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Mysore

Heritage Destination



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KARNATAKA

One state. Many worlds.



Mysore



General Information

Area	: 37.30 sq kms		
Altitude	: 770 meters		
Temperature	: Summer	Max 35°C	Min 20°C
	: Winter	28°C	14°C
Rainfall	: June to August		
Season	: Throughout the year Mysore has been blessed with a salubrious climate		
Population	: 9,50,000 or 10,00,000		

How to get there

Air:

From inside India : Efforts are underway to upgrade the Mysore Airport. The nearest Airport is Bangalore (150 km from Mysore). Bangalore is connected by air from all major cities in the country directly, viz., Ahmedabad, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkatta, Mangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Trivandrum

From outside India :

Air-India, Indian Airlines, Gulf Air, Lufthansa German Airlines, Royal Nepal, Singapore Airlines, Malaysian airlines, SriLankan Airlines, Thai Airways fly directly to Bangalore from South East Asia, Middle East, Europe and USA.

Rail:

Direct trains are available to Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Thanjavur, Tuticorin, apart from major cities of Karnataka. Shatabdhi express connects Mysore to Chennai, except Tuesdays.

Road:

Regular bus services are available to Mysore from all major towns and cities in South India.





History of Mysore

Once the ceremonial capital of the erstwhile princely state of Mysore, the city of Mysore remains a laidback little town straight out of an R.K. Narayan book. Despite rapid urbanisation, the gardens, lakes and statue circles lend an impression of a city caught in its time wrap. Although rapid modernization and industrialisation have changed its topography, aesthetically Mysore's soul remains the same.

The very approach by road or train crossing the bridge across the river Cauvery, the delightful view of the majestic Chamundi hill - gives the first glimpse of what is on offer for a visitor.

The history and life of Mysore is so entwined with the erstwhile rulers of the state that it has seeped into the very soul of the city. In fact, it will not be wrong to state that the palace has given a unique, indelible color to the city. Be it cuisine, fashion, jewellery, music, dance, yoga, painting or sculpture, every form has a unique tinge.

Mysore is a majestic, mysterious and mesmerising city. It has inherited all Indian traditions with modernity. Its phenomenal character is best expressed by its everlasting youthful spirit with dignified ambience. As befits a city with a 500 year history, Mysore has a number of historical and heritage buildings. And it is the cultural capital of Karnataka, thanks to the contributions of the city's pioneers in literature, art, architecture, sculpture, music, drama, dance and folk arts.



Situated 770 metres above sea level and embraced by hill ranges from north to south, Mysore is also called as a Garden city. Mysore gets its name from the buffalo-headed demon ruler "Mahishasura". According to the puranic story in Devi Bhagavata, Mysore was ruled by Mahishasura who created havoc for the Gods. Hearing their plea to save them from the monster, Goddess Parvati, wife of Lord Shiva, took birth as Chamundeshwari and killed the demon king. After killing Mahishasura the Goddess resided atop the Chamundi hill where She is worshipped by devotees with reverence even today.

The earliest mention of Mysore as Mahisharashtra is found in the Buddhist Depavamsha. In 245 B.C. Ashoka is said to have despatched a monk to Mahisharashtra to spread Buddhism. References about Mysore are also to be found in the great epic Mahabharata, although there is not much evidence to support their mention.

Mysore was under the Gangas for the longest period in its history, from the fourth to the tenth century, with Talakad as their capital and elephant as the royal emblem. Then the Cholas rose to power and ruled Mysore for over a century followed by the uneventful reign of Chalukyas. But by the 12th century the region was under the Hoysalas who were able to drive out the Cholas and establish themselves as rulers of the land. Hoysalas excelled themselves in temple architecture and left some exquisitely carved temples as evidence of their successful reign.

The Mysore dynasty was one among many minor feudatories of the Vijayanagar empire. This happened at the beginning of the 14th century but their presence was felt only in the 16th century when Bettada Chamaraja III built a fort in Mysore. It was once again made the capital in 1799 after the fall of Tipu Sultan, and the transformation of Mysore from a small fort town to a handsome city began during the reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar III.



Genealogy of the Kings of Mysore

The genealogy of Mysore kings given an interesting insight into a bygone era and provides historical innuement. The first king of Mysore was Yaduraya. The genealogy is as follows:

Sl.No.	Names	Born in	Ruled from	Ruled to
1.	Adi Yadurayaru	1371 AD		1399 AD 1423 AD
2.	Hiriya Bettada Chamaraja Wadiyar -I	1408 AD		1423 AD 1459 AD
3.	Thima Raja Wadiyar - I	1433 AD		1459 AD 1478 AD
4.	Hiriya Chamarajarasa Wadiyar - II	1463 AD		1478 AD 1513 AD
5.	Hiriya Bettada Chamaraja Wadiyar - III	1492 AD		1513 AD 1553 AD
6.	Thima Raja Wadiyar - II	1511 AD		1553 AD 1572 AD
7.	Boala Chamaraja Wadiyar -IV	1518 AD		1572 AD 1576 AD
8.	Bettada Chamarajarasa Wadiyar - V	1550 AD		1576 AD 1578 AD
9.	Raja Wadiyar - I	1552AD		1578 AD 1617 AD
10.	Chamarajarasa Wadiyar - VI	1606 AD		1617 AD 1637 AD
11.	Raja Wadiyar - II	1617 AD		1637 AD 1638 AD
12.	Ranadheera Kanteerava Narasaraja Wadiyar	1615 AD		1638 AD 1659 AD
13.	Doddadevaraja Wadiyar	1627 AD		1659 AD 1673 AD
14.	Chikka Devaraja Wadiyar	1645 AD		1673 AD 1704 AD
15.	Kantheerava Maharaja Wadiyar	1673 AD		1704 AD 1714 AD
16.	Dodda Krishnaraja Wadiyar	1702 AD		1714 AD 1732 AD
17.	Chamaraja Wadiyar - VII	1704 AD		1732 AD 1734 AD
18.	Krishnaraja Wadiyar - II	1728 AD		1734 AD 1766 AD
19.	Nanja Raja Wadiyar	1748 AD		1766 AD 1770 AD
20.	Bettada Chamaraja Wadiyar - VIII	1759 AD		1770 AD 1776 AD
21.	Khasa Chamaraja Wadiyar - IX	1774 AD		1776 AD 1796 AD
22.	Krishnaraja Wadiyar - III	1794 AD		1799 AD 1868 AD
23.	Chamarajendra Wadiyar - X	1863 AD		1868 AD 1894 AD
24.	Krishnaraja Wadiyar - IV	1884 AD		1902 AD 1940 AD (3rd Aug)
25.	Sri Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar - XI	1919 AD		1940 AD 1947



The Mysore Royal dynasty which started from Yaduraya spanned over a period of 550 years to Sri Jayachamaraja Wodeyar. The overall contribution of the royal dynasty despite many turbulent phases in between for the development of the state and giving it a rich cultural foundation is immense. The kings of Mysore were benevolent and were loved and respected by their subjects and this sentiment is still very strong among the people of Mysore whose love for the Royal family is beyond words.

