

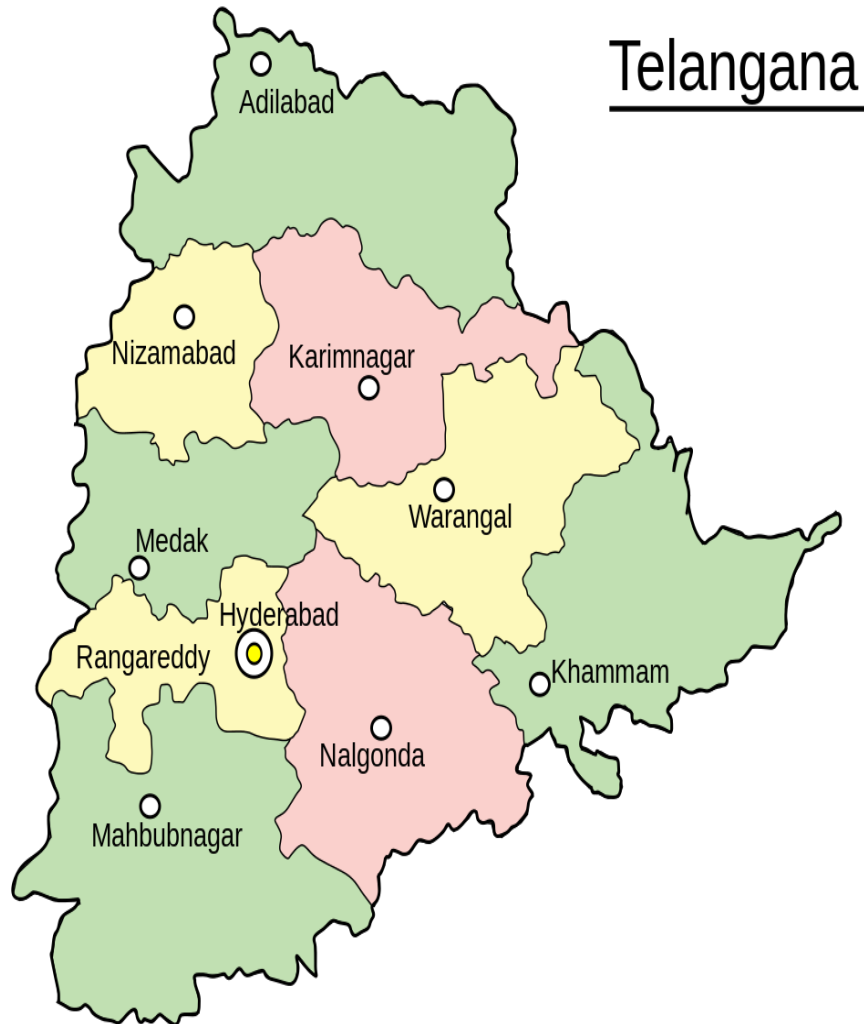


TELANGANA MONUMENTS

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Monuments to be visited in Telangana ...



1. Golconda Fort



Originally built by the Kakatiyas, this fort on Golkonda hill in Hyderabad later came into the hands of the Qutub Shahi Dynasty, who later established the Golconda Kingdom. The fort was strengthened and expanded by the Qutub Shahi kings and it fell into ruin in the late 17th century, when the Golconda kingdom was defeated by Aurangzeb. The fort is one of the major tourist attractions of Hyderabad.

2. Paigah Tombs



The Paigah Tombs aka Maqhbara Shams al-Umara, is a necropolis belonging to the noble Paigah Family. The Paigah Family were fiercely loyal to the Nizam and held various high level positions in the Hyderabad state. These tombs are known for their intricate architecture decorated with exquisite carvings. Deceased members of the Paigah family are buried there even now.

3. Falaknuma Palace



This beautiful palace, located over a 32 acre area in Falaknuma, was built by Nawab Sir Vikhar-ul-Umra, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad State in 1893. Built with Italian marble and exquisitely decorated with Venetian chandeliers and beautiful frescos, this palace has 60 rooms and 22 halls, including a giant ball room. The palace has now been converted into a luxury hotel.

4. Taramati Baradari



This is a historical sarai (a travellers' rest stop) built during the time of Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah, the fourth Sultan of Golconda. Legend goes that the Sultan was in love with a courtesan named Taramati, who used to sing in the sarai. It is said that her voice could be heard by the Sultan at the Golconda fort, a few kilometers away. This structure was ingeniously built with 12 doorways providing cross ventilation and is a well-known tourist attraction in Hyderabad.

5. Qutub Shahi Tombs



Located in the Ibrahim Bagh area close to Golconda fort, these monuments are a collection of tombs built by various rulers of the Qutub Shahi dynasty. The tombs are domed structures on a square base, built in an architectural style that blends Persian and Hindu architecture. A visit to Golconda is incomplete without a visit to these tombs.

6. Mecca Masjid



One of the oldest mosques in Hyderabad and one of the largest mosques in India, the Mecca Masjid, located near Charminar, was built in 1694. It is also said that this mosque contains a relic of the Prophet Muhammad. The architecture of the mosque is just like that of Golconda, something that's unique to the Qutub Shahi kings.

7. Chowmahalla Palace



The construction of this magnificent palace started in 1750, during the time of Nizam Salabat Jung but it was completed in the 1880s, during the reign of Afzal ad-Dawlah, Asaf Jah V. Known for its style and elegance, the Chowmahalla palace has two courtyards, many fountains and gardens, spread over an area of 12 acres. Influences of the Mughal, Persian and European architectural styles can be seen here. This palace was the official residence of the Nizams and it remains the property of Barkat Ali Khan Mukarram Jah. Jah renovated the palace in 2005 and since then, it is open for public.

8. Bhongir Fort



This 11th century fort was built by the western Chalukya ruler Tribhuvanamalla Vikramaditya VI and subsequently, the fort was named Tribhuvanagiri, which later became Bhuvanagiri. The fort is located on a monolithic rock about 50 kilometres from Hyderabad. Some of the inscriptions found inside the fort revealed that the fort was ruled by the Chalukyas for a long time before it went into the hands of the Kakatiyas. It fell into neglect during the time of the Nizams but its proximity to Hyderabad makes it an easily accessible tourist attraction.

9. Charminar



The most prominent landmark of Hyderabad located in the center of the city – Charminar is called to be the beating heart of Hyderabadis. This is one of the famous historical place in Hyderabad. As is apparent from its name, Charminar is a square-shaped structure monument and a mosque consisting of 48.7 meters high four-minarets on every corner. Charminar is counted amongst the top ten monuments of India and holds prominent importance in Muslim culture as the famous historical place in Telangana is an epitome of the impact of Muslim Turkomans in India. The mosque is located on the top-floor built out of granite and lime mortar. The monument encircled by traffic and crowd is at its pleasantest when it lights up at night. Charminar is also famous for its lively market known as Chudi Bazaar.

Location – Ghanzi Bazaar, Hyderabad

Timing – 09:30 AM – 05:30 PM