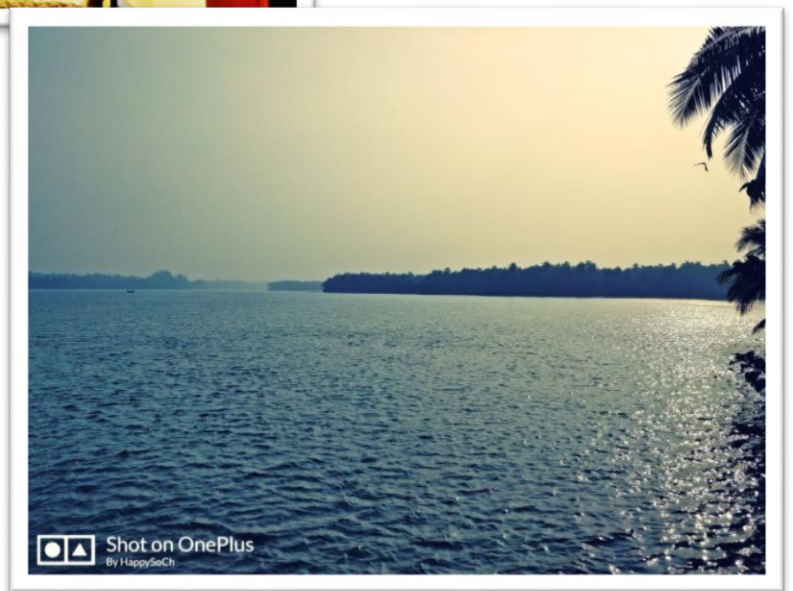
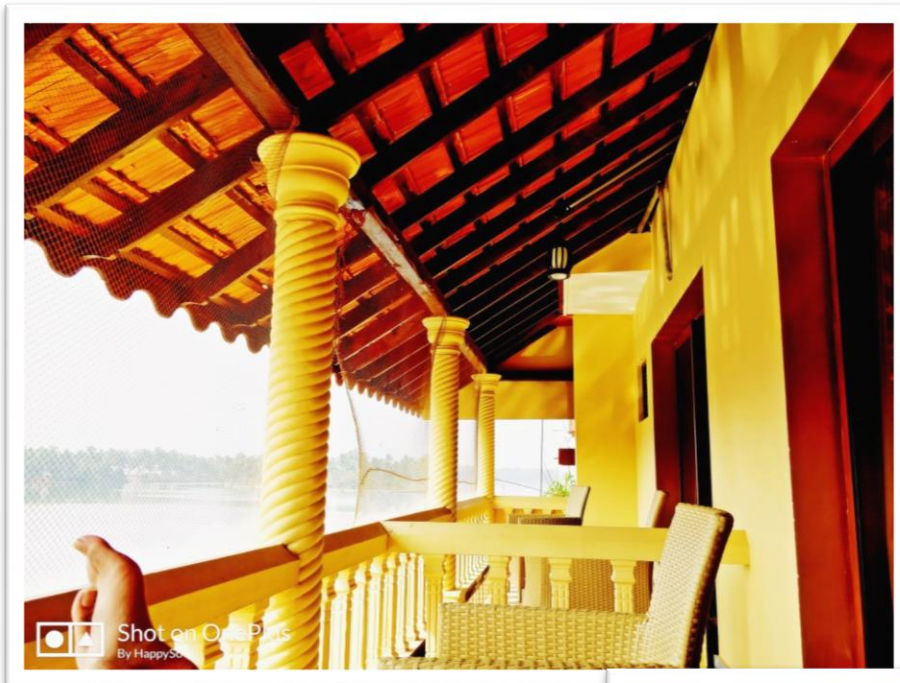


Udupi- The Lost Paradise

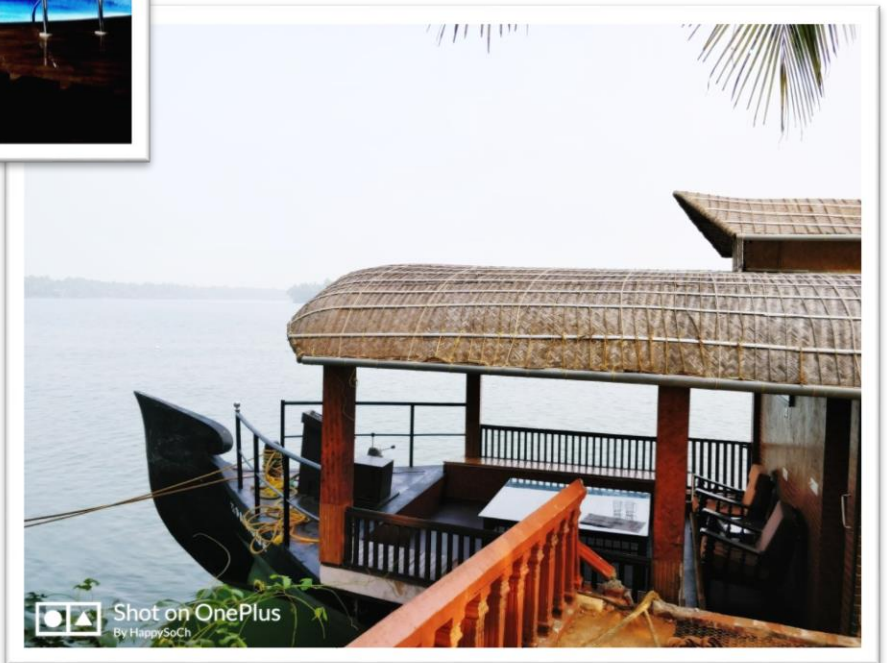
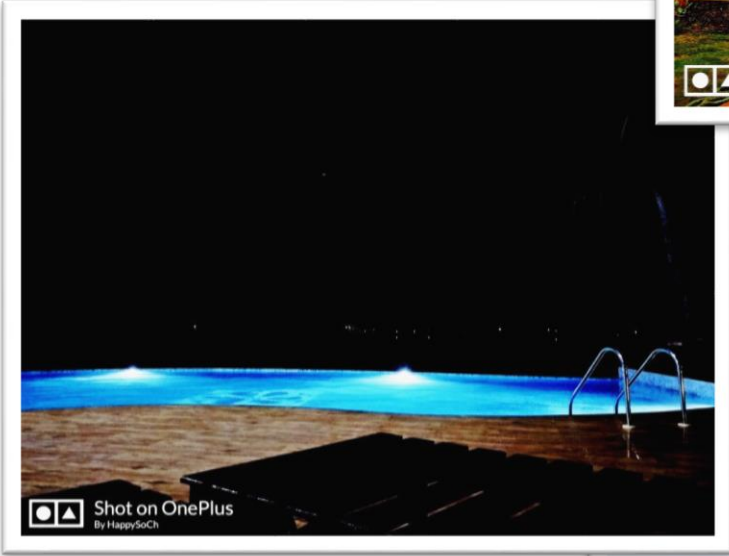
Udupi is a district in the Indian state of Karnataka. Situated roughly at a distance of 400 Km's from the city of Bangalore, Udupi is the ideal destination for a quick break from the vagaries of the cosmopolitan lifestyle. The term '*Udupi*' - synonymous with vegetarian cuisine, has its origin linked to Sri Krishna Matha, one of the most visited pilgrimages of Karnataka. Well connected by the NH66, State highways (where both state & private buses ply) to Railways (Konkan Rails) to Airports (Mangalore International Airport) to Ports (Malpe), Udupi welcomes everyone with open arms.

Udupi has plenty to offer to travel enthusiasts through its lush greenery, series of historic temples, long stretches of beach, quaint charm of the city & the serene atmosphere. The KSRTC Airavat services are the best option for travelling to Udupi, which is what we opted for. After much deliberation, we chose Paradise Lagoon as our stay option. Overlooking a lagoon between the Suvarna river & the Laccadive Sea, the sprawling resort is the place to be & highly recommended by most travelers.

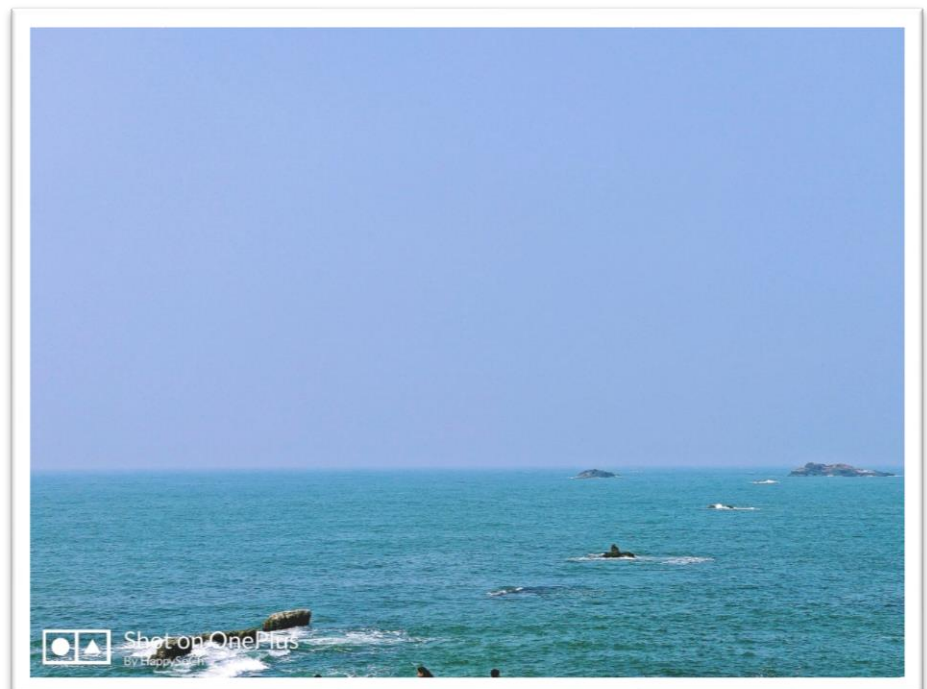


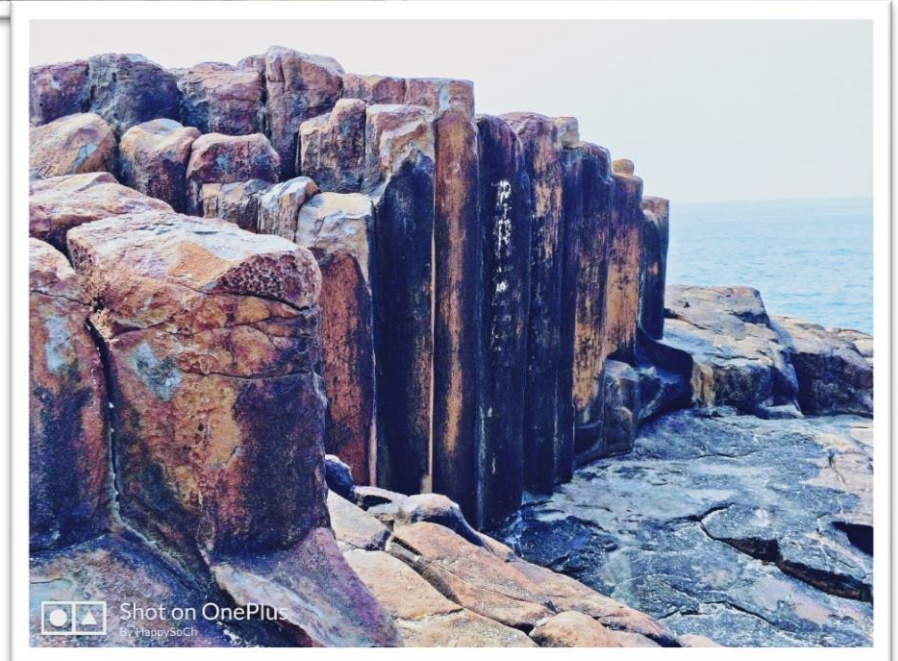


Paradise Lagoon resort also offers a 2 bedroom houseboat with a sundeck. What's more, the resort comes to life once the sun sets. Coconut trees swaying with the coastal breeze, the calmness of the infinity pool, the sound of crickets in the background & the tiny glittering lights dotted along the stone paved pathways lend a magical touch. The entire evening can be spent looking into the vast expanse of the lagoon and enjoying the company of a special someone. The first day of our trip ended as we retired into the luxury of our suite, while preparing for the adventures that lay ahead.



Udupi has a lot to offer to the travel enthusiast. One of the most prominent places to visit include *St. Mary's Island*. A set of 4 small islands in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Malpe, it is known for its distinctive geological formation of columnar basaltic lava. St. Mary's Islands is also one of the 32 *National Geological Monuments* of India, as declared by the *Geological Survey of India* & an important site for *Geo-Tourism*. Legend has it that in the year 1498, *Vasco da Gama* landed at St. Mary's Island's on his journey from Portugal before proceeding to Kozhikode, Kerela. A ferry ride from the fishing harbor to these secluded islands add to the charm. Taking a dip in the azure water & white sand beach is an icing on the cake. The vast expanse of the Arabian Sea in the background adds to the elegance of the place.

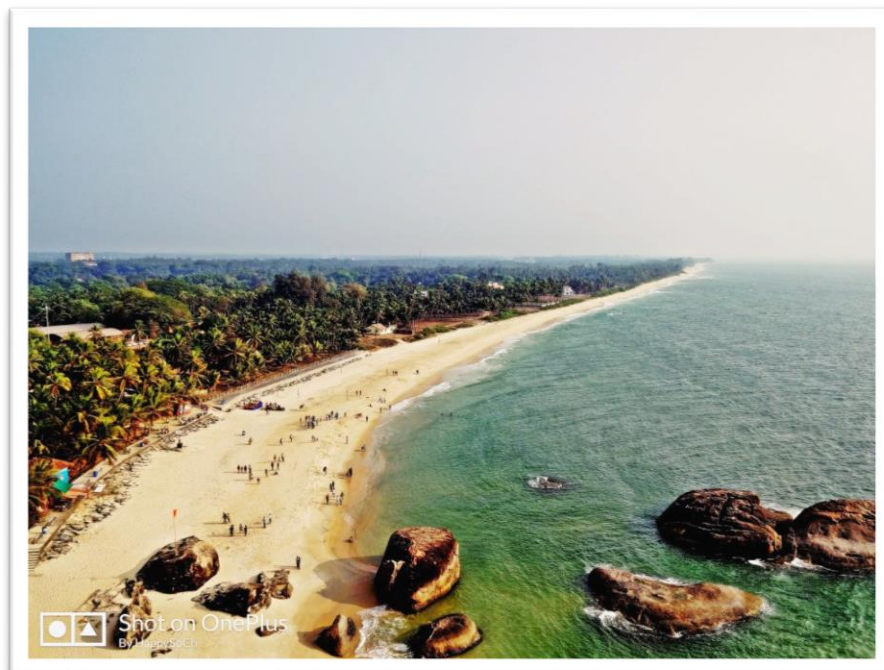


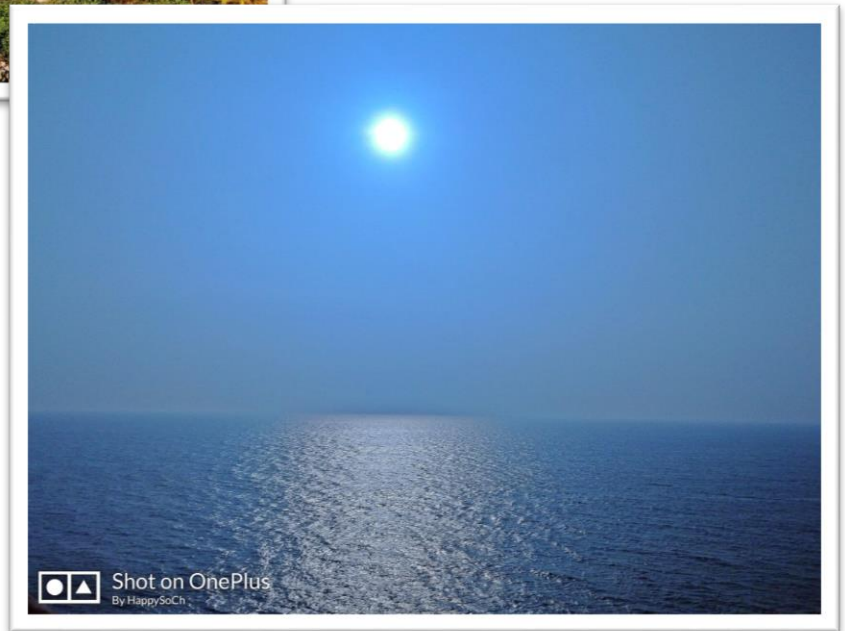
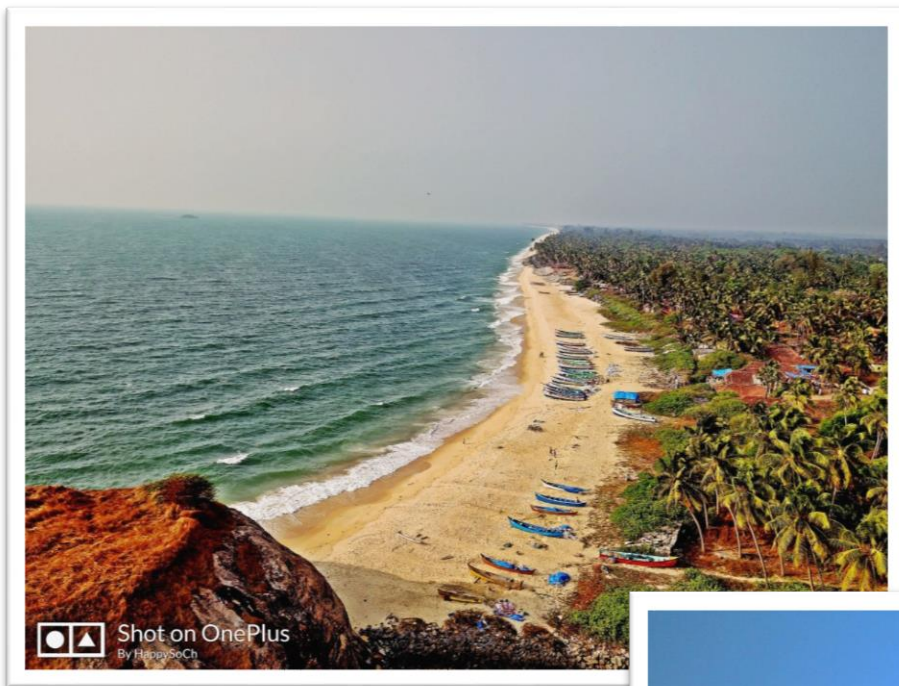


Malpe Beach is another hotspot in Udupi. Largely associated with settlements of Mogaveera fishermen community, Malpe also serves as an important port major fishing harbor on the Karnataka coast. Street vendors line the beach with varieties of food on offer. A range of water activities like Banana ride, Jet ski & Parasailing are there for the enthusiasts to try their hands at. Post a quick lunch, we made our way to *Kaup Beach* - which lies between Udupi & Mangalore. Famous for the Kapu Lighthouse - built in 1901, which stands testimony to guidance & warnings provided to innumerable brave sailors.



Quoted often as one of the places straight out of a fairy tale, the white sand beach is one of the best maintained and cleanest of all tourist beaches. With a towering height of 27 meters, the steep spiral staircases of the lighthouse is a must try. The effort pays dividends due to the views from the top. The entire panoramic view from the top is so fascinating that it feels straight out of a painting. Post descent, we witnessed the sunset transforming the entire beach into a dreamy affair by engulfing it with a golden & orange hue. This was indeed one of the highlights of the entire trip. While we returned to the comfort of our resort after our days' journey, our hearts were filled with the memories made.





Day 3 was earmarked with a walk down the white sand beach nearest to the resort we were staying - *Hoode beach*. The feeling of euphoria engulfed us to have the entire beach to ourselves. One of those quaint beaches are stuff dreams are made of. Post lunch, we decided to check out and head to the main town to pay a visit to the renowned Krishna temple.

Udupi is famous for the historical Krishna Matha which was established by one of the greatest Hindu saints, *Madhavacharya*. The architecture of the temple follows the typical Kerala style and presents several layers surrounding the sanctum sanctorum. Devotees can have a glimpse of Lord Krishna through an inner window (*Navagraha kindi*) & the outer window (*Kanakana kindi*) Adjoining the same stands another historical temple - *Udupi Anantheshwara Temple* which is over 1,000 years old. Famous in the temple complex are eateries serving the famous 'Udupi' cuisine. Do eat to your heart's content with delicacies like crispy *Masale Dosa*, *Upma*, *Idli Vada* & '*Gole Bajje*'. Udupi is the birthplace of the Syndicate Bank & Corporate Bank with prominence of small scale industries like cashew & milk gaining prominence. Unfazed by a

fading hand-loom sari industry, Udupi is fast becoming a major town in Karnataka. While we boarded our bus for the overnight journey to Bangalore, we were overwhelmed at the magnificence of the coastal town and all the memories made over the short trip.

