

History and Culture

India is a land of rich history and diverse culture. It is a nation where every region has its wonders and charms. From the southern tip of Kanyakumari to the northern peak of Kashmir, India offers a cultural roller coaster ride that showcases the historical treasures and natural beauty of the country. In the north, you can witness the heavenly scenery of Jammu and Kashmir, while in the south, you can admire the majestic Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats that guard the ancient temples and heritage sites. In the west, you can explore the white desert of Kutch, and in the east, you can experience the rain-soaked splendour of the Seven Sister States. As the poet Rabindranath Tagore eloquently described in the national anthem, India is a harmonious blend of diverse regions and peoples: "Punjab-Sindh-Gujarat-Maratha Dravida-Utkala-Banga Vindhya-Himachal-Yamuna-Ganga Uchchala-Jaladhi-Taranga." These lines capture the essence of India in a nutshell. In this blog, we will take you on a trip to some of the most fascinating locations in India and learn about their past and present cultures.

Sariska Tiger Reserve

Sariska Tiger Reserve is a wildlife sanctuary located in the Alwar District of Rajasthan, India. It covers an area of 881 km², which includes scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills. It was declared a tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1978 and became a national park in 1982 with an area of 273.8 km². Sariska Tiger Reserve is the first reserve in the world where tigers were successfully relocated from another reserve. The park is part of the Aravalli Range and Khathiar Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion, which is rich in copper. However, the park also faces the threat of illegal mining of minerals, especially marble, despite the Supreme Court's ban in 1991. Sariska Tiger Reserve is a unique and valuable natural resource that needs to be protected and conserved.



Image Credit: Sariska Tiger Reserve

Flora and Fauna

Sariska Tiger Reserve is not only home to the majestic Bengal tiger, but also to a variety of other flora and fauna. The reserve boasts of a diverse vegetation, with dhok being the most dominant tree species. Other trees such as salar, kadaya, dhak, gol, ber, khair, bargad, arjun, and bamboo are also found here. The shrubs are also numerous, such as kair, adusta, and jhar ber. The reserve is a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts, as it hosts many animals and birds. Some of the animals that can be spotted here are sloth bear, Indian leopard, jungle cat, caracal, striped hyena, golden jackal, chital, sambar deer, nilgai, wild boar, small Indian civet, Javan mongoose, ruddy mongoose, honey badger, rhesus macaque, northern plains grey langur, and Indian hare. The bird life is also rich, with species such as



grey francolin, white-throated kingfisher, Indian peafowl, bush quail, sandgrouse, treepie, golden-backed woodpecker, crested serpent eagle, and the Indian eagle-owl.

Tigers in Sariska

However, the reserve has also faced some challenges in the past, especially regarding the conservation of the tigers. In 2003, the tiger count was 16, but in 2004 and 2005, none of the tigers were spotted in the region. The forest department in Rajasthan made a press release saying that the tigers would return in the monsoon season, but they didn't. Concerned about the situation, under the Project Tiger scheme, two tigers were relocated from Ranthambore National Park in 2006 and one female tiger in 2009. This was the first successful relocation of tigers in the world.



Image Credit: Rajasthan Tourism

Since then, the number of tigers has been increasing every year. In 2012, it was reported that 5 to 7 adult tigers along with 2 cubs were seen in the reserve. In 2014, 2 more cubs were seen along with 11 adult tigers. By now, the tiger population is more than 20. This is a remarkable achievement for the Sariska Tiger Reserve and a testament to the efforts of the forest department and the local communities.

Turning the Pages Back

Sariska is not only a wildlife sanctuary, but also a place of historical and cultural significance. The reserve was once the hunting ground of the royal family of Alwar, who ruled the region from the 11th to the 20th century. The reserve has many monuments and ruins that testify to the rich past of the area. One of the most prominent structures is the Kankarwadi Fort, which stands on a hilltop in the middle of the reserve. The fort was built by Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur, in the 17th century. It was here that the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh, who was his rival for the throne. Dara Shikoh was later executed by Aurangzeb in Delhi. The fort offers a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape and is a popular spot for birdwatching.

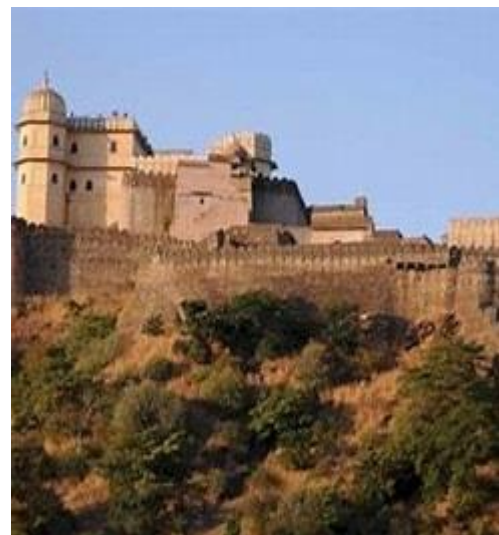


Image Credit: Pinterest

Another attraction in the reserve is the Pandupole temple, dedicated to Lord Hanuman, the monkey god. The temple is located in a narrow valley, where a perennial stream flows. According to legend, this is the place where the Pandavas, the heroes of the epic Mahabharata, spent some time during their exile. It is also believed that Hanuman met Bhima, one of the Pandavas, here and lifted a huge rock to block the entrance of the valley. The temple is also famous for its large population of langurs, who are considered the descendants of Hanuman.

Conclusion

Sariska Tiger Reserve is a place that offers a unique and unforgettable experience for anyone who loves nature, wildlife, history, and culture. It is a place where you can see the majestic tigers roaming freely in their natural habitat, as well as many other animals and birds. It is a place where you can explore the ancient monuments and ruins that tell the stories of the past, as well as the temples and shrines that reflect the faith and devotion of the present. It is a place where you can witness the harmony and diversity of India, as well as the challenges and achievements of conservation. Sariska Tiger Reserve is a place that you should not miss if you want to discover the wonders of India.

Corbett Tiger Reserve

Nestled in the heart of Uttarakhand's Nainital District, Corbett National Park is a treasure trove of nature's wonders. Its story began in 1936, under the watchful eyes of the British Raj, christened as Hailey National Park. It was a tribute to the then-governor of the United Provinces, William Malcom Hailey. But as the winds of change swept across the nation, it was rechristened as Corbett National Park, a salute to the legendary hunter and naturalist, Jim Corbett. His tireless efforts laid the foundation of this park, and even though he never saw it in its full glory, his spirit lives on in its name.

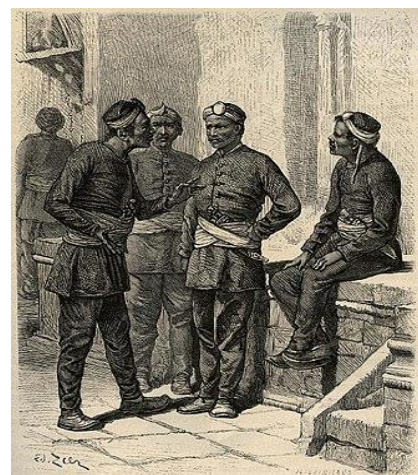
Corbett National Park is not just the first national park of India, but also the pioneer of the Project Tiger Initiative. It's a sprawling expanse of 520.8 km², a vibrant canvas painted with hills, riverine belts, marshy depressions, grasslands, and a large lake. The park's terrain undulates from 1,300 to 4,000 feet, embodying the unique sub-Himalayan belt geographical and ecological characteristics. The park is a green paradise, with forests blanketing almost 73% of its area, while grasslands add another 10% to its verdant charm. But it's not just the flora that makes Corbett National Park special. It's a bustling metropolis of wildlife, home to around 110 tree species, 50 species of mammals, 580 bird species, and 25 reptile species. Every visit to Corbett National Park is a new adventure, a chance to witness the symphony of nature. So, come, step into the wild, and let the whispers of the forest guide you!



Image Credit: Wikipedia

Digging the past

The history of Corbett National Park is a fascinating tale that begins with its former status as part of the princely state of Tehri Garhwal. To reduce Gurkha domination, the Raja of Tehri gifted some of these areas to the East India Company. The region was initially inhabited and cultivated by the Buksa tribe, but this was halted by the British Government in the early 1860s. Major Ramsay took a significant step in 1868 to conserve the region's flora and fauna by establishing control over the land and prohibiting cultivation by indigenous people. The area was declared a reserve in 1879. *(Image of Gurkhas; Image Credit: Wikipedia)*



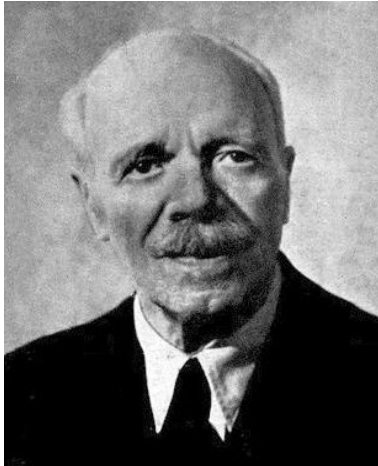


Image of Jim Corbett
Image Credit: Wikipedia

In the early 1900s, several Britishers proposed the idea of setting up a National Park on this land. This idea came to fruition in the 1930s under the leadership of Governor Sir Malcolm Hailey, leading to the establishment of the 323.75 km² Hailey National Park in 1936. During World War II, poaching and hunting escalated, prompting the implementation of stricter laws and an expansion of the reserve area. In 1954, the park was renamed Ramganga National Park and later Jim Corbett National Park in honour of Jim Corbett's contributions to the site.

The reserve's area was further expanded in 1991, adding 797.72 km² as a buffer zone to the Corbett Tiger Reserve. This addition incorporated the entire Kalagarh forest division, including the 301.18 km² area of the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary. Today, Corbett National Park is one of the thirteen protected areas covered by the World-Wide Fund for Nature under their Terai Arc Landscape Program. The park's stunning landscape has even served as the backdrop for the movie "Kaal," starring Ajay Devgan.



Diversity of the Region



Image Credit: Wikipedia

Corbett National Park, renowned for its rich biodiversity, offers the best chances of spotting a tiger during the late dry season, from April to mid-June. Visitors can embark on multi-day excursions with mahouts and elephants for an unforgettable wildlife experience. According to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's 2018-19 report, the park boasts the highest density of tigers in India, with 14 tigers per 100 square kilometres.

But the park's wildlife extends far beyond its famous tigers. It is a sanctuary for more than 586 different species of birds, 33 species of reptiles, 7 species of amphibians, 7 species of fish, and 36 species of dragonflies. The park is also home to Asian elephants and various types of leopards. Other mammals that can be spotted here include barking deer, sambar deer, hog deer, chital, sloth, Himalayan black bears, Indian grey mongoose, otters, yellow-throated martens, Himalayan goral, Indian pangolins, langur and rhesus macaques. This diverse array of flora and fauna makes Corbett National Park a must-visit destination for nature and wildlife enthusiasts.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Corbett National Park, with its rich historical roots and diverse wildlife, is a testament to the beauty and resilience of nature. From its origins as part of the princely state of Tehri Garhwal to its transformation into a national park under the stewardship of Major Ramsay and Sir Malcolm Hailey, the park has been a beacon of conservation. Today, it boasts the highest density of tigers in India and is home to a myriad of other species, making it a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts. The park's commitment to preserving its unique ecosystem while balancing the needs of the local communities is a model for other conservation efforts. Whether you're a history buff, a wildlife enthusiast, or just a lover of nature, Corbett National Park offers an unforgettable experience. So, come and immerse yourself in the untamed beauty of Corbett National Park, and witness the harmonious coexistence of man and nature.

Ajmer

Steeped in the annals of history, Ajmer, one of India's oldest cities, proudly sits in the heart of Rajasthan. Known as the "Heart of Rajasthan", Ajmer is a testament to the country's rich and diverse heritage. Recognized as a heritage city by the Government of India, Ajmer, originally established as "Ajayameru" or "Invincible Hills" by a Chahamana ruler, is a city that has withstood the sands of time. Surrounded by the awe-inspiring Aravalli Mountain ranges, Ajmer is a city where the past and present coexist, offering a unique window into the vibrant culture and rich traditions of India.

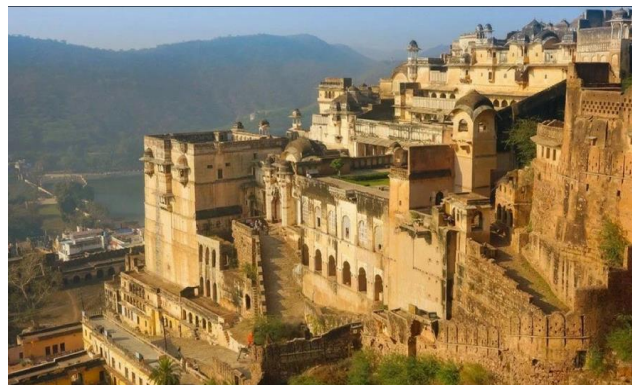


Image Credit: EBNW Story
Taragarh Fort

Rich History of Ajmer.

The city of Ajmer, a gem in the heart of Rajasthan, boasts a vibrant history that dates back to 1130 CE. The earliest mention of this city is found in the Palha's Scripts, known as Pattavali, which suggests that Ajayaraja II established his residence here. The city's fort, Ajayameru, was built by Raja Ajaypal Chauhan in the 7th century and is now known as the Taragarh Fort of Ajmer. It was the first hill fort built in India.

Ajayaraja II later expanded the city, constructing palaces and moving his capital from Shakambhari to Ajmer. In 1193, the city was annexed by Afghani invaders, who later returned the land to the Rajput

rulers as a tribute. The 15th century saw the defeat of the Rajputs by Mewar, who ruled until 1556 when Mughal Emperor Akbar captured the city.

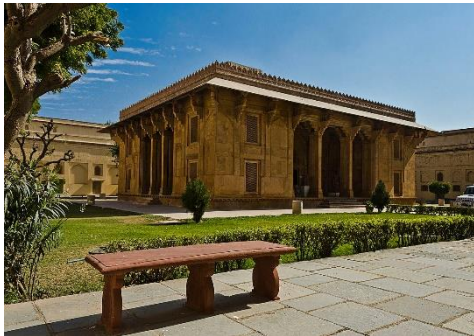


Image Credit: Wikipedia

The Akbari Fort, a symbol of the peak of Mughal architecture, now serves as a museum housing the armors of the Mughals and Rajputs. This fort was also the residence of Mughal Emperor Jahangir, who announced permission for the British East India Company to trade with India from here.

As the Mughals fought wars against the Rajputs, Ajmer served as an important military base. The city was adorned with dargahs and palaces by the Mughals, who also improved the Ana Sagar Lake, originally built by Arnoraja, the grandfather of Prithviraj Chauhan. Shah Jahan's children, Dara Shikoh and Jahanara Begum were born in this city.

The rule of the Mughals ended in 1752 when they were overthrown by the Marathas, who ruled until 1818 when they were defeated by the British. Under British rule, the region was known as the "Ajmer Merwara Province", with Ajmer as its headquarters. The city was home to a central jail and a large general hospital, which is now the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College.

The Legend of the Pushkar Lake near Ajmer

Who doesn't like mythological stories, especially when they transport you to the mystical lands of India? The story of Pushkar Lake near Ajmer is one such tale. This sacred location is home to one of the few temples dedicated to Lord Brahma. The area around Pushkar Lake once housed more than 500 temples, many of which were destroyed by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, only to be renovated after his regime ended.



Image Credit: Bing

The most significant among these is the Brahma Temple, built by Sage Vishwamitra after Lord Brahma defeated the demon Vajranabha. Legend has it that the lotus petals that fell during this battle transformed into Lake Pushkar. To purify the place of the demon's defeat, Brahma decided to perform a yajna. However, his wife Saraswati was late, leading Brahma to marry an Abhira girl named Gayatri and complete the ritual.

On Saraswati's arrival, she cursed Brahma to be worshipped only in this place and nowhere else in the world. She also cursed Indra to lose all his battles and Lord Vishnu to be separated from his wife

and become human. However, Gayatri, endowed by the yajna, diluted Saraswati's curse, blessing Pushkar and ensuring that Indra would always remain the king of the heavens and Lord Vishnu would reunite with his wife in human form. This led to Lord Vishnu's incarnation as Lord Rama on Earth, where he was reunited with Sita, an incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi. This captivating tale adds to the rich tapestry of Hindu mythology and the spiritual allure of Ajmer.

Pop Culture of Ajmer

The city of Ajmer and its surroundings are not just steeped in mythology, but also in a rich tapestry of cultural and religious practices. The annual Pushkar Fair, also known as the Pushkar Camel Fair, is a spectacle that draws tourists and devotees from around the world. This vibrant carnival, featuring camel races, folk performances, and a bustling marketplace, adds another layer to the city's charm.



Image Credit: Bing

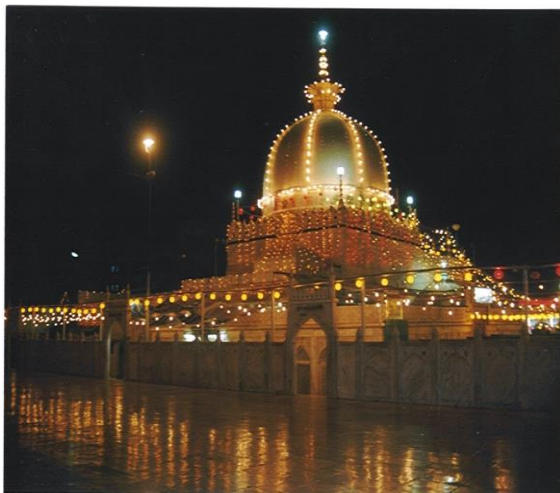


Image Credit: Bing

Moreover, the city of Ajmer is home to the revered Dargah Sharif of Moinuddin Chishti, a pilgrimage site that attracts people from all faiths seeking blessings and peace. This harmonious blend of different cultures and religions is a testament to the city's inclusive spirit.

Furthermore, the city's cuisine is worth mentioning. Ajmer offers a variety of Rajasthani delicacies that are a gastronomic delight. From the spicy 'kachoris' and 'dal baati churma' to the sweet 'ghewar' and 'malpuas', the food in Ajmer is as diverse and rich as its history.

Lastly, the scenic beauty of Ajmer, with the serene Ana Sagar Lake and the rugged Aravalli hills, provides a picturesque backdrop that complements the city's historical and cultural allure. Whether it's watching the sunset over the lake or trekking in the hills, Ajmer offers a multitude of experiences for nature lovers.

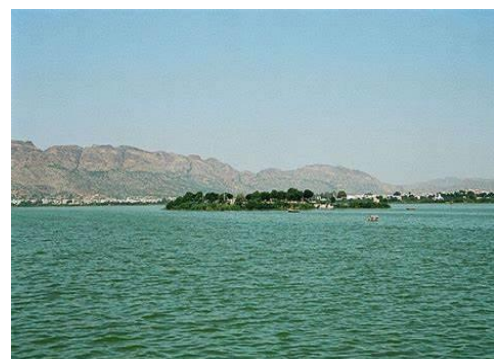


Image Credit: Bing

Conclusion

In conclusion, Ajmer is a city that beautifully encapsulates the essence of India's rich history, vibrant culture, and profound spirituality. From its inception as Ajayameru, the "Invincible Hills", to its evolution under various rulers, Ajmer's story is as captivating as it is diverse. The city's historical significance, marked by the Akbari Fort and the Taragarh Fort, blends seamlessly with its spiritual allure, epitomized by the sacred Pushkar Lake and the Brahma Temple. The intriguing mythological tales associated with these sites add another layer of fascination to Ajmer. Whether it's the architectural grandeur, the spiritual sanctity, the gastronomic delights, or the natural beauty, Ajmer offers a unique experience that leaves an indelible imprint on the hearts of those who visit. This is the charm of Ajmer, a city that truly symbolizes the spirit of Rajasthan.

Kollam

Moving to South India, let's visit the God's Own Country, Kerala. Nestled here is the city of Kollam, an ancient seaport on the Malabar coast, bordering the Arabian Sea. This city, cradled on the banks of the Ashtamudi Lake, is renowned for its cashew processing and coir manufacturing industries. Kollam has a rich history of trade, with the Arabs, Phoenicians, Chinese, Ethiopians, Syrians, Jews, Chaldeans, and Romans all having engaged in commerce at its port for millennia. Known as Koolam in Arabic, Coulão in Portuguese, and Desinganadu in ancient Tamil literature, Kollam's diverse cultural influences are a testament to its vibrant past. Welcome to Kollam, a city that beautifully blends tradition and progress.



Image Credit: Bing

Ashtamudi Lake



Image Credit: Kerala Tourism

In the heart of Kollam, Kerala, lies the majestic Ashtamudi Lake, also known as Ashtamudi Kayal. This unique wetland ecosystem is a large, palm-shaped (or octopus-shaped) water body, second only in size to the Vembanad estuary ecosystem. The name 'Ashtamudi' translates to 'eight braids' in the local Malayalam language, a testament to its eight different branches: Thevally Kayal, Kadapuzha Kayal, Kandachira Kayal, Kanjirottukayal, Kumbalathu Kayal, Kuripuzha Kayal, Perumon Kayal, and Thekkumbhagum Kayal.

Ashtamudi Lake's importance dates back to the days of the Romans and the Phoenicians. The renowned traveler Ibn Battuta, during his 24-year sojourn in the 14th century, mentioned the Quilon port, inevitably linked to Ashtamudi Lake, as one of the five ports for Chinese trade. The Kallada River, a major river, discharges into this lake, adding to its vastness.



Munroe Island; Image Credit: Bing

Adding to the charm of Ashtamudi Lake is Munroe Island, a cluster of eight tiny islands, that provide a picturesque view and a haven for bird watchers. The lake is also known for its houseboat and backwater resorts, offering a serene experience. The lush greenery and exotic biodiversity around the lake will enchant you forever. So, come and immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquility of Ashtamudi Lake, a gem in God's Own Country.

Jatayu

Nestled in the heart of Chadayamangalam in Kollam district, the Jatayu Earth Center beckons as a unique blend of nature and mythology. Also known as Jatayu Nature Park or Jatayu Rock, it is home to the world's largest bird sculpture, a majestic representation of Jatayu, the vulture demi-god from the epic Ramayana. This awe-inspiring sculpture, designed by Rajiv Anchal, stretches 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, and stands 70 feet tall, covering a vast 15,000 square feet of floor area.



Image Credit: Wikipedia



Image Credit: Wikipedia

The park and its surroundings are steeped in the lore of Ramayana. It was here that the valiant Jatayu, despite his old age, engaged in a fierce battle with Ravana to rescue Sita. Although defeated and left-wingless by Ravana, Jatayu's heroic act is immortalized in the form of this grand sculpture. It serves as a symbol of the protection of women, their honor, and their safety.

The town of Chadayamangalam, also known as Jatayumangalam, is named after Jatayu, further intertwining the location with the legend. The park stands as a testament to Jatayu's bravery, making it not just a tourist spot, but a pilgrimage for those who value courage and selflessness. So, come and immerse yourself in the tale of a hero etched in stone and landscape at the Jatayu Earth Center.

Pop Culture.

Kollam Fest is Kollam's own annual festival, attracting mostly Keralites but also hundreds of domestic and foreign tourists to Kollam. The main venue of Kollam Fest is the historic and gigantic Ashramam

Maidan. Kollam Fest is the signature event of Kollam. Kollam Fest seeks to showcase Kollam's rich culture and heritage, tourism potential and investments in new ventures.

The President's Trophy Boat Race is a popular boat race held on the Ashtamudi lake in Kollam city on 1 November every year. The day marks the birth of the Indian state of Kerala, known as Kerala Piravi. This is the most popular of the races to be held during the season of the harvest festival, Onam, in Autumn on Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam. The trophy had been instituted in the name of the President of India. President of India will be present to witness the race and would also give away the trophy and cash prize to the winning team.



Image Credit: Kerala Tourism

Conclusion

Kollam, a gem in Kerala's crown, is a harmonious blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and industrial prowess. Nestled on the banks of Ashtamudi Lake and Kallada river, it's a gateway to the enchanting backwaters of Kerala. Home to the world's largest bird sculpture at Jatayu Earth's Center and the historic Thangassery Light House, Kollam is a treasure trove of experiences. Its thriving cashew and coir industries add to its charm. In essence, Kollam encapsulates the spirit of 'God's Own Country', making it a must-visit destination for every traveller.

Belur (Dwarasamudra)

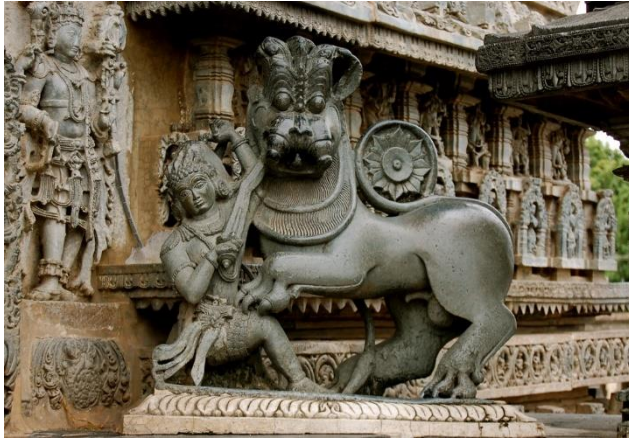
Coming to our last destination, we will be going to the Hearts of the Deccan Plateau of India i.e., Karnataka. Karnataka is home to many historical and cultural wonders, but one of the most remarkable ones is Belur. Belur is a town in Hassan district that was once the early capital of the Hoysala Dynasty, who ruled over this region from the 10th to the 14th century. The Hoysalas were known for their exquisite architecture and art, which can be seen in the Chennakeshava Temple, a masterpiece of stone carving dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The temple complex is the largest and best-preserved example of the Karnata-Dravida style, which blends the Nagara and Dravidian elements. The temple is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with its twin temple in Halebidu, the later capital of the Hoysalas. Belur is situated on the banks of the Yagachi River, and covers an area of 836 sq. km. It has been a sacred site for the Vaishnava Hindus since the 12th century, and attracts pilgrims and tourists alike. Belur is a place where history, culture, and spirituality come together in a stunning display of beauty and grace.



Image Credit: Wikipedia

The Hoysala Dynasty

The Hoysala Dynasty was one of the most influential and artistic dynasties of medieval India. They ruled over the Deccan Plateau from the 10th to the 14th century, and left behind a rich legacy of temples, sculptures, and inscriptions. The origin of the Hoysalas is shrouded in mystery and legend.



Some historians believe that they were the descendants of the Yadavs of Maharashtra, who migrated to Karnataka after marrying into the Kalyana Chalukya Dynasty. However, this theory is disputed by many others, who argue that there is no concrete evidence to support it. The more reliable story is that the Hoysalas were a local Hindu family who rose to power after killing a lion. The name Hoysala means “the one who struck (Sala) the lion”. Belur was the first capital of the Hoysalas, and it was known as Dakshina

Varanasi, or the Varanasi of the South. It was here that the Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana met the famous Hindu philosopher and mathematician Ramanujacharya, who converted him to Sri Vaishnavism. This event marked a turning point in the history and culture of Belur, as it became a prominent center of Vaishnava Hindu pilgrimage and architecture. The Chennakeshava Temple, built by Vishnuvardhana, is a testimony to the glory and devotion of the Hoysalas. (*Hoysala Dynasty Emblem; Image Credit: Wikipedia*)

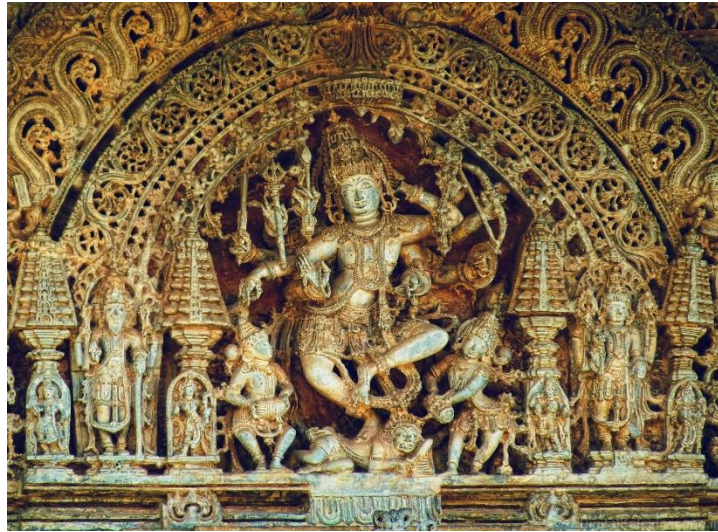
The World Famous Chennakeshava Temple.

One of the most magnificent temples in India is the Chennakeshava Temple in Belur. This temple was built in 1117 CE by the Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana, who dedicated it to Lord Vishnu, the preserver of the universe. The temple stands on the banks of the Yagachi River and reflects the glory and devotion of the Hoysala Dynasty, who ruled over the Deccan Plateau for over three centuries. The temple took 103 years to complete and showcases the finest examples of Hoysala architecture and sculpture. The temple is made of chloritic schist, a type of soapstone that is easy to carve and hardens over time. The temple has a simple plan, with one sanctum and a hall, but the walls and pillars are adorned with intricate carvings of gods, goddesses, animals, and floral motifs. The temple also incorporates the artistic traditions of the Western Chalukyas, who were the predecessors of the Hoysalas.



Belur Temple; Image Credit: Wikipedia

The Chennakeshava Temple has witnessed many turbulent events in the history of India. It was attacked and damaged by the Delhi Sultanate ruler Alauddin Khalji in the 14th century, who tried to destroy the Hindu temples in the region. However, he was defeated by the Vijayanagar Empire, who restored and repaired the temple under the patronage of Harihara II. The temple faced another threat from the Madurai Sultanate, who invaded the area in the 16th century and caused damage to the temple and its surroundings. The temple remained neglected for a long time, until the Mysore Wadiyar Dynasty took control of the region in the 18th century. The Wadiyars, under the leadership of Hyder Ali, renovated and preserved the temple. In the late 19th century, some of the buildings that were severely damaged were removed from the site, to prevent them from collapsing on the temple. The temple is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and attracts visitors from all over the world. The Chennakeshava Temple is a symbol of the resilience and beauty of the Hoysala culture and the Hindu faith.



(Art Work of Hoysalas; Image Credit: Wikipedia)

In and Around



Image Credit: Bing

Belur is not just a historical place, but a living testimony of the Hoysala culture and the Hindu faith. It is a place where you can marvel at the exquisite carvings of the Chennakeshava Temple, and feel the divine presence of Lord Vishnu. But Belur is also a gateway to the natural wonders of the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot that offers many scenic and adventurous destinations.

You can enjoy the sunset at Agumbe Hill Station, taste the world-famous coffee of Chikkamagaluru, explore the wildlife of Bhadra Sanctuary, witness the majestic Jog Falls, and visit the holy places and hill stations of Shimoga. Belur is a place where history and nature harmonize in a beautiful symphony. It is a place that you should not miss, as it will enrich your mind, body, and soul.



Image Credit: Karnataka Tourism

Overall Conclusion

India is a land of diversity and harmony, where people belonging to different religions, languages, cultures, and traditions co-exist peacefully. India has a remarkable variety of monuments and sites spread all across the length and breadth of the country, reflecting its glorious past and cultural heritage. India has 38 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, of which 30 are cultural sites, 7 are natural sites, and one mixed site. India also has a rich and varied intangible cultural heritage, such as oral traditions, expressions, craftsmanship, and more. India is committed to preserving and promoting its cultural heritage both nationally and internationally, through various initiatives and projects. India's rich cultural heritage is a source of pride and inspiration for all Indians and the world.

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