**Visakhapatnam**

**Visakhapatnam Airport (VTZ)**

The second-busiest in Andhra Pradesh, the airport at Visakhapatnam is a gateway to the beautiful city that is often referred to as The Jewel of the East Coast. Visakhapatnam Airport is located 7 km from the central region of the city and is jointly managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Navy. Originally constructed as a customs airport, Visakhapatnam airport began catering to domestic flight operations in 1999 with low air traffic. But in the last decade; the airport has witnessed massive expansions, runway extensions and also commenced international flight services.

**Flight Information**

Visakhapatnam Airport operates domestic flights to major Indian cities such as Delhi, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Pune. The main domestic airlines that connect Visakhapatnam to other cities in the country are Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet and JetKonnect. Visakhapatnam commenced international services recently and operates flights to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Dubai. The international flight services are handled by SilkAir, Air India, Malindo Air and AirAsia.

**Terminals**

Visakhapatnam Airport operates domestic and international flight services from a single terminal. However, the terminal was renovated in 1999 to offer increased mobility and accommodate passenger traffic. The new terminal is equipped with all the modern facilities required in a passenger-friendly airport. The airport can handle over 700 passengers at any given point in time and has 20 check-in counters.

**Traveling in and around**

Travelers can reach Visakhapatnam Airport from the Sagar Nagar bus stop that is located 18.5 km away from the airport. The two destinations are connected well by buses and private taxis. The city's railway station is located 7 km away from the airport and is also well-connected by road.

**Services and Facilities**

Visakhapatnam Airport offers hi-tech baggage services that are designed to offer maximum security to passengers and airport infrastructure. Advanced integrated x-ray scanners are used in the airport to maximize security. The airport is fully air-conditioned and also has child care centers, special lounges, snack bars, parking bays to accommodate over 300 cars and 200 two wheelers, currency exchange offices and medical rooms.

**Things to Do**

Passengers at Visakhapatnam Airport have plenty of things to do within the premises as they wait to board their respective flights. The terminal has two floors complete with duty-free stores for last minute purchases, restaurants, snack bars, cafes and health kiosks, gift and garment shops for buying little souvenirs for loved ones back home and a spa to relax at.

**Hotels**

Visakhapatnam is one of the important tourist destinations on the East Coast and a significant business hub in India. The city is connected to all the major cities by air, sea and roads. There are many places of stay that meet different travel requirements and budgets, in the vicinity of the airport. Four Points by Sheraton, Novotel and The Gateway Hotel offer luxury accommodations in the city. Hotel Akshaya, Hotel Saaket Residency and Encore Inn are some of the options available in the city if you are looking at pocket-friendly accommodation.

**Helpful Tips**

Visakhapatnam is a year-round flying destination. However, there have been cases of cyclones and storms in the recent past that made traveling nearly impossible at the time. The more recent Cyclone Hudhud, in October 2014, caused a lot of damage to the runways and navigational aids at the airport. It is important to check for your flight schedules if you are planning to visit the city during the monsoon months.

**Nearby Attractions**

Visakhapatnam is a land of beautiful sandy beaches like the Yarada Beach, the Rishikonda Beach and Rama Krishna Beach. Borra Caves, Araku Valley, Katiki Falls and the Simhachalam Temple are the other highly recommended places to visit in Visakhapatnam.