

Tour code 97 SI -B

**SOUTH KARNATAKA PILGRIM TOUR
PACKAGE (2011)**

**Mangalore – Hassan – Belur – Halebid – Sringeri -
Shimoga, Hospet – Hampi – Gokarnam – Murudeshwara
– Kollur - Udupi, Mangalore.**

Tour Duration (No. of days)	Day of departure	Tour cost per Pax , with food.
08 days	ONCE IN THREE MONTHS	Rs. 15,000/=

Details of the programme

DAY – 1	Start Journey from Mangalore at 8 a.m. to Hassan. Belur and Halibed sightseeing. Night rest at Belur/Helibed.
DAY - 2	Leave for Sringeri. Sringeri Local sight seeing and . Shimoga sight seeing. Night stay at Shimoga.
DAY - 3	Journey to Hospet via Harihar. Night rest at Hospet
DAY – 4	Local sight seeing at Hospet. Night rest at Hospet.
DAY - 5	Leave for Gokarnam . Night rest at Gokarnam.
DAY – 6	Local sight seeing at Gokarnam and Murudeshwar. Night rest at Murudeshwar.
DAY - 7	Journey to Kollur Mookambika. Night rest at Kollur.
DAY – 8	Journey to Udupi. Visit Udupi Srikrishna Temple, Chandra Mouleswaram Temple, Anandeswara Temple. Depart back to Mangalore. Tour ends.

NOTES:

Passengers should report before 8 a.m. on the starting date of the journey at Mangalore where hotel is booked in advance.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Food: Vegetarian food will be provided by the company three times a day.

Transport : 2 x 2 push back A/C coach will be available as per the tour schedule.

Tour cost per Tourist

A/C Bus + A/C Accommodation	Rs. 15,000/=
2 X 2 Push Back Seat , 35 pax.	Per person

Booking and payment: Booking should be done before 30 days of the date of starting date of the tour. An advance of Rs.3,000/- should be remitted while booking. The balance amount should be remitted 5 days before the beginning date of the tour.

Mode of Payment: Remittances should be made by way of Demand draft drawn on any Bank favouring VIVEKANANDA TRAVELS (P) LTD. payable at Calicut. The Draft should be sent to our Head Office at Calicut or to our nearest branch. Remittance could also made by depositing the moneys into our Bank account, details of which are given below:

Name of the Bank	: Canara Bank, Calicut
Account No.	: 2772201000262
Code	: CNRB0002772

Or

Name of the Bank : Axis Bank Ltd., Calicut
Account No. : 910020036088153
Code : UTIB0000136

For any clarification or further information, tourists are welcome to please get in touch with the company at the following contact details:

Vivekananda Travels (P) Ltd.

**Srkanteswara Complex,
S. K. Temple Road,
Calicut – 4**

Phones; 0495-272 7100; 272 7800

**E-mail: info@vivekanandatravelspltd.com
mangalore@vivekanandatravelspltd.com**

Web: www.vivekanandatravelspltd.com

DT/pjnair/southkarnataka pilgrim tour package

KNOW IN ADVANCE ABOUT THE SIGHT SEEING PLACES

HASSAN, BELUR & HALEBID

Hassan is 194 kms from Bangalore. It is located on the banks of the river Yagachi and is a busy little town. It provides an easy based to explore Belur(38 kms, Halebid (33 kms) and Sravanbelgola (48 km).

The District Musueum of Hassan has a collection of sculpture, paintings, weapons, coins and inscriptions. Hassan was earlier a part of the Hoysala empire.

Within the city visit the [Hasanamba Temple](#), where the enshrined Goddess is represented by an anthill, and is open to visitors only for a week every year in the month of October. The temple opening is inaugurated by a big fair (Jatra). The other temple the [Siddeshvara temple](#), built by Venkatappa Nayaka, one of the Nayaka rulers.

Hassan is a stopover to visit the neighbouring places of Belur, Halebid and Shraavanbelgola, rich in temple architectural history. Belur is a picturesque village located on the riverbanks of Yagchi. The **Chennakeshava Temple**, which took 103 years to finish. The architectural magnificence is one of the finest examples of Hoysala workmanship. The other temple to visit is the [Veeranarayana Temple](#).

Halebid, meaning ruined city, is home to the ruins of **Dwarasamudra**, the capital of Hoysala, and 27km northwest of Hassan. Like Belur, the temples at Halebid reveal their rich cultural heritage. The most famous, 12th century temple, is the **Hoysaleswara Temple**, which despite taking 86 years to be built could never be completed. No two parts of the temple are alike. On the side of the temple are two monolithic statues of **Nandi Bull**.

Shraavanabelagola, an important Jain center of pilgrimage, located 51km on Hassan's southeast, houses the world's tallest monolithic statue of Lord Bahubali, standing 27mts high and is 1000 years old. Once in 12 years, this statue gets bathed with milk, ghee, curd, gold coins and saffron, in the presence of thousands of devotees who flock here to perform this ceremony called **Mahamastakabhisheka**.

Gorur Dam, 12km from Hassan, the **Sakaleswara Temple** and the fort at **Manjarabad** are the other interesting places around Hassan.

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About 35 km from Belur is Angadi which is said to be the birth place of the Hoysala empire where there are ruins of five temples including two Jain basadis. About 20 kms from Belur, the place called Doddagadavahalli, which is home to the Mahalakshmi temple complex housing four shrines. Apart from the main Mahalakshmi temple, the other shrines are dedicated to Mahavishnu, Mahakali and Bhuthanatha in the shape of a linga.

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 courtisans. 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 Vaishnaism 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 ran-sacked and plundered repeatedly rendering it in ruins. Hence its name Haledid, meaning " City in Ruins".

SHRINGERI

Sringeri is one of the most revered holy towns in South India. It is located on the banks to Tunga River. It has got its name from the epic character Rishyasringa who figures in Ramayana.

Shringeri is a bustling city with the presence of world renowned Sri Sarada Samasthanam (Sri Shringery Sharada Peetham) established in 7th century by Saint Sankaracharya Adi Sankaracharya, the great exponent of Advaita Vedanta philosophy, had established his first monastery in Sringeri. It is the first Mutt out of the original four Sankara Ashrams in India.

Sringer houses many other temples including 14th century Vidyashankara temple. The temple architectural style is a specimen of the Vijayanagar style of architectural brilliance.

There are many other attractions around Sringeri. **Agumbe** (a spectacular sunset point), Jog Falls (one of the highest water falls in

India), Kudremukh (a hill station) and Sringagiri hills (the birth place of Sage Rishyasringa) are a few of them at drive distances from Shringeri.

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Shimoga

Shimoga is the District Headquarters of the District having the same name. It is 274 kms from Bangalore. The word Shimoga means the “face of Lord Shiva and is known as the “bread basket” of Karnataka. The region is very beautiful and is a tourist attraction because of its unspoiled nature and its charm. Some of the tourist locations are given below:

Ballegavi - This place is also known as Dakshina Medara. The place was the capital of Bajawasi rulers in the 12th century. The place is the abode of several eminent Veershaiva saints like Allama Prabhu, Akka-Mahadevi, Animishayya and Ekantada Ramayya, etc. Many prominent temples are there in Ballegavi. The Kedareshwar temple is a fine example of Chalukyan temple architecture.

Keladi - The first capital of Keladi Nayakas, the Keladi village is well known for a group of temples that exhibit elements of Kadamba, Hoysala and Dravida style of temple architecture. The Rameshwara and Veerbhadreshwara temples have a mixed pattern of Hoysala and Dravidian style while the Parvati temple is relatively small. The Keladi museum preserves a collection of copper inscriptions, palm leaves and coins from Nayakas period.

Tyarekoppa Lion Safari - Started in 1988, this Safari is spread over an area of 200 hecatres. When Inside, one can get very close to the cats roaming around fearlessly in the forest. r/egular recreation and sight seeing outings are organized.

Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary - This Bird sanctuary is an ideal place for the migrating Birds from various regions. Surrounded by lush green forest a variety of birds from all over the world flock this island sanctuary during the mating season.

Shivappanaika Palace Musuem - is a must see. This beautiful Palace is made entirely of rosewood and is an architectural marvel. It has an amazing collection of antiquities.

Sacred Heart Church - located in the City is the second largest Church in India with a capacity for 5000 persons.,

Gajanur - is 10 km. from Shimoga and is popular for the dam across the river Tunga and has also an elephant training camp.

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HOSPET = HAMPI

Hampi is a world heritage location and erstwhile capital of the Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar. The place is a living testimony of a bygone era of greatness. The travelers from Europe who visited the place at the height of glory of Vijayanagar Empire, wrote that the city was as large and as beautiful like Rome. Most of the tourist centres of Hampi can be divided under two broad regions, the Hampi Bazar and the Royal centre.

Chitra Durga Fort : The fort is situated around 290 kms south of Hospet on the Bangalore Hospet road. Also known as the Fort of Seven Rounds, it was built in the 17th century by the Nayak Poligars, the wealthy semi independent landlords who fled south after the collapse of the Vijayanagar Empire in 1565. Haider Ali later crush the Poligars and captured the fort. He replaced the mud fort with stone and later his son, Tipu Sultant built a palace, granaries, oil pits and a mosque in it.

Virupaksha Temple – The temple is dedicated to Virupaksha, a form of Lord Vishnu. The temple has the shrines of Lord Shiva and Goddesses Pampa and Bhuvanewari. Legends has it that parts of the temple dates back to 11th and 12th centuries. It is amazing to see that when a ray of light from the east passing through a hole near the sanctum sanctorum, the shadow formed on the wall looks like a miniature shadow of the temple tower.

Ugra Narasimha – This 6.7 meters tall temple, a form of Lord Vishnu with head of a lion and body of a man, stands atop the Hemkuta Hills. The idol is shown seated under the canopy of a seven hooded snake. This idol was carved out of a single boulder and is stated to be erected in 1528 A.D. during the reign of Krishnadevaraya.

Vithala Temple – This is a World Heritage monument and has beautiful sculptural work. It features 56 Musical Pillars, which reverberate when tapped. In the temple courtyard an ornate chariot with an image of Garuda stands majestically and 9 meter tall statue of Lord Ganesh along with recently excavated “Nobleman’s Palace”

Shivalinga : Next to the statue of Narasimha is the 3 meter igh Shivalanga that stands permanently in water coming through an ancient channel.

Lotus Mahal: This palace is a delightful blend of Hindu and Muslim style of architecture and features a two storied elegant pavilion situated in the ladies's section.

Queen's Bath: A 15 meter square structure, Queen's bath is 1.8 m deep, has stark exteriors and highly ornate interiors. It has delicate and elegantly ornamented arched corridors and projection balconimes.

Singaradu Hebbegilu: Behind the legendary elephant stables is one of the oldest gateways of the erstwhile capital known as "Singara Hebbagilu" (the beautiful door) which was the mina entrance to the city.

Hazara Rama Temple: This 15th century temple has finely carved basalt pillars in the hall depicting incarnations of Lord Vishnu, while the sculptures on the exteriors of the hall depict main events from Ramayana.

Achuta Raya Temple: This temple is also known as Tirvengalanatha temple. It was built in the time of Achuta Deva Raya. Though now in ruins, the temple's sculptures on the columns inside the open halls near the main gagteway are worth seeing.

Royal Residence : West of the Hazara Rama templ,e the Royal residence has been unearthed. Not much can be seen of the original residence, which displayed the typical architectural style. Some stone basements, walls and plaster floors are all that remain today.

GOKARNAM

Gokarnam is a village located in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka State of the Indian Union It is an Hindu pilgrimage centre as also a tourist destination. Gokarnam is a temple town and also a holiday destination. The Temple is many centuries old. The main deity at the Temple is Lord Mahabhaleswara, a different form of Lord Shiva. A number of beaches lines along the costaline and these serve as major attractions for tourists coming from various parts of the country.

Gpkarna means Cow's ear. It is believe that Lord Shiva emerged from the ear of a cow. The place is located at the ear shaped confluence of the two

rivers Gangavali and Aghanashini. Purana indicates that the State of Kerala was reclaimed from the sea by the Warrior Sage Parashurama in
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his wanderings during which he killed Kshatriyas 21 times and threw his Axe, which was used for these killings, into the sea to ward off the erosion of land stretching from Gokarna to the southernmost tip of the country.

Gokarna is about 453 kms. from Bangalore, 240 kms. North of Mangalore and about 50 kms. From Karwar. It is between the Gangavali and Agnashin rivers and situated along the Karwar coast.

Murudeshwar Temple

Murdeswar Temple guarded by concrete structures of two elephants is one of the main attractions in Murdeswar town. The temple, with the central deity as a Linga, is believed to have formed when Ravana flung the cloth, covering the Atmatlinga at Gokarna, which landed on the mount **Kanduka Parvata**. The Temple in its original form has many striking carvings dating back to centuries. This ancient temple, with Chalukya and Kadamba sculptures in the Dravidian style showing medieval grace and charm, overlooks the Arabian Sea.

A Nataraja statue made of bell metal, a temple of "Jattiga", the guarding deity, are seen located outside the temple. The temple attracts lot of devotees and is a perfect scenic spot with a roaring Arabian sea, towering hills and the greenish coconut trees and other greenery around.

Murdeswar Beach is a secluded beach and is a popular place for the visitors. A giant Shiva statue is the major attraction. Visitors like the fresh air and quietness of the spot and hence love to spend a quiet evening here. Visitors also can have a great view of the sunset. The beach is ideal for swimming.

Kollur Mookambika Temple

The deity of the Mookambika Temple is Kollur Devi Parvathi who came to be known as Mookambikai, as She had once killed a ferocious demon called Kaumasura (also known as Mookasura) as he was unleashing a reign of terror upon the Gods in heaven because of special powers given to him by Lord Shiva. The place where the demon was killed is known as Marana Katte. The Kollur Devi showers her blessings upon all who worship her.

She poses with all her radiance having a Shank (conch shell) and Chakra (wheel) in the other hand sitting in a Padmasana posture.

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Suyambulingam at Mookambika Temple

Suyambulingam is said to have come into being when Parameshwara drew a charka (wheel) with his toe. This charka is believed to be the **Udbhava Linga** drawing its strength from all divine beings. It is also sacred since Kollur Devi is merged with the Suyambalinga. The Devi is supposed to have formed part of the Lingam along with Goddesses Lakshmi and Saraswathi on one side and Lords Brahma, Vishnu and Parameswara on the other. On the right side of Suyambulinga, there is also a carved image of Shiva said to be injured during a clash with Arjuna.

Adi Shankaracharya is said to be instrumental in Devi Mookmbikataking Kollur as her abode. It is at this place, which is near the Souparnika river, that Adi Shankaracharya stopped to fix the wheel and above it placed the Devi, the central idol being the Linga.

Sanctum of Kollur Sri Mookambika Temple

It is believe that the temple is 1200 years old. Records show that King Halugallu Veera Sangayya laid the foundation stone for the inside structure under instructions from Rani Chennamaji. The temple comprises

the Sanctum Sactorum, a hall and Lakshmi Mandaapam, which has four pillars and is about 135 ft. long. There is a tall Deepasthambam with its base like a tortoise's head. It has 21 beautiful concentric circles and when all lamps are lit it appears similar to that of Makara Jyothi when viewed from a distance.

There is a serpent's image which is worshipped by devotees for warding off sarpadosha and other doshas. It is believed that when touched, the devotees are blessed with good fortune. While circumambulating idols of various Gods and Goddesses could be seen.

Rituals at the temple

Poojas are perfoemd in the morning, afternoon, evening and at night. Among the rituals the NAVARATRI and Brahmotsara are the important ant ones. Navaratri is also called Sharananavaratri, which falls during October every year. The Goddess is said to grant boons to many an ardent devotee during these days.

River Souparnika's origin

The source of this river is Kodachadri Hills. According to legends a Garuda named Suparna performed penance on the bank of this river to save his mother from continuous misfortunes. Pleased with Suparna, the Devi manifested before him and blessed him, when Suparna requested her to change the name of the river in his name. Hence the river came to be known as Souparnika. This river is considered to be not only holy but rich in valuable herbs as the river passes through many mountains and plains.

UDUPI

Udupi is a land of celestial beauty and lies between the abundant mountains of the western ghats on the west and Arabian sea on the east. It is the birth place of Sri Madhvacharya, who set up Astha Math, which is one of the main pilgrimage destination of Karnataka State.

Udupi is better known as the seat of Madhwa rebirth which was founded by the saint Madhavcharya. The outcome of this foundation is Ashtamathas which is situated in the famous Car Street which surrounds the Sri Krishna Temple.

Spirii worship known as Bhuta kola and Snake worship known as Nagaradhane are the most important cultural traditions in Udupi. Apart from this Aati Kalanja, Karangolu and other festivals like Diwali and Christmas are also celebrated in Udupi,