

## Hyderabad, India



The smoky blue hills of the Deccan Plateau meet lavender clouds as ecru domes curve against the twilight hue of a darkening sky. From the veranda of Charminar, Hyderabad's most iconic landmark, the views are remarkable. Magnificent buildings anchor animated scenes of bustling marketplaces and busy streets swollen with rickshaw traffic. Lush greenery emerges among hillside neighborhoods, blanketing the banks of rivers and lakes. An exceptional city, rife with the legacy of a four-hundred-year past, Hyderabad is one of India's most important economic centers. Renowned as the nation's information technology capital, Hyderabad preserves the vivid traditions of an unparalleled heritage, while moving swiftly and gracefully into the future.

### Memorable Experiences

#### Imperial Monuments

Climb to the top of the Charminar for an unrivaled view of Hyderabad.

#### Local Delicacies

Delight in a fruit biscuit from the legendary Karachi Bakery.

#### Native Crafts

Discover the enchanting sandstone handicrafts of local artisans.

#### Grand Remembrances

Admire the intricate stonework tombs of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.

### Distinctive Details

A mixture of basmati rice and goat meat, chicken, or beef, biryani is integral to Hyderabad's cuisine. Developed in the Nizam's kitchen, the dish represents the synthesis of Mughal and Telangana cuisine.

### Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends

#### Old Town

Hyderabad's rich heritage proudly emerges within the bustling streets of Old Town. Palaces and mosques of unparalleled splendor rise above city markets where the scents of indigenous flavors mingle with the dynamic sounds of the streets.

### Destination Information

**Country** India  
**Province** Andhra Pradesh  
**Elevation** 536 meters  
**Population** 7 million  
**Language** Urdu, Telgu, Hindi, English



**Area Code:** 40  
**Country Code:** 91



**Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (HYD)**

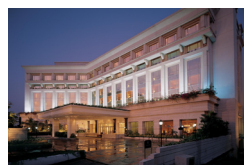


**Transportation:** Train, Car, Taxi, Auto Rickshaw



**Indian Rupee (INR)**

### Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



#### ITC Kakatiya, Hyderabad

Address: 63-3-1187, Begumpet, Hyderabad,  
Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: (91)(40) 23400132



## Culture

Exquisite architecture, rare antiquities, and fine art fill this exuberant city.

### Highly Recommended



#### Chowmahalla Palace

The low towers of a parapet reflect in a pool's still waters. From the soothing white façade of a long, graceful palace graced by the soft light of dusk, alluring arches beckon. Surrounding princely fountains and smooth green lawns, four glorious structures rise. Emblems of a historic ruling family, these majestic palaces honor the legacy of Hyderabad's great Nizams. Within the magnificent Durban Hall, nineteen glistening chandeliers of Belgian crystal testify to this city's splendid past, while exhibitions of palace treasures illustrate a vivid legacy.

**Address:** Khilwat, 20-4-236, Motigalli  
**Phone:** (91)(40) 24522032



#### Salar Jung Museum

A thin, bearded figure carved of wood emerges from a tiny door and rings the bell of an enchanting musical clock. Its chime echoes through a rare gallery, drifting through nearby rooms filled with Bohemian glass chalices and Sevres porcelain vases. An impressive, semi-circular building, crowned by a trio of domes, this extraordinary museum houses the unrivaled collection of the Prime Minister Salar Jung III. Intricate miniature paintings lead to jade masterpieces, ivory carvings, Bidri vases, and ancient Persian manuscripts in thirty-eight galleries.

**Address:** Salar Jung Road, on the southern bank of the River Musi  
**Phone:** (91)(40) 24576443



#### Kalahita Art Foundation

A pair of lemon-hued flamingos covers a vivid canvas. Immense faces, swathed in red and blue, gaze up from a tiled floor. Surprising images delight and inspire within the four contemporary art galleries of this respected foundation. Devoted to infusing daily life with the distinctive elements of Indian art and culture, Kalahita presents the works of a vast range of national artists. Rotating exhibitions are held in an expansive complex, which includes a space for traditional Indian crafts, a research library, and a collection of limited edition prints.

**Address:** Lakshmi Towers, Nagarjuna Hills, Panjagutta  
**Phone:** (91)(40) 23350543



#### Andhra Pradesh State Museum

Rising among the towering palms and ashokas of sumptuous public gardens, four carved pillars support an ancient pavilion, an exquisite example of Kakatiya temple architecture. Graceful deities surround the sacred relic, gesturing toward a museum filled with exceptional antiquities. In one gallery, the vibrant forms of Brahmanic sculptures are carved of black basalt, while bells, lamps and images of Buddha, all forged of bronze, fill the glass cases of another. Stone inscriptions, jade hilt daggers, and an Egyptian mummy round out a singular collection.

**Address:** Public Gardens  
**Phone:** (91)(40) 23232267



## Shopping

Treasures of Indian craft delight among sparkling gems at shops and open-air markets.

### Local Specialty



#### Shilparamam

Upon an adobe wall, a woman in a saffron sari paints a vivid parade. Her sprightly orange tiger leads a group of revelers wrapped in lavender and emerald cloths across a colorful village abode. At Shilparamam, enduring Indian traditions merge. Clay is shaped into terracotta bowls, while cotton is embroidered with glittering threads. Polished bronze horses gleam, and wood is sculpted into the forms of Shiva and Vishnu. From vibrant thatched houses, handmade crafts overflow in neat collections of beads, urns, tapestries, and statues.

**Address:** Madhapur, 17 kilometers northwest of Hyderabad, off Hitech City Road  
**Phone:** (91)(40) 231004551



#### Laad Bazaar

Towers of lacquer bangles mesmerize with their cerulean rhinestones, luminous seed pearls, and dazzling crimson and gold motifs. Delicate circles hang in glimmering rows of cinnabar and turquoise, transforming vendor stands into colorful trees that gently chime as the bracelets jostle. Rest upon soft cotton mattresses that cover the floors of bazaar shops, as the staff emerges with their enchanting selections of jewels, brocades, and perfumes. This historic bazaar, infused with atmosphere, has been a destination for Indian brides for centuries.

**Address:** Laad Bazaar Road, just west of Charminar

### Neighborhoods



#### Abids

A blue striped bus cruises along a bustling avenue where bicyclists ride alongside rickshaws. Tall buildings with walls of windows rise among storefronts emblazoned with eye-catching signs. A vibrant shopping paradise lying at the heart of Hyderabad's historic business district, Abids is filled with specialty boutiques and vast bazaars. Shoe stores offer authentic sandals handmade from soft leather, while jewelry shops dazzle with extraordinary selections of colorful bangles.

**Address:** Abids Road, between Chapel Road and Nampally Station Road

### Shops & Boutiques



#### Krishna Pearls

Lustrous orbs shine in the light. Set within radiant bands of gold, strung into ropes, encircled by diamonds in dazzling pendants, or simply lying loose waiting to be formed into a most exquisite piece, each one enchants. In this acclaimed boutique, a vast trove of pearl varieties, such as cultured pearls, South Sea pearls, and Tahitian pearls are all on offer. Complimented by rubies, diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires, Krishna features one of the city's finest jewelry collections. Encounter unrivaled pieces like the gold ring studded with nine stones.

**Address:** M.C.H #6-3-883/3, Near Topaz Building, Panjagutta  
**Phone:** (91)(40) 66250033



## Cuisine

Intricate recipes combine cinnamon, coconut, and cumin to tantalizing effect.

## Acclaimed



### Dakshin

Curry leaves and ground pepper merge in an aromatic bowl of chicken chettinad. A transporting entrée of fish moilee fuses ginger with lime juice and coconut milk. The cuisine of India's four southern states has been thoroughly researched and perfected by this premiere restaurant's master chefs resulting in a diverse and exceptional menu of authentic dishes. The culinary legacy of Goa, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu is shared in a classic menu and enjoyed in a warm, refined ambience surrounded by dancing deities.

**Address: ITC Kakatiya, Hyderabad**

**Phone: (91)(40) 23400132**



### Angeethi Restaurant

Vintage Hindi film posters hang upon warmly lit walls that surround a country well. Beneath a thatched ceiling, rustic wooden chairs cover a floor of vermillion tiles. In this transporting seventh floor restaurant, the scents of an authentic Punjabi kitchen fill the air. Time honored dishes such as chicken and lamb kebab, Murgh Rada Masala, Sarson Da Saag, and a selection of roti breads are all listed on the menu. Begin a meal with a mango lassi, and culminate with the traditional Indian dessert Gulab Jamun, a sugary treat flavored with cardamom and rosewater.

**Address: Unit 701-703, 7th floor, Reliance Classic, Road # 1, Banjara Hills**

**Phone: (91)(40) 65255550**



### Southern Spice

Sorghum flour is hand kneaded into flat circles of bread as rage mudde, a traditional dish from the rural regions of Karnataka is shaped into mounds. Coriander, fennel seeds, cumin, turmeric, cinnamon, and grated coconut infuse a plate of chicken chettinad, while a spicy dish of gongura mamsam fills the air with a heady mixture of masala and sorrel leaves. The intricate recipes of India's Andhra Pradesh region are prepared with care in this renowned restaurant in Hyderabad's Banjara Hills, among selections of Chinese and North Indian cuisine.

**Address: 8-2-350/3/2, Road Number 3, Plot Number 34, Banjara Hills**

**Phone: (91)(40) 23353802**

## Indigenous Flavors



### Fusion 9

Florentine garlands of green leaves and citrus fruits drape across the cream tiles of an elegant bar. Chairs of caramel leather surround modern tables arranged on the wood and terracotta floors of intimate dining rooms. In this sophisticated, Banjara Hills restaurant, the culinary fare of nine countries merge in a diverse menu. Vegetarian paella, pan roasted chicken steak, grilled duck breast, roasted red snapper, Indian lamb chops, and grilled tiger prawns are just a sampling of the tantalizing international selections prepared within its acclaimed kitchen.

**Address: Number 4, First Avenue, Road Number 1, Banjara Hills**

**Phone: (90)(40) 9848968949**



## Noteworthy

Exquisite retreats inspire with historical details and natural splendor.

## Highly Recommended



### Mecca Masjid

The jade waters of a silent pool reflect the arches of an extraordinary mosque. On either side of its majestic façade, minarets rise against a clear Andhra sky. Beyond its awe-inspiring entrance, scarlet carpets stretch across vast prayer rooms. Belgian crystal chandeliers dangle majestically above. Constructed over a nearly eighty year period, this iconic 17th century temple was designed after the Grand Mosque at Mecca, the holiest site for Muslims. As Hyderabad's largest mosque, Mecca Masjid is one of the city's most revered emblems.

**Address: 150 meters southwest of Charminar**

## Family



### Golconda Fort

Carved into granite, peacocks and lions stand guard over a peaked archway. Vast corridors, flanked by massive walls of stone, wind through an imposing fortress. Initially constructed of mud, over two millennia ago, and expanded throughout history, this majestic structure testifies to a time when Bahmani and Qutub Shahi kings ruled over these magnificent, diamond-rich lands. Hindu and Muslim architecture merges in the eight gates that allow passage through impenetrable walls. Crenellated towers rise four hundred feet above the plains, offering splendid views.

**Address: 10 kilometers west of Hyderabad, off Bada Bazar Road**

## Local Charms

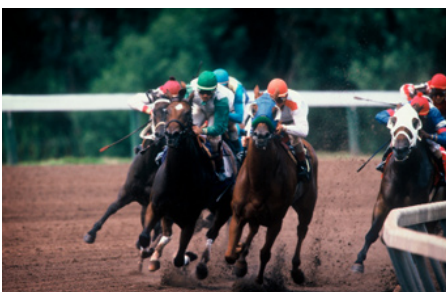


### Purani Haveli Palace

Verdant trees shade the peaceful grounds that surround this grand, neoclassical mansion. Beyond the graceful swags that adorn its regal European façade, historic courtyards reflect a traditional Indian style. Built in the 16th century for a Qutub Shah prime minister, this regal abode later became the residence of Hyderabad's ruling 18th century Nizams. Within its evocative interior, walls are covered in colorful tiles, while detailed mosaics sweep across floors, testifying to a glorious past. Antique furnishings include a rare hand-cranked elevator.

**Address: Between Chatta Bazaar and Dabirpura Main Road**

## Recreation



### Hyderabad Race Club

A cheer goes up in the grandstand as powerful thoroughbreds set off on a heated race around the course. Their sleek brown coats ripple as their hooves pound the turf. Home to legendary races for over one hundred years, this fabled site hosts a renowned horse racing season that runs from July to March. Separate tracks accommodate the varying seasons, with a sand course utilized during monsoon season and a bark-based track reserved for winter. Visitors can peruse artifacts of Indian equestrian history at the race club's intriguing museum.

**Address: Malakpet, 3 kilometers from Koti Centre on the way to Vanastalipuram**  
**Phone: (91)(40) 24549491**