

'Living here has exposed me to wonderful experiences...'

The city has helped me discover the simple joys of life, says Sameera K



Sameera and her friends at Shivanasamudra Falls

Two years ago I landed in Mysore with an admission notice to a management college. I reached the picturesque college campus with a baggage of emotions. I had never lived in South India before, the language was new, incomprehensible and people seemed different. But I had faith in my decision to come to the royal city of India- Mysore.

The cosmopolitan nature of the city allowed me to overcome my apprehensions about living here. In a few days I understood that language is not a barrier. I could freely converse in Hindi or English. I was amazed by the multi-lingual faculties of the locals. I guess it rooted from the tremendous number of tourists this place attracts. And this very reason again makes its public systems one of the best I have seen in the country. The strict adherence to traffic rules, its beautiful clean roads, green environs, well maintained monumental public buildings and the pre-paid auto facilities. One remarkable thing is the fleet of red Volvos that make rounds to almost every corner of the city. Mysore, without doubt matches up to its reputation as one of the well planned cities of the country. The city as such has an amicable spirit.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE CITY

Mysore has so much to offer whether it is the local sight seeing -the Mysore

Palace, Brindavan gardens or its apt geographic location. It is three hours to the silicon city, Bangalore and four hours to the breathtaking beauty Ooty. Also, three hours to the land of adventure sports and coffee destination Coorg and three hours to sneak peek into stunning Kerala. In my two year stay here, I soaked in the pictorial waterfalls, the pleasant lakes, wide variety of flora and fauna, the adventures treks and soothing temples. The Chamundi Temple being very close to my college campus became my regular getaway destination. The list of places to see in and around the city is endless and each destination is worth visiting again. Encouragement to explore these places also came from our college director. He once casually mentioned- look around the place, experience it, get involved with the city and it will educate you a little more.

FOOD FOR EVERY PALATE

Something that added more flavour to my stay in the city was the wide assortment of food this place offers. Having friends who were equally excited about experimenting with taste buds helped. We explored all iconic restaurants like the Mylari, GTR and Mahesh Prasad and savoured the continental and multi-cuisine offerings at various other food houses. We also made visits to the local food festivals including the fa-

mous Ahara Mela during the Dasara festival. I was particularly delighted to find Khaman a famous Gujarati snack available in many tiffin centres. This place has altered my taste buds and has made 'dosa' an essential weekly meal.

While the temperature in Mysore averages around twenty five round the year. The city I grew up in touches forty eight degrees in the summers and three degrees in the winters. Mysore's pleasant weather, amusing unexpected drizzles and trees lined with fog in the winters, spoilt me for life. I can never be in any other city and not compare how comfortable the Mysore weather is. I recollect how I sent pictures to my folks back home so that they too could experience the beautiful Mysore rains, through images.

RICH IN CULTURE

From collection of my incredible experiences in Mysore, the cultural programs- dance, music and art have made me open my eyes to creativity. They sensitised me and helped me learn and understand how I can appreciate these powerful expressions of ingenuity I have been fortunate enough to have friends who willingly helped me in the process. With them I attended various concerts- classical dances, fusion music instrumentals, classical vocals and even the famous Sonu Nigam live. The highlights however remain- the violin concerts of Shri Mysore Nagraj and Shri Mysore Manjunath and a dance performance titled Raang by Nirupama and Rajendra.

At the end of an exhilarating management course I can say with pride that my college fulfilled its promise to make me not only a worthy professional but also a better individual. It offered me one of the finest Management training and supported me in learning a lot from the city as such. Mysore city is now etched forever in my soul. It has added more dimensions to my thinking capabilities and my personality. It has helped me discover the simple joys of life, brought me closer to nature, to culture and to life. The bustling activity and intricacies of the city are now chained to my memories. I came here as a stranger and now I refer to this beloved city of mine- as Namma Mysooru.