

4. LEISURE & LIFESTYLE

- **Media :** The city has one locally published English daily- the *Deccan Herald*. *The Hindu*, *Indian Express*, *The Times of India* and *Economic Times* are other publications available in English. Other national and international magazines are also available in Bangalore.
- The city has two TV channels run by the government sponsored Doordarshan. In addition, BBC, CNN and other entertainment channels, like STAR TV are available on satellite. Many private cable companies operating in the city provide this service.
- Bangalore has more movie theatres than any other city in India. In addition to local language movies, English movies are released within a few weeks of their release in North America.
- **Clubs :** There are some very old clubs in Bangalore which date back to British times. Some of the most popular are the Bangalore Club, the Century Club and the Cosmopolitan Club. The Golf Club, in the heart of the city, has no restrictions on non-Indian members. The Bangalore Turf Club is available for horse racing enthusiasts.
- **Hotels, Restaurants & Pubs :** Bangalore has excellent restaurants and many places offer Continental or Chinese dishes. Traditional south Indian restaurants are also plentiful. Bangalore has the distinction of being called the "Pub City" because of the large number of taverns which serve as a popular meeting point for both young and old.
- In addition, Bangalore has many first class hotels including the West End Hotel, the Welcomgroup Windsor Manor Sheraton & Towers, The Oberoi, the Taj Residency and The Ashoka. The race is on to build even more hotels to take advantage of an inflow of business people. Hotel Leela venture has an exclusive arrangement with the Four Seasons group of Toronto and has announced plans to build a 5 Star Hotel in Bangalore. In addition to accommodation for travellers, these hotels offer sports, swimming and fitness centre facilities to residents of Bangalore. There is also a host of two and three star hotels in the city.
- **Shopping :** Bangalore has many medium sized grocery and garment stores in addition to several handicraft and art emporiums. The Big Kids Kemp, reputed to be the largest garment store in India, has a range of clothing for the entire family. Department stores such as Nilgiri's and Spencers stock a wide range of groceries and personal care items. Gangarams, R & B, Higgin Bothams and Fountainhead offer the latest books from around the world.
- **Outings :** Weekend trips are popular in Bangalore as shorter commuting times allow for more time with family and friends. At Belur (220 Km. from Bangalore) and Halebid (240 Km.), sculptures of the ancient Hoysalas Dynasty can be seen. The picturesque Nilgiri mountains are about an 8 hour drive from Bangalore. Mysore (135 Km.), known as "Sandalwood City" and Srirangapatnam (16 Km. from Mysore), the ancient capital of Hyder Ah and Tipu Sultan, are approximately 3 hours by train from Bangalore and offer many historical attractions. For leisure holidays, Ooty (297 Km.), Wellington and Coonoor, hill stations on the Nilgiris river, have many hotels and facilities and Coorg, another hill area, is just a few hours drive away. Wildlife sanctuaries at Mudumalai (230 Km.) and Bandipur (210 Km.) offer an excellent chance to sight elephants, tigers, leopards, deer and buffaloes in the wild. Sanctuaries in Bangalore and Mysore region attract over 200 species.
- **Churches :** Bangalore has a large number of churches. The grand St. Mary's Basilica at Shivaji Nagar was built in 1882 in the Gothic style. It has an impressive tower and gothic style arches. St. Mark's Cathedral is noted for it's intricate wood work and an imposing central dome. St. Joseph's Church has a cross-shaped ground plan and is the only church in Bangalore with a crypt.