Barkur was the ancient capital of the [Alupa Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alupa_Kingdom&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Alupa Kingdom (page does not exist)). It was known as Barakanur. The rulers were known as Tulu kings or rulers. They spoke Tulu language. Most of the districts ruled by them were in coastal Karnataka. Many ancient inscriptions found in Barkur are in Tulu language. These are an essential part of history of Tulunadu. The Coastal Town of Barkur was also a flourishing port in the 15th and 16th centuries.