

RAMAPPA TEMPLE: DECCAN'S BRIGHTEST STAR



"WHEN YOU GAZE AT A STAR, YOU'RE LOOKING BACK IN TIME."

Seated on a stellate platform
and basking in the rustic charm
of Telangana's hinterlands is
Rudreshwara Temple (better
known as Ramappa temple),
the brightest star in Deccan's
constellation of ancient temples.
A masterpiece of the Kakatiyan
style of architecture, the temple
was inscribed as a UNESCO
World Heritage Site in July 2021.





AN ODE TO WOMANHOOD

Among the most striking features of the temple architecture are bracket figures of beautiful maidens called Madanikas. Brimming with sensuality and conveying a sense of dynamism, these sculptures embody different facets of womanhood in all its glory. Nagini, Manini, Rati, Mardala, Dalamalika, the Huntress and the Dancer are some of the many manifestations of these Madanikas.

IMMORTAL ETCHINGS

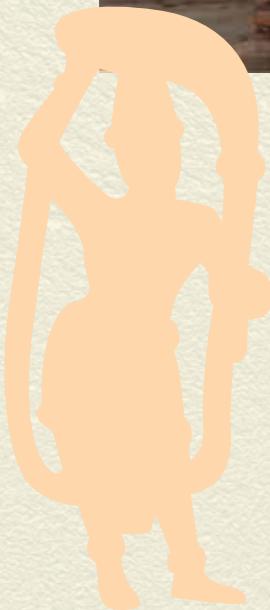
The famed inscription pillar at the Ramappa temple is as much a work of art as it is a historical record. The pillar carries 201 lines of inscription from the Kakatiyan general Recharla Rudra, and is a major source of information about life and times back then.

A DYNASTY'S LASTING LEGACY

Built in the 13th century under the rule of Kakatiyan king Ganapati Deva and the patronage of his commander Recharla Rudra, Ramappa temple is poetry carved in black basalt and red sandstone. Puranic stories, geometric patterns, dancing maidens, majestic animals and exotic flowers come to life in these sacred precincts. As a tribute to the sheer artistry involved, the temple is named after its architect instead of a ruler or a deity.

AN ENGINEERING MARVEL

The temple is renowned for its unique engineering feats that could rival any modern edifice. Engineering innovations like floating bricks, sand-box foundations and intricately carved sculptures bespeak a level of ingenuity that was ahead of its times. The Vimana (spire over the inner sanctum) is constructed using light, porous bricks that are engineered to withstand the test of time and nature.



KATESHWARA TEMPLE

To the North of the main temple is a shrine dedicated to Lord Kateshwara. It consists of a Garbhagriha (sanctum), an Antarala (vestibule) and a Sabha Mandapa (hall). The shrine rests on a high Upapitha and is approached by a flight of steps. Two elephant monoliths and a beautifully carved door with the friezes representing Lord Shiva in Tandava pose welcome the visiting pilgrims.



Ramappa Temple

KAMESHWAR TEMPLE

To the south of the main temple is another shrine, dedicated to Lord Kameshwari. Placed on a stellate Upapitha, the temple consists of a spacious Mandapa with an ornate ceiling. Flanking the steps on either side are expertly carved monolithic stone elephants.

NANDI MANDAPA

The mandapa situated in front of the eastern portico of the main temple guards the sculpture of Nandi, the sacred bull and the vehicle of Lord Shiva. Cut out of a huge monolithic rock of dolerite, the marvelous smoothness and polish of the bull's body and the extraordinary skill displayed in carving the numerous details of its ornamental hangings are a sight to behold.

How to Reach

By Air
293 kms (approx.) from
Rajiv Gandhi International
Airport, Hyderabad

By Road
66 kms (approx.)
from City Bus
Station Warangal

By Rail
66 kms (approx.)
from Warangal
Railway Station



Ministry of Tourism
Government of India



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Sources

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warangaltourism.in
telanganatourism.gov.in