

BLORE – UNLOCK THE CITY

ANJA BOHNHOF



Chamundeshwari Studios

My favourite spot is Chamundeshwari Studios. I am a third-generation leader of this organisation, and my daughter will continue this tradition. I am proud of the fact that we are able to provide employment for many people and that we have been successful in our endeavours. Before taking on this management role, I worked as a fashion designer for well-known fashion labels in Germany. After my uncle passed away, I was asked to return to my roots and take over my responsibilities here. I accepted, and I have been doing this with great joy for several years. now.

Mrs. Rajalakshmi, owner of film-production studio



Ganesha

The mischievous, benevolent and humorous Ganesha, one of India's most important, popular and accessible gods, is worshipped at practically every street shrine. He is the god and "Lord of Impediments", both the remover and composer of obstacles when someone behaves disrespectfully toward him or it is necessary for him to do so. Especially at the annual Ganesha Festival, associated with a new beginning, he is every present in the entire town. I love the town because of this spirit – when the traditional India becomes visible amid all the transformation to a functional, global Mega City.

Manu Chowdhury, fashion designer

Bengaluru – or Blore, as it is commonly abbreviated – is an Indian metropolis, a loud and bustling megacity, and one of the country's most important IT hubs. The Taj Mahal is far away, and so is the sea.

The photographic project BLORE – Unlock the City explores various facets of this place. It originated from an invitation to artists and cultural practitioners to identify and describe their personal favourite spots in the city – whether it be a special place, an atmosphere, or a significant individual.

The photographic interpretation of these 'favourite spots' develops from these contributions, creating a subjective tapestry that combines photography and text. By selecting these locations and defining them as 'favourite spots', the project not only paints a portrait of the city but also offers insight into the self-perception of the participating artists. The public identification of their favourite places also serves as a form of self-expression, providing personal glimpses into their lives.

During the three-week realisation phase of my photographic project as part of an Artist-in-Residence programme at the Goethe-Institut in Bengaluru, the work allowed me to not only approach the city but also its artists and their way of thinking and feeling.

Bengaluru, India
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