

BANGALORE

Under a project called the "Mega City Development Programme", the State government also plans to build a truck terminus on the outskirts of Bangalore, construct overpasses, widen important roads and build multi-storey car parks. Work on most of these projects has already commenced.

Bangalore is connected to all major towns and cities in India through a network of national and state highways. National Highway No 4 (NH 4) connects Bangalore with Bombay to the north west and Madras to the east. It takes trucks about 48 hours to reach Bombay and about 10-12 hours to reach Madras. National Highway No 7 (NH 7) connects Bangalore to the tip of south India and the town of Varanasi in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. National Highway No 48 (NH 48) links Bangalore with the port city of Mangalore. Trucks to Delhi take about seven days while it takes about eight to ten days to reach Calcutta.

Table 7: Distances and Travel Time from Bangalore Airport

Place	Road Distance in Km.	Truck	Air	Train
Bombay	1033	2 days	90 min.	24 hrs.
Delhi	2020	6 days	150 min.	36-42 hrs.
Calcutta	1883	8 days	145 min.	38 hrs.
Madras	340	12 hrs.	45 min.	5-7 hrs.
Mangalore	350	12 hrs.	45 min.	No direct train
Mysore	140	5 hrs.	-	2-3 hrs.

Currently there is one airport on the western periphery of Bangalore. This is a busy airport which handles 117 flights a week and an estimated 1.5 million passengers per year. The city is connected by air to all major Indian cities and all the major domestic airlines operate between Bangalore and Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta. Connecting flights to many international destinations are available from these four cities.

A bi-weekly international service to Australia, via Singapore, has recently started.

In addition to passenger flights, the airport handles about 1500 tonnes of international cargo a month. The airlines that currently handle international cargo include Lufthansa, Kuwait Airways, Singapore Airlines, Air France and Air India. Weekly international freight services operating from Bangalore are as follows:

- Lufthansa - 2 flights to Frankfurt via U.A.E.
- Kuwait Airway - 3 flights to Kuwait.
- Singapore Airlines - 2 flights to Singapore.
- Air France - 2 flights to Paris via Dubai.
- Air India - 1 flight to Brussels via Dubai.

With the unprecedented increase in both passenger and cargo traffic, the existing Bangalore airport is no longer adequate. To ease this situation, the government plans to upgrade facilities at the existing airport and has signed a deal to develop a U.S. \$500 million international airport outside the city with a private sector consortium (Tata Group, Raytheon and a Singapore consortium).

Mangalore, Mysore, Hubli and Belgaum, four other cities in Karnataka, also have airports.

RAILWAYS

The city comes under the Southern Railway division of Indian Railways and is well connected to all major Indian destinations. There are "super fast" trains available to Bombay, Delhi and Madras.

Rail links from Bangalore consist of both metre gauge and broad gauge lines and this leads to unnecessary transshipment and delay. Conversion to broad gauge tracks has been started, and, once completed, will allow for increased traffic and reduced travelling times. Track conversion has already been completed on the Bangalore-Madras, Bangalore-Bombay and Bangalore-Mysore routes.

PORTS

Bangalore is an inland city, but has access to four large ports: Madras, Mangalore, Bombay and Cochin. Of these, Bombay and Madras are relatively older and are experiencing a strain on capacity. An excellent alternative is the new Mangalore port located in the State of Karnataka, which eliminates many formalities required for inter-state movement of goods. Mangalore Port has six general cargo berths capable of handling 30,000 DWT general cargo ships. Two more general cargo berths are in the offing.