

The 'Must-do-when-in Hyderabad' Tours

TOUR 1

THE GOLKONDA FORT & QUTB SHAHI TOMBS TOUR

Price including taxes – INR 1600/- per person

Transport in Coaches

Minimum – 10 persons, Maximum – 30 persons

Wednesday, 26 October 2016 – 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Friday, 28 October 2016 – 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Saturday, 29 October 2016 – 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Sunday, 30 October 2016 – 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM



The Golconda Fort

The Golconda Fort is one of the most impressive forts in the country. The architecture includes some amazingly advanced acoustics systems that were used for signalling approaching enemy as well as for detecting conspiracies being hatched in palace corners.

The climb up the Fort would be a sometimes steep, sometimes easy climb of about 360 steps and has excellent views of the Qutb Shahi tombs just outside the Fort area, the Charminar in the distance and the rest of the city's landscape.

The Qutb Shahi Tombs

The rulers of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty had a tradition of constructing their tombs during their lifetime. The Emperors tried to outdo their predecessor and the magnificence of the architecture advanced over time. The tombs tower over the landscape majestically. This architecture is a fascinating mix of Persian and the local styles. Remnants of the blue tile work on some of these elegant structures give us a peek into the richness of that was a trademark of this dynasty.



Note: While the lower areas of the Fort have wheelchair access, the upper portions of the Fort and certain areas of the Qutb Shahi Tombs cannot be accessed.

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT

Name – Praveen Kumar K

Email – praveenkokne@planit-india.com

Mobile - 07675851199

TOUR 2

THE CHARMINAR AREA TOUR

Price including taxes – INR 1800/- per person

Transport in Coaches

Minimum – 10 persons, Maximum – 30 persons

Tuesday, 25 October 2016 – 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Thursday, 27 October 2016 – 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Saturday, 29 October 2016 – 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM



Photo: Chowmahalla Palace: Taken by Lenny Emmanuel

Chowmahalla Palace

The Chowmahalla Palace was the seat of the dynasty of the Nizams of Hyderabad who were well known for the grandeur and wealth. This palace, built in the eighteenth century has been painstakingly restored and has been open to public only since 2006. The imposing Durbar Hall with its collection of glittering chandeliers and several rooms within the Palace display artefacts from the past that reflect the opulence with which this dynasty lived and ruled.



Charminar Area (Including Mecca Masjid & Laad Bazaar)

The most famous symbol of the city, the Charminar was planned as the centre of the city when the capital shifted from Golkonda to Hyderabad in 1591 AD. The four minarets structure towers over bustling *bazaars* selling colourful and glittering lacquered bangles, pearls, shiny fabric, traditional perfumes (*ittar*), antiques and other knick-knacks. The climb up the Charminar is about fifty steps through a spiral staircase from where you can get magnificent views of the Mecca Masjid, the Unani Hospital, the Osmania Hospital, High Court, the Purani Haveli as well as the Falaknuma Palace in the distance. For the true flavour of old Hyderabad culture, this area of the city is a must visit.

Note: While some areas of the Palace can be accessed in a wheelchair, the busy streets in the Old City will not be easy for the disabled.

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Name – Praveen Kumar K

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TOUR 3

THE MUSEUMS TOUR

Price including taxes – INR 2500/- per person

Transport in Coaches

Minimum – 10 persons, Maximum – 30 persons

Thursday, 27 October 2016 – 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM



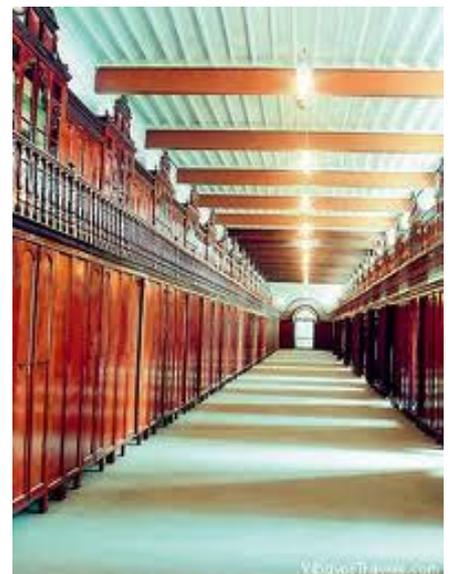
Salar Jung Museum

One of the greatest collections of art pieces in the world is housed in Hyderabad. This treasure trove is a fascinating amalgam of antiquity and modernity and represents the three Salar Jung's efforts to find the most exquisite pieces from across the world. It is believed that during the colonial period a lot of the art wealth of the country was shipped to the metropolitan countries and the Salar Jung's are credited with bringing back some of it to enrich the collection. Some of the most well-known pieces that you can find in this museum is the Veiled Rebecca, a masterpiece in marble carved by Giovanni Maria Benzoni, the Musical Clock made by Cook & Kelvy of England that features a woodcutter who comes out every hour to strike the hour, the Ivory Collection Gallery featuring stunning pieces of art from across the world, the sections on Indian textiles, miniature paintings and a double-figured wooden piece by an unknown sculptor.

Purani Haveli – The Nizam's Museum

The next stop will be at Purani Haveli, the home of the Sixth Nizam where because of his love of clothes, a whole section of the Palace had to be converted into wardrobes. The Nizam would access his wardrobes in a hand drawn wooden lift. Today, the Purani Haveli also houses the numerous gifts given to the Sixth and the Seventh Nizams from emperors across the world.

Note: Most of the main areas of the Salar Jung Museum can be accessed by wheelchair. However, the Nizam's Museum at Purani Haveli is on the first floor with no lift/elevator access.



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TOUR 4

THE WEAVERS' VILLAGE TOUR TO POCHAMPALLY

Price including taxes – INR 3000/- per person (includes lunch)

Transport in Coaches

Minimum – 10 persons, Maximum – 30 persons

Friday, 28 October 2016 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Pochampally Village

Known for its cotton and silk weaving, this region has several villages that are dedicated to the craft of turning threads into colourful and intricate woven fabrics. One such village is Pochampally about 50 kilometres from Hyderabad where the ancient weaving style of ikkat is practiced in almost every home. You will see the complete process of how threads are dyed and arranged in a design and then woven so that beautiful patterns emerge. This tour will also give you a glimpse into village life in India.

We will also visit a weavers' cooperative where you will get a chance to buy some of the beautiful products directly from the artisans.

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TOUR 5

SMALL GROUP SPECIALITY TOURS

THE WHITE MUGHALS' DETOUR

FIVE HOUR TOUR

Price including taxes – INR 3500/- per person (includes lunch at Secunderabad Club)

Travel in AC Toyota Innovas (6-seater)

Minimum – 4 persons, Maximum – 10 persons

Friday, 28 October 2016 – 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

This detour traces the late 18th century tragic love story of James Kirkpatrick, the British Resident and Khair-un-Nissa, a Muslim noblewoman that has been captured by the famous author William Dalrymple in his historical novel **White Mughals**. Walk through the gardens of the British Residency, which was one of the most impressive British buildings in the country of those times and weave your way past the old graveyard and end up next to the ruined Residency model that Kirkpatrick built for his wife.



Next, we will drive down to Mah Laqa Bai's tombs where the famous poet and courtesan Chanda Bibi is buried. Mentioned in detail in the novel, she is known to have played a major role in the politics of those times. Her tombs recently restored with the help of the US Consulate funding is at the base of the sacred hill of Moula Ali which in the late 18th century was used even by the British Residents as a retreat for some R&R.

We will end the tour with lunch at Secunderabad Club – a symbol of the British influence in the city.

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TOURS 6

THE SHOPPER'S DELIGHT

Price including taxes – INR 2800/- per person (includes a thaali meal at a local restaurant)

Travel in AC Toyota Innovas (6-seater)

Minimum – 4 persons, Maximum – 10 persons

Thursday, 27 October 2016 – 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Saturday, 29 October 2016 – 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Sunday, 30 October 2016 – 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

This tour is meant for those whose passion is shopping – serious shopping as well as window shopping. This tour will take you to the lesser known, non-touristy stores where the locals find the best fabric, the most authentic spices, exquisite crafts of the region and jewellery. Here's where you will get a chance to try out the latest trendy outfits and sample some unique products that this city has to offer. So go ahead, try on a local saree, bling yourself up with colourful gemstones and pearls and check things off your shopping list at one go! Accompanied by a local expert, you can have all your shopping questions answered!



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TOUR 7

THE HYDERABADI BIRYANI CULINARY TOUR

Price including taxes – INR 5500/- per person (includes a meal at a local home)

Travel in AC Toyota Innovas (6-seater)

Minimum – 4 persons, Maximum – 10 persons

Saturday, 29 October 2016 – 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM



Hyderabadi cuisine is synonymous with the Biryani and it is the blend of Mughal influences and the use of the local ingredients and spices have created a distinctive cuisine. Technically speaking, it is just a dish of rice and meat cooked with some spices but it evokes the most passionate emotions among many foodies. A good part of the Indian lifetime is spent hotly debating about which the best Biryani and wondering about its origins. This tour will reveal the delectable path that this dish has taken across the different parts of India.

You will learn some secret recipes of the famous Hyderabadi Biryani on this tour from traditional families who have been cooking this dish for centuries. Watch large pots of rice being cooked with meat and spices and after the demonstration, enjoy a meal of the local delicacies!

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TOUR 8

The Hidden Hyderabad

Price including taxes – INR 2500/- per person

Travel in AC Toyota Innovas (6-seater)

Minimum – 4 persons, Maximum – 10 persons

Saturday, 29 October 2016 – 7:00 AM to 10:30 AM

There is a hidden heritage of every city and this is very true in the case of Hyderabad where modern buildings and structures have super-imposed themselves on the architectural past of the city. But a walk in some of the bye-lanes of the Old City will reveal a slice of the magnificent past that was Hyderabad. This walk will take you to some of the old *deoris (or havelis)* that were home to the noblemen of the past, some beautiful Sufi Shrines, a Shi'a mourning hall and some exquisite tombs.



Some of the homes have been converted to public buildings and some are holding on tenaciously to the spirit of the old Hyderabad that was. If you are a lover of things of the past and want to discover glimpses of the glorious architecture of the past, spend this time with us exploring the hidden Hyderabad.

Note: Wear comfortable walking shoes for this tour

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TOUR 9

The Incredible Hyderabad Rock Walk

Price including taxes – INR 3500/- per person (includes a local breakfast)

Transport in Coaches

Minimum – 10 persons, Maximum – 30 persons

Saturday, 29 October 2016 – 6:30 AM to 10:00 AM

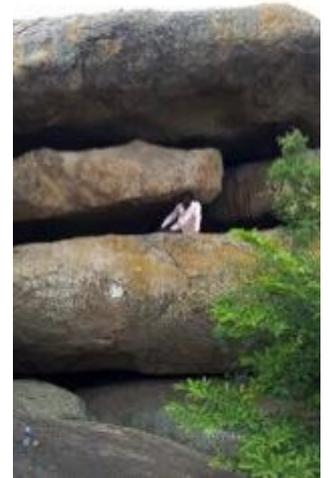


Some of Hyderabad's most stunning natural features are the granite rocks that dot the landscape some of which date back to over 2.5 billion years old! With the solidification of the earth's crust, the top layers eroded, exposing them to the natural forces of wind and rain over millions of years shaping them into their present bizarre forms. These rocks have been used as the foundation stones of important monuments like Golkonda Fort and several popular religious shrines are also situated among these rocks. Due to the efforts of organisations like Save the Rocks Society that aims to preserve and protect

these spectacular ancient granite formations, some of these rock formations have been given a Heritage status; a first in the country.

In association with Save the Rocks, we present a unique experience to get close to some of these rocks. During this conference, we are organising a Rock Walk to Fakhruddin Gutta that is an extensive outcrop of sheetrock. The climb is a beginners' one and can be done by most people with basic fitness levels. We will walk up to the top for a quick visit to the 650-year old tomb of Hazrat Baba Fakhruddin Aulia that marks the highest point. Baba Fakhruddin was a Sufi mentor to the founder of one of the important 14th century dynasties of the Deccan region. On the other side of the rock is a small Hindu shrine that is now being converted into a concrete temple. We will also explore the natural cave formations and make our way through narrow spaces between the rocks. The rocks stand majestically against the changing landscape and look silently upon the large-scale modern development on one side and lush green paddy fields on the other side highlighting the changing face of this city.

If you're a lover of nature and want to get experience a pre-historic landscape that has been around for more than a billion years, this walk is a must for you. You will also be contributing to the Save the Rocks Society since part of the profits on this tour go to the society.



Note: You will be required to wear clothes that cover your arms and legs, walking shoes. Due to safety reasons, guests wearing inappropriate clothing / footwear will not be allowed on the tour. The tour may get cancelled if there is an immediate threat of rain.

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