

## **MYSORE AND BANGALORE**



Enchanting palaces, beautiful gardens, and a brilliant light and sound fountain show. Add the cool weather, and it's the perfect recipe for our year 9 trip to Mysore and Bangalore. Starting off on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, after a fun filled train journey, we arrived at the stunning city of Mysore; the city of palaces, the next morning. An evening at the Mysore Zoo was the key to the entertainment. With a variety of 1000 mammals, birds and reptiles, it was a fascinating experience.

The 11<sup>th</sup> of January started off with the much-awaited visit to the historical Mysore palace. The palace is a little over a century old, and is now one of the most famous attractions after the Taj Mahal. The most attractive monument in Mysore that strikes the visitor is the Mysore Palace. It was completed in 1911 on the foundations of the old Palace that was destroyed by fire in 1897. The well-known architect Henry Irwin designed it. The palace has now been converted into a museum displaying souvenirs, paintings, jewellery, royal costumes and other items; which were once possessed by the Wodeyars. With around 200 fantastic rooms, brilliant architecture, and over 4000 bulbs used in the interiors, the Mysore palace was an enthralling experience for all. Exquisitely carved doors open into stunningly luxurious rooms. The front of the palace has an open balcony supported by massive circular columns. The interior of the palace, especially the Durbar Hall, is richly decorated. Replete with ornate ceilings, intricately carved massive doors, gleaming floors, frescoes depicting scenes from the epics Ramayana and the Mahabharath; the entire scene exudes royal splendour. The frontal open space, which is wide

and the open quadrangle in the middle of the building, provides natural air conditioning. Arrangements to keep the various parts of the building cool are contemplated. Domes, parapet balconies, verandahs, minarets, cupolas and arches combine harmoniously to make the building a veritable masterpiece of lasting beauty. To the south of the building is the marriage pavilion or the Kalyana Mantapa with a centre octagonal gabled roof, covered by stained glasses. Tall slender cast iron pillars are arranged in-groups of three at the corners of the central octagon.

The evening was spent with a marvelous Light and Sound fountain show in the well known Brindavan Gardens of Mysore, which left us spellbound and wanting more. Located 15km from the city center, Brindavan Gardens are one of the most visited travel destinations in Mysore. The Gardens are laid across the River Cauvery below the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam in Mandya District, spreading over 150 acres of land. The garden is embellished with vast expanses of well-laid out lawns, diverse kaleidoscopic rows of flowers and above all the amazing site of fountains, encompassing a small beautiful lake holding the charm of musical fountain in its center. Brindavan Gardens are basically terrace gardens that have been landscaped with decorated steps where water flows in-between these ornate steps.

The morning of day 3 was spent travelling to Bangalore, and the evening, in the prestigious Lalbagh Botanical Garden. In an area of about 40 acres, this garden, had a large assortment of plants, be it shrubs or trees of over 200m, the Lalbagh, Botanical Garden had it all, and truly depicted the beauty of nature. Lalbagh, for its unique achievement in nurturing the concept of horticulture and aiding the development of horticulture, has earned a pride of place among the gardens of the world and it has come to be regarded as one of the best gardens in the East for its layout, maintenance, scientific treasure and scenic beauty. It is the place of legends and beauty, a place of rarity and wonder, a place of paradise and landmarks. It is an important genetic resource centre for introduction, acclimatization and maintenance of plants; it envisages documentation of the variations available in plants of ornamental and economic value.

Our last day on this wondrous trip was spent at a wildlife sanctuary, which enabled us to see bears, tigers, lions, and even deer, in their completely natural habitat, no more than a few metres away from us. This was truly an experience like no other. Our evening before boarding the train was spent shopping for souvenirs of this amazing trip.

On return, all we can say is, we'll carry the memory of this incredible trip forever.

**BY Students of Class 9**