



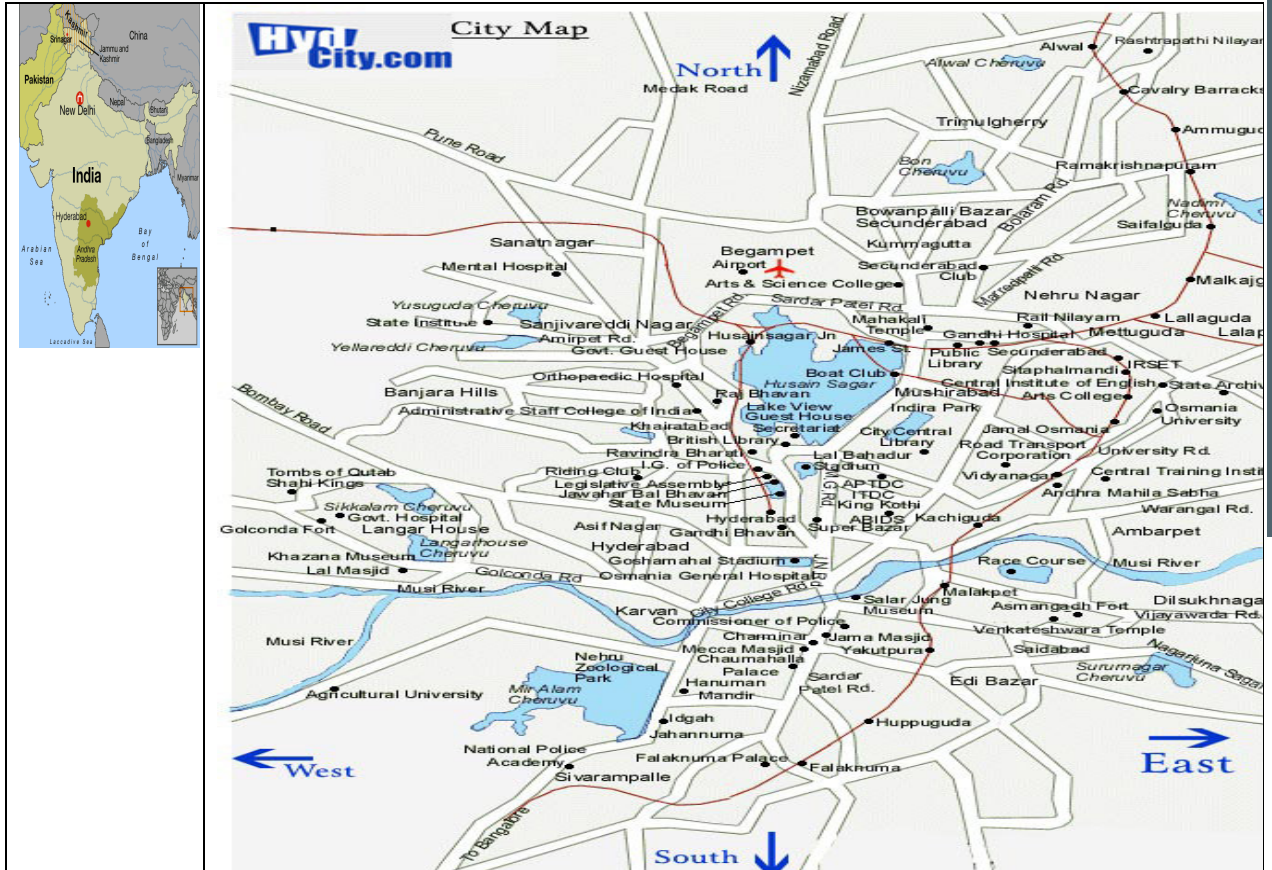
GENERAL INFORMATION

Destination- HYDERABAD(CYBERABAD)

Hyderabad is the capital city of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Greater Hyderabad has an estimated metropolitan population of 6.7 million, making it an A-1 status city and the second largest (in terms of area) in the country. It is also the Sixth largest metropolitan area in India. Hyderabad is known for its rich history, culture and architecture representing its unique character as a meeting point for North and South India, and its multilingual culture, both geographically and culturally.

Also known as *The City of Nizams* and *The City of Pearls*, Hyderabad is today one of the most developed cities in the country and a modern hub of information technology, ITES, and biotechnology.

Map of Hyderabad :



Geography and Climate:

Situated on the Deccan Plateau, Hyderabad has an average elevation of about 500 metres above sea level (1640 feet). Most of the area has a rocky terrain. There is a lot of cultivation in the surrounding areas with paddy fields and other crops which are grown.

The original city of Hyderabad was founded on the banks of river Musi. Now known as the historic "Old City", home to the Charminar and Mecca Masjid, it lies on the southern bank of the river. The city center saw a shift to the north of the river, with the construction of many government buildings and landmarks there, especially south of the Husain Sagar lake. The rapid growth of the city, along with the growth of Secunderabad and neighboring municipalities has resulted in a large and populous metropolitan area. Hyderabad has a tropical wet and dry climate, with hot summers from March to June, the wet monsoon season from July to October and warm dry winters from November to February. Annual precipitation is around 79 cm.

Information Technology industry:



Hyderabad city is today known for its IT and IT Enabled Services, Pharmaceuticals and Entertainment industries. Many Software firms, call centres, Business process outsourcing (BPO) firms, dealing with IT and other technological services were set up in the 1990s making it one of the major regions for call centre setups, technology development and KPO hubs in India. The development of a township with state-of-the-art facilities called HITEC City prompted several IT and ITES companies to set up operations in the city. An aggressive promotion of growth in this area has led civic boosters to call the city "Cyberabad". Hyderabad has also been referred to as the second Silicon Valley of India next to Bangalore.^[12] There have been extensive investments in digital infrastructure within the city promoting the setting up of several campuses by a vast array of companies within the city. This list includes several multinational corporations having established their development centres in the city. The major areas where such campuses have been set up are Madhapur and Gachibowli.

Hyderabad is home to some of the best Fortune 500 Corporations. Microsoft development centre (largest outside US), Computer Associates, Amazon Development center, GE, IBM, Samsung, Deloitte, Oracle Corporation, Yahoo, Dell, Franklin Templeton, Qualcomm, Agilent, ADP, Bank of America, CSC, Verizon, Convergys are some of the Fortune 500 companies that have significant presence in Hyderabad. Honeywell plans to open up a new R&D centre at Nanakramguda, outskirts of the city.

Indian IT giants such as Satyam, Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Polaris, Infotech, Apollo Health Street, Zavata Inc. and Mayur's group of industries also have set up their development centers in the city.

Air Transport :



Rajiv Gandhi International Airport located at Shamshabad

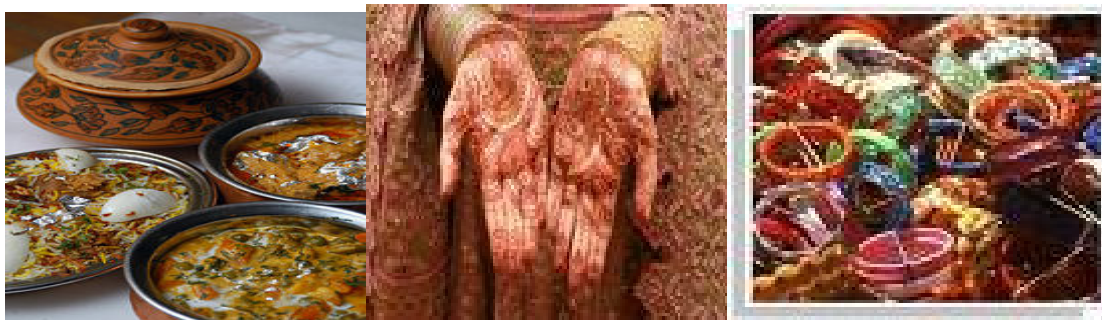
There has been an unprecedented increase in the number of passengers leading to increased air traffic. The Begumpet airport has been unable to cope up with the situation and has been shut down on 22-Mar-2008. A new international airport has been opened with state-of-the-art facilities at Shamshabad. The airport has been named the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport and was inaugurated by the president of the Congress Party, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. It started commercial operations on the 23rd March, 2008. The airport has the longest runway in the country and caters to the high passenger and cargo transits. One of the longest express flyovers in the country is being constructed from Mehdiapatnam to provide dedicated high speed travel to the airport. The idea of extending the MMTS even to Shamshabad is also being planned. There are three wide roads leading to the new airport from the city and modern taxis can shuttle passengers between the city and the airport.

Connectivity:

The city is well connected by Domestic and International flights and express trains. The major airlines included Gulf Air, KLM, Thai airways. Air India, Srilankan Airlines, Qatar Airways Emirates, Lufthansa, Saudi Arabian, Malaysian Airlines, Kuwait Airways, Qatar, Singapore Airlines an Airlines and all major Domestic Airlines. The express trains connect all major cities of India with Hyderabad.

Culture:

The city of pearl traders has morphed into a tech-savvy town where you can find a young crowd that is very cosmopolitan, and at the same time it still retains lot of the old world aura about it. Hyderabad has been the meeting place of many different cultures and traditions. Historically, Hyderabad has been the city where distinct cultural and linguistic traditions of North India and South India meet. It is thus considered as the gateway to the South or gateway to the North. Hyderabad is a cosmopolitan city and home to people practicing many religions. *Hyderabadis*, as residents of the city are known, have developed a distinctive culture which is a mixture of ancient Hindu traditions of Telugu people and Islamic Culture.



Hyderabadi Biryani, the famous dish brought to the city by the Nizams, attracts people from all over the world

It has a mixed set of people forming a base from all regions of India. While Muslims are concentrated more towards the old city (localities surrounding Charminar), other parts of the city especially to the north, people of mixed cultures and backgrounds like the Sikhs, Gujaratis, Coastal Andhra, Marathis, Bengalis, and others have made the city their home. Secunderabad has got a more contemporary look with a good concentration of Anglo-Indians.

Attractions:



- Charminar - the major landmark in Hyderabad with four graceful minarets.
- Falaknuma Palace - Built by an Italian architect through one of the Paigah nobles, Nawab Viqar al-Umra', complete in Italian marble. It's a beautiful and stunning piece of architecture with Louis XIV-style decor, a lavish Mughal ambience, Italian marble staircases and ornate fountains.
- Golconda Fort - located on the outskirts of the city, Golconda Fort is one of the most magnificent fortress complexes in India.
- Chowmahalla Palace- It was the seat of Asaf Jahi dynasty, where the Nizam entertained his official guests and royal visitors. Initiated in 1750 by Nizam Salabat Jung and designed along the lines of the Shah's palace in Isfahan, this actually consists of a group of palaces each used as a Durbar Hall.
- Salar Jung Museum - The museum houses the largest one-man collection of antiques in the world. Collections include "The Vieled Rebecca" and other huge collection of artifacts dating back to a few centuries. A mere day isn't enough to cover the whole museum.
- Taramati Baradari - Located near Golconda, built by a Qutb Shahi sultan, this place is a must visit.
- Mecca Masjid - a stone-built mosque, immediately southwest of Charminar. Remarkable for its architecture, size and its royal splendour. This is one of the most beautiful mosques in Hyderabad.
- Birla Mandir (Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh) - a Hindu temple made of white marble located on top of a hill overlooking the city.
- Purani Haveli - The official residence of the Nizam.
- King Kothi Palace - The last Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan lived here.
- Qutb Shahi Tombs - Home for various Tombs dedicated to Rulers of Qutb Shahi dynasty, located at Shaikpet, near Golconda Fort.
- Birla Planetarium - located in the heart of the city on the panoramic hillock of Nawbat Pahad, the Birla Planetarium is a tribute to the advances made in science and technology.
- Lumbini park - This is one of the popular parks in the city. The main attraction of this park was the Musical fountain. It is now replaced by the 1500 seater Laserium, the first of its kind in the state. Boat rides take you across the lake to give you a closer glimpse of the Buddha.
- Hussain Sagar - It is a man-made lake is also famous for the 18-metre tall Buddha statue on a platform island called "Rock of Gibraltar" in the middle of the lake, and for the Tank Bund which consists of beautiful gardens and statues of famous personalities. Boating and water sports are a regular feature here.
- Nehru Zoological Park - This zoo is among the largest in India, houses a large variety of animals, birds, nocturnal species, aquatic and amphibian species etc. Located close to this is the Mir Alam lake, which is proposed to be converted into an Aquarium along the lines of Sentosa, Singapore.
- Botanical gardens - These gardens are spread across a sprawling area of 120 acres, housing different varieties of herbs, plants, trees etc. These gardens provide a complete visual treat to the eyes with water bodies, meadows, and rich grasslands - nature at its best.
- Chilkur Balaji - Temple of Lord Sri Venkateshwara. Around 23 km from Mehdipatnam.

- Necklace road - This popular boulevard lies on the other side of the lake, linking the IMAX theatre and Sanjivaiah park. This has become the-place-to-be for the Hyderabadis in the evenings. This strip provides a scenic atmosphere with lush lawns and long rows of flower beds. Eat-Street,Water Front are popular restaurants located on this strip. The latest addition to this strip is the Jal Vihar, a mini water world designed to soothe your senses.
- NTR gardens - This leisure spot is located beside the IMAX theatre. Situated on 36 acres of land adjoining the Hussain sagar, these gardens provide every kind of entertainment and recreation. It also houses a memorial of Late Shri N.T.Rama Rao, former Chief Minister, with an exemplary piece of architecture.
- Gandipet - A man-made lake, the largest in Hyderabad. The lake is a major drinking water source to the city. Abutting the lake are lush gardens that provide an ideal ambience for a holiday.
- Himayat Sagar - A lake close to Gandipet.
- Laad Bazaar - also called Chudi Bazaar is on the west of Charminar, and known for its exquisite bangles, jewelry and pearls..
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- Lotus Pond - A beautiful garden built around a pond situated in Jubilee Hills, said to have been designed by an Italian designer. This garden is currently maintained by the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad. It is also home to a few rare species of birds.
- Paigah Tombs
- Sanghi Temple - A temple dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara graces a promontory overlooking Sanghi Nagar.
- Ramoji Film City (RFC) is the world's largest integrated film studio cum theme park, at nearly 2,000 acres (8 km²). It is also one of Asia's most popular tourism and recreation centres. Recently, it has made its way to the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest film studio in the world. Opened in 1996, it is located about 25 km from Hyderabad on Vijayawada National Highway (NH-9).
- APIIC Tower at Manchirevula in the suburbs will be the tallest building in India upon completion with 100 floors.

Demographics:

The city's population in 2006 was estimated to be 5.7 million, while the population of the greater metropolitan area was estimated at over 8.3 million. Hinduism and Islam are the most widely practiced religions in the city. Christianity is also present in the city with famous churches located in the Abids area, and other churches present across the city. People from various parts of the country and state have made the city their home, such as the Sikh community, Gujaratis, Bengalis, coastal Andhraites etc. The main languages spoken are Telugu, Urdu,Tamil, Deccani, and Hindi. English is widely used in business, commerce and governance.

Electricity:

Voltage in Hyderabad and other parts of the country is 220 V. 50Hz. The 2/3 pin connecting plug is different from that used in some other countries e.g. USA, UK, JAPAN .etc .In India we have round pin plug and not flat pinned plug.

Mobile Phones:

GSM handsets, either triband or quadband with 900 & 1800 mega hertz frequency will function in Hyderabad/India. Local sim card and handset can be easily hired.

Currency:

The currency of India is Indian rupee. One rupee is divided into 100 paisa. Rupee currency notes come in the denomination of 1, 2, 5,10,20,50,100,500 and 1000.The present conversation rate is 1 USD = Rs 44 approx.

Currency Regulations:

You can bring in any amount of foreign currency, travellers cheque and take out as much as you brought in. However foreign currency in excess of USD 5000 or its equivalent in another currency, USD 10,000 in form of travelers cheque or a combination of currency and travelers cheque in excess of USD 10,000 should be declared upon arrival on the currency declaration form, to be attested by customs officer.

Tipping:

Generally expected at restaurants, around 10% of the bill.