



A full moon night at Devarakonda

RAMA RAJU

Adventure brings to mind the rugged comfort of nature. Even ardent adventurers and nature lovers are not comfortable in the simmering summer heat. We wanted to go on early morning treks or settle for an overnight trek. It had to be close to Hyderabad, about four to five hours away so that we could stay overnight and use the day to trek around.

Trekking is not just an adventure sport; it is about getting close to nature and experiencing the wilderness by night. I quickly listed a few places to trek in the night but I wanted to visit a fort on a full moon night. I started looking for the nearest forts and zeroed in on Devarakonda, only because it is surrounded by seven hills and has a few water bodies as well.

We needed to keep the local police station in the loop and second, we needed to have permission from the Department of Archaeology and Museums, which functions under the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The date for the trek was April 7, 2012, a full moon night. We started from the MGBS bus station, Imliban, by 4.30 pm and it took almost three hours to reach Devarakonda. The walk from the bus stop to the fort is almost a kilometre.

Soon we, a group of 13 adventurers entered the fort and it was a blissful view of the huge hillocks that greeted us. After a five-minute walk we reached the steps of the fort which led us to the old temples of Lord Shiva and Lord Rama.

Soon, we were near a small pond within the fort and stopped to take a break. From there we reached the fort wall and climbed it and walked along the wall till we reached a steep slanted rock. We spotted the first of the fortifications of the area and continued to hike towards the building.

We found a small burrow beneath a huge boulder where one person can easily pass through. We all crawled through the burrow and reached the other end and were greeted by a scenic view of the lit-up village in the distance. That spot offered a good flat surface for us to camp for the night and we enjoyed the beautiful sight of the night sky.

We woke up early to witness the sun rise. We explored the other end of the fort and discovered huge caves. We started trekking over the 100-foot-high hillocks and the team began to enjoy the descent from the hillock.

We walked back to the Devarakonda bus stop and took a bus to Hyderabad.

— The writer is an IT professional and an adventure enthusiast.

Visit to temple and forts



There are two old temples of Lord Shiva and Lord Rama. The temples are worth visiting. There are also a few ponds within the fortress not to mention the good views of the Devarakonda village from the top of the fort. Please ensure that you take all the necessary permissions before you start trekking up the fort.



HOW TO REACH

PSRTC buses commute to the fort quite frequently from MGBS, Imliban, Hyderabad to Devarakonda and the first bus leaves at 4.30 am. The place is

about 90 km from Hyderabad and the bus may take two and a half hours to reach.




SHOPPING IS REWARDING

REGISTER, SHOP AND EARN 5 TIMES PAYBACK POINTS

Across participating partners from 14 - 30 April 2012.

REGISTER NOW!



SIMPLE WAYS TO REGISTER & EARN 5X POINTS

Give a missed call from your registered mobile on 0124-6746600

Visit PAYBACK India facebook page @ Log on to www.payback.in

Register now and you could win Samsung Galaxy Tabs

TnC Apply

Earn 5 times PAYBACK points by using ICICI Bank Debit Card.

Offer valid on transactions at any retail outlet in India.



EARN 5X POINTS AT THESE PAYBACK PARTNERS



imint is now PAYBACK

Also earn 5X points at over 40 online partners, visit www.payback.in

