsible for the breeding of some rare animals in captivity.



St. Philomena's Church

This is a beautiful gloric structure with twin spires, 175 ft. in height and is said to have been modeled on a gothic Cathedral at Cologne. Designed by French architects, the foundation stone was laid by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV in 1933. The stained glass windows overlooking the apse, made in France, showing the Birth of Christ, Baptism of Christ by St. John the Baptist, the Last Supper and the crucifixion of Christ are works of art. The altar bears the statue of St. Philomena, a third century saint of Greece.



Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel

Seven Km east of the city, set on a ridge, is the Lalitha Mahal Palacce, a European classical two storeyed palace, built by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar in 1931 for special guests from overseas. Its luxurious interiors are embellished with the finest of local craftsmanship as well as imported luxury fittings. The palace has now been converted into a heritage hotel which is part of the state owned.



Devaraja Market

Mysore's main fruit and vegetable market stretches along Sayyaji Rao Road from Dhanvantari Road to New Statue Square and is one of the most colourful in India. Photographers passing through Mysore never miss a visit to the market; some even spend whole the day taking photographs.

Betel leaves and Jasmine, popularly known as Misuru Mallige, are the main attractions.

Chamundi Hill & Nandi

Perched atop a hill 13 km outside Mysore city is the temple of Chamundeshwari, the patron deity of the Wodeyars. The 4.8 m tall monolith of the Nandi bull and the gigantic Mahishasura statue are added attractions most tourists look forward to.

Rail Museum

Located being the main railway station is little known but impressive Rail Museum with its priceless locomotives, coaches and collections of paintings and photographs narrating the Rail Story. The prize exhibit is the Maharani's Saloon built in the U.K.

Ranganatittu Bird Sanctuary

Just outside Srirangapatna, near Mysore, the river Cauvery meanders around a string of tiny nesting sites for waterfowls. Experience the excitement of a boat ride that takes you within touching distance of the birds as marsh crocodiles bask in the sun. Delight in watching the winged visitors making happy forays into the water. You can also observe to spot flying foxes hanging on the highest branches of the tallest trees at dusk.

Brindavan Gardens

Located 20 km from Mysore, the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam was designed and constructed by the renowned architect Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah in 1932 during the reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV. It is built close to the confluence of three rivers; Cauvery, Hemavathi and Lakshmanatirtha. The length of the dam is about 2,621 meters and the height is 39 meters. The reservoir itself is spread over an area of 130 sq. km. The beautiful terraced gardens laid out on the side of the dam are decorated by fountains. There is a small lake for boating. The illumination and musical fountains are the special features of the gardens.



Lakes

Kukkarahalli Lake

The Kukkarahalli Lake is located in the Mysore University Campus. The lake has inspired many poets and writers. The view from the north shore is attractive with the lake and its surrounding trees, the spire of the Deputy Commissioner's offices rising above them and the low rise of the Chamundi Hill in the background. The lake is home to more than 180 species of birds, not all of them aquatic. During the migratory season, the lake plays host to a variety of winged visitors, some from as far as Siberia. There is a 4.5 km walkway on the periphery of the lake with shaded stone benches for visitors to sit, relax and enjoy the scenic serenity of the lake.

Karanji Lake

Picturesquely located at the foot of the Chamundi Hills, Karanji Lake is a beautiful bird sanctuary in the heart of Mysore City, which provides a wonderful habitat for more than 70 different species of avifauna. The recently re-developed lake, spanning across 90 acres, has a butterfly park, boating, children's corner, a watch tower and India's largest walk-through aviary.

Srirangapatna

Srirangapatna, surrounded by the River Cauvery, is the only island town in South India, which has great historical importance. This small township, Tipu Sultan's erstwhile island-capital, has temples, mosques, gateways, dungeons, monuments and many other places of interest. The town takes its name from Sri

Ranganathaswamy, the presiding deity of this place.

Srirangapatna Fort

The fort was built in AD 1454 after Srirangapatna passed into the hands of the Vijayanagar kings. This was considerably enlarged and fortified in the eighteenth century by Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan and stands strong even today.

The main entrance to the fort, rebuilt by Tipu Sultan in 1791, was through the Elephant Gate in the south. Within the walls was Tipu's main palace, of which nothing remains now. However, the Water Gate through which the British breached the fort in 1799 can still be seen, as also the spot where Tipu was killed while bravely fighting the oncoming British army.



Tipu's Summer Palace - Daria Daulat Bagh

The Daria Daulat Bagh (literally Garden of the Wealth of the Sea) was built in AD 1784 by Tipu as a pleasure palace. Set in large, manicured gardens, the Daria Daulat Bagh, like the palace in Bangalore, is built mainly in wood, and its simple wooden façade is unusually modest for a royal residence. The main features of the Saracenic style building are the paintings which decorate every inch of the walls, including narrow stair-wells and doors. On the west wall are large murals graphically describing Tipu's victory over Colonel Baillie's army in Kancheepuram in 1780.



The Gumbaz

At the eastern end of the island, Tipu built the Gumbaz a mausoleum for his father. Tipu and his mother are also buried here. Thirty six black hornblende pillars (polished regularly with coconut oil to maintain their shine) support a cream coloured square structure surmounted by a bulbous dome, both surrounded by low parapets with miniature minarets at the four corners and decorated with intricate pilaster work. The interior is painted with the tiger stripe, which Tippu favoured for his military uniforms.



Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple

Sri Ranganathaswamy, the presiding deity is enshrined in one of the oldest Dravidian temples in the state. The temple itself was first built in AD 894 and was expanded during the reign of the Hoysalas; the navaranga (hall) was built around 1454 by the Vijayanagar Kings.

Somnathapur - Keshava Temple

Temple is situated in the unobtrusive village of Somnathapur, 35 km from Mysore. The exquisitely carved, star-shaped temple with triple towers is a perfect example of Hoysala architecture. The friezes on its outer walls with their intricately carved rows of caparisoned elephants, charging horsemen, and mythological birds and beasts will leave you spellbound. Beautifully sculpted images of gods, goddesses and scenes from the epics, as well as the remarkably ornate ceilings in the pillared hall will take your breath away.



SHOPPING IN MYSORE

Mysore Silk: Mysore is famous for its Silk. Silk sarees and Magutis are being traditionally worn for a long time, both on religious and auspicious occasions. Silk sarees come in a large variety, the cost of saree depending upon the contents of gold in it. The sarees are tastefully gold laced on its both edges and the pallu which is wrapped over the body.

Handicrafts: Mysore is a reputed place for handicrafts. Artisans, both in their homes and at work centres produce a variety of items. The elegant and attractive items of handicrafts mostly are wood-based, made out of sandalwood, rosewood and teakwood. The ban of ivory, production of handicrafts in ivory has unfortunately disappeared. Mysore continues to produce a large quantity of sandalwood and hence sandalwood articles are the best items to purchase.

Agarbathis: Mysore is also famous for its incense sticks. Variety of agarbathies are produced by leading manufacturers and small vendors. Branded ones are the best for purchase and Mysore is home to the best variety of incense sticks.

Best Shopping Areas: Devaraj Urs Road, Sayyaji Road, Dhanavatri Road are best shopping areas in Mysore.

Cuisine: Mysore Masala Dosa, Mallige Idli and Sambar, Vada, Mylari Dosa, Khara bath, Kesari bath and Mysore pak (incredible sweet) are not to be missed in Mysore for breakfast. Thali means in Lalith Mahal Palace, Siddhartha Hotel are not to be missed for vegetarian lunch in Mysore. Chicken curry, Hanumanthu mutton pulao, Sattar biryani, Gobi Manchurian, Nasheman Biryani, Paya soup are for Non-vegetarians.

Mysore Travel Plan

Day 01:

Mysore Sightseeing covering Art Gallery, Mysore Palace, Chamundi Hill, Zoo, St. Philomena's Church, Sri Ranganatha Temple, Tipu Palace (Dariya Doulat), Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Brindhavan Gardens.

Day 02:

Day excursions to Somanthapura Temple, Shivanasamudra, Talakad.

Day 03:

Day excursions to Nanjangud Temple, Himada Gopalaswamy hill, Bandipur National Park

Day 04:

Day excursions to Belur, Halebid and Shravanabelagola

Day 05:

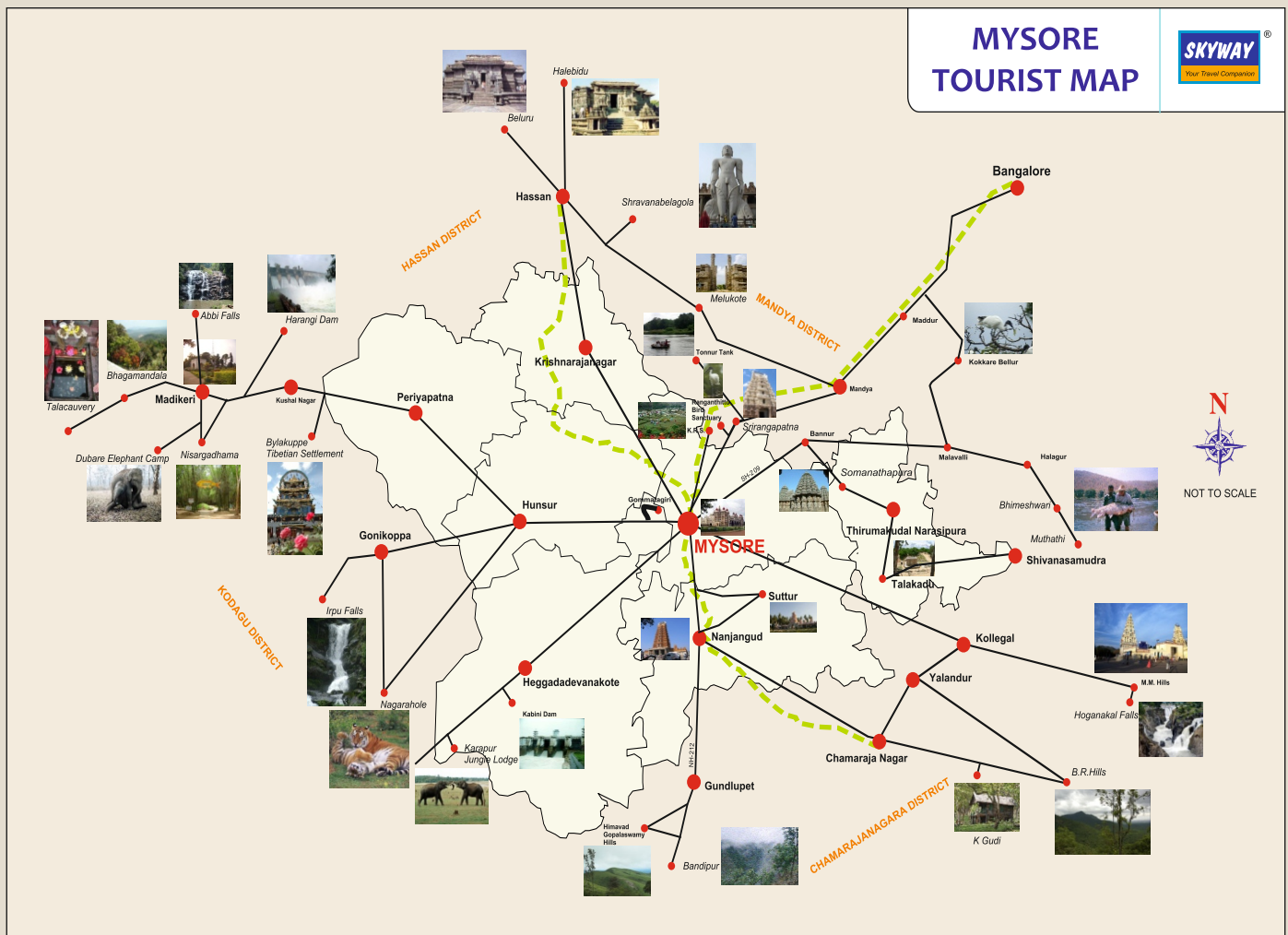
Day excursions to Irruppu Falls and Nagarhole National Park

Day 06:

Day excursions to Coorg - Kodagu

Distance from Mysore

Bandipur	80 km
Belur	135 km
Brindavan Gardens	20 km
BR Hills	100 km
Bylakuppe	75 km
Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and Fishing Camp	100 km
Dubare Elephant Camp	90 km
Gopalaswamy Hills	60 km
Shivanasamudra	65 km
Halebidu	135 km
Kabini	80 km
Madikeri	125 km
Melkote	65 km
MM Hills	180 km
Nagarhole	80 km
Nanjangud	25 km
Somnathapura	35 km
Srirangapatna	15 km
Shravanabelagola	80 km
Tonnur Lake	65 km
Talukad	65 km



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