

near the railway station. Both the hotels have restaurants.

For more, see Nizamabad Accommodation Listings on page 342

WHERE TO EAT

The restaurant at Haritha serves both vegetarian and non-vegetarian south Indian food. **Vamshee** and **Nikhil Sai** offer south Indian, north Indian and Chinese fare. **Angeethi** is popular for its vegetarian meals. The restaurants at Hotel Kapila and Mayur are also known for their vegetarian food.

AROUND NIZAMABAD

You can club a visit to Sarangpur Hanuman temple with Asok Sagar and Ali Sagar lakes, both a few

Beautiful lawns, Ali Sagar



G BHASKAR

kilometres ahead, on the SH 25. Armoor and Pochampad Project are north of Nizamabad, on NH 7, en route to Nirmal. Mallaram Forest, Sirpur Fort and Bada Pahad Dargah are to the south of the city, along the Nizamabad-Varni Road. Dichpally Ramalayam is to the east, close to the Hyderabad Highway (NH 7). The Domakonda Fort is further south, on this road.

Asok Sagar (7km)

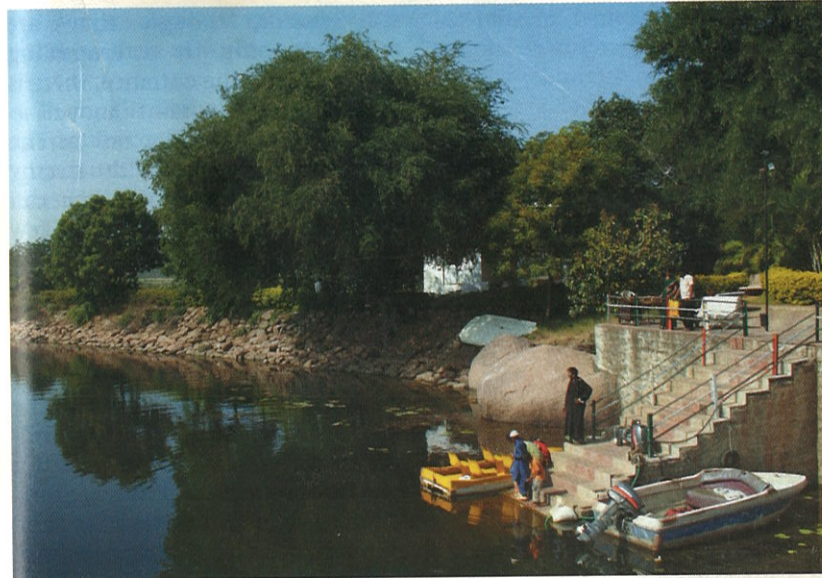
If you visited Asok Sagar before 2001, you would not be able to recognise it today. Earlier, this lake was a rodent-infested swamp that was known more as a garbage dump rather than a tourist destination. However, the government conducted a massive cleanup operation which yielded stunning results. This lake resort, west of Nizamabad town, on the way to Bheemgal, has boating facilities, a rock garden and a few restaurants.

A 15-foot-tall Saraswati idol made of white marble stands majestically in the middle of its waters and is a sight to behold on moonlit nights. Many tourists stop here while en route to Basar and the neighbouring state of Maharashtra.

Interestingly, this lake, which was earlier known as Jankampet Cheruvu, was renamed after the collector Asok Kumar, who was instrumental in developing it. Few civil servants manage to get this rare privilege during their tenure.

There are boating facilities at the lake, though they were not functional at the time of research.

G BHASKAR



Visitors by the water waiting for a boat ride, Asok Sagar

Ali Sagar (13km)

Going by the number of couples whispering sweet nothings in broad daylight, this reservoir is certainly the most popular weekend spot in Nizamabad district.

Spanning an area of 33 acres, it has all the trappings to draw crowds – a lush forest with a summer house, well maintained lawns and a restaurant and guesthouse, which are set on an island in the lake. You can take a cruise across the waters in a pedal or speedboat (not functional at the time of research). The adjoining Deer Park offers good walks. It is home to several species of deer, most notably the golden-hued deer.

The Nizams built this reservoir in 1931, while the park was established

in 1985. It is a short drive away from the Ali Sagar lake.

Mallaram Forest (7km)

The Mallaram forest (not to be confused with the village of same name) is a patch of forests south of Nizamabad on the Nizamabad-Varni highway. Here, you can find a 1.45-billion-year-old rock, a mushroom-shaped rock, which dates back to about 2 billion years, a lake known as Mallaram *cheruvu* and a watchtower.

While there were plans to develop the forest as an eco-tourism destination, no efforts have been made in recent times to make it more tourist-friendly. The jungle is known to have rich mineral deposits and some say that consequently, only

Telangana

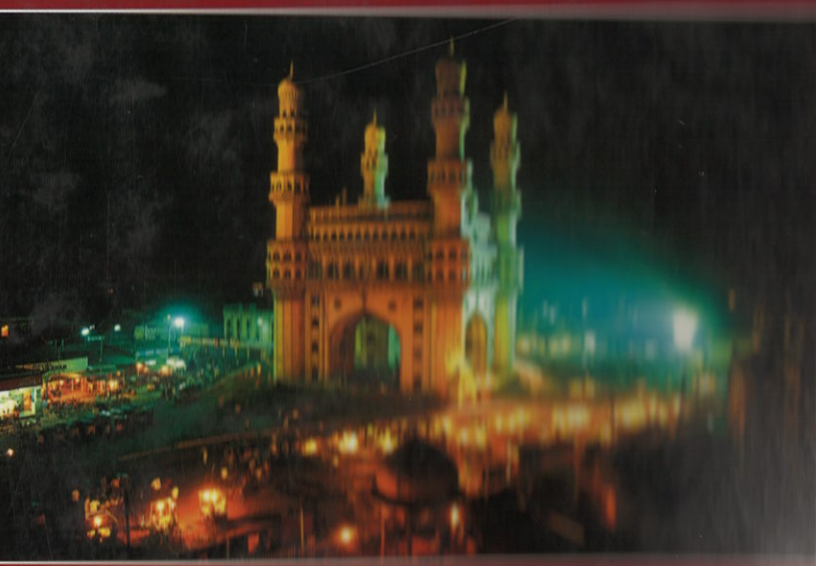
Outlook Traveller Getaways presents an exclusive guide to Telangana

Explore some of the most stunning palaces, forts and temples in the country, including Chowmahallah Palace, Golconda Fort and Ramappa Temple

Visit the beautiful lakes, waterfalls and dams built on the majestic Krishna and Godavari rivers

■ Gorge on delicious biryani, haleem and other dishes specific to the region; and witness colourful festivals and traditions such as Bathubamma

■ Find well-researched information on what to do in each destination, several hotel and restaurant options, and extensive tourist and travel information to help you discover each destination



ISBN 978-81-89449-56-8 ■ ₹ 395

Cover Design DEEPAK SURI

Telangana

