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WORLD'S BEST FOOD CITIES LIST: BENGALURU RANKED 13TH

» Top 5

- Lima, Peru; Bangkok, Thailand; Mexico City, Mexico; London; Barcelona
- Bengaluru has made its mark by securing the 13th position in the list of the World's Best Food Cities 2026.
- Benne dosa, donne biryani, and kokum-infused cocktails are all integral parts of Bengaluru's food and beverage culture. The city's global recognition is a testament to its rich culinary heritage.
- Known as India's Silicon Valley, Bengaluru has been included among the Top 20 Food Cities of the World for 2026. From traditional tiffin rooms and military hotels to breakfast cafés and a globally recognized bar culture, Bengaluru offers something for every food lover.
- The rankings were based on a survey conducted among more than 2,400 people worldwide, who were asked to evaluate their local cuisines based on factors such as quality, affordability, and diversity.
- In Bengaluru, 82% of respondents rated its food as either "good" or "amazing."

THREE MASCOTS

- Since the 2026 FIFA World Cup will be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, three mascots have been chosen : Maple – a Moose (Canada), Zayu – a Jaguar (Mexico), Clutch – a Bald Eagle (United States)

FOOTBALL FESTIVAL: BEYOND THE FIELD

- Only 13 teams participated in the first FIFA World Cup held in Uruguay in 1930.
- After 52 years, in the 1982 FIFA World Cup hosted by Spain, the number of participating teams increased to 24.
- The tournament expanded to 32 teams in 1998. One of the surprises of that edition was Croatia, which finished third in its debut World Cup appearance.
- After nearly three decades with 32 teams, the tournament has now expanded to 48 teams for the 2026 edition.

» 8 Winners

- The 2026 tournament will be the 23rd FIFA World Cup. Although many countries have participated over the years, only eight nations have ever won the trophy : Brazil – 5 titles; Germany – 4 titles; Italy – 4 titles; Argentina – 3 titles; France – 2 titles; Uruguay – 2 titles; England – 1 title; Spain – 1 title.

» A 1,000th Match

- The Group F match between Japan and Tunisia is expected to become the 1,000th match in FIFA World Cup history.
- It has taken 96 years to reach this milestone. If the new 104-match format continues, the 2,000th World Cup match could be reached in about 40 years, or roughly ten more tournaments.

» Asian Nations

- While South American and European teams have traditionally dominated the World Cup, Asian nations such as : Japan, South Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia have consistently participated and left their mark.
- However, the first Asian team to appear in a World Cup was the Dutch East Indies, which played in the 1938 World Cup in France.
- That team is now recognized as the national football team of Indonesia. Since it was under Dutch colonial rule at the time, the team played in the Netherlands' orange colors.
- Although Indonesia has not qualified for a World Cup finals tournament since then, it retains the distinction of being the first Asian team to compete in the FIFA World Cup.

» Avatar Technology

- Among the 1,248 players participating in the 2026 FIFA World Cup : 357 players have previous World Cup experience. 891 players will be making their World Cup debut.
- FIFA plans to create realistic 3D digital avatars for all players using artificial intelligence technology.
- These avatars will allow fans around the world to view matches from multiple perspectives, visualize player movements in three dimensions, and enjoy new immersive digital experiences.

» Pakistan-Footballs

- Since 1970, official FIFA World Cup match balls have been designed and supplied by Adidas.
- Several footballs used in recent World Cups were manufactured in Sialkot, one of the world's leading football production centers.

» Water Water

- During the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States, players were not given water breaks despite extreme heat and humidity, leading to considerable controversy.
- For the 2026 World Cup, FIFA has introduced a mandatory three-minute water break in each half of matches to safeguard players' health and well-being.

» Women Referees

- Two women referees will officiate at the 2026 FIFA World Cup : Tori Penso (United States); Katia Itzel Garcia (Mexico).
- In addition, three assistant referees and one Video Assistant Referee (VAR) will serve, bringing the total number of women officials to six.
- After women referees made their World Cup debut in 2022, their participation in men's World Cup matches continues for the second consecutive tournament.