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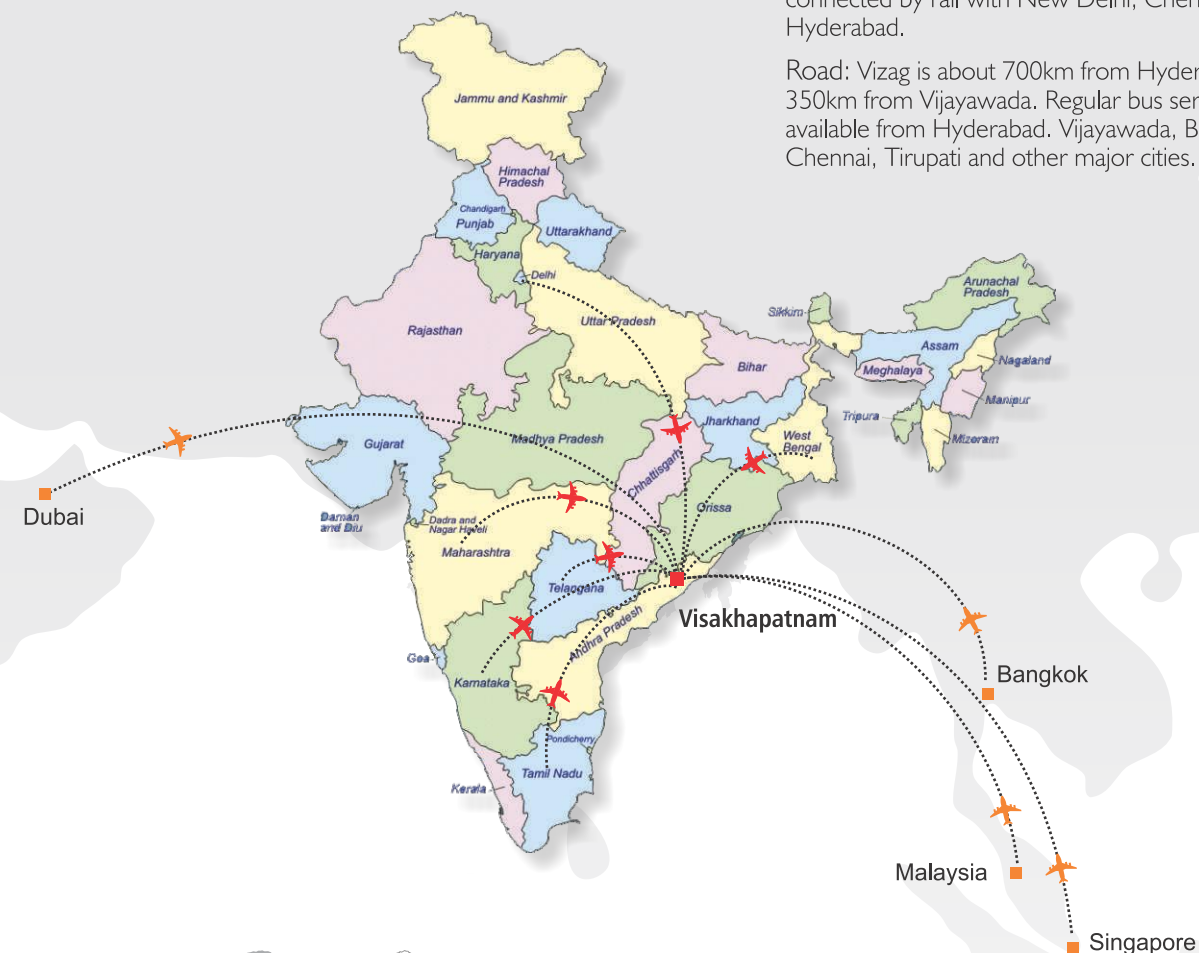
VISAKHAPATNAM

The City of Hills & Beaches

Air: International Air Connectivity from Dubai, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur apart from Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai & Kolkata.

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 700km from Hyderabad and 350km from Vijayawada. Regular bus services are available from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bhubhaneshwar, Chennai, Tirupati and other major cities.



VISAKHAPATNAM

Discover a pulsating India where gushing seas clash with imposing mountains.

Discover a diverse India where untamed wilderness competes with spiritual havens to make you feel alive.

Discover... the south east coast of India. A place that offers everything and more.

Hop on a flight to India from your part of the world and come to the International Airport at Visakhapatnam in the sunrise state of Andhra Pradesh.

Visakhapatnam has direct flight from Indian airports like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and international airports like Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, Singapore

Make sure to travel by day so you don't miss the plane flying over the Bay of Bengal before turning inland. As the waters shimmer beneath, you can almost smell the humid sea breeze and see the ripples made by ships. Your adventure is about to begin.

When you come to Visakhapatnam, you come to unending seaside drives; to exhilarating treks across the hills; to soul soothing Buddhist sanctuaries; to finger licking sea food bounty; to deep forests and unwinding holidays.



Ramakrishna Beach

The Port City of Visakhapatnam or Vizag would be the ideal base to explore the region. There are many world class hotels that offer sea facing accommodations. You can wake up to the grand vista of sun rising over the sea and fishing boats bouncing on the waves to rein in their morning catch.

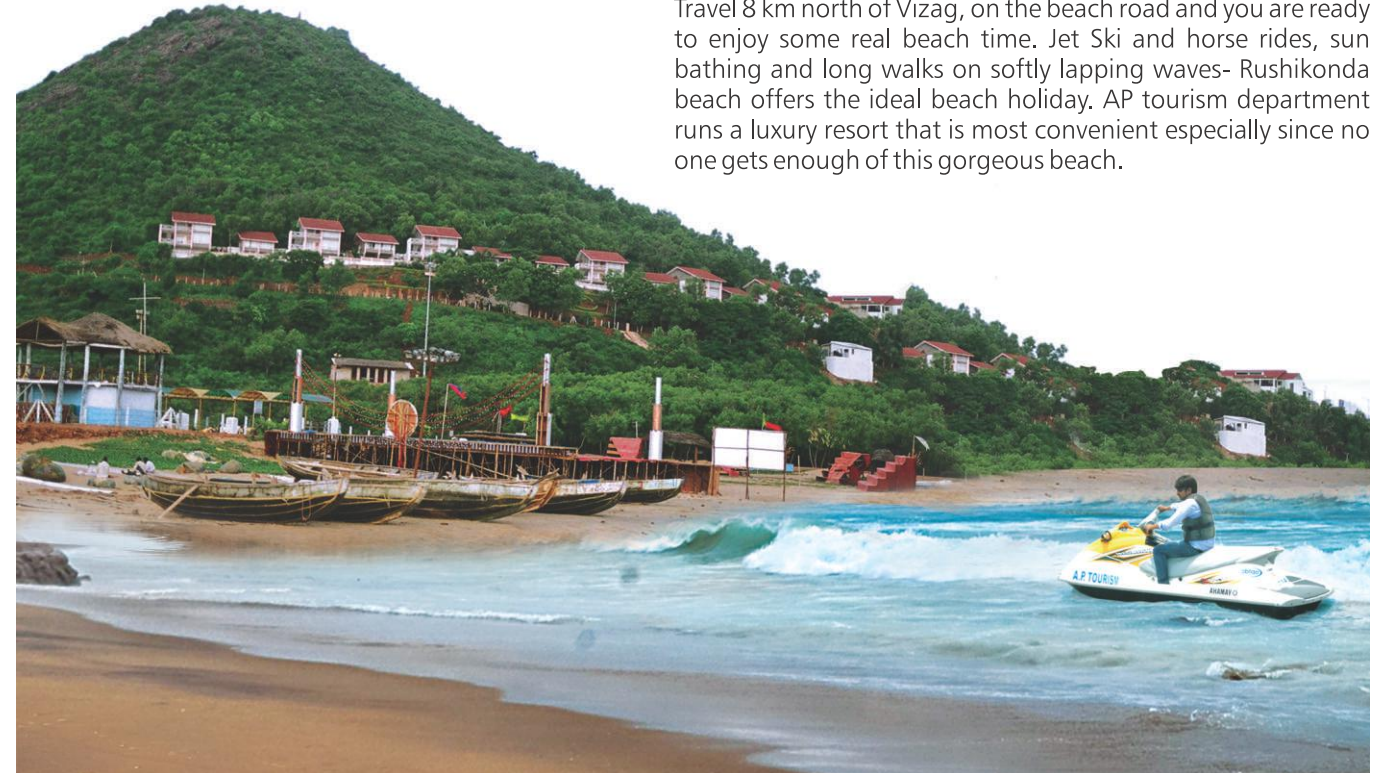
Ramakrishna Beach: While in the city take a walk down to the Ramakrishna or RK beach that is located within the city scape. RK beach is almost always bustling with locals who come here for a quick fix of ocean air. Its choppy waters make swimming dangerous but there are enough entertainments to compensate for this.

AP Tourism Department runs Vishaka boat rides from the harbor allowing you to cruise the shoreline at leisure. You can explore the Matsyadarshani, an aquarium that boasts a collection of exotic Piranhas and Puffer Fish. Figure out the workings of Submarine INS Kurusura that has been hauled out of the sea and turned into a naval museum along RK Beach. A good photo op right on the RK beach is the Dolphin's Nose - a natural rock formation that is shaped like a Dolphin's snout and has the Light House.



Rushikonda Beach

Travel 8 km north of Vizag, on the beach road and you are ready to enjoy some real beach time. Jet Ski and horse rides, sun bathing and long walks on softly lapping waves- Rushikonda beach offers the ideal beach holiday. AP tourism department runs a luxury resort that is most convenient especially since no one gets enough of this gorgeous beach.



Bheemli Beach

Find yourself a car and enjoy a long drive along the coastline to reach Bheemunipatnam or Bheemli. About 24 kms from Vizag lies this quaint village where the river and sea literally come together making it one of the finest sea shores on east coast. Add to it the rustic ruins of an imposing Dutch cemetery and you will experience a day out of time. For the more adventurous, the beach also offers water sports.



Kailasagiri Hills

At the end of the RK beach road is Kailasagiri. If you are travelling with children, make their day by taking them up on the ropeway. While the children get on with the slides and swings, the marble statues of deities Shiva and Parvathi will give you some much needed serenity. We dare you to resist saying "I am the King of the World" when you look over the sea from the Titanic View up here.

Erramatti Dibbalu: If you are a keen nature enthusiast, make the effort to go off the beaten track to the Erramatti Dibbalu. These natural formation are hundreds of years old when sea levels rose and fell, leaving behind sun baked red sand dunes. A unique occurrence of this region, they give you the feel of a miniature Grand Canyon.



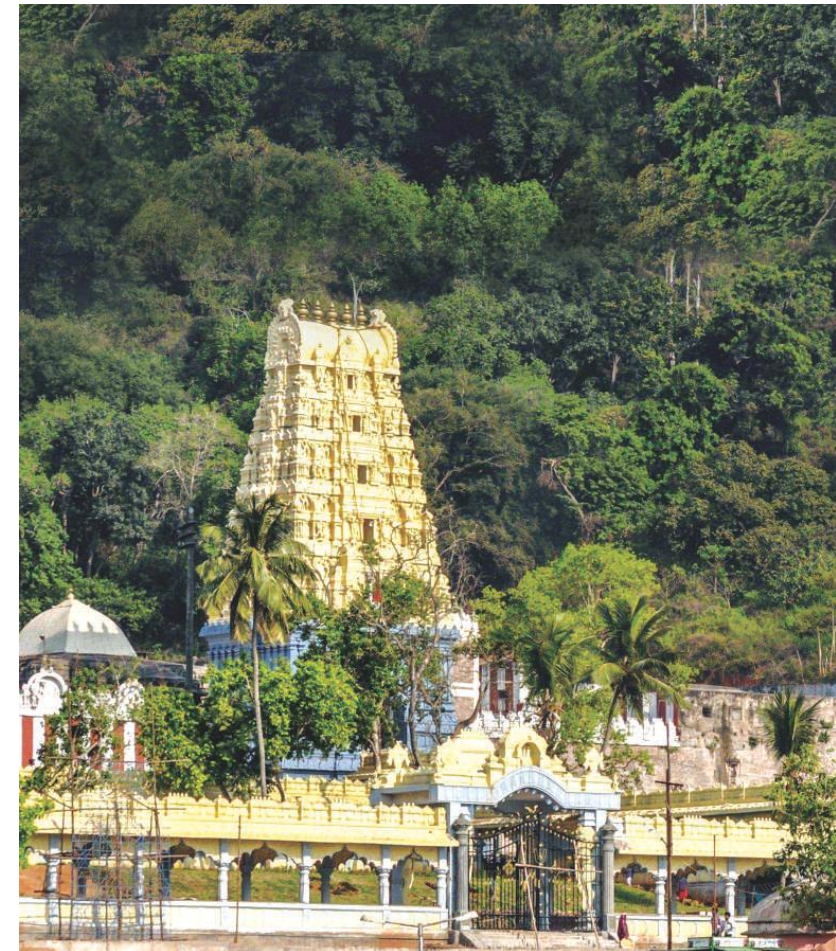
Erramatti Dibbalu



Kailasagiri Hills

Simhachalam

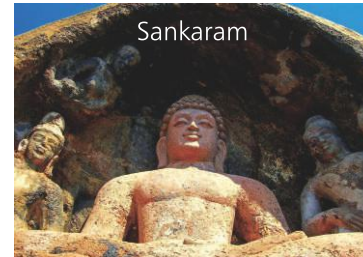
Just outside Vizag is the Simhachalam hill, which is home to the Lion headed avatar of Lord Vishnu. The Varaha Narsimha Swamy temple is in itself an architectural wonder that is built in the shape of a chariot. However, it is the idol of the half lion half man deity that takes your breath away. Covered for most of the year in a thick sandalwood paste, Narsimha Swamy is a force to be reckoned with. The temple is open for darshan from 6 am.



Buddhist Sojourn

Buddhism originated in India. But few know that Andhra Pradesh was a major Buddhist center in times immemorial. The region was cradle of Mahayana phase of Buddhism. So while you are here, let Buddha inspire a spiritual significance for your holiday.

Sankaram: Travel just about 40 kms from Vizag city to Sankaram village where the hillside is dotted with small rock stupas that date back to 2nd century BC.



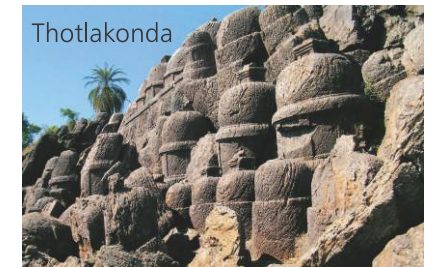
Bavikonda: The Bheemli beach road will take you to Bavikonda, where some of the most prolific finds of the Buddhist period were excavated. The site also unearthed an urn that contained a piece of bone believed to be that of Buddha. The 26 structures found here stand imposing even today.

Thotlakonda is located 128 meters above sea level and hill of cisterns. Apart from stupas that stood the test of time, it offers a panoramic view of the sea.

Further down the Bheemli road is Pavuralakonda where there are 16 awe inspiring rock cut cisterns intended for rainwater harvesting.

Salihundam : The more devout can head 118 km out of Vizag city to Srikakulam and a little further to Salihindam to imbibe the life alternating lessons of Buddha. As a busy Buddhist center, it attracted monks from all over. Apart from the stupas and relics, the giant monastic complex on the hillside is a sight to behold.

You can cover all three beaches in and around Vizag in a single day's trip. Stop over at Raju Gari Dhaba on Bheemli beach road for an exotic lunch of sea food served in a tiny shack that has built in cool cement tables and bamboo windows. The sumptuous sea food biryanis will get you going for the rest of the day.



TYDA Jungle Bells

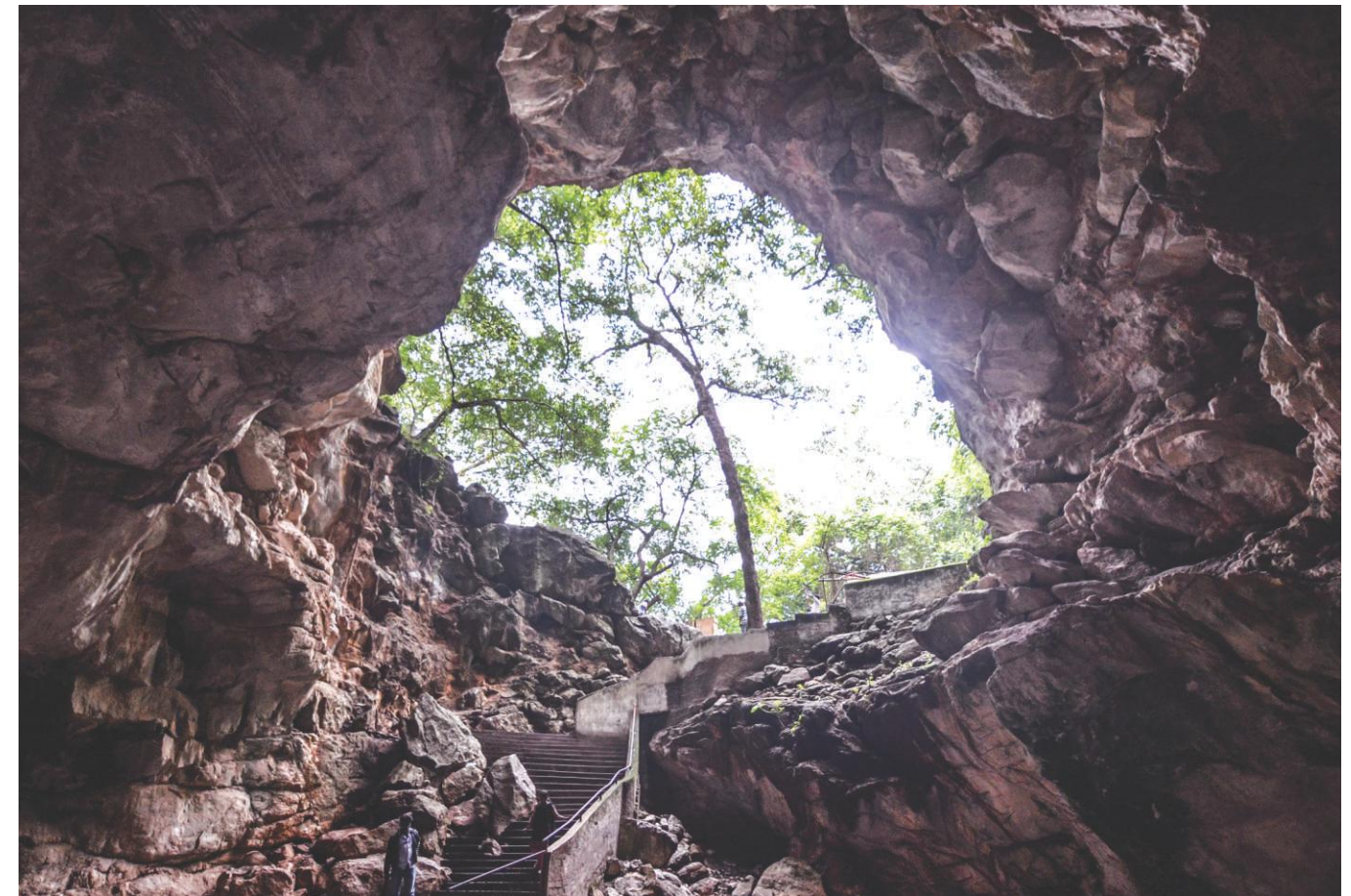
Leave the city of Vizag behind, and answer the call from the forests of the Eastern Ghats.

Make your way 75 km out of Vizag and check into Jungle Bells eco-tourism resort run by the tourism and forest authorities in the enchanting village of Tyda. Lace up your hiking boots, pack some water bottles and simply take off. You can hike, trek and even indulge in bird watching as the hills come alive with rich vegetation.



Borra Caves

Look no further than your next pit stop up the Ghats for nature's glory in diversity. The Borra caves are older than the dinosaurs but their charm is unthreatened. It's great fun to guess what the naturally sculpted stalactites and stalagmites inside the cave remind you of. Many locals believe they look like mythological creatures. The rocky caves are illuminated in a colorful array making them excellent subjects for your photographs.



Anantagiri Hills

Climb up the Ghats to Anantagiri Hills for some crisp mountain air, perfumed by coffee plantations. Rest for the night at the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation run Anantagiri Hill Resort and unwind. Brave the nip in the air and take a walk. There is a bounty of snaking streams and gushing waterfalls awaiting. You are sure to feel one with nature. The green belt on these Eastern Ghats is rich in medicinal herbs that would make a unique takeaway from the place.

APTDC Anantagiri Hill Resort



Araku Valley

Head higher up the hills and the emerald canopy of the Araku valley will unfold you. Make 112 km uphill journey by train and it will become a tale you will forever retell. The foggy forest plays a game of hide of seek with the sun. The filtering rays will keep you forever hoping to glimpse at least one wild animal. The train meanders through 46 tunnels before reaching Asia's highest railhead at Shimiguda. Beyond this is the dew soaked forest valley of Araku. At 3200 feet above sea level it is beyond breathtaking. Stay overnight in the cottage accommodation available there and soak in the hospitality of the 19 ethnic tribes that call Araku their home.



Be sure to try their Bamboo Chicken, a chicken delicacy prepared on a bamboo tube flavoring it with the riches of the forest. When the tribal women lock arms to perform the Dhimsa dance, it is worth the fun to join them. Come morning, make sure to walk the forest floor in the engulfing mist and your rejuvenation is complete.

Lambasingi



Let us offer you the unknown now. Just over 100 km from Visakhapatnam and at 1000 meters above sea level is Lambasingi. It would have been just another tribal village if not for the fact that you will need snow coats and mufflers to travel here. This "Kashmir of south" sees temperature dropping to freezing point and below, making a visit here an exceptionally chilling experience in an otherwise tropical holiday.

Near by, Places of Interest

(For A Wholesome Coastal Holiday)

Visakhapatnam region offers some of the best options for an extended holiday. Within a few hundred kilometers radius are some of the country's best unexplored natural havens. Take time out and you will not be disappointed.



Chintapalle beach

Drive 77 km from Visakhapatnam along the frothy Bay of Bengal to explore the as yet untouched Chintapalle beach in Vizianagaram. A long jetty that goes right into the swirling waters may look ancient but it offers a glimpse into the sea trader's life back in time.



Bobbili Fort

Believe it or not there was a time when Vizag was a poor fishing village. Vizianagaram was the realm of kings and Bobbili is its arch nemeses. History is awash with the famous Bobbili Yuddham or war where at a great price and with shrewd strategy Bobbili emerged victorious against the King of Vizianagaram. Today the fort lies waste but the legend lives on. Become one with history as you climb the steps to the Durbar Hall guarded by two stone elephants. Relive the days of kings through the artefacts of that era preserved in the museum within.



Bill Clinton took one of these home when he visited Andhra Pradesh as President of USA. Their sound of music is as unique as their craftsmanship. Any connoisseur of music would appreciate a good piece of wood turned into a magnificent instrument and the Bobbili Veena is just that. Made of jackfruit tree wood, this thing of beauty is a joy to be heard. The Veena was an integral part of the music promoted in the Bobbili king's court. Today, fourth generation of the Sarvasiddi clan is sculpting the Veena as it was done 200 years ago. Try playing the instrument, but do take home at least a miniature version of it like Clinton did.

For a beach holiday which is far from the madding crowds make your way up north to Srikakulam. Pack an overnight case, hire a car, and you are set to explore the untamed beauty of 193 kms of coastline.





Kalingapatnam beach

Just six kilometers out of Srikakulam town and you hit the Open Road Sea. The road literally drops into the sea! Golden sands, foaming waves and an endless sky that seemingly dips into the sea give ample exercise to your camera. Pick up some lip smacking fresh sea food and make it a memorable picnic on these shores. The APTDC also offers beach side accommodation in its budget resort here.

Baruva Beach

Travel 120 km to one of the oldest beaches in Andhra Pradesh – the Baruva beach. Take a dip in the deep blue sea or try holding the silky sand between your toes. Better yet, simply sunbathe and reflect as water softly caresses the shore. AP Tourism rents out cottages right along the beach completing your rustic retreat.



Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple, Arasavalli

Just over a kilometer from Srikakulam is the abode of Joy or Arasavalli. The Sun God is worshipped here. And it is as if by magic that this temple pays its respects to the deity. Twice a year, even when all the entrances are closed, the sun rays make their way to the feet of the Suryanarana Swamy idol. It's not everyone who can hope to see this miracle but don't miss the magnificent sculpture of the Sun God riding a seven horse chariot.



Sri Madhukeshwara Swamy Temple

On the banks of river Vamshadhara is a geometric wonder. Sculpted to distinct measurements, this is the Sri Madhukeshwara Swamy temple stand on any side and it will showcase uniquely elegant angles all over. This abode of Lord Shiva was built back in the 9th century and is currently located 48 km from Srikakulam town. Legend has it that a dip in the river and a visit to the shrine will relieve people of rebirth.



Sri Kurmam Temple

He was a ferocious lion in Simhachalam but here in Srikakulam, he is a benign turtle. No where else in the world will you find a temple dedicated to a turtle god. Keep driving on ahead of Kalingapatnam beach and you reach the Sri Kurmam temple where this avatar of Lord Vishnu is worshipped. You will also find the pond nearby teeming with people taking a holy dip as apparently this water has healing powers. Go ahead and try your luck.



Telineelapuram Bird Sanctuary

From Russia With Love comes the Pelican all the way to Srikakulam. Just 50 km from Srikakulam town the bird sanctuary is home to a large variety of birds especially those migrating. If you are lucky enough to visit the sanctuary in season, then look out for the Russian Pelicans perched on the hilltop here.



Etikoppaka Toys



A wooden engine tied to rollicking cars by a rope...who doesn't remember their first wood train set? Journey south of Visakhapatnam to Etikoppaka village and see if your face doesn't light up in a smile when you see the colorful wooden toys being made there. The Etikoppaka toys are officially known as Turned Wood Lacquer Craft. They are made of a very lightweight wood, colored in natural dyes and polished with lac. Non-toxic and eco-friendly, they appeal to the child in you and your child as well! The Etikoppaka village has been making these toys for 225 years now. This simple cottage industry even has the Award of Excellence from UNESCO. Be it the 51 egg shaped nesting toy or world's smallest chess board, the toys come in all shapes and sizes and we dare you to pick just one!



Brassware of Budithi



Gods are sculpted in this small village in Srikakulam. Most of the idols in temples are made of Panchaloha – an alloy of copper, silver, gold, tin and iron. Three generations of families from this village of Budhithi have been carving out idols from brass, bronze and panchaloha. These brassware idols also make great statement pieces in your homes and picking them up directly from the artisans will get you a good deal as well.

Tappeta Gullu

Invoking the rain god has become second nature to the natives of the parched lands of India. But instead of lamenting their fate, in this region people dance and make music to invite rain and fertility. A special performance of drum totting dancers with their thumping music and acrobats will leave you breathless.



Celebration of Life

When open beaches and rich culture mingle it is festive time like no other. Traditional festivities like Telugu New Year Ugadi and Diwali are anyway community driven. But the city of Vizag also holds special annual events like Rushikonda Beach Festival and Vishaka Utsav where young and old let down their hair in a fun fair, where dancers of the region come together in celebration. Crafts bazaars and exhibitions make for a great way of spending time and money. No one is a stranger when it comes to partying here in Vizag,



Cuisine of the Coast

Spice and rice...this about defines the coastal cuisine of this region. This entire south east coast region is a fertile belt and rice is a staple. Add to it the home grown Guntur Chili and tangy tamarind and Visakhapatnam cuisine is served.

Prawns, squid, crab and fish both from the sea and fresh water are regulars on the menu here. Korameenu Pulusu and Bommidala Pusulu are different kinds of fish cooked in a thin tamarind gravy and are a thing of finger licking goodness. The region also serves up some choicest meat dishes like Chintachiguru mamsam where mutton is cooked in a tamarind leaf gravy and green chili paste and Natukodi Iguru which is country chicken cooked in a thickset gravy.

The flavored rise variety of Ulavacharu Biryani makes a wonderful midnight meal after a day of hard travel or partying. Crab fried in spring onion masala is time consuming to eat, but there is no denying it will make your taste buds sing. Prawns floured and fried in curry leaves will vanish from the plate in no time. Always order a double batch of these wherever you go. This is not to say, there is nothing for vegetarians. Lentils cooked with green leafy vegetables served hot with rice and clarified butter or ghee, make the ultimate comfort meal. Add a serving of chutneys made of mango and gongura and you will be asking for seconds! Before boarding the flight home though, stop by any sweet shop and pick up a packet of Pootarekulu or melt in your mouth paper sweet. Take back honeyed memories from Visakhapatnam.

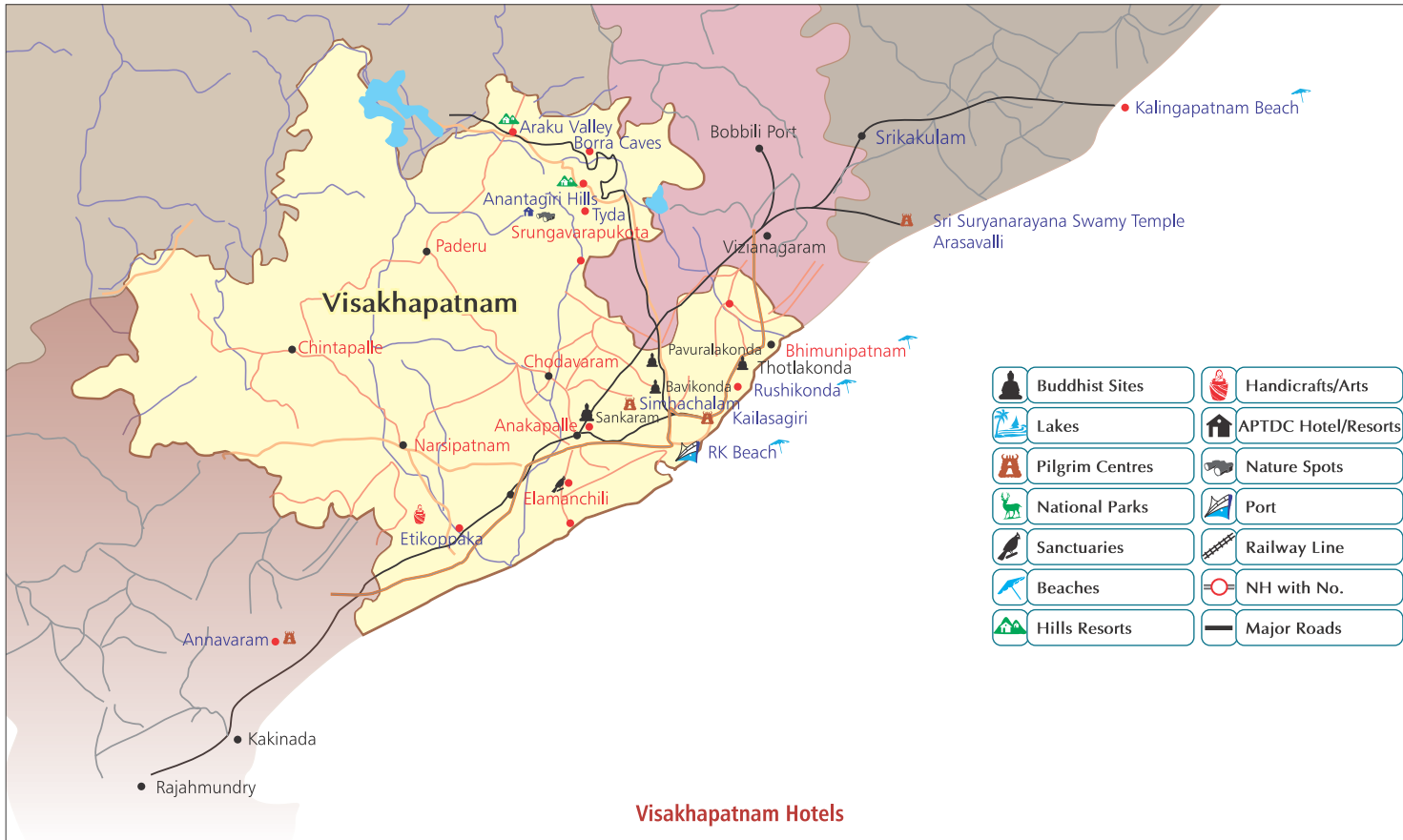


Shoppers' Stop



Shilparamam: Thatched roofed huts, life size figures of men farming and women crafting transport you to the village life of the region right in the middle of Vizag. Shilparamam crafts village is a unique shopping market that will give you a taste of the region's culture. Open your purse strings and collect some mementoes of your time spent here.

Whether it is shells you picked up from on the beach or murals you admired at temples, find a treasure trove of goodies that you can take back home at Jagadamba circle. For crafts like the brass idols or wooden toys, or even jars of tribal honey, head for the Khadi Gram Udyog, Lepakshi, the Girijan co-operative or even the Art Museum. Printed textiles like Kalamkari and Narayanpet make good takeaway gifts in the form of stoles and sarees.



	Buddhist Sites		Handicrafts/Arts
	Lakes		APTDC Hotel/Resorts
	Pilgrim Centres		Nature Spots
	National Parks		Port
	Sanctuaries		Railway Line
	Beaches		NH with No.
	Hills Resorts		Major Roads

Visakhapatnam Hotels

Luxury Hotels :	Novotel Varun Beach	098491 13747	Mid Range hotels :	Hotel Winsor Park	7093994788
	The Park Hotel	0891 3045678		Dolphin Hotel	9866319719
	The Green Park	077020 66622		Fortune Inn Sree Kanya	7799708280
	The Taj Gateway	0891 6623670		Hotel Grand Bay	0891 600101
	Four Points by Sheraton	0891 305 1111		Daspalla	0891 562043
	Palm Beach	0891 2754026			

APTDC Hotels

Haritha Yatrivas, M.V.P. Colony, Near Khailas Rope Way, Visakhapatnam, Cont. 08912788824, +91 9705173100	Haritha Mayuri Hill Resort, Araku Valley (P) & (M), Visakhapatnam.Cont. 08936249204, +91 9440793518
Haritha Beach Resort, Opp. Geetam University, Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam, Cont. 08912788826, +91 9705173600	Haritha Valley Resort, Araku, Araku Vallley, Visakhapatnam. Cont. 08936249203, +91 7702227944
Haritha Jungle Bells, Tyda, Visakhapatnam. Cont. +91 9440793518	Haritha Beach Resort, Baruva ,Sompeta Mandal, Srikakulam Dist. Cont. +91 9866109132
Haritha Ananthagiri Hill Resort, Ananthagiri, Visakhapatnam. Cont. 08936231870, +91 9490282422	Haritha Beach Resort, Beach Road, Kalingapatnam Srikakulam District, Cont. +91 98488 13586



BEACHES



HILL STATIONS



PARKS & STADIUM



BUDDISH CIRCUITS

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Central Information & Reservation Offices

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