

Rediscover Deccan
*Hyderabad-Gulbarga-Bijapur-Badami-Hampi-Chikamagalur-Mysore-
Bangalore*

DAY 1 ARRIVE HYDERABAD

Arrive Hyderabad. Upon arrival in Hyderabad you will be received and taken to your hotel.

Meals: None

Overnight:

DAY 2 HYDERABAD

This morning you will be taken for a city tour of Hyderabad.

You will visit the huge triumphal arch, Charminar, in the centre of the walled city which was built to commemorate the end of a plague in 1591. Salar Jung Museum is one of the best-known museums in India where you can find private collections of the Nizams.

Later in the afternoon you will be taken to visit the Golconda Fort, one of the least visited and most magnificent fortress complexes in India. Located 10km west of the city, it comprises a citadel built on a 120m high granite hill surrounded by crenellated ramparts constructed of large masonry blocks.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight:



DAY 3 HYDERABAD – GULBARGA

In the morning you will be driven to Gulbarga (approx 5 hours drive) visiting Bidar en route. You can see the fortress and its palaces, mosques, a madarsa or college and the royal tomb (Rangin Mahal) composed of glazed mosaics imported from Kashan in northern Persia,

Zenana Mahal. Further in Gulbarga see Bahamani tombs, known as 'Haft Gumbaz' or 'Seven Domes' with the memorial of the four kings of this dynasty. Also visit fort of Gulbarga. See Jama Masjid, a rare example of a mosque in India with no open courtyard.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 4 GULBARGA - BIJAPUR

This morning you will be driven to Bijapur (approx 4 hours drive). You will arrive Bijapur around noon. Later in the afternoon enjoy a sightseeing tour of Bijapur including; Gol Gumbaz, Mohammed Adil Shah's Tomb, which has the world's second largest dome (unsupported by pillars), Jama Masjid, built in 1558-80 during the Bahamani period. Ibrahim Rauza, a tomb and a mosque, is an attractive garden retreat; Mihatyar Mahal and Begum Mahal.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 5 BIJAPUR - BADAMI

Morning you will be driven to Badami (approx 3 hours drive). You will arrive Badami around noon and will be at leisure. Later in the evening visit the Badami cave temples.

Badami, more than anything else, is known for its rock-cut cave temples. Numbering five, these temples are over thirteen hundred years old. They have been carved out of the red sandstone hills surrounding Badami. Two temples are dedicated to Vishnu, while one is dedicated to Shiva, and other two are related to Jainism and Buddhism.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 6 BADAMI

Full day enjoy an excursion to Aihole and Pattadakal temple complexes.

Along with Badami and Pattadakal, Aihole completes the third dimension of Chalukyan architectural centres. Aihole had an important position during the rule of the Chalukyas. There are a number of richly carved Hindu temples constructed in the 6th and 7th centuries. Some of the important temples of Aihole are Lad Khan Temple, the Meguti Temple, and the Durga Temple.

There is also a small museum run by the archaeological department that showcases objects found in Aihole, mostly of the Chalukyan era.

Pattadakal was the second capital of the mighty Chalukyans. It is a place, which hosted most of the important state functions at that time. Along with Badami and Aihole, Pattadakal is also a centre of Chalukyan architectural extravaganza. There are many temples here, mostly dating back to 6th and 7th centuries AD. Some of the important temples are of the Virupaksha Temple, Mallikarjuna Temple, and the Papanatha Temple. Pattadakal is situated some 20 km from Badami

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 7 BADAMI - HAMPI



Morning you will be driven to Hampi (approx 4 hours drive). You will check into your hotel for the stay of two nights. Rest of the day is at leisure to explore on your own.

Meals: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 8 BADAMI - HAMPI

Today you will be taken for a sightseeing tour of the Hampi ruins.

Hampi is a World Heritage Site and was the erstwhile capital of the Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar. A living testimony to the greatness of a bygone era, this ruined town is guarded by rivers and granite ridges. The travellers from Europe who visited the place at the height of Vijayanagar Empire wrote that the city was as large and as beautiful as Rome and hesitated to describe its grandeur for fear of it being thought fabulous. Most of the tourist centres in Hampi can be divided under two broad regions, the Hampi Bazaar area and the Royal Centre.

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 9 HAMPI - CHIKMAGLUR

This morning you will be driven to Chikmagalur (approx 7-8 hours drive) with en route lunch at Chitradurga. On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Chikmagalur is the region where the Hoysala rulers started and spent the early days of their dynasty. Coffee was introduced into India through the Chikmagalur district when the first coffee crop was grown in the Baba Budan Giri Hills during 1670 AD. According to the article Origins of Coffee, the saint Baba Budan on his pilgrimage to Mecca travelled through the seaport of Mocha, Yemen where he discovered coffee. To introduce its taste to India, he wrapped seven coffee beans around his belly and got them out of Arabia. On his return home, he planted the beans in the hills of Chikmagalur, which are now named Baba Budan Hills in his honour.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 10 CHIKMAGLUR

Today you will be taken for an excursion to Belur & Halebid temples.

The Hoysala temples in Belur and Halebid symbolise the confluence of Dravidian, Chalukyan and Chola art. At the same time, one sees the Hoysala originality in every stone. The serenity of Belur is attributed to the celebrated temple of Channakeshava, built by the Hoysala King Vishnuvardhan in the 12th



century. A short distance away from Belur is the magnificent Halebid which has several strikingly beautiful Hoysala and Jain Shrines. The Hoysaleswara temple, standing on a platform like a casket, is a sculptural extravaganza, richly smothered with extremely finely detailed scroll work in stone. Another famous temple of Halebid is the Kedareswara temple.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 11 CHIKMAGLUR - MYSORE



You will be driven to Mysore (approx 4 hours drive). On arrival check-in at the hotel.

Later in the afternoon, you will be taken for a sightseeing tour of Mysore.

Mysore is popularly known as the Sandalwood City. Mysore's sightseeing tour includes the spectacular Maharaja's Palace and the Chamundi Hills.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 12 MYSORE – BANGALORE –ONWARDS

This morning you will be driven to Bangalore (4 hours) for a brief driving tour of the city -visiting the Cubbon Park which was named after a 19th century British representative, Lord Cubbon. The extensive park, affectionately known as 'the city's lungs' is a cool retreat during all hours of the day. You will also drive past the Vidhana Souda, a magnificent building which houses the state legislature and the secretariat and Lal Bagh which is the most impressive botanical garden in the country. The garden is spread over 240 acres and is home to over a thousand different plant varieties. The Tipu Sultan's Palace located 4km from the centre of the city is also included in your tour, as is the Bull Temple -which was built in the Dravidian style of architecture. The Temple dates back to the times of Kempe Gowda (mid-sixteenth century) and has within it a statue of a huge Nandi Bull carved out of a single grey granite block.

Later in the evening you will be driven to the airport to board your onward flight back home

Meals included: Breakfast

*****End of the arrangements*****