

12. SHORAPUR FORT, TAYLOR MANZIL Place - Shorapur

District : Yadgeri
Taluk : Surapur
Locality : Shorapur

Geo - Coordinates:
Lat : 16.525302 °N
Long : 76.752147 °E



History

The fort at Shorapur is said to have been, originally built by the Bender Rajas-Naika. But, there is nothing left of the original fort. On gateway of the present fortifications of the town located on high hillock called Kudaregudda. To the north of the town there is the Taylor Manzil. The city is protected by two rounds of massive fortification which runs on top of the hill and across the valley to form a oval shape. The length of the outer fortification is approximately 6400 m and covers an area of about 2 km x 1.5 km and a total of 34 circular and semicircular bastion and six arched gateway at strategic locations. The fort wall is made up of chiseled rounded stones, and on top its parapet once had petals, now ruined. The six gateways at different directions are Devapuragare in the south, Mullagasi in the east, Kappalabenchigasi in the west, Ranganpethagasi in the northeast, Siddhapuragasi in the northwest and Venkatapuragasi in the southeast.

Among these Devapuragasi in the south is intact and is a large impressive one, its doorframe have simple sakhas and the doors contains figures of flower, snake, peacock, elephant, monkey, snakecharner, a man and a women. The gateway is strengthened with two circular bastions on either side on the uttaranga are flowered designs and figures of Surya and Chandra with two circular bastions on either side. To protect the enemy's direct attack on the gate there is a rectangular court in front of the entrance, to the south of this court is a lone circular bastion.

The inner fortification which is in the centre of the town is small, about 350 m in length and 250 m in width and 20 m high. The fort is made up of well chiseled big stones along with lime mortar. On top of the wall are projected windows.

In the east is an arch gateway, on the uttaranga is the emblem of the kingdom [two fishes facing each other along with Surya and Chandra] in the same vicinity is a platform. In the fortification is the palace complex with two palaces and a temple. The other structural building here are Ashurkhana, mosque, dargah, bazaar, Monsif court are notable for its historical value.

Col Meadows Taylor came to Shorapur as a political agent in 1842, to settle the dispute. During his stay a mansion was built, its plan and design was prepared by Col Taylor. It consists of two large bedrooms, a large drawing room and hall, it was surrounded by a large spacious garden and a tennis court. The mansion was fitted teak furnishings, he stayed here for ten years.

3D Point Cloud

