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AICTE Activity Point Programme on

"Local Tourism Through Innovative Approaches"

List of the sites visited

1.Murudeswara Temple

2.Murudeshwara Beach

3. Netrani Island/Pigeon Island

4.Murdeswara Fort

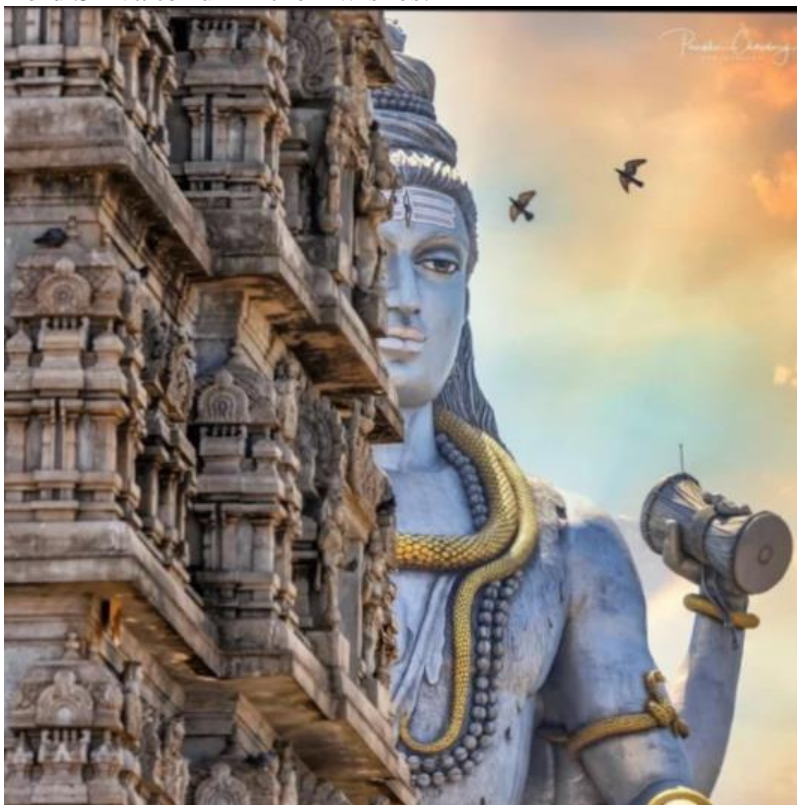5.Apsarakonda WaterFalls

6.Bhatkal Beach

Members visited the place

1.Santhosh Kumar R

2.Ramesh D

3.Praveen Revoor

4.Rajnikant Patil

Murudeswara Temple

AIM:

How to reach the Famous SHIVA temple ,**Murudeswara** Temple by mentioning the loction and timings of the temple for Darshana and to visit to the nearest tourism places.

Murudeshwar Temple of Karnataka is one of the most beautiful pilgrim destinations in India. As it boasts the second tallest statue of Lord Shiva in the world with a staggering **height of 123 feet** and the **second-highest gopuram** in India with a **height of 237 feet**. Situated between the picturesque western ghats and the Arabian sea, the Murudeshwar temple is built on the Kanduka Hill that is covered by the Arabian sea from three sides. The beauty of the Arabian sea and the beautiful architecture of the temple especially the statue of Lord Shiva make it a perfect place for both pilgrims and nature lovers.It was constructed in its present form by the businessman and philanthropist R.N. Shetty. The main deity of the temple is Lord Murudeshwara who is one of the forms of Lord Shiva. And the main highlight of the temple is the statue of Lord Shiva. Devotees from all over the world come here to pray to Lord Shiva to fulfill their wishes.

Every wall of the temple is covered by beautiful sculptures and carvings in the Dravidian style of architecture that makes it more beautiful. The main complex of the temple is modernized except the sanctum sanctorum that remains in its original form. Due to the coastal region, there is a beach near temple named Murudeshwar beach where you can enjoy with family & friends. Therefore apart from the pilgrimage activities there, you can try some adventurous activity likes Jet Skiing, boating, rafting and trekking.

History of Murudeshwar Temple:

According to legends, the mother of Ravana, Kaikesi was a big devotee of Lord Shiva. She used to make Linga daily out of the beach sand. But every night the Linga washed by the waves of Sea. Seeing this, Ravana promised his mother that he'll bring Lord **Shiva Atma Linga** from Mount Kailash to her. Therefore, he proceed to Mount Kailash and performed very hard mortification to impressed Lord Shiva.
Eventually, Shiva got impressed and granted him a wish. Then Lord Shiva took Atma Linga from his heart and gave it to Ravana but on one condition that if he keep the Linga down before reaching his destination then Linga will become affixed and nothing can separate it. However, Lord Vishnu and Lord Ganesha tricked him into putting the Linga down. By seeing this Ravana got furious and tried to destroy the Linga. But he only managed to scatter the Linga to different places that gave rise to 5 different sacred places and Murudeshwar is one of them. And rest of the places are known as Sajjeshwara, Gunavanthe, Dhareshwara and Gokarna.
On the way to Lanka, Narada muni deceits him into believing that the one who was with him was not Parvathi and the real Parvathi is in Pathala. Consequently Ravana went to Pathala and married a king's daughter who believed was real Parvathi. After knowing that he has been fooled by Naryana, he again sits to meditate As a result of which Lord Shiva Appears. This time he asked Lord Shiva to bless him with the sacred Atma Linga and Shiva accepting his demand, gave him the Lingam but puts a condition before Ravana that if ever this Lingam will be kept on the ground all its powers will come back to Lord Shiva.
This made narada to realise that with Atma Linga in his hands, Ravana will create havoc on the earth by obtaining immortality and so he thought of approaching Lord Ganesha for help. While Ravana was on the way to Lanka, Lord Vishnu planned to remove the effect of the Sun's light so as to make it appear as dusk which will compel Ravana to perform his evening rituals and he will have to put the Linga on the ground. While he was thinking of the curse of Atma Ling, a Brahmin boy approached him who was actually Lord Ganesha. Lord Ganesha had taken up the form so that he would put the Atma Linga on the ground while he goes for the evening rituals. Lord Ganesha's plan worked and when Ravana returned he found the Linga on the ground. This made him furious and he understood about the plan and out of anger he tried destroying the Lingam. In the process he threw the case which was covering the Lingam to Sajjeshwara at a distance of 23 miles while the lid of the case he threw to Guneshwara and Dhareshwara situated at a distance of about 10-12 km. And the piece of cloth covering the Atma Lingam he threw to Mrideshwara which was later named as Murudeshwara.
Also, at Murudeshwara, saint Bhagirath awaits for Ganga to come on the earth from the hair lock of Lord Shiva.

Major Attractions

Murdeshwar Temple was built on the Kanduka Hill which is surrounded on three sides by the waters of the Arabian Sea. It is dedicated to Sri Lokankara, and a 20-storied Raja Gopura is constructed at the temple. The temple authorities have installed a lift that provides a view of the 123-feet Sri Shiva idol from the top of the Raja Gopura. There is also a Rameshwara linga at the bottom of the hill, where devotees can do seva themselves. A Shaneswar temple has been built next to the idol of Sri Akshayaguna. Two life-size elephants in concrete stand guard at the steps leading to it. The entire temple and temple complex, including the 209-feet-tall Raja Gopura, is one among the tallest. There are statues of Sun Chariot on side of a park, pool, statues depicting Arjuna receiving Geetopadesham from Lord Krishna, Ravana being

deceived by Ganesha in disguise, Shiva's manifestation as Bhagirath, descending Ganga, carved around the hill.

The temple is entirely modernised with exception of the sanctum sanctorum which is still dark and retains its composure. The main deity is Sri Mridesa Linga, also called Murdeshwar. The linga is believed to be a piece of the original Atma Linga and is about two feet below ground level. The devotees performing special sevas like Abhisheka, Rudrabhisheka, Rathotsava etc., can view the deity by standing before the threshold of the sanctum and the Linga is illuminated by oil lamps held close by the priests. The Linga is essentially a rough rock inside a hollowed spot in the ground. Entry into the sanctum is banned for all devotees. A huge towering statue of Shiva, visible from great distances, is present in the temple complex. It is the second tallest statue of Shiva in the world. The tallest Shiva statue is in Nepal, known as the (Kailashnath Mahadev Statue).[2][3] The statue is 123 feet (37 m) in height and took about two years to build. The statue was built by Shivamogga's Kashinath and several other sculptors, financed by businessman and philanthropist R. N. Shetty, at a cost of approximately ₹50 million. The idol is designed such that it gets the sunlight directly and thus appears sparkling.

Location

Murudeshwar temple is located in the quint town of Murudeshwar that is situated in Bhatkal Taluk of the north Kannada district, Karnataka.

Temple Timings:

* 6 AM to 1 PM
* Evening 3 PM to 8 PM

Murudeshwara Beach

Situated along with the Murudeshwar temple, Murudeshwar beach is a beautiful beach surrounded by the hills and greenery of coconut trees. It is one of the best places to visit in

the coastal region of Karnataka. The sand of the beach has a silky texture that makes it great to explore barefoot. There you can enjoy lots of water activities like jet skiing, boat ride, kayaking, Scuba diving and parasailing.

Interesting Facts About Murudeshwar Temple:

1.The statue of Lord Shiva in the Murudeshwar temple is 123 feet tall. It is the second-largest statue of Lord Shiva in the world. It was built in over 2 years and the cost of around five crore rupees were spent.

2.The statue of Lord Shiva is made in such a way that it reflects the first ray of the sun near the beach and the sunlight keeps falling throughout the day.

3.The 20 storied Raj Gopura of the Murudeshwar Temple is the second-highest Gopura in India with a height of 237 feet. This gigantic gopuram allowed you to have an amazing birds-eye view of the temple and nearby beaches. You can take the elevator ride to reach the top of Gopuram that charges you around 10 rupees of the ticket.

4.Interestingly, the Murudeshwar Temple has the hollow Linga of Lord Shiva that indicates that it is an Atma Linga. According to the legends, the soul of the Linga has departed the realms of humans.

5.Apart from the statue of Lord Shiva, there is an island name Netrani island or Pegion Island that is known as one of the best scuba diving destinations in India.

Timings of the Temple:

Rituals	Timings
Morning Pooja	6:30AM to 7:30AM
Afternoon Pooja	12:15PM to 1:00pm
Evening Pooja	7:15 to 8:15pm
Darshan Timings	6:00AM to 1AM and 3:00PM to 8:15PM

Temple Remains Closed   1:00PM to 3:00PM

Best Time To Visit Murudeshwar Temple

The best time to visit Murudeshwar temple is from October to February when the weather becomes pleasant with a cool temperature. Since this is the peak time so you can expect the little crowd on street and inside the temple. Apart from sightseeing, you can indulge yourself in various water activities as well. The month of March, April, May, June gets hot temperature with lots of humidity and heavy rainfall. So if you want to skip the crowd then choose this time to travel.

How to Reach Murudeshwar Temple:

Murudeshwar is located on NH17 connecting Mumbai to Kochi via Mangalore. Distance from Nearby Cities:
->54 KM from Gokarna
->494 KM from Bengaluru
->157 KM from Mangalore
->189 KM from Goa
By Train: Train is the most affordable and easiest way to reach Murudeshwar as the railway station of Murudeshwar is well connected to Mumbai and Mangalore. And the Mangalore railway is well connected to most of the cities of Karnataka and other major cities of India.
By Road: Road is one of the easiest ways to reach Murudeshwar as the private and government buses ply regularly from Kochi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. Mumbai & Bengaluru is well connected to other major cities of India.
By Flight: Flight is the fastest way to reach Murudeshwar. The Mangalore International Airport is located just 153 KM from Murudeshwar and from there you can easily get a taxi, cab and car rentals to reach Murudeshwar. The Mangalore Airport has a direct flight from all major cities of India.

Places to Visit Near Murudeswar temple:

1. Netrani Island/Pigeon Island:

Netrani Island is located 10 nautical miles or approx 20 KM away from the Murudeshwar in Bhatkal Taluka. By seeing from above the island seems of being heart-shaped. The island is famous for its amazing underwater world. Therefore it is quite popular among adventure lovers who loves to explore marine life. There you can see amazing collections of Arabian sea fishes including trigger fish, butterfly fish, shrimps, parrot fish, stonefish, blacktip sharks, turtles, great barracuda, and vibrant corals. Whenever you visit Murudeshwar don't forget to do scuba diving and Snorkeling at Netrani Island. You can book a scuba tour from Netrani Adventure that charges you around 5K.
Netrani is a coral island whose reefs teem with many varieties of butterfly fish, trigger fish, parrot fish, eel and shrimp. Divers have also reported seeing orcas[citation needed] and whale

sharks around the island. Fish eagles thrive on sea snakes and fish. A species of was also spotted here, confirming mammalian inhabitants apart from bats. Whale sharks were also spotted by snorkelers.[citation needed] Eighty nine varieties of coral fish were found in one study. A 16-metre (52 ft) rock used for target practice by the Indian Navy raised concerns for causing harm to the island's ecosystem. In 2012, the Karnataka High Court issued a stay on target practice.

How to reach: The island is located around 20 KM from Murudeshwar. The boat takes around 1 and half hours to reach there. You can book a full scuba diving tour from Netrani Adventure.

Best time to visit: December and January are the best months to go to Netrani Island when the weather becomes perfect from snorkeling and scuba diving.

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2.Bhatkal Beach:

Bhatkal beach is located 15 KM away from the Murudeshwar temple. The beach is surrounded by many historic temples and buildings. The religious significance of the beach attracts tourists from all over India. Apart from it the white sand, rocky terrain, serene water and greenery of coconut trees makes it worthy to visit. The hilly and rugged coastline of the beach makes its trekker a favorite spot. Therefore you can trek along the coastline to admire the beauty of the Arabian sea.

There are some amazing historic monuments near the beach including two Jain temples 16th century, the Sholeshwar temple believed to be built by the Chola king in 10th century and a church that represents the Portuguese architecture.

How to Reach: It is well connected by train and road to nearest cities like Mangalore and Murudeshwar. So it is very easy to reach there. You can take KSRTC buses from Murudeshwar that takes 15 to 20 minutes to reach the beach. You can also hire a cab or taxi as well.

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3.Murdeswara Fort

Situated behind the complex of the temple, Murudeshwar fort is one of the best historical places to visit near the Murudeshwar temple. It is believed that the fort is built from the**Vijayanagara period in the 15th century** later renovated by the ruler of Mysore, **Sultan.** The fort is famous for its historical significance and amazing architecture. You can see the elegant paintings and sculptures of old times on the wall of the fort.

Timing: 8 AM morning to 6 PM evening

4.Apsarakonda WaterFalls

Apsarakonda Falls is believed to be an ancient waterfall. The name Apsarakonda means 'pond of the angels.' The legend associated with the name of the waterfall is that it was the chosen place of the angels to take a bath and relax. Indeed, the beauty of the waterfall is so charming that one tends to believe that the place was the preferred bathing spot of the angels. Reaching the base of the waterfall is an easy task. There is a well-established trail created by the tourism department. Steps have been built to make the trail easier for the public. The Tourism Department has beautified the place to increase its attraction and to make it easier for people to reach down to the waterfall.

A unique fact about the waterfall is that the water flows down through the roots of a peepal (sacred fig) tree while descending to the pond below. There are natural caves hidden from plain sight by the old tree. However, if one explores the roots of the tree the veiled caves reveal themselves. A layer of moss have made place on the rocks and gives the place a queer look. There are also some huge caves located nearby that are one of the main attractions of the place.
Visitors love to enter and explore these caves. The caves are known as the Pandava caves. Legend has it that the Pandavas had stayed in these caves during the period of their exile. There are a few temples and a branch of the Ramachandra Mutt located near the waterfall and these places are also quite popular among the local people.

Located 28 KM away from Murudeshwar, Apsarakonda fall is the most scenic place to visit near Murudeshwar temple. The water flows down through the roots of the peepal tree at the height of 10 meters into the pond below. The pond appears like a lagoon as it is facing the sea. You can enjoy swimming inside the pond.

The crystal clear water allures people to enter the pond and enjoy a relaxing bath. Surrounded by the woods, the calm atmosphere of the place and the natural beauty of the falls is the perfect balm for frayed nerves.
According to the legends, **Angels** used to come here from heaven to take bath inside the pond hence the fall is known as Apsarakonda Fall. Just a few minutes walk away there is a spectacular viewpoint on the hill. The hill allows you to have an amazing view of the beach and sea. Also, there are small and big caves known as Pandava Caves where the Pandavas stayed during the time of exile.

5.Bhukailasa Cave Museum Murdeshwar:

Located right next to Shiva Statue in Murudeshwar temple, Bhukailasa cave is a kind of sculpture museum where you can see various religious characters with background commentary. There you'll see various big size sculptures of many mythological characters from **Ramayana and Mahabharata.** There is also a story of Ravana handling the Atma Linga to child Ganesha with background commentary. You can easily spend hours inside the cave without being bored. It is a very interesting place for both art and mytho lovers.
Entry Fees: 10 INR for Adults and 5 INR for Kids
Timing: 7 AM to 1 PM and 3 PM to 8 PM