

BANGALORE

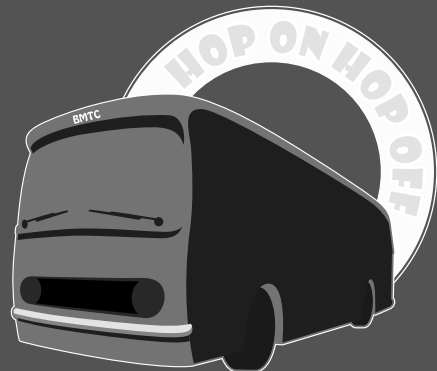


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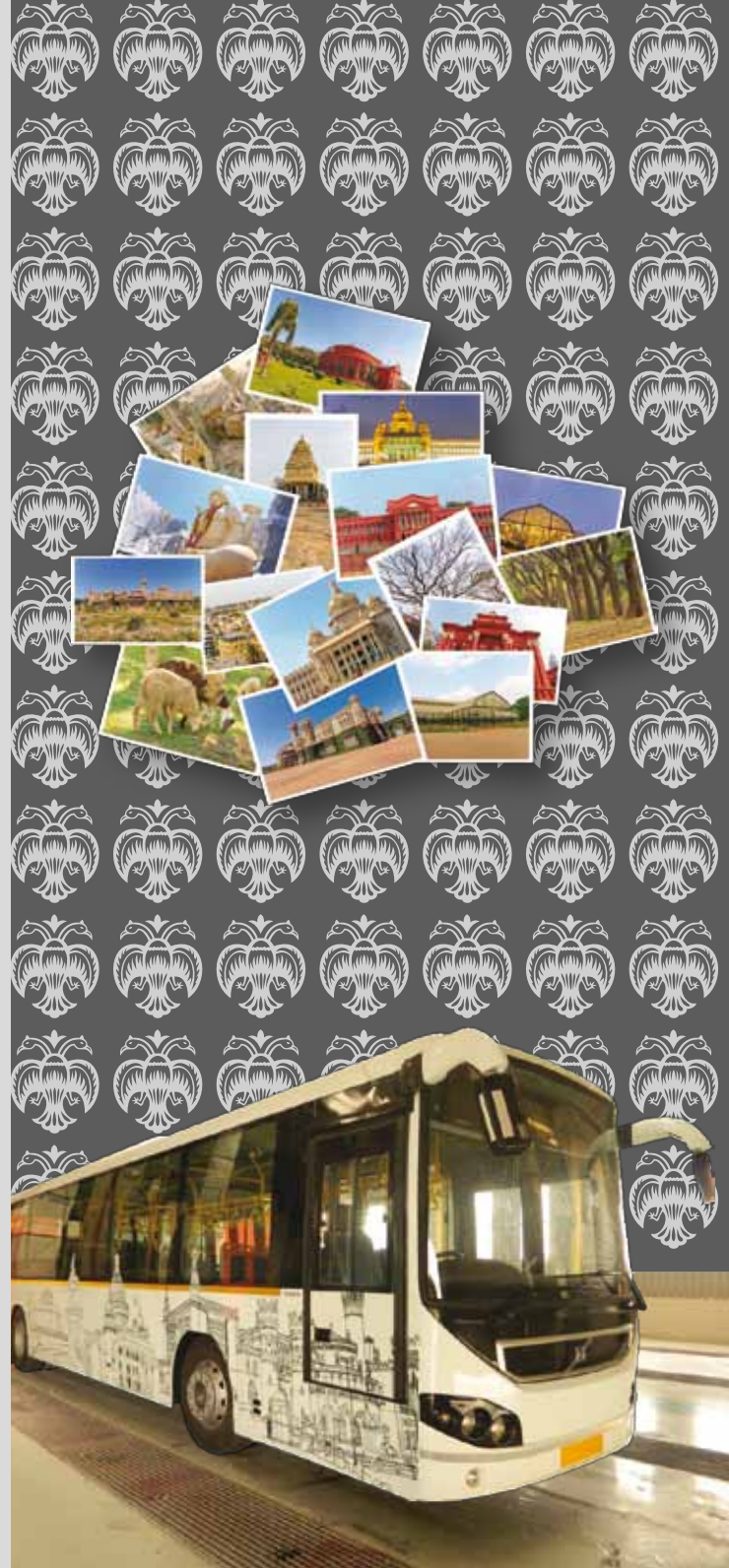
BMTC's
BENGALURU
ROUNDS



— City Sightseeing Service —

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History of Bangalore

The city of Bangalore has quite an interesting history, from how the city got its name to it becoming the IT Capital of India; every stage in the evolution of modern Bangalore is worth knowing.

The actual name of the city is Bengalooru derived from 'Benda Kaalu Ooru', meaning 'The Town of Boiled Beans.' Legend has it that King Ballala of the Hoysala dynasty once got lost in the jungle and was very tired and hungry; he came across a poor, old woman who offered him some boiled beans because she didn't have anything else.

Kempe Gowda, a feudal ruler who served under the Vijayanagara kings, is called the founder of Bangalore. He played an important role in shaping the city. A hunting enthusiast, Kempe Gowda once saw his dog being chased by a hare. Amused and impressed by its courage he called the city 'Gandu bhoomi' (the abode of heroes). He built a mud fort at the site in 1537 and inside it founded the towns of Balepet, Cottonpet and Chickpet. Later, his son got four watchtowers erected on the boundaries of the city, visible even today.

The city that Kempegowda gave his complete attention to and helped prosper, has developed over the years into an industrial and technological hub in India.



BMTC: Ideating, Innovating, Implementing...

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation, one of India's pioneering State Urban Transport Corporations, has since incorporation as an independent entity in 1997 been growing from strength to strength. Today, the Corporation caters to 52 lakh passengers every day, plying 6600 buses with 83,886 trips operated with the able assistance of 35,270 staff.

BMTC has embarked on many initiatives with innovative services like fleet modernization, state-of-the-art infrastructure, IT implementation, Intelligent Transport System, KIOSKs at bus stations, Inventory Management System, MIS, introducing an award winning website www.mybmtc.com and many more. It has also incorporated a 24/7 Helpline - 155220, CCTV cameras in buses and bus stations and many more vigilance measures to ensure passenger safety. Another flagship initiative of BMTC is its 'Leave Management Kiosk System' to maintain transparency and uniformity in the employee leave system. BMTC is the first State Urban Transport Corporation in India to launch direction-oriented services (Big Trunk services) making urban public transportation more accessible and desirable. BMTC observes 'Bus Day' on the 4th of every month to encourage more commuters to use public transportation. With these initiatives BMTC has gone many extra miles to be in the vanguard of development.

The 'Hop On, Hop Off' service is yet another innovative idea implemented by BMTC, a convenient service to empower tourists and enable quick and comprehensive tours of Bangalore City. Yet another feather in BMTC's cap.



City Sightseeing Service

Hop On, Hop Off: In Brief

Modelled on the lines of the sightseeing services of some great cities of the world, the hop-on hop-off Bangalore sightseeing service is for visitors to the city and its residents intent on taking a peek into the glorious past and splendid present of Bangalore: One of the most bustling metropolises on earth. A fleet of branded air conditioned Volvo buses, manned by well-trained and courteous crew, plies from 08.30 AM to 10.00 PM on all days of the week. It covers a route connecting about twenty landmarks of great historic, religious and scientific significance. The service lets tourists pick and choose with respect to locations and time spent, since the round trip ticket provides for unlimited travel between the places on the itinerary. Modestly priced at Rs 250, it also provides for free travel for the day in all BMTC services, except the Airport (Vayu Vajra) service, thus ensuring last-mile connectivity at no extra cost.

Truly an excellent option to explore our great city, comfortably and conveniently.



Kempe Gowda Bus Station

Kempegowda Bus Station, more commonly known as Majestic Bus Station, is a large bus station in central Bangalore, India. It is located opposite the Bangalore City Railway Station. Dharmanbuddhi Lake was changed to create this Bus Station, which provides bus connectivity to almost all of Bangalore's locales.



Tipu Sultan's Palace

Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace was the summer residence of the erstwhile ruler of Mysore. Its construction was started by Hyder Ali within the walls of the Bangalore Fort and completed during the reign of Tipu Sultan in the year 1791. After Tipu Sultan's death in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, the palace was used by the British Administration as their Secretariat. Today it is a tourist spot located at the center of Old Bangalore, near Kalasipalyam Bus Stand.



Bull Temple/ Ganapathi Temple

Dodda Basavana Gudi (Bull Temple) is situated in the N.R. Colony area of South Bangalore. This Hindu temple is inside a park called Bugle Rock. The bull referred to is a sacred Hindu demi-god, known as Nandi, a close devotee and attendant of Shiva. Dodda Basavana Gudi is probably the largest temple dedicated to Nandi in the world. The stone cut image of Nandi is continually covered with new layers of butter.



Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple

The Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple, also known as the Gavipuram Cave Temple, is a fine example of Indian rock-cut architecture. The temple is famous for its mysterious stone discs in the forecourt and the exact planning allowing the Sun to shine into the sanctum sanctorum at a certain time of the year.



Lalbagh

Lal Bagh or Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens, meaning *The Red Garden* in English, is a renowned botanical garden in southern Bangalore. The garden was originally commissioned by Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore, and later finished by his son Tipu Sultan. It has a famous glass house which hosts an annual flower show. Lal Bagh houses India's largest collection of tropical plants, has an aquarium and a lake, and is one of the main tourist attractions in Bangalore.



Freedom Park

Freedom Park, located in the Central Business District of the city, was formerly the Central Jail. When a state of emergency was proclaimed in India in 1975, several opposition leaders including Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani were jailed here. It was opened to the public in November 2008, part of it being allotted for public protests. It recently hosted the India Against Corruption (IAC) movement with Anna Hazare's indefinite fast for the enactment of the Lok Pal bill.



Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium was founded by Bangalore City Corporation in 1989. The Planetarium has a 15-metre diameter dome with a seating capacity of 210. It is equipped with a German Carl Zeiss 'Space Master' Planetarium projector. The planetarium, located on Sir T Chowdaiah Road, also boasts a Science Centre and a Science Park on its premises.



Vidhana Soudha

The Vidhana Soudha is the seat of the state legislature of Karnataka. It is an imposing building, constructed in a style sometimes described as Mysore *Neo-Dravidian*, and incorporates elements of Indo-Saracenic and Dravidian styles. The construction was completed in 1956 by Kengal Hanumanthaiah, who is credited with its conception and construction.

The Government of Karnataka has constructed a replica of Vidhana Soudha to the south of the building. It is called Vikasa Soudha and is an annex housing some of the ministries and legislative offices.



Cubbon Park

Cubbon Park is a landmark 'lung space' of Bangalore, located within the heart of the city. Originally commissioned in 1870, when Major General Richard Sankey was the British Chief Engineer of Mysore State, it covered an area of 100 acres. Subsequent expansion has taken place to around 300 acres. It has a rich history of abundant fauna and flora plantations, with numerous aesthetically impressive buildings and statues of famous personages on the precincts.



UB City/ Sir.Vishveshvariah Museum/ Venkatappa Art Gallery/ Bal Bhavan

UB City is the biggest commercial property project in Bangalore. Pioneered by the chairman of UB Group, Dr Vijay Mallya, it is built on 13 acres of land and hosts a million square feet of high-end commercial, retail and service apartment space. UB City has four towers namely, UB Tower (19 Floors), Comet (11 Floors), Canberra (17 Floors) and Concorde (19 Floors).



M G Road Metro Station

Mahatma Gandhi Road, commonly referred to by the abbreviation M G Road, is the arterial road in the very centre of Bangalore's Central Business District. At the throbbing pulse of the commercial and shopping heart of the city, it also hosts a station on the Purple Line of the Metro Rail, opened to the public on 20 October 2011. The M G Road Metro station has a bicycle stand from where commuters and visitors can rent bicycles.



Bangalore Central Mall

Launched in May 2004, Bangalore Central is a showcase, seamless mall and the first of its kind in India. The thought behind this pioneering concept was to give customers an unobstructed and a pure shopping experience, and to ensure the best brands in the Indian market are made available to the discerning Indian customer. Central offers everything for the urban aspirational shopper to shop, eat and celebrate.



Garuda Mall

Garuda Mall is one of the most popular Bangalore malls, situated near Brigade Road and M G Road. It is one of the largest malls in southern India. It is spread over 126,000 square meters and includes 30,000 square meters of shopping and entertainment space on six floors. Here, one may browse through 180 retail outlets.



Gurudwara

The largest Sikh shrine in Bangalore, the Sri Guru Singh Sabha is situated on the banks of the picturesque Ulsoor Lake. The sprawling white building is a familiar landmark on the city's landscape. It was built in 1943 and was inaugurated by A G Russell in 1945. It was only later in 1975, that the first floor of the Gurudwara was built.



Halasuru Lake

Ulsoor, or Halasuru, is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in the Cantonment area of Bangalore. It begins roughly near the eastern terminus of M G Road. It is renowned for its numerous temples and rather narrow streets. The village of Bangalore is said to have been gifted to Kempe Gowda I (1513–1569), the founder of Bangalore, by the Vijayanagara emperors. Ulsoor Lake was created by his successor, Kempe Gowda II, and is the only surviving tank built by the Gowda kings in Bangalore. The first British military station was set up in Halasuru in 1807.



MEG Center

Madras Engineer Group (MEG), informally the Madras Sappers, is a regiment of the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army. They originated from the erstwhile Madras Presidency army of the British Raj. They are the oldest regiment of the Corps of Engineers, besides being the only regiment of the erstwhile Madras Presidency Army to survive the post-1857 reorganizations unscathed. The *thambis*, as these troops are popularly known, have distinguished themselves on many battlefields around the world for over 200 years.



Commercial Street

This Central Business District street is one of the busiest commercial areas in Bangalore. Here one will find everything one could ever need. Products to suit every requirement, taste and budget may be found on this street and in its neighbourhood. It is a truly cosmopolitan shopping hub of the city.



St. Mary's Basilica

St. Mary's Basilica is the oldest church in Bangalore, and the only church in Karnataka state that has been elevated to the status of a minor basilica. It is famous for the festivities held during the St. Mary's Feast in the month of September, an event that attracts hundreds of thousands of devotees from in and around Bangalore.



Fun World/ Snow city

This is a world of sheer enjoyment, a park spread over 22 lush green acres. It provides entertainment and fun rides for all ages. Here one may find rides that flip, turn, circle... causing adrenalin rushes. The list of rides here goes on and on. Truly a place where one may spend a fulfilling day...



Lumbini Gardens

Lumbini Gardens is a public park on the banks of the Nagawara Lake in Bangalore, Karnataka, India. It contains an eco-friendly boating park and a 12,500-square-foot artificial beach and children's pool.



Iskcon Temple

Sri Radha Krishnachandra Temple has deities of Krishna and Radha located at Rajajinagar, in north Bangalore. It is one of the largest ISKCON temples in the world. The temple has a huge cultural complex that was inaugurated in 1997 by Shankar Dayal Sharma (former President of India), following the wishes of A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder-Acharya of ISKCON. It promotes Vedic culture and spiritual learning.



Orion Mall

The Orion Mall is arguably one of the best-planned retail spaces in the city, with ample parking, a wide range of shopping, food and entertainment options spread over four floors and a comfortable 850,000 square feet. From everyday family shopping needs to high street luxury shopping, a quick bite on the go to a 7 course fine dining spread, Orion's portfolio of over 100 brands caters to everyone and every mood.



Sankey Tank

A manmade lake or tank, this water body is situated in western Bangalore. The lake covers an area of about 37 acres. At its widest, the tank has a width of 800 metres. Sankey Tank was constructed by Col. Richard Hiram Sankey of the Madras Sappers Regiment, in 1882, to meet the water supply demands of Bangalore. The tank was also known as *Gandhadhakotikere*, as the Government Sandalwood Depot used to be located near it-



Mantri Square

Mantri Square is a shopping mall situated in the Malleswaram locality in Bangalore. With 924,000 square feet of retail and entertainment space, it was the biggest mall in southern India when it was inaugurated in 2010.

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