

## Eat & Drink

**SodaBottleOpenerWala** is a quaint, fun place with scrumptious Parsi cuisine that makes for a perfect weekend visit. You must have the Raspberry Soda, Eggs Kejriwal and Mutton Dhansak.

Sprawling over varying levels, its rough white walls and flowered alleyways are reminiscent of a sun-washed Greek island. Head to **Olive Bistro** for hearty Mediterranean fare paired with their signature cocktails.

**Urban Asian - Kitchen & Bar** is the perfect place for light and flavourful pan Asian food. On weekends, they even have live music!

**Flying Spaghetti Monster** has the best Italian food in town!

Great burgers and drinks; and a gig almost every night. **Hard Rock Cafe** never fails to deliver a good time.

**Coco's Bar & Grill** is a lovely roof top bar that gives you a view of Hyderabad's skyline. Grab a couple of drinks and take in the bohemian vibe of the place.

Cold beer, yummy cocktails and all American fare make **TGI Fridays** the perfect place to unwind and chill at with friends.

**Ministry of Beer** is a haven for beer lovers. They have an array of refreshing Belgian beers and yummy finger food to go along.

## Legendary!

Paradise Biryani for their delicious Hyderabad Mutton Biryani; Famous Ice Creams for hand churned ice cream made from fruits; Pista House for its decadent haleem & Karachi Bakery for locally made biscuits.

## Must See

### Charminar & Mecca Masjid

Designed as the centre piece of the Old City, the Charminar is an iconic monument with many theories behind its architectural appearance. The Mecca Masjid, one of the oldest mosques in the city, is a truly breathtaking monument. It is a listed heritage building that holds religious services even today.

📍 Old City  
🕒 9 am - 5.30 pm  
☎ +91 40 6674 5986



**Hussain Sagar Lake** was built in 1562, with a monolithic statue of the Buddha standing in the middle. With a maximum depth of 32 feet, Hussain Sagar offers beautiful vistas during sunrise and sunset, and is adjacent to many tourist attractions and restaurants.

📍 Necklace Road  
🕒 8 am - 10 pm  
💡 Entry fee ₹ 30

**Falaknuma Palace** is one of the finest palaces in Hyderabad. Owned by the erstwhile Nizam, its name means 'mirror of the sky' in Urdu. The palace is made entirely of Italian marble, in a rare blend of Italian and Tudor styles, with wonderful stained glass windows.

📍 Engine Bowli  
🕒 9 am - 6.30 pm  
☎ +91 40 6629 8585

**Nizam's Museum** allows you a glimpse into Hyderabad's history and lineage. It is a palace dedicated to showcasing relics and mementos from the jubilee celebrations of the last Nizam of Hyderabad.

📍 Purani Haveli  
🕒 10 am - 5 pm; Fri closed  
☎ +91 40 2452 1029  
💡 Entry fee ₹ 65 for adults & ₹ 15 for children

**Shilparamam** is an arts and crafts village that propagates the preservation of traditional Indian techniques. With a lush and serene ambience of gardens, waterfalls and rock heights, Shilparamam offers woodwork, jewellery, clothing and local handicrafts.

📍 Madhapur  
🕒 10.30 am - 8.30 pm  
☎ +91 40 64518164  
💡 Entry fee ₹ 40 for adults & ₹ 20 for children

**Chilkur Balaji Temple** is also known as the Visa Balaji Temple! Legend has it that anyone who visits here before applying for a US visa gets one immediately. The temple is also unique as it doesn't accept any money or donations from devotees.

📍 Chandanagar, Chilkur  
🕒 5 am - 8 pm  
☎ +91 8417 235933

**Chowmohalla Palace** was the official residence of the Nizams while they were ruling. Believed to be modeled on the Shah of Iran's palace, it is built in neo-classical style and comprises four palaces.

📍 Motigalli, Khilwat  
🕒 10 am - 5 pm, Fri Closed  
☎ +91 40 2452 2032  
💡 Entry fee ₹ 40 for foreigners, ₹ 150 for international visitors, extra charges for cameras



**Salar Jung Museum** is one of India's three national museums. It houses the biggest one-man collection of antiques in the world and is a repository of artistic achievements from across the globe.

📍 Darul Shifa Road, Afzalgunj  
🕒 10 am - 5 pm; Fri closed  
☎ +91 40 2457 6443  
💡 There's a ₹ 50 charge for carrying the camera inside

**Ramoji Film City** is the world's largest integrated film city and studio complex that's produced a few blockbusters. With a recreational center and amusement park as well as film sets, gardens and palace replicas, it is a place that will provide you with a day full of filmy entertainment!

📍 Anasapur Village,  
🕒 9 am - 5.30 pm  
☎ 1800 4250 9999  
💡 Guided tours start from ₹ 900 for adults and ₹ 800 for children

**The Golconda Fort** is one of the oldest structures in Hyderabad, dating back to 1143. Meaning Shepherd's Hill in Telugu, the area around the fort was a battleground and later, the seat of the ruling dynasty's power. It is both an impregnable structure and an acoustic marvel. Head here for an impressive sound and light show, and a glimpse into the history of the Fort.

📍 Ibrahim Bagh  
🕒 9.30 am - 5 pm  
☎ +91 40 23512401  
💡 Entry fee ₹ 5 for Indians, ₹ 100 for foreigners, ₹ 130 for sound and light show



## Weekend trips from Hyderabad

Take day or weekend trips to these places to see the sights in and around Hyderabad.

### Hampi

A UNESCO heritage site, Hampi has many beautiful ruins, the magnificent Vittala musical temple complex and more, for a weekend break that involves cycling and rock climbing.

📍 370 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 7 hours away  
📍 Temples, Rivers

### Srisailem

A journey to Srisailem should begin with blessings at the Jyotirlinga temple, an important temple dedicated to Shiva. Visit the verdant Nallamala Hills and marvel at the Patala Ganga River. The Akkamahadevi Caves will enchant you with their age and natural formation.

📍 213 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 5 hours away  
📍 Pilgrimage

### Warangal

Let history take over your weekend at Warangal. With an ancient fortress and several temples including the renowned Bhadrakali temple and the Thousand Pillar temple, Warangal is where you can see ruins and relics from the time of the Kakatiya dynasty.

📍 324 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 6 hours away  
📍 Temples, Gardens, Forts

### Bidar

Visit Bidar, the hometown of the iconic Bidri metalwork. You can also see the biggest fort in India, palaces, tombs and temples and a recently discovered 3 km long network of underground aqueducts.

📍 150 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 4 hours away  
📍 Forts, Monuments



## Dos & Don'ts

- Take off your shoes while entering a place of worship.
- Saying namaste or shaking hands is the most formal way of greeting - people may get embarrassed if you try kissing them on their cheek as a way of greeting.
- Take prepaid cabs or ensure that the meter is working in auto rickshaws while travelling.
- Hyderabad is a city for street shopping - while buying stuff off the road, make sure you bargain well.

- Avoid wearing shorts, short skirts or sleeveless tops when visiting religious places or places of worship.
- By giving money to beggars you may unwittingly be promoting crime in the city.
- As in most major metros in the world, do not leave your bags unattended.
- Be careful about the food you eat! Avoid really spicy food and do not eat everything off street carts - while everything might be yummy, your tummy might not agree.

## Getting around

Hyderabad has many commuting and travelling options. Auto rickshaws, buses and metro trains connect most of the city, as do air-conditioned taxis from hotels. The taxis are also recommended for visitors as chauffeurs can point out the various city sights. Reach out to your hotel travel desk or concierge and they'll help you out.



## Big cities around Hyderabad

### Bangalore

The IT City of Bangalore makes for a perfect weekend getaway if you want to enjoy beautiful weather and sip on some great locally brewed craft beers. There are numerous parks and temples to visit as well.

📍 575 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 9 hours away  
📍 Temples, Parks, Beer

### Chennai

Formerly Madras, Chennai is the heart of South Indian literature, theatre, music, dance, art and commerce. Steep yourself in fantastic cuisine and excellent filter coffee.

📍 633 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 12 hours away  
📍 Beaches, Temples

### Visakhapatnam

A gorgeous port city, Also known as Vizag, this gorgeous port city has pristine beaches, rolling hills, great seafood, as well as a maritime museum inside a submarine on the beach!

📍 590 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 9 hours away  
📍 Beaches, Caves

### Vijaywada

Let life slow down at Vijaywada, where ancient temples and Buddhist sites let you indulge your spiritual side - and parks and forest reserves let you recharge and nourish your senses.

📍 272 km from Hyderabad  
🕒 4 hours away  
📍 Gardens, Caves, Forts, Temples

## Local Lingo

A mix of Urdu, Hindi and Telugu, Hyderabad has many colourful phrases. Here are some common words in Deccani.

*Hau - yes Kayku - why? Nakko - no thanks  
Potti - girl Potta - boy Kya Miyan - What's up?  
Hallu Hallu - Slowly Kitna? - How much?  
Bahut Mehenga - Too expensive!  
Mujhe Nahin Chahiye - I don't want it  
Mein yeh loonga - I'll take this  
Aur ek hai kya? - Have you got another one?  
Kya yeh teekha hai? - Is it spicy?*