CHAPTER 4

TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY IN MALNAD REGION
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4.1. INTRODUCTION

The Karnataka state Department of Tourism segmented the tourism areas of the state geographically based on the regions like North circuit, South circuit, Coastal circuit, Hill circuit and Wild life circuit, covering the tourist places of particular attractions for each specific region.

Since the current subject is to study the Travel and Tourism industry of Malnad region, for the study purpose, the researcher segmented Karnataka state geographically into north, south east and west. Again the western part of Karnataka state has been segmented into two regions; i.e. (1) Coastal region and (2) Malnad region.

Coastal region is the region which is situated on the Arabian Seacoast.

Malnad region is the region lying alongside of Sahyadri hills (i.e. Western Ghats of south India).

Western Ghats - Introduction

The Western Ghats are a mountain range in India. They run along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau, and separate the plateau from a narrow coastal plain along the Arabian Sea. The range starts south of the Tapti River near the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra, and runs approximately 1600 km through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala ending at Cape Comorin or Kanyakumari, the southern tip of the Indian peninsula. The average elevation is around 900 meters. This range is also known as the Sahyadri mountains in Maharashtra and Karnataka, Nilagiri malai in Tamilnadu, and Sahya Parvatam in Kerala. The Western Ghats of Maharashtra spread from the Satpura Range to the north, and continues south past Goa to Karnataka. The major hill range of the sector is Sayadhri range, which is home to the hill stations of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani. The Biligirirangans southeast of Mysore in Karnataka, meet the Shevaroys (Servarayan range) and Tirumala range farther east, linking the Western
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Ghats to the Eastern Ghats. Smaller ranges, including the Nilgiri Hills with Doddabetta being the highest peak at 2,623 meters (8,606 ft), are in northwestern Tamil Nadu. In the southern part of the range in Kerala, Ana Mudi 2,695 meters (8,842 ft) is the highest peak in the Western Ghats.

The northern portion of the narrow coastal plain between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea is known as the Konkan Coast or simply Konkan, and the southern portion is called Malabar region or the Malabar Coast. The foothill region east of the Ghats in Maharashtra is known as Desh, while the eastern foothills of central Karnataka state is known as the Malnad region. The mountains intercept the rain-bearing westerly monsoon winds, and are consequently an area of high rainfall, particularly on their western side. The dense forests also contribute to the precipitation of the area by acting as a substrate for condensation of moist rising topographic winds from the sea, and releasing much of the moisture back into the air via transpiration, allowing it to later condense and fall again as rain.

About sixty percent of the Western Ghats are located in Karnataka state. North of this region is the Kudremukh national park in the central region of Karnataka’s Western Ghats. Kudremukh National Park has one of the most beautiful landscapes in the Western Ghats, encompassing evergreen, semi-evergreen and grassland shola habitat characteristic of high altitude Western Ghats regions. This park protects a viable population of Lion tailed macaque.

To the west are the forests of Kodagu which hold sizeable populations of the endangered Nilgiri Langur and have numerous bird species. Brahmagiri and Pushpagiri wildlife sanctuaries are important elephant habitat. Talakaveri wildlife sanctuary is a critical watershed and the source of the river Kaveri. This region has dense evergreen and semi-evergreen vegetation, with shola-grassland in areas of higher elevation. The steep terrain of the area has resulted in scenic waterfalls along its many mountain streams.
Most of Karnataka's five hundred species of birds are from the Western Ghats region. The evergreen forests of Nagarhole, deciduous forests of Bandipur National Park and Nugu in Karnataka and adjoining regions of Wayanad and Mudumalai National Park in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu form the single largest protected area in the Western Ghats system comprising some 5500 km². This is also called the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. This is home to the largest population of the Asian Elephant and forms an important "Project Elephant" and "Project Tiger" reserve. Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary and project tiger reserve in Chikmagalur has large populations of Indian muntjac. Sharavathi and Someshvara Wildlife sanctuaries in Shimoga district are the source of the Tungabhadra River system.

Karnataka's ghats are also the home to several scenic waterfalls including the Jog falls and are listed as one among the 1001 natural wonders of the world. With the exception of four wildlife sanctuaries, all the remaining 22 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries of Karnataka are located in the Western Ghats, either at the evergreen higher elevations or deciduous lower elevation regions.
Malnad region - As mentioned earlier Malnad region is the area lying alongside of Sahyadri hills (i.e. Western Ghats of Karnataka state).

For the study purpose the researcher has selected four districts of the region. The selected four districts of Malnad region: Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Hassan, and Kodagu/Coorg Districts, have been discussed in detail in the following section.

4.2 SHIMOGA DISTRICT

Shivamogga (Kannada:ಶಿವಮೋಗ) is alternatively spelt as Shimoga. A major part of this district lies in the Malnad region of the Western Ghats; a region known for its green forests, plentiful rainfall, beautiful waterfalls and also of being the source of many rivers that flow in Karnataka. Shivamogga City is the headquarters of this district.

Origin of name - There are various legends of how the name Shivamogga has evolved. According to one legend, the name Shivamogga is related to the Hindu God Shiva. Shiva-Mukha (Face of Shiva), Shivana-Moogu (Nose of Shiva) or Shivana-Mogge (Flowers to be offered to Shiva) can be the origins of the name "Shivamogga". Another legend indicates that the name Shivamogga is derived from the word Sihi-Moge which means sweet pot. According to this legend, Shivamogga once had the ashram of the sage Durvasa. He used to boil sweet herbs in an earthen pot. Some cowherds, found this pot and after tasting the sweet beverage named this place Sihi-Moge¹.

4.2.1 HISTORY

The history of the Shivamogga region is very much the history of Karnataka itself, considering that all the great kingdoms that came to power here have vied for control of and ruled this land of rich resources. Prior to the beginning of the first millennium, the Shivamogga region formed a part of the Maurya empire. The

¹. The etymology and history of Shivamogga is discussed in the webpage developed by National Informatics Centre. District Administration, Shimoga.
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Shatavahana then came to control in central India and Shivamogga must have formed one of the southern most provinces of the kingdom. After the fall of the Shatavahana empire around 200 C.E., after a brief interlude of confusion that existed, the area came under the control of the Kadambas of Banavasi around 345 C.E. The Kadambas were the earliest kingdom to give administrative status to Kannada language. Banavasi is just across the border from Shivamogga inside Uttara Kannada district. Later the Kadambas became feudatories of the Badami Chalukyas around 540 C.E.

Shivamogga passed into the hands of the Rashtrakutas in the 8th century. It was only under the Kalyani Chalukyas who overthrew the Rashtrakutas did Shivamogga come into prominence in Southern India. Balligavi in Shivamogga district had its greatest and grandest time during there rule. Later in the 12th. century with the weakening of the Kalyani Chalukyas the Hoysalas annexed this area. Shivamogga continued to play an important role in the development of Kannada culture and arts during this time. After the fall of the Hoysalas to the invasion of the Khilji dynasty around 1343 C.E. the entire region came under the Vijayanagar Empire without any bloodshed. The Saluva kings of the Vijayanagar empire find their roots in this region. After the defeat of Vijayanagar empire in 1565 C.E. in the battle of Tallikota, Shivamogga had one more last surprise in that the local Keladi Nayakas who were originally feudatory of the Vijayanagar empire took control, declared sovereignty and ruled mostly as an independent kingdom for about two centuries, often waging wars with the Mysore Kingdom, the Sultans of Bijapur and finally the Maratha. In 1763 they were finally absorbed into the Kingdom of Mysore and remained a part of it till independence from the British.

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4.2.2 GEOGRAPHY

Shivamogga district is a part of the Malnad region of Karnataka and is also known as the "Gateway to Malnad" or *Malenaada Hebbagilu* in Kannada. Located in the central part of Karnataka state, Shivamogga district is landlocked, i.e. neither does it have a coastline, nor does it border any other state of India. It is bounded by Haveri...
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District to the northeast, Davanagere District to the east, Chikmagalur District to the southeast, Udupi District to the southwest, and Uttara Kannada to the northwest.

Shivamogga lies between the latitudes 13°27' and 14°39' N and between the longitudes 74°38' and 76°04' E at a mean altitude of 640 metres above sea level. The peak of the hill Kodachadri at an altitude of 1343 meters above sea level is the highest point in this district. The Western Ghats or Sahyadri range and the numerous rivers that originate there provide Shivamogga with abundant natural beauty. The numerous lakes, ponds and water bodies make the land very suitable for agriculture. Thus Shivamogga is called the rice bowl of Karnataka.

Shivamogga district is the origin of the rivers Kali, Gangavathi, Sharavathi and Tadadi. But the two major rivers that flow through this district are Tunga and Bhadra which meet at a place called Koodli near Shivamogga city and flow together as Tungabhadra. Shivamogga district being a part of the Malnad region receives good monsoon rainfall; from the months of June to October. The average annual temperature of Shivamogga District is around 26°C. The average temperature has increased substantially over the years and the trend can be viewed here.

4.2.3 ROAD NETWORK

Shivamogga has two National Highways passing through it:

**NH-13** (Sholapur - Mangalore): Starting from the district's border with Davangere, this road passes through the cities of Shivamogga and Thirthahalli on to the Chikkamagaluru border. **NH-206** (Bangalore - Honnavar): Starting from the district's border with Chikkamagaluru, this road passes through the cities of Bhadravathi, Shivamogga and Sagar on to the district's border with Uttara Kannada.

State Highways: Shivamogga has three State Highways passing through it:
SH-1 (Padubidri - Maharashtra border): Starting from the district's border with Udupi, this road passes through the towns of Agumbe, Thirthahalli, Shikaripura in Shivamogga district on to the district's border with Haveri.

SH-26 (Halageri - Hulikal): Starting from the district's border with Haveri, this road passes through the towns of Ayanur, Arasalu and ends at Hulikal which is a town near the district's border with Udupi.

SH-48 (Kumta - Andhra Pradesh border): Starting from the district's border with Uttarakannada, this road passes through the towns of Sorab and Shikaripura on to the district's border with Davangere.

4.2.4 RAIL NETWORK

The rail network in Shivamogga district can be divided among two distinct railway lines that are present in it:

Broad Gauge Line: The Broad Gauge (standard gauge used by Indian Railways) line starts from the district's border with Chikkamagaluru and runs through the Bhadravathi station to end at Shivamogga station. Numerous trains run from Bangalore and Mysore to Shivamogga on this line. Unfortunately, the broad gauge line ends to Shivamogga. This is the only Broad Gauge line in this district and serves only the Bhadravathi and Shivamogga Taluks. Other Taluks are still to reap the benefits of rail connectivity.

Narrow Gauge Line: This is the older gauge line used by Indian Railways. This line runs from Shivamogga Station; passes through the town of Sagar and ends at Talguppa station, just 12 kms from the famous Jog Falls. This line was laid by the British in the year 1938, to serve a dual purpose of transporting wooden logs from Malnad forests and also providing access to the falls. Numerous celebrities have travelled on this line to catch a glimpse of the falls. The train that runs now on this track has a heritage associated with it. It consists of only 2 bogies and is in the form of a railbus. It is not a very popular way to reach the falls since it takes around 4
hours to reach Talguppa from Shimoga where as it takes just over an hour to cover the same distance by road. There is a proposal to convert this line into Broad Gauge and finally connect it to the Konkan Railway.

4.2.5 AIR CONNECTIVITY

There are no airports in Shivamogga district. Airports at Bangalore, Mangalore and Hubli can be used for reaching places in the Shivamogga district. However, there is a proposal to construct an airport at Sogane, near Shivamogga district.

4.2.6 CULTURE

Rashtrakavi Kuvempu(left), native of Kuppalli village in Thirthahalli Taluk and
K V Subbanna(right), founder of NINASAM, winner of Magsaysay Award

Shivamogga district is considered as the heartland of Kannada language and culture. Shivamogga has contributed the following highly regarded scholars to the Kannada culture:

- **Kuvempu**: Kuvempu is the short form of the famous Kannada poet and writer, *Kupalli Venkatappagowda Puttappa*; Kupalli being his native village located in Thirthahalli Taluk. Kuvempu has been conferred the title of *Rashtarakavi* (National poet laureate) and is also the winner of the Jnanpith award, which is highest literary award of India.

- **G S Shivarudrappa**: Born in Shikaripura, he is the third person from Karnataka to be conferred the title of *Rashtarakavi*. Other awards won by him are Soviet Land Nehru Award, Central Sahithya Academy Award and Pampa Award.

- **U.R. Ananthamurthy**: Born in Melige village in Thirthahalli Taluk, he is also the recipient of the Jnanpith award.

- **S V Parameshwara Bhatta**: A well-known Kannada scholar, he won the *Sahitya Academy award* in 1990 for his work *Kannada Kalidasa Mahasamputa* (work on the poems and dramas of Kalidasa).

- **M K Indira**: A well-known novelist in Kannada, many of whose novels have been made into films.
Drama - Any description of the culture in Shivamogga district would be incomplete without the mention of the cultural organisation called Nilakanteshwara Natya Seva Sangha, better known as NINASAM. Located in a tiny village called Heggodu in Sagar Taluk, NINASAM has made tremendous contribution to the Kannada drama and culture. NINASAM was the result of an experiment by the renowned dramatist, K V Subbanna where he started to screen classical films and hold dramas at Heggodu. Slowly, this became popular and attracted lot of people from all over Karnataka. This popularity prompted the Ford foundation to provide a grant for a rural film and drama project called as Janaspandana, in which similar drama/film festivals and courses were held in other regions of Karnataka. An estimated 200,000 people were exposed to the best of cinema and around 5000 people attended the courses. The Ninasam Theatre Institute started in 1980, offers a 10-month long diploma course in theatre. Another cultural troupe related to NINASAM is Tiruguta (started in 1985 and means moving around in Kannada) where three major productions are taken around Karnataka and shown to the public. For his efforts in promoting Kannada culture, K V Subbanna won the Magsaysay Award.

Sculpture - Shivamogga district is the home of Gudigars. Gudigars are a clan of craftsmen who specialise in carving intricate designs on objects like sandalwood. They are concentrated in the Sagar and Sorab taluks. They make exquisite items by making use of simple tools like knives, screw drivers, drills and saws. The articles made by them are sold at Government emporiums. The most well known sculptor from this clan is Ashok Gudigar who was born in Sagar. Ashok has experimented with various media such as clay, fiberglass, plaster of paris, ivory, red sandstone, granite and soapstone. At the age of 21, he won the Vishwakarma award for his sculpture titled Chalukyan style Ganesha in Shivahonne wood. He also won the

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- National award in the year 1992 at the age of 27 for his work - Hoysala styled Venugopala in Shivahonne wood

4.2.7 PLACES OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN SHIMOGA DISTRICT

Places of Antiquity

Archaeological evidence points to existence of Balligavi as early as the Shatavahanas. Balligavi in Shikaripura taluk was the centre of learning, secular arts, commerce and sculpture. The town had thirteen education centers, fifty four temples of which only a few survive today, twelve Jain basadis, three Buddhist viharas and many majestic palaces, lakes, wide roads and a population of about sixty thousand. Balligavi was the center of many religions like Shaiva and Vaishnava Hinduism, Brahmi, Shaktta, Jainism, Buddhism.

The Kedareshwar temple (1060 C.E.) in Chalukya-Hoysala style, Tripurantikeswar temple (1070 C.E.), Gandabherundeswar temple (1070 C.E.) in later Chalukya style in Balligavi and the Aghoreshwara temple at Ikkeri and the Rameshwara temple at Keladi both built in the 17th. century by the Keladi Nayakas are silent reminders of a glorious past. The Nayakas have used a variety of styles from predecessor kingdoms like the late Kadambas, Hoysala and even dravida styles. Balligavi was also the native place of Shantaladevi, queen of Hoysala Vishnudevahana. Many sculptors who worked for the Hoysalas to build the famous temples at Belur and Halebid came from here including Dasa, Maitloja, Nadoja, Siddoja. During the Virashaiva movement, Balligavi contributed great Vachanakaras like Allama Prabhu who was born here and other like Akka Mahadevi, Animishayya and Mukthayakka who were also associated with this place.

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Gandaberunda roof sculpture, Rameshwara temple, Keladi, Shivamogga District

Thirpuranthakeshwara temple, Balligavi, Shivamogga District

Aghoreshwara temple mantapa, Ikkeri, Shivamogga District

Aghoreshwara temple, Ikkeri, Shivamogga District

**Historical attractions**

- Shivamogga fort is mostly in ruins but a well renovated Hoysala temple of *Seetharamanjaneya* is worth visiting.
- Shivappa Nayaka Palace and Museum is located right in the city of Shivamogga itself. The palace built by the 17th. century ruler Shivappa Nayaka contains many interesting pieces of sculpture and artifacts from that period.
- Government Museum in the city contains many ancient coins, manuscripts and inscriptions for the historically inclined.
- Bhadravati town is called "steel town" for its steel industries. The *Lakshminarasimha* temple of 13th. century Hoysala style is worth a visit.
• Chandragutti in Soraba taluk is a short distance from Balligavi. The fort built by Banavasi Kadambas and the Renukamba temple are the places to see.
• Humcha is a Jain pilgrimage place with 10th and 11th century Panchakuta basadi, Padmavathi temple and Jain Math which are worth visiting.
• Church of the Sacred Heart is in the city itself and is the second largest in India.
• Kubetoor has several Kalyani Chalukyan temples. The Kedareshvara temple is the best.
• Nagara was the last capital of the Keladi Kings. The Hyder Ali tank, Neelakanteshwara and Venkataramana temple are of interest here.
• Sagara and Soraba are famous for their wood carvings and handicrafts. They have a long history of the art.
• Talagunda is an important place in terms of archaeology. This place has several ancient temples and has unveiled very important inscriptions including the famous 450 C.E. "Talagunda inscription" of Shantivarman, an early Kadamba king. The inscription is in Prakrit language and has given historians very useful information about the Kadamba Kingdom and its history.

Wildlife- Flora and Fauna

Malabar Giant Squirrel, and Lion-tailed Macaque, endemic to the Western Ghats are found in Malnad region of Shimoga district
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Being part of the richly forested Malnad region, Shivamogga district is the home of various species of flora and fauna. Some of these regions have been protected and classified as wildlife sanctuaries to ensure the progress of these species:

- **Gudavi Bird Sanctuary**: This is located in Sorab Taluk. Spread over an area of 0.74 sq. km, it comprises a large water tank covering 0.30 ha and a patch of dense moist deciduous forest.

- **Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary**: This is located in Sagar Taluk. It has evergreen and semi-evergreen forests with its easter portion adjoining the Linganamakki reservoir.

- **Shettihalli Wildlife Sanctuary**: It lies adjacent to Shimoga town and has forests ranging from dry deciduous to semi-evergreen and is spread over an area of 395.6 sq. km.

- **Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary** was started in 1951 as Jagara Valley Game Sanctuary covering an area of about 252 km². It was combined with the surrounding Lakkavalli forests in the year 1972 and given its present name of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. It now spans an area of 492 km². The sanctuary has been recently adopted under a tiger-conservation project called 'Project Tiger' which is an initiative from the Indian Government. Best season to visit is from October to February.

- **Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary** is located on the NH-13 at a distance of 30 km from Shivamogga town on the way to Thirthahalli. This is a small island surrounded by Tunga river and the birds found here are median egret, cormorant, darter and snakebird.

- **Tyavarekoppa Lion Safari** lies about 10 km from Shivamogga town on the way to Sagar. Lions, tigers and deer are housed here in an enclosed area and a safari is organised.

- **Sakrebailu Elephant Camp** lies 14 km. from Shivamogga town on the way to Thirthahalli. As the name suggests, this is a training camp where elephants undergo training from mahouts.
Water falls

- **Jog Falls**: This is the 11th highest waterfall in India and ranks 313 in the list of highest waterfalls in the world. With a total height of 253 mts; this is where the river Sharavathi falls into a deep gorge in four distinct flows of water which are termed as *Raja, Rani, Rover and Rocket*. Jog Falls is 30 km. from the town of Sagar.

- **Kunchikal Falls**: Having a height of 455 mts, Kunchikal Falls is the highest waterfall in India and ranks 116 in the list of highest waterfalls in the world. This waterfall is located near Agumbe and is formed by the Varahi river. The hydropower is used for the production of electricity.

- **Barkana Falls**: Located near Agumbe and 80 kms. from Thirthahalli town, Barkana Falls is the 10th highest waterfall in India and ranks 308 in the list of highest waterfalls in the world.

- **Achakanya Falls**: This is near a place called Aralsuruli, 10 kms from the town of Thirthahalli on the way to Hosanagara. This is also formed by the Sharavathi river.

- **Vanake-Abbey Falls**: In the heart of Malnad forests, this waterfall is located 4 kms. from Agumbe.

- **Hidlamane Falls**: A significant amount of trekking takes one to these falls located near Nittur in Hosanagara Taluk.
• **Dabbe Falls**: This waterfall is located near a place called Hosagadde in Sagar taluk. On the road from Sagar to Bhatkal, Hosagadde lies at a distance of about 20 kms from the town of Kargal. From Hosagadde a walk of 6-8 kms into the forest, leads one to Dabbe Falls

**Dams**

• **Bhadra River dam**: This dam lies across Bhadra River at Lakkavalli, a distance of 20 km from Bhadravathi City. The whole design of this dam was done by Sir. M. Vishweshwaraiah, the then Chief Engineer of Karnataka State. The dam mainly serves the purpose of irrigation in and around Bhadravathi Taluk and Tarikere Taluk of Chikkamagaluru district.

• **Linganamakki dam**: This dam is built across the Sharavathi river and is located 6 km. from the Jog Falls. It is also the location of the Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-electric project which has a power generating capacity of 55 MW. Water which is released from this dam flows into the Jog Falls. The best sight of the Jog Falls is in the monsoon season when excess water is released from this dam.

• **Gajanur dam**: This dam is built across the river Tunga in a village called Gajanur, 12 kms from Shimoga city on the National Highway NH-13 (the road that goes to Thirthahalli).

**River sources and confluences**

• **Koodli**: Located 16 km. from the Shivamogga city, Koodli is the place where the two rivers, Tunga and Bhadra join and become Tungabhadra river, one of the largest tributaries of the river Krishna. Koodli also contains two temples of the Hoysala era, one dedicated to the Hindu God, Rameshwara and the other to Narasimha. An inscription in the temple indicates that in the year 1313, the Hoysala king, Veera Ballala III provided grants to the temple.

• **Ambuteertha**: Located 10 km. from Thirthahalli on the Thirthahalli-Hosanagara road, Ambuteertha is the source of the river Sharavathi. Starting
from here, Sharavathi travels westwards to reach the Arabian Sea near Honnavar, 132 km. away.

- **Varadamoola**: Located 6 km. from Sagar town, Varadamoola is the source of the river Varada. Varada flows through the town of Banavasi before joining Tungabhadra.

**Hill Stations and Adventure**

- **Agumbe** west of Shivamogga city is at a distance of 90 km. The altitude here is 826 meters, and the place is famous for its enchanting Sunsets. As the Sun sets, it takes on different colours and this is reflected by the Arabian sea.
- **Kavaledurga** is a magnificent fort located on a hill at an altitude of 5056 feet.
- **Kodachadri Hills** is 115 km. from Shivamogga city. At an altitude of 1411 ft. This hill station provides great views of the forests of the western ghats in Shivamogga and Dakshina Kannada districts.
- **Kundadri** has unique rock formations and has good views

4.2.8 **ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES**

There are a number of hotels in the district head quarter of Shimoga district to meet the budget of different levels of the tourists. But at the tourist spots, the tourist has to depend on the government run guest houses or Travellers Bungalow.
4.3 CHIKMAGALUR DISTRICT

Chikkamagaluru (Chikkamagalur in Kannada), is where coffee was first cultivated in India. This district is a tourist's paradise with various hill stations, waterfalls and religious sites present here. The mountains here which are a part of the Western Ghats are also the source of rivers like Tunga and Bhadra.

**Origin of Name:** Chikkamagaluru literally means "The town of the younger daughter" in the native Kannada language. The town is said to have been given as a dowry to the younger daughter of Rukmangada, the legendary chief of Sakrepatna and hence the name. As one can guess, there is indeed a town called Hiremagaluru which means "The town of the elder daughter" which is about 5 km from Chikkamagaluru city.

4.3.1 HISTORY

Chikkamagaluru is the region where the Hoysala rulers started and spent the early days of their dynasty. However, it is known that Veera Ballala II (1173 – 1220) the great king of Hoysala empire, has built the Amriteshwara temple at Amrithapura in Tarikere Taluk.

Coffee was introduced into India through the Chikkamagaluru district when the first coffee crop was grown in the Baba Budan Giri Hills during 1670 AD. According to the article Origins of Coffee, the saint Baba Budan on his pilgrimage to Mecca travelled through the seaport of Mocha, Yemen where he discovered coffee. To introduce its taste to India, he wrapped seven coffee beans around his belly and got them out of Arabia. On his return home, he planted the beans in the hills of Chikkamagaluru, which are now named Baba Budan Hills in his honour.
4.3.2 GEOGRAPHY

Chikkamagaluru, the district headquarters of Chikkamagaluru district is 251 km from the state capital of Bangalore and surrounded by the Baba Budan Giri hills and dense forests. Its greatest length from east to west is about 138.4 kilometers and from north to south 88.5 kilometers. The district receives normal average rainfall of 1925 mm. The highest point in this district is Mullayanagiri, 1926 mts. above sea level which is also the highest point in the state of Karnataka. 30% of the district (2108.62 sq. km.) is covered with forests. The district borders Shimoga district to the north, Hassan district to the south, The rivers Bhadra, Tunga, Hemavathi, Netravati, and Vedavathi flow all year round.
4.3.3 ROAD NETWORK

Unfortunately, Chikkamagaluru district is not known for well maintained roads. The poor state of the roads has hampered development of this district to some extent; more so because of the absence of even a good rail network in this district. There are only two National Highways that pass through this district. The National Highway NH-13 (Sholapur to Mangalore) passes through the towns of Koppa and Sringeri where as the National Highway NH-206 (Bangalore to Honnavar) passes through the towns of Kadur, Birur and Tarikere. There is a proposal to upgrade the existing state highways Tarikere-Belur, Sringeri-Hassan & Kadur-Mangalore to national highway status.

To enjoy the journey to Kemmanagundi, it is in your own interest to travel with a private transport and not to depend on government run buses. KSRTC does not have a direct bus to Kemmanagundi and if you still wish to travel, catch a bus proceeding to Shimoga, get down at Tarikere or Birur and take a civil bus.

4.3.4 RAIL NETWORK

The Kadur and Tarikere taluks have railway lines passing through them. Birur station is a major junction in this district where the railway line from Bangalore bifurcates into two, with one line going towards Hubli and the other towards Shimoga. The district headquarters, Chikkamagaluru city does not have a railway station which is one of the reasons for the isolation of Chikkamagaluru city from the rest of the state. A new line is being laid between Kadur and Sakleshpur in Hassan district which should pass through Chikkamagaluru city.

4.3.5 AIR CONNECTIVITY

Chikkamagaluru district does not have an airport. Airports at Mangalore, Bangalore and Hubli can be used as an alternative.
4.3.6 TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE DISTRICT

Hill Stations

- **Kemmangundi**: 55 km north from Chikkamagaluru town is Kemmangundi, a scenic hill station on the Baba Budan Giri range of hills. Kemmangundi is also known as K.R. Hills after the Wodeyar King, Krishnaraja Wodeyar, who had made it his favourite summer camp. Kemmangundi, at a height of 1,434 meters, is surrounded by thick forests and a salubrious climate throughout the year. It is surrounded by the Baba Budan Giri range and blessed with silver cascades of mountain streams and lush vegetation. Its beautifully laid out ornamental gardens and enchanting mountain and valley views are a treat to the eye. Spectacular sunsets are a must see from various locations in the district, even from the Raj Bhavan. For the adventurous, Kemmangundi offers many peaks to scale and intricate jungle paths to explore. This place has a beautiful rose garden and other attractions. There is a place called Z-point at about 10 minutes walk from this main place which gives a nice aerial view of the Shola grass lands of the Western Ghats.

![Beautiful scenery on the way to Kemmangundi](left)
![Kudremukh: The Horse Faced Peak](right)

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• **Kudremukh and Kudremukh National Park:** 95 km southwest of Chikkamagaluru town is Kudremukh range (in Kannada *Kudure mukha* means horse face), so named because of the unique shape of the Kudremukh peak. Overlooking the Arabian sea, the broad hills are chained to one another with deep valley & steep precipices. Situated at 1,894.3 meters above sea level, Kudremukh is rich in iron ore deposits.

• **Mullayanagiri:** Mullayanagiri is part of the Baba Budan Giri Hill Ranges here. It stands 1930 meters tall and is the tallest peak in Karnataka. Its height is famous mostly for watching sunsets from. It is 16 km from Chikkamagaluru town. Driving to Mullayanagiri is worth taking a risk. On the way is Sitalayanagiri where the water in the Shiva temple neither increases nor decreases. The road to Mullayanagiri is very narrow with views from steep cliffs. Driving to the peak is not possible and includes a trek up the hill from the half way point. There is a small temple on top of the hill. From the topmost point of the hill the Arabian sea is visible on clear days. The small hillock in the temple compound is the highest point in Karnataka. The narrow road to the temple makes two way traffic impossible. It is a great trekking spot in Karnataka.

• **Baba Budan Giri (Datta peeta):** To the north of Chikkamagaluru town is the Baba Budan Giri Range or *Chandra Drona Parvatha* as it was known in the ancient times, which has one of the highest mountain peaks between the Himalayas and the Nilgiris. The peak takes its name from the Muslim saint, Baba Budan, who resided here more than 150 years ago.
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Water Falls

Manikyadhara Falls (Left) and Hanuman Gundi Falls (Right)

- **Manikyadhara Falls** is a waterfall near the famous pilgrim centre *Baba Budan Giri Dattatreya Peetha* where water spills down like small pearls giving the visitors a memorable shower bath.

- **Kallathigiri Falls**: Just 10 km away from Kemmangundi is Kallahathigiri falls, also known as Kalahatti falls. Water cascades down from the top of the Chandra Drona hill from a height of 122 meters amidst fascinating scenery. There is an old Veerabhadra temple, constructed in a gap between rocks. This temple can be approached after crossing the waterfall.

- **Hebbe Falls**: This beautiful waterfall is over 10 km away from the famous hill station, Kemmangundi. Here water streams down from a height of 168 meters in two stages to form *Dodda Hebbe* (Big Falls) and *Chikka Hebbe* (Small Falls).

- **Shanti Falls**: This is a beautiful waterfall on the way to Z-Point in Kemmangundi.

- **Hanumana Gundi Falls**: Located 32 Km. from the Kalasa, the waterfall has water falling on to Natural rock formations from a height of more than 100 feet.

- **Kadambi Falls**: This is a waterfall located in the Kudremukh National Park.
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Temples

Vidyasankara temple in Shringeri (Left) Main door of Annapoorneshwari temple in Horanadu (Right)

- **Sringeri**: 90 km west of Chikkamagaluru town is Sringeri situated on the banks of Tunga, a Vedic Peetha established by Sri Adi Shankara, the exponent of the Advaita philosophy in 9th Century A.D. It is famous for Vidyashankara Temple originally constructed by the Hoysalas and later completed by the founders of the Vijayanagar Empire and Sharada temple, an early 20th century addition. In the Vidya Shankara shrine, there are 12 zodiac pillars, which are so constructed that the rays of the sun fall on the pillar corresponding to the month.

- **Horanadu**: Horanadu is 100 km southwest of Chikkamagaluru and has an ancient Annapoorneshwari Temple, which has been renovated recently. With the installation of the new image of Adi Shakti, now the temple is called Adi-Shaktyatmaka Shri Annapoorneshwari. The place attracts lots of pilgrims who are provided free boarding and lodging by the temple.

- **Kalasa**: Kalasa is 92 km southwest of Chikkamagaluru and situated on the banks of the river Bhadra. It is surrounded by lofty hills of the Western Ghats and is looked upon as one of the pancha-kshetras on the banks of the Bhadra. Close by are the pancha theerthas, the five sacred ponds. The *Madhawacharyya bande*, a large boulder at one of the *theerthas* here, is supposed to have been placed by Shri Madhawacharya the founder of the Dvaita school of philosophy. A statue of this acharya is carved on the upper portion of the rock.
• **Guru Dattatreya Bababudanswamy Darga:** Situated on the Baba Budan Giri is the Inam Dattatreya Peetha venerated by the Hindus and the Muslims alike. A late rite cave here is believed to have been sanctified by the residence of Dattatreya Swami as well as Hazrat Dada Hayat Mir Khalander. The worship here is conducted by a fakir and the annual *jatra or urs* is attended by both Hindus and Muslims with great fervors.

• **Amritapura:** 67 km north of Chikkamagaluru, Amrithapura is known for the Amritheshwara temple built in 1196 A.D by Amriteshwara Dandanayaka, a general of the Hoysala ruler Veera Ballala II. Delicacy of touch, originality of design and fine features have made this temple one of the notable structures of the Hoysala period.

• **Belavadi:** Located 29 kms southeast of Chikkamagaluru town on the Chikkamagaluru-Javagal road and 10 kms north west of Halebidu, Belavadi is famous for Ornate temple of Veeranarayana. Belavadi is also famous for the temple of ‘Udbhava Ganapathi’.

Wildlife

• **Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary:** Occupying 495 km². of wildlife sanctuary and Project tiger reserve, this region is an important watershed of the Tungabhadra river. The huge reservoir here is the main water supply to several districts in the rain shadow regions of south Karnataka. The forests here are rich in Bamboo and birds species unique to both the Malabar and Sahyadri ranges.
• **Kudremukh National Park:** The Kudremukh National Park (latitudinal range 13°01'00" N, longitudinal range 75°00'55" to 75°25'00" E) is the largest declared Wildlife Protected Area (600 km²) of a tropical wet evergreen type of forest in the Western Ghats. The Western Ghats is one of the twenty-five hot spots identified for bio-diversity conservation in the world. Kudremukh National Park comes under the Global Tiger Conservation Priority-I, under the format developed jointly by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and World Wide Fund-USA.

4.3.7 ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

There are a number of hotels in the district head quarter of Chikmagalur district. To meet the budget of different levels of the tourists. But in Kemmanagundi there are no private run hotels here. The Department of Horticulture having some beautiful cottages. They are Raj Bhavan, Kallahatti, Dattatreya, Vanadarshini, Dupadagiri and so on... No specialty food is available here. Canteens run by the Department or some small time restaurants can see to that you don't starve.
4.4 HASSAN DISTRICT

Hassan (Kannada: ಹಸ್ಸಾನ್) The district was the seat of the Hoysala empire, which at its peak ruled large parts of south India from Belur as its early capital and Halebidu as its later capital during the period 1000 - 1334 CE. Today Hassan is primarily known worldwide for its Hoysala architecture and is a veritable treasure trove of about fifty sculptural marvels tucked away in several villages and towns of the district. Hassan is also well known nationally for modern technology. The Master Control Facility of the Indian Space Research Organization is located here.

4.4.1 HISTORY

The history of Hassan district is essentially the history of two of the well known dynasties that have ruled Karnataka, the Western Ganga dynasty of Talkad (350 - 999 CE.) and the Hoysala Empire(1000 - 1334 CE). In the 15th and 16th centuries, the Vijayanagar kings patronised Chennakesava of Belur as their family deity. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Hassan became a land of contention between the Keladi Nayakas of Shimoga and the Mysore Kingdom. It finally merged with an independent Mysore kingdom.

Lakshmidevi Temple 1113 chatushkuta architecture, Doddagaddavalli(left)
Chennakeshava Temple, 1117 Ornate pillars Belur (center)
Hoysaleshwara Temple, 1120 Ornate navaranga Halebidu (right)

Around the 300 BCE, Hassan was part of the Mayuran empire. Sage Bhadrabahu arrived from north India in 3rd century BCE, along with many ascetics marking the arrival of Jainism into Karnataka. Some historians believe king Chandragupta Maurya 322 –298 BCE., grand father of emperor Ashoka was his disciple and accompanied Bhadrabahu to Sharavanabelagola and eventually died
there. A basadi or monument in his name called Chandragupta basadi still exists today. Whatever the truth about Chandragupta Maurya's lineage, the fact remains that Shravanabelagola has been a place of Jain worship for twenty three centuries.

**Medieval**

Later Hassan came under the rule of the Ganga Dynasty of Talkad. The Gangas initially ruled as a sovereign power from 350 - 550 CE and later continued to rule this area as feudatories of Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas. In the late 10th century, many Jains monuments were built at Shravanabelagola, commissioned by Ganga general Chamundaraya, including the fifty seven feet tall statue monolithic statue of Gomateshwara. During the rule of the Gangas, Shravanabelagola was an important religious capital. Today it is also a place of great archaeological importance. Shravana or Shramana means a Jain ascetic and Belagola or Biliya Kola in Kannada means white pond. Over eight hundred inscriptions which includes eighty from the Hoysala period have been discovered in and around Shravanabelagola covering a period 600 - 1830 CE and has been enormously helpful in understanding the history not only of Hassan but the history of all the Kingdoms that ruled over Karnataka. Inscriptions are in Kannada, Sanskrit, Tamil, Marathi, Marwari and Mahajani languages and are attributed to all the major Kingdoms that have ruled over Karnataka, indicating patronage to Jainism was active throughout medieval history.

It was under the rule of the Hoysalas, a clan of hill people whose origins are traced to Angadi in Chikmagalur District who built a powerful empire from the Malnad region of Karnataka that Hassan reached its zenith of fame, much of which is seen today in the fifty or more Hoysala temples scattered around the country side in the district. Inscriptions in many of these temples speak volumes of the glory of a bygone era, the administration of the Hoysalas, their land reforms, taxation, culture and so on. Vishnuvardhana built the Keerthi Narayana temple at Talakad and the famous Chennakeshava temple at Belur. During the rule of Veera Ballala II 1173 – 1220 CE, the Hoysalas were able to become a true force to reckon with in South
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India. During this time, Hassan became the epicenter of Kannada literary and cultural activities.

Hoysala architecture

The Hoysalas claim to immortality arises from their contribution to Karnataka culture, Kannada literature and their own unique style of vesara architecture.

Historians such as Henry Cousens and James Furgusson observed that the Hoysala style of architecture is essentially an extension and culmination of the vesara style initiated by the Badami Chalukyas and further enhanced by the Kalyani Chalukyas. In fact, the carved doorways, lathe turned pillars and pierced window screens used frequently by the Hoysalas is also commonly seen in earlier Kalyani Chalukya temples of north and central Karnataka. The Star shaped platform on which many Hoysala temples were constructed, the Jagati, the Zig-Zag character of the walls and the density of sculpture on gray soap stone (chloritic schist) is however a unique features of Hoysala architecture.

Keshava Temple, 1235 Haranhalli(left)
LakshmiNarasimha Temple 1246 Trikuta architecture, Nuggihalli(center)
Sadashiva Temple 1246, ekakuta architecture, Nuggihalli(right)

Hassan district has forty five monuments that receive protection from authorities. Twenty four of these are protected by Karnataka state archaeological department while the remaining twenty one are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India and are hence of national importance.
Hassan is also called as *Poor man's Ooty*. Its Bisle ghat area has the same scenic beauty of the *Nilgiri* district of Tamil Nadu without the rapid and extensive commercialization. Hassan is a place where Kannada literature finds famous personalities like Gorur Ramaswamy Iyengar.

### 4.4.2 GEOGRAPHY

The geography of Hassan district is mixed with the *malnad* or mountainous region to the west and south west called *Bisle Ghat* and the plain regions in the north, south and east. There are some areas of degraded forest ranges in central portion of the district.

The district is surrounded by Chikmagalur District to the north west, Mysore to the south, Kodagu District to the south west.

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**Figure 4.4 Hassan District Tourist Map**
4.4.3 ROAD NETWORK

Hassan is well-connected by road to Bangalore, Mysore and Mangalore. Regular buses ply from Hassan to Belur, Halebid, Sravanabelagola and ArsiKere. There are also direct buses ply from Sravanabelagola to ArsiKere, Mysore and Bangalore.

4.4.4 RAIL NETWORK

Hassan is well-connected by rail network to Bangalore and Mangalore. But at the time of the study the train services are stopped and there are plans to restart the services very soon as declared by the Railway Minsiter Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav.

4.4.5 AIR CONNECTIVITY

Currently Hassan is not having any air port. The tourists has to depend on Bangalore or Mangalore airport. However, there are plans to start a green field airport at Hassan.

4.4.6 PLACES OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE DISTRICT

- **Belur**: 34 km from Hassan town is situated on the banks of Yagachi river. The Chennakesava Temple built by Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana in 1117 AD is a monument of supreme architectural beauty. The intricate carvings on its stone walls and the gravity pillars in the courtyard are the unique features of this temple.

- **Gorur**: 22 km from Hassan town is where a dam across the river Hemavathi has been built. This place is a pleasant picnic spot.

- **Halebidu**: 39 km from Hassan town and 16 km from Belur is the home of the famous Hoysaleswara temple. Built in 1121, the walls of the temple are covered with detailed friezes and sculptures depicting scenes narrated in great Hindu epics. another famous temple near here is the Kedareshwara temple known for the rich quality of its sculptures.
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- **Shravanabelagola**: 52 km from Hassan town is a popular Jain pilgrimage center. It is wedged between two rocky hills, Indragiri and Chandragiri. The monolithic statue of Lord Gomateshwara, a Jain saint standing atop the Indragiri hill is 17 meters tall and is said to be one of the tallest monolithic statues in the world. *Mahamastakabhisheka* is a ceremony held here once every 12 years when devotees offer prayers to the great Jain saint. The temples of Belur, Halebidu and Shravanabelagola are a proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- **Bisle reserve forest or Bisle ghat**: one of Karnataka's best trekking destinations.

Hassan district is full of other Hoysala architectural gems scattered around the countryside. Important among them are the Hoysala temples of

- Chennakesava Temple at Belur
- Hulikere (ornate stepped tank or *Kalyani*)
- Pushpagiri (*Mallikarjuna, Bhairava* temples)
- Doddagaddavalli (*Lakshmidevi* temple)
- Koravangala (*Govindeshwara, Nakeshwara* and *Bucheshwara* temples)
- Kondajji (*Vishnu* temple)
- Adagur (*Lakshminarayana* temple)
- Chatachathahalli (*Chatteshwara* temple)
- Javagal (*Narasimha* temple)
- Haranahalli (*Keshava* and *Someshwara* temples)
- Arasikere (*Ishwara* temple)
- Hullekere (*Channakeshava* temple)
- Shantigrama (*Channakeshavaswamy* temple)
- Nuggehalli (*Lakshminarasimha* and *Sadashiva* temple)
- Sakleshpura (*Sakaleswara* temple)
- Manjarabad (fort and dungeons)
- Ramnathapura (*Rameshwara* temple) and Pattabi Rama, Subramanyeshwara
- Gorur (*Paravasudeva* temple and Dam over river)
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- Basadihalli (*Adinatha Basadi, Parshwanath Basadi and Saantinatha Basadi*)
- Malekal Tirupathi (*Venkata Ramanna and Govidaraja temple*)
- Shantigramma (*Yoganarsimha, Dharmeshwara and Keshava temples*)
- Anekere (*Chennakaesava temple*)
- Mallarajapatna (*Lakshmaneshwara temple*)
- Mavathanahalli (*Mahalingeshwara temple*)
- Anathi (*Lakshminarayana temple*)
- Hebbalalu (*Singeshwara temple*)
- Jinnanathapura (*Shantinatha basadi*)
- Ambuga (*Prasanna Chennakeshava temple*)
- Heragu (*Kirthinarayana temple*)
- Mosale (*Nageshwara and Channakeshava temples*)
- Holenarasipura (*Narasimha temple*)
- Honnavara (*Keshava temple*)
- Halmidi (Inscription)

4.4.7 ACCOMODATION

The district head quarter Hassan town has a number of good quality hotels offering their services to the tourists of all classes. But at the tourist sites a very few hotels are present and the conditions of the hotels are also poor.
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4.5 KODAGU/COORG DISTRICT

Kodagu (Kannada:ಕೊಡಗು) is often called by the anglicised name of Coorg. It occupies about 4,100 km² in the Western Ghats of southwestern Karnataka. It is bordered by Dakshina Kannada to the northwest, Hassan District to the north, Mysore District to the east, Kannur District of Kerala state to the southwest and Wayanad district of Kerala to the south. The district headquarters is Madikeri.

4.5.1 HISTORY

Kodagu has been an independent or semi-independent kingdom through much of its known history. Its boundaries varied, often taking in some of the surrounding country, especially toward the east. The modern district of Kodagu was incorporated into the state of Karnataka (then named Mysore) in 1956.

The name has alternative derivations. In one, it is said to be derived from the Kannada kudu, meaning steep or hilly. In the Puranas, Kodagu may be the land called Krodha desa, meaning 'Land of Anger' - the Kodavas here are described as Mleccha, meaning foreigners. It is also said that Kodagu is derived from the word Kodava, Kod means 'give' and avva means 'mother', i.e mother Kaveri, the river Kaveri.

4.5.2 GEOGRAPHY

Kodagu lies on the eastern slope of the Western Ghats. It is a hilly district; the lowest elevation is 900m above sea-level. The highest peak, Tadiandamol, has an altitude of 1,750m and Pushpagiri is 1,715m high. The principal river is the Kaveri River, which rises at Talakaveri on the eastern side of the Western Ghats, and with its tributaries drains the greater part of Kodagu. In the rainy season, particularly the southwest monsoon from June to the end of September, the rivers flow with violence and great rapidity. In July and August the rainfall is high, and the month of November is often showery. The yearly rainfall may exceed 4,000mm; in the dense jungle tract it reaches 3,000 to 3,800mm; in the bamboo district in the west it reaches from 1,500 to
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2,500mm. Kodagu has an average temperature of about 15 °C, the extremes being 11 °C and 28 °C. The hottest season is in April and May.

![Figure 4.5 Map of Kodagu District](image)

**4.5.3 ROAD NETWORK**

Kodagu can be reached only by road, as there is no railway or commercial air services that serves the area. The Mysore - Mangalore high way passes through Kodagu. The district headquarters Madikeri is 260 km from Bangalore and 120 km from Mysore. The distance from Mangalore is 136 km and from Cannanore and Tellicherry, it is about 115 km. There are regular buses plying from these places to Madikeri.
4.5.4 PLACES OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE DISTRICT

Kodagu (originally called Kodaimalenadu) means 'dense forest on steep hill'. Dubbed as the Scotland of India, this town has a lot to offer to the tourist. Misty hills, lush forest, acres and acres of tea and coffee plantation, orange groves, undulating streets and breathtaking views are what make Madikeri an unforgettable holiday destination.

**Madikeri Fort:** This 19th century fort, in the centre of Madikeri, houses a temple, a chapel, prison and a small museum. The fort offers a beautiful view of Madikeri.

**Raja's seat:** According to legend, the kings of Kodagu spent their evenings here. But what's unforgettable about Raja's seat is the spectacular sunset that one can enjoy from here.

**Talakaveri:** River Kaveri which is one of the 7 sacred rivers of Sapta Sindhus of the Hindu scriptures, originated at a place is called Talakaveri in the Brahmagiri hills, at about 4,500 ft above sea level. This place is marked by a kundike from where the river emerges as a small perennial spring, but flows underground again to emerge a short distance away. There is a shrine near the kundike and a big tank in front of it where devotees baths before offering prayers.

From Talakaveri, steps lead up to the nearby Brahmagri peak, where the 7 great sages called the Sapta Maharishis had performed a special yagna. From the peak, as well as on the drive to Talakaveri, tourists can enjoy a good view of the misty blue Brahmagiri hills.
Iruppu Falls: There is a sacred spot called Iruppu in south Kodagu on the Brahmagiri range of hills. River Lakshmana-tirtha flows nearby. Legend says that Rama and Lakshmana, warrior Gods, passed this way while searching for Rama’s concert, Sita. Rama asked Lakshmana to fetch some drinking water for him. Lakshmana shot an arrow into the Brahmagiri hills and brought into being river Lakshmanatirtha. The river descends perpendicularly into a great cataract known as the Iruppu Falls. This place is believed to possess the power to cleanse one’s sins and is visited by thousands of devotees from far and near on Shivaratri day.

Abbey Falls: A big attraction for tourists and filmdom alike is the Abbey Falls, 8 kms from Madikeri. Even during the summer there is plenty of water in these falls. The roar of the falls can be heard from the main road, from where a path goes through lovely coffee and cardamom plantations right up to them.

Kodagu is considered very rich in wildlife. The district has three wildlife sanctuaries: Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Talakaveri Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, and one national park, Nagarahole or Rajiv Gandhi National Park.

Dubare: This is mainly an elephant capturing and training camp of the Forest Department, at the edge of Dubare forest, on the bank of river Kaveri, on the Kushalnagar - Siddapur road. The largest land animal is captured here with the help of tamed elephants and local tribals - the Kurbas - and is held captive for up to 6
months in large teak wood cages. The tamed elephants attend to various jobs during
the day and in the evenings they come down to the river to bathe and to be scrubbed
clean by their mahouts. Afterwards the mahout obliges eager tourists for free elephant
rides within the camp.

Nagarhole National Park: The most visited tourist spot in Coorg is the Nagarahole
National Park which is known for it's wild-life population. The place derives its name
from the winding river - Nagarhole meaning "snake river" - which flows through the
park. The 640 sq km of gently undulating terrain at the foothills of the Brahmagiri
hills is covered with thick tropical forest, grassy swamps and numerous rivers and
streams. The park and animal life is part of the country's first "bio-sphere reserve".
The Forest Department conducts tours along well-defined routes for tourists, in the
early mornings and evenings. One can be sure of seeing the bison, elephant, spotted
deer, sambhar, barking deer, wild boar, mongoose, peacock, jungle fowl and many
other birds and animals.

Bhagamandala: Bhagamandala is situated at the confluence of 3 rivers (the Cauvery,
the Kanika and the Sujyothi). The temple here, built in Kerala style, has smaller
shrines dedicated to various gods.

Nisargadhama: Known for its calm, serene beauty, this place is an ideal picnic spot
visited by hundreds of tourists throughout the year.

Harangi Dam: This dam is a great picnic spot 36 kilometers from Madikeri town.

4.5.5 ACCOMODATION

The district head quarter Madikeri town has a number of good hotels offering
their services to the tourists of all classes. The government has popularized a concept
of “Atithi” home stay in the district, where the locals can offer their homes at
eyonomical prices for tourists accommodation purpose.
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