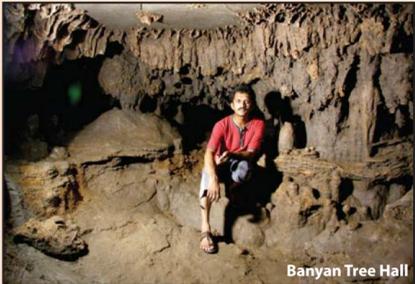


TECHCITY PLUS

Make the most of where you live

A weekend getaway - spent doing the things of your choice is what people in the city look forward to. Trekking, Camping, visiting exotic places... Sounds exhilarating! Weekend is the biggest source of motivation for many people. It is the best time when a person can be free from all the work responsibilities and deadlines. And when it's a long weekend, the desire to be out of the city is enormous. In the hectic city life of Hyderabad sometimes a quick weekend getaway is all you need. It helps you beat the monotony of everyday life and leaves you feeling revitalized. There are many wild life reserves, historic and culturally rich cities and hill stations that you can getaway to on one of your weekends. The festive season in Hyderabad makes it a perfect occasion to go on a quick vacation and explore the lesser known places in Andhra Pradesh. Tech City Plus gives you a lowdown on some of the lesser known locales in Andhra Pradesh.



Banyan Tree Hall

They take Rs.10. Hire one of them. One, they carry a torch to show you the way. Two, they tell you a lot of stories about the caves.

Some places in the caves need some acrobatics to reach. Sometime you might have to crawl. Not too frightening.

ing. It might be difficult for the aged. There is no accommodation near the caves. You have to stay at Anantapur or Kurnool. Nandyal is also a nice place to stay. The caves are about 75 kms from Nandyal. Food is served in a small restaurant near the caves. Don't expect too much - simple, tasty Andhra meals are served.

Horsley Hills

Horsley Hills needs to be experienced to be enjoyed. 144 kms away from Tirupati, it is the only hill resort of Andhra Pradesh. Horsley Hills is named after W.D. Horsley the former Collector of Cuddapath District. The Englishman chose the spot as his summer residence and it is not difficult to understand his pick.

The purpose of visiting this place for most travelers is to unwind and to enjoy the scenic beauty as the entire length and breadth of this hill station is surrounded by dense forests. Horsley hills definitely an apt choice for a long weekend escape for our 'worn-out' hyderabadis. Shilpa Gorain, a professional with a PR firm sums it up by saying "The best part about Horsley hills is the tranquility. It refreshes you and puts you back on track for your 'city' life"

Some tips

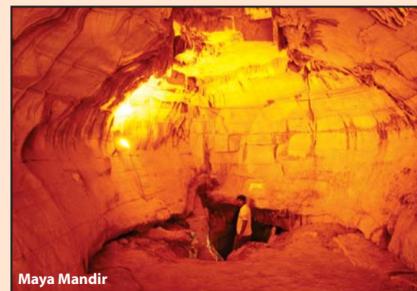
Slopes with blossoming flowers, Rishi Valley School, Mallamma temple, Kaundinya wildlife sanctuary are some of the 'must dos' while in Horsley Hills. The Hill station can be visited throughout the year making it a viable option for any long weekend. Guest houses, A.P Tourism's Governors' Bungalow, PWD Inspection Bungalow are some of the preferred places to stay. It is always advisable to do reservations for the hotel.

The love to explore places that are less crowded and provide respite from the daily drudgeries of life is the main rationale behind weekend retreats. Inhabitants of Hyderabad tend to feel the lack of places to go on short vacations. However, this sentiment is seeing a gradual change and lesser known places are becoming popular with our city crowd. Let the weekend begin!!!

-Upasana Sanyal

Belum Caves

The breath-taking journey to Belum Caves, the longest cave in the country, is a great experience. The Belum caves are located in Kolimigundla Mandal of the Kurnool district about 320 kilometers from Hyderabad. The locals have named the stalactite formations 'Kotilingalu'. AP tourism has organized tours arranged to visit these caves from Hyderabad and also from Kurnool. In no man's land, these caves pop up suddenly out of nowhere.. Deepak Nair, an avid travel-



Maya Mandir

er working with a leading IT firm in the city shares "Even when you purchase the entry ticket for this natural wonder, you would just be wondering where the caves are. Then as you enter the caves and move further, you realize slowly, they were right beneath your feet!" A completely underground passage way, large chambers and wonderful rock formations have been formed here, which is a key lure. The caves are totally worth the visit. Being in Hyderabad, Belum Caves is definitely worth a visit.

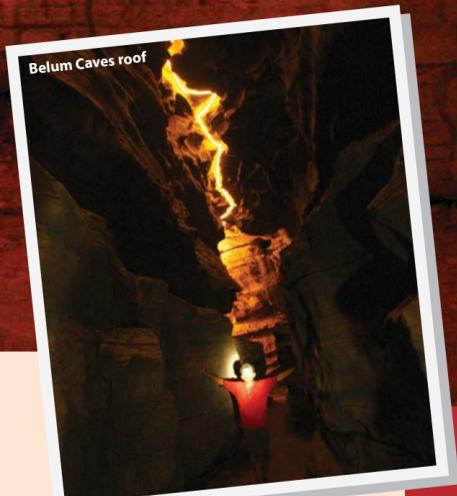
Some tips :

The total walk inside the caves is around 2 kms. There is a lot of moisture, and thus outside air is pumped inside using compressors. It is important to carry a towel to wipe yourself out. Guides are available at the entrance.

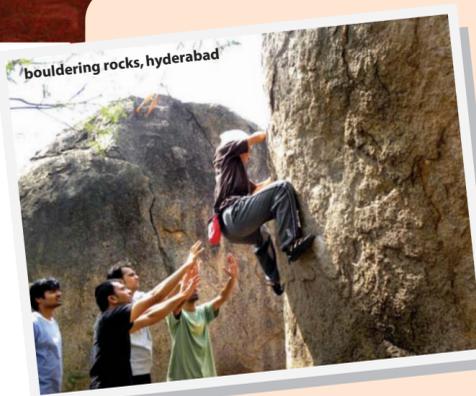
YOUR HAIR MAY BE BRUSHED, BUT YOUR MIND'S UNTIDY. YOU'VE HAD ABOUT SEVEN HOURS OF SLEEP SINCE FRIDAY. NO WONDER YOU FEEL THAT LOST SENSATION. YOU'RE SUNK FROM A RIOT OF RELAXATION

~OGDEN NASH

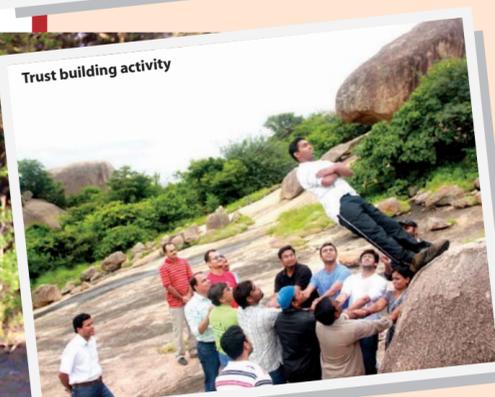
EXPLORE THE UNEXPLORED WEEKEND GETAWAYS



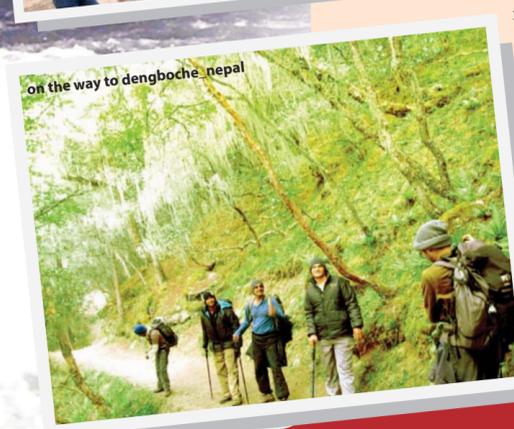
Belum Caves roof



bouldering rocks, hyderabad



Trust building activity



on the way to dengboche, nepal

For the Adventurous Hyderabadis

Hyderabad and Adventure - an unlikely combination but the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club (GHAC) merges them into an adventurous union. Started in May 2008 by Diyanat Ali, a software engineer by profession, GHAC is one of the first online adventure clubs of Hyderabad. The club has received a great response from the otherwise 'laidback' city of the Nizams and till date has successfully completed over 200 meetups and has a total of 2300 members and growing.

GHAC, as this non-profit organization is known in the city focuses on weekend getaways, with a physically challenging twist and professionals on hand to help one explore their active side. More and more ideas and adventures are added by the very active and hard working organisers who are dedicated to making this group a leading adventure sports and activity centre for residents of Hyderabad. The fibre and fabric of this is to provide a better quality of weekend holidays. Diyanat Ali, the founding member of GHAC says, "Adventure Travel is the next big thing happening in tourism industry all over the world. Hyderabad and other places in AP are yet to come on the Adventure Tourism Map of India. I am sure with all the Rocky Terrain and forest areas in and around, Andhra, it is a great destination for exciting weekend adventures."

This innovative adventure club has experienced and trained volunteers and conducts a range of adventure activities from Rock climbing, Rappelling, Bouldering, Water Rafting, Sea sailing, trekking, Jungle Treks, Scaling hillocks, camping and anything that spells adventure.



River Rafting Dandeli



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