



Traditional Homes of India-Karnataka

Karnataka has attractive villages and towns, friendly rural folk, misty mountain ranges of the Western Ghats, lovely waterfalls, cacophony of migratory birds at Ranganathittu, call of the wild at Bandipur and Nagarhole, and the mild aroma of teak, ebony and rosewood in the forests. The state is steeped in tradition yet is one of the forerunners of the information technology revolution in the country. Karnataka has more than twenty per cent of its area under forest cover. There are many wildlife sanctuaries in the state and they have a rich variety of flora and fauna.

The houses in Karnataka reflect the local abundance in their style of architecture. The Karnataka houses are chosen based on the 5 geographic regions

mainly. The coastline of the west, the hilly area of Shimoga and Chikmangalur which is abundant in wood, the bamboo and tea plantations in Coorg, the fertile agricultural lands of the south, the stony dry northern region and the semi-arid plains of the east and centre. In the northern Karnataka area, the most abundant building material was stone. In the southern-west Karnataka more timber is used to build the home rightly pointing to the Kerala influence.

Guttu houses of Karnataka



These houses belonged to the landowning community of South Karnataka. They are inward looking Hindu mansions. In a typical Guttu house one can find a steeply pitched roof, combining single and double storied blocks around the courtyard. It was conceptualized this way to deter attacks. The tallest and the most impressive structure of the house is the façade which is usually symmetrical around the central projection. The principal material used to build the house is wood.

Did you know?

The traditional Indian wooden pillars in the guttu houses are called the khambas.

Aramane houses of Karnataka

The traditional homes of the bunt community of Karnataka are somewhat similar. These are more commonly found all around the Tulu Nadu region. It has a square shaped complex with a lot of storage space. Only the pillars are made of wood and the four entrance doors which are on the four sides of the complex. The roof is made of the Mangalore tiles. The centre of the complex is an open area and the place is utilised to dry things in the natural sunlight. These houses are also called Aramane.

Did you know?

A good example of a Guttu/ Aramane house is the Mysore place.

Aynmane houses of Karnataka

Coorg is famous for the martial clans that belong to this area. Each of these families has a family home here, known as Aynmane. A well built Aynmane resembles a fort. It typically stands on a hillock surrounded by paddy fields, swaying arecanut trees and coffee plantations. It is further accompanied by huts of the farm workers, depending upon the wealth of the clan. There is traditionally a well placed around for fresh water. There is a sloping tiled roof to face the onslaught of the monsoon. The centre of the house has a traditional open roof



with a corridor running around the courtyard connecting the rooms. The kitchen is usually at the rear end of the house or even further away to keep smoke away from the house. The toilet is always away from the main house. It usually has two entrance gates and the steps lead to the verandah. It is compulsory for the house to face the east.

There are 2 massive wooden poles strategically placed on the entrance. The images of sun, moon, flowers adorn these pillars.

Activity: Colour this part of the Mysore palace.



Activity: What is a unique part of your house or an ancestral home? What do you like about it?
