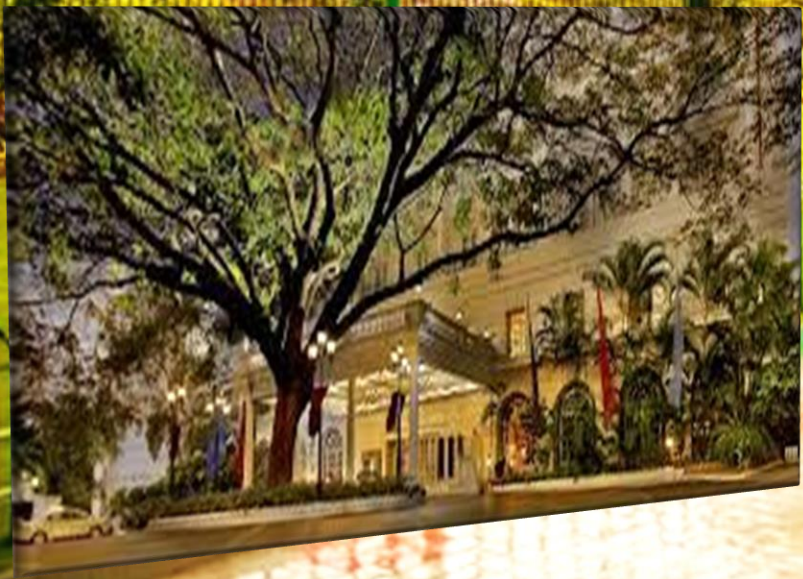


Windsor Bengaluru



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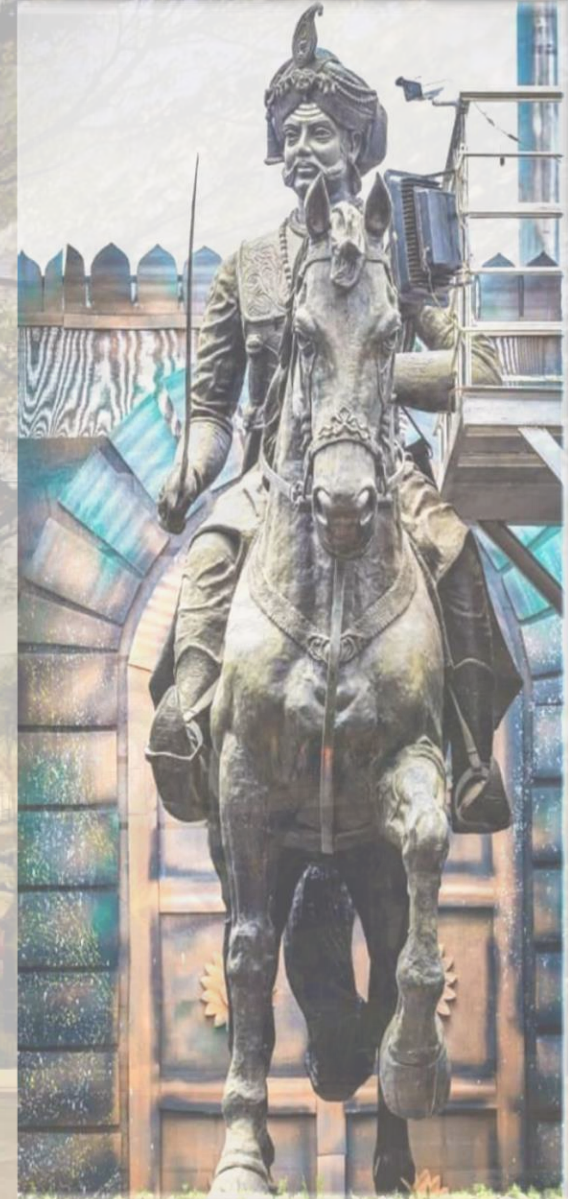
Whatever be your requirement we will ensure you have everything needed for an enriching stay.

HISTORY OF BENGALURU



Bangalore, officially known as Bengaluru, is the Capital of the Indian State of Karnataka. It has a population of over ten million, making it a megacity and the Third populous City and 5th most populous urban agglomeration in India. It is located in Southern India on the Deccan Plateau. Its elevation is over 900 m (3,000 ft) above sea level, the highest of India's major cities.

A succession of South Indian dynasties, the Western Gangas, the Cholas and the Hoysalas, ruled the present region of Bangalore until in 1537 CE, Kempe Gowda a feudal ruler under the Vijayanagara Empire established a mud fort considered to be the foundation of modern Bangalore. In 1638, the Marathas conquered and ruled Bangalore for almost 50 years, after which the Mughals captured and sold the city to the Mysore Kingdom of the Wadiyar dynasty. It was captured by the British after victory in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799), who returned administrative control of the city to the Maharaja of Mysore. The old city developed in the dominions of the Maharaja of Mysore and was made capital of the Princely State of Mysore, which existed as a nominally sovereign entity of the British Raj.



HISTORY OF BENGALURU



In 1809, the British shifted their cantonment to Bangalore, outside the old city, and a town grew up around it, which was governed as part of British India. Following India's independence in 1947, Bangalore became the capital of Mysore State, and remained capital when the new Indian state of Karnataka was formed in 1956. The two urban settlements of Bangalore city and cantonment which had developed as independent entities merged into a single urban centre in 1949. The existing Kannada name, Bengaluru, was declared the official name of the city in 2006.

Bangalore is sometimes referred to as the "Silicon Valley of India" (or "IT capital of India") because of its role as the nation's leading information technology exporter. Indian technological organisations ISRO, Infosys, Wipro and HAL are headquartered in the city.

A demographically diverse city, Bangalore is the second fastest-growing major metropolis in India. It is home to many educational and research institutions in India, such as Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB), National Institute of Fashion Technology, Bangalore, National Institute of Design, Bangalore (NID R&D Campus), National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS). Numerous state-owned aerospace and defence organisations, such as Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Aeronautics and National Aerospace Laboratories are located in the city. The city also houses the Kannada film industry.



SEASONS OF BENGALURU



Bangalore is in the path of tropical cyclones. Cyclones typically occur from April to December, although southern India is normally affected only from mid-October to December. Since we are far from the coast, the city is not hit by cyclones at full strength, however, they can bring heavy rainfall.

Summer



The summer season in Bangalore begins in March and lasts till the end of May. The average day temperature in the city during the summer season settles at a comfortable 33°C. April and May with an average monthly temperature of 36°C and 33°C, respectively are the hottest summer months for the city.

SEASONS OF BENGALURU



Monsoon



Bangalore is one of the most comfortable and foreigner friendly cities due to significant amount of international companies. Amount of precipitation depends on seasonal monsoon winds. Most of annual rainfall falls between August and October.

Winter



October to February: The winter months in Bangalore are the best time to visit the city. It doesn't really get very cold with the lowest temperature dipping to about 10°C. With so many lakes and gardens to visit, sightseeing and outdoor activities are most comfortable at this time.

REACHING THERE



BY AIR



The new Bengaluru International Airport named after Kempe Gowda is located on NH 7, about 4kms. South of Devanahalli and 35kms. From ITC Windsor. It was inaugurated in 2008 and is ranked among the busiest and most modern airports of the country. Bengaluru is well connected by air with Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Goa, Thiruvananthapuram and other important cities of the country. It also has a international terminal.

‘Vayu Vajra’, the Volvo buses with a photo of aeroplane is run by the Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL). The buses available at an interval of 15 minutes are a comfortable and inexpensive mode of travelling to various parts of the city from the airport. Taxis are also available at the airport.

REACHING THERE



BY RAIL

Bengaluru is the headquarters of the South Western Railway zone of the Indian Railways and is well connected by rail to major cities of the country. Bengaluru City Junction and Yeshwantpur are the two main railway stations of the city.

BY ROAD

Bengaluru lies on the junction of National Highways 4, 7 and 48 and is well connected to all parts of the country. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has a large fleet of buses playing between Bengaluru and important places within and outside the State. The Kempegowda Bus Station popularly known as the “Majestic bus stand” is the main bus stand of KSRTC and is located opposite to Bengaluru City Railway Station. Buses for neighboring states like, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh are available from Shantinagar Bus Station, Satellite Bus Station at Mysore road and Baiyappanahalli satellite bus station.



GETTING AROUND



Local Buses

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is the sole public transport provider for Bengaluru and has a fine network covering the urban , sub urban and rural areas. BMTC has 50 bus stations and a fleet of around 7000 buses carrying around 4.8 million passengers everyday and it is also the first metropolitan transport corporation in India to introduce air conditioned luxury buses, which are available on major routes.

Auto Rikshaws or Autos

Bengaluru has its share of three-wheeled, green and black metered auto-rikshaws, like other Indian cities and are a popular form of transport, especially for short distances.



GETTING AROUND

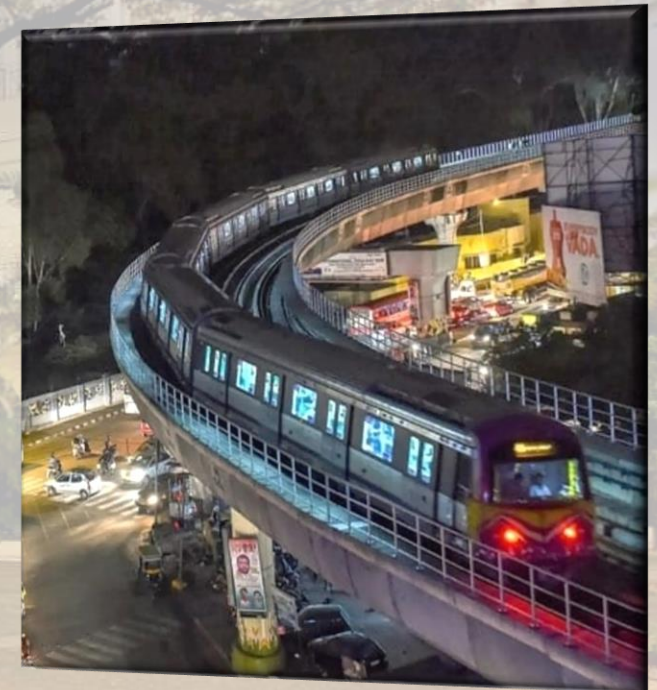


Cabs

Cabs popularly known as City Taxies are more expensive than auto-rikshaws and easily available. Radio cabs such as Uber and Ola cabs etc. provide basic taxi services and are available at doorstep on call.

Metro Rail

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), has the responsibility of implementation of Bangalore Metro Rail project, a rapid transit system known as “Namma Metro”. The eco-friendly transport system has not only contributed towards reduction of carbon emissions but has also enhanced the comfort of travelers and beauty of the Garden City’s impressive skyline. The project has an 18.10 kms. Long East-West corridor starting from Baiyappanahalli in the East and terminating at Mysore Road terminating the West and a 24.20 kms. North-South corridor commencing at Nagasandra in the North and terminating at Puttenahalli in the South.



MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS



- ❖ Vidhan Soudha
- ❖ Vikas Soudha
- ❖ Attara Kacheri
- ❖ Seshadri Iyer Memorial Hall
- ❖ Tipu Sultan's Palace
- ❖ Maharajah's Bangalore Palace
- ❖ Bugle Rock
- ❖ Puttana Chetty Town Hall



Bengaluru is studded with a number of public buildings built during the colonial rule. These structures still retain the grandeur of the bygone era. Above are the most important buildings

Vidhan Soudha

The building is rectangular in shape measuring 700 feet north-south and 350 feet east-west, with two inner open quadrangles on either side of the central wing measuring about 230 feet by 230 feet each. The northern wings with a ground and three upper floors is 63 feet 6 inches high, while the southern wing with a cellar floor, a ground floor, and three upper floors is 73 feet 6 inches high from the ground level. The Central Wing with a Banquet Hall on the ground floor and the Legislative Assembly Chamber above is 112 feet high. It is therefore one of the largest of the Legislative buildings and impresses many visitors as larger and more beautiful than similar buildings in Australia, the United States and even Canada.

Vikas Soudha

Vikasa Soudha is equally impressive. Situated on the Dr. Ambedkar Road of Seshadripuram, it lies in the north western end of the Cubbon Park. Often called as the 'Sister of Vidhana Soudha', Vikasa Soudha also presents worth capturing view with its beautifully designed architecture.

Inaugurated on February 05, in the year of 2004 by the Karnataka Governor, T.N. Chaturvedi, in the presence of the then Chief Minister, S.M. Krishna, this building has been attracting hordes of admirers since then Its completion of this project took around Rs.150 crores.

It has been spread across a land area of 8 acres and a built up area of 58,274 sq m and constitutes of eight floors which are comprised of fifteen conference halls and 360 rooms, with each room equipped with the most modern facilities. The granite which has been used in its contraction was brought from areas of Mallasandra, Hesaraghatta, Koira & Avalahalli.

Attara Kacheri



Attara Kacheri of Bangalore is a building housing the High Court. Situated opposite the Vidhana Soudha, it dates back to the year 1867. One of the major attractions of the Attara Kacheri is its Gothic Style of architecture. It is a two-storied building, built in the European classical style. Also known as the High Court Building, it serves as the perfect contrast to the white columned building of Vidhana Soudha. Read on to know more about Attara Kacheri of Bangalore, India.

Attara Kacheri of Bangalore was built under the reign of Tipu Sultan, the Emperor of Mysore. It is said that during his time, the offices of the eighteen departments of Revenue and General Secretariat expanded to quite an extent. Since the palace could not house the offices, he ordered the construction of a new building, where the offices could be relocated. He named the building as Attara Kacheri, meaning eighteen offices or departments.

Seshadariyer Memorial Hall

The Seshadri Iyer Memorial Hall renowned for its unique style of architecture generally tops the lists of places to visit in Bangalore.

The Seshadri Iyer Memorial Hall in Bangalore is situated in Cubbon Park which is a cream location in the city. Built in honor of the dewan of Mysore Sir K. Seshadri Iyer this monument in Bangalore is home to a luxurious library which offers literary classics that are not found anywhere else in India. Sir K. Seshadri Iyer served as the dewan of Mysore from 1883 to 1901.

The Seshadri Iyer Memorial Hall houses the State Central Library. This library was set up 1915. If history is what you enjoy then this is exactly where you should be since this library offers collections from 0830-1900. The building is situated in the midst of a lovely garden that also has a statue of Sir K. Seshadri Iyer. Constructed entirely in red brick and mortar this monument in Bangalore is also a one stop destination for historians.

Tipu Sultan's Palace



Tipu Sultan's Palace was built in between 1781 and 1791 under the reign of the ruler of Mysore, Tipu Sultan inside the Bangalore Fort. The work commenced under the guidance and supervision of Hyder Ali in 1781, and the palace was completely ready by 1791. Tipu Sultan used this fort as his summer palace and also to run his administration from Bangalore. After the death of the Mysorean Ruler in 1799 during the fourth Anglo-Mysorean war the palace and the fort was captured by the British who used the palace as a Secretariat before they relocated to Attara Kacheri.

Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace is a wonderful specimen of Indo- Saracenic style of architecture. The two-storeyed palace has been built solely of wood, teak, stone, mortar and plaster, and is supported by huge wooden pillars with bases of stones. While the interiors and the walls have been beautifully done with intricate paintings and floral motifs, the outward walls have portrayals of wars, historical events and glorious kings. The 'Zenana' quarters, meaning the dwelling of royal women, are constructed in the corners of the first floor itself. The chambers have been prettified with elaborate features and frescoes.

Maharajah's Bangalore Palace



The area where the palace now stands originally belonged to a school principal of the cantonment town, Reverend J Garrett. The British Guardians of the minor Maharaja purchased the area with Chamarajendra Wadiyar X's accumulated funds so that his education and administrative training could take place easily.

April 1874 marked the beginning of the construction of the palace. John Cameron, the artistic mind behind Lalbagh took the responsibility of landscaping. During 1878 AD the initial construction got completed. Following the initial completion, subsequent years called for many additions and improvements. Maharaja Jayachamaraja during his reign added portions outside the Darbar Hall. Renovations took place so that the Palace could have an essence of Windsor Castle of London that had bestowed the king.

The ownership of the Bangalore Palace has gone through many legal activities. Presently, it is under the ownership of the descendant of the Mysore Royal Family, Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja Wadiyar. The palace opened its doors to the public in 2005.

The palace reflects the Tudor style of architecture. Its complex, along with the garden, spreads over an area of 454 acres. The interior of the palace finds motifs, cornices, and wooden carvings on it. Many physical elements inside are the imports from Britain. A gift from the British to the Wadiyars, the coat of arms is painted on the wall in red and white colour. It consists of mythological impressions and intricate floral design. In the centre is Ganda Bherunda, a mythological two-headed bird while the other side has a mythological animal with features of the head of both the elephant and lion, symbolising royalty and power.

Bugle Rock

One of the oldest rock formations in the world, Bugle Rock gets its name from an age old practice of a sentry holding a torch and blowing a bugle to alert people of an intruder or to tell everyone that the area is safe. The rock formation is very similar to the one at Lalbagh and is spread over an area of 16 acres. Most of the rocks here are hollow, used as lamps (yes, a 3 billion-year-old lamp, sounds really cool). One of the four watch towers in Bangalore was built here by Kempe Gowda I. The watch tower was where the sentry would blow the bugle and it was said that the torch light would be visible from the other watch towers in the city.

Bugle Rock Park is one of Bangalore's Green Lungs, with the lush flora (and also waterfalls). With three temples and walking and jogging track (and an open gym if you're looking for a workout) in the park, amidst the greenery, the area is frequented by locals every day. Check out some statues of famous Bangaloreans, like Kempe Gowda the first, famous litterateur DV Gundappa and more. There's even an amphitheatre here that has a capacity of 300 people, used for cultural, social and awareness events. Adjacent to the park is the bull temple or Dodda Basavana Guddi, which houses one of the largest idols of Nandi in the world.

Puttana Chetty Town Hall

The building was commissioned and inaugurated by Yuvaraja Kanteerava Narasimharaja Wadiyar and designed by Sir Mirza Ismail. Foundation stone for the building was laid by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV on 6 March 1933. The building was completed on 11 September 1935.

The structure features a flight of steps leading to the entrance porch resting on Tuscan columns with identical columns extending on either sides.

Due to improper acoustics, a renovation was proposed estimated at Rs 1,000,000 in 1976. Postponements delayed renovations till March 1990, when the building was finally closed for renovation. The cost then was Rs 6.5 million (approximately US\$371,400).

The auditorium has two floors with a previous total capacity of 1,038 seats. The seating capacity has been reduced to 810 following the renovations.

LAKES



Bangalore City was once aptly known as 'city of lakes' due to the presence of large number of lake (about 285 lakes). These lakes were all interconnected with canals / drains (kaluveys's) to enable transferring excess water to the next lake.

With the increased number of millennials and the awareness created, Bangalore residents are a little more concerned about their health. Even families are looking for some getaways from the mundane. Lakes in Bangalore have of late become a one-stop location for fitness freaks, yoga enthusiasts, runners, and joggers and not just for people who want to spend time in serenity. Lakes in Bangalore are well maintained with jogging tracks, mini-gyms, facilities like drinking water, washrooms, kids' play area, benches for sitting and much more. Because of such reasons Bangalore is known for its gardens and lakes.

The majority of the lakes are from the 16th century. The most visited lakes in Bangalore are listed here.

- ❖ **Ulsoor Lake**
- ❖ **Sankey Tank Lake**
- ❖ **Hesaraghatta Lake**

Ulsoor Lake

Pro Tip:

1. There is a fee of Rs 25 after 8 am for adults and kids below 12 years who are free.
2. The lake is open from 6 am to 7 pm
3. Boating is subject to weather conditions.
4. Distance from ITC Windsor is 6 kms. Approximately 20 minutes by drive.

Also known as Halasuru Lake, it is a one-stop destination for nature lovers, fitness enthusiasts, bird watchers, nature photographers, kids of all age groups and senior citizens. Spread across over 1.5 sq. km, in the heart of the city in the CBD area, this lake is one of the major attractions of Bangalore. Dating back to 1537, Ulsoor Lake is one of the oldest and largest lakes in Bangalore.

A paradise for joggers and walkers is a favorite place for celebrity fitness enthusiasts too. The lake also has a dedicated pond for immersing lord Ganesha and goddess Durga statues after the festivals Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga puja as a ritual.

Located just behind the lake, is a Gurudwara that adds charm to the lake. One can also visit several ancient temples in and around Ulsoor.

Sankey Tank Lake

In the heart of the town and amidst Bangalore's old charm Sadashivnagar and Malleshwaram, Sankey Tank is one of the oldest and most charming lakes cum tanks in Bangalore. The calm and quaint lake is a hotspot for those who want to have a quality time just sitting by the lakeside. Sankey tank is an ideal location for joggers, morning walkers and even kids who want to play in an open area away from home. If you are a senior citizen, this man-made lake nestled in the heart of the town is a perfect place to spend some quality time with your friends by doing yoga, doing laughter exercises or just chit-chatting. Nature lovers can have a gala time by watching birds during sunrise and the serenity all around. The mesmerizing sunset attracts lots of admirers.

You can also enjoy the authentic Kannadiga cuisine in the Malleshwaram area after visiting the lake.

Pro Tip:

1. Timings: 6 am to 8 pm. Open on all days except Friday.
2. The entry fee for adults is Rs.10 and for kids Rs 5
3. Boating timings are 10 am to 6 pm.
4. Distance from ITC Windsor is 3 kms. Approximately 20 minutes by drive.

Hesaraghatta Lake

Pro Tip:

1. There is no entry fee to the lake.
2. There are no boating facilities
3. Visiting time is 6 am to 6 pm. But the early morning hours give the best views.
4. Distance from ITC Windsor is 30 kms. Approximately 70 minutes by drive.

The melodious chirping of birds in a lush green environment is what we all long for. Hesaraghatta Lake is often referred to as a mini bird sanctuary, being home to various species of local birds. Spread across 1000 acres, Hesaraghatta is one of the hottest weekend getaways for Bangaloreans. A man-made lake was made in 1894 to store water from the Akravathi River and to supply drinking water to Bangalore city. The vast grassland and the lake at Hesaraghatta offer visitors amazing views of sunrise and chirping birds. The lake is in its glory during monsoon and post-monsoon till the winter.

PARKS & GARDENS



“Owing to the pleasant climate and topography, greenery and the presence of many public parks and gardens, Bengaluru is rightfully known as the “Garden City of India”. Though the city has grown in many ways, it has still retained the original beauty through its green spaces, which cover nearly 40% of the city’s landscape. With the modernization and increase in demand for more entertainment of Bangaloreans. Many good Amusement and Water Parks have also come up in and around Bengaluru”

These are the three important parks in the city. ↓

- ❖ **Cubbon or Sri Chamarajendra Park**
- ❖ **Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain Park**
- ❖ **Lalbagh Botanical Garden**

Cubbon Park

A green haven spread across 300 acres, Cubbon Park provides Bangaloreans with a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life right in the middle of the city. The park is home to the State Library housed in the Sheshadri Iyer Memorial Hall, a splendid red Gothic structure. The whole park is peppered with fountains, statues, flowering trees and lush greenery.

Distance: 2kms. From ITC Windsor



Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain Park

Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain Park was inaugurated in 1995 and is the first computerized Fountain Park in India. It was built by the B. N. A. Technology Consulting Limited. This enthralling structure is built out of multimedia technology, hardware architecture, and MIDI interfaces that give it a surrealistic appeal.

Fountain Dance is one of the spectacular displays of art at the Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain.

Sprawling over a 17 acres campus, the park can contain about 700 – 1000 people within its territory.

Amid the place is a massive structure of a fountain with 1000 nozzles attached to it.

Distance: 3kms. From ITC Windsor



Lalbagh Botanical Garden

Lalbagh is one of Bengaluru's major attractions. A sprawling garden situated in a 240 acres piece of land in the heart of the city, Lalbagh houses India's largest collection of tropical plants and sub-tropical plants, including trees that are several centuries old. Exhibits like the Snow White and the seven dwarfs, and a topiary park, an expansive lake, a beautiful glasshouse modelled around the Crystal Palace in London adorn the park giving it a surrealistic atmosphere.

A watchtower perched on top of a 3000 million years old rocky outcrop (which is a National Geological Monument) built by Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru also adorns the picturesque garden.

Distance: 7kms. From ITC Windsor



PLACES OF WORSHIP



“ Bengaluru, a truly cosmopolitan city is one of the most tolerant and secular places in the country. Its secular fabric is very well revealed by the presence of over 1000 temples, 400 mosques, 100 churches, 40 Jain Derasans, Sikh Gurudwaras, Buddhist Viharas and a Parsi fire temple. Spiritual gurus like the Late Sathya Sai Baba, Sri Sri Ravishankar and Mata Amriranandanayi also have a strong presence and huge following in the city”



Muslim

- ❖ Basavangudi or The Bull Temple
- ❖ Dodda Ganapathi
- ❖ Sri Gavi Gangadhareshwara Cave Temple
- ❖ Dharmaraya Swamy Temple
- ❖ ISKCON Temple
- ❖ Someshwara Temple
- ❖ Shiva Temple
- ❖ Sri Ramakrishna Ashram
- ❖ Shankara Mutt

- ❖ Hazrat Tawakkal Mastan Dargah
- ❖ Jumma Masjid



Christian

- ❖ St. Mary's Basilica
- ❖ St. Mark's Cathedral
- ❖ Infant Jesus Church
- ❖ Holy Trinity Church

Dodda Ganapathi Temple



Built in 1971, the temple has a monolithic statue of Lord Ganesha with 18ft in height and 16ft in width. It is one of the popular pilgrimage & tourist attraction in Bangalore.

Basavangudi or the Bull Temple



As the name suggests, it is dedicated to Nandi, the sacred bull who is revered as a Hindu Demi-God and the vehicle or mount of Lord Shiva. The key attraction here is a colossal statue of Nandi carved out of a granite monolith. As a religious site that draws devotees and tourists alike, this 16th-century temple deserves a place in your Bangalore itinerary.



Sri Gavi Gangadhareshwara

Built in a natural cave in Gavipuram, the temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and cut into a monolithic stone. The courtyard of the temple here contains several monolithic sculptures. The main attractions of Gavi Gangadhareshwara temple are two granite pillars that support the giant disk of the sun and moon, while the other two have a number of Nandi at the top. It was built in the 16th-century by Kempe Gowda I, the founder of the city.

Dharmaraya Swamy Temple



The Dharmaraya Swamy Temple was built over eight hundred years ago by the Thigalas, one of the area's oldest social group, an agricultural community who tilled the soil and grew vegetables and flowers.

The temple may be more than 800 years old, the first buildings having been in existence before the current city of Bangalore was founded in 1530 by Kempe Gowda I, when he built a mud fort here.

ISKCON Temple



Located in the Rajajinagar area, ISKCON Temple is a revered shrine dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple, under the guidance of Madhu Pandit Dasa, was inaugurated in the year 1997 by Shankar Dayal Sharma. Apart from a religious shrine, ISKCON temple is a cultural complex accommodating dedicated deities of Sri Sri Radha Krishnachandra, Sri Sri Krishna Balarama, Sri Sri Nitai Gauranga, Sri Srinivasa Govinda and Sri Prahlada Narasimha.



Someshwara Temple



The Someshwara Swamy Temple at Ulsoor is one of the oldest temples in Bengaluru. According to legend, the chieftain Kempegowda was once resting under a tree here when the god Someshwara appeared in a dream and instructed him to build a temple in his honour using some buried treasure. Kempegowda accordingly built the temple.

Shiva Temple



This temple at Kemp Fort is considered as one of the most beautiful Shiva temples around the country. The beautiful statues of Lord Shiva and Lord Ganapathi are a major attraction for all the devotees visiting the temple. The temple is known for its well-maintenance and regular festivities being organised for the devotees for them to indulge in the worship of Lord Shiva, who is considered as one of the major gods in Southern India. Marked by a 65ft tall figurine of Lord Shiva carved in white marble

Sri Ramakrishna Ashram



The centre was founded elsewhere in Bengaluru in 1903 by Swami Ramakrishnananda, a monastic disciple of Sri Ramakrishna and shifted to its present premises in 1909.

Activities:

Sri Ramakrishna Vidyarthi Mandiram, a hostel for college students.

A library and a reading room with 12,700 books and 30 periodicals and newspapers. Balak Sangha and Yuvak Sangha, cultural and recreational centres.



Shankara Mutt



Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Sacchidananda Shivabhinava Nrisimhabharati Mahaswamiji, the 33rd Jagadguru Shankaracharya of Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham graced the city of Bengaluru, known in ancient times as Kalyana Nagari in 1907. During his stay in the city, the residents requested the Jagadguru Mahaswamiji to bless the city with a Shankara Math.

Hazrat Tawakkal Mastan Dargah



Hazrat Tawakkal Mastan Dargah is a Sufi shrine of Islam with a history of about 200 years located at Cottonpete of Bengaluru city. The dargah is considered to be the oldest and largest dargah in Bengaluru city.

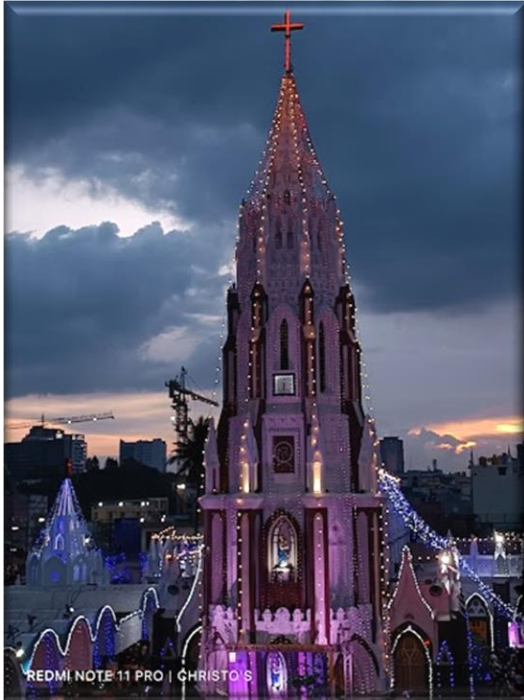
In the mid-18th century A.D Bengaluru was ruled by Hyder Ali. During Hyder Ali's reign, in 1761 A.D he decided to re-build the fort by stone which was initially built by Kempegowda using mud in 1537 A.D. Hyder Ali learned that three of them who were involved in the construction of the fort had refused their salaries. He ordered Ibrahim Khan, the a military officer in charge of a fort to collect information about them and bring it to him.

Jumma Masjid



The oldest mosque of Bangalore, Jumma Masjid was earlier known as Sangian Jamia Masjid. Situated in the busy K.R. Market area, the mosque is renowned for its beautiful architecture.

The prayer hall of the Jumma Masjid stands on an elevated ground and stands adorned with soaring, ornate granite pillars. It is believed that the mosque was built somewhere around 1790. The brick and mortar structure of the masjid has an impressive facade, embellished with elaborate jali-work and floral motifs. Read on to know more about the Jumma Masjid of Bangalore, India.



St. Mary's Basilica

Built in 1882, St. Mary's Basilica is the oldest church in Bangalore and is the only church in the state that has been elevated to the status of a minor basilica. It is famous for the festivities it holds during the St. Mary's Feast, in September each year. It is a marvelous sight to behold with its towering façade, glass windows, and the loving statues of Mother Mary.

St. Mary's Basilica is a spacious gothic-style Church built in the form of a cross, designed by a French architect. It is 172 feet long and 50 feet broad. The imposing and magnificent tower forming the facade of the Church is 160 feet in height. A beautiful statue of Mother Mary holding Child Jesus in her arms, 6 feet in height, is set up in an attractive shrine just outside the Church building.

St. Mark's Cathedral

The construction of this Church was started in the year of 1808 which was completed by the year of 1812. It was then expanded in 1901 and later reconstructed in the year of 1927. It boasts of having withstood more than 200 years and still maintaining an elegant site. The church's architecture derives its inspiration from St. Paul's Cathedral which was built in the 17th century.

It attracts visitors with its excellent architecture. It is said to have the best and well maintained bells amongst all the churches in Bangalore. The intricately done wood work and its exclusive carvings enhance the overall appearance of the Church.





Infant Jesus Church



Infant Jesus Church is a Roman Catholic church in Bangalore. Established in 1971, in Vivek Nagar area of Bangalore, the church is dedicated to Infant Jesus. It is known as the Infant Jesus Shrine and was built to commemorate the historic Infant Jesus of Prague; since then numerous miracles have been attributed to the shrine leading to its increasing popularity.[1] A new church building adjacent to the old building was added in 2005.

The foundation of the Infant Jesus Church was laid on 18 April 1969, by Rev. Duraisamy Simon Lourdusamy, the then Archbishop of Bangalore. Thereafter, in May 1971, Rev. Fr. L. Peter after being appointed the first parish priest, brought the statue of Infant Jesus from Sacred Heart Church, Bangalore and started a tent church at the site.



Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Church was built in 1852 by the British Government for the benefit of British troops stationed in Bengaluru. Holy Church has English Renaissance style architecture and can accommodate over 700 people.

This Church was built and equipped with finest of the materials available at its time. The church bell was cast in Mears Foundry in London, the pipe organ was also imported from London. The Church features several murals, statues and artifacts of historic importance.

1:50,000



AROUND BENGALURU



- ❖ Nriyagrama
- ❖ Bannerghatta National Park
- ❖ Begur
- ❖ Chikka Tirupati
- ❖ Whitefield
- ❖ Electronic City
- ❖ Devanahalli Fort
- ❖ Lumbini Gardens
- ❖ Muthyala Maduva (Pearl Valley)
- ❖ Nandi Hills
- ❖ Ghati Subramanya
- ❖ Dodda Aladamara (Big Banyan Tree)
- ❖ Manchine Bele Dam
- ❖ Innovative Film City
- ❖ Janapada Loka or “Folk Culture World”

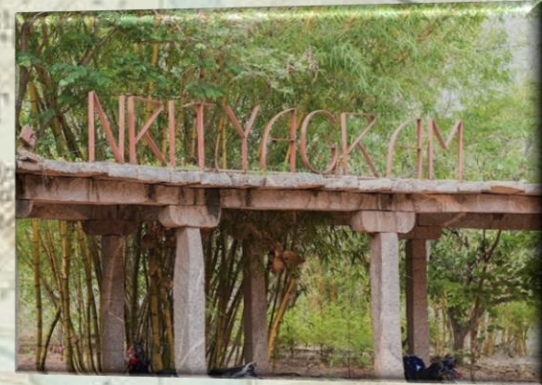


Nrityagrama

Nrityagram is India's first modern Gurukul (residential school) for Indian classical dances and an intentional community in the form of a dance village, set up by Odissi dancer Protima Gauri in 1990. The residential school offers training in Indian classical dance forms, Kuchipudi, Kathakali and

Manipuri, eight hours a day, six days a week for seven years, following the ancient Guru-shishya tradition. Designed by famous Indian architect Gerard da Cunha, the community is situated near Hesaraghatta Lake 30 km from Bengaluru. Today the Nrityagram Dance Ensemble has performed across India and in many countries abroad.

The word Nrityagram, literally translated, means "dance village, and in founder, Protima Gauri's own words



Bannerghatta National Park



Bannerghatta National Park is a national park in India. It was founded in 1970 and declared as a national park in 1974. In 2002, a small portion of the park became a zoological garden, the Bannerghatta Biological Park. There are ancient temples in the park for worship and it is a destination for trekking. Within the national park area are six rural villages enclosed within three large enclosures for sheep and cattle farming. This park offers a wide range of diverse wildlife to the exploradoras. Coming from the finest of Bengaluru, Karnataka, this park offers a guided bus tour all along the 6 km safari roads, which is specially made for safarists and foreign tourist gatherers. The 65,127.5 acre national park is located about 22 km south of Bangalore in the hills of the Anekal range with an elevation 1245 - 1634m. One hundred and one species of birds have been recorded in the park.



Begur

Begur is a town in the Indian state of Karnataka. It is located off Bengaluru-Hosur highway. It is said to have been a prominent place during the rule of the Western Ganga Dynasty and later the Chola Kingdom.

Panchalingeshwara temple is located in the centre of Begur. It has a 1100 years old inscription which is the oldest existing reference to a place called 'Bengaluru'.^[3] The area was ruled by the Western Ganga Dynasty and in the 10th century the Cholas had acquired the territory.



Chikka Tirupati

Chikka Tirupati (meaning 'Small Tirupathi' in Kannada, with reference to Tirupathi in Andhra Pradesh) is a Hindu temple dedicated to Venkateshwara swamy, the Hindu god Vishnu. It is located in Chikka Tirupathi Hobli of Malur Taluk, in the outskirts of Bengaluru in the South Indian state of Karnataka. Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the temple is considered similar to the Tirupathi Venkateswara temple. Vishnu is worshipped as Venkateshwara and his consort Lakshmi as Alamelumamma. The temple is open from 6.30 am to 7:30 pm (all days of week) and has four daily rituals at various times of the day. The temple is maintained and administered by Sabha Administration Board.



Whitefield



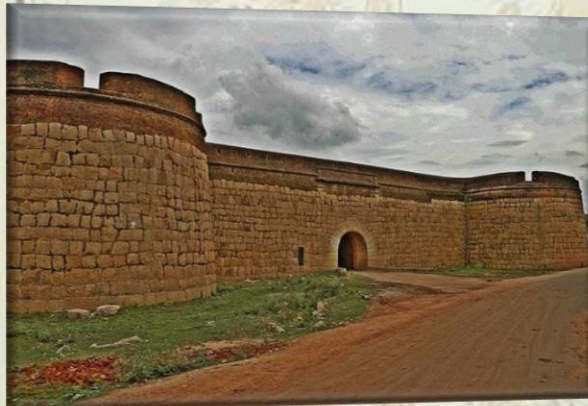
It is famous for the Brindavanam ashram of world renowned saint philosopher Sri Satya Sai Baba. At Whitefield is also the International The Park, one of the most modern and successful software Tech Parks of the Country. This major export oriented software centre has contributed immensely in making Bengaluru the 'IT Capital' or the 'Silicon Valley of India'.

Electronic City

The hub of Bengaluru's electronic industries has presence of giant public and private sector companies like Bharat Electronics, Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd., Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. And various companies dealing in IT sector etc.



Devanahalli Fort



The historic site 10 kms. From Bengaluru International Airport is the birthplace of Tipu Sultan, the Tiger of Mysore. The original mud fort here was built by Avathi ruler and was later renovated and developed by Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan.

Lumbini Gardens

Lumbini Gardens is a public park on the banks of the Nagawara Lake in Bangalore, Karnataka named after Lumbini of Nepal. It is dedicated to Lord Buddha. Although the garden is mainly a national park, it is a treat to the eyes with its serene landscapes and lots of greenery.



Muthyala Maduva (Pearl Valley)

Muthyala Maduvu, the 300ft. High waterfall popularly known as Pearl Valley. This beautiful picnic spot is located within a valley which is nestled amidst the hills. Pearl Valley is rich in flora and fauna, and houses many exotic species of birds, owing to the waterfall. The main attraction of Pearl Valley is a mesmerizing waterfall and drops of water falling from the rock surfaces creates an illusion of a pearl-like appearance, hence the name 'pearl valley'. For trekkers, this is a great option as the dense forest through the mountains, offers great adrenaline rush. The only thing to beware of are the monkeys in this area.





Nandi Hills

Nandi Hills is a set of breathtaking hillocks which is a complete nature retreat. From catching the stunning views of the rising and setting sun to camping and trekking, people come here to indulge in a wide variety of activities. The best part of visiting the top of the hill is that you will get to enjoy the view of low lying clouds floating around you.

Even though it is most well-known for its viewpoints and its greenery, Nandi Hills is also a popular historical fortress that is home to a number of temples, monuments and shrines.

The place was previously used by the famous ruler Tipu Sultan as a summer retreat, and several traces of the Sultan's life and legacy can be found in the area. His summer residence can still be found in Nandi Hills.



Ghati Subramanya Temple

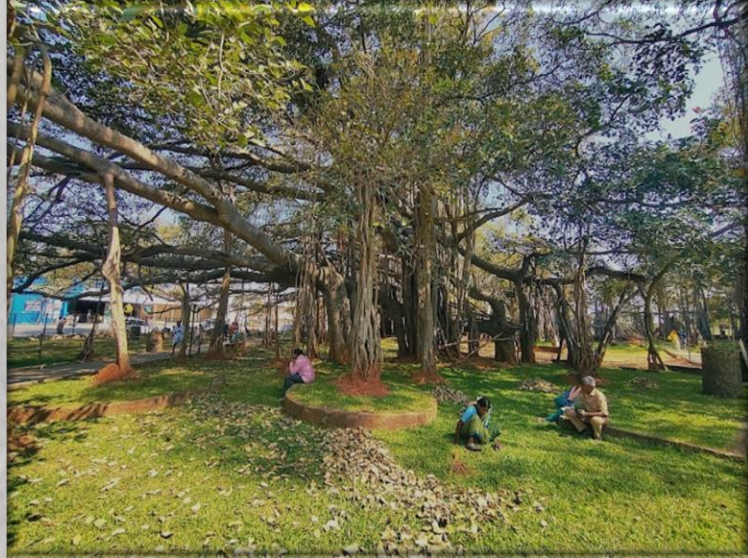
There are many temples in and around Bangalore, some more recent and some which have been around for centuries. One of the older temples in the region around the city can be found near Tubagere, Doddaballapura – the Ghati Subramanya Temple. One cannot miss its architecture even from a distance. The temple is the main landmark in the area, attracting devotees from across the state and the region. It also hosts a cattle fair apart from many festivals and rituals.

The temple is believed to be more than 600 years old, according to the written records, while its origin might go back many more years. The construction of the Ghati Subramanya temple is attributed to Ghorpade, who belonged to the Sandur dynasty. It is believed that the deity appeared in the dreams of the king, revealing the whereabouts of the idols. The king, with the help of the locals, discovered the self-manifested idol of the deity and then commissioned a temple to be built around them.

The high pyramid-shaped gateway tower of the temple is one of the most distinctive features, a perfect example of Dravidian architecture. It is adorned with sculptures of various deities and events of Hindu mythology.



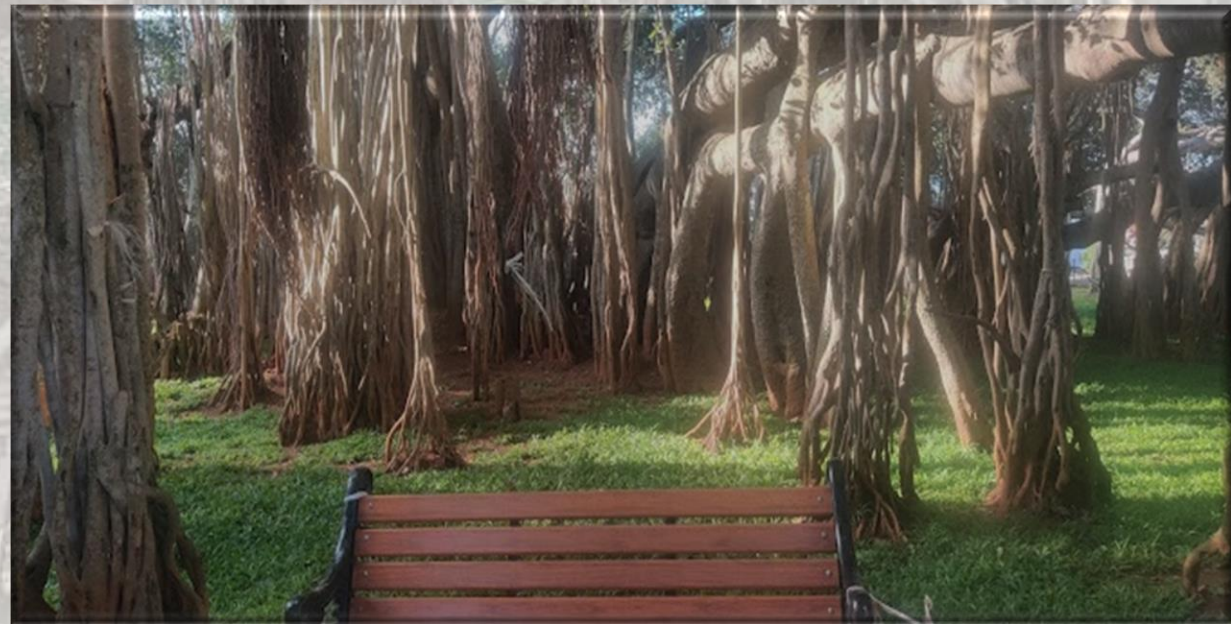
Dodda Aladamara (Big Banyan Tree)



The sprawling branches of a Banyan tree has captured a land of over 3 acres in Kethohalli village, making it one of the unique sightseeing places in Bangalore. This 400-year-old Banyan tree is stated to be the second largest tree in the country and the first largest in Karnataka. A thousand aerial roots hanging out from this tree covers a circumference of over 250 meters. Amazingly, the tree is spread across in more than 3 acres of land, making it one of the vastest Banyan trees ever. Found on the Bangalore Mysore road, the tree has become a great attraction for tourists.

The structural integrity of the tree was hindered in the late 2000s when Dodda Alada Mara suffered through diseases and now the tree just looks like a bundle of a vast collection of trees. The enormous scatter of the tree has also made itself home to a number of animals including monkeys.

Various plantations including a garden of roses are farmed around the tree. According to the Hindu tradition, the Banyan tree is holy and thus, apart from the general visitors, many devotees visit the big banyan tree.



Manchanabele Dam

It is popular as a perfect picnic spot. The lush greenery is accompanied with a wide range of fauna enhancing your experience here. This place is often frequented by bird watchers as this site boasts of a variety of avian fauna. Some of the birds which can be spotted here at the Manchanabele Dam are Marsh Harrier, Blue Kingfisher, Oriental Honey buzzard,



Brahminy Straling, Common Tailorbird, Ringed Plover, Purple Heron and Little Cormorants,

Innovative Film City

This Theme Park is the perfect location to hang out with your friends, or spend a memorable day with your family. There are several activities for different age groups, for the young as well as for the old. The park includes exciting rides and features different statues and pieces of architecture that are interesting and amazing to look at.

There is much more to Innovative Film City than the cartoon park and different rights for children. Adults can equally enjoy themselves in the tribal museum. The Museum features different handmade products that are used and made by tribal folks.



Janapada Loka or “Folk Culture World”



Jaapada Loka (lit. 'Folklore world or Folk-culture World'), is a folk museum that has an exclusive display of the village folk arts of Karnataka. It is under the aegis of the Karnataka Janapada Parishat. Loka Mahal, a wing in the museum has a display of 5,000 folk artifacts. H. L. Nagegowda, an Indian civil



servant and folklorist, thought of creating a museum to exhibit the varied folk art and culture of



Karnataka. Accordingly Karnataka Janapada Parishat (Janapada Academy) was first established on 21 March 1979. Gowda and his friends continued collecting antiques for this institution for the next three decades. The current museum land in Bangalore-Mysore highway was bought on 12 March 1994.



Shopping and Malls

- ❖ **Brigade Road**
- ❖ **Commercial Street**
- ❖ **Mahatma Gandhi Road (M.G. Road)**
- ❖ **UB City**
- ❖ **Orion Mall**
- ❖ **Mantri Square Mall**
- ❖ **The Forum Mall**
- ❖ **Phoenix Market City**

Brigade Road



At the intersection of MG road and Residency road lies Brigade road which is considered a shopping paradise for the city dwellers. There is a long stretch of standalone shops, individual retailers, and outlet selling almost everything you need making it one of the best Bangalore sightseeing. This commercial hub houses myriads of global brand outlets as well and it has been a hub for celebrating New Year in the almost every year.

Commercial Street



Commercial Street is home to a number of small stores to brand outlets which sell the most delightful variety of products you can find. One of the first shopping areas a newcomer to the city is told about, Commercial Street is a fix for all your shopping needs and weekend entertainment. Needless to say, it is one of the most popular and visited shopping destinations in Bangalore. The lively atmosphere which is always abuzz with activity and the mad, mad rush of the local market make Commercial Street every shopaholic's delight.

Mahatma Gandhi Road (M.G. Road)



One of the busiest roads in Bangalore, MG Road or Mahatma Gandhi Road is a hub of recreational and commercial activity in the city. Swarming with people at almost all the time, MG Road is a one-stop destination for a perfect weekend shopping adventure. Items such as traditional handicrafts, silk, sarees and cutlery and bone china sets are easily available here among other enticing goods. And once you get tired of shopping and are looking for a quick bite to eat, a plethora of cafes and restaurants here are at your service. Nights at MG Road call for partying and dancing till you drop and it packs quite a few high-end pubs as well. One of the most popular shopping and entertainment hubs of Bangalore, MG Road is a must visit when you're in the city.

It was known as South Parade during the pre-independence era but was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi Road or MG Road on 26th February 1948. Today, MG Road is best known for its amazing shopping experience, restaurants, cafes and food outlets offering delectable delicacies. With its own metro station now since 2011, MG Road runs east from Trinity Circle at one end towards Anil Kumble Circle at the other end. Once flocked with old buildings, today the avenue is all about fancy glass buildings mixed with an old vibe exhibited by few old-time structures. Take a stroll on the street and enjoy the bright atmosphere at MG Road!



UB City



Located in the CBD (Central Business District) in Bangalore, this luxury mall is the one-stop destination for all your high-end brand needs. Assimilation of four towers as a whole, it is spread over a mind-boggling area of 13 acres. The place takes care of all your exclusive needs, whether it is shopping at some high-end store, ultra-fine dining, or even taking a Spa after a long day of work, this place has it all.

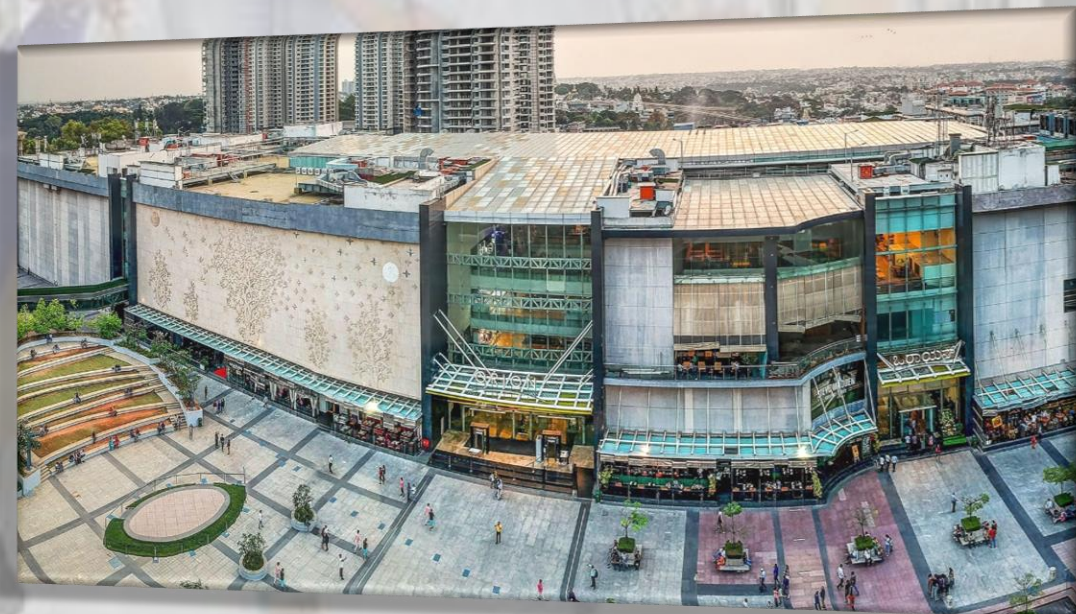
The place is home to all the luxury beauty, shoes, jewellery, bags and fashion brands from all around the globe, where Louis Vuitton, Estee Lauder, Rolex, Burberry, Jimmy Choo and Canali are to name a few. Various events are also timely organized for all the visitors to experience the best of everything. The dining options here are some of the best in the world and are a bit on the higher budget as well. The most budget-friendly eatery here is Subway.

Orion Mall



The mall with a total shopping area of 8.2 Lakh sq.ft. is the 3rd largest in Bangalore. Orion Mall is part of a premium integrated enclave known as Brigade Gateway which houses World Trade Center, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Columbia Asia Hospital apart from the mall in its premises. Orion Mall has four floors of retail space which include shopping zones, a multiplex, food and beverage stores, and bowling & gaming zones.

Food court is spread over an area of 60,000 sq-ft which is known as Sauce Pan. It houses several food stalls among which are Beijing bites, Empire, Fish & chips, Kailash parbat, Mangalore express, McDonald's, Rajdhani, Sbarro, Subway, Sukh sagar, Yogurberry, Chili's American Grill & Bar and KFC. There are various restaurants like Toscano and YouMee on the ground floor of Orion.



Mantri Square Mall

Mantri Square is one of the biggest malls in the country. It also has metro rail-connectivity with Sampige Road metro station.

Mall Facilities

Facilities at the Mantri Square mall are:

Department stores

An expansive hypermarket spread over 9,000 square feet

Six-screen INOX multiplex

Amoeba bowling alley and gaming centre

Food court and dining area spread over 100,000 square feet with 39 food and beverage outlets

Scary house and Demon Jungle is located at mantri square

It was announced in 2010 that Mantri Square would be connected by the Bangalore Metro with the rest of the city.



The Forum Mall



is the oldest full-fledged mall in Bangalore with a multi-story book store, 12 cinema halls and other entertainment facilities. The mall is an attraction for tourists. The shopping mall houses 72,000 m² (780,000 sq ft) of shops over five levels. A major attraction at the mall is the multiplex, PVR.

Entertainment and leisure

Retail Shops over 5 floors

PVR Cinemas

The Transit Lounge Food court.

It also houses the first McDonald's outlet in Bangalore, along with KFC at food area, and several other food and beverage outlets.



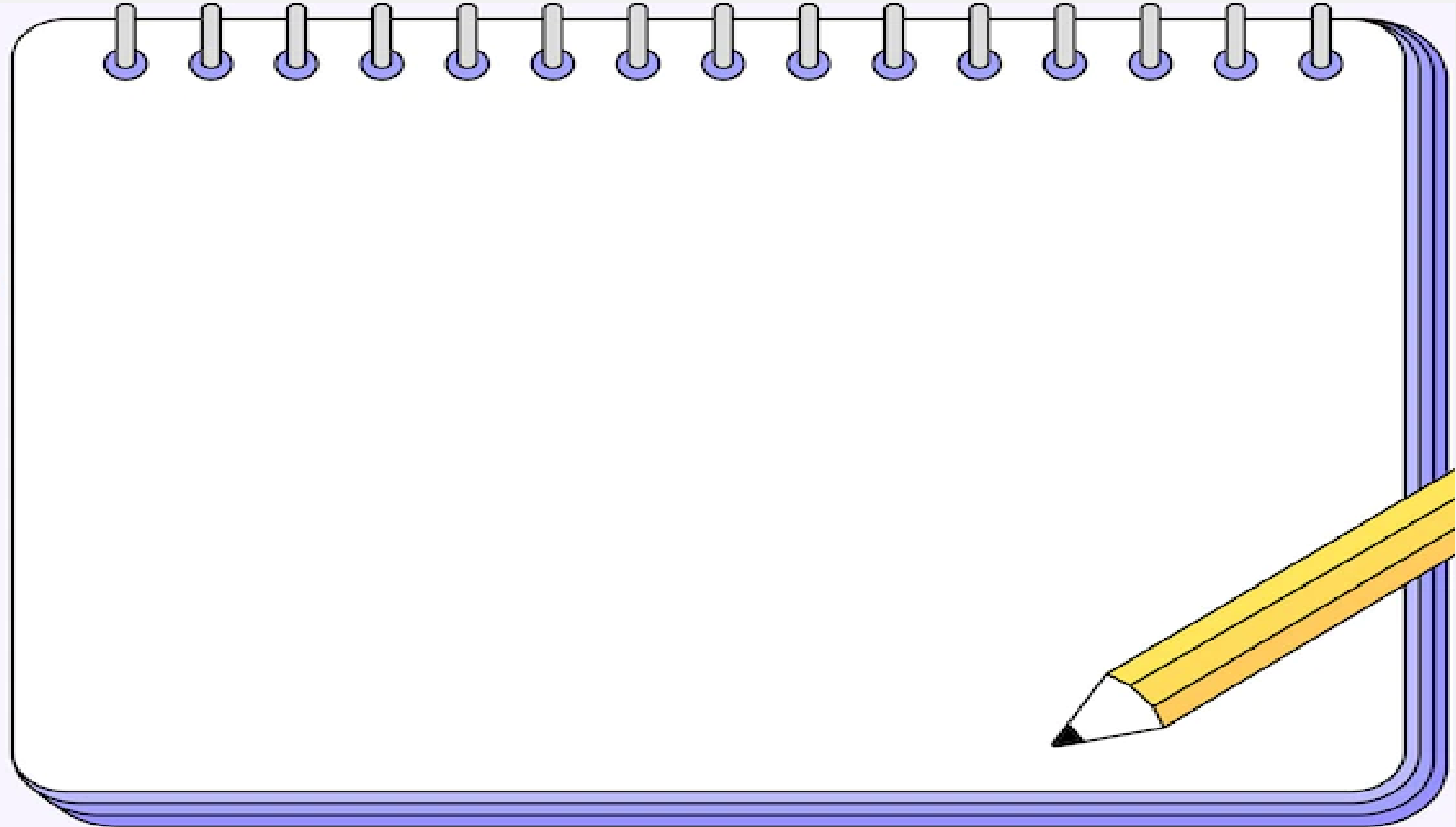
Phoenix Market city



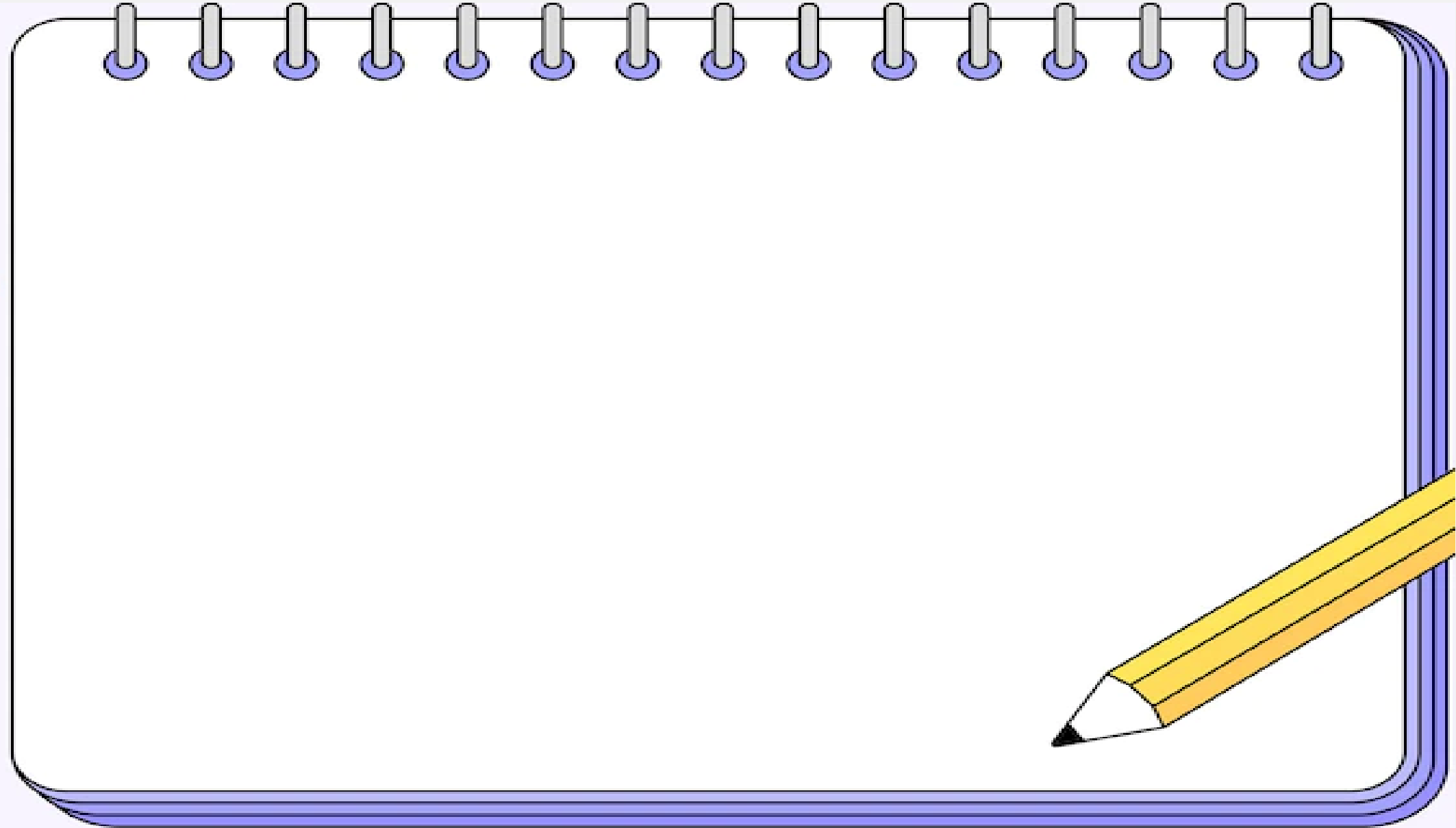
It is the largest mall in Bangalore by area and occupying 1,400,000 square feet (130,000 m²) built-up area with 1,000,000 square feet (93,000 m²) of retail space on four floors, which houses 296 stores, a nine-screen PVR Cinemas multiplex and a food court.



NOTES



NOTES



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