

Culture and Attitudes

Hyderabad is the meeting ground between North and South India. The city has a culture that is distinct from the rest of Telangana, showing Islamic influences and a courtly presence imparted from its period as the capital of the Nizamate. This is more evident in the old city. The new city resembles many provincial state capitals in India. Secunderabad is more cosmopolitan, as the Cantonment area is in this part of the city.

Due to an influx of young men and women from various parts of the country, Hyderabad's culture and attitudes have taken a turn towards "modernity". However, the city is still a deeply conservative place, so dress appropriately, especially in the old city.

Culinary delicacies of Hyderabad include:

- **Hyderabadi dum biryani.** Dum refers to the baking process and basmati rice and meat or vegetables are mixed in a pot and heated for a long time. During the Nizam's time, the biryani was made with lamb carefully cooked with rice.
- **Double Ka Meetha.** A dessert made from bread, milk and dry fruits.
- **Hyderabadi Haleem** A dish which is available only in the month of Ramadaan (Ramzan).
- **Irani chai.** This is the tea of Hyderabad, available at any of the ubiquitous "Chai" shops. Although, not all of them have the best hygiene and it is best to go with a local.
- **Mirchi ka salan.** A dish made with chili and peanut curry that serves as a tasty accompaniment to any rice dish.

Markets

- **Laad Bazar** is firmly established for selling bangles of all kinds, the speciality being the Lacquer bangles from which the place acquired its name. Laad Bazar is in business for 200 years right from the time of the Nizams. The place also displays semi-precious stones, pearls, jewellery, Nirmal, Kalamkari paintings, products such as silverware, Bidri ware, and hand-woven materials of silk, cotton and also velvet, brocade, and gold embroidered fabrics, traditional Khara Dupattas, and perfumes.
Timing: 11:00 am to 10:30 pm
- **Char Minar Bazaar:** Adjacent to the monument, Charminar Bazaar is stretched on four roads. It is renowned for the Barsa Pearl embellished with gold and silver that's well known in the world. You can also get a variety of clothing like sarees, Hyderabadi khada dupattas, and cute footwear.
Timing: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- **Shilparamam** is the arts, crafts and cultural village of Hyderabad. It is a tribute to the cultural legacy of India. If authentic and rich indigenous fabric, Local Crafts, Wooden Sculptures and Jewellery are your thing, Shilparamam is the perfect place for you. Aside from shopping, the village also has museums and a recreational area where you can have a good time after your shopping adventure.
Timing: 10:30 am to 08:30 pm