

CHENNAI, HYDERABAD, BANGALORE, PUNE AND BHUBANESHWAR

The three South Indian cities of Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad are now well-known IT hubs and popular work destinations for people from all cultures. India's major IT companies are headquartered in these three cities that now thrive on the industry's growth and expansion.

Pune and Bhubaneshwar are growing cities further up the Indian sub-continent and are developing IT destinations.

Chennai

Chennai, earlier known as Madras, is the capital city of Tamil Nadu. It is also the gateway to other popular destinations of South India. It is also considered among the four metropolitan cities of India and is a very cosmopolitan place. Once a small village of fishermen, Chennai attained a significant place during the British Rule. Chennai has retained its traditional Tamil heritage even today and has effectively blended it to create a unique synthesis of cultures. Chennai has many destinations of tourist interest, such as ancient temples and museums, churches and forts.

Area : 174 sq km

Population : 6.4 million (approx.)

Places to see :

- **Marina Beach** : stretched over an area of 13 km, this is the second longest beach in Asia. It looks like a festive ground on weekend evenings. It is a beach, where you can be one with nature and enjoy the beauty of the sunset.
- **Anna Square** : Dr. C.N. Annadurai, the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was a highly noble person and very popular among the people of Tamil Nadu. Thousands of people visit at his 'Samadhi' (tomb) everyday to pay their respect.
- **Fort St. George** : Fort St. George is one of the most significant buildings of the British rule. There are many important buildings inside the fort including a church and a museum.
- **Temples** : **Shri Parthasarathy Temple** dedicated to lord Krishna, is one of the oldest surviving temples in Chennai, built in the 8th century by the Pallava Rulers. **Kapaleeshwarar Temple**, constructed in the Dravidian style, is dedicated to lord Shiva. It displays the architectural elements like gopurams, mandapams and a tank. Ashtalakshmi Temple is dedicated to Goddess Mahalakshmi is located on Elliots Beach. Mangadu Temple is famous for the idol of the Goddess Parvati performing one of her many penances - standing on the leg over the five fires with a visage showing perfect serenity. The Jain Temple holds beautiful sculptures of Lord Mahavira, tirthankaras and Lord Shantinath to whom the temple is dedicated.

How to reach :

- **By Air** : Chennai has domestic as well as international airports. The Kamaraj Domestic Airport and the Anna International Airport are located at Tirusulam, at a distance of 20 km from the city.
- **By Rail** : Chennai is also well connected to all the major cities in India through a wide network of railways. The main railheads are Madras Central and Egmore. The rail service connects to all the main cities of the neighboring state and the country.
- **By Road** : The excellent road network of Chennai makes it easily accessible from other important cities of Tamil Nadu and the neighboring states. All types of land transport can be hired for a comfortable journey in Chennai and throughout the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Hyderabad

Hyderabad is the capital city of Andhra Pradesh. It is a city of beauty, balance and tradition. It is a place where love still lives on. The city nurtures in its heart the love story of a young prince, Muhammad Quli and a village belle, Bhagmati that laid the foundation of the city. The construction of the city was completed in 1592. Today's Hyderabad is cosmopolitan, richly endowed with a variety of cultures. Hyderabad is also known as the second Silicon Valley in India after Bangalore. Hyderabad - the Pearl City of India - is famous for its minarets and its pearl bazaar.

Places to see :

- **The Charminar** : The majestic architectural hub of the city stands at the heart of the old city of Hyderabad, built by Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah in 1591. The structure is square, each side measuring 100 feet, with a central pointed high arch at the center. The minarets, their domed finials, rise to 180 feet from the ground. The whole edifice contains numerous small decorative arches arranged both vertically and horizontally.
- **The Mecca Masjid** : Mecca Masjid is one of the largest mosques in India accommodating upto 10,000 people. Located near the Charminar, the construction of the Masjid was begun by Muhammad Qutb Shah in 1617 and completed by Quranzeb in 1693. It is a grand edifice with a huge courtyard. The other two mosques--the Jami Masjid and the Toli Masjid--are small and modest structures in the city.
- **Golconda Fort** : This 16th century fortress is a majestic monument, which lies on the western outskirts of Hyderabad city. It speaks of a great cultural heritage of 400 years and exudes a palpable sense of history. Golconda has been known as famous center for diamonds, and the diamond mines boast of some of the most renowned diamonds in the world. The Kohinoor originally belonged to Golconda, as did the Darya-i-Noor, the Orloff, the Pitt, and the great table of the Nizam. It is thus regarded as a place worth visiting.
- **Hussain Sagar** : Hussain Sagar is a large artificial lake in the midst of the city and was constructed in 1562 AD. Also known as Tank Bund, it connects the

twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. It was built by Ibrahim Qutb Shah in around 1550, in gratitude to Husain Shah Wali, who had cured him of a disease.

How to reach :

- **By Air :** Hyderabad is connected with all the major cities of India by Indian Airlines, Air India and Jet Airways flights. Flights link Hyderabad with Delhi, Port Blair, Bangalore, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, etc.
- **By Rail :** AHyderabad is linked with the metropolitan cities by train. One can also get off at Secunderabad, which is very close Hyderabad.
- **By Road :** Hyderabad and its sister city Secunderabad are situated on the junction of two important National Highways: NH 7 (Varanasi-Nagpur-Hyderabad-Kanyakumari) and NH 9 (Bombay/Mumbau-Shlapur-Vijayawada).

Bangalore

The capital city of Bangalore is modern, bustling and an important industrial center of Karnataka state. It is a charming city with famous nicknames, as "India's Silicon Valley", "Garden City", "Fashion Capital of India", "The Pub City of India", and may more. It is a city everyone loves for their own reasons. Some love its excellence in IT, some adore its pleasant weather throughout the year and some simply cannot resist its tourist enchantments. Bangalore is adorned with beautifully laid out parks and gardens, wide tree-lined avenues, imposing buildings and lively bazaars. Home to over six million people and hub of 10,000 industries, Bangalore is India's fifth largest city and the fastest growing city in Asia.

Area : 2,190 sq km

Population : 65.2 lakhs (6.52 million)(approx.)

Places to see :

- **The Bangalore Fort and Palace :** Built by Kempe Gowda, the Fort of Bangalore was later expanded by the legendary king Tipu Sultan. This summer palace has been constructed largely of wood and is famous for its carving and paintings. Nearby is The Palace Hyder Ali begun and Tipu completed.
- **Vidhana Soudha :** This splendid colossal building of the State Secretariat is a marvel of modern architecture and is a perfect amalgamation of traditional neo-Dravidian and modern styles. built in 1954, it is the home of the State Legislature and the Secretariat and dominates the northern boundary of the Cubbon Park. What attracts most is the massive sandalwood door of the Cabinet room. It becomes beautiful on a holiday evening when lit with myriad lights. It is not open for public to see.
- **Lal Bagh :** The 96-hectare park Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens is located on the southern fringes of the city. Laid out by ancient ruler Hyder Ali, this botanical garden has over 1000 species of flora. The Glass House is the center of attraction

in this 2400-acre park. Later the son of Hyder Ali added horticultural wealth to the garden by importing trees and plants from several countries. The Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens also holds a number of flower shows, especially during the Republic Day (26th January).

- **Cubbon Park** : This 120-hectare wooded and flowered park was laid out in the heart of the Bangalore bivouac in 1864. Since then, more fairy fountains, august bandstand and a wealth of flora have been added. located near the Vidhan Soudha, the most attractive aspect of Cubbon Park is that it nestles a number of neo-classical styled government buildings.

The Venkataramanaswamy Temple, ISKCON temple, the Gavi Gangadhareswara cave temple, and the Someshwara Temple are other important temples of this city. The Ulsoor Lake on the northeastern edge of the city is an important picnic spot.

How to reach :

- **By Air** : There are number of daily flights to important cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Goa, Kochi, Mangalore, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram. Bangalore is also a stopover for many international flights. It has direct international flights to Muscat, Sharjah and Singapore.
- **By Rail** : Bangalore has two railway stations called Bangalore City and Yeshwantpur. Trains from all major cities of India connect to Bangalore.
- **By Road** : There are good bus services from Chennai, Hyderabad and other important south Indian cities to Bangalore. Bangalore is well linked to Mysore (3 hours), Hospet (9 hours), Chennai (8 hours) and Mumbai (24 hours). The KSRTC conducts a number of tours and excursions around the city.

Pune

Pune is a cultural city of the state of Maharashtra that carries a rich historical legacy characterized with the glorious rule of Marathas. Pune contributed significantly to the freedom movement and produced heroes like Lokmanya Bal Ganga Dhar Tilak, Sane Guruji and the Chapekar brothers. Today, this city is home to numerous prestigious educational institutions too and hence is also known as the Oxford of the East.

Places to see :

Being the cultural hub of western India Puna attracts tourists throughout the year. The places of interest for the tourists are Lal Deval, Bund Garden, Osho Ashram, Shindyanchi Chhatra and Pataleshwar Cave Temple. The major festivals that make the state swing are The Pune Festival and The Shaniwarwada Dance Festival.

How to reach :

- **By Air :** Flights available to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Ahmedabad from Pune Airport itself. Mumbai is the nearest International Airport to Pune.
- **By Rail :** Pune is linked with Mumbai (170 km), Nasik (209 km), Aurangabad (230 km), Chennai (1,088 km), Delhi and other major cities of India.
- **By Road :** The excellent road network connects Pune with most of the important cities in Maharashtra and India. The Mumbai-Pune Express Highway offers a safe and fast access between Mumbai and Pune. Pune is also well connected with Goa, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Shirdi, Bangalore, Indore, Hyderabad and Aurangabad through road.

Bhubaneshwar

Situated in Orissa this ancient city of Bhubaneshwar (Bhuban being world and Iswar, God) depicts centuries of temple architecture. The city is a must visit on your India tours and travel. There are 600 temples still extant. It is probably the only city in the world that enables an authentic over-view of the stages of development of Hindu religious architecture.

Driving on the Puri-Konark Highway from Bhubaneshwar one comes across Dhauli hill on the banks of the River Daya. Surrounded by green paddy fields, lies the 3rd Century BC Ashokan Rock Edict, a memory of the gruesome war that transformed Ashoka, the great Warrior into a Buddhist missionary. The Peace Pagoda is buildt on the opposite hill.

How to reach there:

By air: Bhubaneswar is well connected to all major cities of India

By rail: Bhubanewsar is the railway station and is connected by trains to the rest of India

By Road: Bhubaneshwar is situated on the national highway no.5 that runs between Calcutta and Madras. It is 480 kms from Culcutta, 130 kms from Chilika Lake (Barkul), 32 kms from Cuttack, 184 kms from Gopalpur-on-sea, 64 kms from Konark, 1225 kms from Madras, 62 kms from Puri.