**Hyderabad**

**Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (HYD)**

Located in the suburb of Shamshabad, at a distance of about 22 km from the city center, is Hyderabad’s Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. Opened in the year 2008, it replaced the Begumpet Airport as Hyderabad’s main international airport. It is named after the former Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Being one of India’s major business hubs, Hyderabad attracts a large number of domestic and international travelers. It is, in fact, one of the busiest airports in India in terms of passenger traffic.

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is built and maintained under a public-private partnership model. It is also one of India's few Greenfield airports, aiming for the conservation of energy and environment by using eco-friendly designs. It has been lauded for its efforts towards creating sustainable and energy-efficient models. It has thereby won recognition from several sources such as the Five Star Certification for Health and Safety Management by the British Safety Council and the Golden Peacock Award for Environment Management in 2015, among others.

**Flight Information**

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport links Hyderabad to a number of cities within India and worldwide. Major domestic routes include Hyderabad to Mumbai and Hyderabad to New Delhi. Flights are also available for traveling to other Indian cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Lucknow, Vijayawada, Raipur and many others. International flights fly to and fro cities such as Abu Dhabi, Doha, Dubai, London, Chicago, and so on. The popular international sectors from here are to Abu Dhabi and Singapore.

Domestic airlines such as JetLite, JetKonnect, Air India, IndiGo, and SpiceJet provide services at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. Several major international airlines, including Emirates, Etihad, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, and Malaysian Airlines, also operate here.

**Terminals**

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport houses a single, integrated terminal for arrivals and departures of domestic as well as international flights. All passengers share the same entry and exit points. In addition, the airport boasts of a special terminal for Hajj pilgrims. This is an exclusive terminal, not available for use by other passengers.

**Traveling in and Around**

A number of transport options are available for traveling to and from the airport and the city. A luxury bus service known as Pushpak Airport Liner is run by the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) and the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC). These air-conditioned buses ply between the airport and several major points in the city. Low fares make these an affordable transport option for arriving and departing passengers.

Besides, a few car rentals have set up kiosks at the airport, providing efficient services in terms of private cars for arriving passengers. Radio taxis may also be hired from near the airport; special parking facilities are provided for them. Departing passengers who are traveling to the airport from one of the nearby cities may also avail of the long-distance bus services operated by APSRTC and TSRTC.

**Services and Facilities**

Taking utmost care of the convenience of passengers, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport offers some unique, helpful services. The Airport Village is one such innovative feature. Located in front of the Arrivals Hall, it is a foyer especially designated for visitors to receive their arriving friends and family. One may also gain access to the paid facilities of the Visitors’ Area and the Visitors’ Gallery when accompanying a departing passenger.

Essential facilities such as check-in and immigration counters and baggage handling systems are available in sufficient numbers at the terminal to avoid inconvenience. A unique Transfer Desk facility has been made available to aid passengers with transfers from domestic to other domestic as well as international flights. Exclusive business and VIP lounges are also available for traveling entrepreneurs.

Physically challenged passengers may request for wheelchairs and staff assistance from respective airlines. Free buggies are available for passengers with reduced mobility. Medical care, paramedic facilities, and a 24-hour pharmacy are also available. Some of the other services include free Wi-Fi, paid porters, information and help desks and special prayer rooms.

**Things to Do**

You may liven up your waiting period at the airport with a few recreational or leisure activities. There are several eateries located within the airport including sweet shops, cafes, and restaurants. You may also enjoy shopping for ethnic artifacts at the various outlets located here. Travel accessories and other such articles may also be purchased.

**Accommodation**

Transit passengers may relax and refresh themselves at the airport’s Transit Hotel, especially during long waiting periods. A number of entertainment and leisure activities are available to enhance comfort. Excellent accommodation is available at Novotel Hyderabad Airport for those who plan to stay in the city for business or pleasure. Well-equipped with luxury amenities, it ensures a pleasant stay. Budget travelers may make use of dormitories at the Airport Lodge.

**Helpful Tips**

* Passengers are advised to follow the safety guidelines provided by the airport authorities
* It is important to label your baggage and valuables to avoid misplacing them

**Nearby Attractions**

Popularly known as ‘Cyberabad’, the city of Hyderabad is a favored location for business conferences. It also boasts of a rich cultural and historical heritage, attracting tourists in large numbers. Visit the city to marvel at its numerous attractions such as Golconda Fort, Birla Mandir, and Salarjung Museum. The Falaknuma Palace, Charminar, Paigah Tombs and Nehru Zoological Park are some popular tourist sites near the airport.