



Stucco work on Charminar

# A Tryst With



# The Past

On your next visit to the City of Pearls, Hyderabad, don't miss these interesting little-known jewels

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Photos Ramchander Pentuker



A

A Tourists enjoying a hot cup of tea at the Nimrah Bakery



B

B Exterior shot of the Purani Haveli Palace

Charminar, Falaknuma Palace, Golconda Fort, Salar Jung Museum, Hussainsagar Lake, Chowmahalla Palace... You may have visited these tourist attractions during your past visits to Hyderabad. This time, choose to be different. We take you on a journey to explore the little-known gems in the Pearl Capital of India.

### High Tea

Across the famous monument of Charminar, next to Mecca Masjid, stands Nimrah Bakery. The non-descript eatery, established in 1993, is famous for its Irani chai (tea) and Osmania biscuits. It is claimed that Irani chai reached Hyderabad with Persian immigrants.



C

C The Antiques cellar in Laad Bazaar



D

D Street vendors selling antique items and other accessories

E AA Hussain & Co. is the oldest bookshop of Hyderabad



E

Laad Bazaar is popular for bangles in thousands of designs and colours, anywhere between ₹100 and ₹1,000

At Nimrah's, a 90 ml cup of milky sweet tea is conventionally served with flaky, crumbly and sugary-salty Osmania biscuits. These biscuits have been named after the seventh nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan. Apparently, he ordered these from the now defunct Vicaji's Hotel, one of the most famous hotels of the city in the 1940s and 1950s. You can also try *dilkhush*, a variant of a pie with coconut, cherries, nuts

and tutti fruti fillings or *sheermal*, a bread made from white refined flour with its origins in Persia.

#### Bangle Haven

Located on one of the four roads that branch out from the historic Charminar, Laad Bazaar is popular for bangles in thousands of designs and colours, priced anywhere between ₹100 and ₹1,000.



World's longest wardrobe at the Nizam's Museum

However, one can shop for pearls, semi-precious stones, jewellery, silverware, *bidriware*, saris, handwoven materials and *kalamkari* paintings too. The market also serves as the perfect destination for trousseau shopping for most Hyderabad brides. Historians claim Mohammed Quli had set up this place as a shopping destination for his daughter's wedding to Aurangzeb's son.

#### Literary Lanes

One of the best places to find books in any genre is AA Hussain & Co. Located at Abids Road, one of the oldest commercial hubs of Hyderabad, AA Hussain & Co was originally a general store that sold imported goods. It was converted into a bookstore in 1949. In the past, the shop sold greeting cards and even received an award for selling a record number of UNICEF cards. To date, loyal customers throng this quaint bookshop for the personalised attention extended to them.

#### Very Shahi

En route Golconda Fort, the erstwhile capital of the Qutub Shahi dynasty, are the seven tombs of Qutub Shahi rulers and two mosques. A blend of Bahmani, Persian and Tughlaq architecture led to the evolution of a distinct Deccani style where granite, sand and lime were used to build the monuments. A shutterbug's delight, Sultan Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah's mausoleum is the grandest of all the structures among the Qutub Shahi tombs.

#### World's Longest Wardrobe

A few minutes walk from Charminar takes you to Purani Haveli, the first royal residence of the Nizams in Hyderabad. While one wing of the palace houses the Nizam's Museum, the other is being used as an educational institution and an industrial training institute. A unique feature of this museum is the world's longest wardrobe, built on two levels with a hand-cranked wooden elevator in place.



#### How to Get There

Vistara flies daily to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad.



#### Where to Stay

Taj Falaknuma Palace  
Phone: 040-6629585;  
[www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)

#### Quick Takes

■ Do try the Hyderabad Biryani, Khubani ka Meetha and Shahi Tukda when in the city

■ The sound-and-light show at Golconda Fort is a not-to-be-missed experience, especially the narration by Amitabh Bachchan

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