

Sightseeing in Surrounding Area

Angadi

Historians have identified Angadi as Sasakapura or Sosevur, the original home of Hoyasalas who held sway in vast swathes of South India. The shrine here has pillars of granite with cylindrical shafts and hemi spherical mouldings.

Belavadi

The pilgrimage of Belavadi is dotted with a number of ancient temples and shrines. The Veeranarayana temple is a supreme example of Hoysala temple architecture.

The Baba Budangiri Hills

The Baba Budangiri hills are named after the Muslim saint, Baba Budan, who took up residence here in the 17th century. The Baba Budan Shrine is revered by both the Hindus and Muslims and thousands of devotees throng the shrine for the blessing of the peer. A complex of three caves can be found here, believed to have been sanctified by 3 revered siddhas whose icons and 'gaddinges' (tombs) are located in the caves.

Chikmagalur

The Kodanda-Ramaswamy temple is one of the most famous sites in Chikmagalur town. This state-protected monument is dedicated to Lord Ram. St. Joseph's Cathedral has an eye-catching, shell-shaped portico. To the town's north is Rathnagiri Bore, a hillock that offers majestic views of Mullayanagiri, Karnataka's highest peak. Rathnagiri Bore has now been converted into a garden and is called Mahatma Gandhi Park. Manikyadhara Falls is a popular waterfall near the renowned pilgrim centre of Baba Budangiri Dattatreya Peetha.

Chikmagalur Golf Club : The town also has a golf club with a 9-Hole Course

The area surrounding Chikmagalur is rich in ancient architecture, which can be seen today in the form of numerous temples and shrines that dot the landscape. The ancient Chennakeshaya temple, dating back to 1150 AD, is very close at Marle, 12km from town.

The Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is to the north-west of Chikmagalur. Surrounded by hills, the reserve houses a diverse wildlife population. Kemmangundi, at a height of 4,705ft and 55km north of Chikmagalur, is a scenic hill station. It was Wodeyar king Krishnaraja Wodeyar's favourite summer camp. Just 10km from Kemmangundi are the Kallathigiri Falls or Kalahasti Falls. To Chikmagalur's south (95km) is Kudremukh (horse face), a mountain peak that overlooks the Arabian

Sea. The Kudremukh National Park is the largest declared Wildlife Protected Area (600 sq km) of a tropical wet evergreen type of forest in the Western Ghats.

Halebidu

Halebidu is located in Hassan district in Karnataka. Ketumalla, the chief of staff of Hoysala Kingdom, built this temple during 1121 A.D and attributed to his king, Vishnuvardhana and queen, Shantala Devi. Even then it is learnt that it took 105 years to complete. If one stands on the platform of the temple and sees around he will see the hills opposite and two big bulls facing the temple and a Ganesha figure on the south.

It is believed that Queen Shantala Devi, was an epitome of beauty and fashion, she was also a great Bharatnatyam dancer and musician. Sculptors were inspired by this and the Shilabalikas, the dancing figures, are models of Queen Shantala Devi and her maids. History of Hoysalas mentions Shantala Devi had great influence in the administration and religious reforms during Vishnuvardhana reign. She was follower of Jainism and the King follower of Sri Vaishnavism and was influenced by Saint Ramanuja Charya.

In the 14th century, this glorious city fell into ruins with the invasion of Malik Kafur, Mughuls, from the North India. This place was ransacked and plundered repeatedly rendering it in ruins. Hence its name Halebid, meaning "City of Ruins".

Hoysaleswara Temple

Monolithic soapstone or Chloritic Schist was used for the construction of these temples. The God on the northern side temple is called as Shanthaleshwara and that on southern side is called as Hoysaleshwara.

The walls of the temple are covered with endless depictions from Hindu mythology, animals, birds and Shilabalikas. Yet no two postures of the sculptures are similar.

Shantaleswara Temple:

Built after Shantala Devi, queen of king Vishnuvardhana, the Shantaleswara temple on the northern side stands on a platform like a casket in shining black soft stone - chlorite schist covered with variety of gods and goddesses, animals, birds and dancing girls. The temple took 190 years to build requiring skills of more than 20,000 laborers. It has a Museum on the lawns that showcases 12th century sculptures and gold coins in use at the time. One km from Halebid is Basti hill with Jain bastis with gleaming black stone pillars.