

**ECO-TOURISM AND MANAGEMENT OF HERITAGE AREAS**

**H**eritage Tourism is a preferred strategy for heritage management with a foreground of management. Conservation in India rarely gets a focused impetus rather than it takes route of integrated conservation, demonstrating efficacy and strategies for sectoral development.

**1. TOURISM AND HAMPI WORLD HERITAGE SITE:**

Karnataka a land of surprises is rich in cultural and natural heritage sites situated in an excellent location and attracting both Indian and foreign tourists. Hampi is situated on the banks river Tungabhadra in Bellary district. This is an excellent tourism destination for both foreign and Indian tourists. It is situated just 12 Kms. away from Hospet City which is connected by rail and good network of roads.

At Hampi, the past comes alive. The whispering winds, Tungabhadra river, unique Rocky hillocks and magnificent Archeological remains of Vijayanagar Empire makes every tourist/visitor a mute spectator. The serene, majestic and imposing environment of Hampi World Heritage Site welcomes the tourists to the world's largest '**open-air museum**'. Once the proud '**City of Victory**' is now a '**City of ruins**'. However, the ruins of these historical monuments have stood the ravages of man and time and still evoke the memories of regal splendour. There were opulent palaces, marvelous temples, massive fortifications, ceremonial places, baths, markets, aqueducts, pavilions and stables for royal elephants. Most of these important structures are located in two areas: 1. Royal center and 2. Sacred center.

Every visitor/tourist can reach Hampi via Kaddiramapur and also from Kamalapur. The sacred center or the pilgrimage center is on the banks of river Tungabhadra. The Virupaksha temple dedicated to the lord Shiva is the only living temple in Hampi. This place attracts lots of tourists from different parts

India and foreign countries. It is estimated that the Virupaksha temple attracts around 2000 – 3000 people every day. After seeing this tourists either go by walk to witness the magnificent Vijaya Vithala Complex or can witness the Ganesh images, Krishna temples complex and move one to the excellent site of Archeological remains wherein we find royal palaces, temples, massive fortifications, ceremonial places, baths, markets, aqueducts, pavilions and stables for royal elephants. The following are important and major tourist attractions/locations one can see in Hampi World Heritage site.

1. Virupaksha Temple
2. Sasivekalu and Kadalekalu Ganesha
3. Vijaya Vithal Complex
4. Laxminarasinha or Ugranrasinha
5. Kodanda Rama Temple
6. Badavilinga
7. Elephant stables
8. pushkarani or stepped water tank
9. Lotus Mahal
10. Hazara Rama Temple
11. Mahanavami Dibba
12. Queen's bath
13. Achyutaraya Temple
14. Ganagitti temple
15. Pattabhirama Temple and many more

## **2. PLACES AROUND HAMPI:**

There are some important places around Hampi especially to the north of river Tungabhadra. Just to the north of river Tungabhadra is '**Anegundi Village**' which was popularly called as '**Royal Village**'. Anegundi village was called as 'Mother City' from which the Vijayanagar Empire started and is one of the living suburbs of pre-Vijayanagar period. The village is also of tourist attraction, which has excellent natural landscape and located just 12 Kms. from Gangavathi City of Koppal district.

Anegundi lies in the mythical kingdom of '**Kishkinda**' or '**Monkey Kingdom**'. Anjanadri hill near Anegundi village is believed to be the birth place of monkey – god 'Hanuman'. '**Pampa Sarovar**' is another tourist attraction located to the west of Anegundi village. The other major attractions near Anegundi village are Huchappayyanamath math temple near the river, a worth place for its black stone lathe-turned pillars and fine panels of dancers. The places of interest also include Durga Temple, **Nava Brindavan**, and Chintamani math. There is a famous '**Bear sanctuary**' at **Daroji** about 10.00 Km. from Kamalapur town.

**Anantasayyanagudi** is just 2 Kms. from Hospet and 10 Kms. from Hampi is another place wherein **Anantpadmanabha temple** is located. And of course **Tungabhadra Dam** is another tourist attraction across river Tungabhadra is in Hospet City.

### **3. TRANSPORTS AND ACCOMMODATION:**

Hampi is located just 12 Kms. away from Hospet urban area. Hospet is the second largest city in Bellary district and is well connected by National Highway, state highway and good rail network. The nearest Airport is Hubli which is just 140 Km. from Hospet. To reach Hampi either one has to take their own /rented vehicle or an autoriksha from Hospet and see Hampi and its surroundings and back in the evening to Hospet.

As regards to the accommodation is concerned Hospet has many good hotels either approved/constructed by Tourism department. There are also some good private hotels in Hospet. Hospet is mainly taking care of the tourists lodging/hotel requirements. In addition to the lodging facilities available in Hospet, there exist KSTDC hotel in Kamalapur and private illegal guesthouses/resorts in Hampi and Virupapur Gadda. The lodging facilities in Hampi and Virupapur Gadda mainly cater to the needs of foreign tourists. The following are the details of lodging facilities available in Hospet, Kamalapur, Hampi and Virupapur Gadda.

- Hotel Mayur Bhuvaneshwari : 32 Rooms
- Yatri Nivas : 6 Rooms & 2 Dormitories
- KSIDC – Hotel Mayur Vijayanagar : 21 Rooms
- KSTDC Approved Hotels - : 6 Hotels – 376 in Hospet
- 7 Hotels – Not approved by KSTDC : 629 Rooms

- **Lodging Facilities at Hampi:**

- Total Guest House - 47
- Total Licenses Cancelled - 9
- Running Guest Houses - 38

#### 4. GROWTH OF TOURIST POPULATION:

Tourism has added two types of traffic to the existing traffic flows generated by agricultural economy and settlements. There are number of trips of tourists from Hospet to the World Heritage Site. In addition to these there are trips caused by the traders catering to the tourist bazaar around Virupaksha Temple as well as the entrepreneurs who have transformed "Hampi Village" into an assembly of 'backpackers' guest houses and restaurants and some times popularly known as 'a reception center for foreign tourists'. This has resulted into radical transformation in socio-economic characteristics of the village.

#### Details of Tourist Traffic at Hampi Village

	Volumes per day	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian visitors on weekdays</li> <li>• on auspicious and holidays</li> <li>• Foreign visitors (mainly January to April)</li> </ul>	800-1,000 1,000-1,500 100 per day	
<b>Vehicles from Hospet:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autorickshas and tempos</li> <li>• Buses</li> <li>• Cars / jeeps on weekdays</li> <li>• Cars /jeeps on</li> </ul>	40 20 40 60	No separate data on shop owners' vehicle trips
<b>Vehicles from Kamalapur:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autorickshas</li> </ul>	20 (3-4 trips per day)	Some guesthouses in Kamalpur, mainly catering to Indian visitors

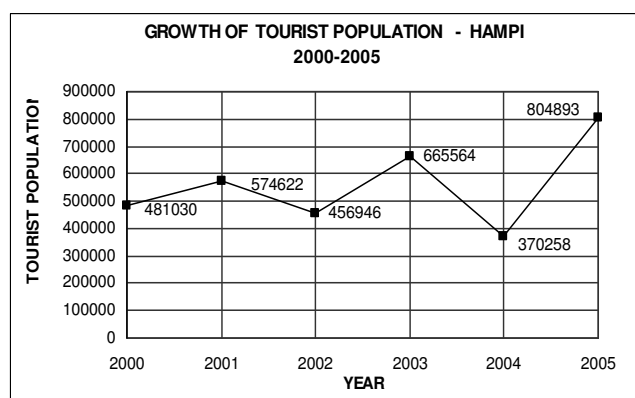
Source: H.D.Kammeier Report

## Growth of Tourist Population for the year 2000

**Table 5 - Tourist statistics for the year 2000**

Month	Indian tourists	Foreign tourists	Total	%	Remarks
January	61,621	1,981	63,602	13.2	Consistent distribution of Indian and foreign tourists over the year, with a culmination in December-January, as part of the high season from October to May, with another peak in April (festival). The lowest numbers in June coincide with the hottest season.
February	41,262	1,806	43,068	8.9	
March	40,165	1,067	41,232	8.6	
April	55,350	463	55,813	11.6	
May	41,356	338	41,694	8.7	
June	15,500	284	15,784	3.3	
July	23,700	444	24,144	5.0	
August	33,040	704	33,744	7.0	
September	21,225	414	21,639	4.5	
October	30,870	533	31,403	6.5	
November	45,450	1,223	46,673	9.7	
December	61,045	1,189	62,234	12.9	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>470,584</b>	<b>10,446</b>	<b>481,030</b>	<b>[99.9]</b>	

The growth of tourist population has been very much consistent throughout the year with December and January being the most favourite months and the June being the lowest tourists visited the World Heritage Site.



YEAR	POPULATION
2000	481030
2001	574622
2002	456946
2003	665564
2004	370258
2005	804893

The average tourists visited Hampi is 45,000 per month in 2000 to 65,000 during 2005 has been growing steadily every year. It is estimated that the number of tourist during 2021 will approximately be at 20,00,000.

## 5. HERITAGE BASED ECOSYSTEM:

Tourism is integrative of issues like Landscaping, Infrastructure development and quality of Environment, both from spectator's interest and participatory interest. Concept of eco-tourism aims at formulation of policy guidelines with respect to the eco-planning approach for tourism and development of an area or zone where historical character has to be conserved together with the natural ambience. It is the development of sustainable tourism taking into account the predominant historical context of urban fabric in the natural setting. Heritage is an important incentive for development of neglected settlements like Hampi, Anegundi, Kaddirampura Kamalapur and others.

It has generally been seen that the main threat to historical landscapes are related to urbanization and development efforts destroys a landscape ecologically, visually and sometimes physically. The multiform pressures of population retards protection of the ecological and cultural in-gradients in a historic landscape.

The **Strategies** for propagating Heritage:

- **Concept of Museum:** to bring appreciation of people and contemplation about assimilated knowledge.
- **Interpretation Center:** It is a flexible way of displaying and highlighting a given history, planned around a theme rather than a collection. It is through a communication process the themes and values attached with a region are displayed.
- **Eco-museum:** The object of eco-museum is to highlight craft or industrial heritage by exhibiting collection of movable objectives in symbolical monuments of past activities, these objects being both tools and products of these activities.

Urban Planning offers some strategic tools for management of sites.

- The classification of site interventions used according to it.
- Creation of a protected zone around the site – but there is no point in protecting a site if the area around it is subjected to deterioration, congestion and speculation. It may be possible to extend the concept of protected zone around the monument to include approach road or even the surrounding areas visible from the monument.
- Development Regulations for addition, alteration and new construction.
- Legal Framework for enforcement, implementation and management.

## **6. GUIDELINES FOR ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT:**

Eco-tourism should have a balance of three E's i.e. – Economy, Ecology and Environment, which is only possible by adopting following guidelines.

- Improve and encourage civic and corporate organization to adopt, clean up, and maintain sites and areas.
- Identify and evaluate historically significant buildings and sites. Develop detailed design guidelines to maintain a consistent area image.
- Encourage pedestrian activities in key areas by petitioning for walking improvement programmes.

- Have an area wide planning day that will develop sense of belonging and care for their locality. Similarly sponsor continuing area wise clean up day programme.
- Encourage the use of materials and techniques of construction.
- Environmental Benefits – Historic Preservation, improved road systems and improved infrastructure development of public spaces, creations and preservation of public parks, better use of marginal lands, improved waste management.