## Local Sightseeing details

# Walking the City – An Experiential Inquiry into Bangalore's Urban and Cultural Landscapes



### Background and Inspiration

This initiative expands upon the successful heritage walk conducted around Ulsoor Lake by The Rattlebag Research Collective. That earlier project demonstrated how walking could serve as a dynamic method for engaging with a city's complex layers: historical, cultural, social, and spatial. Inspired by that event, we propose an extended city exploration designed specifically for international professors visiting Bangalore, leveraging walking as a mode of psychogeographic and practice-led inquiry.

#### Pulse and Purpose

Walking is not just movement through space but an embodied mode of research inquiry. This project treats Bangalore as an active, participatory landscape where interdisciplinary knowledge is co-created by physical movement and mindful observation. The initiative aims to incubate innovative research methods within our department, blending scholarly theory with immersive experiential learning. This aligns with our educational objective of transforming urban space into an extended classroom, where knowledge production arises from direct, sensory engagement with the environment.

### **Objectives**

- To conceptualise Bangalore as a living archive of cultural histories, urban dynamics, and social interactions.
- To utilize walking as a research practice, facilitating psychogeographic exploration.
- To enable interdisciplinary dialogues between international scholars and local cultural contexts.
- To cultivate practice-led research methodologies, generating original academic insights through direct experiential encounters.

Methodology: Psychogeography and Walking as Inquiry Participants will undertake curated walks through specific zones of Bangalore: North, Central, and South. Each zone presents distinct historical and cultural narratives, explored through attentive observation, documentation, and reflective dialogue.

#### Detailed Zonal Itinerary

Morning Session: North Bangalore (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)
Welcome Breakfast at MTR or Vidyarthi Bhavan:
Introduction and orientation







Bangalore Palace: Examination of royal heritage and colonial influences

Observe how architectural grandeur influences bodily

Observe how architectural grandeur influences bodily movements and perceptions

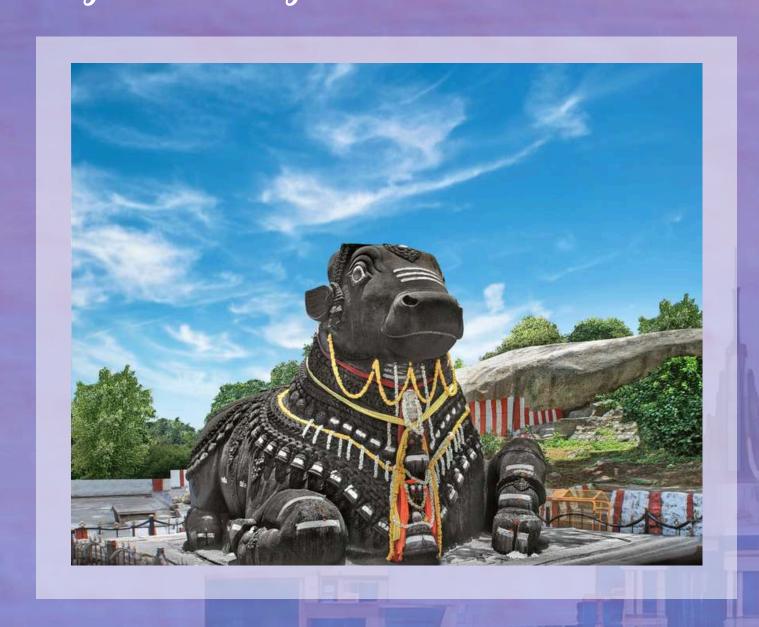
Afternoon Session: Central Bangalore (12:30 PM – 3:30 PM)
Lunch at Koshy's: Reflective discussion over historically resonant cuisine

Vidhana Soudha and Cubbon Park: Analysis of civic architecture and public space interactions Document interactions between built environment, power dynamics, and civic engagement





Evening Session: South Bangalore (4:00 PM – 6:30 PM)
Bull Temple and Basavanagudi: Engage with traditional rituals, markets, and neighborhood dynamics



Lalbagh Botanical Garden: Explore intersections of historical ecology, urban landscaping, and contemporary leisure

Trace how histories and traditions persist and evolve within urban ecology



### Documentation and Fieldwork Guidelines

Participants will receive a comprehensive Study Kit, including:

- Instruction leaflets
- Annotated zone-specific maps
- Notebooks and sketchpads for field notes
- Tools for multimedia documentation (photos, videos, audio)

#### Field Notes Template

- Date and Location
- Activities and Observations: Describe physical environments, social dynamics, notable interactions, and conversations
- Reflective Insights: Record personal responses, theoretical reflections, emergent questions, and potential interpretations

Post-Walk Reflection and Analysis

Participants will convene at the conclusion of each session to discuss:

- How personal perspectives shaped their experience of the city
- Unseen social and spatial forces observed during the walk
- Potential of walking-based inquiry for generating alternative academic insights

#### Logistics and Participant Guidelines

- Carry: ID, water, snacks, sun protection, umbrella, documentation tools
- Observation Techniques: Prioritize sensory engagement and detailed notes on significant or evocative moments
- Analysis and Interpretation: Link observations with broader theoretical and cultural frameworks

#### Anticipated Outcomes

- Rich, multi-modal research archive of psychogeographic documentation
- Enhanced understanding of Bangalore's urbancultural complexities
- Strengthened international and local academic collaboration
- Development of innovative practice-led research methodologies

#### Next Steps

- Finalize detailed zonal maps and itinerary
- Prepare comprehensive Study Kits
- Coordinate logistics for site access, transportation, and participant support

This comprehensive experiential inquiry promises deepened insights into the interplay between urban spaces, cultural practices, and scholarly research, reaffirming the city itself as a vibrant and generative site of academic exploration.