



**CHRIST**  
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)  
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# TRAVELOGUE

*Love for voyage*

Volume XVI Issue I

## Shettihallic Church

*Indulge in the gothic Relic of Karnataka*

## Manikarnika

*In between death and enlightenment*

## The Beautiful, Eccentric and Untamed

*My remote experience of the indigenous*

## Parsi Soul Food

*The Culinary Kohinoor of Mumbai*





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### **From The Editorial Team**

It is with great pleasure that we, the students of MBA and MTTM (Tourism Management) present to you Vol XVII ISSUE I of Travalogue, a Corporate Travel Magazine from the Tourism cluster, CHRIST, (Deemed to be University), Bannerghatta Road Campus, Bangalore.

India is a country known for its marvels and cultural diversity giving huge opportunities of experiencing and exploring the beautiful elements of any destination. India is a country known for its famous historic architecture and legacies and similarly there is one such lost legacy in the pages of Indian History known for its unique architecture. Unearthing the history of the Floating Church, we bring you the cover story of the Magazine- **Shettihalic Church: The Architectural Marvel of India, Indulge in the Gothic Relic of Karnataka**, authored by Ishita Mitra, In this edition the magazine brings you those wonderful stories which carries plethora of experiences and true feelings. Ranging from articles that talk of real life experiences like **Manikarnika-in between death and enlightenment** to some of the new trend domestic stories like **Gossips to Gokarna or Savandurga- Travel to Asia's largest Monolith rock**, We bring to you a range of diverse contemporary articles and authors who have pen down their real life travel experiences which allows to promote Incredible India in such a situation of pandemic where people need to travel domestically in order to help the travel industry of India.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the Industry who have contributed their support towards the magazine. We would also like to thank the Editorial team of Travalogue who have portrayed cooperation and teamwork at every stage. To all our readers, we hope you would enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed compiling it.

**Happy Reading!**

**Editors-in-chief**

# CONTENTS

**1. The Beautiful, Eccentric, and Untamed  
-My remote experience of the indigenous**



**2. Shettihali Church:  
The Architectural Marvel of India:  
Indulge in the Gothic Relic of Karnataka  
(cover story)**

**3. Manikarnika - in between death  
and enlightenment**



**4. The Festival on Wheels -  
An Insight on Jagannath Rath Yatra**

**5. Dhanushkodi - The Last Road of India**



**6. Pichavaram - An enticing mangrove Forest  
Boating blend mangrove experience in  
Tamil Nadu**

**7. Parsi Soul Food  
The Culinary Kohinoor of Mumbai**



**8. Gossips to Gokarna: to the immortal  
friendship and love for travel**



**9. 900 KANDI -  
A (GLASS) STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN**



**10. A Little Green Haven Paradise Found;  
All Saints' Church**

**11. Savandurga -  
Travel to Asia's largest monolith rock**



# THE BEAUTIFUL, ECCENTRIC, AND UNTAMED -MY REMOTE EXPERIENCE OF THE INDIGENOUS

SHIVA HARI UNNITHAN



I was flying for the first time. The first time in 21 years, was when I witnessed what we all look like when we are above the clouds - minuscule and irrelevant. It was a trip that was so memorable and refreshing. Though it seemed as if only minutes had passed, the three-hour journey somewhat felt like a dream, and there I was standing on an island - The Andamans.

My family and I chose a sober residential double room in Port Blair which, by the way, was fairly odd because it didn't feel 'touristy' to me. Port Blair reminded me of just another city, except, with a scarce population, interesting people, and beautiful weather. The next day when I was woken up, strangely at 0500 hours, was when I knew that I was definitely going to be a part of something breathtaking.



When you are in Port Blair, do not miss a road trip for an entire day which gets exciting as it can (though I did sleep for the most parts). Also, never ask your tour operator/local guide about the day's itinerary - the weather is always tricky, and it's better to be surprised. I was longing for what's coming next! At one point we were hopping between smaller islands, using a Jenga that looked massive and scary. The next thing you know, you are in a smaller boat to explore limestone caves carved by waves crashing onto them for centuries.

"My remote experience of the indigenous..."

The following day, I was curious when the car halted for a long time. It was a regular check conducted by the Army before we entered a protected forest. We were told to keep our eyes and ears open to witness something that can't be put into words. We spent close to two hours, driving through this long and dense forest; constantly under surveillance by the police and the Army. Something was bound to happen, a negative feeling that you incur, a discomfort - and then we saw...

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The Jarawa - Beautiful, Eccentric, Untamed.

The tribe that has shut interactions with the modern world, living for over 2 millennia, and choosing to be hidden from every day-life of the outside. I saw a Jarawa! Not knowing what they are or what history has to say; just a man walking by and disappearing as a policeman signaled us to hurry.



Getting to Havelock islands was a terrifying experience, though, traveling on a ferry through a violent ocean for a brief 2-hour ride seemed interesting. Havelock Islands is a haven for picturesque destinations. The memories of Elephant beach can leave a scar when you think of the emerald waters that pull you, quite literally, deep into the ocean. It offers activities such as snorkeling, speed boats, and banana boat rides to name a few.

Andaman's fusion food too awaits you after a long day at the beach. Amritsari Kulcha, Goan Seafood delicacies, and Arabian Cuisine - a blend of Indian favorites are some of the local favorites. But I simply felt like a "tourist" for the first time in Andaman when visiting one of the cleanest beaches in Asia - Radhanagar Beach. I felt, for the first time that I had traveled somewhere foreign, a place so serene and calm.

The highlights of spending my last few days in Andaman were shopping for some souvenirs - fridge magnets are a must! We were heading to the airport, getting on the flight that I adored so much; leaving behind a memorable week of a purely therapeutic journey. As I see from above, a "minuscule" island, I felt the same discomfort while traveling through that forest.

I sure did feel like a tourist among tourists, but an "alien" amidst a human so simple, so disconnected yet knowing the simplest pleasures of life. As I held on to my souvenir, a fridge magnet in the shape of a Jarawa man and woman, I bid farewell to an Island that was no longer "irrelevant."

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# SHETTIHALIC CHURCH: THE ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL OF INDIA

## “INDULGE IN THE GOTHIC RELIC OF KARNATAKA”

ISHITA MITRA



There are so many buildings in India, and our bucket list continues to grow! Recent additions to our list? Church. A floating church. The church is always immersed in most parts of the year, and floats in the summer. Yes, welcome to Shettihalli Church in Karnataka, a beautiful floating church that will surely surprise you!

### **The Story After the Floating Week**

Shettihalli is a small, well-located small town in the heart of Karnataka. There is a very special monument at the end of it, better known as the Floating Church. The real name of the church is Rosary Church, or Shettihalli Church. Nevertheless, this magnificent congregation was built over 160 years ago by Europeans along the Hemavathi River. Then in 1960 the government built a dam on Lake Hemavathi. But this caused many floods, and nearby residents had to clear the area. The rosary church was naturally blessed with a bridge over the dam, where visitors could take in the spectacular views. When you visit this place you will see that the entire roof of the church has been erected while part of the altar and the central nave are still standing. But there are no stained-glass windows or stained glass windows in the church. Some villagers flee the church at night, claiming it has been visited.

This place is always immersed in water during the rainy season, making it unique and unique. Only one-third of the week is visible when visiting during the monsoon season. In the afternoon when the setting sun casts a shadow over the lower waters, the ruined ruins look amazing. As the water level rises in the dam every year, the church gets lost under water. You can hire boat drivers located near the dam to give you the opportunity to visit the church indoors when you visit the church during the rainy season. A mysterious but very romantic setting, this abandoned church is a local tourist destination these days. Those who visited the Shettihalli church in Hassan felt extremely special. For nature lovers and bird lovers, this place will steal your heart. You may be able to spot a variety of birds such as painted storks, small cormorant, gray heron, Indian pond heron,



Brahminy kites, river tern and egrets. The area around this week is also an important place for wedding photos and shooting regional movies. Its stunningly beautiful appearance and eerie charm is now a paradise for photographers. A panoramic view was made when a dark sky reflected the church of Shettihalli on the Hemavati River behind it.

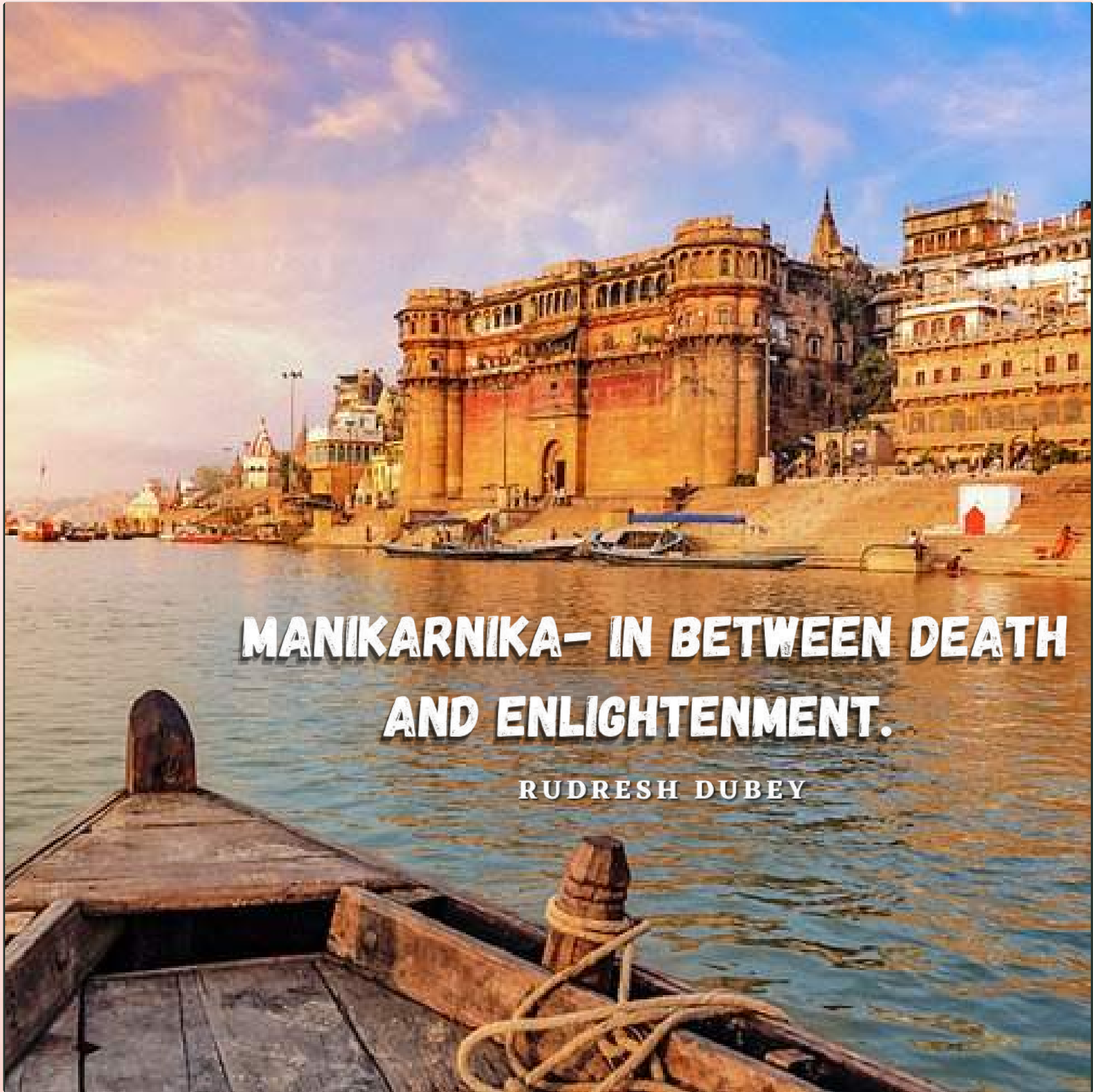
### **Shettihalli Church: Marvel of Lost Buildings in Time**

It was built by French missionaries of this region by the wealthy British owners of Alur and Sakleshpur. This ancient Catholic church floating in Hassan has some distinct Gothic architecture. It is said that along with several skilled builders, Fr. Abbe Dubois, a French missionary, founded the church in 1810 using mud and bricks and a mixture of jugs and eggs. It was later revised in 1860. Initially, a one-story church was built of a two-story tower. Glass from Belgium, gypsum from Egypt, paintings from Scotland, palm trees from Malaysia, and decorative materials from Italy and Brazil are used.

The church was established to serve Christian communities living in Karnataka, in the areas of Hassan and the suburbs, including Changaravalli, Shettihalli, Doddakoppalu, Gaddekopplu and Madanakopplu. The church soon gained world fame by offering yeoman services to the poor and needy in health matters in all walks of life, regardless of their religious affiliation. Many Christian scholars, including Rev. F Kittel, Hermann Moggling, Bl Rice, and John Hands, are believed to have lived in the church during their research. One hundred years after the church was founded, in the 1960's, Lake Gorur, also known as the Hemavathi Dam, was rebuilt. Hemavathi in Karnataka. Subsequently, damage to the collateral during the construction of the Hemavati dam led to the sinking of 28 villages around the river. The floods led to the evacuation of villages around the church and the last one left. Prior to the construction of the Gorur lake, Shettihalli used to be the richest agricultural town known for its sunflower fields.

### **Traveling From Bangalore To Shettihalli Floating Church**

Shettihalli or Rosary Church is located 200 km from Bangalore. Take the NH75 to Hassan's house, and drive a short turn to the village of Shettihalli. After that, there are no sign boards, so you will have to ask someone for directions. Also, the best time to visit the Floating Church (as a result) is the rainy season. You may need to arrange for the boat to inspect the church nearby. But if you want to get a glimpse of the whole building, you can take a day and summer trip.



# MANIKARNIKA- IN BETWEEN DEATH AND ENLIGHTENMENT.

RUDRESH DUBEY

Varanasi, a city of life, a synonym of culture and a symbol of the sacred is known to us for its divine temples, alluring Ghats and the enchanting river Ganga. The city is bestowed to the grandeur of lord Shiva as he is amalgamated in the air of the city like oxygen.

It is believed that the city is older than history and imagination, it is known for its divinity, spirituality and intangibility but, hidden under the temple bells, Ghat-stairs and the incessant prayers is the confounding Manikarnika- the last destination of life.

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Manikarnika is one among the stupefying eighty-four ghats of Varanasi, it is the space where Hindu cremation takes place. Not a single second passes when the bodies are not burnt here with astonishing numbers of three hundred to four hundred per day. What is more flabbergasting is that it attracts various domestic and international tourists who come here to see the burning pyre. The feeling of standing and looking at bodies burning is surreal and cannot be explained through any means of literature. The pyre not only burns bodies but also combusts pride, possession and the wealth of human beings.



I once had an opportunity to visit the place, and consequently, the experience changed my life upside down. The dead are brought near to the Manikarnika wrapped in white clothes, they are dipped in the Ganga and after some rituals the body is placed on a wooden pyre and fire is lit. Photography is not allowed, but somehow tourists manage to click a few. It takes hours for the body to burn and the ritual is performed by a “Dom” also known as Corpse-burner who earns his living among the dead. The ashes are then collected and given to the family members who then immerse it in the holy river.



I sat there for about an hour and a half and went deep into my thoughts. It completely shook my way of seeing things. I was left dumbstruck, people come here as tourists but what they get is a lesson which cannot be taught anywhere. The burning bodies, the ashes and the fire changed my perception of life. We think that all we need is wealth and prosperity, but we don't know that life is all different from materiality. This place had magic which turned all my possessions fake, I felt that may it be rich or poor, dark or fair, exquisite or ugly, everyone has an ending, and that is death, it discriminates none.



The experience made me realize the importance of all the little things that I missed out on in life. It widened my eyes, and I was struck with reality. The reality that life is short, everything is temporary, whatever we strive for has one ultimate end, and it cannot be escaped, we need to cherish every moment, follow our instincts, shed off our worries and dance to the tunes of life because one day the music will stop forever with the concluding tune of "Ram Naam Satya Hai".

# **“THE FESTIVAL ON WHEELS – AN INSIGHT ON JAGANNATH RATH YATRA”**

**POTNURU SRISAI LIKHIT**

The most magnificent and one of the wonders of the World where more than 20Lakh people gather for this 9-day celebrated Hindu religious' festival, The Puri Jagannath Rath Yatra, in Puri, Odisha. This is usually considered to be one of the wonders of World because this Chariot festival of Lord Puri Jagannath, a Hindu religions' most prestigious and royally celebrated festival that commences annually often in the late June and the early July days, with devotes within the festival grounds of the holy temple of Puri. This auspicious procession gathers a devotee count of

more than 20 Lakh devotees, with all the age groups amid a very portentously arranged security and temple ground staff and chiefs who always manage to wonderfully get the festival to its last events without any chaos or even disturbance to the procession chariot and the atmosphere of miraculously devoted people that come seeking for the blessings of God Puri Jagannath and asking for their sins to be washed away as they pull the chariot ropes with their pure devoted hearts so as the legend of that place claims to have.



This really intrigued me to somehow go to this humongous gathering of pilgrimage and witness by myself about the claims and tales that have been told and written every year. This was in the year 2018, during the early days of second-year of my under graduation, around July 20th or 21st that I started off from my college hostel to visit this holy ceremony and witness the grand procession. . Little did I realise that more than half of my journey was completed while I was in a state of enthusiastically excited state of mind wondering how will it really feel to be a part of this wonderful wonder, that happens in this part of our beautifully coloured all around with the most dense gathered crowd of devotees who hail from all over the Country as well as various pockets across the globe.



It was 2:30pm; post-noon that I had reached the holy grounds which was actually like all the descriptions I have read through the years and astonishingly vanquished my mind to a state of euphoric feel where I really felt nothing like an individual but like a part of something that was not physically visible or felt, but more like the spiritual connection to Universe and the inside of me. It was an overwhelming feel where I lost myself to crowd and was awestruck to happen to be a part of the chariot pulling festival and my one of most precious and never again felt, that must to feel once in a lifetime kind of trip which I really till date never am still not able to process on how does the temple committee and the security manage to complete this sacred ritual every year and always come back with more and more beauty and vivid wide attraction of the crowd to that place colouring the spiritual ambience of every soul that is present within and around the ceremony. This trip was more like a awakening to the traveller in me that was woken with curiosity to visit more beautiful places with the same level of vibe that I felt in Puri.

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# DHANUSHKODI-THE LAST ROAD OF INDIA

**S A S RAMACHANDRA**



The tip of India, where the Indian Ocean of the South meets the Bay Of Bengal from the West, magically portraying the most picturesque and a breathtaking view of the two water bodies, the clear blue water of the roaring Indian ocean waves which confluence into the green serene water-waves of the Bay Of Bengal, which even though don't mix but rather get so naturally differentiated whilst creating the illusion as if the nature is trying mix the colours to paint itself into the most grandeur view of nature's distinguished convergence that could ever be witnessed. This magical show of nature is showcased nowhere else other than the tip of India that is towards Sri Lanka- The Dhanushkodi beach.

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It was around 1:45pm, the whole view all around me, mesmerising beauty of nature, that happens to be the most magical and a really distinctively crucial part of the most famous Indian Epic- The Ramayana. Dhanushkodi is that place which has been named after a miraculous tale from the epic that is, from where the Hindu cultures' "Ideal Man figure"- Lord Rama, gets his breakthrough to finally being able to get back to his abducted wife, Sita Devi, by the mighty ruler of Sri Lanka then, Ravana. The legend has the tale that when Rama, emotionally drained and with the most determined heart to challenge Ravana and with the purest love towards his Wife Sita, lifts his might Bow and aims his arrows towards Sri Lanka and fires continuously until the bow was broken into two. It is said that almost a thousand arrows were fired by him from that beach tip where the water bodies collide hence named Dhanushkodi.



The tip of the beach just gets lost into the waters from where it is believed to be only around a distance of 24 km, away from Sri Lanka.

As I walked through the soft beach-shore sand, I realised that the place was also very empty and had no man-made infrastructure other than a few snack shacks. It was all so clean and the clouds above were shading me from the Sun, with cool salty breeze carrying the soothing wave sounds which really brought me to a state of mind where I was euphoric and had already been in-sync with the nature and environment around me.



It was once a lively resided town which was completely cleaned and washed away into being the way it is now, by a cyclone in 1964. Since then, it has been declared as “The Ghost Town of Tamil Nadu” and has been abandoned with a few paranormal activity sighting reports. Hence it is prohibited to stay there after sunset, this was why they close the place before the sunsets’ and the darkness takes over.It is then that I realised, that anything which looks too good to be true, will at times or maybe always, never be true!

That elevated peaceful moments still live in me every-time I think of them and close my eyes. There was something strange around all that beautiful scenery which is more to something than it meets the eye! Gradually after 4hours of me trying to understand the missing piece of the almost Paradise, the Dhanushkodi beach, I realised that the place was being prepared for the tourists and vendors to call it a day and clear out of the beach. Its was all so strange, I was anxiously waiting there all day long taking in the best of what nature around me was offering, expecting that the sunset would be the missing piece which was all that I was afraid I would have not completed and gone home with an “Almost Paradise” thought..The picture was incomplete, to worsen it, the beach too was closing for the day though it was not yet 5pm in the evening. I was unable to understand why and what was the point of shutting down the beach so early.



**PICHAVARAM - AN ENCITING MANGROVE FOREST  
BOATING BLEND MANGROVE EXPERIENCE IN TAMIL NADU  
RINA DALINE T**

When we think about Tamil Nadu, the first thing that comes to our mind is its unique cultural heritage. It is a place well renowned for ancient Temples that have been preserved over centuries and centuries. Apart from this, the state has an amalgamation mix of attractions to treat the minds and eyes of the tourists. When magnified towards its natural attractions, the mangrove forests in Tamil Nadu are undoubtedly the best option to explore. If you are a fascinated traveler of Mangrove forests then the breath-taking paradise is awaiting you in Pichavaram.

To have a glimpse about Pichavaram, it is a small village that lies in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. It is the second-largest mangrove forest in the world and a worth visiting destination. As this forest stays in the vicinity of Chidambaram and Puducherry, it acts as a tourist circuit and thereby attracts more tourists from either direction.

The water body guarded by a group of mangrove trees and shrubs on either side is an eye-catching picturesque view. The tree grows at an average height where its roots are spread across the ground and penetrates the water. Pichavaram comprises approximately 20 different types of trees in the mangroves. The forest is spread across 1100 hectares and separated from the Bay of Bengal through a sand bar. It serves as a home to more than 50 islands and is engulfed by 4400 small canals. The canals in the mangrove forests act as the center of attraction for the visitors. As we go inside the canals, the mangrove covers us from all three sides with water beneath. Even in some areas, the tree leaves are very thick as they allow very little sunlight to pass through the forest. It looks like a jungle cave floating on the astounding serene waters.

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One can experience an exhilarating boating ride when going through the narrow canals that take you deep inside the jungle. When we go through the forest we could feel nature welcoming us with calm waters and evergreen trees. One can take a tour to the mangrove forests either by rowboat or Motorboat. Rowboats are preferred to explore the secret narrow passages of the canals. A couple of hours is usually spent wandering through the forest. But in reality, it takes at least a month to explore the whole mangrove forest. One of the intriguing facts is that there exist more than 400 water routes to explore the mangrove. As we sail through the forest, all routes will look the same. Henceforth it is quite challenging to trace the path we have traveled so far.



The backwaters from the Bay of Bengal form the water body of the forest. The area is covered widely by mangrove forests that are rooted permanently in the water. The mangrove roots are known as “Pneumatophores” or “Breathing roots” as it has a plethora of pores to intake oxygen supply. The roots are thick and long that spread out above ground, unlike the normal roots that beneath into the soil. When we sail through the waters, we could see the gigantic fascinating roots rising upwards from the water. It separates the salinity from fresh water and helps in oxygen supply. The roots structure in Pichavaram is a bewitching scene to watch for. This unique feature embellishes the mangrove forests and emerges as a favourite spot.

We can see a variety of flora and fauna as we enter the mangrove forest. The tree leaves are unique here as we can frequently spot a crystal layer on the leaves of mangrove trees. The excess of salinity absorbed through roots is expelled in such a manner. Pichavaram has a unique biodiversity that pays home to more than 200 bird species and a variety of sea animals. One can spot Turtles, fishes, Crabs, Prawns, Oysters, Otters. Other than boating in the mangrove forest, people can indulge in bird watching. Most of the foreign birds visit the mangrove from November to February henceforth, it would be the ideal time for bird watching in Pichavaram. It is also a perfect spot for water sport activities like rowing, kayaking, and canoeing as it is surrounded by water bodies.

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The serene waters interconnect multiple islands within the mangrove territory. Small villages are found inside the mangroves where one can spot the local people of Pichavaram. The localities sell fishes to tourists and even some of the boats are owned by these people. The local guide takes tourists to the deep jungle and thrilling canals upon demands from tourists. Income from Fishing and Boating contributes to their livelihood. Other than exploring the dense mangrove forests, small villages, beaches, people can enhance their jungle experience by staying in resorts in its vicinity.

Pichavaram has been featured in a few south Indian movies because of its appealing luscious green mangroves floating on the water body. Some of the notable movies are "Thupparivalan, Dasavatharam, Sooryan, and Idayakanni.





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# PARSI SOUL FOOD

## THE CULINARY KOHINOOR OF MUMBAI

**VEENASHREE PARMAR**

Mumbai - “The city that never sleeps” and to keep this hustle going is the buzzing streets and thousands of hawkers and vendors selling delicious yet affordable fast and cheap meals. It has been shaped by the fusion of many cultures, the culinary scene of Mumbai is unmatched. Mumbai formerly known as Bombay (the official name until 1995) is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. On the western coast of India, Mumbai lies on the Konkan coast and has a deep natural harbour. A mixture of traditional festivals, food, music, and theatres are the seven islands that constitute the culture of Mumbai. With a range of food, culture, and nightlife, the city provides a cosmopolitan and diverse lifestyle, accessible in a form and abundance comparable to that of other world capitals. The history of Mumbai as a major trade hub has contributed to the coexistence in the city of a wide range of cultures, faiths, and cuisines. This unique blend of cultures is due to the migration of people from all over India since the British period.

Indian cuisine is justifiably famous around the world, and there’s no better place to sample some favorite bites than in the streets of Mumbai. The culinary experience that the city provides is a major part of the culturally diverse Mumbai. The city has a range of street foods on show and it is enjoyed by all, from a billionaire to a beggar. A daily practise that starts long before dawn is the cooking and eating of street food in Mumbai. Its roots lie in the vanished mills of the region, where the need for cheap, fortifying meals drove street vendors to develop a new cuisine.

In the midst of the delicious chaos raises the Parsi community which has left its mark on the city in terms of both architecture and food. Mumbai’s parsi community is often being described as “world within a world”. They are the followers of Zoroastrianism. Mumbai is well known for its Parsi cafes and restaurants. The Parsis take their food very seriously. No wonder, since Parsi cuisine perfectly braids together Iranian, Gujarati, British, even Portuguese and Goan influences.

Here are my top 5 picks of Parsi cafes and restaurants which holds a special place in my heart:

**Cafe Military:** This 87 years old cafe started by serving Delicious Tongue Dishes, Tasteful Liver Dishes, Light Meals Of Eggs and Cakes, Ices and Puddings, among others. Today, the café is famous mostly for its non-veg dishes - hearty chicken dhansak and kheema pao.

Location: Fort

Cost for Two: Rs. 400

Famous For: Sali Boti

Timings: Monday to Saturday 8.30 am to 9 pm

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**Paradise:** This traditional parsi restaurant is run by an old parsi gentleman who happens to be an amazing host. Paradise is the place to go for the best Salli Marghi outside of a Parsi kitchen; the chicken swimming in a mahogany gravy, rich with spice and served with a scattering of crunchy sali (finely-cut crisp fried potato) on top.

Location: Colaba

Cost for Two: Rs. 700

Famous For: Mutton Dhansak

Timings: 11.30 am to 10.30 pm

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**Britannia and Co:** The internet is filled with pictures of people visiting this historic restaurant. Serving a range of vegetarian and non vegetarian dishes, among which the most popular “The Berry Pulao” and “Dhansak” is what makes this place really special. Also, for desserts don't forget to try their signature Caramel Custard and the Chocolate Mousse!

Location: Ballard Estate

Cost for Two: Rs. 1000

Famous For: Berry Pulao

Timings: 11.30 am to 4 pm



**Yazdani Bakery:** One of the oldest and most famous Parsi cafes in Mumbai. The rich aroma of their freshly baked buns and cakes will attract your taste buds while you pass through the Flora Fountain with its old world charm and super friendly staff.

Location: Fort

Cost for Two: Rs. 250

Famous For: Apple Pie, Bun Maska, Mawa Cake

Timings: 7 am to 7 pm

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**Ideal Corner:** Famous for its Bheja Fry, Mutton Dhansak and the creamy Chocolate Mousse, Ideal Corner serves delicious and authentic range of Parsi food in a busy area surrounded by offices. Their super efficient and quick service will leave you for wanting more.

Location: Fort

Cost for Two: Rs. 400

Famous For: Sali Chicken, Lagan Nu Custard, Chocolate Mousse

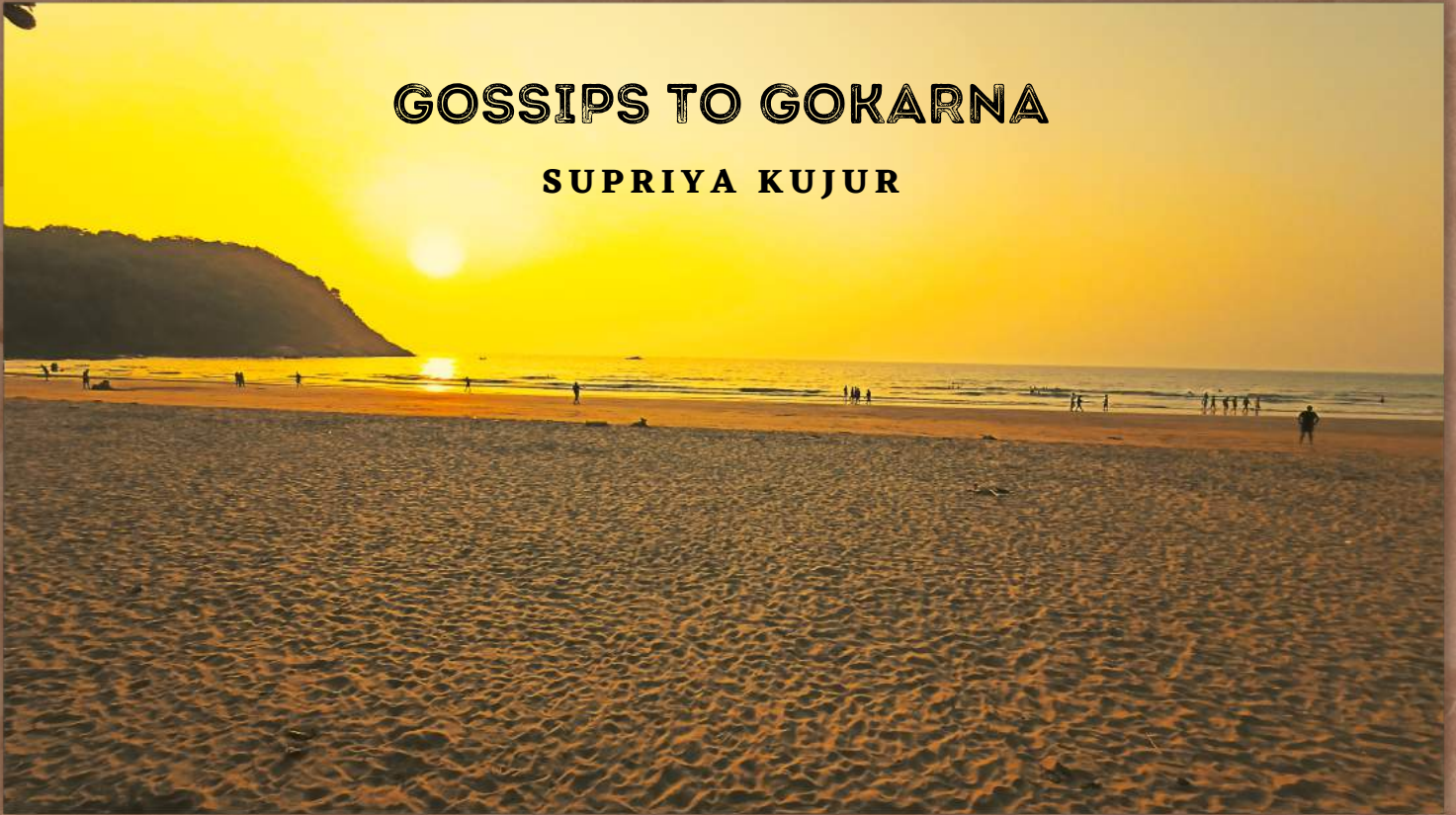
Timings: 12 pm to 4 pm



I hope this will help you navigate through the multitude of Parsi restaurants in Mumbai and once you are in Mumbai make note of the most prominent ones that you most certainly shouldn't miss!

# GOSSIPS TO GOKARNA

SUPRIYA KUJUR



Gokarna, being a known beauty is situated at the coast of western Karnataka. Every destination is different from each other and unique in its own way and so is this destination. Gokarna was always in that “destinations to visit” list but as always executing a plan is quite different from planning right? So after long sitting and gossips together Gokarna was finalized with my other two girls.

The day has come to execute long lost plan from the diary and we started from Bengaluru in a sleeper bus. Bengaluru have a lot of other options to travel to Gokarna which can be hardly a 12-hour journey either with bus or a train. After reaching we headed to Kudle beach which might be 15 – 20 minutes of travel by an auto. Walking down the stairs to Kudle, the first view you get is beyond amazing with all those cool breezes, wavy shores of water, sun rising from the corner of the beach and children laughing by the small waves that hit their toes. Walking down the beach we headed towards our hotel, got ready and had breakfast in the hotel café itself.

Now, as we went back to the shores of Kudle we could feel the blistering sun above our heads and according to the little research we did and suggestions took from hotel manager we are walking for the Om beach which is nearly 4.5 kilometers by foot. The road is narrow and covered with trees on both sides. The way is hilly so we had to walk upwards till we reached the T point for Om beach, from where the way is slightly downwards to the beach. Reaching Om beach, we could see the rush of people to enjoy their holiday plans.

Families with young ones playing in water, bachelors enjoying their beers at the restaurant on the upper edge of beach, some capturing moments in cameras and small vendors selling stone ornaments and braiding those fancy and colorful hair braids. The Om beach is in the shape of Om if we get an aerial view of it which is why it is named so and people visit the place to see the art by nature.

This beach is quite commercialized as there were options to boating and some other watersports activities one can try. We finalized to go for a boating ride which was going to cover the other beaches linked from there till the dolphin point beneath the light house which is also near to the meeting point of three water bodies. On the way on this motor boat ride one can enjoy the amazing view of different beaches namely paradise beach, nirvana beach and other private beaches. It also has a small trek from the edges of hill with blooming red flowered trees on way till the light house. If one loves to trek this will surely be worth the time and energy. Most of the beaches we saw had rocky edges which added more to the aesthetic view of land meeting water from the side view. Here we reached the dolphin point and waited for some minutes for dolphins to jump and we could see the excitement of the family in the boat to witness the moment of fun. The boat returned back to the beach and we walked back to Kudle but with our fancy braided hairs to flaunt. It's almost evening, we sat on a small shop having a cup of tea watching the sun setting down the water.



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It was now 9 at night, we had dinner on one of the restaurants there and sat on shores for a while. This time the current waves are comparatively bigger as they were in the day time. Sky is completely dark but after a while we can look upon those amazing shining stars which filled the sky by 12 in the morning. Stargazing on the sand bed besides your girl gang is also one of those moments where there are no worries and you just enjoy the days of friendship with all those lame jokes.

There are a lot more places to visit in Gokarna like Yana Caves, Mahabaleshwar Temple, Koti Tirtha and many more. Some of which are bit far from the city point. As we came for a short trip we couldn't visit some of these places. The next day we explored some of the restaurants, cafes and shops near to our hotel room which were good I must say. The food is a bit expensive on beaches but to the taste, it's worth it. We left the hotel by evening and had the last cup of tea there from the same shop. The beach view of setting sun, sky a bit yellowish orange and shiny sands due to the falling rays of sun is what we are going to miss till we visit the place next time. This was the end of trip we headed back to the bus stand and from there back to Bangalore.



# 900 KANDI – A (GLASS) STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

SITHARA ROY

Okay I lied. It's not exactly a stairway, it's a bridge. But however you decide to describe it, there is no denying that it is one of the most beautiful and tranquil places I have ever seen in my life. 900 Kandi is a forest area situated in the Wayanad district of Kerala, with lush greenery surrounding you, breathtaking views and pleasant climate all day round. 900 (pronounced thollayiram, which is the Malayalam word for 900) Kandi is a spot of untouched beauty and one best for going on an adventure and enjoying the amazing view from the glass bridge overlooking the mountains.

Our journey began with a long off road trekking trip. We had taken a car and it wasn't possible to traverse those paths by car so we decided to walk the rest of the way which was a trek around 7 kms. Some jeep drivers nearby were adamant that we couldn't possibly walk all the way and walk back, which only fuelled our decision to make the trek. The road we had to go on was both beautiful and eerie at the same time. We were surrounded on all sides by the forest and the only company we had were the occasional noise of different animals. Off roading jeeps carrying other travellers like us would speed past us sometimes but otherwise we were completely alone in the middle of the forest. Even though we had started the trek in the late morning the climate was very pleasant and the forest gave us more than enough shade. Walking through the forest was both an enjoyable and tedious process.

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We were soon tiring fast but fortunately we met some travellers coming back from the viewpoint who had decided to make the trek on foot like us. Talking to them renewed our energy and we were soon at the peak. Now here there are private agencies providing various activities for the adventure lovers like ziplining and also an area for kids. There are also tents (and rooms if you prefer them) that you can stay in and stages to conduct programs. We travelled on and soon reached a cave that we could explore. It wasn't huge by any means but we still had fun exploring the tiny nook. Moving on further we reached a cliff and that is where the glass bridge is situated. The bridge been built like an extension of the cliff, jutting out into the expanse.



If we had thought the forest was beautiful, then the view and the atmosphere here left us absolutely speechless. Saying that it was breath taking and beautiful and any other words would not be enough to describe the pure untouched beauty we found there. The mountains were on all sides of us, wrapped in a rich deep green, and gently encased in a wispy fog. We walked on the glass bridge barefoot, the glass cold from the ever-present mist. The feeling of looking down and seeing a whole forest underneath our feet was akin to walking on clouds. It was undoubtedly one of the best experiences of my life. Looking through the glass beneath us and seeing the forest and even clouds was a truly enchanting experience. The bridge ends in a small metal platform looking out into the void of the cliff. Needless to say, we took a lot of pictures but no photograph could ever capture the feeling of being there and being in that moment, the feeling of being cradled in the gentle hands of the clouds and the wind and seeming as if we were at the edge of heaven.



After spending about an hour there, we reluctantly made our trek back down the mountain. We came across a small stream by the road that we had seen on our way to the peak and decided to dip our feet in and spend a few minutes there too. Even though it was late afternoon and we had just walked 7 kms on an uneven path, the climate was so cool to the point that we were almost shivering. We occasionally had some rain too, which was more like mist turning to water around us. All too soon we were back where we had left our car. It was a truly humbling and magical experience that we had had. It was an adventure. I feel as if everyone should be lucky enough to experience this place and the beauty it holds. I truly hope that I will be fortunate enough to be able to come back some day and walk on clouds again.

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# A LITTLE GREEN HAVEN PARADISE FOUND; ALL SAINTS' CHURCH KEERTHANA TULIPS.D



'All Saints' Church' is a church located on Richmond Road Bangalore. It is one of the few churches that is 150 years old! It is also one of Bangalore's heritage buildings, which is surrounded by a quaint little garden.

'All Saints' church was established by St Pettigrew, to cater the retired European army officers living in Richmond Town precincts, who could not be accommodated at St. Marks Church as the church used to be overcrowded. Pettigrew himself drew the plan for the church building, but then it was rejected by the church building society of Madras. The church was then finally designed by Robert Fellowes Chisholm, he was one of the pioneers in the Indo-Saracenic style; later this style became popular in India.

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All Saints' Church is the only Chisholm building in Bangalore. The Church was designed in the Gothic Revival style. Unlike many Cantonment Churches, the church was built entirely by public funding. Pettigrew collected Rs 10,000 and completed the church. The church was formally consecrated by Bishop Milman on the 17th of October, 1870. The foundation stone of All Saints' Church was laid on November 27th 1869 in a ceremony presided over by Samuel Thomas Pettigrew.

The Church has a standard cross shaped building with the Nave and Transepts. As most of the churches (and Temples) it faces the east. Among the unusual architectural styles are the steep sloping styled roofs and it's rubble masonry walls. The tall narrow window with their pointed arches and prominent voussoirs are characteristically gothic as there are dormer windows and gables. The large stained glass windows at the opening and the altar end have some lovely stained glass paintings depicting the holy family.

The church is surrounded by a beautiful garden and trees. One can find here all kinds of flora and fauna. The church also has a nickname "Garden Church of Bangalore". There are trees older than the church itself, the trees in the church range from 10 years to 200 years old of different species some are rare like sandalwood, African Sausage and Tongue oil tree etc. In this beautiful garden one can find so much peace.



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The church is filled with so much history and has beautiful architecture as well. Apart from this, the church also has an old age home and school for the special children called Arpana. The beauty of the church lies in its beautiful little garden.



The church was supposed to celebrate its sesquicentennial year but due to pandemic we couldn't celebrate.

We are keen on carrying forward this rich heritage for generations to come.

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# **SAVANADURGA – FORT OF DEATH**

## **RUSHABH VISHWAS JOSHI**



What is a definition of a perfect weekend for you? For me it would be getting up and going for a challenging and amazing trek on a mountain. 60 kms away from the city of Bangalore stands a magnificent fort known as Savanadurga Fort. Immadi Kempe Gowda named it Savanadurga. It is Asia's largest monolithic rock mountain. The Hill Fort was said to be unconquerable till British took over in 1971. It is also known as Fort of Death, a name given by Robert Home because there were no steps to reach the top of the fort and it was covered by bamboos when the British captured it from Tipu Sultan in the Third Anglo - Mysore war. This fort was a secondary capital to the Magadi rulers. This place offers something for everyone, be it a passionate trekker or someone who is doing it for the first time.

Having a passion for trekking I could not resist myself from completing this trek after reading about it so much over the internet. Just over 1226 inches tall, this Mountain is a unique destination in itself.

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My roommates and I planned to visit Savandurga and complete the trek. We had 2 bikes and 4 of us. We decided to leave Bangalore by 4 AM so that we reach Savandurga by the time the sun rises. In a chilly cold Bangalore morning we left for Savandurga all excited. The ride was cold yet thrilling. We took various stops to drink chai on the way to beat the cold from driving. After driving for 2 hours we finally reached at the base of Savandurga at 6 AM. There is a small south Indian restaurant that serves the most delicious Tatte idli Sambhar with Medu Vadas. After having our delicious breakfast we started our trek to the top of the fort. Being Asia's largest monolithic rock, it has its own challenges as there is nothing for support and since it's just rock there is always a fear of slipping down as it is a steep stone mountain to the top. After climbing for almost two and half hours with some difficulties we reached the top of the mountain. There is a small Nandi Mantap on the top of the mountain which marks the end of the trek of Savandurga. The Mantap is said to be witness to the many historic events that have occurred over the centuries.

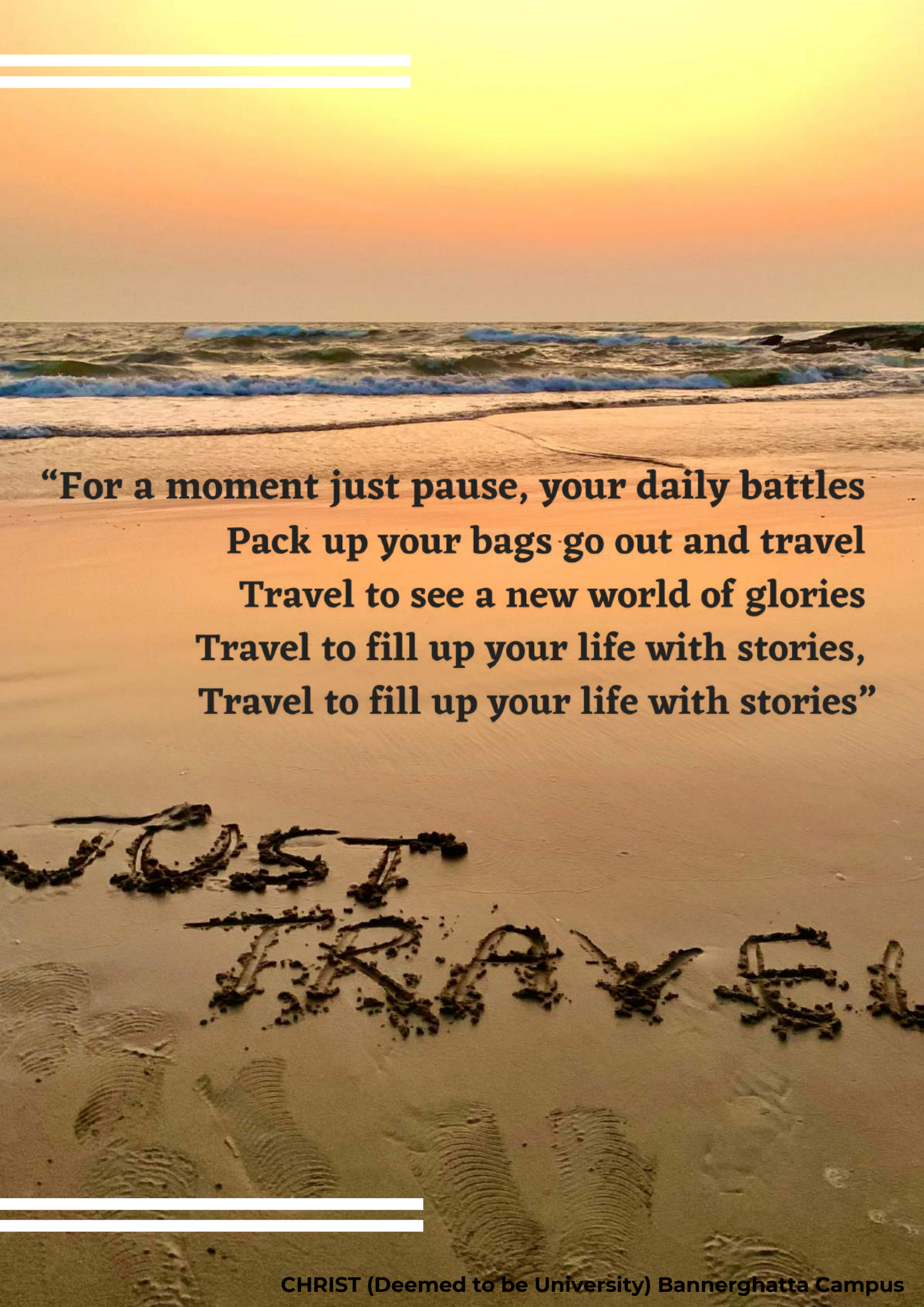


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The calmness and cold breeze gives you a moment to sit alone in silence and enjoy the large fields and small towns spread around the mountain. The feeling of completing such a breath-taking trek cannot be put into words, as it was on my bucket list of the treks from southern India. As we started to descend down from the mountain there was a great pride of accomplishment in all of us, as we never gave up and completed the trek. It is one of the most amazing treks in southern India that one must visit.





**“For a moment just pause, your daily battles  
Pack up your bags go out and travel  
Travel to see a new world of glories  
Travel to fill up your life with stories,  
Travel to fill up your life with stories”**