

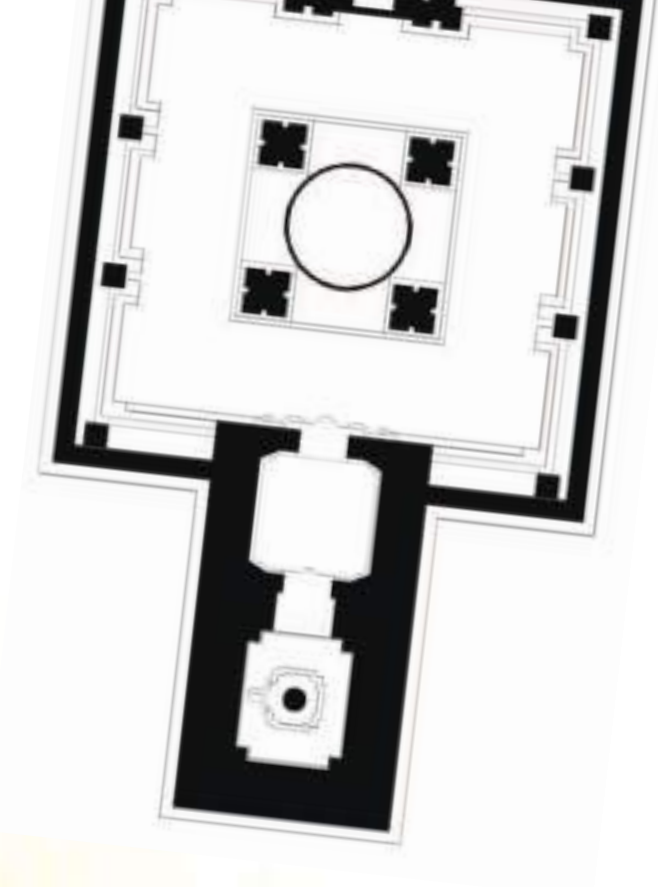

KARNATAKA'S ARCHITECTURAL ODYSSEY

Unveiling Centuries of Heritage



DHAANI SINGHAL





**KARNATAKA'S
ARCHITECTURAL
ODYSSEY**



*Unveiling Centuries
of Heritage*



A Project By

Dhaani Singhal

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Artist and Designer.

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Editor.

COVER IMAGE:

The Great Stone Chariot from the Hampi group of monuments, a blend of Hindu and Islamic architecture. Photo by Ananda

Introduction

Karnataka is a true treasure trove of historical and architectural marvels that provide an enthralling peek into the state's rich cultural legacy spanning millennia. This diverse collection of ancient sites not only demonstrates amazing architectural abilities, but also their profound religious and historical value. The origins of Karnataka's architectural legacy may be traced back to roughly 3000 B.C.E. During this time period, the inhabitants of Karnataka built their homes out of locally accessible materials such as bamboo, wooden posts, and stones, with conical roofs on occasion. Archaeological investigations at several sites have revealed evidence of these ancient structures, revealing information on their unique construction processes.

The inhabitants of Karnataka created megalithic burial sites during the early Iron Age, which lasted from 1500 B.C.E. to 100 C.E. (although the precise date remains questionable). There are about 2000 of these unique burial sites, and they provide an intriguing view into the different architectural practices of Karnataka's history, particularly in the setting of ritualistic and ceremonial constructions.

In this comprehensive presentation, we explore 25 remarkable historical and architectural gems dispersed across Karnataka. Each of these locations has its own individual story, demonstrating the region's lasting history of architectural innovation and cultural relevance.

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Meet the
Author:

DHAANI SINGHAL



Dhaani is an avid student and supporter of the Arts, and the co-founder of Young Artiste, India's largest online Arts education platform. She is on a mission to make Arts education universally available to anyone who desires to learn an Art form irrespective of their social and economic status. Her interest in restoring monuments was kindled on a high school trip to Hampi, when she encountered one of the remotely situated monuments in a state of ruin. With some research she realized that there are many such magnificent monuments in Karnataka waiting to be restored to their former glory. At the same time, a newspaper article talking about the Government of Karnataka's 'ADOPT A MONUMENT INITIATIVE' caught her eye and she decided to get involved and take up this cause. She was awarded the Nalkanadu Palace project in Madikeri, Coorg district for which she has galvanized a community of donors and architects. She also decided to research and compile a collection of photographs and information related to these monuments with the intention to motivate other individuals and organizations to adopt and restore them. Dhaani is an alumna of TISB (The International school, Bengaluru) and plans to study Arts and Business in college.

Abstract

This book digs into the rich tapestry of historical and architectural marvels that adorn the Indian state of Karnataka. This collection includes a broad assortment of places that represent the region's cultural legacy and historical significance, ranging from the ancient ruins of Sanganakallu dating back to 3000 BCE to the delicate carvings of the Virupaksha Temple in Hampi. Each site gives a peek into Karnataka's lively history, from the stately forts of Sira and Kittur to the elegant temples of Anegundi and Nagareshwara. Discover the Bahmani Tombs in Bidar, the unusual Sural Mud Palace, and the melodic pillars of Hampi's Vijaya Vittala Temple. Discover the hidden riches of Karnataka's past as you traverse through time and architecture.

KITTUR FORT

Belegavi



Kitur Fort and Palace: an architectural gem dating back to the 17th century.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))



COORDINATES

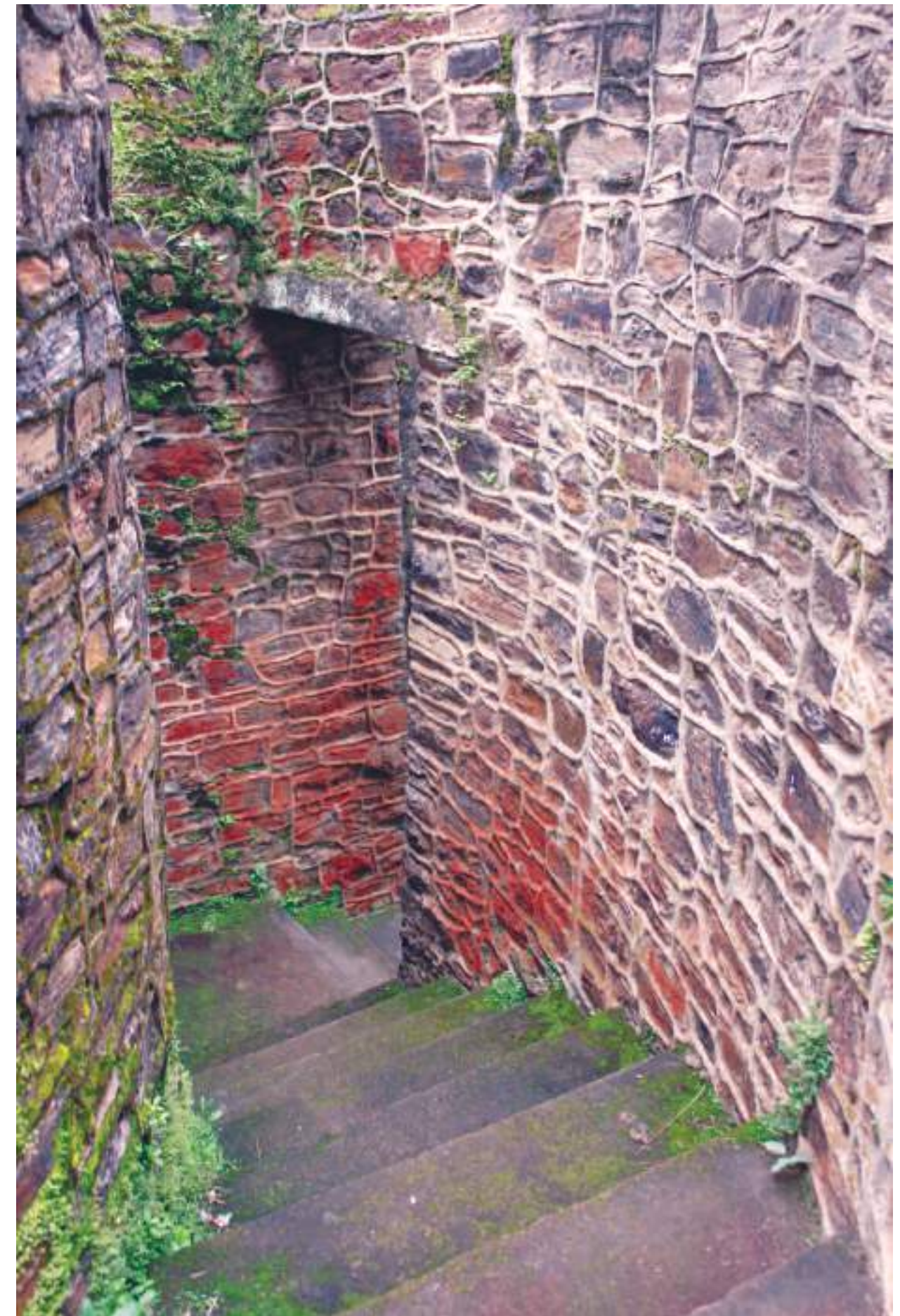
15.601414630126103

74.79140293558434

Kittur Fort and Palace, located in Kittur town, Karnataka, is a historically significant site. It is linked to Rani Chennamma, who led one of India's earliest freedom struggles. The fort, built in the 17th century by Allppa Gowda SarDesai, has a beautiful palace. Rani Chennamma heroically resisted British authorities from this fort in 1824, long before the 1857 revolt. Unfortunately, British soldiers seized and destroyed the fort in 1824. Only the ruins of the walls, a watchtower, water cisterns, and an archaeological museum exist today. The museum has an impressive collection of antique weaponry, stone idols, swords, shields, and other artifacts.



The Ruins of Kittur Fort. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



The Ruins of Kittur Fort. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)

**SRI
BHUTANATHA
TEMPLE**

Belegavi

Bhutanatha Temple Complex: A Kadamba-Style
Marvel in Torgal.(Courtesy of Department of
Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



Bhutanatha Temple Complex: A Kadamba-Style Marvel in Torgal.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage,
(GOK)



COORDINATES:

15.949357574978427

75.22216629735333

Torgal is a tiny village in the Belgaum district near Ramdurg. This location is well-known for its fort and *Kadamba*-style Bhutanatha temple complex. The temple complex consists of around 14 temples, some of which have been demolished. All of the temples were constructed at different dates, with the most important being the Bhutnath temple and a Shiva shrine. The entire complex is housed within the Torgal fort.

“In ancient and medieval Indian literature the term *durga* is generally applied to all kinds of fortifications. The word *durga* seems to have originated from the Sanskrit word '*durgam*' meaning difficult to trespass signifying the importance of a strategic site, a strong wall and a moat to make it an impregnable stronghold.”

Torgal Fort's Bhutanatha Temple Complex. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



Torgal's Varied temple constructions.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))



**NAGARESHWARA
TEMPLE**

*Bengaluru
Urban*

Nageshwara Temple: Panchanlinga temple gate. Source: Wikimedia Commons. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi





COORDINATES

12.965952

77.582082

The Nageshwara Temple, also known as the Naganatheshwara Temple, is a historically significant temple in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This temple was built around 890 AD, and inscriptions mention Bengaluru's presence before it became the capital during Kempegowda I's rule. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is known for its Panchalingeshwara Temple complex, which comprises five *lingas* and shrines for deities such as Lord Ganesha, Goddess Durga, Goddess Lakshmi, and others. The temple's architecture is basic yet lovely, and it is one of Bengaluru's oldest temples, displaying the city's rich history and legacy.

Nageshwara Temple: A historic gem dating to 890 AD, witnessing Bengaluru's pre-capital era.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi at Wiki Images





Hero Stone at Nageshwara Temple. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi at Wiki Images



Profile of *Nandi Mantapa* at Nageshwara Temple. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi at Wiki Images



Sanganakallu: A neolithic marvel dating to 3000 BCE, Unearthing South India's ancient past.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))



SANGANA
KALLU
Bellari



Rock Art at Sanganakallu.(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



COORDINATES

15.189418

76.973323

Sanganakallu is a Neolithic archaeological site that dates back to roughly 3000 BCE and is one of the earliest settlements in South India, encompassing an area of 1,000 acres. The site is distinguished by a layer of red-brown fossilized soil dating back to 9000 BCE. Excavations have revealed several ceramic objects, stone axes, and stone tools, making it a neolithic site. The site has been extensively excavated, and the Robert Bruce Foote Sanganakallu Archaeological Museum in Ballari has a spectacular collection of stone age items, including stone tools, earthenware, beads, iron implements, and terracotta artifacts. The museum also has displays on human evolution, such as skull casts and bones from various periods, which provide unique insights into prehistoric life and early human history.

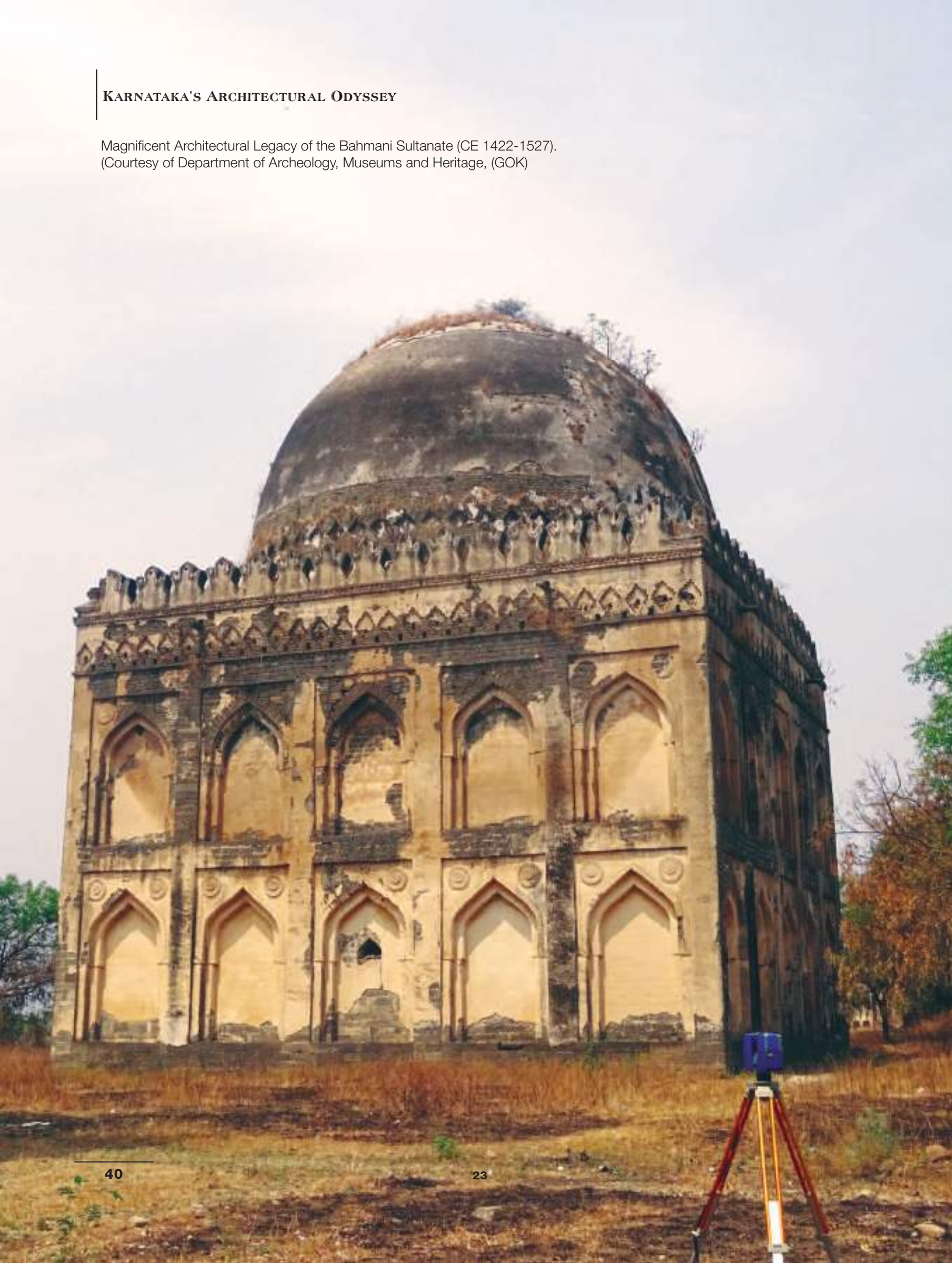
BAHMANI
TOMBS

Bidar



Bahmani Tombs at Ashtur, Bidar. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)

Magnificent Architectural Legacy of the Bahmani Sultanate (CE 1422-1527).
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



COORDINATES

17.915584081085964

77.56148732434485

The Bahmani Tombs at Ashtur, Bidar, Karnataka, are part of a group of 12 ancient tombs dating back to the reign of the Bahmani sultanate in Bidar (CE1422-1527). The architecture of these tombs is magnificent, with tall domes, arches, and niches. The tomb of Ahmad Shah-Al-Wali is the most well-known, with gold-colored Quranic phrases on the walls and characteristic *swastika* symbol adornment. Other noteworthy tombs include Sultan Allauddin Shah-II's, which features magnificent tile panels and carved borders on the arches. The graves are an important historical landmark in Bidar and are located 5.5 km from the Bidar Railway Station. Each tomb has its own distinct qualities and is an important part of Bidar's historical legacy.

UNVEILING CENTURIES OF HERITAGE

Intricate architectural details of the Bahmani Tombs at
Ashtur, Bidar, Karnataka (CE 1422-1527
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums
and Heritage, (GOK))



KARNATAKA'S ARCHITECTURAL ODYSSEY

In need of gentle restoration
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology,
Museums and Heritage, (GOK))



UNVEILING CENTURIES OF HERITAGE

Bahmani Tombs at Ashtur,
Bidar. (Courtesy of Department
of Archeology, Museums and
Heritage, (GOK))



MALLIKARJUNA
TEMPLE

*Hirenallur,
Chikkamangaluru*



Mallikarjuna Temple, dating to 1208 AD, Showcasing Hoysala Legacy.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



Theme from the Hindu lore in relief in the ceiling of the Mallikarjuna temple at Hirehallur. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



Ornate bay ceiling of the Mallikarjuna temple at Hirehallur
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi

COORDINATES

13°40'22.25

76°02'27.65

The Mallikarjuna temple is located at Hirehallur village in Kadur Taluk, Chikkamangalur District. The temple was built in about C. 1208 AD during the region of Hoysala king Ballala-II. The structure is *Trikuta* temple with *dravida sbikbara*. It consists of 3 *Girbbagrishbas*, *sukbansai*, and a *Navaranga* and also a *Mukbamantapa*. *Navaranga* has nine *ankanas* and a centrally raised platform. The temple has intricate carvings, especially on the towers. On the wall are *kuta* and *panjara* panels. The temple is quite an interesting one for its fusion of architectural details.

Rear view of *trikutachala* shrines in Mallikarjuna temple at Hirehallur.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



**YOGA-
NARASIMHASWAMY
TEMPLE**

*Baggavalli,
Chikkamangaluru*

Profile of Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple,
dedicated to Keshava at Baggavalli
Village, Chikkamangaluru District.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi





Profile of Yoganasimhaswamy Temple,
Dedicated to Keshava at Baggavalli Village,
Chikkamangaluru District.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi

COORDINATES

13.692689

75.972302

The Yoganasimhaswamy temple is located at Baggavalli village in Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamangaluru District. The temple is popularly called Yoganasimha but actually, the dedication of the structure was made to Keshava. The structure was built during the Hoysala period. The deity in the sanctum sanctorum is Keshava, which is about 1.52 meters in height. The shrine of Lakshmi stands nearby, which is a simple square structure. Yoganasimha sculpture is also found in the same structure, besides Shanmukha Ganesh and Lakshmi Narayana figures are found.

Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple, Dedicated to Keshava at Baggavalli Village,
Chikkamangaluru District. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



**RANGANATHA
TEMPLE**

*Neerthadi,
Davangere*

UNVEILING CENTURIES OF HERITAGE

Tower over Shrine at Swamy temple in
Neerthadi, Chitradurga district.
Photo by Dinesh Kannabadi



Moulding friezes and reliefs at Shrine at Swamy temple in Neerthadi, Chitradurga district. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



COORDINATES

14.352948

76.146923

The temple consists of a *garbhagriha*, a *sukanasi*, a *navaranga*, and two small shrines on either side of the *navaranga* attached to the *sukanasi*. There is an open *mukhamantapa* with piers on either side of the entrance on the east and porches on the north and the south. The central pillars of the *navaranga* are square and tapering to the top and have figures carved on all sides. The pillars of the *mukhamantapa* are also square and composite; the two middle ones contain figures of *yalis* and riders, and the two outer ones have small pilasters. The central ceiling is deep with a pendant supported by four parrots. The *gopura* is lofty and completely in stone. The present image of Ranganatha is in a standing posture. A figure of Krishna holding a ball of butter in hand is carved on the lintel of the *sukanasi* doorway. The image of the goddess is kept in a room to the right of the *sukanasi* doorway. There are 12 images of Alvars, and one of Vishnu in the room to the left. Three pairs of *bhaktavigrabas* with folded hands are carved on the three central pillars of the *navaranga*. The outer wall of the *garbhagriha* has carved figures all round; friezes of elephants, horses, and warriors on the basement, women participating in *kolata* on the wall, and episodes of the Ramayana below the top cornice.

Entrance to Swamy temple in Neerthadi,
Chitradurga district.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi





Entrance to Swamy temple in Neerthadi, Chitradurga district.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



Entrance to Swamy temple in Neerthadi, Chitradurga district.
Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi

HAMPI

Vijayanagara

COORDINATES

15°20 04

76°27 44

Hampi is a group of monuments, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Hampi (City), Bellary District now Vijayanagara district, east-central Karnataka. Hampi is mentioned in the Ramayana and the Puranas of Hinduism as *Pampa Devi Tirtha Kshetra*. Hampi continues to be an important religious centre, housing the Virupaksha Temple, an active Adi Shankara-linked monastery and various monuments belonging to the old city.

Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century. It was a fortified city. Chronicles left by Persian and European travellers, particularly the Portuguese, say that Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy and grand city near the Tungabhadra River, with numerous temples, farms and trading markets. By 1500 CE, Hampi-Vijayanagara was the world's second-largest city, after Beijing, and probably India's richest at that time, attracting traders from Persia and Portugal. The Vijayanagara Empire was defeated by a coalition of Muslim sultanates; its capital was conquered, pillaged and destroyed by sultanate armies in 1565, after which Hampi remained in ruins.

Located in Karnataka near the modern-era city of Hospete, Hampi's ruins are spread over 4,100 hectares (16 sq mi) and it has been described by UNESCO as an "austere, grandiose site" of more than 1,600 surviving remains of the last great Hindu kingdom in South India that includes "forts, riverside features, royal and sacred complexes, temples, shrines, pillared halls, mandapas, memorial structures, water structures and others".



HAMPI

Lotus Mahal.

COORDINATES

15.320481689093285

76.47135648195606

The Lotus Mahal, also known as Kamal Mahal, is a two-story monument notable for its peculiar combination of Hindu and Islamic architectural traditions. It gets its name from the complex cusped arches that cover its facade, which resemble the petals of a lotus flower. The Lotus Mahal, a magnificent example of Indo-Islamic style, used as a gathering place for the royal women. It was once a busy center of activity that drew people from all over the world.





Guards' Quarters at Hampi: Strategic Sentry Point and Sculpture Museum.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)

Elephant Stables at Hampi: (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



HAMPI

The Guards' Quarters

COORDINATES

15.321774365967872

76.47225402848589

The Guards' Quarters at Hampi were strategically placed next to the Elephant Stables to offer security to the *Zenana* Enclosure, which housed the treasury. This single-story edifice, spanning 146 feet by 63 feet and having columns and arches at the front, was erected on a 10-foot-high platform. It has a courtyard and an aisle on the inside, but no rooms or chambers. The purpose of the structure's protruding beams is unknown. The Guards' Quarters now serve as a museum, showing sculptures unearthed in and around Hampi. Furthermore, the structure features open rooms that may have acted as guard resting areas, with magnificent views of the Elephant Stables and *Zenana* Enclosure.



Hampi, is a 14th-Century UNESCO World Heritage Marvel, The Stone Chariot at Hampi. (Courtesy of Karnataka Science and Technology Council, (GOK)



While displaying signs of wear and tear over the years, Royal Hampi remains a witness to the Vijayanagara Empire's unique architectural and historical history. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)





Imposing Hampi ruins: Hampi is a 14th-Century UNESCO World Heritage Marvel. Photo by Krishna P

KARNATAKA'S ARCHITECTURAL ODYSSEY

The Great Stone Chariot from the Hampi group of monuments, a blend of Hindu and Islamic architecture.
Photo by Sivaprasad Sujatha





Vijaya Vittala Temple: A UNESCO World Heritage Marvel in Hampi, 14th-Century Vijayanagara Empire. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)

HAMPI

Vijaya Vittala Temple complex

COORDINATES

15.342558200724616
76.47529936846415

The UNESCO World Heritage Site Vijaya Vittala Temple complex in Hampi is a wonderful tribute to both history and architectural brilliance. This temple, built as a devotion to Lord Vishnu, provides an enthralling peek into the cultural riches of the 14th-century Vijayanagara Empire. The temple's interior has the *Saregama* Pillars, which are melodic columns that emit delightful melodies when tapped, demonstrating the sophisticated workmanship of the period. Furthermore, the temple's walls are embellished with magnificent carvings depicting scenes from daily life in the 15th century, including portrayals of traders from all over the world.

KARNATAKA'S ARCHITECTURAL ODYSSEY

Vijaya Vittala Temple: A UNESCO World Heritage Marvel in Hampi,
14th-Century Vijayanagara Empire. (Courtesy of Department of
Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)

UNVEILING CENTURIES OF HERITAGE





Virupaksha Temple, Hampi. Photo by Adarsh Padegal

The temple consists of a *garbhagriha*, an *antarala*, a *ardhamantapa*, and a large *mabamantapa*. The *mabamantapa* is also named as *rangamantapa*. It is a five-aisled *mantapa* with various types of composite pillars. On all the four sides, along the beams of the clerestory and above them are friezes with many figures in bas-relief. The entrance of the *ardhamantapa* is flanked by a fine pair of huge *dwarapalas* (2.7 m). The exterior walls are decorated with many bas-reliefs and have a multi petalled lotus motif in the central ceiling. The *garbhagriha* is enclosed by a narrow covered *pradakshinapatha*. The *sikbana* is of the *tri-tala* and has a large central stupa with four smaller *stupis* at the corners. A linga known as *Virupaksha-linga* is installed in the sanctum. The walls of the *garbhagriha* are made up of large plain neatly dressed slabs. The shrine is surrounded by an inner

HAMPI

Virupaksha Temples

COORDINATES

15.335213

76.458788

court, with a *mabadwara* in the east. The *gopura* of the *dwara* is named after Krishandevaraya, which was built by him about 1510 A.D. Passing through this *gopura*, one enters the large outer courtyard containing many sub-shrines and a large number of mantapas. The *gopura* of this entrance is about 35 m tall. The inner court has a number of shrines like Mukti Narasimha, Pataleswara, and Navadurga. The north corridor contains two of the earliest structures of the temple, namely the Parvati and Bhuvaneshwari shrines. Both have highly ornate and decorated lathe-turned pillars, carved ceilings, and wide doors – Jamb characteristic of the later Chalukyan style

BUCHESHWARA &
GOVINDESHWARA
TEMPLES

*Koravangala,
Hassan*



Ornate vimana of Bucheswara Temples: Ancient Hoysala temple in Karnataka.
Photo by Bikash Das



Koravangala Temples: Ancient Hoysala temple in Karnataka. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



. Second shrine of Bucheswara Temple: Ancient Hoysala temple in Karnataka. Photo by Bikash Das

COORDINATES

13.054253579842916

76.17675527297398

Koravangala village, 14 km southwest of Hassan in Karnataka, was previously a major Hoysala *Agrabara* center. It is home to ancient ruins and temples such as Buchheshwar, Govindeshwar, and Nakeshwar, with the Bucheshwara temple still surviving. The Nageshwara and Govindeshwara Temples, which were erected by Buchi Raja's brothers in 1160 AD, are now in ruins, and restoration attempts have halted. These temples have been neglected despite their antiquity and historical value, and they are overseen by the Archaeological Survey of India.

South-west side view of Bucheswara
Temples: Ancient Hoysala temple in
Karnataka. Photo by Bikash Das





North side view of
Bucheswara Temples:
Ancient Hoysala
temple in Karnataka.
Photo by Bikash Das

**MALKHED
FORT**

Kalaburgi



Manyakheta Fort: The cradle of Rashtrakuta Dynasty's prosperity and tolerance.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



Manyakheta Fort: The cradle of Rashtrakuta Dynasty's prosperity and tolerance
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)

COORDINATES

17.193976502017755

77.15703977129948

Malkhed Fort, also known as Manyakheta Fort, is located in Karnataka's Gulbarga district near the Kagina River. From 814 A.D. until 968 A.D., it was the capital of the Rashtrakuta Dynasty, and afterward the Kalyani Chalukyas. It rose to prominence during the Rashtrakuta dynasty, and was recognized for its scholastic activity and peaceful coexistence of diverse faiths. The fort has Jain ties and houses the *Uttaradi Matba* as well as an important Brindavan of *Madhva* seer Jayatirtha. The fort also has a Jain temple from the 9th century, demonstrating the Rashtrakutas' support for Jainism. The complex also includes a number of additional structures, many of which are now in ruins. Despite its historical value, the fort needs to be restored and preserved.

“With this brief account, one finds forts of different kingdoms and dynasties and of different types and kinds in Karnataka. They created strongholds i.e. fortified walls around their capital cities and sub-capital cities keeping in view the arms and armor and the then prevalent science of wars.”

NALKNAD PALACE

Kodagu



Nalknad Palace: A historical refuge and cultural treasure in Kodagu District
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))



Nalknad Palace: A historical refuge and cultural treasure in Kodagu District
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))

COORDINATES

12.235203777499635

75.64084168533779

The Nalknad Palace is located in Yavakapadi village, Madikeri taluk, Kodagu District. When the British invaded the Kodagu area, Nalknad Palace served as a shelter for the last monarch of the Halari line, Chikaverarajendra. The palace is renowned for its antique murals and sculptures, as well as its grand doorway and kalyana mandapam for marriage rituals. It also features a *darbar* for meetings and entertainment performances, along with the king's secret "dark rooms" in the basement. The palace, situated 45 km from Madikeri, presently belongs to the Archaeology Department.

The palace is a spacious structure with an open hall and several rooms. It has a tiled roof and large pillars supported by beams and rafters that uphold the high ceiling. The wood and stucco work are artistically executed. The palace is surrounded by a substantial compound wall and an entrance.

**SRI SOMESHWARA
TEMPLE**

*Kurudumale,
Kolar*



Main gopura of the Someshwara temple in Kurudumale, Kolar district.
Photo by Hariharan Arunachalam



Side view of shrine and ornate *shikhara*, *mantapa*, half pillars and *gopuram* of the temple. Photo by Hariharan Arunachalam



Main *Mantapa* of the Somesvara temple in Kurudumale, Kolar district. Photo by Hariharan Arunachalam

COORDINATES

13.211908

78.36907

Somesvara is a fine temple built of black stone and presents an elegant appearance without excessive ornamentation. It has a *garbhagriha* and a *sukanasi* with an ornamental doorway flanked by two octagonal pillars well carved with beaded work. The outer walls of the temple are decorated with beautifully carved pilasters and niches - the work on those of the *navaranga* being more artistic than that on the walls of the *garbhagriha* and *sukanasi*. The *navaranga* is supported by four pillars with sixteen-sided shafts and cubical moldings. Each face is beautifully carved with finely finished *Saiva* and *Vaishnava* images and dancing figures. The *vimana* is a brick structure of the composite Dravidian type. The *linga*, which is installed in the cella, faces east with only a perforated window opposite to it, instead of the entrance. Near the window stand three figures, which are said to represent the local chief Ilavanji Vasudevaraya and his consorts. The figure of sage Kaundinya, after whom, according to the *sthalapurana*, the place is called *Kaundinya kshetra*, is pointed in the lowest panel on the west face of the southeast pillar.

ANEGUNDI FORT

Koppal



Anegundi: At the banks of the Tungabhadra River (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))



COORDINATES

15.351527213843939

76.48519899638006

Anegundi is a settlement in Karnataka, India, that is part of the Hampi World Heritage Site. Its name, "Anegundi," is derived from Kannada, where "*Ane*" means elephant and "*Gundi*" means pit, and refers to its use as a bathing area for royal elephants of the Vijayanagara Empire. Anegundi, located 5 km from Hampi on the northern bank of the Tungabhadra River, is home to Pampa Sarovar, Ranganatha temple, Kamal Mahal, and Navabrindavan. The settlement also has an ancient fort and is rich in Neolithic history, including monuments such as *Moremane* and *Onake Kindi*. Anegundi is best visited between October and March and is accessible through Hampi, some 35 km from Bellary.

"The description of forts and their classification are found in the *Puranas*, notably the *Agni Purana*, the *Matsya Purana*, the *Devi Purana* etc. According to *Agni Purana* the king should make his residence in a fort. In Mahabharata and the Manusmriti, we find ample references to forts and fortifications."

**KODANDARAMA
SWAMY TEMPLE**

*Haravu,
Mandya*



Kodandarama Swamy Temple at Haravu Village: (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



Kodandarama Swamy Temple at Haravu Village, Passage leading to the Garbhagriha. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)

COORDINATES

12.460461

76.630580

The Kodandaramaswamy Temple is located at Haravu village in Pandavapura taluk, Mandya District. The temple is a large structure, built in *Prakara*. It is built on a rectangular plan, and has a *garbhagriha*, *sukhanasi*, a *Navaranga* and large open *mukhamantapa*, in front of which is a pillared hall built at a later period. The temple's outer walls are plain and only the *kosthas* are found. The *vimana* is also dilapidated and the *Prakara* wall too. The temple has a cult image of Rama Lakshmana and Sita in sthanaka posture.



RAYA
GOPURA

Mandya



Melukote's Raya Gopura. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



COORDINATES

12.657922345040902

76.6475578530676

Raya Gopura, a majestic edifice in Melukote, Karnataka, is steeped in history and culture. It is related to Lord Rama's exile, according to Hindu mythology. The town rose to prominence during the rule of the Ganga dynasty in the 9th century, leading to the building of the Cheluvanarayana Swamy Temple. Later, the Hoysala dynasty fortified the hill on which Raya Gopura rests, contributing to the growth of the town. Melukote saw a golden phase under the influence of the Vijayanagara Empire from the 14th to the 16th century. Following that, the Wodeyar dynasty supported the region's cultural legacy. The *Mabadvara's* side jambs are intact while the ceiling is missing. Possibly the ceiling must not have been built. However, the *Mabadvara* was obviously meant for the construction of *gopura*. On the door Jambs are Ganga and Yamuna sculptures, on the platform are elephant vyalas and some human figures. There are also some floral motifs carved there. This place is very popular for cinematic views.

**SRI
HOYSALESHWARA
TEMPLE**

*Thenginghatta,
Mandya*



Hoysaleswara Temple in Tenginghatta. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))





COORDINATES

12.755721

76.393013

The Hoysaleswara temple in Tenginaghatta, built during the era of the Hoysala rulers, is today in disarray. Tenginaghatta is a tiny settlement in the Mandya District. The temple was erected by 'Hadavala Kavand' during the reign of Hoysala King Narasimhadeva I, however, the dates differ. The temple has a low-ceilinged *garbhagriha* with a Shiva *linga*, an *antarala* with a *saptbhamatrika murti*, a *navaranga* with a distinctive sculpture of a lotus blossom surrounded by lions, and a damaged *mukhamantapa*. The outer wall is plastered, and the damaged *shikbara* is in Dravidian style. A magnificent lake surrounds the temple, and a damaged temple dedicated to *Ksbetrapala* lies nearby.

SHIVAPPA
NAYAKA PALACE

Shivamogga



Shivappa Nayaka Palace and garden in Shivamogga. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi





Sculpture of Nandi the bull at the Shivappa Nayaka Palace grounds. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



Relief sculpture of Gajalakshmi dated to 16th century from Hittala at the Shivappa Nayaka Palace grounds. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi

COORDINATES

13.927352

75.583742

This stately monument is raised on a 0.75-m high plinth with well-cut and dressed stone slab casing. It consists of a spacious pillared hall with an open pillared facade and two rooms at hind corners. Right over the rooms are similar rooms and between them is a balcony with an open pillared facade. Between the pillars are engrailed arches. The balcony is approached by a staircase from the ground floor symmetrically placed beside the rooms. The facade is completely open with four tall wooden pillars and two corner pilasters infusing a majestic appearance to the monument. Within the hall are three rows of pillars. The third and the fourth rows support the balcony. Between the pillars of the second row on the floor are 8 small rectangular stone slabs conventionally looking like tortoises. The balcony is an oblong hall with two rows of eight pillars each, similar to those beneath the balcony. Between the pillars of the facade and at the edge of the projected part of the balcony runs a railing 0.60 m high. The palace has a gabled roof measuring 30m (N-E) by 15m (S-E) and 9.75m high at the central ridge. It is now covered with earthen tiles.



**KALLESHWARA
TEMPLE**

*Aralaguppe,
Tumakuru*



Near view of Kalleshwara temple (900 AD) at Aralaguppe in Tumkur district. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



Door jamb at Kalleshwara temple (900 AD) at Aralaguppe in Tumkur district. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi

COORDINATES

13.2535

77.6183

Kalleshwara Temple is located at Aralaguppe Village, Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru district. It consists of a *garbhagriha*, a *sukanasi*, and a *navaranga*. The *navaranga* has a well-carved doorway, with *Gajalakshmi* on the lintel and a row of dwarfs on the pediment. The ceiling 1.8 x 1.8m supported by four fine pillars is divided into nine panels with an elegantly carved *Tandavesvara* in the middle and the *ashtadikpalakas* around and four doubled-up hanging figures of flying *gandharvas* in the 4 directions. On the north and south walls are two fine pierced windows of scrollwork. Behind the big Nandi in front is a shrine containing a 1.5 m high figure of Surya.



Old Kannada inscription from the 9th century at Kalleshwara temple (900 AD) at Aralaguppe in Tumkur district. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



Window art at Kalleshwara temple (900 AD) at Aralaguppe in Tumkur district. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi

NARASIMHA
TEMPLE

*Vignasanthe,
Tumakuru*



Conical ceiling above the lintel in the
Mukhanmantapa Lakshminarasimha
temple at Vignasanthe.
Photo by Dinesh Kannabadi

Lakshminarasimha temple at Vignasante. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi





Ornate roof above the *Mantapa* in the Lakshminarasimha temple at Vignasante. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi



Side view of the Lakshminarasimha temple at Vignasante. Photo by Dinesh Kannambadi

COORDINATES

13.1468

77.5399

The **Narasimha Temple** is located at Vignasanthe, Tiptur Town, Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru district. This is a *trikutabala* or three-celled structure. The main cell, which alone has a *sukanasi* and is surmounted by a tower, enshrines *Keshava*; the left cell has Lakshminarasimha and the right *Venugopala*. All the figures are well-carved, their *prabhas* being sculptured with the ten incarnations of *Vishnu*. At the sides of the *sukanasi* doorway are figures of Ganapati and Mahishamardini. The temple has a small porch and the remains of a *mukhamantapa*, at some intervals. The *navaranga* pillars are elegantly carved with bead and scroll work. The ceiling of the porch and the central ceiling of the *navaranga*, about 1 m deep, are domed and adorned with fine lotus buds; while the others, about 5 m deep, are square with small lotus buds.

SIRA
FORT

Tumakuru



Sira: A Fort with a Diverse legacy spanning centuries. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



COORDINATES

13.74351702491467

76.9135700107596

The history of building the fort is traced back to the early 17th century when Nayakas (Kasturi Rangappa Nayaka) ruled over Sira as a fiefdom under the Vijayanagara Empire. He laid the foundation for the Sira town and the fort. The site was selected as auspicious on the basis of a good omen of a hare chasing the hound, a common legend of the times in the building of many forts in India. The foundation of Sira is also based upon this legend. Before the fort was completed, Sira and its fiefdoms were captured by an army sent by the Bijapuri general Randullah Khan. A force led by his subordinate Afzal Khan defeated and killed the Sira chief Kasturi Rangappa Nayaka. Malik Husen, who was then made the governor, completed the construction of the fort and also built a mud wall enclosing the town. Sira, according to a timeline, was under the reign of the Vijayanagara Empire (1638 to 1687), the Adil Shahi of Bijapur Sultanate, the Mughal Empire (1687 to 1757), and Maratha (1757 to 1759 and 1766), the Wodeyars (1799 to 1947), and the British Raj (until 1947).

Sira: A fort with a diverse legacy spanning centuries.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))

SURAL PALACE

Udupi



Tolah Dynasty's Sural Mud Palace's outer courtyard and entrance.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))



Tolah Dynasty's Sural Mud Palace's inner courtyard.
(Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK))

COORDINATES

13.447346227381917

74.8550113040657

The Sural Mud Palace, located near Suralu, some 30 km from Udupi in Karnataka, is a peculiar Tolah dynasty palace dating back to 1511 AD. It is notable for its one-of-a-kind design, which combines *Vastu* concepts from Hindu and Jain cultural history. This one-acre palace, constructed completely of earth and timber, displays regional sculptures from the time period. The walls are made of clay, the roof is made of country tiles (terracotta tiles), and there are elaborate sculptures on the doors, windowsills, pillars, and ceilings. The palace is divided into seven large sections, one of which houses a Jain *Basadi* for Parshwanath worship. In recent years, restoration attempts to preserve this architectural jewel have been undertaken, with the government contributing funds for the reconstruction of certain courtyards and corridors. The Suralu Palace contains several ornate pieces of sculptures. The Tolahas, feudatories of the Alupas, built this palace. It was a seat of a line of the Tolaha chiefs, the descendants of whom are still living here. The Tolahas were in prosperity until Hyder Ali's invasion. The members of the royal family still celebrate *Mahanavami* and the *Vijaya-yatre* festivals in this Palace.

Tolah Dynasty's Sural Mud Palace's main building and entrance. (Courtesy of Department of Archeology, Museums and Heritage, (GOK)



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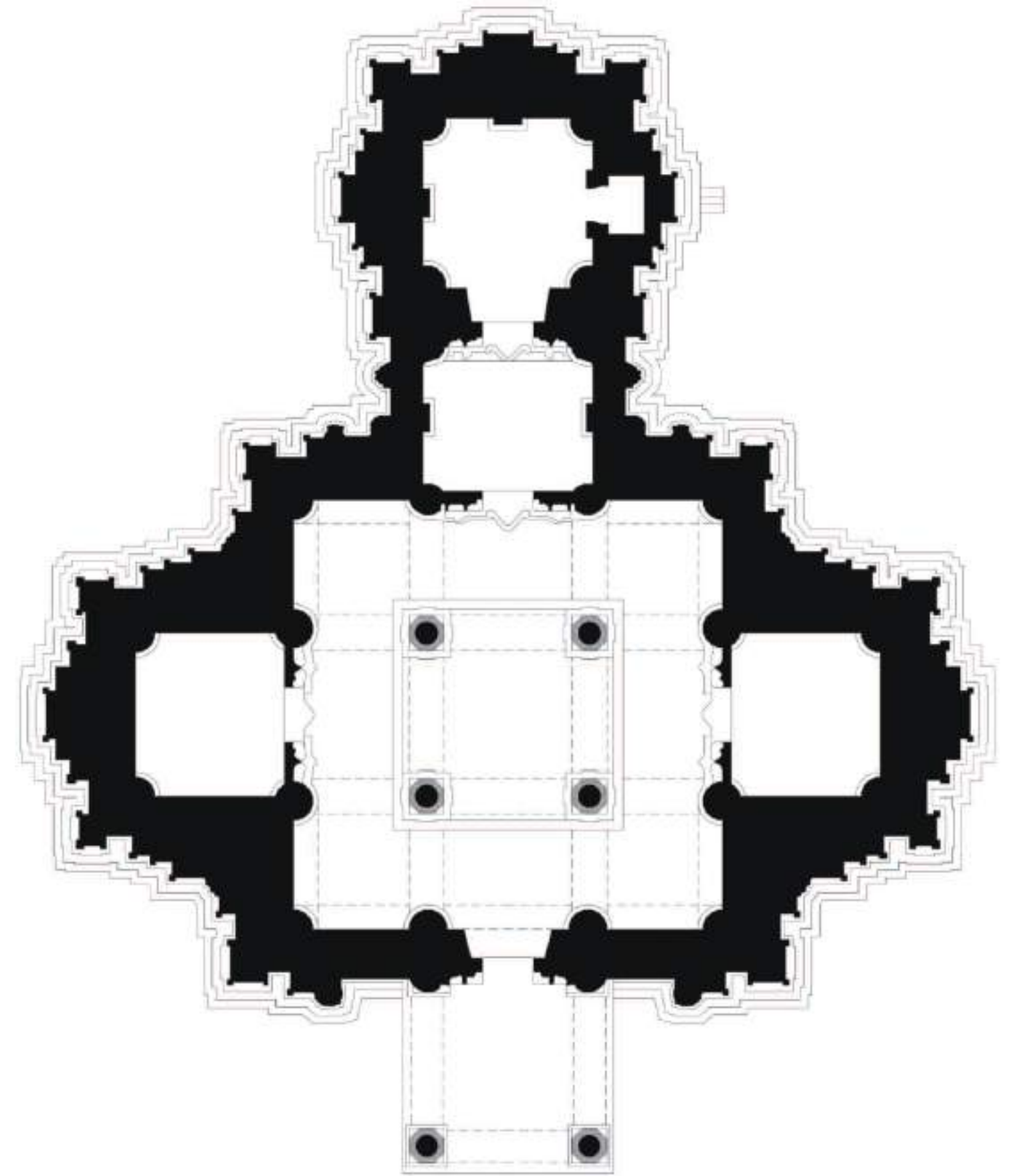
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Architectural floor plan of the Narasimha Temple, Vignasanthe, Tumakuru



