



shenzhen

■ Population: 12 million ■ Currency: Chinese Yuan or Renminbi (RMB) ■ Country and city code: +86, +755
 ■ Tourist info: Dial 160 for all information, 96511 for Taxi, 114 for directory, Shenzhen Tourism Bureau, 1/F Block C Citizen's Centre, No 3 Fuzhong Road, Futian District, tel: +86 (0)755 8200 3200, websites: www.shenzhenour.com, www.shenzhenparty.com



FUN FACT

Safari Park Shenzhen is the world's only zoo with both ligers and tigons (lion-tiger crossbreeds).



bangalore

■ Population: 5.28 million ■ Currency: Indian Rupee (INR) ■ Country and city code: +91, +80 ■ Tourist info: Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation, #49, 2nd Floor, Khanija Bhavan, West Entrance, Race Course Road, tel: +91 (0)80 235 2901, website: www.kstcdc.nic.in



FUN FACT

Bangalore's name reputedly came from a king who dubbed it *benda kaale uru* (town of boiled beans) after enjoying a meal here.



OUT & ABOUT

Happy Valley (Qiao Cheng Xi Road, Overseas Chinese Town, Nanshan District, tel: +86 (0)755 2694 9168) Happy Valley is a themed amusement park featuring fun rides, performances, playgrounds and water parks. The latest attraction, The Magic Castle, includes horseback-riding and a 3D cinema. Don't miss the daily grand magic show at 3pm. Full day admission costs RMB170 (SGD34/AUD25.90) for adults and half price for children from 1.1m to 1.4m tall. Nightly admission (from 7pm to 10pm) costs RMB50 (SGD10/AUD7.60) for both adults and kids.



TOP SHOPS

Central Walk (Fu Hua Road at Shenzhen Convention Center Subway Stop, Fu Tian District) A newly built mall away from the city centre, Central Walk offers a more relaxing shopping environment. There are about 200 boutiques and restaurants along with a children's playground and cinemas. Built in an ecological style, the mall also features an indoor garden.



BEST BITES

Laurel Restaurant (3/F Club House, Tianan Digital City, Futian District, tel: +86 (0)755 8389 5138) A famous Chinese food franchise in Shenzhen, Laurel has seven venues to choose from. Traditional Cantonese dim sum and Cantonese cuisine are served from morning until late night. Try the soybean milk with deep fried bread stick and the Siu Mai. The outlet in Tianan Digital City offers a great view of the Shenzhen Golf Club. \$\$
Honey Moon (B98, the MIXC City, 1881 Bao An Nan Road, Luohu District, tel: +86 (0)755 8300 5599) For those with a weakness for all things sugary, Honey Moon is the place to go. With more than 30 sweet selections from east and west, all



pictured in the menu, there's definitely something for everyone. \$



AFTER DARK

V Bar (2/F Crowne Plaza Shenzhen, 9026 Shennan Road, Overseas Chinese Town, tel: +86 (0)755 2693 6888) A popular Shenzhen hotspot, V Bar is well known for its weekend theme parties. Indoor bar counters around the stage permit patrons to get up close and personal with the entertainers and some even venture on stage to belt out a tune. For those who prefer a quiet corner away from the action, there are booths along the alfresco terrace.



SLEEPER

Ming Wah International Convention Hotel (8 Guishan Road, Shekou Industrial Zone, Nanshan District) Located next to Shekou Ferry Port, Ming Wah International Convention Hotel offers easy access by sea to nearby cities such as Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai. With lush hills on one side and the South China Sea on the other, the hotel has a distinctly green and natural feel. Room rates start from RMB425 (SGD85/AUD64.80), including breakfast buffet. \$\$
BY MAY GUAN

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OUT & ABOUT

Ranga Shankara Annual Festival (36/2 8th Cross II Phase JP Nagar, tel: +91 (0)80 2659 2777) For several weeks in October each year, stage stalwarts at Bangalore's Ranga Shankara put up a mesmerising show celebrating theatre from the state of Karnataka, and from across India. Performances in English, Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Bengali and other regional languages bring the best of Indian theatre to one location.



TOP SHOPS

Chandi (Public Utility Building, MG Road) Few journeys to India are complete without a mention of the spiritual side of things. For beautiful and artistic Hindu figurines and artwork, Chandi has it all.
Marmalade (Magrath Road, tel: +91 (0)80 4122 1814) For the fun-loving and the young at heart, the shelves of this boutique boast lovely wearable fashions – leaning to the kitschy side of things – by young Bangalore designers.



BEST BITES

Central Tiffin Room (Margosa Road, Malleswaram) Also known as Shre Sagar, this South Indian stalwart has been delighting locals since the 1940s with *dosa* like no other. Try the savoury, melt-in-your-mouth *masala dosa* with red chutney for INR25 (SGD0.80/AUD0.60). \$
Corner House (Residency Road, near Symphony Madras Bunk Road, tel: +91 (0)80 2558 3262) Generations of Bangaloreans have indulged their sweet tooth here. It offers a decidedly Indian take on ice cream, but the signature Death By Chocolate earns its moniker and sells for just INR80 (SGD2.50/AUD1.95). \$\$
Sunny's (34 Embassy Diamante, Vittal Mallya Road, tel: +91 (0)80 2224 3642) Blink and you'll miss it. Sunny's is humble compared to its swanky neighbours, but for Bangalore

foodies with a yearning for breads, pastas and desserts, Sunny's is the only place to go, despite prices that are a little on the high side by Bangalore standards. Mains start from INR260 (SGD8.35/AUD6.30). \$\$\$



AFTER DARK

Pecos (34 Rest House Road, off Brigade Road, tel: +91 (0)80 2558 6047) Something of a cult favourite and probably Bangalore's best-loved pub, Pecos is cheap and maybe a little dingy, but more than makes up for it with great music and a greater crowd.
Purple Haze (Residency Road, tel: +91 (0)80 2222 6054) As the name suggests, Purple Haze caters to the classic rock fan. Think Hendrix, Pink Floyd, and a bit of heavy metal. Reasonably priced, Purple Haze offers good fun with no holds barred.



SLEEPER

Shreya's Retreat (Nelamangala) An oasis awaits just 34km outside of Bangalore, at the swish yoga retreat that's becoming a favourite of Bangaloreans. Well-appointed rooms and cottages, and ayurvedic, yoga, spa, and even weight management packages are available, all steeped in luxury. Room rates start from INR15,000 (SGD480/AUD363.70). \$\$\$

BY ADRIANNA TAN

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