

Chapter - 25

Tourism Development for Regional Imbalances

25.1 Opportunities in Tourism

1. Tourism is a promising industry assuring higher sectoral growth in the coming decade. It helps in the preservation of culture, heritage and history. It stimulates infrastructural investment and as such ensures better living conditions for the locals. Tourism provides high employment output ratio. An investment of Rs.10 lakhs generates 47.5 jobs, providing significant opportunities for women and youths. It absorbs marginally educated / uneducated rural populace. It also generates huge tax revenue. A unique feature of tourism is that income generation takes place without the flow of product.

2. Karnataka is considered as a tourist paradise, since it provides varied nature of tourist attractions like beautiful natural beaches, long coastal line, architectural monuments, historical forts, palaces and temples, the herds of elephants, bisons, gaur and langur roaming across wild life sanctuaries at Bandipur and Nagarhole, the turbulent leap of Sharavathi at Jogfalls, the myriad coloured fountains of beautiful Brindavan Garden at Mysore, the beaches of Karwar, the sun setting scene at Agumbe, the famous architectural beauty at Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal, the tall monolithic Gomateshwar Statues at Shravanabelagola and Karkal, the devastating ruins of Hampi, the world famous Hoysala temples at Belur and Halebidu, the world famous dome of Golgumbaz and Bird Sanctuary at Ranganatittu and many more tourist spots of attraction.

3. There are many tourist interest spots in the nook and corner of the State. Every district can boast of having one or more tourist destinations. Some tourist spots are so beautiful and amazing, but have not come to light, due to lack of proper roads and communication. Even many important tourist places do not have good roads and hotels, and maintenance of those places is poor. There is a lot of potential to develop tourist places in the State and thereby attract more and more number of domestic as well as foreign tourists. Fortunately the Government of Karnataka has identified all the important tourist destinations and brought all those under five circuits, viz. Northern Circuit, Southern Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Wild Life Circuit and Hill Resort Circuit. The list of tourist places is given at Annexure IX.1 (A) & (B) Though the emphasis of the government is for the overall development of tourist places in all parts of the State, the focus is now on development of tourism infrastructure in all the districts of South and North Karnataka.

25.2 Existing Tourism Facilities

4. The central and state governments have been providing funds for the development of basic infrastructure and other facilities to promote tourism in the State under plan schemes. Besides, tourism infrastructure has been created in various districts of South and North Karnataka through private investment and initiatives. Both the central and state governments have spent an amount of Rs.2931.63 lakhs in south karnataka and Rs.844.96 in north karnataka upto 2000 A.D. towards the development of various tourism facilities in the respective regions. The share of central government and state government were in the

proportion of 72% and 28% in South Karnataka as compared to the proportion of 55% and 45% in North Karnataka.

5. Government of Karnataka has promoted two organizations exclusively to provide necessary infrastructure for the promotion of tourism in the State. They are:

1. Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (K.S.T.D.C.) and
2. Jungle Lodge and Resorts (J.L.&R)

6. The K.S.T.D.C. by taking financial assistance from Government of India and the State Government has constructed standard hotels at the site of important tourist spots in order to provide board and lodging facilities to the tourists. M/s Jungle Lodges Resorts Limited is an organization promoted by Government of Karnataka for encouraging wild life and eco-tourism. It has established infrastructural facilities mainly in southern part of Karnataka : Kabini River lodge at Kharapur, Masheer Fishing in Bhimeshan; tented cottages at B.R. hills and Kemmanagundi.

25.3 Tourist Traffic

7. Tourists comprise foreign tourists and domestic tourists. The tourists flow of above two categories has been estimated in each of the two regions viz, South Karnataka and North Karnataka, with main focus on high spending tourists.

I. Foreign tourists

8. It is estimated that about 11,000 to 13,000 foreign tourists are visiting tourist places in South Karnataka while about 10,000 to 12,000 tourists are visiting the tourist destinations in North Karnataka in a single year. The flow of foreign tourists would be more than double in 10 years in each of the two regions. Thus the compound annual growth rate of foreign tourists is expected to be about 10% in the next 10 years. Now the annual growth rate is about 5%.

II Domestic tourists

9. It is estimated that about 3,00,000 domestic tourists visit tourist places in South Karnataka and about 200,000 domestic tourists in North Karnataka. At least 10% of these tourists belong to higher income groups. The domestic tourist flow is expected to grow at the annual growth rate of 15% in South Karnataka as against 12% in North Karnataka.

25.4 Proposal for Development of Tourism

10. The HPC acknowledges with thanks to the Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka for providing perspective plans for Development of Tourism in South and North Karnataka regions prepared by TECSOK, Bangalore.

11. The perspective plan for the development of tourism in South Karnataka covering 15 districts and in North Karnataka covering 12 districts for the next five years has been prepared by the Technical Consultancy Services Organisation of Karnataka (TECSOK) for the Department of Tourism. Additional tourist facilities that are required in various tourist

places in South Karnataka and North Karnataka have been worked out separately based on the following factors.

- i. Existing tourist facilities and tourism infrastructure created by both government sector and private sector.
- ii. Proposed government and private investments in various districts of South Karnataka and North Karnataka.
- iii. Estimated flow of foreign and domestic tourists.

12. Requirements of investment by the government and private have been worked out for the following tourist components:

1. Accommodation
2. Transportation
3. Wayside amenities
4. Adventure Tourism
5. Landscaping
6. Information Centres
7. Telecommunications
15. Development of forts
8. Roads
9. Power
10. Airstrips
11. Ropeways
12. Amusement parks
13. Water sports
14. Development of heritage villages
16. Signage Boards

13. As per the proposal, the total investment required in developing various tourist related activities / infrastructure is estimated at Rs.1,597.49 crores in South Karnataka and Rs.646.22 crores in north Karnataka. Out of the proposed investment, the shares of government and private sectors would be 5% and 95% in South Karnataka as against 31% and 69% in North Karnataka. The details of investment to be made on various activities by government and private in North and South Karnataka is given in Table 25.1.

Table 25.1: Summary of investment to be made by the Government and Private Sectors in North and South Karnataka

(Rs. in lakhs)

North Karnataka					South Karnataka		
Sl. No	Details	Govt. Sector	Pvt. Sector	Total Govt./ Pvt. Sectors	Govt. Sector	Pvt. Sector	Total Govt./Pvt. Sectors
1.	Accommodation	140	16817	16957	100 (Eco Tourism)	124844	124944
2.	Transportation	0	1600	1600	0	300	300
3.	Wayside Amenities	72	465	537	160	0	160
4.	Adventure Tourism	0	186	186	165	0	165
5.	Landscaping	535	0	535	0	5000	5000
6.	Information Centres	300	0	300	150	0	150
7.	Telecommunications	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Roads	6773	0	6773	5616	0	5616
9.	Power	1020	0	1020	0	0	0
10.	Airstrips	0	16400	16400	0	9000	9000

... Contd

North Karnataka					South Karnataka		
Sl. No	Details	Govt. Sector	Pvt. Sector	Total Govt./Pvt. Sectors	Govt. Sector	Pvt. Sector	Total Govt./Pvt. Sectors
11.	Rope Ways	0	600	600	0	10000	10000
12.	Amusement Parks	0	5250	5250	0	2400	2400
13.	Water Sports	0	3630	3630	0	560	560
14.	Development of Heritage Villages	4000	0	4000	600	0	600
15.	Development of Forts	92	0	92	160	0	160
16.	Signage Boards	125	0	125	700	0	700
17.	Provision of 15% as incentive for private investment	6742	0	6742	0	0	0
	Total	19799	44948	64747	7645	152104	152204

14. The total investment proposed in South Karnataka and North Karnataka has to be phased out in the next 5 years. The details of the places where investment is to be made for various tourism activities have been worked out by the Technical Consultancy Service Organisation of Karnataka. The HPC recommends that various tourism activities / infrastructure have to be carried out in a phased way as worked out by the TECSOK.

15. The investment proposed for creating infrastructure and related activities for the development of tourism all over Karnataka would provide socio-economic benefits like promoting international understanding and national integration, support to local handicrafts and artisans, support to cultural activities, support to heritage, education to tourists. These benefits are intangible and difficult to quantify. The investment proposed would provide direct and indirect employment to the tune of 1,10,885 in South Karnataka and about 44854 in North Karnataka.

25.5 Proposed General Policy

16. The following recommendations are made to promote tourism in the State especially in North Karnataka region.

- Many tourist spots in North Karnataka do not have tourism infrastructure like good hotels / lodgings, connecting roads, telecommunication facilities, transport, wayside amenities, airstrips etc. to attract foreign and domestic tourists. The HPC recommends to implement the proposal for the development of tourism in public and private sector as worked out by the TECSOK for the Department of Tourism, so as to complete those all in 5 years period at an estimated cost of Rs.647.47 crores in North Karnataka at cost of Rs.1522.04 crores in South Karnataka.
- Tourism be declared as industry in Karnataka as in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- All concessions offered under the industrial policy of the state should be made available for private investments in tourism.

- All the tourist places identified by the Department of Tourism in North Karnataka and South Karnataka regions should be developed in a phased manner in 5 years as per the perspective plan prepared by the TECSOK. The share of Government and Private sectors as indicated in the perspective plan should be ensured.
- Access to tourist spots should be the responsibility of the State Government.
- Approach by Air:
 - I. Existing Airstrips:
 - (a) In North Karnataka, there are no full-fledged airports except in **Belgaum**, where it is not being used to full capacity. There is need to upgrade the existing infrastructure to attract chartered flights from Goa. **Hubli** airport is not functioning at present mainly due to lack of adequate infrastructure and passengers. Existing airport of Air Force at **Bidar** could be used for promotion of tourism in consultation with Air Force Authorities. **Bellary** is having an airstrip which is rarely used. The government may either upgrade the existing facility and infrastructure at Bellary airstrip or construct a new airport between **Bellary** and **Hospet**, which would facilitate tourists to visit World Heritage Centre at Hampi.
 - (b) In South Karnataka, there are full fledged airports at **Bangalore** and **Mangalore**. Existing airport at **Mysore** is not in operation at present. It needs to be modernized for the use of small aircrafts and chartered flights.
 - II. Providing new Airstrips:
 - (a) North Karnataka:

Being Gulbarga and Bijapur the major tourist centres, there is a need to construct separate airstrips at **Gulbarga** and **Bijapur**. It would help to attract foreign tourists and upper class domestic tourists from Bangalore, Hyderabad, Goa and Belgaum.
 - (b) South Karnataka:

Hassan being district headquarters and having satellite sub-station and being nearer to famous centres of tourists namely Shravanabelagola, Belur and Halebid, there is a need for constructing and developing airstrip at Hassan.
 - III. Government of India be persuaded to adopt open sky policy. Private providers be encouraged with infrastructure support.

- Ropeways:

Ropeways attract tourists to enjoy the panoramic view of the rivers, valleys, flora and fauna etc. These Ropeways should be built under the Scheme of Build Operate Transfer (BOT) in Private Sector.

- i. Vaikunta Hill near T.B. Dam, Hospet is an ideal location in North Karnataka.
 - ii. Nandi Hills, Chamundi Hills, Krishna Raja Sagar Dam, Kemmanagundi and Jog Falls are ideal locations in South Karnataka.
- Public Works Department and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department should provide funds in their budgets for constructing and improving important identified tourism related infrastructure.
 - Loan of about Rs.125 crores be availed from HUDCO by Tourism Department for the purpose of roads, signages etc.
 - Accommodation facilities owned by Government and KSTDC at tourist destinations should be handed over for private management.
 - Luxury tax, state excise duty and motor vehicles tax be reduced in the sphere of tourism.
 - Private investors be encouraged for setting up resorts in forest areas.
 - Annual budget be enhanced to Rs.30 crores.
 - 50% of the revenues generated through gate collection at tourist facility be used for maintenance and development of that facility.
 - Incentives be given for establishing heritage hotels.
 - Area around important ancient and historical monuments be developed.

Annexure 25 (A)

Important Tourist Destinations In South Karnataka

The districts covering South Karnataka include Mysore, Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Coorg, Bangalore Urban and Rural, Tumkur, Hassan, Shimoga, Chikmagalore, Chitradurga, South Kanara, Udupi, Davanagere.

The important tourist destinations in each district are indicated below:

Mysore

The Mecca of tourists is a city of gardens. People also call it the city of Palaces and city of Sandal. Mysore is a beautiful city and sandalwood has made the city more beautiful.

1. Mysore Palace: The residence of the Wodeyars this structure is one of the largest of its kind in India. Built in 1912 in the Indo-Sarceenic style. This palace exceeds a grandeur that is unmatched.

The golden royal throne, the darbar hall, the kalyana mantapa, galary of the Ambavilas are the main attractions here.

2. Sri Jayachamarajendra Art Galery: Housed in the Jaganmohan Palace, this gallery has a collection of exquisite paintings, dating back to 1875. The collection includes paintings by Raja Ravi Varma, the Russian Svetoslav Roerich and the traditonal Mysore gold leaf style of paintings.
3. St. Philomina's Church: In the catholic style is one of the largest church in the county and as beautiful stained glass windows.
4. Mysore zoo: Houses some rare animals breed in captivity and exotic species of plants.
5. Chamundi Hills: Towering over the city these hills are 13 Kms. Away from Mysore. Half way up is the Nandi Bull-a 4.8 mtr monolith. A right harm top is the 2000 years old Chamundeshwari temple dedicated to the patron goddess of the royal family.
6. Nanjungud: It is 23 kms. South of Mysore. This is an important pilgrim Centre and is famous for its Srikanteshwara temple built in the Dravidian style, the temple is one of the biggest of its kind in Karnataka.
7. Somanathpur: It is 35 kms east of Mysore, it is famous for its 13th century Hoysala temple. The temple is in excellent condition and has frescoed exteriors depicting episodes from the epics.

8. Nagarahole National park: The Kabini river lodge is a perfect getaway for nature lovers abounding in rich variety of wildlife. One can find elephants tigers, antelopes and even leopards here.

Chamarajanagar

1. Bandipur: Situated 80 kms. From Mysore. The Bandipur National Park is one of the most beautiful wildlife Centres. Rare species of animals and birds can be seen in this natural habitat. Bandipur has also been chosen as a Centre for the project tiger scheme launched in 1973 by the WWF to save the tigers. Himavad Gopaldaswamy hills is a popular hill resort and a trekkers delight as well. It is situated in the verdant western ghats of Chamarajanagar district. The temple here is dedicated to Lord Venugopala Swamy.
2. B.R.Hills: This picturesque hill range at a height of 5091 feet is 120 kms. from Mysore and is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna. The temple on the hill dedicated to Biligiri Rangaswamy attracts devotees round the year.
3. M.M. Hills: About 142 kms. From Mysore is a popular pilgrim Centre. Atop the hill is a temple dedicated to Lord Mahadeshwara which is in the form of Linga.

Mandya

1. Brindavan Gardens: 19 kms. North West of Mysore is the KRS dam and the ornamental Brindavan gardens. The musical fountain and colourful fountain and colourful lights transform this place into a fairyland in the evenings.
2. Srirangapatna: Srirangapatna is 14 kms. North East of the Bangalore-Mysore highway. This island fortress, once the capital of the warrior kings Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan has magnificent monuments that are well worth a visit. Daria Daulat Bagh, Tipu's summer palace built in 1784 was his favorite retreat. Made of teak this Indo-saracenic structure has ornate beautiful frescos. It is now a museum and tells eloquently of Tipu's valor and his battle against the British.
3. Fort: It is from near that Tipu charged at the British soldiers with his legendary sword. An obelisk in the fort marks the place where he fell retread by his own men. The fort holds with it a mosque and the Ranganatha Swamy temple. Outside the fort is the Gumbaz, Tipu's tomb with splendid ebony doors inlaid with ivory. Sangama is 3 kms. South of Srirangapatna where the two branches of river Cauvery reunite in the joyfull exumbrance.
4. Ranganathittu bird sanctuary: 4 kms. From Srirangapatna and 18 kms. From Mysore is a bird sanctuary that houses exotic birds. Birds from as far away as Siberia and even North America make their home here. Crocodiles basking in the sun is also a familiar sight.

5. Melukote: 50 kms. North is a sacred Vaishnavas pilgrim Centre, known for its Vairarmudi festival in March, April. More than one lakh devotees congregate here for the festival. Melukote is also known for its handlooms.

Bangalore Rural

1. Ramanagaram: 49 kms. South-West this beautiful landscape spot is popular with rock climbers. It is also an important silk cocoon-marketing Centre.
2. Janapada loka: Is about 53 kms. From Bangalore, near Ramanagaram. A subsidiary of the Karnataka Janapada Parishath, is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of folk culture, sprawling across 15 acres, the complex has an art gallery and open air theatre, a studio and a museum.
3. Channapatna: 60 kms, South-West, this town is famous for its lacquer ware and hand crafted wooded toys. It is also a silk Centre.
4. Savandurga: 61 kms. From Bangalore near Magadi is yet another spot enjoyed by the trekkers.
5. Mekedatu: 98 kms. South is a beautiful picnic spot where the river Cauvery squeezes through a narrow gorge.
6. Shivaganga: 56 kms. North is a conical hill, which offers a breath, taking view from the top. There are two shrines dedicated to Lord Gangadhareshwara and Goddess Honnadevi.

Bangalore Urban

1. Vidhana Soudha: A magnificent building housing the State Legislature and Secretariat, it was conceived and executed by Kengal Hanumanthaiah, the then Chief Minister in 1956. It was built entirely of Bangalore granite in the Neodravidian style.
2. Attara Kacheri: The elegant two storied building is directly opposite the Vidhana Soudha. It houses the State High Court. Within walking distance are the Public Library, the Government Museum, the Visveswariah Industrial and Technological Museum and the Venkatappa Art Gallery.
3. Cubbon Park: This beautiful part sprawling across 300 acres was laid out by Lieutenant General Sir Mark Cubbon in 1864. The park is green and dotted with fountains, statues and flowering trees. Close to the park are the Bal Bhavan and the Aquarium.

4. The Lalbagh: Started by Hyder Ali in 1760 and later completed by Tipu Sultan, this 240 acre landscape park is home to some very rare species of plants. The Glass House inspired by the Crystal Palace in London, is the venue for biannual flower show.
5. Bangalore Palace: Inspired by the Windsor Castle, this place was built in the Tudor style by the Wodeyar King in 1887.
6. Bull Temple: One of the 20 oldest temples in the city built by Kempe Gowda, the founder of Bangalore.
7. Tipu's Palace: One of his summer retreats built in 1791, this is a two storeyed ornate wooden structure with pillars, arches and balconies.
8. Ulsoor Lake: Is a perfect gateway dotted with picturesque islands. You can enjoy a boat ride here or swim in the nearby pool.
9. The Shiva Mandir: The 64 feet huge sitting Shiva on Airport road is a major tourist attraction.
10. ISKCON: Built at a cost of Rs.32 crore on a sprawling 7 acre plot, atop the Hare Krishna hill, is a pious blend of modern technology and spiritual harmony.
11. Musical Fountain: Dance with the swinging waters at this unique attraction at the Chowdaiah Road opposite the Nehru Planetarium.
12. Planetarium: On Chowdaiah Road, this is your gateway to the magnificent skies above this beautiful city.
13. Bannerghatta national Park: Located 22 kms. South amidst sylvan surroundings this park has a crocodile farm and lion and tiger safari.
14. Hesarghatta: 25 kms. away has an artificial lake and a dairy and horticulture farm . Boating and wind surfing are the other attractions here.
15. Nrityagram: The famous dance village where young dancers are trained in all disciplines of traditional Indian dance.
16. Dodda Alada Mara: (Banyan Tree) 28 kms. From Bangalore, the tree is spread over 3 acres and is 400 years old. The tree is also the largest in Karnataka.
17. Muthyalamaduvu: (Pearl Vally) 40 kms. Away is known for its verdant surroundings and beautiful water falls. This is a favorite picnic spot.

Tumkur

1. Devarayandurga: 70 kms. From Bangalore, this beautiful countryside is dotted with hill top temples and an ideal place for trekking.
2. Siddarbetta: There is natural spring whose water has medicinal valued and the hillock is abundant with medicinal herbs. It is said that Rishi's sat here in penance.

Hassan

180 kms. From Bangalore in the district head quarters, Hassan. This quiet and peaceful town is convenient base to visit Shravanabelagola, Belur and Halebidu. Hasan offers a wide variety of accommodations. It is well connected by road and rail to Bangalore, Mysore and Mangalore.

1. Sharavanabelagola: 51 kms, South-East of Hassan, is one of the most important Jain Pilgrim Centre. Here is the 17 mtr. High monolith of Lord Bahubali, the world's tallest monolithic statue. Thousands of devotees congregate here to perform the Mahamasthakabhisheka – a spectacular ceremony held once in 12 years when the 1000-year-old statue is anointed with milk, curds, ghee, saffron and gold coins. The next Mahamasthakabhisheka will be held in 2005 A.D. Shraavanabelagola is 150 kms. From Bangalore.
2. Belur; The quaint hamlet-38 kms. From Hassan is located on the banks of river Yagachi. It was once the capital of the Hoysala Empire, total made unforgettable for its exquisite temples. The Chennakeshava temple is one of the finest examples of Hoysala architecture. It took 103 years to complete and the reason is evident. The façade of the temple is filled with intricate sculptures and freezes with no portion left blank. Elephants, episodes from the epics, sensuous dancers... they are all there-awe inspiring in their intricate workmanship. Inside are hand lathe turned filigreed pillara.

The Kappe Channigaraya temple and the smaller shrines are well worth a visit.

1. Halebid is 27 kms. North-West of Hassan and 17 kms. East of Belur. The Temples of Halebid – like those of Belur, bear mute testimony to the rich cultural heritage of Karnataka. The Hoysaleshwara temple, dating back to the 12th century is astounding for its wealth of sculptural details. The walls of the temple are covers with an endless variety of Gods and Goddesses, animals, birds and dancing girls. Yet no two facets of the temple are the same. The magnificent temple guarded by the Nandi bull was never completed despite 86 years of labour.
3. The Jain basadis near by are equally rich sculptural detail. Belur and Halebid are 222 and 216 kms. From Bangalore respectively.

Madikeri (Coorg) district

Madikere is 252 kms from Bangalore and 1525 mts. above sea level and is the district head quarters of Kodagu. Dubbed as the Scotland of India, this town has a lot to offer. Misty hills, Lush green forests, acres and acres of tea and coffee plantations and breath taking views are what make Madikeri and unforgettable holiday destination.

1. Madikeri fort: In the Centre of Madikeri this 19th century fort houses a temple, a Chapel, a prison and a small museum. The fort also offers a beautiful view of Madikeri.
2. Raja's seat: According to legend, the kings of Kodagu spent their evenings here. But what is unforgettable about Raja's seat is the spectacular sunset that one can enjoy from here.
3. Abbey Falls: (8 kms.) These falls cascade down in steps to flow as a small river. A great place for picnics.
4. Iruppu Falls: (75 kms.) Is a beautiful picnic spot on the way to Kutta from Gonikoppal.
5. Bhagamandala:(39 kms.) It situated at the confluence of three rivers (the Cauvery, the Kanika the Sujyothi). The temple here has smaller shrines dedicated to various Gods.
6. Talacauvery: (44 kms.) This is a sacred pilgrim Centre among the Kodavas. It is from here that the river Cauvery takes its birth.
7. Nisargadhama: (25 km.) Known for its calm, serene beauty, this place is an ideal picnic spot visited by hundreds of Tourists throughout the year.
8. Harangi Dam: Is a great picnic spot 36 kms. From Madikeri.

Chickmagalur

Nestled in the Bababudan hills Chikamagalur is a calm serene town full of scenic surprises, hills, valleys, streams and snow white coffee blossoms. Situated 251 kms. From Bangalore, Chikamagalur is a trekkers delight with its rugged mountain trails.

1. Bhadra Wildlife sanctuary: (Muthodi) 38 kms. North West, this sanctuary is a must for wild life enthusiasts. Gaur, Chital, Sambar, Elephants and Tiger are some of the wild life found here.

2. Kemmangundi: 55 kms. North of Chickmagalur, this is as scenic hill station, situated on the Bababudan range at a height of 1432 mtr. 8 kms. From Kemmangundi are the Hebbe falls where the water gushes down from a height of 168 stages. The Kalahatti falls are 10 kms, from Kemmangundi. The water here cascades down a height of 122 mtrs. There is also a local temple here constructed in a gap between gaps.
3. Kudremukh: 95 kms. South west of Chikmagalur is the secluded hill station of Kudremukh situated 1894 mtrs. above sea level. The Kudremukh hill overlooks the Arabian sea and are chained to one another with deep valleys and steep precipices. There is rich flora and fauna here, waiting to be discovered, Caves asking to be explored, Ruins and traces of an old civilization inviting a study. L`ovely unspoilt places to camp-can trekker resist Kudremukh? This place is also rich in iron-ore deposits.
4. Amruthapura: About 10 kms. from Tarikere, this little town has an 800 year old temple dedicated to Amrutheshwara.
5. Sringeri: Is a pilgrim Centre, known for its Vidyashankara temple. It has 12 zodiac pillars on each of which the sunrays fall accordingly to the time of the year.

Shimoga

273 kms. North west of Bangalore is Shimoga, once the strong hold of the Keladi Nayakas. Worth seeing here is the fort, the church of the sacred heart of Jesus and the Government museum.

1. Gajanur: Lies 10 kms. South west. The dam here is ideal for picnics. Elephants are trained the Elephant camp here.
2. Tyavarekoppa: 10 kms. North west has a lion and tiger safari.
3. Agumbe: 70 kms. South west, is unforgettable for its glorious sunset.
4. Jog Falls: These magnificent falls are 100 kms. away from Shimoga. The river Sharavathik takes a spectacular leap at a height of 272 ms. In distinct falls.-Raja, Rani, Roarer and Rocket to form the highest water falls in India. The best time to visit these falls are soon after the monsoon during July – August.
5. Kodachadri; 120 kms. from Shimoga, this beautiful hill station is nestled in the western ghats.

6. Ambuthirtha: This town is about 16 kms. North west of Thirthahalli. The river Sharavathi takes its origin here and a Shivalinga is installed at the spot. The Mandagadde and Godavi bird sanctuaries are not to be missed.

Chitradurga

On the highway linking Bangalore to Hospet we come across Chitradurga, quaint town famous for the Kallina Kote, Palaces. This marvel of military architecture made impregnable by the Nayak Palegars has 19 gateways and 38 postern entrances. Amidst thick rocky surroundings inside the hill fort many temples are situated. Ekadantha temple and Chandravalli caves are worth visiting. Other palaces of interest in Chitradurga district are Bhrmahgiri, Vanivilas Sagar a dam, Nyakanahatti, Jogimatti and Jatingareshwara.

Mangalore

357 kms. West of Bangalore is the district headquarters of Dakshina Kannada Mangalore. With a important port this coastal town is a major commercial Centre. Mangalore could be your entry point to beach country with its virgin and unexplored beaches.

Manjunatha temple, St.Allosious chapel, Mangaladevi temple, Tippu's Battery, Jumma Masjid and Ullal beach are the attractions.

1. Pillkula Nisargadhama: At Mudushedde 11 kms. North east of Mangalore is an integrated tourist destination with a variety of attractions.
2. Mudubidri: Mudubidri lies 35 kms. North east and is famous for its 1000 pillared Jain shrine.
3. Katil: Katil is 27 kms. East on the banks of river Nandini. It has a famous temple dedicated to Durgapameshwari.
4. Jamalabad: 40 kms. East. The fort here was built by Tippu sultan and named after his mother Jamal Bi.
5. Dharmastala: 75 kms. east this is a unique example of communal harmony famous for its Manjunatha temple. Every person who comes here irrespective of caste and creed is welcomed and given a free meal.
6. Kukke Subramanya: Snuggled in the heart of rolling hills is the Subramanya temple, which was once the refuge of the Nagas, the cave dwellers. The temple has an idol of Lord Karthikeya worshipped in the form of Cobra.

Udupi

60 kms. North of Mangalore, this town has the famous Krishna temple with the Golden Chariot. It is here that the saint Madhwacharya lived and preached 700 years ago. The famous Masale dosa has its origin here.

1. Malpe: 7 kms. to the West of Udupi, Malpe a very famous fishing Centre and harbor. This beach has a very significant religious value and has Balarama's temple.
2. Udyavara: Situated 5 kms. to the North-east of Udupi Udyavara has historical background. A huge Shiva temple built on a big rock is the main attractions. Kings of Alupa ruled this place. A famous Ayurveda college produces graduates in an ancient discipline.
3. Pajaka: Situated 12 kms. to the South of Udupi is an important religious centre. The founder of Dwaitha principle Sri. Madhwacharya was born here. Goddess Durga temple is found on Kunjamu hills.
4. St. Mary's Island: Situated 5 kms. away from Malpe, a most beautiful and easily reachable island among western coast is St. Mary's island. The natural rocks that are seen here seems to be a perfect sculpture carved by the hands of an expert.
5. Ambalpadi: A place with a history of 500 years, situated 3 kms. to the West of Udupi the temples of Goddess Mahakali and Janardhana Temple are the prime attractions. Shakthi is worshipped here.
6. Venur: 65 kms. from Mangalore is well known for its Bahubali statue.
7. Karkala: Karkala is 52 kms. North east of Mangalore. The 12.8 mtrs. tall monolithic statue of Bahubali and St. Lawrence Church are the main attractions here.

Annexure 25 (B)

Important Tourist Destinations in North Karnataka

The district covering North Karnataka include Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary and Uttara Kannada.

The important tourist destinations in destinations in each district are indicated below:

Bidar District

1. Bidar: Steeped in history, it was once the capital of the Bahamani dynasty. It is a walled city with an imposing fort. Important Sikh pilgrim Centre.
2. Aurad: It has a well known temple of Amareshwara. The Jathra is held for seven days in February-March every year.
3. Basavakalyan: Capital of the Chalukyas. This ancient town was the Centre of wealth and prosperity and an abode of spiritual wisdom. It was home of Veerashaiva saints.
4. Bhalki: It is the headquarters of the taluk. The town has an Eswara Temple known as Bhalkehvara in which there are small shrines dedicated to Basaveshwara.
5. Ghodwadi: Ghodwadi also called Ghodwadi Shareef, about 21 kms. north-west of Humnabad town, has the dargah of a well known Muslim saint named Ismail Khadri in whose honour an urus is held every year in the month of Moharum.
6. Jalasangi: An ancient village with an elaborate architectural temple dedicated to Shiva. The temple belongs to the Chalukya era.
7. Karanja: A dam with picturesque surroundings.
8. Narayanapura: A Shiva temple of the Chalukyan times where annual Jathra is held for two days in July.

Gulbarga District

1. Gulbarga: District Headquarters. Unique synthesis of two cultures. The Fort is majestic with 15 towers and 26 cannons. Also important is Khwaja Bhande Nawaz Tomb. Other sights include a library and some tombs. It is famous for Sharanbasweshwara temple, where Samddhi of saint Sharanbaweshwara and his Guru are located. Once in a year big Jathra is held in Chaitra Masa.

2. Aland: It is a pilgrim Centre for Hindus. Has a samadhi of Sri. Raghava Chaitanya Maharaja Parthapur Guru.
3. Ghanigapur: A pilgrim Centre in Afzalpur taluk, 10 miles south of Ghangapur railway station. It is a frequently visited place by the Hindus of both Karnataka and Maharashtra States. The sacred temple of Shri. Narasimha Saraswathi Datta Maharaj is situated here. Pilgrims visit Ghanigapur throughout the year to worship at the temple and also to take holy bath at the confluence of the river Amerja and Bhima. There are two large Dharmasthala for the use of pilgrims. It is estimated that on an average 200 pilgrims visit this place daily to workship the Dattatreya Paduka. About the month of February, a big Jatra is held at this place at which 60 to 70 thousand pilgrims congregate. For the pilgrims, this place is known as Deval Ghanigapur. There is a sacred Oudambara Vriksha (Banyan tree) near the temple where sages from all over India visit and sit around the tree for meditation.
4. Jevargi: jain pilgrim Centre. Has many Jain Basadis. The town is on the bank of the Bhima river.
5. Gogi: Gogi is about seven miles from Shahapur. It contains a big masjid and several tombs dating back to the Adil Shahi rule.
6. Devapur: Devapur village in Shorapur taluk is believed to be the birth place of the great poet Lakshimisha, the author of the famous Jaimini Bharatha. But some other places in the State also lay claim to this honour
7. Malkhed: It was once the flourishing capital of Rashtrakutas and a famous Jain Centre. It has a large number of Jain sculptures on bronzes.
8. Narayanapura Dam: The river Krishna cascades down here which is known as Jaladurga Falla.
9. Sannathi: Buddhist centre on the banks of the Bhima river.

Belgaum District

1. Belgaum: District Headquarters and a town with a rich past. It was later developed by the British. It has a fort, temples of Chalukyas and others. There is also a tank.
2. Nandagao: It has a Trikutachala temple of later Chalukyan style. The pillars of the Navaranga, the engravings and the geometrical are attractive.
3. Naviluthritha: An enchanting place located amidst panoramic hills. It is a quiet picnic spot. The Renuka Sagar Dam across the river Malaprabha is an added attraction.

4. Godachina Malki Falls: It is a fine picnic spot located in the West of Gokak-Konnur road in a deep green valley.
5. Kudachi: located on the right bank of the river Krishna is a celebrated pilgrim centre due to its darghas. This is the birth place of All-ud-din, the founder of the Bahamani dynasty. The place has six mosques and four prominent darghas. The village proper has recently built Veerbhadra temple and Vithoba mandir. Kudachi is also a pre-historic site.
6. Gokak Falls: Located right on main road is a celebrated tourist centre in the district (6 kms. from Gokak). The river Ghataprabha after a winding course of a long route takes a leap of 52 mtrs., over the and stone cliff amidst a picture square of the rugged valley. Except in width and colour of the water, the general features of the fall, its height, shape and rapidity above are much like those of Niagara. The falls are horse-shoe shaped at the crest, with a flood breadth of 177 mtrs.
7. Saundatti: It is one of the celebrated pilgrim centre and headquarters of the Parsagad taluk. It was a celebrated Jain centre earlier in the Bhaisas and later under the Ratta. To the pilgrims for the Yellamma Hills, this is the nearest major bus stand, the yellamma temple being five kms., from here. The place has two mosques, Jamma Masjid (Kaulipet) and a recent mosque on the main Road.
8. Other places:
 - Sogal: Pilgrim and picnic centre
 - Yougikolla: Pilgrim centre.
 - Kittur: A historic place, has a fort.
 - Bailahongal: Samadhi of Kittur Rani Chennamma.

Bijapur District

1. Bijapur: Well known for its Gol Gumbuz, the second largest dome in the world. Also known for the Tomb of Ibrahim Adil Shah, Jumma Masjid and Malik-e-Maidan.
2. ILKAL A famous centre of weaving and dyeing. The place is famous for sarees.
3. Mahakoota: It is a site of famous temples. Nandhikeshwara is one of the famous temples.

Bagalkot District

1. Pattadakal: A World Heritage Centre. It houses ten major temples of the Chalukayan era. The largest temple is that of Viurpaksha. Full of exquisite stone carvings, there is a majestic Nandi, 2.6 mtrs. high. Also worth seeing are the Mallikarjuna and Papanatha temple and Jain temple.
2. Aihole: Called as the “Cradle of Indian Architecture”, there are over 100 temples including the Ladkhan Temple, the oldest one. There are also Buddhist and Jain temples.
3. Badami: Capital of the early Chalukyans. There are lot of cave temples in one of the Nataraja with 18 arms.
4. Kudalsangama: A famous pilgrim centre associate with poet Basaveshwara, the 12th century social and religious reformer.
5. Almatti Dam: A major dam that has been constructed across the river Krishna.

Raichur District

1. Raichur District Headquarters and a commercial centre. Has an imposing fort.
2. Hatti. Gold Mines are located here.
3. Maski: Old inscription of Ashokan era.
4. Jaladurga: It is an island fort situated picturesquely on the banks of the Krishna river. It was an important Fort of the Adil Shahs of Bijapur. It is the 13 kms., from Lingasagur.

Koppal District

1. Anegundi: Remains of some magnificent buildings of Vijayanagar dynasty are still traceable at this place. The Pampa Sarovara, Kamal Mahal and Nava Brindavana which has Samadhis of some saints are situated near Anegundi.
2. Kanakagiri: The Kanakachappa temple is a fine specimen of South Indian architecture of the Vijayanagar times. Kanakagiri temples are a delightful feast for the tourists. It is situated on Gangavathi-lingasugur road about 20 kms., from Gangavathi.
3. Korva: (Narada Gadde): It is beautiful island surrounded by the Krishna river. It is also known as Naradagadde where sage Narada is said to have performed penance.

4. Mukkunda: Situated on the bank of river Tungabhadra. There is a large fort on the top of the hill and a old temple of Murari. An island on the river has the Darga of Gaddi Khader Wali. It is 32 kms from Sindhanur.

Dharwad District

1. Dharwad: District Headquarters and a growing commercial centre. Hubli and Dharwad are twin cities.
2. Annegiri: Famous for Amritheshwara temple which has 76 pillars and mythological figures on the walls. It has 28 ancient inscriptions.
3. Bankapura: It has a ruined fort and other ancient temples.
4. Nargund: Known for its old fort which is considered as one of the strongest in Bombay-Karnataka region. It has a large temple of Shankara Linga.

Gadag District

1. Gadag: There are three important Temples in Gadag. The Veerananarayana temple is one among them. It is a commercial centre too.
2. Lakkundi: Examples of Chalukyan architecture.

Bellary District

1. Bellary: District Headquarters and industrial town.
2. Ambali: Known for the black stone Chalukyan Temple dedicated to Kalleswari. It is 10 kms, North-West of Kottur.
3. Hampi: The erstwhile capital of the Vijayanagar Kingdom. The Virupaksha Temple is still used for workship. The Stone Chariot, Ugra Narasimha, King's Balance, Lotus Mahal, Elephant Stables are worth seeing. This is a World Heritage Site.
4. Mailara : It is well known for the temple dedicated to Shiva in the form of Mailara or Mailari. The annual festival of Mailara is very famous.
5. Ramanadurga or Ramgad: It is a hill station amidst a group of granite hills. There is a temple dedicated to Ramadeva.
6. Tunga Bhadra Dam: Near Hospet is also an interesting site. A huge dam is built on the river Tubga and Bhadra. A well laid out garden.

Uttara Kannda district

Uttara Kannada is a coastal district of Karnataka. The major places of tourist interest are as follows:

1. Karwar: It is the District Headquarters. Wave-swept slivery beaches. It was once a centre for foreign trade. Sadhashivgad hill Fort, Durga Temple, Octagonal Church, Venkataraman Temple are worth seeing. Also Karwar has a modern Port naval based Seabird.
2. Dandeli: natural habitat for wildlife. Also found is a beautiful cave temple with stalactites and stalagmites. A paper mill is located here. Good jungle camp.
3. Mailemane Falls: The Mailemane streams fall from a height of 230 mts. Forming a thick white cascade.
4. Shlivaganga Falls: A small river Sonda falls into a deep valley from a height of 74 mts.
5. Gokarna: At the confluence of two rivers in the famous Atmalinga Temple. A famous centre for Sanskrit learning. It is also famous for beaches. The Om beach which is located in Gokarna is attracting foreign tourists.
6. Yana: The place has been mentioned in Kaushika Ramayana. Standing at the foot of the hill one can see two beautiful steep hillocks of height of 90 metres and 120 metres which are locally called Mohini Shikara and the Baireshwara Shikara. The rocks are solid composition of black crystalline limestone whose sides have roughened due to the constant exposure to air. The annual Jathra is held here during Shivaratri which attracts more than 10,000 people.

Haveri District

It is newly formed district. This place is an important center of the Kalamukha sect. As many as 32 inscriptions were found here. At present, it is a renowned centre of cardamom trade.

1. Byadagi: Inscriptions about the Rashtrakuta King Krishna II (901 A.D.) were found here. This place is well known for the special variety of chillies found here known as Byadagi chillies.
2. Ranebennur: This place is famous for the Siddheshwara temple found here. The tomb of a Muslim Saint, Hazrat Jamal Shah (1785) is also famous. Annual prayers are held in his honour.
3. Savanur: This town was developed by Abdul Rautkhan. The Nawab's palace, ruins of the fort, mosques are well worth a visit. The annual fair of Sathyabodhaswami Mutt attracts a huge crowd.