

A Travel Guide to India

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Welcome to India!

This travel guide has been designed for you to help prepare for your upcoming trip to Hyderabad. We have included introductory information to provide an orientation to the city along with general travel information to help you plan your trip. We also offer a few ideas for enjoying your free time while you are in India.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the content of this guide or the planning of your upcoming trip. We want to make your travel and stay with us as pleasant as possible. We look forward to seeing you in India!



Introduction to India

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Introduction to India

India, the world's largest democracy, has a very diverse population, geography and climate. India is the world's second most populous country, and the world's seventh largest country in area.

India's earliest known civilization (2500-1700 BC) is the Indus Valley, identified by its interesting culture as well as its artifacts. The origins of Hinduism and the caste system are attributed to the Vedic culture (about 1500 BC). The history of India was strongly influenced by the migration, invasion and expansion of other nations, including the Mongols (under the direction of Genghis Khan), the Greeks (under Alexander the Great), the Mughals and the British. Significant progress and development has occurred since India's independence from Britain was granted in 1947, at which time India adopted a parliamentary system of government with a union of states proclaiming itself to be a Sovereign Democratic Republic.

Present-day India is one of the top five industrialized nations in the world with the third largest reservoir of scientific and technological manpower. It produces every conceivable industrial item and consumer



good, and has achieved significant success in frontier scientific research, including peaceful application of nuclear energy, space and satellite research, communication technology and biotechnology. Pioneering scientists such as Homi Bhaba, J. C. Bose, Satyen Bose, and Nobel laureates C. V. Raman, Hargovind Khorana and S. Chandrasekhar have won laurels for India both at home and abroad.

India forms a natural sub-continent with the Himalayas to the north. The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, which are sections of the Indian Ocean, lie to the west and east, respectively. India's neighbors are China (Tibet), Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Pakistan to the northwest and Burma to the northeast. To the east, almost surrounded by India, is Bangladesh. Near India's southern tip, across the Palk Strait, is Sri Lanka. India covers an area of 3,287,623 square kilometers (1,269,219 square miles).

There are 28 states (29 if the capital region of Delhi is included): Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

Each state has constitutionally defined powers of government and varies greatly in size, population and development. State governors are appointed by the president for five years; a legislature is elected for five years; and a council of ministers headed by a chief minister. Each state has its own legislative, executive and judicial machinery, corresponding to that of the Indian Union. In the event of the failure of constitutional government in a state, the Union can impose President's Rule. There also are six Union Territories: Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli; Daman and Diu; Delhi; Lakshadweep; and Pondicherry. The six territories and the National Capital Territory of Delhi are administered by lieutenant governors or administrators, all of whom are appointed by the president. Delhi and Pondicherry also have elected chief ministers and state assemblies.

India Fast Facts

Population: 1.17 billion people

Area: 3.29 million square kilometers (1.27 million square miles); about one-third the size of the United States

Terrain: Varies from the Himalayas to flat river valleys and deserts in the west

Climate: Alpine to temperate to subtropical monsoon

- Winter – December to February
- Summer – March to May
- Monsoon – June to November

Currency: Indian Rupees

Electricity: The electricity voltage is 220-240 volts

Unit of Measure: The Metric System is used



About Hyderabad

Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh and also its most populous city. Located in the southern part of India, the city was founded in 1590, during the reign of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. A host of influences have shaped the character of this city over the last 400 years.

Well-known for its strong cultural identity and religious diversity, the city is remarkable for its well-preserved monuments and many examples of fine arts. Hyderabad has a distinctive culture and cuisine which is an interesting amalgam of Hindu and Muslim traditions. The indigenous cuisine draws its parentage from multiple culinary traditions—Mughal, South Indian and Persian.

Popularly known as the "City of Pearls", Hyderabad is one of the leading markets in the world for diamonds, pearls and traditional handlooms.

Hyderabad is also a major sporting destination and has hosted a number of national and international games. It is also the home of the Deccan Chargers, an Indian Premier League team.

Preserving its history and tradition, the city has gradually metamorphosed into a hub for the technology and services industry.

Many information technology companies, software consulting firms and business process outsourcing (BPO) companies have established offices in this city since the 1990s. The multitude of career opportunities draws job seekers from across the country to Hyderabad.

The city is regarded as a blend of traditionalism with modernity. With a melting pot of religions, cultures and traditions, there is a lot for you to discover in Hyderabad!

Some facts about Hyderabad

Area: 217 Km²

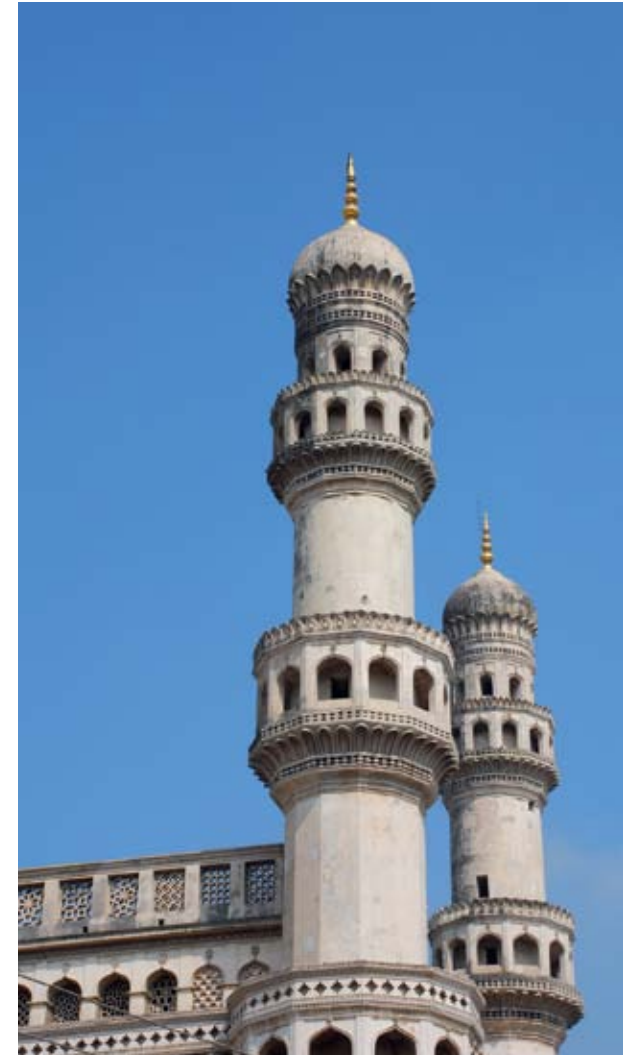
Altitude: 536 meters

Climate: Tropical Wet and Dry

Summer: Max 40°C and Min 22°C

Winter: Max 22°C and Min 13.8°C

Population: Over 6 million (6th largest city in India)



Time Zones

The following lists the difference between India and a few other major locations*:

- Amsterdam, The Netherlands - 4.5 hours behind India
- Paris, France - 4.5 hours behind India
- San Francisco, US - 13.5 hours behind India
- New York, US - 10.5 hours behind India
- London, UK - 5.5 hours behind India
- Sydney, Australia - 5.5 hours ahead of India

* Note that time differences vary based on time of year.

Accenture Global Delivery Network

Accenture Delivery Center – Hyderabad

HDC 1A/1B

Accenture Services Pvt Ltd

Building 1B, Raheja Mindspace

Madhapur

Hyderabad - 500 081

Tel: +91 40 66926000

Fax: +91 40 66926001

Comprising of more than 50 Delivery Center locations in more than 40 cities, the Accenture Global Delivery Network (GDN) is one of the largest and most diversified networks in the world. The network represents an unmatched array of services in systems integration, technology consulting, application outsourcing, infrastructure outsourcing and business process outsourcing. The GDN provides the flexibility and scale along with 24/7 multilingual support to meet our clients' needs globally. With a combined workforce of more than 35,000 talented professionals, the Accenture Delivery Centers in India, located in Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Chennai provide a wide range of services in systems integration, technology consulting and outsourcing. The India Delivery Centers are a strategic cornerstone of the Accenture Global Delivery Network.

In India, Accenture operates with a degree of stability and financial strength that is more than reassuring to our technology and outsourcing clients. This strength translates into tangible benefits: the ability to attract and retain the most talented technology and business process professionals in the Indian marketplace; robust systems integration, technology and outsourcing solutions; and a highly developed technology infrastructure with direct connections to our global network. Accenture is one of very few companies to have achieved the prestigious People Capability Maturity Model (People CMM®) Level 5 certification, the highest possible rating for personnel proficiency. Recently Accenture was recognized as a Hewitt Best Employer in India for 2009.

General Travel Information

Required Documents for Entry and Exit

EU citizens require a valid passport and valid Indian visa to enter and exit India for any purpose. Visitors must obtain visas at an Indian Embassy or Consulate abroad prior to entering the country, as there are no provisions for visas upon arrival. Those arriving without a valid passport and valid visa are subject to immediate deportation. Each visitor should carry photocopies of the passport and the page containing the Indian visa in order to facilitate obtaining an exit visa from the Indian government in the event of theft or loss of the passport. Replacing a lost visa in order to exit the country takes up to three business days.

EU citizens wishing to visit India are responsible for requesting the correct type of visa from the Indian Embassy or Consulate, as there generally are no provisions for changing one's immigration category (e.g., from tourist to work visa) once admitted. Tourists are generally given 6 months of legal stay upon entering India; the Government of India rarely grants extensions within the country but it is considered acceptable to depart India to a nearby country and then return.

Embassy Location

Royal Netherlands Embassy

6/50 F, Shantipath

Chanakyapuri

New Delhi - 110021

Tel: +91 11 24197600

Fax: +91 11 24197710

Web: www.hollandinindia.org

Source: http://india.gov.in/overseas/foreign_emb_india.php

American Express Cardholders

If you are an American Express Cardholder, American Express provides access to their Global Assist Hotline for 24/7 assistance with any medical, legal, financial or other emergency assistance while traveling more than 100 miles from home. When calling you can be directed to English-speaking medical and legal professionals, provided emergency cash access, helped with lost luggage and passports, and more. You have the option of visiting more than 2,200 American Express Travel Services locations worldwide, or calling +1 800 333 2639 (from the United States) or from international locations calling +1 715 343 7977 collect.



General Safety Tips

India is a beautiful country that will leave you mesmerized and mystified. To make your trip even more memorable and hassle free, we bring you basic guidelines for safety in India. Like any other country, there are certain precautions for traveling in India to keep in mind to fully enjoy your visit:

- Stay in a recognized hotel. India has a number of 5 star and 4 star hotels to suit your taste and budget.
- Stick to your original plans. Do not listen to advice given by strangers about better hotels and accommodations. Head straight to the hotel you booked.
- Never discuss your travel plans with strangers. Also, do not disclose how much money you are carrying or talk about it in public.
- Don't hand over your luggage to any unknown person except the hotel staff. If you do, chances are you may never see your baggage again!
- Do not let strangers or suspicious people in your room. Call the hotel reception in case of any doubts.
- All valuable items (money, checks, passports, jewelry, etc.) should be kept safely in the hotel locker or in a secure suitcase. Never leave your valuables lying around in the room unattended. Also, avoid carrying huge sums of money in public.
- Always keep your wallet/money in the side pocket of your trousers or inside a jacket pocket. It is best to buy a money pouch that can be strapped onto your body and worn underneath your clothing. Avoid keeping your wallet in a back pocket.
- Avoid traveling alone at night. Do not travel on roads and narrow lanes that are poorly lit. If you are meeting someone, choose a public place in the city.
- Make copies of important documents like passports, visas and identity proof to be kept with you in case any of those get lost. Also, keep a copy at home or with a trusted friend who can fax it if necessary.
- If visiting a place of worship, make sure you remove your footwear. Some places might also require you to cover your head.
- Most Indians are warm people and ready to help whenever necessary. But still, exercise caution and stay away from overly friendly strangers. Trust your instinct if you feel something is not right while traveling.
- Get to know the basic rules, customs and laws of India before your visit.

Vaccinations and Health Considerations

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect-bite protection, may be obtained from your local center of Disease control.

For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) website at <http://www.who.int/en>.

These sites provide information on disease outbreaks that may arise from time to time, so travelers should check the sites above or consult a physician before traveling to India.

To make sure you stay healthy:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Drink only bottled/mineral or boiled water, not water from taps. When buying bottled water, check to make sure the seal is intact.
- Avoid ice.
- Use bottled water to brush teeth.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables.
- Keep a small first aid kit with you containing essential medications along with band-aids, anti-septic ointment and mosquito repellants. Protect yourself from mosquito bites.

- Don't eat food purchased from street vendors, including cut fruits or salads.
- During the summer months, take extra protection as the sun is very strong and it can get mercilessly hot. Carry hats, sunglasses and most importantly sunscreen lotions. Keep drinking water to prevent dehydration.

Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith/en/>.



Availability of Goods

You can buy most types of toiletries in India such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, tooth brushes, disposable razors, shave creams, contact lens solutions and cotton swabs. In addition to a large range of international brands, you'll have a chance to try Ayurvedic shampoo preparations, soaps made with sandalwood oil, toothpaste with neem and other exotic toiletries you won't see at home. Most over the counter medicines and prescription drugs are available. Contact lenses, eyeglasses and good quality dental work are available in India at a fraction of the cost in Western countries.

Within India you can easily find watches, clocks, flashlights, leather goods and batteries, including common watch and camera types, though less common camera battery types may be difficult. Film and film processing are readily available. There are bags, wallets and garments of all types: jeans, T-shirts, dresses and suits, as well as traditional Indian fashions. There are a large variety of shoes made in India with a range of styles and quality. However, large sizes are hard to find. American men's size 10-11 is the common upper limit.

Foreign Currency

The currency used in India is the Indian Rupee. The Indian Rupee is divided into 100 paise. Large amounts of rupees are expressed in lakh rupees or crore rupees. A lakh rupee is one hundred thousand rupees and a crore rupee is ten million rupees.

The current exchange rate is
€ 1.00 = approximately 62,27 rupees.

It is advised to change your currency once you have entered India as you will be able to get a higher rate. There are a number of currency exchange kiosks in each airport regardless of the time of day. Credit cards are widely accepted at all major establishments for all types of transactions. Cash is usually used for small personal items and for tipping.

Telephone Use

Not all mobile phones work in India. It is highly dependent on the service provided by your carrier and the type of phone you carry. Check with your carrier ahead of time to best understand your options for phone usage while you are in India.

Calls can be made from the hotel using a corporate calling card or regular long distance service. International calling cards are not available for purchase in India. If needed, pay-as-you-go sim cards can be purchased for use with your existing mobile phone.



Eating Out

Indian food has a wide range of varied cuisines. In fact, there are so many types of food in India that it becomes difficult to choose from the diverse range of traditional food. Just like the amalgamation of cultures, there is an amalgamation of food styles. Read on for further details on traditional regional cuisine.

North Indian Food

The staple food crop of the northern region of India is wheat. A typical traditional north Indian balanced diet would consist of Roti (baked wheat pancakes) or Parathas (wheat pancake stuffed with mashed vegetables) served with dal, which is a watery preparation of pulses. North India also uses milk and other dairy products in their daily diet. Yogurt, milk, ghee (clarified butter), butter and paneer (cottage cheese) are widely used in most dishes along with spices. The non-vegetarian variety is highly inspired from the Mughlai cuisine and is absolutely delicious. Oil is generously used, as many people prefer deep fried curries and other preparations.

South Indian Food

The southern food is ruled by rice and preparations made from rice. It is light and easily digested. A main ingredient used in

most dishes is grated coconut or coconut oil, which adds to the essence of the food and creates an aroma which is enough to send you scurrying to the nearest food joint. A typical south Indian meal would consist of rice served with piping hot sambhar (vegetable gravy with pulses), rasam (soup like preparation), curd and pickles along with at least two different varieties of vegetables prepared in two different styles. A light crisp item called "pappadam" for occasional crunching in between is also served. South Indian food is less greasy and oily as compared to north Indian cuisine as most items are steamed or shallow fried. Other very popular south Indian preparations are dosa (fermented rice pancakes), idli (steamed rice cakes) and Vada (fried doughnut-like items that are not sweet), to mention a few. South Indians are known to use generous amounts of homemade spices that make the food really tasty. Most non-vegetarian dishes have fish and other forms of seafood as the main ingredient.

East Indian Food

Most east Indians have an innate bond with anything sweet. The eastern region of India is famous for some of the most popular sweets. They offer a large variety of sweets that are an absolute delight for anyone with a sweet tooth. Rice dominates the main meals and the oil used in cooking is usually mustard oil.

Some very popular dishes are momos, jhaal muri, macherjhol (fish curry), thukpa (soup preparation) and anything related to fish. The desserts are a must-have if you visit the eastern regions of India.



West Indian Food

The western region of India has a wide range of dishes to offer. The Rajasthani cuisine has fewer vegetables because of the desert-like conditions but they have a wide variety of spicy chutneys and pickles. The people in Gujarat add a pinch of sugar to almost every dish. The typical Gujarati "thali" consists of at least 10 different varieties of vegetables alone! The people of Maharashtra prepare a dish called "puran poli" that is famous throughout the country. Most of the items are steamed and roasted, making them easily digestible.

Tipping Guidelines

Tipping in India is a common practice. There are basically two types of tips. In the first case, the tip is paid after the work is completed. In the second case, tip is given beforehand to ensure a good service. In hotels, porters and room service attendants are generally tipped at the end of the stay. However, the amount of tip varies depending on the type of services rendered and the type of establishment.

In restaurants, the tip to waiters is around 10-15 percent of the bill. In the restaurants of famous and prestigious hotels, generally a 10 percent service surcharge is added to the bill. Tipping at such a place is discretionary. In smaller places, the tip is not a percentage of the bill. Rather, a few rupees are given as a tip, depending on the quality of service.

Tipping a taxi or three-wheeler driver is less common and up to your discretion. However, if you want to give a tip, 10 percent of the fare or leaving the change is sufficient. If you are hiring a car throughout your stay, then tip the driver Rs. 50-100 per day, depending on the distance traveled. At railway stations, pay the porters around Rs. 5-10 per bag. But, make sure to set the rate beforehand. If you stay at somebody's house, ask your host before giving tips to his/her domestic help.

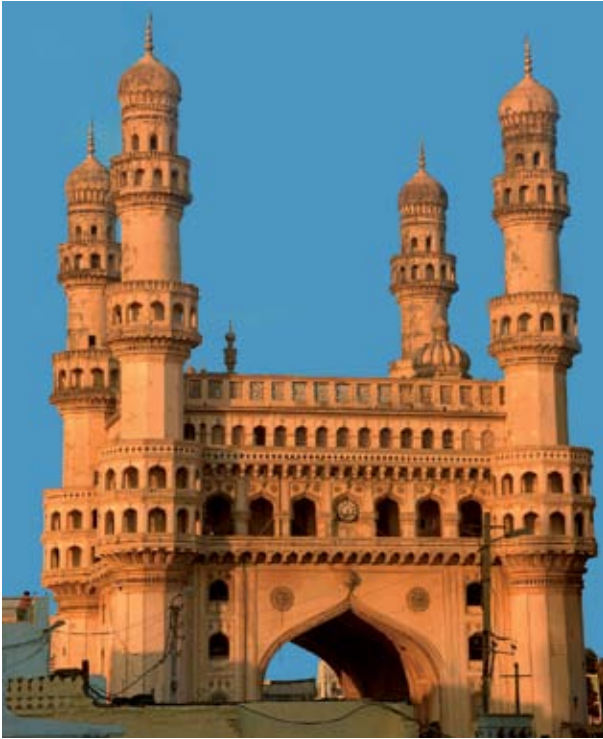




Local Sightseeing and Attractions

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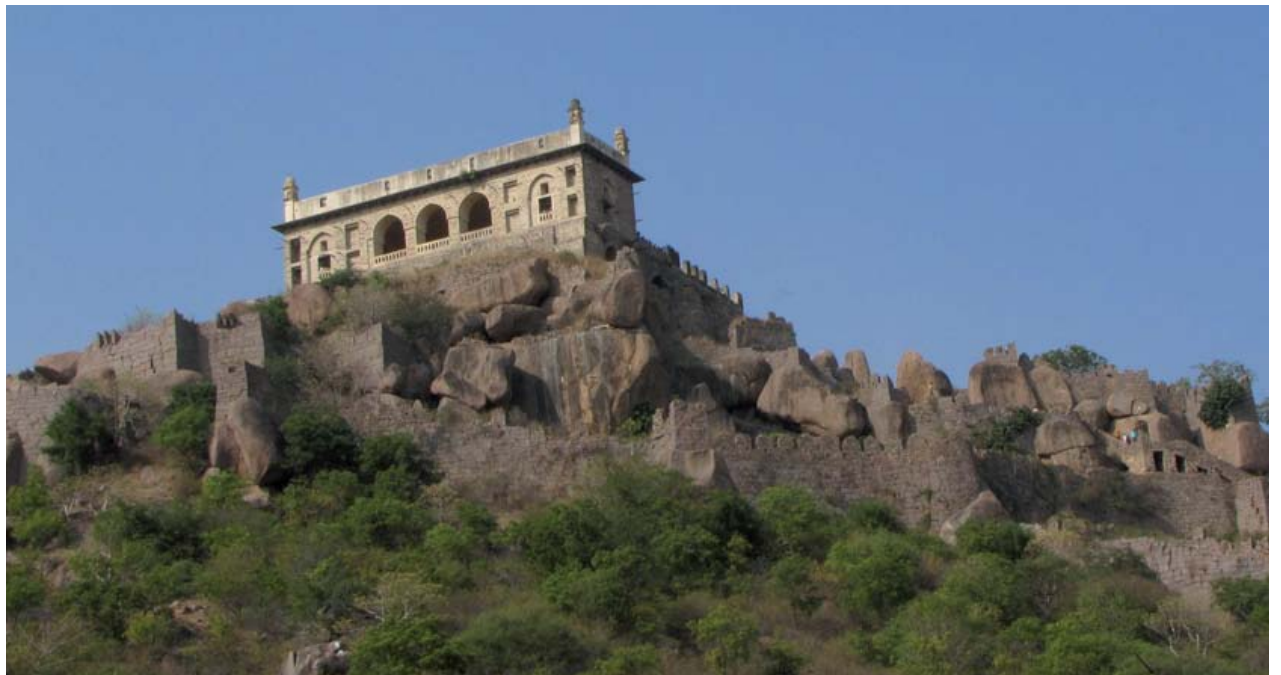
Charminar



The elegant structure of the Charminar, a famous landmark of the city, is a unique architecture comprising of granite and lime-mortar. This wonderful monument, with its four arches leading to roads in all four directions of the Charminar, is so proportionately planned that when the fort is opened one could catch a glimpse of the bustling Hyderabad city. At each corner stands a tall graceful minaret, which measures more than 55 meters. The monument has the signature style of Islamic architecture.

Golconda Fort

The Golconda fort is another monument that oozes volumes of splendor and grandeur. The sheer size of the fort walls will appall you and you will remain mesmerized by its opulence. This fort is a majestic monument, which lies on the western outskirts of the city. It is one of the most magnificent fortress complexes in India. Seated on a hill on one side and spiraling fort on the other, its location and internal design made it one of the strongest forts in the world. The amazing light and sound show with the narration of the hair-raising story of the Golconda Fort is sure to leave you awe-struck.



Salar Jung museum

The Salar Jung museum is one of the oldest museums in the city and houses the largest one-man collection of antiques in the world. It has the largest collection of over 40,000 artifacts dating back to a few centuries and greatest collection of rare antiques and knick-knacks from all over the world.

Hussain Sagar Lake

Excavated in 1562 by Hussain Shah Wali, this man-made lake is situated in the heart of the city and has a promenade that is a busy thoroughfare today. One of the world's tallest monolithic statues of the Buddha stands on the 'Rock of Gibraltar', in the middle of the lake. In addition to the 33 statues of different celebrities which can be seen near the Hussain Sagar Lake, the towering Buddha statue put up in the glistening water is a breathtaking sight. Boating and water sports are also making it an exciting tourist spot.

Necklace Road

Necklace Road is a popular boulevard, adjoining the Hussain Sagar Lake and providing a scenic atmosphere with lush lawns and long rows of flower beds. This has become the-place-to-be for the Hyderabadis in the evenings. It is a recreational spot which is busy throughout the year with exhibitions, music shows, sports and games. Eat Street and the Waterfront Café, two renowned restaurants, are an absolute delight to all taste buds. Both offer a magnificent view of the lake along with the city.



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