

Bangalore Orientation Handbook



2007 – 2008

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TO ALL CIS PROFESSIONAL STAFF

This booklet has been put together for all new professional staff coming to CIS and, more importantly, to INDIA for the first time. The information provided is based on personal experiences as well as other available sources. The members of this committee have worked hard and sincerely to provide accurate and up to date information to help newcomers to this city.

As the chairperson of this committee, I thank each and every member for making such valuable contributions to make this document possible. Having members some of whom belonged to Bangalore and others who were expatriates gives this document an unusual dual perspective on the experiences and information!

We do hope you will find this document useful. We are open to ideas on including any information that you may feel is missing so as to make the development of this booklet an ongoing process.

Best wishes

Geetha Swamy
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1Pre-Departure Procedures

(a.k.a: What Am I Doing? Can I live comfortably in India??!! How do I get there? What do I bring?)

First of all- DON'T PANIC! You have made a brave and wonderful decision that will offer you the experience of a lifetime in a country and city that is becoming more and more comfortable and accessible to foreigners. To help you out, here are some tips and tricks of the trade that we have learned the easy (and sometimes the hard!) way....

Enjoy Bangalore and enjoy Incredible India!

VISA Application Procedures:

1) **From Canada:** You can apply to get your Indian Employment visa wherever there is an Indian Consulate or Indian High Commission. In Ontario, the offices are in Toronto and Ottawa. Up until the year 2006, employment procedures were relatively stress-free. Applying for an employment visa involved going to the consulate (and being seen by an agent) before 11am, and picking up your finished paperwork after 3pm the same day. Bring your contract in full- but don't give them the original, just a photocopy in it's entirety.

2) **From Britain:** You need to go to the Indian High Commission in London or the Consulate in Birmingham. In Birmingham, you apply in the morning as soon as the consulate opens and then receive your visa in the p.m. You will need a signed letter of employment (your signed contract will do!) and British passport. You also need photos and a filled out form that you can download from their website: www.cgibirmingham.org. If you are from out of town, you will want to stay overnight at a hotel to be there early in the morning. Here's some good news - for the first two years in India, English passport holders don't pay taxes on their earnings! If you have dual citizenship (say, Canadian and British) apply on your British passport at any Indian consulate in your home country.

3) **From Australia:** Drop your forms off at a consulate in any capital city or send by registered mail (takes a bit longer). The approval process takes 5-7 working days.

Note: If you are in Asia already, the quickest visa approval process at this time seems to be through Thailand - through the Indian Consulate in Bangkok.

Supporting Documents:

In addition to your VISA in your passport, you should bring:

- ❖ 10-12 passport photos
- ❖ 2-3 photocopies of your passport, visa, credit cards (front and back), birth certificate, driver's license etc. Keep these photocopies in different places on the off chance that you lose an important piece of identification.
- ❖ Make sure that you know the school's full address and/or your home address in Bangalore, as you will need to state this on entrance documents.

What To Pack:

- Your favourite face wash and makeup (unless they are listed below)
- Tampons for women (the only ones usually available here are ob brand without applicator, but they are getting better...)
- your favourite chocolate bars and candy
- Bug spray with DEET (Muskol is good)
- Chlorine water drops (it's suggested to soak your fresh fruits and veggies in a solution before consuming, and the chlorine ones from home are so much more palatable than iodine solution here!)

Remember the 'golden rule' at least for the first few months you are here....If you can't peel it, soak it, boil it or bake it- don't eat it!!

- Some cold weather clothes! Believe it or not (especially if you come from Canada!), Bangalore and other parts of India can get a bit chilly. Bring a few light long-sleeve shirts and some jeans and pants/trousers, as well as one or two heavier long sleeved items. Also, if you're cold, the pashmina shawls here are perfect. Bring maybe one pair of closed-toe shoes plus runners/trainers if you're a girl and more closed toed shoes if you are male.

Operating Vehicles in India

If you intend to operate a motor vehicle or motorbike in India, you will need an International Drivers' Permit (IDP). The application papers are available online at CAA, and you would be smart to apply before leaving, as a FedEx envelope to Canada costs about CDN \$40.

Foreign Products available in Bangalore

Many 'foreign' products are not available in Bangalore; others are - if you know where to look for them. As well, most items are available by an Indian brand name company and are just as good. Stores that tend to stock foreign/imported food items are:

- Thom's on Wheeler Rd. behind St. John's Church (Good wine shop!)
- Nilgiris at the Residency Rd. end of Brigade Rd.
- Namdhari's in Sahakar Nagar, Sadashivanagar, Indiranagar (but Indiranagar is far away- close to the airport) and off Mosque Rd. in Fraser Town behind Jama Masjid Mosque
- Food Bazaar on the top floor of Bangalore Central
- Spencer's on M.G. Rd. (Good wine shop!)
- 'The Supermarket' on Brigade Rd. It's a bit hard to find but it's inside a mall (5th Avenue) before Nilgiris. They have lots of foreign products including Kraft Mac and Cheese sometimes!
- Go to Bamburys, Lustania's or Shezan's for meats. Spencer's has also opened a new meat counter at the very back that even has some cold meats.
- The "My Dollar Store" on Commercial Street is a source for chocolates, shampoos, conditioners, lotions and cereals, sauces salad dressing condiments and the like. BUT check expiry date.

Here are some brand names that you might recognize from Britain, Australia or North America (They tend to be a bit pricey for India, but fairly regular for North American prices): Tide laundry detergent, Nature Valley granola bars, Skippy peanut butter, Hunt's, DelMonte and Prego pasta sauces, Carr's table crackers, Post cereals, Cornflakes of all kinds, sometimes the odd box of Kellogg's cereal, Sunmaid raisins, Heinz canned brown beans, HobNobs and Digestive biscuits, Aunt Jemima pancake mix and syrup, KitKat, Snickers, Twix, Bounty and Mars chocolate bars as well as Lindt chocolate products and Ferrero Rocher chocolates. Alcohols available include Bacardi Breezers (coolers in cranberry, lime, orange, watermelon, Jamaican passion and blackberry), Bacardi rum, Smirnoff vodka, Foster's beer, Corona (once in a while at select restaurants) Guinness beer (sometimes), Two Oceans and other foreign wines (but these are very pricey), Tang juice mix, Revlon makeup and toiletries, Sunsilk products, Aquafina water, Garnier toiletries, Gillette shaving stuff, L'Oreal toiletries, Nutella spread, Philadelphia cream cheese, Palmolive products, Johnson & Johnson contact lenses and recognizable contact lens solution, Skittles candy and Dairy Milk chocolate bars,

Illness and Vaccinations:

In general, the threat of malaria is a bit overstated. You do not need to bring a year's supply of Malarone (or other malaria medication.) Bring enough to cover you for some side trips to more malaria-prone places. Vaccinations that you definitely should get are: Hepatitis B and C, DPTP (Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus, Pertussis), and if you intend to travel to the North of India or to Africa - Japanese Encephalitis. Dengue fever and it's 'cousin' Chikungunya are a mild threat right now in certain Indian states. Know the warning signs and symptoms of dengue (bone ache, stiff muscles etc.) and wear bug spray/cream after 5pm if you are worried.

Books to read if you want to get a 'feel' of India past and present:

- *'NECTAR IN A SIEVE'* by Kamala Markandaya.
- *'UNTOUCHABLE'* by Mulk Raj Anand.
- *'EAST WEST'* by Salaman Rushdie
- *'A FINE BALANCE'* by Rohinton Mistry
- *'CLEAR LIGHT OF DAY'* by Anita Desai
- *'THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS'* by Arundhati Roy
- *'THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS'* by Kiran Desai
- *FROMMER'S INDIA GUIDE*
- *SOUTH INDIA LONELY PLANET GUIDE!!*
- *INDIA* by Khushwant Singh

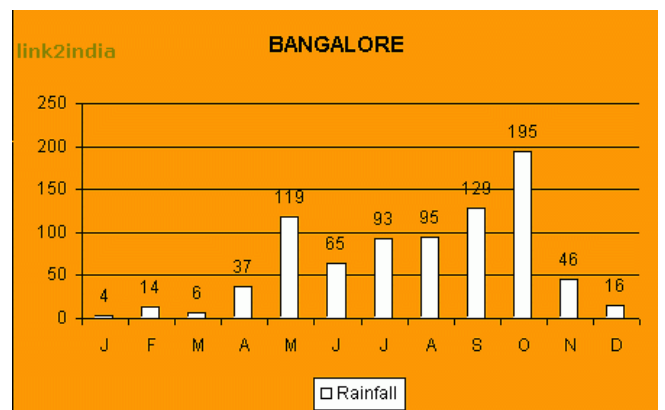
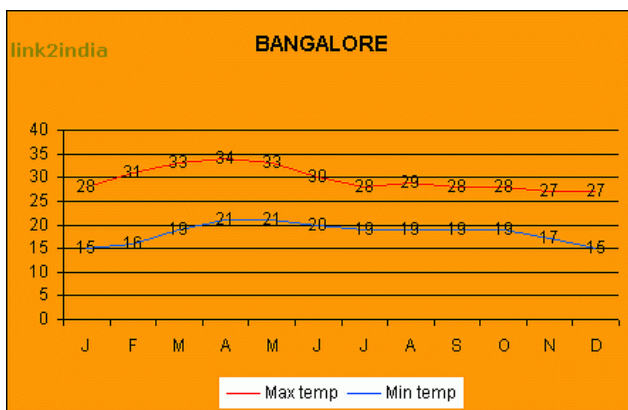
Bangalore Weather

Insofar as Indian climate is concerned, Bangalore's is fairly unique. The city is located in the southern centre of the subcontinent, on a geologic feature called the Deccan Plateau. The elevation is approximately 900m ASL. Neither the southwest nor southeast monsoons affect the climate significantly, nor will you suffer the horrendous heat and humidity that is more characteristic of places such as Mumbai or Delhi at the height of summer. Bangaloreans will tell you that they have the best overall climate in the country.

Bangalore is, by North American or European standards, endowed with a very pleasant and livable climate. The mean temperature in the warmest month, April is 27.1°C and in the coldest month, January, the temperature is 20.4°C. The temperature during the day rarely exceeds 34°C in summer and seldom falls below 15.5°C on winter nights. The atmosphere is neither very humid nor very dry. The mean values of the relative humidity in the wettest month, September and driest month, January are 76% and 63 % respectively.

Early morning fog occurs between October and February but mainly in December and January; the airport is sometimes affected by this, but by 9:30am, the fog dissipates. Days throughout the winter months are fine, with little cloud-cover to speak of. By the time you have acclimatized to Indian temperatures, it is likely that you will oftentimes feel chilly in the mornings of December and January, but feel quite warm in the afternoon. An important feature influencing the climate of Bangalore is the low cloud which covers almost the entire sky during the greater part of the day from June to September. This is about the extent of the effect that the monsoon has on Bangalore's weather. The morning hours in these months, with overcast skies, little or no rain, and a fresh breeze with temperature on the order of 21°C to 25°C are the most pleasant in the year.

The only negative aspect of the climate in Bangalore is the pollution in the downtown areas. Emissions from vehicles, the incineration of garbage, and dust can make the air quality poor at times. The problem is less dramatic in Yelahanka, 15km north of the city centre, where the school is located; however, if you are an asthmatic, or suffer other respiratory difficulty, you may need to consider this fully. If you use an inhalant like asthalin, please carry sufficient stock till you find compatible product.



Local Culture

The city of Bangalore is today well known in India and around the world as the IT hub of the country. This sudden surge in activity has transformed this sleepy little town into a bustling metropolis, bursting at its seams with the unexpected growth. The infrastructure was not designed for the spurt in population, traffic and commercial activities.

However, this city has always been a popular destination because of its salubrious climate - this prompted the British to set up a Cantonment here. The influence of the British presence has made this one of the more cosmopolitan cities of India. People here are more accepting of foreigners and a large percent of the population can at least understand and even speak English. The local language is Kannada but there is a strong Tamil influence as part of this city once belonged to the Madras Presidency. Many speak the National Language which is Hindi.

Bangalore is also well known for the quality of education it offers and people from all parts of India migrate to this city either for education or to work in the IT sector, BPO's or Call centers.

Traffic and Roads

The one thing that strikes most foreigners when they set foot on Indian soil is the noise and the crowds. Drivers on the roads take a vicious delight in making their presence felt by using the car horns as frequently as possible. Traffic rules are blatantly flouted by all and sundry – you are more likely to be hit from behind if you stop at a red light than if you keep moving! But amazingly, there are fewer road accidents than you would expect probably because the traffic CRAWLS! All roads are shared between cyclists, motorcycles, cars, lorries, buses, 3 wheelers (called *auto rickshaws*), not forgetting cows, stray dogs and even the occasional camel, horse or elephant. Pedestrians do not use sidewalks; they always use the road, darting in and out of the traffic with total nonchalance which might cause you to reel back in terror! Surprisingly, most foreigners become quite adept at crossing roads in this fashion once they have got used to the chaotic style of functioning on the Indian roads. It may be comforting to know that Bangalore is one of the better managed cities for traffic.

Bangalore is also well known for its pubs though the local police have directed pubs to close down as early as 11.00 pm in public interest. However, the bigger hotels in town continue to serve liquor without any restrictions.

The Segregation of the Sexes

In general, in big cities like Bangalore, segregation of the sexes, especially among the younger generation, is not very apparent. However, most Indian parents are reluctant to let their daughters go out on dates or stay out late nights. Indian women generally wear clothes that cover their ankles like the sari or the Salwar Kameez (which is very comfortable for casual wear). The young generation however wears clothes that you might find in any western country. Still, shorts and very brief tops are not advised as they may attract unwanted attention.

Footwear inside Indian Homes

Many Indians do not use outside footwear inside their homes. Visitors to their homes are expected to leave their footwear near the entrance door. It's best to take your cue from the family members. The same custom is followed in places of worship like mosques and Hindu temples. So As Not To Cause Offence...one should remember to wash hands after touching footwear. Most locals would like you to keep your shoes out of the house entirely, especially in the kitchen.

Public Toilets

Don't be surprised to see men peeing in public. Indian men have weak bladders! Women are more modest and never relieve themselves in public. There is a shortage of public toilets and unless the toilets are the "Pay and Use" type, they are better avoided. Carry your own toilet paper. Most public toilets do not have any.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR NEWCOMERS TO INDIA

Safety is an important consideration regardless of where you are. The purpose of this article is to provide you with a very basic primer on this topic. A vigilant frame of mind will help to avoid unpleasant or dangerous situations.

It is important to understand the culture, people and politics of the places you visit. Not only will this make your time abroad more enjoyable and meaningful, it will help you avoid creating dangerous situations unnecessarily. Talk to citizens of your country that are already residing there before you go or immediately upon arrival.

Be suspicious of people you don't know that take an interest in you. Some ploys include a need to practice your language, a desire to buy you something, or any other attempt to be friendly. Obviously there will be people that have nothing but good intentions, but you need to be wary and take all precautions necessary before letting your guard down.

What if you feel unsafe? Do you have a cell phone or other means of communicating with people who can help you?

Always stick to well-lit areas where other people are around.

Do not divulge personal information to strangers. Indeed, as noted above, you should be wary of those that inquire about this information without reason. This includes where you live or are staying, what you do for a living, where you are from and why you are living abroad. Don't discuss politics with strangers - ever - and research other topics that are likely to offend or otherwise upset the locals.

Regardless of where you live, whether it's abroad or in your home country, being aware of what's going on around you should be a subconscious part of your routine.

Do not leave your luggage or personal belongings unattended in public areas and never accept packages from strangers. Do not become a target for thieves by wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money or purchase art or antiques in order to avoid violating local laws. When overseas, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly.

Traveling by train.

The following tips and advisories are for female travelers especially, but also for the male solo traveler, to ensure healthy and incident-free travel aboard the Indian railways:

- Unlike many other destinations, in India if you are a solo traveler you will often be the only Westerner on a train.
- Ask for the upper berth (it will say “UB” on your ticket stub) when buying your ticket—it has a far greater degree of privacy and you can stretch out any time, even in the middle of the day.
- Avoid the lower berth or middle berth; you will not be able to stretch out until everyone decides to go to sleep.
- Purchase all tickets as far in advance as possible. It is a good idea to purchase a few legs of your journey all at once while you are at one major station so you are assured a seat on the date that you want.
- Do not make prolonged eye contact with any males; it can be seen as a sexual invitation.
- Although you will be asked for your gender at the ticket office, this will not generally mean that you will share your berth with other females.
- Sleep and ride with any bags that fit right on your berth—use them as footrest and pillows. All cash and travel documents should be in contact with your body at all times.
- Study all the passengers around you after the train leaves the station. Do not shy away from pleasant conversation because you are afraid for your safety, but do not feel a false sense of ease because you feel like you know them.
- Do not plan to change your clothes while on the train. An ankle-length cotton skirt, dark colored t-shirt with sleeves, and a long cotton scarf is ideal.
- Pre-arrange all hotel information at your intended destination before boarding your train, especially if you will be arriving after 5 p.m.
- Do not get off the train to stretch, even at prolonged stops at major stations. Stay within eye contact of your berth at all times.
- If you feel uncomfortable in any situation on a train, do not hesitate to change your seat immediately, with or without first asking the conductor. If you sense trouble, move first, ask later.
- Don't shy away from independent female travel - just be careful.

Allergies

There is little or no awareness about food allergies, especially in the remoter places. Many Indian restaurants don't understand the seriousness of allergies, and don't pay much attention to things like cross-contamination from using the same utensils in different dishes. Vegetarians have the same problem with mixed-cuisine restaurants. You're really on your own with keeping allergic reactions down to a minimum.

Find out the Hindi/Bengali/Tamil names for the stuff you're allergic to. This will come in handy for reading package labels and recipes--many times ingredients lists will be half English, half Hindi.

Eating and Drinking

There are a few very basic rules concerning eating and drinking. Always use bottle water for drinking, brushing your teeth and washing your face but only if the cap seal has not been tampered with. Like bottled beer and fizzy drinks, this should always be checked and even then it's still worth wiping the lid. If not cold, put the bottle in ice; never add ice to the contents. Unless you do it yourself, food that needs washing but not cooking should be left well alone such as salads, fruit and vegetables and under no circumstances should raw shellfish be consumed. Street food vendors while offering an authentic flavour of a country may not always cook food through thoroughly so it's worth checking before biting into anything that no part is uncooked.

Websites

ExpatExchange.com was created largely to facilitate the exchange of information from experienced expats to those that are just embarking upon their journey.

Banking and ATM's

The Bank: The school has all the salary accounts with HDFC (Housing Development Financing Corporation) bank. Customers get a Visa ATM card.

Automatic Teller Machines (ATM's): The nearest HDFC Bank Automatic Teller Machine is in Yelahanka on the way to the Prestige Monte Carlo Apartments where most staff has their housing. There is also one a neighboring locality – R. T. Nagar. Several HDFC ATM's are located in all the main shopping areas.

There is no charge for using the HDFC bank operated ATM if you are an account holder. There are a number of other ATM's operated by many other banks. If you use one of these to withdraw money, there is a charge ranging from Rs.50 to Rs. 100 per transaction.

Cards: Most ATM's accept Master or Visa Cards.

How Much Can I withdraw?

ATM's normally do not allow a withdrawal greater than Rs. 20 000 (US\$1 ~ Rs.45) at a time. Some machines even specify the amount that you may withdraw. Cash is usually delivered in 500 Rupees or 1000 Rupees bills.

Depositing Cheques:

You can deposit cheques at the ATM to be credited to your account. The necessary forms are available at the ATM. It is quite safe. However, it is advisable to keep a photocopy of the cheque you are depositing for your reference.

Security:

Do not walk out of the ATM holding wads of notes in your hand! There have been occasional incidents when the money has been removed by muggers or tricksters! Stow your cash away before exiting.

Hospitals in Bangalore

Sagar Apollo Hospital 44/54 30 th cross TilakNagar Main Road, Jayanagar Extension Ph: 2653 6700 www.sagarapollo.com	Modern and clean facility. The other end of town as opposed to CIS.
Columbia Asia Hospital Kirloskar Business Park, Bellary Road Hebbal Ph: 5179 1000	Modern and clean facility, close to CIS. A visit to the doctor will cost you Rs. 200. Nearest to CIS. Highly recommended.
St. Johns Medical College Sarjapur Road, Koramangala Ph: 2206 5000 www.stjohns.org.in	One of India's most renowned medical colleges. Teaching hospital.
Wockhardt Hospital 14, Cunningham Road Ph: 5199 4444 http://www.whhi.com	Specializes in cardiology and cardiac surgery.
Manipal Hospital 98 Rustom Bagh Airport Road Ph: 2502 3888 / 2502 3712 Email: info@manipalhospital.org	Very good reputation. <u>Facilities</u> Available in the areas of Dental treatment, Pediatrics. Cardiology, Cancer, Minimal Invasive Surgery, Joint Replacement, Kidney, Neuro Surgery and Plastic Surgery.

Mallya Hospital 2, Vittal Mallya Road Ph: 22277979 /22277997 www.mallyahospital.net	Very good reputation. <u>Facilities</u> Available in the areas of Dental treatment, Pediatrics. Cardiology, Cancer, Minimal Invasive Surgery, Joint Replacement, Kidney, Neuro Surgery and Plastic Surgery.
Bangalore Baptist Hospital Bellary Road, Hebbal Ph: 23330321 / 23330324 www.bangalorebaptisthospital.com	Close to CIS.
Bangalore Medical College K.R. Road	Teaching hospital
Victoria Hospital (Bangalore Medical College) Fort, K.R. Road Ph: 26701150/26703294/26703475	Government run hospital. Reputed burns department.
Hosmat 45, Magrath Road, Off Richmond Road Ph: 5593796-97 /5593747-46 /5543746 mail@hosmatnet.com/hosmat@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in	Speciality hospital: Orthopaedics, Sports Medicine, Arthritis, Accident – Trauma and Neurology.
M.S. Ramaiah Hospital MSR Nagar, MSRIT Post (Close to RMV Extension) 91-80-23608888	General Medicine
Narayana Nethralaya, Chord Road	
Netradhama # 256/14, Kanakapura Main Road, 7th Block, Jayanagar http://www.nethradhama.org/	Offers comprehensive Eye Care facilities.
Narayana Hrudayalaya Heart Hospital Hosur Road Ph: 27835000 Website:www.hrudayalaya.com	Specializes in heart surgery. A great distance away. But top notch cardiac care.
St. Marthas Hospital No.5, Nrupathunga Road Ph: 22274541, 22275081 091-80-22212427 admin@stmarthashospital.org	General Medicine
National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences(NIMHANS) H. S. Road, Near Diary Circle	Specializes in Neurology.

Bangalore Institute of Oncology Cancer Detection Centre, 44-45/2ND CRS RM Roy Extension 2225644/2267/2359/5698/2267/2359	Cancer hospital
Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology	Cancer hospital

Transportation – Sahakar Nagar

Rickshaws

- Going into town – pay meter price.
- Returning – expect to pay meter + ½.
- All night, 1 ½ times usually after 8.00pm.
- Rickshaws by law are allowed to charge meter + ½ after 9:30 p.m.
- Price from Sahakar Nagar to M.G. Road is between 75 Rs. to 100 Rs. (depends on where you get it).
- Interior Sahakar Nagar autos charge 100 Rs.
- Sterling Apartments or Kodigehalli Gate 75 Rs.
- Price to Cunningham road – about 40 Rs.
- Rickshaws from town to Sahakar Nagar or Yelahanka, Monte Carlo Apartments may ask for the return fare too (claiming they would have to run ‘empty’). Better fix the rate before hiring.
- Auto rickshaws ranks with police assistance at Commercial Street and M.G.Road.

Transport: -

You can avail either a city taxi or an auto rickshaw. City taxi would be more expensive but will be available through an agency and comparatively safer. Auto rickshaws are available outside Monte Carlo or at various places in Sahakar Nagar.

Balaji City Taxi (Yelahanka) ☎ 28565000
 SLN City Taxi (Yelahanka) ☎ 23622888
 AR City taxi (Sahakar Nagar) ☎ 9880307203

Reservations: - You can call up the given agencies to book your tickets.

Air: - Shreyas ☎ 23339393 ☎ 23338745 Bus: - Sharma ☎ 26701721
 Ela Nobbay ☎ 98860 25000

HOUSING FOR STAFF

PRESTIGE MONTE CARLO APARTMENTS YELAHANKA BANGALORE 64

Monte Carlo apartments are an oasis of quiet, just off the busy main road to the new International airport, due to open in 2008/09. The cluster of apartments is set in green grounds, with shrubs, flowers and avenues of trees. In the grounds is the Mediterranean Club, free to the use of tenants. The club has a swimming pool, fitness center, squash court, billiards room, badminton court, card room and a meditation room. The office is in the same building for dealing with complaints, repairs and so on.

Transportation:

Taxi: Phone numbers

- City Taxi: 51100000
- Balaji City Taxi: 28564000/28565000
- S.L.N. City Taxi: 23622888/23622999

Cost: Approx Rs.500 return from Monte Carlo to M.G.Rd.

Rs.250/- one way drop off.

Rs.100/125 one way to S. Nagar. (200 rtn)

The price of the Taxi is agreed on, before departure. There is no meter charge. It is approx Rs.100/- an hour for longer rentals. (Wait 2hrs in town = Rs.200/-)

Auto Rickshaw:

Approx Rs 150/200 one way to M.G.Road .Return journey from M.G.Road is the meter rate plus half rate additional. Yelahanka is outside city limits, hence the additional charge.

- To S. Nagar: Rs 100/- return.
- To Yelahanka New Town/Police station: Rs.30/-
- To HDFC Bank in Yelahanka: Rs.40/-
- To Food World: Rs 40/- return with a 20 min wait.
- Recommended Auto driver: Mr. Narayana. Ph# 9341955264

The price for auto & taxi is similar; however, the taxi is more comfortable, without the hassle of bargaining with the auto driver.

Bus into town: Rs 10/-

APARTMENT INFORMATION

- Basic furniture provided. Mattresses are not necessarily new.
- Basic bedding/towels provided.
- Basic kitchen utensils provided.
- **Mail:** Pick up mailbox keys from Property Managers Office. Mail boxes are located in the garage parking area under your apartment block.
- **Garbage Collection:** Every morning leave garbage outside your apartment door for pick up.
- **Dry Cleaning/Laundry service:** Located in the garage parking area under “JOY” Block.
- **Shop:** There is a small shop in the Club House. Open 9am to 9.30 pm, with a lunch break from 2.30pm to 3.30 pm. Offering wheat, groceries, toiletries etc.,
- **Gas Cylinders for cooking:** You can get replacements through the School.
- **Property Manager:** Takes care of plumbing & electrical problems.
- **Electric Generator:** There is a back-up power generator to ensure constant power supply. However, you should buy a “stabilizer” to ensure a surge doesn’t wreck your electronics!
- **Picture Hanging:** You need a carpenter to drill a hole in the wall, and then put in picture hooks. The Property Manager can help.
- **Children:** There is a small play ground & swimming pool.
- **House maids:** Easy to get, just ask around.
- **Ramanashree California Resort:** This is located next door to Monte Carlo. There is a restaurant, swimming pool and gym. Great Sunday morning buffet breakfast/brunch for Rs 90/- !!
- **Food World:** Supermarket, just 5 min away by auto rickshaw.
- **HDFC Bank & ATM Machine (School Bank):** Located in Yelahanka Old Town. Rs. 40 gets you there.
- **Telephone:** You can get a new connection in a day from Broadway Communication, located in the parking garage beneath Givenchy Block. With a telephone connection you are connected to the intercom system and have direct contact with the main gate security. This is important for allowing visitors and taxi drivers into the complex.
- **Internet connection:** High Speed connection can be established in a day from Broadway Communications. (see above)
- **Television & Cable connection:** You will need to buy your own T.V. Broadway Communications will arrange the connection.
- **Guests:** You will need to give your guests your apartment number/intercom number. Security will buzz you and let them in and
- **Geysers:** There is Geysers tank (hot water heater) in the ceiling of your bathrooms, which needs to be turned on/off from a switch located outside bathroom door.

General:

Buy maps of the local areas around S.Nagar & Yelahanka which give locations of Post Office/Banks/Shops etc.

Keep large bottles of Mineral Water 25 liter bottles can be delivered from the Monte Carlo market.

“Times Food Guide” gives you the local scene for food & drink.

“Craigslist.org” local website for Bangalore & Housing section.

Emergency Phone numbers can be obtained from the Property Managers Office, for Police/Fire/Hospital etc.

HAVE A BUDDY. You could be mailing each other pre-arrival.

HAVE A BUDDY TO SHOW YOU AROUND BANGALORE AND THE LOCALITY. OR AN EXPERIENCED, MATURE, SCHOOL EMPLOYEE!

1 Shopping in Bangalore: A Consumer’s Paradise!

The fun thing about clothing in India is that you can get clothing made and tailored to fit you for a cheap price. Local tailors along Commercial St. and in all the villages/neighbourhoods charge about Rs. 70 to sew a kurta top or salawar pants and slightly less to make a skirt. There are so many fantastic fabric shops (with fabrics ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs.1000 a meter depending on the material) along Commercial St. and M.G/Brigade Roads that you can have an entire wardrobe made for you whilst in India!! Most tailors like to copy an already existing piece of clothing and they do this quite well. If you want a garment made brand new, make sure you check back with the tailors along every step to ensure it fits well. One tailoring shop called ‘Western Tailors on No. 19 11 Main Road 9th Cross near the post office (you might have to get some help with directions) is well known for being good at recreating Western style clothing quite well and even for making Western style clothing from ‘scratch.’ They are in a small shop along a small, dark alley, but don’t worry, you are in the right place!! Their phone # is 2238 3184.

Clothing:

Men’s:

- Indigo Nation
- Zodiac (slightly pricier but very nice work wear)
- Two men’s floors in Bangalore Central
- Shopper’s Stop and Westside in Garuda, Lido, Sigma and Forum Malls for trendier/younger men’s stuff
- Wills on Brigade for Western wear
- Cotton World in Barton Towers on M.G Rd.

Women’s:

Brigade and M.G. Roads:

- United Colours of Bennetton (Men's too)
- Levi's
- Lee Jeans
- Wills Lifestyle
- Shopper's Stop and Westside in Garuda, Lido, Sigma, and Forum Malls.
- Rain Tree (opposite Windsor Manor on Bellary Rd.) Has mens and women's shops and home decor stuff.
- Anokhi- has beautiful Jaipuri print items for men, women and children as well as bed linens and table wares. There is one store at Rain Tree (above) and one in the Leela Palace Galleria on Airport Rd.
- FabIndia for Indian basics such as plain kurtas and salawar pants. They also have men's and children's clothing and some home decor items and some food/spices.
- Adidas, Nike and Reebok stores: for men and women, here you can find DriFit and other such items at about half the cost (or less!) you would pay back home. The new Adidas store near Safina Plaza is supposedly the largest such store in southeast Asia! Also- a brand new Puma store just recently opened on Brigade Rd.
- Safina Plaza- go upstairs to the top floor and head for Gurlz and the open bazaar area for some cute clothes and jewellery. Gurlz is expensive but makes some great stuff- and you get a free Gurlz magazine!
- Cotton World in Barton Towers on M.G. Rd.

Children's:

- Kids Kemp- a large, cheap place on the way to the airport
- Shopper's Stop and Westside in Garuda, Lido, Sigma, and Forum Malls.
- Random cotton melas (markets) on the side of the road!

Shoes:

- On Commercial Street try: Rocia (they have great Birkenstock brand shoes for about Rs. 2000), Metro, Woodlands, and more. Chappals-style sandals are generally available in coastal towns and should cost about Rs. 250 per pair. Beaded Indian sandals (mojaris) are about Rs. 300 per pair and come in an array of bright colours and more subdued, leather ones as well. If you like sparkly, heeled sandals, the shops on Commercial St. are super. Adidas, Nike and all the sports stores along Brigade and Commercial Streets have sports shoes sometimes at excellent prices. Sometimes sports shoes can be about equal to Western prices, especially brand new models.

Jewellery:

India is a jewellery shopper's paradise! There are gold and silver shops even in the smallest towns. Indian people value their jewellery and adornment highly and wearing gold is a symbol of wealth. Expect gold prices to be close to Western prices, but silver is cheap and the styles are great! 'Costume' jewellery is also great and available at any local 'fancy' store and from vendors along the main shopping streets. Some good shops to check out are Narayan Jewellers just off Commercial St. (Known as 'the blue door' for it's...well, blue door!), and Anokhi always has some neat pieces. Also, Rain Tree sometimes hosts jewellery exhibitions of local and sometimes foreign jewellers. These are a must see!

Innerwear:

Bangalore has a few Jockey brand shops for men and women along Commercial St. and M.G Rd. The underwear is good quality and is at great prices. Places like Bangalore Central also stock Western brands like Tommy Hilfiger and Esprit for men and women. Department stores like Westside (at the malls) have their own, cute cotton undergarments for men, women and children and they stock name brand Indian names as well. Marks and Spencer's at Garuda Mall also has M & S underwear, it is 'regularly' priced, but excellent quality. There are also a few specialty lingerie shops in the malls if you want fancier/trendier stuff, but it tends to be very pricey.

Home Ware:

Every separate neighbourhood or 'Nagar' will have home appliance and goods shops. Inside you will find anything from stainless steel cups to rice cookers to blenders and ironing boards to tupperware or plastic containers. The school should have you well stocked in basic kitchen wares, but it's cheap and easy to add to your collection! Stainless steel cooking utensils cost anywhere from Rs. 50/- to approx. Rs. 500/- and of course, you must have a chappathi flipper!! 'Ziploc' or freezer style bags are available at most grocery stores, however only select grocery stores stock aluminum foil and plastic wrap (although stock is getting better and better.) These stores also stock mirrors, wall hooks and other decor items. For furniture, you can get cane furniture made quite inexpensively from the cane shops along Bellary Rd. A rocking chair might cost you Rs. 1500-2500 and a cane shelf Rs. 2000. Smaller items like stools and tables will cost less. You also might get a cheaper price if you bring a 'local' along with you. Furniture St. (near Commercial St.) is well known by auto drivers and is the main furniture selling area. Here you can find furniture, mattresses and other large items for the home (lamps etc.).

Electronics:

Quality electronics can be found here at a good price. You can basically get everything you can get back home. However, always ask about warranties and return policies if things do not work. Home stereo systems/cd players can generally be found for about Rs. 2000 (these often have a VCD player included...VCDs / DVDs). Little speakers for an iPod or MP3 player should be Rs.1000-1500. Writable cds, dvds and for laptops and computers are readily available even at the local 'fancy' stores. One note: if you are buying/watching dvds, some dvds from home are not compatible with dvd players here and will tell you this when you try and watch them. On the flip side, some dvds bought here might not work if you try and play them on your laptop. The good thing is- you can get dvds at a shop just off Commercial St. For Rs. 100 each, and if they don't work the guy lets you take them back! So, for Rs. 100, who can go wrong? For all other kinds of electronics, you can basically get everything you can get at home, but usually for 'Western' prices. For those serious about purchasing electronics, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia are only a plane ticket away and the prices and selection on quality electronics are much better than in India. NOTE: Voltage here is 240V, so consumer electronics from North America will not work without a transformer.

Home Decor:

A fantastic new place has just opened up this past year across from Garuda Mall. It is called Home Stop and is India's homage to places like Ikea. Inside you will find anything from funky glass and china to practical pots and pans. They also stock foreign mattress brands (for a pretty penny, mind you!) and lots of bed linens and the like. There is also a bath section and a good stock of rugs. Good deals are the Rs. 150 terrycloth slippers in a multitude of colours!

Other places to check out for home decor shops are the malls below (try Shoppers' Stop and Westside.) Also, check out Yamini on Ulsoor Rd. especially for lovely gift-y items.

Malls:

Bangalore has a great selection of malls, and malls are a great place to go to if you need a little bit of a 'Western' fix! Just don't laugh at the people who are afraid of getting on the escalators!

1) *Garuda Mall* (just off M.G. Rd.)

This mall also has a movie theatre that shows English flicks, a great Indian restaurant, a food court, it's very own Haunted 'Scary House' and an arcade for kids. For you Canadians, they even have Vancouver's very own 'Lush' bath products and for the Aussies there is an Australian Cookie Man shop. They also have the popular Marks and Spencers and Mango stores, but at European prices. Garuda also has a good candy store and a Baskin Robbins ice cream stall. Food court incorporated on the top floor.

2) *Forum Mall* (the farthest away- this huge mall is in Koramangala)

This mall boasts a movie theatre (try the 'Gold seats' for a treat) with English movies, a McDonald's and a KFC, as well as tons of stores. Food court incorporated on the top floor.

3) *Sigma Mall* (on Cunningham Rd.)

This mall has no movie theatre, but it is the closest one to SahakarNagar and Yelahanka. It has a McDonald's and lots of stores, including a huge department-type store called Pantaloons and a food shop on the top floor. A good food court incorporated on the top floor.

4) *Bangalore Central* (just off M.G. Rd.)

This is more like a department store and hosts a Café Coffee Day inside, as well as a Food Bazaar on the top floor. You can get anything here from clothes to household items to electronics, stationary and more. There are also two great restaurants- Bombay Post and Noodle Bar- both are very yummy! There is also a Baskin Robbins upstairs in the Food Bazaar. This place also has a bar/dance club that is pretty happenin'! Food court, disco / lounge on top floor.

5) *Lido Mall* (just off Ulsoor Rd.)

This mall has no movie theatres but hosts the fancier outlets like Guess, Next, Body Shop, Marks & Spencer's etc

1Restaurants In Bangalore

NAME OF RESTAURANT	TYPE OF FOOD	PRICE RANGE Meal for 2	Address
Ai Cavalli	Italian	Rs. 600	Off Rajankunte, Doddaballapur Rd., Bangalore- 562 157 Ph: 2846 8296
All Saints Bakery	Bakery		126/2 Brigade Rd., Bangalore- 560 025 Ph: 2557 2091 or 2530 7161
Angeethi	North Indian	Rs. 1000	Museum Inn Museum Rd., Bangalore-1 4111 3340 or 4111 3333
Aromas of China	Chinese	Rs. 1400	Shivshankar Plaza Richmond Rd., Bangalore- 27 Ph: 4111 3355
Athena Lounge	Multi Cuisine	Rs.2000	The Leela Palace 23 Airport Rd., Bangalore 4126 5411/2/3
Bagel and Bakes	Bakery		Ph: 2351 6103
Baluch	North West Frontier	Rs. 2000	The Grand Ashok Kumara Knupa High Grounds, Bangalore-1 Ph: 3052 7777
Bombay Post	Indian	Rs. 800	Carlton Towers Airport Rd., Bangalore, 17 Ph: 4111 3939
Bamboo Shoots	Chinese/Thai	Rs. 1000	Museum Inn Museum Rd., Bangalore-1 Ph: 4111 3338
Baskin Robbins	Ice Cream		Ph: 5693 0000 5664 1026 4113 7761
Blue Ginger	Vietnamese	Rs. 3000	Taj West End 55 Racecourse Rd., Bangalore- 560001 Ph: 5660 5660
Blue Spice	Multi Cuisine	Rs. 600	Koramangala 3 80 Feet Rd. 8 th Block, Bangalore- 560 095 Ph: 5111 4501
Cinnamon	Bengali	Rs.300	Indiranagar 1A and 2A, 17 th E Cross

			CMH Rd., Bangalore 560 038 Ph: 5767 2956
Citrus	European/Indian (They have super Sunday Brunch replete with all you can drink champagne!)	Rs. 1800	The Leela Palace 23 Airport Rd., Bangalore 560 017 Ph: 25211234
Coconut Grove	Kerala	Rs.600	86, Church St. Bangalore, 560 001 Ph:2509 1168
Cha Bar	Tea Lounge Also a frequent place for book readings and literary meetings.	Rs.600	The Leela Palace Airport Rd. 4115 5220
Chinese Hut	Chinese	Rs. 500	4105/6 Highpoint, Palace Rd. Bangalore-1 Ph: 2226 7364
Copper Chimney	Multi-Cuisine (You need to make reservations!)	Rs. 700	Bangalore Central Residency Rd., Bangalore 560 025 Ph: 5511 1800
Desmond	Multi Cuisine(North Indian, Chinese, Continental)	Rs.600	41, Cristu Complex, Lavelle Rd. Bangalore-1 Ph. 5127 8000 /5127 8001
Domino's Pizza	American Home delivery available	Rs. 300	Cunningham Rd.- Phone: 2238 5855 Brigade Rd.- Ph 25322333 or 2532 2334
Ebony	Indian/Thai/European	- Rs. 800	2Barton Court Towers 84 M.G. Rd., Bangalore, 560001. Ph: 25589333 or 25585164
Elements	Continental You can also order a hookah after a meal!	Rs. 500	197 Nandidurg Rd., Bangalore- 46 30904513
Empire Hotel	Indian	Rs. 500	Corner of Museum Rd and Church St. Try the roast chicken! There is an A/C room upstairs * Several branches all over the city.
Fiorano	Italian Authentic food and a	- Rs. 2000	Koramangala 63 100 Feet Rd. 5 th A

	Zen-like monochromatic decor		Block, Bangalore 560 095 Ph: 2553 4231
Ginseng	Malay/Chinese/Thai	Rs. 1400	Royal Orchid Park Plaza-1, Croft Avenue- off Airport Rd. Ph: 2520 5566
Grasshopper	European Call ahead if you have a big group and get the chef to prepare something special. Set in a garden full of flowering trees.	Rs. 1200	45 Kalena, Agrahaa, Bannerghatta Rd., Bangalore 560 076 Ph: 2659 3999
Hae Kum Gang	Korean	Rs. 700	Ashok Nagar 20 Paul Castle, 2 nd floor, Castle St., Bangalore- 25 Ph: 4112 7730 or 4112 7731
Harima	Japanese Classic Japanese with elegance and style	Rs. 1500	4 th Floor Devatha Plaza Residency Rd., Bangalore Ph: 4132 5757
Hidden Dragon	Chinese	Rs. 2000	Golden Palms Resort and Spa Tumkur Rd. Bangalore 562 123 Ph: 2371 2222
Hint Lounge	Italian Gives you a fab view of the city!	Rs. 1000	Bangalore Central- 5 th Floor Residency Rd. 4112 3548
Indi Joe	Continental with the look of an All-American diner	Rs. 600	Airport Rd. Ph: 41113636
italia	Italian Efficient service and good wine!	Rs. 2000	The Park Hotel Off M.G. Rd. Ph: 2559 4666
Jamavar	Indian Sit outside and feel like you are on the edge of a palace garden!	Rs. 2000	The Leela Palace Hotel Airport Rd. 25211234
KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken)	Fast Food	Rs. 250	Brigade Rd.- Phone: 41510224 Commercial Street Next to CIS uniform stockists (Poonam's) Forum Mall- Phone: 2206 7993

La Madeleine	French Pretty spot set amidst trees and under colourful umbrellas. Also the home of the 'painted plate' desserts. Desserts are worth a try!	Rs. 700	55/2, Lavelle Rd, Bangalore 560001 Ph: 41329150
Le Jardin	Indian/European	Rs. 1600	The Oberoi 37/39 M.G. Rd. Bangalore, 1 Ph: 5585 858
Little Italy	Vegetarian Italian	Rs. 900	Indiranagar 1135 100 Feet Rd. H.A.L. 2 nd Stage, Bangalore Ph: 2528 9126 /2529 7482
Mainland China	Chinese	Rs. 800	14 Church St. 2559 7722 (The buffet is worth a try!)
Mandarin Room	Chinese/Szechuan (Frighteningly authentic and spicy!)	Rs. 1200	The Grand Ashok Kumara Krupa Rd. High Grounds, Bangalore-1 Ph: 2226 6962 (They have just celebrated their 25 th year!)
Mc Donalds	American Fast Food	Rs. 300	Forum Mall- Koramangala and Sigma Mall on Cunningham Rd. Ph: 2206 7733
Memories of China	Chinese	Rs. 1500	Taj Residency 41/3 M.G Rd., Bangalore, 560001 Ph: 5600 4444
Millers 46	American Good stakes	Rs. 800	Vasanthnagar 46 Millers Rd., Bangalore, 560 052 Ph: 4113 1746
Mynt	Indian/Italian/Lebanese	Rs. 2000	Taj West End 55 Race Course Rd, Bangalore, 1 56605660
Noodle Bar	Chinese (Southeast Asian)	- Rs. 1200	Bangalore Central Ph: 5661 0808/ 5661 0909

Olive Beach	Mediterranean	Rs. 2000	Ashok Nagar 16 Wood St., Bangalore, 25 Ph: 4112 8400
Only Place	Multi Cuisine Good Stakes	Rs. 800	End of Museum Rd. Near the Post Office.
Pizza Hut	American	Rs. 350	Brigade Rd.- Ph: 25320799 Airport Rd.-Ph: 2522 3999 Cunningham Rd.- Phone: 2228 9999 Forum Mall- Ph: 22067999
Sahib Sindh Sultan	Indian	Rs. 900	Koramangala Level 11 Forum Mall Hosur Rd., Bangalore 2206 7878 or 2206 7831
Samarkand	North Indian	Rs. 1000	Gem Plaza Infantry Rd., Bangalore,1 Ph: 4111 3364 or 4111 3365
Sorrento	Italian	Rs. 2000	Golden Palms Spa and Resort Nagarur off Tumkur Rd. Bangalore 562 123 Tel: 28394074
Spiga	European	Rs. 600	76/A Vittal Mallya Rd. Bangalore 560001 Tel: 4112 0077
Sue's Food Place	Caribbean	Rs. 500	- Indiranagar 4 Krishna Temple Rd. Tel: 2525 2494
Sunny's	Continental Probably the best in Bangalore without luxury taxes	Rs.1500	End of Lavelle Road Bangalore
The Beach	North Indian/Goan/Continental	Rs. 800	Indiranagar 1211 100 Feet Rd. M.A.L. 2 nd Stage, Bangalore, 560038 Tel: 4126114
U.S. Pizza	U.S. Pizza	Rs. 400	Indiranagar- Ph: 25274488 Residency Rd- Ph:2559 6000

The Best Of.....

<p><u>Best Chinese</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Szechuan Court 2. Memories of China 3. Mainland China 4. Mandarin Room 5. Aromas of China 6. Shanghai Club 7. Silkwinds 	<p><u>Best North Indian</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samarkand 2. Copper Chimney 3. Angeethi 4. Bombay Post 5. Sahib Sindh Sultan 6. Jamavar
<p><u>Best Korean</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hae Kum Gang 2. Soo Ra Sang <p><u>Best Seafood</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Le Jardin 2. The Oberoi 3. Citrus 	<p><u>Best Pizza/Burgers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Olive Beach 2. Italia 3. Little Italy 4. Pizza Hut 5. McDonalds 6. Indiana Fast Food
<p><u>Best Japanese</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harima 2. Dahlia 3. Zen 	<p><u>Best Coffee Shops</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coffee World 2. Café Coffee Day 3. Barista 4. Kalmane Coffee
<p><u>24-Hour Dining</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mynt 2. Citrus 3. Café Mozaic 4. Le Jard <p><u>Best Italian</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ai Cavalli 2. Spiga 3. Fiorano 	<p><u>Best Bars</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ice 2. Hint 3. TGI Friday's (Happy Hour!) 4. Blue Bar 5. Firangi Paani 6. Nineteen Twelve 7. Cosmo Village 8. Tuscan Verve 9. Taika
<p><u>Best American</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Millers 46 2. TGI Friday's 3. Indi Joe 4. Shezan's 	<p><u>Best Thai</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rim Naam 2. Taika Lounge
<p><u>Must Visit For Tourists</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grasshopper 	<p><u>Best Bars for Dancing</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taika

2. Kavavalli 3. Olive Beach 4. Sunny's 5. Sahib Sindh Sultan 6. Samarkand 7. Koshy's Parade Café 8. Jewel Box	2. Athena 3. Tuscan Verve 4. Spinn 5. Nineteen Twelve
	<u>Best Vegetarian</u> 1. Gramin 2. Mast Kalandar 3. Ramanas

MAIDS

Almost every household in Bangalore employs the services of a maid. Part-time maids, who come once a day and clean your apartment/house, do your dishes and washing, are easy to come by. The normal rate for 3 – 4 hours of work is around Rs1500/- per month for full- time maids, experienced with working in expat households, the wages can go up to Rs.3000/4000. Some expatriates tend to pay more though, because these wages may seem low by Western standards. Very few maids speak English unless they have already worked in an expatriate household. In general, if the maids come recommended by someone known, they are reliable and honest. It is NOT advisable to employ someone who comes without a recommendation. There are maids who will also cook, but their repertoire is usually restricted to basic Indian cuisine. Some maids are smart and quickly learn to cook Western food.

It is always advisable to keep money, passports and expensive jewelry under lock and key. DO NOT leave expensive cameras, mobile phones and other expensive gizmos around – they are quite likely to disappear.

The OWC (Overseas Women's Club) that has its meetings on Thursday mornings at the Leela Palace hotel and is a good place to source and/or get information about reliable maids, nannies, drivers etc.

Taxes in India

Depending on your annual salary rate at CIS you can expect to pay income tax, assessed at a floating rate, between 25.20% and 29.7% (2007-8). The tax rates in India fluctuate from year to year, for instance, there was a slight reduction in the general income tax rate

between 2007-8 and the previous fiscal year, but in general, a mean tax rate of 30% is what you should expect to pay. This will be deducted from your monthly payslips by the school. Perks provided by school are taxable viz., HRA, leave encashment etc., If you require more particular information, you can check the Indian government's website at: <http://incometaxindia.gov.in> or refer to the following chart as a guide to income taxes per salary range.

Teaching Experience	Annual Salary (INR, 2007-8)	Income Tax (INR, 2007-8)
0-1	934,500	235,550
2-3	1,071,000	305,500
4-6	1,197,000	348,350
7-9	1,291,500	380,450
10+	1,365,000	405,430

The aggregate income tax amount shown in the above chart will be assessed in 11 installments.

Bilateral Tax Agreements (DTAA)

Most countries have a bilateral tax agreement with the Government of India to prevent double taxation. This is of particular interest to foreign nationals who come to work in India. In general, a foreign national who becomes a resident in India (as you are or will be) will only need to pay taxes in India, and the income you earn in one country will not be taxed by your home country. For example, you will not have to pay income tax in both India and Canada. You will be assessed for tax here in India, and a certificate can be applied to your subsequent income tax returns in Canada to notify the Canadian government that you have not evaded paying income taxes (or you can choose not to claim offshore earnings, which is at your own risk). With certain countries, the bilateral agreements are quite favourable. If you are a citizen of either the United Kingdom or the United States, you are the beneficiary of Article 22 provisions in each nation's agreement with India which guarantee that you will be exempt from paying income taxes for first employment in India on salaries earned for 1st 24 months. Therefore, if you are carrying either a British or American passport, you may enjoy a two-year tax exile while working here in Bangalore.

Filing a Return

If you are required to file a tax return in India, you will need to see Catherine Charles, in the administration office upstairs, who will prepare forms on your behalf, and who will merely require your signature on a few documents. The fiscal year ends on March 31st, and the deadline for filing a return is July 31st. Penalties are assessed to those individuals who file after the deadline.

Weekend and Day Trips from Bangalore

Listed here are just a few of the wonderful places to visit in Karnataka. As well as the faithful **Lonely Planet** guide it is also a good idea to purchase a copy of *52 Weekend Breaks from Bangalore* for more weekend trips.

Golden Palms Spa and Hotel www.goldenpalmsspa.com

Golden Palms Avenue, Hobli, Tumkur Road, Bangalore

+91 - 080 -23712222

(15 lines)

Golden Palms is a spa resort about 30km from the centre of town. As well as the hotel and spa they offer a day package which includes the use of their pool, sport facilities and a buffet lunch. Great way to spend the day, especially if you go for a spa treatment as well.

Angsana Spa Resort www.angsana.com/bangalore/index.php

The resort has a range of recreational facilities including an aerobics center, meditation/yoga room, squash and tennis courts. There are wide acres of open space, a gym to work off excess energy, sprawling landscaped gardens and magnificent pools.

Angsana Oasis Spa & Resort is located 24 kilometers from M.G. Road, northwest of Bangalore on Doddaballapur Main Road.

Nandi Hills

Nandi Hills, 65 Kms from Bangalore and 1,478 meters above sea level is Bangalore's own hill station. It was Tipu Sultan's summer retreat and Tipu's fort walls still stand as testimony to history. The rivers Pennar, Palar and Arkavati originate from these hills. A flight of 1.175 steps lead from the base of the hills to the top. Nandi Hills is a popular hill resort of the Bangaloreans. Tipu's Drop, a 600 meter high cliff, where prisoners were hurled down the precipice is an awe-inspiring sight. Atop the hill is the Yoganandishwara temple.

Somnathpur

Bangalore-Mysore highway

Taking a left turn before you reach Mysore, the roads are clearly marked and you will travel through relatively unspoiled countryside and rural villages to reach the beautiful village temple of Somnathpur, one of the best specimens of Hoysala architecture dedicated to lord Kesava. This is one of India's greatest monuments and the magnificent, star shaped temple is profusely decorated with panels of intricate sculptures. The best view is from the gallery above the temple. Neatly manicured lawns at the front of the temple make a relaxing spot for a picnic.

Jungle Lodges www.junglelodges.com

Setting a benchmark in eco-tourism, Jungle Lodges and Resorts was envisaged in 1980 and has since won rare accolades including the Government of India Award for Excellence for Eco-friendly Tourism. The resorts offer wilderness, rivers and beach, and provide comfort and hospitality

Kabini River Lodge

Nestled in the southern fringes of the [Nagarhole National Park](#), the Kabini River Lodge is a perfect getaway for nature lovers. The breathtaking locale with the tranquil backwaters of the River Kabini presents an ideal setting for a long-awaited vacation. Once the hunting lodge of the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore, Kabini River Lodge is today rated by the British Tatler's Travel Guide as one of the top 5 wildlife resorts in the world. Kabini is pure elephant country as one can see numerous herds at a time.

Dubare Elephant Camp

The Karnataka Forest Department has about 150 Elephants in various camps and Dubare has been historically an important one. The elephants for the famous Mysore Dassehra were trained at Dubare elephant camp. With this as a background, Jungle Lodges & Resorts (JLR) has struck upon a unique idea to utilize the Elephants at Dubare Camp to provide the tourists with 'an intimate experience with Elephants'. The visitor can not only observe and learn but also participate in various activities involving Elephants.

Bandipur National Park

Bandipur Safari Lodge is located halfway down the Mysore-Ooty road adjacent to the world-renowned [Bandipur National Park](#). Nestling in the foothills of the Nilgiris, the Bandipur National Park was formed by extending the Venugopal Wildlife Park, set up in 1931 by the Mysore Maharajas. It is now one of the tiger reserves in the country. It also forms a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which is the one of the last refuges of endangered Asiatic wild elephants

Bheemeshwari Fishing Camp

Meandering through the woody landscape amidst the forests of Karnataka is the [Cauvery](#) river – the most majestic and sacred river of South India. The river offers both adventure and opportunity for nature lovers. Nestled along this mighty river is the Bheemeshwari Fishing Camp, world-renowned as home to the great 'Mahseer' - the finest & the largest tropical sporting fish known to man. Tucked away from the milling crowds, yet close enough for you to reach, this camp offers a slice of nature that is entirely unique, one in which you can totally feel free!

Coorg

Coorg - incomparable scenic beauty, lush green valleys, coffee plantations, teakwood forests and majestic mountain ranges. Add to that a strong, brave martial race of Coorgs (Kodavas) that reveres tradition, has a distinct culture and lives life to its fullest.

Coorg is situated on the Western Ghats of Karnataka in South India. For the adventurous at heart, it is an absolute treat. There are trekking, golfing and angling (Mahaseer too!) options available. Religious trips abound on Hindu and Buddhist circuits. You can also relax your body and mind with special Ayurvedic massages.

But the predominant entity here is nature at its best. If you're the type who likes to mingle with nature, romance in the mountains, feel the tingle of the cool and gentle breeze, watch leaves flutter in dance-like movements and hear sounds of birds fill the air, then Coorg is just the place for you.!

Madikeri

The capital of Coorg formerly called Mercara, Madikeri is often known as the Scotland of India. It has enchanted millions of travellers with its misty hills, lush forests, coffee plantations and breath taking views. Also known for its lovely climate, Madikeri is a world record holder for the cardamom crop.

Abbi Falls

Just 7 kilometers from Madikeri town are the Abbi Falls, as remarkable and striking a sight as you would see anywhere. The narrow road to Abbi Falls is a combination of steep ups and downs, twists and turns, wriggling through the green and dense foliage of surrounding coffee plantations. Situated on private property, a narrow pathway leads you downward to where the waterfall can be seen.

Nagarhole National Park

Though the name literally means Snake River in Kannada, there aren't too many snakes around. Created from a former raja's hunting grounds, Nagarhole is one of the best game sanctuaries in South India, providing a natural living conditions to several wild animals like elephants, tigers, panthers, rhinos and wild elephants, but one is more likely to see smaller game like gaur, deer, wild dogs and langur. Pleasantly cool round the year, it is a little difficult to reach, which makes it quieter than other parks. This in turn makes it a great place to relax. Jungle safaris are available as elephant rides.

Irupu Falls

This is more a hike than a holiday (there are people like us out there who take these differences very seriously). You could begin from behind the Rameshwarna temple, and relax at a refreshing pond halfway up the falls. Then, if you are some strange sort of enthusiastic trekker and have some spare RBC (the leeches demand that), carry on to the top.

Apart from the popular sightseeing places, Kodagu district has a whole lot of Trekking Tracks for those who seek adventure in the wild.

Ooty www.ootyindia.com/

The verdant hills, the lush green valleys and the pristine natural beauty of the hill resort of Ooty offers the urban tired souls a chance to resume their affair with Nature, to whom they truly belong. The heavenly hill resort like a blushing bride peeks from behind the lofty Nilgiri hills. The unassuming beauty of this heavenly hill resort beckons you to come and embrace the tranquility and solace that tours to Ooty offer.

One of the reasons people like to visit hill stations is that, they not only offer a respite from the dust and pollution of the city but also give people a chance to see the undefiled beauty of nature. The green hills, the cascading waterfalls and sparkling brooks, all make the hill stations a delight for the eyes of the urban dweller. Ooty is an ideal hill station since it offers all this and much more. There are many places you can tour, such as the Botanical Gardens, Lamb's Rock and Dodabetta Peak, on tours to Ooty.

Hampi <http://www.karnataka.com/tourism/hampi/>

The Vijaynagar city ruins near the village of Hampi, 353 kilometers from Bangalore, are one of the most fascinating historical sites in South India. Although in ruins today, this capital city once boasted riches known far beyond the shores of India. The ruins of Hampi of the 14th Century lies scattered in about 26 sq. km area, amidst giant boulders and vegetation. Protected by the tempestuous river Tungabhadra in the north and rocky granite ridges on the other three sides, the ruins silently narrate the story of grandeur splendor and fabulous wealth. The splendid remains of palaces and gateways of the broken city tells a tale of men infinite talent and power of creativity together with his capacity for senseless destruction.

Strewn over a large area (about nine square miles) the ruins at Hampi offers to the tourist a remainder of the greatest land in the whole world. Every rock, every path and every monument at Hampi speak the same language; a language of glory and beauty.

The nearest rail and bus point is Hospet from where one travels another 12 kilometers by road to reach Hampi. There are regular bus and overnight train services from Bangalore to Hospet.

Mysore <http://www.indiatourism.com/mysore-travel-guide/index.html>

Mysore, the third largest city of the southern Indian state of Karnataka, is famous for its sandalwood and silk. More recently, it has also become famous for its yoga teachers. It lies on the slope of a low-lying plateau at an altitude of 770 m, which makes its climate pleasantly cool in winter. The name Mysore is derived from Mahishasura, the demon who allegedly used to rule there. Mysore was once the home to the royal family, and the spectacular Maharajah's palace still occupies a large portion of the city centre.

One festival that brings travelers to Mysore in droves is **Dasara**. Dasara is the celebration of the victory of good over evil (Mahishasura). Pomp and pageantry come to Mysore in October when the tranquil city awakens to ten days of Dasara festivities. Brilliantly lit up palaces, decorated arches, festooned streets, colourful costumes and cultural shows,

classical music, and folk dances such as Bharata Natyam, Yakshagana, Huthari, Torch Light Parade, and Theppotsava are all on display. The culmination is the legendary Mysore Dasara Procession with caparisoned elephants, the golden howdah, decorated horses, stately coaches, troops in ceremonial uniforms, folk dancers and colourful floats.

The train station is on the north western fringe of the city centre, about 1km from the main shopping street, Sayyaji Rao Rd. There are four daily expresses from Bangalore (3hrs), or the air-conditioned high-speed Shatabdi (2hrs). Or if you are feeling more adventurous and don't mind people in your personal space, there are KSRTC buses leaving every 15min from Bangalore (3hrs.)

Sravanabelagola

Sravanabelagola (which means, the Monk of the White Pond) is famous as the pinnacle of the sculptor's art. A naked figure of Gomateswara stands 120 meters tall and was carved out of a single piece of granite in 183 AD. Every 12 years, the figure of Gomateswara is ritually bathed by priests and witnessed by millions of devotees in one of the most colorful festivals of the austere Jain religion. It is said to be the world's tallest monolithic statue, and overlooks the sedate country town of Sravanabelagola from the top of the bald rock of Vindhyagiri Hill. However, make sure you bring your runners because to reach this incredible sight, one must walk up some 300+ steps! But if this seems all too much then you can hire a dholi (portable chair) with bearers, for Rs.130.

Belur & Halebid

Nearby Sravanabelagola are the temple towns of Belur and Halebid, which hold between them a series of carved stone Hoysala temples. The Hoysalas, who ruled this part of the Deccan between the 11th and 13th centuries, originated in the hill tribes of the Western Ghats and were, for a long time, feudatories of the Chalukyas. Typically, these temples are squat, star shaped structures set on a platform.

Hassan, with a comfortable hotel, makes the perfect base from which to explore the riches of Belur and Halebid. But if you want a quiet getaway amongst a vast countryside then try *Hoysala Village* (+91 0 8041911044 - <http://www.trailsindia.com>). It contains the best swimming pool for miles, a delicious buffet is spread every lunch and evening and suites are fully equipped with all the comforts of home!

Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)

Mamallapuram, 50km south of Chennai, is famous for its shore temple and was the second capital and seaport of the Pallava kings of Kanchipuram, who were at the height of their political power and artistic creativity from the 5th to 8th centuries AD. Mamallapuram is a popular place, and it's not hard to see why. It has an excellent combination of cheap accommodation, restaurants catering to all tastes, a good beach,

handicraft shops, spectacular stone carvings dotted around the town and other remains of an ancient Indian kingdom.

You can reach Mamallapuram by first taking an overnight train from Bangalore to Chennai, and then a taxi (approx. Rs.1000) or take a bus (Rs.30). However, there are numerous domestic flights leaving Bangalore – Chennai that will get you there in less than an hour and will not break your wallet!

Pondicherry

But just 100km further south, is the picturesque former French colony of *Pondicherry*. Here you will find small cafés, quaint dress shops and various markets all revealing a certain Parisian flare. Also, close by is the international community of *Auroville*. Auroville is the brainchild of The Mother, an experiment in international living where people could live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, politics and nationalities.

Books That Will Help in India

All of the following books can be found at either **Gangarams** (M.G Road) or **Crosswords** (Residency Road).

Lonely Planet Guide to India

11th Edition

Sarina Singh, et al

Published September 2005

ISBN: 1740596943

Outlook Traveller 52 Breaks from Bangalore

Published 2003

ISBN: 81-901724-2-5

Rough Guide to India

6th Edition

David Abram, et al

Published October 2005

ISBN: 1843535017

SOME USEFUL PHRASES IN KANNADA AND HINDI

Here are some common phrases and words that might help the newcomer navigate around the city:

English	Hindi	Kannada
Yes	Haan	Howdhu
No	Nahin	Illa
Greeting – hello (with folded hands)	Namasthe	Namaskara
How much?	Kitna?	Yeshtu?
Where is?kahan hai?yelli idhe`?
What is your name?	Aapka naam kya hai?	Nim hesaru yenu?
Water	Paani	Neeru
Food	Khaana	Oota
Here	Yahaan	Illi
There	Wahaan	Alli
Come	Aaa	Baa
Go	Jaa	Hogu
Money	Paisa	Hana
Cheap	Sastha	Kammi bele`
Expensive	Mehenga	Jaasthi bele
Reduce the (Price)	(Daam) cum karo	(Bele) kammi maadi
How far?	Kitna door	Eshtu doora
(Stop) here!	Yehaan (rukko)	Illi stop maadi (nilsu)
What it this?	Yeh kya hai?	Idu yenu?
Enough	Buss	Saakku
Some more	Aur thoda	Innu Solpa (jaasthi)
Little	Thoda	Solpa
Clean the dishes	Barthan saaf karo	Paathre clean maadi
Wash the clothes	Kapda saaf karo	Batte ogi
Sweep and mop the floor	Farsh saaf karo	Nela clean maadi
Shop	Dukan	Angadi
Vegetables	Sabji	Tarkari
Fruits	Phal	Hannu
Eggs	Andaa	Koli Mutte

COUNTING NUMBERS

NUMBER	HINDI	KANNADA
One	ake	Ondu
Two	Tho (as in though)	Yeradu
Three	Theen	Mooru
Four	Chaar	Naalakku
Five	Paanch	Idhoo (as in I do)
Six	Chhe`	Aaru
Seven	Saath	Yêlu
Eight	Aat	Yentu
Nine	Now	Ombathu
Ten	Dus	Huthu (as in Hut)
Fifty	Pachaas	I-vathu
Hundred	Sau	Nooru
Five Hundred	Paanch Sau	I-nooru
Thousand	Hazaar	Savaru

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