



Karnataka & Bengaluru

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Best Places to Eat

- Karavalli (p177)
- Mavalli Tiffin Rooms (p177)
- Vinayaka Mylari (p191)
- Lalith Bar & Restaurant (p203)
- Fatty Bao (p177)

Best Places to Sleep

- Uramma Cottage (p217)
- Electric Cats B&B (p175)
- Dhole's Den (p195)
- Honey Valley Estate (p199)

Why Go?

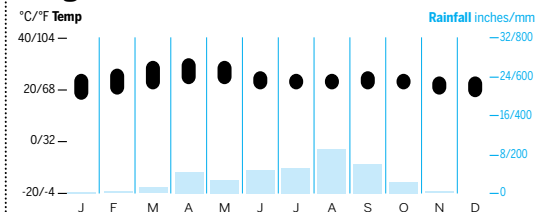
A stunning introduction to southern India, Karnataka is a prosperous, compelling state loaded with a winning blend of urban cool, glittering palaces, national parks, ancient ruins, beaches, yoga centres and legendary hang-outs.

At its nerve centre is the capital Bengaluru (Bangalore), a progressive city famous for its craft beer and restaurant scene. Heading out of town you'll encounter the evergreen rolling hills of Kodagu, 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 counter-cultural enclave of tranquil Hampi with hammocks, psychedelic sunsets and boulder-strewn ruins. Or the blissful, virtually untouched coastline around Gokarna, blessed with beautiful coves and empty sands. Or leave the tourist trail behind entirely, and take a journey to the evocative 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 Hampi and the northern forts, palaces, caves and temples.

Karnataka & Bengaluru Highlights

- 1 Hampi** (p210)
Soaking up the surreal landscapes, sociable travellers' scene and epic ruins in this magical, evocative destination.
- 2 Gokarna** (p207)
Searching for the perfect cove beach in this low-key coastal hideaway, then touring its atmospheric temples.
- 3 Bengaluru** (p169)
Sampling craft beers, dining out in style and enjoying the museums and sights of this cosmopolitan city.
- 4 Kodagu** (p197)
Savouring aromatic coffee and hiking trails in these temperate, evergreen highlands.
- 5 Mysuru Palace** (p184)
Getting bowled over by one of India's most grandiose structures and touring its glittering halls.
- 6 Nagarhole National Park** (p196)
Spying on lazy tuskers in the forests bordering serene Kabini Lake.
- 7 Vijapura** (p221)
Strolling in the peaceful manicured grounds of exquisite 16th-century Islamic monuments.

