

HOYSALA TEMPLES: POETRY IN STONE



The baroque extravagance and visual splendour of the **Hoysala temples** in Karnataka is evidence of the creative genius of bygone times that has weathered the centuries. On this experience, we will rediscover two of the most beautiful and extravagant temples, those of **Belur** and **Halebeed** and that of **Somnathpur**, near **Mysore**. Built over a span of three hundred and fifty years, these temples are unique examples of highly sophisticated sculptural expression that seek to represent the myriad faces of everyday life. Together, we will also experience the wonderful coffee town of **Chikmagalur** along with the heritage of Mysore.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 - 1 September - Arrival Bangalore

Today, you will arrive into Bangalore airport. You can arrive at any time today.

The hotel is a comfortable 5 minute walk from the airport and there is adequate signage once you exit from the arrival terminal. Airport trollies can be used to comfortably carry baggage to the airport. Should you will require transport, it can be organised at an additional charge of INR 500+Taxes per way to receive you at the airport.

You will be booked for a stay of 1 night at **Taj Devanahalli** or similar

Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

Day 2 -2 September - Bangalore to Chikmagalur

Early this morning, we will depart for Chikmagalur. (4 ½ hours)

(For those who are based in Bangalore, please meet us at the Taj Devanahalli at 0800 hours)

Chikmagalur, located in the Western Ghats situated at a height of 3,400 feet. Historically, Chikmagalur holds the title of being the first coffee plantation in India in the late 1600s.

Lunch will be in Chikmagalur.



Tonight we will stay the lovely boutique **Hotel WoodWay or** at the Taj Gateway.

This afternoon post lunch, we will go on a **walking trail through the verdant hills** of the western ghats

Return to the hotel for afternoon tea /coffee and rest and enjoy the place.

This evening, we will enjoy a lovely campfire and a wonderful local Malenadu cuisine dinner together at the hotel.

Overnight at Woodway

Day 3 – 3 September – Chikmagalur & Belur

This morning, we will head off on a **coffee plantation walk** to explore the beauty of dense coffee estates and to gain knowledge about horticulture and the process of growing coffee, bean separation, and powder making. This Coffee plantation stay allows you to experience the life of a passionate coffee grower. Right from the workings of a plantation, picking & processing the berries or just walking through a guided tour along with the friendly estate staff. It enables you to enjoy the plantation trails that have been set up for our guests to explore.

After breakfast, we will make our way to **Belur**.

Visit the Chennakeshava temple which is a fine example of Hoysala architecture. It was consecrated by the famous Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana to mark his victories in 1116 AD against the Cholas. The main structure of the temple, which is star-shaped, a homogenous architectural unit on a raised platform. Everything is carved in black stone, looking like metal. Facing the temple, at the entrance, stands the winged figure of Garuda, Lord Vishnu's carrier. The 650 charging elephants on the frieze around the walls outside are all different from each other. The exotic bracket figures on the walls of this temple are serene, playful and amorous, enhancing the overall effect of this pinnacle of architectural excellence.



Post our visit, we will head back to Chikmagalur and stay at the **Hotel Taj Gateway** or similar for 2 nights.

Dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Day 4 – 4 September – Halebid

This morning, after breakfast, we will head back down to **Halebid** for a day of sightseeing.

Halebeedu was the ancient capital of Hoysala dynasty and 'Halebeedu' actually means 'ruined city' as it was ruined by the Moghul sultanate twice.

The temples of Halebid bear mute testimony to the rich, cultural heritage of Karnataka. Visit the Hoysaleswara Temple, dating back to the 12th century, standing on platform like a casket, is a sculptural extravaganza, richly endowed with most finely detailed scroll work in stone. The walls of the temple are covered with an endless variety of gods and goddesses and also visit the Jain bastics.

We will have lunch in Halebid before returning to Chikmagalur for the night.



Tonight, pre-dinner we will have an informal and relaxed "fireside" chat curated and moderated by Urban Conservationist Kamalika Bose, to talk about the Hoysala dynasty and more.

Dinner and overnight in the hotel

Day 5 – 5 September – To Mysore

This morning, we check out and head back down towards Somnathpura. (4 ½ hours)

Lunch will be enroute.

Somnathpur (Somnathpura) is a small town situated half a mile far from the River Kaveri.

Somnathpur is a home to the popular ChennaKeshava temple built during the reign of Hoysala emperors. The temple stands erect as a symbol of great authority and skills possessed by Hoysala rulers. The sculpture and the idols of God and Goddesses speak volume about the Hoysala kingdom. A monumental beauty, the architectural design of this temple attracts people from all over the world.



Return to Mysore for the night.

Dinner & overnight at the **Grand Mercure** hotel or similar.

Day 6 – 6 September – Mysore to Bangalore airport

This morning, after breakfast, we check out and will do a **panoramic tour of Mysore**. From there, we head out towards Bangalore and have an early lunch enroute.

We estimate to reach Bangalore at approx. 4 PM. (all return flights to be booked post 6 pm)

*** Return with wonderful memories of your trip ***

Price per person on a twin sharing/single basis: Rs 78,900

Single room supplement: Rs 22,500

Please let us know if you want to start the trip ex-Bangalore from Day 2 onwards and we will send you a reduced price.

Inclusions

- Accommodation in the hotels mentioned in this itinerary for 5 nights
- All meals from Dinner on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 6
- Transport in an-AC vehicle
- **Walk through the Hoysala temples with Urban Conservationist Kamalika Bose**
- Services of a tour escort
- All Entrance fees
- Sightseeing in Halebid, Belur, Mysore and Somanthpur as mentioned in the itinerary
- Walking Trail & Coffee Plantation Tour in Chikmagalur

Exclusions

- Airfare to Bangalore & back
- Tips to the driver / guide
- Any alcoholic / non alcoholic drinks
- Personal expenses
- Expenses arising from unexpected costs
- Medical or Travel Insurance
- 5% GST

Please note

- All guests will be required to submit a Covid Negative test report 72 hours prior to the start of the tour
- We need a minimum of 8 guests to operate the tour
- Please note that our first night in Chikmagalur is at a coffee estate homestay and each room is different from the other.



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