

Incredible India

Andhra Pradesh
TOURISM
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A COASTAL PARADISE VISAKHAPATNAM



VISAKHAPATNAM MAP



- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Buddhist sites | | Handicrafts/Arts |
| | Lakes | | APTDC Hotel / Resorts |
| | Pilgrim Centres | | Nature Spots/Eco-tourism |
| | National Parks | | Port |
| | Sanctuaries | | Railway Line |
| | Beaches | | National Highway with No. |
| | Hill resorts | | Major Roads |
| | | | Other Roads |

BEWITCHING BEACHES, ENTRANCING EASTERN GHATS

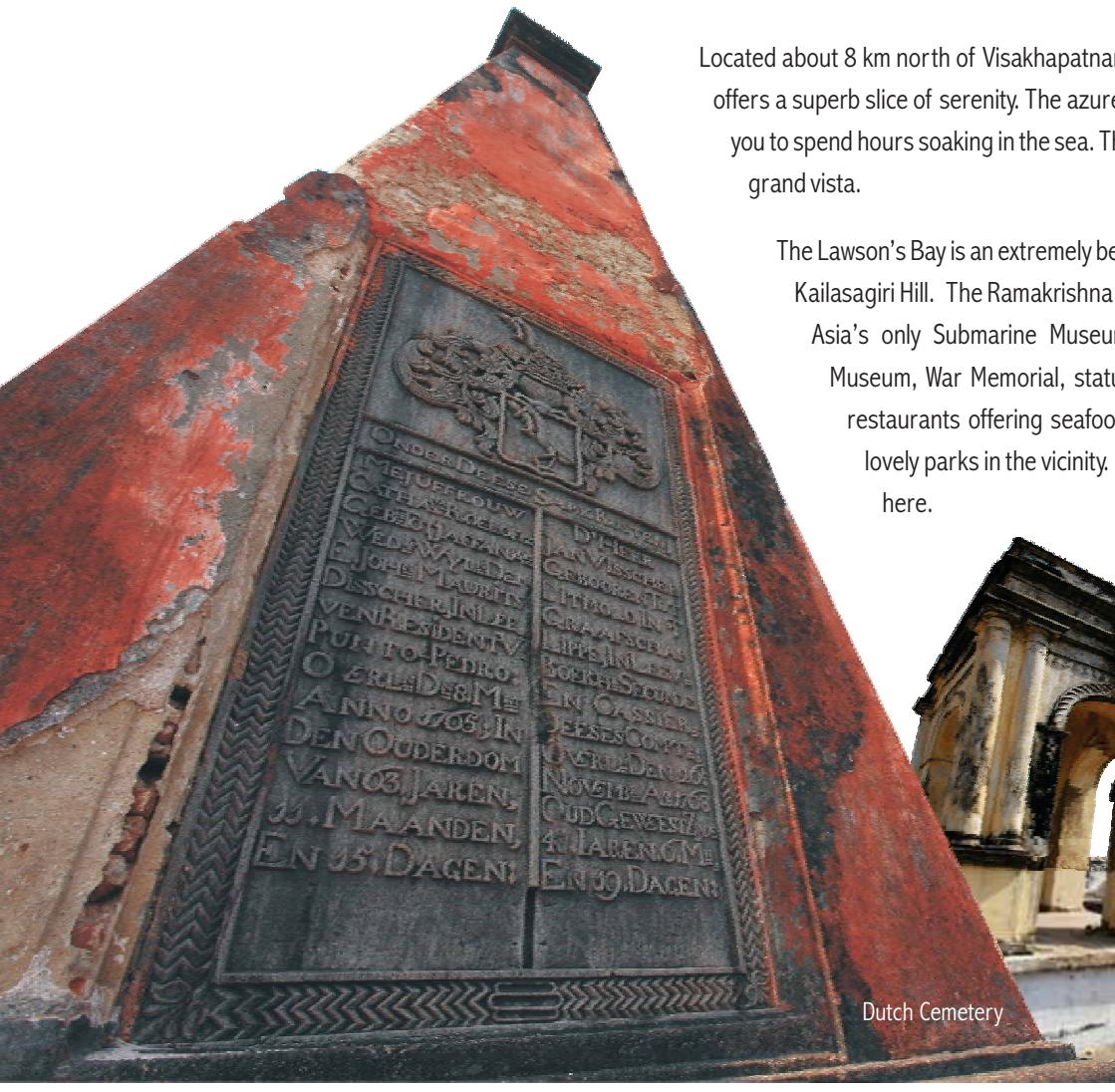
"Vizag," as Visakhapatnam is called, is the second largest city of Andhra Pradesh and one of the fastest-growing cities in Asia. With a busy port and a natural harbor, it is home to a shipbuilding yard, an oil refinery, a steel plant and other major industries. The awe-inspiring Eastern Ghats on the one side and the Bay of Bengal on the other give the city a magical touch. Whether you are off-shore, on-shore, in the heart of the city or among the hills girdling it, you will treasure every moment you spend, nay invest, in Vizag. It is the only place on the east coast where the hills and the sea meet. Indubitably, it is the crest jewel of coastal cities.

Some old-timers say the city's name is derived from Lord Vaisakheswara, as it is believed that a temple dedicated to the Lord is lying submerged nearby in the sea. With its appealingly long stretches of golden beaches and verdant hills, the city offers multiple fun options. Vizag has received the 'Vrikshamrita Award' several times, for having the best green cover in the country, thanks to the afforestation work taken up along the national highway that passes through the city and on the hill ranges from Srikakulam to Visakhapatnam.

Visakhapatnam is one of the choicest destinations for tourists seeking sea-front thrills, daring adventures, tranquil atmosphere and a bracing climate. For, the city offers entrancing beaches. At Lawson's Bay, Rushikonda and Bhimili in particular, the shallow and crystal clear waters are good for swimming, surfing and bathing.

The 25-km coast-hugging stretch of the road from Visakhapatnam to Bheemunipatnam is simply breathtaking. Better known as Bhimli, it is in the second oldest municipality in the country. Bhimli is also known as Hollander's green. The remains of a Dutch settlement with a ruined fort, Bell of Arms and a 17th century Dutch cemetery have been preserved here.





Dutch Cemetery

Located about 8 km north of Visakhapatnam on the Vizag-Bhimili road, Rushikonda offers a superb slice of serenity. The azure blue water of the virgin beach will invite you to spend hours soaking in the sea. The place has hill cottages overlooking the grand vista.

The Lawson's Bay is an extremely beautiful stretch of the beach on the way to Kailasagiri Hill. The Ramakrishna beach is a favorite hangout for Vizagites. Asia's only Submarine Museum, an aquarium, Kali temple, Visakha Museum, War Memorial, statues of eminent personalities and some restaurants offering seafood are the allurements here, apart from lovely parks in the vicinity. There are plans to build an oceanarium here.



Rushikonda Beach



FAST FACTS:

Boating 9.00am - 5.30pm

Speed Boat Fee: Rs. 250 for 3 persons 6min run. (Rushikonda)

Cruiser Fee: Rs. 60 for Adult,

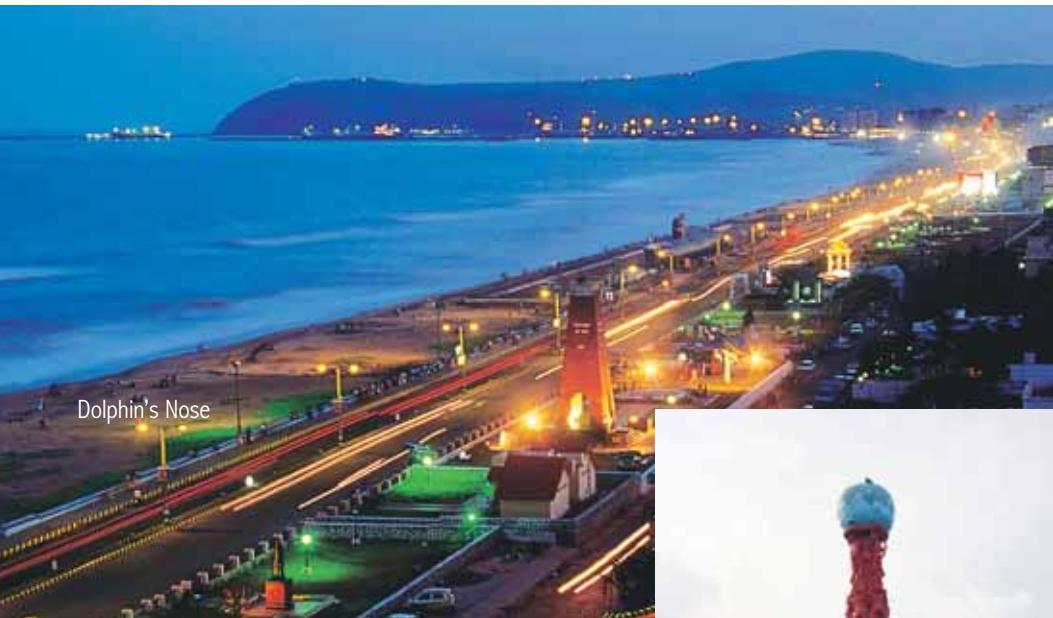
Rs. 45 for Children per 30 mins run. (Fishing Harbor)

Contact: +91 891 6514428

Mobile: +91 9948042781, +91 9948392978

SUBMARINE MUSEUM

The Indian Navy has installed I.N.S. Kurusura, a decommissioned submarine, on the sands of the Ramakrishna beach as a museum. First of its kind in Asia, it is aimed at creating awareness among the public about how submarines work during wartime and how crew members normally operate it.



DOLPHIN'S NOSE

The Dolphin's Nose, a rocky headland 174 meters high at 358 meters above sea level, is among the most captivating spots of Vizag. The powerful beacon of the lighthouse, set on a rock at sea, directs ships 65 km away. The Dolphin's Nose charms the young and the old alike.



VUDA PARK

The VUDA Park is an excellent place for leisure and amusements. A well-equipped gym, pleasure rides on horses and camels, skating rink, boating and musical fountain are the magnets of the park.

FAST FACTS: Musical Fountain,
Daily: 6:30 PM, Entry: Rs. 5/-



FAST FACTS:
Daily 9.00am-5pm,
Entry: Adult Rs.15/-
Children Rs. 5/-, Monday Holiday

INDIRA GANDHI ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Spread over 450 acres, the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park houses exotic species of birds and animals in natural habitat. A substantial portion of the zoo has been earmarked for a deer park. In many enclosures, animals and birds are allowed to move about freely in an ambience modeled after their habitat.



KAILASAGIRI HILL

A verdant hill on the northern side of the city, the Kalasagiri Hill offers spectacular views of the winding shoreline and undulated cityscape. Of the 100 acres available on the hilltop, 50 acres have been developed into a beautiful park. Located at an altitude of 130 meters, this hill top park faces the Bay of Bengal and is a very popular among tourists and picnickers. It has seven viewpoints, which enable visitors to enjoy the ambient beauty. The main attractions include Siva Parvathi Statue, Shanku Chakra Naama, Ropeway to the hill, Art Gallery, Floral Clock, Jungle Trails, Food Courts, Seven Wonders of Vizag, Siva Temple, Titanic Viewpoint, Shanti Ashram, Road Train, Gliding Base Point, Children's Play Park, Conference Hall and the Capsule Lift. It is 10 km from Visakhapatnam Railway Station.

FAST FACTS: Circular Train : Entry : Adult Non A/c, Rs 50/- A/c - Rs.70/- Duration of Trip 20 minutes. Timings: 11 am to 7.30 pm



Kailasagiri Hill



FAST FACTS
Phone: +91 891 6510334
Timings: 11 am to 1.00 pm
1.00 pm to 2.00 pm (Lunch Break)
2.00 - 8.00 pm
Ropeway Tickets: Rs 65/-
Children, 4 to 7 years Rs.30/-
Maintenance day: 19th of every month.

MUDASARLOVA

The Mudasarlova is a valley framed by hills, about 10 km from Visakhapatnam. A lake amidst the valley is a source of drinking water for the citizens. Mudasarlova also makes a very good picnic spot.

FAST FACTS:

Timings: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Entry: Adults Rs 5/- Children Rs 2/-



ARAKU VALLEY

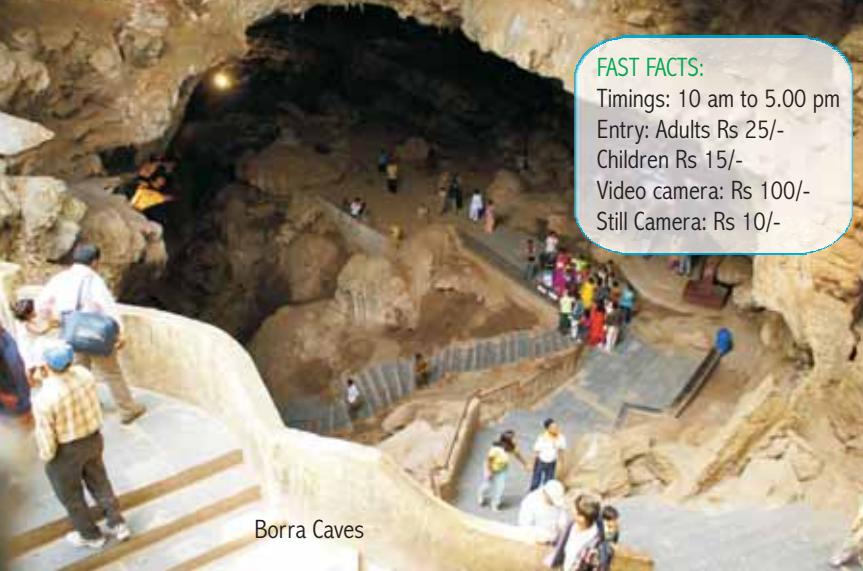
The Araku Valley is the high point of a vacation in the lap of nature. One of the most important tourist destinations in Andhra Pradesh, Araku Valley is situated about 112 km from Visakhapatnam.

In fact, the very journey to Araku Valley on the Eastern Ghats, with thick forests on either side itself, is a highly rewarding experience. The mountainous route offers cool and picturesque spots en route that fill the soul with nature's bounty. A journey by train is exhilarating, as the train wends its way through imposing hills, passes through 46 tunnels and forests, and touches Asia's highest railhead at Shimiliguda before reaching Araku.

The Botanical Garden at Padmapuram, Government Silk Farm, Tribal Museum and Chaaparai are the other major draws of the region. The entire place is over 3,200 feet high and offers an invigorating climate.

The beauty of this hill station comes alive periodically with the cultural symbols of at least 19 aboriginal tribes inhabiting the area. Dhimsa and Mayuri, age-old folk dances, are popular add-ons for tourists.





Borra Caves

FAST FACTS:

Timings: 10 am to 5.00 pm
Entry: Adults Rs 25/-
Children Rs 15/-
Video camera: Rs 100/-
Still Camera: Rs 10/-

BORRA CAVES

The Borra Caves are located on the way to Araku, at a distance of 90 km from Vizag. A trip to the millions of years old Borra Caves is a must for nature lovers. The stalactite and stalagmite formations present a breathtaking array of naturally sculpted splendor. Visitors keenly eye the natural formations and often draw a parallel between shapely ones and mythological characters. Tourism authorities have illuminated the caves. The caves are located in the midst of the Gosthani river, beautiful hills and valleys.



Tyda

TYDA : JUNGLE BELLS

Tyda is a small village nestled in the densely forested hills of Eastern Ghats, on the way to Araku about 75 km from Vizag. This fabulous place has rich flora and fauna. Jungle Bells Camp, an eco-tourism project established by the tourism and forest authorities, provides enchanting views of the Eastern Ghats. There are facilities for trekking, hiking and bird watching. Accommodation is provided in cottages and log cabins amidst serene surroundings. Tyda allows tourists to enjoy Nature at its very best and a thrilling experience awaits every visitor.

DHIMSA DANCE

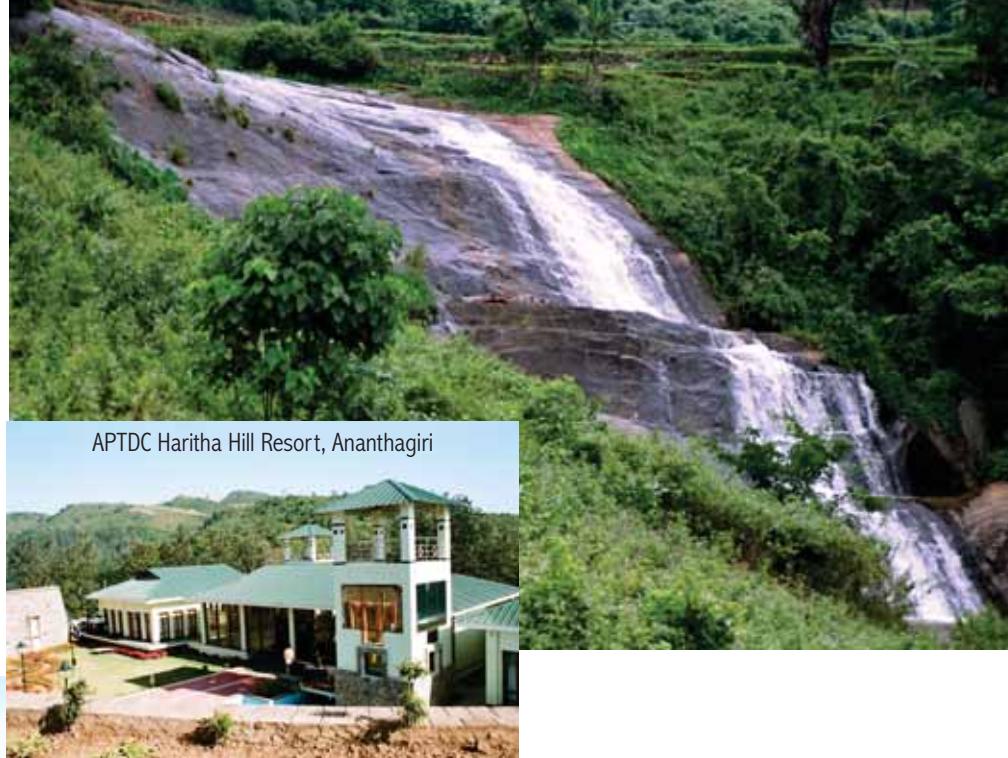
Dhimsa dance is a dance of young and old, men and women of Valmiki, Bagata, Khond and Kotia tribes living in the enchanting Araku Valley in the hilly tracts of Vishakhapatnam district. During the festivals dancers of one village visit the other to participate in the dance and join the community feast. The women folk attired in typical tribal dress and ornaments dance in group to the tune of drums.



Dhimsa Dance

ANANTAGIRI

Anantagiri, located on the way to Araku valley, is endowed with rich natural beauty. Extensive coffee plantations, enchanting waterfalls, beautiful gorges and gurgling rivulets make unwinding at this place a divine activity. Blessed with a wide variety of flora, Anantagiri is home to many rare medicinal plants and herbs, making it a health resort as well. It is 85 km from Visakhapatnam railway station. Anantagiri Hill Resort (APTDC) Ph: 0893-6231870.

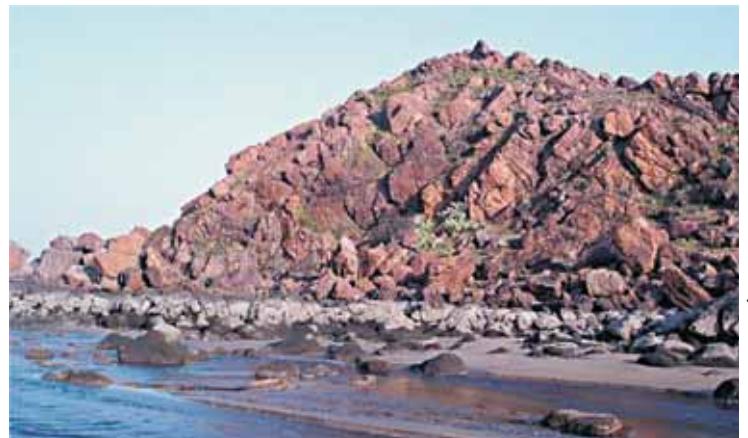
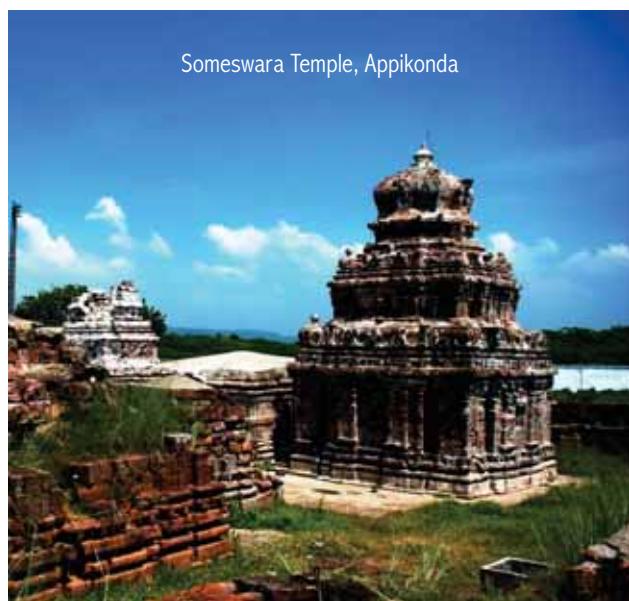


APTDC Haritha Hill Resort, Ananthagiri



APPIKONDA

Situated about 18 km from Visakhapatnam, Appikonda is also known as Kapilakonda. It has a Siva temple with a life size bull carved out of black stone. The temple has 12th century inscriptions suggesting that the village was granted by a commander-in-chief of the Cholas for supporting worship in the temple. The Sivaratri celebrated here attracts many devotees.

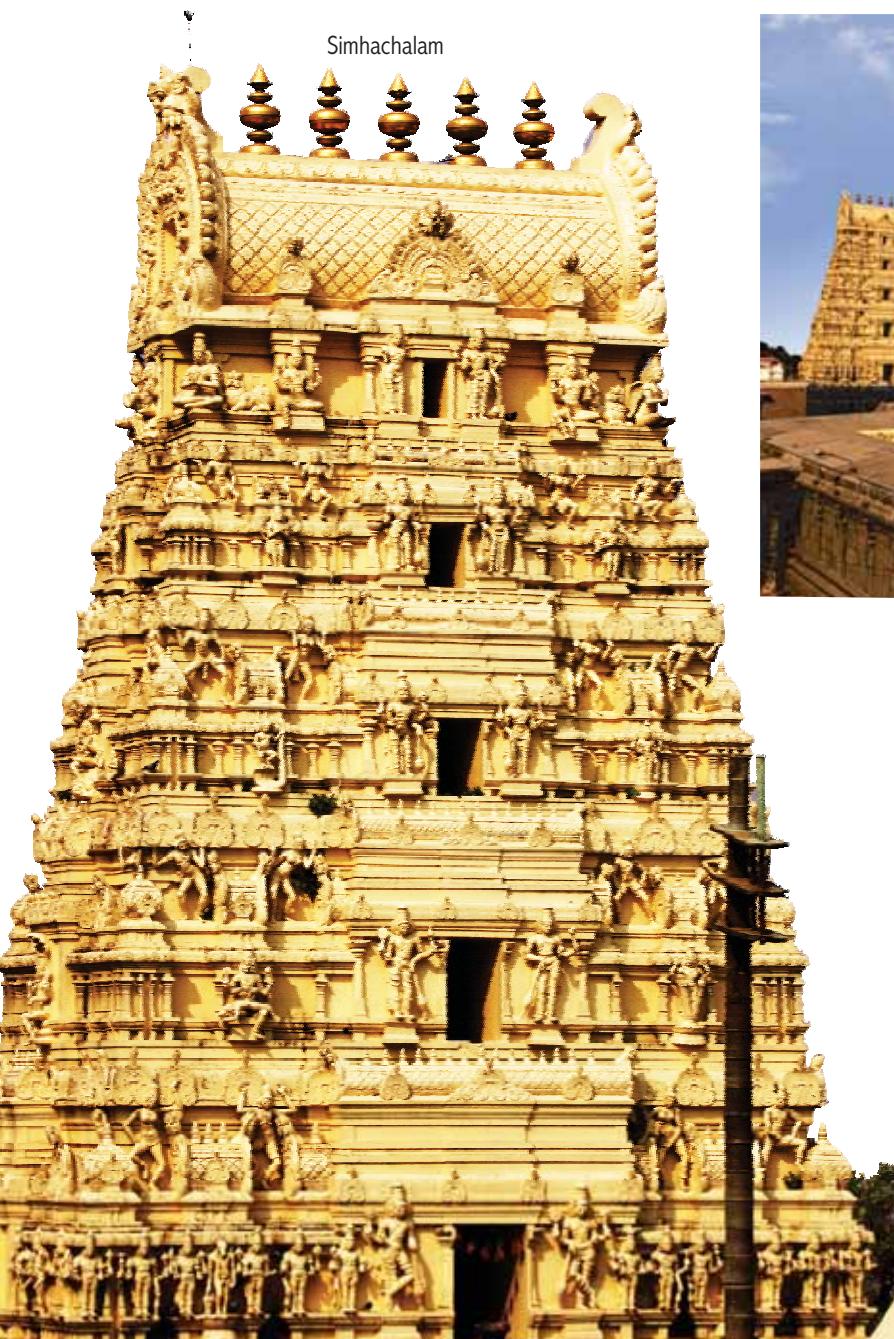


PANCHADHARALA

Located about 24 km from Anakapalli, Panchadharala derives its name from the five jets of water coming out of as many fountains of a natural, perennial spring. There is also a lingam, on which are carved other lingams in 12 rows of 85 each. It is exaltedly known as 'Kotilingam' (crore lingams). There are significant inscriptions on the pillars of the temple's mandapam in the temple.



Panchadharala



SIMHACHALAM

The temple of Lord Sri Varaha Lakshminarasimha Swamy at Simhachalam is an architectural masterpiece. Situated about 16 km from Vizag among thickly wooded hills, the shrine has a beautifully carved 16-pillar Natya mantapa and a 96-pillar kalyana mantapa. Among AP's most significant temples with exquisite sculptures, the Simachalam temple is a study in architectural brilliance. The image of the presiding deity, Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy, is covered in a thick layer of sandalwood paste for most part of the year.

Fast Facts: Darshan begins at 6 am till 11 am. No darshan between 11 am & 12 noon.



BUDDHIST TRAIL

A key stopover in the Buddhist Circuit of Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam has many Buddhist sites, including those excavated recently.

Thotlakonda is located 128 m above sea level and the finds here include mounds, stupas, chaitya grihas, pillared halls etc. At Sankaram, about 40 km from Vizag, one can behold amidst hillocks rock-cut wonders. Bavikonda, a hill overlooking the sea between Bhimli and Vizag, has 26 structures belonging to three phases of Buddhism as well as an urn containing a piece of bone believed to be that of the Buddha. Pavuralakonda is a hillock west of Bhimli, about 24 km from Vizag, where one can see 16 amazing rock-cut cisterns intended for harvesting rain water. At Gopalapatnam, on the left bank of the Tandava river, one can behold stupas, viharas and other Buddhist relics.



ETIKOPPAKA

Situated on the left bank of the Varaha river, about 20 km south of Yellamanchili, Etikoppaka village is famous for the toys and dolls made with the light soft wood locally known as ankudu. The painstakingly finished toys are given a beautiful coating of lac. The toys depict rural life. Interestingly, these toys are made without colors. The commonly made pieces are doll tops, milkman, bangles, tanker, hairpins and candle stands. Among utilitarian objects, salt boxes, spice jars and bowls are prominent.



JOIE DE VIVRE

Festivals and fairs in Vizag are marked by joie de vivre. Important festivals include Ugadi, Sankranthi, Dasara, Diwali etc., while Visakha Utsav & Rushikonda Beach Festival are the popular fairs. These popular events, held along the golden beaches of Visakhapatnam, showcase a healthy blend of folk and classical dances as well as music. People participating in these community-driven events usually get more than what they bargain for, especially at craft bazaars, exhibitions and food courts springing up along the beaches.



Visakha Utsav

BREEZY SHOPPERS

The port city of Visakhapatnam, which is among the fastest-growing cities in Asia, is teeming with traditional stores as well as modern malls and shopping arcades. If cops are looking the other way, you may find a good bargain in "imported" gadgets -- a euphemism for smuggled goods.

The main shopping centers in Vizag are the Main Road stretch from Jagadamba Junction to Old Post Office, Daba Gardens, Kurupam Market, Dwaraka Nagar and the One Town area. If you are looking for handicrafts, you can be sure of "best buys" at Khadi Grammena Udyog, Lepakshi Girijan Co-operative Society and



Shopping for modern and traditional items

Eastern Art Museum. The city also has traders dealing in Narayanpet, Pochampalli and Kalamkari printed fabrics and wall hangings.



Pochampalli sarees

SALIVATING CUISINE

While tourist attractions in Vizag provide feast for the eyes, the hotels and restaurants in the city serve lip-smacking delicacies to suit all purses. Sea food lovers can eat to their heart's (stomach, if you please) content here. Vegetarians need not lose heart, as they can have sumptuous Andhra specialties. Thanks to its cosmopolitan culture, a rich blend of south Indian and north Indian cuisines are available in the city. If snacking is your idea of pastime, the lovely beaches are the ideal hangouts for crispy 'murri mixture' that comes with a generous helping of chopped onions, puffed rice and other ingredients. The other popular items are upma, idli and dosa, say for a healthy breakfast. Murku, boorelu, appadams, putharekulu, anabshahi, pulihora and an array of pickles, especially avakkaya and gongura, are the city's specialties for a great gastronomical experience.





BEAUTIFUL CLIMATE

Visakhapatnam has a tropical savanna climate, with slight variations in temperature through the year. May is the hottest month, with the average temperatures hovering around 32°C (90°F). January is the coolest month, with the average temperatures nearing 23°C (73°F). As the city is located along the Bay of Bengal, the humidity remains quite high throughout the year. October is the wettest month.

The best time to visit Vizag appears to be the months from November to February. If you are an all-weather freak, then go right away!



Getting there:

- Air: Vizag is well-connected to Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Delhi. All major domestic airlines operate daily flights.
- Rail: Vizag is a major junction on the commercially important Chennai-Kolkata rail line. The city is well-connected by rail with New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad.
- Road: Vizag is about 700 km from Hyderabad and 350 km from Vijayawada. Regular bus services are available to Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bhubhaneshwar, Chennai, Tirupati and other major cities.
- Stay: Vizag has budget hotels as well as star ones, with most of them having in-house facilities such as fitness centers, swimming pools, squash courts, pubs and multi-cuisine restaurants.

AP Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

APTDC Visakhapatnam (www.aptdc.gov.in)

APTDC (Appugar) Resorts	- 2562333/2788824
Beach Resorts (Rushikonda)	- 2788826
VSKP to Valley Resorts (Araku) 112kms	- 08936-249201/2/3
VSKP to Mayuri Resorts(Araku) 115kms	- 08936-249204
VSKP to Anantagiri Resorts 85kms	- 08936-231870
VSKP to Tyda Jungl Bells Resorts (75kms)	- 0891-2788820, 9848813584

Visakhapatnam Hotels (STD-0891)

Four Points By Sheraton *****	- 3051111
Novotel Hotel *****	- 2822222
Grand bay(ITC) ****	- 2560101
Hotel Gatway ***	- 6623670
Park Hotel *****	- 2754488
Fortuine Sri Kanya ***	- 3988444
Hotel Daspalla ***	- 2564825
Dolphin ***	- 2567000
Hotel Green Park ***	- 2564444
Pambeach ***	- 2754026
Sunora Beach ***	- 2526963

INDIA TOURISM OFFICE:

Andhra Pradesh (HYDERABAD): Indiatourism HYDERABAD, Ground Floor, Balayogi Paryatak bhavan, # 6-3-870, Green Lands, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Tel: 040- 2340 9199 / 23409399, Fax: 040-23409299; E-mail:ithyd-tour@nic.in

AP TOURISM INFORMATION COUNTERS:

Tirupati, Ph: 0877-2243306, **Vijayawada:** 0866-2578880;

Visakhapatnam: Railway Station, Beside Rly. Enquiry Ph: 0891 2788821, Cell: 9848813585; Bus Stand, RTC Complex Out gate Ph: 0891 2788822, Cell: 9848813584, Airport Ph: 0891 2788828, Cell: 97051 73400

DIVISIONAL OFFICE:

Opp. DRM Ofice Near Dwaraka Inn. Telefax: 0891 2788827

CENTRAL RESERVATION OFFICES:

Visakhapatnam: RTC Complex, Ph: 0891-2788820, Fax: 2788822, Cell: 9848813584;

Vijayawada: Godavari Motor Complex: M.G.Road, Ph: 0866-2571393;

Tirupati: Room No. 5&6, Sridevi Complex, Tilak Road, Ph: 0877-2255385, 2289126.

INFORMATION & RESERVATION OFFICES:

Tirupati: Srinivasam Complex, Ph: 0877-2289120, 2289123;

Kurnool: "C" Camp Ph.08518-270104, 273325;

Visakhapatnam: Railway Station, Ph:0891-2788821;

Rajahmundry: Near River Bay Hotel, Pushkarala Peta, Ph: 0883-2425219.

INFORMATION & RESERVATION OFFICES IN OTHER STATES:

Chennai: 31/14, Burkitt Road, T. Nagar, Ph: 044-65439987, Tele Fax: 24353373;

Kolkata: 4/1, Sikkim House, Middleton Street, Tele Fax: 033-22813679, 9433044584;

Bangalore: 24/1, Race Course Road, Ph: 080-41136373, Fax: 22385513;

Delhi: A.P Bhavan, 1 Ashoka Road, Ph.011-23381293 ;

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