**Mangalore**

**Mangalore Airport (IXE)**

Mangalore Airport or the erstwhile Bajpe Airport is located at a distance of 7 km from the main city center. The airport commenced operations in 1951 after its inauguration by the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The Mangalore Airport is located on top of a hill and is the first airport to have two tabletop runways.

The initial passenger flights from Mangalore were bound to only two Indian cities, Mumbai and Bangalore. Massive renovations in the early 2000s helped in introducing new aircrafts and flying destinations to the airport. International operations commenced in 2006 with the first international flight operated by Air India Express to Dubai. The introduction of international services accelerated passenger traffic and annual revenues of the airport.

**Flight Information**

The airport is connected to major Indian cities as well as to several cities in the Middle East. Air India, Jet Airways and SpiceJet are the most popular domestic airlines at Mangalore airport that operate regular flight services to Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam. Air India Express and Jet Airways connect Mangalore Airport with cities in the Middle East such as Kuwait, Dubai, Bahrain, Muscat and Abu Dhabi.

**Terminals**

Mangalore airport has a new integrated terminal that handles both domestic and international flight services. The integrated terminal was inaugurated in 2010 and has the capacity to handle over 500 passengers during peak hours. The old terminal operates chartered direct flights to Madina in Saudi Arabia, since 2011, for Hajj pilgrims.

**Traveling in and around**

City buses ply between the airport and the rest of the city and vice-versa. The bus services are dependable and regular allowing travelers to reach their destinations on time. Mangalore airport has a pre-paid taxi counter at the arrival hall from where taxis can be hired to reach different places in the city and its surrounding regions.

**Services and Facilities**

Mangalore airport has 21 check-in and 14 immigration counters to complete processes quickly and conveniently. Free trolley services and baggage carousels are available at the airport for the convenience of the passengers as well as other basic facilities such as child care rooms, medical aids, ATMs and information desks.

**Things to Do**

The new terminal at Mangalore airport has many dining options offering delicious local food for passengers waiting to board their flights. The airport also has plenty of shopping options ranging from stores selling books and stationery to duty-free stores for purchasing perfume, cosmetics, watches and electronic gadgets.

**Hotels**

The city is home to many hotels and home-stays that suit every kind of travel requirement and budget. Goldfinch Hotels and The Gateway Hotel offer luxury accommodation in Mangalore. Hotel Mangalore International, Hotel Kavitha Residency and Hotel Veenu International are the highly reviewed options in the affordable accommodation category.

**Helpful Tips**

Monsoons in the city can lead to poor visibility on the runways. The airport has witnessed two accidents, one extremely fatal, because of wet weather conditions. However, the airport is stepping up security requirements on the runways. Do plan your trip accordingly.

**Nearby Attractions**

Mangalore is a serene coastal city that invites many travelers primarily because of its beautiful beaches. The Tannirbhavi Beach is a romantic place to visit and comes highly recommended amongst the beaches in South India. The city is also home to beautiful temples such as Kadri Manjunath Temple, Kudroli Gokarnath Temple, Kateel Shree Durgaparameshwari Temple and Someshwara Temple by the beach.