



The Waverly Hotel and Residences Bengaluru



BACKGROUND Annexed with the VR Bengaluru mall is this boutique property. It is the hospitality extension of the shopping centre and is positioned as a complete lifestyle offering with its retail stores, cinema hall, restaurants and bars.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The hotel is in Whitefield, which was Bengaluru's Anglo-Indian settlement since the 19th century. A colonial charm exudes across the property through curios and details. The lobby aptly titled The Living Room features black and white checkered flooring and a floral wall with a large tan grandfather clock. A ceiling-high bookcase and a fireplace add a European homeliness to this space. An olive green leather armchair is placed beside the reception that's in front of a mural with graphic British phone booths. The overall feel of the hotel is very welcoming and takes you back to Anglo-Indian "Bangalore" without losing its contemporary touch. Sketches by Paul Fernandez that depict the city's bygone era are exhibited on walls of the hotel.

WHERE IS IT? Located within Whitefield, Bengaluru's IT hub, the hotel is close to top tech parks and corporate complexes. Kempegowda International Airport is about an hour away and Bengaluru's bustling Indiranagar neighbourhood is a

30-minute drive from there.

ROOM FACILITIES The rooms are divided across three floors — Hamilton, Churchill and Wodeyar — with 18 rooms each. I stayed in the 68 sqm Grand room that's divided into a living room and a bedroom. A curved, ceiling-high window runs across the expanse, providing an undisrupted view of Whitefield. Complimentary water bottles are placed by the bed and the room is equipped with scattered power sockets. The living room features a 55-inch LED HDTV and a charming bookcase with an interesting collection. The modern living room emanates a colonial touch though antiques such as an old school table clock on the work desk and a vintage globe on the bookcase. The bathroom has two sinks and a separate shower area. Depending on the needs of the traveller, the hotel has a wide category of rooms, suites and apartments to pick from. This includes the base-level Waverly room (30 sqm), Waverly Twin (30 sqm), Studio (46 sqm), Loft (59 sqm), Grand Twin (53 sqm), One-Two- and Three-bedroom residences.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS The Whitefield Arms is its in-house brewery and restaurant that's awaiting its licence. I tried the delectable Barrack's Special that's a coriander and mint marinated chicken thigh served

with saffron yogurt and coriander dip and the pan seared salmon with dil cream sauce and truffle mushroom rice. There's also an adjoining cafe by the same name. Alt is the hotel's rooftop bar that plays groovy tunes and serves delicious hors d'oeuvres alongside signature cocktails at the "sky-deck". There is also an additional Poolside Bar on the same level. Wifi is free.

BUSINESS AND MEETING FACILITIES The Waverly Hotel and Residences features the HIVE, a unique co-working space targeted at entrepreneurs and start-ups. Spread across three levels, it spans 5,574 sqm, and comprises of private offices and community style work desks. The HIVE has dedicated collaboration zones and conference rooms that are well equipped with the latest technology. It features quirky British phone booths without any real handsets, for those taking personal calls on their mobiles and "meeting nooks" for quick brainstorming sessions.

LEISURE FACILITIES VR Bengaluru mall's extensive leisure facilities are accessible to hotel guests as well. This includes the mall's restaurants, PVR Premiere cinema hall with gold class and retail outlets. The Tribe Fitness Club is its dedicated centre that not only has a gym but also holds group fitness classes. There is also a Mediterranean-themed Spa La Vie by L'Occitane, Warren Tricomi Salon, a jogging track and a rooftop heated swimming pool. The "sky-deck" features a wall with an edgy quote by Winston Churchill: "I am easily satisfied with the very best" and a stunning view of the IT city.

VERDICT Boutique luxury in the heart of Bengaluru's IT district. Recommended for business travellers and staycation seekers.

new business class provides usable in-seat 10.2-inch. It's a fully flat completely reclined with 111 length and width at 111 width 26.4-inch (with an 111 extension). Retract the 111 for some additional space 111ing.

EAT TO CHOOSE? 111 and companions can 111 middle two seats that are 111wards each other, without 111ay privacy if seated next 111ger. Select 111A or 111K for 111w through the window 111sure you're one of the first 111ie aircraft.

WHT To start, I was 111arinated prawn, pan- 111op, French bean, tomato 111rum that I had to refuse 111allergic to shellfish.

111oyed the seasonal 111 balsamic vinaigrette

111 bread. For the main 111ere were three options 111ese: wok fried prawns 111erved vegetable, bean 111coli, red capsicum 111nd jasmine rice; non- 111Indian: chicken saag 111mati rice and pea masala; 111arian Indian. Unable to 111antonese option, I went 111n-vegetarian Indian

111 was well-cooked and 111I skipped dessert and 111Chamomile tea that I 111ver a movie. Beverages 111board are juices, soft 111shly brewed ILLY coffee, 111ig style milk tea, JING 111ot chocolate. After the 111lined my seat fully flat 111comfortably without 111bance or noise until the 111nnouncement half an 111re landing.

111 We arrived 15 minutes 111edule, which is always

111 The business class offers 111largest seat pitches 111irlines and is an overall 111flying experience.

TESTED BY

Akanksha Maker

DEPARTURE TIME

2000

JOURNEY TIME

6hrs 45mins

AIRCRAFT TYPE

A330-300

CONFIGURATION

1-2-1

SEAT WIDTH

20.2-inch

SEAT RECLINE

180 degrees

BED LENGTH

75-inch

PRICE

Internet rates for a return business class flight from Hong Kong to Mumbai mid-January started from ₹1,59,285 depending on flexibility.

CONTACT

cathaypacific.com

TESTED BY

Akanksha Maker

HOW MANY ROOMS?

54 rooms, studios and residences

HIGHLIGHTS

HIVE, its co-working space, its rooftop heated swimming pool and Alt.

PRICE

Internet rates for a midweek stay in January for The Waverly Room started at ₹6,375.

CONTACT

Whitefield Main Road, Bengaluru; tel +91 80 3354 4000; thewaverly.in

- 24 hr ROOM SERVICE
- 2 RESTAURANTS
- 2 BARS
- POOL
- GYM
- SPA
- FREE WIFI