



Karnataka & Bengaluru

Includes →

Bengaluru (Bangalore)	172
Mysuru (Mysore)	186
Nagarhole National Park & Around	199
Kodagu (Coorg) Region	199
Mangaluru (Mangalore)	204
Gokarna	208
Hampi	212
Badami	220
Bijapur (Vijapura)	222

Best Places to Eat

- Karavalli (p180)
- Koshy's Bar & Restaurant (p180)
- Sapphire (p194)
- Lalith Bar & Restaurant (p206)

Best Places to Stay

- Casa Piccola Cottage (p178)
- Green Hotel (p192)
- Golden Mist (p201)
- Dhole's Den (p198)
- Waterwoods Lodge (p199)

Why Go?

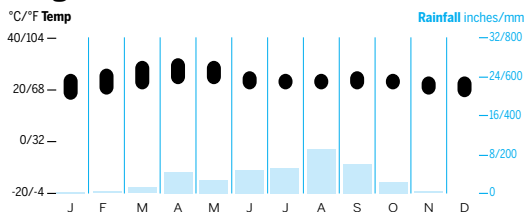
Blessed with a a diverse makeup conforming to all the romance of quintessential India, Karnataka delivers with its winning blend of palaces, tiger reserves, megacities, ancient ruins, beaches and legendary hang-outs.

At its nerve centre is the silicon-capital Bengaluru (Bangalore), overfed with the good life. Scattered around the epicurean city are rolling hills dotted with spice and coffee plantations, the regal splendour of Mysuru (Mysore), and jungles teeming with monkeys, tigers and Asia's biggest population of elephants.

If that all sounds too mainstream, head to the countercultural enclave of tranquil Hampi with hammocks, psychedelic sunsets and boulder-strewn ruins. Or the blissful beaches of Gokarna, a beach haven minus the doof doof. Otherwise leave the tourist trail behind entirely, and take a journey to the stunning Islamic ruins of northern Karnataka.

When to Go

Bengaluru



Mar–May The best season to watch tigers and elephants in Karnataka's pristine national parks.

Oct Mysuru's Dussehra (Dasara) carnival brings night-long celebrations and a jumbo parade.

Dec & Jan The coolest time to explore the northern districts' forts, palaces, caves and temples.



Karnataka & Bengaluru Highlights

- 1 Marvelling at the gravity-defying boulders, and wandering among the melancholic ruins of **Hampi** (p212)
- 2 Hitting **Gokarna** (p209) for its beautiful beaches and legendary chilled-out atmosphere minus the resorts
- 3 Savouring aromatic coffee while recharging your soul in the cool highlands of the **Kodagu Region** (p199)
- 4 Drinking yourself under the table, or tucking into top-notch global cuisine in **Bengaluru** (p179)
- 5 Being bowled over by the grandiose **royal palace** (p187) in Mysuru
- 6 Spying on lazy tuskers in the forests bordering serene Kabini Lake at **Nagarhole National Park** (p199)
- 7 Strolling in the peaceful manicured grounds of exquisite 16th-century Islamic monuments in **Bijapur** (p222)