

Religion &
Beliefs, History
& Context
JOURNEY
HIGHLIGHTS



LADKHAN TEMPLE
AIHOLE



TEMPLE COMPLEX
AT PATTADAKAL



BADAMI CAVE
TEMPLES
BADAMI

Pulakeshin's Dream - The Splendours Of Badami, Aihole And Pattadakal



The Chalukyas ruled large parts of Southern and Central India between the 6th and the 12th centuries. They ruled as three related yet individual dynasties. The earliest of them were known as the "Badami Chalukyas". The Badami Chalukya architecture was a temple building idiom that evolved in the Malaprabha river basin, in present-day Bagalkot district.

Chalukya style originated in Aihole and was perfected in Badami and Pattadakal. Their style includes two types of monuments: rock cut halls or "cave temples", and "structural" temples, built above ground. Art critic Dr. M. Sheshadri wrote of the Chalukya art that they cut rock like Titans but finished

Grandeur of the
magnificent rock-cut
architecture of the
Chalukya dynasty
around Badami,
Aihole and
Pattadakal

like jewellers. The Chalukya temples provide a fine balance of versatility and restraint. On this journey we will visit all three of the major locations for Chalukya architecture - Aihole, Badami and Pattadakal.

This journey will be led by **Dr. Raghavendra Rao H. Kulkarni, Professor, Department of Art History, College of Fine Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.** Dr Kulkarni is a well-known expert of art history and has worked extensively on Badami Chalukya temples. He has to his credit multiple publications/books and research papers on related topics.

Day 1 - Departure

We begin the journey late in the evening from Bengaluru. We will meet at the departure point and travel by overnight bus to reach Badami early in the morning the next day

Day 2 – Aihole and Pattadakal

After arriving in Badami we will check in to our hotel first. After a brief halt for freshening up & breakfast we will leave for **Aihole and Pattadakal.** Located around an eponymous small village surrounded by farmlands and sandstone hills, **Aihole** is a major archaeological site featuring over one hundred and twenty stone and cave temples from this period, spread along the Malaprabha river valley. Among the sites we will cover are the Durga temple complex, Ravana phadi cave, Hucchappayya matha & gudi, Mallikarjuna temple complex etc.

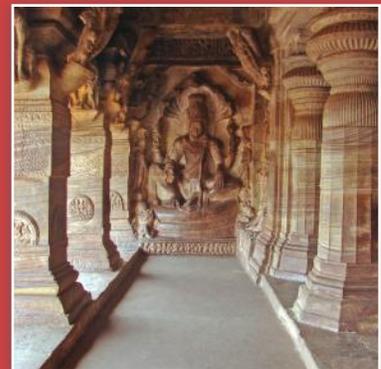
In the second half of the day, we will visit the **UNESCO World Heritage** site of Pattadakal. UNESCO has described Pattadakal as "a harmonious blend of architectural forms from northern and southern India" and an illustration of "eclectic art" at its height. The temples are generally dedicated to Shiva but also feature some amount of Vaishnavism and Shaktism. There are ten major temples, including Kadasiddheshwara, Sangameshwara, Virupaksha temples, at Pattadakal. Eight of these major temples are clustered together.

Post this we will depart towards the hotel in Badami and retire for the day.

Meals for the day: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Tip: Ensure you're prepared for walking around at the various temples we will visit. Weather is typically warm with a sharp sun, even in winter.

Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal



The Durga Temple in Aihole, a carving of Vishnu in one of the caves temples of Badami, the Virupaksha temples in Pattadakal. Just some sights that will leave you spellbound with their architecture and detail

Day 3 – Badami

Badami is **Vatapi**. The Puranas state the asura Vatapi was killed by sage Agastya, and it refers to this area as Vatapi and Agastya Tirtha. Badami Chalukyas was founded in 540 AD by Pulakeshin I (535-566 AD). An inscription record of this king engraved on a boulder in Badami records the fortification of the hill above "Vatapi" in 544 AD. Pulakeshin's choice of this location for his capital was possibly driven by the fact that Badami is protected on three sides by rugged sandstone cliffs. We will spend the entire day amongst the magnificent temples of **Badami**. The rock-cut Badami Cave Temples, a complex of Hindu, Jain and possibly even Buddhist cave temples, were sculpted mostly between the 6th and 8th centuries. We will then visit the The Bhutanatha group of temples, a cluster of sandstone shrines.

Meals for the day: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

Tip: Like Day 1, ensure you're prepared for walking around.

Day 4 – Return

On the last day of our journey, we will check out of the hotel early in the morning and return towards Bengaluru. Time permitting, we will make a stop at **Lakkundi** near Gadag for a short visit to the ruins of the temples of the Kalyani Chalukyas, a branch of the Chalukya dynasty who resurfaced after nearly 200 years of dormancy after the original Badami Chalukyas. We will make a stop midway for lunch.

We will conclude the journey in the evening in Bengaluru at the drop location.

Meals for the day: Breakfast, Lunch.

Logistics



Duration: 3 Days, 3 Nights

Departure from: Bengaluru

Exact Departure location:
Cubbon Park Metro Station

Departure time: 2100 hrs

Drop location: Bengaluru.
Cubbon Park Metro Station

Estimated Drop time:
Between 2000 and 2300 hrs

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- Transport from and to the departure point
- Stay at a three-star hotel or resort on twin-sharing basis
- Vegetarian meals on every day as mentioned in itinerary. Breakfast would typically be at the hotel of stay and lunch/dinner at a restaurant/hotel chosen by the tour management.
- Entry fees for the monuments/attractions listed in the itinerary (for Indian nationals only; foreign nationals will need to pay separately at some monuments)

Exclusions

- Photography and videography charges (need to be paid separately)
- Additional refreshments like small eats, drinks
- Any other aspect not mentioned specifically in inclusions

Payment & Cancellation Policy

- Full payment to be made upfront
- A full refund will be made if the tour is cancelled by the organisers.
- 50% refund will be made if the customer cancels the booking within 20 days of departure.

Things to Note

- The tour will involve enough walking outdoors in the day. Please ensure you carry your caps and sunglasses. Keep a bottle of water ready for you always to beat the heat.
- Given the walking, we will be doing, ensure you get a good pair of walking shoes that you're comfortable with, for the tour.
- We will be visiting many living temples. We should accordingly respect the traditions, beliefs of the people who worship here.
- If you need things like medication, keep it handy and ensure you bring it along with yourselves. Do not depend on being able to buy such locally.
- If you have any allergies, be sure to check explicitly on the food that will be served to you.
- Please ensure you have enough cash for miscellaneous expenses you may incur. Do not depend on ATMs etc. locally to provide for this.
- Please note time of departures and be on time.
- If you're not from the city where the tour leaves from and finishes at, please plan your travel accordingly.