

KARNATAKA · HERITAGE ITINERARY

Heritage Karnataka

For families who want the history rather than just the hill station: the Vijayanagara ruins at Hampi, the cave temples of Badami, Hoysala stone-carving at Belur and Halebidu, the Jain pilgrimage at Shravanabelagola, and a finish in Mysuru. Long drives on two days — worth it for what the route covers.

7 nights / 8 days Route: **Bengaluru – Hampi – Badami – Belur/Halebidu – Shravanabelagola – Mysuru**

From **₹42,000** per person, indicative

Day by day

Day

1

BENGALURU

Arrive

Land in Bengaluru and settle in. An easy first day: Lalbagh or Cubbon Park in the morning if the flight lands early, and an evening at leisure to rest before the longer drives ahead. This itinerary covers more ground than the classic route, so an early night helps.

Stay: **Bengaluru** · Meals: **Dinner**

Day

2

BENGALURU → HAMPI

To the ruined empire

Long drive to Hampi via Hosapete (350 km, about 6.5–7 hours with stops) — leave by 6:30 am. An overnight train (Hampi Express, Bengaluru to Hosapete, about 9 hours) is an alternative for families who would rather not do a full day's drive; ask us about the timing when booking. Evening at leisure by the Tungabhadra river.

Stay: **Hampi (Hosapete)** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
3

HAMPI

Vijayanagara ruins

Full day among the ruins: the Virupaksha Temple, Vittala Temple with its stone chariot and musical pillars, the Royal Enclosure, Lotus Mahal and Elephant Stables, and Hemakuta Hill for sunset. A local guide and a hired auto-rickshaw are worthwhile — the sites are spread across 25 sq km. A short coracle ride across the Tungabhadra to Anegundi is a nice add-on for children.

Stay: **Hampi (Hosapete)** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
4

HAMPI → BADAMI VIA AIHOLE & PATTADAKAL

Chalukyan heartland

Drive to Badami (140 km, about 3 hours) with stops at Aihole, often called a laboratory of early temple architecture with over 100 shrines, and Pattadakal, a UNESCO site where Chalukyan builders perfected both northern and southern temple styles side by side. Reach Badami by evening for the rock-cut cave temples overlooking Agastya Lake.

Stay: **Badami** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
5

BADAMI → HASSAN (FOR BELUR/HALEBIDU)

South towards the Hoysalas

Another long drive day, this one via Hubballi (280 km, about 6 hours). Break the journey with a lunch stop in Hubballi. This is the price of covering four heritage sites in one trip — the classic and short-break itineraries avoid it entirely.

Stay: **Hassan** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
6

BELUR/HALEBIDU → SHRAVANABELAGOLA → MYSURU

Hoysala temples and the Jain pilgrimage

Morning at the Chennakeshava Temple in Belur and the Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebidu (16 km apart), both covered in stone carving of exceptional detail — allow at least an hour at each. Afternoon at Shravanabelagola: the 614 steps up Vindhyagiri hill to the 57-foot Bahubali statue are steep but manageable for most; a doli (palanquin carried by four bearers) can be arranged in advance for seniors or anyone who prefers not to climb, at roughly ₹1,500–2,500. Continue to Mysuru (90 km, 2 hours) by evening.

Stay: **Mysuru** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
7

MYSURU

Palace and city

Full day in Mysuru: Amba Vilas Palace in the morning, Chamundi Hills and Brindavan Gardens in the afternoon and evening. If the day falls on a Sunday or public holiday, plan the evening around the palace illumination at 7–7:45 pm.

Stay: **Mysuru** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
8

MYSURU → BENGALURU → AHMEDABAD

Drive to the airport and fly home

Drive to Bengaluru airport (145 km, about 3 hours on the expressway) for an afternoon or evening flight to Ahmedabad. Build in a buffer of at least an hour beyond the drive time for Bengaluru's city traffic near the airport approach.

Stay: — · Meals: **Breakfast**

Inclusions

Included

- + Return Ahmedabad–Bengaluru flights
- + 7 nights in inspected 3★/4★ hotels
- + Private AC vehicle for the whole trip
- + Daily breakfast and veg dinner
- + Local guide at Hampi for one day
- + Airport pickup and drop

Not included

- Lunches on sightseeing days
- Doli charges at Shravanabelagola
- Monument entry tickets (Hampi, Pattadakal are ticketed; most others are free)
- Travel insurance and GST 5%

Indicative cost

STANDARD

₹42,000–50,000

Per person, twin sharing

PREMIUM

₹62,000–78,000

Per person, twin sharing

Per person on twin sharing, indicative for 2026, including flights. Two long drive days keep hotel costs lower than the classic route, but fuel and driver charges are higher — factor this in when comparing quotes. All prices on this document are indicative for 2026 and confirmed in writing at the time of booking.

Good to know

Getting there. Fly: IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express fly Ahmedabad–Bengaluru non-stop, several times daily, about 2 hours. This is the right airport for every itinerary in this guide. Mangaluru (for the Gokarna/Udupi coast) and Hubballi (for Hampi/Badami) usually need one stop, typically via Bengaluru or Mumbai.

Food. Udupi cuisine — the pure-vegetarian tradition that gave North India the word 'Udupi restaurant' — is the everyday default across Karnataka, so even small-town dhabas and hotels handle vegetarian requests easily. Bengaluru and Mysuru both have well-established Gujarati and Jain restaurants (MTR, Vidyarthi Bhavan and several dedicated Gujarati thali places in Bengaluru); smaller towns like Madikeri and Hosapete rely on hotel kitchens instead.

Permits and rules. No permits are needed anywhere covered in this guide. Shravanabelagola and other Jain and Hindu temples ask for footwear to be removed before the climb or the sanctum, and modest dress is expected; men are sometimes asked to remove shirts at some Jain temples for the inner sanctum, which we flag in advance for anyone uncomfortable with it.

Pack

- Light woollens for Coorg mornings and evenings (10–15°C, December–January)
- Comfortable walking shoes — Hampi's boulder terrain and Shravanabelagola's 614 steps both demand good grip
- Sun hat, sunscreen and a water bottle for Hampi and Badami, which have almost no shade
- A folding umbrella if travelling through Coorg in September or the shoulder season
- Socks for barefoot temple visits — stone floors at Belur, Halebidu and Shravanabelagola get very hot by midday
- Basic first-aid and motion-sickness tablets for the Coorg hill roads
- A padded jacket if visiting Coorg in peak winter, especially for early-morning excursions to Dubare or Talakaveri

Want this booked properly?

Send this PDF to us on WhatsApp with your dates and the number of travellers. Hotel names and a firm price within 24 hours.

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