

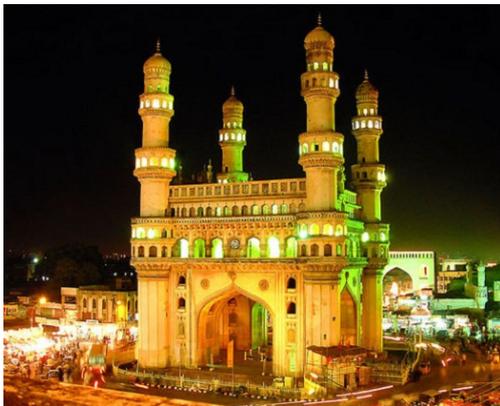
# Hyderabad City: History & Tourism

Hyderabad is the capital city of the state of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh of South India. The city was founded on the River Musi by Muhammad Quli Qutab Shah in 1591. The city is located on the Deccan Plateau and it is the fifth largest city of India.

This cosmopolitan city is richly endowed with a variety of cultures. The city presents an attractive amalgam of old world charm together with new world of hi-technology. Hyderabad city has a history of nearly four hundred years. All its began with the establishment of the Qutub Shahi dynasty. Quli Qutub Shah seized the reins of power from the Bahamani Kingdom in 1512 and established the fortress city of Golconda. The history of Golconda goes back to the Kakatiya Dynasty in 11th century when they built a mud fortress on a hill called Golconda.



**Golconda Fort**



**Charminar**

Inadequacy of water, and frequent epidemics of plague and cholera persuaded Mohammed, the fifth Quli Qutub Shahi ruler to venture outward to establish the new city with the Charminar at its center and with four great roads fanning out in the four cardinal directions. The capital of the city was Bhagyanagar, which named after a royal beloved Bhagyamati. As she became the wife of Quli Qutub Shah, the sultan bestowed the title of Hy-

der Mahal on Bhagmati and thus was born Hyderabad.

The Qutub Shahi rulers were great builders and patrons of learning. Mohamed Quli Qutub Shah built the mosque, whose construction began in 1614 and Aurangzeb completed it in 1687. The name of Mecca Masjid was given to the mosque since many bricks embedded above the gate are made from the soil brought from Mecca. The Qutub Shahi rulers not only patronized



**Mecca Masjid**

the Persian culture but also the regional culture of the Deccan, symbolized by the Telugu language and the newly developed Deccani idiom. Hyderabad's fame, strategic location and Golconda's legendary wealth attracted Aurangzeb who captured Golconda after a long siege in 1687. Thereafter, the importance of Hyderabad declined and the city fell into partial ruin.



**Chowmahalla Palace**

As the Mughal Empire decayed and began to disintegrate, Asaf Jah-I proclaimed himself the Nizam and established independent rule of the Deccan. Chowmahalla Palace was the seat of the Asaf Jahi dynasty and was the official residence of the Nizams of Hyderabad while they ruled their state.

The famous Falaknuma palace was built by the Paigah, Nawab Vikar-ul-Umra, who was the brother-in-law of Nizam VI. It took nine years from its foundation in 1884 to completion in 1893 and the palace was purchased by the Nizam VI in 1897. This palace was designed by



**Falakunama Palace**

an Italian architect in western style and is completely built with Italian Marble. The palace houses a large collection of rare treasures, paintings, statues, furniture, manuscripts and books collected by the Nizam. The jade collection

displayed is considered to be unique in the world. However, the marvel of the palace faded away in the late 1950's due to poor maintenance. It remained in the wilderness till the Taj Hotels Group restored it to its glory through extensive renovation and made it a heritage hotel, with the help of Princess Esra Jah, wife of Mukarram Jah who is a survivor of Osman Ali Khan, the richest Nizam and most prosperous man in the world in his days.

The Prime Minister of Nizam Osman Ali Khan and Mir Yousuf Ali Khan (Salar Jung III) together built Salar Jung Museum, which is one of the largest private collections in the world that covers exhibits from every part of the world. The museum has over 35,000 items comprising of wood carvings, sculptures, Persian miniature paintings, weaponry and a library of 50000 books. Hyderabad once again became a major capital city, ruled by successive Nizams of the Asaf Jah dynasty until the state was merged into the Indian Union in 1948.



**Salarjung Museum**



**Birla Temple**

The Ramoji Film City is the largest integrated film city in the world and named by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest studio on the planet. The Ramoji Film City boasts of first rated and comprehensive film making equipment and other facilities which are being used by commercial film makers from all states of India. It is also a popular tourism and recreation centre, containing natural and artificial attractions including an amusement park.



**Ramoji Filmcity**



**Nehru Zoological Park**

The Nehru Zoo Park has almost 1,500 species of birds, animals and reptiles. The zoo has rich fauna including the avian fauna as well such as Indian Rhino, Asiatic Lion, Tiger, Panther, Giraffe, Gaur, Deer, Antelopes, Orangutan, and many more. The place also has a rich population of reptiles such as Crocodile, Python, etc.

Shilparamam, a crafts village, conceived in the year 1992, is situated just about few kilometers from Hyderabad city. Sprawling over 65 acres (260,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of land in the hi-tech hub city of India, Shilparamam gives a scenic ambience of tradition and cultural heritage. For promotion and preservation of Indian arts and crafts and to motivate the artisans, the state government established this platform.



**Shilparamam**



**Pearls**

The city of Hyderabad is known for pearls, Kalamkari handicraft, Kuchipudi dance, cuisines etc. Hyderabad is famous for its minarets and its pearl bazaar. Pearl from all over the world are said to come to Hyderabad because the artisans here are skilled in piercing and stringing pearls without damaging them. Therefore, the city is also known as "City of Pearls". The city's gypsy

tribes called "Lambadas" and "Banjaras" are known throughout the country for their colorful costumes.

The Kalamkari, a fine art of Handicraft of Andhra Pradesh, which originated in Machilipatnam 3000 year ago, is also popular in the city. This art has been practised by many families in Andhra Pradesh and over the generations has constituted their livelihood. Kalamkari had a certain decline, then it was revived in India and abroad for its craftsmanship.



**Kalamkari**



**Kuchipudi**

Kuchipudi is one of the ten major Indian classical dances. It originated in a village of Krishna district in modern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It is a dance-drama performance art, with its roots in the ancient Hindu Sanskrit text of Natya Shastra. It developed as a religious art linked to travelling bards, temples and spiritual beliefs, like all major classical dances of India.

Hyderabad has two types of cuisines, the Telugu cuisine and Hyderabadi cuisine. Telugu cuisine is the part of South Indian cuisine characterized by their highly spicy food. Whereas, Hyderabadi cuisine, which is an amalgamation of Persian cuisine, Mughlai, Telugu, Turkish cuisines, developed by the Qutb Shahi dynasty and the Nizams of Hyderabad and it comprises a broad repertoire of rice, wheat and meat



**Hyderabadi food**

dishes and various spices and herbs. The Hyderabadi cuisine contains city specific specialities like Hyderabadi biryani, Hyderabadi Haleem, Qubani Ka Meetha, Double Ka Meetha etc.

Hyderabad offers a variety of tourist attractions and it is like a treat for lovers of history, art, architecture with several ornate tombs, palaces and mosques adorning the old city. To the traveller, Hyderabad offers a fascinating panorama of the past, with a richly mixed cultural and historical tradition spanning 400 colourful years.