**Link used:** **https://www.holidify.com/places/aihole/**

**Aihole** (pronounced "Eye-ho-lé"), also referred to as **Aivalli**, **Ahivolal** or **Aryapura**, is a historic site of ancient and medieval era [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist), [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu) and [Jain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jain) monuments in north [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka) (India) dated from the fourth century through the twelfth century CE.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aihole#cite_note-Ray2010p17-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aihole#cite_note-FOOTNOTEHeather_Elgood2000151-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aihole#cite_note-3)Located around an eponymous small village surrounded by farmlands and sandstone hills, Aihole is a major archaeological site featuring over one hundred and twenty stone and cave temples from this period, spread along the Malaprabha river valley, in [Bagalakote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bagalakote" \o "Bagalakote) district.

Aihole is 22 miles (35 km) from [Badami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badami) and about 6 miles (9.7 km) from [Pattadakal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pattadakal" \o "Pattadakal), both of which are major centers of historically important [Chalukya monuments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badami_Chalukya_architecture" \o "Badami Chalukya architecture). Aihole, along with nearby Badami (Vatapi), emerged by the 6th century as the cradle of experimentation with temple architecture, stone artwork, and construction techniques.

Known as the cradle of temple architecture, Aihole is an experience of time travelling, by all means. A quiet village where centuries-old temples have been let alone to grow old in peace, history rests in equanimity at this former capital of the Badami Chalukyas. Temples from the fifth century to the fourteenth century stand no further than a few yards from another, taking you through a fascinating, evolutionary passage of art and architecture.

**Aihole-Badami-Pattadakal**

Bright yellow sunflower fields, red-ochre sandstone outcrops and cobalt blue skies. The journey to the Badami-Aihole-Pattadakal belt is a painting in the primary colours. The road to the past is nothing short of spectacular. Aihole has to be gods collection of temple prototypes. Believed to be the cradle of Dravidian temple architecture, Aiholes temple compendium spans styles and centuries, some as early as the 5th century - and some, like the Durga Temple is built on design that is seen nowhere else in the country. The Badami Chalukyas first had their capital at Aihole before they moved to Badami and its justified in resting on its ancient laurels. For, Aihole has a lot of ancient laurels. Pattadakal, similarly, has a finger lodged in the book of time - when it was the place where kings were coronated. A little away from Aihole, Pattadakal stands like an island of majesty - just like its name suggests: pattada kallu translating into coronation stone. A complex of eight temples, each one commemorates a landmark event in the history of the Chalukyas, which in turn was one of South Indias most vibrant dynasties. The Malaprabha River flows by both Aihole and Pattadakal, a silent witness now as it was then.

Peeking from crags high above are the remnants of what look like watchtowers. You never know what you might encounter in the thick shrub undergrowth. Leopards have been known to pay unwelcome visits to the nearby villages to drag cattle away. Just a few kilometres apart, Aihole, Pattadakal and Badami can be covered in a day - a day well spent, at that! Badami is a snapshot of the past, where the elements, both natural and manmade, have been fixed in a tableau as if afraid to move on from a love affair thats well and over now. The love affair being, the glory days of the Badami Chalukyas whod moved their capital to Badami in the apogee of their run as a dynasty. Karnataka is a rambling old storyteller, and the most exquisite stories it has. Every place is steeped in legend and myth, and Badami with the Agastya Lake flanked by two rocky, almost-rectangular sandstone hills represent the Sage Agastya and the two ill-behaved demons Vatapi and Ilvala. Its a steep climb up to its rock-cut cave temples. The four temples which are hewn into a rock, one level above the other, has the most exquisite carvings from the Hindu myths and the top most one, dedicated to the Jain faith, has iconography representing the thirthankaras whore considered the pillars of the faith. The view from here in the evenings is the stuff of epics. And yet, it pales in comparison with the one from the North Fort, which lies on the opposite hill. Man-made as it might be, the Agastya Lake has an untouched air about it, made complete by the brown sandstone Bhootanatha Temples that stand on its edge like ephemeral maidens, who might vanish any moment - so beautiful, that theyre almost a mirage. Dedicated to the god of spirits and ghosts, the beauty of the Bhootanatha Temples glistening like a fleeting apparition in the dusk will haunt for a long, long time after youve left Badami.

Places to see at aihole

**1.****Durga temple:-**

A significant temple in Aihole, the temple derives it name from proximity to a 'Durg' or Fort and not from Goddess Durga, as it is often misunderstood.

The origin of the temple is traced back to the 7th or the early bit of the 8th century. The structure is also a fine specimen of the Dravida Style of architecture.

**2.****Lad khan temple:**

One of the temples that have stood here for the longest of times, the Lad Khan Temple is one of the oldest in Aihole. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is named after a Muslim Prince who resided here for a while.

With the arts and sciences of constructing temples, not as evolved during the time this temple was built, as they were later, the Chalukyas built the temple in a Panchayat Hall style.

## 3. Ravanaphadi Cave Temples:

## This is one of the oldest rock cut cave temples in Aihole, having its origin in as early as the 6th century. A Shiva Linga is situated inside this temple and is endowed with various carvings of Lord Shiva.

## 4.Archaeological Museum:

An Archaeological Survey of India run museum is located inside the Durga temple Complex. Originally built as a sculpture shed, the setup evolved into a well laid out museum in the year 1987.

Find here Brahmanical, Jaina and Buddhist faiths and concepts taking shape of stone sculptures. Also find inscriptions, antiques and a number of other fascinating exhibits here.

## 5. Huchimalli Temple

Built in the 7th century, this temple has shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma. It is located to the north of the village of Aihole.

## 6. Huchappayyagudi Temple

Dating back to the 8th century, this temple is located on the way to the Malapranha River. The interiors of the temple are replete with multiple intricate carvings, including a beautiful carved image of Nataraja on the ceiling.

## 7. Gowda temple:

## A 12th century temple, built in a style similar to that of Lad Khan Temple with elements borrowed from the Kalyana Chalukya style, is a temple dedicated to Goddess Bhagavati.

## 8. Chakra gudi

## Chakra Gudi is a 9th century temple and houses a rekhanagara style tower amongst few other elements

## 9. Meganagudi group

Housing the only dated structure in the entire cluster of ancient temples that the village houses, this group, hence marks an early presence of the Dravidian style of architecture.

The landmark of time that this group of temples houses is a structure called the Meguti Jain Temple and has its origin traced back to the 634 AD. Find in these temples a Jain Figure, a natural cavern and a small cave as well as instances of Bharavi and Kalidasa in their inscriptions.

## 10. Kontigudi Temples

## The Kontigudi group of temples consist of four separate temples, built in the 7th century with a few additions in later years. These temples are located in the middle of the Bazaar of Aihole.

## 11. Jyothirlinga Temples

## Situated at the south-west of the Ravanaphadi Caves, this group of temples dates back to the 8th century to 10th century. One finds Kadambanagara towers in some of these while inscriptions from the Kalyana Chalukya period in some.

## 12.Galaganatha group

On the banks of River Mahaprabha, is the Galaganatha group of temples, which houses 38 shrines, most of which are lost to ruins. However, one can visit the Galaganatha Temple, which has retained much of its structure and holds a shrine of Lord Shiva.

Most of theses temples have their origins traced back to the 8th century while one structure here dates back to the 10th century.

## 13. Suryanarayana Temple

## Featuring a 2 feet tall statue of Surya along with Usha and Sandhya, this temple dates back to the 7th or 8th century.

## 14. Ambigera Gudi group

## Dating back to the 10th century and in much proximity to the Aihole Fort are the Ambigera Gudi group of temples.

## 15. Triyambakeshvara group of temples

## An idol of Nataraja in these temples dating back to the 11the century.

## 16. Chikkigudi group

## In much proximity to the Ambigera Gudi Group of temples, is the Chikkigudi group of temples stands out from its surroundings, given its size.

## 17. Rachi gudi

## This is an 11th century Shiva temple, with external walls carrying impressions and depictions of Vishnu, Nataraja, Ganapathi.

## 18. Yeniar shrines

On the banks of River Malaprabha, is this group of 8 temples dating back to the 12th century.

## 19. Jainagudis group

Dating back to the 11th Century, the structure built in Kalyana Chalukya style of architecture houses a number of shrines and a Parshvanatha idol.

## 20. Charanthimatha group

An instance of the Kalyani Chalukya style of architecture, this group of temple dates back to sometime in the middle of the 11th and the 12th centuries. The central structure here is said to be the Trikutachala Temple, housing three shrines.

## 21. Badigera gudi

Pushkarni

Aihole museum

Amingad fort

Kelur fort