

Jayachamaraja Wodeyar Golf Club

Maharaja Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar had the golf course laid out within the precincts of the Mysore Race Course in 1906. Overlooking the magnificent Chamundi Hill, the present 6,000 yard, 18 hole par 70 course was redesigned in 1996 by Pacific Coast Design, Australia.

Mysore Race Club Ltd.,

One of only nine race courses in the country, but surely the most charming. Period buildings and fabulous vistas enhance the racing experience. The Mysore Race Club conducts over 50- days of racing during the year with August, September and October constituting the main season. Live TV feed from other centres provides opportunities for punters all through the year.

The entry fee is a nominal Rs. 10. Opt for the Members stand for an additional Rs. 70.

Race Course Road, Nazarbad, Mysore - 570 010. Tel: 2521675, 2565565

Kukkarahalli Lake

The Kukkarahalli Lake is located in the Mysore University campus. This lake has inspired many local poets and writers. The view from the north shore is particularly attractive with the lake and its surrounding trees, the spire of the Deputy Commissioner's offices rising above them and the low rise of the Chamundi Hill in the background. This lake is home to more than 180 species of birds, some them aquatic. During the migratory season the lake plays host to a variety of winged visitors, some from as far as Siberia. There is a 4.5 km walkway on the periphery of the lake with shaded stone benches for visitors to sit, relax and enjoy the scenic serenity of the lake.

Timings : 6.00 am to 6.00 pm Entrance is Free

Lingambudi Lake

Lingambudi is one of the biggest and oldest lake in Mysore, home to a wide variety of water birds. Nearly 250 species of birds visit the lake during the season, like the spot-billed pelican, Indian darter, pin-tailed duck, shoveller, whistling teal and the painted stork. Some endangered species have also been spotted. Its bio-diversity has resulted in the creation of a herbal park, which attracts research students and scholars. A sidewalk provides a good opportunity for the visitor to a soak in the beauty of the lake.

Timings : 6.00 am to 6.00 pm Entrance free.





Karanji Lake

Picturesquely located at the foot of the Chamundi Hills, Karanji Lake is a beautiful bird sanctuary in the heart of Mysore City, which provides a wonderful habitat for more than 70 different species of avifauna. The recently re-developed lake, spanning across 90 acres has a butterfly park, boating, children's corner, a watch tower and India's largest walk through aviary.

Timings : 8.30 am to 5.30 pm except on Tuesday.

Entrance fee : Rs. 10



Silver Jubilee Clock Tower

Built in Indo-Saracenic style, this 75-foot tall square clock tower has a curvilinear chhajja lending a Rajasthani touch to the domed canopy which rests on a consoled base just above the 5 foot diameter clock. Set on a base amidst a well tended circular garden, the handsome design has double arches and framing slit windows of early English church architecture. The tower was built during the silver jubilee of the reign of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV (1927).



Temples in and around Mysore Palace

■ Lakshmiramana Swamy Temple

The temple, located in the western part of the fort inside the palace near the Residential Museum, is one of the oldest temples in the city. It enshrines an idol of Nambinarayana, a form of Vishnu, holding the discus and the conch. The cell to the right of the sanctum sanctorum contains his consort, the Goddess of the temple. There is a figure of Venugopala too.

Based on the inscriptions found in Bannimantap in Mysore, the temple is believed to have been built at the order of Vijayanagar King Narasa nayaka, father of emperor Krishnadevaraya, in AD 1499.

The inscription in the temple records that the tower over the Mahadwara or main entrance was built by Krishnaraja Wodeyar III in 1851. Kanteerava Narasaraja Wodeyar (1638-59) built the handsome mantapa at the rear of the temple. The temple has great historic significance since the coronation ceremonies of the five year old child Krishnaraja Wodeyar III were held here. The British placed the child king on the throne in this temple on 30th June 1799 after the death of Tipu Sultan.



■ Varahaswamy Temple

Located near the southern entrance of the Fort, this fine Hoysala structure is also known as Shveta Varahaswamy temple. With its elegantly carved doorway, well executed pillars and tower, the temple hall has murals painted on its walls depicting scenes from Ramayana and Bhagavata with particular depictions of Krishna. The temple images have inscriptions on their images, on their pedestal and prabhavalis. The processional image carries an inscription of Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar name (1677-1704). It is said that Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar's procured the image of Shveta Varahaswamy Srimushnam and consecrated it in newly built temple at Srirangapatna, the capital of Mysore. The temple was destroyed by Tipu Sultan and the idol was shifted to Mysore and installed in this temple.

Dewan Pumaiah is said to have had this temple built with the materials of the Hoysala building in Shimoga as per the wishes of Krishnaraja Wodeyar III.

The temple has the images of Sri Vaishnava, a teacher and author in the 13th and 14th Century. The inscriptions on the images reveal the donor's name, Krishnadevaraja Wodeyar III.



■ Trineshvaraswamy Temple

Located in the north-east corner of the fort, facing the palace and directly corresponding to the Gayathri temple, Trineshvaraswamy temple is dedicated to the three eyed Shiva.

The temple dates back before the reign of Raja Wodeyar (1578-1617). It was located on the Devaraya Safar and when the fort was enlarged during the reign of Kanteerava Narasaraja Wodeyar (1638-1659), the temple too came within the new fort area.

Kanteerava Narasaraja Wodeyar renovated and enlarged the temple and consecrated five lingas and several other deities - Dakshinamurthy, Kshetrapala, Kumara and Surya, the statue of Dodda Devaraja Wodeyar in Anjali mudra along side these figures is notable.

The temple enclosure has a Mahadwara or outer gate. The Mahadwara's gopuram was destroyed sometime during the 18th century. The enclosure has a number of lingas and shrines of Parvati, Chamundeshwari, Suryanarayana and Sankaracharya. The Navaranga has two entrances to the west and to the south. The figure of the sage Trinabindu is on the left of Sukhanasi entrance. According to the local legend, the sage Trinabindu performed penance here on Shiva and Lord Shiva appeared before him, sage consecrated the Lingam here. Hence the name, Trinesvara.

On the south entrance, figures of Ganapathi are enshrined and on the outer wall of the Navaranga figures of Virabhadra and Dakshinamurthy are enshrined. The figure of Dakshinamurthy seated under the tree has four hands holding a rudra veena, rosary, a book and a teaching mudra.

Special puja is performed every three hours on the holy Shivarathri night till early morning.



■ Prasanna Krishnaswamy Temple

Krishnaraja Wodeyar III built this temple dedicated to Krishna, from whom the Wodeyars claim descent. The foundation was laid in 1825 and it took four years to complete it. The statues and the metallic figures of Krishnaraja Wodeyar along with his wives, inscribed with their names, are found in the shrine. The 40 bronze images of gods and goddesses, saints and sages are inscribed with their names and the name of the donor, Krishnaraja Wodeyar III.

The figure of sage Atri, the gotra rishi of the Maharaja, was installed in the prakara or the enclosure of the temple. The central pillared hall or the Navaranga of Prasanna Krishnaswamy Temple has murals on the walls depicting stories from Bhagavatha, in fact these murals are the finest example of the unique 19th century Mysore paintings. The sanctum sanctorum enshrines the exquisite image of Lord Krishna in crawling posture or Ambegalu Krishna.



■ Someshwara Temple

This temple is situated in the north east side of the fort consisting of three cells standing in a line. The middle cell has Linga, flanked by Goddess Somasundari in the right cell and Narayana in the left cell with figures of the nine planets or navagrahas standing in front of it. Except the linga the other figures were set up by Maharani Vanivilasa Sannidhana, a century ago. The linga is said to be very old. The outer south wall enshrines a figure of Dakshinamurthy.

During Jayachamaraja Wodeyar's period, this temple held considerable importance. The king used this temple for all religious ceremonies during daily darbar.

■ Kodi Bhairava Temple

Dedicated to Shiva or Kodi Bhairava, this temple is situated south east of Someshwara temple. The temple derives its name from the location of the temple on weir or Kodi of Devaraya Safar or Doddakere.

This Shiva temple is historically significant. According to legend, the founders of the Wodeyar dynasty, the two young princes from Dwaraka, took shelter here before fighting the Kurugahalli chief. After defeating him they restored the kingdom to the royal family members.

The enshrined figure of Bhairava is about a metre high holding a trident, a drum, a skull and a sword as its attributes, flanked on the left with the image of Bhadrakali holding a sickle in her right hand and a female chauri bearer on the left.

■ Bhuvaneshwari Temple

Corresponding to the Varahaswamy temple in the south, the Bhuvaneshwari temple is located on the northern side of the palace fort.

This Dravidian style temple was built by Jayachamaraja Wodeyar in 1951. The main idol of Bhuvaneshwari was sculpted by Mysore's famous sculptor Shilpi Siddalinga Swamy. The temple has a large "Surya Mandala", a copper plate gifted by Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wodeyar. A special puja is performed to "Surya Mandala" on the auspicious day of "Ratha Saphthami" in the month of January /February.

■ Gayathri Temple

With three shrines dedicated to Gayatri, Savitri and Lakshmi in its enclosure, this temple was constructed by Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wodeyar in 1953. The last Maharaja of Mysore was a great devotee of Goddess Devi and Gayathri. He named his eldest daughter as Gayathri Devi. Shilpi Siddalingaswamy sculpted the figures of Ganesha, Shiva and Maha Vishnu set up in navaranga.

