

# Ecotourism in Uttar Kannada District and Its Impact on Tourism Industry

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## ABSTRACT

Ecotourism is entirely a new approach to tourism. Ecotourism is preserving travel to natural areas to appreciate the cultural and natural history of the environment, taking care not to disturb the integrity of the ecosystem, while creating vacancies and economic opportunities that make preservation and security of natural resources advantageous to the local people.

In short, ecotourism can be considered as tourism programme that is - "Nature-based, ecologically sustainable, where education and explanation is a major constituent and where native people are helped." All this together can be called ecotourism. If travel does not satisfy any one of these constituents, then it is not called a real ecotourism venture.

Karnataka rich with attractive beauty is located at the southern part of India. Resourceful with all kind of verities including temples, wildlife sanctuaries, waterfalls, cosmopolitan cities, valleys, hill resorts, beaches etc..., Karnataka is a must visit the state in India for all tourist enthusiasts and will not get disappointed. Karnataka has 320 km Long, virgin, pristine, and unexploited coastline. From Ullal to Karwar, Karnataka has the most beautiful and amazing coastal landscape. This paper focuses on ecotourism and its destinations located in Karnataka, the impact of ecotourism destinations for Karnataka Tourism Development.

**Key Words:** Ecotourism, Nature, Uttara Kannada, Forest.

## INTRODUCTION

The term ecotourism was coined by Ceballos-Lascurain in 1983 and was initially used to describe nature-based travel to relatively undisturbed areas with an emphasis on education. The concept has, however, developed to a scientifically based approach to the planning, management and development of sustainable tourism and activities. Ecotourism planning is the much-needed aspect that could contribute to the comprehensive development of tourism, ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of the economic status of the local participatory communities. Ecotourism has become one

of the fastest-growing areas of the tourism business, rising annually by 15-23% worldwide. South Africa is one of the countries that are reaping significant economic benefits from ecotourism, but the negative effects-including physical displacement of persons, a gross violation of fundamental rights, and environmental hazards-far outweigh the medium-term economic benefits. It has been reported that the isolated desert city of Jaisalmer (Rajasthan, northwest India) now receives over 200, 000 visitors per year, mainly as the result of the promotion of camel safaris to the Thar Desert. Jaisalmer has a camel excess because of programmed farming,

with animals reorganized into the safari business. It is generally believed that ecotourism will foster responsible tourist behaviour, conservation of important wildlife habitats and ecosystems, appreciation of local cultures and traditional lifestyles, and provision of sustainable forms of livelihood for people living in remote and communities. It was stated that due to the high avian variety in Bisle Reserve forest, Karnataka could assistance in leading the actions like bird seeing and noticing which would assist ecotourism activity to educate the importance of birds to eco-tourists. Major attributes of green tourism include environmental conservation and education and distribution of income to local people based on a strong partnership. Green tourism considers tourism development as an integral part of national and regional development. When the people were interviewed in Andaman's at the airport around 92% of the people were visiting for holidaying purpose and remaining 8% were travelling for miscellaneous and business purpose, this shows that due to the development of ecotourism in Andaman's there is more revenue for the state government.

#### **THE CONCERN OF ECOTOURISM:**

Since ages, nature worship and conservation ethics have been an inseparable part of Indian thought and traditions. Suggestions go back to ancient civilizations of India when people used to encourage the philosophy of the coherence of life. The Indian tradition has always taught that humankind is a part of nature and one should look upon all creation with the eyes of love and respect.

It is tragic that since the last few decades, the mad quest for the material end and economic progress in India and abroad has become identical with the exploitation of nature in all its appearances. Today, the whole world is facing a deep disaster and is in the danger of being fated. The rich forest ranges and biological diversities have been persistently stripped to stiff concrete walls.

The nonstop removing of forest reserves has led to Global Warming and Greenhouse Effects. Fortunately, this has led to some consciousness, and now the world has roused for new starts about human responsibility towards environment.

#### **ECOTOURISM IN INDIA:**

India, the land of diverse geography offers numerous tourist destinations that not just de-stress but also rejuvenate you. There are numerous ways to relish Mother Nature in the most developed way. The few places like the Himalayan Region, Kerala, northeast India, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep islands are some of the places where you can enjoy the treasured wealth of the Mother Nature. Thenmala in Kerala is the first premeditated ecotourism destination in India produced to provide to the Eco-tourists and nature lovers.

The India topography boasts an abundant source of flora & fauna. India has numerous rare and endangered species in its surroundings. The declaration of numerous wildlife parts and national parks has fortified the growth of the wildlife resource, which reduced due to the wildlife search by numerous kings in the ancient. Today, India has many wildlife sanctuaries and protection laws. Presently, there are about 80 national parks and 441 reserves in India, which works for the safeguard and maintenance of wildlife resource in India. There are many Botanical and Zoological Gardens in India, which are at work towards the improvement of the Ecosystem. Poaching has stopped to a large extent. There are hard sentences for poachers, hunters and illegal dealers of animals and trees. Tree plantation is taking place in several places. There are some environmental rights organizations, which fight for the rights of the environment. Various organizations and NGOs are heading to afford ecological education to the common people at the grass origin level.

Ecotourism is the newest buzz in the tourism business universally. The main concept of ecotourism is to have a balance between development and conservation. In

the most recent years, it has become an eco-selling instrument for income flows. The four components to be involved in having balanced ecotourism is Wildlife, Ecotourists, Management and Community. It's very hard to find a well-managed ecotourism site currently. Thus, an effort was made to assess the balanced ecotourism in Yaana Reserve Forest of Karnataka. Several site visits were made to Yaana Reserve Forest and wildlife diversity was studied to develop the study area as a potential ecotourism site.

### **ECOTOURISM IN UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT:**

Uttar Kannada district is situated on the western part of the state on the coast of Arabian Sea extending from North latitude  $13^{\circ} - 55^{\circ}$  to  $15^{\circ} - 31^{\circ}$  and east longitude  $74^{\circ} - 00^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ} - 10^{\circ}$ . The district is surrounded by Goa and Belguam in the north, Dharwad in the east, Shimoga and Udupi districts in the south and the Arabian Sea in the west. Natural diversities made Uttar Kannada the only district in Karnataka State which consists of three natural divisions viz, the coastal region, upper ghat region or Malenad region and the plain region. The district is blessed with natural floral beauty and splendor. Evergreen rich forests in Sahyadri hills and Western Ghats, Beautiful river valleys and the calm blue Arabian Sea contribute towards infinite beauty of the region. The panoramic view of the valleys in which the rivers luxuriously and joyfully flow makes one to forget cares and worries of this mundane world. Serene and peaceful atmosphere of the district that too in certain selected and sanctified places helps to gain "Real peace of Mind" Beauty is truth and truth is beauty holds good in this area.

The climate of different parts of the district varies largely. It is generally humid, hot along the coast, cool in the ghat region and warm and equable in the eastern upghat region. The climate of the entire district may be described as healthy. The Malnad region is characterized by heavy rainfall in the southern parts, varying from 3048 mm to 3556mm and the northern transitional belt

with 1016mm to 1524mm of rainfall. The coastal belt receives rain fall varying between 2540mm to 3556 mm. The temperature of the district varies from  $15^{\circ}$  c in winter to  $34^{\circ}$  c in summer. The year may be divided into four seasons 1) Summer from March to may has raising temperature with the maximum temperature of the year occurring in April or May. Humidity begins increasing from May onwards. 2) The south-west monsoon from June to September lasts for four months from the beginning of June. It is characterised by overcast skies and heavy rainfall in the coastal region and Malnad area. 3) October and November constitute the retreating monsoon. 4) The period from December to February is generally dry with clear bright sky, low humidity and agreeably low temperature. There is very little rainfall in this season.

Clinging to the southwestern flank of the Indian Peninsula, Uttara Kannada is a tropical paradise redolent with myths and legends. The gift of life to this strip of land between the Arabian Sea and the Wall of Mountains known as the Western Ghats is brought by the monsoons.

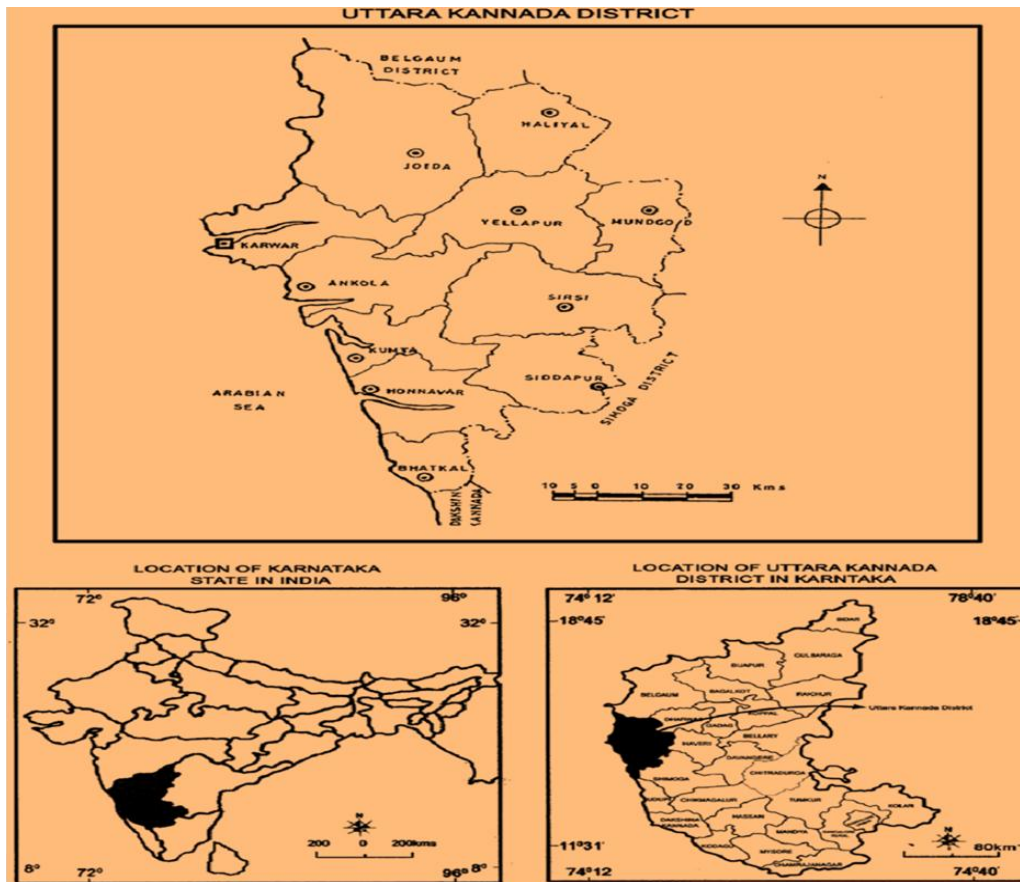
The usual luxuriance has occupied it's art forms with a lushness visible in the carvings that elaborate the temples and in the gold jewellery that women wear which picks its design from seeds, buds, flowers, snakeheads and tiger claws. As also in the vibrant costumes of the Yakshagana performers which reflect the colours of nature itself.

Karwar provides a calm area to discover peace and one's internal self, the poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore himself realised that Karwar beach was (a fit place in which to realise the beauty of nature is not a mirage of the imagination but reflects the joy of the infinite). This attractive coastal district has 24 beaches which lend themselves attractively to the worshipers of the sun and sand. With more than 70% of its area under forest cover, Uttara Kannada is a colourful canvas of nature. The Sahyadri or the Western Ghats with their rich hilly

forest tracts picturesque valleys, spectacular designs of lofty monolithic rocks.

Karwar is well linked to prominent towns in India through rail (Konkan

Railway) and road (National Highway). Ample numbers of buses ply from the district to various cities including Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Manipal, etc.



The districts of the Western Ghats and the southern districts have popular eco-tourism locations. Some of the popular locations include Kudremukh, Madikeri and Agumbe. Karnataka boasts of the highest elephant Gaur bison and tiger population (greater than 6000, 8000 and 400 respectively) in India. Its jungles hold some of the major remaining populations of the endangered tiger and leopard. Eco-tourism is a very popular activity in the state. Karnataka leads other states in eco-tourism. Jungle Lodges & Resorts, a state-run organisation has camping and safari facilities in several wildlife sanctuaries. Private safari providers have sprung up in several places along the western ghats.

Nirvana beach is one of the finest beaches near Kumta and has a 5 km coastline with white sand and palm trees

covering the entire coast, could be developed for eco beach tourism on the adjoining land falling in CRZ II category falling within 200 meters from HTL. Farmers and fishermen were allowed to run beach cottages and beach shacks by Govt. of Goa, tourism department to attract tourists from around the world as well as domestic tourists, in the months of September till may every season.

Numerous NGO's (youth groups) are dynamically involved in birding and other protection activities.

**ECOTOURISM DESTINATIONS IN UTTARA KARNATAKA DISTRICT:**

**Syntheri Rock:** A 300-foot tall monolithic granite monolith located deep within the thick Dandeli Wild Life Sanctuary, with the river Kaneri gushing ferociously by its side, the synthetic rock makes a splendid sight.



The consequence of loss is evidently seen on this rock, with caves all over. Innumerable nooks and crannies are home to thousands of pigeons, along with the hives of rock bees hanging alongside, all of which is clearly visible from the Kali wilderness camp across the river. And all it takes in an hour lengthy jeep ride followed by a short walk through the attractive jungle, to reach this amazingly beautiful work of flora and fauna.

**Kavala Caves:** About 28Km from Dandeli near Ambika Nagar have located the Kavale Caves, on the ridge of a tall hill amidst a captivating forest backdrop. At the centre of the hall in a huge shivalinga-like formation, more than 1 meter in height. It is the outcome of the combination of stalactite and stalagmite, which has resulted in an upward growing conical formation of the floor, formed due to the dripping from the roof or from a Ferro stalactite hangs approaching stalactites.

**Ulvi:** About 90 Kms from Karwar and 42 Kms from Dandeli, Ulvi is an early veerashaiva centre and a home of pilgrimage. The name is mentioned differently-Uli or Ulive means to say hide oneself. At Ulvi, the Gaddige of Channabasavanna is originating in an enormous temple which was initially built in the kalyana chalukyan style and was future renewed by the Sonda chiefs.

**Anashi National Park:** Anashi pass is in the Sahyadri Range (Western Ghats) 40 Kms north east of Karwar. From Kadra to Anashi is a 10 Km of sharp ghat section, through dense forest. Motoring through the ghat is an experience in itself with thick jungle, number of big and small waterfalls which are a feast to the eyes. Wildlife abounds in the area. Early mornings you are bound to come across, vixen, wild fowl and flocks of peacocks. Quite often you can say hello to a panther crossing the road. Forest department has started Anashi Nature Camp, 3 km from Anashi National Park. You can adore the beauty of Nature in Deluxe tents or ordinary Tents Kitchen and

staff are provided and you can get the food prepared.

**Dudhsagar Falls:** The Dudhsagar Falls is located in the Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park among the Western Ghats. The waterfall forms the border between Karnataka and Goa states. The area is surrounded by a deciduous forest with rich biodiversity. The falls are not mainly enormous during the dry season but during the monsoon season, however, the falls are fed by rains and form a massive force of water.

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Karnataka Tourism is the standard name of the Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka (website: [karnatakaturism.org](http://karnatakaturism.org)). Karnataka Tourism is responsible for the sustainable development of tourism in Karnataka along with the marketing of the destination worldwide. Karnataka's destination branding and marketing are done by India's leading tourism marketing organisation, Stark Communications. Stark is part of The Stark Group under whose umbrella are companies such as Stark Communications, Stark Expo, Stark world Publishing, Stark Expo, stark webworks, Stark Tourism Forum.

Karnataka Tourism develops hospitality infrastructure through two government-owned companies, Jungle Lodges & Resorts and Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation.

#### **SOCIO-CULTURAL BENEFITS:**

- **Tourism as a Force for Peace:** Travelling fetches people into connection with each other. As supportable tourism has an educational part it can foster understanding between people and values and provide cultural exchange between visitors and hosts. This increases the chances for people to develop mutual sympathy, tolerance and understanding and to reduce prejudices and promote the sense of global brotherhood.
- **Strengthening Communities:** Maintainable Coastal Tourism can add to the energy of communities in numerous ways. Events and festivals of the local communities where they have been the primary participants and

spectators. Often these are refreshed, reincarnated and developed in response to tourists' interests. The jobs created by tourism can act as a very essential motivation to decrease emigration from rural parts. Local people can also increase their influence on ecotourism development, as well as improve their jobs and earnings prospects through ecotourism-related professional training and development of business and organizational skills.

### **BENEFITS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM:**

The benefits of sustainable tourism for visitors are plenty: they can enjoy unspoiled nature and landscapes, environmental quality of goods or services (clean air and water), a well community with less crime rate, thriving and reliable local culture and traditions

### **ANALYSIS:**

Sources of Information to visit Uttara Kannada District Information about the places of tourist interest in Uttara Kannada district can be obtained through various sources. Such sources play an important role among the tourists visiting any destination in experiencing pleasure. Shows the sources through which respondents solicit information about Uttara Kannada district. Tourists Opinion about Facilities at the tourist destination is of utmost importance as they make the traveller feel comfortable in their journey. As the travelling group may comprise of men, women, children of various age groups. With different health conditions and needs, suitable facilities to benefit the traveler are very much desirable. Tourists opinion about the availability of such facilities during their stay in Uttara Kannada district.

### **SECURITY OF TOURISTS AT DESTINATIONS:**

A traveller should feel safe while travelling, fear and threat will spoil the mood of a traveller and the desire to stay at a particular destination will be disturbed to a large extent. A traveller prefers to travel and

stay at safe and secure places. In Uttara Kannada district, tourist's safety and security are of prime importance. An overview of the tourist's opinion about safety.

### **IMPACT OF TOURISM INDUSTRY ON ENVIRONMENT:**

The quality of the environment, both natural and man-made, is essential to tourism. However, tourism's relationship with the environment is complex. It involves many activities that can have adverse environmental effects. Many of these impacts are linked with the construction of general infrastructures such as roads and airports and of tourism facilities, including resorts, hotels, restaurants, shops, golf courses and marinas. The negative effects of tourism growth can gradually destroy the ecological resources on which it depends. On the other hand, tourism has the probable to create advantageous effects on the environment by causative to environmental safeguard and preservation. It is a mode to raise attentiveness of environmental principles and it can serve as a tool to finance the protection of natural areas and increase their economic importance. The opinion of the tourists about the impact of the tourism industry on the environment.

### **CONCLUSION**

Karnataka's eco-tourism is still at its infancy. Four main rivers drain into it - Kaali, Gangavalli, Sharavathi, and Aghanashini. Definitely, Karnataka south region is the upcoming destination in India, As well as the global level. Many of the foreign tourists are rushed to the Karnataka coastal circuits especially in December to June. In addition Karnataka Tourism department provide innovative Sustainable eco products(Eco Park, Funfair/theme park, Snake park, Water world parks, Aquarium, Zoo, Herbarium, Animal Farm, Crocodile farm, Research centre, Golf, Horse riding, Sailing, River rafting Scuba diving) to attract new tourists for creating new unforgettable experience in their minds.

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