

Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarahole)

Explore the environs of Nagarahole, Kannada for 'Snake River'. The Rajiv Gandhi National Park derives its name from the winding course of the river that flows through the forests. Nagarahole has an astonishing abundance of wildlife, especially the Asiatic elephant. The backdrop of the distant misty-blue Brahmagiri Mountains, the natural sounds of the jungle, the gurgling streams and rivers, and the twitter of the birds make Nagarahole a memorable experience.

Best Seasons : May to October.

Distance : Mysore - 96 km, Bangalore - 236 km.

Location and Area

Kodagu and Mysore district ; 643.39 sq.km.

Flora and Fauna

Covered mainly by moist and dry deciduous forests and dominated by teak, rosewood and dry deciduous forests in the eastern limits of the park.

Mammals

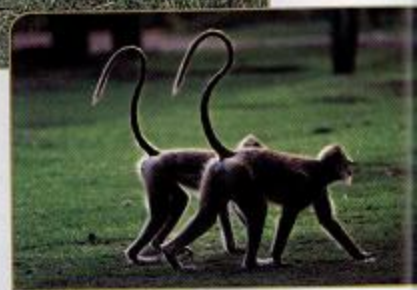
They include the Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Wild dog, Sambar, Barking Deer, Sloth bear, Wild boar, Indian bison, Mouse deer, Spotted deer, Slender Loris, Black napped hare, Jackal, Langur, Porcupine, Malabar squirrel, striped hyena and the four-horned antelope.

Birds

Herons, Storks, Egrets, Ducks, Kites, Eagles, Falcons, Partridges, Peafowl, Lapwings, Sandpipers, Wood-Peckers, Sunbirds, Wagtails, Warblers, Babblers, Shrinkers and Owls are some of the species found here.

Reptiles

The marsh crocodile, star tortoise, common Indian monitor, chameleon, rat snake, Russell's viper, common krait and the Indian python can be seen here.



Where to stay

Kabini River Lodge, Karapura, H.D. Kote Taluk. Tel : 08228-264402/03.

Kapila - A Wilderness Retreat, Karapura, H.D. Kote Taluk. Tel : 08228-264444.

Water Woods, Karapura, H.D. Kote Taluk. Tel : 08228-264421/22.

The Kings Sanctuary, Veeranahosahalli, Hunsur Taluk. Tel : 08222-246464.

Kabini Lake View Resorts, Sogahalli. Tel : 98801 75605



Bandipur National Park

Tread the path of the erstwhile Maharajas of Mysore with a visit to Bandipur, about 80 km south of Mysore on the Mysore-Ooty Road. The reserve is a playground for wildlife, with elephants taking the lead role. Be prepared for an unforgettable experience - you might see a tiger prowling amidst the mix of deciduous, evergreen forest and scrubland vegetation. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the enchanting Nilgiri Mountains with its mist-covered peaks, Bandipur was once the Mysore Maharaja's private hunting ground. It was brought under Project Tiger in 1973. This is one of the best game sanctuaries in India to observe and photograph wildlife in close proximity. A temple perched atop Himavad Gopalswamy Hill, the highest peak in the Bandipur range, is worth a visit.

Distance : Mysore - 80kms, Gundalpet- 20 kms, Bangalore - 220 kms, Ooty-60 kms.

Location and Area

Chamarajanagar District : 874.2 sq. km. Bandipur is flanked by Karnataka's Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarahole) to its northwest, Tamilnadu's Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary to its south, and Kerala's Wynad Wildlife Sanctuary to its southwest. Together, these constitute the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Flora and Fauna

Deciduous, evergreen and scrubland vegetation.

Mammals

They include the tiger, leopard, elephant, gaur, sloth bear, Asiatic wild dog, striped hyena, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, mouse deer, mongoose, and the slender loris.

Reptiles

The common rat snake, Russell's viper, common krait, Indian python, flying snake and the cobra can be seen.

Birds

Over 230 species of birds have been identified. Some of the most notable ones are the heron, stork, egret, kite, eagle, falcon, peafowl, lapwing, sandpiper, woodpecker, drongo and the warbler.

Distance : Mysore - 85 km, Ooty - 80 km, Bangalore - 220 km.



Where to stay

Jungle Lodges & Resorts,

For reservation contact : 0821 - 2444444

Tusker Trail, Mangala Village, Bandipur.

Tariff: Rs. 3,000 onwards

For reservation contact :

Bangalore : 080 - 23618024 / 30



Himavad Gopalswamy Betta

Gopalswamy Betta (hills) is a beautiful location 75 kms from Mysore. It is also locally referred to as 'Himavat' Gopalswamy (Himavad meaning snow) since the hilltop is enveloped in mist most of the year. A break in the mist offers breath-taking views of the surrounding hills with their scenic valleys and gorges. Abounding in rare flora, the region is virtually a storehouse of medicinal plants. The Gopalswamy temple crowns the summit of the hill. The main deity, Himavad Gopalswamy (lord Krishna as cowherd) is a beautiful idol about 1.5 meters tall. With flute in hand it is surrounded by 'gopalakas' (shepherds) 'Kamadhenu' (the bounteous cow), Rukmini and Satyabhama (consorts of the Lord). Gopalswamy hill, at the very edge of the Bandipur, is like a watchtower for the wildlife sanctuary.

Distance : Mysore - 90 km, Gundlupet - 20 km.



B. R. Hills Sanctuary

A unique blend of hill resort and wildlife sanctuary. The hills take their name from the ancient Ranganatha Swamy temple that sits at the edge of a granite precipice with a drop of more than 1000ft. into a dense forest. Find inner peace at the foot of the great champak tree (Dodda sampige), believed to be more than 2,000 years old and worshipped by the soligas, the tribals of the area. Don't miss the coffee estates, the tribal hamlets and the Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra which display preserved tribal information and the biodiversity of the region. There are many trekking trails here, including one that leads upto Honnamati, the highest point of the range.

Distance : Mysore - 96 km, Bangalore - 220 km.

Flora and Fauna

The vegetation ranges from dry scrub jungle to evergreen forests and high-altitude shoal grassland habitat.

Mammals

They include the elephant, tiger, leopard, wild dog, jungle cat, sloth bear, civet, mongoose, Malabar giant squirrel, porcupine, common langur, bonnet macaque, wild pig, gaur, sambar, spotted deer, and the four-horned antelope.

Birds

The Malabar whistling thrush, yellow throated bulbul, paradise flycatcher, racket-tailed drongo, and the crested hawk eagle are some of the birds found here. There is also an amazing variety of exotic butterflies.

Where to stay

BRT Wildlife Adventure Resort,

Kyathadevaragudi, Chamarajanagar Dist. Tel: 08226-706086.

Tarif: Rs. 3,300 onwards

For reservation at: Mysore: 080 - 2444444, Bangalore: 0821-2520001

Shivanasamudra Falls

Discover nature's handiwork in the form of this tiny island-town 65 km east of Mysore. Forested hills and lush green valleys cradle a small hamlet and two fine temples. Together, they provide a startlingly calm setting for the Cauvery river as it plummets from a height of 75 mtr into a deep, rocky gorge with a deafening roar to form two picturesque falls, Bharachukki and Gaganachukki. When the Cauvery is in spate, watching the river crash into a cloud of foaming spray can be an exhilarating experience. Down stream from the falls is Asia's first hydroelectric project, established at the behest of the Dewan of Mysore, Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah in 1902.

Distance: Mysore - 65 km, Bangalore - 125km.



Festivals

Dasara

A popular tourist attraction, the Dasara festival held in October every year in Mysore city is celebrated with pomp and pageantry, echoing the grandeur of its royal past. Dasara celebrated the victory of good over evil, marking the slaying of the demon Mahishasura by the goddess Chamundeshwari. The palace and the city are lit up for ten days and the entire city wears a festive look. Festivals of music, dance and theatre are held. The Dasara Exhibition, crafts fairs, film festivals and vajramushti (traditional wrestling matches) entertain visitors. The highlight of the festivities is the Dasara procession held on Vijaydashami, the tenth & final day. It is led by caparisoned elephants carrying the idol of goddess Chamundeshwari seated in the golden howdah (elephant seat). Following behind are decorated horses, folk dancers and colourful floats. The procession winds its way from the Maharaja's palace to the torch light parade ground in Bannimantap. The closing ceremonies include cultural performances from different states and gymnastic and equestrian events, followed by a torch light parade and fireworks.



Art & Culture

Sri Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery, Jaganmohan Palace

The art gallery in the Jaganmohan Palace houses an excellent collection of ceramics and sandalwood, ivory, stone and antique furniture besides ancient musical instruments. You can also sample paintings by reputed artists like Raja Ravi Varma and Russian painter Svetoslav Roerich, as well as traditional Mysore and gold leaf paintings. *Cauvery Arts and Crafts Emporium*

This Government owned emporium situated on Sayyaji Rao Road, has a showroom and sales depot for Karnataka's arts and crafts as well as silk sarees and other garments. Sandalwood powder, sandalwood oil and scented incense sticks can be bought at the Government Sandalwood Oil factory.



Govt. Sandal Wood Oil Factory

Aromatic Oil from the Sandal tree is produced here. Prior permission is required to visit the factory.

Visiting hours : 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 & 2.00 pm to 2.00 p.m.
(Closed on Public Holidays) Free entrance Phone : 2483651

Rangayana

Located at Kalamandira on the Mysore-Hunsur road, Rangayana is a professional modern theatre repertory. Rangayana conducts summer camps, painting competitions and vocational training programmes in arts to encourage children and professionals.

Rangayana, Kamataka Kalamandira, Mysore - Hunsur Road, Mysore
Tel : 0821 - 2512639

Govt. Silk Factory

The renowned Mysore silks are woven here and can be brought from showroom at the factory prices.

Permission needed to visit factory, closed on Public Holidays.

Visiting hours : 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon & 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 pm
Phone : 2481803



Mysore Music Association, 1553, VV Road, Tel: 0821-2521227

Good Shepherd school of Music, Near St. Philomena Church, Mysore.

Tel: 2443078, 2521610

Vasundhara Performing Arts Centre, 1565, C & D Bldgs, C.S. Layout, Mysore.

Tel: 0821-2542819

Lalitha Kala Academy, # 24, Sri Rama Krupa, 2nd Cross, 10th Main, Vishwamanava

Double Road, Near Kamakshi Hospital, Mysore. Tel: 0821-2543636



Art Emporium

Cauvery Arts & Crafts Emporiums, (A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)

Sayyaji Rao Road, Mysore. Tel: 2521258

Ramsons Arts & Crafts Pvt. Ltd., # 1160, Opposite to Zoo, Mysore. Tel: 2443669

Kashmir Art Palace, # 2/3-C, Indra Bhavan Building, Dhanvanthri Road. Tel: 2421529

Kashmir Emporium, Hotel Southern Star, Vinoba Road. Tel: 2429420

Amusement Parks

GRS Fantasy Park

127A, KRS Road (Ring Road), Metagalli Indl. Area, Mysore. Tel: 2582781/82

Planet X

Plot B1, Survey No. 4, Horse Park Road, Nazarbed, Tel: 9945288888

Fun Fort

Srirangapatna, Mysore Bangalore Road, Tel: 08236-217398

Cinema Theatres

Gayathri, Chamaraja Double Road, Tel: 2443568

Chamundeshwari, Sayyaji Rao Road, Tel: 2520732

Lakshmi, Chamaraja Double Road, Tel: 2443584, 2443947

Lido, B.N. Road, Tel: 2420885

Olympia, Hanumantha Rao Street, Tel: 2420737

Prabha, Hunumantha Rao Street, Tel: 2423569, 2429569

Rajkamal, Shivarampet, Tel: 2423664, 2436736

Shanthala, Narayashastra Road,

Sangam, Chandragupta Road, Tel: 2520494

Saraswathi, Saraswathipuram, Tel: 2541451

Shalimar, Tilak Nagar, Tel: 2493688

Skyline & Sterling, Vishweshwaranagar, Tel: 2481170

Woodlands, Curzon Park Road, Tel: 2422871



Restaurants

US Pizza, Rama Vilas Road

Pizza Corner, Ramanashree, Bangalore - Nilgiri Road, Tel: 2422666

Madhu's Fast Food, Ahimsa Marg, Siddharthanagar, Tel: 3090636

Madhu's Khana Khazana, Vishwamanava Double Road, Kuvempunagar.

Biryani Paradise, Rifah Commerical Complex, New Sayyaji Road, Tel: 2331759

New Bombay Tiffanys, # 177/3, Victoria Commerical Complex, Sayyaji Rao Road

Bombay Tiffanys Annexe, D. Devaraja Urs Road, Tel: 2421246

Bombay Tiffanys, # 33, Devaraja Market Building, Sayyaji Rao Road, Tel: 2441424

Paras Sweets, Dhanvanthri Road - I, Tel: 2433059

Gokulam Chat Centre, Contour & KRS Road, Gokulam 3rd Stage, Mysore.

