

Sight seeing places around Mysore

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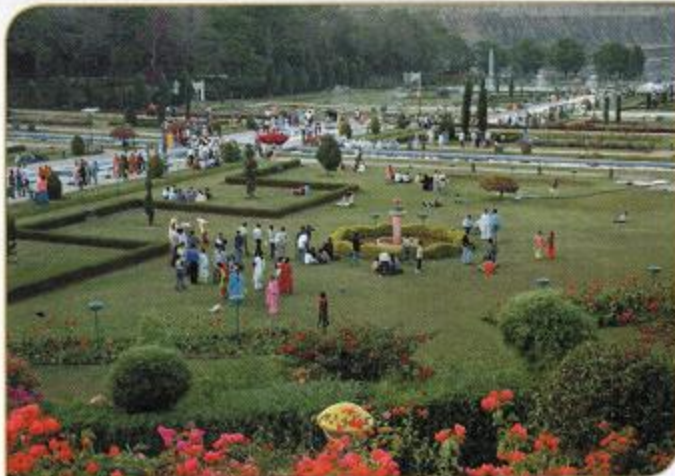
Brindavan Garden	Beautiful garden with musical fountain
BR Hills	Trekking, wildlife safari, camping
Gopalswamy Betta	Trekking, camping
Nagarahole	Trekking, wildlife safari, camping
Bandipur	Trekking, wildlife safari
Ranganathittu	Trekking, camping
Kokkarebellur	Birds sanctuary
Talkad	Temples, sand
Somanathpura	Temple
Srirangapatna	Fort, temple, boating
Shivanasamudra	Water falls, Asia's first hydroelectric project

Brindavan Gardens

The Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir across the legendary Cauvery river is around 18km north-west of Mysore. The Brindavan Gardens are located just a level below the dam.

Often described as the best example of illuminated terrace gardens in the country, the idea was the brainchild of Sir M. Visveshwaraiah and Sir Mirza M Ismail, former Devans of Mysore. The overall design here displays an orientation of Mughal patterns - with garden paths and a shimmering necklace of fountains.

On the South bank there is a pavilion, where visitors can get a breathtaking view of the gardens. Other highlights at the gardens include a children's park, a fisheries station and a hydraulic research station. Adding a touch of sanctity to the place is a beautiful sculpture of Goddess Cauvery at the foot of the dam.



Srirangapatna

Srirangapatna, surrounded by the River Cauvery, is the only island town in South India, which has great historical importance. This small township, Tipu Sultan's erstwhile island-capital, has temples, mosques, gateways, dungeons, monuments and many other places of interest.

The town takes its name from Sri Ranganathaswamy, the presiding deity of this place.

Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple

Sri Ranganathaswamy, the presiding deity, is enshrined in one of the oldest Dravidian style temples in the state. The temple itself was first built in (Ganga's) AD 894 and was expanded during the reign of the Hoysalas, the navaranga (hall) was built around 1454 by the Vijayanagar kings. Two pillars in front of the inner entrance of the temple are decorated with carvings of Vishnu in his twenty-four murtis or forms. In a legend originating from the Puranas, Ranganatha (another name for Vishnu) settled here at the request of Cauvery, the River Goddess. The idol itself is worth seeing, a colossal figure of Ranganatha reclining on 'Adishesha' the serpent. The

Goddess Cauvery is seated at his feet holding a lotus in her hand. Some of the silver vessels used by the temple for its rituals were gifts from Tippu Sultan, who also donated a sword and worshipped at the temple from outside.

Timings : 7.30 am to 2pm and 4 pm to 8.00 pm. Entrance : Free



Srirangapatna Fort

The fort was built in AD 1454 after Srirangapatna passed into the hands of the Vijayanagar kings. This was considerably enlarged and fortified in the eighteenth century by Hyder Ali and his son Tippu Sultan and stands strong even today.

The main entrance to the fort, rebuilt by Tippu Sultan in 1791, was through the Elephant Gate in the south. Within the wall was Tippu's main palace, of which nothing remains now. However, the Water Gate through which the British breached the fort in 1799 can still be seen, as also the spot where Tippu was killed while bravely fighting the oncoming British army.



Tippu's Summer Palace - Daria Daulat Bagh

The Daria Daulat Bagh (literally Garden of the Wealth of the Sea) was built in AD 1784 by Tippu as a pleasure palace. Set in large, manicured gardens, the Daria Daulat Bagh, like the palace in Bangalore, is built mainly in wood, and its simple wooden facade is unusually modest for a royal residence. The chief features of the Saracenic style building are the paintings which decorate every inch of the walls, including the narrow stair-wells and doors. On the west wall are large murals graphically describing Tippu's victory over Colonel Baillie's army in Kancheepuram in 1780. A little time spent here will reveal delightful details; Tippu on horse back unconcernedly smelling a bouquet of flowers while surrounded by the mayhem of the battle; moustaches on all French soldiers under Tippu to distinguish them from the British, who are invariably cleanshaven except for the traditional mutton

chop whiskers. A small but interesting museum of Tippu is also housed in the building.

Timings : 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Entrance : Rs. 5/- for Indians and Rs. 100 for Foreigners.

The Gumbaz

At the eastern end of the island, Tippu built the 'Gumbaz' as a mausoleum for his father. Tippu and his mother are also buried here. Thirty six black hornblende pillars (polished regularly with coconut oil to maintain their shine) support a cream coloured square structure surmounted by a bulbous dome, both surrounded by low parapets with miniature minarets at the four corners and decorated with intricate plaster work. The interior is painted with the tiger stripe, which Tippu favoured for his military uniforms.

Timings : 8.00 a.m to 6.00 p.m. Entrance : Free



Other Places of Interest Around Srirangapatna

The sangam or confluence of the two branches of River Cauvery, the Gosai Ghat along the river, the Nimishamba temple and the Abbe Dubois church in Ganjam, a nearby village, are among the many other places of interest around Srirangapatna.



Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

Just outside Srirangapatna, 4km from Srirangapatna, near Mysore, the Cauvery river meanders around a string of tiny nesting sites of waterfowls. Experience the excitement of a boat ride that takes you within touching distance of the birds as marsh crocodiles bask in the sun. Delight watching the winged visitors making happy forays into the water. You could also test your powers of observation by trying to spot flying branches of the tallest trees at dusk.

Best season : Jan to Sept

Flora and Fauna

River in the forests as well as some deciduous forests, bamboo, eucalyptus, figs, jamun and karanj. Mammals and Reptiles. The flying fox, bonnet macaque, common otter, common mongoose, palm civet are some of the mammals and reptiles like marsh crocodile are found here.

Birds

Bird life includes the little cormorant, large cormorant, darter, white ibis, spoonbill, open-billed stork, painted stork, egret, heron, river tern, great stone plover, kingfisher, Indian cliff swallow, and the lesser whistling teal.

Timings : 8.30 am to 6.00 pm.

Entrance :Rs. 20 for Indians, Rs. 60 for Foreigners

Distance : Mysore - 19km, Bangalore - 128 km.

Where to stay

Young Island, Near Paschimavahini, Bangalore Mysore Main Road, Srirangapatna - 571438, Mandya District.

Tel: 08236-217351 / 53 Tariff: Rs. 2,000 onwards

Amblee Resort, Bangalore - Mysore Main Road, Srirangapatna - 571438, Mandya District.

Tel: 08236-252357, Tariff: 1,500 onwards

Fort View Resort, Bangalore - Mysore Main Road, Srirangapatna - 571438, Mandya District.

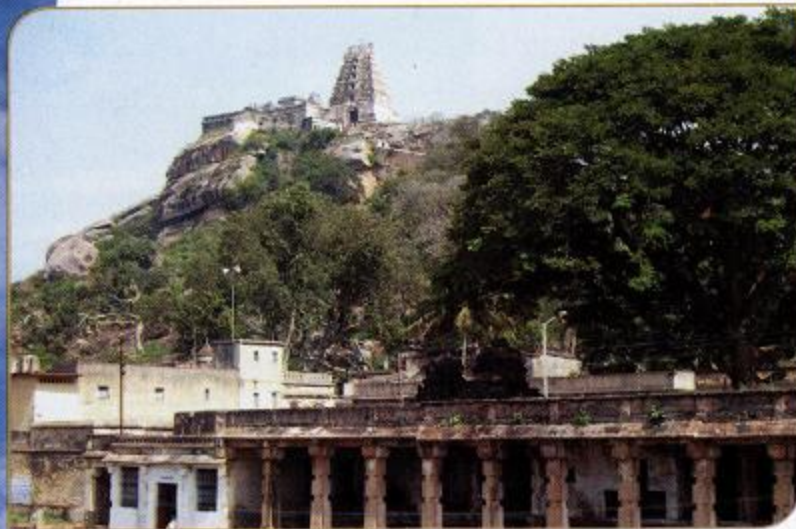
Tel: 08236-252777, Tariff: Rs. 1,000 onwards

Hotel Mayura River View, Near Diwan Poomaiah's Residence, Srirangapatna. Tel: 08236 - 217454

For reservation at Mysore: 0821-2452349

Hotel Nandini, Boarding & Lodging, all India Handicraft Sales Corporation Shop, Tel: 08236-252253



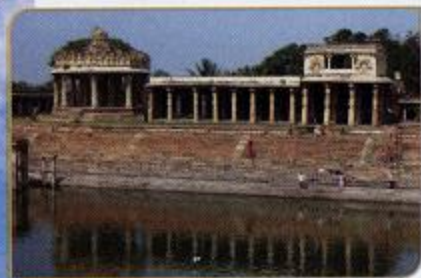


Melkote

Melkote is an important religious centre. The Cheluvarayaswami Temple, built in the 12th century enjoyed the patronage of the Mysore Maharajas as well as Tippu Sultan. The temple gopuram is rose-coloured and has lion heads facing north, south, east and west. The closter area pillars display ornate carvings. The Vairmudi festival is held here between March and April, when the temple deity is adorned with jewels belonging to the former Maharajas of Mysore.

Temple Timings : 6.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Distance : Mysore - 50 km, Bangalore - 140 km, Pandavapura - 25 km.



Thonnur Lake

En route to Melkote, Thonnur is a quite town of much historical and religious significance. The four temples, dedicated to Lord Narasimha, date from the Hoysala period. The philosopher saint Ramanujacharya stayed in Thonnur for 12 years and was responsible for popularising Sri Vaishnavism in this region. A lake, naturally

formed by the rainwaters from the surrounding hills, has a pretty setting. It was developed by Ramanujacharya, who built the temps leading down to it and the 'mantaps' (rooms) around it. He called it Thirumala Sagara, (the Lord's Lake) and it subsequently came to be known as Moti Talab or the lake of Pearls. The lake and surrounding country side make for a quiet picnic spot.

Distance : Mysore - 35km, Srirangapatna - 19kms, Pandavapura - 9km.

