

# 5 PAGE TRAVEL GUIDES

FOR THE  
**CORPORATE TRAVELER**



# BANGALORE

India

**Bengaluru,  
Karnataka, India**  
**By Ted Marcus & Rafi Levy**

## To our reader

We have a lot in common. We too have been doing the “corporate travel” thing for years. Trips are busy with meetings and work, and spare time is rare. With the little time we do have, we want to know reliable places to eat, drink, and have fun - and we don’t want to wander around the Web or read long travel books looking for the right places.

Honestly, we published this book for ourselves: This is the information we wished we had when we hit a new city.

So, check out our suggestions in the following pages, and enjoy your stay.

## About the authors

Ted Marcus and Rafi Levy have over 30 years combined experience travelling internationally both for business and pleasure. They still work for large global enterprises and still enjoy the discovery of new places.

## About the “5 Page Guides” series

These guides grew out of our own needs for concise reliable information on cities we visited. We wished we had something ready-made that provided what we needed when on a business trip, and so we wrote our first guide.

Our first guide was indeed 5 pages long when printed, hence the series title. Even though with e-books, “pages” have no meaning - we still like the name since it conveys the focus, brevity and curated content that we feel are valuable.

# Table of Contents

[Intro](#)

[Getting around](#)

[From the airport](#)

[In the city](#)

[Places to eat](#)

[“Classic” Places to eat](#)

[Where to get coffee](#)

[“Classic” Coffee locations](#)

[Places to drink \(bars\)](#)

[“Classic” Bars](#)

[Places to “play”](#)

[Sites or places that are nice/fun to visit](#)

[Famous/Classic places to tour](#)

[Places to avoid like the plague](#)

[Suggestions for the Adventurous](#)

## Intro

**Bangalore**, officially known as Bengaluru, is the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka.

With a metropolitan population of about 10 million, it's the third most populous city in India.

The Hi-Tech and Outsourcing industries are blooming in Bangalore and for years now it's been referred to as the "IT Capital of India", "The Outsource Capital of the World" and the "Start-Up Capital of India".

- For weather and time zone information - please click [here](#)
- Currency conversion information: [EUR to INR](#) and [USD to INR](#)
- The Electricity/Power details for India is: 230V/50Hz and the plug types are:

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## Getting around

### From the airport

Expect a travel time of 1 hour at night; 2 hours (or more) during the day.

There are excellent cab services from the airport to anywhere in the city.

**OLA and Meru** cabs are very reliable and fast and can be easily booked through their mobile app (IOS and android)

The **airport shuttles** from Bangalore international airport to different city points goes at regular intervals. They are cheaper than the cabs and are very comfortable.

**Hotel taxi service.** Almost every decent hotel has a taxi service that you can book in advance. They are very reliable, arrives on time and will wait in case your flight is being delayed.

### In the city

Traffic during the day is really really tough. Consider choosing lodgings as close as you can to your primary destination.

While there are many cab services in Bangalore, **OLA and Meru** are the most reliable and efficient.

The **Bangalore metro rail service** (Namma Metro) is fast, clean and efficient and is one of the best ways to get around the city. However the metro rail project is still not complete and currently the network operates on just two lines, namely the purple line and the green line.

**Uber** is one of the services provided in Bangalore and the locals are using it frequently.

**Hotel Taxi** service. Every hotel has their own Taxi services. It is a bit more expensive than other options but you can always expense it.

If you are brave and wish to drive - you can also rent a car from **Zoom cars** (<http://www.zoomcar.com/bangalore/contactus#>).

## Places to eat

**The Olive Beach** 16, Wood Street, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025. Phone: +91- (0)99455 65483

Olive beach is a place where you can savor the authentic taste of the Mediterranean in style. The ambiance of the restaurant is wonderful and the décor, in rich blue and white, is warm and inviting. Offering exotic cuisines from the South of France, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Spain, the restaurant is also known for its choice of desserts, cocktails and wines.

**Millers 46** 46 Millers Road, Near Cunningham Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560052. Phone: +91 (0)80 4114 8022

If you are an (American) Southerner by heart, and fancy mouthwatering steaks in true Texan style, Millers 46 is the place for you. The place serves excellent American and Continental cuisines and its wooden decor is warm and inviting. To top it up, Millers 46 also sells interesting and quirky merchandise.

**Sunny's** No.50, Lavelle Road, Opposite Loom, Bengaluru, Karnataka

**560001. Phone: +91 (0)80 4132 9366**

Sunny's is named after the beloved dog of the owner and its delicious Italian fare will surely brighten up your day. Known for its authentic pastas, pizzas and desserts the restaurant also comes with a well-stocked bar and a cool garden to unwind after a hard day's work.

**Shiros, 222, 3rd Floor, Triple Height, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. Phone: +91 (0)80 4173 8861**

Shiros is stylish and sophisticated and serves mouth-watering Japanese cuisine and exotic Asian dishes. The restaurant offers a wide choice of brunches and its sushis and dim sums are worth trying.

**Berry'd Alive, 1079, 12th Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560008. Phone: +91 (0)96209 69017**

If you have a sweet tooth and fancy an eclectic and rich mix of cheese cakes, pastries and chocolates, then head out to Berry'd Alive. Their Hazelnut Cream Pot is worth trying and their decor is "sweet" and friendly.

## **“Classic” Places to eat**

**MTR or Mavalli Tiffin Rooms 14, Lalbagh Road, Mavalli | Near Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560027. Phone: +91 (0) 80 22230471**

MTR opened their doors in 1924 and have been serving authentic South Indian recipes ever since. If you want to eat some of most delectable local style cuisine, this is the place for you.

**The Koshy's** is another favorite place to eat and hang around for the creative and artistic minds of Bangalore. This is not a five star establishment, but its charm and appeal have remained intact since 1940. Koshy's English Breakfast is worth trying. **Address: 9, St Marks Road, Diagonally | Opposite to LIC Building, Bengaluru 560 001. Phone: +91 (0) 90151 07993.**

**Sajjan Rao Circle** is more popularly known as the Eat Street and is the best place for an Indian street food experience. Choices include rich North Indian cuisines, South Indian delicacies, exotic Far Eastern dishes and even confectionaries.



**Restaurants in The Leela Palace hotel.** Leela restaurants stand out among other 5-star restaurants in Bangalore. They indulge not only your taste buds but also your other senses. Not only is always the assurance of the best flavors available across varied menu options of Indian, Pan Asian, Italian or some elegant French, but even the décor and ambience of each of restaurant beats those of other Bangalore restaurants. It is expensive (compared to other restaurant in Bangalore) but the experience is really something to remember.  
<http://www.theleela.com/locations/bangalore/dining>

## Where to get coffee

**Cafe Buzzinga**, Bright Farms, Bungalow #1, Thubarahalli, Varthur Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru. Phone: +91 (0)97424 14757.

Cafe Buzzinga has an ambience that will keep you entertained till your coffee arrives. Along with coffee, Cafe Buzzinga also serves fantastic club sandwiches, hash browns, pancakes and smoothies.

**Mr. Beans - Home Cafe**, No. 651, Tank Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Next to Karnataka Bank ATM, Bangalore, Karnataka 560034. Phone: +91 (0)80 4111 5717

With wonderful seating arrangements and a very homey atmosphere Mr. Beans - Home Cafe is the place to laze around for long hours in total comfort (should you have the time). The coffee is brilliant and their white magic tea is definitely worth a shot. The cafe also serves excellent handmade ravioli and the waffles with maple syrup is perfect.

**Matteo Coffea**, No. 2, Church Street, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. Phone: +91 (0)80 4333 6000

The cafe not only serves excellent coffee but also exquisite blueberry cheesecakes and black forest cakes. Their iced espresso latte and cafe mocha are worth trying. Ambiance is friendly and warm.

**Boca Grande**, 606, 8th Block, Near Bethany High School, Koramangala 8th Block, Bangalore. Phone: +91 (0)80 41105183, +91 (0)80 41110889

Another place that serves some of the best coffees in Bangalore and their



croissants are probably the best in the city. The dessert menu is excellent and their cottage lasagna is “to die for”.

**San Churro Cafe**, 1112, Next to KIMS Medical College, 17th Cross, 2nd Stage, Banashankari, Bangalore. Phone: +91 (0)80 49653445

If you are at San Churro Cafe you must try their coffee flavored chocolate and Penne Arrabiata pasta. The coffee is excellent as well and the decor is vibrant and energetic.

## “Classic” Coffee locations

**The Indian Coffee House** is a part of chain that was started in 1936 by the Coffee Cess Committee. The food is reasonable and the coffee is good but the main reason why people come here is to get a feel of old world charm. *Address: G-37 & 38, 19, Ground Floor, Behind Shringar Shopping Complex, Church Street, Bengaluru (Bangalore) 560017. Phone: +91 (0)80 25587088*

Named after the well-known music festival of the sixties, **Woodstock** is definitely an old-school coffee house with the matching charm and decor. The food is excellent and the music is a delight for ABBA, Queen, The Beatles and Jimi Hendrix fans. *Address: 337 Domlur Service Road | Near Fire Pro, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru (Bangalore) 560038. Phone: +91 (0) 66389035*

## Places to drink (bars)

**Toit**, 298, 100 Feet Road, Near KFC Restaurant, Indira Nagar II Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560038. Phone: +91 (0)90197 13388

Toit has a warm and friendly ambiance and its decor will remind you of a quintessential European pub. The brewery offers a rich choice of wines, spirits and beer and also serves excellent pizzas and American cuisines.

**Tavern at the Inn**, Museum Rd, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. Phone: +91 (0)80 41113333

If you are looking for an English pub experience then Tavern at the Inn will meet your need. The music is groovy and foot tapping and goes well with the beer and the cocktails.

**Church Street Social**, 46/1, Cobalt Building, Church Street, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. Phone: +91 (0)80 4171 3016

This is a new kid on the block and it is already making a name for itself. The place is not very expensive and the vibe inside is warm and energetic. If you wish to spend a nice evening in Church Street Social it's advisable to book in advance.

**Windmill Craftworks**, No. 331, 5B Road, EPIP Zone, Next L&T Infotech, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560048. Phone: +91 (0)88802 33322

Windmill Craftworks has a more relaxed and lounge-style ambience to relax your weary bones after a hectic day at the office. The lights are dim and the live music creates just the right atmosphere for a wonderful night out.

**FBar & Kitchen**, No. 18, Ali Askar Road, Off Cunningham Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. Phone: +91 (0)99000 45800

FBar is quirky and hip hop and is just the right place to put your foot down and hit the dance floor. The decor is classy and stylish and the liquor is well-priced to suit all budgets.

## “Classic” Bars

If you are looking for some "retro" in life head out to **Dolphins** and slip into the 80s. The ambience is not that great but the liquor is good. **Address: 131/2, Wheeler Road, Cox Town, Frazer Town | Cox Town, Frazer Town, Next To Hp Petrol Pump, Bengaluru 560005. Phone: +91 (0) 80 25914880**

**Pecos** is one of the oldest pubs in Bangalore and one of best when it comes to charm and ambience. The beer is excellent and reasonably priced and the music is good. **Address: 34, Resthouse Road, Brigade Road | Near Dubai Plaza, Bengaluru. Phone: +91 (0) 80 25586047**

**The Leela Palace hotel** – They have great indoor and outdoor bars

## Places to “play”

With beautiful landscaping and greenery all around, **Lumbini Gardens** is a nice place to hang around in Bangalore. A waterfront leisure park around

the beautiful Nagavara Lake, the place is ideal for a relaxed day out in the midst of nature. The light show in the evening is an attraction and the artificial sea beach is a major crowd-puller. There is something called a "coffee boat ride" where visitors can sip on a "cuppa" as they take a relaxing boat ride.

**Cubbon Park** can rightly be described as the lungs of the city giving visitors a much-needed respite from smoke and pollution. Spread across a hundred acre plot, the park is a favorite spot for joggers and walkers throughout the day.

## Sites or places that are nice/fun to visit

### **Lalbagh**

Bangalore is known for its gardens and it is almost ritualistic to visit Lalbagh if you are in Bangalore. Lalbagh is one of most beautiful and well-managed gardens in Asia and is known for its rare fauna. The imposing rock in the middle of the park is approximately 3 billion years old and is a major attraction.

### **The Bangalore palace**

The palace was built by the Maharaja of Mysore in 1887 and its design draws strong inspiration from the Windsor Castle in London. The grandeur of the palace is awe-inspiring and the perfectly maintained gardens around the place greatly enhances its beauty.

### **Tipu's palace**

Another historical monument that is worth a visit is the palace of Tipu Sultan. The beautiful wooden architecture with beautiful pillars, arches and balconies will remind you of a beautiful and artistic era long gone. The well-manicured garden around the palace is a great spot to relax.

### **Bannerghatta National Park**

Located just 22 kms from Bangalore, Bannerghatta National Park is a beautiful biodiversity reserve and is a real delight for nature lovers. The adjacent butterfly park houses some of the rarest butterflies of Asia and the true attraction of the park is the ride inside armored vehicles. For once you will be in a cage while the tigers roam free around you.

## Famous/Classic places to tour

If you are wine connoisseur, a tour of the **Bangalore Wine Club** is a must for you. Visitors to the club comes from all walks of life and one can appreciate the art of winemaking from close quarters.

**Nandy Valley Winery** is just 18 kilometers from the city center and is a must visit for wine lovers and as well as normal visitors. Visitors can taste some of the best white and red wines and can even learn the art of wine tasting through dedicated tours and classes.

**The Silver Oak Farm** is a ninety minute drive from the city center and is a wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. The homestay is located in a beautiful spot overlooking the Nandi hills and is a perfect place to slow down and experience the rural Indian way of life.

If you are looking for some opulence and grandeur then **Golden Palms Hotel and Spa** is just the right place for you. If you are visiting with your family, there is something special for each and all here and the lush greenery all around will surely lift up your spirits.

## Places to avoid like the plague

Bangalore is perhaps the safest metropolitan city of India and there isn't a specific area that needs to be avoided in particular. If you happen to travel at night it is better to keep the phone number of the hotel handy.

In the event that you are hiring a local tuk tuk instead of a cab it is better not to argue with the driver if they ask for an exorbitant fare. Quietly note down their number and report the incident to the police.

## Suggestions for the Adventurous

**White water rafting** at Bheemeshwari located 100 Kms from the city center.

**Rock climbing** at Turahalli.

**The Savandurga Trek**, 60 kms from the city center.

**The Anthargange Trek and Caving** located around 70 Kms from the city center.