Nawabs of Hyderabad - 13 Days

Day	Destination
2 Night	Hyderabad
2 Night	Hampi
2 Night	Badami
2 Night	Goa

Day 1: Day 01: Arrive Hyderabad

The capital of Telangana, Hyderabad is otherwise known as the ‘City of Pearls’ – a nickname earned from its days as a pearl and diamond trading centre. Today, it is still one of India’s retail hubs, famous for its traditional bazaars – some of which have been operating for centuries. Other points of interest include the imposing Golkonda Fort; the ancient Qutb Shahi Tomb complex – the stately final resting place of the seven kings from the Qutb Shahi dynasty; and the Charminar – a 16th century mosque and monument that is a trademark feature of the city skyline.

On arrival at Hyderabad airport you will be received by a **Trail Blazer Tours Representative** and he will transfer you to your hotel for check in. Standard check in time – 1400 Hrs.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Day 2: Day 02: Hyderabad

Post Breakfast, proceed for city tour of Hyderabad covering Charminar, Meccan Masjid, Salarjung Museum, Purani Haveli, Chowmahalla Palace.

Charminar

The epic signature of the city, Char Minar makes for a wonderful sight. Located in the heart of Hyderabad's old city, surrounded by Mecca Masjid, built using bricks from Mecca and Laad Bazaar – a boisterous shopping street, this landmark is laced in history. Built in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah, it was constructed to commemorate the founding of Hyderabad and also to ward of a deadly epidemic that was rampant then in the Golconda region. Graced by 4 minarets soaring almost 50ft in height, it has a mosque and 45 prayer spaces is amongst the famous places in Hyderabad.

Mecca Masjid

Listed among heritage monuments in Hyderabad, Mecca Masjid or Makka Masjid as referred by locals holds a distinct position of not just being the oldest mosques in the city, but is also one of India's biggest. This 400year old monument was constructed using the soil from Mecca. Hence the name. Adding more to the erstwhile era around the Charminar and old Hyderabad city, the mosque's imposing structure and splendid architecture are visible in its three-arched façade carved from single granite, minarets, and balconies. It is one of the most famous Hyderabad Tourist Places.

Salarjung Museum (Closed on Friday)

Located in the prime venue of old Hyderabad city, the Salar Jung Museum has illustrious neighbours like the Charminar, Mecca Masjid and State Central Library and you can see all of them in a small walk tour. One of the must see places to visit in Hyderabad with family, this is among India's premier museums with 38 galleries spread over three buildings. Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, who also lent his name to the museum, acquired a rich repository of artistic achievements of diverse European, Asian and Far Eastern countries of the world; a major chunk of the collection is on display. Check out artifacts mirroring the human evolution from 2nd century BC to early 20th century AD.

Chowmahalla Palace (Closed on Fridays)

Once regarded as the center of Hyderabad, the magnificent Chowmahalla Palace was the seat of the Asaf Jahi dynasty where the Nizams entertained their official guests and royal visitors. Built over 200 years ago, Chowmahalla Palace is renowned for its unique style and elegance. A synthesis of many architectural styles and influences, the Palace Complex has been meticulously restored.

Purani Haveli (Closed on Friday)

Purani Haveli Hyderabad: is located at the South east of Afzal Gunj Bridge near Dewan Devdi. It is a U shaped complex with a single storied central building in European style which was originally established as the residential quarters of Mir Momen, the Peshwa of Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah around 16th century. Purani Haveli one of the popular tourist spots in Hyderabad was later acquired by Asaf Jah II,

the second Nizam of Hyderabad in 18th century who renovated the palace and designated the same to his son Sikandar Jah, the third Nizam of Hyderabad. Later Shikandar Jah moved to the Khilaurat complex. From then on, the place has been popularly known as Purani Haveli, which literally means ‘Old Palace’. In 19th century, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad Nawab Mir Mahboob Ali Khan Siddiqi again made this place as his official residence. It was then the glory and grandeur of past was returned to Purani Haveli.

Purani Haveli is known for its captivating combination of 18th century European facades and traditional Indian courtyards. It presents a picture of how the city of Hyderabad was in 18th century.

Day 3: Day 03: Hyderabad

Post Breakfast, Excursion to Golconda Fort and Qutub Shahi Tombs.

Golkonda Fort

A medieval fort now overlooking the city, Golconda is one of the historical places to visit in Hyderabad. Originally built in mud on a 400ft hill, the fort ruins of today have seen the reign of several dynasties. Situated 11km away from the bustling urbanism of Hyderabad, it derives its name from a Telugu word meaning Shepherd’s Hill. Reminiscence of a well-planned Golconda city within the fortress limits is evident even now. The remains of multiple fortification layers, armories, magazines, mosques, granaries, reservoirs, audience chambers and royal dwellings complement the striking appearance of the fort. Famous for its acoustics, a unique signalling device that was incorporated in its construction, the structure is known for its palaces, ingenious water supply system and the famous Fateh Rahben, one of the cannons used in the last siege of Golconda by Aurangzeb. The Sound & Light show brings alive the grandeur of one of India’s famous forts.

Qutub Shahi Tomb (Closed on Fridays)

One of the historical places to visit in Hyderabad is the set of absolutely beautiful Qutub Shahi Tombs ensconced against the lovely backdrop of the picturesque Ibrahim Bagh. These represent the final resting ground of rulers of the founding dynasty of Hyderabad. The most authentic and majestic display of Persian, Hindu, and Pathan architectural designs dedicated to the seven kings who ruled Golconda for nearly 170years, the rulers themselves built these tombs. Take a Cultural Walk through Hyderabad to witness more such amazing architectures here in this beautiful city.

Day 4: Day 04: Hyderabad – Vijaynagar – Hampi

An enchanting ancient city and hippy backpacker destination, Hampi offers the perfect heady mix of Indian charms that make it hard for visitors to leave. Here history and modernity meet: impressive

ancient remnants of Vijayanagara, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, are dotted around the congested buildings of Hampi town. Cross the river and you'll find laid back restaurants and rooms bordered by banana plantations and paddy fields, with a view over the river and ruins. Sightseeing can take up most of your time but don't neglect to visit the Monkey Temple, a 572-stair climb, to catch the sunset.

Day Itinerary

In time, a **Trail Blazer Tours Representative** will meet at hotel & transfer to Hyderabad airport to board flight to Vidyanagar.

On arrival at Vijaynagar,you will be driven to Hampi **[Approx 1 hour.]**

Upon arrival in Hampi, check in at the hotel.

Day 5: Day 05: Hampi

After breakfast, proceed for a full day exploration of the Hampi Ruins.

Hampi

Hampi, The World Heritage Center, is the most beautiful and evocative of all the ruins of Karnataka. Capital of **Vijayanagar kingdom** is full of delightful surprises, viz., Kings Balance where kings were weighed against grain, gold or money which was then distributed to the poor, other attractions are Queen's Bath with its arched corridors, projecting balconies, Lotus Mahal Vittala Temple, Virupaksha Temple, Ugra Narasimha are not to be missed.

The best way to experience this World Heritage Site is to take a leisurely stroll through the eloquent ruins. Most of the important structure and ruins are located in two areas, which are generally referred to as the Royal Centre and the Sacred Centre. The Royal Centre contains structures that seem to have been palaces, baths, pavilions, royal stables, and temples for ceremonial use. The sacred center is situated on the banks of the holy Tungabhadra River. Visit Vittthala temple and Virupaksha temple.

Day 6: Day 06: Hampi – Badami

The quiet village of Badami is home to a series of ancient cave temples. Between the 6th and 7th centuries Badami was the capital of the Early Chalukyas, who ruled much of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. They carved out sacred spaces into the rust-coloured cliffs above Agstya Lake, and decorated the walls of these holy caves with bold, detailed reliefs of their deities. Out of the shimmering waters below rise the steps of the Bhutanatha temple complex, a cluster of sandstone shrines devoted to this

god.

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Badami **[Approx. 4 hrs]**.

Afternoon visit of Badami Caves.

Badami Cave Temples

Architectural wonders in the true sense of the word, the Cave Temples of Badami are its most enchanting attractions. The history of these temples dates back to the period between the 6th and the 8th century. The striking feature of the temple is the flawless carving of Nataraja (the cosmic dancer) in 81 dance poses. The temple has numerous idols of the Hindu deities which have been beautifully carved. Some of the deities enshrined here are Ganapati, Shanmuka, Mahishasura Mardhini, Ardha Nariswara, Sankara Narayana, Vishnu and Trivikrama. The fourth cave temple was built in honour of the Jain Tirthankara Mahavira, Parshwanatha and Padmavati.

Day 7: Day 07: Badami

Day Itinerary

After breakfast, proceed for excursion visit to Aihole and Pattadkal.

Aihole

The ancient walled city Aihole, which dates back to the 6th century and served as the former capital of the region during the early Chalukyas period. Visitors can enjoy exploring the historic fortified complex comprised of over a hundred stone temples featuring a blend of fascinating architectural styles, Jain monuments, and ancient caves displaying unique traditional art depicting Hindu deities and legends.

Pattadakal

Declared a world heritage site in 1987, Pattadakal, situated on the banks of the Malaprabha river represents the high point of temple architecture under the Chalukya dynasty in the 7th and 8th centuries. All the Hindu temples in the city are dedicated to Lord Shiva and are noteworthy for their craftsmanship and architectural brilliance. The Virupaksha Temple built around 740 by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate the victory of her husband, King Vikramaditya II in 731 over the Pallavas stands out among them all. While four of the temples in Pattadakal are built in the Dravidian architectural style, the other four reflect Nagara style. The lone Jain temple, dedicated to Lord Papanatha, is also blend of north and south Indian architectures.

Day 8: Day 08: Badami – Goa

Situated in Western India, one of India’s most popular seaside destinations – Goa – offers a heady mix of warm azure waters, white-sand beaches, atmospheric cafes, electronic festivals, vibrant markets and antiquated colonial architecture – a legacy of its time under Portuguese rule. This hippy paradise boasts a cultural mix of Indian and Portuguese influences, delicious fresh seafood, and offers a spiritual sanctuary. Browse the Anjuna Flea market, relax on Palolem – Goa’s most picturesque beach and view the magnificent waterfalls at Dudhsagar. Other highlights include the elegant historical whitewashed churches of Old Goa and the spice plantations near Ponda, as well as several wildlife sanctuaries, which make up approximately one-fifth of the entire state, and encompass a wealth of bird and animal life.

Day Itinerary

After breakfast, you will be driven to Goa. [approx. 6-7 Hrs]

Upon arrival check in at your hotel.

Day 9: Day 9 – 12: At Goa

Days at leisure

Day 10: Day 13: Depart Goa

At an appropriate time, you will be assisted and transferred to the Goa airport to board your onward flight back home.

About Tour

Hyderabad is a city rich in history and tradition. The old city (Old Hyderabad) was once ruled by the Nizam, the ruler of the largest and most opulent princely state. Today, Hyderabad is in the competition with Bangalore and Chennai for the crown of India’s IT capital. Hyderabad has many epithets like – City of Pearls, Biryani City, City of Smiles.

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Highlights

- Complete sightseeing tour of Hyderabad.
- Exploration of the Hampi Ruins.
- Visit Badami Caves.
- Relax & unwind at Goa beach.