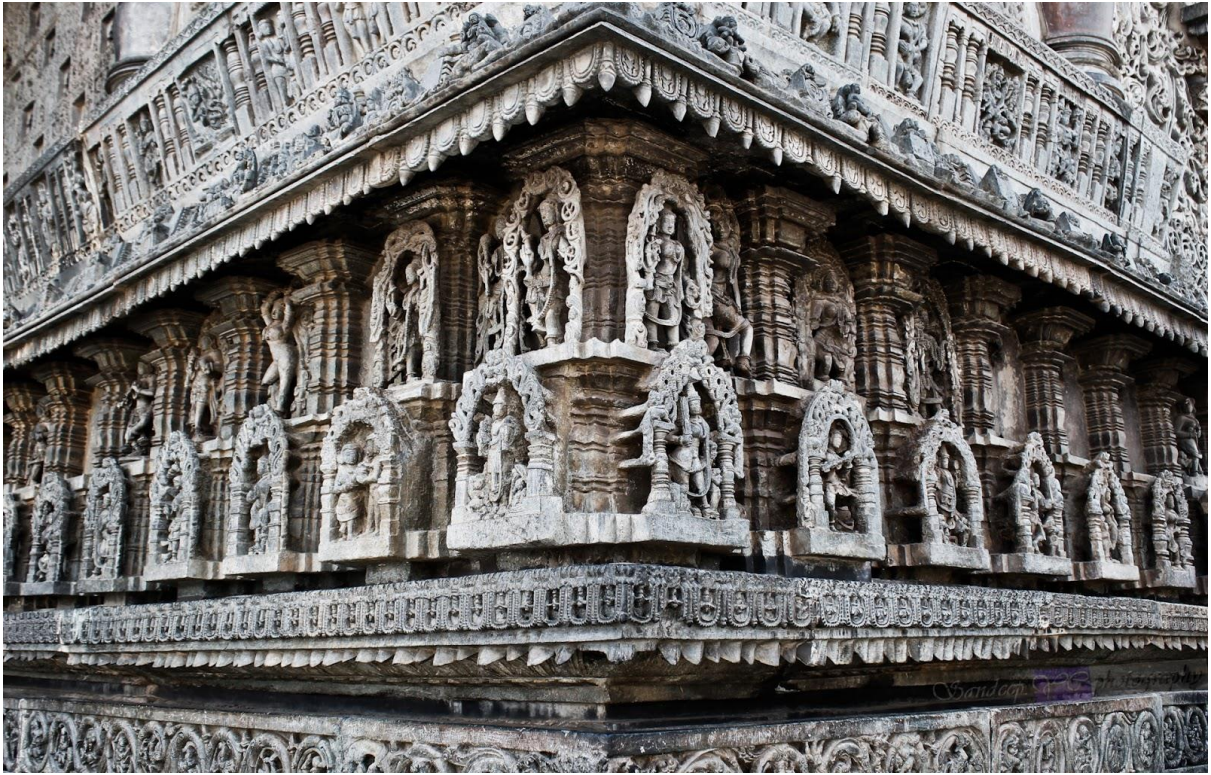


A one-day tour to the Hoysala period temples of Belur (Chennakesava Temple), Halebeedu (Hoysaleswara Temple) and Asia's tallest monolithic stone statue (18m high) of Gomateshwara, at Shravanabelagola which is a prominent Jain pilgrimage centre.

Chennakeshava Temple



The Chennakeshava Temple is a 12th-century Hindu temple. The temple was built over three generations and took 103 years to finish. The temple is remarkable for its architecture, sculptures, reliefs, friezes as well its iconography, inscriptions, and history. The temple artwork depicts scenes of life in the 12th century, dancers and musicians, as well as a pictorial narration of Hindu texts such as the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Puranas through numerous friezes. The Chennakeshava temple is a testimony to the artistic, cultural and theological perspectives in 12th century South India and the Hoysala Empire rule. The Belur temple complex along with the nearby Hindu and Jain Temples at Halebidu have been proposed to be listed under UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Hoysaleswara temple also referred to simply as the Halebidu temple, is a 12th-century Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva. The temple artwork provides a pictorial window into the life and culture in the 12th century South India. About 340 large reliefs depict the Hindu theology and associated legends. The temple along with the nearby Jain Temples and the Kedareshwara temple, along with the Kesava temple in Belur have been proposed to be listed under UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Shravanabelagola



Shravanabelagola has two hills, Chandragiri and Vindiyagiri. Gommateshwara Statue, the 57-foot (17 m) high monolithic statue, is located on the Vindiyagiri Hill. More than 800 inscriptions have been found at Shravanabelagola, dating to various times from 600 AD to 1830 AD. The statue Gommateshwara is dedicated to the Jain God Bahubali. It is one of the most important tirthas (pilgrimage destinations) in Jainism, one that reached a peak in architectural and sculptural activity under the patronage of Western Ganga dynasty of Talakad. It was built around 983 A.D. and is one of the largest free-standing statues in the world. On August 5, 2007, the statue was voted as the first of Seven Wonders of India.

Detailed Itinerary:

06:30 am Departure from Bengaluru

08:30 am Yedyur- Breakfast

09:00 am Departure from Yedyur

10:30 am Arrival to Shravanbelagola- Darshana Of Lord Bahubali (Gomateshwara)

11:30 am Departure from Shravanbelagola

01:30 pm Arrival to Belur- Lunch & Visit Hoysala Style Chennakeshava Temple

03:00 pm Departure from Belur

03:45 pm Arrival to Halebeedu- Visit Hoysala style Hoysaleshwara Temple, Shanthaleshwara Temple

04:45 pm Departure from Halebeedu

10:00 pm Tour ends at Bengaluru

Additional Information:

Distance from Bangalore: 225 kms.

Hike: The hike at Shravanabelagola is easy with clear steps (650 steps). We recommend getting a pair of socks since wearing shoe is not allowed during the hike. Additionally, carrying an umbrella or at least a hat would be beneficial if the weather is not pleasant.

Transportation: Mini Bus / Bus from Bangalore

Food: The bus will stop at clean vegetarian hotels for food breaks