

What to see

Maharajas Palace

In Feb 1887, at the close of the festivities attending marriage of princess Jayalakshammanniyavaru, the greater part was severely damaged, indeed almost destroyed by fire.

Maharani Vanivilas Sannidhan initiated the construction of the new palace in 1897. The design and building plans were approved by the architect of the vice-regal Lodge, Simla, and Henry Irwin who was the consultant architect to the Government of the Madras presidency. The actual construction was supervised by Ragavulu Naidu, A.C.E. the construction of the palace was completed in 1912. It cost 41,47,912 (4.14 million) the top of the palace stand at 145ft with seven high beams. Inside, the palace has many big halls conforming to the traditional thotti (Quadrangle) design.

King Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV was a connoisseur and had a keen interest in murals. He commissioned the famous artists of Mysore city to make paintings depicting the Dasara procession on very thin canvas which was then mounted on the walls there. Paintings which are huge and have minute details of the historical period provide interesting insights into the bygone era of royal grandeur. The artists were T. Keshavaiah, S.N. Swamy, K. Venkatappa, Y.Nagaraju, S. Dhankarvarju, S. R. Iyengar and Suramanyaraju.

The golden howdah (palanquin) which is tied on the back of an elephant on the 10th day of Dasara festival. Weighing 250 kilos can be seen in the palace. During eve of monarchy, king used to sit on the howdah and proceeded to Bannimantap to perform puja there. This continued for many years after independence. Visitor can see the Throne during Dasara Festivals.

Golden Throne

The Golden throne is the main attraction in the Mysore palace during Dasara festival for 10 days, which tourist can see. H.H. Krishnaraja Wodeyar III display the Mysore throne.

The throne is adorned with golden plantain posts and golden mango leaves has a bird set with jewels at the top of the umbrella is rendered charming by female figures at the sizes of the flight of steps has pearl tassels round umbrella has a tortoise seat yalis on two sides and creepers on four sides. It has on the east face elephants, on the south horses, on the west infantry and on north and Vishnu in the middle, Charols of has Brahma on the south Shiva on the north, has vijaya and four other lions, two sarabhas (mythical monsters), two horses and four swans at the angles. It is beautified by figures of the regents of the directions and Naga nymphs is decorated with the svastika diagram and a pearl awning and is open on all sides.



The throne passed through one more danger when in 1897, the greater part of the palace was destroyed by fire. The simhasana was lowered to the ground by almost superhuman exertions on the part of European and Indian volunteer rescuers and removed in safety. One can see the palace joint before the illumination as it is a great sight to see turning bright with in a second with 96,000 bulbs . Ticket for entering the palace are sold at the gate where cameras can also be deposited. Visitors can see the throne during Dasara festivals only.
Timings : 10.00 am to 5.30 pm all the days.
Entrance fee : 20/- per head. Ph. : 2434425.

Jaganmohan Palace

This Art Gallery located to the west with a walking distance to the of main palace, which is famous Art Gallery. It was built during rule of Krishnaraja Wodeyar III in 1861 to celebrate the Marriage of his daughter, the princess of Mysore, because the main palace was destroyed in a fire 1897. The main door of this Museum is it self a master piece of Art with intricate carvings which is said to have been made in just 70 days. The Museum was officially started in 1915, and has since been expended by adding many artifacts. This Art Gallery was linded to the famous Mysore style of painting of rare original paintings and artiacts and entrusted the Administration of this Museum to a committee. The museum was named after Sri Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar in 1955 as Jaganmohan Palace Art Gallery.



The original oil paintings of Raja Ravi Varma of Travancore on display here are on many mythological themes.

The painting of lady holding the lamp of the Indian Artist S.G. Heldnker is another master piece. The other Exhibits include Artifacts made from Glass, Ceramic and Metal.



A good collection of clocks is on display here. Few engravings from China and Japan give it an oriental charm, painting on silks from Japan are worth seeing. Another attraction is the display of paintings of various styles like Moghal, Rajputh give the museum the Artistic touch. Innumerable toys and Artifacts of various description (like the french musical calendar and religious bells from Nepal) makes a visit to this museum memorable.

Timings : 8.00 am to 5.00 pm (all the days) Entrance fee : Adults Rs. 15/-, Children Rs. 8/- Phone : 2423693

Chamundi Hill (old name Mahebalatheertha)

The hill is 3,489 ft. above the sea levels and is 12 km from Mysore city. An energetic visitor will be well repaid by climbing up the 1000 steps, fashioned about 300 years ago, and a good motorable road leads to the top of the hill. The largest and best known is the large Dravidian temple, dedicated to Sri Chamundeshwari Devi, the tutelary deity of Mysore and of here royal house, generally regarded as an incarnation of Parvati or Durga. One account claims that the goddess slew two demons, Chanda and Munda, so winning for herself a name combined of both. But the more usually accepts version speaks of here as Chamundi - Mahishasura - Mardhini, the slayer of minotaur.

She is therefore the household deity of the town named in (Maheshapura) commemoration Mahisha (buffalo), uru (town) her image on the hill bestrides a lion, and has twenty hands. It is said that Raja Wodeyar (about 1600 AD) intended to built a gopura, and for that purpose erected four large pillar posts, which were removed when the present gopura was built by Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. He built a gopura with golden finials, and set up statues of himself and his 3 queens in the presence of the goddess. In 1827 he made arrangement for festivals and processions. In 1843 he presented the simhavahana and other cars.



The Sacred bull

Half a top of the hill you may reach the bull in a few minutes. Fashioned says legend, in one night, out of the basalt of the hill, this recumbent colossal Nandi (the vehicle of shiva) was a gift of Dodda Deva Raja. Over 25 ft long and 4.8 mt high (16ft high), adorned with ropes, chains, bells and jewels of stone, the bull with half shut eyes which seem, in yogic fashion.

Mysore Zoo

Mysore Zoo (Chamarajendra Zoological Garden) was started in 1892 by Chamaraja Wodeyar X, then the king of Mysore. Initially as a private Zoo, and was named as Khas-Bangale. It was also called as Thamash Bangale. The Zoo which has now spread over an area of 250 acres, was initially meant for the exclusive visit of the royal family but public entry started as early as 1920. It is located inside the city unlike many other Zoos in India and Mysore Zoo is considered to be one of the best in the world.



The Zoo has about 1500 animals, ranging from the opossum to orangutan. This zoo houses a wide range of animals. Mysore Zoo was the first in the country to obtain gorilla and penguin's. Many animals which are imported from countries like Africa, America, and Australian countries under conservation project due to the successful breeding of the white tiger. It is also credited with achieving considerable break-through in captive breeding of many animals. Elephants also breed well in captivity in this Zoo.



The Zoo has a small museum which exhibits the stuffed animals. A small library is also located in the Zoo. Painting and essay competitions are periodically conducted by the zoo authority for the children to create awareness and love in them for animals.

Ms. Sally Walker (USA) started the friends of Mysore Zoo (FMZ) in 1980. At present there is a scheme for 'Adopting' an animal, which means you can take care of the feeding expenses of an animal for a certain period of time. Karanji lake is a part of Mysore zoo. The lake attracts about 45 varieties of birds, some of the birds migrate here from too far away places. The lake has been renovated recently and boating facility is also available.

Visiting hours : 8.30 am to 5.30 pm Ph. : 2440752

Entrance Fee : Adults Rs. 25/- Children Rs. 10/- Tuesday holiday.

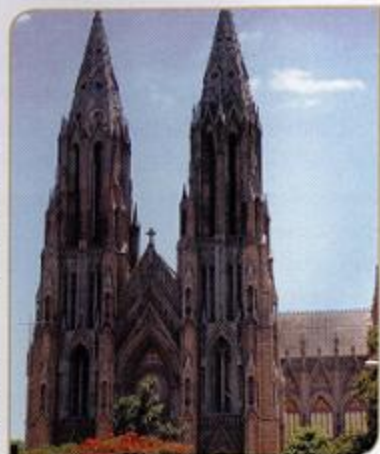
St. Philomina's Church

This Roman Catholic Church was built in AD 1840. It was initially known as St. Joseph Chaver which later assumed the present name. The twin towers of the church stand majestically at 175 feet, the design is gothic and it is said to resemble the St. Patrick's cathedral at New York and a church at Cologne. The church is located about 1 km from Mysore Palace on the Bangalore highway. The then king of Mysore Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV laid the foundation for construction of the church in 1933. It has been designed by a French Architect.

The stained glass windows, made in France, overlooking the apse, showing the Birth of Christ, Baptism of Christ by St. John the Baptist, the last supper and the crucifixion of Christ are works of art. The altar bears the statue of St. Philomena a 3rd century saint from Greece. This church is considered to be the most beautiful in Karnataka. The church has a cellar where there is a statue of St. Philomena was a holy saint during the 3rd Century in Greece, in a reclining posture. A piece of her bone and cloths are also in this church.

Visiting hours : 5.00 am to 6.00 pm (all the days) Free entrance.

Phone : 2563148



Folk Art Museum

Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion Situated in the Mysore University Campus,
having good collections of folklore materials.