

## **Important Places:**

The serene and less polluted atmosphere of this beautiful city is an abode for variety of communities. This city has the history of more than two thousand years. Excavations at various places in the city have revealed ancient structures. In earlier days it was called 'Venugram', as the area was full of bamboo groves. It is now known as 'BELGAAV' in Marathi, 'BELGAAM' in Hindi, 'BELGAUM' in English and 'BELGAAVI' in Kannada.

The British founded a strong military base in Belgaum. It was one of the five main bases in Bombay presidency and also founded 'Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre', which took part in many wars overseas, including the first and second world wars. Now there is also a commando-training centre in this area.

An Air force station and an airport are also notable places in Belgaum. Belgaum is situated in the centre of Pune and Bangalore well connected by train, by road and by Air. It has road and rail link to Goa, which is 150 kms.

### **BELGAUM FORT**

At the entrance, there are two shrines- Durga and Ganapati. Inside the fort, there are Jain temples; one is 'Kamal Basti'. These structures are built with intricate designs on the walls. (1204 AD). There is also an imposing Darga that belongs to Adilshahi period. The fort is surrounded by a deep moat.

### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

The structure of the church in the cantonment area is worth seeing place, which was built in 1869. Beautiful light filters, intricate glass windows and Biblical drawings are the examples of fine arts. Some other structures built in the British period are St. Xavier's church, St. Anthony's church, Methodist church and the school buildings of St. Paul's, and Baynon Smith High school.

### **MILITARY MAHADEV MANDIR**

This place is one of the most popular recreational spots in the city. It is a well-managed, clean and peaceful temple. It is devoted to Lord Shiva and other deities. Lush gardens and fruit plants surround it. There is also a deer park, which attracts a large number of children.

### **RAMKRISHNA MISSION ASHRAM**

In the fort area, an imposing new structure attracts the devotees and tourists alike, that is Ramakrishna Mission Ashram. The earlier structure was a modest house, in which Swami Vivekanand stayed for a few days on the way to Kanyakumari.

### **KAPILESHWAR TEMPLE**

This place is known as 'Dakshin Kashi' and is an attraction of large number of devotees. It is situated on the way to Shahapur with an old stone structure of 600 years. It is said that, the pilgrimage of twelve Jyotirlingas is complete only after visiting Kapileshwar of Belgauam.

## **SOGAL SOMNATH**

Sogal is a popular tourist spot for the devotees, adventurers and trekkers. It is around 75 kms from Belgaum and it has massive hill on which Lord Somnath blesses the devotees. The hill is of solid and straight rock, which enables water to fall from a height of 30 feet for the enjoyment of the tourists and devotees.

## **GOKAK FALLS**

Gokak lies to the east of Belgaum on the way to Bijapur. It is famous for massive water falls on the river Ghataprabha. It is a broad and deep falls of 150 feet. In the rainy season of July and August, the place is full of tourists. The swinging bridge and an electricity generation are worth seeing. There is also a cotton mill near the falls.

## **SAVADATTI-YELLAMMA TEMPLE**

The world famous Yellamaa temple is full of devotees throughout the year. This deity is a reincarnation of Goddess Renuka and is a family deity of crores of people. In earlier days, this place was the capital of the Rattas. This place is surrounded by seven hills and is a fine beautyspot on the earth.

## **SAFA MASJID**

Safa Masjid is an example of beautiful Islamic architecture in the fort of Belgaum. It is a combination of Indo-Saracenic-Deccan style of structure. Floral carvings, rounded pillars (of old temples), and Devnagari and Kannada inscriptions are worth seeing. The 16th century Persian inscriptions from Quran are also beautiful.

## **EDUCATIONAL INTITUTIONS IN BELGAUM**

From the late 1970s, Belgaum has begun seeing a substantial increase in the number of professional educational institutes. Many of these institutes are affiliated to the Karnatak University, Dharwad and RaniChennamma University, Belgaum. The establishment of the Visvesvaraya Technological University in 1998, with an affiliation of more than 190 Engineering Colleges raised the importance of Belgaum as the centre of Technical Education in Karnataka.

## **DEFENCE TRAINING CENTRES**

- MLIRC – The Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre. It houses the Commando Training Wing by the name Mhow.
- AIR FORCE STATION - SAMBRA. It houses the Admin Training and Basic Training for Technical & Non Technical Trades.

## **Universities in around Belgaum**

1. Visvesvaraya Technological University, Machhe, Belgaum, Karnataka.
2. Rani Channamma University, Belgaum.
3. Karnatak University, Pavate Nagar, Dharwad, Karnataka.

4. University of Agricultural Science, Krishinagar, Dharwad, Karnataka.
5. Shivaji University, Kolhapur.