Hyderabad City Tour

In this Hyderabad city tour, we experience the rich cultural heritage of the “City of Pearls”. The itinerary covers the spellbinding Golconda Fort, Qutub Shahi tombs, Birla Mandir, Salarjung Museum, the iconic Charminar and Mecca Masjid.

0800Hrs: Pick up from the hotel post breakfast and we will head towards for first tour sight.

- **Golconda Fort**

We head out to Golconda, located 11 km away from the Hyderabad City. The Golconda fort is arguably the greatest hill fortress of India. Built in AD 1143 as a mud fort, it was fortified between the 14th and 17th centuries and served as the principle Palace of the Bahmani Sultans and the Qutb Shahi dynasty. Our guide will bring alive the history of this Fort and how it shaped the future of Hyderabad and its people. Post learning about the divine history of Golconda Fort we will head towards the Qutub Shahi Tomb.

- **Qutub Shahi Tombs**

Qutub Shahi Tombs were erected in the memory of the old kings of Golconda. The arch, columns, dome minarets, and galleries look exquisite and are surrounded by gardens called Ibrahim Bagh. As per legend, these tombs were revered during the rule of the Qutub Shahi Kings and even criminals taking refuge here were pardoned. Considered to be few of the oldest monuments of Hyderabad, these tombs captivate their visitors with the architectural excellence presenting a beautiful blend of Persian and Indian architectural styles. You can see the influences of Hindu, Pathan, Deccan as well as Persian styles in the structure of
tombs. We will take a lunch break before proceeding for Birla Mandir.

❖ **Birla Mandir**

Birla Mandir is a Hindu temple, built on a 280 feet (85 m) high hillock called Naubath Pahad on a 13 acres (53,000 m²) plot. The construction took 10 years and was opened in 1976 by Swami Ranganathananda of Ramakrishna Mission. The temple manifests a blend of Dravidian, Rajasthani and Utkala architectures. It is constructed of 2000 tons of pure white marble. The granite idol of presiding deity Lord Venkateswara is about 11 ft (3.4 m) tall and a carved lotus forms an umbrella on the top. There is a brass flagstaff in the temple premises which rises to a height of 42 ft (13 m). The temple does not have traditional bells, as Swami Ranganathananda wished that the temple atmosphere should be conducive for meditation.

❖ **Salarjung Museum**

Our Hyderabad tour takes us next to Salarjung, the most famous museum at Dar-ul-Shifa, on the southern bank of the Musi River in the city of Hyderabad, Telangana, India. It is one of the three National Museums of India. It has the world's largest one-man Art collection. Nawab Mir Yusuf Ali Khan Salar Jung III (1889–1949) who was the Prime Minister of the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad, spent a fortune over thirty-five years to build this collection. The collection ranges from 2nd century B.C to early 20th century A.D of different cultures such as Greek, Roman, Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, Christian and Islamic.
Charminar

Our penultimate destination in the Hyderabad tour is Charminar, a monument that is symbolic of the city of Hyderabad. It was built in 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutb Shahi, the fifth sultan of the Qutub Shahi dynasty to commemorate the end of a deadly plague attack of the city. Our guide will enthrall you with legends like the presence of a secret tunnel underneath Charminar which connected to Golconda Fort, created as a means of escape for the royal family at times of distress.

Mecca Masjid

We next walk to Mecca Masjid which is one of the oldest mosques in India. The foundation stone was laid by Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah, the fifth ruler of Qutub Shahi dynasty. The bricks used to build the mosque have been made from soil sourced from Mecca! This magnificent mosque can accommodate more than 10000 people.

The tour end here.

1730Hrs- Return back to the conference venue.