

Bengaluru / Hassan / Mysuru 2 Nights / 3 Days

Discover the ancient cities of Belur, Halebidu and Shravanabelagola on this tour from Bengaluru. Visit some of the oldest temples, constructed during Hoysala dynasty, learn the stories behind these monuments, some of which are around 1,000 years old and get to know about the Hindu gods worshiped in these temples. Admire the rare ancient sculptures that depict scenes from Hindu mythology, dating back to the golden ages in India.

The tour also takes you through Mysuru, one of the most flamboyant places in South India, bustling with the history of its glittering royal heritage and famous for exquisite silk saris, elaborate architecture, sandalwood and yoga amongst many other things. It is said that “if you haven’t been to Mysore, you just haven’t been to South India”. Mysore is most famous for the majestic Mysore Palace, undoubtedly one of India’s most spectacular royal buildings.

16km from Mysuru, steeped in bloody history, is the fort town of Srirangapatnam. built on an island straddling the Cauvery River. The seat of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan’s power, this town was the de facto capital of much of southern India during the 18th century. The ramparts, battlements and some of the gates of the fort still stand, as do a clutch of monuments.

Highlights

- Step back in time on a history tour
- Bahubali Statue - Shravanabelagola
- Visit Mysore Palace
- Srirangapatnam
- Private guided tour
- Mineral water

Day 1: Delhi / Bengaluru / Hassan – Surface (185 kms / 4 hrs)

This morning fly to Bengaluru, India’s garden city. Upon arrival you are met and drive to Hassan, en route visiting Shravanabelagola.

It is famous for the Bahubali Statue which is supposed to be the tallest monolithic stone statue in the world with a height of 58 feet carved out of a single block of granite. The Gomateswara temple is built on top of a hill at an altitude of 3347 feet, called as Vindhyagiri hill (also known as Doddabetta or Indragiri). About 620 steps provide access to this temple from bottom of the hill. The nude statue of Bahubali is carved carefully with much perfection.



The statue was carved during the period of Chamundaraya, a minister of the Ganga King Rajamalla between 982 and 983 CE. Continue on to Hassan, arrive and check in at your hotel.

Day 2: Hassan / Belur / Halebidu / Mysuru – Surface (125 / 3 hrs)

Post breakfast leave for Mysuru, en route visit the historic town of Belur. The magnificent Chennakesaya Temple with its intricate sculptures is an outstanding example of medieval Indian art. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vijayanarayana, one of the twenty four incarnations of Vishnu.



King Vishnuvardhana and the Hoysalas built the temple to commemorate the victory of the Hoysalas over the Cholas in the battle of Talakkad or he may have had a specific purpose in mind in constructing this temple. He was a subordinate of the western Chalukyas who later declared his independence from them. By liberating himself from their political authority, he also wanted to excel them in their own field. The result was the remarkable temple which certainly overshadowed the Chalukyan achievements in the field of arts.

Continue on to the town of Halebidu, to see the Hoysaleswara Temple, covered with a succession of friezes, the tableaux of everyday life in ancient times. The temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva during the Hoysala Empire rule in the 12th century by King Vishnuvardhana. The construction of the temple was initiated and financed by wealthy Shaiva citizens of the city. The temple is most well-known for its wall sculptures that run all along the outer wall. In all there are 240 images. This evening in Mysore, catch a glimpse of the illuminated City Palace - a sight so magnificent



Day 3: Mysuru Sightseeing / Srirangapatnam / Bengaluru – Surface (180 / 4 hrs)

Explore Mysuru, which is considered the cultural capital of the state of Karnataka. Start of the day by visiting the City Palace, with its intricately carved rosewood doors and ceilings some with inlaid ivory work, marble figurines, collections of caskets, paintings of the members of the royal family and other objects of personal use. Other highlights of Mysuru include a Hindu Temple and a monolithic sculpture of the bull Nandi and the vehicle of Lord Shiva.

You will also Visit the island fortress and Summer Palace of Tipu Sultan in Srirangapatnam before continuing on to Bengaluru. Tipu Sultan, also known as the Tiger of Mysuru, was the de facto ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore. On arrival in Bengaluru you will be dropped at the airport for your flight to onward destination.

