



# WALK THE AVENUE!

Explore the World on  
New Hampshire Avenue



## The NEW AVE Explore India Walking Tour

What, no time for the 16-hour flight to India? Well, The New Ave can fix that. You too can access India's dazzling culture through food, clothing, music and movies on the New Ave. Find great stores like ISP, the first sari store to open in the nation. Indian-born professionals have been stocking up on spices, purchasing clothing for weddings and socializing at this home away from home for generations. Plan to stop for lunch or dinner on your tour at one of several excellent restaurants within the immediate area.



PHOTOS BY SAM KITTNER

## The NEW AVE Explore India Walking Tour

**START LOCATION:** Begin and end your walking tour in the Unilang Shopping Center at 1341 University Blvd. E., one block east of New Hampshire Avenue. There is plenty of free parking.

**1 Tiffin: The Indian Kitchen**  
1341 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 434-9200.  
HOURS: Daily 11:00 am–3:00 pm Lunch; 5:00 pm–10:00 pm Dinner.

Zagat-rated in 2008, Tiffin offers delicious Indian cuisine in a sophisticated setting with tile floors, white tablecloths. The full lunch buffet includes tandoori grilled chicken and freshly made buttered naan bread. The staff is friendly and attentive. Sip on a mango lassi—a traditional drink made with yogurt—with your meal and enjoy!

(Walk next door to 1339 University Blvd.)

**2 Rhythm House**  
1339 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 445-4900.  
HOURS: Daily 11:00 am–8:00 pm

Indian, Pakistani, and Bangla CDs are for sale or rent, including soundtracks to Bollywood movies and classical Indian music. More than 2,000 DVDs and videos are in stock, nearly all of which have English subtitles. Most customers shop weekly at Rhythm House, selecting several DVDs to take home. Bollywood films are colorful and vibrant, and with viewers around the world are as popular as American movies. Start a weekly Bollywood “movie night” and take a mental mini-vacation!

(Walk past one business until you reach 1337 University Blvd.)

**3 ISP India Sari Palace**  
1337 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 434-1350.  
HOURS: Daily 11:00 am–8 pm. [www.indiasaripalacedc.com](http://www.indiasaripalacedc.com)

If you were overly tempted by Tiffin's array of meats, stews, and breads, you may want to stock up on comfortable clothes. ISP India Sari Palace was the first sari store in the United States—opening in 1971. Men's and woman's salwar kameez come in both formal embroidered styles and more relaxed versions perfect for hanging out in the house. Salvars or shalvars are loose pajama-like trousers. The legs are wide at the top, and narrow at the bottom. The kameez is a long shirt or tunic. The side seams are left open below the waist-line, which gives the wearer greater freedom of movement. Lovers of fine fabrics will want to inspect the silk saris—available in numerous colors and decorative motifs. ISP carries contemporary Indian clothing lines for a more streamlined fashion statement.

(Walk next door to 1335 A University Blvd.)

## 4 Jasmine Bazaar

1335 A University Blvd. E. Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 431-3361.  
HOURS: Daily 10:00 am–8:00 pm

Don't be deceived by the small exterior of Jasmine Bazaar. Foods from north and south India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka pack the shelves. The well-stocked aisles include a Hallal meat counter with lamb and chicken. Single serving cellophane packets to restaurant sized containers of powdered and whole spices, oils, and a wide variety of lentils, beans, pickles and sauces pack the shelves. The refrigerated section is not to be missed for the Indian breads, yogurts, and desserts. Like an American super-market, the Bazaar also carries Indian serving platters and cookware, along with toiletries (such as mendhi supplies) and seasonal holiday items.

(Walk west along University Boulevard into the next shopping center until 1329 University Blvd.)

## 5 Udupi Palace

1329 University Blvd. E., Takoma Park, MD 20912, (301) 434-1531.  
HOURS: Daily 11:30 am–9:30 pm

Udupi serves outstanding South Indian vegetarian cuisine. If you are a vegetarian, you may want start with lunch here. If you have already enjoyed lunch at Tiffin, take a moment to purchase a selection of sweets from the front counter to take home for later. Milk, fruit, honey and nut-based pastries and candies in hot pink, orange, green and blue are artfully heaped in the long, front glass case. Most westerners are fond of gulab jamun—a milk based dumpling bathed in a rosewater syrup, but this is your chance to go wild. Try one of everything and discover your favorites.

(Walk west along University Boulevard past New Hampshire Avenue, and then cross University Boulevard at the next light into the Langley Park Center. Nina Jewelers is in the unit behind Aanchal Boutique.)

## 6 Nina Jewelers

8044 New Hampshire Avenue, Unit #2 (Langley Park Center),  
Langley Park, MD 20783, (301) 431-7430.  
HOURS: T–Sat 11:30 am–8 pm, Sun 12 pm–6 pm  
[www.ninajewelersmaryland.com](http://www.ninajewelersmaryland.com)

Nina Jewelers features fine, handcrafted heirloom quality jewelry. Sparkling 22 and 24 kt. gold is set with diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and sapphires in stunning arrays. Nina carries pieces in the ancient Indian style of Kundan, used to preserve, protect, and display a single, large gem in its pure form. Better for the budget is Polki—matching sets of elaborately worked necklaces, rings (for the ears, fingers, toes, and nose), and hair adornments. Select something special for yourself or a friend. The salesperson at Nina will remove the piece for you to try on, and then weigh it on a gold scale before giving the price. Nina accepts major credit cards.

(Walk next door to 8046 New Hampshire Avenue.)

## 7 Woodland Restaurant

8046 New Hampshire Avenue (Langley Park Center), Hyattsville,  
MD 20783, (301) 434-4202. HOURS: M–Th. 11:30 am–9:30 pm,  
F–Sat. 11 am–10 pm, Sun 11:30 am–9:30 pm

Each Takoma Park resident has their own favorite among the many Indian restaurants. In 2008, Washingtonian Magazine gave Woodlands Restaurant South Indian vegetarian food the top nod with a Best Bargain award. If you've never eaten Indian food before, note that meals are not eaten in courses; all food is served at the same time and best enjoyed with friends. Try malai kofta, dumplings in a creamy almond sauce, or palak paneer, spinach simmered with cheese, or ask the friendly server for recommendations such as spicy dosas. You needn't be native to enjoy this food, as the mix of diners at Woodland demonstrates.

**END and RETURN to parked car:** Walk east along University, cross University at first light. Continue east two blocks, crossing New Hampshire Avenue, until you reach the Unilang Shopping Center where the tour began.)

### The NEW AVE Explore India Walking Tour



The NEW AVE Walking Tours invite residents and visitors to explore the world on New Hampshire Avenue. The City of Takoma Park's NEW AVE project renews, revitalizes, and develops the many opportunities along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. To learn more, please visit [www.theNewAve.com](http://www.theNewAve.com) or call (301) 891-7119.

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*Takoma's Avenue of Opportunity*