

**Q: How many steps are there from Alipiri to Tirumala?**

**A:** There are about **3,550 steps** in the Alipiri footpath leading to Tirumala. It stretches around **11 kilometers** uphill.

**Q: How long does it take to climb the steps?**

**A:** On average, it takes **3 to 4 hours** for a healthy adult. However, depending on your pace, rest stops, and crowd, it may take between **2.5 to 6 hours**.

**Q: Is the pathway open 24/7 for pilgrims?**

**A:** The Alipiri footpath is open **round the clock** with lighting, security, and facilities. The Srivari Mettu path is open **from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM only**.

**Q: Are there shelters or resting places along the Alipiri route?**

**A:** Yes, there are **sheds and resting spots** provided by TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) at regular intervals. Many are equipped with seating, drinking water, and fans.

**Q: Is drinking water available on the steps route?**

**A:** Yes, there are **drinking water taps and water kiosks** set up at different points. However, many pilgrims also carry their own bottles.

**Q: Are there any food stalls or prasadam counters on the way?**

**A:** Yes. Along the steps, you will find **TTD Annadanam centers, tea stalls, and small shops** selling snacks, milk, and fruits.

**Q: Is the steps route safe at night?**

**A:** Yes. The Alipiri steps are **well-lit and secured with CCTV cameras and police patrols**. Many devotees also walk at night, especially in summer to avoid the heat.

**Q: Are there buses from Alipiri to Tirumala for those who get tired?**

**A:** Yes. After reaching midway or at the foot of the hills, you can always take an **APSRTC bus** from Alipiri or Srivari Mettu to Tirumala. However, from the middle of the steps, you need to walk to the nearest road junction.

**Q: What are the road conditions like from Tirupati to Tirumala?**

**A:** The ghat roads are **well-maintained, safe, and scenic**. One road is used for going uphill and another for coming downhill.

**Q: Are private vehicles allowed up to Tirumala or only APSRTC buses?**

**A:** Yes, private vehicles are allowed. However, vehicles need to **pass through a strict security check** at Alipiri toll gate. APSRTC buses also operate 24/7.

**Q: Do vehicles have to wait in long queues to go up the ghat road?**

**A:** During peak seasons, yes, vehicles may have to wait for **security clearance and traffic regulation**. On normal days, the waiting time is minimal.

**Q: How long does it take by road from Tirupati to Tirumala?**

**A:** It usually takes **40 minutes to 1 hour** by bus or car to reach Tirumala by road.

**Q: Is parking available at Tirumala for private vehicles?**

**A:** Yes. There are **dedicated parking areas** at Tirumala for cars, buses, and two-wheelers.

**Q: Are taxis/cabs available for direct travel to Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes. Taxis and private cabs are easily available at Tirupati railway station, bus stand, and airport. Online cab booking apps also operate.

**Q: Is accommodation available at Tirumala or only in Tirupati?**

**A:** Accommodation is available at **both Tirupati and Tirumala**. Many devotees prefer Tirumala to stay closer to the temple.

**Q: How to book TTD rooms in advance?**

**A:** You can book rooms online via the **TTD official website** or mobile app. Rooms are also available offline at the **CRO (Central Reception Office)** in Tirumala.

**Q: What if rooms are not available online – are there current booking counters?**

**A:** Yes. If rooms are not available online, you can try **current booking counters** at Tirupati and Tirumala. However, availability is not guaranteed during peak times.

**Q: Are there free dormitories for pilgrims?**

**A:** Yes, TTD provides **free choultries and dormitory-style accommodation** at Tirumala. These are basic but convenient.

**Q: Are private hotels/lodges allowed in Tirumala?**

**A:** Private hotels are **not allowed inside Tirumala**. Only TTD-managed accommodation and a few mutt/ashram guest houses are available.

**Q: What are the charges for TTD accommodation?**

**A:** TTD offers rooms in different categories: **₹100, ₹500, ₹1,000, and above**, depending on amenities and demand.

**Q: Are lockers available for keeping luggage?**

**A:** Yes. TTD provides **locker facilities** for pilgrims at Tirumala for safe keeping of luggage.

**Q: How to book darshan tickets online?**

**A:** Tickets can be booked via **TTD official website** or **TTD mobile app**. You need to create a profile and book in advance, especially during festival seasons.

**Q: Is there free darshan available?**

**A:** Yes, **Sarva Darshan** is free for all devotees, but waiting time can be **8 to 24 hours** depending on the crowd.

**Q: How much time does it take for free darshan compared to ₹300 Special Entry Darshan?**

**A:** Free darshan: **8–24 hours** wait during peak seasons, **4–6 hours** on normal days. ₹300 Special Entry Darshan: usually **2–4 hours** wait.

**Q: Are there separate queues for senior citizens, infants, and disabled persons?**

**A:** Yes. TTD provides **special darshan lines** for senior citizens (65+), disabled pilgrims, and parents with infants.

**Q: What are the darshan timings?**

**A:** The temple is generally open for darshan **almost 24 hours**, but timings vary for different queues. Free and Special Entry darshan are usually available from **6:00 AM till midnight**.

**Q: Is there a dress code for darshan?**

**A:** Yes. TTD recommends **traditional dress**: Men: Dhoti/Kurta or Pajama Women: Saree/Salwar Kameez with dupatta Western wear like shorts and sleeveless tops are discouraged.

**Q: Is it compulsory to have a ticket for darshan if I climb Alipiri steps?**

**A:** No. Pilgrims who climb Alipiri or Srivari Mettu footpaths get a **free Divya Darshan token** midway, which allows darshan without prior booking.

**Q: What are the benefits of Divya Darshan tickets given to Alipiri climbers?**

**A:** Benefits include: **Free darshan entry** with reduced waiting time **One free laddu prasadam** per ticket

**Q: Can tickets be booked on arrival at Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes. But availability is not guaranteed during peak crowd days. Advance online booking is strongly recommended.

**Q: How many hours of waiting should one expect during peak seasons?**

**A:** During festivals like Brahmotsavam, waiting time can be **20–30 hours** for free darshan and **6–8 hours** for Special Entry.

**Q: What is the difference between Sarva Darshan, Special Entry, and Seva tickets?**

**A:** **Sarva Darshan (Free):** Open to all, long waiting. **Special Entry (₹300):** Paid ticket, less waiting. **Seva Tickets:** For specific rituals like Suprabhatam, Archana, Thomala Seva, booked months in advance.

**Q: Is free food (Annadanam) available at Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes. TTD provides **free meals** for all pilgrims at **Annadanam Complex** throughout the day.

**Q: Where can I get laddu prasadam after darshan?**

**A:** After darshan, every pilgrim receives laddu prasadam at the **Laddu Counter inside the temple complex**. Additional laddus can be purchased.

**Q: Are food items available on the Alipiri steps route?**

**A:** Yes, small shops and stalls sell tea, snacks, and fruits along the steps.

**Q: Are hotels/restaurants available in Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes. Vegetarian restaurants run by TTD and private mutts are available at Tirumala.

**Q: Can we get pure vegetarian food only?**

**A:** Yes. Tirumala is a **strictly vegetarian zone**. Non-veg food, alcohol, and smoking are banned.

**Q: Are water ATMs available in Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes. Water kiosks and TTD-run **Jala Prasadam centers** provide purified water.

**Q: Is outside food allowed inside temple premises?**

**A:** Food is not allowed inside darshan queues or the sanctum area.

**Q: Are mobile phones allowed during darshan?**

**A:** No. Mobile phones, cameras, and electronic items are **strictly prohibited** inside darshan lines.

**Q: Where can I keep my footwear before entering the temple?**

**A:** Free **footwear counters** are available near darshan entry gates.

**Q: Is photography allowed anywhere in Tirumala?**

**A:** Photography is **not allowed** inside the temple. However, you can take pictures outside in public areas.

**Q: Are bags and luggage allowed in darshan queues?**

**A:** No. Only small handbags are allowed. Big luggage must be deposited in **cloakrooms**.

**Q: Are there cloakrooms to deposit luggage safely?**

**A:** Yes. TTD provides free **cloakroom facilities** at Tirumala.

**Q: Is medical help available during the climb or at Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes. First aid centers are located at multiple points on Alipiri steps and at Tirumala. A full-fledged hospital is also present at Tirumala.

**Q: Are there first aid centers on the steps route?**

**A:** Yes, first aid stations and TTD staff are present for emergency help.

**Q: Are there chances of wild animals while climbing steps?**

**A:** No. The steps are well-guarded with fencing, lighting, and security. Wild animals do not disturb pilgrims.

**Q: Is there police help/security along the route?**

**A:** Yes. **TTD Security and police personnel** patrol regularly.

**Q: How crowded does it get during festivals and Brahmotsavam?**

**A:** Very crowded. During Brahmotsavam, New Year, Vaikunta Ekadasi, and weekends, the crowd may cross **2–3 lakh pilgrims per day**.

**Q: Are there buses from Tirumala back to Tirupati round the clock?**

**A:** Yes. APSRTC buses operate **24/7 every 5–10 minutes**.

**Q: How much is the bus fare from Tirumala to Tirupati?**

**A:** The fare is usually around **₹80–₹100 per person**.

**Q: Is the return road route different from the up-route?**

**A:** Yes. One ghat road is used only for uphill journey and the other for downhill for safety.

**Q: Can one climb up through Alipiri and come down by vehicle?**

**A:** Yes. Many pilgrims climb up on foot and return by bus or private vehicle.

**Q: Are there buses from Tirumala to other cities directly?**

**A:** Yes. APSRTC runs direct buses to major cities like Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, and others.

**Q: Is it safe to drive one's own car on the ghat road?**

**A:** Yes, the ghat road is **safe, well-maintained, and monitored**. Drivers must follow speed limits and curves.

**Q: How to arrange transport if one misses the last bus down?**

**A:** Since buses run 24/7, there is **no last bus**. Even at night, buses are available.

**Q: What rituals should a devotee perform before darshan?**

**A:** Devotees usually take a **bath, wear clean traditional clothes, and offer prayers** at Gopuram before entering darshan. Many also tonsure their heads.

**Q: Are there restrictions on non-Hindus entering Tirumala temple?**

**A:** Yes. Only **Hindus and those who believe in Lord Venkateswara** are allowed inside. Non-Hindus must sign a declaration of faith.

**Q: Can one perform special poojas or sevas after reaching Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes. Many sevas are performed at Tirumala. But most need **advance booking online** due to high demand.

**Q: What is the best time of day to have darshan with less crowd?**

**A:** Early mornings and late nights on **weekdays (Mon–Thu)** usually have less crowd.

**Q: What are the rules for tonsure (head-shaving) at Tirumala?**

**A:** Tonsure is performed at **Kalyanakatta halls** free of cost. Pilgrims must wash hair and body before entering darshan.

**Q: Is there a dress code for tonsure and darshan?**

**A:** Yes. Men should wear traditional attire, women must wear saree/salwar. Shorts, modern western outfits are discouraged.

**Q: Are foreign tourists allowed inside the temple?**

**A:** Yes, if they believe in Lord Venkateswara. They must respect traditions and follow dress code.

**Q: What is the Alipiri Mettu route?**

**A:** The Alipiri Mettu is a walking path to Tirumala, which starts at the foothills in Alipiri. It is the most popular and longest pedestrian route.

**Q: How long is the Alipiri Mettu route?**

**A:** The Alipiri Mettu route is approximately 9 kilometers long and has about 3,550 steps.

**Q: How much time does it take to climb the Alipiri Mettu?**

**A:** It generally takes 3 to 5 hours to climb the Alipiri Mettu, depending on your pace and physical fitness.

**Q: Is the Alipiri Mettu route open 24/7?**

**A:** Yes, the Alipiri Mettu route is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Q: What facilities are available on the Alipiri Mettu route?**

**A:** The Alipiri Mettu route has covered walkways, drinking water, toilets, first-aid centers, and security personnel. Free luggage counters are also available at the starting point.

**Q: How do I get a Divya Darshan token on the Alipiri Mettu?**

**A:** You can get a free Divya Darshan token at the designated counters on the Alipiri Mettu path. You will need a valid ID like an Aadhaar card.

**Q: What is the Srivari Mettu route?**

**A:** Srivari Mettu is an alternative and shorter walking path to Tirumala, starting from Srinivasa Mangapuram.

**Q: How long is the Srivari Mettu route?**

**A:** The Srivari Mettu route is about 2.1 kilometers long with approximately 2,388 steps.

**Q: How much time does it take to climb the Srivari Mettu?**

**A:** The Srivari Mettu is a steeper climb and takes about 1.5 to 2.5 hours to complete.

**Q: What are the timings for the Srivari Mettu route?**

**A:** The Srivari Mettu path is open from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

**Q: What facilities are available on the Srivari Mettu route?**

**A:** The Srivari Mettu route also has basic amenities like drinking water, resting points, and luggage counters.

**Q: How do I get a Divya Darshan token on the Srivari Mettu?**

**A:** You can get a Divya Darshan token at the token counter located on the Srivari Mettu route itself, usually around the 1200th step.

**Q: What is the distance between Tirupati and Tirumala by road?**

**A:** The distance from Tirupati to Tirumala by road is about 22 kilometers.

**Q: How long does it take to travel from Tirupati to Tirumala by road?**

**A:** The journey by road usually takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour, depending on traffic.

**Q: Are private vehicles allowed on the ghat road to Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes, private vehicles are allowed on the ghat road. A small toll fee is collected at the Alipiri checkpoint.

**Q: What are the timings for the ghat roads?**

**A:** The ghat roads are generally open from 3:00 AM to 12:00 AM (midnight), though timings can be extended during peak seasons.

**Q: What are the options for public transport from Tirupati to Tirumala?**

**A:** APSRTC runs frequent bus services from various points in Tirupati, including the railway station and bus stand, to Tirumala.

**Q: What is the dress code for Tirumala darshan?**

**A:** Traditional Indian attire is mandatory. For men, this means a dhoti and shirt or kurta-pyjama. For women, it is a saree, half-saree, or a salwar kameez with dupatta.

**Q: What is special entry darshan?**

**A:** Special Entry Darshan is a paid darshan option, usually with a fee of Rs. 300 per person, which allows for a faster entry into the temple.

**Q: What is Sarva Darshan?**

**A:** Sarva Darshan is the free darshan line for all pilgrims. It is the most common darshan and can have long waiting times.

**Q: Are mobile phones and cameras allowed inside the main temple?**



**A:** No, mobile phones, cameras, and other electronic gadgets are not allowed inside the main temple complex. You can deposit them at designated counters.

**Q: What is Anna Prasadam?**

**A:** Anna Prasadam is the free meal service offered by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to all pilgrims. It is available at the Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasadam Complex.

**Q: Where can I get accommodation in Tirumala?**

**A:** TTD provides various accommodation options in Tirumala, which can be booked online in advance or sometimes through current booking counters.

**Q: What is Kalyana Katta?**

**A:** Kalyana Katta is the place in Tirumala where pilgrims can get their head tonsured as an offering to Lord Venkateswara. This service is free of cost.

**Q: How can I get a Laddu prasadam?**

**A:** After darshan, you can purchase the famous Tirupati Laddu at the designated counters. Each darshan token often includes a free Laddu as well.

**Q: Is there medical assistance available in Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes, TTD has a well-equipped hospital and several first-aid centers in Tirumala to provide medical assistance to pilgrims.

**Q: How many steps are there in Alipiri Mettu and Srivari Mettu?**

**A:** Alipiri Mettu has about 3,550 steps covering a distance of 9 km, taking 3–4 hours to climb. Srivari Mettu has about 2,388 steps with a shorter distance of 2.1 km, taking around 2–3 hours to climb.

**Q: What is the difference between Alipiri Mettu and Srivari Mettu?**

**A:** Alipiri Mettu is the traditional and longer route starting from Alipiri near Tirupati, open 24/7. Srivari Mettu is a shorter route, closer to Srinivasa Mangapuram, usually open only during the day (6 AM–6 PM).

**Q: Are there darshan benefits for pilgrims climbing by steps?**

**A:** Yes, pilgrims climbing either Alipiri Mettu or Srivari Mettu can collect a Divya Darshan token from counters along the path. These tokens grant free darshan with a specific time slot.

**Q: Where can I collect Divya Darshan tokens on Alipiri Mettu?**

**A:** Token counters are located at multiple points along Alipiri Mettu. Your token is scanned and linked to your Aadhaar ID, and you must report at Tirumala queue complex as per the slot.

**Q: What facilities are available on the Alipiri steps?**

**A:** Alipiri Mettu has:Shelters (mandapams) for rest,Drinking water taps,Washrooms at intervals,TTD staff for guidance,Free food stalls at certain points.

**Q: Are there any temples or shrines along the Alipiri path?**

**A:** Yes, several small shrines exist along the climb, such as Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Govinda Raja shrine, and symbolic gopurams marking progress towards Tirumala. Pilgrims often break coconuts at specific spots as part of their offering.

**Q: What safety precautions should I follow while climbing?**

**A:** Avoid carrying excess luggage,Beware of monkeys; don't expose food openly,Start early in the morning or evening to avoid heat,Use footwear counters at Alipiri or climb barefoot if you wish,Carry water and small snacks.

**Q: What types of darshan are available at Tirumala?**

**A:** The main darshan options are: **Sarva Darshan:** Free darshan for all devotees, **Divya Darshan:** Special darshan for pilgrims who come by footpath (Alipiri or Srivari Mettu), **Special Entry Darshan (₹300):** Online and offline booking available.

**Q: How can I book darshan tickets?**

**A:** Tickets can be booked **online via TTD website or app**. Current booking counters are also available at Tirumala and Tirupati. Divya Darshan tokens are issued only on the steps path.

**Q: What are the accommodation options in Tirumala?**

**A:** TTD provides: Free dormitory-style accommodation, Paid cottages and guest houses (bookable online), Choultries and mutts for group stays. Advance booking is highly recommended.

**Q: Is free food available on Tirumala?**

**A:** Yes, TTD runs **Annaprasadam complex** where free meals are served to all devotees daily. There are also smaller Annadanam centers near the queue complex.

**Q: What sevas and rituals can devotees participate in?**

**A:** Important sevas include: **Daily Sevas:** Suprabhatam, Thomala Seva, Archana, Ekantha Seva, **Weekly Sevas:** Kalyanotsavam, Sahasra Deepalankarana, **Annual Events:** Brahmotsavam, Vaikunta Ekadasi.

Most seva tickets require advance booking.

**Q: What other temples can I visit on Tirumala?**

**A:** Besides the main Venkateswara Temple, pilgrims can visit: Varahaswamy Temple, Bedi Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Akasha Ganga Theertham, Japali Hanuman Temple, Papavinasanam Theertham.

**Q: What are the dress code rules in Tirumala?**

**A:** TTD encourages traditional dress. Men should wear dhoti/pancha and upper cloth or kurta-pajama. Women should wear saree, half-saree, or churidar with dupatta. Western outfits are discouraged.

**Q: What items are restricted in Tirumala?**

**A:** Alcohol, tobacco, non-vegetarian food, and gambling are strictly prohibited. Carrying plastics is also restricted. Photography is banned inside the temple.

**Q: How can I move around on Tirumala hills?**

**A:** Free and paid bus services run frequently between the temple, bus stand, cottages, and other holy spots. Pilgrims can also hire jeeps and taxis for sightseeing.

**Q: Where should I go if I lose my belongings?**

**A:** TTD maintains **Lost & Found counters** at Tirumala. Pilgrims can report lost items and collect them after verification.

**Q: What emergency facilities are available?**

**A:** Tirumala has medical centers, police stations, and 24/7 TTD helpline numbers. Ambulances and first-aid are available for pilgrims in need.

**Q: What are the different types of darshan available at Tirumala?**

**A:** The main darshan options are Sarva Darshan (free), Divya Darshan (for pilgrims who come by foot), and Special Entry Darshan (₹300).

**Q: How do I book darshan tickets?**

**A:** Tickets can be booked online via the TTD official website or app. You can also try current booking counters, but availability is not guaranteed during peak crowd days. Divya Darshan tokens are issued on the steps path only.

**Q: Is there a free darshan available?**

**A:** Yes, Sarva Darshan is free for all devotees.

**Q:** How much time does it take for free darshan compared to ₹300 Special Entry Darshan?

**A:** During peak seasons, free darshan can take 8 to 24 hours, while Special Entry Darshan usually takes 2 to 4 hours. On normal days, free darshan takes 4 to 6 hours.

**Q:** Are there separate queues for senior citizens, infants, and disabled persons?

**A:** Yes, TTD provides special darshan lines for senior citizens (65+), disabled pilgrims, and parents with infants.

**Q:** What is the difference between Sarva Darshan, Special Entry, and Seva tickets?

**A:** Sarva Darshan is free and has a long waiting time. Special Entry is a paid ticket with a shorter wait. Seva Tickets are for specific rituals like Suprabhatam, Archana, and Thomala Seva, which are booked months in advance.

**Q:** Can devotees participate in special poojas or sevas after reaching Tirumala?

**A:** Yes, many sevas are performed at Tirumala, but most require advance booking online due to high demand.

**Q:** What are some of the sevas and rituals devotees can participate in?

**A:** Important sevas include Daily Sevas (Suprabhatam, Thomala Seva, Archana, Ekantha Seva), Weekly Sevas (Kalyanotsavam, Sahasra Deepalankarana), and Annual Events (Brahmotsavam, Vaikunta Ekadasi).

**Q:** What are the costs for some of the sevas?

**A:** The cost of each ticket varies: Suprabhatam: ₹50, Sahasranamarchana: ₹100, Padmavathi Parinayam (Kalyanotsavam): ₹500, Vastralankarana Seva: ₹10,000, Abhishekam: ₹500.

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**A:** Besides the main Venkateswara Temple, pilgrims can visit Sri Bedi Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Varahaswamy Temple, Akasha Ganga Theertham, Japali Hanuman Temple, and Papavinasanam Theertham.

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**Q:** What is the difference between Sarva Darshan, Special Entry, and Seva tickets?

**A:** Sarva Darshan is free and has a long waiting time.

**Q:** What is Special Entry Darshan?

**A:** Special Entry Darshan is a paid ticket for ₹300, which has less waiting time than Sarva Darshan.

**Q:** How long does it take for Special Entry Darshan?

**A:** Special Entry Darshan usually has a 2 to 4 hour wait.

**Q:** What are some of the daily sevas?

**A:** Daily Sevas include Suprabhatam, Thomala Seva, Archana, and Ekantha Seva.

**Q:** What are some of the weekly sevas?

**A:** Weekly Sevas include Kalyanotsavam and Sahasra Deepalankarana.

**Q:** What are some of the annual events?

**A:** Annual events include Brahmotsavam and Vaikunta Ekadasi.

**Q:** Is accommodation available at Tirumala or only in Tirupati?

**A:** Accommodation is available at both Tirupati and Tirumala, though many devotees prefer to stay closer to the temple at Tirumala.

**Q:** How can I book TTD rooms in advance?

**A:** You can book rooms online via the TTD official website or mobile app. Rooms are also available offline at the Central Reception Office (CRO) in Tirumala.

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