

Ram Katha - Udupi - Karnataka

1st to 9th September 2026

About Udupi:

Udupi is a famous coastal temple city in Udupi, Karnataka, located about 60 km north of Mangalore. It is celebrated worldwide for the Udupi Sri Krishna Matha, pristine Arabian Sea beaches, and its pioneering vegetarian culinary tradition that gave rise to the global Masala Dosa.

Udupi Temple:

The Udupi Krishna Temple story centers on the 13th-century saint Madhvacharya, who discovered a divine idol of young Krishna (Bala Krishna) within a lump of sacred clay (gopi-chandana) washed ashore, originally from Dwarka and lost at sea. He established the temple in Udupi, allowing worship of the idol facing west through a nine-holed window called Kanakana Kindi, after a devotee, Kanaka Dasa, miraculously received darshan when the idol turned for him. This temple, a hub of the Dvaita philosophy, continues to be managed rotationally by eight Ashtamathas.

Discovery of the Idol:

- The Rescue: Saint Madhvacharya helped calm a dangerous sea storm for a merchant vessel near Malpe.
- The Gift: As a token of gratitude, the captain let him take a heavy lump of clay/sandalwood ballast.
- The Miraculous Weight: When the lump split open in Udupi, it revealed the Bala Krishna (child Krishna) idol, which was so heavy that dozens of disciples could not budge it until Madhvacharya embraced it lovingly.

The Legend of Kanakana Kindi:

- The Devotee: In the 16th century, a devoted lower-caste poet and saint named Kanakadasa came to the temple but was barred from entering the main hall.
- The Miracle: Standing heartbroken at the back, he sang intensely to the Lord. Pleased by his absolute faith, the back wall cracked and the main Krishna idol miraculously turned westward to face him.
- The Tradition: That tiny opening became known as Kanakana Kindi. To this day, devotees look through this nine-holed window to catch a glimpse of Lord Krishna rather than viewing the deity from the front

Temple Dress Code:

At the Udupi Sri Krishna Math, men must remove their upper garments (shirts,

T-shirts, and vests) before entering and can use a traditional shawl to cover their torso. Women must wear modest, traditional Indian attire like sarees or salwar kameez. Casual or Western short clothing such as jeans, T-shirts, shorts, and skirts are strictly prohibited for all visitors throughout the entire day.

Guidelines for Men

- Remove shirts, T-shirts, and vests before entering the main shrine area.
- A traditional shawl or angavastra is allowed to cover the upper body.
- Wear full-length pants or a traditional dhoti.
- Shorts, three-fourths, and Bermuda pants are completely banned.

Guidelines for Women

- Wear traditional ethnic wear such as a saree, half-saree, or salwar kameez with a dupatta.
- Avoid jeans, T-shirts, sleeveless tops, short skirts, and modern western outfits.
- Ensure clothing is modest and covers the legs and shoulders fully.

Important Rules

- The dress code is enforced throughout the day and night (not just during morning hours) due to continuous rituals.
- Visitors must adhere to these norms starting from the main eastern entrance (Maha Dhvara)

Other Points of Interest:

- Sri Krishna Matha: A 13th-century temple founded by Saint Madhwacharya where the child Krishna idol is viewed uniquely through a silver-plated window with nine holes (Kanakana Kindi).
 - Malpe Beach & St. Mary's Island: A lively coast featuring water sports, a floating bridge, and a short boat ride to nearby islands boasting distinct hexagonal basaltic rock formations.
 - Kaup (Kapu) Beach: Known for its historic beachfront lighthouse and panoramic sunset views over the Arabian Sea.
 - Anantheshwara Temple.
 - Anegudde Vinayaka Temple
 - Kudlu Theertha Falls
 - Delta Point
 - Maravanthe Beach
 - Kaup Beach
 - Malpe Beach