

Weekend trips from Bengaluru

1. Mysore (3 and a half hours by road): primarily known for its world heritage listed palace.
Highlights: Mysore palace, Chamundi hills, Sri Chamundeshwari Temple
Suggested hotels: The Windflower Resort and Spa Mysore, Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Mysore
Couple of eateries: Depth 'N' Green (roadside vegan friendly cafe), SAPA
Sourdough & Pastry (check their IG for menu & hours).
2. Hampi (5 and a half hours by road; can also be reached by an overnight train): a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was once the second largest medieval-era city.
Highlights: ancient ruins, monolithic sculptures, medieval carvings.
Suggested hotels: Clarks Inn Hampi, Heritage Resort Hampi, Hyatt Place Hampi.
Overnight train: Hampi express, alighting stop Hospet Junction. Tickets to be purchased from irctc.co.in.
3. Chikmagalur (4 and a half hours by road): popularly known as the 'coffee land of Karnataka'.
Highlights: Mullayanagiri Trek (highest peak in Karnataka), Hebbe Falls, Baba Budangiri (named after a 16th century sufi Baba Budan – legend is that he 'illegally' introduced coffee plants in India), coffee plantation tours.
Suggested hotels: Trivik Hotels & Resorts, The Serai Chikmagalur, Vismita County.
4. Coorg (6 and a half hours by road): a hill station known for its scenic views and coffee plantations.
Highlights: Abbey falls, Namdroling Monastery (located in Bylakuppe - the second largest Tibetan community in India), coffee, cardamom, & peppers plantations tours.
Suggested hotels: The Tamara Coorg, Vivanta by Taj, Heritage Resort Coorg.
5. Wayanad (6 and a half hours by road): trekking trails and known for spice cultivation.
Highlights: Edakkal caves (dates back to 6000 BC), Banasura Sagar Dam (one of the largest earthen dam in India), Chembra peak (hiking), Bamboo rafting.
Suggested hotels: Arayal Resorts, Vythiri Village Resort.

6. Ooty (7 hours by road): a hill station on the Western Ghats known for its greenery and tea plantations.
Highlights: Doddabetta peak (highest in South India), tea plantation tour, Toda tribal huts.
Suggested hotels: Glyngarth Resorts, Club Mahindra Derby Green.

7. Kodaikanal (9 hours by road, alternately fly to Madurai and from there 3 hours by road): a hill station on the Eastern Ghats known for its rocky mountains and pine forest.
Highlights: Berijam lake (permit from forest department required), Coakers walk, Dolphin's nose (hiking activity), Pine forest hike.
Suggested hotels: The Tamara Kodai, Sterling Kodai Lake, Le Poshe by Sparsa.

8. Kabini (5 and a half hours by road): southern region of the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve & National Park.
Highlights: Jeep & boat safaris into the park.
Suggested hotels: Kabini River Lodge, KAAV Safari Lodge, The Serai Kabini.

9. Gokarna (9 hours by road): serene beaches and water sport activities.
Highlights: Kudle beach, Mahabaleswara Temple (4th century temple), Half Moon beach.
Suggested hotels: SwaSwara, Stone wood nature resort.