

## The city of the Nawabs and pearls welcomes you!

**Hyderabad**, the capital of Telangana, INDIA, is the **city of Love and Joy** ! Hyderabad city has lot of Charm, and the people who live here have an Intrinsic Goodness in them that touches one and all. Hyderabad is renowned for Hospitality, Hyderabadi Biryani, Charminar, Irani Chai and Pearls.



The Historical city, the capital of Telangana, history by day magic by night, a city of smiles of lights of thousand faces... that is Hyderabad, where north meets south.

Hyderabad is heady mixture of heritage tradition hospitality and thriving software revolution.

Historically the pearl city of India is fifth largest city In India is famous the world over for its twinkling pearls, glass embedded bangles and the delectable famous Hyderabad cuisine like mouth watering Hydarabadi Biryani and Irani Chai.

Founded by Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah the fifth sultan of Golconda in 1591, Hyderabad was built on the banks of river Musi. According to legend, sultan Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah built it for love of the beautiful Bhagmati whom he titled “Hydermahal”. The city was named after her as Bhagya Nagar.

Hyderabad was the gateway to southern kingdoms. Its fabulous diamond mines and markets too were historically famous.

When FOOD becomes landmark, you are in Hyderabad! Grace and Elegance is core to the spirit of Hyderabad.

## EXPLORE HYDERABAD!

Places to visit in Hyderabad

### Chaar Minar



The Charminar in Hyderabad was constructed in 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutab Shah. He built the Charminar to mark the end of plague in the Hyderabad city. Since the construction of the Charminar, the Hyderabad city has almost become synonymous with the monument. The Charminar is a massive and impressive structure with four minarets. In the evening, with illumination, the great Charminar looks even greater. With the passage of time the Charminar occupied so much importance that it became the heart of all bustling activities. It is in the bustling bazaars around the Charminar that you find the traditional nahari stalls and kulchas of Hyderabad. Hyderabad is one of those few cities, which have a fine blend of modernity and tradition.



## Birla Mandir

One of the best ways to wake up is perhaps to mellifluous hymns in praise of the Lord, and that is one thing that you'd enjoy if you live anywhere in the vicinity of this architectural beauty that is such a splendor to behold. "Kausalya supraja Rama poorva sandhya pravarta" the chanting mantra to arouse the Lord can be heard every morning at around 5.30am.

# HussainSagar



The lovely lake built in 1562 provides beautiful picnic spots like boating, water sports and the lake divides the twin cities Secunderabad and Hyderabad. One side of the lake lies the tank bund used as connecting road to twin cities and the other side the Necklace road, thus the entire surrounding roads are bejeweled beautiful gardens and green landscapes and illuminations in the evenings. "The world's tallest monolithic statue of Buddha" stands in the centre of the lake with boat trips from Lumbini park for tourists.

# Shilparamam



Spread across an area of 50 acres, Shilparamam not just showcases various artefacts and traditionally made handicrafts but is also a home for various performing artists. In its complete form, the complex of Shilparamam is supposed to have Crafts Museum, Cultural Museum, Art Gallery & Library, Multi-purpose Auditorium, Common Facility Workshops and Research & Design Centre along with accommodation facilities for artists and visitors. This is an ideal place for long walks too; its natural greenery dotted with carefully laid out sculptures and intricately designed buildings. There is also the facility of battery operated car which takes you for an enchanting tour of Shilparamam with a minimal charge.

Shilparamam shopping is the famous not just residents of Hyderabad but also among tourists. Craftsmen from all over India, display their works here, varying from traditional jewellery, hand-woven saris, shawls, dresses, bed sheets, etc; and hand-crafted wooden and metal wares. If you are looking for some street shopping, you have option for that too.

# Qutub Shahi Tombs



These stately domes form an umbrella over the tombs underneath which rest the majestic kings of the Qutub Shahi dynasty in peace, thence the name. Located quite close to and in the vicinity of the Golconda Fort, these tombs were ornamented with blue and green tiles of which only a few can be seen now. The rooms inside the smaller tombs are basically single-storied while the larger ones have two-storied structures. Closed on Friday.

Timings 0930 A.M. to 1630 P.M. Almost 1Km from Golconda Fort.

**Near Places:** Gandipet, Eless World, Taramathi Baradari, Golkonda Fort

# Salar Jung Museum: One Family's Million-Object Collection



Founded in 1951, the Salar Jung Museum is situated on the southern bank of the Musi River in the city of Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Comparable to London's Victoria & Albert Museum, the collection housed at this museum is vast to say the least. Encompassing sculptures, paintings, carvings, manuscripts, ceramics, textiles, carpets, metal work, clocks, and furniture from all over the world, the Salar Jung Museum is the third largest of India's museums. Comprised of the extensive collection of Salar Jung III, Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, this museum houses many of India's most important treasures.

# LaadBazaar



Charminar has been popular for bangles and various other traditional items since many decades. The Laad Bazaar still presents a glimpse of the bygone eras. It is said that the market has been there since the Qutub Shahis and the Nizams era and thus presents a living heritage of the city.

The name "Laad Bazaar" has apparently derived from the word "laad" which means lacquer. Lacquer is one of the important materials used to make bangles; these vibrant lac bangles are very popular among visitors.

There are many legends associated with this historical market. According to a legend, the origin of Laad Bazaar goes back to Ladli Begum who was the wife of the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Mehboob Ali Khan. There is another story which traces its origin to Abdur Razzaq Laary, Golconda army general on whose name the 'Laary Bazaar' was named which became Laad bazaar or to Lord

Rippon for whom the name 'Lord Bazaar' was coined, which eventually became Laad Bazaar. The reason can be any of these, but the charm of Laad bazaar is beyond all.

## Ramoji Film City



It is the largest, more comprehensive and professionally planned film production centre of the world. Located just 25 Kms. from Hyderabad city Ramoji Film City is a destination that truly inspires one to think different. It is Hyderabad's answer to Universal Studios built in nearly 2000 acres. A setting spun amidst the ethereal beauty of nature and man-made wonders. Luxury hotels, theme restaurants, Japanese gardens, Persian boulevards, lavish palaces, make believe airports/railway stations with the rustic setting's of a mud village and a host of other fantastic creations, and the breath of fresh air, all lend a new dimension.

**Near Places:** Mount Opera

## Other things famous in Hyderabad!!!

### Soul strings



**Pearls:** Hyderabad is said to be the largest market for pearls in the country. The Nizams were great patrons and the pearl trade flourished in Hyderabad thanks to local artisans who excelled at the delicate art of piercing and stringing pearls.

Legend has it that a two inch high layer of priceless pearls would be spread on the royal palace terraces for cooling during summers.

### Bidriware



Bidriware, is the most well-known of Telangana's handicrafts. Black metal inlaid with silver is the local speciality. Glass and studded bangles of bidri are a favorite with women. Believed to have originated in Iran seven centuries ago, the black art reflects the Sufi influence even today. Moghul royals decorated their weapons on bidri style. Typical bidri items include plates, bowls, vases, ashtrays, trinket boxes, huqqa bases, jewellery. The black colour is the result of heating the zinc and copper surface gently and applying sal ammoniac with old fort earth. Main shopping areas are Abids, Basheerbagh, Nampally and Sultan Bazar in Hyderabad and MG Road and Rashtrapati Road in Secunderabad. The markets around Charminar are favoured for bangles and pearls.

## Bronze Casting

Bronze casting is another speciality. Metal working has been transformed into a work of art by the artisans of Telangana. Icons of various gods and goddesses are moulded to perfection in bronze. The beauty and grandeur of the realistic bronze castings are treasured items of those who buy it.

## America : Coke :: Chai : Hyderabad

What is Coke to America, Irani Chai is to Hyderabad. Hyderabad is synonymous with Hyderbadi Irani Tea, locally called Chai, thanks mainly to the Iranians who have set up Tea Cafes in almost each and every Galli (ByLane) of Hyderabad.

It is not 5 star restaurants, it is not banquet halls, and it is not the posh lunch tables, but it is the Irani Cafes where many business meetings are held over a cup of Tea. Visit any Irani Cafe and you can invariably find groups of people rich or poor discussing everything under the Sun and even about the tasty Tea they are having at that moment. In Hyderabad, "From Pin to Government movements will be done in Irani Chai Cafe."

## While travelling in Hyderabad – things to remember.

1. Most travellers don't realize that Hyderabad is still a conservative city due to the presence of Islam. Many women dress in 'abayas' and a majority of them wear hijabs and veils. India is a place where travelers wear less clothing, but this city is not one of them, so consider this before moving around the city. Dress conservatively and you will be greeted warmly by the local people.

### **2. Customs and etiquette**

Visitors should dress conservatively when visiting religious sights, and always remove shoes before entering a person's home or a place of worship. Generally, it is best to avoid skimpy or suggestive clothes while traveling in India.

The left hand should never be used for pointing, eating, giving, receiving or shaking someone's hand. It is not mandatory to tip, but it is expected in the city's more upmarket establishments.

### **3. Money**

The Indian rupee (INR) is the local currency. Food and necessities are quite cheap in comparison to the west. Credit cards are accepted in hotels and restaurants, and ATMs are easy to locate. It is convenient to have some small notes at hand for market shopping and transport.

### **4. Weather**

Hyderabad suffers boiling hot summers with temperatures soaring above 40°C but winters are mild and pleasant and temperatures usually remain in the low 20s (°C). The monsoon blows in during June and is accompanied by plenty of rain and high humidity until September. Winter falls between November and February, and the weather at this time provides the ideal conditions for travel and sightseeing.

## 5. Transportation

Hyderabad has a good bus service, average auto rickshaw service and taxi service however the rail network is highly inadequate. The APSRTC government-run bus service offers extensive city coverage, with most buses departing from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Terminal.

Auto rickshaws are convenient for short journeys around town but it is often difficult to find a driver willing to use the meter. Fares are slightly more than bus fares, but it is worth the couple of extra rupees for the comfort.

Metered taxis can't be hailed on the street; they need to be arranged by calling in advance. They usually provide a good service and metered cabs have a digital display showing the fare as it clocks up.

There is an excellent air-conditioned bus service from GMR Hyderabad International Airport (HYD) to various areas of the city. Buses run 24 hours at regular intervals. Alternatively, metered taxis are readily available. Easy and Meru are companies approved by the airport and fares are easy to arrange from just outside the terminal building.

Some companies like OLA and UBER have their own efficient cab services which run throughout the city, you can download the app for an android or apple device and call for a cab by a single touch on the screen.

### Fast facts

Spoken languages: Telegu, Urdu, Hindi and English

Electrical: 240 Volts, 50 Hertz; round two or three-pin plugs used

**Phone/calling code: +91 40**

## 6. What to bring...

We have a few suggestions on things you could bring to Hyderabad to make your stay comfortable.

- As the weather is hot, light cotton and linen clothing is recommended.

- There will be times when an evening event or ceremony will require a more formal attire.
- The hotel provides a laundry service that is very convenient and reasonably priced, so travel light.
- Also, because of the heat and humidity, talc and deodorant are recommended.
- It is a tradition to remove shoes before entering many places in Hyderabad, so bring easy to remove footwear.

## **7. Are internet and email facilities widely available in Hyderabad?**

Internet services are available at most hotels in Hyderabad that offer free wifi.

## **8. Can I buy a SIM card for my mobile/cell phone?**

SIM cards from local Hyderabad network providers are widely sold and may be used to call/text both locally and internationally. Phone reception is excellent and widely available.

## **9. Should I carry cash or traveller cheques or debit/credit cards?**

The Rupee (INR) is the local currency. Exchange booths are available around the airport, tourist areas and in banks across Hyderabad. While major credit and debit cards are also accepted in most establishments and shopping centres, there are occasionally additional fees from both the retailer and your card provider. ATM machines accept most cards and are easy to find everywhere.

# **Have a great time in Hyderabad!**

While we don't recommend a specific guidebook to plan your trips, to avoid unexpected troubles, online research and information from various guidebooks can provide invaluable information. Once in Hyderabad ask for assistance if you need it – Hyderabadis are friendly and accommodating and will help if they can. Most of all, relax and enjoy our city and our unique hospitality.

