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## TOURIST PLACE THAT GOES OVERLOOKED-BADAMI

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### INTRODUCTION:

Badami is a historically significant town in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka that has been designated by the Indian government for holistic redevelopment under the HRIDAY scheme (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana). Badami functioned as the early Chalukyas' second capital between the 5th and 7th centuries AD, and it provides important historical context for the creation of the Karnataka state. It contains some of the earliest rock cut cave temples and structure temples in South India, demonstrating the historic confluence of north-south styles and the Deccan highbred form of temple architecture. Badami's most important architectural legacy is from the Chalukyan period. The Chalukyas were a powerful family in India.

Currently, Badami, Aihole, and the World Heritage site of Pattadakal form a celebrated cultural triangle of North Karnataka is endowed with a rich architectural, natural, and cultural heritage. The government of India is proposing a group of monuments in Badami (and Aihole, including Nagral) as an extension to Pattadakal (UNESCO World Heritage property), which has the potential to provide a significant boost to Karnataka tourism. Surrounding areas such as Mahakoota, Banashankari, and Naganathkolla are also significant in terms of religious aspects and festivals, adding to the town's heritage value. Its spectacular natural and geological setting-deep gores, valleys, sacred water bodies-along with the historic settlement-Badami old town with traditional flat roofed mud structures, ancient pathways, prehistoric rock shelters, monuments,

festivals, rituals, art and crafts-all contribute to Badami's unique historical landscape that defines and distinguishes it from other historical places in India.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To study the impact of historical background of Badami and its unique geographical background.
2. To study the evolution of the city over the time along with retaining everything and coexisting with amalgamation of the timeless.

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

- **Primary Data:**

The primary data was collected by visiting the town of Badami and exploring various tourist places, along with interactions with government authorities and the HRIDAY official meet.

- **Secondary Data:**

The secondary data is collected by internet, google maps and HRIDAY handbook.

#### **GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF BADAMI:**

In the Bagalkot District, Badami town is the Taluk headquarters. It is at an altitude of 570.01 metres above mean sea level and is located in latitude 15 54 10 North and longitude 75 40 45 East. Bagalkot is connected to the five districts that surround it. Bijapur district is located in the north, Raichur district is located in the east, Koppal district is located in the south-east, Gadag district is located in the south, and Belgaum district is located in the west. Badami town is 38 kilometres from Bagalkot, the district headquarters, and 460 kilometres from Bangalore, the state capital of Karnataka. It is located on India's ancient Deccan plateau, which provides a spectacular setting. The Malaprabha river flows north-east through a fertile valley 15 miles long, surrounded by hills with rocky outcrops of reddish-golden sandstone.

**VEGETATION:**

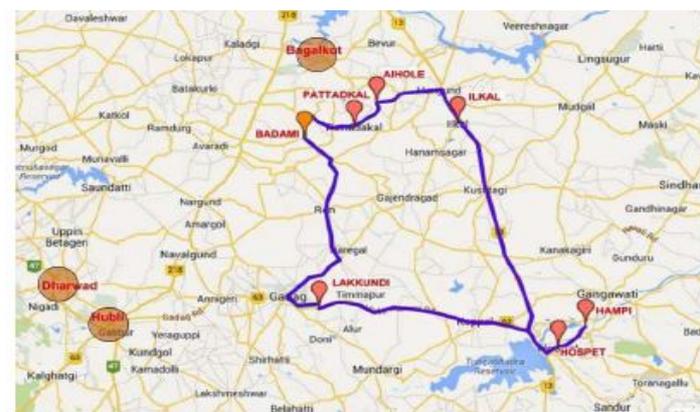
Because of the region's location in the Malaprabha river valley, the climate and soil regime have resulted in deciduous forest ecology. The typical forest type found in the Malaprabha valley is dry tropical thorn, and trees are small and open shrubs and wild grasses grow in this environment. Rare flowering plant species like *Glorios a superb*, string ages periods, scenic diagram which are end to Western Ghats and its fringes can be found on the rocky terrains of Badami, and their presence in the areas around Badami could be the result of pollination through the Malaprabha river water. During the rainy season, seasonal water streams over the hills create the Akka-Tangi waterfall, which cascades down the rocky cliffs on the valley's eastern edge into Agastya Teertha, Badami's historic water reservoir. This tank's water was thought to have medicinal/healing properties. This can be seen in the context of Agastya valley, along with Mahakut valley and Naganath valley (all within ten kilometres of Badami).

**Distances of major Airports from Badami****(Source: SUI Report, 2013)**

S No	Location	Distance(Kms)	Type
1	Hubli Airport, Hubli	91	Domestic
2	Sambre Airport, Belgaum	113	Domestic
3	Bangalore	450	International
4	Hyderabad	408	International
5	Goa	255	International
6	Mumbai	606	International



*Source: Final report-by-Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)- (oct-2015)*



**Regional Tourist Circuit (Source: Google Map and SUI Report, 2013)**



**Map showing nearest airports from Badami (Source: Google Map and SUI Report, 2013)**

*Source: Final report-by-Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)- (oct-2015)*

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND SETTING:**

During the early mediaeval and late mediaeval historical periods, Badami occupied a strategic position in the North Karnataka and Hyderabad Karnataka area. The North Karnataka and Hyderabad Karnataka areas were significant not only in the context of South India and the Deccan region, but also in the context of India as a whole. As a result, Badami occupies a very central position in the historic setting and is linked to other important historic cities such as Bijapur, the World Heritage site-Hampi, Gulbarga, Bidar, and the World Heritage site of Goa, forming a very rich historical area in South India in particular and India in general.

The origins of Badami can be traced back to prehistoric times. Archeologists have discovered human activity traces in and around the Badami hill ranges. There are many rock shelters in these hill ranges, and many of them have prehistoric paintings. The prehistoric man used the nodules of Hematite rock strewn about the place to prepare pigments for rock painting. Stone tools from various periods of the Stone Age have been discovered near Badami, such as near Sidlaphadhi and Sabaraphadi. More than a dozen sites near Badami have Stone Age rock shelters with staining and rock paintings. Chalukya Pulakesin I established Badami as the capital of the early Chalukyan Empire, which lasted from 543 AD to 753 AD. Strategic considerations dictated the location of the capital, which was fortified by hills and rivers.

A stepped tank bund was built across the 'U' shaped valley that connects the northern and southern hills. It turned the valley into Agastya Teerth, a reservoir. It provided a steady supply of water to the newly established capital. Under Pulakesin's son Kirtivarman I, major efforts were made to construct fortifications for the defence of the capital city. Their other major political centres, Mahakoota, Pattadakal, and Aihole, are also in the Malaprabha river valley. Chalukya architecture begins with temples built by members of the royal family in Badami, Mahakoota, and Aihole. The Chalukyas were art patrons and great builders.

During their reign, the cave temples at Badami were also excavated with exceptionally marvelous carvings for both Hindu and Jain deities. The prehistoric

man used the nodules of Hematite rock strewn about the place to prepare pigments for rock painting. Stone tools from various periods of the Stone Age have been discovered near Badami, such as near Sidlaphadhi and Sabaraphadi. More than a dozen sites near Badami have Stone Age rock shelters with staining and rock paintings.

Chalukya PulakesinI established the hill fort of Badami as the capital of the early Chalukyan Empire, which lasted from 543 AD to 753 AD. Because the location was fortified by hills and rivers, the capital was chosen for strategic reasons. A stepped tank bund was built across the 'U' shaped valley that connected the northern and southern hills. It transformed the valley into Agastya Teerth, a reservoir. It became a reliable source of water for the newly established capital. Under Pulakesin's son KirtivarmanI, major efforts were made to construct fortifications for the capital city's defence. Other important political centers in the Malaprabha river valley include Mahakoota, Pattadakal, and Aihole. Chalukya architecture begins with temples built by members of the royal family in Badami, Mahakoota, and Aihole. The Chalukyas were art patrons and great builders. During their reign, the cave temples at Badami were also excavated with exceptionally marvelous carvings for both Hindu and Jain deities.

### **ART AND CULTURE:**

The region surrounding Badami is home to a diverse range of arts, crafts, and practices, resulting in a valuable landscape of intangible heritage. Weaving and stonework are two traditional industries found in and around Badami. Local ladies make quilts out of old cloth and sarees, and there are also building construction crafts, sculptures, and so on. Women's self-help groups in Badami's historic precinct make blankets or kavadhi's and jowar rotis.

Other craft based products observed in Badami includes;

- **Stone work** –Craftsmen skilled in stone carving can be found 500m beyond the historic precinct boundary, near the APMC yard. They create statues, doorframes for religious buildings, and other decorative items. They make use

of locally available stones such as soapstone, sandstone, and granite from quarries in and around the area.

- **Wooden toys and utensils** –Cholachguda, about 5 kilometres from Badami, has a community of craftsmen who make wooden utensils and toys.
- **Woodwork**–Towards Banashankari, a large number of carpenters can be seen working on wooden doors and wood detailing.
- **Leather puppet** –String and leather puppets can be found in several villages in the surrounding district. The string puppet for is known as Gombe Atta (means –dance of dolls) is the state's traditional live theatre (folk)form, which presents stories based on episodes drawn from epics and puranas. The music is a blend of folk and classical styles that is highly dramatic.
- **Sugar dolls or Shakkargumbe**–Sugar figurines are made in many parts of this region, especially during festivals such as Sankranti. They are made with traditional wooden moulds known as "sakkaracchu." These moulds are used specifically in Karnataka during the Makar Sankranti festival. These moulds are used to make mall-sized sugar dolls, temples, animals, and fruits. These moulds are frequently used as decorative wall accents.
- **Traditional weaving and dyeing** –Guledgudd is about 20 kilometres from Badami and is home to a community that specialises in hand weaving and dyeing. They weave 21-meter silk sarees with traditional patterns and motifs, as well as other apparel, using a traditional hand weaving process that takes about 7 days.

## **HAATS& FESTIVALS:**

### **1. Banashankarijatre:**

Every year on the occasion of the Rathyatra, Banashankarijatre ('jatre' means a "fair") is held at the temple precincts as a religious and cultural festival for about three weeks beginning with the Rathyatra. It begins on the eighth day of Pushyamasa and is celebrated on the full moon day. There is no past data to confirm the start of such a festival, but it is assumed that it began around two hundred years ago.

Pilgrims from Karnataka and the neighbouring state of Maharashtra of various religious beliefs congregate here in large numbers to celebrate the festival. Cultural programmes (music, drama, and circus) are held to entertain the predominantly rural community who flock to the venue not only to worship their favourite deity but also for fun and frolic. It represents the cultural bonding of people from various communities in this area. Many shops and kiosks set up during the festival selling vermilion, clothing, sacred threads, and sweets display a portrait of goddess Banashankari in their shops. Another interesting marketing activity seen at this venue is the sale of elaborately engraved door frames and doors made of teak, acacia, and other wood varieties by artisans from Holeyalur and surrounding areas. During this festival, a cattle fair is also held. The cattle fair's specialty is the sale of white bulls.

Hundreds of different types of leaves and flowers are used to decorate the temple and town during the festival. A Palleda Habba or Vegetable Utsava or festival is also held during the fair, which begins on Bandhashtami day, in which 108 varieties of food items (called 'bazi' in local language) made of vegetables are offered to the deity. The festival also includes another one-of-a-kind event, the Teppotsava (the boat festival), which takes place in the temple tank. During this event, parents use banana stem boats to ferry newly born children blessed by the goddess's grace around the pond, hoping for good luck for their children.

## **2. Rathayatra**

The Rathayatra, or goddess chariot festival, is held every year on the full moon day of the Hindu month Pausha (January), during which the temple goddess Parvati is carried in a chariot (a movable shrine) through the streets of Cholachagudd village from the temple gate to Padhkatte, another nearby sculpture. The Rathayatras were witnessed by thousands of people from across the state, regardless of caste or creed. People from neighbouring villages travel in colourfully decorated carts to see this cultural and religious extravaganza.

During religious celebrations in Hindu temples, images of the gods and goddesses worshipped in the temples are transported on large wooden chariots known as rathas and drawn in a pageant by devotees. Chariots are typically 5–

6m (16.4–19.7ft) tall and weigh several tonnes. The chariot is equipped with massive solid wood wheels. Specially trained men pull the chariot. The chariot resembles a miniature temple or shrine because it is invariably adorned with figurines of gods and goddesses.

### **3. Tourist Footfall:**

Badami's tourism industry is significant. Badami's tourist footfall can be divided into four categories:

- a. Tourists who only visit Badami's monuments and surrounding areas.
- b. Pilgrims, who primarily visit Banashankari Temple for religious reasons, and a few of them, mostly in groups, visit selected Badami monuments.
- c. Those visitors, including pilgrims and individual families, who make a detour to Badami to see a few monuments on their way to Bijapur or Koodala Sangama.
- d. The groups attending weddings and other ceremonies at the Mahakutta and Banashankari Heritage structures in the TMC area are concentrated around the older parts, particularly around the cliffs and the Agastya tank. All of them invariably visit the Badami rock cut caves, though very few visit the Bhootanatha temple and the ASI's Archeological museum, and even fewer climb the North Fort and temples within it.

Within a 5km radius, the Mahakoota group of temples, Banashankari temple, and Shidilaphadi cave form a belt of heritage structures. Aihole, Pattadakal, and the Kudalsangamain Bagalkot district are also popular tourist destinations near Badami. As a result of the presence of monuments, proximity to other significant historic and religious sites in the region, and annual religious activities, Badami has a high heritage value and is a must-see tourist destination for visitors to Karnataka.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Badami*	480461	480228	507999	489403
Pattadakal	339702	365379	358909	354710
Aihole	281309	322755	337065	349248
Banashankari	449100	532863	568220	486884
Mahakuta	170003	334476	310365	344089
Kudalasangama	216527	442752	570817	561761

\* The figures given are mostly from the ASI ticketed monuments of rock cut caves. And even in the ticketed monument of ASI upto 15 years are not ticketed entries are free. We are losing the big chunk of visitors under 15. Therefore, the figures are partially indicate the no of visitors.

Source: Final report-by-Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)- (oct-2015)

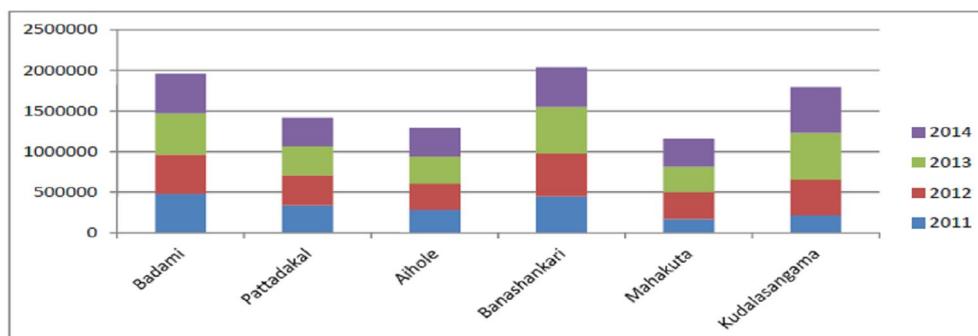


Table 4: Comparative analysis of Tourist Footfall in Badami with neighbouring areas

Source: Final report-by-Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)- (oct-2015)

## CONCLUSION:

Town of Badami perfectly encloses the timeline of evolution of the town in every aspect possible i.e. Historical settings and the geographical backdrops around the town. Along with the archeological site there is a blend of natural elements of waterfalls, forests and mountain ranges. Along with all these factors people in the region have conserved and promoted art, crafts and religious festival and culture in the best way, that many of these have become part of the livelihood and primary sources of income for many. Therefore Badami can be referred as the capsule encasing the art, culture and architecture while balancing and going through the constant evolution as a town since ages. This unique city holds the potential for development in tourism with the help of some attention which currently it is in process of i.e. promoting in for world heritage site to UNESCO, also promoting it to the tourist and art, architecture and cultural enthusiasts around the country.

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