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Getting Around Bangalore by Public Transport by Lek Boonlert

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Buses around the city

Since 2008, the city has enjoyed whole new fleet of buses and they are designed to cater to a more upmarket clientele that previously would have shunned the bus system. They are air conditioned and while a little pricier than the older buses; they are still a very cheap way to travel.

Schedules are usually fairly strict and buses rarely run late making it an efficient way to get about. These buses are painted bright red or orange so they are easy to see and they cost around $5 for the longest possible journeys. Your Bangalore hotel can provide details on where you can find the nearest bus station.

Getting around Bangalore by taxi

The taxi system here works somewhat more unusually as they cannot be hailed from the street like you can a rickshaw. Taxis must be called for and instead of displaying a sign showing people that the vehicle is in fact a taxi cab; cars will have the fleet operatorâ€™s name along the side and an identification number is usually placed on the roof.

Taxis are convenient and comfortable and can be hired out for specific journeys as well as by half and full days. Tata Indica cars as well as Maruti Omni Vans are popular with taxi drivers and these cars are far safer to use than a rickshaw although far less authentic. An excess of heavy luggage on board a taxi here will be charged for and rate cards as well as meters can be used rather than haggling but if you do choose to haggle make sure you do it before you get in the cab.

Rickshaws around Bangalore

Rickshaws are a lot of fun and have to be done at least once during a stay here although it is worth noting that they can be highly dangerous. They are about half the price of a taxi journey and take a little longer and if you take one during the day make sure that you have a bottle of water as well as a cover of some sort as they get hot when stuck in traffic.

The other option for getting around is on foot as there are many interesting parts of the city that are well worth seeing without the confines of transportation. The buildings here are all on offer for those who travel around on foot and many choose to mix up walking around with a bus journey or a taxi ride in order to avoid getting too hot or worn out. It is worth noting that valuables should ideally be left at the hotel safe rather than being taken with you onto the public transport system where they will be in danger of being pick pocketed or lost.

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Lek Boonlert is an editor and content reviewer at DirectRooms and is responsible for all a Bangalore Hotels content.

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