

MAJOR TOURIST CENTRES OF KARNATAKA



We learn about the following in this chapter,

- The introduction and importance of natural and cultural tourist centres in Karnataka.
- Description of the main tourist centres and their national and international significance.
- Important hills, water falls and historical places.

“See places, read books is a proverb.” People travel for curiosity, or religious celebrations, or peace of mind or relaxation, to see picturesque places, seeking happiness or improving health. Tourist centres have facilities for accomodation and food.

Tourism has become an inevitable part of the human life today. We gain knowledge about the place, culture, civilization and life style etc.

Karnataka has famous tourist spots, natural scenic places, the evergreen Sahyadri ranges with their rivers, waterfalls, beautiful valleys, wild animals, sandalwood forests etc, The attractive coastlines, historical places, temples with grand sculpture, religious centers, places of pilgrimage etc. attract people from all corners. Realising the importance of tourism, Karnataka Government has established the ‘Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation’ (KSTDC) in the year 1974 to provide tourists with basic requirements like tourist homes, lodges and restaurants at important tourist spots.

Karnataka, being a heaven for tourists, has various beautiful places and attracts lakhs of people. UNESCO has recognized and declared Hampi, Pattadakal, and recently, the Western Ghats as ‘World Heritage Sites’. This has made Karnataka world-famous.

The Government of Karnataka has implemented a new tourism policy and given opportunity and encouragement to private companies in tourism. Karnataka has won the award for ‘Best Tourism Management’ state in 1996-97. The following are the well-known tourist spots :

Hill Stations of Karnataka : Karnataka has a variety of relief features and many hill ranges. Thus, there are many hill stations. Kudremukh hill station of Chikkamagaluru district, is a major hill station. It has dense, green forests, many hillocks, coffee estates and waterfalls making it a beautiful place.

Nandi hill station of Chikballapur district, is about 1492 mtrs above sea level, and has pleasant climate. As it is close to Bengaluru, it attracts lakhs of tourists. It has lodging and boarding facilities. Mahatma Gandhi stayed here for the improvement of his health, So a memorial has been constructed called Gandhi Bhavan.

Similarly, B.R.Hills, Agumbe Sunset spot, Kemmannugundi, Devarayanadurga, Jogi hills of Chitradurga district, Kodachadri, Himavadgopalaswamy hills, the rocky hillocks of Ramnagar, Madhugiri Monolithic hill, the enchanting rock formations at Yana, Mercara etc. have summer resorts and attract tourists.

Waterfalls of Karnataka : Our state is home to many waterfalls. The Malnad region has many waterfalls. During the rainy season, the water routes down with great force. Uttara Kannada has a greater number of waterfalls.

The highest waterfall in the country is Jog Falls which is in Shivamogga. The water of Sharavathi falls from a height of 293 mtrs in four streams. They are named Raja, Rani, Roarer and Rocket. During the rainy season, this waterfall has maximum amount of water and presents a scene of unforgettable beauty.

The Cauvery river at Shivanasamudra in Mandya district forms twin waterfalls named 'Gaganachukki' and 'Bharachukki'. Near Mercara, there is the refreshing 'Abbe falls'. Near Kemmanagundi hill station, there is Hebbe falls. In addition to these, we have Kalhatagiri falls, Unchalli Falls (called Loushington) Uttara Kannada district and Gokak Falls in Belagavi district. Gokak falls is formed on the river Ghataprabha and is famous as the 'Niagara of Karnataka'. Magod falls is also a famous waterfall.

Activity

Conduct a school level sight seeing tour and write an account of the important tourist centres of your district.

Wildlife Sanctuaries of Karnataka

Karnataka has dense forests. In order to protect forests and wildlife, the Government of Karnataka has established a number of wildlife sanctuaries, bird sanctuaries, national parks, tiger projects and biosphere reserves areas.

There are five national parks in Karnataka. They are : Rajiv Gandhi National Park in Nagarahole, Bandipur, Bannerughatta, Kudremukh and Anshi National Park.

For the conservation of wild life in their natural habitat, eighteen wildlife sanctuaries have been identified. Of these, Muthodi, Bandipur, Nagarhole, Dandeli, Bhadra animal sanctuaries and Ranganathittu, Kokkare Bellur, Mandagadde, Gudavi bird sanctuary are the main ones.

Karnataka has beautiful beaches. They are: the Om beach of Gokarna, Ullal, Murdeswara, Maravanthe, Malpe beach etc. These attract numerous tourists.

Let us know this

Every place in our state has its own significance. Learn about the history and significance of our state from your elders.

St.Mary's Island near Udupi has special pillar-type rock formation and is very fascinating. Murdeswar's Nethrani Island, Devgad and Kurmagadh islands near Karwar are also famous.

Historical Places : The earlier rulers of Karnataka , the Kadambas, Hoysalas, Chalukyas and the kings of Vijayanagar have left behind very beautiful sculptural wonders. They are at Hampi, Belur, Halebid, Somnathpur, Badami, Pattadakal, Aihole, Gol Gumbuz of Vijayapura, Lakkundi, Banavasi, Basaralu, Belligave, Mysuru, Srirangapatna etc.

Places of Pilgrimage : Karnataka has many pilgrimage centers like Dharmasthala, Udupi, Sringeri, Horanadu, Kollur, Gokarna, Ulavi, Sirsi, Sravanabelagola, Kudala Sangama, Melukote, Adichunchunagiri, Karkala, Devaragudda, Mylarakshetra, Bande Nawaz Darga of Kalaburagi, Ibrahim Roza of Vijayapura, Mallikrahan Darga of Sira, St.Philomena Church in Mysuru, Rosario Cathedral in Mangaluru etc.

Forts of Karnataka : There are many historic and strong forts in

Karnataka and they are favorite tourist spots, for example : Fort of Bidar, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Hampi (Vijayanagar), Keladi, Chitradurga, Madhugiri, Nandi Hills, Pavagada, Manjrabad, Uchangidurga, Kavaledurga, Parathagadha, Srirangapatna, the coastal forts of Bahadurgadha, Basavarajadurga, Devagadha Kurmagadha etc.

All the mentioned tourist centres above have added to the greatness of Karnataka. In recent days the capital city of Bengaluru is attracting large number of tourists. It has a pleasant climate, wonderful buildings like Vidhana Soudha, beautiful gardens like Lalbagh and Cubbon Park and hence it is called 'Garden City'. It is Karnataka's largest city and one of the megacities of the country. Similarly Mysuru is the 'City of Palaces'. Millions of people visit Mysuru during Dasara festival. Chamundi Hills, K.R.Sagar Dam and Brindavan etc., are the other major tourist attractions of Mysuru.

Activity :

Collect information about the historical places and temples in your place and near by village.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

1. Nandi Hill Station is in _____ district.
2. Abbe falls is near to _____ town.
3. _____ waterfall is called Niagara of Karnataka.
4. _____ beach is near Gokarna.
5. _____ city is called the 'City of Palaces'.

II. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the advantages of tourism?
2. Name the basic facilities needed in a tourist spot.
3. Write a note on the Kudremukh hill station.

4. Name the wildlife sanctuaries of Karnataka.
5. Name the places of historical importance in Karnataka.

III. Match the following.

A

1. Biligirirangana hills
2. Jogi Betta
3. Yana
4. Anshi
5. Ranganthittu

B

- a. Uttara Kannada district
- b. Chamarajnagar
- c. Bird sanctuary
- d. Chitradurga
- e. National Park
- f. Peacock sanctuary

IV. Activities :

- 1) Make a list of the hill stations and wild life sanctuaries of Karnataka.
- 2) Write an account of your experiences during your tour of Source of the important tourist spot of Karnataka.

V. Project :

- 1) Collect photographs of various tourist places and prepare an album.

