

Religion & Beliefs, History & Context

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS



VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE
SPRAWLING TEMPLE
IN HAMPI BAZAAR



MUSICAL PILLARS
AT THE VIJAYA VITTALA
TEMPLE



SUNSET AT HAMPI,
BELIEVE US, THEY'RE
SPECIAL

Imperial Grandeur of Hampi - Vijayanagara, the City of Victory



Travel to Hampi, the capital of one of the most glorious empires of India, the Vijayanagara empire, back in the sixteenth century. Hampi is supposed to be Kishkindha, the Vanara kingdom from Ramayana. Today, the temple town is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Hampi was witness to the glory days of the emperors of Vijayanagara, like Krishnadevaraya. It was also home to the witty Tenali Rama, who graced Krishnadevaraya's court. The town was renowned for its riches as well as the rich culture and played an important role in the history of Southern India for over two centuries. The place fell into despair after the fall of the Vijayanagara empire at the hands of Deccan sultanates in 1565. Today, Hampi is made up

Hampi - The Art, History & Heritage of the Glorious Vijayanagara Empire and the stories of Kishkindha from Ramayana

of the ruins from that glorious past. In terms of architecture, it is hard to top the splendor of rock-cut architecture of Hampi.

This tour will be led by not one but two experts - **Dr. Raghavendra Rao H. Kulkarni & Madhusudhanan Kalaichelvan**. Dr. Kulkarni is a Professor of Art History, College of Fine Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath and a well-known expert of art history. He has to his credit multiple publications/ books and research papers on related topics. Madhusudhanan Kalaichelvan, is one of the most well informed and scholarly subject matter experts. An architect, conservationist, painter, epigraphist, he has been conducting guided heritage tours through Road Access to Temples Heritage And Monuments (RATHAM).

Day 1 - Departure & Introduction

We leave Bengaluru early morning and take the highway going north. We will make a stop or two on the way for breakfast, restrooms, some coffee/tea, lunch and reach Hospet in the afternoon. Hospet is the closest town/city to Hampi and will serve as the base for our trip. When we reach Hospet, we will first check-in to our hotel, freshen up and have a short rest after the long journey.

Our experts, Dr Raghavendra Kulkarni & Madhusudhanan Kalaichelvan will then hold forth a talk / discussion to introduce the Vijayanagara empire, its glory, history & heritage. With this we hope to whet your appetite not just for the dinner that day but for the couple of days in Hampi that lie ahead of you.

Meals for the day: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. *Stay:* Hospet.

Day 2 – Let Hampi Amaze You

After an early breakfast, we leave for Hampi we will make the short trip from Hospet to Hampi and meet our local guide for Hampi. As we hear the many stories of Hampi from our expert and guide, we will visit the amazing sights that Hampi offers. Over the day, we will visit, among others, the magnificent statue of *Ugra Narasimha*, the *Badavi Linga*, the *Krishna Temple & Bazaar*, the two different statues of Lord Ganesha - *Kadlekalu Ganesha & Sasivekalu Ganesha* on Hemakuta hill, the splendid 'living' temple in Hampi - *Virupaksha Temple, Mahanavami Dibba, Pushkarani* (stepwell) and *Aqueduct, Pattabhirama Temple* and the *Hampi Museum* maintained by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). We will return to the hotel in Hospet to retire for the day.

Spectacular Sights from Hampi



The Lotus Mahal, the magical landscape around the banks of the river Tungabhadra, the Elephant stables. Some more sights that will leave you spellbound.

Meals for the day: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. *Stay:* Hospet

Tip: Ensure you're prepared for walking around at the various temples we will visit. Weather is typically warm with a sharp sun, even in winter.

Day 3 – Experience the Glory

After an early breakfast, we check-out from the hotel and leave for Hampi such that we are one of the first to enter the *Vijaya Vittala* temple complex before the crowds come in. We will need the time and space to enjoy the famous Stone Chariot, the musical pillars and dance halls of Vijaya Vittala. After Vijaya Vittala, we will go see the *Kings Balance* and then take a walk along the *Tungabhadra* river banks from Vijaya Vittala to Virupaksha Temple. This walk will give us a feel of the rocky terrain (Kishkindha of Ramayana). During the walk we will see the *Purandaradasa Temple*, *Sugreeva Cave*, *Narasimha Temple* opposite Sugreeva Cave (with stories of Ramayana). Those willing for a little adventure can jump over a few rocks on the bank to see the *Kotilingam* - 108 Shivalingas carved on a rock. At the end of the walk we will see the monolithic bull, *Yeduru Basavanna* opposite Virupaksha temple at the other end of Virupaksha Bazaar. We will also see the royal side of Hampi by visiting *Zenana Enclosure*, *Lotus Mahal*, *Queen's Bath*, *Hazara Rama Temple*, *Elephant stables*. We will also visit the recently discovered underground Shiva temple, *Prasanna Virupaksha Temple*.

We will end our tour of Hampi by watching one of the sunsets that Hampi is so famous for. After dinner, we will start on our return journey to Bengaluru such that we reach Bengaluru early in the morning the next day.

Meals for the day: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Tip: Like the previous day, ensure you're prepared for walking around.

Logistics



Duration: 3 Days, 3 Nights

Departure from: Bengaluru

Exact Departure location:
Cubbon Park Metro Station

Departure time: 0600 hrs

Drop location: Bengaluru.
Cubbon Park Metro Station

Estimated Drop time:
Between 0600 and 0800 hrs

Inclusions & Exclusions	Payment & Cancellation Policy	Things to Note
<p>Inclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport from and to the departure point• Stay at a three-star hotel or resort on twin-sharing basis• Vegetarian meals on every day as mentioned in itinerary. Breakfast would typically be at the hotel of stay and lunch/dinner at a restaurant/hotel chosen by the tour management.• Entry fees for the monuments/attractions listed in the itinerary (for Indian nationals only; foreign nationals will need to pay separately at some monuments) <p>Exclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photography and videography charges (need to be paid separately)• Additional refreshments like small eats, drinks• Any other aspect not mentioned specifically in inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full payment to be made upfront• A full refund will be made if the tour is cancelled by the organisers.• 50% refund will be made if the customer cancels the booking within 20 days of departure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The tour will involve enough walking outdoors in the day. Please ensure you carry your caps and sunglasses. Keep a bottle of water ready for you always to beat the heat.• Given the walking, we will be doing, ensure you get a good pair of walking shoes that you're comfortable with, for the tour.• We will be visiting some living temples. We should accordingly respect the traditions, beliefs of the people who worship here.• If you need things like medication, keep it handy and ensure you bring it along with yourselves. Do not depend on being able to buy such locally.• If you have any allergies, be sure to check explicitly on the food that will be served to you.• Please ensure you have enough cash for miscellaneous expenses you may incur. Do not depend on ATMs etc. locally to provide for this.• Please note time of departures and be on time.• If you're not from the city where the tour leaves from and finishes at, please plan your travel accordingly.