

# Gear up for some weekend fun

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**A** weekend in Hyderabad usually means a mandatory visit to the pub followed by food and for the teetotalers it's a combination of cinema, perhaps a play or shopping. But thanks to a few alternative spaces that have mushroomed in the city, weekends have opened up a whole new set of possibilities of which adventure activities top the list.

Trekking, rappelling, running, cycling, bird watching, butterfly gazing, you name it, and there it is. Weekend fun has assumed a whole new meaning in Hyderabad. We list some hotspots for action.

## Great Hyderabad Adventure Club

Top on the list is the Great Hyderabad Adventure Club—one of the leading city-based adventure clubs. “We have 22 new people signing up every day, and almost all our meet-ups get full within minutes of being announced” beams Suresh Kochattil, assistant organiser, corporate, GHAC.

Get more out of life, is the motto of the club and this is what most people who come to the club are seeking. “We are a club for people wanting to pursue their passions be it bird watching, trekking, rappelling, mountain climbing, paragliding etc. There is something for everybody. The best part is that we are a not-for-profit club and are driven by our love for adventure,” says Suresh.

**Weekends are not just about club hopping anymore. For a lot of people, it's the time to get a dose of adrenalin rush!**

All you need to do to join the club is to sign up on their website.

The GHAC was started in May 2008 by Diyanat Ali along with a bunch of friends. The response in the first few months was disappointing. Today GHAC has over 5,000 members and has conducted over 700 events so far in a span of three years. More than 90 per cent of the GHAC members are from the IT sector, looking for a way to stay fit and unwind.

## Hyderabad Runners Club

The club was started in 2008 as a not-for-profit society to promote endurance running in the city. “It started as a group of four. In three years, we have grown into a club of over 750 members. Our oldest member is a 62-year-old man. The youngest is six and has already completed a 5k run,” beams Ajay Mohan Reddy, one of the senior members of the club.

They meet up twice a week - every Saturday and Sunday. Saturdays are meant for easy runs in the vicinity of KBR Park, Jubilee Hills.

While on Sundays they assemble to train for marathons. “We have runners from all walks of life. More than anything else, it is about making running a part of your active lifestyle, be it 5k, 10k, half, full or ultra marathons,” says Ajay. Members of the club have participated in prestigious international marathons across the world. Hyderabad is running a marathon this Sunday with over 250 people who have signed up. “Starting from the Hussainsagar Lake, People's Plaza, the marathon will finish at the Balayogi Stadium at Gachibowli,” informs Ajay.

## Hyderabad Bicycling Club

Founded in 2008, the Hyderabad Bicycling Club is a club for cycling enthusiasts in the city. “From being a club of four, it has now grown into the top cycling club in the city

with 1,500 members and counting. We organise regular events in and around the city three times a week,” shares Raman Garimella, an organiser at HBC. “Anybody with a cycle can become a member of the club by signing up on the website. This is a perfect platform for those who are keen to cycle but do not know where to begin. We ride on Wednesdays and Saturdays and take different routes every time we set out,” says Krishna Mandava, member of the core committee of the HBC. “Though it was started by a bunch of IT professionals, the club today has members from all walks of life who are passionate about cycling and are looking for a fun way to stay fit. We also take long rides to places like Srisailem, Bidar and Nagarjunsagar once in a month,” he adds.

