

TEAM MEMBERS

NAME	USN
1. MAMATA J ARALI	2KE20CS042
2. MANDARA H GOUDA	2KE20CS043
3. K V HAMSASHRIE	2KE20CS030
4. KOMAL DIXIT	2KE20CS036
5. KAVYA JAVAI	2KE20CS034
6. KAVERI S	2KE20CS033
7. BHAVYA PATIL	2KE20CS019
8. ANJALI BADAGAR	2KE20CS008
9. ANUSHA AJAGOND	2KE20CS011
10. MEGHA P B	2KE20CS045
11. PALLAVI BIRADAR	2KE20CS051
12. POORVIKA KURTAKOTI	2KE20CS055

THE NORTH KARNATAKA TOURIST PLACE

HAMPI AT A GLANCE :

Hampi is a World Heritage Site, owing to the ancient temples, forts and other monuments here. Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire around 1500 AD, and by some accounts, the second largest city in the world at that time. Over the next centuries it fell out of importance, and now there lie ruins of a lot of temples and other structures spread out over a vast area. The terrain around Hampi is mysterious as the ruins itself -the city is surrounded by boulders of different sizes, and you can climb to the top of them with a little effort to get stunning view of the entire city and the geography. Its located on the banks of the Tungabhadra River. Famous for its massive, beautifully carved temples, Hampi tells the stories of its existing structures. Many a visitor climb atop the Matangaparvata and get a glimpse of Hampi and its environs. The way the city was built with temples and bazaars is exemplary in itself. On the North banks of the river Tungabhadra is the first capital of the Vijayanagar Empire, Anegundi, the temples and stories abound, which will help one to get a better understanding of the local heritage. Hampi is also known as Pampa Kshetra, Kishkindha kshetra and even Bhaskara kshetra. These names were derived from the famous Tungabhadra River Pampa. According to mythology, it is said that Pampa was Brahma's daughter who was later married off to Shiva. It was here where the city was built. Hampi word in is another version of Hampe, a Kannada name. Today, Hampi is also known as Vijayanagara who used to rule the city. As you walk through the remains of Hampi's magnificent forts, palaces and gateways, you will get a glimpse of the excellent architecture of those times. The monuments speak volumes about the history of Hampi that used to be a prosperous & rich kingdom in the 14th century which was eventually ruined owing to the attacks made by the Moghuls. The history of Hampi dates back to the 2nd & also the 3rd century that is the Neolithic and Chalcolithic era. This fact has been established from the ceramic potteries that have been found here from those centuries. The popular folklore is that two local chiefs called Hakka and Bukka one on a hunting expedition report of an unusual sighting to their guru Vidyaranya. & the fascinating sight was that of a hare who was being chased by their hound. The hare suddenly becomes all brave and powerful and turns around to chase the hound. This made the Guru believe that the place where they found this unusually beautiful sight is very special and hence decided to shift their local capital to this very place. This was the start of an empire that went on to become one of the richest. In a span of over 200 years, a total of four dynasties ruled Vijayanagar that is also called the City of Victory.

CHAPTER 6

HAMPI VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE



Fig 6.1 Hampi at a glance

6.1 AIM

Survey of the tourist places in Hampi with its address and history.

6.1.1 HISTORY

Hampi or Hampe, also referred to as the Group of Monuments at Hampi, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Hampi town, Vijayanagara district, east-central Karnataka, India. Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century. It is a fortified city. Chronicles left by Persian and European travellers, particularly the Portuguese, say that Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy and grand city near the Tungabhadra River, with numerous temples, farms and trading markets. By 1500 CE, Hampi-Vijayanagara was the world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing, and probably India's richest at that time, attracting traders from Persia and Portugal. The Vijayanagara Empire was defeated by a coalition of Muslim sultanates; its capital was conquered, pillaged and destroyed by sultanate armies in 1565, after which Hampi remained in ruins. Located in Karnataka near the modern-era city of Hosapete, Hampi's ruins are spread over 4,100 hectare (16 sq mi) and it has been described by UNESCO as an "austere, grandiose site" of more than 1,600 surviving remains of the last great Hindu kingdom in South India that includes "forts, riverside features, royal and sacred complexes, temples, shrines, pillared halls, mandapas, memorial structures, water structures and others". Hampi predates the Vijayanagara Empire, it is mentioned in the Ramayana & the Puranas of Hinduism as Pampaa Devi Tirtha Kshetra. Hampi continues to be an important religious centre, housing the Virupaksha Temple, an active Adi Shankara-linked monastery and various monuments belonging to the old city.



Fig 6.1a Hampi overview



Fig 6.1b Some tourist places to visit in Hampi

The austere, grandiose site of Hampi was the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar. Its fabulously rich princes built Dravidian temples and palaces which won the admiration of travellers between the 14th and 16th centuries. Conquered by the Deccan Muslim confederacy in 1565, the city was pillaged over a period of six months before being abandoned. The austere and grandiose site of Hampi comprise mainly the remnants of the Capital City of Vijayanagara Empire (14th-16th Cent CE), the last great Hindu Kingdom. The property encompasses an area of 4187, 24 hectares, located in the Tungabhadra basin in Central Karnataka, Bellary District. Hampi's spectacular setting is dominated by river Tungabhadra, craggy hill ranges and open plains, with widespread physical remains. The sophistication of the varied urban, royal and sacred systems is evident from the more than 1600 surviving remains that include forts, riverside features, royal and sacred complexes, temples, shrines, pillared halls, Mandapas, memorial structures, gateways, defence check posts, stables, water structures,

etc. Among these, the Krishna temple complex, Narasimha, Ganesa, Hemakuta group of temples, Achyutaraya temple complex, Vitthala temple complex, Pattabhirama temple complex, Lotus Mahal complex, can be highlighted. Suburban townships (puras) surrounded the large Dravidian temple complexes containing subsidiary shrines, bazaars, residential areas and tanks applying the unique hydraulic technologies and skilfully and harmoniously integrating the town and defence architecture with surrounding landscape. The remains unearthed in the site delineate both the extent of the economic prosperity and political status that once existed indicating a highly developed society. Dravidian architecture flourished under the Vijayanagara Empire and its ultimate form is characterised by their massive dimensions, cloistered enclosures, and lofty towers over the entrances encased by decorated pillars. The Vitthala temple is the most exquisitely ornate structure on the site and represents the culmination of Vijayanagara temple architecture. It is a fully developed temple with associated buildings like Kalyana Mandapa and Utsava Mandapa within a cloistered enclosure pierced with three entrance Gopurams. In addition to the typical spaces present in contemporary temples, it boasts of a Garuda shrine fashioned as a granite ratha and a grand bazaar street. This complex also has a large Pushkarani (stepped tank) with a Vasantotsava mandapa (ceremonial pavilion at the centre), wells and a network of water channels. Another unique feature of temples at Hampi is the wide Chariot streets flanked by the rows of Pillared Mandapas, introduced when chariot festivals became an integral part of the rituals. The stone chariot in front of the temple is also testimony to its religious ritual. Most of the structures at Hampi are constructed from local granite, burnt bricks and lime mortar. The stone masonry and lantern roofed post and lintel system were the most favoured construction technique. The massive fortification walls have irregular cut size stones with paper joints by filling the core with rubble masonry without any binding material. The gopuras over the entrances and the sanctum proper have been constructed with stone and brick. The roofs have been laid with the heavy thick granite slabs covered with a water proof course of brick jelly and lime mortar. Vijayanagara architecture is also known for its adoption of elements of Indo Islamic Architecture in secular buildings like the Queen's Bath and the Elephant Stables, representing a highly evolved multi-religious and multi-ethnic society. Building activity in Hampi continued over a period of 200 years reflecting the evolution in the religious and political scenario as well as the advancements in art and architecture. The city rose to metropolitan proportions and is immortalized in the words of many foreign travellers as one of the most beautiful cities. The Battle of Talikota (1565 CE) led to a massive destruction of its physical fabric. Dravidian architecture survives in the rest of Southern India spread through the patronage of the Vijayanagara rulers. The Raya Gopura, introduced first in the temples attributed to Raja Krishna Deva Raya, is a landmark all over South India.

* PLACES TO VISIT IN HAMPI

6.2 Vittala Temple

Vittala Temple is one of the prime attractions of Hampi dedicated to Hindu God Vittala who is a form of lord Vishnu. A stone made chariot in front of the entry of the temple gives extra beauty of the temple. Ruins of a temple known for creative architecture such as a moving stone chariot & musical pillars. The Vittala Temple or Vitthala Temple in Hampi is an ancient monument that is well-known for its exceptional architecture and unmatched craftsmanship. It is considered to be one of the largest and the most famous structure in Hampi. The temple is located in the north eastern part of Hampi, near the banks of the Tungabhadra River. .



Fig 6.2a Vittala Temple

The Vittala Temple or Vitthala Temple in Hampi is an ancient monument that is well-known for its exceptional architecture and unmatched craftsmanship. It is considered to be one of the largest and the most famous structure in Hampi. The temple is located in the north eastern part of Hampi, near the banks of the Tungabhadra River. Home » Hampi » Vittala Temple, Hampi – An Architectural Wonder Vittala Temple, Hampi – An Architectural Wonder



Fig 6.2b Stone Chariot

Every tourist place has that one spot which earns it galore and admiration. For Hampi, the small, dainty temple village set in Karnataka, it's the iconic stone chariot. It's the leading man in the army of exquisite beautiful sights

that Hampi has to offer and depicts Karnataka tourism an icon itself. The chariot is actually a shrine dedicated to Garuda, built inside the Vittala Temple Complex. The massive sculpture of Garuda, Lord Vishnu's escort once was seated atop the chariot but it is empty at the present date. The Hampi Chariot has earned its name among the other three famous stone chariots in India- One in Konark, Odissa, and the other in Mahabalipuram (TamilNadu). The chariot was built by King Krishnadevaraya of the Vijayanagara Empire during the 16th century, who got fascinated with the Konark Sun temple chariot while fighting a battle in Odissa. The chariot is meant to represent the beauty and artistic perfection of the Empire. An interesting folklore emanates from the Hampi chariot as villagers believe that the world would come to a halt when the chariot moves from its place. It has come to have a sacrosanct presence and is internationally recognized as a world heritage site even by the UNESCO. The Vittala Temple or Vitthala Temple in Hampi is an ancient monument that is well-known for its exceptional architecture and unmatched craftsmanship. It is considered to be one of the largest and the most famous structure in Hampi. The temple is located in the north eastern part of Hampi, near the banks of the Tungabhadra River. The iconic temple has amazing stone structures such as the incomparable stone chariot and the fascinating musical pillars. This predominant monument of Hampi is a major attraction of the ruined town and is a must-see for visitors and tourists. The Vittala Temple is also known as Shri Vijaya Vitthala Temple. It is dedicated to Lord Vitthala, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. An idol of Vitthala-Vishnu was enshrined in the temple. Legend has it that the temple was built as an abode for Lord Vishnu in his Vitthala form. However, the Lord had found the temple to be too grand for his use and had returned to live in his own humble home. Splendid Architecture of Vittala Temple, Hampi The Vittala Temple is presumed to be the grandest of all temples & monuments in Hampi. The temple exemplifies the immense creativity and architectural excellence possessed by the sculptors and artisans of the Vijayanagara era.

6.2.1 HISTORY

Dating back to the 15th century, the Vittala Temple was constructed during the supremacy of Emperor Krishnadevaraya. In the subsequent years, the temple was expanded and renovated, taking it to its present glory. Also referred to as the Shri Vijaya Vitthala Temple, the shrine was dedicated to Vishnu (an important deity in the Hindu Pantheon) – prayed in his Vitthala avatar. According to local legends, the emperor built the temple as an abode of Vitthala-Vishnu. However, the lord found the temple to be too grand for his preference and returned to his abode.

Stone Chariot was built in the 16th century by the orders of King Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara Empire. The emperor is said to have been impressed by the Sun temple of Konark during the war with Kalinga and wanted to recreate a similar one in Hampi.

6.2.2 ARCHITECTURE

Vittala Temple, considered as the most stunning temples and monuments in the region, showcases the extraordinary craftsmanship of the engineers and the architects of those times. The creativity and architectural excellence of the Vijayanagar artists and sculptors could be seen in its full glory within the temple premises. Built in the Dravidian style of architecture, this shrine has several features that are quintessentially found in the architecture of the region. According to historians, the temple had a hall attached to the main shrine. The current open hall or mandapa was a later addition probably introduced during the later expansions. The temple complex was enclosed by three towering gateways and soaring compound walls. Inside the compound, several halls and smaller shrines are housing several gods and goddesses of Hinduism. Even these smaller structures have beautifully carved and have ornate detailing done all over them.

The Stone Chariots architecture is inspired by the Dravidian style of architecture. The significance of the structure lies in the fact that it looks like a single structure but it has been built by slabs of granite whose linkages have been hidden with artistic designs.

6.2.3 LOCATION

Vijaya Vittala Temple

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Vijaya Vittala Temple

1.Hampi bus stand to Vijaya Vittala temple-8.8kms

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station.From Hospet railway station to Vijaya Vittala Temple-18kms 3.The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport.From Bellary Airport to Vijaya Vittala Temple-64kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.3 Virupaksha Temple

Virupaksha Temple dedicated to the Hindu Lord Shiva. It is believed to be one of the oldest temples in India where people have been doing continuous worship to god for last 7th century to still today.



Fig 6.3 Virupaksha Temple

Virupaksha Temple (viru:pa:'kʂə) is located in Hampi in the Vijayanagara district of Karnataka, India. It is part of the Group of Monuments at Hampi, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple is dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, a form of Shiva. The temple was built by Lakkan Dandesha, a nayaka(chieftain) under the ruler Deva Raya II also known as Prauda Deva Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire. Hampi, capital of the Vijayanagara empire, sits on the banks of the Tungabhadra River (Pampa hole/Pampa river). Virupaksha Temple is the main center of pilgrimage (ವಿಠಲ ಠಾಣ) at Hampi, and had been considered the most sacred sanctuary over the centuries. It is intact among the surrounding ruins and is still used in worship. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, known here as Virupaksha/Pampa pathi, as the consort of the local goddess Pampadevi who is associated with the Tungabhadra River. There is also a Virupakshini Amma temple (mother goddess) in a village called Nalagamapalle, Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, approximately 100 km from Tirupati. The Virupaksha temple (or Prasanna Virupaksha temple) is located on the banks of the Tungabhadra river at Hampi. Built during the 7th century, the beautiful architecture and history of the temple have made it a UNESCO World Heritage site. The temple is abode to one of the forms of Lord Shiva called Lord Virupaksha. While it is located at present-day Hampi, it was once a smaller shrine in the middle of the ancient and majestic Vijayanagara empire. You will find beautiful stone inscriptions dating back to the 7th century on the walls of the temple as proof of its rich heritage. Architecture-lovers and history-buffs, do visit the temple when you are in Hampi! The temple has tall towers or gopurams acting as gateways to the inner sanctums, as is usually seen in temples of south Indian style architecture. The gopurams lead to many inner corridors and halls, all decorated with ornate stone-work. The sculptures depict mythological stories of numerous Gods and Goddesses. The main deity of the temple is Lord Virupaksha, but it is also abode to few other Hindu deities too. While many devotees visit the temple during festival seasons like the Car Festival, it is otherwise less crowded.

6.3.1 HISTORY

The temple has a long history, few of the inscriptions on the walls of the temple indicates us that the temple first formally built in the 7th century. Since then the renovations and expansion of the temple continued up to the rule of Vijayanagara kings. The Chalukyan and Hoysala kings also contributed to making the small shrine into a big temple. Especially, under the rule of the Vijayanagara empire, the temple grew its glory in the wide range. We can see the evidence of how the temple made as a large complex. Especially, Lakkana Dandesha, the chieftain under the rule of Vijayanagara kings built the huge temple buildings and made a very sacred place to the Hindu devotees. During the rule of Vijayanagara kings, the temple decorated with beautiful artwork. The walls of the temples carved with murals, sculptures and cultural events. Under the rule of Sri Krishnadevaraya, the road which leads to the temple was beautified by restoring beautiful sculptures. Many foreign travelers visit the place during the 15th and 16th century and proclaimed the greatness and wonderful sight of the temple and Hampi City. Even though after Sri Krishnadevaraya, the Muslim invaders destroyed fierce fully the beautiful structures and magnificent sculptures of Hampi city and the Virupaksha Temple. However, the glory of the Virupaksha temple didn't sink down, the devotees continued their pilgrimage to the temple. The major renovation works of the temple done in the early 19th century. The destroyed parts restored, the ceilings of the temple painted, the north and east gopurams constructed to bring back the glory of the Virupaksha temple.

6.3.2 ARCHITECTURE

The architecture of the temple is very beautiful and magnificent. There are a monastery, three antechambers and filled the surrounding of the temple with small shrines. The entrance ways surroundings with well-carved art sculptures. The gateways constructed with nine tiered and 50 meters in length. The gopuram basement layed with granite stones and the framework done with bricks. Here the surprising thing is all the gopurams have five stories and only eastern gopuram has only three stories. Mostly mahamantri Timmarusu keenly take care of the temple renovation works. Whatever it may be, the Vijayanagara empire was the place for the glory of Indian rich culture and tradition and live last forever.

6.3.3 LOCATION

Virupaksha Temple

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Virupaksha Temple

1. Hampi bus stand to Virupaksha Temple-2.1kms

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Virupaksha Temple-29kms
3. The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Virupaksha Temple-75kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.4 Royal Enclosure

Royal Enclosure is another must see place in Hampi from where the rulers of the culture used to watch the annual parade of imperial majesty and military capacity.



Fig 6.4 Royal Enclosure

The royal enclosure in Hampi was the Vijayanagara kingdom's seat of power. In its prime, it housed as many as 45 buildings including the durbar halls, platform, tanks, underground chambers, and temples. There are three entrances to the Royal Enclosure; two in the north and one in the west. The architectural style of this enclosure is symbolic of the Vijayanagara style of architecture with traces of Mughal influence. As with all the other features constructed by the Vijayanagara kings, the Royal Enclosure makes ample use of granite and soapstone. All the palaces face the east or the north and were built on raised granite platforms. These platforms feature multiple tiers and are decorated with carved details of flowers, geese, demon faces, elephants and human figures. Though the palaces themselves may not stand today, ask recovered from the site suggests that they used wooden beams and rafters. The Royal Enclosure in Hampi is one of the interesting ruins of Hampi. The huge fortified area was once the centre of the Vijayanagara Empire. The Royal Enclosure, as the name indicates, was the place where the King of Vijayanagara Empire lived and ruled from. This area was secured by double walls. It had three entrances, two on the northern side and one on the western side. The Royal Enclosure is spread over 59,000 square metres. It is believed that the complex once housed as many as 43 buildings, all for the use of the royal family. Now, the area has only ruins of several palace bases, water tanks, temple, ornate platform, aqueducts and canals, exquisitely carved doorways and many other structures. The Royal Enclosure comprised of some of the most wonderful edifices of the Vijayanagara era. Like the other structures of that period, these constructions show abundant use of stones and artwork on them. The enclosure was one of those areas in Hampi that have witnessed the maximum destruction. Some of the palaces and other structures have just their remnants remaining in the form of their bases, while the whole structures have been ravaged by man and nature. Even then, the ruins within the enclosure succeed to provide glimpses of the splendor of the royal life of the Vijayanagara dynasty.

6.4.1 HISTORY

This route of the Royal Enclosures Hampi trail tells you the story of how this 14th century Vijayanagara Empire was buried under the sands of time. A lot of what is left is just foundation – the grandeur has got buried under the sands of time. However, even those few which are intact will leave you mystified. This trail is quite unlike the earlier ones and as important in your list of places to visit in Hampi.

6.4.2 ARCHITECTURE

The royal enclosure in Hampi was the Vijayanagara kingdom's seat of power. In its prime, it housed as many as 45 buildings including the durbar halls, platform, tanks, underground chambers, and temples. There are three entrances to the Royal Enclosure; two in the north and one in the west. The architectural style of this enclosure is symbolic of the Vijayanagara style of architecture with traces of Mughal influence. As with all the other features constructed by the Vijayanagara kings, the Royal Enclosure makes ample use of granite and soapstone. All the palaces face the east or the north and were built on raised granite platforms. These platforms feature multiple tiers and are decorated with carved details of flowers, geese, demon faces, elephants and human figures. Though the palaces themselves may not stand today, an archaeological excavation of the site suggests that they used wooden beams and rafters. Domed structures were built with a stone rubble and mortar mixture.

6.4.3 LOCATION

Royal Enclosure

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Royal Enclosure

1. Hampi bus stand to Royal Enclosure-3.4kms

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Royal Enclosure-24.6kms
3. The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Royal Enclosure-70.6kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.5 Hemakuta

Hemakuta is a rocky hill especially famous for several temples situated on the top of it. Among these the Virupaksha Temple of this hill is most famous. This hilltop offers you a lovely scenic view of Hampi and.



Fig 6.5 Hemakuta

The Hemakuta hill is sprinkled with ancient temples that belong to both, pre-Vijayanagara as well as Vijayanagara periods. A large number of these temples dates back to 9th to 14th century and hence, belong to the era before the Vijayanagara Empire was founded. The Hemakuta Hill can be described as a canvas of stones. In the ancient times the whole hill was fortified with tall stone walls. Traces of the ruined fortification can be seen even today. The top of the hill is a stretch of rocky sheet that is almost flat. All the temples dotting the face of the hill are hundreds of years old and represent a historical era of art and culture. Most of the Hemakuta group of temples are dedicated to Lord Shiva. According to local folklore there is a mythological reason behind this. According to mythology, Lord Shiva performed penance on Hemakuta Hill before marrying a local girl named Pampa or Parvati. Lord Shiva was pleased with the dedication of the girl and consented to marry her. Due to this decision of Lord Shiva it rained gold on the hill. Since gold is known as Hema in Sanskrit, this hill came to be known as Hemakuta. Another legend has it that Hemakuta Hill was also the place where Lord Shiva had burnt Kama, the God of lust. Kama had helped Pampa to marry Shiva by distracting Shiva from his penance. This act of Kama angered Shiva and he killed Kama by emitting fire from his third eye. However, after Kama's wife Rathi pleaded with Shiva for the life of her husband, Shiva relented and brought Kama back to life but only in character and not as a physical being. As such, Hemakuta Hill came to be deeply associated with Lord Shiva and many temples were built on the hill to worship Shiva. The architecture of the temples on the Hemakuta Hill is quite different from the typical Vijayanagara style of architecture found in many other temples in Hampi. The Hemakuta group of temples have a distinct style of their own. These temples are often mistaken for Jain temples due to their architecture, which is in some ways similar to that of the Jain temples. As such, they are sometimes mistakenly referred to as Jain temples. The Hemakuta group of temples are compact triple chambered structures with pyramid like roofs made from granite. Some of the temples located on the northern side of the hill are built in the Trikutachala style of architecture. In this style of architecture, three shrines are placed in perpendicular position to each other face a common central hall. The temples have almost plain outer walls, except for the horizontal chain of floral motifs that provide some ornamentation to the walls. There are more than 35 temples on the Hemakuta Hill. The largest and most elaborately decorated temples are situated on the northern side of the hill and face the Virupaksha temple compound. Among the Hemakuta group of temples, some are in total ruins while some are in comparatively better condition. Some of the temples have partially sunk to the ground. The Archaeological Survey

of India is undertaking efforts to renovate these temples and bring back their lost glory. Some of the temples that had escaped destruction during the Mughal invasions have suffered damage from the wear and tear of weather. However, the Hemakuta group of temples remain one of the major attractions in Hampi.

6.5.1 HISTORY

The Hemakuta hill is sprinkled with ancient temples that belong to both, pre-Vijayanagara as well as Vijaynagara periods. A large number of these temples dates back to 9th to 14th century and hence, belong to the era before the Vijayanagara Empire was founded. This hill is sprinkled generously with a large number of temples, archways and pavilions. The whole of the hill was fortified with tall wide stonewalls, the ruined remains of which can be still be seen. Once you have reached the top (about 15 minutes climb) , it's almost a flat expanse of rocky sheet with occasional ups and downs. Hemakuta Hill is one among the best places in Hampi to see the sunrise & sunset; and not as tedious to reach the top say compared to the Matanga Hill nearby, which is boasted as the best location to watch sunset in Hampi. So if you find it difficult to make it to Matanga Hill for sunset view, try from Hemakuta Hill.

6.5.2 LOCATION

Hemakuta

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Hemakuta

- 1.Hampi bus stand to Hemakuta-1.2kms
2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station.From Hospet railway station to Hemakuta-28kms
- 3.The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport.From Bellary Airport to Hemakuta-74kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.6 Kadalekalu Ganesha

Kadalekalu Ganesha is an enormous statue about 14 ft high of lord Ganesha. Some big slender stone pillars with many mythological themes carved decorated the front hall of this Statue. Sasivekalu Ganesha is another big statue of lord Ganesha located inside an open pavilion.



Fig 6.6 Kadalekalu Ganesha

This giant statue of Ganesha was carved out of a huge boulder at the northeastern slope of the Hemakuta hill. The belly of this statue resembles a Bengal gram (Kadalekalu, in local language) and hence the name. A sanctum is built around the statue. The pillared hall in front of this sanctum is as charming as this giant statue itself. The open hall constructed by unusually slender and tall pillars. Each of them is highly ornate with mythical themes. This 4.5 meters (15 feet) tall statue is one among the largest sculptures in Hampi. The pillared hall is a vantage point to survey the environs, especially the Hampi Bazaar and the foothills of Matanga Hill. Kadalekalu Ganesha is one of the largest statues of Lord Ganesha that exists in the southern part of India. The shrine housing the statue of Kadalekalu Ganesha is situated on the slope of the Hemakuta Hill in Hampi. It is a remarkable monolithic statue and one of the most popular tourist sites in Hampi. The temple of Kadalekalu Ganesha is a beautiful stone structure. The temple hall is decorated with tall and slender granite pillars standing in the hall. The pillars are decorated with various mythological characters and themes carved out on them. Being situated on the slope of the Hemakuta Hill, the temple presents a mesmerizing view of the surroundings. Visitors can enjoy picturesque views of the Hampi Bazaar and the Matanga Hill while standing in the hall of the Kadalekalu Ganesha temple. The calm ambiance of the temple makes it a wonderful place to spend some peaceful moments admiring the beauty of the temple in particular and the surroundings in general.

6.6.1 HISTORY

The giant statue was carved out of a single huge boulder. The belly of Ganesha has been chiselled in such a manner that it resembles a Bengal gram (known as Kadalekalu in the local language). Hence, the statue has been given the name of Kadalekalu Ganesha. It is one of the largest statues that exist in Hampi. Kadalekalu Ganesha temple is one of the massive structures located in Hampi. The temple shows the monolithic statue of Lord Ganesha. the idol is about 4.6 meters height. The idol is named Kadalekalu because the belly of the Lord resembles a black gram "Kadalekalu". The temple is fully carved out of many sculptures and carvings. This temple is located on the slope of the Hemakuta Hill. From the hall of the temple, the one can view the beautiful picturesque view of Matanga Hill and the Hampi bazaar. The temple gives a soothing and peaceful atmosphere which make the tourist visit this destination.

6.6.2 ARCHITECTURE

The pillars are decorated with various mythological characters and themes carved out on them. The cubical pillars are constructed in the typical Vijayanagara style of architecture. The open hall of the temple leads to the inner sanctum where the tall statue resides. This place looks as the part of the Greek architecture. With the precise Indian architectural delicacy this temple stands as the interesting feature of Vijayanagar architecture. The entire temple is in the form of an open pavillion including the statue is constructed out of the locally available hard rocks. The huge statue of Ganesha is entirely monolithic and is around 15 feet tall and located inside the pillared hall. The pillars have the most magnificent intricate carvings of the Vijayanagar architecture.

6.6.3 LOCATION

Kadalekalu Ganesha

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Kadalekalu Ganesha

1. Hampi bus stand to Kadalekalu Ganesha-270.0m

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to

Kadalekalu Ganesha-17.1kms 3. The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Kadalekalu Ganesha-73.1kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.7 Krishna Temple

Krishna Temple was constructed by the Krishnadevaraya in 1513 honor to lord Krishna. This temple is one of the best attractions in

Hampi. The temple ground is decorated with several stunning the Yalis designed pillars and impressive carvings of elephant balustrades.



Fig 6.7 Krishna Temple

This temple was built by the king (Krishnadevaraya) in 1513 AD to celebrate the conquest of the eastern kingdom of Udayagiri or Utkala (in the present day Orissa state). The main idol installed in the temple was the figure of Balakrishna (Lord Krishna as infant). This idol is now displayed in the state museum at Chennai. A huge slab installed inside the courtyard of the temple states the story of this temple and the conquest of Utkala. This is one of the must see sites in Hampi. The carvings are especially spectacular with the Yalis (the mythical lion) on the pillars and the entrances to the temple hall flanked with impressive carvings of elephant balustrades. Many small shrines and pillared halls adorn the campus. The temple kitchen is located at the south east of the main shrine. The main tower at the east is an impressive sight with numerous carvings on it (now the tower is under restoration work). You can see the carvings of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu in this temple. This is one of the few temples where the epic stories carved on the walls of the tower. This is fairly an intact specimen of a Vijayanagara era temple. The

main temple hall The main road to Hampi passes through the temple campus. You can spot a small pavilion with a rectangular stone container in front of the temple across the road. This was used to store grains for the ritual purpose in the temple festivals. The position and design of the vessel suggests devotees used to donate food grain as offering at the temple. The main temple hall Further east outside the temple you can see a long hall like structure. On the right (south) of it are the banana plantations. The left area is mostly a rocky landscape. This was actually the high street (the chariot street) once led to the temple called the Krishna Bazaar. The long pavilions were shops in the market street. If you walk along these long structures, you would reach the impressive temple pond called Kalyani, with structures around and at the middle of the tank. The temple tank is now not in use. The nearby agricultural places use water from the tank. The chariot street mentioned in fact terminates at a series of wide steps in front of the main temple campus, probably the only such chariot street in Hampi.

6.7.1 HISTORY

The Krishna temple at Hampi was built by Krishnadevaraya to commemorate the success of his Orissa campaign. It is believed that he brought back with him, an idol of Bala Krishna—Krishna, the child—which was enshrined in this temple. According to the history, Bala Krishna Temple was built by Krishnadevaraya of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1513 AD. He built this temple to commemorate his victory over Prataparudra Gajapati, the ruler of the eastern kingdom of Udayagiri (now Orissa) which is mentioned in the inscriptions on the slab. The main idol installed in the temple was the figure of Bala Krishna and now it is preserved in the State Museum at Chennai.

6.7.2 ARCHITECTURE

The Krishna Temple is known for its exquisite carvings and elegant architectural designs. The King Krishnadevaraya was a lover of art and architecture and the temples and monuments constructed during his reign are famous for their architectural designs. The main idol of the temple is that of Lord Balakrishna which is now on display in the State Museum at Chennai. The temple campus is adorned with pillared halls and many small shrines. This is one of the rare temples which have epics inscribed on the tower walls. More or less, this temple is fairly intact and stands testimony to the prosperous reign under the Vijayanagara rule. To the east of the temple lies a hall. Banana plantations are located on the right (south) of the temple. The long pavilions in the temple were initially shops. On the left of the temple is a rocky landscape. A leisurely stroll through these structures will lead one to the temple pond. This tank is not in use anymore.

6.7.3 LOCATION

Krishna Temple

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Krishna Temple

1. Hampi bus stand to Krishna Temple-9.0m
2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Krishna Temple-26.6kms
3. The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Krishna Temple-72.6kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.8 Lakshmi Narasimha

Lakshmi Narasimha is a fantastic big statue of lord Narasimha (Nara - man and Simha - lion, a lord combined with man and lion's figure) who was the 10th avatars of lord Vishnu. This statue is the biggest in Hampi.



Fig 6.8 Lakshmi Narasimha(Ugra Narasimha)

This is the largest statue in Hampi. Narasimha is sitting on the coil of a giant seven-headed snake called Sesha. The heads of the snake acts as the hood above his head. The god sits in a cross-legged Yoga position with a belt supporting the knees. Sometimes this is referred as Ugra Narasimha (i.e. Narasimha in its terrifying form). The protruding eyes and the facial expression are the basis for this name. Narasimha (means half-man'half-lion in local the languages) is on of the ten incarnations (avatar) of Lord Vishnu. The original statue contained the image of goddess Lakshmi, consort of the god, sitting on his lap. But this statue has been damaged seriously during the raid leading to the fall of Vijayanagara. Even the damaged portion of such a large statue of Lakshmi carved on his lap is missing. Probably it may be laying around in tiny pieces. But the goddess's hand is visible resting on his back in embracing posture. If you get a chance to go inside this enclosure, it is possible to see the hand of the goddess. Even the nails & the rings on her fingers are so perfectly executed. Lion face of Lakshmi Narasimha also sometimes called as Unganarasimha (the ferocious Narasimha) Somehow this single statue alone can demonstrate at the same time how creative and destructive the human mind can be. The Hindu mythology has a tale of Narasimha's origin. See the story of Narasimha. The Lakshmi Narasimha statue is one of the most imposing sculptures found in the ruined town of Hampi. The speciality of the sculpture is that it is the largest monolith statue in Hampi. The statue is located on the southern side of the Hemakuta group of temples that stand on the Hemakuta Hill.

6.8.1 HISTORY

The statue lies in the Lakshmi Narasimha temple that was constructed in the year 1528, during the reign of Krishnadevaraya, one of the rulers of Vijayanagara Empire. Lord Narasimha and his consort, Goddess Lakshmi are the residing deities of this temple. Originally, the statue also had a small statues of the Goddess, sitting on his lap. But during the raid by the Mughals in 1565, the statue was highly damaged and disfigured. At the time of the attack the limbs of the statue were also broken and the statue of the Goddess was separated from the main sculpture. Also,

one hand of the Goddess' statue was also broken and this hand can be seen today at the back of the statue of the Lord. This damaged statue of the Goddess today is kept at the Archaeological Museum in Kamalapura.

6.8.2 ARCHITECTURE

An architectural masterpiece, the Lakshmi Narasimha statue is 6.7 meters in height and has been rafted with amazing details. It is one of the best works that were done in the Vijayanagara style of architecture. The statue lies between an arch or Makara torana. The statue of Lord Narasimha has a clearly-designed mane and wonderfully-shaped broad chest. A well-designed headgear adorns the statue that is seated in cross-legged position. The statue is seated on the coils of seven-hooded holy snake, Adishesha, who is known to be the King of snakes. The hoods of the snake make a canopy on the head of the Lord. On the hood of the snake, a lion mask has been placed. The protruding and angry eyes of the statue are its important feature and the statue an imposing aura. This huge statue has been carved on a single boulder of granite stone and a wonderful piece of craftsmanship. The temple is placed in the middle of the main road which connects the Sacred Center to the Royal Center.

6.8.3 LOCATION

Lakshmi Narasimha Temple

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Lakshmi Narasimha Temple

1. Hampi bus stand to Lakshmi Narasimha Temple-190.0m

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Lakshmi Narasimha Temple-26kms
3. The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Lakshmi Narasimha Temple-72kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.9 Queen's bath

Queen's bath is an indoor aquatic complex specially used for royal family bathing. It is the first ruined structure you will find first when you enter into the Royal palace. Recently, a small garden has been added in front of this place.



Fig 6.9 Queen's bath

This is the first ruined structure you would see when you enter into the Royal center from the Kamalapura-Hampi main road. For some mysterious reasons this was called as the queen's bath. But in all probability this was a royal pleasure complex for the king and his wives. It's a bit an assuming plane rectangular building from outside. But when you get inside, the story is different. The whole building is made with a veranda around facing a big open pond at the middle. Projecting into the pond are many balconies. An aqueduct terminates in the pond. The balconies are decorated with tiny windows and supported by lotus bud tipped brackets. The whole pool is open to the sky. This brick lined pool is now empty. But it's believed once fragrant flowers and perfumed water filled this bathing pool. At one end of the veranda you can see a flight of steps giving access to the pool. The domical roof of veranda is a spectacle itself. Just go around the veranda looking at each dome, as they are designed in a set of unique style. Also on the floor of the empty pool you can spot some sockets probably meant to support the pillars that were part of a canopy. The whole building from inside looks like some ancient indoor aquatic complex. Queen's Bath Outside around the building is a big water channel encircling the building. You need to cross that at some places where a bridge like structure is made. Probably this was designed to prevent intruders from walking into the place where the royal women folks took bath! There is a small garden too now made in front for the queen's bath, a favorite spot for the local picnics groups. The architecture is : Indo-Saracenic in style, may be a bit more Islamic style than the Hindu style of architecture with the arches and other decorations. Admission is free & photography allowed. This would be the first spot you visit as part of your Royal Area tour, if you begin from the southeast corner. A wide but dusty mud road branches out northward from the main road to Hampi. In front of this is a parking slot and a few meters away you can spot a toilet facilities (the only ones in this area!) meant for the tourists. Keep a few coins handy for the payment. Further north the dusty road sneaks its way to the Royal Enclosure, your next stop.

6.9.1 HISTORY

The Queen's Bath is believed to be constructed by Achyuta Raya for the women of the royal family of Vijayanagara. Built in Indo-Islamic style, the Queen's Bath is an elaborate structure with a simple exterior and an ornate interior. It is a rectangular building and is surrounded by ornate balconies, each having a set of three windows. Each arched bay surrounding the bath is decorated with intricate carved stucco ornamentation on the ceilings and the vaults placed above the arched bays. The depth of the pool is 6 feet and has stone steps leading to the bottom of the tank.

6.9.2 ARCHITECTURE

The Queen's Bath is located to the Southeast of the Royal Enclosure, with its own separate enclosed space consisting of a complex of changing rooms and a bath. At present only the bath is extant. A strikingly, simple facaded structure in the Indo-Islamic style of Vijayanagara architecture. The interior of the bath is in total contrast with its ornate stucco and plaster work. The structure is 30 sq. mts. Bath inside which is 1.8 mts deep. Pillared and vaulted corridors run all around with ornate balconies projecting into the bath. There is an inlet water channel to the east and a moat that runs all around the structure that ensured a constant supply of fresh water. There are steps leading down to the floor of the bath to the north, and the remnants of four pillars in the center which probably supported a pavilion.

6.9.3 LOCATION

Queen's Bath

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Queen's Bath

1.Hampi bus stand to Queen's Bath-2.8kms

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station.From Hospet railway station to Queen's Bath-34.1kms 3.The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport.From Bellary Airport to Queen's Bath-80kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.10 Lotus Mahal

Lotus Mahal is an example of complex ancient Vijaynagara architecture. The original reason of use of this historical palace is still unknown. Most probably it was a cultural place where some regional forms of dances were performed.



Fig 6.10 Lotus Mahal

tour to Hampi is incomplete without visiting Lotus Mahal. It is one of the fine architectural designed palaces that are uniquely identified by its lotus look like structure. This glorious building is within the Zenana Enclosure, a segregated area that is used by the royal women of Vijayanagara Dynasty. Home » Hampi » Lotus Mahal in Hampi – Of Grandeur and History Lotus Mahal in Hampi – Of Grandeur and History APRIL 25, 2017 BY MADUR A tour to Hampi is incomplete without visiting Lotus Mahal. It is one of the fine architectural designed palaces that are uniquely identified by its lotus look like structure. This glorious building is within the Zenana Enclosure, a segregated area that is used by the royal women of Vijayanagara Dynasty. Lotus Mahal Lotus Mahal, Hampi. Image courtesy

Gopikrishna Narla The Lotus Mahal is otherwise called the Kamal Mahal or Chitragani Mahal. It's remarkable and unmistakable design is the main highlight of the palace. It is one of only a handful few astonishing building in Hampi that had not been damaged or destroyed amid the attack on the city. As the name given to the palace is because of the shape it resembles. The balcony and the passages covered with a dome that looks like an opened lotus bud. The central dome is also carved as a lotus bud. The curves of the palace are given an Islamic touch while the multi-layered roof design is moreover related to Indo style of buildings. The style and designs is an inquisitive blend of Islamic and Indian way of architecture. The palace is a two-storied building, well-structured symmetrically. It is surrounded by a rectangular wall and four towers. These towers are also in pyramidal shape giving a lotus-like structure visual. Around 24 pillars are present to support the arched windows and balcony of the palace. The walls and pillars are carved beautifully with patterns like sea creatures and birds. The surrounding area of the palace is covered with many shady trees providing a cool ambiance to the palace. At the point when the Lotus Mahal is lit up during the evening, visitors witness a fantastic view. It is a standout venue in entire Hampi to take photographs. Lotus Mahal should be a sure set destination in the list while visiting Hampi. It will stun you to perceive how best in class, Indian architecture and workers were ages back.

6.10.1 HISTORY

The palace is built in the Zenana enclosure and was reserved for the royal women of the Vijayanagara Empire. according to historical accounts, the structure was built to serve the royal women of the empire. Also the king

Krishnadevaraya used it as his council chamber for meeting with his ministers. The palace was also used as a relaxing place for the royal family. It is one of the few structures that did not suffer any major damage when Hampi was invaded.[4] Owing to many invasions by Deccan sultanates and improper maintenance, the palace has ruined and has lost most of its carved decoration in the restoration work.

6.10.2 ARCHITECTURE

Lotus Mahal literally means "Palace of Lotus". This structure was made for the Royal family of the Vijayanagara Empire. The palace stands around a walled compound near the Royal centre. The structure is laid out symmetrically with equal projections on four sides. The dome gives an illustration of an open lotus bud. The curves of the palace are inspired by the Islamic architecture and protect the palace from harsh weather conditions. It has two storeys, both with arched openings in multiple planes surrounded by elaborate plaster designs. It has total of eight pyramidal towers over the corners and one big tower in the middle of the structure and is supported by 24 pillars. The pyramidal tower is influenced by Indian Architecture. The pillars are decorated with stone carved aquatic animals, plants etc. The palace is built by bricks and Mortar (masonry). The ground floor is raised on a high ornamental stone basement with doubled recessed angles.

6.10.3 LOCATION

Lotous Mahal

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Lotous Mahal-3.67kms

1. Hampi bus stand to Queen's Bath-2.8kms

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Lotous Mahal-36kms
3. The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Lotous Mahal-82kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.11 Hazara Rama Temple

Hazara Rama Temple is a inner temple located inside the royal house. It is dedicated to Hindu lord Rama and still today you will found here some comic scripts on the stone of temple walls which depicted you about the story of Ramayana.



Fig 6.11 Hazara Rama Temple

Hazara Rama Temple in Hampi is an important shrine in Hampi. This small but beautiful temple is located at the center of the royal area. The temple is dedicated to Lord Rama, a hindu deity. It was once the private temple of the kings and the royal family of Vijayanagara. The temple is famous for the lovely bas reliefs and panels depicting the story of the epic Ramayana. Hazara Rama Temple was built in the early part of the 15th century by the then king of Vijayanagara, Devaraya II. It was originally built as a simple structure. It consisted of only a sanctum, a pillared

hall and an ardha mantapa. Later the temple structure was renovated to add an open porch and beautiful pillars. The Hazara Rama Temple is a unique temple in many aspects. The first thing that draws attention about the temple is its name. The term 'Hazara Rama' literally means a thousand Rama and refers to the multitude of relics depicting the reigning deity of the temple. The walls of the temple carry the story of Ramayana carved on stone. The outer walls of the temple are decorated with basreliefs of Rama and Krishna. The relics also portray processions of horses, elephants, attendants, soldiers and dancing women taking part in the Dasara festival rally at that time. The relics are among the most extensive ones to be found anywhere in India. The temple has a sprawling lawn on its northern side. There are two huge gateways that give access to the temple compound. The interior of the temple has ornately sculpted columns. An empty pedestal with three holes signifies that the temple once had idols of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita. There is a smaller shrine inside the temple complex with similar epic wall carvings. The only addition is that there are depictions of Lord Vishnu also on the walls of this shrine. The temple stands as an example of the excellent craftsmanship of Vijayanagara's sculptors.

6.11.1 HISTORY

The temple which was the private temple of the kings of Vijayanagara is popular for the lovely relics and panels depicting the story of the epic Ramayana. It was built in the early 15th century by King of Vijayanagara, Devaraya II, and was constructed as a simple structure. The Hazara Rama Temple is a unique temple in many aspects. The first thing that draws attention about the temple is its name. The term 'Hazara Rama' literally means a thousand Rama and refers to the multitude of relics depicting the reigning deity of the temple.

6.11.2 ARCHITECTURE

The entire temple complex is enclosed by the high compound walls and has a grand entrance at east. It has a tall structure overlooked with the lawn that gives the magnificent presence of splendid architecture, which has a traditional touch of Vijayanagara Dynasty. The temple has an east-facing entrance, and a lush green lawn surrounds it. Also, the entire temple has a flat-roof. The structure is made up of granite, and it has integrated carvings on each part of the temple. These carvings portray exciting events from Ramayana.

6.11.3 LOCATION

Haraza Rama Temple

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Haraza Rama Temple

1. Hampi bus stand to Haraza Rama Temple-2.4kms

2. The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Haraza Rama Temple-34kms
3. The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Haraza Rama Temple-79kms (For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.12 Elephant Stable

The Elephant Stable in Hampi is an impressive structure that was used to provide shelter for the royal elephants of the Vijayanagara Empire. The elephant stable is located in the area that lies just outside the Zenana Enclosure.



Fig 6.12 Elephant Stables in Hampi

It is one of the very few structures that have not suffered extensive damage during the Mughal attack on Hampi that led to the downfall of the Vijayanagar Empire in 1565 A.D. The ancient stable is a major attraction among the tourists even today. The uniqueness about the elephant stable is that it has a distinct central dome. The central dome is the largest and most decorated among the 11 domes of the building. The design of the central dome represents the architectural style found in the temples of Hampi. The other 10 domes represent the Islamic style of architecture. The domes of the building were designed in a variety of shapes, such as, octagonal, circular, ribbed, drum-shaped and fluted. All the domes possess a symmetric layout. Each of the domes was decorated with ornate plaster on the interior as well as the exterior. Hampi is a tourist destination that is well-known for its ruins. The elephant stable is one of the few intact structures in Hampi. Placed within a short distance of the Zenana enclosure and the Guard's Quarters, the stable is situated in an easily accessible area of Hampi. It is also one of the few buildings in Hampi that require tourists to have a ticket to visit it.

6.12.1 HISTORY

The elephant stable was constructed in the 15th century, during the reign of the Vijayanagar Empire. As the name indicates, the stable was constructed to house the royal elephants of the Vijayanagar Empire. The elaborate structure indicates the importance attached to the royal elephants during those days. It also suggests towards the amazing craftsmanship of the artisans of that era.

6.12.2 ARCHITECTURE

The elephant stable in [Hampi](#) is one of the finest examples of Indo-Islamic style of architecture. Though most of the structures and monuments in Hampi were built using the Vijayanagara style of architecture, a few structures display the Indo-Islamic style as well. The elephant stable is a prominent building in Hampi that displays this beautiful architectural style. The elephant stable is a long building with a rectangular shape. The building has a row of eleven huge domed chambers. Each chamber is large enough to accommodate two elephants at a time. The domed chambers are interconnected with large arched openings. The walls between the arches have small doorways. There is no sign to indicate that the chambers ever had any doors in the doorways. Every chamber contains a small opening at the rear side. It is believed that this opening was used by the mahouts to enter and exit the chambers. The building also contains a concealed staircase that leads one to the roof of the building. The chambers of the building have high ceilings. The central chamber contains a metal hook embedded in the ceiling. This hook was most probably used to tie the elephants during the days of the Vijayanagara Empire. The hook could also have been used as a pulley by the mahout to set the howdah on the back of the elephants. The plaster of the building has fallen off at some places. The central dome is not as well preserved as the other domes. Yet, the stable stands as one of the most remarkable structures in Hampi and attracts scores of visitors on a daily basis. It is one of the monuments that are preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India.

6.12.3 LOCATION

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Elephant Stable -3.67kms

1.Hampi bus stand to Elephant Stable-4kms

2.The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Elephant Stable-10kms

3.The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Elephant Stable -64kms

(For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.13 Pattabhirama Temple

Pattabhirama Temple is a beautiful structure that stands in the ruined city of Hampi. It is located at Kamalapur at a distance of 6 km from the main heritage site of Hampi. The temple is known for its intricate architecture. It is dedicated to the Hindu deity, Lord Rama. It was a prominent destination for devotees during the period of the Vijayanagara Empire. Even today it is a popular pilgrimage centre and stands as a reminder of the rich historical era.



Fig 6.13 Pattabhirama Temple

Apart from the principal shrine located at the centre of the campus, a shrine dedicated to the goddess is located within the temple compound. The hall in front of the main sanctum is a superb example of the Vijayanagara style composite pillar architecture. The inner ones are relatively simpler whereas the ones facing the courtyard are elaborate. The divine marriage hall is at the southeast of the compound. Here the pillars are carved with some fantastic Yali images. The whole temple campus was once paved with granite slabs, you can still spot the traces of it especially at the northeaster portion of the campus. A tall tower at the east end of the compound wall opens to a wide chariot street. Further east of by the street is an elaborate temple tank. The street area is not much accessible and is now used by the local farmers. To see the pond, you need to go a bit eastward by the main road. The main tower mentioned above is built with brick superstructure and granite lower portions. The terracotta images typically part of such towers is non-existent. However, the details on the lower granite portion are intact. You can even spot the Crescent -Boar-Dragger emblem of the Vijayanagara kings near the archway of the tower. A bit north of the temple is a Domed Gateway. You can visit Pattabhirama Temple as an extension of your visit to the Archaeological Survey of India museum. The temple is about 500 meters east of the museum. The road winds through a packed village and a garden emerges on your left. Further ahead you can spot the tiny entrance to the temple compound marked with a signboard. Temple campus opens from morning to evening. No admission fee and photography allowed inside. No camera fees.

6.13.1 HISTORY

Pattabhirama temple The second largest temple in Hampi dedicated to Lord Rama and houses a shrine of Goddess Lakshmi. Built in the 16th century by the Vijayanagara King Achyuta Deva Raya, the temple is unusually simpler in ornamentation in comparison to the others in Hampi. The temple is situated near the newly built Tungabhadra canal. Known for its splendid architecture, The temple complex faces east towards a large Pushkarni water tank and a now ruined chariot street. However, the main entrance is now closed and the present entry is through a gate on the southern wall. The temple compound comprises of a main shrine at the center and the Kalyana mandapa to its southeast. To the north of the temple is the Lakshmi temple. The entrance on the northern wall has a domed gopuram. There are four towers in four directions of the temple - east, west, north and south gate. The main tower in the east is built with brick superstructure and granite lower portions. There are some terracotta images visible. There is also a crescent boar-dragger emblem of the Vijayanagara kings near the archway of the tower. The tall 5 storied east gopura is in a ruined state. The entire temple area is fortified by strong walls.

6.13.2 ARCHITECTURE

The Pattabhirama Temple is situated in the centre of a huge rectangular walled complex. The main temple structure has axial mantapas. There is a pillared walkway that runs along the inner side of the enclosure wall surrounding the courtyard. There are four towers on four sides of the temple complex that were built as gates of the temple. The main mantapa is a beautiful structure that has pillars with intricate designs. The whole temple exhibits splendid architecture. The Vijayanagara style of craftsmanship is easily visible in the walls and pillars of the temple. There is another small shrine located within the compound. This shrine was dedicated to the worship of a goddess. A huge hall stands towards the southeast part of the complex. The courtyard was once completely covered with stone slabs, some of which are missing now. This temple is truly one of the largest and most beautiful temples in Hampi. The Pattabhirama Temple exudes a unique charm. The temple that once used to be full of devotees wears a deserted look today. In fact, there is no idol inside the temple complex now. But that has not robbed the temple of its beauty and attraction in the eyes of the visitors. The serene atmosphere of the place and the splendid architecture leave visitors mesmerized.

6.13.3 LOCATION

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Pattabhirama Temple -6.75kms

1.Hampi bus stand to Pattabhirama Temple-5kms

2.The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Pattabhirama Temple-12kms

3.The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Pattabhirama Temple-974kms

(For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.14 Achyuta Raya Temple

The Achyuta Raya Temple is in Hampi. It was built in 1534 AD. It is one of the major, splendid and awe-inspiring temples of Hampi located between the Matanga hills and Gandhamadana. This magnificent temple depicts Vijayanagara architecture style of temples in its best and most improved form. This was among the last dazzling temples that were constructed in the celebrated city of Hampi prior to the decline of the Vijayanagara Empire.



Fig 6.14 Achyuta Raya Temple

this elegant and striking temple is in ruins as a consequence of the attacks by the monarchs of the Bahamani kingdom. It is greatly affected by the forces of nature over several centuries. The location of the temple is secluded and off the more travelled path, the temple is much less crowded as compared to many other tourist attractions in Hampi. It is good news for the people who like quiet tours because this place is off location and its hidden nature makes it less crowded. The best time to visit the temple is from November to February. The main idol worshiped in the Achyuta Raya Temple is Lord Tiruvengalanatha which is another form of Vishnu. The towers, pillars, and walls have exquisite carvings and ornamentation. Major parts of the temple are in a damaged condition. Although it is in ruins, the temple does not fail in grandiosity and its magnificence even today.

6.14.1 HISTORY

The Achyuta Raya temple got built during the rule of Achyuta Deva Raya, who was one of the emperors of the Vijayanagara Empire. He came to power by succeeding his elder brother Krishna Deva Raya in the year 1529. The stunning and heavenly temple is devoted to Lord Tiruvengalanatha; he is a configuration of Lord Vishnu. Thus, this temple was initially known as Tiruvengalanatha Temple. However, later on, it came to be called after the king in whose reign it was built. Hence, it became widely known as the Achyuta Raya temple.

6.14.2 ARCHITECTURE

The principal shrine of the temple is located in the centre of a pair of rectangular concentric enclosures. There are pillared verandas on the interior flanks of the two courtyard walls. The outer walkways are in a state of decay, collapse, and disintegration. The temple is distinctly visible from the top of the Matanga Hill. It is at the end of the abandoned Courtesan Street. On entering the inner court one can spot a chamber that is facing the porch leading to the central hall. There is a small shrine chamber which once sanctified an image of Garuda. The accessible hall has few extremely lauded sculpted pillars in Hampi. The carvings are done on monolithic blocks of rocks. The statues and sculptures on the pillars reveal themes like lord Vishnu blessing an elephant, lord Krishna practising his flute while the calves are watching this scene with interest and infant Krishna dancing with a snake and holding it by the tail. There is a Mandapa which is a marriage hall of the Gods and the Goddesses for the yearly nuptials.

6.14.3 LOCATION

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Achyuta Raya temple -5.76kms

1.Hampi bus stand to Achyuta Raya temple -2.87kms

2.The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Achyuta Raya temple -288kms

3.The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Achyuta Raya Temple-64kms

(For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.15 Matanga Hill

Being at the centre of Hampi, and also the highest point, Matanga hilltop is the best spot to get an aerial view of Hampi and it's environs.If you trace the foothill in a clockwise direction, the road that ends at the Hampi bus station runs along the eastern side of the hill. At the northwest the east end of [Hampi Bazaar](#) terminates.The north part of the hill practically ends at the south bank



Fig 6.15 Matanga hill

the [Tungabhadra River](#) where the Kodanda Rama Temple is located. The eastern ridge shares its border with the Achyuta Raya's Temple.

6.15.1 HISTORY

There are a couple of paths leading to the topmost point where the [Veerabhadra Temple](#) is located. The most popular is a stepped ramp at the west; and the other, a tedious but thrilling trekker's trail located a bit north of the stepped path. The steps are reasonably intact and they are as old as the Vijayanagara kingdom. There are multiple trails at the foothill that leads you the bottom of the stepped way. The most prominent is the wide unpaved road that branches eastward from the main road just close to the Kadale Kalu Ganesha statue. This path eventually takes you to the foothill after a couple of turns. The next popular access trail is the one located at the east end of the Hampi Bazaar street. At the end of the southern row of pavilions, a narrow trail goes towards east tracing the edge of the hill. This path, sometimes scramble through stray rock clusters and a few fallen shrines, passes along the point where the ascending path to the hilltop begins. The third and the less used path is at the south of the hill. This trail links the Matanga Hill footsteps with the cart trail that runs parallel to the Turthu Canal mentioned earlier. A pavilion nested into the banana plantations at the north edge of the path is a landmark. The narrow path towards north branches out at this point and seems disappears into the thick of the plantations. This trail too eventually reaches the foothill from where you can find your way to the hilltop. The ascent can take about thirty minutes. The rooftop of the Veerabhadra Temple at the summit is the ideal place to the sunrise and sunset of Hampi. Avoid climbing the hill during the hot part of the day. However it doest matter if you have already used to the hot climate of Hampi. Relatively a larger crowd trickle in to bid goodbye to the sun than to witness the sunrise. The west most

edge of the temple rooftop is the prime real estate in the sunset affair. First come first served is the rule and squat on the western edge if possible. Only the motivated ones make it to the top for the sunrise, as it requires you to wake up at least by five in the morning and start trekking up. In either case see to that you are among a group as a matter of prudence. Matanga Hill is one of the important locations mentioned in the Hindu mythology, [Ramayana](#). The place was the hermitage of Sage Mathanga. Monkey prince Vali killed a buffalo demon called Dundhuvi and thrown the corps on to the sacred Matanga hill. Angry at this act, sage Matanga cursed Vali that he could never venture on to this hill. Later Dundhuvi's son Mayavi fought with Vali to avenge his father's death. Vali chased him into a cave; and asked his brother Sugreeva to stand guard outside. After a while thinking that Vali was killed in the fight, Sugreeva closed the cave. Finally Vali emerged from the cave and chased Sugreeva out of the monkey kingdom. Sugriva along with his warrior general Hanuman, took refuge at the Matanga hill, as Vali could not climb this hill. Later Lord Rama killed Vali and crowned Sugriva as the king of the monkeys. Though this myth is generally associated with the Vaishnava cult, the ancient temple located at the hilltop is that of Veerabhadra, a cult deity associated with Lord Shiva lineage. (See [Ramayana in Hampi](#) & [Religions of Hampi](#)) The view from the top is interesting, especially from the eastern side where you can get an aerial view of the Achyuta Raya's Temple complex; at south, the cart trail and Turthu Canal winding through the banana plantations; at north the chain of hills and the river that flows along its ridges; at west the Hampi settlement with the tower of Virupaksha Temple dominating. The whole Matanga Hill tour is free of entrance fees or camera charges. Carrying a small pocket torch is a sensible thing as this is not a well-lit area.

6.15.2 LOCATION

Distance and direction from main places in Hampi to Matanga hill-2.89kms

1.Hampi bus stand Matanga hil -3.87kms

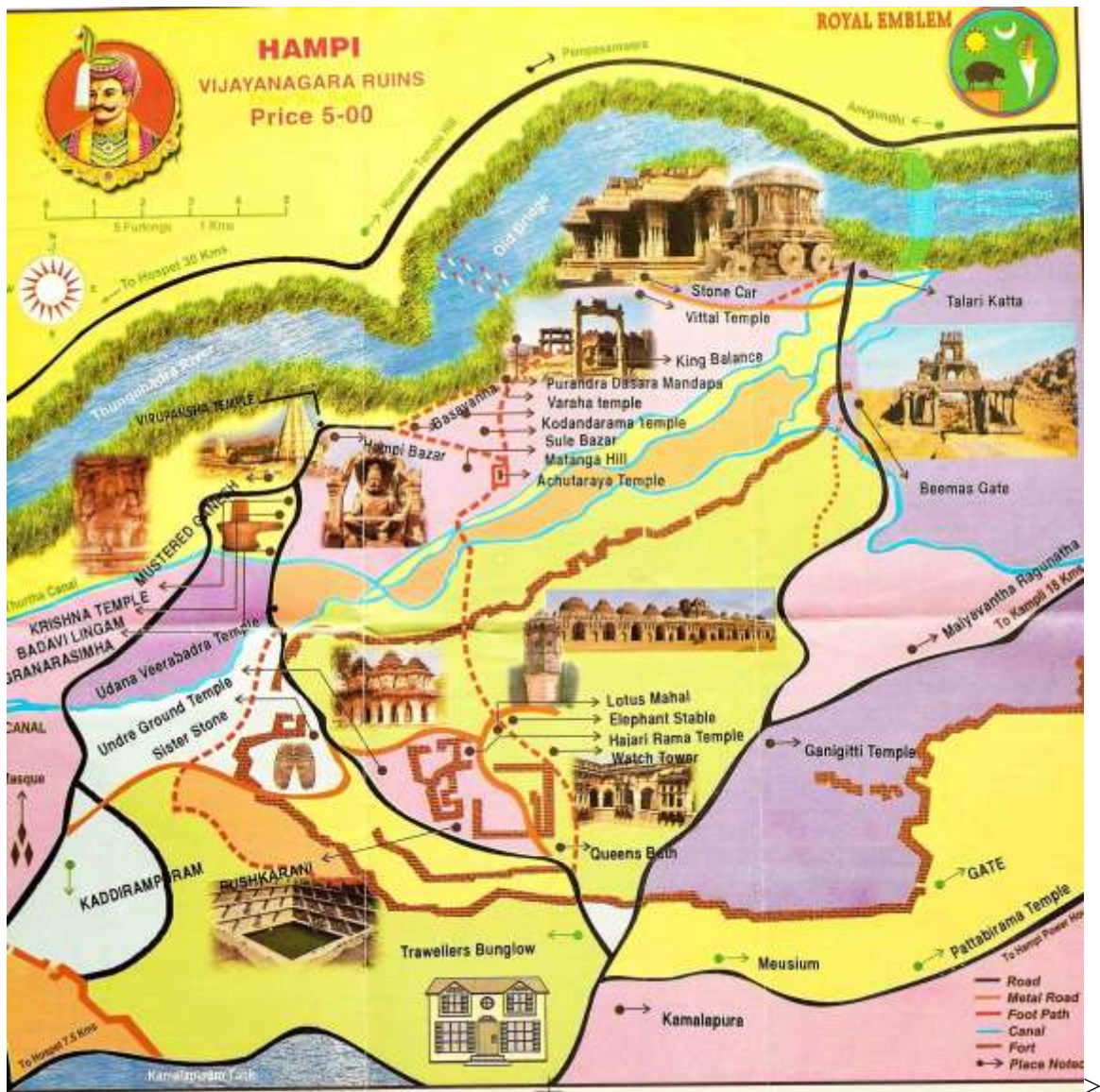
2.The nearest Railway station for Hampi is Hospet railway station. From Hospet railway station to Matanga hill-196kms

3.The nearest Airport for Hampi is Bellary Airport. From Bellary Airport to Matanga hill -150kms

(For fastest route visit Google Maps)

6.16 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Hampi is located in the central part of Karnataka in the southern part of India. It is 353 km from Bangalore, and 13 km from Hospet. It is located on top of the rugged terrain and is 467 m above sea level. The Tungabhadra River flows through Hampi.



6.15.1 REFERENCES

1. From local people
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampi> (Wikipedia)
3. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/>
4. [Google map location](#)

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