

Adventure merrier than life

Now Hyderabadis are no strangers to adventurous activities - trekking, white water-rafting, bird-watching, paragliding, bouldering, rappelling to name a few - that you can now foray into

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Have you ever travelled to a place in the wilderness where there is no temple, no historic monument, no shopping market, no beach? Do you feel the need for adventure? No, not that video game; but the real adventure of climbing rocks, trekking forests, encountering wild animals, parachute jumping! Do you feel the need to take such trouble when you can relax at home and watch TV in the weekend... Or do you feel the need for an adrenaline rush and want to try it all before you die.

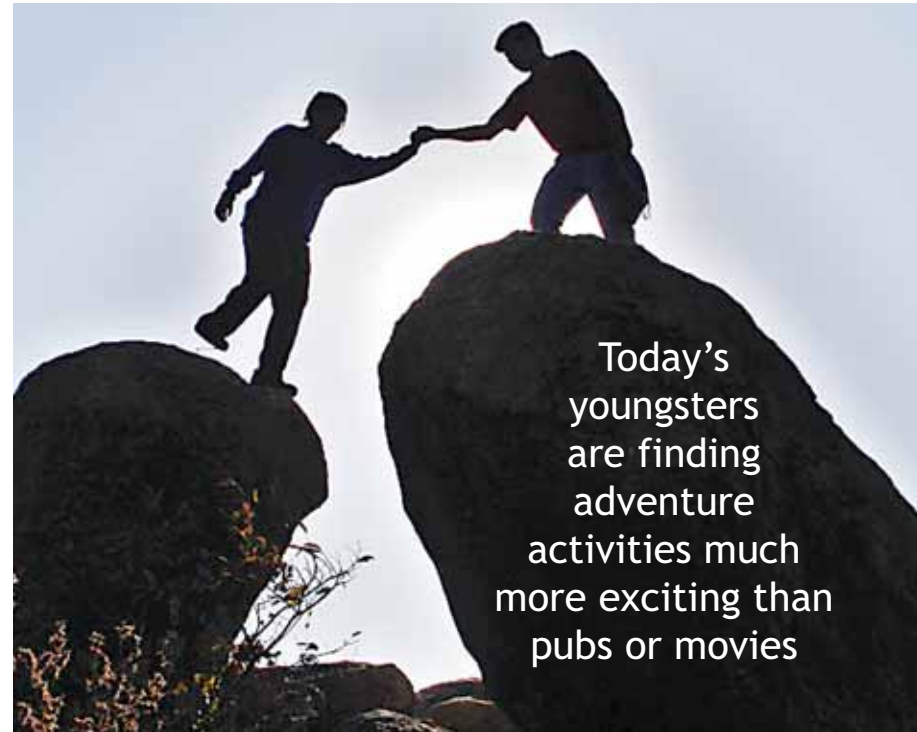
Then there is hope for you in our laid back nawabi city! There are many adventure groups across the city that regularly organise adventure camps in many well known sites in India, which could range from a short trek around Moula

Ali inside the city to Mount Everest base camp.

Great Hyderabad Adventure Club (GHAC) which was founded in 2008 can be a real treat to the city dwellers with their adventure tours and activities. It was founded by team of working professionals led by Diyanat Ali who wanted to bring Hyderabad on the map for adventure. The progress during the initial two years was tough and there was no much response but Diyanat and his team did not give up easily and continued conducting 750 adventure events despite poor response. The real growth came in the last one year and there are nearly 5300 members at present. Diyanat says "Today's youngsters are finding adventure activities much more exciting than pubs or movies. In fact after the recent movie 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'

the interest in adventure has increased manifold. People have realised that sedentary lifestyle is no good for their health and there is nothing better than a good walk into the wild."

So now you have options galore - nature treks, bird-watching hikes, rock climbing, rappelling, white water rafting, paragliding and even serious mountaineering activities. Gyan Shikha and Shobhit Gupta from Deloitte who were part of many such trips rave about the thrill they got for such activities. Gyan Siksha says, "I particularly found rappelling and white water rafting near Dandeli as the most exciting. The adrenaline rush I experienced when the raft went over the gushing white waters of Kali River was the most memorable. Later the rappelling activity of climbing



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Rock-climbing with GHAC Below: White-water rafting Photo Courtesy: GHAC



Photo Courtesy: GHAC

down a cliff with ropes was the most daunting task I have ever done." However, adventure buffs like Diyanat feel that the difficulty in adventure is relative, but the duration of the event adds to the difficulty. He says, "The Everest base camp and Annapurna base camp treks in the Himalayas were the most difficult and enchanting at the same time.

It's remarkable that members of GHAC have been to the Everest Base camp five times and they are going again in October 2011."

Now if you think that a trek in the Himalayas is too daunting for you, you can begin with short treks in around our nawabi city. Short duration treks are the most popular among beginners because it takes just

How to get involved with GHAC?

- ◆ GHAC has calendar of events on RSVP running through 2012 as well. You could contact them expressing your interest.
- ◆ There are always adventure meets and discussions that you can be a part of.
- ◆ You could seek a membership with GH AC. Membership is free and open to all above 18. Children between 6 and 12 can participate with parents.
- ◆ You could stay in touch with your team, post your updates and photos through the portal.

five to six hours and has negligible cost. Since GHAC is a non-profit club, it sustains itself with nominal fees charged for the activities. Typically events are frequently conducted at locations such as Ammuguda, Shamirpet, Khajaguda nearly every weekend. So it's high time we wake up from our slumber, switch off the TV and pack our backpacks to head into the nearest wilderness. Let's do it soon before the nearest wilderness disappears!

For adventure getaways contact – Diyanat Ali, Chief Organizer | GHAC
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