

Important Aesthetic Gardens of India

II) Brindavan Garden, Mysore



Introduction

- ✚ The Brindavan Garden built across the famous Cauvery River, the Brindavan Gardens in Mysore is a beautiful lush green spread around 19 km (12 mi) from the main city of Mysore.
- ✚ These beautiful gardens are laid out below the Krishnaraja Sagar dam built across the river Cauvery.
- ✚ The Krishnaraja Sagar Dam (KRS) (known as Kannambadi to the locals) itself is a superb example of excellent engineering and itself is a tourist attraction in Mysore.
- ✚ Sir M. Vishveswariah, one of India's finest engineers, built the dam in 1924.
- ✚ The gardens are part of the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam complex.
- ✚ The garden is visited by millions of tourists every year since it was constructed and opened for public in 1932 by the Diwan of Mysore, Sir Mirza Ismail.
- ✚ These gardens are famous for the illuminated dancing fountains that come to life after sunset.
- ✚ The garden not only been meticulously laid out and has beautiful lawns and shrubs, but has thousands of fountains in different shapes and sizes that are lit with colourful lamps and are set to pleasant music.

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Brindavan Gardens – A Quick Glance

- ✚ Established in: 1927-1932
- ✚ Built by: Sir Mirza Ismail
- ✚ Famous for: Recreation, Entertainment, Nature-lovers
- ✚ Size: 60 acres
- ✚ Timings: 6:00 am to 8:00 pm
- ✚ Music Fountain Show Timings: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm (Monday-Friday) and 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (Saturday-Sunday)
- ✚ Visit duration: 3-4 hours
- ✚ Entry fee: INR 50 and INR 10 (for children below 10 years)
- ✚ Boating fee: Round trip (From North Garden to South Garden): INR 30 (before 6 pm) and INR 60 (after 6 pm)
- ✚ Best time to visit: October to February (preferably during evenings)

Architecture and Construction of Brindavan Gardens



- ✚ Originally built during the reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar, the then king of Mysore, the credit for its planning and construction goes to the Diwan of Mysore state, Sir Mirza Ismail.
- ✚ He was the brain behind the ideation, conceptualization, and modelling of the garden spread across more than 60 acres and laid out in three terraces ending in a horseshoe shape.
- ✚ The design of the garden is inspired by Hyder Ali who built Lalbagh Botanical Gardens at Bangalore in an earlier time and Shalimar bagh which was much popular.

- ✚ A government of Karnataka enterprise, Cauvery Niravari Nigama (Cauvery Irrigation Corporation) is now doing the maintenance of the garden, which spreads much beyond its own 60 acres and spreads to its adjoining fruit orchard covering the area of 75 acres and 2 horticultural farms, Nagavana (30 acres) and Chandravana (5 acres).

History of Brindavan Gardens

- ✚ The history of Brindavan Gardens, Mysore dates back to 1927 when the construction had begun.
- ✚ The structure was built in the complex of Krishnaraja Sagar Dam (KRS Dam) in the Srirangapatna Taluka of Mandya district.
- ✚ The gardens were ideated and planned by Sir Mirza Ismail, the then Diwan of Mysore who wanted to enhance the natural beauty of the region near KRS Dam.
- ✚ It took him 5 years to complete the garden with the help of the Department of Horticulture and the Dam & Garden was completed by the end of 1932 and was opened for public visit.
- ✚ The design and planning of the Brindavan Gardens have been inspired by the spectacular Shalimar Bagh of Kashmir, as well as from Lalbagh Botanical Gardens at Bangalore.
- ✚ The typical design of the garden follows the signature ancient Mughal style.
- ✚ The garden is currently maintained by the Cauvery Irrigation Department, Government of Karnataka.

Main Attractions at Brindavan Gardens



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Four Main Areas

The gardens are divided into four main areas – the Main Gate, North Brindavan, South Brindavan and the Children’s Garden.

➤ Main Gate

- Based on the same style as the India Gate the main gate area opens up to rose gardens on either side.

➤ South Brindavan

- The South Brindavan is the area near the famous Cauvery Statue and attractions here include the large water fountains on the Kaveramma Circle.
- Cypress plants and other flowering plants grow on the sloping terraces and the lit fountains are a main attraction in the evenings.
- The South Brindavan also features a glass house with ornamental plants.
- Guests can also purchase some of these plants here.

➤ North Brindavan

- The Kaveri River splits the North and South Brindavan areas.
- The main features of the North Brindavan are the four separate terraces where the visitors witness picturesque flower beds and rows of ornamental trees.
- There are small fountains with coloured lighting that add to the decor of this section.
- The North Brindavan also comprises of a nursery.

➤ Childrens Park

- A visit with kids would warrant a trip to the children’s park which features slides and other structures for the young ones to indulge in.

Plant Sculptures and More



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- ✚ One of the striking features of the Garden is the works of topiary.
- ✚ The intricately trimmed shrubs take the shape of animals and provide many photo ops for excited visitors, about 2 million of whom visit the gardens every year.
- ✚ Visitors can take walks under the shade of the pergolas, passageways covered by creeper plants and rest under one of the many gazebos that speckle the area

Fountains and Lighting



- ✚ The pavements are lit up with vibrantly colourful lights, including some typical yellow lamps glowing under the trees offering a different look to the garden all over.
- ✚ The major attraction is the Light Show and Musical Fountain which is a beautiful array of musical fountains. Coupled with laser lights, these fountains are customized to synchronize with music and come alive when the garden is all lit up during the evening.
- ✚ The water flow is controlled by digital methods, and an aquatic organ runs to operate the entire show.
- ✚ The nearby dam comes handily in generating water pressure to fuel these fountains putting up a visual treat with a vibrant display of water dancing at the tunes of several popular songs and compositions.
- ✚ The songs played here vary from soulful instrumental to patriotic songs to famous international tunes.
- ✚ The crowd swarms up during the evenings to watch the most-awaited fountain show. The majority of the visitors come here to enjoy the shows, there are many who are interested in evening strolls and even in stargazing to relive the nostalgia.

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Horticulture Farms at Brindavan Gardens

- ✚ There are two beautiful horticulture farms in the Brindavan Garden – the Naguvana Horticulture Farm and the Chandravana Horticulture Farm.
- ✚ Located near the main entrance is the Naguvana Horticulture Farm which is spread over a wide area of 30 acres of land housing different types of plants.
- ✚ There is the Horticulture Training Centre of the Department of Horticulture to train the local youth.
- ✚ The Chandravana Horticulture Farm is relatively smaller than the Naguvana Horticulture Farm and is situated right in the heart of the River Cauvery covering a total area of 5 acres.
- ✚ The farm mainly grows mango trees and coconut trees predominantly.



Flora/ Plants

- ✚ The garden has fruit orchard in horticultural farm. Mostly *Mangifera* and coconut varieties present there.
- ✚ Flowering beds of rose present both sides of main gate.
- ✚ The sloping beds of different flowering varieties are present, *Bougainvillea*, *Allamanda*, *Bignonia* frequently planted in sloping beds.
- ✚ In South and North Brindavan number of ornamental plants is planted.
- ✚ *Cupressus* are mostly used for topiary style of garden.
- ✚ On the edging and hedging of lawn and fountains *Salvia*, *Celosia*, *Duranta*, *Euphorbia*, *Calendula* and *Tagetes* are used.
- ✚ Just beside the South Brindavan there is an Children's Garden where dummy animals formed by plant sculpture.

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